

FEEDER FOR THOUGHT

THE PARTY OF THE YEAR, THE EDGARS 5FM 26TH BIRTHDAY CONCERT, HAS JUST INVITED ITS FIRST GUEST TO ENTERTAIN PARTYGOERS AT SUPERSPORT PARK ON OCTOBER 27 – TOP UK ROCK OUTFIT, FEEDER.

Thirty thousand people attended THE EDGARS 5FM 25TH BIRTHDAY CONCERT at SUPERSPORT PARK last year to witness one of the saddest, yet greatest moments in rock history, one of the Smashing Pumpkin's final gigs, superbly supported by UK darlings James.

While this may seem like a hard act to follow, THE EDGARS 5FM 26TH BIRTHDAY CONCERT on OCTOBER 27, again at SUPERSPORT PARK, CENTURION promises to not only match that undeniably electric atmosphere, but to better it.

To do this organisers have planned a bigger event with an additional stage and entertainment areas, and have also confirmed a band, FEEDER, whom have not only reached number one the 5FM chart with their single *Buck Rogers* (from their wildly exciting new album, *Echo Park*, with its second single *Seven Days in the Sun* rapidly climbing the 5FM Top 40 – currently at # 31), but have also recently been voted The Best Live Rock Act at the Kerrang Awards and nominated for the Best Rock Act the Q Awards taking place in October .

"Sure, it's 5FM's birthday party, which means celebrating another year as the country's entertainment authority," says 5FM station manager Anthony Duke. "But the EDGARS 5FM 26TH BIRTHDAY CONCERT is also a party for all our loyal listeners who have continued to tune into 5FM through the years," he says. "Bringing out a band like FEEDER, whom have had phenomenal success on the station and are well liked by our listeners, is just one way we can repay our listeners for their loyalty."

While FEEDER are the first band to be confirmed for the momentous party, concert organiser Roddy Quin from REAL CONCERTS, promises the band are merely one of many who will be making up the line-up that will entertain partygoers throughout the day and much of the night. FEEDER will indeed be joined on THE EDGARS 5FM 26TH BIRTHDAY CONCERT'S MAIN STAGE, by at least one international act as well as the cream of South African talent.

"FEEDER are without a doubt one of the most exciting live acts performing in the world today," says Quin. "Their popularity in South Africa is also at a high, which makes them a great choice for the birthday celebrations. FEEDER will, however, be joined by other international acts who are not only at the top of their game, but who are also popular with South African audiences. In addition to this we recognise the importance of providing a platform for up-and-coming local acts and will thus erect a stage, THE SHOWCASE STAGE, dedicated to the staging of these bands."

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FEEDER (Grant Nicholas on guitar and vocals, Taka Hirose on bass and Jon Lee on drums were originally formed in 1992 in Wales but the present line-up came together in London in 1995 when South Walians Grant Nicholas and Jon Lee decamped to London and found bassist Taka Hirose (from Tokyo) in the musicians ads in advertising rag *Loot*. Signing soon after to Echo, the band started touring – something they've rarely stopped doing over the last four years.

A mini-album entitled *Swim* (released in 1996) made a lasting impression on the UK's rock scene – thanks to the band's heavy guitars and sugar-sweet melodies encapsulated within *Swim*'s six songs. More touring around the country followed as the band quickly built up a fanatical following.

A set of singles previewed the FEEDER's debut album, *Polythene*, released in May 1997. Named Album Of The Year in *Metal Hammer* magazine, *Polythene* captured the band's thrilling, overdriven rock sound and featured live favourites *Descend* and *My Perfect Day*. Over the Summer FEEDER played festivals across the UK, featuring a

new song, *High*, in their set. This soon became the band's anthem, FEEDER's "team song" even. Released as a single in October 1997 it was the band's biggest hit – reaching number 24 and receiving blanket daytime radio play.

High was ultimately patched on to *Polythene*, and in 1998 FEEDER interrupted a mammoth US tour for a set of heroic, homecoming UK shows that culminated with two nights at the Astoria in London. Heroic simply put because Grant Nicholas cracked a cheekbone halfway through the tour, but the band played on.

For the rest of 1998 FEEDER continued a rigorous North American touring schedule (125 dates all in all) including countless Summer Radio Shows (the US equivalent of the UK Festival), before returning to the UK to record the second album in RAK Studios in London. *Yesterday Went Too Soon* was mixed in early 1999 in New York by Grant and Andy Wallace, whose previous credits included Nirvana's *Nevermind* and Slayer's *Reign In Blood*, amongst others.

A Spring 1999 tour (during which time Jon Lee broke his ankle, but the tour continued, of course) saw FEEDER play songs from *Yesterday Went Too Soon* to their passionate fans for the first time. Two more top 40 hit singles were released before *Yesterday Went Too Soon* entered the album charts at number seven. The album saw a further advancement of Grant Nicholas's song writing, featuring gorgeous ballads (*Tinseltown*), explosive power pop (*Insomnia*, *Waiting For Changes*) and quirky tunes (*Day In Day Out*, *Picture Of Perfect Youth*). In October, FEEDER played their biggest headlining dates yet, culminating in a show at Brixton Academy.

Over the course of the year, the band had played in front of huge crowds on the bills of Glastonbury, Reading and Leeds, Mt. Fuji Festival in Japan and the Ashton Court Festival in Bristol, which the band headlined in front of a 25 000 crowd. The year ended on another high, as the band celebrated New Year's 1999 on the bill of the Manic Millennium at the Millennium stadium in Cardiff.

FEEDER headlined a prestigious night at the NME Carling Premier Awards shows in London in January 2000. The band toured Australia for the first time and Jon Lee got married in Miami. The rest of 2000 saw Grant write their third album and the band spent the summer recording in Great Linford Manor in Buckinghamshire with Gil Norton (Pixies, Foo Fighters) at the helm.

2001 has so far been FEEDER's best year yet. The insanely catchy *Buck Rogers* from their third album *Echo Park*, entered the charts at number 5, their highest chart position. It also became a bona fide radio anthem in the process. Two sets of sold-out touring in March and April culminated with two celebratory-packed shows at the London Astoria.

A second single, *Seven Days In The Sun* saw FEEDER travel to Cape Town to record a memorable beach-based video. It provided the band with their second top 20 hit of the year (#14), and was swiftly followed by the release of the band's third album *Echo Park*, which debuted at Number 5 and has swiftly sold over 100 000 copies, awarding the band a Gold Disc. Coincidentally both *Polythene* and *Yesterday Went Too Soon* have clicked over into silver disc territory, with total sales of over 60 000 each.

Echo Park is widely considered to be one of the most accomplished British rock albums of recent times. Its exuberant "pop" songs (*Buck Rogers*, *Tell All Your Friends*) are balanced by reflective moments (*Oxygen*, *Piece By Piece*) and some of FEEDER's thrillingly heaviest stuff yet (*Standing On The Edge* and *Bug*).

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Tickets for the EDGARS 5FM 26TH BIRTHDAY CONCERT at SUPERSPORT PARK, CENTURION on OCTOBER 27 are available from TICKETWEB on 082 1 400 500 / 083 1 400 500 or www.ticketweb.co.za or www.5fm.co.za

Tickets cost between R90 and R190 for general admission and golden circle (excluding service fee).

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