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BRIAN SPENCE ... biography

BRIAN SPENCE took advantage of his maverick nature and Scottish defiance when he was confronted with the possibility of, not only, a British tour, a European tour but also an American tour as well.

Brian, determined to succeed decided to go it alone and together with his guitar and sheer bravado is now proving to be a force to be reckoned with. Such singlemindedness has driven Brian Spence constantly against the grain.

This combination of unusual conviction and real innovation started at an early age. At the age of nine, Brian Spence would sit in the back garden of his home in Edinburgh and write songs - a habit he never grew out of. He started out on acoustic guitar but by the time he joined a group, a local blues band, he was playing bass. The guitarist there had already established himself as the best blues guitarist in Edinburgh, when he suddenly quit leaving Brian with the task of taking over the vacant role. Chucked in at the deep end "I was really rough", he says "and the drummer suggested I listen to Clapton, Peter Green etc., I really got in to Peter Green. That's when I started to take it seriously. That's when I stopped kidding around".
He was 14.

At that time there were hundred of places to play in Edinburgh; all the bands knew each other, poaching and swapping members continually, and Brian was in and out of different groups within the space of three years. He then joined Bilbo Baggins and had his first taste of success. Later, Brian and the singer from Bilbo Baggins recorded for CBS in America as 'Chisholm and Spence', but soon they split up and Brian moved to London.

He began to make demos of his songs, which he now sang himself, and within a year signed a solo recording contract with Polydor. Jubilant, he set about recording his first solo album, BROTHERS with the wealth of material that had flowed from his pen following his signing. This was also Brian's foray into production with the guidance of co-producer Ed Stasium. A single from the album 'Hear It From The Heart' was a hit in Europe. Always being one to seize the opportunity, Brian formed a band and gigged in Europe which worked very successfully. The album also did well in parts of America.

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Brian Spence's new album, REPUTATION has a far greater variety of mood than its predecessor. Says Brian: "It's a lot warmer. I'm using my voice to far greater effect". The co-producer this time was Stephen W. Taylor, whose credits include Tina Turner, Howard Jones and Rupert Hine. Brian claims that Stephen had a more easy going approach to small technical imperfections! With Taylor, he worked on the album at home, on his 24 track machine. Brian believes that much of the album's power is owed to the fact that all the backing tracks were recorded with the band live. "It was just so fast. Why doesn't everyone record like that?"

Brian's inspiration for lyrics comes from "just things that have happened to me in my life. Experiences I have had". And for music? "Whatever sounds good to me". And what sounded good to Radio 1 was 'Reputation' the debut single from Brian's new album which became a big airplay hit. The second single 'Come Back Home' became Record of the Week on Radio One's Simon Mayo's Breakfast Show. The third single 'Without Your Love' followed with support slots with John Farnham, and Icicle Works.

The release of REPUTATION received excellent critical acclaim:

"Spence's mellifluous vocals are the spearhead of its thrust, the leading edge of a guitar and keyboards harmony that is reminiscent of both Steve Hackett and Bryan Adams".

Q Magazine

"Wonderfully fresh and appealing ... the songs are superb".

Kerrang

Having freed himself from the constraint of a band, Brian will demonstrate his raw edge when he performs his idiosyncratic style of rock at the Mean Fiddler on the 31st January, 1989.

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