



Header by Sven Kramer

Welcome to this month's new readers. Please join in.

We found that the link between the website and the newsletter was broken. It is now fixed but there must have been a number of people who requested the newsletter but didn't get a response. We put a note on the Facebook page but, if you know of anyone who has said they tried, would you please tell them we are up and running again.

The 21st February is approaching rapidly. Have you ordered the new album yet? If not, and for new readers, I have put all the links you need in again below. Russ has been signing away like crazy.

Exciting news about the tours! The European tours are selling out rapidly and the dates are now out for the UK tour.

From Eddy Bonte in Belgium we have an article about the way he used a couple of tracks from Book Of Love. Sadly, the file with the radio programme was too big to add to the newsletter.

If you have wondered how Russ spends his time....read on!

Sue

THIS MONTH FROM RUSS

Hi, one and all. Here we are in February, I must say, it's good to see the lighter mornings and evenings arrive, and the daffodils sticking their head above the ground - for me, it's magic every year.... the promise of Spring.

I've said in Newsletters before, I have a simple life, well, not so much Sex, Drugs and Rock and Roll, just Rock and Roll, really. The musician's life becomes schizophrenic when an album is released. The simple life is interrupted by interviews, sometimes from home, other times, the drive in to London to the BBC, Talk Radio or Planet Rock - Although you're asked many of the same questions, there's always an excitement when the voice at the other end catches you out with a question you've never been asked....or if it has, I don't remember it.

I've decided to show my diary for January....Here's a glimpse in to my 'schizophrenic life.....

Jan, 3rd. — *Mod, Pete, Bob, here [Three of my closest mates....We were together in the sixties as The Roulettes, when we used to back Adam Faith....We couldn't make December, so, we thought we'd make this our Firm's Christmas 'Do' at PREZZO, These are quality moments.*

Jan, 6th. — *Mike Berry phoned to say "is it still on?" - The Roulettes had thought Mike was going to join us at PREZZO'S. It seemed Mike got the day wrong, however, - I phoned Bob and we three enjoyed an Italian lunch in Ware, Mike still has a brilliant career as a singer and actor.*

Jan. 8th — *Had a run along the farm bridlepath - Showered - Phoned my friends Mod and Margaret, Went in to studio, played guitar for an hour...went through arrangements of songs for the tours....lunch,*

Jan.10th — *Chilly morning - Ran for a while - Breakfast....Went in to studio and played guitar...Richard Cowell arrived at 12.15pm. Richard's my trainer, he's been putting me through my paces, most Fridays for fifteen years, he's always good fun....*

Jan.13th — *Radio DJ, Rob Sas phoned here to ask me about my new album "It's Good To Be Here" Rob's from Pure Rock Radio....*

Jan.15th — *At 4.30, I spoke to DJ Alan Jarvis at 242 Radio in Glasgow, He made "It's Good To Be Here" his album of the week. We had a great chat....What an 'Up' guy he sounded.*

Jan.16th —A BBC Day...10.00am. Wogan House. 10.15am: Radio Cornwall... 11.00am:- Donna Alos at Radio Hereford & Worcester: 14.45pm. BBC Radio Suffolk:...Then a six hour wait until Talk Radio, at 21.00...What to do? With my driver friend, Ryan, I saw '1917' then due to illness, TR, was cancelled. - To Be Rescheduled!

Jan.18th —Went to see my Grandson, Lennie, play football. He played really well and they won.....Came home watched football on TV

Jan.19th —I don't have anything down for this Sunday, however, it would have been either Grandson, Archie, who plays on Sundays, or, Grandson Emilio, who plays on the same day, so, I alternate the matches....After, guess what....I'll come home and watch football on TV.

Jan 20th. — Bob Henrit and Mike Steed came over for a first rehearsal for tour - after Bob's accident and new hip, I was worried if he would be fit enough.....He was brilliant....Bless him! We've decided to keep these regular rehearsals going.

Jan.21st— Chatted with Mod on phone. - Two phone interviews today.....'Fireworks' magazine at midday and 'Songwriting' mag, at 13.00.

Jan.23rd — Dentist at Midday - I drive all the way to Whetstone [a 45 minute drive, am I mad? no Douglas Miller's really good]

Jan.24th. — Into studio after running for a little while....I'm enjoying playing guitar everyday, it's like being sixteen again....Richard arrives just after midday....had a good workout.....

Jan.25th— My brother's Granddaughter, Caoimhe came, she asked if we could record something for the Australian fire fund. She suggested 'I Don't Believe in Miracles', I said I don't think it's a good choice for a charity...She agreed and we put down 'The Rose'. She's good that Caoimhe.....

Jan.25th - Continued — 17.00 TV Football. Then - Match of The Day on TV

Jan26th— Etc.....Football—————
Football 21,00 Christine Keeler on TV.....

Jan.27th— Bob and Mike came over for four hours of Rehearsal 13.00 - 17.00 sounded good. At 6.00 pm I had a phone interview with German, Freelance Journalist, Michael Fuchs ...We talked about the Tour, who's in the band? I told him my great friend Bob Henrit on drums, Mike Steed on bass, Roland Jones on 2nd guitar and Claire Gordon on back up vocalsand a new Keyboard player, Marc Rapson. My son, Christian, told me about him. He said he's pretty amazing and when he came and played my piano, I can say, he is very special. It's a great

band...Supporting us will be 'Space Elevator' a fabulous group and great people....Should be fun on the bus...

Jan.28th— *I went into London to be interviewed by Wyatt Wendels for 'Planet Rock'...I really enjoyed the chat, it was a 'Desert Island Discs' idea, but the music had to be favourite Rock songs....Wyatt started by saying we did, at one time, live close together....Wyatt in Enfield Highway and me, four miles away in Waltham Cross, where I was born.....I told him, I used to take the bus after school to my piano teacher at Totteridge Rd. in Enfield Highway....he knew it. He was very 'clued up'.*

Jan.29th— *16.30 - Uli Grunert, Freelance, German Newspapers18.00 - Sascha Mauritz, Empire Magazine. Talked about the "It's Good To Be Here" tour then, Bob, Mike, Marc, Roly and Claire .*

Jan.30th.— *Marc Rapson came over and we went through the songs for the show.....After hearing him play I said....'You do your homework, don't you' - I'm looking forward to rehearsing with everyone next week.*

Jan.31st — *11.00 - Phone interview with Ove Arscholl, he works for a paper called 'Osteezritung'*

So, there you have it, my diary for January 2020....Really, if you take away the rock and roll music and the football.....there's not much time left for the Sex and Drugs...Have a good February, Russ xx

TOURS

Tickets for the European tour in March are still selling well with four venues now sold out with Nurnberg joining Munich, Augsburg and Bremen. The only show in Bavaria that is not yet sold out is Obernburg/Main. There are still some tickets in Verviers, Amsterdam and Vienna.

Tickets are now on sale for the UK tour. The venues in Milton Keynes, Wimborne and Hesse are seated so don't leave it too long before you book.

RHINO AGENCY
PRESENTS

RUSS BALLARD

IT'S GOOD TO BE HERE TOUR

LIVE UK 2020



30 LONDON
MAY 100 CLUB

04 WIMBORNE
JUN THE TIVOLI THEATRE

MORE TO FOLLOW

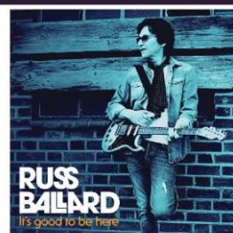
02 MILTON KEYNES
JUN THE STABLES

06 HESSLE
JUN TOWN HALL

Tickets on sale now

NEW ALBUM:
**IT'S GOOD
TO BE HERE**
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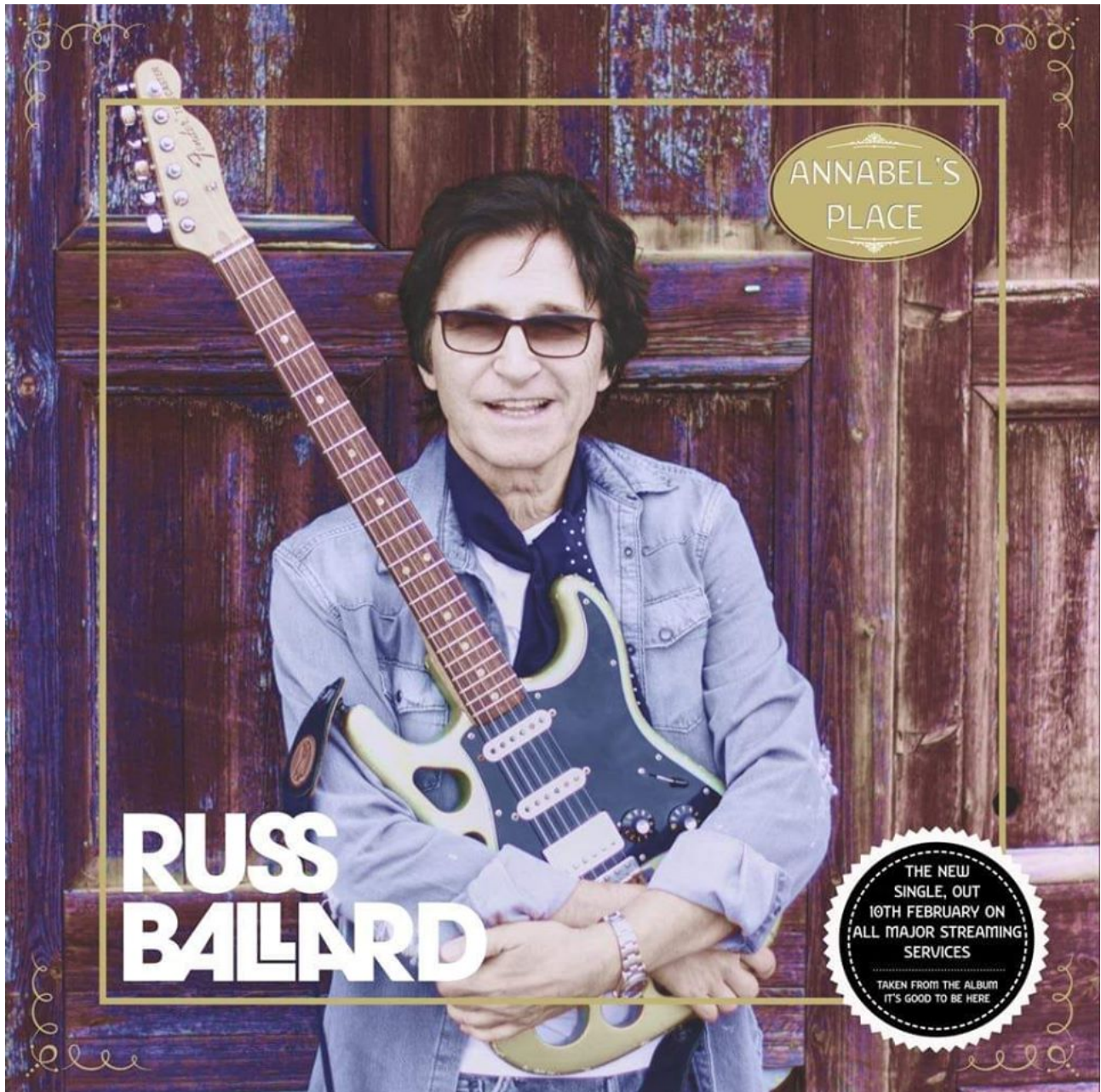
PICTURE: © ROLAND HERZOG
DESIGN: SVEN KRAMER

IT'S GOOD TO BE HERE

Annabel's Place

The second single from the album is now available to listen to and is on YouTube. It appears that it is not available to all countries but you should be able to hear it via one of the links in this link.

<https://slinky.to/AnnabelsPlace>



If you haven't ordered the album yet, you will need these...

If you would like **signed** copies, genuinely signed by Russ, this is the link you need.

<https://www.musicglue.com/russ-ballard>

You can also order unsigned items from..

Amazon CD:

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Its-Good-Here-Russ-Ballard/dp/B081WVBKVG>

Amazon LP:

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Its-Good-Be-Here-VINYL/dp/B081WR7TVV>

Amazon Digital:

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Its-Good-Here-Russ-Ballard/dp/B082FNQVFQ>

Itunes digital pre-order:

<https://music.apple.com/gb/album/its-good-to-be-here/1490497892>

THE BOOK OF LOVE (CONT)

Russ: *For many months now, I've included in the newsletter, songs from my 'Labour of love' album, 'Book of Love'. This month it's the title song Book of Love. I had DVD's and Videos of Jidda Krishnamurti speaking with various people, Psychologists, quantum physicists, Psychoanalysts and religious teachers. After writing this song I decided to sample some lines of Krishnamurti's that worked well in the song.*

You must be a light to yourself - and to be a light to yourself
You must deny every other light,
However great that light be,
You must be a light to yourself,
You must be a light to yourself,

I was in a book of Love,
Cast the brave Loser,
The writer chose to give me time,
And chose you as my accuser,
Page one the scene was set,
A Love story, then the fall,
By chapter two the thing I thought I knew,

Was not Love at all,

This Book of Love, if it's what you say,
What you're thinking of, it's not a price you pay,
And where I am, your words follow me
If you give a damn just how love should be,
If you really love me, you'd let me go,

I was in a book of Love
It had no hero, no bad one,
Because you don't know Love at all,
You became the sad one
You've been searching all your life,
Still you don't see,
Take a look inside yourself,
It's there the book will be,

This book of Love, if it's what you say etc....

So, you must be a light to yourself - and to be a light to yourself
You must deny every other light,
However great that light be
READ THE BOOK AND PASS IT ON
READ THE BOOK AND PASS IT ON
READ THE BOOK AND PASS IT ON
READ THE BOOK AND PASS IT ON,
READ, READ THE BOOK OF LOVE

WE HAVE NEVER ATTEMPTED DEEPLY TO READ THE BOOK OF MYSELF

<https://youtu.be/TJJI7A8Q12g>



[Russ Ballard - Book Of Love](#)

Book Of Love by Russ Ballard from the album
Book of Love Released 2006-10-20 on
Silversonic Records Download on iTunes:

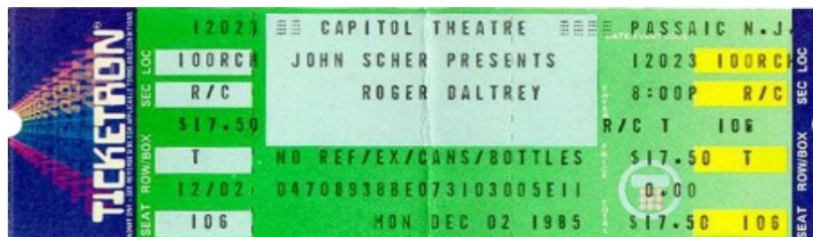
<https://geo.itunes.apple.com/album/id...>
youtu.be

RUSS'S MUSIC HISTORY

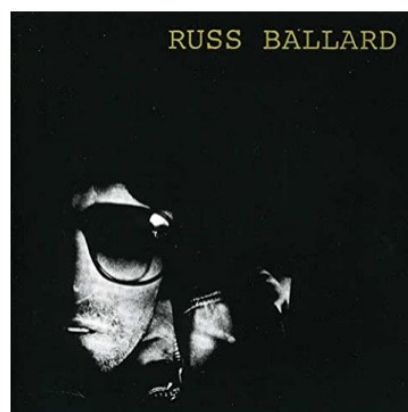
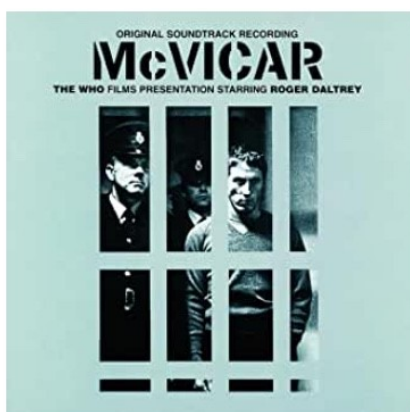
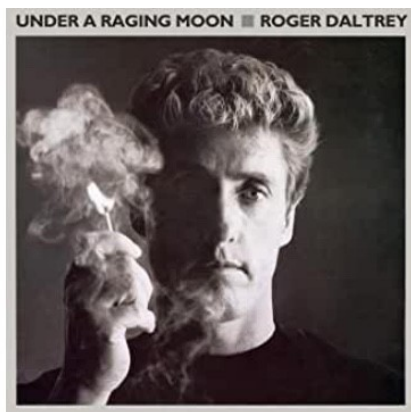
By Dave Williams

Live in '85

Russ often refers to a handful of gigs he played in the United States at the invitation of **Roger Daltrey**, the charismatic lead singer of **The Who**. The year was 1985 and Roger visited the East Coast in the run up to Christmas to promote his new solo album **Under a Raging Moon**, a tribute to the former **Who** drummer **Keith Moon**, who died in 1978.



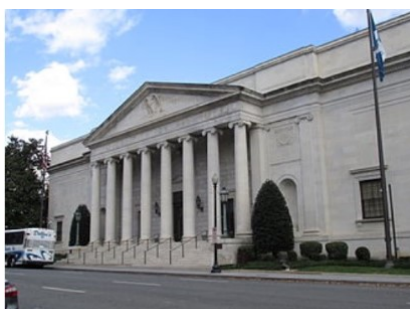
With **Dave “Clem” Clempson**, formerly of **Humble Pie**, and ex **Babe Ruth** guitarist **Alan Shacklock** on board, though Alan was actually featured on keyboards, Roger invited **Russ** to join him on guitar and vocals and even invited him to perform two of his songs **Your Time is Gonna Come** and **Voices** from his self-titled 1984 EMI America album.



l to r; Under a raging Moon, McVicar Soundtrack, Russ Ballard (EMI America), a clip showing Russ (underneath) at one of the shows

These were not the only two RB compositions to feature in the 1hr 40min set. **Roger** has recorded a number of **Russ's** songs as part of his solo journey, and two more featured in the shows; firstly, **Breaking Down Paradise** and secondly the hit single from the McVicar soundtrack album **Free Me**.

I've done some digging and managed to uncover quite a lot of information about the tour. There were 6 dates in all; **2 Dec** Passaic, NJ, Capitol Theatre, **4 Dec** Washington, D.C., Constitution Hall, **5 Dec** Philadelphia, PA, Tower Theatre, **8 Dec** Boston, MA, Orpheum Theatre, **9 Dec** New York, NY, Madison Square Garden, **12 Dec** Albany, NY, Palace Theatre. (Strictly speaking the US spelling is Theater of course).



l to r; Passaic Capitol Theater, Washington D.C. Constitution Hall, Boston Orpheum Theater

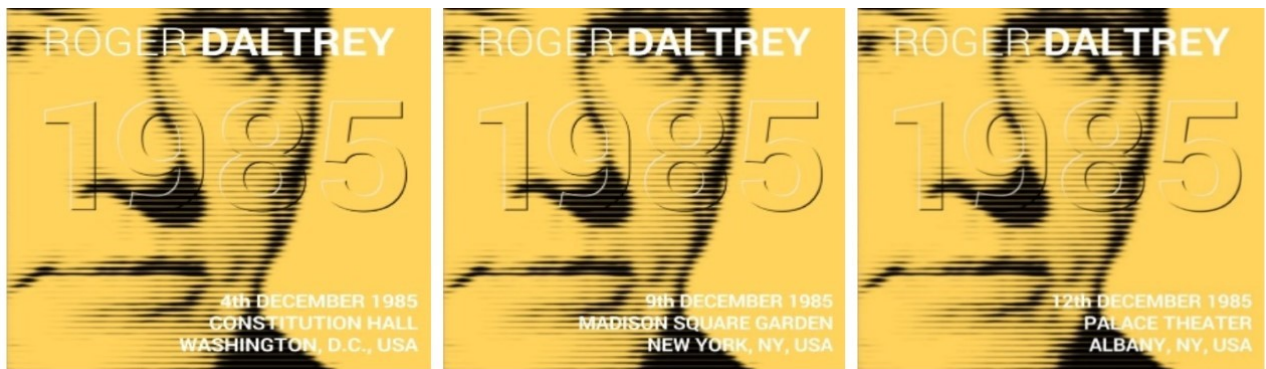


l to r; Philadelphia Tower Theater, New York Madison Square Garden, Albany Palace Theater.

The set list was fairly consistent across all dates and featured the following songs; **Martyrs and Madmen, Don't Talk to Strangers, Breaking Down Paradise, Move Better in the Night, Substitute, Pictures Of Lily, The Pride You Hide, Your Time Is Gonna Come, Behind Blue Eyes, 5.15, Without Your Love, Let Me Down Easy, Rebel, Voices, Giving It All Away, Won't Get Fooled Again, After The Fire, Under A Raging Moon.** The earlier shows usually included **Move Better in the Night** but on the later dates it appeared that this number was taken out and replaced by **Let Me Down Easy**.

The encores generally consisted of **Free Me**, Eddie Cochran's **Summertime Blues** and **C'Mon Everybody**, and the last two concerts of the tour included an extra number, the 1962 **Isley Brothers** hit **Twist and Shout**, with The Who's bass guitarist **John Entwistle** joining the band. As **Russ** mentions on his website, **Julian Lennon** also took to the stage for **Twist and Shout** and shared a microphone with **Russ** at the **Madison Square Garden** show.

For anyone who is interested, many, if not all, of these concerts were recorded and can be accessed via the internet. Some are recordings made by members of the audience, others are high quality recordings taken from the sound desk. Unfortunately, the sound desk recordings were aimed at **The Who's** fanbase and consequently **Your Time is Gonna Come**, and **Voices** were cut. However, I did manage to hear one of the audience recordings that featured both songs and I can say without any bias that **Russ** gave a great performance.



The line-up for the tour was **Roger Daltrey** - vocals; **Mark Williamson** - keyboards, vocals; **John Siegler** - bass; **Stuart Elliott** - drums; **Clem Clempson** - guitars; **Alan Shacklock** - keyboards; Guest: **Russ Ballard** - guitar, lead vocals on **Your Time Is Gonna Come** and **Voices**.

The concerts can be streamed from the Wolfgang's Music website. To listen to 30 second clips of Roger Daltrey and Russ, plus band intro, from the gig at Tower Theater, Philadelphia on December 5th 1985, click this link, then click on each of the individual track numbers to get them to play.

<https://www.wolfgangs.com/music/roger-daltrey/audio/20050360-6046.html?tid=16993>

Acknowledgement: The ticket photograph, the band photo and the above 1985 sleeve images were sourced from www.thewholive.net. This is a must-visit website for fans of the Who and the various members of the band.

BOOK OF LOVE IN POETRY

From Eddy Bonte

While Russ is writing about his Book Of Love album I thought you might be interested in this, a poetry show broadcast by my Radio 68 www.radio68.be on Tue. 26 and Wed. 27 March 2019, repeated on Tue. 02 and Wed. 04 April, which featured two songs music from his cd 'Book Of Love'.

This poetry show featured excerpts from a poetry reading by Ms Radna Fabias, during which she read a number of poems from her multiple award-winning debut 'Habitus' (published in 2018), as well as some of her comments. I included a few songs from Russ's 'Book Of Love'.

Ms Fabias was born in the Dutch Antilles (a former colony of The Netherlands), then moved to The Netherlands to study and eventually stayed there. She visits her home country regularly. She writes in Dutch.

Her debut focuses on the duality of being born in a former colony (and being 'brown') and living in Europe, in the country that colonised the Antilles. This duality is nothing new, but Ms Fabias doesn't point a finger, or rather: she points two. At The Netherlands, but also at herself and her own background. The people who are still in the Antilles are not pictured as heroes, nor are the Dutch seen as villains. This would be too simple. The title says it all: 'Habitus' refers to habits ('habitus' is a term used in French in sociology by Bourdieu and, of course, refers to 'habitas') and as we all know, old habits die hard. Who is to blame? No-one in particular. Is hers a comfortable position? No. Can you escape it? No. Can you like it? Well yes, sometimes you do, then you don't.

Naturally, this search for values (rather than 'truth') leads to introspection and this introspection turns out to be more rewarding, also morally, than declaring oneself a victim and to wait for the tide to turn by itself. I do not go into the style of Ms Fabias, as this would take is too far (as said, she writes in Dutch).

I thought some songs of 'Book Of Love' would go well with the subject of the book, which, basically, is a quest. Not a crusade. The songs I used are "**Just Like Me**" and "**Like Father, Like Son**". The show also features poetry and music by Jim Morrison / The Doors (Latino Chrome, Black Polished Chrome) and a song by Canned Heat (Goin' Up The Country, this being the poet's choice).

DAVE'S COVER QUEST

Whilst writing my articles I've discovered scores of versions of songs written by Russ, some well-known, others less so. There's lots of little gems out there and I thought it might be nice to share some of these discoveries with readers. His music knows no bounds and can be found all around the globe. This month we

feature a song I didn't know about. Let's just say I received a tip-off from a VIP. So, let's hip hop over to Sweden for this one!

No.19



Bullet by Infinite Mass

An interesting one this. **Infinite Mass** is a Swedish hip hop group formed in Stockholm in 1991. Whilst their line-up has gone through many changes, the core members are founding members **Amir Chamdin** and **Rodrigo Pencheff**. In 1992 they won a talent show for Rap artists in their home country.

They achieved commercial success with their second album **Always Somethang**, and the single taken from it **Caught Up in the Game**. Their next album **The Face**, released by Universal records in 2001, established a characteristic sound built around a Parliament / Funkadelic style bass sound blended with heavy guitars, rapping, singing and samples. One of the songs featured on The Face is **Bullet**.



Bullet is based around **My Time is Gonna Come** by **Roger Daltrey**, which features on the **McVicar** original film soundtrack, produced by **Russ**. The song is written by **Russ**, and **Infinite Mass** have sampled the chorus and bassline and built their song around it. The video features clips from **McVicar** and was directed by **Amir Chamdim**. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xeZ53VT_rm4



[Infinite Mass - Bullet\(HQ\)](#)

One of the best swedish music videos ever made. Now in decent quality. Info: The video is directed by Amir Chamdin and features clips from the british prison film "McVicar"(1980). Produced by The Who(band) and starring their lead singer, Roger Daltrey. <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0081144/> The chorus+bassline is sampled from the films OST - "My ... www.youtube.com

For those of you who haven't seen McVicar or listened to the original soundtrack here is a link to the original song recorded by **Roger Daltrey**. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YaA---pHC90>



[My Time is Gonna Come - Roger Daltrey \(The Who\)](#)

McVicar is Roger Daltrey's fourth solo album, and also the soundtrack album of McVicar, the film of the same name. It also has all of the members on the Who playing on the album, with Kenney Jones on drums. The album was released in June, 1980. The album reached #22 in the US charts and #39 in the UK charts.

www.youtube.com

I'm reliably informed that **Bullet** topped the charts in Scandinavia where it remained for an impressive 8 weeks!