



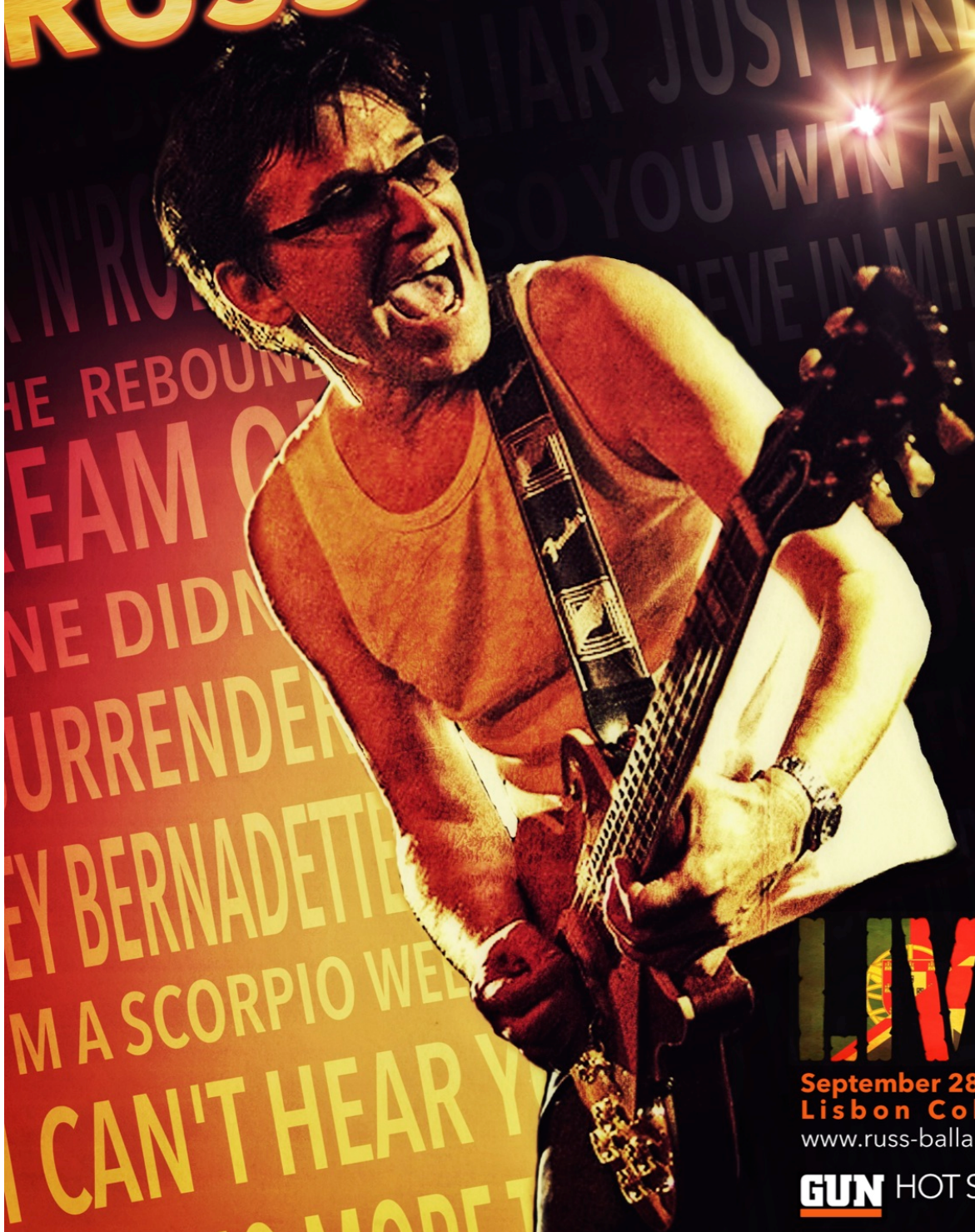
"The time has come". It is September and almost time for Russ's gig in Lisbon, which I know is being eagerly anticipated. I hope those who are going have a brilliant time.

To finish off the promotion for the gig, Sven Kramer has produced both a banner and a poster. Many thanks to Sven for all his work in promoting this gig. Thanks also to Hans-W. Rock for the use of his photo on the poster. Please use both on Facebook to spread the word for Russ.

designed by
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RUSS BALLARD

Original photo of Russ © Hans-W. Rock
see <http://fc-foto.de/9021352>



LIVE

September 28 2013
Lisbon Coliseu
www.russ-ballard.com

GUN HOT STUFF

For recent updates from Russ Ballard, simply send an email to: russ.b.news@hotmail.co.uk
and you will receive the official newsletter or visit his music page on facebook

Russ live in Lisbon in 2009.

<http://youtu.be/pCLkeZbU3ys>

This is now Russ's 7th monthly newsletter...over half the first year. Thank you to everyone who has sent feedback. It is good to know you enjoy reading the newsletter and which bits you like best. Please keep the feedback coming. Don't forget to send your questions and stories. Russ reads every newsletter before it goes out so you are bringing back memories for him too.

Sue.

NEWS

Last week Russ did an interview for Team Rock Radio. He was interviewed by Kylie Olsson for the AOR Magazine Show. You can hear it here but it looks as if it will be available only until Saturday or Sunday. The date on it is 1st September and it says it will be available for 7 days. It is in the second part of the show and starts at about 1:04:40 and lasts about 40 minutes.

<http://www.teamrockradio.com/shows/the-aor-magazine-show>

Russ has recently been writing songs with Lynne Jackaman from the band, St Jude. They have written 3 songs together and another 3 with Christian and Lisa Greene.

Russ occasionally plays with the RD Crusaders, a "super group" with various members. He is playing a gig with them on 12th September at Cambridge University. The band on this occasion will be Russ, Greg Lake, Richard Desmond, Zoot Money, Nikki Lamborn, Steve Smith and Dave Howman. This is a closed gig so, sadly, no tickets available for the public.

RD Crusaders was created in 2003 by Richard Desmond, drummer and Express News chairman, and Roger Daltrey to raise money for charities, the Teenage Cancer trust and others. The line-up varies and has, in the past, included Lulu and Robert Plant.

A video of Russ performing with RD Crusaders with the wonderful Nikki Lamborn on vocals.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gzv2jbdGJoA>

YOUR QUESTIONS

A few years ago in Kerrang I saw mention of Russ in a diary column called "On This Day". Can't recall the year but it said Russ was "electrocuted" while playing with Argent in Germany, but luckily escaped with burns. Does he recall the incident? What caused it and how serious an incident was it? e.g. hospitalised, cancelled gigs etc?

Russ: *"Yes, I was electrocuted in Frankfurt 'Zoom' Club....I was playing with Argent and our great friend and roadie Fred Wilkinson said, as we took the stage....""Don't touch the mics, they're alive" ...I did and the mic. attached itself to my right hand and the guitar strings burned in to my left hand...I still have the scars. The ambulance took me to hospital and they tested my heart....it was scary."*

YOUR STORIES

MEETING RUSS - PART 2 From Brian Barry.

It's now 2005 and I really HAVE found the girl of my dreams, Jacqui, and living in Hertfordshire. A gig came up at a London guitar show at the ExCel. None other than our hero... Russ Ballard was going to be MD for an all-star charity gig. Lord Lucan and Shergar seem have been spotted more often than Russ has! I was going to make sure I was at the front for this one. Waiting outside the hall seemed to last an age. But still, it wasn't seated and I would be amongst the first in. The doors opened and I rushed in to get to the front of the stage. Except there was already a sizable crowd in! It was also a bit of a shindig for HELLO magazine or something like that,

and the place seemed to be full of models and some celebs. Undeterred, I pushed my way past golfer Nick Faldo before elbowing a couple of models out of the way to take my rightful place at the front.

Right in front of me...there it was in all its glory..a Marshall stack that must surely belong to Russ. Then he came onstage, and for the first time in over 30 years, Russ Ballard was standing in front of me with his Les Paul ready to rock. And he did rock! He did a fantastic job playing with the likes of Steve Harley and Lulu. It was just a great gig, although most of it washed over me due to the awesomeness of just seeing Russ live.

I was on my way out after the gig when I saw Robert Hart, who had made an album with Russ and was on the bill that day. He was talking to someone by the security barrier. I went over and told Robert that I really liked his album and how much it meant to me seeing Russ live after all these years. To my amazement he said, "Well I'll have to introduce you then!" He told the security guy I was a friend and he opened barrier to let me in.

Poor Jacqui had gone looking for a bottle of water at this point, as Robert took me backstage and introduced me to Russ! They say you should never meet your heroes, but in this case Russ couldn't have been any friendlier. He was an absolute gem. We spoke about the Glasgow gigs; EVERYONE who played the Glasgow Apollo remembers just how dangerously high the stage was. He had nothing but kind words for the other members of Argent and he introduced me to Lulu as well. I was in a bit of a haze. I've been lucky enough to meet a few artists in the music business, but the fact that Russ is so rarely seen in the UK live, AND is one of my favourite song-writers, was just a bit special.

Half an hour later I finally left and went looking for Jacqui. I checked my phone to find a text message from her. It said "You're backstage, aren't you?" She knows me all right!

Of course, Argent DID reform and we went to see them at the Shepherd's Bush Empire. We were lucky enough to get seats for the front row, and what a thrill it was for me to see the band again after all these years. After an amazing gig, and while everyone was still cheering, something happened to show just what a cool and considerate guy Russ must be. Out of all the people he must meet in his day to day life, he actually walked across the stage to me, and with a big smile, he held out his hand

for me to shake and said, "Its Brian, isn't it?" I was stunned. He then started to CHAT to me, while the rest of the band was calling on him to do a last bow with them!

We've seen Argent a few times since, and the only thing that slightly bothers me now, is just how gorgeous Jacqui seems to think Russ is. She wouldn't shut up about him to all her friends! Still, all this would never have happened without her, and I love her for that.

What this rambling tale tells, is that from my first love to my last love, Russ Ballard and his music have always been there like milestones, they've always been a big part of it. And for that I'm grateful to him. Thanks Russ.

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