



(Banner by Sven Kramer)

A big welcome to our new readers. Please feel free to join in and contribute...anything Russ related.

Things have settled down again now after the tour and Russ is back in the studio. I for one can't wait to hear the result of this.

Many thanks to those of you who have contributed to this newsletter.

Sue

THIS MONTH

Russ: After our short tour I took some time off and had some quality time with the kids, watching Archie, Emilio, Lennie and Elodie take part part in their passions...the Boys in training and then matches and three year old Elodie doing ballet and gymnastics....watching kids develop is inspiring.....ten days ago, I spent the day at Tottenham's training ground

watching the Boys, it's very emotional. On the subject of Spurs - this Premiership side is playing the best football I've seen at White Hart Lane and I think the fans deserve it...

This past week I've been back in the studio and been particularly inspired....It might sound crazy to many people, but I wake up in the early hours and write lyrics - the problem is, I can't get back to sleep, because I'm always thinking of the next line...I turn off the light, think of another line, I turn the light back on and write another...Oh well! it's a wonderful madness....then, I can't wait to get back in to the studio and put down the ideas. I know I go on about finding a passion in life...but life becomes so uplifting and blissful. Anyway, I call it blissful...if it is madness, then it's a great madness.

I spoke to all my dear Friends from The Roulettes, Bob Henrit, Mod Rogan and Pete Thorp...We've decide, we should take a trip over to Leighton Buzzard and see our Friends from The Baron Knights.....Pete and Butch came to see us at The Stables and we had a great chin wag - We became friends in 1965, when we toured together, along with Adam Faith and Sandy Shaw....those were the days!

Sada Vidoo flew to to England two weeks ago she's recording and writing and while she was here, she wrote a song with Christian...She's a lot of fun. Sada is now managed by Alan Whitehead - Remember him? _ he was the drummer in The Marmalade years ago....In 1972, Argent and Marmalade did a TV Show in Hamburg and for while we became Friends, however, Alan had left the group, so we never met....until a few days ago when he brought Sada here.....They've both gone to L.A. to do a T.V. show, We intend to get together when they're back.... [See attachments for photo of Sada and Alan in LA.]

That's about it... I'll let you know how the songs develop next month....Peace and Love.....X

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Russ: *When I was young, my Dad sometimes used to say to me "You've got your head in the clouds, Boy," - Well, I always thought it was a good place to be....although, I know what he meant, I think he was telling me to "Come back to, 'NOW'" - I think he was saying, "Don't waste your life day dreaming, because whatever you're dreaming probably won't happen anyway" - Then years ago I heard Dan Millman say, "The best way to live is with your head in the clouds and your feet on the ground" - That sounds pretty good to me.*

TOUR

In the last newsletter Russ mentioned that newsletter reader, Ian, had introduced him at Nell's in London. Here is Ian's intro and the chat at the beginning of the gig. Good to hear the chat as well as the songs.

<https://youtu.be/kQPIr-KpMq0>

INTERVIEW

On 3rd March 2016, Russ appeared on Big Central TV, which is a local Midlands TV channel, on a programme called Life Stories. A good, interesting half hour interview. Good to see him talking on TV.

<http://www.bigcentre.tv/life-stories>

YOUR QUESTION

Is the song 'Like Father Like Son' from 'The Book of Love' album a very personal song to Russ?

Russ: *"'Like Father Like Son' - Yes, it is very personal...You know, my Dad was a very loving, caring, emotional person, but he wasn't particularly tactile - [Which seemed to be the way, when I was young] - He hugged me when I was young, but not when I was older...Because he appeared to be embarrassed around 'Touchy/Feely' situations. Because I felt his embarrassment, it stopped me hugging him...However, as I say in the lyric, he did express his emotions more after a pint or two, or a Southern Comfort!! I wrote the song because I'm sure there must be many boys/Men in that situation with their Father...I was just trying to say "Do it...You might start a wave, then, things will change" It's strange, I hug everybody...but I couldn't hug my Dad. Thanks for the question."*

Like Father Like Son <https://youtu.be/FawloX-Wjls>

RECORDED BY OTHERS

At the Derby gig, they were treated to a snippet of 'Winning'. Winning sort of sums up the beginning of Russ's year so here is Santana...

<https://youtu.be/OFmPg4lrBKc>

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