

## Echo & the Bunnymen

It's a balmy spring evening in north London, and Ian McCulloch, the Bunnymen's iconic front man and dagger-sharp wit, is discussing "The Idolness Of Gods", the epic and soul-wrenching ballad at the heart of new album *The Fountain*. "I can't imagine anyone else singing it," he says. "It's beautiful, pure, there's a real strength to it. I haven't heard any poetry quite like that, telling you about the crying inside, life as you grow older."

Mac is in a playful mood, and with good reason. The past few years have been a triumphant period for Echo & The Bunnymen, a group he formed in Liverpool in 1978 with guitarist Will Sergeant. In September 2008, they were invited to perform their 1985 orchestral-rock masterpiece, *Ocean Rain*, at the Royal Albert Hall, with similar sell-out shows following shortly afterwards in New York's Radio City Music Hall, Los Angeles' Nokia Theatre and the massive new arena in their native Liverpool.

Despite an undisputed place in rock history because of their classic catalogue, the Bunnymen continue to expound on their sound with *The Fountain* - a feisty album of pulsating rock anthems (Think I Need It Too, Do You Know Who I Am, Everlasting) and Bowie-ish pop (Proxy, Shroud Of Turin), all centered around that grand, reflective soul-stirring ballad, 'The Idolness Of Gods'.

The album was recorded at Parr Street Recording Studios in Liverpool. Its widescreen, crystalline sound is the work of Scottish producer John McLaughlin. Mac says, "He said the Bunnymen were his favorite thing of all time, but really I think it's The Clash and Bruce Springsteen. I just became really good friends with him. I wanted someone I could trust to get the sound."

Echo & the Bunnymen are among the most influential musicians of their generation. The band's inimitable sound has produced 5 UK Top 10 albums and a string of hits over the past 3 decades including "The Back of Love", "Lips Like Sugar", "The Cutter", "Bring on the Dancing Horses", "Bedbugs and Ballyhoo", as well as "Seven Seas" and "The Killing Moon" from the aforementioned landmark album *Ocean Rain*. Their songs have also been an integral part of classic films including *Donnie Darko*, *Pretty in Pink*, *Grosse Pointe Blank*, and *The Lost Boys*. Their influence can be heard in a wide variety of artists from Coldplay to Courtney Love. *The Fountain* is Echo & the Bunnymen's 10<sup>th</sup> studio album and was met with critical acclaim on both sides of the Atlantic. Their 2010 live events in support of *The Fountain* include a stop at the Coachella festival where they are among the most anticipated acts.