

Shake It Up Baby!

it. The lights are being turned on and they're getting ready for the next band.

"Yet we've had this incredible reaction - promoters saying they've never had the first band on a bill go down like us - usually the first band on is a warm-up, and that's it. But the promoters have been saying, 'If you can get off like that starting the show you'll have to do your own tour.'"

Slade interrupted their US tour to open the new Sundown rock venue in the Mile End Road and Noddy enthused.

"It was fantastic, probably one of the best gigs we've ever played. That place is going to be a fantastic gig and it was really worth the trip to go back and work it. We weren't too happy about it at first but he knew we had an obligation to do it because it had sold out. I suppose we could have blown if we'd wanted to, but we thought, well, we'll go back and do it."

"It's only the same as we'd do here," interrupted Dave, "I mean, from England to America if we had something special."

"When we first went to the Rainbow," explained Jimmy, "we played there and filled the hall - we were used to small clubs and we thought '...all these people come to see us!' Then we got to Long Beach and saw 18,000 people! Going back to the Sundown didn't bother us, it seemed so small, like playing in a bog"

GROUPIES

"Every gig's got better here," explained Noddy, "and at the end of the tour we'll know what to do here next time. We needed this tour to find out what it's all about. Every band has to find out the same way about America"

"There another thing you get over here," said Jimmy, "and that's people trying to get into our hotel rooms. There was a feller who said he was a reporter from Rolling Stone. So we phoned Polydor to check him out and they'd never heard of him. And the groupies..."