



Banner made by Sven Kramer with photo by Eva Bubek-Louis of musicmirror.de

Hi Everyone,

Many thanks to Sven Kramer with input from Irene Enghardt for coming up with this amazing banner to promote Russ's gig in Lisbon on 28th September 2013. This gig is a one-off chance to see Russ perform with his band.

The story in the May newsletter was from Sven and I apologise for not including his name in all the mailings. Sven has a website with some good photos of Russ. <http://www.krameronline.eu>

Russ played with Argent at the charity gig at The Waterside Theatre in Aylesbury on Sunday, 2nd June. This was to raise funds for 17 year old

Johnny Beer Timms, who broke his neck in a trampoline accident in 2011. It was a wonderful gathering of friends playing amazing music together. The highlights of the first half were the Moon Dogs (Johnny's dad, Derik Timms's band), seven guitarists playing together (what a sound!) and members of Marillion doing David Bowie songs (Life on Mars and All The Young Dudes). The second half was first, the Zombies in top form and then, what we had been waiting for...Argent, sadly, playing their last gig together! It was a short set starting with It's Only Money and going into Keep On Rolling, Since You've Been Gone, Hold Your Head Up and God Gave Rock 'n' Roll To You. The entire audience were on their feet at the end so we had a surprise, unrehearsed encore...Baby, What You Want Me To Do.

You have seen videos of all the other songs so, thanks to Brian Barry, here is the encore...one you might not have seen before.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P7ZY0lewD30>

NEWS

From Christian Ballard: *"Dad and I will be mixing a live album, which was recorded in Europe in 2007. This will be available, on CD, on Russ's website and at all gigs. Russ will be writing a new album, which could, hopefully, be released next year. This will either be new songs or acoustic renditions of old hits. We would be interested in knowing what the majority of fans would like to hear."*

Russ has been involved with the latest album of Portuguese singer, Vania Marotti.



Some of the songs on the album were written by Russ and his songwriting partner, Chris Winter. Vania says, "Russ's help as my mentor in this project and collaboration was a privilege for me and all the team."

The name of the album is **RISING** and it's project name is **WHITE PEARL** (www.facebook.com/whitepearlmusic). It is being released in June by Sony Music Entertainment (soon available on iTunes). The single from the album, "Where the River Meets the Sea" was written by Chris Winter.

Here you can see Russ and Vania on stage together in Lisbon. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2kSXnF_AdF0

YOUR QUESTIONS

Is it true that Russ Ballard was once considered as a replacement for Ian Hunter in Mott The Hoople? Was he contacted by the band?

Russ: " *It's funny, I didn't know about the 'Mott The Hoople' thing until we played 'The Robin' in Wolverhampton, where some guys asked me the same question....No, I was never approached by the band.*"

YOUR STORIES and MEMORIES

From Marsie Hall Newbold.

I have been a fan of Russ's (and had a HUGE fan-girl crush on him) since seeing 'Argent' perform "Hold Your Head Up" on the Midnight Special back in 1973. In May of 1974, 'Argent' played at the University of Cincinnati Fieldhouse, opening for 'The Doobie Brothers.' That was the first concert I ever attended. I was fortunate enough to meet Russ while the 'Doobies' were playing and he was kind enough to invite me and my best friend backstage where he introduced us to Rod, Robert and Jim. He made certain that we received autographs (on an "In Deep" bumper sticker which I wish I could locate today!) and even signed my arm, which I did not wash for some time.

When Russ left 'Argent' to do his own tour with the 'Winning' album, I was a freshman in college and Features Editor for our college paper. He and his band played Bogarts, a local indie club for two nights. My friends and I attended all four shows and Russ allowed me to interview him. (Again, I wish I could put my hands on that article!) I was so nervous and excited about sitting so close to my idol and interviewing him, my hands shook so much I could barely write. I remember getting back to the newspaper office and thinking my notes looked more like a lie detector test...all that up and down business...rather than writing! Oh, to be 17-18 again! I even remember what I wore, a yellow sun dress with a little bow choker and huge false eyelashes! I tried to be so cool! Again, Russ B. was so gracious and even allowed me to inspect (actually hold!) that famous guitar with the holes! He and his band were very sweet to me and my pals, though I'm sure he thought I was quite hilarious!

To unsubscribe from these email newsletters, please reply to this email and ask me to remove your name.