

Ian McLagan Opinion Poll

Australia hits back at the Faces' and McLagen's 'knock' comments on the Australian tour.

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est. Letters poured into Goicians themselves have got cons of the McLagen com-

Australians are distinguished by a total sense of NO rhythm."

Here's what the groups, the artists and the Australian public has to say in answer to McLagen's tirade:

"I'm obsessed with breasts — large or small. What are they on about. However, I do think that McLagen is right on music. There is too much of Alvin Stardust and Garry Glitter and that rubbish on radio here. "No, I didn't go to hear the Faces because I didn't think they'd be very good anyway."

Jon English, solo star and ex-Superstar laughed: "I've got a broken nose too, but sorry, no big tits last time I looked."

"I agree with McLagen though about the Alvin Stardust, Gary Glitter syndrome on radio here. Anyone who sounds like them gets airplay. But McLagen forgets that Britain has a huge black population. And the reason we have whitey music in Australia is because we are white. There aren't all that many aboriginals here. Anyway, the Faces play whitey music and anyone who says they don't is talking crap."

Bob Aird, National Promotions and P.R. for Phonogram who handle Rod Stewart, was quick to point out that the remarks of McLagen didn't reflect the overall Faces' attitude to the tour: "Faces Knock Australia is a good headline but in actual fact it wasn't the Faces who knocked Australia, but Ian McLagen, one member out of a group of five. I don't deny Ian did knock — and knock hard — but probably he was making the statement in his own inimitable light-hearted way in a mad phone conversation to the press. I think the comments were sensationalised out of all proportion. I toured with Stewart and the Faces in February and believe me, they enjoyed Australia."

Smiley Pailthorpe, drummer with Hush, is amused by all the fuss.

"Being an Australian myself I'm the first to admit we don't take kindly to criticism of any kind. But McLagen's statements were funny — part of the English sense of humour and sense of send up. I can't understand how, now, everyone seems to want to turn on the Faces and Stewart just because the group's piano player said a few silly things. As a band they are incredible. And besides that, it was a very funny story



AGAINST:

Beeb Birtles, of Mississippi, lashed out at the 'Faces' remarks on their 'Boring' Australian tour.

"I considered the band was musically boring and the rapport between Stewart and Ronnie Wood was really the same trip as that between Jagger and Richards in the Stones. So it's all been done before. I saw both concerts the Faces did in Melbourne and walked out after the fourth song on both occasions. Ian McLagen bored? Hell — I was bored."

Cleo Adams, in publicity with Warner Brothers who handle the Faces:

"If McLagen really judges a country on the points he brought forward then he has a big big problem. There are far more important things... nice people, good audiences, and simply enjoying the feel of a new country... than the 'picking on the big-boobed sheilas attitude.' I do think a lot of what he said came off the top of his head, without considering the consequences. If he really believes what he said, there is something drastically wrong with his thinking."

Mick Fettes, of Madder Lake, was equally angry and unimpressed with McLagen's 'put-down':

"I don't think it's very nice at all. The Faces obviously haven't seen much of Australia — did they hear any Australian music? They wouldn't have seen the cream of rock 'n' roll in Australia I'm sure. And as for saying it's boring here, did it

have bored everyone else to ears too? I heard their concert and they didn't sound that good. And as for their comments about Australian chicks — well I think the ladies here are wonderful. Just wonderful!"

Matt Taylor smiled about the comments, particularly on girls.

"Beauty is only skin deep. Inner beauty never disappears either by age or accident. If you judge the worthiness of your fellows by their looks you'll always be disappointed. If their music (the Faces) has as much insight as their words I think I'll just live here with our whitey pop, fat legs and broken noses. "By the way, are the Faces a 'whitey pop band'?"

Gary Young, drummer of Daddy Cool, was angry at the knocking McLagen gave Aussie birds:

"It really crapped me off to read the Faces' run down on Australianchicks," he said. "Mate, I've never been to England but I've met a few English babes and find them kinda strange. Hard to get through to and kinda funny looking. I suppose Ian McLagen met lots of crummy looking band molls, or something. Man, I've seen babes in America and they're pretty neat, but the Australian chicks are the greatest looking in the world — for sure. Why, just looking around now convinces me even more."

Clive Shakespeare, of Sherbet, enjoyed the show but thought McLagen's comments

"His scathing comments about Australian girls was unfair. Maybe he was drinking so much his vision was impaired, or he was taking the lyrics of 'I'd rather be Blind' too seriously. If he found his trip boring then he only had himself to blame because it's up to the individual to keep one's self entertained. And after all, that is his profession."

Lobby Lloyde, of the Coloured Balls, was livid about the remarks hitting Australian musical tastes and musicians. He felt the Faces had NO right to make a comment:

"If Ravi Shankar threw his hands up in disgust and walked off stage, or if Elton John had hated playing here, or Buddy Rich had refused to go on or if Segovia had hated Australian audiences there would be some reason for concern. But when a band plays as lifeless a bracket as the Faces, as dated musically as to remind one of a drunk Aussie rock-blues band in 1966 at the Turn or the Fat Black Pussy Cat, just raging on with absolutely no concern for music or audience, then it's different. "They have the gall to put down Australia, Aussie bands and people! Hell. Every band tries to find a scapegoat for bad performances. The Faces tried to use the environment as an excuse and like their music, it's all been done before. Ask any musician after a bad bracket what was the reason and nine times out of 10 he'll can the audience, the promoter, the equipment. He'll never put the blame where it really belongs