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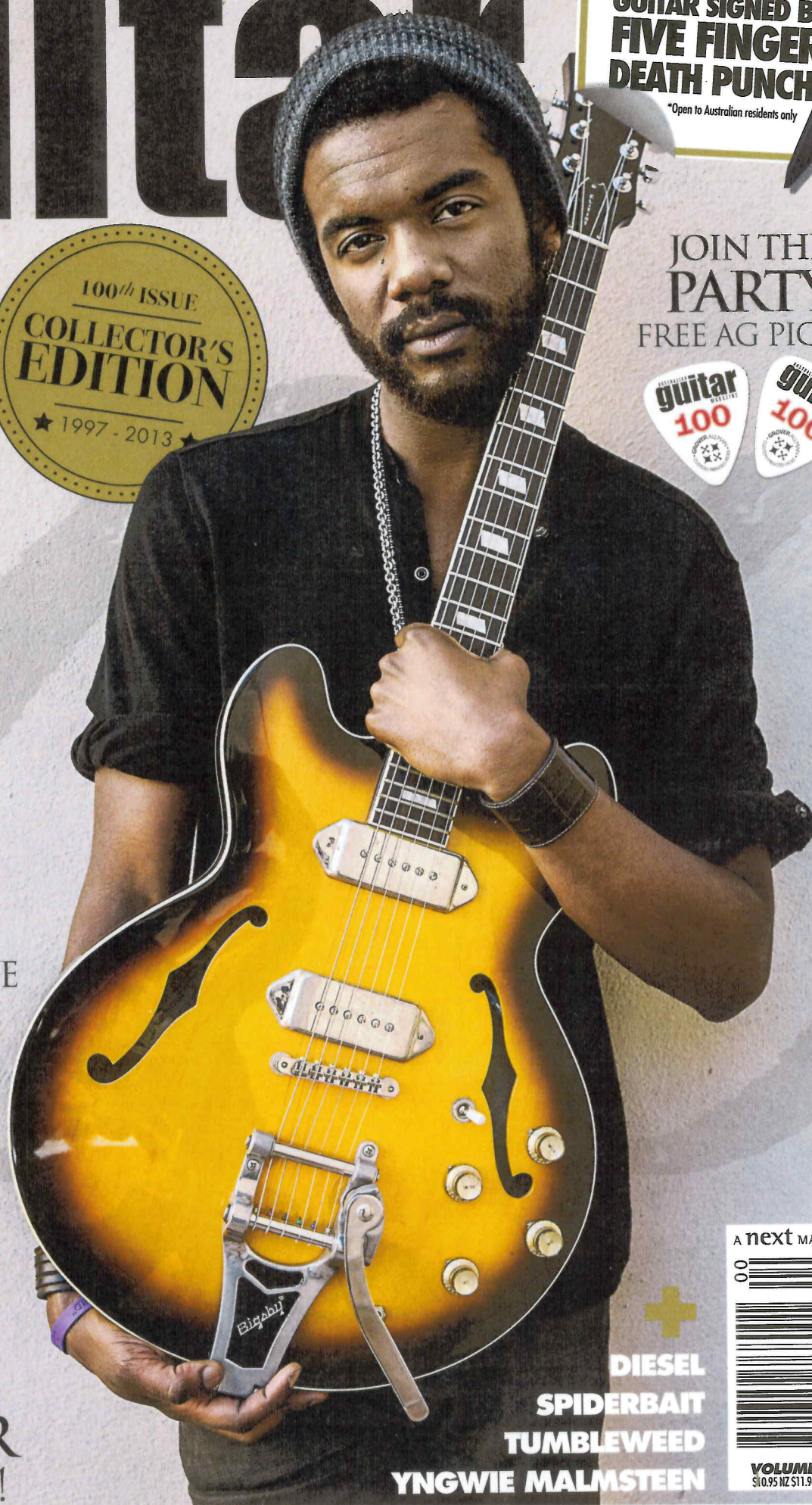
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30 100TH ISSUE RETROSPECTIVE

While we're all about progression (eight-string guitars, amp emulators and time travel machines) sometimes it's nice to look back over what you've achieved. We look at 100 issues of *Australian Guitar* and catch up with our favourite Aussie cover stars from the past 16 years!

40 25 WAYS TO IMPROVE YOUR PLAYING

Hey, there's always time to improve. But like many we just wanna be better: today! Shred expert Peter Hodgson shows you how you can get better on that fretboard, immediately. Here's your must-read for this issue!

54 COVER STORY: THE NEW GUARD

It's all good and well to celebrate the past and all the wonderful things we've done here at AG HQ but you've gotta look forwards as well. Progress, people! Here, we hand select the top 25 players that we believe are set to change the way we think about the guitar.

72 XMAS HOT GEAR TOP 50

Everybody loves a little eye candy. For our biggest Hot Gear special ever, we bring you the top 50 must-have items hitting the shelves this Xmas, from gear and equipment to the latest box set releases. It's time to nerd-the-hell-out!

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ISSUE 100 CD CONTENT VIDEO FEATURES:

- Wolf Mail
- Marco Tamayo
- Sydney Classical Guitars

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- **Steve Flack's Masters of Rock Guitar**
Eric Clapton - The Early Evolution
PT.2 - Style study solos with tablature and jam tracks.
- **Improvising with Steve Flack**
PT.2 - 'Doky' improvisation with tablature and jam tracks.
- **Slide Guitar with Steve Flack**
PT.2 - Jeff Beck style study with tablature and jam track.

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MEET THE NEW GUARD

25 Players WHO ARE CHANGING GUITAR

GUITAR IS AN EVER-GROWING DIALOGUE, AN EVOLVING LANGUAGE PASSED DOWN FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION IN MUCH THE SAME WAY AS A GOOD STORY. WHETHER IT'S GEORGE HARRISON SHOWING SKIFFLE LICKS TO JOHN LENNON ON THE LIVERPOOL BUS, OR SOME KID IN HIS BEDROOM TRYING TO NAIL PERIPHERY'S "JI" BY WATCHING THE YOUTUBE ATTEMPTS OF OTHER PLAYERS, ALL OF US WHO PICK UP THE SIX-STRING THUNDER-STICK TAKE PART IN A KIND OF RITUAL; THE ASSIMILATION OF THE GUITAR VOCABULARY OF THE PAST, WITH OUR OWN IDEAS AND EXPERIENCES. IN OTHER WORDS, FORMING OUR OWN STYLE. ALL OF THE PLAYERS IN THIS LIST ARE INTERPRETING THE GUITAR THEIR WAY, WHETHER IT'S BY CARRYING ON AN EXISTING TRADITION, OR COMPLETELY TURNING CONVENTION ON ITS HEAD AND SHAKING IT. BY **PETER HODGSON**

ROB "CHAPPERS" CHAPMAN



Much like Keith Merrow, Rob Chapman is another in the current list of 'YouTube celebrity' guitarists, alongside folks like Phil X and Andy James. Chappers - also known as "The Monkey Lord" - is an utter beast of a guitarist, and he explores some pretty freaky progressive territory in his band Dorje, for which he's also the vocalist. Chappers has also formed his own guitar company, Chapman Guitars, and fans can vote on upcoming models on his official forum. Part of what makes Chappers such an engaging YouTube video guy is that he can absolutely play his arse off, of course - but at the same time he's able to express tonal concepts in words as well as performance, giving the

viewer a really clear impression of the gear they're looking to buy. Chapman has also recently taken to YouTube to ponder some particularly poignant topics: in one, he reflects on the need to embrace your mistakes in order to push the boundaries of what you can do on the instrument. In another he ruminates on the culture of negative YouTube comments - why you shouldn't read them, and why you shouldn't write them. Chappers sums up a lot about being a guitarist in the 21st century.

NITA STRAUSS



Los Angeles-born Nita Strauss started her career playing metal shows at the age of 13, and devoted herself to studying the techniques of virtuoso guitarists via books and videos. She puts her highly accurate, viciously melodic and decidedly metal-influenced shred skills to amazing use in *Consume The Fire*, as well as playing in all-female Iron Maiden cover band *The Iron Maidens* (she splits the 'Dave Murray' role with Nili Brosh). Nita was recently featured in a popular campaign for Roland's newest Cube series amplifiers, and is a dedicated Ibanez player. And she ranked #1 on *Guitar World's* 10 Female Guitarists You Should Know list.

ADAM MILLER



Adam Miller is equally at home on acoustic or electric guitar, and has shared the stage with the likes of Les Paul, Tommy Emmanuel, Martin Taylor, Matt Schofield, Charlie Hunter, Bruce Mathiske, Adam Levy (Norah Jones), Joe Robinson, Kevin Wilson (Stevie Wonder), Jim Black and Ben Gillies (Silverchair). His fingerstyle compositions have the rare ability to groove and swing even when there's an impossible amount of 'stuff' going on: walking basslines, vocal-like melodies, funky chord stabs... On his latest album, the self-released *Delayed*, Miller uses his custom-built Jeff Traugott acoustic guitar to explore new levels of multilayered-yet-single-performance sound. And interestingly, it was the guitar itself that allowed the album to be recorded. The title refers to the chase for the elusive tone he was hearing in his head, and which ultimately was found in that guitar. "I wasn't going to record this album until the tone was perfect," Miller says. "It was a long process to find the sound, but meeting Jeff Traugott at the Montreal Guitar Festival was a pinnacle moment in that search. Of course then I had to find the perfect studio, microphones, and preamps, so the quest continued!"