



(Header by Sven)

Welcome to our new readers. It is a great thing that we keep adding to our Russ community here.

Last month I had problems getting the newsletter out. Some people didn't receive it. There was definitely something strange going on on the internet so I am hoping it was just a one-off glitch. The problems and the subsequent solutions were all different. I eventually got it to everyone I knew about. If you didn't get the August newsletter, please let me know (just reply to this) and I will have another go.

Excellent news for our German friends....keep reading!!! 🎉🎵 Last month we enjoyed the podcast Bob Henrit did for Jason Barnard at Strange Brew. Now, Russ has talked to Jason too....see below. Dave's article, part 2 of Sticky's interview, will be with us next month.

Last month there was some excitement about the Two Silhouettes video that was a new find for most people. It had been found by our reader Jelle Jansen. Jelle runs a website called Kiss Related Recordings on which Russ gets some mentions, of course. This month Jelle has written a "Reader's Profile" to tell us a little more about it and how he found that video.

If you have been enjoying Russ's new book, and who wouldn't, Russ has some good news....

Best wishes

Sue

THIS MONTH FROM RUSS

Hello My Friends. Well here we are, after five and half months of distancing. I just keep focusing on the fact that we're closer to the tours that have been arranged.....U.K. Tour in April 2021 and German Tour May 2021.

I say 'We'... that's my musician friends, Bob Henrit, Roly Jones, Claire Gordon, Mike Steed and Marc Rapson.....We're all crossing our fingers and everything else that the vaccine will have been given to us all and we... [Musicians and Audience]will be let loose on the UK and German population to have six weeks of hooting and hollering fun! - Hope, all you need is, 'Hope', when you have a dream.....I'm sticking to it.

For those of you who ordered my book, 'Scenes From a Life in Music', I hope it's been received, and that you're enjoying the read. As you may know, the stories all came from my autobiography, which I thought was finished, but after reading the second half, I thought there were things I'd missed out, which needed to be included. So, while I get my head and the other chapters together, for this month and future newsletters, I'm including excerpts from my autobiography...I hope you like it.



THE BOOK

If you didn't order the book, Scenes From A Life In Music, but wish you had, you can still order it here....a special signed copy.

<https://www.musicglue.com/russ-ballard/products/its-good-to-be-here-scenes-from-a-life-in-music-signed-hardback-book>

STORIES FROM THE LIFE OF RUSS

★ *People tell me I have a good memory; I think I inherited my Mothers 'memory Gene'. She seemed to have total recall of everything that happened. I also know that sometimes my memory does play tricks. Events in the past, of which I'm really sure, turn out to be not quite as I remembered, however, I will endeavour to relate everything in this book as I remember it to be.*

"I was born 11.30pm. 31st October 1945. My Mum said I didn't stop crying for six months - I probably had a premonition of the World I was born into.....I think for Mum and Dad, the war had just started.

My Dad was born Leslie Bernard, in 1911, in the next street to where I was 'bawling'. He was a small, heavy man, I remember him now, always laughing, although, he could "Fly off the handle" very quickly, then he'd be laughing again. I only remember dad working for himself, although, he did work for a builder before I was born. I remember him saying the boss told him off for something or other. Dad said, "I was up a ladder when he had a go at me. I told him, you can stick this job up your arse". After that, he never worked for anyone again.. In the thirties he was out of work for six years. He said, "You don't know what it's like to have no money to spend, we had to find ways of passing the day" - "Like on Wednesdays my mates and me used to spend the hours sitting in the public gallery at Cheshunt court". He never said so but I'm sure there were Wednesdays he spent in the dock.

He became an entrepreneur. After borrowing money from his father, he started to run dances. Usually the music was supplied by his own band, 'The Imperials', which took the name from a venue he used to hire, The Imperial Hall, in Waltham Cross. Just to put you in the picture, Dad was a talented musician. He studied the piano from the age of nine to fifteen. He did acquire diplomas for his light classical playing, although he loved Dixieland and he became the drummer in his band.

I remember Mum taking me to the Imperial Hall when Dad's band were playing and feeling excited by listening to 'Live' music. Sometimes, Dad picked me up and sat me on the drum stool between his legs, put the drum sticks in my hands and made me feel I was playing with the band - of course, he did the playing but I think I was hooked by live music from then...I must have been about four. In between promoting dances at weekends, he found how to make money during the week - when times were desperate, he used to follow council workers around, finding where they were sowing their bedding plants etc....then, when it was dark, he would dig them up and sell them door to door in the richer neighbourhoods. He hired out motor cycles before people could afford cars. There was grocery selling that he did from our back room where I was born....also, there was the firewood round, and later, a hardware store, where we lived in the flat above.

A lovely story he told happened when he was still a teenager. He decided he could 'Make a few bob' busking at Southend in the summer. In the 1920's, Southend was a very popular resort and was packed every summer. Dad didn't have the courage to busk by himself, so he recruited his friends, Bob Banks and Cecil Crace, a couple of other unfortunates, who, after listening to dad, thought this was a great way to get rich quick. Bob, who was about 6 feet 3 inches tall, was a useful ukulele player, while little Cecil, who was a budding Bing Crosby, was elected singer....Dad, it was suggested, would - 'Go around with the hat' - One problem was the fact that they didn't have the money for the train fare, so, they decided to go by bike, a journey of eighty miles, round trip. Dad's version went...."When we got to Southend the place was packed with holiday makers - Bob nervously tuned his uke, while Cecil, who was popular singing in pubs around the piano, had never done anything like this. Anyway, he didn't know if he could sing sober!....Leslie unfurled his cap and said, "Are you ready, Bob?" - "Yeah". "Are you ready Cecil?" "Y YEAH, Les". They were both waiting for the count in, when Dad said, "Oh, let's go home" - That's the end of part one of this story....Part two wentOn their way home, Bob and Les realised that Cecil, who was originally bringing up the rear, was now nowhere to be seen, so, they turned around to find him....After a mile or so, they found Cecil's bike on its side but no sign of Cecil. Then they heard a voice shouting, "Water". Cecil had become exhausted and collapsed in to a ditch.....Dad ended the story like this, "I said to Cecil, there's a house here. I'll see if they will give me a glass of water - As I started to walk toward the house, Cecil said, " Les, see if you can get me some bread and cheese"....I turned around and said, "D'you want some pickle with it?" - "He was a great raconteur".

EUROPE TOUR 2021

Russ mentioned the tours above. We don't have a complete list of UK dates yet but, for the lucky people of Germany, here are the dates for the European tour.

12th May - Aschaffenburg Colos Saal

13th May - Dortmund Piano

15th May - Bensheim Musik Theater

17th May - Nurnberg Hirsch

18th May - Augsburg Spectrum

20th May - Augsburg Spectrum

21st May - Munich Muffatwerk

STRANGE BREW PODCAST

Jason Barnard has an easy to listen to interviewing style. I know some of you will have heard this on Russ's FB page and I know many of you are not on FB. So, for those who haven't heard it yet here is Russ's Strange brew podcast. It is a long one...1'40" ish, including 15 great tracks from Russ's musical life and lots of good stories.

<https://thestrangebrew.co.uk/russ-ballard>



[Russ Ballard | The Strange Brew](#)

Russ Ballard, songwriter, singer, and multi-instrumentalist talks about the stories behind his greatest hits. Russ Ballard – New York Groove (It's Good To Be Here, BMG, 2020) The Roulet...

thestrangebrew.co.uk

LIVE ALBUM

Did you order the live album from The Book Of Love Tour 2007? A brilliant album, I'm sure you agree. Did you not get it? Sven had a few orders from people who did not respond to his emails. He is wondering if the email addresses given were incorrect in some way. If you did try to order but didn't hear anything, please get in touch with Sven at contact@russballardmusic.com. There are still a few copies left if you missed out the first time. You will find ordering details on Russ's website, <http://www.russballardmusic.com> in the "Music" section.

VOICES GROUP

From Ian Street

"Just a reminder to everyone that alongside Russ's Facebook page, we have the newly launched Official Fan Forum, "The Voices of Russ Ballard". The intention is to share memorabilia items, give opinions and communicate with fellow members about experiences but a new feature is about to be launched, regular Podcasts! Russ has recorded a jingle especially for the show and Ian and Sven will be interviewing special guests every month. The introductory Podcast is launched on 15th September with the first interview broadcast on 1st October (and monthly thereafter). It is a fascinating chat with John "Mod" Rogan who reveals all including some great stories from playing with Russ and Adam Faith in the early days.

The link to "The Voices of Russ Ballard" is here - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/562129657792892>

The link to listen to the first Podcast is here - <http://www.russballardmusic.com/podcast.html>



PODCAST



LETTERS

I would just like to say how brilliant the Book Of Love Live 2007 CD is. Normally when I buy a new album it gets played a few times then put into the collection. Not this one! I've lost count how many times I've played it and I will continue to do so. Please pass on my thanks to Russ, Christian and Sven for producing one of the best live albums I've heard. This should be picked up by one of the major record companies and have a worldwide release!

Best wishes

Tony

Ps When I get Russ' book I will play it even more whilst I read the book!

READERS PROFILE

Jelle Jenson

Here's a link to the (20th Anniversary 2017) story behind my website KISS Related Recordings <https://www.kiss-related-recordings.nl/20thanniversary/index.html> **Russ Ballard** is mentioned in the "**How this all started 1982 - 1984**" section of that page.

The first Russ Ballard solo song (meaning from his solo discography) I heard was "Rock and Roll Lover" which was on the Dutch Hard Rock compilation album "Beton '81" see discogs page : <https://www.kiss-related-recordings.nl/20thanniversary/index.html> I loved that song that much that I immediately bought the "Barnet Dogs" and "Into The Fire" albums. Before that I thought Russ Ballard was hired songwriter for Ace Frehley and Rainbow. Between 1978 and 1982 I never realized "New York Groove" was a cover song of HELLO's version Just like Desmond Child years later I started to collect Russ Ballard albums as well some of his penned songs

When I bought a VHS recorder in ca 1985, or early 1986 I started to tape these Hard Rock videoclips from Sky- and Super Channel, and later on MTV ... as well as from other TV shows from Germany, Belgium from cable TV ...

In 2015 I bought myself a DVD Hard Disk recorder, and from then on I transferred (near) all my VHS tapes to compilation DVD's of each artists of band, or music genre ... which took me about 10 years between my regular job, keep my Kiss Related website on

Because of my wide music taste and my website, I got in contact with a lot of people (mainly online of course) I started trading these DVD-R's from around 2011, not that widely, but only with people who have a wider range of Hard Rock music taste Simply said I'm not looking for concert tapes, which are mainly the same show over and over again I'm more interested in video promo clips and (local TV) promo performances

So you won't find 25 different Iron Maiden concert video DVD's in my collection, simply because I don't care ... I mainly collect Hard Rock, AOR and Pop-Rock promo clips, as well as a few Funk and a few dance-disco-rock acts ...

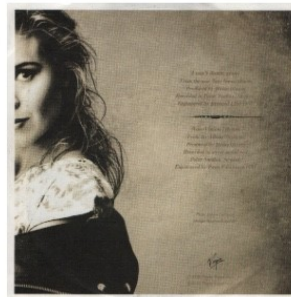
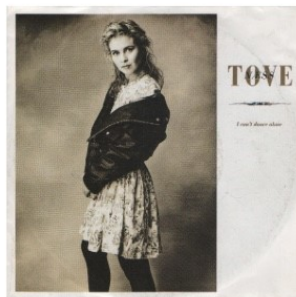
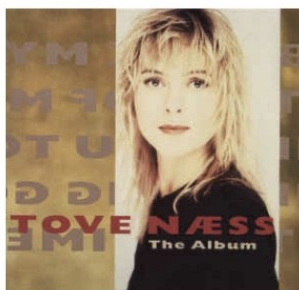
For my last trade, which included the Pop-Rock compilation containing the RUSS BALLARD Two Silhouettes promo clip, I also received 3 DVD compilations (I asked for) of Agnetha Fältskog. Not that I'm a that big ABBA fan, but I know Agnetha recorded a couple of Russ Ballard penned songs (her 1983 album) (as well as songs written by other great songwriters like Holly Knight, Diane Warren, Bruce Gaitsch, Judithe and Robin Randall) ... Haven't watched these discs yet, but maybe there's a little gem on it ... This indicates how crazy I am in collecting ... LOL

Chrzzz 'n Grtzzz
Jelle

DAVE'S COVER QUEST

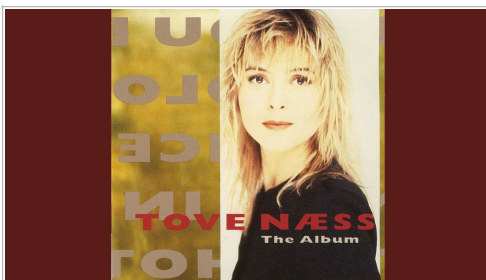
Last month we featured a song by **Loreta** who originates from Lithuania. I hope you've all been playing the song and doing "the routine"! **Loreta** was delighted to see the song she co-wrote with **Russ** featured in the newsletter and we will be bringing you more about her very soon. This month another female artist features in Cover Quest, this time from Sweden.

No.25



I Can't Dance Alone by Tove Naess

Tove was born **Gun Tove Bjarnesdotter Naess** in Stockholm, Sweden on 22nd December 1959. She featured as vocalist in the Swedish rock band **Dave and the Mistakes** before striking out on her own. In 1988 she released **The Album** on Virgin, which featured this **Russ Ballard** gem. As is often the case with his songs, **I Can't Dance Alone** was selected for release as a single. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gsIPd7A79zY>



[I Can't Dance Alone](#)

Provided to YouTube by Parlophone Sweden

I Can't Dance Alone · Tove Naess The Album

© 1988 The copyright in this sound recording is owned by EMI Music Sweden...

www.youtube.com

The Album contains some fantastic songs, many written by **Tove** herself. Worth particular mention is an impressive cover of **I Want You Back**, the first hit for Motown's **Jackson Five**. Selected as the follow up single, if you get a chance check out the extended 'dance version' on You Tube. It's amazing how the addition of a cowbell can elevate a dance song.

Interestingly, **I Can't Dance Alone** was not **Tove's** first recording of a **Russ Ballard** song. Five years earlier in 1983 **Tove** released her debut album **Isn't It Crazy**, which featured a version of one of Russ's biggest songs ever, namely **New York Groove**.



New York Groove was also released as a single by Polar Records. Sadly, I've been unable to track down a link to the song. But to compensate here's a video of a

live performance of **Midnight Train to Georgia** from 1988. [https://
www.youtube.com/watch?v=FPiaSLuSC](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FPiaSLuSC)