

Guitar Clinic



by Nick Bowcott

The undying legacy of Randy Rhoads

THE TIMELESS BEAUTY OF Randy Rhoads's musical legacy makes it difficult to believe ten years have passed since a tragic plane crash took him from us. To this day, the impact of the guitarist's brief but brilliant career boggles the mind. All we have of Randy's work with Ozzy Osbourne are the two studio albums the pair wrote and recorded together (*Blizzard Of Ozz* and *Diary Of A Madman*) and a posthumously released live album (*Tribute*). Yet the guitar passion soaking these three discs still refuses to bore, even after thousands of spins.

Randy redefined the term *consummate musician*. His thirst for new knowledge and self-improvement was unquenchable. Even during his hectic touring with Ozzy he always managed to find time for a classical lesson with a local teacher. He had an extraordinary ability to assimilate complex compositional concepts and playing techniques into the heavy-rock realm.

The fire behind this great guitar inferno came not from his mastery of music theory, however. It came from his heart. Randy loved making hard and fast music with his guitar. And, like all great musicians, he also knew when *not* to play. Many of his most magical licks were relatively simple and sparse.

Below are four examples of Randy you should be able to use in your own playing, providing a bit of thought is applied. I've transposed them all into the key of E minor for convenience. *Example 1* is a neat pentatonic minor (E, G, A, B, D) lick Randy used to open his "Mr. Crowley" solo. The final three examples illustrate one of Rhoads's favorite tricks—mixing and matching the natural minor and blues scales (E, G, A, B \flat , B, D). *Example 2* is based on the first four bars of his memorable "I Don't Know" solo, *Example 3* is a fill from the same song, and *Example 4* shows the first two bars from Randy's "Flying High Again" solo.

Nick Bowcott is a member of *Diabolus in Musica*.



Randy Rhoads. Ozzy first envisioned '82's *'Speak Of The Devil'* as a Randy tribute album, but couldn't find enough material. In '87 *'Tribute'* was finally released.

Five Randy Runs Some soulful ideas for Rhoads scholars

Example 1

8va

Example 2

8va

Example 3

8va

Example 4

8va