



The Cranberries back with new album

By Nathalie Tomada | Updated April 10, 2012 - 10:30am

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The Cranberries returns with its new album "Roses." The Irish rock band will cap its Asian tour with a concert at the Smart Araneta Coliseum in Manila, Philippines, April 10, 2012. Photo from Magic Liwanag

MANILA, Philippines - The Cranberries is back in the country, making the final stop in its concert tour of Asia to promote its new album "Roses."

The album marks the official return of the Irish rock band, made up of Dolores O'Riordan (vocalist), Fergal Lawler (drummer) and brothers Noel (guitarist) and Mike Hogan (bassist), to the recording scene since reuniting as a band and mounting a comeback in late 2009, playing to crowds in Europe and North America.

The Cranberries's first performance in the country was in 1996. In a one-on-one with The STAR last Monday at the Red Box Eastwood, the '90s alternative-rock band that has sold over 30 million records worldwide with classic hits as Linger, Zombie, Dreams, Ode To My Family, Salvation, talked a bit about life before and after quitting the music scene in 2003 despite global stardom, and then coming together again.

"It's now better than ever I think. Because we're a bit older, we understand each other more, we give each other space," said Fergal.

"It's less hectic, it's more relaxed," added Noel.

Mike said, "(Getting back together) felt very natural actually, it's like we didn't stop."

When asked if the band's better at handling fandom and fame now as compared to before, Dolores said, "When it comes to fame, at first it's shocking, then you become used to it. It becomes part of your life, but yes it was a bit hard because we were so young then."

She added, "The hardest part was getting back to our hometown in Limerick (Ireland). It's not just you who changed, but the people around you also changed. Like I remember in my wedding, I had five girls from my class, only one girl treated me as me. The rest were like, 'Can you believe it, can you believe it, can you believe it?' And I said 'That I got married?' 'That how famous you are!' It just makes (things) difficult how people react to you. But after a while, you become an old hat, then you take a break, then you're relaxed and you just get used to it."

'Burned-out'

The break in 2003 was, nevertheless, necessary, as each of the members pursued solo careers.

Noel said, "We needed to try other things, to work on other directions; and we noticed how much it helped us when we got back together. We had then kind of gone round the circle of doing a lot of touring, it just became boring, I think for everyone, in 2003."

"We were burned-out. We just didn't want to do it anymore, we just had to get away from each other and from the band. We've actually been together since we were teenagers," Fergal added.

But Dolores would rather not linger on that episode in the band's career, and is all about moving forward because "we're in a really good place now."

The Cranberries has had given plenty to the music industry with its unique alternative-rock sound, incorporating elements of indie-pop, Irish folk, post-punk into its haunting and honest songs about love, relationships, family, even socio-political issues that have stayed on in melody and meaning for many a music fan through the years.

Its new album is not really any different, according to the band. The good reviews it's earning are saying that Roses will remind fans of the band that they have come to love more than a decade ago.

"Creatively, (the break) was very good, we had no pressure on. We were just writing for fun since we had a time-off, and we had a very laidback kind of thing. It was not a conscious thing (to return to our musical roots). We just kind of found what we love," said Dolores.

Meantime, the band promises a rocking blast from the past as it will also perform its hits in tonight's (April 10) concert at the Smart Araneta Coliseum.

(The Cranberries Live in Manila: The Greatest Hits Concert is presented by Karpos Multimedia and Midas Promotions. Tickets are available on Ticketnet.)

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