



(New header by Sven)

## September 2026

A big welcome to all our new readers. We hope you enjoy our monthly newsletter.

Very sad news this month. Russ's great friend, writing partner and previous band member, Chris Winter, sadly passed away on 13<sup>th</sup> September. Dave has written a very fitting tribute to Chris. I would just like to add my sincere condolences to Jenny, Scott, Jodie and his whole family.

We have some of the missing ticket links to next year's tour dates. Just The Brook still to come. Please book your tickets as soon as you can. Some of us in Russ's team will be at the Worcester gig. Come along and say hello. Meanwhile, Russ's September shows are around now. Look out for Ian's official blogs.

Thanks to Eddy for the Unit 4+2 article and to our own Dave for his contributions this month.

Sue

## RUSS - LIFE STORIES

### Argent - America [West Coast] 1970

April, 1970 - We, Argent, are touring U.S. for the first time. We had arrived in March, ready to play a three month tour. Our first four days were playing New

York, the venue Fillmore East....We then moved to Mid West playing Chicago then Detroit.

Now it was planned for us to play the West Coast. As I reported last month's first four shows were at one venue, Fillmore West [The sister to New York's Fillmore East]. Our next five days were going to be in Los Angeles. We travelled from San Francisco [Home of Fillmore West] to L.A. by car....We thought it was the best way to experience the beautiful scenery. After being stopped by the police for speeding in Santa Barbara, we paid our penalty and were on our way. By the time we arrived to our hotel, it was dark, however, we just had to experience our next venue, 'The Whiskey a Go Go'. When we arrived, there was a band playing... I didn't recognise it - it was probably a local band but they were very impressive.

The five days at the Whiskey were buzzy...We were received well, our repertoire wasn't what you would call 'Clubby'; it was leaning toward the progressive, some of the audience danced, many stood in front of the stage and watched. There were quite a lot of musicians in the club and a few asked if they could 'sit in' and we liked that....The brilliant drummer Aynsley Dunbar sat in on some songs and it was interesting to hear how the songs changed a little...quite interesting really.

## **REMEMBERING CHRIS WINTER**

### **Dave Williams**

I was very sorry to hear of the death of Chris Winter, a hugely talented musician, songwriter and long-time friend and collaborator of Russ.

I can't claim to have known Chris personally, other than to exchange a hello on a couple of occasions, but I saw him with Russ and admired him as a musician. I also had the pleasure of meeting his wife Jenny at a Russ gig in Bilston, when Chris was in the band, and in more recent years have enjoyed an online conversation about Russ and his music with Chris and Jenny's son, Scott. Chris's association with Russ went back many years and extended far beyond playing in his live band. A gifted multi-instrumentalist, he played guitar, saxophone and keyboards, as well as contributing vocals, and became an important songwriting collaborator.

Their partnership was particularly evident on Russ's 1993 album *The Seer*. Chris co-wrote six of the album's thirteen tracks with Russ, as well as co-producing the album and contributing guitar, keyboards and saxophone. *The Seer* remains one of my favourite Russ Ballard albums and, for me, deserved far more attention than its rather low-key release afforded it.

Russ and Chris also wrote “No Dream Impossible”, performed by Lindsay Dracass, which won the BBC's A Song for Europe and earned the honour of representing the United Kingdom at the 2001 Eurovision Song Contest in Copenhagen, where it finished 15th.

Perhaps one of their most unusual and poignant collaborations was “Hope”, written by Russ and Chris and incorporating words written and spoken by Nelson Mandela. The song was later recorded by EMIN and released following Mandela's death in 2013 in support of the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund. Chris also worked extensively in television music and remained part of Russ's musical world for many years, both on record and on stage. Anyone who saw him playing with Russ will remember what an accomplished musician he was — equally at home with a guitar or saxophone and always bringing something distinctive to the music.

In a 2025 interview, Russ spoke affectionately about writing with Chris, recalling that Chris would sometimes come up with songs that were rather more “left field” than his own. More importantly, he described him simply as a “**wonderful, wonderful man.**”

That seems a particularly fitting way to remember him.

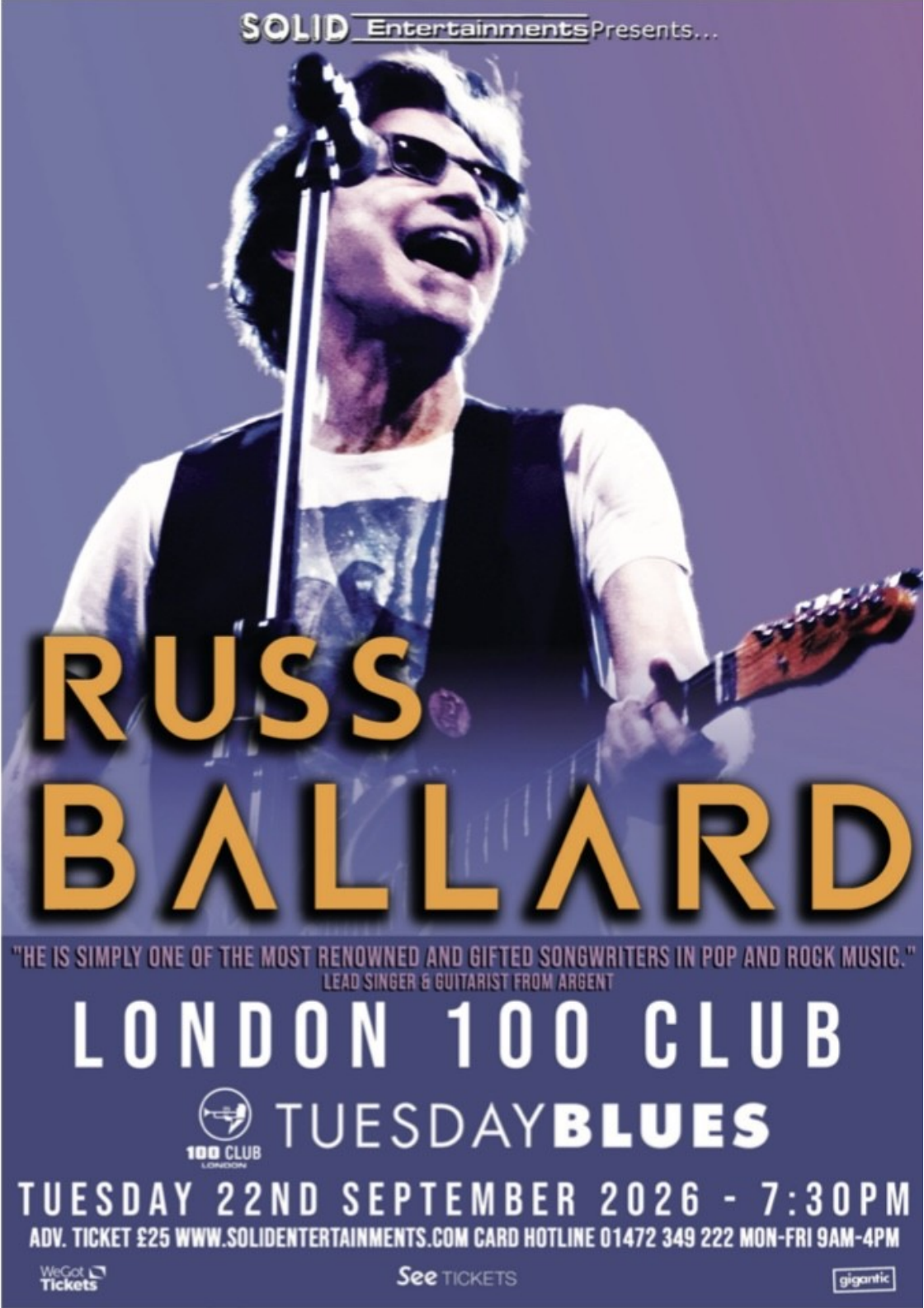
My condolences go to Jenny, Scott and all Chris's family and friends.

## COMING UP - THIS MONTH

### 100 Club Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September

Lots of friends going to this one. It's the one to meet people.

Tickets: <https://www.seetickets.com/event/russ-ballard/100-club/3624738>



SOLID Entertainments Presents...

**RUSS BALLARD**

"HE IS SIMPLY ONE OF THE MOST RENOWNED AND GIFTED SONGWRITERS IN POP AND ROCK MUSIC."  
LEAD SINGER & GUITARIST FROM ARGENT

**LONDON 100 CLUB**

 **TUESDAY BLUES**

**TUESDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER 2026 - 7:30PM**

ADV. TICKET £25 [WWW.SOLIDENTERTAINMENTS.COM](http://WWW.SOLIDENTERTAINMENTS.COM) CARD HOTLINE 01472 349 222 MON-FRI 9AM-4PM

WeGot Tickets  

COMING UP - NEXT YEAR

RUSS BALLARD AND HIS ALL STAR BAND - "HE CAN DO MAGIC TOUR"

**russ ballard**

**he can do magic tour 2027 UK**

14<sup>TH</sup> January / THE ROBIN / Wolverhampton  
15<sup>TH</sup> January / LONG STREET BLUES-CLUB / Devizes  
17<sup>TH</sup> January / STABLES / Milton Keynes  
21<sup>ST</sup> January / HUNTINGDON HALL / Worcester  
23<sup>RD</sup> January / WRECKING BALL / Hull  
24<sup>TH</sup> January / UK BLUES, RHYTHM ROCK FESTIVAL / Blackpool  
12<sup>TH</sup> February / ACAPELA STUDIO / Cardiff  
14<sup>TH</sup> February / EXETER PHOENIX / Exeter  
21<sup>ST</sup> February / THE BROOK / Southampton

 [www.russballardmusic.com](http://www.russballardmusic.com) | [@russballardmusicofficial](https://www.instagram.com/russballardmusicofficial)  
Sean Kramer

Here are the ticket links. Book as soon as you can.

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January** - The Robin, Wolverhampton.

Tickets: <https://www.gigantic.com/russ-ballard-tickets/wolverhampton-the-robin/2027-01-14-19-30>

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January** - Long Street Blues Club, Devizes.

Tickets: <https://www.ticketsource.com/booking/select/ymwzarpgozy>

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> January** - The Stables, Milton Keynes.

Tickets: <https://stables.org/boxoffice/ticket/636601>

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January** - Huntingdon Hall, Worcester. Russ returns! See some of you there!

Tickets: <https://purchase.worcestertheatres.co.uk/ChooseSeats/207801>

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> January** - Wrecking Ball, Hull.

Tickets: <https://wreckingballstore.co.uk/event/russ-ballard/>

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> January**, Russ is headlining on Sunday evening at UK Blues, Rhythm & Rock at The Imperial Hotel, Blackpool. This is a 3 day festival and, as far as I can see, tickets are only available for all 3 days.

Ticket link: <https://www.solidentertainments.com/blues/uk/tickets.html>

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February** - Acapela, Cardiff.

Tickets: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/acapelastudios/2311670>

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> February** - Exeter Phoenix, Exeter.

Tickets: <https://exeterphoenix.org.uk/events/russ-ballard/>

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> February** - The Brook, Southampton.

No ticket link yet but here is their website. <https://www.the-brook.com/whats-on/>

## **BEGIN HERE FESTIVAL**

Russ has been invited as a special guest to join Colin Blunstone at an "intimate candlelit concert" in St Albans Cathedral on 31st October. This weekend event is

a private Zombies event but there are some tickets available for the public for this concert in the cathedral. I believe Rod Argent will also be doing a couple of songs with Colin. His first appearance since his stroke.

<https://www.thezombiesmusic.com/eve.../begin-here-festival-1>

## FUGITIVE

Listen to Russ's latest song to be released. Recently Michael Angel of Fugitive has been telling us about Fugitive's new single, **Sweet Oblivion**. Written and produced by Russ with input from the band, the video for the song was launched on big screens at the Stonedead Festival on 28<sup>th</sup> August. The track was released worldwide on 4<sup>th</sup> September. You can buy the track for 99p. <https://www.amazon.co.uk/s?k=fugitive+sweet+oblivion>

Here it is..... <https://youtu.be/jQsf7tutGCg?si=DsR0dwpnOboJdSeQ>

Another hit for Russ?



## FROM DAVE

### WHAT IF RUSS HAD HAD THE INTERNET?

Back in the 1970s and 80s, promoting a new record was largely in the hands of the record company. An artist could make the best album of his career, but once it had been delivered, much depended on what happened next — advertising,

radio airplay, reviews, interviews, television appearances and, of course, whether the record shops actually stocked it.



Russ certainly wasn't ignored. His albums and singles received some impressive promotion, including full- and half-page advertisements in the music press and nominations as BBC Record of the Week. But compare that with the opportunities available to an artist today.

Imagine that the Russ Ballard who released *Winning*, *At the Third Stroke*, *Barnet Dogs*, *Into the Fire* and *Voices* had also had Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, Spotify and his own website. Imagine being able to hear a new Russ song worldwide at midnight on the day of release, watch him talking about how it was written later that morning, see a clip from the studio that afternoon and receive an email telling you where to buy or stream it.

And imagine Russ being able to do all of that **without waiting for a record company to decide whether it was worth doing**.

I'm sure that, if asked, Russ wouldn't change a thing. He might even have rejected the greater fame that all this extra exposure could have brought, particularly if it meant spending more time away from his family.

As a fan, though, I wish we'd had the ability to connect so easily with other fans and to be part of a Russ Ballard — and Argent — community. But then I wouldn't now be able to look back with such nostalgia at suddenly reading about, or seeing in a record shop, Russ's latest single or LP. There was something special about the excitement of physically buying that latest LP, taking it home, putting it on the turntable and poring over the sleeve notes while it played for the first time. Somehow, downloading or streaming music just doesn't have quite the same impact.

There is, however, one interesting link between yesterday and today which is helping to keep our veteran musicians — and, importantly, their new music — in the spotlight.

**But that's a subject for next month...**

## **TOMMY HILFINGER**

What does that have to do with Russ? Here is their "fall" 2026 advert. Does it sound familiar?

[https://youtu.be/N8y9I5\\_FD5k?si=nvYXoWgYOBPOXCcY](https://youtu.be/N8y9I5_FD5k?si=nvYXoWgYOBPOXCcY)

## **UNIT 4+2**

Our newsletter reader, Eddy Bonte is a Belgian music journalist. He has written this article, an interview with Lem Lubin. It covers plenty of Russ and much about the recording of Concrete and Clay. It is a good read.

Click here. <https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.eddybonte.be>

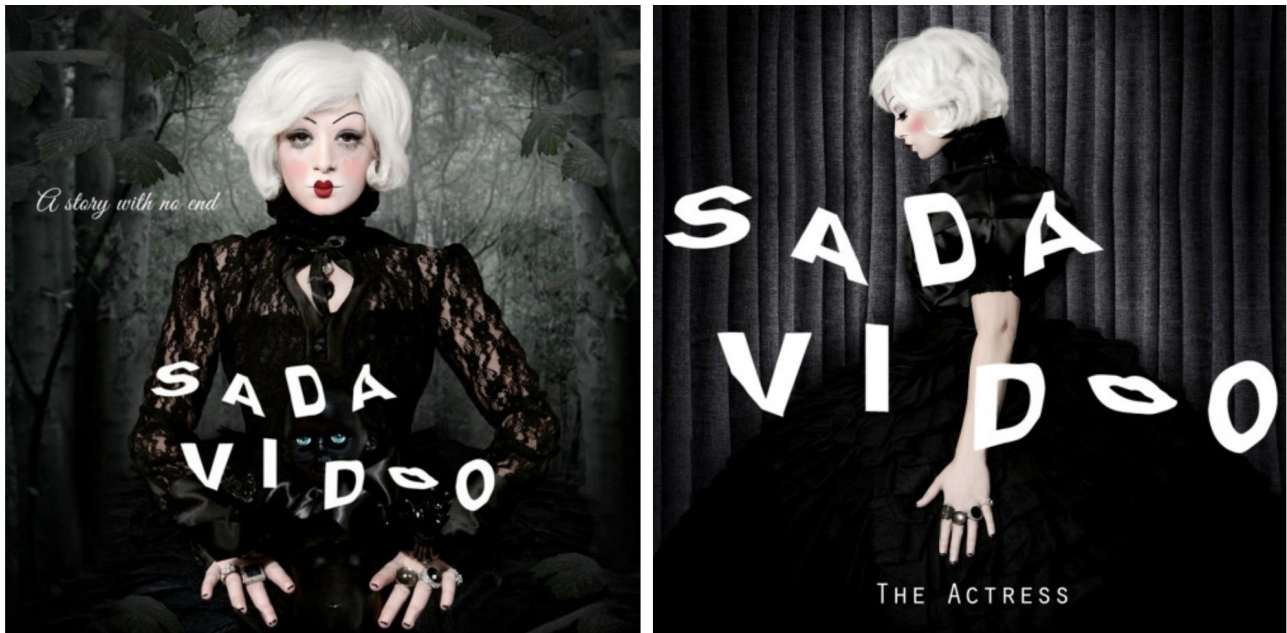


A rare picture of Unit 4+2 with Bob [standing, 2nd from right] and Russ [sitting, left]

## DAVE'S COVER QUEST

Got myself a crying, talking, sleeping, walking living doll. Here's a lovely lady with a great voice.

**No.97**



### **The Actress by Sada Vidoo**

Sada Vidoo, born **Nicole Stokholm Pedersen**, is a Danish-Palestinian singer and songwriter whose career has spanned pop performance, songwriting, and television appearances. She first emerged in the late 1990s after signing with Virgin Records Denmark and gained recognition for singing the hook line on **DJ Alligator's** hit single **Lollipop**, which charted across Scandinavia. Despite releasing several singles, including her debut **Hide Away**, she was dropped by her label due to industry image expectations. She subsequently shifted focus to songwriting, achieving success with **Ten Miles** for Infernal, while also performing as a touring vocalist for **Snap!** These early experiences established her as a versatile figure within European pop, balancing both performance and behind-the-scenes creative work.

In the 2010s, she reinvented herself under the persona **Sada Vidoo**, adopting a distinctive "living doll" image that set her apart in the pop landscape. After relocating to London, she released her debut album **A Story with No End** in 2014, showcasing a theatrical pop style and earning mixed to positive reviews. Her profile grew further through television, including an appearance on **The X Factor UK** in 2016, where she reached the later stages of the competition. She continued to pursue mainstream pop success with her single **Northern Lights**,

competing in Dansk Melodi Grand Prix 2017. Although she did not advance to Eurovision, the release and accompanying documentary series highlighted her persistence and evolving artistic identity, cementing her reputation as an unconventional yet determined pop artist.

Twelve years have passed since Sada released **A Story with No End**, so it's long overdue that we remind ourselves of that fabulous song that Russ and Christian co-wrote with Sada herself.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QpN8GTJzgvo&list=RDQpN8GTJzgvo&start\\_radio=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QpN8GTJzgvo&list=RDQpN8GTJzgvo&start_radio=1)