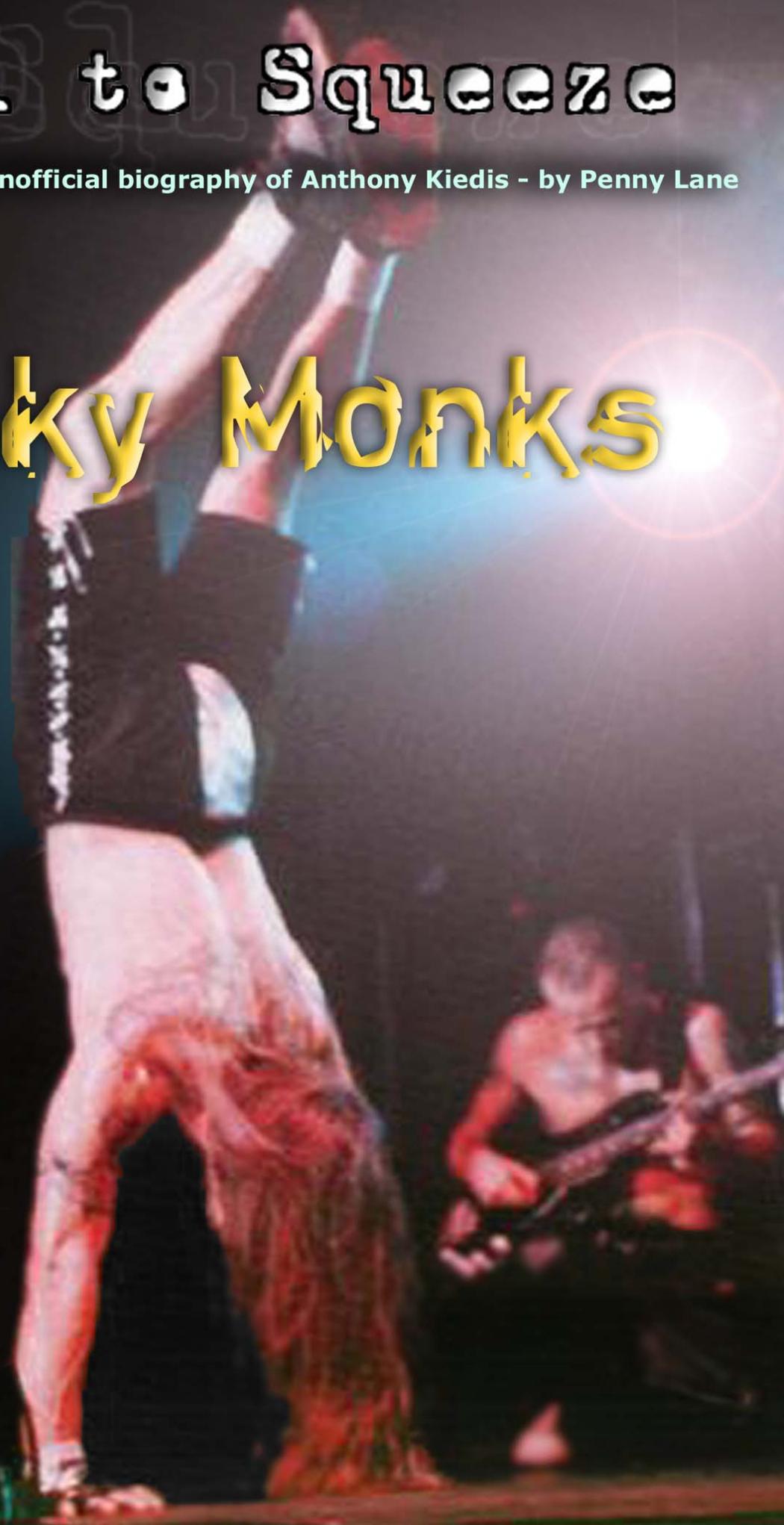


a Soul to Squeeze

an unofficial biography of Anthony Kiedis - by Penny Lane

Chapter 7:

Funky Monks





a Soul to Squeeze

an unofficial Anthony Kiedis Biography

by Penny Lane



First of all I would like to thank Pascale and Maria for giving me the info I requested.

Secondly, I would like to dedicate this pamphlet to all the Red Hot Chili Peppers fans in the world and particularly to those who've been with me in this adventure which has been going on for 12 years now, to Jason, Yvette, Michelle, Zoe and all my friends of The Red Hot Chili Peppers Forum/Ezboard and One Hot Globe Forum.

And last but not least, everybody do a jig for my editor, the Great Ardnac and Ken.



NOTE OF THE AUTHOR

This biography is mainly based on interviews and facts I have read on the press and that to my opinion are reasonably reliable; I have just briefly hinted at a few things I've heard with my ears from the man himself or from people close to him. Of course some things might be missing or inaccurate, but nothing has been made up. While reading on you will notice I have written some dialogs between Anthony and Flea, or Anthony and Hillel or other people. Of course those dialogs have been made up because I wasn't there and even if I had been there I would have needed a tape recorder with me to report them faithfully. However, the reason for those conversations is mainly to lighten up the story and to add something fresh to things we already know (you will notice the dialogs are inserted mostly in the points of the story all the world already knows about) cause repeating the same things over and over again would be rather boring. But once again, also those conversations are based on true facts and are written with the style echoing the typical way of expressing the people involved. Also Dave Thompson, in his book about the Red Hot Chili Peppers, had to insert dialogs based on his intuition.

I have followed the same rule.

Penny Lane

Chapter 7: Funky Monks

Anthony had been heavily fined both for indecent exposure and sexual battery following the incident in Virginia in April 1989, but he had appealed for the latter. This episode, along with his now famed junkie past, had given him a reputation of “bad boy” against which he was strenuously struggling.

In all the interviews of the time, and also of the following years, he was a total endless whine: “Many people who come to our shows understand there’s a funny element in what we’re doing which is not intended to offend anyone”; “I’m not that kind of person, I’m a friendly guy who likes having fun”; “I’ve never done anything I’ve been accused of. It was shocking for me that a court of law could convict you of something you didn’t do. But once you get into court, anything can happen”. By the way, he seemed to have learned at least one lesson: “And maybe I learned something from that, which is, you can’t go around taking your dick out, because some people don’t like it”.

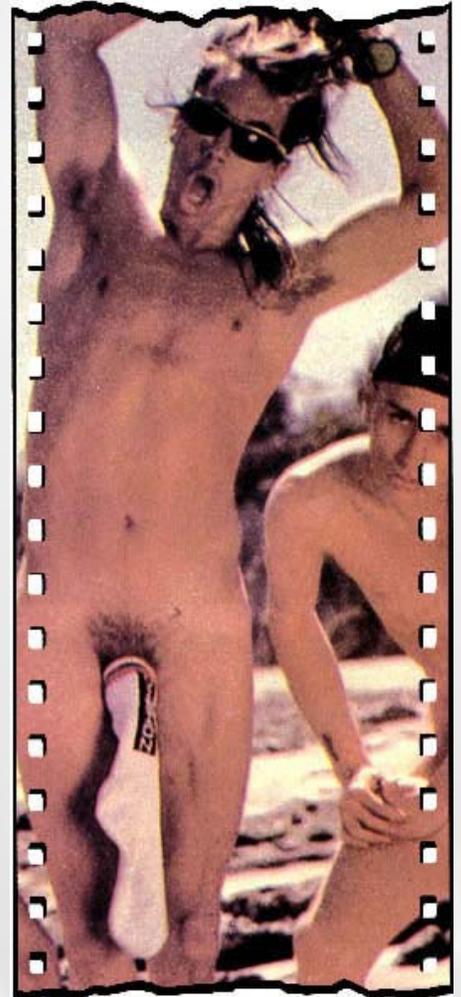
That little respectability the band was trying to gain at this point was strategically necessary because early in 1991 everybody was expecting the new record of Red Hot Chili Peppers to be a masterpiece and to sell billions of copies worldwide.

Anthony opened his brand new house with a huge party at which he invited all his friends and his whole family. After the lukewarm relationships of the last years, Anthony was determined to recompose the affective links with his parents and with two his half-sisters (in 1976 Jennifer had been born too, from Peggy’s third marriage).

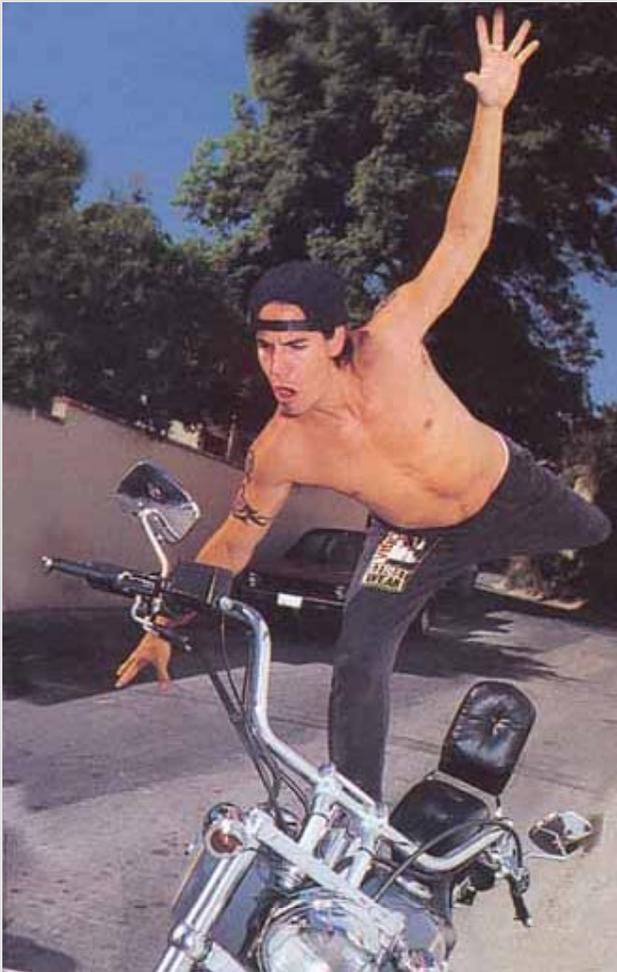
Blackie was fed up with Hollywood, the capital of showbiz had given him nothing more than disillusion and now he was planning to quit everything, start a new family and go back to Michigan. Anthony vowed to himself he would have helped his dad to get a new life.

Among the party’s guests, beside all Red Hot Chili Peppers of course, there was also Lone Skye with her fiancé Adam Horowitz, who, at the end of the year, would have become her husband. Anthony was still friends with her, as he was with all his ex-girlfriends, and was very eager to tell everyone that the new record wouldn’t have featured any song dedicated to her as everybody was expecting.

Finally, a bizarre figure at the party (and at all the following barbecues organized by Anthony in his mansion) was the so-called Dr. Detox, a sort of seasoned ex-hippy who was looking after many rockstars in their rehab phase. Everybody was convinced that Anthony would have never relapsed again in drug addiction: he had been clean for almost



Trying to gain respectability



Anthony on his Harley

three years, and in all his interviews of the time he never had enough preaching how much drugs were a negative influence, and how happy and reborn he was since he had quit. The only "leakages" he occasionally had were restrained to his beloved beers and some pot but most of the time Anthony was fresh and clean as a baby, and lately he had even put on some weight.

He was still obsessed by fitness: early in the morning he would get up and do long runs around his house or long wanderings on his mountain-bike or swims in his swimming pool. With the Warner's check, beside the house, he had bought a fantastic Harley-Davidson and it wasn't infrequent for his new neighbors to see him riding at top speed on his brand new bike on the Hollywood Hills' contorted roads.

The future was looking promising enough. At the beginning of May the Chili Peppers packed their things and bulk-moved, together with roadies, sound-engineers and producer Rick Rubin, to an old decadent mansion in Laurel Canyon to start recording their new album. As a first impact with the house Flea broke his left foot. "Well done," he commented, "I won't be distracted by anything and will only

concentrate on my music. I've also lost my pager so I won't be able to contact anyone". But actually he had already contacted someone: his brother-in-law, film director Gavin Bowden, who broke into the house armed with video camera and black and white film to shoot a home-video about the recording of the album.

They were all sure this new record would have been a masterpiece. "We're making an amazing, fantastic, revolutionary ground-breaking record," John told MTV News while Anthony was doing goofy faces to the camera. Most of all the guys were enthusiastic of Rick Rubin. The producer was a genius!

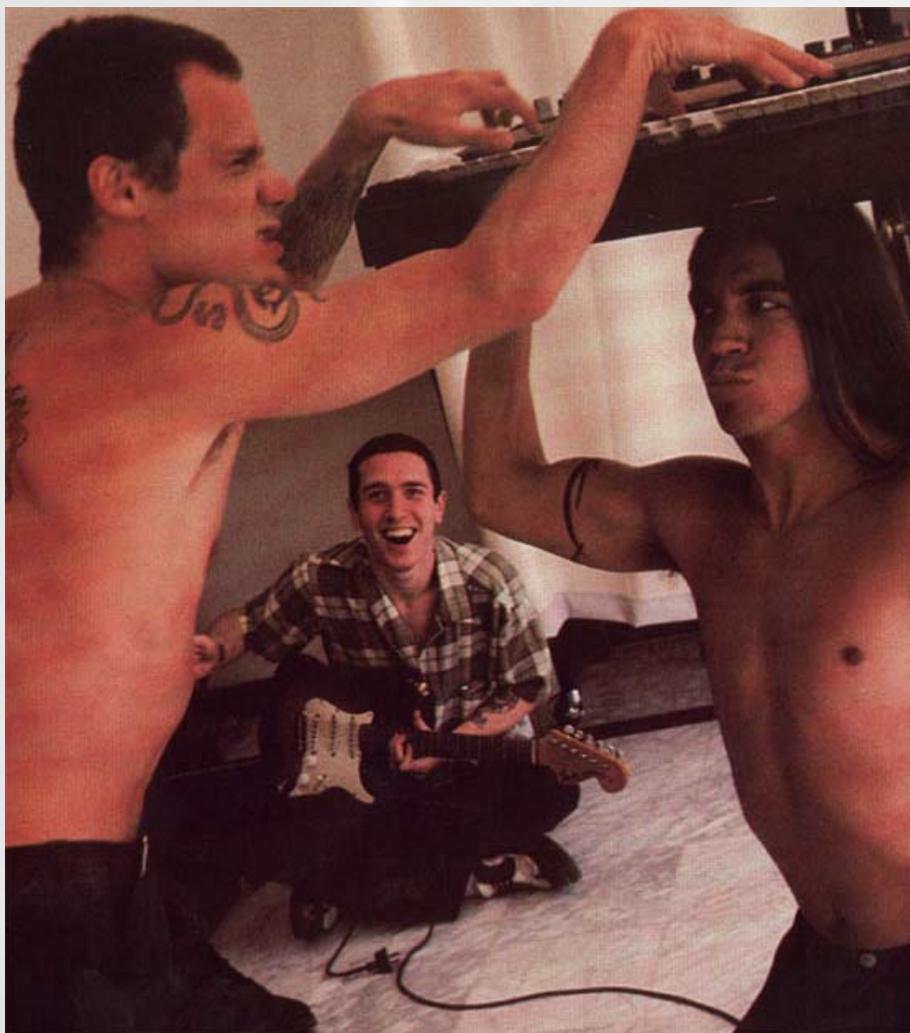
"If Baron Von Munchausen had ejaculated the four of us being the Red Hot Chili Peppers on a chess board," Anthony said, still to MTV News "then Rick Rubin would be the perfect chess player for that chess game".

What did it mean? Nothing. But who the fuck cares! To add a bit of spice to the proceedings (and to the publicity machine) the guys started telling around that the house was haunted.

"This house is an ancient Hollywood ruin," Anthony said "and of course it's haunted". "We've called the psychics," a goateed Flea said to MTV "and they told us there's the ghost of a lady dressed in black".

"The lady ghost lives in the tower" a tourist guide-like John told the camera, showing a trap door on the ceiling "that's the only way to the tower, and we're all scared to go up there".

Only Chad Smith was a bit aloof from the proceedings. "I feel I have to get away from all this," he said, "leave the guys behind and stay on my own". Chad hadn't moved in the house like the others. He had been married for a short while and his wife Maria had just given him a baby girl, Jessie. His new house was only twenty minutes away from the Laurel Canyon mansion and Chad was happy going back and forth every day. Though he had become friends with Anthony Flea and John, Chad would often feel he was still too "normal" compared to the others, and in spite of the so much talked about rehabilitation his three new mates often looked a bit too much out of their heads. And in any case, fuck them, he was a Detroit Pistons buff and Anthony and Flea were always watching the games of those stupid fucked-up LA Lakers.



Recording BSSM

One of the special correspondents from the mansion's front was journalist Lon Friend, who was writing for Alternative Press at the time. He, Anthony and Rick Rubin started a funny argument about some lyrics of the new songs, which Friend had found particularly intriguing, and about sex in general. He was particularly fond of "Breaking The Girl".

"What's this song about?" he asked Anthony "Devirginization?"

Anthony laughed. "That's the way you could take it", he said. Then he asked the journalist if he had heard the outrageous "Sir Psycho Sexy" ("There's a devil in my dick / And some demons in my semen").

"Did you catch the lyrics?" Anthony asked him.

Friend burst out laughing, "It's nine years I've been analyzing rock'n'roll lyrics, what do you suppose I should ask you, is that song about candies? Flowers? In this record there's a boner in every groove trying to come out!"

Anthony nodded, all happy.

Sex was one of the main topics of conversation in the house. 21-year old John was permanently horny. Any female figure who was hovering around the house (the cook, the make-up lady, the photographer or the cameraman's assistant) was instantly assaulted by those four excited chili peppers. The guys would spend their spare time looking at porn mags and telling each other about the lewd sex shows they had witnessed. John came to the



Funky Monk John: permanently horny

point to have a sexual intercourse with his "lady ghost". Only when two-year old Clara put her little foot beyond the mansion's doorway the guys would don a tape on their dirty mouths. The little girl was treated by everyone like a princess. Flea was crazy about her and wouldn't allow anybody to be a swine in front of her. "If I'm depressed she'll cheer me up", he said to Spin "I would do anything for her".

The atmosphere in the house, looking from the outside, was of great excitement and hard work and tender friendship. In truth, things were not exactly like this. Anthony had been clean for three years but a heroin addiction as heavy as his had been for years is not something you can just shut your door at one day and everything's fine. Anthony was suffering from severe insomnia, and at night craving was still haunting him. His band mates weren't doing anything to ease his distress. John and Flea were always getting stoned on pot, and even if pot is nothing compared to heroin, Anthony knew he couldn't "leak" as far as pot was concerned either or he was lost. He was still under therapy and actually some frames of the video shot during the making of the album show him under an acupuncture session.

"The place I love is where I am now," he told the camera "Making music with my band and making love with my friends – my girlfriends".

To him it wasn't easy naming heroin to the press. Whenever he talked about his addiction he always generally mentioned "drugs" or "LSD" or "magic mushrooms" and only if he was pushed he called heroin "that narcotic substance". Probably only naming it could still make him feel the desire.

The sessions ended at the beginning of July. John declared he had never been so proud of anything he had done all his life. The Red Hot Chili Peppers packed their things back and returned to their houses. A few days later, as if they could never get enough of

each other, Anthony and Flea left together for a short break in Costa Rica, leaving the bearded one on the mixing desks of a Los Angeles studio.

Rubin wasn't left with an easy job. The band had recorded an impressive amount of music of great value and all of it couldn't be included in one CD. The first thing Rubin decided to do was cutting off an instrumental, "Fela's Cock", and three covers, the famed Stooges' "Search And Destroy" and two tributes to Hendrix, "Little Miss Lover" and "Castles Made Of Sand". This latter had been one of Hillel's fave songs and Anthony was known to turn into a human fountain every time he sang it on stage. But on the record it could be considered as an extra. Heart-brokenly, Rubin was also forced to exclude two marvelous tracks, gorgeous "Soul To Squeeze" and funky "Sikamikaniko". The real reason for the exclusion of Soul To Squeeze has never been clear enough, because it is commonly looked at as one of the Chili Peppers' finest songs ever. It could be argued that with "Under The Bridge", "Breaking The Girl" and "I Could Have Lied" there were enough ballads – "salads" – on a record which was supposed to be of "highly explosive" material. The other song, "Sikamikaniko", was given to the soundtrack of one of the top selling movies of the year, mental "Wayne's World".

Anthony and Flea came back from Costa Rica resplendent, tanned and on top form. "We went deep into the jungle" Anthony said all excited "We found this waterfall and we climbed up there and we looked down to the trees and the flowers and the monkeys, we got all naked and... phewww! Into the river. That's a great feeling!"

"Blood Sugar Sex Magik" was released in September 1991. A week later it was on top of Billboard's rock chart. Reviews were more or less all enthusiastic. The record was a masterpiece, all previsions had been confirmed. That was a great period for good old rock. A new wave of so-called alternative bands had released a series of very exciting albums which were all selling like peanuts. Most of those bands came from the same town, Seattle, and gave birth to the hyper-publicized "grunge" movement. In reality the Red Hot Chili Peppers felt little affinity with those bands (Nirvana, Soundgarden, Alice in Chains, Pearl Jam).

"What they do has nothing to do with what we do" Anthony told the Rolling Stone "That particular clique of bands are all from the same city, and all came to the attention of

the music-consuming public at approximately the same time. We've been running our own steady course of affairs, exclusive to anything that they've done. So there really isn't a pocket of other bands that we sort of gauge ourselves by".

All this though didn't forbid the Peppers to organize a mammoth fall-winter American tour just with two of those bands, Pearl Jam and Nirvana. Before the tour started the band dropped in Europe for a short promotional tour during which Anthony was asked to explain his tattoos everywhere he went.

"Tattoos" he said with a very serious face "are the ultimate beautification of the body".

And when asked why he liked so much being naked he said, "You have this body, and you have to show it".



Blood Sugar Sex Magik

Back in L.A., a video was shot for the first single taken from BSSM, the hammering "Give It Away". The director, French photographer Stephane Sednaoui, took the guys in the Mojave Desert, made them painted silver and shot an impressive black and white clip someone judged as "pagan".

"Alert yourselves to the presence of a lone man wandering in the desert painted in silver from head to toe for he is the one with the cosmic glow", Anthony wrote to his fans.

Chad Smith said: "For that video I've had to jump for three minutes and at the end I was out of breath".

Anthony commented "I was so happy when I saw you out of breath".

But Spin's writer Bob Mack couldn't help to notice that Anthony in the video was showing a little "spare tire".



Give It Away video

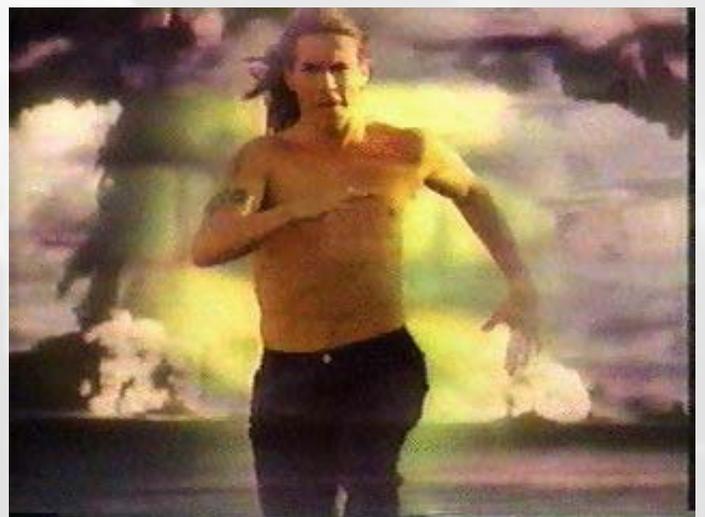
The tour began. It began in October 1991 and it went on more or less for one year. The Red Hot Chili Peppers were a "traveling party". Everywhere they went, adoring crowds, hysterical press and "belly laughs". Another single was released, "Under The Bridge". The famous bridge where Anthony had gone with Mario in summer 1986! Everybody wanted to know where the bridge was.

"It's downtown" Anthony said quickly "But I won't be saying anything else. People are trying to trace it, aren't they? Fuck. It's not a tourist's attraction, for Christ's sake. It's the territory of a gang of criminals, are you looking for a bullet in your nuts?"

Anthony had to explain a lot of times how the song had been born. How, while driving back from the studio during the album's rehearsals, he had been grabbed by one of his frequent panic attacks and he had realized how lonely he was.

"I felt I was the only soul in the universe I had a connection with, on a physical level, on a spiritual level, on a level of love. I felt I was all by myself".

A video was shot also for "Under The Bridge", directed by Gus Van Sant. Anthony walking on the street downtown, Anthony running, Anthony staring in the distance. The other Peppers were barely visible. OK, "Under The Bridge" was "his" song. It was also the song which made the Peppers known everywhere, from Alaska to Madagascar.



Anthony running away from his past

Right on: on his birthday, November 1st 1991, in Boston, Anthony organized a proper party during the gig. Pearl Jam jumped on stage holding a banner that read "HAPPY BIRTHDAY SWAN" and they were all naked with socks on their cocks!



Errrrr girls... how much?

On New Years Eve in San Francisco another great party was arranged. After the show MTV people arrived with cameras and found themselves in front of all members of Chili Peppers, Nirvana and Pearl Jam in drag. Anthony and Flea were messed up as very attractive ladies, the former with a long red wig, blue top, black leather miniskirt and net stockings, the latter with blonde curly wig, silver evening dress, net stockings and heavy make up.

However, during those nights Anthony "leaked" a bit too much with alcohol and something else and he ended up in such a state that one morning he couldn't even get up from his bed. The band was in Seattle, a gig was expected on that same night, and Anthony was heaving away in his bedroom. "Stomach flu" the doctor sentenced, and ordered Anthony to rest for a few days. Pearl Jam asked Nirvana if they were ready to go on the stage without the Chili Peppers and they first said yes, then suddenly they changed their mind. Allegedly, Kurt Cobain was

showing the same symptoms as Anthony's. The traveling party had to stop for a while, but then it started again, crazier than ever. On the last leg of the tour Nirvana and Pearl Jam left the caravanserai and were substituted by all-girl band Seven Year Bitch, with whom the Chili Peppers soon became great friends. The tour leg ended in Vancouver on February 3rd and the band promptly headed to New York to shoot a number of Saturday Night Live with Madonna.

"What's the fucking matter with John?" Anthony shouted after the show.

"I don't know" Flea said, "He's been so strange lately".

"Did you see what he was doing? He was going his own way. I would just like to know what the fuck he's got on his mind! He thinks he can play what he likes as if he were alone on the stage! Maybe he hasn't noticed it yet but he's still a member of this band. Hey you dickhead look you're still a fucking member of this stupid band!"

"Leave him alone Anthony please" Flea said "I can't understand him anymore. He's such a..."

"..Asshole. Is he talking to you? He's not talked to me in ages".

"OK, Anthony but why the fuck kicking his ass in front of everyone?"

"The kick in the ass? Oh. Nobody's noticed it. I was tripping on his stupid wire".

"Fuck, stop bullshitting. Everybody has seen it. And everybody has seen the killing stare you gave him while leaving the stage. Man".

"Fuck he was driving me nuts. Really. He's a total dumbass. I would just like to know what the fuck..."

The Chili Peppers went back to Europe. This time it was a very long tour with several dates in all countries. And there was England again, with the usual disasters. The band was scheduled on Top of the Pops, the old glorious BBC show on record charts. But in those days people had to lip-synch on Top of the Pops, it was a very old tradition nobody could ever think to break, least of all four muscular Californian hunks with their bodies covered with tattoos.

"Lip-synch?" the four hunks grunted
"No way! We ain't fucking lip-synching dude".

BBC executives were not the kind who got easily scared, least of all by four tattooed long-haired brutes etc etc.

"Now you listen to me, you-ain't-fucking-lip-synching-dudes" a very angry-faced BBC exec told them "either lip-synch either take your tattooed arses outta here. Is it clear now?"

The Chili Peppers looked at each other and tried to suppress a mounting laughter.

"We gotta talk about it between us!" they fastidiously said and walked away to a quick consult. When they went back they told the exec they agreed to lip-synch but only at the condition they could go on stage dressed up as they wanted.

"Do what the fuck you like" the fed up exec said.

A few minutes later the Chili Peppers emerged from their dressing rooms, all dressed up like four perfect young ladies of the Edwardian age. The BBC executives went totally nuts.

"YOU ARE COMPLETELY CRAZY!" they shouted "OUT! OUT OF HERE NOW!!!"

The band had to defend themselves from a long series of accusations, first of all that of being a bunch of "sexist pigs". In particular, many European "politically correct" journalists had taken offense at the lyrics of Sir Psycho Sexy, "a fantasy taken straight from the pages of Sad Wanker Monthly" said the New Musical Express "where Anthony ends up shagging a formerly dominant female traffic cop FROM BEHIND..."

Anthony and Flea found themselves wrapped up in an argument with New Musical Express's writer Steven Wells about the... ass.



Raging Anthony at SNL



New Musical Express: never too tender with the guys

"It's their ass, their ass" Flea screamed, "somebody's thing, you sit on it, you carry it around, it's your ass, somebody's... ass! Your ass is on the line! It's your ass, it's your being! It's your middle, it's your being, it's your... ass!"

"But it's another thing to say a beautiful, intelligent creative woman possesses a beautiful ass..." said Anthony more calmly.

And Flea went on squealing: "Or to say 'bend over bitch I want to fuck yer ass'?"

Anthony said: "The ass also contains great, um, y'know – there's the whole bowel fascination as well... The whole expectorating, y'know, business through the ass. George Clinton, who was one of the greatest lyricist of all time, just wrote constantly about the ass and motions of the bowels".

Steven Wells, typical exponent of the famously naughty British musical press, stood there and practically let the boys talk freewheel, and in the end he wrote a venomous article in which Anthony and Flea appeared like two sex maniacs, ignorant and perverted, obsessed by coitus and by... shit. But Wells himself in his article had to admit that Blood Sugar Sex Magik was a phenomenal record!

On another occasion, maybe because interviewed alone, Anthony reacted to "sexism" accusations more rationally. "We don't hate women, we don't put women on the bottom" he said, "If we talk about fucking a lady cop from behind it's just a joke. And if some people are so uptight they cannot take a joke then maybe it's their own sexuality that's totally fucked".

Right on: Amsterdam again. Anthony went straight to see his friend Hanky Panky and they planned together a possible adventurous trip in Borneo at the end of the year.

Then the guys went back home for a short while. The Rolling Stone had requested an interview and the Chili Peppers accepted but they demanded the cover. It would have been their first Rolling Stone cover and Anthony giggled within himself humming the lyrics of his "Punk Rock Classic".

*I'm a radio joe of the biz called show
I'm a rockin' popstar with a get up and go
Rubbin' elbows with the big wigs at my sold out shows
I've been on every cover even Rolling Stone*

But things were not going great. The guys were very tired and for the moment they just had the time for the photo session, while the interview had to be postponed. The day scheduled for the photo session the Chili Peppers arrived at the studio in a terrible mood. Anthony had a visible cast around his left hand. "Fell off my fucking mountain bike" he quickly explained.

Nobody was feeling like joking. The photographer made them take their clothes off, tried to force them to put the famous sock on but to no avail.

"No" they grunted "shoot us like this and get done with it".

"Some neon color?" the photographer hazarded.

"No way" they replied.

The guys did a few of their famous poses and left the studio without even saying goodbye.

There was just the time for an appearance as main act at charity show "Act up AIDS" for Magic Johnson's Foundation and a few days later the band took off to Japan and Australia.

END OF CHAPTER 7



IMPORTANT LINKS YOU MUST KNOW !

- + [OneHotGlobe](#) ~ a red hot chili peppers fansite >www.onehotglobe.tk > onehotglobe.net
> onehotglobe.com
- + [One Hot Globe forums / onehotforums](#) ~ <http://rhcp.proboards6.com>
- + [Red Hot Chili Peppers BBS](#) ~ <http://pub47.ezboard.com/bchilipeppersbbs>
- + [Red Hot Chili Peppers official fansite BBS](#) ~ <http://pub56.ezboard.com/brockinfreakbbs>

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