

This was October 2013



Banner by....Sven Kramer!

What a build up! Everybody who is remotely interested in Russ and is on Facebook, must have been very aware of the concert at "Lisboa Coliseu" on Saturday 28th September 2013. There were around 500 posters spread around Lisbon. The artwork for the show - all those posters, the big image at the Coliseum, the flyers, promotion in newspapers and magazines - was done by Nuno Feliz for Studio N45". He did a great job! Photos by Nuno.





The promoter for this concert and the person who made it all happen is Emanuel Goncalves working as Djaor Emanuel for Remember Minds.



A lot of the promotion on Facebook was through Sven Kramer's clever banners and posters. I would like to thank Sven for letting us, here on the newsletter, have the first glimpse of them and I was happy to be able to send them out to be spread across Facebook. Other photos and one video in this newsletter are also thanks to Sven. You can see more of Sven's Lisbon photos on his website... <http://www.krameronline.eu>



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"In The Night".

<http://youtu.be/YKZQL6j2gKs>



[Russ Ballard In The Night Live Lisbon Coliseu,](#)  
[September 28 2013](#)

[youtu.be](#)

Russ Ballard - Live at Lisbon Coliseu 2013. Video of the memorable one-off show in Lisbon. An unbelievable crowd singing along this great musician made this ...

From what people have told me it seems that this was so much more than just a concert, it was an "experience". And, what is remarkable is that Russ wasn't due on stage until 11pm and he then did 100 minutes!

The set list

## **Russ Ballard Lisbon September 28<sup>th</sup> 2013**

- 1. Rene'**
- 2. It's My Life**
- 3. Dream on**
- 4. I cant hear you no more**
- 5. In the night**
- 6. Fire still burns**
- 7. A woman like you**
- 8. Hope**
- 9. Playing with fire**
- 10. Once a rebel**
- 11. Hey Bernadette**
- 12. Time**
- 13. Time is gonna come**
- 14. God gave rnr to you**
- 15. Voices**
- 16. Since you been gone**

**Encore;**

**Two Siouettes Hold your head up On the Rebound - It's Too Late - Little Queenie**

**The audience!**



There are lots of videos on YouTube and you will see some on the "Russ Ballard" Facebook page. If you haven't seen it yet, why not have a look and give it a like. Russ has recently put a comment on there himself.

Thank you to Russ, Irene Enghardt and Sven Kramer for taking us to the concert with them in their reports!



## RUSS'S THOUGHTS ON THE GIG....

*"Playing 'Live' is a buzz and after playing such a gig as the Lisbon Coliseum makes me reflect on why I got in to music in the first place...It was to be in a group....not to write songs, although, that came pretty soon after."*



*The audience on Saturday [28th Sept] was as good as it can get - They were there to have a good time, and because they knew the songs, - they sang along with everything, It was brilliant.*

*Emanuel Goncalves, [the promoter], said he wanted to give me a special night....[actually, it's the second time] and both times he's succeeded. He is a special guy. I would like to send my heartfelt thanks to Emanuel and his family..... Maria, Martin, Joao, Mauricia and Andre.*

*Also, many friends were there and we were able to meet after the gig... Karis brought Emilio, that was great, he'd never seen me on stage before...I think he thought I was the gardener at home....*

*The frustrating thing for the band and myself is, it's a lot to learn, lyrics arrangements etc...not to do more....*

*It was also 'Quality Time' with dear friends - Bob Henrit, Chris Winter, Steve Smith and Bob Skeat.....sitting, having breakfast and dinner are magic moments.....everyone has funny stories they have gathered through the years and we never seem to exhaust them....They are the best!!*

*Thanks everyone who travelled there....you were 'Magic' and certainly made it so memorable for us who were on stage.*

*Much Love,*

*Russ"*

A link to "Dream On"

<http://youtu.be/gPWnZU9gWE8>

**FROM IRENE ENGHARDT AND SVEN KRAMER**

An evening of GREAT Music, Good Vibrations, Good Friends. Unforgettable.

Irene: When the news came out that Russ would be playing in Lisbon, first thought that went through me was: Oh how I wish to see that and also see that city as I'd never been there before. Nor had I ever seen Russ play live on stage with his own band and this had become one of my big dreams ever since I got acquainted with his solo work via MySpace. That was in May 2009. When I started out there with a profile, I reminisced a lot with my son on the good old 70's when I was his age and while showing you tube clips of bands I used to like back then I came to Argent and via a tag I saw the name of Russ which prompted me to visit his MS-page. Book of Love blew me away and furthermore..I actually found out that many big hit songs that I had at home for years ("I Know There's Something Going On", "You Can do Magic", "I Surrender", "Since You Been Gone"etc..) were actually written by him! Next thing was that I found myself buying most of his albums, seeing video's of his earlier tours..and the thought materialised to let it happen. Due to moving house my son and I actually didn't get a proper summer holidays, so the decision was made to treat ourselves to a long weekend in (what we hoped would be sunny) Portugal..Adding to the pleasure was knowing we'd even be sharing this experience with 2 very nice friends from Germany, Sven and his wife Yasmine.

Sven: Well, immediately after i heard the news about the Lisbon show i thought to myself: Hey Russ, this is our 10th anniversary, i have to go there! Some people might know via my website, the first time i saw Russ perform live, was the summer of 2003 and could there be a better place to celebrate this personal anniversary than Lisbon? So i told my wife about this - admittedly slightly crazy plan - and that it is a matter of the heart for me, to be part of the show. Celebrating an anniversary is always a pleasure, but it's even better to celebrate with friends. And so we teamed up with Irene and Daniel in Lisbon and we met a very special guest there.

Irene: The evening of our arrival, the day before the concert, we had the honour of having dinner with Vania Marotti who also would join our little group of friends for the concert. Vania, a friend and protégé of Russ', was in the middle of many promotional activities for her White Pearl single release "Where the River Meets The Sea" (mentioned in an earlier newsletter) and we reminisced about the 2009 concert Russ gave in Campo Pequeno stadium, where she joined him on stage to sing the "hits-for/by-others medley". It was fun to end up on the streets close to Coliseu that evening doing acapella trio singing of her songs! We agreed to meet up the next evening when we'd have dinner with Sven and Yasmine before the concert. It looked like the tone was set: only good vibes and cheerfulness, so we didn't care about the almost constant rains that stayed with us the entire weekend.

Sven: Oh yes, good vibes we had this evening. And what lucky guys we were to meet Vania and had dinner all together? She is a wonderful person and a brilliant singer!

Irene: After dinner we entered the hall around 21.30 pm.. We had been told, when we collected our backstage passes, that Russ wouldn't be on before 23.00. We decided to not dine in a hurry but we did want to see Gun as well. We had had vague hopes of being able to get really close to the stage...well, we could forget about that!! The hall was PACKED with people and from where we stood initially, we couldn't see a thing of what went on on stage. It was a big thrill however to notice the ambiance in the crowd. This is what every musician craves for, I have no doubt about that. But we did feel we had to do something to get a better view when the Maestro would make his appearance...

Sven: Magnificent! That's the only thing i could stumble as we entered the witch's cauldron named Coliseu Lisbon. No matter in which direction we turned, there were only exuberant people singing along the hits of GUN - an excellent band that made a stunning show. Could there be a better band to play support act to Russ? On this evening probably not. And so we left the centre of the hall and due to our Access all areas-pass we went directly to the right side of the stage, where we had an extraordinary view to the stage and an overwhelming view right at the crowd. What does a musician feel when he stands up there in front of so many people singing along the hits - must be indescribable. But it was the same to us - so close to the stage was a great spot.

Irene: Yes, it was a great spot to be next to the stage. Good view on the artists and crowd and even better sound there than in front of the stage..at least a bit milder to the ears.. We also were lucky there to meet and greet a few of the FB friends who had been involved in the organisation, Djaor and Nuno to name but a few. As Gun finished their (excellent) set and the roadies started to rebuild the stage to accommodate Russ and his band, we could clearly feel the anticipation in the crowd. That's a very interesting feeling, some form of rising tension... growing stronger by the minute..and when Russ entered the stage around 23.15 pm with a sizzling "René didn't do it", it all exploded in an eruption of crowd cheering, chanting and singalongs.

Sven: This was one of the most moving moments in my life i can tell you. The tension was rising to a level, which was nearly unbearable. And then this fantastic band entered the stage to start a firework of hits and the built-up tension metabolised to pure joy and energy! From the first song one thing was clear and i never saw this before in such an ecstasy: Portugal loves Russ Ballard and Russ loves to play live. So hopefully he will do more shows in the future. Russ was such a stage-hog! Privileged to be at the side of the stage, i had the opportunity to make fantastic photos of Russ in action, even right in front of the stage - this is something you don't do every day, this is priceless.

Irene: Yes, excellent space for Sven to take brilliant photo's and even after we had been relocated halfway through the concert, due to his fabulous equipment Sven could continue to take tons of pictures of both band and crowd. It was clear to me that Portugal LOVES Russ, and in particular his material from the 80's has remained a big thing there. In his set that exceeded 100 minutes, it was so thrilling to notice how the crowd and Russ came to interact during big songs like "The Fire Still Burns", "Dream On",

“In the Night”, “Voices”, “Rebel”.. Even the quiet and gentle intermezzo of Chris Winter playing “Hope” was impressive! It was almost surreal to let it sink in that we actually were there. This Legend owned the stage with a band so tight and well rehearsed it should be something to have happen many more times, in many other countries! Steve Smith, Chris Winter, Bob Skeat and his eminence Bob Henrit are and always will be magnificent musicians. As is the Legend himself.

Sven: Indeed, Irene. Would be so good if Russ would play more gigs in several countries. In my opinion he is in top shape these days and his fans love to see him live on stage. His songs really work with a huge crowd. They all sang along his hits and the live-versions are quite special. When i think about the intro from „Voices“ i already get goosepimples again or the absolutely stunning version of „Hey Bernadette“. He is a pure genius on stage. I had the luck to see him 2003 and 2007 in Germany and i definitely will travel for him again, to Lisbon, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom - or New York, Rio, Tokio? -just a joke. Well, back to the story! After the concert our tension rose again. We walked backstage and Michael from A.S.S concerts led us up to the dressing rooms, where we had the opportunity to meet the band and the Maestro!

Irene: Fantastic moment indeed, to enter the dressing rooms area and be welcomed by Russ in such a warm and kind way. It was evident that he was absolutely happy with the concert and the good friends surrounding him before, during and after the gig. As was to be expected there were many good people backstage, all eager to have his attention and talk with him and I can say that he gave his best to everyone there too. What a wonderful human being he is! And that goes also for his friends/band members who all were really nice to meet and talk to as well. Radio presenter Peter Ross was also there, and it was great to meet him in person too. Sven was delighted to hear Russ’ compliments on the beautiful banners he had been designing these past months.

Sven: Yes, what a moment! Of course there was only little time to speak with Russ, but i enjoyed it heartily. What a man he is. Had a beautiful talk with him about the banners and posters i did and the special t-shirt i designed for us and Russ as memory to this memorable day. It was also very lovely to be introduced to Peter Ross and had time to speak with Michael Bisping. Our ways crossed 10 years ago and in Lisbon we first met „live and in colour“ like a German saying goes.

Irene: Must say that around 2.30 am we felt that our legs could hardly keep us any longer and fatigue was starting to tell its own story..so we made our little round of saying goodbye to everyone and thank you for everything to Russ in particular, and walked our way back to our hotel, which was only about 5 minutes on foot from the venue. How convenient!! As we threw ourselves to horizontal position it was just after 3 am..still with all memories fresh in mind, “up” from the momentum. It wasn’t before 4 am that we actually took off to dreamland. Be sure that I now dream often of seeing more Russ Ballard concerts, a bit closer to home hopefully one day!! Unforgettable experience, really happy to have been there.

**Sven:** Yasmine and i said goodbye a few minutes earlier, our flight back home was in the night. And after all, if you - the readers - now ask „Was it all worth it?“ i can assure you: YES! All the stress we had was worth it. All the invested power by all of you was worth it. And i will do this everytime again - with these special friends, who made this unforgettable.



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