



DATELINE: 1986.

Queensrÿche guitarist **Michael Wilton** relives his own embarrassing wardrobe malfunction...

Michael (far right) with Queensrÿche in 1986. Oh dear!



Michael in 2015. Don't think he looks like his sister now!

BORN IN 1962, MICHAEL 'The Whip' Wilton – the nickname comes from the speed at which the guitarist whips his fingers around the fretboard – has been a member of Queensrÿche since the band's inception back in 1982. The progressive metallers from Bellevue, Washington have sold over 20 million albums worldwide and 1988's 'Operation: Mindcrime' is considered one of the finest heavy metal concept records of all time. Despite all this, though, Queensrÿche's image has occasionally made them look like right berks – and none more so than at the time of 1986's 'Rage For Order'. Wilton sportingly explains why on earth they allowed it to happen... "The photo shoot for the Rage for Order album was a 1980s twist that the band all agreed to. We wanted to promote an image based on something the management people who were advising us at that time were keen on. They reckoned we needed an "appearance" image as well as an image for the music, whatever that means! I have to be clear. This is just my opinion on my own outfit, which even at the time seemed to me to be a bit absurd and over the top. But regardless, we tried to have some fun with it. I think I was fighting the management's instructions a bit, trying to make my

image as normal as possible and not look too much like the MTV "romantic vampire" that was popular at the time. But it still wasn't good! My long jacket was made to look more military, even though the fabric the designers used was more of a kind of '80s window drapery. The yellow undershirt was from a store on Melrose in Hollywood called Flips. I think that still to this day it's the only yellow t-shirt I've ever owned. My pants were a stretchy black spandex material fitting into my police-style, calf high black leather boots – inspired by KK Downing of Judas Priest, of course. But probably the craziest thing of all for me was having my hair straightened and colored with highlights. The makeup artist on the day put full foundation with eye shadow on me, and everything else that a Hollywood actress would wear! My fiancée at the time, Kerrie Lynn, was at the photo shoot. When she first clapped eyes on me she simply gawked in amazement, then horror. Then she just started laughing. She came up to me and politely suggested that I wear something else instead. Then she told me I looked like my sister! Nevertheless, the clothes I wore at that infamous photo shoot have been an interesting subject for me ever since. Trying to explain that look to my children and immediate family has been what you might call a challenge!"