



(Banner by Sven Kramer)

Welcome to our new readers. It is very good to see more and more Russ fans joining us. Thank you to those who have sent positive feedback...always good to read.

There is some good news this month but I will let Russ tell you below!

Please keep your suggestions and contributions coming in. They are always very welcome.

Sue

NEWS/THIS MONTH....

Russ: *"I went to see my son Christian's gig in Hertford last week....with his music partner Lavvy, they create a very exciting set. I know their music is different from the kind of thing I've always been associated with, however,*

the set builds in a very similar way...I guess it's all about Light and shade.They're making some great music.

It's been confirmed now, I'll be doing the Sue Marchant show - [BBC Cambridge, Sunday 26th April] It's all about Music and chat. Sue tells me she doesn't have a piano at the studio, so, I'll probably take a guitar..that will be fun.

I'm going to be doing some live shows later in the year, in the UK and some in Europe....My friend at ASS Concerts also says he's arranged some in Germany. I'm looking forward to that. Hopefully, I'll meet many of you."

You can find Sue Marchant's show here <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p001d7sb> It starts at 7pm.



Sue Marchant - BBC Local Radio

www.bbc.co.uk

A fabulous feast of live music and conversation with Sue.

MORE NEWS

Christian and Lavvy have been asked to play at a big televised music show, The Danish DJ Awards, in Denmark at the end of this month. Sada Vidoo is playing on the show and they will be doing a remix of "Love Is A Battlefield".

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Russ: *"Controlled Breathing*

I don't sleep very well and looking back, I don't think I ever did. I believe I've always been too 'Wired'. I go to bed at eleven o'clock and I'm awake at 2.30 or 3.00 am. I heard people say that breath and emotions are linked, one reflects the other....if ones emotions are stressed then your breathing will be unstable and visa versa. I find slow, controlled breathing really works for me. I usually breath to a count... starting at six or seven, in and out, then, eight, nine, ten as many as you can do comfortably. It doesn't mean it will send you to sleep straight away, however, practice makes perfect. While you're breathing thoughts will probably come in to your mind, that's OK, just go back to your breathing. Even if you don't go to sleep you will feel 'Centered' in the day, or should I say, relaxed."

YOUR QUESTIONS

I would like to find out how working on all those albums compare, i.e. albums where Russ played all or nearly all the instruments himself (RB 1974, Winning 1976) versus hiring session musicians (At The Third Stroke 1978, RB 1984) versus having his own band (Barnet Dogs 1979 et al). What are the pros and cons? Does one recording stand out as having been very enjoyable, was another one very difficult?

Russ: *"When it comes to playing the instruments myself...I didn't play at all on 'Winning', although I did play all the drums on the 1974 album...I made it hard for myself, because I didn't play to a click. I just hummed the tunes to myself as I put down the drums - then I added piano then guitars, then bass. The problem with that is, the track doesn't stay constant...[it's slowing and speeding, throughout] - I should have played to a 'click', I would today, although back then, I'd never heard of one. I often played on my demos, mainly because I wrote the songs and knew what I wanted to hear....[What kind of fills I wanted] - I found that musicians usually play what they like and it's not always what I have in mind....although, now, I can see that difference is the chemistry. Now I encourage it.*

It's strange about 'The Third Stroke' the musicians were the best of L.A. however, looking back back, I don't think it was the best place to go for a rock album...it was a bit soft.

I enjoyed doing 'Barnet Dogs' - I wanted to make an exciting album...I wrote the songs and made them vehicles for 'hooligan' players. I said to Bob Henrit, Dave Wintour and Bill Roberts [the drummer, Bass and guitar players] "Just play as hard as we can" - I really did have a good time on that, although the studio was a bit small for what I was after."

IDEAL SET LIST

From Irene Enghardt

Russ's repertoire is so extensive, and I don't even have all of it, that it seems hardly possible to put together a well balanced SETLIST without risking of leaving out songs that are so very much appreciated, unless one would have Russ play on stage from 7 until ..well after midnight!

When I think of a perfect concert, it has to open with a song that sets the sphere (same goes for an opener if there is an interval, a break) and there should be room for a moment of calm, with something gentle, acoustic...

Also, maybe a personal point of view, there are fantastic album songs that don't have a stage-song feeling.. I only have to think of for instance "I'm A Scorpio", or "Cast the Spirit", just as example..

anyway... here's my list, as I see it today

opening:

It's my Life

Is The Anybody Out There

I can't Hear You No More

On the Rebound

Once A Rebel

Argent selection : Liar – I don't Believe in Miracles – Tragedy

Your Time Is Gonna Come

Hits for others Medley: You Can Do Magic – So You Win Again – There's Something Going On

a break, then re-opening:

The Fire Still Burns

Hey Bernadette
Dream On
Book of Love/Into The Light
The Healer
Since You Been Gone
New York Groove
Voices

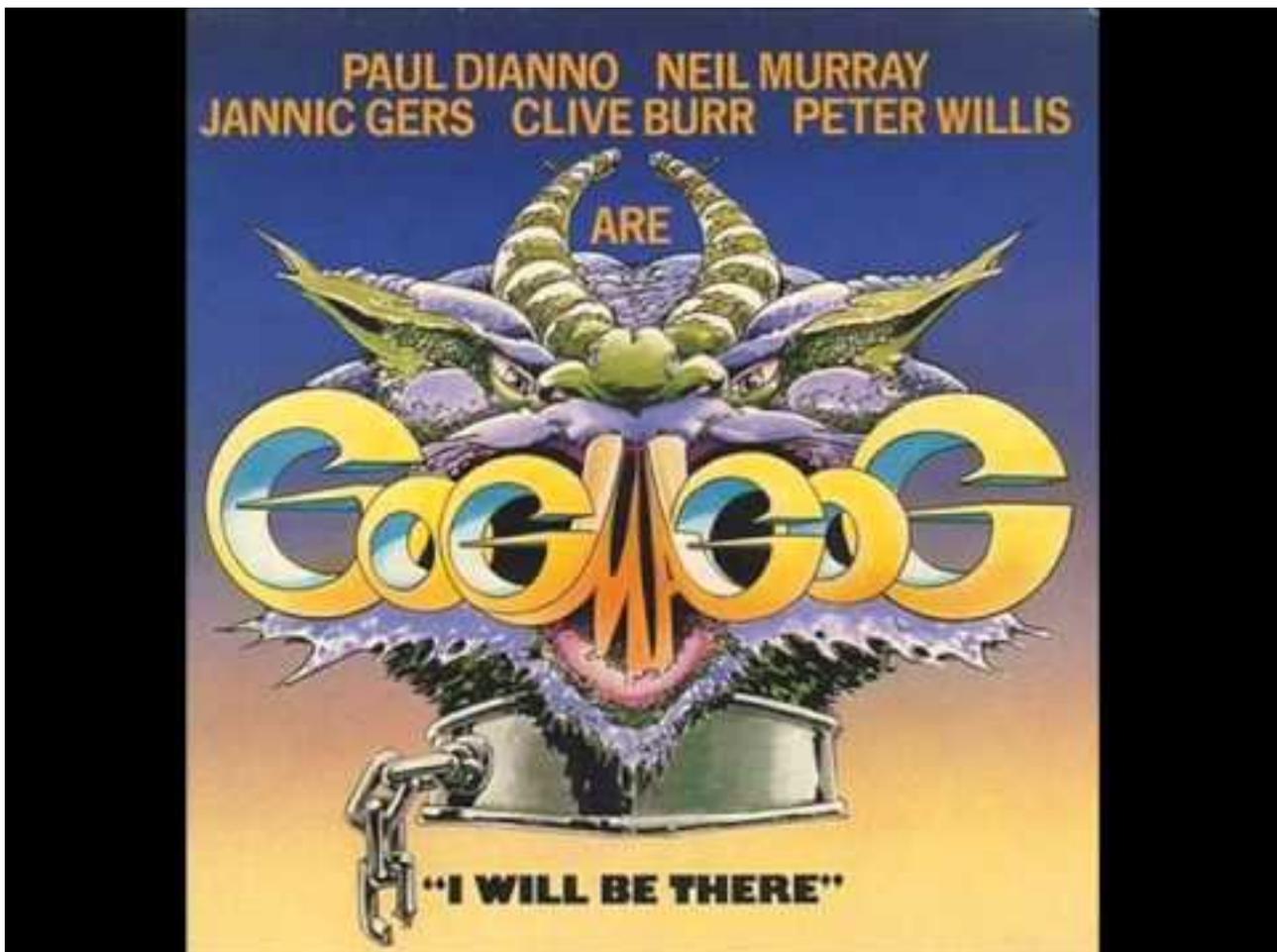
Encores: Rock 'n Roll Lover and God Gave Rock and Roll To You

Greets to all, Irene

RECORDED BY OTHERS

Here is an unusual one!

<https://youtu.be/NwvicneV1mw>



Gogmagog - I Will Be There

[youtu.be](#)

Fantastic song by British supergroup Gogmagog, from their EP "I Will Be There", released in 1985. Lyrics: When you're hurt Scared Feel you can't go on With t...

Gogmagog were a British **supergroup** put together by British record producer Jonathan King that featured former **Iron Maiden** members **Paul Di'Anno** and **Clive Burr**, former **White Spirit** and Gillan guitarist **Janick GERS** (who would later join Iron Maiden in 1990), original **Def Leppard** guitarist **Pete Willis**, and bassist **Neil Murray**, who has played in over 30 bands, including **Whitesnake**, **Black Sabbath**, and **John Sloman's** **Badlands**. All they ever released was the three-song *I Will Be There* EP in 1985. The artists rehearsed for some days before the sessions and it was all recorded in just three hours one afternoon. The name of the group comes from the legendary giant **gogmagog**.

YOUR STORIES

From Dave Williams

Back around 1975 / 76, we were having lots of football success in Derby with Brian Clough, then Dave Mackay, leading the team into the European Cup competition having twice won the English league title. At around that time, I was happily enjoying Russ' first LP and thought that cover shot was brilliant. So much so, that I decided I wanted a haircut just like Russ's.

We had a very good hairdresser tucked away on a back street just outside the city centre at the time. The guy who ran it was called John Borrington. The Borrington family had a history of cutting hair. Ivy Borrington, presumably his Mother, had been cutting hair at a shop near my primary school back in the 1960s. John was gaining a big reputation and used to cut Brian Clough's hair, along with all the Derby County stars. On top of that, nearby was a venue called Talk of the Midlands, which used to host a lot of variety stars like Tommy Cooper, Ken Dodd and err, well, lots of other comedians, singers and bands. It wasn't really my scene at that time, hence the mental block. Anyway, one or two of these acts used to call at John Borringtons to get their hair cut, as his reputation had reached as far as London.

One day, I had the brilliant idea of getting my hair cut to the style that Russ was wearing. Hmm, I thought. How do I describe this style to the barber? A light bulb flashes in my head and I decide that if I'm going for a celebrity haircut, then I ought to use a hairdresser that deals with the stars. Furthermore, in for a penny, in for a pound. If I can't describe the hairstyle, then why not just take the LP into town.

[Sue: See attachment for the look Dave was hoping to achieve!]

So, when Saturday arrived, I got the bus into town then walked the 15 minute journey to John Borrington's little back street shop. It didn't look like a celebrity hairdresser's premises. It just looked like a double sized version of my local barber's shop. A peep through the window suggested that there wasn't a queue, and certainly no star footballers or comedians. Little did I know that there was also no John Borrington either. By this time, his reputation meant that he was spending a lot of time down "the smoke". London was beckoning and I'm not 100% sure, but I think he eventually ended up opening a salon down there. A case of Muhammed and mountains. Anyway, after about ten minutes, I was called up to a vacant chair by a young lady who asked me how I wanted my hair cutting. Now feeling embarrassed, I pulled out my Russ Ballard LP and said "Like that please". The hairdresser started asking me about Russ, his musical style and what songs she might know. She also, said he looked handsome, which was more the pity when she informed me that my type of hair would make it very difficult to produce the "Russ" look. She ended up trimming my hair to exactly the same style as my normal barber, John "slasher" Scales, but instead of charging me £2.50 I was required to pay £12.50. That was in the mid 70s when even top footballers struggled to earn a crust.

Well, you live and learn. Who would have thought of visiting a hairdresser that styles Ken Dodd's mullet? Also, I paid £12.50 for what was probably the equivalent nowadays of a YTS trainee, John Borrington probably lying on a beach in the Caribbean by this time. But I saved the best point of the story until last. By the time I was due for my next cut, I reverted to using the steady and reliable and cheaper Slasher Scales, who kindly pointed out to me in front of a packed shop, that I appeared to be losing a few hairs. Almost like a cabaret artist, he announced to the waiting customers that he'd not seen me for 6 months but my hair had definitely thinned in that time, adding "His hair was that long that one day I was cutting it and found his school cap". Good old John, still alive but retired. Eccentric but reliable...and cheap!! I wonder what became of John Borrington?

That's my story...a true tale!! All I can add is thank God I didn't decide to take up boxing when the Winning LP arrived!!!

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