



# Michael Monroe

**NEW 'WHATCHA WANT' SOLO ALBUM SET FOR RELEASE  
JANUARY 27TH ON SPV THROUGH KOCH.**

"Fronting Hanoi Rocks in the 80's, Mike Monroe virtually invented sleaze rock. Hanoi are to sleaze what Black Sabbath are to stoner - and without Hanoi, there would be no Guns N' Roses or Backyard Babies. But is this reason enough to buy Mr. Monroe's latest opus? No, but the fact that it's as much a kick-ass, dirty rock 'n' roll record as 1994's 'Demolition 23' opus is. A great return to form." KKKK, Brett Calwood, reviewing 'Life Gets You Dirty' in Kerrang!, October 23rd 1999.

"The question of just how big the glammy Hanoi Rocks would have been if Motley Crue had boy Vince Neill hadn't crashed his car and killed their flamboyant drummer Razzle will always remain unanswered. But what's done is done and now we have another slab of sleaze 'n' roll courtesy of Mr Cheekbones himself. Unlike previous solo outings, which often fluctuated in quality, this consistently oozes that cheap suavity which made Hanoi notorious, and goes to show that old Mikey boy can eat the likes of the Backyard Babies for breakfast." 8/10, Darren Sadler, reviewing 'Life Gets You Dirty' in Metal Hammer, December 1999.

Michael Monroe, frontman of Hanoi Rocks, who recently reformed and played a full scale UK tour at the end of 2002, is set to release 'Whatcha Want', the follow-up to his highly acclaimed 1999 solo album, 'Life Gets You Dirty', on SPV Records on January 27th.

Michael and his old friend Pink Gibson, (of Get Animal), worked as a creative duo on 'Whatcha Want', and the amazing chemistry between them has spawned a very special album. 'Whatcha Want' was arranged and recorded in early summer 2002 and mixed and mastered by Michael Monroe and Petri Majuri.

Alongside some truly great Gibson/Monroe material, there are covers of 'Do Anything You Wanna Do', a massive hit for Eddie And The Hot Rods in late summer of 1977, 'I Won't Lie Down & Die' by the UK Subs, 'Jimmy Brown', originally recorded by Casino Steel, and a highly unconventional version of the Leonard Cohen classic 'Hey, That's No Way To Say Goodbye'.

Monroe not only recorded the vocals on 'Whatcha Want', but also played saxophone, some rhythm and lead guitar, mouth organ, piano, tambourine and bass. Pink Gibson also played rhythm and lead, plus acoustic and 12 string guitars on the album. The current Monroe band consists of drummer Lacu, bassist Timpa, keyboarder Mr. T and the two key members, Pink Gibson and Michael Monroe.

Having guested and collaborated with some of rocks greatest - from Aerosmith, Guns 'n' Roses, Stiv Baters, Johnny Thunders, Joey Ramone, Little Steven Van Zandt to Ian Hunter, Michael Monroe is thought of by many as Rock 'n' Roll's best kept secret. 'Whatcha Want' should go a long way towards redressing the balance!

**Whotcha! - Roland Hyams on 020 8677 8466 or 020 9769 6713. 12th December 2002.**

**[www.michaelmonroe.com](http://www.michaelmonroe.com)  
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# MICHAEL MONROE

## Biography

***While the comeback of the legendary Hanoi Rocks is currently the subject of countless international headlines, the band's mastermind, vocalist and multi-instrumentalist Michael Monroe, is about to release his fifth solo album *Whatcha Want*, which has been arousing at least as much attention, and substantiates the whole range of the charismatic frontman's compositional and technical skills: not only did Monroe write the majority of the tracks, into the bargain he recorded the vocals, as well as saxophone, rhythm and lead guitar, mouth organ, piano, tambourine and bass parts. Together with his friend, Pink Gibson, who also plays rhythm and lead plus acoustic and 12 string guitars on the album, Monroe has come up with thirteen concise, uncompromisingly driving songs. Following his 1999 release, *Life Gets You Dirty*, *Whatcha Want* is another document of the inexhaustible musical inspiration of Michael Monroe.***

The current Monroe band consists of drummer Lacu, bassist Timpa, keyboarder Mr. T and the two key members, Pink Gibson and Michael Monroe. This creative duo has produced a number of exciting tracks, among them 'Stranded', 'Shattered Smile', 'Telephone Bill's A Mine', and 'Life's A Bitch And Then You Live', in which Monroe's partner, Jude Wilder who died last summer, was also involved creatively. ***Whatcha Want*** was arranged and recorded in early summer 2002 and mixed and mastered by Michael Monroe and Petri Majuri.

Alongside the Gibson/Monroe material, there are a number of haunting compositions by other artists, the three most spectacular among them being 'Do Anything You Wanna Do', a massive hit for British rock act Eddie And The Hot Rods in late summer 1977, now presented in a dynamic contemporary outfit by Michael Monroe; the lively 'Jimmy Brown', originally recorded by Casino Steel; and at the very end of the album a highly unconventional version of the Leonard Cohen classic 'Hey, That's No Way To Say Goodbye' – a quiet and thoroughly worthy finale to a breathtaking album.

Michael Monroe (whose birth name is Matti Fagerholm) released several internationally successful recordings with his legendary Hanoi Rocks in the early Eighties, among them the outstanding *Bangkok Shocks*, *Saigon Shakes*, *Hanoi Rocks* (1980) and *Self Destruction Blues* (1982). Following the surmise of the band, Monroe collaborated with former Billy Idol guitarist Steve Stevens in their Jerusalem Slim project, went on to form Demolition 23 with his erstwhile Hanoi Rocks pals, Nasty Suicide and Sammy Yaffa, and helped out temporarily with the Swedish Backyard Babies, among others.

After the arrival of his first solo album *Nights Are So Long*, which was only released in Sweden and Scandinavia, in 1987, Monroe went on to sign a lucrative deal and brought out *No Fakin It* in 1989. His fans were wildly enthusiastic and fellow musicians highly impressed: Aerosmith vocalist Steven Tyler invited him to Les Paul's 75<sup>th</sup> birthday party, where he joined Aerosmith on sax on 'Big Ten Inch Record'. Monroe in turn mobilized renowned support for his solo ambitions: to the amazement of the audience, W. Axl Rose and Slash of Guns N'Roses helped out at a show in Los Angeles. All GN'R members have repeatedly professed to be passionate Hanoi Rocks aficionados, emphasising more than once that this band had been a major influence for them. Monroe featured frequently in the budding music video media: his 'Dead, Jail Or Rock'n'Roll' and 'Man With No Eyes' clips were played almost constantly on MTV in the early Nineties. During that time, Monroe founded Jerusalem Slim together with ex-Billy Idol guitarist Steve Stevens, and following a pretty chaotic production phase, the band's self-titled album saw the light of day in 1992.

His Guns N'Roses buddies, too, asked Monroe for his support: he played on their masterpiece *Use Your Illusion* and sang a duet with Axl ('Ain't It Fun') on *Spaghetti Incident*. He then produced a brilliant version of Steppenwolf's 'Magic Carpet Ride' for the 'Conehead' movie soundtrack in

June 1993. Together with Guns N'Roses, he found himself facing an audience of almost 80,000 at the Milton Keynes Festival near London soon afterwards, playing the harmonica on 'Knockin' On Heaven's Door' and (alongside Ronnie Wood of the Rolling Stones) 'Honky Tonk Women'. In autumn 1993, the Grand Club in Manhattan asked him to present a spectacular rock show on Mondays after midnight, featuring various surprise guests under the motto of 'Glam, Trash, Punk'. Among the illustrious highlights were stars like Joey Ramone, Ian Hunter, Sebastian Bach (Skid Row), Kory Clarke (Warrior Soul), Little Steven (Bruce Springsteen's E-Street Band) or Walter Lure of Johnny Thunders & The Heartbreakers. He then produced an album with Little Steven at the Powerstation Studios in New York City, which came out a few months later under the name of *Demolition 23*, and presented the material on tour with his Hanoi Rocks mates Sammy Yaffa and Nasty Suicide. When Nasty decided a few months later to chuck in the guitar and start a university course instead, Monroe disbanded the group. Looking for a new musical challenge, he left Manhattan and returned to his native country, Finland, where he wrote the material for his third solo offering, *Peace Of Mind*, out in 1996. Most songs were the product of his cooperation with his long-standing partner, background vocalist Jude Wilder, who died in summer 2001. After brief visits to Toronto and Manhattan, where he performed a number of celebrated shows, he returned to Finland to produce his fourth solo album *Life Gets You Dirty*, which took up where the brilliant successor *Peace Of Mind* and the glorious days of Hanoi Rocks had left off. These two worlds seem to coexist in a parallel universe now: while Hanoi Rocks have reembarked on their noisy course, Monroe continues his successful solo career with ***Whatcha Want***. Of course, his fans would not have expected any less from the Scandinavian rocker.

## TRACKS

Do Anything You Wanna Do \* Right Here, Right Now \* Stranded \* I Won't Lie Down And Die \* Shattered Smile \* What Love Is \* Rumour Sets The Woods Alight \* Germfree Adolescents \* Life's A Bitch & Then You Live \* Telephone Bill's All Mine \* Jimmy Brown \* Identity \* Hey, That's No Way To Say Goodbye

## DISCOGRAPHY

NIGHTS ARE SO LONG (1988)

NOT FAKIN'IT (1989)

PEACE OF MIND (1996)

LIFE GETS YOU DIRTY (1999)

**New: WATCHA WANT (2003)**



# Michael Monroe

***New 'Life Gets You Dirty' Album Released October 12<sup>th</sup> 1999***

Originally from Helsinki, Finland, Michael Monroe is one of rock's most enigmatic personalities. As frontman of **Hanoi Rocks**, one of *the* forerunners of the post punk era, he has influenced and inspired an endless cast of rock bands, most famously **Guns 'n' Roses**.

Considered by many as one of the most important *seminal* bands in the history of rock, Hanoi Rocks were well on their way to inevitable word wide superstardom when, in December 1984 they were struck by the tragedy that led to the bands inevitable demise - their drummer Razzle was killed in a car crash in LA during their first major US tour, and as an irreplaceable member caused the band to split up.

Michael Monroe embarked on a solo career in 1985, which entailed moving from London where Hanoi Rocks had been based, to Manhattan, New York City, his home town for the next 10 years. His first major worldwide solo release was the classic "Not Fakin' it." (1989).

Now Michael proudly presents his new solo offering, "Life Gets You Dirty", on which he once again proves himself as an expressive vocalist with unmistakable charisma. His rhythm section consists of two talented Finnish musicians, **Jari** (bass) and **Pete** (drums). The line up is completed by Monroe's long standing companion, backing vocalist, musical collaborator and manager, **Jude Wilder**, while Michael himself handles all the guitars, saxophone, piano, harmonica, and tambourine in addition to his vocals - producing an excellent powerful sound - redefining Rock 'n' Roll at the end of the millennium.

Michael has had incredibly bad luck in the industry with managers, labels, lawyers, producers, etc, which has impeded his path to world wide recognition so far. Having guested and collaborated with some of rock's greatest - from **Aerosmith, Guns 'n' Roses, Stiv Batters, Johnny Thunders, Joey Ramone, Little Steven Van Zandt to Ian Hunter**, he is thought of by many as Rock 'n' Roll's best kept secret.

**Monroe** brings his full musical experience to bear on "Life Gets You Dirty", a contemporary and up tempo collection of eleven brand new songs, along with "Self Destruction Blues" brought back to life from the **Hanoi Rocks** era. This album is **Michael Monroe** in his element.

**A totally unique and unpredictable, highly charged performer, we suggest you do *not* miss the chance to catch him live on his first solo UK tour for ten years.**

Discography (Solo) :- *Nights Are So Long* (1987), *Not Fakin It* (1989), *Jerusalem Slim* (1992), *Demolition 23* (1994) *Peace Of Mind* (1996), *Life Gets You Dirty* (1999).

With other artists :- Guns 'n' Roses' *Use Your Illusion 1* (1993) & *The Spaghetti Incident?* (1993), Michael Monroe and Slash - *Magic Carpet Ride* (1993), Johnny Thunders - *Que Sera Sera* (1985), A Tribute to Johnny Thunders - *I Only Wrote This Song For You* (1994), Artists United Against Apartheid - *Sun City* (1985), Warrior Soul - *Chill Pill* (1993), Backyard Babies - *Highlights* (1998).

*For more info/interviews/photos etc call either Roland Hyams or Chloe LeFay on 0181 677 8466.  
October 8th 1999.*

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