



(Banner by Sven Kramer)

Once again, we are happy to welcome new readers. We welcome your contributions.

The big news this month is about Sada Vidoo. I know many of you have enjoyed hearing tracks from her album and it should be available to buy in the UK in November. Russ is working a lot with Sada at the moment.

Keep watching out for the hard copy CD of Russ's album, It's Good To Be Here. It should be available to buy from UMU Music soon.

Sue

## THIS MONTH

Russ: *"Here we are in Autumn - Who would believe it! - As I sit here, hitting the keys of my i Book, the temperature outside is touching 30*

degrees, for the second day in a row and we're promised the same tomorrow....Amazing! as we're more that a third of the way through September - Oh! I'm not complaining by the way, I love the sun and heat.

So, what happened that I can tell you about August? - I'll just take a look at my i Phone calendar.....Tuesday, Aug. 2nd. Says Martin Costello - Martin is my Publisher and keeps me updated on many things, not only song publishing but also the music industry and what's going on with record companies and who is buying who in the Music World....Strange, I remember how the music world was the 'Place to be' - Record shops were full of fans and singles and albums were selling millions - and it seemed, everyone knew what songs were entering the charts....of course, 'Top of The Pops' kept us up to date. I can recall how CBS Records - [My record company in the seventies] - would fill the hotels of Park Lane in London, with Record Executives, just for their Record Convention. The convention lasted a week and each evening CBS Artists would perform. In 1972, Argent showcased 'Hold Your Head Up' at The Grosvenor Hotel... Magic Moments! - Also, that week, I was invited back there to see Boz Scaggs and The Beach Boys....In 1978 I flew to the CBS Convention in New Orleans...It was organized for Mardi Gras week - [That was worth seeing] - New Orleans CBS Convention was along the same lines as London. The night I attended included, a new group, called, 'Meatloaf' - Meat, as I learned, was the name of the singer and he turned out to be a great performer. Also on the show was Teddy Pendergrass, and Eddy Money. I also remember the group Heart was presented as a new signing....and all this was payed for by record sales.....Well! You know what they say, 'Change' is a Law of the Universe - and the Music Business has certainly changed.....

Aug. 3rd It says, Perce and Edna.....They're my Uncle and Aunt. Perce is 98 years old and Edna, 95. When I was a kid we used to take holidays with P and E and their son David. Perce was a very talented carpenter and used to make all kinds of things from fab looking Fishing Rods to Furniture and Guitars...I happened to phone P and E the morning before to see how they're doing and Edna said " Oh, Russell, Perce is in North Middlesex Hospital, he had a fall" I went to Enfield the next day and took Edna to

*the Hospital to see Perce. He is an amazing man. I spent two hours talking about old times, how my Dad would say, 'Oh Perce was a great footballer, you know' and 'Oh, see that house there...Perce built that, all by himself''*

*P. had a smile on his face and Edna did say, It did him good to see me...It certainly did me good to see him.*

*Most days I still spend writing songs and putting ideas down in my studio, however, I occasionally have visits from old mates and on Aug. 15th I had a call from Alan Wicket - Alan is an old friend from the middle seventies. When I left Argent in 1974, I formed a group to do a short tour of America and Alan was the drummer. We had a good time in the States, playing five nights at the Bottom Line in New York, Ohio, Chicago, San Francisco and Five nights at The Roxy in L.A.....We worked together after we returned from The U.S. recording Old Grey Whistle Test....Alan also played on my demo of my song for Hot Chocolate 'So You Win Again'. When Alan arrived we sat in my garden and chatted about old times and he has some great stories about his time with Lonnie Donegan and Van Morrison.*

*Another good Friend, Sada Vidoo came over to see us. Maybe you saw her on X Factor, she's the Human Doll and appeared to make a big impression with not only the Judges but also the watching TV audience. Many seemed to like the arrangement that Christian and I made of 'Love is a Battlefield'....it certainly looked and sounded impressive to me.....I believe she's on this coming weekend...try to catch her."*

## **THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH**

*Russ: "While I was writing about my uncle Perce, it made me think of a comment I made to him....I said, "What's the secret of reaching such an age, Perce"" - He said, I don't think I worry, Russ, and it certainly seems that way to me....he was always laid back, also, he was also probably the least ambitious person I have known, he didn't crave Fame - He was 'Happy with his lot' as they say. I do believe the competitive life that we live seems much like a Rat Race....I've written a song on my new album 'Good To Be Here' - The song is called 'Kickin' The Can' I used the line "Even If you win the Rat Race you'll still be a Rat" - Food for thought!"*

## SADA VIDEO

Since Sada appeared in the X Factor auditions, the video of her audition has had almost 1.5 million views on YouTube. If you saw X Factor you will remember her, if you didn't see it, try this. <https://youtu.be/dqY25YWDXCg>

Those readers who have been with us a while will remember that Russ and Christian worked with Sada on her album, A Story With No End. Russ, Sada and Christian wrote all of the songs except Love Is A Battlefield and Russ and Christian produced it. The single from that album, The Actress, is available from Amazon and iTunes and you can hear it here. [https://youtu.be/Hn1p\\_ODy8fY](https://youtu.be/Hn1p_ODy8fY)



Photo by Sada Vidoo

## QUICK QUESTIONS

What is your biggest bugbear?

*"I think the way animals are treated and exploited"*

Who would be your dream dinner party guests?

*"My dream dinner guest, David Attenborough"*

Cat or dog?



*"Strange, we have cats at the moment, although, I'm more of a Dog Man"*

Career plan B?

*"The only things I really wanted to do in life were Music or Football"*

## LETTERS

I didn't realise Russ had written so many songs for America (only knew about 'Magic'). Husband and I have been huge fans of theirs since 1969/70 and have been to many of their concerts over here; first one being in 1971 and the last one a few years ago at the Symphony Hall, both in Birmingham. Gerry Beckley sang a song personally to me at the 'meet and greet' they always do after their concerts because I complained he hadn't included it in their set!

Sandra

As some of you (included Russ) may know, I deeply LOVE America, and discovered them as a kid when these two albums came out, and knew since then Russ was on them. That's the very first time I got to know about Russ too. Hence, 1982/1983... wonderful days for me, I was about 10, it's the kind of thing that will never ever come back again and it's magic also because of that.

Those two albums were my very first choice musically speaking: I had been a passive listener up till then (obviously!), I sort of fancied The Police quite a lot but never had one of their tapes, then mummy bought these two albums through a younger friend of hers who had been into much of the stuff from the '70s... BLESS HIM!!!

If you asked me to sing along any song from 'View from the Ground' and 'Your Move', just pick any of them, I'll do, as I've always done.

To be honest, the Australian pair who wrote the 'Your Move' tune (Shaddick and Kipner) had also written 'Physical' for Olivia Newton-John, and I actually love both of these tunes... this can't erase the feeling I get when I listen to 'You Can Do Magic', 'My Kinda Woman', 'Jody', 'She's a Runaway', 'Tonight Is for Dreamers', 'Love's Worn Out Again', etc...

I caught up with both Gerry and Dewey backstage in Rome in year 2004,

two friendly chaps (especially Dewey), it was such a splendid moment for me, I didn't even try and speak, just wanted to shake their hands and hug them, no pics (didn't have a camera back then)...

One day I'll manage to do the same with you, Russ.

Last but not least: hope Tottenham will make it this year, most of all I

hope Rangers will keep fronting up Celtic until winning another

Premiership after 5 years... come on the white and blue, in both cases! ;-)

Gianmaria

## YOUR STORIES

From Kim Hicks

I first saw Russ Ballard at The Marquee in 1976, I was 18 and just started work in London.

A colleague of mine had two tickets to see Russ but couldn't go so gave them to me.

I couldn't find anyone to go with me, can you believe, so went alone.

I was terrified, so shy, and only used to listening to the boys from school playing in the church hall.

That evening Russ and his Band made a fan for life. They were truly fabulous. I didn't want to leave but had to get the last train home.

Next morning I was late for work. I wanted to buy Russ's album as soon as the big record store on Oxford Street opened at 9am.

I played it on repeat all the time (Sorry Mum and Dad) and still play the same copy to this day.

Every LP and CD later Russ has remained my favourite artist. He did have a rival for my affection in 1978 when I saw Robbie Robertson in The Last Waltz but that only lasted a month - sorry Robbie!

No pictures I'm sad to say, just a wonderful memory of an remarkable evening back in 1976.

Thank you so much Russ!

Please never stop doing what you do!

## RECORDED BY OTHERS

We have had The Pointer Sisters' version of this song, Come and Get Your Love before. Here is Roger Daltrey's version, sometimes listed as Get Your Love. There is a great guitarist in this video!!!

<https://youtu.be/ZyBEWkyZBjs>

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