

**BAXTER DURY**

**BVB:** Congrats on your recent album Prince of Tears, what would you put its success down to?

**BAXTER:** I don’t know, sometimes I think you just make something and it somehow connects because you have done it genuinely or honestly or something like that, you don’t always know but its also to do with doing something people want to hear at the same time as you’re doing something good. It’s alignment.

**BVB:** Even when you were making the album you said had a good feeling about it? It had strings it was meaty, what is the essential ingredient when you are putting something together when that you think – oh wow this is going to click?

**BAXTER:** I think you know, you need a bit of bravado for just motivational reasons, there is a bit of belief and a bit of experience that suggests, indicates positives and then the process of playing it to people, you just get a feeling.

**BVB:** So it is a process of osmosis and feedback?

**BAXTER:** It’s everything… you know there is a little feeling you have, you know its good, but what does that mean? It doesn’t mean shit until it actually converts into something that pays the bills.

**BVB:** You are currently touring, with the success of Prince of Tears are you touring more than you have done in the past?

**BAXTER:** Yeah, the more you are touring the more it is a measure of how well you are doing because basically you are being asked, people don’t invest in the gigs unless they know that you can get the people in. Prior to this album we had been popular in France that now seems to have swapped around where in France it has faded, here it has gone ten fold and we have sold much more records here.

**BVB:** So you’re happy to have cracked the British market? Would you see yourself as classically British music?

**BAXTER:** Well I am classically British. I’m also a European art sensitive dude! But what I am sourcing is English sentiment made into honesty or whatever - you know I am an English guy.

**BVB:** How do you manage to stay fit when you are on tour?

**BAXTER:** Well out of three weeks, I take a week out where I really commit, committing to exercise that I do on tour is a big psychological achievement in itself because basically you are surrounded by 12 people who are all taking time out to get as absolutely ‘wangoed’ as they possibly can. But I manage it - I just worked out how to make it as short and as painful as possible.

**BVB:** How do you get the most out of the time that you have?

**BAXTER:** Yes, I have got five different instruments that I take with me and it pisses off the tour manager because they are a total obstruction, you know the pumps, I have a little Brompton bike, like a bike-a-Bickerton, its got no gears on it so it’s really tough to ride, so I use that as a cardio thing, I have got a TRX and two kettle bells, that’s it I think, that’s all I need and some bar bells as well. We go from a small splitter bus to a big tour bus and basically you are travelling all night and you arrive in say Geneva at 3-4 O’clock in the morning and then I will wake up, inevitably earlier than everyone else. If you get used to those tour buses you can sleep until 2 o’clock in the afternoon because you are in a sleeping coffin and it’s designed for you to sleep. I still don’t sleep, so I get up and have to go an adapt my gymnasium to anywhere I can find, it’s quite fun and because I am in Europe, I just think – I cannot think about who is looking at me, I will find a corner in the bleakest winter or the most urban place in Europe, wherever it is and I will just set up and do my stuff. The coach driver just comes out and looks at me, he’s called Coach, the most cockney man you have met, he goes ‘I can’t believe it, it’s weird, I have never seen it before…’

**BVB:** Prince of Tears, the title track on the album, you chose boxing as the narrative, what was the idea behind that?

**BAXTER:** Prince of Tears was a sort of imaginary boxer I guess, not being able to fight another type of fight, not the boxing, boxing was the effort you will put in but never win.

**BVB:** So a symbolic cathartic experience?

**BAXTER:** Sort of, like he was in another loop that he would never win.

**BVB:** You have boxed a bit haven’t you Baxter?

**BAXTER:** A little bit in a middle class, am dram way!

**BVB:** And you enjoyed it?

**BAXTER:** Exercise with a theme is amazing.

**BVB:** You are currently wearing a Henry Cooper Polo Shirt, do you know anything about him?

**BAXTER:** I know a little bit about HC as much as I know that he was a kind of graceful figure from a nice era of sport and about our only hope boxing wise… he represents an era and was all the things he needed to be and knocked Ali down. My family doctor was the titled boxing doctor worldwide, he went to Zaire for the ‘Rumble in the Jungle’ and was Frank Sinatra and Ali’s doctor when he was over here, the English doctor, he set up the Teenage Cancer Trust which is now huge and they do all the gigs at The Royal Albert Hall, Peter Townshend and the Who were all his clients in the 60’s and 70’s. He was a rock and roll doctor in a way, just a brilliant doctor - he was dad’s doctor. He said that Muhammad Ali was the brightest person he had ever met. He said that Henry Cooper was a lovely fellow; they were good mates.

**BVB:** Now you are back in your dad’s house, how does it feel after all this time?

**BAXTER:** It’s a home now, more than anything else, it’s important to me that it is not a mausoleum, it is a home and that is what it has become, it was quite creative when I was here and not always positively when I was young and now it is actually a calm nice place, you just cannot complain about having all this space and I reckon my next album is probably likely to be awful!

**BVB:** We’re sure it will be quality Baxter! Thanks for your time today and wishing you even more success in the future.