

RUSS BALLARD

official
NEWSLETTER



Thank you to Sven Kramer for this great new banner for the newsletter.

Happy New Year, everyone. I hope all your Christmases went well and you had a happy and peaceful time.

We need and very much welcome your contributions to this newsletter. Thank you to all those who have sent me stories, photos and questions so far. If you have ever met Russ, tell us about it. If you have a Russ story that doesn't involve meeting him, we would like to have that too. Tell us why you are a Russ fan. Tell us why you signed up for this newsletter. Anything Russ related!

In the Christmas newsletter we had a question from Dave about a Christmas song Russ wrote a few years ago. The song, Russ told us, was "The Love of a Child" sung by Robert Alagna. After this appeared in the newsletter, Dave put a link to the song on Facebook so many people were able to hear it. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=57YTaDU84sQ> Paul Jay played the song regularly over Christmas on his Tea Time show on MAR, <http://www.mar.me.uk/index2.html>. Paul's show is on Sundays,

4pm to 6pm, and you are guaranteed to hear Russ on his programme. Also take a look at the replays of the Christmas broadcasts, where you will also find the shows of Mr. X, (our fellow newsletter recipient!) who, in each show, played several Russ and Russ related songs.

NEWS

The Skindred CD, "Kill the Power", on which Russ co-wrote 3 songs, is out this month...available from <http://po.st/PreOrderKTP> or Amazon. From Russ.. *"Good news to know that Skindred are the number one in the pre-release rock chart and number thirteen in the main one, I'm pleased for them.....they've worked hard and they deserve it. They have a UK tour, starting soon."*

About Japan... *"It looks as though the Tokyo show is on - I believe it will be between 4th to the 9th of May....Leaving on 4th with the gig 7th. So many of my friends have played Japan, I thought it's about time I went there."*

A couple of videos recently appeared on YouTube to take us into a new year.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2FsDLlgZtrw&feature=share>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z5lsX6ROuHw>

FROM RUSS

" I've recently been to Dubai for eight days....What an amazing place!! - a bit like Vegas meets Disneyland. Incredible to think, in 1990 there was one high-rise, now there's nine hundred. The service everywhere is brilliant....I asked a member of the Jumeriah [Hotel] staff, "How do you manage to do it?" He said..." "It's a Dubai secret, sir" - Funny! Also, there must have been eight life guards around the pool and the same on the beach..."

YOUR QUESTIONS

Back in 1996 Russ is credited as a musician involved in pre production on the album Kiss My Soul by Roger Chapman another one of my favourite musicians and who is huge in Germany . One track, Mistreated, is credited to Russ for words and music. I have always been curious as to how that collaboration came about and what Russ's memories were? Is he planning to work with Roger anytime in the future ?

Russ...*"I did write a song that Roger Chapman recorded, called - 'Mistreated'. My friend Michael Bisping was promoting Roger at the time and asked me if I could write something for him. I don't have any plans to write for him again...he hasn't asked me yet!...I did see him at the Classic Rock Awards, last year. "*

YOUR STORIES

From Liam Wilson

I actually met Russ and the entire Argent band in Glasgow at the Argent gig (with Wishbone Ash supporting) Jan 29th 2012. (see attached photo).



At the time I was living and working in Tajikistan, Central Asia and so I travelled especially to Glasgow to see Argent. I had Rod's email address from meeting him in Glasgow/Dublin at various Zombies gigs in last few years. So, I wrote to Rod who suggested I meet the band backstage (especially Russ) after the gig. I had previously met Rod, Jim and Bob...**but had never met Russ.** I had waited 40 years for this opportunity as Argent never toured Ireland. I was at the 2010 High Voltage gig and

subsequently Leamington Spa, so along with the Glasgow gig I got to see the original Argent 3 times within 18 months. Incredible experience. So, there I was aged 55 so excited and behaving like a star struck teenager as I got the nod to go into the dressing room in Glasgow. Yes, I was that excited and nervous! We spoke for about 25 minutes backstage during which I even got to harmonise "Crazy World" (from "Book of Love") when Russ started singing it. We spoke about many things including Russ's favourite teacher who was also Irish (from Belfast), how he loves my accent as it reminds me of this teacher, how he deals with tiredness when touring (he jogs every day). We also spoke collectively about why The Zombies are not yet in the Hall of Fame, why Argent were not as big as they should have been (e.g. "Dance of Ages" should have been the follow up to "H.Y.H.U" instead of "Tragedy") the possibility of Argent doing a reunion on an occasional basis, how much Russ admires Rory Gallagher, etc, etc.

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