

Strummer:
'I think
we will...'

JOE STRUMMER, currently guesting with The Pogues following Shane MacGowan's departure from the band, has exclusively revealed to *NME* that The Clash are likely to re-form in the near future.

Strummer spoke about a possible Clash summit and the forthcoming release of a brand new compilation of out-takes and previously unheard Clash songs.

He responded to rumours of the original band reforming thus: "There have been offers for sure, but really to answer the question, I have to get all the boys in one place at one time and we'd have to discuss it... I think we will."

But Mick's on tour right now in America, Paul's just had a son and he might be going off with Havana 3AM, and I'm off around the world for the next six months with The Pogues, so it sounds a bit unlikely for the immediate future."

The Clash, who scored their first ever Number One 45 this year when 'Should I Stay (Or Should I Go)' topped the charts in March, have a follow-up single issued at the end of October by Columbia, in conjunction with a new greatest hits collection.

The latest oldie to be dusted down is 'Train In Vain', taken from 1979's 'London Calling' LP and never before released as a single in the UK. Generally accepted as the track which established the band in the US, it hits the shops

on November 21.

Meanwhile, Strummer has just returned from New York, where he's been working with long-time friend Josh Cheuse. The pair have been working on a book to accompany a three CD set of rare Clash songs — "a couple of lost

tracks and strange mixes of things".

Another party who's been working on this project is the former publicist for The Clash in their heyday, Kosmo Vinyl. "He's uncovered a whole load of stuff," says Strummer.

The Clash were legendarily prolific in mid-career — 'London Calling' was a double album and it was followed a year later with 'Sandinista', a triple album that contained 36 tracks. It is understood that many of the previously unreleased material

come from this era.

However, there is no confirmation that the collection will be released in the UK, since the project has been initiated by Columbia in America.

"The record company have just finished a Jeff Beck collection,"

says Strummer, "and now they're doing The Clash. Maybe they're going through their roster alphabetically..."

● For the full story on Strummer hooking up with The Pogues, see the feature on page 14.

Clash to ride again



The Clash together for the 'London Calling' video shoot in '79. Mick's 'Train In Vain' is finally released as a single next month

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