



# QUEEN

The Official International Queen Fan Club | Spring 2016



# Hi Everyone!

I hope you are all well and had a great Festive season... seems so long ago now! Mine was strange... without my dear sister. You will see below that she sadly left us in September.

Our convention in November was, as always, a brilliant weekend—and the booking form for number 31 is in with this issue! Do join us, it is already shaping up to be rather amazing—but it IS booking up very very fast, so don't delay!

Loads of good stuff in this issue—as always our “news roundup” as no news in “new” enough for the magazine anymore thanks to the internet! But Jim Jenkins has done a fabulous Convention review, and a stunning 1975 “in depth” article. Thanks Jim! As always, if you have ANYTHING you would like included in each issue, drop me an email with it, I always love featuring fan stories and photos! There was a complete coc-up with our renewals in the last issue—the people who were due to get a renewal form did not get one! Many of you saw my emails, Facebook and website posts, and did renew. But there were many that did not. Please remember, ALL renewals are due in the summer! I am happy for you to set up standing orders direct into our bank—email me for bank details. That way you wont need to be reminded!

It's exciting to see that Queen + Adam Lambert are back on the road this year—festivals are not my favourite thing, but at least we get to see them! Let's hope there are more shows in the pipeline!

I see that Brian went (radio) ga ga over a litter of ten week old Cocker Spaniel puppies whilst he and Anita were on a tour of Hearing Dogs for Deaf People's training centre on Wycombe Road, Bucks. recently (see photo with Brian's letter). For information on hearing dogs, visit [www.hearingdogs.org.uk](http://www.hearingdogs.org.uk).

That's about it from me this time—makes a change for it to be so short and sweet! Take care of those you call you own...

Love

*Paday X*



Most of you would have known my lovely sister Val. She worked with me in the fan club for many years—her first job was sending out Shove It badges when The Cross released their album in 1988.

She sadly died on September 29<sup>th</sup> 2015, she had cancer. She was my sister, my best friend and my rock. She used to make sure things got done—she loved a good list! She would always be there for me—and for my children Sophie and James, she loved being Auntie Val. She was partner to Dave Edwards for many years, and when she died, Dave lost his World. And the World lost a beautiful, kind, funny and clever person. One of her favourite things was her annual “weekend away” at the fan club convention—where she ran the merchandise stall, the place most fans would get a chance to see her and have a chat over the weekend. There is now a banner, declaring that forever at the convention, it will be Val's Stall. I miss her. RIP my beautiful sister.



### LONG SERVING MEMBERS

JOHN MCEWEN—Swindon (34 years)  
 MARCEL VAN DEN HEUVEL—Holland (23 years)  
 JOHN GOWERS—Hertfordshire (39 years)  
 PAUL FINDLAY—Scotland (27 years)  
 NEIL STANLEY—Leeds (24 years)  
 NEIL GOLDSPIK—Norfolk (30 years)  
 MIKE SNAPE—Cheshire (28 years)  
 SETSUO KAIDEI JUNIOR—Brazil (20 years)  
 NATASHA STANYER—Hertfordshire (32 years)  
 MARTIN THORPE—Cheshire (25 years)  
 CATHERINE LEE-MAY—Nottingham (26 years)  
 CHRIS RACKHAM—Hampshire (30 years)  
 ALI CLARK—Aylesbury (25 years)

### FRONT COVER

View from stage right of the Queen + Adam Lambert gig at the O2 London on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2015.

Photo by Tennant.

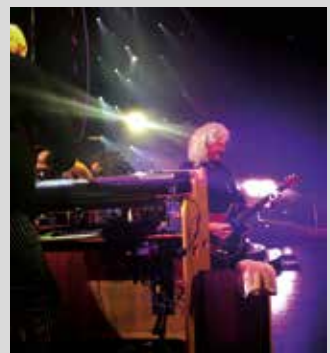


Photo: Bucks Free Press

Well, hello folks!

I'm speaking to you from Ostrava, a very interesting Eastern European city in the Czech Republic, where I played last night with my oftentimes touring buddy, 'La Favolosa' Kerry Ellis. Actually, it was an amazing night, staged in what used to be a giant gas holder, very much like the ones they are tearing down now in Battersea. They've converted the old structure into a fabulous concert hall, and I find myself wondering why we British don't seem to have any idea about efficient re-use of space, but insist on tearing everything down the whole time, mainly for reasons of pure money-making. In fact, on the whole of this tour, which has taken in many cities in Italy as well as Eastern Europe, I've noticed an absence of the insane predominance of cranes which has taken over our lives in Britain. I can't help thinking that we lost the plot somewhere along the way. I find my beloved London has almost disappeared in a mess of destruction and building for building's sake.

Well, that's got that rant over with! I hope you're all doing well out there. I've seen a lot of great long-term Queen fans on this leg of our tour, and it's been nice to reacquaint myself with some good old faces. What is Queen doing? Well, behind-the-scenes we have put a lot of work into planning our upcoming Summer tour of European festivals. We have an amazing new rig, an extension of the one we toured with last time, but with a few nice new dramatic production gimmicks! It's also lighter and is able to be stored in half the number of trucks we used last time, which is a great victory for our carbon footprint! ( yes—we do care!)

The Queen back-room boys have been working hard in another rescue and re-mastering project—the very early recordings we did at the BBC, and our working title is Queen On Air. Some very interesting stuff! My God, we had a lot of energy in those days!

I suppose I never imagined that at the age of close to 70 I would still be spending a good part of my year touring the World and playing guitar, not to mention a bit of singing as well. This tour with Kerry has been amazing. It's broken a lot of new ground for us, and I suppose for me personally, because it represents the development of a much more personal approach to performing, something much more organic and spontaneous than it's possible to be in our massive Queen show. Of course, there are advantages to both, and I'm very much looking forward to our next adventure with the amazing Adam Lambert. Hopefully we'll see you out there for big blast!

In my life as a whole, I find I'm busier than ever. I've been inventing again, and in stereoscopy we have a new pocket stereoscopic viewer coming, being manufactured in China as we speak. I'm also hoping to enter the business of Virtual Reality, with a very nice simple adapter for my OWL stereo viewer. As I write, the book that I've written with Denis Pellerin around about the Victorian craze of Crinoline, is about to hit the streets. Yes, I find myself a publisher now, and this is another stereoscopic tome. The 1860s era of Crinoline's glory exactly corresponds to the era of the first Great Boom in stereo cards! Mad! Why do I do this? It's a passion!

In spare time, if I have any, I'm now working on the text for the next 3-D book, which will be full of the stereo pictures I took on tour all those years with Queen. There will be on-stage moments, and off-stage moments too, and loads of material that has never ever been seen before.

Wearing my Astronomy hat, I'll be at Starmus, probably by the time you read this in the Summer, and I continue to help my friend Grigorij Richters with his work on Asteroid Day, trying to make sure that the Earth is prepared for a collision with some dark body out there. Or maybe I should say prepared to avoid such a collision.

The other facet of my life which has been becoming more and more dominant is, of course, the work we do to try to give wild animals a voice. Save-Me has grown into an organisation with many volunteers, whose heart is in the right place; and Anne Brummer and myself spend a lot of time in and around the House of Commons, trying to increase awareness of the plight of foxes and badgers and other wild animals in this country. It's becoming a long slog, with this very heartless Government, who, in spite of the awful failure of the current policy, are rolling out more and more deaths to our native badgers. We find ourselves close to despair very often, but, each time, we get up and get back on the horse. Somebody has to do it.

So, as I prepare to launch into another night of music and conviviality—I send you all love. And I thank you for being with us after all these years.

Wishing you life and love and laughs in abundance.

Bri X

- <http://www.teambadger.org>
- <http://teamfox.org.uk>
- <http://www.save-me.org.uk>
- <http://brianmay.com>



## FROM RAGS TO RHAPSODY

**Queen: From Rags To Rhapsody** Produced & Directed By Simon Lupton & Rhys Thomas



As 'Bohemian Rhapsody' marks its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, this new documentary, aired 18<sup>th</sup> December on BBC4, digs deep into archive to tell the story of Queen as it follows their journey from a struggling band gigging at pubs and colleges to the moment they captured the UK's hearts and minds with what was to become one of—if not the—greatest song of all time.

Queen's formative years have never been explored in such detail. With a wealth of unseen interviews, recently unearthed rushes of Queen's first ever video and outtakes from the recording sessions of 'Bohemian Rhapsody' itself, this is the unique story of early Queen told by the band themselves.

And on the subject of Rhys Thomas—Roger made an appearance in his "Brian Pern" Rockumentary spoof shown on BBC2 earlier this year.

You can catch episodes on the BBC iPlayer: [www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer](http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer).

And Rhys is also one of our first confirmed guests for this year's Queen Convention!



## BRIAN MAY & KERRY ELLIS 'ONE VOICE'—THE TOUR!

Brian and Kerry are embarking on a lengthy tour through Europe! Dates are below and all tickets now on sale—you can get full ticket info from Brian's website at [www.briannmay.com](http://www.briannmay.com).

- UK
- Tue Jan 19 LONDON, The Pheasantry premiering new 'One Voice' show
  - Wed Jan 20 LONDON, Leicester Square Theatre an evening with Russ Ballard
- ITALY
- Sun Feb 21 ANCONA, Teatro Le Muse
  - Mon Feb 22 PADOVA, Gran Teatro Geox
  - Wed Feb 24 FIRENZE, Obihall
  - Thu Feb 25 MILANO, Arcimboldi
  - Sat Feb 27 MANTOVA, Palabam
  - Sun Feb 28 ROMA, Auditorium Parco della Musica
- EASTERN EUROPE
- Wed Mar 2 KRAKOW, ICE, POLAND
  - Thur Mar 3 OSTRAVA, Gong, CZECH REPUBLIC
  - Sat Mar 5 ZLIN, Congress Centre, CZECH REPUBLIC
  - Sun Mar 6 BRNO, Boby Centre, CZECH REPUBLIC
  - Tue Mar 8 PRAGUE, Congress Centre, CZECH REPUBLIC
  - Wed Mar 9 BRATISLAVA, Incheba Hall, SLOVAKIA
  - Fri Mar 11 BUDAPEST, Budapest Congress Centre, HUNGARY
  - Sat Mar 12 BUDAPEST, Budapest Congress Centre, HUNGARY
  - Mon Mar 14 BUCHAREST, Sala Palatulu, ROMANIA
  - Wed Mar 16 SOFIA National Palace of Culture (NDK), BULGARIA

Brian and Kerry have released a new single called 'Roll With You' which they are performing on the tour. It came out in February, and can be bought or downloaded at <https://brian-may.lnk.to/roll-with-you>



## QUEEN + ADAM LAMBERT TOUR DATES

Queen + Adam Lambert are going out on the road again after their hugely successful South American dates! Dates are as follows, tickets are all on sale now, for full information go to [www.queenonline.com](http://www.queenonline.com) for details.



- PORTUGAL SPAIN
- Rock In Rio Lisbon—May 20<sup>th</sup>
  - Barcelona Palais Sant Jordi Sports Palace—May 22<sup>nd</sup>
- AUSTRIA
- Linz Steel City Festival—May 25<sup>th</sup>
- GERMANY
- Cologne RheinEnergie Stadium—May 27<sup>th</sup>
- DENMARK
- Jelling Music Festival—May 29<sup>th</sup>
- FINLAND
- Helsinki Kaisenniemi Park—June 3<sup>rd</sup>
- ESTONIA
- Tallin Song Festival Grounds—June 5<sup>th</sup>
- SWEDEN
- Solvesborg Sweden Rock Festival—June 9<sup>th</sup>
  - Isle Of Wight Festival—June 12<sup>th</sup>
- UK
- BRUSSLS PALAIS 12—June 15<sup>th</sup>
- BELGIUM
- SWITZERLAND Rock The Ring—June 17<sup>th</sup>
- POLAND
- Oswiecim Poland Life Festival—June 19<sup>th</sup>
- ROMANIA
- Bucharest Constitutrei Square—June 21<sup>st</sup>
- BULGARIA
- Georgi Asparuhov Stadium—June 23<sup>rd</sup>
- ITALY
- Padua Anfiteatro Camerini Piazzola Del Brenta—June 25<sup>th</sup>



## ONE NIGHT IN HELL MOVIE

It has been confirmed that "One Night in Hell" will be made into a major stop-motion animation and live action mix feature, produced by Unanico Group and Duck Productions, in association with The London Stereoscopic Company, involving some of the biggest names in the film industry.

Gary Kurtz (Star Wars, Empire Strikes Back, Dark Crystal) is set to be a Producer, teaming up with production partners MacKinnon & Saunders (Tim Burton's Corpse Bride, Frankenweenie, Fantastic Mr Fox).

In addition to composing the soundtrack, Brian May will be an Executive Producer on the film. The film will be directed by Jason Jameson from a screenplay by Jason Jameson & Paul Laikin. Paul Laikin will also produce for Unanico Group. The film is in development now for release in 2019.



## BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY VINYL RELEASE

A Limited Edition Bohemian Rhapsody 12" was released worldwide in independent record stores only as part of Black Friday / Record Store Day on November 27<sup>th</sup> 2015.

It was issued on 12-inch for the first time ever with original B-side 'I'm In Love With My Car'. It entered the UK vinyl chart at number one and number four in physical and rock charts.



## SPIKE EDNEY EXHIBITION

Spike Edney: From Landport to Live Aid Exhibition—Queen features as part of Spike's story and there are some great quotes in the exhibition by Brian and Roger, some personal photos, and the keyboard used in the Magic and Works tours.

This great exhibition is on at Portsmouth Music Experience Galleries, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, Portsmouth Guildhall, Guildhall Square, Portsmouth, Hampshire PO1 2AB. Well worth a visit!

Roger joined the SAS Band at two shows on their tour last year—Portsmouth Guildhall and the G Live in Guildford. Great shows as always!



QUEEN NEWS

## SSE LIVE AWARDS 2015

Queen + Adam Lambert have been crowned winners of the SSE Live Awards at The SSE Arena, Wembley.

The awards, which have been running since October, gave fans the chance to vote for the favourite act they've seen perform at The SSE Arena, Wembley during 2015. The SSE Live Awards proved to be very popular receiving a total of 661,000 votes but Queen and Adam Lambert came out as clear winners with an outstanding 299,000 votes representing a huge 45% of the total vote.

Brian said: "WOW. Nice. Well. BIG THANKS SSE Folks ... for a wonderful compliment. We're very proud to be your favourite act of last year—by a huge majority. Humbled, grateful and definitely up for a rematch!"

Roger said: "Fantastic that we have made so many people happy, 300,000 thanks!"

Adam said: "It was such an honour to play Wembley with Queen, and I am beyond humbled by this!"

By logging on to [www.ssereward.com](http://www.ssereward.com) fans could vote for the best act they had seen at The SSE Arena, Wembley in 2015.

The top five acts according to voters were:

1. Queen + Adam Lambert
2. Nightwish
3. Zac Brown Band
4. Gurdas Maan
5. The Janoskians



Photo by Tennant

## QUEEN GET CLASSIC ROCK AWARD



Forty years after the release of Bohemian Rhapsody, Queen have been announced as the recipients of the 2015 Classic Rock Roll Of Honour Living Legend Award. The award was presented at 2015's awards show, which took place at The Roundhouse in Camden, London.

"I don't think there could be a more perfect year for us to honour Queen with the Roll Of Honour's headline award," says Siân Llewellyn, Editor of Classic Rock Magazine. "Almost four decades to the day that one of rock's defining songs made its phenomenal presence known, we get to celebrate the incredible, unparalleled career of the band that made it and who changed the world's soundscape forever."

Previous recipients of the awards have included Gregg Allman, ZZ Top, Jeff Beck, Rush, Iggy Pop, Ozzy Osbourne, Jimmy Page, Alice Cooper and Lemmy.

## ABSOLUTELY ANYTHING

Roger also wrote and recorded a new song called 'Absolutely Anything', for the film of the same name written and directed by Terry Jones. The film stars Simon Pegg and Kate Beckinsale along with the voices of Robin Williams and the Monty Python team. Roger can be heard performing the song over the opening titles. It can be found on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/SA3at456Kdo>



Absolutely Anything (the movie, not just the song) is also available to buy on DVD and Blu-ray.

## COZY POWELL PLAQUE

Brian was amongst the great and good of the rock world, including Tony Iommi and Suzi Quatro, when a plaque was unveiled in Cozy's home town of Cirencester on January 7<sup>th</sup>. Cozy was killed in a car accident in 1998.

In Brian's speech at the unveiling he said "Cozy and his generation created a new way of drumming it was completely different. He hit it with every inch of his soul. He had that ebullient type of energy that you needed. Cozy was right up there, he was hero for many. He was a great human being, he was kind and compassionate to all humans and animals. He was born in Cirencester, he is a true son of this place and I think that it is wonderful that Cirencester is honouring him in this way."



## FREDDIE BIRTHDAY PARTY MONTREUX

Join fellow fans at Casino Barriere Montreux, Switzerland on Sunday 4th September 2016, where at midnight we raise a glass to Freddie. It would have been his 70th! All proceeds in aid of the Mercury Phoenix Trust, fightings AIDS Worldwide. The casino is also the home of the Queen Studio Experience.

Tickets are strictly limited and cost £75/€99/\$107 plus a voluntary donation to The Mercury Phoenix Trust, and are available from:

[www.queenonlinestore.com/Mercury-Phoenix-Trust/Tickets/](http://www.queenonlinestore.com/Mercury-Phoenix-Trust/Tickets/)

Ticket includes entry, plus food, a welcome drink and entertainment. The fan club alongside Arena Travel are running a group trip out to the event, and will be having our own disco on the Saturday night in Montreux. If you would like to be part of our group, full details are available from [www.arenatravel.com](http://www.arenatravel.com).

## NEW "FREDDIE" SINGLE

'Little Freddie Goes to School' is a brand new track from Irish composer Stuart Leathem in which Leathem musically imagines a young Freddie Mercury's journey to boarding school in India. The vocals on the verses are sung by Irish vocalist Esther Trousdale with Freddie's voice taking the choruses.

The song received a World Premiere at the Official Freddie Mercury Birthday Party at the Casino Barriere Montreux, Switzerland on Saturday 5th September, 2015 before going on worldwide release on Monday 7th September.

The track samples two rare Freddie vocals taken from his original Barcelona sessions: 'When this old tired body wants to sing' late night jam, and 'The Golden Boy' a cappella. The release will in part benefit The Mercury Phoenix Trust.

Download from <https://itunes.apple.com/gb/album/little-freddie-goes-to-school/id1033290700>

## Q AWARD FOR BO RHAP

At the Q Awards at The Grosvenor Hotel in London, Roger accepted the Q Classic Single award on behalf of Queen for 'Bohemian Rhapsody'.

Queen were also present in another category (sort of!)...Q Best Act In 'The World Today' presented by 'Queen Bohemian Lager' was Foals.



Spring 2016



## WE WILL ROCK YOU AUSTRALIAN TOUR

The fabulous We Will Rock Your musical is going on tour Down Under!



SYDNEY  
Sydney Lyric Theatre,  
The Star

From 30<sup>th</sup> April 2016

Tues 7pm, Wed-Sat 8pm, Sat matinee 2pm, Sunday 1pm & 6pm

Price: From \$69.90\*

Bookings: [ticketmaster.com.au](http://ticketmaster.com.au) or 1300 795 267

Groups 8+ call 1300 889 278

BRISBANE

Lyric Theatre, QPAC

From 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2016

Tues-Sat 7.30pm, Sat matinee 2pm, Sunday 1pm & 6pm

Price: From \$69.90\*

Bookings: [qpac.com.au](http://qpac.com.au) or phone 136 246

Groups 8+ 07 3840 7466

MELBOURNE

Regent Theatre

From 30<sup>th</sup> August 2016

Tues 7pm, Wed-Sat 8pm, Sat matinee 2pm, Sunday 1pm & 6pm

Price: From \$69.90\*

Bookings: [ticketmaster.com.au](http://ticketmaster.com.au) or phone 1300 111 011

Groups 8+ call 1300 889 278

PERTH

Crown Theatre, Burswood

From November 2016

ADELAIDE

Festival Theatre, Adelaide Festival Centre

From January 2017

## DUTCH QUEEN DAY

A note from Hannie and Anja!

Queenday will be September 24<sup>th</sup> in the Koningshof in Maassluis and tickets are on sale now. Tickets are 25 Euro each when bought in advance (€30 at the door), and we are working hard on a 12-hour programme. Programme will include two live performances, auction, raffle, an exciting new quiz, which we are developing right now, based on the very popular Dutch quiz 'De Slimste Mens' (the smartest person), Peter Freestone, marketplace and a general competition. A special T-shirt will be sold. Also the release of the new Queen book by Dutch writer Edger Hamer will be this day, and he of course will be present to sign the book. Also he will be interviewed by Dutch RTL TV-reporter Rik Konijnenbelt. If anyone wants to buy tickets or has more questions, they can mail me at [queenfanclub@planet.nl](mailto:queenfanclub@planet.nl).

## NEW STEREO BOOK FROM BRIAN

**Crinoline: Fashion's Most Magnificent Disaster**  
by Brian May & Denis Pellerin

Denis Pellerin wrote: What are Brian and I both doing under that crinoline skirt? Well, researching actually and leaving no stone unturned and no avenue unexplored as they say. Nothing improper there though because even if the skirt is fully expanded over its accompanying cage petticoat there is nobody in the dress which is hanging from a stand.

This photo we had fun taking introduces our new joint venture, a stereoscopic book about that most amazing of fashions, Crinoline, which turned women into so many ships under full sail and drove the male half of the population to desperation. The latter feeling quickly led to revenge in the shape of never-ending quips, caustic remarks, not so funny puns, numerous letters to the editor and hundreds of cartoons and photographs, mostly for the stereoscope.

By some strange coincidence the fashion for these hooped petticoats coincided with the first golden age of stereoscopy (roughly 1856 – 1867) which was what drew our attention to it in the first place. What could be better for an instrument that creates the illusion of the three dimensions than such a voluminous garment? We are very proud of this new book which takes us on a journey that starts in the late 1820s and takes us to the present day, with precious contributions from iconic designers Vivienne Westwood and Zandra Rhodes as well as curator Edwina Ehrman. We hope you will enjoy reading it as much as we enjoyed making it.

The book will be published in hardback (with a slipcase and 3-D front cover, accompanied by Brian May's patent 3-D viewer, the Owl) on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2016, £50, available to buy from all good bookstores and online [www.londonstereo.com](http://www.londonstereo.com).

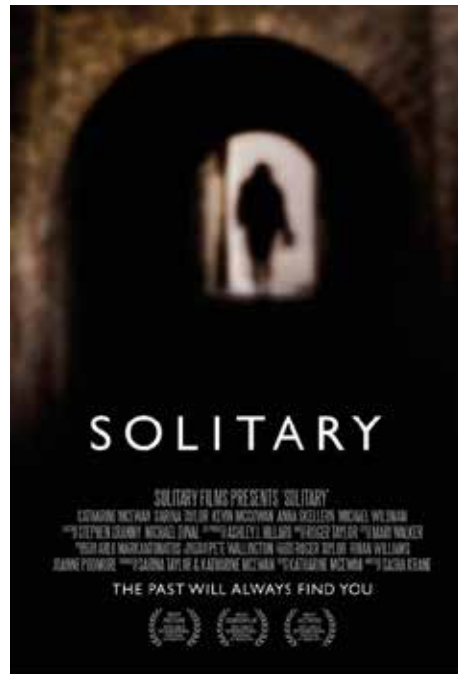


## SOLITARY

On Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2015 in London, the Genesis Cinema in Mile End saw the UK gala screening of a new lowish-budget British film called Solitary, directed by Sasha Krane, the nephew of Method acting guru, Lee Strasberg. Shot in Southsea and Portsmouth (with some scenes filmed inside Kingston Prison), it's a dark psycho-drama about a young woman trying to reconnect with her estranged family and exposing some painful secrets in the process. The cast includes Anita Dobson as well as boxer Joe Calzaghe in a small role as a prison guard. Also appearing is Sarina Taylor and Felix Taylor (Roger's wife and eldest son).

Roger has executive produced the movie and written its soundtrack. *"One of my wife's best friends is Katharine Lee McEwan who wrote the screenplay (and also stars),"* Roger explains. *"Obviously, my wife being involved, I was quite intrigued. I thought it was a very serious subject and very brave... ..that kind of domestic difficulty involving parents with their kids is very little spoken of. It is under-the-table stuff. You very rarely see anything that takes that kind of thing absolutely head-on."*

*"There is a song at the beginning,"* he explains, *"but that was actually written by my son and my daughter. There is a song at the very end credits, which is me. All the rest is film music. I don't really see it having much life outside the film. It is purely for the movie."*



You can see the trailer and find out more about the film at <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt3257538>

# 30<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL QUEEN FAN CLUB CONVENTION by Jim Jenkins

A weekend in autumn 2015 saw fans gathering on Merseyside for the annual pilgrimage that is everything Queen. The convention eventually became one of the best ever celebrating 30 years of the event. There were a couple of other milestone events in the bands history to celebrate too, the single to end all singles Bohemian Rhapsody and the album that took Queen to another level, A Night At The Opera. 40 years of both! Party time!

It takes months of planning to secure guests and bands to make up a programme of events to keep the conventioners happy and Queen filled. This year was no exception.

Friday started off with a difference this year. The WAYNE'S WORLD KARAOKE started the weekend off in full swing hosted by the extravagant Wayne Plant. There was a FIRST TIMERS' MEET UP. We hope anyone who attended did eventually make friends and won't be on their own at the next convention! We know some of you wanted this to be something more, so plans are afoot for next time. Watch this space! Or watch the Facebook pages.

There was an emotional welcome speech by Jacky, who bravely talked about the loss of her sister Val, a special compilation of photos were shown on the screen. The merchandise shop was called VAL'S STALL in honour of this special lady. Huge thank you to AMEY TUNNEY and SARAH SHERLOCK for manning the stall the whole weekend and selling a huge range of goodies.

There were two rather long video messages from BRIAN MAY and ROGER TAYLOR who kindly answered conventioners' questions. Squeals of delight could be heard in the crowd when they mentioned names! Thank you to both of them for taking time out of their busy schedule. If you missed the messages, or weren't at the convention (and why weren't you there??), they have been posted on the Facebook convention page, along with interviews that took place over the weekend which were shot by DOUG BOGIE, assisted by DAVE CAMERON. Big thank you to those for their efforts.

This year we welcomed the return of three live bands to the stage who took the convention by storm. Friday night was the talented fan group THE DEPUTIES, fronted by the legendary Jim Stevenson, who performed a great collection of songs including the obligatory Queen tunes. You and I was greeted with quite big applause and of course the audience sang along to show their support. Talented Dutch recording artist ROBBY VALENTINE and his band graced the stage for almost three hours of Queen material, showcasing many songs which don't normally have an airing by tribute bands on the circuit. The piano section became a sing-a-long as the audience joined in at the top of their voices. Sheer bliss and emotional for Robby and the crowd! They played a couple of songs like Mustapha and No-One But You for the first time. Sunday the German group QUEENKINGS returned for

their 4<sup>th</sup> appearance and once again brought along a soprano and they shone on The Fallen Priest. This was something else. We even had a solo spot THE CHOIR OF LORETTA which went down really well. The crowd lapped it up! A very special performance of ballet, by the beautiful talented young CERY S BUSHELL. It went down that well conventioners demanded she repeat the dance the following night, and she did! Congratulations to her for the graceful way she performed. Absolutely stunning. A highlight! Huge thanks to all for their performances, they all excelled.

We had a number of guest interviews which were all varied. STUART LEATHEM travelled over from Northern Ireland to tell us how he released When Little Freddie Goes To School to help raise funds for Mercury Phoenix Trust. Next was PETER FREESTONE talking of how he started working for Freddie and his life being a Personal Assistant. It is always a pleasure to welcome Peter to the convention. ROSIE HORIDE who wrote the infamous article of the Queen gig at Imperial College before they embarked on the Mott The Hoople tour told of her life as a journalist and her friendship with the band. Fascinating. DOUG BOGIE, Queen's third bass player made a return visit and once again brought along a new song he had composed and made a special video. This was welcomed by the crowd, and a repeat of last year's was also shown. GREG BROOKS for the first time was interviewed and he talked about his work as Queen's archivist and how he managed to secure the job! Greg also held a special Masterclass on Self Defence. More to that man than meets the eye!

Another welcome return was Queen's second bass player BARRY MITCHELL who once again enthralled us all with stories of his life with the band. The last interview was something different, MARTIN JOSEPHSON,



DAVE MATKIN and HARRY MORIARTY, three fans talked of their touring days. All three attended the Rio Festival in '85 and told stories of that memorable occasion. Harry has also recently attended the latest Rio Festival so he could compare both events. It's extremely kind of these people to come along in their own time and talk to us. CRYSTAL TAYLOR attended the whole weekend and could be found, usually next to the bar and the 'Crystal' one armed bandits!! THANK YOU to each of them. The convention is the place to hear wonderful stories!

SIKKE VAN DER VEEN, ALBERT VAN DE WERFHORST and RADU MIHAI GABRIEL presented a new two hour new documentary QUEEN ROCK A LA CARTE. Sikke introduced the film explaining how it came about, which featured unseen live footage and interviews. There were fans in tears at the end of the film and the round of applause and cheers must have pleased the guys who put in a lot of time and effort making this.

Also on the big screen was the new QUEEN A NIGHT AT THE ODEON DVD and to great appreciation. Well done to the guys who worked on the film restoration. It really is incredible sound and vision, and is now available in all good stores and on the internet! LIVE IN RIO 2015 was premiered showing Queen+Adam Lambert at this incredible concert.

We had a couple of quizzes for the attendees to partake in. The TEAM 4 CHALLENGE saw general knowledge to test the brains and the PLAY THE GAME Queen team quiz saw an elimination round of teams answering questions all based on the band, and we brought back the fun Video Cryptic Clue. We swapped team members round to balance out the teams. Doug Bogie played live 'bassy bits' in a round conceived by him—Name That Tune! That was good fun. The final round was exciting as the two teams battled it out. This year it was more of a team effort and seemed to go down well with those that entered and those that watched! THE ALPHABET GAME was as always good fun as conventioners picked a letter out the box and had to name a solo tune by the band members in just a couple of seconds.

There was YOGA RHAPSODY and a welcome return of TUG-O-WAR and the FANCY DRESS competition which saw some outrageous costumes, there were some crackers!

We also brought back the QUEEN MIME this year and this went down really well. There was the annual MARKET PLACE where collectors topped up their collections, eagerly buying what was on offer. Each of the three nights ended with a QUEEN DISCO which saw people on the dance floor enjoying the electric atmosphere the conventions create. The obligatory conga train took to the floor when Breakthru was played! QTV and Lunars Bar provided many concerts and documentaries to watch.

There were three raffles held this year. MAUREEN BARCLAY organised the Mercury Phoenix Trust raffle with some fantastic prizes, as there were in the Fan Club raffle. This year the GOODY BAG returned, with a thank you to the band for providing these for the attendees and a big thank you to all the Goody Bag Stuffers, JACQUI BRICKWOOD, GRAHAM LONGWORTH, KATHY O'HALLORAN, LINDA AND KEVIN MAHER, SARAH SHERLOCK, PETER FREESTONE and the ARENA guys who helped stuffed them on the Thursday night. Brought back memories of the past when this was done on a regular basis! In each bag was a special raffle ticket to win a prize to Montreux next year to attend Freddie's 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party! A huge thank you to LINDA AND KEVIN MAHER for selling the raffle tickets. They were presented with a bouquet of flowers. Arena Travel's CHERYL DUKE and HELEN WARRINGTON took the crowd back to 1986 and wore paper face masks of Jacky and Jim. They both imitated them which brought much laughter. Jacky was presented with bouquet of flowers and Jim was presented with a trip to Montreux to thank him for what he does at the conventions.

Conventioners who had booked all the 30 conventions were presented with a signed certificate to thank them for their attendance. Everyone was well pleased with this and appreciated the gesture.

The convention was held over Remembrance Weekend and in line with the rest of the U.K. we held our own ACT OF REMEMBRANCE led by JIM JENKINS. The big screen had a special film from the British Legion showing where monies raised from the sale of poppies and DOUG BOGIE made a film to show while we played the Last Post. We observed the two minute silence after going over to London and the chimes of Big Ben. The occasion was poignant and

respectful. Poppies were on sale and we raised an incredible amount of money for the British Legion. Monies were donated by the owners of ARENA TRAVEL and we sold the huge 30<sup>th</sup> convention banner and the money raised went to the British Legion. Thank you to Declan and Dave. Your generosity was appreciated. More monies were raised by the CHARITY AUCTION where people bid on offers, including a signed Forever album by Brian, Roger AND John Deacon! John also signed a couple of photos. Brian and Roger signed many items.

It was a brilliant weekend and one helluva party! Southport rocked! Thanks to NICK DADD for hosting, to ANDY BACON and WES for sound, to JOHN BRYANT for the amazing lighting rig and staging, thank you to the security personnel who looked after us so well. Big thank you to CHERYL DUKE and the Arena Team for their organisation and administration. Thanks to the bar staff who were kept busy ALL weekend! Thanks to Queen for making it all possible. The BIGGEST THANK YOU to the fans who

attended the event, for their behaviour and sheer support and enthusiasm for the event. We welcomed many from outside the UK and there were a number of 'Convention Virgins', we hope it lived up to your expectations. Good to see some previous attendees return this year. We look forward to seeing you at future convos! The German Group extended their stay and were treated to a tour of Liverpool, taking in the cities, The Beatles and Queen history.

Plans are already underway for the 31st convention, let's make it bigger and better than this year's! It can be done. Are you on board to join in the fun? If you have thought about attending and not yet done so, give it serious thought. It's one huge family party and there really is nothing like it! Absolutely nothing! There is NOTHING like the Queen Convention. Thirty continuous years proves this. See you at number 31. Yes??

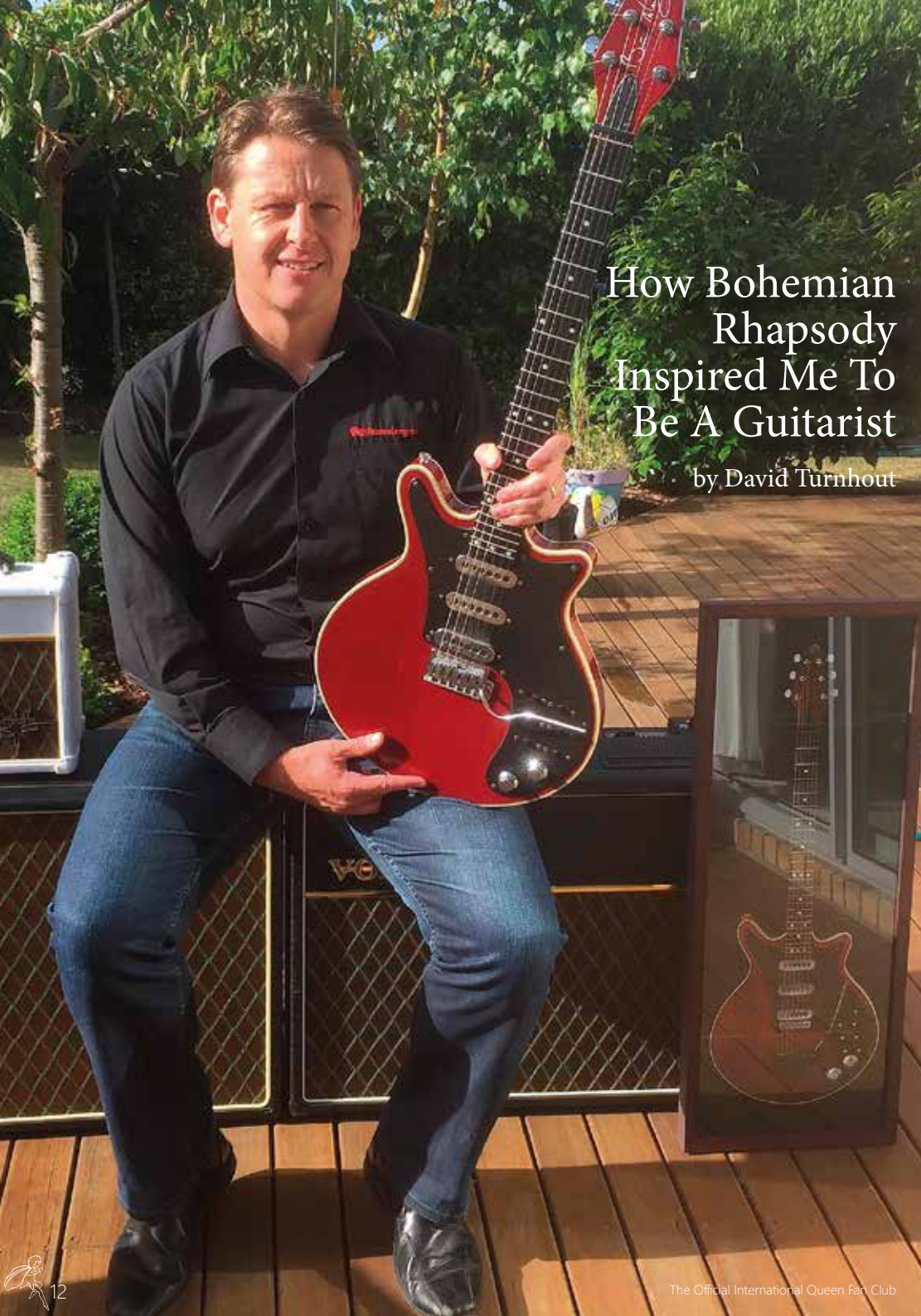
Dates have been confirmed for Convention 31, booking form in with this issue!



Photos by Ian Knight

# How Bohemian Rhapsody Inspired Me To Be A Guitarist

by David Turnhout



I can't remember my exact age but it was during the mid-eighties and I can vividly remember lying on the top bunk of my bed in rural Southland, New Zealand listening to an old transistor radio when suddenly I heard Bohemian Rhapsody come on. By this time the song had been out in the public domain for some time but for some reason I had either not heard it or failed to take notice of it—how this is possible I don't know. I distinctly remember listening in amazement at the complexity of it and the sheer audacity of a song containing so many musical genres. I didn't catch the name of the band but the song definitely had an impact.

It was a few years later that I managed to save up enough money from babysitting my nephew and niece for a couple of weeks over the school holidays to purchase a walkman (not the Sony version as I couldn't afford that) and one cassette. I had heard of Queen by then and knew they sang We Are The Champions and We Will Rock You so I thought Queen's Greatest Hits Volume 1 would be a safe bet for my first purchase. It was after listening to this tape that the penny dropped and I realised Queen were also responsible for Bohemian Rhapsody. Needless to say, this introduction began a life-long appreciation of their music. Fortunately this version of the Greatest Hits included Tie Your Mother Down. Hearing this song for the first was like someone flicking on the light switch and I knew straight away that I wanted to play the guitar. After using an old wooden tennis racket to air/racket guitar for a few weeks I was lucky enough to discover that we had an old classical guitar gathering dust in the closet. Unfortunately it was a right handed guitar and being left handed this felt awkward to play but I gradually adapted and I now play guitar right handed.

From there I learnt to play both rhythm and lead guitar from either watching friends or listening to songs and trying to copy them. I became intrigued with Brian May's sound and guitar. At that time there was no internet readily available so it was difficult to find out what guitar he played and what effects he used to achieve his sound. I even tried writing to the fan club requesting that Brian send me one of his guitar pedals and answer some questions about his guitar sound. Obviously I didn't get a reply from Brian but I did receive a letter back from the fan club asking if I wanted to join. It didn't take me long to find out that he made his own guitar and I eventually bought a Burns copy of the Red Special years later while living and working in Glasgow. I still use that guitar today and it has helped me play a lot of gigs. It is a great guitar to play as it's so versatile and can capture the voicing of so many other guitars (e.g Gibson, Fender Stratocaster, Fender Telecaster) but also retains its own sound and identity in the process.

It did take me quite a while to figure out that Brian didn't use many effects or a separate distortion / overdrive pedal (which a lot of guitarists do use) but rather increased the volume on his guitar though his treble booster plugged into a Vox AC30 to achieve that smooth harmonic overdriven sound. This fascination with learning the guitar led me to eventually major in music while training to be a teacher and to play in various bands with the latest being Urban. Urban is a five-piece band based in Nelson, New Zealand and we have been playing for around a year and a half. We are booked into a recording studio and are already working on our first album. I am looking forward to using my copy of the Red Special to record all the guitar parts on the album and seeing what sounds I can make.

I finally got to hear Roger and Brian playing last year when I saw Queen + Adam Lambert performing in Auckland. I had high expectations and would rate this concert as the best live show I have seen. The opening sequence where the Procession instrumental leads, accompanied by a load of flashing lights, into Now I'm Here was incredible to watch live. Unsurprisingly their sound live was huge and it was good to hear them playing quite a few tracks from the Sheer Heart Attack album which I rate as their best. Adam Lambert's vocals and showmanship were outstanding. Looking back I wish I had seen their second concert in Auckland as well but at least I got to hear Brian May play once in person and who knows there might be another opportunity.





## A 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY YEAR 1975: A RETROSPECTIVE

by Jim Jenkins

Forty years in a band's history is a big achievement, as most bands don't even last that long! For our favourite band QUEEN, forty years is only part of their history.

Today QUEEN are on a remarkable high, festival gigs with Adam Lambert as their front man, new radio and TV documentaries, Brian starting a new album with acclaimed singer Kerry Ellis and gigs lined up, his involvement in politics is out there and writing books, Roger gigging with SAS Band and managing Queen Extravaganza, Freddie being remembered with a planned 70<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration in Montreux and John enjoying his retirement and why not!

Dear reader let me take you back to 1975. It all began in January when Queen were voted for in the annual 'Sounds' magazine poll, which was no surprise after the success of Killer Queen and Sheer Heart Attack and the album was awarded a Gold Status at the start of the year too. In 'Record Mirror' poll Queen were voted the second Best British Newcomer and Killer Queen second best single of the year! They also achieved number nine International Group.

Brian managed a holiday in Tenerife but was home in time for John's wedding to Veronica Tetslaf on the 18<sup>th</sup> January, where he joined Freddie and Roger to celebrate the big day. Brian also wrote his very first letter to be included in the Fan Club Newsletter the same day! The day before they released their fourth single in the UK, a track taken from the aforementioned Sheer Heart Attack album and Now I'm Here hit the shops and entered the UK singles chart at number 35 on the 21<sup>st</sup>. Whilst John was on honeymoon, Freddie Brian and Roger recorded an interview with London Capital Radio to be aired the following month and a planned trip to France for TV and radio saw John back at work immediately after the honeymoon period!

During January the single and album were released in Japan to critical acclaim as their first Japanese tour was announced. Before Queen left the UK for their first headlining USA tour, they found the time to go into BBC Studios to record an appearance for popular music show 'Top Of The Pops' and performed Now I'm Here. This was actually shown twice as the single headed up the charts. Thought lost it was found and was shown on a new TV documentary made by Rhys Thomas and Simon Lupton—'Queen From Rags to Rhapsody'.



Queen left for America on 31<sup>st</sup> January and spent time at New York's Beacon Theater rehearsing before moving onto Columbus to start the tour on 5<sup>th</sup> February. The second night's show in Cincinnati was cancelled, onto Cleveland who welcomed them with open arms. They played two shows there as ticket sales were so high they had to double-up concerts. This happened throughout the tour and both shows sold out! Back home 'New Musical Express' released their poll and once again Queen featured in many categories. Whilst in Detroit, Roger and John appeared on local radio and in Boston the whole band appeared on local radio. In Passaic Queen didn't appear on stage until one o'clock in the morning due to a technical fault during support band Argent's set. 'Flash Gordon' movies were shown to keep the crowd calm whilst repairs were underway! After two shows in Philadelphia Freddie became unwell and could hardly speak after the show! He was taken to a throat specialist and told he had two modules through having over strained his voice and not to sing for at least three months!! Not the news he wanted to hear. Jack Nelson and

Dave Thomas were with him for support and they travelled to Washington to meet up with the other band members who had travelled earlier in the day. The train they were on broke down and they had to travel on another in sleeping compartments! They arrived at the hotel with less than an hour to showtime. Freddie decided to go ahead with the show! The band thought this would be their last for some time and gave one of their best ever performances!



The following day Freddie went to see another specialist and he is told they were not nodules after all but swelling in his throat and he is advised to rest his voice. He had laryngitis and a strained throat infection. The show in Pittsburgh that night was cancelled, the second time a gig had been cancelled in the city (due to Brian's hepatitis bout, that happened in London too!)

In New Orleans Freddie went to see a top showbusiness throat specialist. He was told to rest because the problem was caused by swelling, and he was given antibiotics. Whilst in the city Freddie goes to see Led Zepppelin and meets one of his all-time heroes, Robert Plant. Freddie was thrilled when Robert told him he liked Killer Queen! Brian and Roger went to see Led Zep in Los Angeles and whilst at the Forum they hoped one day Queen could perform there...

To promote the band in the USA the 1973 Golders Green Hippodrome show was broadcast on radio and clips from their March 1974 Rainbow gig were shown throughout the country on TV. The band were due to play at St Petersburg Sunshine Speedway but the gig was cancelled, not due to Freddie's throat problems but due to the venue being unsafe and not able to hold the vast numbers of people that would have attended! This would have been Queen's first outdoor show in the USA but the band and Trident management agreed this was for the best! They did manage to play their first USA outdoor gig three days later in Miami, which was postponed for two days due to rain the authorities forbade the concert to go ahead!



More and more concerts were cancelled to help Freddie which disappointed the band immensely, problems weren't good for business as they were trying to break ground in the States! It was incredibly unfair after the cancellation of gigs with Mott the previous year but Freddie was doing his best to play as many shows as possible. The last gig of the tour was in Seattle where Freddie caught a thief in his hotel bedroom! The press received the concerts enthusiastically and they appeared in many magazines and papers whilst out on tour and their popularity increased as the months went by!

They played 37 shows and had to cancel 16. Trident lost \$60,000 due to Freddie's illness and they weren't happy! Whilst on tour they were propositioned by would-be managers. Their own management knew nothing about what was going on! Queen decided to meet Don Arden to discuss management. He was determined to take Queen onto his books. He offered them a lucrative deal once they were free from Trident. He managed to persuade all the members of the band to sign a letter giving him the authority to speak to Trident Management on their behalf!

The ticket sales for Japan were phenomenal, and before they left the band took a holiday in Hawaii to recuperate. Ten days later they arrived in Tokyo and were greeted by over 3,000 fans at the airport. This came as a big surprise to the band. They arrived on Japanese soil to hear the single and album were number one in their music magazines. A huge press conference was arranged at Tokyo Prince Hotel which was shown on national TV!



The tour opened at the famous Budokan Martial Arts Hall in the capital city and they performed to over 10,000 screaming fans! Seats collapse and people were crushed. Freddie had to calm the audience through an interpreter. The hall employed Sumo wrestlers to keep the audience calm! After the show Queen had to be taken out of the Budokan in an armoured truck. This gig sold out so quickly another one had to be arranged for the end of the tour.



Whilst in Japan Queen were interviewed many times for 'Music Life' magazine and filmed many TV interviews and Freddie and John met some local school children. They even travelled on the 'Bullet-Train!' John was able to continue his love of photography and took the opportunity to try out his skills! Freddie fell in the love with the country and bought kimonos for himself and the Fan Club ladies, Pat & Sue Johnstone, who worked at their London offices. He also bought dolls, and started his Japanese art collection. At the final extra show the audience were elated when Brian played a Japanese folk song Sakura during his guitar solo and then for the encore all the band dressed in kimonos! The concert was filmed for Japanese TV and was actually shown as a support film in Japanese cinemas! They were given many gifts whilst in the country and Brian was given



a Japanese ukele. Fans waved them off at the airport. The Japanese tour has gone down in history. Never, since The Beatles, had there been such an explosion. All of their singles and albums had done extremely well and the tour was everything Queen had hoped for and more! Japan was the first country to recognise Queen as a major band. They were treated like royalty by their hosts.

Once back in London, the band had time to reflect on how big they had become. UK papers reported on their successful tours of the USA and Japan and 'Disc' newspaper featured them in their poll, they achieve a number one single and their two albums featured well too. Freddie wanted

to buy a grand piano from Harrods in cash. Trident didn't think it was a good idea and not the way to do business. Freddie had a huge row with Norman Sheffield over this! He went to chat to his friend Kenny Everett on Capital Radio to cheer himself up, and ended up reading the weather! The band also went along to Earls Court to see Led Zepppelin. Freddie was thrilled to achieve his first Ivor Novello Award presented by the Songwriters Guild of Great Britain and the Performing Rights Society for the hit single Killer Queen.



Queen decided to tell Trident they didn't want Jack Nelson as their manager any more as he promised to sort the financial concerns out, but seemed unable to. Jack talked to Norman Sheffield and found out he had transferred money from the Queen account into Trident's film company. Jack took the news reasonably well and decided to leave with immediate effect. His work permit only allowed him to work for Trident in the UK and felt it time to move on! Queen agreed that Dave Thomas should take over as their day-to-day manager and Norman Sheffield would look after the record companies etc. They discussed with him their problems complaining about the lack of money they were earning.

In the meantime the band found themselves back in Trident studios to record a new version of Keep Yourself Alive. They planned to release this version in the States as their fifth single in the country but the idea was scrapped and they eventually re-released the original version on 15<sup>th</sup> July. The 'b' side would feature two tracks; Lily Of The Valley (unsequenced) and an exclusive track God Save The Queen which Brian had recorded the previous October.

The band went to Ridge Farm, in Rusper, Surrey to continue work on their new album. Once again they were using the skills of Roy Thomas Baker as producer. In the meantime Brian acted as a judge for a 'Melody Maker' competition and John saw the birth of his first child, a son Robert. Freddie, Brian and Roger travelled over to Belgium to receive a Golden Lion Award on the 24<sup>th</sup> and whilst there Don Arden went to see Norman Sheffield and told them he was managing Queen and showed them the signed letters he had from the band. Obviously, Trident wouldn't accept this situation. Norman Sheffield recalled, "*Queen wanted to buy themselves out of the management deal. John Reid was OK, no way was I transferring the band to Don Arden!*" Rumours started circulating the press saying the band were going to split! The management problems they faced caused a planned tour of the USA in September to be cancelled. 18 shows were cancelled, nobody felt like going on the road.

The dispute with Trident came to a head, mainly over money, and they were unwilling to indulge in the band's taste for expensive production. Trident went into these discussions knowing they had spent £190,000 on the band to date! Queen asked lawyer Jim Beach, whom they had met the previous December, to negotiate a deal for them to leave Trident. Queen, with Jim, looked for new managers. They nearly decided on Peter Grant but didn't want to play second fiddle to Led Zepppelin. They would be in a similar situation to Trident with signing to Swan Song Records. Not a good idea. They decide to take negotiations no further. They also looked at Peter Rudge and John Reid. They liked John, who managed Elton John, he had the best ideas so they chose him. Trident decided to bring forward the date for their management contract to expire but on a severance payment of £100,000 which had to be paid within three months! Trident also wanted 1% royalty from their next FOUR albums!

Whilst all this was going on Freddie partied and met Peter Straker at London Provan's Restaurant on a night out and a strong friendship was born. He also attended London's Thursday Club and watched a performance by a Birmingham singer/songwriter called Eddie Howell. He performed a song called Man From Manhattan and Freddie loved it! After the show Eddie joined Freddie for a meal and Freddie said he would love to produce this song for him as it wasn't yet recorded and therefore wasn't going to be on Eddie's debut album. Eddie couldn't believe what happened!



On 14<sup>th</sup> August the band moved into Rockfield Studios in Wales to start intensive work on new songs. The first song they worked on was a new Freddie composed rock opera track! Two days later 'Sounds' paper announced John Reid was taking over as Manager of Queen. John told the band to go off and make a brilliant album and leave all the management problems to him! They did! Brian explains, "We went round every manager. Peter Grant gave us good advice, we approached John Reid. Don Arden we nearly went with him. Fred was friendly with The Who's manager, he was too big. John Reid had the best ideas, we were at crisis point, we needed to recover money to pay debts". On Freddie's birthday the March 1974 Rainbow concert was broadcast on USA Radio in honour of his special day.

John recollects "We were lucky we came through it, successful as a band to come somewhere. I wanted to borrow some money to buy a house for a deposit, Fred wanted a piano, he was told to rent one. Cars were falling to bits."

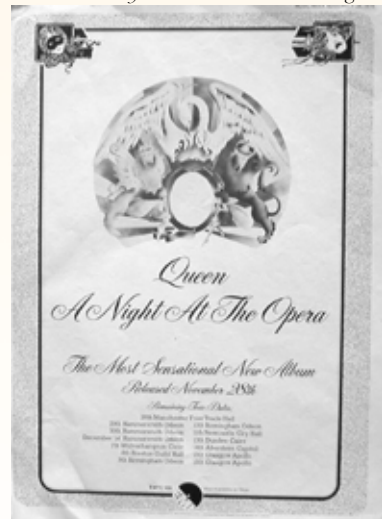
Roger worked with Fox providing backing vocals after Kenny Young asked him to help out at Sarm Studios. Meanwhile Eddie Howell contacted Warner's to explain Freddie's offer and they agreed to pay for the recording session. It would cost them £60 per hour. Back to Queen's new recordings, and on one of the tracks Freddie sang with so much venom everyone wanted to know who it was about. The song would become Death On Two Legs (dedicated to...)

Queen decided to set up two new companies, 'Queen Productions' to deal with UK income rights such as recording, live performances, broadcasting and merchandising. Also 'Queen Music' to deal with their publishing rights.

Whilst recording the new album John Reid set about organising a tour for the end of the year. Freddie asked Wendy Edmonds, the wife of one of their roadies, to help him make clothes for the tour. He explained what he wanted and went off to buy the material himself. The leotard costumes would become iconic! The Fan Club arranged tickets for the forthcoming gigs! Queen spent their evenings watching movies and one stood out above the rest, The Marx Brothers 'A Night At The Opera'. What a good title for the album they thought!

John Reid Enterprises held a reception to mark their new management agreement with the band. At the London Coliseum they were presented with silver and gold discs for last year's releases. They also won an award that was slightly different to other awards, The Carl Alan Award was presented for contribution to the Ballroom Dancing Industry! On 31<sup>st</sup> September Queen left Trident and now faced three months to pay their severance payment. As of the next day, 1<sup>st</sup> October Queen moved their offices to South Audley Street. John Reid decided to also take the Fan Club so Pat and Sue went along too! John appoints Peter Brown as the band's day-to-day personal manager.

John Reid negotiated the band's music publishing deal with help from Jim Beach, who recalled "That was at the time when Elton was absolutely enormous and ideally John said he could not take on another band, but when he found out it was Queen he signed the band immediately!" EMI Music Publishing advanced Queen the £100,000 required



against future royalties. This amount was necessary as it was used to pay off Trident. Norman and Barry Sheffield accepted the pay off! The balance owed was to be paid off in instalments. All parties agreed to this.

Before the album was released there was controversy! The band faced problems with the opening track Death On Two Legs. The Sheffield Brothers, owners of Trident and the band's previous managers want to sue Freddie for writing the song, the publishing company, the record company and the band. They thought the song was about Norman Sheffield and directed at him and he was most definitely not amused! He considered the song libellous. In interviews to help promote the forthcoming album release, Freddie kept mentioning this track and Trident. Norman went ahead and sued the band for defamation, EMI and some of the publications who printed the interviews! EMI had the new album printed and this annoyed Norman, though he knew if he stopped the album there would be a knock on effect for Trident! Norman agreed to settle out of court as it would be the easiest way to handle the situation. EMI paid him off with a substantial amount of money so the album could be released! In the meantime, discussions were held on what the lead single would be. The band chose a six-minute rock opera song. Everybody, including John Reid and EMI thought it was too long and



against convention, they all thought radio wouldn't play the song so therefore it wouldn't become the hit they wanted! The band, especially Freddie were adamant that the song stays in full and not edited as suggested, though John Deacon did mix an edited version cutting out the opera section! John Reid must have had second thoughts as he organised the single, in its entirety to be pressed!

Freddie had a night out with Kenny Everett his friend and DJ and passed him a copy of the new song which was to be called Bohemian Rhapsody, which Freddie revealed the title to the rest of the band at the final recordings for the song, and asked him to listen to it but NOT play the song on the radio! Well of course Kenny was blown away by the track and went into work the next day and on his two shows over the course of the weekend he played the song an incredible 14 times!! The response from the listeners was unbelievable. Fans kept calling the radio station asking when they could buy the song.

The wait was over six days later, when on Hallowe'en the extravagant opera-based single was unleashed to the British public. This 5 minute 55 second song that was thought would never be played in its entirety on the radio broke convention and it was played on every station around the country in full. This happened around the globe! This was the band's first single to be released in the UK in a picture cover and in different covers around the world. The single took the world by storm—literally!

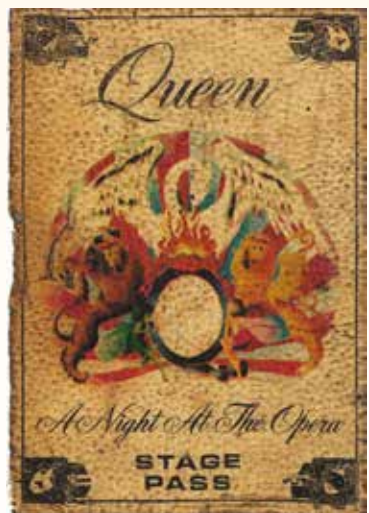
The band finished their new fourth studio album, 'A Night At The Opera' as the press arrived at Roundhouse Studios and announced it was one of the most expensive

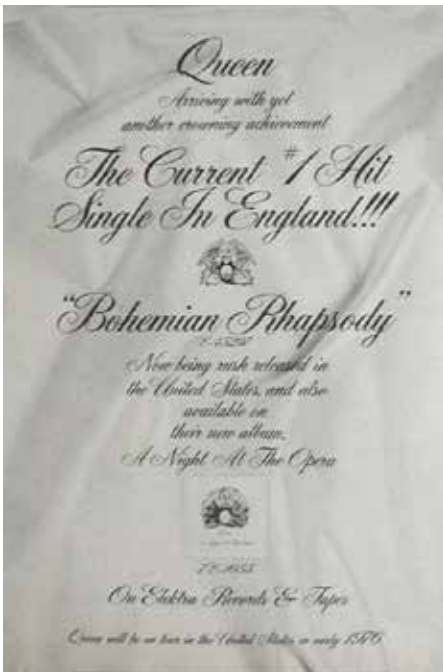
albums ever made! At the end of the playback Freddie asked everybody to stand up for God Save The Queen, and everybody did! The following night on 8<sup>th</sup> November Freddie attended Peter Straker's Fancy Dress themed birthday party—'come as your favourite person' requested Peter—Freddie went dressed as himself!

Queen rehearsed at Elstree Studios for their forthcoming tour and whilst there they decided to make a promotional film for the new single. They knew they wouldn't be able to travel back down to London to appear on 'Top Of The Pops' and asked Bruce Gowers, who filmed the Rainbow shows to direct. Innovative ideas were used and a prism effect, suggested by cameraman Barry Dodd, worked to great effect. The film is widely accepted as the first music video that started the inevitable promotional video making for singles to be released in the future. Whilst making the video the single entered the UK single chart at number 17 on 11<sup>th</sup> November and by then 150,000 copies had been sold in the country. Freddie asked his friend Kenny Everett to record an introduction tape to be used on the tour, this was done the last day of rehearsal before Queen headed up north to Liverpool, a city that had welcomed the band since the beginning.



'The Welcome to A Night At The Opera' tour opened at an additional gig at Liverpool Empire as tickets for the original start date on the following night had sold out in record time. When the band arrived in Liverpool they went to Radio City, the city's local independent radio station where they heard for the first time the new album played on a record player! Freddie was given a copy of the album cover which he displayed at the evening's





show. Liverpool was the first city in the world where Bo Rhap was played live. The band thought they were at the Kop by the reception received!

On the third night in Coventry Freddie wore his Japanese kimono for the first time in the UK to rapturous applause. The sash off the gown was thrown into the audience and Pete Brown had to buy a new one as he never retrieved it! Whilst en route to Cardiff Queen called into Harlech Television to watch the completed Bohemian Rhapsody film. The film received its UK première the following night on 20<sup>th</sup> November when it was shown on 'Top Of The Pops'. It received remarkable media and public interest and talk of the "film" was heard the length and breath of the country in pubs, offices, factories, shops, everywhere! Five days later the song hit the top of the UK single chart and for the first time Queen were at number one. It remained there for NINE weeks and became the Christmas number one. The band heard the news whilst they were checking into their Manchester Hotel and when they were in the lift going up to their rooms they jumped up and down in elation and the lift broke down—with them in it!! Two shows at Manchester Free Trade Hall were the first time the band had performed the song whilst at the top of the charts.



Freddie wasn't happy that Tony Brainsby, their publicist, was touring with Wings and felt he should be on tour with Queen instead of spending too much time with Paul McCartney.

At long last after a slight delay A Night At The Opera was released on 28<sup>th</sup> November to critical acclaim. To promote their five Hammersmith Odeon shows both Freddie and Roger appeared on Capital Radio. Over in the USA the single and album were released on 2<sup>nd</sup> December. The album entered the UK album chart at number two on 10<sup>th</sup> December.

The tour continued around the country. After a successful gig in Newcastle the band left and headed for Scotland. En route to Dundee the band's coach ran into a police road block! They were all taken to the police station and were held on suspicion of drugs and were seen by a Sgt. Chandler, whom Freddie had an altercation with! Pete Brown started to worry as time was running out and he thought they might have to cancel the Dundee gig. The police found nothing and sent the band on their way. It transpired a sacked road crew member had reported the band to the police for having drugs on the bus. Luckily there wasn't any!



In their hotel in Brighton after the show they were having a meal in a restaurant when Errol Brown, lead singer of pop band Hot Chocolate burst in yelling at Freddie that he had prevented his band from reaching number one for Christmas! Freddie was amused!



Both Freddie and Roger caught a very bad chest infection, and a visit to the doctor was required where they were told to stay indoors and recover. This was the day before Queen were to play a live televised gig to millions at the Hammersmith Odeon. Roger went along to Capital Radio and did a live interview, to let listeners know the gig was going ahead. 'The Old Grey Whistle Test' showed the gig and there was also a live Radio One broadcast simultaneously. Blow up dolls and balloons cascaded down on the audience. When the cameras stopped rolling the band played an extra encore, which sadly wasn't captured on film, but was on audio, and premièred on BBC Radio the following February when the concert was broadcast. This was the last night of a mega-successful tour. This concert has recently been released on CD and DVD as 'Queen A Night At The Odeon'. 40 years on and the show is reaching out to a new audience.



Four days before year end A Night At The Opera topped the album chart and became the New Year number one album. It achieved a number twelve placing in the album year chart whilst in the single chart Bo Rhap was placed at number two.

New Year's Eve the band celebrated their success, on this the last day Tony Brainsby worked as their PR guru! John Reid had his own marketing manager and Caroline Boucher took over the job for the New Year.

Forty years ago proved to be one of the most successful years in the history of Queen. It had its ups and downs with illness and major management problems but all ended well. Thankfully the band achieved the success they desired with the album because Brian has confirmed that if it wasn't, there wouldn't be any more Queen!



The band went on to more unprecedented success than anyone imagined and Queen seem as popular today as back in 1975, the Queen machine continues to roll, bigger than anyone thought possible after we lost the illustrious Mr Mercury. What did Freddie say? "Talent will out my dear". How right he was!



# Collectors Corner

Latest collection details from our expert Gary Taylor

## BO RHAP PROMO

A promo CD single of 'Bohemian Rhapsody' was released by Virgin/EMI Records in October 2015 to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the track. The one-track 5" disc was issued in a paper sleeve in a PVC cover with a promo sticker attached.



## BO RHAP LIMITED EDITION 12"

'Bohemian Rhapsody' was released as a commercial single on Black Friday/Record Store Day on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2015. Along with releases by many other artists, it was issued by Virgin/EMI Records on 12" black vinyl only and presented in a picture sleeve based on the original Italian sleeve from 1975. It was also issued in the USA by Hollywood Records.



## A NIGHT AT THE ODEON PROMO

A promo CD and promo DVD of the 'A Night At The Odeon' release was issued by Virgin/EMI Records in conjunction with the commercial release on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2015. The discs were issued in a paper sleeve in a PVC cover.



## THE ULTIMATE MUSIC GUIDE



Uncut magazine released a Queen special edition (Issue 11) of their 'The Ultimate Music Guide' series in late 2015. This Collector's Edition featured classic interviews, in depth reviews of every album and rare photos and presented in both black/white and colour pages.

## A NIGHT AT THE ODEON POSTER



A promo poster for display in record stores was issued in Holland only to promote the various formats of the 'A Night At The Odeon' release in November 2015.

## ABSOLUTE GREATEST RE-RELEASE



A new re-release of the 'Absolute Greatest' compilation album was issued on two formats by Virgin Records in conjunction with Tchibo in Germany in November 2015. The CD edition is presented in a slip case and features an updated front cover design with embossed crest.

The 'Absolute Greatest' compilation album was also pressed as a double heavyweight white vinyl LP set. Also released by Virgin records in conjunction with Tchibo in Germany in November 2015, the LP set also includes a gatefold cover, inner sleeves, MP3 download code and an updated front cover design.



## BOHEMIAN LAGER

This is the limited edition presentation box of the Queen-themed Bohemian Lager. Available only at Morrisons supermarkets in the UK, the cylindrical box contains a bottle of 500ml Czech Pilsner lager and a 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of 'Bohemian Rhapsody' commemorative pint glass.



Also in the photo is the Queen-themed Bohemian Pilsner Lager that has been released to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 'Bohemian Rhapsody'. Brewed in the Czech Republic for RnR Brew in the UK, the beer is available as this 6-pack and also as 12- and 24-bottle boxes. You can also see here a specially made Queen themed beer mat to accompany the Bohemian Lager.



## HOT SPACE: HOT SAUCE

This 'Hot Space' themed award-winning hot chilli sauce was issued by the London-based St. John and Dolly Smiths Pickles Company in 2015 and made available through the Queenonline store.



If you like what you read here, then you may enjoy these great products, along with many other items of memorabilia, presented as short films on the YouTube channel 'Rare Share: Queen Collectables'. The channel was started a couple of years ago and is run by Gary Taylor and Greg Brooks.

We have just achieved our first one million views and have over 6,000 subscribers, so we'd like to thank everyone for their support.

<https://www.youtube.com/user/rsqueenc>



These are the people who have attended all 30 conventions!  
 Back row: ADAM TIDD, RICHARD WATTS, AND AND BILL MACKIE, JULIE PLATT, ANTHONY VALENTINE,  
 WENDY WRIGHT, ROS JEWELL, PAULINE YOUNG, LINDA MAHER, JIM JENKINS, IAN RAYNOR  
 Front row: DAVE KING, ELAIN HUNTON-YOUNG, ELAINE SHAVE, CHERYL DUKE from ARENA, JACKY SMITH



Marie Bernard and her daughters Audrey and Jennifer, with Peter Freestone. Freddie Party Montreux 2015.



Long-serving fan club member Mike Snape



David Galbraith and his signed snare drum



This is the wonderful Glenys Mayo. Glenys has been a Queen fan and fan club member for many many many years, and she has just celebrated her 99<sup>th</sup> birthday! She is our oldest fan club member!



Marcel Van Den Heuvel from Holland



I recently learned of the death of a friend, and a long-serving member of the fan club, her name was Patsy Van Offel, she was 58 years old when she died. RIP Patsy, you will be partying in Heaven with Freddie, and the great and the good now!



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