



HOW I GOT the gig



BAND: R.E.M.
**NEW
DRUMMER:**
BILL RIEFLIN
**FORMER
DRUMMERS:**
**BILL BERRY,
JOEY
WARONKER**
RÉSUMÉ :
**MINISTRY,
KMFDM, THE
MINUS 5**

The Buck Starts Here. I was introduced to Scott McCaughey of The Minus 5 one evening at a local haunt in Seattle called "Hattie's Hat." The Minus 5 is a band that Scott and Peter Buck have together. He had a gig coming up and they needed a drummer. He asked me to play and I said, "Yeah." I was introduced to Peter through that. Although even further back, the first time Peter and I met was on a recording session with a group called Sweet 75 in L.A. As the story goes, he'd heard that I used to be in Ministry and was very worried that I'd force him into a closet and shove horse tranquilizer up his nose or something.

Too Much Fun. R.E.M. was getting ready to record and I think they wanted to kind of widen the palette of the recording and invite different people in. I was one of the guys who was invited, so we did some recording. Then there was a break. I think they were going to have some other drummers come in, however I was so much fun I was asked back. [laughs] There wasn't a formal audition.

Getting It Right. During the recording in Vancouver, The Minus 5 had a gig at "Richard's on Richards." [The Minus 5] went to go do this gig one evening and R.E.M. thought it would be fun to go and play a few songs. We played two new tunes and an old song and I suppose in a way that was the audition. It was my first performance with R.E.M. It was a lot of fun and was nice in a very informal, casual small club setting. It wasn't a big pressure gig, it was more, "Get the songs right and, hopefully, enjoy it."

Channeling Berry. Learning the material, I really had to learn and discover what Bill Berry plays like because I wanted the stuff to really sound like R.E.M. I didn't want it to sound like "Rieflin playing R.E.M." So I had to study those records a lot and try to figure out what it is that made Bill Berry tick. Part of my job, by my own description, is to make it sound like R.E.M. For the older material I really listened to those records, learned all those parts and tried to the best of my ability get Bill Berry's feel. It was a heck of a task. I worked hard and I think it was successful in some ways.

—Billy Ramirez

Single Strokes

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

SPECIAL REPORT: **RICHIE HAYWARD HONORED IN IOWA**

PLUS: **NICK JAGO AND KEVIN MILLER HAVE SPATS WITH THEIR**

RESPECTIVE BANDS, DCI FINALS ARE FINAL, KoSA STAGES ANOTHER SMASH, SO DOES RHYTHM STICKS, BUT BANGFEST IS A BUST + MORE!



After being ousted from Fuel, Kevin Miller is living proof that breaking up is hard to do.



A big feat for Little Feat's **Richie Hayward**.

The Iowa native was inducted into the Iowa Rock And Roll Music Association Hall Of Fame, and was honored with 18 other inductees at a September ceremony at the Roof Garden in Arnold's Park, Iowa. Hayward was presented his plaque by IRRMA board members Mike Woltz and Doris Willy before the band's set at the Historic Surf Ballroom in Clear Lake. ■ The 32nd annual DCI World Championships rocked Denver's Mile High Stadium and Invesco Field in August. **The Cavaliers** (Rosemont, IL) won the 2004 Division I World Championship with a score of 98.700, the fourth time in five years The Cavaliers have taken top honors. The **Concord Blue Devils** (Concord, CA) took second with a score of 98.525 and the **Santa Clara Vanguard** (Santa Clara, CA) finished third with a score of 96.825. For more news and a broadcast schedule, visit dci.org. ■ Despite rumors to the contrary, Black Rebel Motorcycle Club is still raising a ruckus, says bassist/vocalist Robert

Turner. However, the status of drummer **Nick Jago** with BRMC is on shaky ground, stemming from an argument with guitarist Peter Hayes during the band's summer European tour. The band initially cancelled the last two gigs on the leg because of the incident but decided at the last minute to play the shows. Turner did not specifically confirm Jago has left the band, and did not say whether he'll be behind the drum kit for future recording sessions. ■ Wow, a lot of drummers are getting peeved with their bandleaders. Now **Kevin Miller** has decided to air his grievances in public, after getting booted from his longtime gig with Fuel by the band's guitarist Carl Bell. "There are so many problems within the band and Carl just took the easy way out by firing the guy who was the least responsible for the problems, but the most observant about what was going on," says Miller, who claims that Bell took the band on a steady decline over the years by making bad decisions about managers, lawyers, and especially with the creative vision of the band. "In every way, financially,