

# Melody Maker

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# SMITH'S CRISP TOUR

## Alvin's return



**ALVIN LEE**, who emerged from the ashes of Ten Years After to form Ten Years Later earlier this year, flies in to Britain next month to play a one-off show at London's Hammersmith Odeon with his new band.

The band — Lee (guitar, vocals), Mick Hawksworth (bass) and Tom Compton (drums) — started a European tour in May that included a show in front of 5,000 Parisians. MM's Chris Welch was there for the evening and witnessed a show that included "Good Morning Little Schoolgirl," "Help Me" and the song Lee once vowed never to play again, "Going Home."

Since Europe and the release of the band's first album, Lee has been playing in America, but he and Ten Years Later return to Britain for the Hammersmith show on September 8.

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Pete Townshend  
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## NEW GEAR PREVIEW

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**PATTI SMITH** — pictured left by Mervyn Franklyn — is set to play six British dates to follow her bill-topping appearance on August 27, the last night of the Reading Festival.

Patti, who gained chart success with her single "Because the Night," co-written with Bruce Springsteen, had already notched up 50,000 advance orders for her new EP released last week, "Privilege (Set Me Free)" and "Ask the Angels" backed by "25th Floor" and "Babelfield." British dates that follow the release of the EP are Newcastle City Hall (August 29), Edinburgh Odeon (30), Manchester Apollo (31), Cardiff Top Rank (September 1), Birmingham Odeon (2), Dublin Project Arts Centre (3).

Tickets are £3.00, £2.50, £2.00 and £1.50 for Newcastle, Manchester and Birmingham and £2.00 for the other shows.

Patti plans to give poetry readings at the Edinburgh date, which is part of the Edinburgh Festival, and in Dublin, where it is planned she and her band will play two sets as well as the reading.

## KNEBWORTH FESTIVAL:

## Tubes, Zappa, Gabriel

**TUBES**, Frank Zappa and Peter Gabriel are the co-headliners of the second Knebworth Festival on Saturday, September 9.

Support bands are the Boomtown Rats, Rockpile — featuring Nick Lowe and Dave Edmunds — and Wilko Johnson's Solid Senders, who start the festival at 11am, with the end planned for 10.30pm. Tickets are £5.50 in advance, available now from all regular ticket agencies including Virgin and Harlequin record shops. Tickets are also available on the day for £6.

The Tubes, who close the concert so that their light show is seen to full effect, are making their first appearance since Fee Waybill broke his ankle at Leicester on May 9, during the band's British tour. Waybill has only been out of plaster for a month and is currently undergoing physiotherapy with boxer Ken Norton.