



## The Band's Rick Danko Talks to Music Manic

Kevin C. Madigan

3/1/01 3:50:49 PM

The Band, purveyors of quintessential roots-rock, return with a new album, a new label, and, as luck would have it, the same old attitude. Some old friends, such as Eric Clapton and John Hiatt, joined in the recording sessions for *Jubilation*. We gave founding member Rick Danko a

chance to blow his own horn:

KM: So are you pleased with this record?

RD: Really pleased, yeah. It's a little more acoustic than I would have expected, but it came out well. We made this for ourselves.

KM: How about this new label, Platinum? How do they differ from other labels you've been on?

RD: I'm really happy with this company. We did two albums with Pyramid and it seemed like they just wanted to take the money and run. These guys have been around. They had Eddie Rabbit when he was alive and who else...the Beach Boys too.

KM: Some people are calling this a 'Rick Danko album.'

RD: Really?! We all really worked together on this one. We've got these so-called new guys who have been with us now for 8-10 years. Relatively new, I guess. How do you like the Hiatt tune?.. Great working with him, and Eric too. 'Course, The Band played on the *No Reason To Cry LP*, years ago...

KM: I saw you play one time with Paul Butterfield in a smoky club in Ft. Lauderdale...

RD: You know, I have some Paul Butterfield tapes! We've got his mail order company called Woodstock Records and we make these tapes available to the public. There's also a Levon Helm CD and one of mine, recorded live. I might do another solo album but right now I just want to play with the Band.

KM: Do you still keep in touch with Dylan?

RD: Absolutely! Our song 'This Wheel's On Fire' was used on *Absolutely Fabulous*. Nice windfall. An extra \$100,000 always comes in handy.

KM: Well, that tells us what you're watching. What are you listening to these days?

RD: The older I get, the less I listen. I turn on the radio and there's not much there. I like anything that's good. You know, Sheryl Crow, whatever. I probably like the same sort of things you like...

KM: Did you ever think you would still be doing this?

RD: Well, you can't change horses in mid-stream. I always say that I'm too old to work and I'm too young to retire!