

WHAT GOES ON!

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Vino collaboration: Jeff Beck and Dave Gilmour, singing Hi Ho Silver Lining and (below) Jeff receives a gift from Jimmy Page.



HEADSTOCK FESTIVAL

DAVE GILMOUR AND JIMMY PAGE CELEBRATE A BIRTHDAY.
BY PETE MAKOWSKI

On June 24, Jeff Beck celebrated his 65th birthday. Rather than rest on his gilded laurels, the guitar slinger played a storming set at the Brighton Dome watched by Keith Emerson, Gary Moore and Jimmy Page, who went backstage beforehand to present his fellow Yardbird with a vintage poster for the Gene Vincent-featuring 1958 exploitation flick *Hot Rod Gang*.

Beck then finished his sold-out British tour at the Royal Albert Hall, where he was joined by David Gilmour for a rousing rendition of Jerusalem (featuring some spectacular twin lead guitar) and the perennial Hi Ho Silver Lining featuring both Gilmour and Beck on vocals.

Afterwards Gilmour explained that the team-up happened in the wake of a

camping party last year: "We spent the night ribbing Jeff that he never does Hi Ho Silver Lining. I started playing it around the camp fire, everybody started singing it, so he had

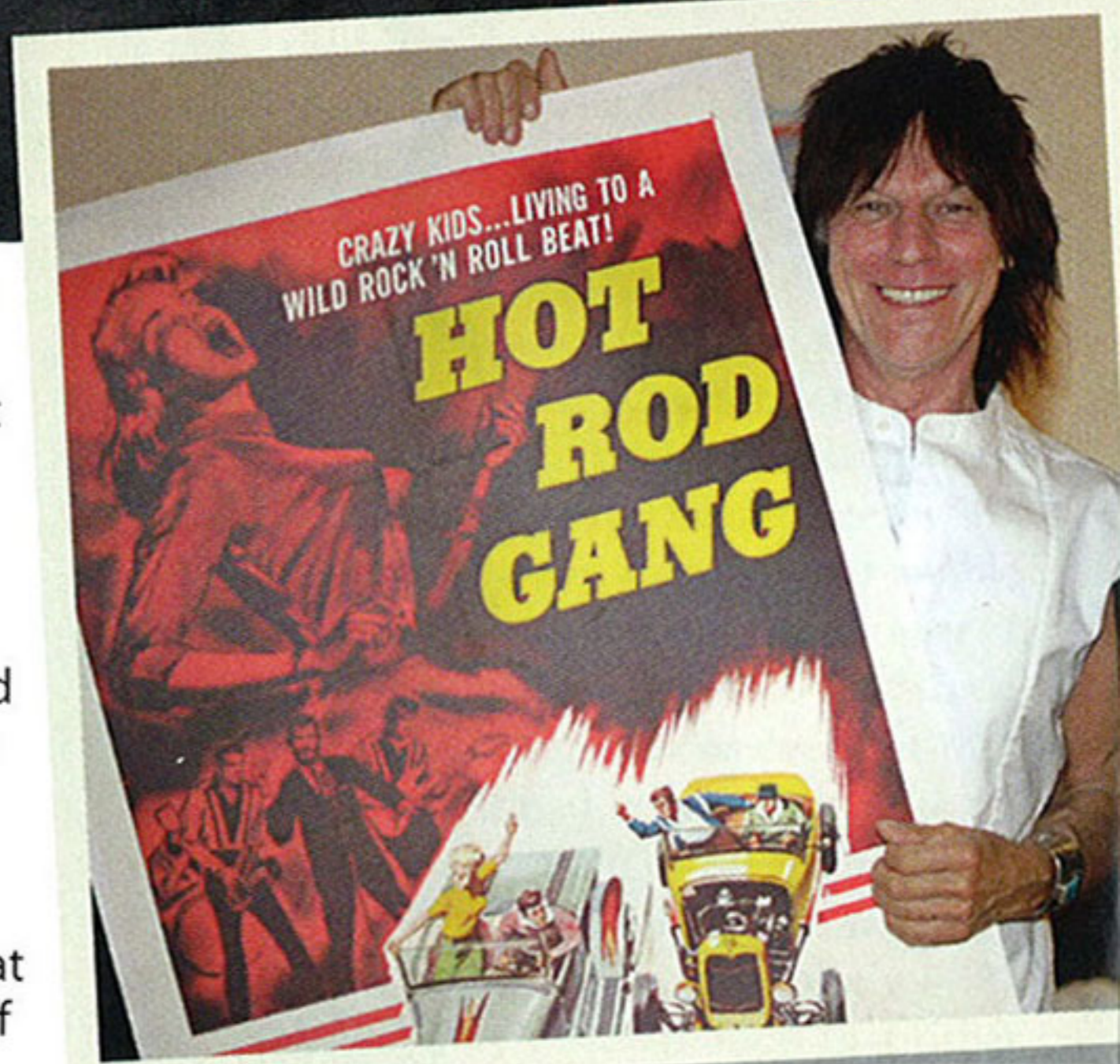
to join in. Then he rang me up and said, come over and do a couple of tunes.

"It's a tricky thing," Gilmour goes on. "You can see how [the song] can be an albatross around someone's neck but there's a time that comes when you've just got to face up to stuff and say, Fuck it, it's a part of my heritage, and just go for it. I don't want to speak for Jeff, but one is in this constant attempt to balance one's life between serious work and frivolity."

MOJO also asked Gilmour about Beck nearly taking his place in Pink Floyd in 1968. "Yes it's true," he says. "Before I joined he was maybe the only other choice they were thinking about. It would have been a bit more explosive [if he'd joined]. I suspect Jeff would have left after six months. I don't think the compromises that one has to make to be in a group... I don't think Jeff is that interested in compromise."

And so it continues. Even though he's officially at retirement age, Beck's entered his most productive period in years and is

"There comes a time when you've got to say, 'Fuck it.'"



working on his next album. "We've already got some of the more emotionally charged material together, about 14 cover versions and adaptations," Beck reveals. "We just need to get some original high-energy songs. There's so many ideas floating around it could even be a double album with a black and blue side."

It's quite possible that one of the songs will be Lilac Wine, which Beck included on some British dates, with support act Imelda May on vocals. Written by James Shelton in 1950 for a short-lived Broadway revue, it has since been covered by a diverse selection of artists including Eartha Kitt, Elkie Brooks and Jeff Buckley. The band will go into the studio in August and the album is set for an October release followed by some British shows in December.