

Hi Everyone.

Good news and bad news this month. The good (brilliant) news is that Argent are playing a gig. The bad news is that Rod has announced that this will be the last ever live performance by Argent. This will be quite a night! For those of you who go back to the days of The Roulettes, the MC of this show will be John (Mod) Rogan. Tickets are on sale now.

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Argent & "Special Guests"

Join us for a very special "one-off" night of great rock music in the company of Argent in a bid to raise funds to support Johnny Beer Timms.

In 2011, while performing a backward somersault on a trampoline, 16 year old Johnny broke his neck resulting in paralysis from the chest down. Now helping raise funds to provide equipment for Johnny to retrieve some of the movement he has lost are one of the UK's most successful and archetypal progressive rock groups: best remembered for hits "Hold Your Head Up", "Since You've Been Gone", and "God Gave Rock 'N Roll To You", **ARGENT** in its original line-up including **Rod Argent** and **Russ Ballard**, together with members of **THE ZOMBIES** including **Colin Blunstone** ("She's Not There", "Time of the Season", "I Don't Believe in Miracles") plus **Steve Hogarth** and

Steven Rothery from **MARILLION** and **THE MOON DOGS** (Blues Rock Band) with guest guitarists to open the show, Danny Prendergast and Jerry Playle.

Making One Special Night To Remember for Johnny....

YOUR QUESTIONS

"I'd like to ask two questions. Was Jim Wilkinson, who made the holes in your guitar, also the guy that built Jim Rodford's twin neck from separate precision and stratocasters? Was Jim related to Fred Wilkinson, Argent's Road Manager?"

Russ: " *No, Jim wasn't the guy....whoever modified Jim Rodford's, I don't know. Jim Wilkinson was no relation to Fred Wilkinson, although, they did know each other.*"

YOUR STORIES

From Carole Williams

Earliest memory of Russ the young lad in "The Roulettes" who drove his Sunbeam Rapier convertible to The Winter Gardens Margate when Adam Faith did the Summer Season there... it was 1964! Went on holiday with my mom and stepdad, they invited mom's workmate to join us so that I would have "young" company, but she was 3 years older than me and not into hanging around the stage door for a glimpse of Adam. I met a girl from Birmingham, Sandra, same age and same interest as me, so mom's friend ended up with them and I spent the week at the Winter Gardens. Saw Russ every day and still have photo's from way back then. After the holiday Sandra and I wrote to the stage door manager to thank him for "putting up" with us and making us cups of tea. He showed the letter to Adam who arranged for 2 tickets for the last show of the season to be sent to us. Well, we only earned about 3 pounds a week, but managed to save the train fare down to Margate, intending to spend the night in the Station waiting room as there was no train back till morning, but the Station was locked at night, so we stayed in the Wind Shelter next to the

theatre, (Adam did ask us if we had somewhere to stay when we went in to meet him, and we said yes we are ok!) Was a very long and chilly night! Was really lucky from then on to be a "Roulettes" fan, and met them many times after, nicest bunch of lads you could know, as was their Roadie Fred. I feel honoured to have this history in my life...When they split from Adam I was working at an Entertainment Agency in Wolverhampton and drove my bosses mad till they booked "The Roulettes"...that was their first meeting with Maurice Jones, (he was the booker at the Agency) who later went on to manage them as "Argent". My first meeting with Bob Henrit was before Margate, at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre August 1962, when Adam played a week there, in Margate...he drove a mini!

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