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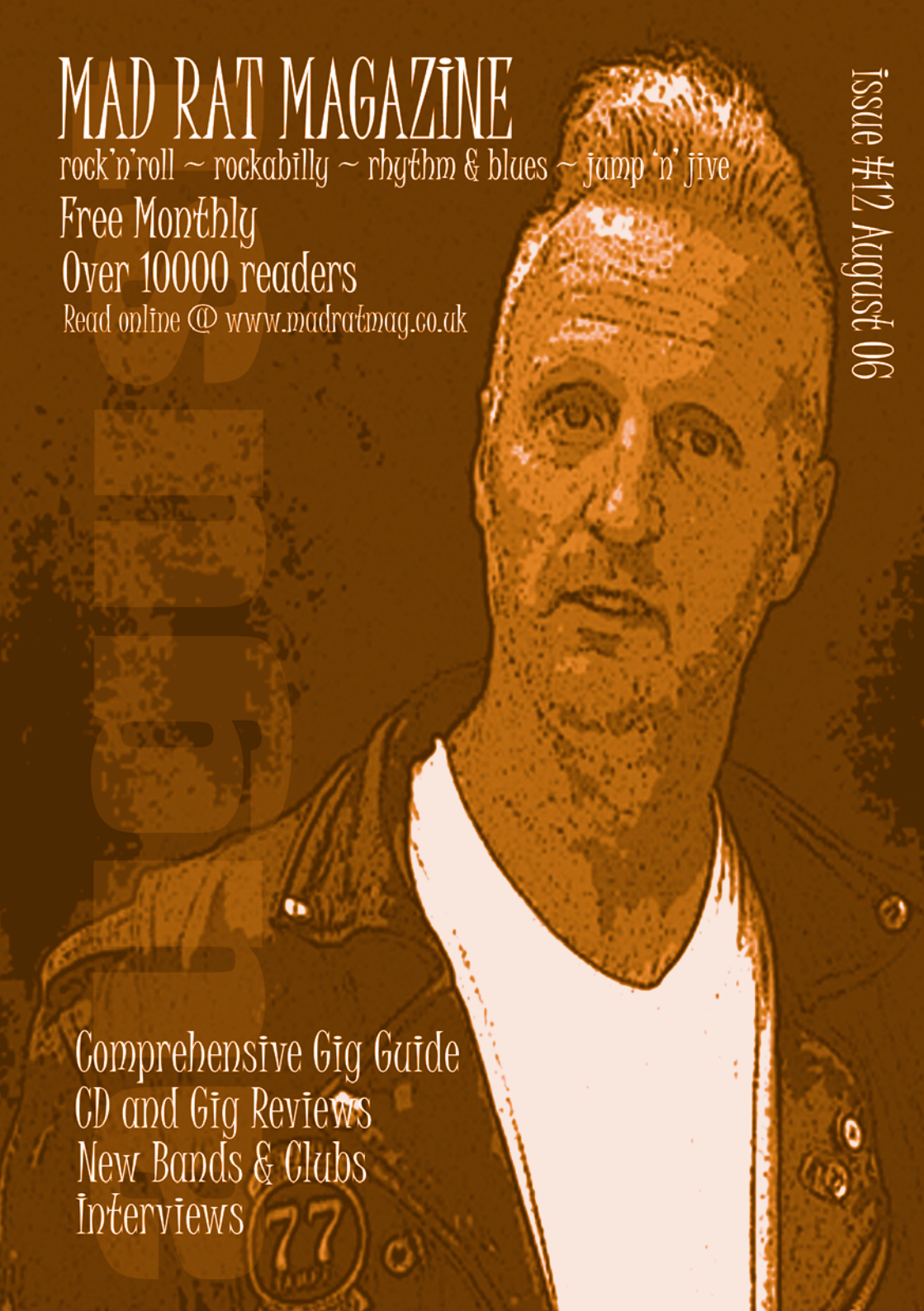
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issue #12 August 06

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SPIKE SPOUTS

Oï Oï

This is it then, the last issue of the first year and what a year it has been and how hard we have all worked to bring to the masses the only free UK rockin'mag. Between you me and the gatepost we have almost created the utopian ideal a magazine for the people by the people with something for everyone, you that placed the advert and you that sent in the feature and you that made sure your gigs were in before deadline and yes it is the most read, free rock 'n' roll magazine in the land and beyond!

What a team we make! Trying really hard to reduce the temptation to segregate an already tiny scene. This year has seen many of you trying new clubs and new bands and it's heart warming to find that many of you think, as we do at the mag, Rockin' is our business and our business is to maintain a healthy happy scene. New bands, experienced bands, bands from abroad, DJ's, radio features, new clubs, old clubs, weekenders, car shows, theatre

shows and loads more between us if we knew about it, it got a plug. Fabulous!!!!

So to the next year which starts next month with a brand new look (no don't

get excited i'll still be on the front cover) SO THERE!

New writers, new features, new look same ethics and here is a reminder, we won't print it if it contains swear words, is abusive or just a personal attack. We will print it if it is relevant to the scene, it contains information that needs to get about quickly, personal opinion as long as it's not abusive and that doesn't mean you can't just dislike something! We will accept advertising by hard copy or email jpeg, gif, psd, eps or pdf, we will accept payment by cheque payable to Roaming Mad Rat Enterprises or via our website www.madratmag.co.uk where you can use the credited PayPal secured web payment thingy.

We will, of course, continue to bring you a good quality Mag with your points of view and my monthly moan, quality pics, some silly stuff here and there and we will continue to do all this in a reasonably politically correct manner that you will enjoy reading and we continue to thank everyone for as long as your enthusiasm for the Mag continues.

Thank you all and here's to the next year of Keepin' Rockin' Rollin'

Be good y' hear.

Rockin' Regards
Spike



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Americana 2006

It's big. Damn Big. Over 60,000 people in attendance over 4 days for the event in 2005, and after about the fourth phone call before this year's event, to organiser Chris Jackson, I actually spoke to the man. He was apologetic, "Sorry Mike, I have been snowed under, I thought last year was big, but we've already surpassed last year's attendance", Chris then explained he was trying to think of a way to enlarge the showground! And, he wasn't wrong!

We arrived on the Thursday evening, and joined the couple of thousand already there....by Saturday night the cues had not dissipated at all, and the estimates were of around 25,000 per day coming into the show!

So what is it that attracts so many people to the festival? Well, the list of attractions is pretty impressive, to say the least. Billed as Europe's No1 American lifestyle event this is a massive tribute to the USA is unique in its widely ranging attractions that appeal to tens of thousands of like-minded people from all over the world.

Organisers Chris & Bev Jackson, have turned this one time small local show into the biggest and longest running event of its kind in Europe. By taking a slice of the 'American Dream' they have created an amazing week-end that has no equal anywhere outside of the USA. Much more than a car show or music festival its all of these combined into one massive fun-filled family orientated event. And that is the nub of it all really. It IS a family orientated event, if it was billed as a rock n roll event, it would by a very long way, be the biggest in the world.

The Saturday and Sunday auto/bike displays are second to none and those of us with a passion for music, there is a choice of 50s, 60s, 70s and this year there were over forty artistes from the USA/EUROPE/UK performing a great mixture of rock'n'roll, country, r&b, blues, alternative music from the last five decades.

Mix all that with several hundred associated trade stands, side-shows, amusements, auto/bike club displays, children's amusements, talent contests, Ride The Raging Bull, Flight Simulators, tattooist, line-dance & jive tuition, on site camping facilities, four bars, high quality food vendors & so much more to see and do.

But as we are rockin' folk, lets take a look at some of the bands from the rockin' scene who graced the show:

Travis Ladoyt-Everyone was getting excited about the appearance of Travis Ladoyt and in fact the hype was so much prior to his appearance that it was hardly any wonder that many were a little disappointed. The promise of him being the second coming were a little premature, and the first reaction of many of the rockin'crowd was, "he aint Elvis".

The trouble was that he was NOT trying to be an Elvis imitator, his stage show came across as him believing he WAS Elvis, "here's a song we just released", was a fairly typical comment.

The problem is, that 'being Elvis', is a fairly big ask, and yes there is a passing resemblance, both in sound and looks, but it's not quite there. Did we expect him to be Elvis? Well, frankly, given that amount of publicity, yes we did! But, the reason that he failed to fulfill that was that for a start, his backing band were wrong. The gui-

tarist was competent enough, but nowhere near Scotty Moore and the bass

player was sporting an electric bass. Bill Black would be turning in his grave! (Bill did reportedly once try an electric bass, played it for about an hour, took it off and smashed it against the recording studio wall, and never played one again!).

And then we noticed that as the performance was continuing, there was the sound of backing singers and a horn section, despite the absence of such on the stage. Backing tracks? Surely not. Yep, I'm afraid that Travis was using pre recorded backing tracks to enhance the sound....as one rocker in the audience pointed out, "...it's karaoke!!".

Despite all this and my initial disappointment, I had noted that Travis was due to play a second set the following day, and thus vowed to watch that.

Without the weight of expectation, I found I enjoyed the second set a lot more and began to view his act with a little more objectivity. Yes, the backing track was still there and yes the band was still not authentic. But Travis Ladoyt DID look very much like Elvis Presley....yes he does sound pretty close to Elvis Presley, although some of his phrasing was a tad off, which gives the game away. There were



even a group of women (young and older) screaming at the front whenever he swiveled his hips!

At the end of the day, my conclusion therefore, is that Travis Ladoyt is probably the closest thing I have ever seen or heard to Elvis Presley as a young man. He IS very good, but he still aint Elvis!

The thing I found odd was that the country folk accepted him as much as the rock n roll crowd. Dont forget that Elvis' performance at the Grand Ole Opry, back in the 1950's, was less than memorable and he was widely ostracised by the country music scene as the instigator of the demise of country music, albeit for only a few years. It would appear that country music has forgiven Elvis!

Being essentially a Rock n'Roll, Rockabilly magazine, I'm sure that the many other country acts that appeared at Americana, will forgive me for concentrating on them, although I have to give an honourable mention to The Picasso Brothers, who weren't half bad. Anyway, what of the rocking bands on offer? Please note that due to conflicting bands, I didn't see all of those on offer, so have only commented on those I did see.

Johnny & the Jailbirds - there are those of us that will recall that Johnny & his band were at the cutting edge of the

1970's revival, along with The Flying Saucers, the ubiquitous Crazy Cavan and Freddy Fingers Lee. Sadly I have to report that this is no longer the case.

The UK rock n Roll scene has moved on a lot, sounds and styles have changed and unfortunately Johnny & the Jailbirds have not really moved with it. They have progressed though, and now are very much more of a cabaret act than a hardcore rock n'roll act. More than one person commented on the fact that Johnny and his stage moves are very like "Shakin' Stevens", and I'm not sure that this isn't deliberate. A lot of the rockin'crowd at Americana stayed away, preferring to browse the stalls and gaze at the myriad of American cars, rather than listen to Johnny and the Jailbirds. I sat and listened, and yes I enjoyed and sang along with some of the numbers. But this was rock n'roll pop, and of course preferable to listening to the drivel that radio stations prefer to play nowadays, but not what I and many others would choose, given the choice.

The Rockin' Bandits - Here was a band that I had looked forward to seeing for a while, I had a copy of their CD, and had been impressed with what I had heard and wanted to



see them live. I was not disappointed. Playing a mixture of their own songs and rocked up Western Swing, a particular favourite of mine (especially

Roy Hogshead), the band are confident and soon had the boppers and strollers onto the dance floor. I did feel that they might have a look at the order of their set list, as they tended to play more of their own stuff, as far as I could tell, towards the end of their set, and whilst competent enough, it didn't create as much of a buzz as their cover work, and thus the set lost a bit of momentum. It's a minor point and I am being picky. I will be reviewing their latest album in the next issue, but until then let me say that the Bandits are a very good band and one that you ought to make an effort to see.



The Hicksville Bombers - I haven't seen the Bombers for a while, so when I heard that they were playing a pre show set on the Thursday night, I made a bee line for stage 3, and whilst I realised that Bryn had left the group, didn't realise that bass player, Guy had also gone.

I had heard that the loss of Bryn had resulted in a loss of quality for the band, and that Dave, wanted to concentrate more on his work with Country Cattin' anyway. However, dedicated

Bombers fans, fear not, not only are the Hicksvilles alive and very much kickin', but they are doing so with as much gusto and quality as ever.

Dave, kicked the set off with his usual 100 mph rendition of "Bull by the horns", and away we went. All the usual stuff was there, plus a couple of new songs and even a couple of improvised numbers. The band were relaxed and able to improvise wherever they wanted, there were only around 150 watching, and I left confident in the knowledge that the reports of the Hicksville Bomber's demise were definitely false!

The Sunset Trio - I'd never heard of them, and I'm afraid only caught the last ten minutes of their act.

I didn't hear too much wrong, but sad to say not much that sticks in my mind either. Whatever they had done previously, they seemed to get a good reaction from the gathered throng.

Gene Gambler & the Shufflers - All the way from real Welsh Wales, boyo, Gene and the boys are popular on the circuit and with good reason.

With remnants of The Rimshots and lord knows what else, these boys know their way around a stage and know how to entertain an audience. Thus we were treated to a mixture of jive, bop, stroll and snippets of Welsh language as the band received a great reception.

Rudy LaCroix & the All Stars - one of the mainstays of the UK Rock n'Roll Circuit, Rudy La Croix & the all stars lived up to their billing as one of the best bands on show over the whole show. Rudy is a polished performer and almost from start to finish had the large audience in the palm of his hand. Smartly turned out and with a tight set and large stage presence, Rudy guided us through some of his best known numbers and album tracks. The cats were rockin', the gals were boppin' and a great time was had by all. I would suggest that they were amongst the top three performers at Americana.

Cat & the Hot Tin Trio - There were some that poo Pooed the band before they even got on stage. I was not one of them and made a point of watching Cat and the boys and I have to say that this was one of their best performances. Cat began with 'Sea Cruise', a number guaranteed to put those of a non rocking persuasion at ease, and went on to produce a fine set, which included Janis Martin's 'Let's elope baby', a great version of 'Summertime' and even a rocking version of 'House of the rising sun'!

At one point Cat Cane jumped off stage and joined the strolling girls on the dance floor, whilst singing the vocals through a remote microphone. This was audience participation and the audience loved it!

Cat & the Hot Tin Trio dont pretend to be anything other than what they are, a good honest rock n roll band, and they won a lot of new friends at Americana. One of my favourite acts over the weekend.

The Sugar Creek Trio - in their own right, the Sugar Creek Trio are a tight and hard working outfit, however, with the addition of the energetic Bob Butfoy (Jack Rabbit Slim), the band took on another dimension. This was show time and displayed Bob and the band's prowess at whipping up a

storm of rockabilly frenzy, prompting boppers, strollers and jivers alike to crowd the area in front of the stage.

Bob is a nice guy off stage, but on stage plays like a demented demon, you simply cant help but to get involved and I felt as drained as the band looked afterwards...but what a good show. For me, the best performance of the weekend.



There were other acts on of course, unfortunately a telly due to conflicts with some acts clashed with each other I

stage. Take your pick. The US theme continued with traditional native Indian dance performances, line dancing and jive lessons, talent shows, and of course, the massive vintage motor show complete with the hugest US trucks in the world. Ever. And there was plenty of opportunity for camping it up too, whether in the comfort of your super snazzy vintage US motor home or under skanky canvas. If you like that kind of thing.

Of course, no rockin' event would be complete without veteran rock n roll cowboy Tony providing ink for a steady queue of willing victims. There aren't many shows where the guest tattooist turns up astride a steed, western style, but then as y'all know Americana ain't any 'ole show. (But just how did Tony manage to tattoo in those crotchless chaps he wore all weekend?) So was it all George Wubble U portraits for Tony? Not bloody likely. Aside from the small tattoos that are an inevitable part of such an event, Tony's time and skills were mostly devoted to the skin of several Hemsby regulars topping up their ink levels. And that probably best sums up Americana; a whole weekend hopelessly devoted to the good 'ole US way of life hijacked by the stalwart UK rock n rollers. Yeeha.

didn't get to see them. However, reports that I heard were that The Blue Flames were excellent as was Narvel Felts. Dave from the Hicksville bombers told me that they were backing Rip Masters, but also played a gig in their own right on the Friday and as Country Cattin on the Saturday night. It was also nice to see old friends doing well, Moonshine Mama was djing, not only for some of the rock n'roll stages but on the main stage as well.

Rebecca Burton

Wildkat Mike

Welcome to Americana....

A big ole slice of American pie lovingly confectioned in the heart of the British countryside by Bev and Chris Jackson, but what to expect from Europe's biggest and bestest US lifestyle event? Putting aside all pre-conceptions of pushy, supersized yanks working up a sweat over the prospect of yet another burger van, I discovered that the Jackson's view of American life is more early Elvis than the visions I'd been having.

Burgers and beer aside, entertainment took the form of music and performance acts spread across two stages, catering for a broad spectrum of tastes, with the likes of The Drugstore Cowboys, Sugarcreek Trio, Hayseed Dixie, The Sunrays, The Hicksville Bombers and The Troggs (the list goes on and on...) providing the weekend's soundtrack. Though there was a noticeable split between the 'rockabilly' stage and the 'old grannies in deckchairs'



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Branko Radovancevic

The Mad Men from Croatia caused quite a stir amongst the rockabilly fraternity when they appeared at the 9th & 10th 'Rockabilly Raves'. I wanted to find out more about this band and what makes them tick. So with the help of the Internet I tracked down their lead singer and energetic rhythm guitarist, Branko Radovancevic.

Hi Branko thanks for taking the time to do this interview.

B: Hi Duke! It's my pleasure! Thanks for your interest!

Can you tell us a little background on you and how you got into Rock n Roll/Rockabilly music?



B: Well, I got into it when I was at the age of some 11-12... I just liked it! I got into Jerry Lee Lewis, Little Richard, Eddie

Cochran etc, but also the Ramones and some more rockin' punk rock stuff. For me it had the same feel and "teenage rage" to it as the 50's rockin' stuff. Later the 50's side of my music taste took over most of my music interest.

Basically, the first time I heard rock'n'roll I thought to myself "this is the best music EVER!!!!".

When did you first pick up the guitar?
Are you self-taught?

B: I don't really remember... I guess during the high school. Yes, I'm self-taught, but I only play rhythm, just strum it to make some rattle.

How did you meet the other Madmen?

B: I met Darko (guitar) and Gogo (d-bass) on the rockin' scene in Zagreb during the high school, I've known them both since the time we were like some 14 years old or so. We're good friends for a long time now! I met Marko (drums) a bit later when we started a band and needed a drummer and he was playing in another band and we thought we could use him. That was back in some 1995, so we know each other for a

long time too and are all good friends.

Influences?

B: Sooo many! Johnny Burnette, Johnny Carroll, Benny Joy, Johnny Powers, Elvis, Little Richard, Pat Cupp, Eddie Cochran, we were really digging Desperate R'n'R comps, Buffalo Bop stuff, wild black rockin' stuff, Rhythm and blues, so many influences really!

Do you play any other instruments?

B: Actually, I went to a music school when I was younger and I had 3 years of piano and I finished school there with a clarinet. I don't play these now; I can't really remember the last time I picked up a clarinet, haha.

Hey I used to play the Clarinet at school!

Was there much of a Rockin' scene in your hometown in Croatia, as you were growing up?

B: The scene in Zagreb was really big in the late 80's; it had its peak then. There were so many clubs and record hops, which were attended massively. You had something going on almost any day of the week. Media was into it too; there was a TV show every Friday night and lots of radio shows. We were quite young then, but we remember it. In the 90's everything went down because of the war, but started to pick up again in the early mid 90's. There was always a scene and places to go out. Also the bands of many rockin' styles.

And how is the Rockin' scene in Croatia now?

B: The scene is good now. We have other bands besides 'The Mad Men' who play in the traditional way. Bands like 'Mississippi Queen', a drummer less trio, they are veterans on the scene, this band started in the late 80's. They have an album now out on Rhythm Bomb Records. Also, there are 'Adam and his Nuclear Rockats', another band in which our guitar player Darko plays with. They have a great debut album out on Spanish El Toro records.

Also there is 'Four on the Floor' with their own brand or rockin' and some more blues and swing bands too. I'm also a DJ and I have record hops at least once per month, but there's always something happening, most of the weekends there's a rockin' record hop or a gig on. The rockin' crowd is quite small, on the hops and gigs you'll get a mixed crowd, but the atmosphere is friendly and enthusiastic.

Is 'The Mad Men' your first band?

B: Yes, it's my first band, before I wanted to have a band with Darko (our guitarist); we were just fooling around and never got serious about it.

And when did you make your first public performance?

B: I guess it was in 1996/97... We started the Madmen because we were all friends and wanted to have a band together, playing the music we loved. At first we didn't have a drummer and did one show in that line up (with Gogo playing rhythm guitar and another guy on the double bass), but we soon included Marko on the drums because we wanted a different sound.

The first recordings were made at Lightning Records in Berlin, is there any particular reason for that choice?

B: We also did the recordings for the second album there. We really like that studio and Axel and Ike are the great guys to work with. The reason we went to record there is because we were about to cut an album for the Rhythm Bomb and Lightning Recording service is the studio they use to record most of the band signed to the label. But we always wanted to record in a vintage equipped studio and this was the perfect opportunity.

Not many bands get to appear on the Rockabilly Rave two years in a row. Do you think you were asked back because of the reaction you got from the crowd at the end of that amazing afternoon show at the 9th Rave?

B: I hope so. We really enjoy performing on stage and we try to keep honest about it. Maybe the audience felt that. We do what we do and we like it, it's a simple thing - rock'n'roll is about rockin' and rollin'! (Hope that doesn't sound too corny.)

Anyway, thanks to Jerry for booking us again!

When you're writing songs, what comes first the music or the lyrics?

B: It all depends, sometimes one and sometimes the other. Sometime just a catchy title or a phrase come to my mind and I try to work around it, pick up a guitar and put some music to it and sometimes, some rhythm or a riff goes into my head and I put words on it...

When did you first play the festivals abroad?

B: We played the small festivals in Slovenia soon after we got together, then a couple of years later we played some festivals in Austria (that's where Ralf Sommer and the guys from Spo Dee O Dee spotted us and recommended us to the Rhythm Bomb). We did a small tour of Germany then and got our first album out.

You opened for The Stray Cats last year how did that gag come about?

B: I don't know really. Our label recommended us and I guess they were approached from someone with the Stray Cats management looking for younger acts to open for the Stray Cats on their European tour. I guess they picked us out for the gig in Munich Germany. I

guess that's how it happened. I think you should ask people at the Rhythm Bomb more about that.

I'm going to try for an interview with the guys at 'Rhythm Bomb'. Any more projects (writing - recording) ahead or is it just touring?

B: Well, we're booked to play some festivals in the near future like the Hot Rod Hayride, the High Rockabilly and plan some more gigs in the UK in the fall and winter of 2006. We hope to put out 45 record out soon too, we want to have something on vinyl out, that's a dream we have and it's so difficult to do that nowadays.

We're slowly writing new songs and play gigs around when we find the time!

What would you say, was the best song that you have written?

B: I really don't know.

OK, I must admit that was a crap question. Thanks again for taking the time for this interview, cheers...

B: Once again, thank you! Hope to see you at the bar sometime soon! All the best to you!

The Mad Men are...

Branko Radovancevic - Lead Vocal & Rhythm
Darko Grosek - Lead Guitar
Goran Margeta - Double Bass
Marko Tizaj - Drums

'It's A Mad Mad World' and 'Rhythm Sin' are available from cool record dealers at cool pubs, clubs and week-enders everywhere.

Duke

Branko on the writing credits on the two Mad Men CD's

(On our first album "It's a Mad Mad World" I wrote "Bop Sweet Suzie" and wrote lyrics on "Boo Hoo" and co-wrote the music with Goran Margeta. I wrote the lyrics and Darko Grosek wrote the music for "'Cos You're My Baby" and "Intoxicated". On the second album I wrote the lyrics and Darko put together the music on "Dig This Action", and we co-wrote the music on "Breaking Hearts and Promises of Love"(I wrote the lyrics). Goran wrote "Little Franny", "Mary" and "Big Mama". I wrote "Bop Disease", "Long About Midnight", "Rhythm and Sin", "Only You", "Saturday Night Rich", "Snap Your Little Fingers" and "Time To Howl".)

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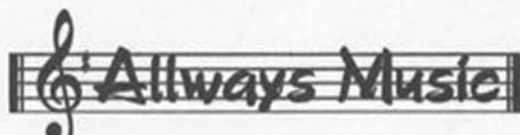
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Letter from America

Hello from Rocking Terry Lee
(From Terry and the Wild Ones)

Hello friends,

Just dropping you a line to let you know what I have been up to since I moved to Vincennes Indiana U.S.A. Things have been moving at a fast pace, music wise and in my personal life... I married my beautiful wife Krystal on March 25 2004 and have been working on changing my status to, resident of the United States of America, it's a long process (and expensive one) but it is near to completion! I just found out that I am going to be a father and with playing every weekend is rather hectic right now!

I was lucky to play my debut US show at the Overtone Park Shell in Memphis Tenn. during Elvis week August 2004, to save the historic venue from demolition. I had Buck Hutchinson on guitar who has been playing with Jerry Lee Lewis for the last 35 years and still touring with him today! It was a full house and was greeted with a overwhelming response. That weekend I was lucky enough to take in the sights of Memphis, including Grace Land, Beale Street and Sun Studio... funnily enough meeting and hanging out with B.B Cunningham, Jerry Lees currant Bassist, allowing me in to the mixing studio and to hear some of his latest project!

At about that time I was put in-touch with some local musicians that had just started a band called "The Fender Benders" They played a mix of 50's 60's 70's Country, Rock-'n'Roll, and just about every thing else popular at the clubs and bars within the local area. There were communication problems to begin with, but soon became best buddies. Mixing my feel for Rockabilly / Rock'n'Roll and country and western with there original line up has taken over the Tri-state music scene by storm. Playing every Venue conceivable (including a divorce party) and gaining interest from the bigger venues. Such as Casino Aztar a Vegas-style Casino riverboat! The band comprises of some wonderful characters Bill Gaines vocals/Manager, Ronnie Heacock Drums/Vocals, Bill Cooper (who loves his English Brown Beer) Guitar and last but not least, Gladys Heacock, our 73 year old female bassist! She has been around in the music scene over here for 50 years, and had the pleasure of playing with the likes of Johnny Cash, Bill Monroe, Ray Price, Roger Miller and the Killer Jerry Lee Lewis. Also walking the boards at the Grand Old Opry in 1966! Still pouring out the classic songs by Patsy Cline, Tammy Waynette and other classic country stars!

In recent weeks things have been moving at an increasing speed, interest from Rockabilly Legend Art Adams, who I shared the bill with at Hemsby 31 wanting to work together on various projects... Interest from some popular Internet radio stations wanting recording and being put in contact with Jerry Lee Lewis' friend and guitarist Kenneth Lovelace, who has been very kind in inviting me to come along to the theatre before the show and meet everyone and hopefully Jerry Lee!!!!

I hope to continue playing locally here and increasing my schedule on the Rockabilly / Rock'n'Roll Scene here in the US, Europe and back home in England there is nothing like a home crowd!

Thank you all for thinking of me and I will be home to play some shows soon! Until then Rock on and take care...

Rocking Terry Lee
www.rockingterrylee.com



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GIG REVIEW

Wildest Cats In Town Weekender Pakefield, Suffolk 1st - 4th June 2006

We have just returned from what we would describe as probably the best weekender we have ever been to. This high level of delight has resulted from our trip to 'The Wildest Cats in Town 7' at Pakefield. As always seems to be the case with us two from Melksham the organisation on our behalf was nothing short of grossly disorganised and as a result of this we very nearly ended up with nowhere to stay! Thankfully however Ritchie was more organised than us and sorted us out!. First job then was to book in so after arriving about 3ish it was a greeting to Tracey and Terry who was banging out his tunes in front of Reception and then pick up our arm tag (more about that later!). It was then to our accommodation where we found to our horror that our friendship may be tested out more than we wished as we had been booked into a double! (Geoff was threatening to sleep in the car!) Thankfully two nice ladies from Essex came to our rescue and swapped with us leaving us with a twin room for the weekend. A quick change of clothes and then it was off to the dance hall just in time to hear the end of The Rhythm Aces set, which we agreed sounded good with some slick guitar playing and set the tone for the weekend. Hunger had set in and so it was into the large dining room for a spot of something to eat (which as last year was plentiful and tasty). We then headed into the main ballroom to bag a seat and listen to the sounds from The Bradford Dude. Porky's Hot Rockin' took to the stage promptly at 8:30, and belted their way through a blisteringly hot set which matched the ever increasing temperature in the hall - it was going to be a hot one! We were pleasantly surprised to see lots of flaring skirts and boppin' trousers on the dance floor from the off as last year there had been very few jivers around for the Friday night. Following Porky's set Wildcat Pete took to the decks and kept everyone dancing until Darrel Higham took the stage. Again this master of the guitar never fails to please and he had the crowd eating out of his hand for 45 wonderful minutes. Tartan Ted then had 30 minutes to further heat the crowd up for what was to be the best set of the night. Matchbox were on fire as they spent an hour proving what an excellent band they still are.

They finished their set with a stage invasion, flags flying and boppers bopping. By now we were running late and so Steves Stack of Wax was the next DJ on and only had a short time to keep the crowd entertained but this he did with accomplished ease before the Jive Romero's took the stage. By this time many had started going to bed which was a shame

because they are a fine band and those that were left carried on jiving until about 1:30 when Cockney Rebel finally got to take over the decks and start his party night. We threw in the towel however at just gone 2 and headed off back to our beds for a good nights sleep. We were certainly very, very happy and surely the rest of the weekend couldn't top that, could it? Maybe, maybe not as we heard later that Terry didnt stop playing until after 3 and only after the threat of eviction by the Security Staff!!

Saturday morning arrived far too quickly and breakfas was very well received. Finishing that we were then in time for a quick perusal round Mad Ralphs Jumble Sale (which had vastly increased in size and range of things sold from last year) and then into the Princes Hall to catch the end of Terry's morning set (had he really been to bed or just kept playing!?). Sat and chatted with Terry before heading on down to the beach for the 2 Hound Dogs Beach Party. The beach is massive but was soon full of rockers and rollers and the combination of the scorching weather, alcohol and great music must have made some people mad as they donned swimming gear and plunged into the North Sea! Rich opted for the more traditional idea of rolling his trouser legs up and having a paddle while Geoff just lay back and burnt to a frazzle! Others on the beach were Tiger and her mates who got soaked (thought Tigers didnt like the water!) and the Crodall gang who had brought all the beach games! Deciding it was getting far too hot we retired back up to the main ballroom where DJ Tel' Star was playing. Unfortunately in competition with the sun there were not many in but we and Maggie enjoyed sitting back and listening to his choices.

As Shelley arrived for her Jive lesson she wondered what she had done wrong as we immediately got up and left! Nothing was the answer but we were on our way over to see the Brick Lane Bogie Boys, only to find an empty stage! We were then told that not only had they not turned up but neither had Furious! We then headed back to the main ballroom to see some of Shelleys lesson and have a look at the stalls. Just before 4 o'clock the entire camp appeared to try and fit into the Queen Vic Bar - apparently there was some football match on! We grabbed some available seats (along with Tiger, Cockney Rebel and Stack of Wax) and proceeded to put ourselves through just over 2 hours of sheer hell and misery! Geoff didn't want to watch us loose at penalties (did he have a premonition!?) and so went in for dinner, whilst everyone else left their dinners and came out to watch! Following our loss it was a mad rush in for the last 15 minutes of serving time!

We then headed straight to the ballroom to see Stack of Wax finish his set before Rudy La Crioux and The Allstars tried to lift our spirits which they did excellently. At 9 we were torn as Cockney Rebel again took to the decks and The Skyrockers appeared in The Princes Hall. Sorry Terry you lost! As always a great set from these 5 guys and they threw themselves round stage with great abandon (why oh why are they confined to the small hall and not in the main ballroom, a comment we heard from several other people). They were even joined by Michael from The Lennerockers for a version of High Class Lady. People obviously loved them as the DJ asked them if they would do a song as an encore and Andy told him they were doing 3! Back then to the main hall where The Spitfires were already on stage.



First time we have seen these (although of course we all know Keith from Lucas & The Dynamos) and they showed their class - so we are looking forward to seeing them at Melksham next year where they are already booked. Then it was up to the Bradford Dude to take us up to Crazy Cavan and The Rhythm Rockers. Unfortunately due to 'artistic differences of opinion' all of our group (bar Geoff) decided to take a break while Cavan was on. Geoff says that he felt they were better than last year but they would be even better if Lyndon just played without all the stage antics (but this is just our opinion and there were obviously lots of people there who loved them). Wildcat Pete then took another turn on the decks before we were joined by Rocky Burnette and some of his immediate family who then proceeded to give us some great renditions from the Johnny Burnette catalogue of songs. They stayed entertaining the crowds until just before 2, following which we gave in and headed back to our beds leaving Tartan Ted to his late night rockin' set.

Sunday morning again arrived far too quickly, but breakfast helped wake us up. We joined several others having a look at the classic cars with the idea that we would go back and pick up Rich's car and join the end of the car cruise, but the plan soon changed when we were delighted to be offered a lift in Rod and Kerry's (Memphis Belles Mytchett Rock 'n Roll Club) 1957 Pontiac. We enthusiastically accepted and rode through the streets of Pakefield along with about another 100 original cars and bikes (something we won't be forgetting in any hurry).

We arrived on The Royal Green at Lowestoft to the sounds of DJ's 2 Hound Dogs playing some great tracks, and they were soon taken over by some live sounds from The Rhythm Aces who played until the arrival of Jack Scott by Big Mack Truck. Rod and others even took the opportunity to get the local police officials dancing and they showed very good humour and some natural ability as they jived on the green. Photo session with Ritchie and the Mayor / Mayoress of Lowestoft over it was back into the cars for the cruise back to the camp. We were amazed at the part taken by Suffolk police - how many other police forces would put this effort into allowing this sort of thing to happen? Well done to them. We arrived back and joined a rapidly sun burning Terry playing some tracks outside the Queen Vic at Graces amazing BBQ.

A few beers and a chilled out afternoon ensued and so we only caught about 10 minutes of The Flying Saucers, with a different drummer, but a great sound. We unfortunately missed completely Porky's Tea Party but if last year was anything to go by it would have been excellent! We retired into the relative cool of the dining room for grub at 5, and then back to the hotel to get changed. The first band of this final evening was The Lennerockers so we decided not to keep any chairs but to grab a place at the front of the stage. 2 Hound Dogs got the crowd dancing before the band came on at 8:30. All the usual antics happened and they didn't fail to entertain us or anyone else come to that. They are an absolute asset to the scene and long may they continue to entertain us (we both agreed they will be back to Melksham in the very near future). Stack of Wax then kept it all together as the stage was set for the main act of the weekend - Jack Scott and his band. The legend 'Jack Scott' sang and strummed his way through lots of songs (inc.

Leroy, Geraldine and Midgie to name but a few) - some of which we recognised and some not, but all the songs were excellently played and the whole act was totally professional. You could see why he is still a popular figure on the rock and roll scene even though he only plays a very select few gigs these days. We were most impressed. Bradford Dude then again span the discs before the final band of the weekend. Rat Pack were billed as with special guests, and these 3 musicians rose to the occasion of playing the final slot very well. They were joined by multiple people on stage including several of the very young generation who showed no sign of any lack of energy (more than could be said for me and Geoff!). We had seen several of these youngsters dancing away throughout the weekend with absolute precision and not missing a beat whether they were bopping, jiving or strolling. Where were they from, where did they learn and how do we attract youngsters like this to our club? It was great to see the youngsters so into the



scene - that's where the future lies after all. The band finally bowed off stage about half one, leaving Wildcat Pete to finish up the evening with his own style of what everyone wanted. We wandered off and met up with Terry, Tracey and Ritchie who we thanked for a fabulous weekend. His enthusiasm to put on the most enjoyable weekenders is obvious and he is a thoroughly nice guy.

It was then time once again to disappear back into the cooling night air and get a few hours kip before the long drive back home the next day. It at least gave us time to reflect on how it had yet again been another fabulous weekend and that the event is so good it attracts an international audience as we heard there were people there from Holland and Japan at the very least. The Friday night had stolen it for us but all the bands had put on great shows, the DJs had played their heart and souls out and everyone had been so friendly and hospitable - we were in heaven. Rock and Roll heaven!

The only questions that we had left to be answered were - how the hell were we going to make it up in time for breakfast again the next day and why did we appear to be just about the only people walking round camp with red arm-bands!!! (everyone elses was green!) Answers on the back of a postcard to Melksham Rock and Roll!!

**Geoff and Rich,
Melksham Rock and Roll Club Organisers**

It's Showtime.....

This month the Rat gets to talk to some of the promoters who spend their days and nights preparing and promoting the big events on the rockin' calendar.

Tom Ingram - Viva Las Vegas

Tom became known in London during the 80's as a DJ on the rock'n'roll scene. He had some of Londons best clubs including The Sunset Club, The Phoenix, The Notre Dame Hall, Camden Workers Club, The Downham and Silks. He also promoted big shows at The Town & Country Club (Forum), The Astoria and Wembley Conference Centre. He also started and organised the Hemsby Rock'n'Roll Weekend until he moved to the USA in 1996.



Upon moving to the USA he started the Viva Las Vegas Rockabilly Weekend which he still does as well as pursuing an acting career which has included a short film for Nike, an NFL promo, a Frankenstein film and a soon to be released film in which he has a lead role, Knight To F4. Plus more is in the works. In the UK he did radio shows on Radio One, Skyline Radio, CMR and others.

He now lives in Long Beach, California with his wife and children

Where do you see the scene going in future years, do you think its a weekender scene will the clubs die out?

I don't think the clubs will ever die out. I also don't think it will become a weekender only scene. The clubs are going to have to re invent themselves in some way. I got into the scene in the 70's. From the 70's through to the early 90's there was also something new happening musically on the scene. Then it stopped.

Who do you think will be the acts that will pull the crowds in twenty years?

In 20 years time I will be 65 years old. I would imagine that the scene will re-invent itself by then and there will be new bands.

Do you feel that you as a promoter will be able to meet the expectations of your audience once all the original acts have stopped appearing?

I have been thinking about that for a long time. Yes, I think I will as I am always looking for 'ideas'. I think it is time for the weekenders to start preparing for the day that the original acts are no longer with us. Already many of them cannot do a 45 minute set.

Do you think that the lure of cheap flights sun sea sand and rock n roll will eventually win through?

I think it already has. In Vegas we have all of that except for the sea. There are the spanish weekenders and now The Rave is moving to June. I think people have had enough of cold, wet weather at weekenders. When you spend all that money on the event and travel, you don't want to get soaked and frozen.

Excluding your own weekenders which other weekender anywhere in the world would you attend just for pleasure?

I get to The Rockabilly Rave as often as possible. I enjoy that as all of my old friends go there so I can fly over and see them all in one go. I want to get to one of the Spanish weekenders soon but I would have to take all 4 children with me so it would get very expensive.

Strollin' Steve Ashdown - Always Music

A familiar face on the scene as DJ, MC, Promoter and music lover, Steve and his wife Carol staged their first rock and roll weekend in Devon which sold out as did their first Jive weekend in Eastbourne in February of this year. Their success to date has allowed them to organise more events for the remainder of 2006 and into 2007. Including, "Country Meets Rock and Roll" (in Weymouth) featuring Charlie Gracie, The "Weymouth Rock and Roll Party" with five bands including The Lennerockers and The Revolutionaires and finally "The Bournemouth Bounce" jive weekend with Juke Joint Jump, The Swing Commanders and Maria Vincent & The Millionaires. "The music is of the highest quality from start to finish. A lot of interest is being shown in these weekends and we have some very exciting projects in the pipeline for next year and beyond. . I am really enjoying my career and am very fortunate to be part of the Hemsby 'rock and roll weekenders' team, making guest appearances on Dell Richardson's "Good Rockin' Tonight" programme on Radio Caroline and contributing reviews and articles to publications such as this magazine and most of all, playing music to music lovers wherever they are. It's a real privilege".



Where do you see the scene going in future years, do you think it's a weekender scene will the clubs die out?

Although we may not notice it, the scene is constantly changing and in some cases it reinvents itself. What I have noticed is that the scene is a lot smaller than it was 10-15 years ago. This probably due to fact that there are more clubs and weekenders than there have ever been and therefore the scene is more thinly spread. Over the past 15 years, the scene has moved in the sort of direction where it is constantly splitting. For example, we now have Rockin' Clubs, Jive Clubs etc., etc. In my opinion, we need to diver-

sify to encourage members of the general public and music fans from other genres to come through our doors. No doubt weekenders have made an impact on clubs. Weekend events have become more popular due to economics and changes in social laws. Good venues are hard to find and can be expensive to hire. At a weekender, drink driving isn't an issue and licensing laws are much more relaxed. Also, food and accommodation is available for guests and artistes whereas at a club it is not so easy. So to answer your question, no I don't think clubs will die out. I think that gradually, the number of clubs will reduce to the same level that they were 15 years ago and the club scene will be much more vibrant than it is today.

Who do you think will be the acts that will pull the crowds in twenty years?

A good question. To everybody's ears, there are two types of music; good and bad. Good bands and good entertainment will always pull crowds. We only have to look at the acts who were pulling crowds 20 years ago and who are still packing them in today. I'm not going to quote names specifically, but I think we know who the good acts are.

Do you feel that you as a promoter will be able to meet the expectations of your audience once all the original acts have stopped appearing?

Yes, without a doubt. There are British bands performing in our clubs today, who in my opinion are as good if not better than the original bands ever were in the 1950s. In fact I will go as far to say that I am gob smacked that in past the past 20 years, none of our bands have been picked up by the mainstream music industry. The problem with our audience is that over the years, far too many have become so used to quality acts, that they don't realise just how good they are. I suppose it's a bit like driving a Rolls-Royce. You just get used to the ride so now it's no big deal and who can blame them.

Do you think that the lure of cheap flights sun sea sand and rock n roll will eventually win through?

Again, it comes back to economics. No doubt rock and roll holidays in the sun are good value at the moment. But people being what people are will want to try something different in a few years time. Remember how we all loved our Spanish packaged holiday in the 1970s? Now we're always looking for something different.

Excluding your own weekenders which other weekender anywhere in the world would you attend just for pleasure?

All of them! And I bet I'm not the only person who wishes that they could cut themselves in half! Viva Las Vegas always looks fantastic. The Jackson festival, Green Bay and Austin's South by South West. The Rockabilly Rave, The Rhythm Riot, Wildest Cats in Town, The Shake Rattle and Roll weekend. Deejaying is my livelihood and obviously I am working most weekenders, so unless I get the call from a promoter to comper and, or DJ at a weekender, I doubt very much if I will ever get there. However, on our nights off, Carol and myself support other clubs whenever and wherever we can.

Monica Madgwick - Boogaloo Promotions

Monica established Boogaloo Promotions some 10 years ago as a part-time activity based on enthusiasm for live music and a bit of spare time! With a saw-playing mother, a boogie-pianist for a father and a guitar-playing brother, a career in music was inevitable! The main activity at the time was a weekly blues club and a Festival, both held at Farnham Maltings in Surrey. Since that time enthusiasm for Boogaloo events has mushroomed such that Boogaloo now organises nineteen weekenders a year, as well as weekly gigs, the annual Festival and a booking agency.

Boogaloo weekenders focus on four music genres: blues and boogie, jump jive, salsa and rock 'n' roll.

The 'Jump Jive & Boogie' weekenders feature top bands for dancing and dance classes covering all styles from Lindy Hop to West Coast Swing, modern jive and rock 'n' roll. There are five Jump Jive & Boogie weekenders in 2006 which feature top jive bands such as The Jive Aces, Mike Sanchez, The Extraordinaires, The Swing Commanders, The Cadillac Kings - and more! Those who attend these weekenders include experienced dancers, newcomers keen to learn and others who just like the music, the spectacle - and the fun!



As a first in 2006, Boogaloo ran a Rock 'n' Roll Extravaganza at the end of July in Hayling Island including live bands, nightly jam sessions, dance classes, a classic and custom car show and a Retro market. This first event was sold out, and will be repeated in July 2007 along with an additional R'n'R weekend (venue and date tbc).

The weekenders run in quality venues ranging from coastal resorts to stately homes, all offering half board accommodation and extensive sports facilities as well as top quality entertainment suites.

Monica puts the success of the weekenders down to top quality bands and sound systems, great venues, the shared interests of the customers - and bars that don't close until the wee small hours!

Where do you see the scene going in future years, do you think it's a weekender scene will the clubs die out?

Weekenders are great for people to be able to immerse themselves into the music and not worry about drink-driving, etc., but people are restricted as to how many weekenders they can go to because of budget and time limitations. I think there'll always be a place for a club scene, for people to meet their friends and follow the bands on the circuit. We've run a 'blues and boogie' club for c. twenty years. Other clubs have come and gone, but we've hung in there and we generally have a loyal following and pretty

good audience numbers.

Who do you think will be the acts that will pull the crowds in twenty years?

That's a difficult one! I can see bands like Big Boy Bloater being pretty timeless. Some of the older bands might be struggling in twenty years time!

Do you feel that you as a promoter will be able to meet the expectations of your audience once all the original acts have stopped appearing?

We run blues weekends as well as Jump Jive and Rock 'n' Roll weekends and make a point of bringing in the younger bands and new talent alongside the old favourites in order to make sure the scene keeps regenerating and young musicians are given encouragement! The jazz scene has now become rather sad (particularly mainstream and traditional jazz) where that hasn't happened...

Do you think that the lure of cheap flights sun sea sand and rock n roll will eventually win through?

Not everyone likes to go abroad and lots of people are restricted on time, so there will always be a place for weekenders in the UK. At some of our weekenders we have people coming TO the UK from abroad, so it works both ways!

Excluding your own weekenders which other weekender anywhere in the world would you attend just for pleasure?

Rhythm Riot for the experience and to see some of the legendary rock 'n' roll names, (unfortunately this always seems to clash with my own events), North Sea Jazz Festival for the sheer talent they manage to collect together in one place, (it's not all jazz!), Glastonbury just once (to be able to say I've done it and before camping seems like a bad idea). Sorry that's three!!!

Carlos Diaz - Screamin' Festival, Barcelona

I was born in Barcelona, Spain, in 1966 so I was one of the first fortunate teenagers to enjoy the democracy right after the death of dictator Franco. I got into 50s R&R by 1980, five years later I was publishing my first R&R fanzine. In early 90's I organised my first gigs and festivals bringing to Spain artists like Hayden Thompson, Joe Clay, Sonny Burgess, DJ Fontana, Paul Burlison & Rocky Burnette and many many others. In 1996 I founded El Toro Records and 10 years later we are one of the biggest rockin' record companies. www.eltororecords.com. I have been running the Screamin' weekender in



Calella for 9 years now, last event we had around 2000 people from 20 different countries.

Where do you see the scene going in future years, do you think it's a weekender scene will the clubs die out?

We have had weekenders for quite a time now, as we have had clubs during that time as well, both come and go but I wouldn't be surprised if either of them if in the future the clubs or the weekenders disappear. We are getting old and many of us have families which means not so much spare time as before so we have to choose carefully how to spend it but in the other hand there's still a good amount of people around the 30s so I'm not sure yet where we are all exactly going.

Who do you think will be the acts that will pull the crowds in twenty years?

The million dollar question! No idea, sorry. The American scene is really productive now like the Swedish one was in the 90s and the British was before but I think people will learn to just trust the gigs or festivals promoters and go there knowing they won't be disappointed even if they don't know any of the bands playing. Trust in the labels and promoters will be the key more than the fame of the artists separately.

Do you feel that you as a promoter will be able to meet the expectations of your audience once all the original acts have stopped appearing?

Yes, opposite to other promoters I book some known acts but 90% are not and people keep coming anyway because they know the Screamin' is always a good chance to discover new great artists.

Do you think that the lure of cheap flights sun sea sand and rock n roll will eventually win through?

Sorry, to win what, who?? We don't want to win no one, nor other weekenders, our festival is different to any other according to what our visitors say, there's no reason to not go to more than one, the problem would be if they all had the same atmosphere, kind of line up and weather, that would be boring, don't you think?

Excluding your own weekenders which other weekender anywhere in the world would you attend just for pleasure?

I have been in them all and I travel as much as I can but I never make plans much in advance, the only ones I don't like that much are the ones which offer just one style, I love rockabilly but I also love black music so a mix of both is what pleases me the most.

www.screaminfestival.com

Willy Jeffery - Rock'n'Roll Weekenders, Rockers Reunion, Jive Jive Jive and Rock'n'Roll Agent.

Played washboard in the Monteacupe House Skiffle Group in 1958, DJ'd South London early sixties, and booked local

bands. Imported thousands of American vinyl during the sixties. Lived with Ronnie Hawkins for two months in 1966 and ran his UK fan club till 1969.. Has brought countless American fifties stars to Europe for the first time including Sonny Burgess, Janis Martin, Jimmy Wages, Mickey Hawkes, and many others including organising Carl Perkins last full rock'n'roll gig in Europe. In 1988 he became a director of Hemsby weekenders.

Where do you see the scene going in future years, do you think it's a weekender scene will the clubs die out?

I don't see too many young people on our scene so I think that half of the clubs and weekenders will close unless punters quit paying 1950's prices.

Who do you think will be the acts that will pull the crowds in twenty years?

As I have plans to be around for the next forty years the following bands are on my list of possible headliners in the future, Travis Ledoyt, High Noon, Eva Eastwood, Deke Dickerson, Ervin Travis and someone who has not been born yet. Plus nearly forgot Cavan.

Do you feel that you as a promoter will be able to meet the expectations of your audience once all the original acts have stopped appearing?

It will be difficult. You can never beat the real deal. Even

young acts know that and will tell you that they can never beat the American originals.

Do you think that the lure of cheap flights sun sea sand and rock n roll will eventually win through?

I attended many European weekenders in the 80's and it's not by any means, closed down any of the English weekenders. The English events are better value and have far better acts plus the unique 1950's holiday camp venues are not some hotel miles from the venue. Sun sea and sand? Thought we were talking booze, birds and rock'n'roll here!



Excluding your own weekenders which other weekender anywhere in the world would you attend just for pleasure?

Americana International Festival held in second week July at Newark. We wouldnt miss it.

Thanks to all those who took part. Keep the shows on the road guys! Spike.

H

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A

M

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RAT'S GIG GUIDE

Gratuitously pinched from the web and
from information sent by bands & promoters.
Please check with venue before travelling

Tuesday, 1st

Tue 1 Aug Parklands Ballroom (ex ICI/Dupont SC), Wheatley Hall Road, Doncaster, S.Yorks Jump & Jive Dave B 01302 884707

Wednesday, 2nd

Wed 2 Aug Ace Café Ace Corner, Old North Circular Road, Stonebridge, London NW10 Cordwood Draggers Little Carl's Record Hop 020 8961 1000

Wed 2 Aug Cadbury Heath Jive Club Cadbury Heath Social Club, Cadbury Heath Road, Bristol The Rockin' Mr D Will 0117 938 0483

Thursday, 3rd

Thurs 3 August 2006 Rock'n'Rollin' @ Tith Farm 151 Rayners Lane, Rayners Lane, Harrow, Middx. HA2 0HX Classes & Club 8 - 12Classes & Club, Record Hop with Harry J 8-11:30

Friday, 4th

Fri 4 Aug C'mon Everybody Record Hop St Marys Social Club, Melton Street, Crossbank, Batley, W.Yorks WF17 8PT record hop only Johnny Whiteshoes 01924 376141

Fri 4 Aug Dale Tavern West Street, Worsborough Dale, Barnsley, Yorks S70 5PG Big Heat Dave B 01226 205611

Fri 4 Aug St Annes Castle, Great Leighs - The Chuck Lewis Band

Fri 4 Aug Pink Cadillac Club - Onley Onley WMC, High Street, Olney, Bucks Bad Boys no details 07940 368960

Fri 4 Aug Queens Hotel (Theatre Bar), South Promenade, Blackpool, Lancs FY4 1AY Ian Fenn & the Starcats Mike Rossi 01253 342015

Fri 4 Aug Rockin' The Post Winning Post, Chertsey Road (A316), Whittton, Twickenham, Middsx Bernie Woods & the Forest Fires Wildcat Pete 020 8894 2772

Fri 4 Aug Taunton RnR Club North Petherton RFC, Beggars Brook, North Petherton, Somerset record hop only Tony Sullivan 01823 332180

Fri 4 Aug The Pavilion 135 Battersea Park Road, Battersea, London SW8 4BX Flying Saucers n/a 020 7622 4001

Saturday, 5th

Sat 5 Aug Banbury RnR Club General Foods S & S Club, Spiceball Park, Banbury, Oxon Bernie Woods & the Forest Fires Blast From The Past 01295 278127

Sat 5 Aug Chicken Shack Brogborough Club, Bedford Road, Brogborough, near Milton Keynes, Beds Sun-Rays Rollin Rock Record Hop 07960 991236

Sat 5 Aug Crown & Column Devonport, Devon record hop only Slim Jim's RnR Disco no details

Sat 5 Aug Halifax RnR Club Siddal Ex-Servicemen's Club, Halifax, W.Yorks HX3 9JS Al Kilvo & the Aces (ticket only event) D. J. the DJ 01422 354876

Sat 5 Aug Hardy Spicers RnR Club Hardy Spicers Club, Edgerton Road, Erdington, Bham Wanderers plus DJ 01827 250303

Sat 5 Aug Horsham RnR Club Drill Hall, Denne Road, Horsham, W.Sussex Kingcats Rockin' Robin 07966 526260

Sat 5 Aug Luton RnR Club Roman Way, Tomlinson Avenue, Luton, Beds tba Tartan Ted 01582 518211

Sat 5 Aug Newtown Social Club Durham Road, Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland record hop only (r'n'r/rockabilly/jive) Rockin' Jukebox Record Hop 0191 410 2914

Sat 5 Aug Nifty Fifties RnR Club - LLC Lowton Labour Club, 214 Newtin Road, Lowton, Cheshire Colin Paul & the Persuaders tribute to Elvis 01942 724166

Sat 5 Aug Reef Bar Market Road, Hemsby Beach, Hemsby, Norfolk Rhythm Boys no details no details

Sat 5 Aug Rhythm Festival 2006 Twinwood Arena, Clapham, Bucks MK41 6AB Ike Turner & his Kings of Rhythm see special events 020 7734 8932

Sat 5 Aug Rhythm Festival 2006 Twinwood Arena, Clapham, Bucks MK41 6AB Ike Turner & his Kings of Rhythm/Geno Washington see special events 020 7734 8932

Sat 5 Aug Stage One Cobden Oxford Street, Long Eaton, Derbys Dynamite plus DJ 0115 973 4928

Sat 5 Aug Swindon RnR Club Moonrakers (Crossways Suite), Cricklade Road, Swindon, Wilts SN2 5AA Rudy la Crioux & the All Stars Leon Oddsocks 01793 612378

Sat 5 Aug The Bandstand Grand Parade, Eastbourne, Sussex Planet Boppers n/a 01323 641984

Sat 5 Aug The Birchwood Birchwood Road, Swanley, Kent BR8 7QA Johnny & the Midnight Trio no details 01322 662112

Sat 5 Aug The Cock Tavern East Poultry Avenue, Central Market, Smithfield, London EC1A 9LH Blue Stars Bill Guntrip/Trevor Collins 020 7248 2918

Sat 5 Aug The Mop Weavers Arms, Brunel Street, Halliwell, Bolton, Lancs BL1 8AS record hop only (50s rock'n'roll) Big G 01204 849008

Sat 5 Aug The Pavilion 135 Battersea Park Road, Battersea, London SW8 4BX Cavaliers n/a 020 7622 4001

Sat 5 Aug Westside Streetrods Staverton Airfield, Cheltenham, Gloucs GL51 6SP Itchy Feet Trio charity event 01242 581521

Sat 5 Aug Woodfield Club Woodfield Road, Woodfield, Doncaster, S.Yorks Moonshiners Didge/Fred the Ted/Crock 07808 828551

Sunday, 6th

Sun 6 Aug Barnsley RnR Team - BG Barugh Green WMC, Higham Common Road, Barnsley, S.Yorks S75 1LD record hop only Jive Bop Record Hop 01977 613841

Sun 6 Aug BAWA Club Bristol Aerospace Welfare Assoc, 589 Southmead Road, Filton, Bristol B17s Slim Reed - Not Before '54 0117 976 8065

Sun 6 Aug Carshalton Ex-Servicemens Club West Street, Carshalton, Surrey Meanstreak n/a 020 8647 1951

Sun 6 Aug Civic Hall - Wolverhampton North Street, Wolverhampton, W.Midlands WV1 1RQ Ike Turner & his Kings of Rhythm/Nine Below Zero A true legend! no details

Sun 6 Aug Erith RnR Club Erith WMC, Valley Road, Erith, Kent Ravens Cruising Record Hop 07973 170056

Sun 6 Aug Rhythm Festival 2006 Twinwood Arena, Clapham, Bucks MK41 6AB Jerry Lee Lewis/Chas & Dave see special events 020 7734 8932

Sun 6 Aug Rhythm Festival 2006 Twinwood Arena, Clapham, Bucks MK41 6AB Jerry Lee Lewis/Chas'n'Dave/Nine Below Zero see special events 020 7734 8932

Sun 6 Aug The Sporting Green corner Hertford Road & Green Street, Enfield Highway, Enfield, London Cavaliers Captain Caveman 020 8926 8577

Sun 6 Aug The Woodgrange 62-64 Southchurch Avenue, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS1 2RR Rat Pack Catman John or CJ the DJ 01702 460133

Monday, 7th

Mon 7 Aug Shepherds Bush Empire Shepherds Bush Green, London W12 8TT Ike Turner & his Kings of Rhythm/Nine Below Zero A true legend! 0905 020 3999

Wednesday, 9th

Wed 9 Aug Civic Hall - Wolverhampton North Street, Wolverhampton, W.Midlands WV1 1RQ Jerry Lee Lewis/Matchbox A true legend! no details

Thursday, 10th

Thu 10 Aug Hanworth RnR Club Royal Naval Club, Park Road, Hanworth, Middles record hop only (rock'n'roll) Wildcat Pete 01464 672605

Thurs 10 August 2006 Rock'n'Rollin' @ Tith Farm 151 Rayners Lane, Rayners Lane, Harrow, Middx. HA2 0HX Classes & Club, Record Hop with Rockin' Rico 8-11:30

The Chuck Lewis Band and guests

Free Entry Tour

5th August - St. Annes Castle, Great Leighs, Essex
6th August - Queen's Head, Lower Anchor St. Chelmsford, Essex

Friday, 11th

Fri 11 Aug Athletic Club - Kettering Rockingham Road, Kettering, Northants tbc Dion 01536 510779

Fri 11 Aug Birdwell Club Sheffield Road, Birdwell, Nr Barnsley, S.Yorks S70 5UY Fever Clive the Jive 01924 376141

Fri 11 Aug Borough Green RnR Club Village Hall, Borough Green, Kent Razzle Dazzle plus DJ 01732 887033

Fri 11 Aug TheRat Pack + DJ's 2 Houndogs The Crooked Billet Billet Lane Stanford Le Hope Essex SS17 0AR 01375 672159

Fri 11 Aug Eastleigh RnR Club Comrades Club, 55 Leigh Road, Eastleigh, Hants SO50 9DF record hop only Marvin Hemsby Bound 023 8061 1953

Fri 11 Aug Hegartys 197 Duke Street, Plymouth, Devon PL1 4EF record hop only Slim Jim's RnR Disco 01752 560077

Fri 11 Aug Hillside Club (ex-Western Club), 357a Derby Road, Lenton, Nottingham, Notts Sugar Creek Trio Kool Kat Charlie 07901 766863

Fri 11 Aug Houndogs RnR Club - CSC Chelmsford Social Club, 55 Springfield Road (behind Tesco), Chelmsford, Essex tba Houndog Jim/Mark Happycat 01279 654205

Fri 11 Aug Rockin' The Fens Hiam Sports & Social Club,

Putney Hill Road, Prickwillow, Ely, Cambs Juke Joint Jump
Rockabilly Bob 01638 741402

Fri 11 Aug Spa Complex Sea Front, Scarborough, N.Yorks
TR & the Rockets see special events 01723 350419

Fri 11 Aug The Pavilion 135 Battersea Park Road, Bat-
tersea, London SW8 4BX TTs n/a 020 7622 4001

Saturday, 12th

Sat 12 Aug Ace Café Ace Corner, Old North Circular Road,
Stonebridge, London NW10 Paul Ansell's No 9 Bill Guntrip
020 8961 1000

Sat 12 Aug Bristol Jive Club - KRFC Keynsham RFC,
Crown Fields, Bristol Road, Keynsham, Bristol BS31 2BE
Rockin Dave Dee/Dave Curran Will 0117 938 0483

Sat 12 Aug Cuxton RnR Club Village Hall, Norman Road,
West Malling, Kent Moonshiners Two Houndogs 01732
780076

Sat 12 Aug Dino's Club Hady Social Club, Houldsworth
Drive, Hady, Chesterfield, Derbys S41 0BS Unknowns
Dino'sGoodRockin' Tonite 01246 281522

Sat 12 Aug Eastney Tavern 100 Cromwell Road, Southsea,
Hants PO4 9PN Mosquitos no details 023 9282 6246

Sat 12 Aug Guildford Hot 50's RnR Club Fairlands Hall,
Fairlands Avenue, Guildford, Surrey Fairlane Rock Moon-
shine Mama 01483 856744

Sat 12 Aug Hastings RnR Club Phoenix Arts Centre, Wil-
liam Parker School, Parkstone Road, Hastings, Kent TN34
2NT Firebirds Peter Phillips 07767 358079

Sat 12 Aug Juke Joint RnR Club Shrublands Community
Centre, Hawthorn Road, Gorleston-on-Sea, Norfolk Fever
The Professor/Rockin Shades 01760 722803

Sat 12 Aug New Astley RnR Club Fred Archer Way, New-
market, Suffolk Furious Ol' Dell Boy 01638 666674

Sat 12 Aug Northampton RnR Club - FC Far Cotton WMC,
Main Road, Far Cotton, Northampton,, Northants NN4 8EN
Paul Neon & the Saints AJ The Rockin' DJ 01604 713851

Sat 12 Aug Paris Rock Club - WAC Waterloo Action Centre,
14 Baylis Road, London SE1 7AA record hop only Mad
French Wolf/Dave 07944 775556

Sat 12 Aug Pear Tree Hotel 7 Devonport Road, Stoke, Ply-
mouth, Devon PL3 4DJ record hop only Slim Jim's RnR
Disco 01752 563260

Sat 12 Aug Port Slade Town Hall Victoria Road, Port Slade,
Sussex Sugar Creek Trio Stompin' Steve + guest 07745
453765

Sat 12 Aug Ritz Ballroom 73 Bradford Road, Brighouse,
W.Yorks tba Bradford Dude 01274 392380

Sat 12 Aug Rockin At The Queens Queens Head, Great
Knolly Street, Reading, Berks Corsairs Big Beat Pete
07887 501179

Sat 12 Aug Shepherds Bush Empire Shepherds Bush
Green, London W12 8TT Jerry Lee Lewis (band features
Chas'n'Dave) A true legend! 0905 020 3999

Sat 12 Aug Spa Complex Sea Front, Scarborough, N.Yorks
Mac Curtis (USA) see special events 01723 350419

Sat 12 Aug Stockcross Rock'n'Roll Village Hall, Stockcross,
near Newbury, Berks record hop only (50's
rock'n'roll/jive/bop/stroll) no details 01488 658186

Sat 12 Aug The Bandstand Grand Parade, Eastbourne,
Sussex Firetones n/a 01323 641984

Sat 12 Aug Thorngate Halls Bury Road, Gosport, near
Portsmouth, Hants Darrel Higham & the Enforcers Wild
Wolfie Smith 023 9242 8732

Sat 12 Aug York 2000 RnR Club York Health Services Club,
White Cross Road, Haxby Road, York, N.Yorks Rockin' The
Joint (ticket only) Soundsright 01904 709831

Sunday, 13th

Sun 13 Aug BAWA Club Bristol Aerospace Welfare Assoc,
589 Southmead Road, Filton, Bristol '59 Ford Slim Reed -
Not Before '54 0117 976 8065

Sun 13 Aug Beaconsfield RnR Club Beaconsfield Football
Club, Slough Road, Beaconsfield, Bucks HP9 2SQ King-
cats Wildcat Pete 01494 672605

Sun 13 Aug Beauwaters RnR Club Beauwaters Club, Nel-

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son Road, Northfleet, Kent Revolutionaires Pete Bruce
01322 407110

Sun 13 Aug Carshalton Ex-Servicemens Club West Street,
Carshalton, Surrey Midnite Flyers n/a 020 8647 1951

Sun 13 Aug The Woodgrange 62-64 Southchurch Avenue,
Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS1 2RR Cat & the Hot Tin Trio
Catman John or CJ the DJ 01702 460133

Wednesday, 16th

Wed 16 Aug Bewicks Live Music Jam Bewick Suite, The
Swan, 73 High Street, Maldon, Essex 01621 843001 Alley-
cats (plus guests) rock'n'roll jam night 01621 843001

Thursday, 17th

Thur 17 August 2006 Rock'n'Rollin' @ Tithe Farm 151 Ray-
ners Lane, Rayners Lane, Harrow, Middx. HA2 0HX Class-
es & Club, Record Hop with Harry J 8-11:30

Friday, 18th

Fri 18 Aug 3R's RnR Club Reading Civil Service Club,
James Lane, Burghfield, near Reading, Berks RG30 3RS
Good Rockin' Tonite Mick the Mike no details

Fri 18 Aug Ace Café Ace Corner, Old North Circular Road,
Stonebridge, London NW10 record hop only (rockers n'
classic bike night) Big Beat Kris 020 8961 1000

Fri 18 Aug Badderley Green WMC 922-924 Leek New
Road, Badderley Green, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs ST2 7xx
Revolutionaires Mr Rusty's Roadshow 01782 537292

Fri 18 Aug Birdwell Club Sheffield Road, Birdwell, Nr Barns-
ley, S.Yorks S70 5UY Shakers Clive the Jive 01924 376141

Fri 18 Aug Braunstone & District WMC Braunstone, Leics
Rudy la Crioux & the All Stars Bill Guntrip 01530 813540

Fri 18 Aug Dale Tavern West Street, Worsborough Dale,
Barnsley, Yorks S70 5PG House Rockers Dave B 01226
205611

Fri 18 Aug Gold Star RnR Club Red Lion, Great North
Road, Hatfield, Herts AL9 5EU Sunsetters Houndog Jim
01279 657122

Fri 18 Aug Leabrooks Club Greenhill Lane, Leabrooks, Nr
Alfreton, Derbys DE55 1LU Juke Box Jive Mr Jive 01773
833035

Fri 18 Aug March Jive Club Windmill Rooms, Whitemoor
Road, March, Cambs PE15 OAF Spitfires The Professor
07875 208291

Fri 18 Aug Mayfair Club Birch Road, Louth, Lincs record
hop only (40's & 50's) Jump Jive Alive 01472 230037

Fri 18 Aug MBM's Mytchett Community centre, 140 Mytch-
ett Road, Mytchett, Camberley, Surrey GU16 6AA Rat Pack
Wildcat Pete 01276 504898

Fri 18 Aug Paradise Farm Club Paradise Fold, Clayton
Road, Bradford, W.Yorks AV8tors no details no details

Fri 18 Aug Pear Tree Hotel 7 Devonport Road, Stoke, Ply-
mouth, Devon PL3 4DJ record hop only Slim Jim's RnR
Disco 01752 563260

Fri 18 Aug Queens Hotel (Theatre Bar), South Promenade,
Blackpool, Lancs FY4 1AY Jump & Jive Mike Rossi 01253
342015

Fri 18 Aug South Wales RnR Club British Legion Club, Pen-
lline Road, Whitchurch, Cardiff, S.Wales Jellybean Crazee
Dave 029 2061 9271

Fri 18 Aug Taunton RnR Club North Petherton RFC, Beg-
gars Brook, North Petherton, Somerset record hop only
Pete Bryant 01823 332180

Fri 18 Aug The Revenue Devonport, Devon record hop only
Slim Jim's RnR Disco no details

Fri 18 Aug The Twickenham Boogie Chertsey Road (A316),
Whitton, Twickenham, Middsx Big Boy Bloater & his South-
side Stompers Shaun 'Nappy' Maxwell 020 8894 2772

Fri 18 Aug Wheathampstead Social Club 1 Lower Luton
Road, Wheathampstead, Herts AL4 8JL Rapides no details
01582 833340

Saturday, 19th

Sat 19 Aug Broadmead Shopping Centre Broadmead, Bris-
tol BS1 3DX Tonemasters (afternoon) n/a no details

Sat 19 Aug Bull & Bush Uxbridge Drive, Ernesettle, Ply-
mouth, Devon PL5 2SE record hop only Slim Jim's RnR
Disco no details

Sat 19 Aug Chelmsford RnR Club Chelmsford Social Club,
55 Springfield Road (behind Tesco), Chelmsford, Essex
Lynette Morgan & the Blackwater Valley Boys Lee's Cat
Talk Record Hop 01787 462979

Sat 19 Aug Chequers Hotel 15 High Street, Holbeach,
Spalding, Lincs PE12 7DU Cool Cats Mick (Jive Hive)
01406 426767

Sat 19 Aug Chertsey Social Club Chertsey, Surrey B17s no
details no details

Sat 19 Aug Easington Colliery Welfare Hall Seaside Lane,
Easington Colliery, Easington, County Durham Aces (fea-
turing Alan Kilvington) n/a 01845 525293

Sat 19 Aug Exmouth Pavilion The Esplanade, Exmouth,
Devon EX8 2AZ Rich Clifford & the Shadowze/Miss Rock-
'n'Roll no details 01395 222477

Sat 19 Aug Ivy Leaf Club - Peterborough 1 Gracious Street,
Whittlesey, Peterborough, Cambs PE7 1AP Sunsets no
details 01733 202579

Sat 19 Aug Jive Party - Rivoli Rivoli Ballroom, 350 Brockley
Road, Crofton Park, London SE4 2BY record hop only
Ken/Graham 020 8946 2664

Sat 19 Aug Melksham RnR Club Assembly Hall, Market
Place, Melksham, Wilts Jive Street/Johnny Earle? (club's
5th anniversary) Cockney Rebel 01225 706463

Sat 19 Aug Mynster Club - CH Coronation Hall, Burrow-bridge, Somerset TA7 ORJ record hop only (no bar - BYOD) Dynamite Dave 01823 698618

Sat 19 Aug Newtown Social Club Durham Road, Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland Infernos Rockin' Jukebox Record Hop 0191 410 2914

Sat 19 Aug Preston RnR Club Deafway Centre, Brockholes Brow, Preston, Lancs Slim Slip & the Sliders Cry Baby 01253 852594

Sat 19 Aug RBL - Chellaston Royal British Legion, 12 Derby Road, Chellaston, Derbys DE73 1RA Jump & Jive no details 01332 701354

Sat 19 Aug Rock House Club Sports & Social Club, William Street, Saxilby, Lincoln, Lincs Jack Rabbit Slim Wainyboy + guest 01522 811411

Sat 19 Aug Rockin' At The Legion British Legion, 399 High Road, Tottenham, London N17 5QX Strollers Dixie Sounds 07759 874167

Sat 19 Aug Shoreham RnR Shoreham Centre, Pond Road, Shoreham-by-Sea, Sussex Firetones plus DJ 01903 243392

Sat 19 Aug Stage One Cobden Oxford Street, Long Eaton, Derbys Moonshiners plus DJ 0115 973 4928

SATURDAY 19 AUGUST THE SUNSETTERS ELVIS TRIBUTE NITE+ GREAT 1950'S ROCK'N'ROLL NEW ALTERNATIVE VENUE ECC SPORTS & SOCIAL TRIANGLE CLUB DUKE STREET CM1 1QH (down steps off the County Hall Car Park) RING ANNA 07767745770

Sat 19 Aug Swamp Rock Club All Saints Arts Centre, 122 Oakleigh Road North, London N12 Oo Bop Sh' Bam no details 020 8810 7454

Sat 19 Aug The Bandstand Grand Parade, Eastbourne, Sussex Midnite Flyers n/a 01323 641984

Sun 20 Aug BAWA Club Bristol Aerospace Welfare Assoc, 589 Southmead Road, Filton, Bristol Tonemasters Rockin' John 0117 976 8065

Sun 20 Aug Carshalton Ex-Servicemens Club West Street, Carshalton, Surrey Kingcats n/a 020 8647 1951

Sun 20 Aug The Sporting Green corner Hertford Road & Green Street, Enfield Highway, Enfield, London Darrel Higham & the Enforcers Captain Caveman 020 8926 8577

Sun 20 Aug The Woodgrange 62-64 Southchurch Avenue, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS1 2RR Ravens Catman John or CJ the DJ 01702 460133

Tuesday 22nd

Tue 22 Aug Trimmingham House Caravan Park nr Mundesley, Norfolk Rhythm Boys no details 01603 488666

Thursday, 24th

Thu 24 Aug Hanworth RnR Club Royal Naval Club, Park Road, Hanworth, Middx Bernie Woods & the Forest Fires Wildcat Pete 01464 672605

Thurs 24 August 2006 Rock'n'Rollin' @ Tithe Farm 151 Rayners Lane, Rayners Lane, Harrow, Middx. HA2 0HX Classes & Club, Record Hop with Rockin' Rico 8-11:30

Friday, 25th

Fri 25 Aug Barnsley RnR Team - BHSSC Barnsley Hospital Sports & Social Club, Pogmoor Road, Barnsley, S.Yorks S75 2EP Blast Off Jive Pop Record Hop 01977 613841

Fri 25 Aug Basingstoke RnR Club Westside Community Association, Paddock Road, South Ham, Basingstoke, Hants RG22 6QB TTs Tongue Tied Danny 01256 462305

Fri 25 Aug Borough Green RnR Club Village Hall, Borough Green, Kent Cavaliers plus DJ 01732 887033

Fri 25 Aug British Railway RnR Club Broad Green, Wellingborough, Northants Glenn Darren & the Krew Katz Strollin Steve 07748 306989

Friday 25 August 2006 Band Nights a' Rockin' with Berni Woods & the Forest Fires @ Loudwater Royal British Legion Queensmead Road, Loudwater, High Wycombe, Bucks. HP10 9TZ

Fri 25 Aug Jive Inn RnR Club Bridgewater Sport & Social Club, Bath Road, Bridgewater, Somerset Heartbeats Blue Jean Bop 01823 259193

Fri 25 Aug Reef Bar Market Road, Hemsby Beach, Hemsby, Norfolk Rhythm Boys

Fri 25 Aug Riverside RnR Club Moorlands Club, Newark Road, Lincoln, Lincs Jack Baymoore/Bill Fadden & the Rhythm Busters Skinny Jim 01522 750883

Fri 25 Aug Ye Olde St Annes Castle Main Road, Great Leighs, Essex record hop only (rockabilly/rock'n'roll/jive) Maurice's Rocking Machine 01245 361253

Saturday, 26th

Sat 26 Aug Ace Café Ace Corner, Old North Circular Road, Stonebridge, London NW10 Texabilly Rockets (Portugal) Bill Guntrip 020 8961 1000

Sat 26 Aug B52 Club Diner Eastern Perimeter Road, Southend Airport, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS2 6YF Itchy Feet Trio/House Rockers/Wild Wax Combo Radar Record Hop 01268 457767

Sat 26 Aug Crescent WMC 8 The Crescent (rear of the Odeon), York, N.Yorks Johnny & the Jailbirds/Reservoir Cats Flashback Billy 01904 690311

Sat 26 Aug Crondall RnR Club The Village Hall, Crondall, near Farnham, Surrey GU10 5QG Crazee Jay & the Party-timers Oh Boy Record Hop 07903 145018

Sat 26 Aug Duke Of Edinburgh Coast Road, Bacton, Norfolk Rhythm Boys no details no details

Sat 26 Aug Eastleigh RnR Club Comrades Club, 55 Leigh Road, Eastleigh, Hants SO50 9DF Johnny & the Midnight Trio plus DJ (Hawaian night) 023 8061 1953

Sat 26 Aug Harston Village Hall Harston, near Cambridge, Cambs record hop only Little Carl/Dave Crozier 01223 573339

Sat 26 Aug Health & Reach Social Club High Street, Cambridge, Cambs Tonemasters no details 01767 260840

Sat 26 Aug Holiday Rock RnR Club Royal British Legion, Heath and Reach, near Leighton Buzzard, Beds Tonemasters Tartan Ted 01525 372994

Sat 26 Aug It's Only Rock'n'Roll Sale Masonic Lodge, Sale, Cheshire Emperors Of Rhythm Jivin' Jim Killey 0161 929 0413

Sat 26 Aug Nifty Fifties RnR Club - IHC Irish World Heritage Centre, 10 Queens Road, Cheetham Hill, Manchester, Lancs Jack Baymore/Shawn Horton & the Tennessee Trio/Screamin' Brian/Andy Roberts 01942 724166

Sat 26 Aug Nifty Fifties RnR Club - IHC Irish World Heritage Centre, 10 Queens Road, Cheetham Hill, Manchester, Lancs Jack Rabbit Slim/BoogieChildren/Kick'em Jenny (IT) rockabilly special 01942 724166

Sat 26 Aug Port Slade Town Hall Victoria Road, Port Slade, Sussex Ramshackle Daddies Stompin' Steve + guest 07745 453765

Sat 26 Aug RBL - Hassocks Royal British Legion, Woodland Road, Hassocks, W.Sussex Firetones no details 01273 845829

Sat 26 Aug Ritz Ballroom 73 Bradford Road, Brighouse, W.Yorks Rip It Up Bradford Dude 01274 392380

Sat 26 Aug Rock Inn RnR Club Railway Club, Hunting Tower Road, Grantham, Lincs Blue Flames plus DJ 07974 646258

Sat 26 Aug Starfighter RnR Club Village Hall, Wreningham, near Norwich, Norfolk Slim Slip & the Sliders Rockin Roland 01508 494735

Sat 26 Aug The Bandstand Grand Parade, Eastbourne, Sussex tba n/a 01323 641984

Sunday, 27th

Sun 27 Aug BAWA Club Bristol Aerospace Welfare Assoc, 589 Southmead Road, Filton, Bristol Oo Bop Sh' Bam Rockin' John 0117 976 8065

Sun 27 Aug Beauwaters RnR Club Beauwaters Club, Nelson Road, Northfleet, Kent Jack Baymore & the Bandits (Sweden) Pete Bruce 01322 407110

Sun 27 Aug Boston Arms Junction Road, Tufnell Park, London NW5 record hop only Cosmic Keith + guests 020 8925 3050

Sun 27 Aug Boston Arms Junction Road, Tufnell Park, London NW5 record hop only (rockabilly/rock'n'roll/blues Cos-

mic Keith + guests 020 8925 3050

Sun 27 Aug Carshalton Ex-Servicemens Club West Street, Carshalton, Surrey TTs n/a 020 8647 1951

Sun 27 Aug Ex-Servicemens Club - Northampton Sheep Street, Northampton, Northants Rockin' The Joint/Blast Off (4pm - midnight) AJ The Rockin' DJ/JukeBoxQueen 01604 493713

Sun 27 Aug Festival Inn Ilkeston Road, Trowell, Notts NG9 3PX Meanstreak plus DJ 0115 932 2897

Sun 27 Aug House Of Bop Windsor Club, Windsor Road, Neath, Glam Big Boy Bloater & his Southside Stompers Simon Flintstone 07815 158585

Sun 27 Aug Link Club Parsloe Road, Harlow, Essex CM19 4RT record hop only Strollin Steve/Galaxie Bob 01763 241301

Sun 27 Aug March Jive Club Windmill Rooms, Whitemoor Road, March, Cambs PE15 OAF Danny & the Seniors The Professor 07875 208291

Sun 27 Aug Nifty Fifties RnR Club - LLC Lowton Labour Club, 214 Newton Road, Lowton, Cheshire record hop only (Elvis special) plus DJ 01942 724166

Sun 27 Aug Stafford RnR Club White Eagle Polish Club, Riverway, Stafford, Staffs Persuaders Jukebox Johnny 01785 240140

Sun 27 Aug The Woodgrange 62-64 Southchurch Avenue, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS1 2RR Planet Boppers Catman John or CJ the DJ 01702 460133

Sun 27 Aug Welfare Social Club West End Lane, Rossington, Doncaster, S.Yorks Matchbox/Ghostriders/Riot Rockers/ Ol' Dell Boy/Teddy Bop/Dave B 01302 863125

Sun 27 Aug Welfare Social Club West End Lane, Rossington, Doncaster, S.Yorks Phil Haley & his Comments/Furious Edwardian AI - all dayer 01302 863125

Sun 27 Aug Event name: Hot Rod Day OuterLimitz Ley Arms, Kenn, nr Exeter (off A38)Radio RamblersDJ name: OuterLimitz DJ's, Brian, Scat, Willy, Steve & Tim01626 872903-07999 500454

Monday, 28th

Mon 28 Aug Junction 27 RnR Annesley Social Club, Derby Road, Annesley (A611), Notts Blast Off Woody 0115 953 4918

Thursday, 31st

Thu 31 Aug Ace Café Ace Corner, Old North Circular Road, Stonebridge, London NW10 record hop only (Harley night) Fifties Flash 020 8961 1000

Thursday 31 August 2006 Rock'n'Rollin' @ Tithe Farm 151 Rayners Lane, Rayners Lane, Harrow, Middx. HA2 0HX Classes & Club, Record Hop with Harry J 8-11:30

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EDDIE BO



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THE UGLY BUGGY BOYS

FROM ITALY
JUMPIN' UP

FROM SPAIN
BIG JAMBOREE

FROM FRANCE
GADJO ZAZ TRIO

FROM FRANCE
STINKY LOU & THE GOON MAT

SPIRITWALKER
THE SWING COMMANDERS

FROM FRANCE
LITTLE LOU & THE MOONSHINERS

FROM GERMANY
CHERRY CASINO & THE GAMBLERS

FROM SPAIN
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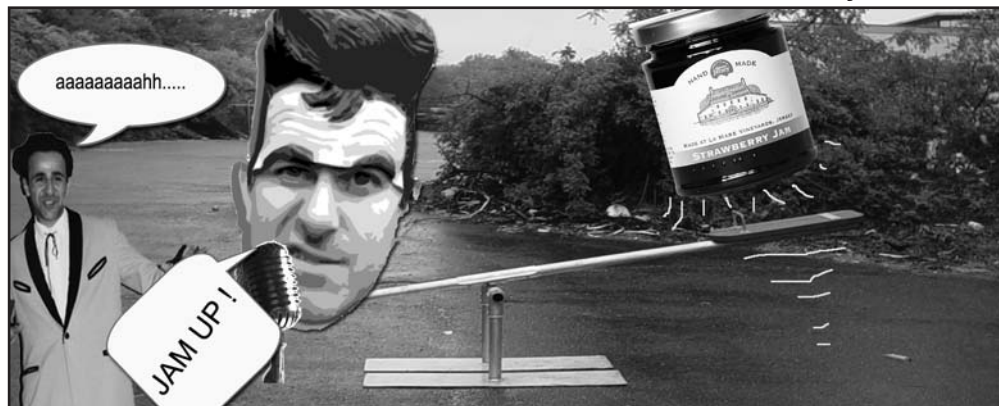
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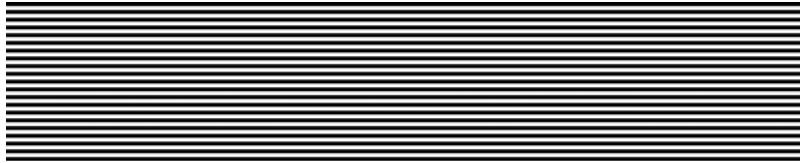
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Kwiff Kwipps (#9)

by the Sherriff





It is with a sad heart on behalf of Tommy's family I announce that. Tommy Bruce passed away peacefully at his home. On the morning of Mon 10th July 2006. Aged 68yrs REST IN PEACE TOMMY. 16th July 1937-10th July 2006 Dave Lodge www.tommybruce.co.uk to leave your respects and view the amazing story of the London Boy with the Gravel Voice. See P. 31.

Don't forget!!!! IN MEMORY OF JANE BRIGGS Beloved wife of guitarist Dave Briggs and Mother to Lincoln, Alec and leo Sunday 6th August 2006 Featuring: PAUL ANSELL / DARREL HIGHAM WITH THE AVENGERS TOP ROCKIN' DJ PETE BRUCE PLUS MANY VERY SPECIAL GUESTS! 8pm Till Late The Irish Centre Pretoria Road, Off White Hart lane, Tottenham, London N.15 ADMISSION ON DOOR £10 All proceeds to Dave, Lincoln, Alec and Leo

The Zodiac Club opens it's doors again at another venue, this will hopefully be our temporary home until the Houghton Regis Hall is rebuilt. The club will be held at the Flitton and Greenfield Village Hall, 78 Greenfield Rd, Flitton, Beds MK45 5DR. Approx 5 mins from M1 Junction 12. The First gig at the new temporary venue is .Sat 12th Aug..... Berni Woods and the Forest Fires Please check website for any changes before travelling www.freewebs.com/zodiac-rock-n-roll/
All gigs unless otherwise stated will be £7 on the door 7.30 till 11.30..... Sorry no under 14s
Tel: 01582 861240 Mob: 07759 359277

A Midlands Rock'n'Roll band narrowly escaped serious injury or worse when a high speed police chase ended in The Wanderers car and trailer stopping a runaway drunk driver head on. Lucky to be alive and vowing to be back on stage soon read the full report on www.planetjive.com All of us at the Mad Rat Mag wish you all a speedy recovery.

Jackson it appears that Swamp Rock organizer Carole got herself engaged to a complete stranger called Neil in actual fact she didn't. Carole got engaged to Swamp Rock DJ Nigel. We apologise for the mistake and wish you both every happiness for your future together.

The Doomsday Rockers have finally called it a day! After a year of rumor mongering and gossip Colin Evans has released news of the split to Planet Jive. On the plus side there will be a new outfit featuring Colin and Andy founder members of The Doomsday Rockers. It appears that this venture will be a four piece and they are at present looking for forward thinking imaginative musicians to join them. Watch this space for details. On the eve of Jerry Lee Lewis's Shepherds Bush Empire concert his niece and daughter of Linda Gail Lewis, Mary Jean McCall will appear on Friday 11th August at The King and Queen 1 Foley Street Near Goode Street for details call Keith 0208 460 6941

Beaconsfield Football Club STOP PRESS Starting Friday 8th Sept a long awaited rockabilly night at the slough road venue. First band are the Trash Canz, followed swiftly by The sugar Creek Trio 10th Nov and The Planet Boppers 8th Dec plus DJ Wildcat Pete 8 till 12. Details from 01494 672605

A NEW OPPORTUNITY has arisen for radio airplay in the UK. Jason Rushworth is DJ for the evening show on Time 106.6fm and a rockabilly at heart. He is asking for unsigned bands of the rockin' persuasion to send their recordings for him to broadcast. Send to Jason Rushworth The Evening Show Time 106.6fm The Observatory Shopping Centre Slough Berkshire SL1 1LH or contact him direct via his website www.jason-rushworth.com go on you know you want to..... The Kingston Rockabilly meet is being held at

In an article published in the July edition re Earl

The Peel in Kingston on Thames. It's £5 entry.

NEWS

Bands kick off at 7.30pm. 3 bars, live venue, strip bar at the rear (not that I would know) and there's Private car park (although space may be limited). Hot Rods and Kustom bikes are more than welcome at the venue, will full consent of the venue owner.

Headlining the night will be The Cathouse Creepers (Raucous Records), with support from The Hot Rocket Trio (New London Rockabilly act) and two other bands.

Southern and Rockin Magazine

Well it took a while but as promised Marc Fenech and his team have come up trumps.

The new Southern and Rockin' quarterly, international and traditionally filled to the brim with rockin' goodies from Around the world. Well I've had mine a couple of months and I have just finished reading it's volumes and I must say that I enjoyed the read, loved the pics and thanked the lord that the old style S & R had rubbed off on the new. It still has that frantic approach to reporting and reading where you are frantically trying to find the second half of this article or that review a real hoot of a mag that has a bit of everything for everyone. Brilliant!!!!

Available from the London office or from regional stockists on the scene. Marc Fenech

NEW: <http://www.myspace.com/southernrockingmusic>

THE RAT PACK

AUGUST 2006

- 4th - Austin sports & social Club, Longbridge
- 5th - Private party, Rayleigh
- 6th - Woodgrange, Southend-on-Sea
- 11th - Crooked Billet, Stoford Le Hope
- 18th - Mychett Club, Surrey
- 19th - Pavilion, Battersea
- 24th - Cardinal Wolsey Hampton court
- 28th - Foresters Southend-on-Sea



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Rockin' Rocket 88

Recently Mad Rat posted news of Rockin' Rocket 88's success in the movie business!!! Well we were intrigued and sought to find out more. We tracked down the director of the movie sunning himself in Santa Cruz and arranged to interview him. The movie is a fifties cult style B movie (horror Flick) called Flying Saucer Rock n Roll its director Eric Callero fills in the answers exclusively for Mad Rat Mag.

Where did the idea of doing a movie come from?

Well the simple answer would be, at the time I was a film student and making films is what you do. I don't exactly remember what came first, wanting to do a horror type movie, or the desire to revisit a childhood fear. The idea came to me a couple of months before we started the project. I awoke from a deep sleep one night with a feeling of terrible fear, like someone was out to get me. I remembered I had that same feeling when I was a kid and attributed it to my fear of being abducted by aliens. So, the next morning

I decided to use my fear to my advantage by making a zombie horror movie, with aliens attacking humans instead of zombies. I would even make the aliens move like zombies because, I would write that the pull of gravity on Earth is much stronger than on their home planet; making the aliens walk slower. However, the thought of having green alien blood and all of the costuming involved kind of deterred me from giving the

aliens such a large part in the film. So instead, I wrote that they turned a group of unsuspecting beatniks into zombies by the use of space weed, or Martian marijuana. After being drugged, or zombified, the Martians then instruct the Beatniks to harvest ten women. The Martians need the human ovaries to help with the repopulation of their planet. With that, an army of Zombie Beatniks is unleashed and only Johnny Keen and his beatnik friend, Maynard, can save the day!

I knew I wanted Martians, some sort of ray gun that the hero has to build, greasers, hot rods, zombies, rockabilly music and a little bit of gore. Thus the film was born, somehow, out of those ingredients.

I would like to mention at this time, that I didn't make this film by myself. I had a lot of help from a lot of people, both friends and family during all parts of production.

Is this your first film? Yes and no. It was my first serious effort at making a feature film but I had made two other feature films as well as several shorts.

Why 50's B movie style? I thought it would be fun to update the genre. Many films have set their story line in the 50s; usually dramas about coming of age. None to my knowledge have really tried to make a period 50s B-movie (Dead Alive comes very close, but the 50s in New Zealand were very different than those in the US). Instead of trying to update a 50s B-movie like the Blob by setting in modern day, I wanted make a period B-movie. (For a clearer understanding, look at Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow. It

created a sci-fi film using old technology.) That's why initially, I described it as Cry Baby meets Evil Dead 2, because those where the two movies I drew most of my inspiration from. Johnny's rise as a hero can be paralleled to Ash's rise, I also drew a lot from Back to the Future, American Graffiti and Night of the Living Dead.

Another reason was, because I like that time period in American pop culture a lot. If you had the chance to make a movie, wouldn't it be that much more fun to set it in the US during the 50s? I say yes. Plus, horror/comedy (B-movie) is a great place to start as a filmmaker. Both Peter Jackson and Sam Raimi owe their careers to the genre. Its fun to make, easy to shoot and even if it looks fake it doesn't matter, because it's a comedy and its a B-movie. The audience seems to give you more credit in how far you can stretch their disbelief and are much more forgiving of bad acting than in a drama, which can turn quickly into an unintentional comedy because of it.

Why not 50's musical, baring in mind your other profession?

How much more would you like me to juggle at one time? Just kidding. Basically the amount of work involved, that's it. I could maybe see doing one in the future, considering the competition at the Oscars is slim. No really, it would be fun for me if it were done in the style of Cry Baby as opposed to more serious, modern musicals. In many ways I feel it is a musical and even though the actors do not sing the words, it is very much musically driven (see American Graffiti for example.) In some cases the music adds to the story line. It is almost a character in itself. I should mention at this time, there are two kinds of music on the soundtrack: modern rockabilly (a little physcobilly too) and mood music by San Francisco composer Ian J. Smith. We've already talked about the rockabilly; the mood music was largely inspired by the 50s era composers and movie music. Largely featured are a pipe organ, bongos and strings.

How long has the film been in production? Well it's been over two years now, but the major production shooting ended in fall of 2004.

Are you going to try and get it on the film festivals? Of course! Haven't had much luck yet though.

How did you choose the music for the soundtrack?

Ultimately it came down to whether a particular song fit the movie as a whole, and then it was a matter of finding the right scene. For the Chop Tops, it was easy. Way back in pre-production I asked Sinner from the Chop Tops if he would lend his band to perform in the picture. I had wanted to create a scene similar to the Dance Hall scene in the Giant Gila Monster. So I got them on board and they performed two songs in the movie, their own original Back Stage Queenie and a cover of Flying Saucers Rock N Roll (how could that song not be there). I also had access to their previous recordings, three albums worth. They have 5 songs total on the soundtrack. The other bands were bands that I had some sort of personal contact before from playing in the Keen Cousins. Only recently have I branched out beyond personal contact by contacting bands in Europe. In one case, I knew I wanted a song that didn't exist, so in that case I had to make it. The Ballad of Johnny Keen. My cousin Phil, and I wrote the song, we recorded it with help



from Sinner and Shelby both from the Chop Tops. The song plays over the transformation of Johnny from square to greaser, as he builds a Vacuum Ray Gun, which is all shown through animated comic book stills.

Where and how did you find Rockin' Rocket 88 and which track will you use? I did a yahoo search for Rockabilly UK and found them among the search reply. I heard some of their tracks and really liked the sound of crazy 'bout her automobile I asked for permission and the rest is history.

Its a great idea to use modern bands from the international rockin' scene but were you tempted to go for more commercial original tracks even for a minute? The main reason I wanted to use modern bands is one, its easier to get the rights and two, they will in turn (hopefully) help promote the film to their fans. Actually, in the first major cut there are four songs from obscure rockabilly acts from the 50s. But the legal paper work, plus possible payment for use, and an even longer finishing date, deterred me from using them in the final cut. It would be easier and more beneficial to use modern bands. On the next film maybe I will use original 50s recordings. So far using modern bands have worked out in my favor.

How much does it cost to make a movie of this style?

We probably spent anywhere from \$3,000-\$7,000. That's probably the bare bones minimum. Most everyone on the project volunteered his or her time.

Did you audition the actors or are they friends of yours? Almost all the actors were auditioned, a few were actors I had acted with before and the rest were friends and family.

I notice that all of them are professionals and have appeared in some really good shows and movies albeit bit parts was it important for the actors to have a bit of a pedigree or did it come down to talent alone?

What was more important to me was Does this actor possess the quality of the character? In other words, I ask myself, does the actor get the character without too much trouble? It didn't matter to me if this was their first film or 50th. Were they right for the part; that was more important. Of course it cant hurt to have a few names when trying to sell the picture to a distributor.

Will you be distributing it and if so by whom and will it be available in the UK?

I would love to have it distributed but at this point, no luck. Im still tweaking the final cut e.g. adding scenes and cutting down other scenes, so I haven't had too much time to devote to that. I definitely want it to be available in the UK.

Have you seen the bands on the soundtrack live?

Ive seen probably more than half of the bands on the soundtrack in person and I would like to see the rest in the near future.

Thanks Eric.... News of the first screening in the UK of this film will be available shortly. Watch this space....

Mad Rat

Tommy Bruce

16th July 1937 - 10th July 2006

The cockney with the gravel voice was born within the sound of Bow Bells on July 16th 1937, Tommy Bruce was tragically orphaned in the early years of the war and grew up in a Middlesex Orphanage. Leaving the orphanage in 1952 with the usual outfit of clothing, two of everything, shirts, trousers etcetera, having been found a job in engineering and placed in a boys hostel his introduction to the outside world was unpleasant to say the least. Forced to crawl under moving machinery in order to clean it, most of his wages were taken by the hostel. He soon took the decision to move on. He found a job on the delivery vans for Smiths crisps, and thanks to an uncle who lived in London, found accommodation there. Before long he was working with that uncle in Covent Garden Market. National Service called when Tommy was eighteen.

He joined the Royal Ordinance Core working in the stores, leading an ordinary soldier's life getting into a few scrapes, mostly for returning late to camp, due to always having the extra pint. Never the less he served overseas and received an honorable discharge, his commanding officer saying of him 'you have been a good soldier Bruce, a credit to the regiment. Back in civvy street, he settled back in to work at Covent Garden, found himself a bed sit and settled down to having the life of normal young man. Before long a young man moved into one of the other bed sits, their meeting would irrevocably change both their lives. The young man was Barry Mason; he would one day be a famous songwriter. Tommy and Barry became friendly and before long, Barry who was already making inroads into the music business, asked Tommy to come down to a recording studio, to see a group he was managing make a Demo disc. After the group had done their bit, there was still some time left so Barry said 'Tommy would you like to try?' Tommy refused at first, but when pressed said he only knew two songs, 'Why' and 'Ain't Misbehavin'. He recorded them both enjoying the experience, but thought that was end of it, in fact it was only the beginning. Barry took the Demo to Norrie Paramour, recording manager for Columbia EMI, hoping that he would sign the group, he didn't but having heard the unusual quality in Tommy's, voice liked it and signed him. Norrie put a rock cha cha arrangement to 'Ain't Misbehavin' released it and the rest as they say is history it sold a million Tommy had a Gold Disc and a career that lasted forty-three years. Many friends and colleagues have led the tributes saying that Tommy was the nicest most sincere person you could ever wish to meet.



Many fans will leave messages on the memorial website at www.tommybruce.co.uk

Tommy Bruce's biography 'Have Gravel Will Travel' is available at www.bestbooksonline.co.uk
Article from the official Tommy Bruce Website www.tommy-bruce.co.uk

RECORDINGS



Artist: The Big Heat
Title: Boogiemens
Prod: David Hargreaves
Label: Raucous
 RAUCD 177

A few months ago, two CD albums came through my letter box from Howard Raucous at Raucous records. One was "It Ain't What You Do" by The Cat Pack which has already had rave reviews in various music publications including this one, and the other was from a band who I had never heard of, namely; 'The Big Heat'.

The Big Heat are an eight-piece rockin' rhythm and blues band which at the time this album was recorded at Crescent Road, Sheffield in 2004 included John Wilson (vocals) John England (guitar) Richard Blanchard (piano) Micky Dixon (bass) Pete Mulvihill (drums) Paul Blackburn (saxophones) Derek Saw (saxophones) and sound engineer David Hargreaves (trumpet and trombone). Because I was so immediately struck by the quality of musicianship and production of what I was hearing, I wanted to allow myself enough time to give this album a proper review. So here it is then, better late than never.

Of the 16 tracks on "Boogiemens", there is just one original. "Hens Teeth" is an instrumental jointly composed by John England and Derek "Doc" Shaw. It would be unfair for me to say that the other 15 are covers. Moreover, they are revivals of great rhythm and blues tunes from the 1940s and 50s including a few classics which have been given a new lease of life.

The material has been carefully chosen which makes for a great album to listen to anywhere, anytime. The CD is well presented in a digi-pack sleeve.

The album kicks off with Rudy Greene's "Wild Life" and it is the horn and reed section in particular that grabbed my attention. Richard Blanchard's boogie woogie styling on the keys is real treat. Willie Wright's "Slowly Losing My Mind" is an absolute joy and I love John England's B.B. King style intro. Fred "Daddy Cleanhead" Higgins' version of "Something's Goin' On In My Room" and Ike Turner's "I'm Tore Up" are okay and again John England and Richard Blanchard show that they first rate musicians on Freddie King's "Side Tracked". In fact the whole ensemble are as tight as (I'm trying to keep it clean here) you know what. The same can be said of track 6; Joe Jones' "Will Call". The pace slows down for the band's ballsy version of Johnny Rogers' "Calling Baby". The aforementioned instrumental "Hens Teeth" is so constructed that it allows every band member to excel. The tune demonstrates some good solos and has a contagious riff so much so that I have been using this track to open my jive nights at Plinston in Letchworth.

The second half begins with B.B. Kings' "Early Every Morning" which I have to admit is new to me. Next we're treated to the awesome "Much Later". This is much better than average revival of Ike Turner's classic. Truly awesome!

No rhythm and blues compilation would be complete without a Dave Bartholomew tune, and here we have the first of two. Again a faultless performance of "Running Wild". One song that I will never grow tired of hearing is "Happy Pay Day". Very popular at live shows at the moment, this is a very good rendition of the Little Willie Littlefield masterpiece. For another, check out Ocean's Seven's live version on "Just A Little Bit... Of Rhythm and Blues Volume 1" (Shack SHKR001). "Douglas Boogie" is another tune which is new to me. This instrumental written by Roy 'Buck' Douglas again demonstrates what a tight outfit The Big Heat are. Lucky I guess that this tune

is new to me because I really enjoy it. The second Dave Bartholomew contribution is Smiley Lewis' "Real Gone Lover". I cannot praise highly enough, this version that The Big Heat have made their own. I bet this goes down really well at their live shows. Wonderful stuff! Talking of going down well, the album's penultimate track is Sammy Cotton's "Give Me One More Drink". How many more times can I enthuse about how much I love this music?! Raw, raunchy, soul wrenching, solid Rhythm and Blues which is summed up on the final track; "Rhythm Rockin' Blues". This Rollee McGill jump blues shouter left me wanting more. I can not wait for the second album, nor can I wait to catch The Big Heat at a live show. If you're into King Pleasure, 'Big Boy' Bloater, Mike Sanchez & The Big Town Playboys, then this is a 'must have' for your collection. For more information, view:- www.thebigheat.net

Strollin' Steve Ashdown

Artist: Oop Bop Sh' Bam
Title: Same
Label: Easy Beat Records

Produced by Nick Taylor & Alan Savage, this 14 piece offering from erst-while Rent Party members Jackson Sloan, Alan Savage and friends is slick, smooth and enjoyable from the sleeve through to track 14. The content of the CD appears to be offered to certain tempo jivers and r'n'b listeners who like their covers done in an inoffensive style.

The disc kicks off with a nice self penned instrumental called Ooh Bop Sh' Out with plenty of Haley type punctuation and a rhythm for strollers and jive beginners.

This is followed by covers of "Well Alright", "Rock Rock Rock", Rosco Gordon's "Just Love Me Baby" and the popular Smiley Lewis tune "Big Mamou".

The jive club favourites "Be My Guest", "Flip Flop & Fly" and Tiny Bradshaw's "Breakin' Up The House" are well played and again at tempos to suit the modern dance floor.

All tracks are executed well by good musicians and the big voice of Mr. Sloan, with the added bonus of an appearance by the one and only Ray Gelato on tracks 10 & 12.

In summary I found the album to be a toe tapper rather than a boot stomper mainly due to the cleanliness of the production and lack of raw, low down and dirty, which I'm rather partial to.

This is and will be a hit with jive clubs across the lands for sure as the tempos are well suited for the dance market, which is demonstrated by the number of gigs they are getting within this domain. On the other hand, if you want to listen to some good time r'n'b you'd do no wrong by slipping this onto the Hi Fi.

The album and information can be found at www.oobopshbam.com

Mad Rat

Send your CDs\Tapes\Cash to Mad Rat Mag for review. All CDs will be returned if stamped address envelope supplied. Demos are also welcomed. See Page 12 for address.

The Zoltans

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Days of Rock n Roll Past August 1957

Ankas Away With Diana

The fastest selling disc in Britain this month is 'Diana' written and recorded by Canadian Paul Anka. Now 16 years old Anka made his first night club appearance when he was 12 doing impersonations of Johnnie Ray and other famous singers and then struck out leading a vocal trio, The Bobby Soxers. After leaving them he journeyed from his home in Ottawa to Hollywood but failed to make any headway. His next trip took him to New York, where AER Manager Don Costa was impressed enough to sign him to ABC Paramount. Waxed when he was only 15 'Diana' is dedicated to an older girl Diana Ayoub with whom Paul sang in Ottawas Syrian church choir. Missing her in new York, he poured his sorrow into a poem, which he promptly set to music. Apparently Miss Ayoub is overjoyed about all the attention her name is attracting.

Grapevine!

British fans have been dazzled by the guitar virtuosity of American Charlie Gracie, currently on a two month UK tour. Top selling album in America is the soundtrack from Elvis Presleys new film 'Loving You'.

Tommy Steele has purchased a four bed roomed house in South London for his parents.

The Pirate

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The DUKE'S Rockabilly Raves

Rock 'n' Roll Rants

I was hoping that I would have had my other article ready for this issue of MadRat (it's been back in circulation for a year now!), but due to work, and other peoples' commitments, my 'Dinner with Rockabillies' will have to wait until another issue.

I wrote the following review a few weeks ago after a buddy of mine, Landon, mentioned the differences in various clubs in and around the London area. Rock 'n' roll, rockabilly and jive clubs? The 'Rockabilly Rave' and the 'Rhythm Riot'? I like them all, but it seems some people's tastes are channelled in one direction and they seldom veer off course. We are very lucky in the London area, in that we have a good number of rockin' clubs around, 'The Ace Café', 'The Hillbilly Hop', 'Virginia Creepers', 'The Rosecroft', 'B52 Diner', 'Higham Rock 'n' Roll club', etc. I prefer the rockabilly type clubs, mainly because it is my favourite style of music, but I go to the other clubs too. This got me thinking, when was the last time I ventured off course? Read on...

Borough Green Rock 'n' Roll Club (THE FRIENDLIEST ROCK 'N' ROLL CLUB IN KENT)

It was a Friday and I felt like doing something a little different, but as money was in short supply and travelling not really an option I had to put my thinking head on (I have one somewhere). My problem was solved when D.J. Suzy Q emailed me and told me to get my sorry butt over to the 'Borough Green Rock 'n' Roll Club' that very night. The club is just outside Maidstone in Kent, it's just off of the A20 so it was pretty close to me. Suzy was spinning the records and the live entertainment was from 'Kav and the Kavenmen'.

The club is held in Borough Green Village Hall, in the high street. It is a roomy club situated on the first floor. I parked in the car park outside, I was not too sure if I was supposed to do this but the Teddy Boy who let me in smiled as I went and found a spare space in which to park, so I felt I was in the right.

I love clubs that let you bring your own beer, so I knew the alcohol would be affordable, and the price of £6.00 entrance fee was reasonable too (Okay, I was on the guest list and got in for free, but it was very reasonable).

I knew from the moment I entered the building it was going to be a friendly place.

After a few 'hellos', nods and waves I settled down at the band's table ready for the night's entertainment. At this point I was asked if I danced. Damn. I hate that question! After saying that I do not, and apologising, I promised the lady in question that I would do something about it and the next time I saw her I would be the best darn rug-cutter she had ever danced with. I had better have a word with Kav; he said he could teach me to dance even if I have three left feet.

Suzy kicked off the evening with a set of classic rock 'n' roll tunes, the heavyweights such as Berry, Haley, and Lewis. It was a refreshing change; disregard the big guns at your peril. I did get the impression that playing the records by the likes of 'The Mean Devils' and 'The Mad Men' would not go down too well here (my opinion), but the modern rockin' bands I did hear tunes from that night were 'Nick Willet', 'The Barnshakers' and 'The Bellfuries'. The members of this club definitely like their dancing. The floor was never empty (except when Suzy played an out and out rockabilly tune that was too difficult to jive to, so a few got up and bopped).

Rich the compere and club organiser (and the dude that let me into the car park!) introduced 'Kav 'Mr. 'Rock 'n' Roll' Kavanagh' at which point Kav immediately tore into Gene's 'Say Mama' backed capably by 'The Kavenmen'. The dance floor filled immediately and remained that way through the entire two sets of straight forward, no nonsense, rock 'n' roll. Kav did stretch the rock 'n' roll boarders once by mentioning one his favourite modern rockabilly bands 'The Go Getters', after which he launched into their song 'No Heart To Spare'. The dancers were still there. The standout songs from this set for me included Gene's 'Right Now', and 'Pretty Baby', 'Paralysed', 'One Sided Love Affair' (although I think the piano should have featured more prominently over the guitar), and Charlie Rich's 'Rebound'. We even had club organiser Rich standing in on drums during 'Jeanie Jeanie Jeanie' and not doing a bad job at it either.

So, if you want a great night of straightforward, solid rock 'n' roll go and see 'Kav and the Kavenmen', you will not be disappointed.

All in all I had a great night at a very friendly Rock 'n' Roll club, just like it says on the tin. The club is held once or twice a month, for more information on club dates e-mail valmiles@btinternet.com. Please don't be like me and just watch the dancers, check out this website and teach yourself www.jiveafter5.com

The Kavenmen are
Andy Lee Lewis: Piano/Sax
Ian Rivers: Lead Guitar
Luke Dodd: Double Bass, standing in for regular bass player Dave Raven
Mike Croydon: Drums

I am a rockabilly; I have been since the late 1970's. I can rock 'n' roll, as long as I do not have to jive or stroll. I still dig 1950's Elvis and I still think Bill Haley 'ROCKS'. I was a bit of a bopper, back in my heyday. But I tried it again just now, to Charlie's 'One Hand Loose', and I did not make it past the second verse.

Getting on in life is a bugger...

Duke

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