

TOMMY KEENE INFORMATION SERVICE • P.O. BOX 40571 • WASHINGTON, D.C. 20016

Hello everyone, it's 2:15 in the morning on a cold night in January in Washington, D.C., and I just wanted to say thanks to all the people who bought our records, came to the live shows, and supported Tommy Keene in 1986. This is the first in a series of newsletters that I hope to send out on a somewhat regular basis to keep everyone up to date on what's going on. Right now I'm in the process of completing songs for the next full-length album on Geffen Records, which I'll probably start in March, to be finished some six weeks afterwards and to be released late in the summer of 87. I've already gone through three working titles for the album, so I probably shouldn't reveal the latest for it will undoubtedly change again. Anyway, Bill Wittman, who re-mixed four songs from "Songs From The Film," will probably be producing along with myself. Some songs that I'm pretty sure will end up on the album are "Based On Happy Times," "The Biggest Conflict," "I'll Wait For You," "Hanging On To Yesterday," and "Nothing Can Change You" and "A Way Out," both of which we played live in 1986.

In February I'm going to produce a band from Birmingham, Alabama called "Carnival Season" who have a great 12" single out now on "What Goes On" Records, so you might want to check it out.

As far as playing live, I believe a temporary hiatus is in progress, which will probably change after the new record is finished. I'm sorry we didn't get back to the west coast a second time this year or to Texas (where we've never played) but I'm sure we'll get there in 87.

People have been asking about the live shows, so here's a list of all the ones we did in 86, plus some comments, recollections, etc. about what went down.

March 4, The Roxy, Washington, D.C. This was actually the historic debut of the now internationally reknowned Ted Niceley Experience (actually a misnomer we played under due to the fact that in two days we were to play an invitation only record release party, and also due to the fact that Doug Tull threw his back out a week before and we had to work in a new drummer, Rob Brill, who then went on to play out the rest of the spring tour.)

March 6, The Bayou, Washington, D.C. Uneventful show due to too many industry types in the audience, no doubt.

March 15, Godfrey's Famous Ballroom, Baltimore, MD The opening night of our first tour supporting "Songs From The Film." This night marked the first instance of me chucking my ESP telecaster into the drum set during "Kill Your Sons," which was to become a nightly ritual when things began to get out of hand, not necessarily in a good way, if you know what I mean.

March 16, Cat's Cradle, Chapel Hill, N.C. All I remember is that I tried unsuccessfully to get Ted to introduce "Marilyn Monroe." He feigned ignorance.

March 20, The Paradise, Boston, Mass. The first night of opening for Lloyd Cole and the Comotions, whose only comment on us the whole tour was "They're too loud." Actually, you see, it was all just a plot to get Lloyd to loosen up a bit, crank up the amps and kick out the jams.

March 21, The World, NYC where we were being filmed live for MTV and we weren't given the luxury of a dressing room. I changed my pants under the stage.

March 24, The Spectrum, Montreal We weren't advertised, no one knew who we were, and the French guys from WEA were complaining about the blurry album cover, but the big rock critic in town told me I was the eighties' answer to Perry Como, which made my evening.

March 25, The Copa, Toronto A sold-out disco with absolutely no room on stage--Ted got the willies.

March 28, St. Andrew's Ballroom, Detroit, Mich. One of my favorite shows of 1986. "Underworld" was really good that night.

March 29, Park West, Chicago, Ill. We went on at 7:00 and yours truly was in the men's room at the other end of the club when I realized that our intro tape was dangerously close to ending, so I ran to the stage, barely making it, starting "Astronomy" very out of breath.

March 30, First Avenue, Minneapolis Great show. I took a picture of the crowd during "Kill Your Sons."

April 1, The Rainbow Theatre, Denver I was being blinded on stage by three giant supertrooper spotlights, and when a girl down front asked me if "The Story Ends" is a sad song, I replied "Yeah, just about as sad as these lights," which prompted the lighting guy in the back of the hall to walk away from the board. The audience cheered and we finished the set in darkness.

April 2, The Palladium, Salt Lake City, UT We didn't get a sound check because there was a drug store underneath the club, but the show was great, which made me think we should do away with sound checks.

April 4, Wolfgang's, San Francisco A really good show.

April 6, The Palace, Los Angeles It sounded awful to me, but everyone thought we played well.

April 7, SDSU, San Diego Uneventful except that the roadies threatened to put Ted's bass amp out of its misery once and for all.

April 13, One Step Beyond, Santa Clara, CA Very strange disco-type place that inspired us to hit them with our snazzy cover of the Human League's "Seconds" to get things rolling.

April 15, Starry Night, Portland, Oregon My amps blew immediately, my mind blew next.

April 16 and 17, Backstage, Seattle Our first two-night stand anywhere--actually, if they combined the crowds for both nights, the place wouldn't have been half full. Both shows were actually really great, though.

April 19, WBCN Expo, Boston, Mass. We had our own Winnebago as a dressing room!

April 27, 9:30 Club, Washington, D.C. Last gig with Rob, or Scrappy as he was re-named. We actually played "Baby Face" at this show.

July 29, Kings Head Inn, Norfolk, VA First show in three months which actually was one of the best all year--great crowd. First time we played "Waiting For The Man."

July 31, Rockitz, Richmond, VA They left me at the hotel for this one.

August 1, 9:30 Club, Washington, D.C. The temperature on stage had to be around 115. There was water condensing on the walls. At one point I was just going to stop the show and take an intermission, but realized that once I got downstairs in the dressing room I wouldn't want to go back.

August 14, The Ritz, NYC We opened for the Australian band Icehouse, who played their whole set complete with costume changes during the sound check.

August 15, Maxwell's, Hoboken, N.J. Fun show and party afterwards.

August 16, The Rat, Boston, Mass. No, we didn't play "When The Whip Comes Down."

August 30, GWU, Washington, D.C. As Ted remarked, the opening night of our parking lot tour.

September 26, University of Richmond, VA Second night of our parking lot tour.

October 6, Glassboro State College, N.J. We opened for Southside Johnny in a huge gym. During "Nothing Can Change You" some jock threw a tennis ball and hit me right in the head. Good shot.

October 17, Haverford, PA Really fun show in a cool little ballroom straight from the set of "A Separate Peace."

November 1, Utica College, N.Y. Opening night of our fall tour to promote the EP "Run Now." We opened for Til Tuesday in a half-empty gym and managed to get through four songs before we were given the hook. I think Til Tuesday was in a hurry to blow out of Utica.

November 2, Hamilton College, Clinton, N.Y. where we played to thirty people in a pizza parlor. The student promoter remarked that there were at least six more people upstairs at the weekly divestment meeting and we might be able to lure them downstairs if we played "Biko" by Peter Gabriel.

November 5, Blind Pig, Ann Arbor, Mich. Good show--outrageous version of "Teenage Head," an old Flaming Groovies song we sometimes play for an encore, during which I went out in the crowd and tried to get this kid up front to play guitar, but he was left-handed.

November 7, Century Hall, Milwaukee, WI We played a double bill with the Dead Milkmen. Billy was concerned about whether or not my Indian belt would go over with members of their crowd.

November 8, O'Cayze Corral, Madison, WI The stage was so rickety that every time I sang, the microphone knocked me in the teeth. The opening band played "Places That Are Gone"--my thoughts exactly.

November 9, First Avenue, Minneapolis Really good show, although poorly attended. We shared the bill with Hunters and Collectors from Australia, who pulled in five minutes before their show. Paul Westerberg of the Replacements put in an appearance.

November 10, Blue Note, Columbia, Mo. They said it was a big college town--enough said.

November 12, Cogburn's, Lawrence, Kansas This show turned out really well, especially the encores.

November 13, Mississippi Nights, St. Louis Don't remember too much about this one, but the hotel across the street was great, and this was also the origin of our famous funk version of "Kill Your Sons," which became a staple of the live show--I think we were pretty bored by this point.

November 15, Rivera Theatre, Chicago, Ill. With Steve Earle--one of the best shows all year. Afterwards, Steve took us across the street for some deadly Mexican food.

November 16, Mabel's, Champaign, Ill. Pretty good show. The first band, Pop The Balloon, and their friends were convinced that we didn't feel appreciated. Quite the contrary. They should have been in Columbus, Ohio the next night.

November 17, Columbus, Ohio The opening band did a hilarious cover of Led Zep's "Immigrant Song."

November 19, The Bayou, Washington, D.C. Good show, encore included "Strange Alliance."

November 21, 8x10, Baltimore, MD Fairly good show, good crowd. The P.A. kept squealing all night, though.

November 23, Kings Head Inn, Norfolk, VA Once again, a great show. I don't know what it is about this place.

December 2, The Brewery, Raleigh, N.C. Good show.

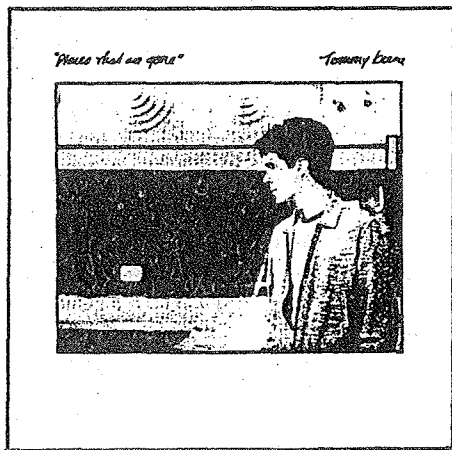
December 3, Rockefeller's, Columbia, S.C. Good show, despite the fact that none of my guitars wanted to cooperate.

December 4, Milestone, Charlotte, N.C. Really good show. This club has to be seen to be believed.
 December 5, Uptown Lounge, Athens, GA Good frat party. The illustrious Ann Boyles put in an appearance.
 December 6, The Nick, Birmingham, Alabama Good show. There was no dressing room, but we cleared out a closet at the side of the stage that was about 2' by 3'.
 December 7, Exit Inn, Nashville, TN The most exciting thing was that the club we played at was used in Robert Altman's movie "Nashville" where Keith Carradine was singing.
 December 9, Lucky's, Radford, VA Crazy show--kids pressed right up front.
 December 11, Spit, Boston, Mass. Good show despite a poor turnout due to a snowstorm.
 December 12, The Grotto, New Haven, CT A girl from a college radio station yelled out "Faith In Love," which I proceeded to play acoustically--a first.
 December 13, City Gardens, Trenton, N.J. The story ends.

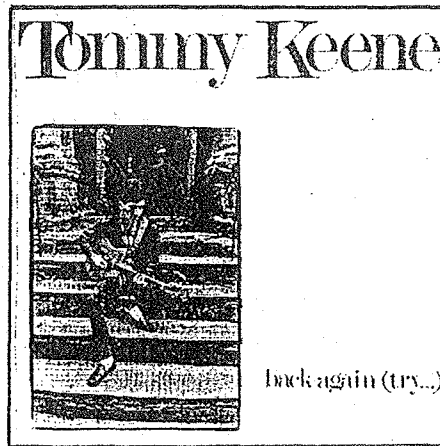
See you in 87,

Tommy Keene

Tommy Keene



"Places That Are Gone"



"Back Again (Try...)"

"Places That Are Gone" record	\$10.00
"Places That Are Gone" cassette	\$10.00
"Back Again (Try...)" record	\$8.00

Please add \$1.75 postage and handling for each record or tape.

"Songs From The Film" T-shirts
 \$12.50 plus \$1.50 postage and handling
 Large and extra large only Please specify size

Please make checks payable to Tommy Keene

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