

**Tim:** I live in L.A. and I want to make sure people know who I am in my hometown.

**Ben:** I think people do!

**Tim:** It means a lot to me to be worthy in my hometown, so that's my goal.

**Ben:** You've been in L.A. for what, two years now?

**Tim:** I think three. August '98, it's almost three years. That's when I moved from Manchester to a one-bedroom apartment on Linwood Avenue.

**Ben:** How does it feel living here, compared to living in England?

**Tim:** I was so bored with England. I had two choices: to move to London, where I had lived twice before—and I didn't want to make it a third time—or to move to Los Angeles. Those were my two choices, London or L.A., and I liked the idea of learning new things again. All I've known in England, all that I was brought up with...when you move to a new place that all changes. Everything that you've been taught doesn't make any sense anymore. It's really a different culture and I liked the chance to relearn.

**Ben:** I think that's what life is about.

**Tim:** I think it is. Stages are stages. Life is about relearning things as you grow.

**Ben:** I moved here seven months ago from Boston.

**Tim:** That's a big move.

**Ben:** Not quite the culture shock of moving from

England.

**Tim:** Boston is very much like England I think.

**Ben:** It is. I've seen you play there a few times.

**Tim:** Right now I don't like Boston too much. It reminds me of England.

**Ben:** There's still some mystique about the west coast, like in the 19<sup>th</sup> century people were going west to find their fortune. There's still some truth to that. Do you think the move to California was a big influence on *Us And Us Only*?

**Tim:** The last album was definitely Tim in the process of moving as far as my part towards the LP went. We did it all in Manchester and I was itching to go home. I think there's a lot of desperation in that record.

**Ben:** It's my favorite, actually.

**Tim:** You'll be really disappointed with the new one then!

**Ben:** What's the new one like?

**Tim:** Charlatans have always moved and changed when they felt like it. The new one is not as deep. It's more music than words. I think if I tried to write more words than the last LP, it would just be words.

**Ben:** Truthfully, each of your last three LPs has been my favorite. I like each one better than the one before starting with your self-titled one in 1995.

**Tim:** Then you'll love it, but it will change your direction. It's a major shift. It's weird but it's ev-

everything. I'd like to really self-promote but I'm not the best promoter of our group in the world. I think the last one, "Watching You" to me is fucking mindblowing and "Forever," mindblowing. "Blonde Waltz," better live, "Blind Stagger," you can't dance to it and at the moment I'm into dancing. The next record's a bit more of a dance record.

**Ben:** You've always had a mod/soul element to your sound.

**Tim:** We just take it from A to Z. Sometimes it turns on its head, sometimes you freak out on it, sometimes it just pleases your soul, sometimes you want to get a gun out and shoot someone. I like all those feelings.

**Ben:** You totally outlasted your contemporaries. The Stone Roses only made one good album and then fizzled out.

**Tim:** It was a good one though wasn't it?

**Ben:** Oh yeah. Despite all the hardships you've experienced as a group, why do you think you've been able to make six great albums?

**Tim:** Well, I like being in a band for one and the idea of not being in a band is a bit of a tough one for me to deal with. Also, we like the adventure and the travel and the privilege of being able to do what we do and to get paid for it. That is a privilege. None of us take that for granted. The idea to be able to shift your musical tastes, which everyone does, is amazing. Again, it's a privilege to be able to shift musical tastes and do what you want to do and have someone promote it for you. I'm so glad that we were able to do *Us And Us Only*. To me that's such a fucking personal record. It took me four or five records to do something so personal. I didn't guess it, I didn't second-guess it, and I didn't think about it, I just did it and people bought it and people love it. It's amazing really.

**Ben:** Your last record is just so timeless. I've found with all of your records that they've all worn so well, even at the very beginning.

**Tim:** I don't like the beginning too much because I always thought that we had something great as a live band. To me, *Some Friendly* squashed all of the electric energy that came from us as we played it. It's almost as if the production made it nice. I didn't have a good feeling about the first one although the songs are great.

**Ben:** Which is the first record that you feel you're really proud of?

**Tim:** The Charlatans *The Charlatans*, and I was so tired of saying that was my favorite record and being a slow learner, you know. It's time to make a record and you know you don't have to say that not your last one or the one before that or the one



Photo: Hamish Brown