

an unofficial biography of Anthony Kiedis

A SOUL TO SQUEEZE

by Penny Lane

CHAPTER 11

ONE FIVE MINUTE

ONE FROM CLOSE



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First of all I would like to thank Pascalle 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 editors, 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 11: One Hot Minute

The title of the album went thru a lot of changes, as well as the definitive track list, which reflected the great confusion reigning inside the band in those days. The titles taken into consideration were, in this order: "Hypersensitive", "Turtlehead", "Black Fish Ferris Wheel" (too similar to "Blood Sugar Sex Magik"!), "The Blight Album" and "The Good and the Bad Moods of the Red Hot Chili Peppers".

In the end a totally different title won the race, "One Hot Minute", which was also the title of one of the songs. As for the track list, from a certain number of songs coming out from those never ending sessions were excluded "Blender", "Stretch", "Let's Make Evil" and "Melancholy Mechanics". This latter was a song very dear to Anthony cause it was bearing heavy memories of his recent breakdown: the lyrics were steeped into depression and madness but the melody was a little weak. Eventually it was donated to the soundtrack of an appropriately catastrophic movie, "Twister". "My Friends", instead, one of the most beautiful songs, made it to the album and was dedicated by Anthony to Jennifer:

*They want to give her seven years
For being sad*

...of course nobody had the guts to tell Anthony that normal people, when they are sad, don't go around selling heroin.

"This album is the life after tragedy" Anthony said "It's like coming out in the light at the end of the tunnel".

But the record had also some happy songs, like "Aeroplane" and "Coffee Shop". The former, embellished with a children's choir starring Clara Balzary and the kids of the band's lawyer, Eric Greenspan, had a beautiful melody though the lyrics were still pretty dark. Many people were sure it was going to be the first single but eventually the guys' choice fell on "Warped".



One Hot Minute

"One Hot Minute" was released on September 8th 1995. It had been a long hot summer for the guys and now the publicity machine was starting to get its huge engines warm.

First of all, promotion: two days after the release of their new record the Red Hot Chili Peppers went to New York where they played at the MTV Awards. It was so weird seeing the band back in action after all that time. Anthony jumped on the stage wearing a pair of bizarre rubber black and red pants and long gloves. Sex appeal was still intact. Pity that he practically sang out of tune from the first note of "Warped" to the last. Flea played with a huge "HI CLARA" writing painted on his chest.

Gavin Bowden, the old glorious director of "Funky Monks", shot the video for the new single, a video steeped in hardcore and S&M imagery. Actually it looked more like a video of Nine Inch Nails or some obscure death metal band rather than Red Hot Chili Peppers. During the 3 minutes of the shortened single version of "Warped" the guys toyed with chains, whips, collars and other funny tools. But the climax of the clip came in the end, when Anthony and Dave, allegedly "giddy with exhaustion", fell in each other's arms and exchanged a long and passionate French kiss, which had to be rather shortened in the final version of the video.



Warped video: X-rated?

"I have never had any problem in showing my friends how much I love them" Anthony cut it short.

Yeah, great.

But the question came up in any case from everywhere: "Are the Red Hot Chili Peppers gay?". It wasn't the first time people were asking that question, 'cause many past episodes had already raised that issue and so had their ever-boasted "brotherhood". It didn't matter that Anthony had also a solid reputation as a womanizer. "The Chili Peppers?" laughed an anonymous member of one of the bands who toured with them in those days, "Man, you're telling me. I jumped on their tour bus one night, just to have a joint and a laugh, and there they were, all stark naked, giving each other blow jobs. They didn't notice me, so I just left and shut the door behind me. Pretty disgusting".

Bullshit? Probably. But in the end, what was that song "Transcending" about? A man, wasn't it? And "Tearjerker"? Have you ever seen a woman in whiskers?

*Fuck you asshole
you homophobic redneck dick*

Actually, none of the guys was single at the moment. Flea was having a happy relationship with lovely Marissa Powell, Dave was with a girl named Victoria, Chad was married with Maria. Anthony was still with Jamie, and that story was lasting longer than anybody had expected.

"How serious is it, Anthony?" a Spin reporter asked him.

"It is serious in the sense that it's been nearly two years going and I love her with all my heart" he said.

Jamie, to show her devotion, had just had Anthony's name tattooed on her hand. But a two-year intense relationship with Anthony Kiedis would have taken its toll on anyone, let alone a 19-year old chick. Jamie was young but not stupid: she knew that her man used to sleep occasionally with other girls, particularly on tour, and she could

live with that. But Anthony's self-destructive behavior was too much to bear. She couldn't ignore anymore that Anthony now was head over feet into heroin addiction, and that he was strenuously denying it not only to her, his family, his friends and the press, but he was mainly denying it to himself, like that old friend of his, Hillel Slovak, had done just before dying. He used to be good and sweet to her most of the time, but in a few occasions she had seen something in his eyes that had scared her. She couldn't deny anymore that Anthony had a dark side he hardly showed to the others, particularly to people he didn't know well, but that she had seen quite a few times lately.

"When I use drugs my life sucks" Anthony sadly admitted two years later "I hurt myself and I hurt people who are close to myself".

After the release of One Hot Minute and the appearance at the MTV Awards the guys started an intense press and TV promotion for their new album and then embarked on a European tour. They played in France, Italy, Germany, Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden and England.

Anthony had chosen a funny new stage wear for the tour: a maid's uniform, black with white collar, belt and small apron. Of course, the robe would hit the floor a few songs into the set, and Anthony was left with only the small apron on, barely covering his Calvin Klein underpants.



OHM Eurotour: Sexy American Maid

His hair was wiping his ass now and he was so skinny. Most of the things he ate he used to throw them up shortly afterwards. It didn't take too long before British bigmouths started spreading the word that Anthony Kiedis had AIDS.

"Yes, I have AIDS, gonorrhoea, syphilis and housewife's knee" he barked to an English reporter.

In reality most of his health problems were of psychosomatic nature, since depression was still haunting him. "I'm in London, today it rains and I'm sad," he wrote, "I own my loneliness. I'm going down. Tomorrow who knows".

The Chili Peppers played two shows in London at the end of September, one at Brixton Academy and the other a surprise gig at the club "Subterranea" in the hip borough named Ladbroke Grove. They both went great, with the same setlist which included two David Bowie covers, "Sounds And Visions" and the old glorious "Suffragette City" from Ziggy Stardust. Everybody observed that playing two covers of David Bowie in his hometown Brixton was a clear sign of "the growing influence of Dave Navarro inside the band".

Maybe. But whereas "One Hot Minute" had took off as a rocket in Europe, being no. 1 in England, Sweden, France, Germany and Italy, in US it was definitely panting to stay at the top. Flea claimed he didn't give a shit about it. "I'm not making music to be on top of the charts together with Mariah Carey" he said.

But also many reviewers were dubious. "We have waited four years" somebody wrote "for this stuff? Six months would have been enough, pal".

On the contrary, their live shows were welcomed everywhere with rave reviews. The tour ended early in November and the guys were already exhausted. They hadn't been touring for an eternity, just for one month, and yet they were convinced they couldn't go on at all.

"We cannot take long tours anymore" Anthony admitted "The ideal would be playing for two weeks and resting for other two, but we just can't afford it".

Resting? Now a mammoth American tour was waiting for them, with a lot of sold-out dates everywhere. So? Let fate do its job.



My friends video: pretentious and gay

"Our record label" giggled Flea "ordered us to quit doing videos so pretentious and... gay".

OK, another video for "My Friends" was soon shot, not gay, but at least as pretentious as the first: the Chili Peppers in the studio, surrounded by thousands candles, playing the song as if they were just recording it.

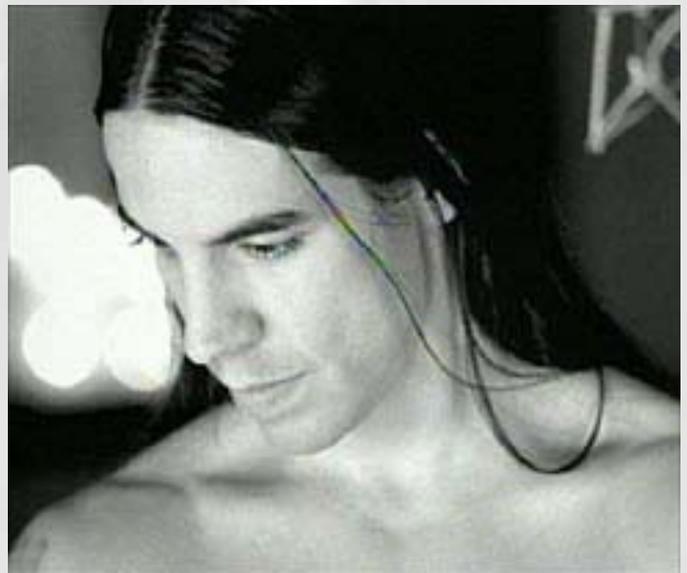
"Maybe they were short of ideas" MTV's Brian McFayden commented "but they surely weren't short of candles".

Anthony, as usual dressed with only jeans and tattoos, sang with his headphones on and a very suffering expression. In both videos he appeared extremely thin and his face was a mess of lines and signs. His hair was down to his delicious bottom. An Indian god, not less.

Another single was released, "My Friends", a salad on the footsteps of "Under The Bridge", but less intense.

"This song is dedicated to Bob Forrest and my ex-girlfriend Jennifer Bruce" Anthony said. And, probably, to himself.

The most hilarious thing about this song were its two videos. The first one was wicked: the four Chili Peppers dressed up and made up in any imaginable way over a boat sailing on a surrealistic ocean and a sort of Anthony-Zeus blowing a stormy wind from the sky upturning the boat. Some frames at the end of the song showed the guys heavily made up and in woman's clothes, which renewed the "gayness" suspects.



The other My Friends video

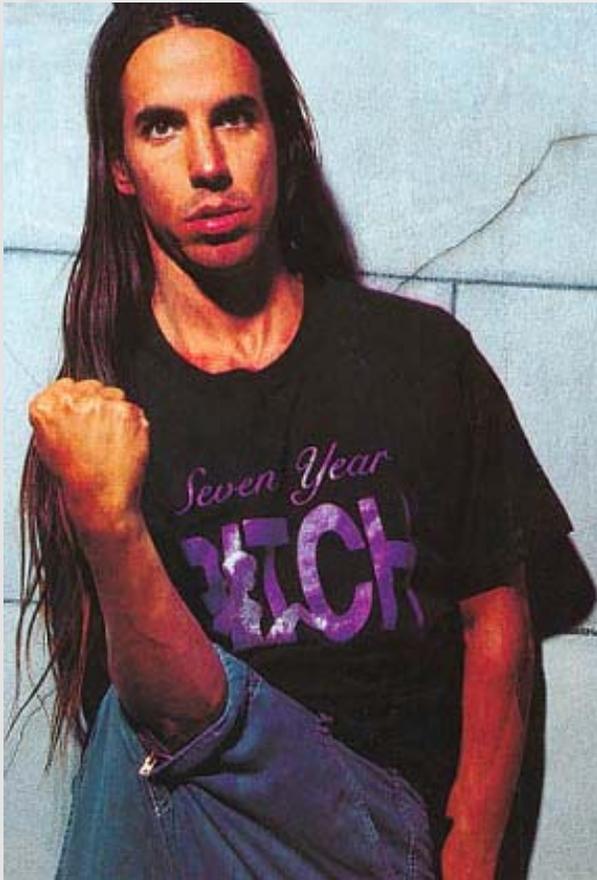
The American tour was supposed to start in mid-November. A few days earlier, playing softball with his friends, Chad Smith dislocated his wrist. An insignificant injury for a singer, crucial for a drummer.

"Chad called me from the emergency" Dave said "and told me what had happened. I said, Oh I'm so sorry Chad. Then I hung up and made a five foot jump".

No way: Chad couldn't play.

"I was really sorry" Dave went on " 'Cause Chad is a friend and he was in pain. But his injury had occurred at a perfect timing".

The gigs had to be postponed to the new year. Christmas was approaching. Anthony played some golf, went fishing a few times, went to see his family and spent a short holiday in Mexico with his sugar pussy. But inactivity was killing him. He was always, constantly sick. MTV shot a documentary about the band at his house, he was



so ill and feverish he could hardly stand, and yet he kept chain smoking during all the shooting. An on-line chat was organized by a radio station in December with him, Chad and Dave, but he didn't turn up.

"He's ill", the host said. A disillusioned fan asked: "What's wrong with Anthony? Is he going to be alright or not? Is there a chance he's on at another time?"

Chad sighed: "I hope so".

Dave couldn't hold himself back: "He's already on something" he giggled.

"It's a damnest thing" Anthony said in 1998 "there's such a potent force inside me to live and to create and to be happy and vibrant and give it back to everybody all around me. And then there's this lurking bastard who says, let's see if I can get fucked up, let's see if I can ruin this, let's see if I can pull the rug from under it. Wouldn't it be more interesting? Cause everything would have to start all over again".

At the end of 1995 there was only the bastard inside Anthony Kiedis. What was closing down for Anthony had been a terrible year.

The lurking bastard

At the beginning of 1996 Chad's wrist was fine. The Red Hot Chili Peppers gathered together and decided that the American Tour couldn't be delayed any longer. They had all been resting and now were more or less on form. Anthony had recuperated some weight and told everyone he was spectacularly healthy.

Another single was released from One Hot Minute, the joyful Aeroplane, and of course a new video had to be shot, on January 15th. The video was as light as the song, and maybe after the dark atmosphere of the last 3 videos it seemed to be an appropriate choice. Anthony and the others were all bare-chested and played on the border of a large swimming pool where some girls were doing exercises of synchronized swimming. At the end Clara and other children, dressed up like small airplanes, gathered

in front of the camera and sang the chorus. All the video almost echoed old Esther Williams' movies.

"Aeroplane" had been released with the clear scope to revamp One Hot Minute's sales, particularly in America, but could do very little to mend the situation at this point. Not that One Hot Minute was a bad record. In general it had received good reviews, with an average 4 star rating, but everybody, also the people who had loved the record, never missed to point out: "That's not what I was expecting from the Red Hot Chili Peppers".

"Hallelujah" Anthony commented.

"Why hallelujah, Anthony?"

"Because that's the greatest compliment you could make to this record. We are changing. We have grown up. We have matured".



Shooting Aeroplane

Just before the tour started Anthony spent A week in Salt Lake City, Utah, to attend the Sundance Film Festival. He also skied a bit, besides watching almost all the movies programmed.

"I love being in the mountains, the trees, the sky, and oral sex" he said.

The movie that had impressed him most was "HYPE", a documentary on the "grunge" movement of early 90s. Though he found the movie was too one-dimensional ("It gave the impression that music was invented in Seattle"), Anthony was also enormously moved by that film.

"The movie made me cry" he stated "I came away very depressed, and wondering why I'm still alive".

If Anthony came away depressed from the film showing, he also came away totally sick with a sinus infection from Utah. Too cold over there for a Los Angeles junkie. "I'm not worried" he declared "Things happen for a reason". Maybe the reason was that the tour was about to start and Anthony was smothering in phlegm. "I hope to kick it out before the tour starts" he simply said.

Some extra intensive acupuncture sessions were mandatory to put him back on form, but on the day the traveling circus kicked off in Philadelphia his voice was still very weak.

"I lost my voice yesterday" he told Clara a few days later, while the camera was rolling "I can't really sing. I was wondering if you could take my place tonight".

"I don't think so" Clara giggled.

The little gag was part of a MTV show shot in New York and entitled "Bootleg", which included a meeting with fans and a gig at Madison Square Garden.

Anthony broke into MTV studios wearing a "Go Lakers" t-shirt and a totally stoned face and started kissing everyone in sight.



Madison Square Garden: the encore

taken between the various legs.

In those days the Chili Peppers appeared on the cover of various magazines, like the Rolling Stone and Spin, which published an interesting article entitled "To live and die in L.A.". One of the things which emerged from that article was that a "making of One Hot Minute" video had been shot as well, Funky Monks-style, by the usual Gavin Bowden, but in the end it had been considered too hard to be released as a normal music video and had been discarded. Of course, various pirate copies started circulating in various illegal porn trade shops and also the smartest people who have seen it have judged it "totally insane".

Pity. That video, even with a bit of censorship, could have given an insight at the current state of the band during post-One Hot Minute days. The tour had started with the best intentions but after a few weeks it had quickly verged on becoming the second craziest rock'n' roll tour ever after the famous Rolling Stones'

"Will you give me a Valentine kiss?" he asked one of the cameraman's assistants.

"But it's not Valentine yet" she replied.

"That's a preview" he said, and kissed the girl on the lips. Only a sturdy guard stopped him after he had kissed about half a dozen people at the studios.

The gig at Madison Square Garden has to be remembered as the only cock-in-sock gig of the "Navarro years"; but all the show proceeded in a very playful atmosphere.

"I'm staying at the Riga Royal" Anthony said to the crowd at one point, while Dave was watching him with a deeply astonished face "In room... 1905?"

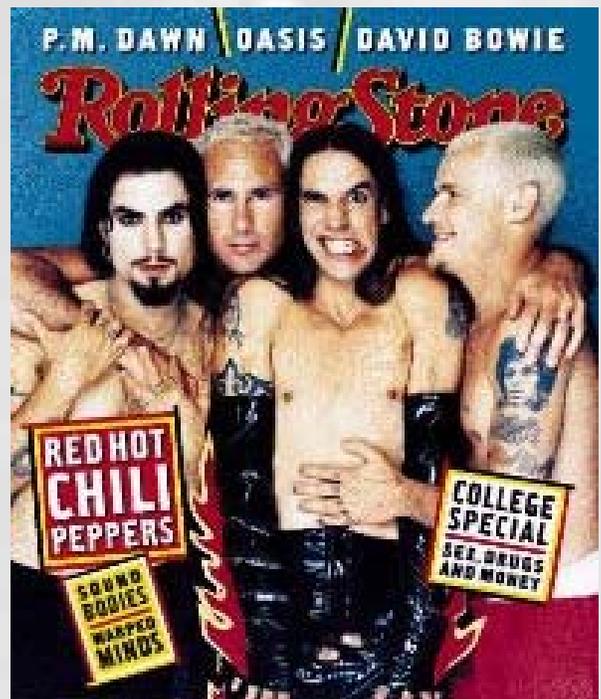
"1904" Flea corrected him.

"No, what it is, 1907?" Anthony asked him.

"1906" Chad said.

"1907. By the way, you're all invited, if you wanna come, come, if you don't feel like it's alright".

Anthony was looking good. Though he was still heavily using at least his other problems seemed to be solved. The guys had arranged the tour in four legs so that a little rest could be



Once again on the cover of the Rolling Stone

"Stones Touring Party" of 1972. Anthony, though always stoned and doped, seemed to have regained all his old sexual gluttony of the early days. He had never been easy meat for groupies ("They want me only because I'm famous"), now he never left the backstage without two chicks hanging on his arms, one on the left and the other on the right. Dave Navarro was doing the same, though less glamorously, and even their new stage manager, the shy and small (and just regularly married) Louis Mathieu was having great fun partying and getting chicks every night.

Flea started pondering if the old well-known situation of the early days was back, that is, the "sober half" of the four (he and Chad) versus the "stoned half" (Anthony and Dave). He wasn't sure if Dave was totally back to smack but he was sure he was frequently dabbling with a lot of substances not quite recommendable to an ex-addict. "Anthony has found a new partner in getting high!" he thought, and then it struck him, that was the first time since Hillel had died.



Dave and chicks on OHM tour

Jamie Rishar had been very patient at first. She knew that a rockstar is not a common man and cannot lead a common life, and she had known it since the first day she had agreed to follow Anthony in L.A., two years and half earlier. But what the hell. She had gone with him in the first dates of the tour, and Anthony had almost forgotten her in his dressing room one of those nights. She couldn't keep following him anywhere he went, paying attention that he didn't get too much into trouble or he didn't shoot up crap stuff that would make him too sick even to sing, she wasn't a nurse

for Christ's sake, she was a damned model whose career was totally languishing now because she was too busy worrying about her boyfriend's insanity! Anthony kept telling her "I love you" and "don't leave me" but as soon as she turned her eyes away he was already groping some other chick and Jamie wasn't sure if she could stand all this any longer. How tolerant can you get after all?

She eventually threw the towel in April. Anthony had prayed her not to leave him right at that moment, but between the love of her boyfriend and her mental sanity she chose the latter, and nobody could blame her for that. Jamie Rishar came out so traumatized from her relationship with Anthony that she temporarily left her career and disappeared from the catwalk and public sight for more than two years. Only after this self-imposed sabbatical period she reemerged in 1999 with a "Vogue" cover which re-launched her as one of the most beautiful American supermodels. But, please, she promptly asked "No more questions about Anthony Kiedis".

And with this, another one to be filed in the long "ex" archive.



*Jamie and Anthony shortly before
the break up*

The tour went on, and massive crowds were always following the band. In New York, a surprise guest had joined the guys on the stage for the encore, the grandpa of punk rock, Iggy Pop!

*Meet me at the coffee shop
We can dance like Iggy Pop*

Actually, his presence had excited more the band than the audience, a crowd of 13-14 year-olds who had mostly never heard of him. It was a strange thing, cause as the Chili Peppers were getting older and older their fans were looking younger and younger.

"How come does your music seem to attract so many young people?" asked a reporter from the magazine "Smoke".

"I don't know, it's funny" Chad giggled "You see all those teenagers in the front rows, we play something like Backwoods and those kids seem to think, what's this, a new song? I've never heard it!"

Anthony just grunted "I don't know, I'm near-sighted and I can't see the faces of the audience from the stage".

And maybe not even the stage. In Pittsburgh he took a tremendous fall in the middle of the gig but hot and doped as he was he could hardly feel pain. He finished the set visibly limping and only when he had chilled out he realized that he couldn't even walk. The doctors carefully examined him and found a dislocated ankle, some broken ribs, a wounded calf and various minor injuries.

But things couldn't be stopped.

Anthony was forced to end the tour going on stage every night with an ankle brace and a visible back support around his hips. It nearly became as famous as his other stage outfits. "I'm lucky to be alive" he replied to a fan who asked him how the hell he had taken that stupid fall.

Australia and New Zealand had been waiting for the Red Hot Chili Peppers for four years. Now the right time was finally arriving. After the last leg of the US tour, which covered California and all the west coast, the band boarded on a plane and went down under. Silverchair, one of most famous Oz bands in the world, would have opened. The guys, after four months of intensive touring, were tired but perfectly working and the shows got great reviews wherever they went. The sex drugs and rock'n'roll vibe was still flying high, and Anthony, Dave and Louis would often continue partying till dawn, also long after the others had given in to tiredness. On the occasion of the birthday of Silverchair's frontman, Daniel Johns, Anthony and Dave organized a surprise party on the stage complete with giant cake and strippers. It was a bit like going back to the old days.



Anthony with his new stage outfit

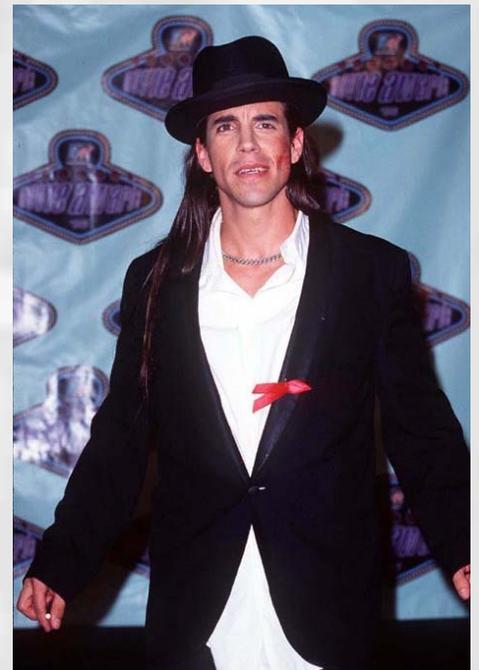
ed a gag with actress Samantha Mathis, one of River Phoenix's ex-girlfriends. He tried to kiss her and she slapped his face leaving a clear red mark on his cheek.

The news that he was single again had promptly toured around the world and he soon started to be seen around with a lot of beautiful women, the most famous of which was lovely Jennifer Aniston. But it was nothing serious. On a more worrying note, after his fall during the US tour his back was still giving him problems, and in occasion of the gig for Tibet in San Francisco, on June 15th and 16th 1996 he had to go on the stage once again wearing that damn back support. As if that wasn't enough, at this point everybody was now speculating about the fact that Anthony Kiedis had been on heroin for a long time and all his boasted cleanness had been a fat lie for at least 2 years.

As usual, Flea was still dubious. Though he was enjoying the atmosphere he was also getting a bit tired of it all. He was feeling more and more tempted to start new adventures, which didn't necessarily have to involve the Red Hot Chili Peppers. As soon as the tour ended Flea retired in his Australian house with his fiancée and started dedicating himself to various projects; he and Dave had tentatively spoken about doing something of their own, separated from the band. It was hard to admit it but the semi-failure of One Hot Minute had taken its toll on the guys, though in different ways. Flea didn't want to blame anyone for that. He still thought that One Hot Minute was a good record; but somehow it seemed to be related to something that each member was finding difficult to relate to.

Dave Navarro was a bit disappointed too: too many people seemed to think he was not the ideal guitar player for the band. He went on a brief holiday with his girlfriend, waiting for the European summer dates which were just round the corner. Chad came back home and started dedicating his energies to the project of a drum clinic.

Anthony went back home as well and he soon found himself involved in the usual partying whirl: at the beginning of June he went to the MTV Movie Awards where he play-



Anthony after Samantha's slap

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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