

LEARN TO PLAY

RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS
BREAKING THE GIRL



STRUM-ALONG
GUITAR TAB
STROUD.COM/SORRY

RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS

BREAKING THE GIRL

by Matt Smith with guitar tab by Steve Strode

A classic slice of introspection, spiced up with 12-string tones, metallic scrap and a 6/8 time signature

STRUM
ALONG

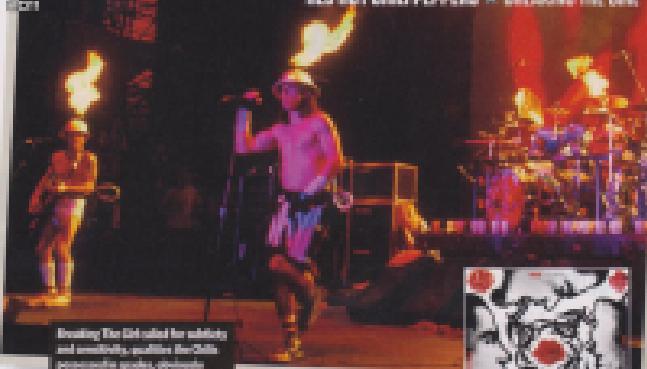
THIS was the fourth single from Red Hot Chili Peppers' 1991 album *Blood Sugar Sex Magik* (RHCP). In theory, the Chili's had it all. A breakdancer/guitarist, a new live act with the perennial John Frusciante on guitar and major tour bookings. Yet there was much malaise behind the scenes.

The band were still grooving for pleasure. Hillel Slovak, who'd overseen its birth in 1983, a tragedyst that prompted frontman Anthony Kiedis to burn his own heart in addition. A few other guitarists were tried out before Frusciante arrived in 1992. Ironically, Frusciante would conceptualise his own heartbreak and leave (in 1995) for six years. On the bright side, the Chili Peppers had great new songs and a new producer, Rick Rubin.

Rubin was a maverick and bought *The Mission*, an 18-song pile in Laurel Canyon, Los Angeles. The house had been used by actor Kevin Spacey (who was once home to famed escapist Harry Houdini). It wasn't a typical place, but Rubin and the Chili Peppers agreed they would record there for "the vibe". *Anthropology*, The Black Rain and *Spacehog* have all-time revered albums at *The Mission*.

The basic character *Breaking The Girl* comes courtesy of Frusciante, partly inspired by Led Zeppelin's acoustic blues *Friends* (70) and The Botts Of Livermore (71). Kiedis immediately wanted to make Frusciante's bolero-meets-psychobilly music to lyric addressing his recent break-up with model Carmen Electra.

Kiedis' words also focused on bone that he was repeating the mistakes of his reuniting senior father, John, who'd bizarrely organised for Anthony to lose his virginity at just 12 with Kindergarten's 18-year-old girlfriend, Missou-



Breaking The Girl rated for subtlety and sensitivity, credits the Chili Peppers' spookily direct style.

tae. The lyric: "Remember my dad, / Girl of the day / He never says / That was the way."

The singer also later mused: "I began to realize if I was following the standard of my father, jumping from branch to branch... An exciting and temporarily fulfilling as this constant influx of interesting and beautiful girls can be, at the end of the day that's it really you're left with nothing."

Clearly *Breaking The Girl* is an ordinary ballad. Unusually in the Chili's canon, it's also a 4/4 time and a four-chorus song. As Frusciante told of the *Chili* media operation: "Everybody's their own band. Ioller the guitar parts, Chad does drums, Flea writes the bass and Anthony writes the vocals. Everybody makes suggestions about everyone else's part. If you really want to do that part, you can do it. But everybody takes suggestions from everybody else."

Frasier Flea has since revealed he wanted to adapt "Space Is More" approach for RHCP:

"I had been playing too much guitar to that... I'd play something bass, it sounds out, instead of the bass being a constant constrictor of noise. Space is good."

Frusciante concurred, adding: "Space is a huge part of it. Like those parts of life where you're able to kick back and do nothing - there are amazing parts of life. It's the same with music... *Mother's Milk* doesn't represent the type of guitar player I am. I'm a bass embarrased by the guitarists I play with.

Meanwhile, Chad Smith's *Breaking The Girl* drum parts were inspired by the first Hemispherical's

Mark-Mitchell. "I was trying to think like Atom Dejoness, the Hendrix song, that sort thing... and that's almost what *Breaking The Girl* is. I've always been into taking suggestions from others [band members]. . . Flea's a very interesting pedagogical drummer and he'll play a straight 16th on one and I'll never be around, but I wouldn't have thought like that. I kind of digested [Hemi's] version and made it easier than ever."

The percussive bridge is another story altogether. Smith recalls the whole band wanted a "moralistic" breakdown. "We took out the snare guy from the basement, got the clanging stuff and having back big metallic pipes and such. We sat on the ground in the foyer and Flea had this big pipe and was bashing it, and he's playing [our] wheelie [break-drum] and Anthony was playing a garbage can or something. Then we all kind of ended and double tracked it and Brendon [Morrison, engineer] put a mix out there and would say, 'OK, can you all listen; you all flunked'. . . and it was done in half an hour."

Indeed, working at *The Mission* encouraged such impromptu recording. While *Breaking The Girl*'s intro solo was hit in the fly-by, Flea recorded many riffs in his bedroom and all of Frusciante's acoustic guitars for 1995 were recorded in his sleeping-quarters. For *Breaking The Girl*, Frusciante played a Mason Mosaic 12-string, down-tuned a semitone to E, A Melodica was used for the "drum" parts.

By the time the video for *Breaking The Girl* was filmed, Frusciante had stumbled into drug and quit. The *Breaking The Girl* video is one of only seven Chili videos to feature Ardit Marshall (who briefly acted as a replacement before these banishes), the others being "I'm Mine To Ask", but in this Frusciante who plays both drums.

Breaking The Girl had an unusual track for the Chili's, but a fair favorite, perhaps because it's different. To play it, a 12-string will help. If you don't have one, try to use strings and use a hand, rhythmic pick attack. Is it for the jaded drums? Well, here's that to you. (ML)

"I was a bit embarrassed by Mother's Milk"

John Frusciante

Three of a kind

IF YOU LIKE "BREAKING THE GIRL", TRY THESE...



HOLE HEARTED EXTREMES



THANK YOU LED ZEPPELIN



NORWEGIAN WOOD THE BEATLES

WIMBLEDON writer the 10th solo album released by the Chili's, it's a mix of the bridge numbers of their classic albums. The Courtney-penned acoustic tune.

GUITARIST.COM Home
Brett Gurewitz takes an open Chapman-style route to making the rock-playing stuck class 2010 process. Has he implemented an off-string tool?

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TEACHING YOU HOW

Music by Anthony Kiedis/Peter Frampton, Anthony Kiedis,
John Anthony/Patrick Swayze and Chad Smith.
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STRUM
ALONG

Breaking The Girl

INTRO

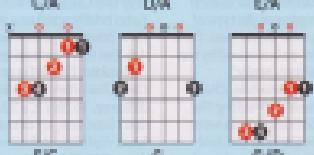
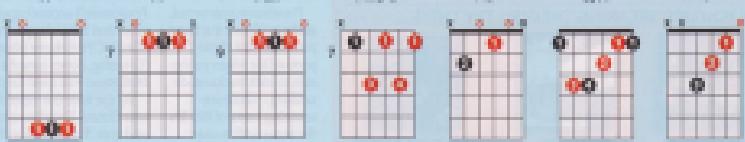
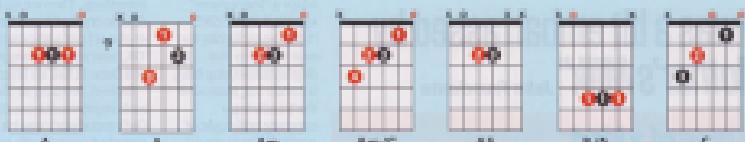
4/4 C G

4/4 C G

In order to perform the pull-offs on the B/E string, you may need to switch with your first finger to play the A chord shape. Continue this fingerings as you move up the fingerboard to play the B/A, C/A, D/A and E/A chords.

Chords

The chords in the verse section can be played in many ways—
for example, B/A or C/A—but this track simply uses open
A chord shapes shifted around the
fretboard with the
open B/E string A note unchanged.
So even though this
looks like a lot of
chord shapes, there
are only a few shapes
to pull. B/A and C/A
are known as slash
chords because
common in all styles
of music. Whenever
you see this type of
chord, the first note
is the bass note and
the second after
note from note. So
for B/A it's B chord
plus bass note A.



Rocking Track (track 15)

This song comes with a full backing track because
guitar versus C/D. To use the tracking track, simply
insert the disc and press play/pause and press
stop/pause/stop.



RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS MUSIC CO.
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SONG SHEET

VERSE 1

A B/A C/A

I am a man

D/A E/A A

Cut from the know

A B/A C/A

Rarely do friends

D/A E/A A

Come and then go

A B/A C/A

She was a girl

D/A E/A A

Soft but estranged

A B/A C/A

We were the two

D/A E/A A

Our lives re-arranged



2001

B/A E/A A

That was the way

A B/A C/A

She was the girl

D/A E/A A

Left alone

A B/A C/A

Feeling the need

D/A E/A A

To make me her home

PRE-CHORUS

C G Am

I don't know what, when or why

C G fmaj7

The twilight of love had arrived

PRE-CHORUS

C G Am

Feeling so good that day,

C G fmaj7

A feeling of love that day

CHORUS

Am E/B Am/C

Twisting and turning, your feelings are

G/D E7

burning, you're breaking the girl

Am E/B Am/C G/D F

She meant you no harm

Am E/B Am/C

Think you're so clever, but now you

G/D E7

must sever, you're breaking the girl

Am E/B Am/C G/D F

He loves no one else

CHORUS

Am E/B Am/C

Twisting and turning, your feelings are

G/D E7

burning, you're breaking the girl

Am E/B Am/C G/D F

She meant you no harm

Am E/B Am/C

Think you're so clever, but now you

G/D E7

must sever, you're breaking the girl

Am E/B Am/C G/D F

He loves no one else

VERSE 2

A B/A C/A

Raised by my dad

D/A E/A A

Girl of the day

A B/A C/A

He was my man

CHORUS

Am E/B Am/C

Twisting and turning, your feelings are

G/D E7

burning, you're breaking the girl

Am E/B Am/C G/D F

She meant you no harm

Am E/B Am/C

Think you're so clever, but now you

G/D E7

must sever, you're breaking the girl

Am E/B Am/C G/D F

He loves no one else

version 1

version 2