



## Guitarist Dave Kilminster Recounts His Nightmare Audition for Roger Waters

Posted 11/06/2013 at 1:13pm | by [Brad Angle](#)

0 Comments [Share](#) 4997 [Tweet](#) 138 [Share](#)



"I drove away from that audition thinking, You've just blown the biggest gig of your life!"

### RELATED CONTENT

- Roger Waters Explains the Imagery and Symbolism Behind The Wall Live, His Update of the Pink Floyd Classic
- Interview: Roger Waters, David Gilmour Discuss Making 'The Wall' in 2000 Guitar World Interview
- G.E. Smith Talks Bass, Republicans and Performing with Roger Waters
- Guitar World: Holiday 2013 Videos
- Interview: Pink Floyd Drummer Nick Mason on the New Remasters, Gear and the Chances of Another Floyd Tour
- Interview: Pink Floyd's Nick Mason, Engineer John Leckie Discuss the Making of 'Meddle'

Dave "Killer" Kilminster is a British guitarist who used to write and transcribe music for publications like *Guitarist* and *Guitar Techniques*.

Kilminster has toured extensively with Keith Emerson, and was first recruited by Waters to cover original Pink Floyd guitarist David Gilmour's lead parts on the 2006 *Dark Side of the Moon* tour.

Kilminster is also one of the four guitarists tapped by Roger Waters to perform on The Wall Live tour. We caught up with him on July 28, 2013, when the tour hit the Stadio Olimpico in Rome, Italy. In the following excerpt from our current cover story, Kilminster sheds some light on what it's like to play in the greatest show on earth.

**[[ Roger Waters Explains the Imagery and Symbolism Behind The Wall Live, His Update of the Pink Floyd Classic ]]**

**GUITAR WORLD: You've been touring The Wall Live for the last three years. How do you keep the performance fresh?**

Well we've done this show almost 200 times

now. And to keep it fresh, I just try to play it better every night. The improvements are obviously very subtle; it's probably only me that would notice. It might be a particular vibrato on one note or a particular timing or phrasing thing. I think my amp sounded a little tired last night, so I talked to my tech, I said, "I wonder if we should re-valve this?" And he said, "Yeah well, we haven't done it for a few years." And I'm thinking, "How long?" We've been cranking these things for ages!

**Let's talk a bit about your history. You have some experience writing for guitar magazines...**

Yeah, I used to write for *Guitarist* and *Guitar Techniques*. I did over 200 articles for them, transcribing and recording some of the scariest guitar pieces you can imagine. I ended up doing things like "Black Star" by Yngwie Malmsteen, [Van Halen's] "Eruption" and "Spanish Fly," and "For the Love of God" by Steve Vai.

**How did you get hooked up with Roger Waters? I know you first played with him on his 2006 *Dark Side of the Moon* tour.**

It was a life-changing thing. I was playing in Keith Emerson's band at the time. One day my manager came into the studio where I was recording an album. He said, "I just had a phone call from [Waters touring guitarist] Snowy White, and he said Roger Waters is looking for a guitarist." I was like, who is that? I had no idea, not a clue. [laughs] When he finally managed to calm himself he told me he was in Pink Floyd and he told me the dates that they wanted somebody for. And originally it was going to be something like 10 weeks. But I was already to tour with Keith during that time, so I couldn't even think about it. And that was it. I didn't think anything more of it for a day or so. And then I had an email from Keith's manager, saying, "I'm really sorry, I have to pull our dates" And I thought, "That's a sign!" That's a really obvious sign that you need to go for this. I still didn't think I'd get it because I thought it was sort of an impossible thing.

**What was your audition like?**

[Don't have an account? Join Now.](#)

### LATEST NEWS

- Alex Lifeson and Geddy Lee of Rush Choose 22 Songs That Inspired Them Most 22 hours 59 min ago
- Guitar World's Battle of the Greatest Live Bands: Semifinals — Rush Vs. Queen 23 hours 33 min ago
- Guitar World's Battle of the Greatest Live Bands: Round 3 — Van Halen Vs. Queen 2 days 9 min ago
- Talking Gear and 'Juice' with John Scofield 2 days 17 hours ago
- Review: MXR M68 Uni-Vibe Chorus/Vibrato Pedal 2 days 18 hours ago
- King Crimson Return, Play First Gigs in Six Years 2 days 19 hours ago
- Guitarist Elliot Easton Discusses The Empty Hearts, The Cars and His Signature Gibson Tikibird 2 days 19 hours ago



## DAILY SHRED

NEW SLETTER

**SIGN UP TO RECEIVE THE GUITAR WORLD DAILY SHRED NEWSLETTER**

GET NEWS. LEARN SONGS. DISCOVER GEAR. WIN STUFF. HAVE FUN!

### FEATURED CONTENT



## The Semifinals! Rush Vs. Queen

It was terrible, absolutely terrible. [laughs] I felt like I was prepared. But not being a fan, I was not really aware of what exactly I was supposed to do. For example, Roger said, "Let's do 'Money'." I said, "Great, which guitar part do you want me to do?" I've got them all worked out. There's three rhythm guitar parts on the record, I know all the solos and I'm thinking it's going to be great. Until Roger said, "Are you alright on the lyrics?" And I'm thinking, "Shit! I'm supposed to sing this as well?" It's not difficult, but it's slightly syncopated along with the rhythm. And I'm singing over that, reading the lyrics, thinking that I'm not entirely sure because I'd never even thought about doing this before. I was completely green.

#### It sounds like a nightmare audition.

Oh, and I seem to remember that I had two guitars as well...and I strapped on the wrong guitar for that piece! [laughs] The solo for "Money" goes up to the 22nd fret and I had my 21 fret guitar on at the time. And then we started doing "Wish You Were Here" and I plugged in the acoustic, and it wasn't working. Then we got halfway through and it comes to the bottleneck solo and I think, Shit! Where's the bottleneck? "It's in my bag, sorry, can we just stop and..." [laughs] I drove away from that audition thinking, You've just blown the biggest gig of your life! I was kicking myself all the way home.

And then I had a friend call the next morning from management saying "Yeah!" And I'm like, "Have you got the right number?" [laughs] But the weirdest thing is, about a day after I heard that they wanted me for this 10-week tour, which actually turned out to be two years, I got another email from Keith's manager, "Oh don't worry, we've got the American dates back." Fate just opened this tiny little door just for a few days and it changed my life completely. To think that I could have missed out on these last seven years.

#### As you've mentioned, you've tackled transcribing some crazy guitar music. Was part of the challenge of this material nailing the nuances?

Yeah. The vibrato is more important, the effects you're using are important. I'd never really bothered with effects all that much. I think the first time I used delay on a solo was when we started on the *Dark Side* tour. I just never bothered. In fact, I heard Shawn Lane playing a delay once and I thought, "What is the point? There's no room, you can't hear anything!"

#### The tone on those classic Gilmour parts is so distinct. Did you change your setup for this gig?

Yes, I did. I think I was working toward that kind of sound anyway, where I just feel very comfortable with a Tele body but actually having three pickups and the tremolo so you kind of get all that Strat noise as well. The Suhr Rose guitar I used last night is my main one.

#### What amps are you using?

The main problem for me for this gig was trying to find an amp that would cover the clean parts and also the overdrive parts. And I didn't actually think it was possible. I had this vision of going the way of Eric Johnson having different amp setups: solo amp, rhythm amp and clean amp. And then I came across Brunetti, which have amazing, clean sounds and amazing overdrive.

Photo: Sean Evans

**For more from Dave Kilminster, plus our exclusive interview with Roger Waters and more — including Black Oak Arkansas, the Winery Dogs, Marty Friedman, a guide to the most incredible concerts and roadshows in rock and metal history, a holiday gift guide and John Petrucci's monthly column — check out the Holiday 2013 issue at the Guitar World Online Store.**

Brad Angle Google +



#### MXR Pedals: Everybody Wants Some

Eddie Van Halen on how he created his sound using MXR's Phase 90 and Flanger pedals.



#### Flying Colors: 'Second Nature'

Morse, Portnoy & Co. stream their new album and announce North American tour.



#### Pink Floyd New Album Details Revealed

'The Endless River' Due On November 10, 2014

### IN THE MAGAZINE



#### See what's inside

Current issue on sale now! Click here to see what's inside the new issue and which songs are transcribed.

#### Buy it now!


Now on the iPad

**SUBSCRIBE NOW**  
12 issues for \$14.95

### MOST COMMENTED ARTICLES






- 6 9-Year-Old Girl Covers Paul Gilbert's Version of...
- 4 EVH Announces New Wolfgang Standard Series Guitars
- 3 Guitar World's Battle of the Greatest Live Bands...
- 3 Roy Buchanan Performs "When a Guitar Plays the..."
- 3 Alex Lifeson and Geddy Lee of Rush Choose 22 Songs...






### GUITAR WORLD ON FACEBOOK



**Guitar World**  
Like

1,390,649 people like Guitar World.








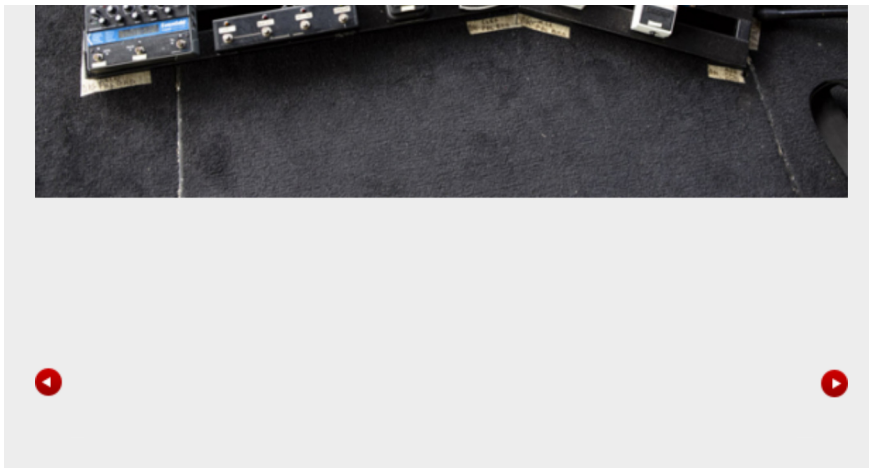
Facebook social plugin

Recommendations

## Roger Waters' The Wall Live: Dave Kilminster's Touring Rig

Previous
6 of 7
Next





**Video: Tommy Emmanuel Does Double Duty on "Hellos and Goodbyes" | Guitar World**  
Steve Roberts recommends this.

**Guitarist Joel Hoekstra Discusses His New Gig with Whitesnake | Guitar World**  
434 people recommend this.

**Electra Guitars Launches Updated Invicta Model | Guitar World**  
7 people recommend this.

**Hear It Now: Flying Colors Streaming Entire New Album, 'Second Nature' | Guitar World**  
2,622 people recommend this.

Facebook social plugin

## Related

### Artists:

Roger Waters

### Topics:

Dave Kilminster, Holiday 2013, Roger Waters, The Wall, Interviews, News, Features

YOU MIGHT ALSO LIKE...

**Roger Waters Explains the Imagery and Symbolism Behind The Wall Live, His Update of the Pink Floyd Classic**

**Roger Waters on Veterans, Patriotism and 9/11**

**G.E. Smith Talks Bass, Republicans and Performing with Roger Waters**

**Holiday 2013 Guitar World: Roger Waters Discusses The Wall Live, 10 Greatest Rock Spectacles, Marty Friedman, Holiday Gift Guide and More**

REGISTER FOR THE **GUITAR WORLD** NEWSLETTER

Here's What You'll Get:

- Current issue info
- Updates on our apps, specials and DVD products
- Awesome contests, articles, videos and more!

Enter Email

GUITAR WORLD ON TWITTER

RT @SeymourDuncan: What's your favorite pointy guitar? Here are a few posted on our Facebook wall over the weekend. <http://t.co/4gO2LNLb2L> — 1 hour 11 min ago

Who provides a better LIVE experience: @rushtheband or @QueenWillRock? Open the poll and VOTE! <http://t.co/zCid5QA1OE> <http://t.co/kWbfqAiupc> — 22 hours 49 min ago

RT @DamianFanelli: Doing some 12-string shopping at @mandolinbros NYC / @RickenbackerInt <http://t.co/JvFKSd9KAD> — 1 day 16 hours ago

RT @BlkLtgGallery: Awesome folks @GuitarWorld giving away one of our amazing @Slash images <http://t.co/Nd7lbKmq5y> <http://t.co/iwY6EUn0zO> — 1 day 19 hours ago

1 of 36 >>

0 Comments

**ADD A COMMENT**  
YOU MUST LOG IN TO POST COMMENTS.

### Log in to Guitar World directly or log in using Facebook

Username: \*

Password: \*

Login

Forgot your username or password?  
Click here for help.

Sign in with Twitter

Log in using Facebook to share comments and articles easily with your Facebook feed.

[Home](#) | [Interviews](#) | [Features](#) | [Lessons](#) | [Gear](#) | [Artists](#) | [Girls](#) | [Store](#) | [Subscribe](#)

[News](#) | [Blogs](#) | [Contests](#) | [Galleries](#)

[Subscribe](#) | [About Us](#) | [Advertising](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms & Conditions](#) | [RSS Feeds](#) | [Site Map](#) | [Customer Service](#) | [FAQ](#)



Copyright 2014 © NewBay Media, LLC, 28 East 28th  
Street, 12th floor, New York, NY 10016 T (212)  
378-0400 F (917) 281-4704