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NEW LOOK!

Guitarist

THE GUITAR BUYER'S BIBLE



The **HELLECASTERS**
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JENNIFER BATTEN

Will Ray

MEET MR SONIC EXTREMISM. WITH finger slides on both hands and a B-bender, Will Ray's phenomenal approach to the guitar is enough to make anyone take up drums. When he's not honouring his seemingly endless duties as a sessioneer, he's also much in demand as a producer.

Completing the trio of twang, *Guitarist* caught up with the man

with more burns to his sides than Freddie Krueger.

Record first, practice later

"I'm kinda' busy at the moment. As well as The Hellecasters, I'm also doing a lot of albums for people, and of a lot of session work here and there. Oh, and producing... I'm doing a whole lot of that right now, too. I'm currently producing a girl named Lara Virgo, so watch out for that.

"I'm also in my second week of practising now. Once you do an

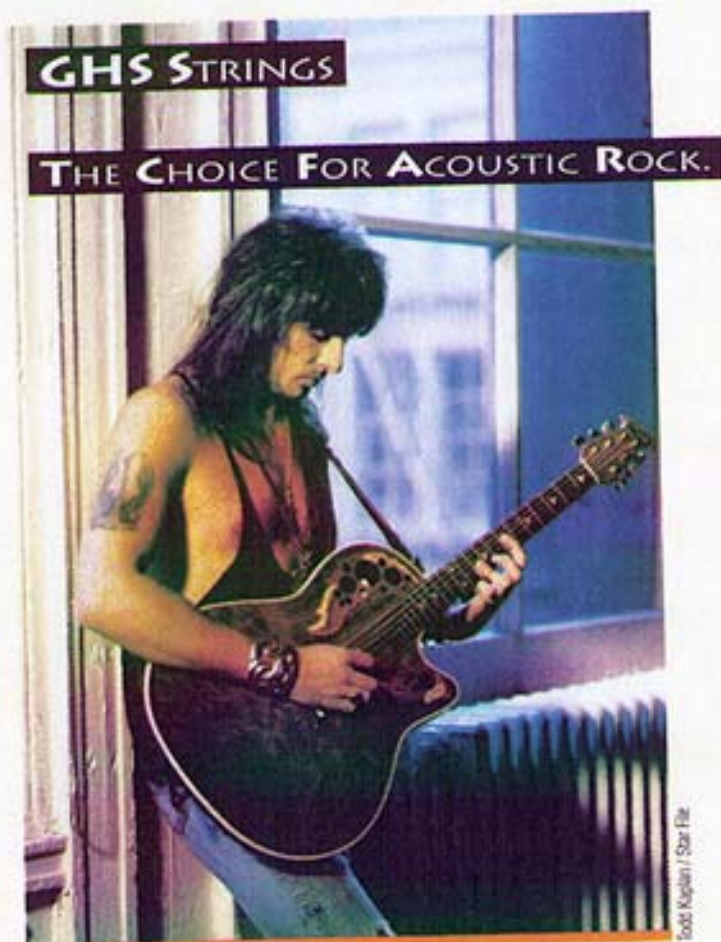
album, the next step is to learn what you just did! I'm working a little bit every day to get myself up to speed."

"I'm real happy with my new signature guitar. It's got a basswood Telecaster body, and it's finished in a gold foil leaf, with a pearloid scratchplate. It's different because it has a V-shaped Stratocaster neck, with a small Strat headstock, and the inlay's pearloid, too. I've also got locking tuners to help tuning stability. We've called it a Jazz-a-caster.

"The pickups are two specially-designed Seymour Duncans that are Jazzmaster-shaped. I've always liked Jazzmaster Pickups, but these are beefier than the original Fenders - they have more pronounced low-end and mid-range, and they're reverse wound.

"I have a four-way selector switch; it's one better than three way, ha ha! I've got it wired so you can have the neck pickup or the bridge pickup, or you can get both pickups together, either in series or parallel. They're hum-cancelled, too. The volume pot has an added capacitor so the tone stays the same, and the tone pot has an extra knob so that you can set each pickup individually.

"It's also got a Hipshot B-bender that comes as a standard fitment. That's the surface-mounted one, rather than the one that requires all the routing. Amp-wise, I'm going through a Rivera." ■



Bob Kaplan / Star File

Nothing will replace the full, rich resounding tone of that old six-string. Just ask Richie—no stranger to acoustic rock. Richie Sambora swears by his GHS Bright Bronze, and when its time to plug in, GHS Boomers are his choice. Hear the sounds of GHS on Richie Sambora's first solo effort, *Stranger In This Town*.



Manufactured by G.H.S. Corporation
2813 Wilber Avenue,
Battle Creek, MI 49015,
U.S.A.



Technique tip

"Well, my favourite thing right now is using the right hand slide. I use it on my pinky, and it's something I've been experimenting with lately. When I do up and down strokes, the downstroke is just the pick, while the upstroke is the pick and the string, plus the right hand slide.

You get a different note when you do that. For instance, if you're playing a high E, the downstroke is E and the upstroke is an F₂ or a D. As you're going up the neck it starts changing, you know? The slide acts like moving the bridge forward.