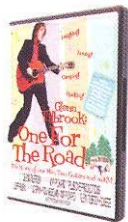


GLENN TILBROOK: ONE FOR THE ROAD

One day all pop stars will travel like this

By David Hepworth



We can confidently make one prediction about the future – more musicians will make their living in the way that Glenn Tilbrook does. They won't be touring “in support” of their album, accompanied

by squads of musicians and technicians, with hotel and aeroplane bills paid out



of the record company tour support, in the vain hope that when the final accounting is done they might be slightly in the black.

Tilbrook sits finishing breakfast at a picnic table in a caravan site in South Carolina and confides that this is the most fun he's ever had on tour. By his side is the huge, troublesome Recreational Vehicle (motor home to us), which is both conveyance and lodging for him and his partner. Were it not for the cameraman and fan/film maker Amy Pickard, it would just be the two of them, travelling between club shows, doing their own laundry, busking in the street, performing in fans' houses and appearing before the Pet of the Month slot on access TV shows to plug their upcoming appearances. This is the new economic reality of a world where the supply of pop stars is so much greater than the demand. Once the star-making machinery has been removed, and the attendant illusion of celebrity, it takes a certain clear-eyed self-effacement to be able to deal with the new landscape. There's a touching moment here where he gets into a conversation with another RV user on a campsite who eventually produces the copy of Squeeze's greatest hits, which he always carries with him. He simply can't believe that the man who sang those songs is in the next bay.

“I signed my first terrible record deal 20 years ago because I was desperate to make a record,” Tilbrook says at one point. “In return I've got to go all over the world and play music.” He knows that's reward enough. They should show this to all those bands chewing their fingernails about whether they're going to win a Brit, on the grounds that this, if they're lucky, is their future.

One For The Road is released by Image Entertainment