



(Banner thanks to Sven Kramer)

A big welcome to our new readers. This is the first newsletter of our fifth year! Please feel free to contribute....write your Russ story, send a question, a photo, a letter or anything Russ related.

If you haven't heard the 20 Questions interview before, have a listen and you will learn more about Russ. Russ is happy to answer questions like that for the newsletter so, have a think and send me some original questions that he can get his teeth into. Thanks to those who have already sent in some interesting questions over the years.

Some good news about a couple of Russ's songs!

Sue

## THIS MONTH

*Russ: "At last, the mixes are finished. Although I'd mixed 'Time Machine' three times, I really wanted my son Christian to do a version - he said he would, he did, and it sounds great.*

*Christian has been writing and producing with a great singer, called Alex Hepburn, Alex is signed to Warner Brothers Records and WB are placing a lot of faith in her. Three weeks ago Alex asked if we could get together and write around the piano, which is what we did and I believe the songs we wrote are strong. A few days later Alex flew to Los Angeles to finish some*

*thing she started with some other people....I'm pleased to say, she's back and is working here tomorrow. She has what I call a 'lived in' voice which is very moving.*

*A week or so ago, my publisher phoned to tell me I have two songs being used, one for the Film 'Guardians of The Galaxy' and another for the game of the same name...."New York Groove" is being used for the adverts of the movie and "I Surrender" for the game. That's a great thing about songs, they can keep coming back for the new generation.....I wrote 'New York Groove' in 1975 and 'I Surrender' in 1978...."*

## THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Russ:

*'The Wave'*

*"The Wave effect is something that certainly seems to work - and we are the organisms that can be the Wave....Just as a wave in the ocean builds with energy and becomes bigger, so does positive action. I believe loving actions produce loving actions just as aggression produces aggression. Children are heavily influenced by older people and I believe that being a parent is a big responsibility....We can be a positive wave or a negative one.....Let's be positive.*

*Enjoy this great Spring weather....it's an amazing time of year, isn't it! - Be with you next Month."*

## QUESTION

I have a question for Russ -

Do you like going to the theatre? Do you have a favourite Play and Playwright?

Many Thanks

Russ: *"Well, to be honest, I usually get fidgety in the theatre...I like the idea, "Oh yeah, live theatre, lets go" Then when I get there, almost invariably, I can't wait to get out. I say 'almost invariably', because there have been some that I adore....in 1965 there was a great show at The Cambridge Theatre in London, called, 'Wait A Minim' featuring a South African cast. Also, 'Beyond The Fringe' was fantastic...that show had an amazing cast, Peter Cook, Dudley Moore, Jonathan Miller and Alan Bennet. The thing they have in common is, they're very funny. Any successful show must have a great story or book....I loved 'West Side Story'.....George Bernard Shaw's 'Pygmalion' was turned in to a wonderful musical, 'My Fair Lady' - West Side Story and My Fair Lady are my favourite musicals and I play the songs on the piano, just for my own pleasure. I did get a phone call from my dear friend Adam Faith many years ago, he asked me to go in to London and see the dress rehearsal of 'Budgie, The Musical' - The show wasn't very successful, I believe, because the story wasn't strong."*

## ADAM FAITH

Russ sometimes mentions Adam here and, as many of us know, 8th March was the 14th anniversary of Adam's untimely death. Here, for the many of us who go back that far, is another great photo of Russ with Adam and the Roulettes; one I hadn't seen before.



Photo thanks to Victor Farthing

## 20 QUESTIONS

We had this interview in the newsletter before....18 months ago...but as we have had a lot of new readers since then and also, as it seems to be

doing the rounds on Facebook again, it is well worth including it again. Russ is answering questions from Rob Jones for the Wireless London Radio station.

<https://youtu.be/ifyHi9Mwwf0>



## [Russ Ballard 20 Questions from The Wireless London Radio Station](#)

[youtu.be](#)

Russ answers a great selection of questions from Rob Jones on life music, and his new album 'It's Good To Be Here'. (Umu Music) The interview was recorded in...

## RECORDED BY OTHERS

I Surrender, soon to be used in a game, was the opening track on Rainbow's fifth studio album, *Difficult To Cure*, released in 1981. It was the band's highest charting single reaching #3.

<https://youtu.be/EJ29pVhsdMs>



[Rainbow - I Surrender](#)

[youtu.be](#)

Una maravilla de canción y disco