

MUSIC GEAR

by John Stix and Barry Lipman

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Stars' Instruments: Randy Rhoades's Cinderella story

GUITARIST RANDY RHOADES is this year's Cinderella story. The 24-year-old from Burbank, California was plucked from his job as a guitar teacher and placed under the spotlight in Ozzy Osbourne's *Blizzard of Ozz*. A volcanic player, Randy already seems destined to join the generation of guitar heroes spearheaded by Eddie Van Halen. Admitting that "I still don't have my feet on the ground," Randy's sudden leap to stardom finds him both "frightened and humble. You don't understand it because everything comes at you so fast."

Fast indeed; Randy is truly an overnight sensation. The night before joining Ozzy, he was teaching guitar. In addition, his band, Quiet Riot, had two albums out in Japan and gigged often in the L.A. area. Randy takes up the story from there: "A bass player I knew had auditioned for Ozzy, and he knew they were looking for a guitar player. This guy called me up and said, 'Ozzy has heard everybody. Why don't you go down and audition?' At first I thought I shouldn't because I might hurt my band. I'd also never been to an audition. I'd never even *looked* for auditions. I guess I was sheltered. When I did go down, there were all these guys with Marshall stacks and echo-plexes; I brought a tiny practice amp. I started tuning up and Ozzy said, 'You've got the gig.' I didn't even get to play!"

Never one to cop licks off records, nor even harbor rock & roll dreams, Randy had his potential recognized early on by one talent scout—his mom. "Both my parents are music teachers," he says. "My brothers and sisters are musicians and my

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Before joining Ozzy Osbourne's *Blizzard of Ozz*, 24-year-old Randy Rhoades was a guitar teacher.

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