

# ROCK RADIO UK

ISSUE 3

Magnum &  
Black Roze  
Album Reviews

DJ's Top 10 Albums  
of '23  
Lee Explains the  
Tec!



Liquid Death  
PRESENTS

# DOWNLOAD XXI

QUEENS OF THE STONE AGE    FALL OUT BOY    AVENGED SEVENFOLD

ROYAL BLOOD    THE OFFSPRING



**PANTERA**  
FIRST UK APPEARANCE  
IN 20 YEARS

BAD OMENS

COREY TAYLOR

WHILE SHE SLEEPS



BILLY TALENT

the used



BOWLING FOR SOUP



ROTHIA



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 FROZEMODE    GEL    HALOCENE    HANABIE    HARPER HERIOT    HOLDING ABSENCE    HOOBASTANK  
 HOTWAX    IMMINENCE    KARNIVOOL    KELSY KARTER & THE HEROINES    KNIFE BRIDE  
 LORD OF THE LOST    MAKE THEM SUFFER    MISSIO    NOAHFINNCE    OXYMORRONS    PEST CONTROL  
 PINKSHIFT    RØRY    ROYAL & THE SERPENT    SCENE QUEEN    SCOWL    SHADOW OF INTENT  
 SILVERSTEIN    SLAUGHTER TO PREVAIL    SPEED    STORM    THE BLUE STONES  
 THE CALLOUS DAOBOYS    THOSE DAMN CROWS    TIGERCUB    UNDERSIDE  
 UNTIL I WAKE    URNE    VUKOVI    WARGASM    ZULU

PLUS MORE TO BE ANNOUNCED  
DONINGTON PARK 14-16 JUNE 2024

# ROCK RADIO UK

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## SEASONED GREETINGS!

Seasoned? more like pickled, but Hey! I hope you all have had a cracking Christmas and are preparing for an outstanding New Year!!!

I am still living in a dream, this time last year, I never would have thought I'd be running a station, let alone producing a monthly Magazine.

The Mag is a bit light this month, I just ran out of time with the preparations of Christmas and trying to do those jobs around my field that needed doing. Time is a precious commodity and it's something that can be taken for granted, overlooked until it is indeed too late. When we reflect on the last 12 months, we remember the good times and the not so good, the new friends we have made and the one's we have lost. We should all make some time in life for those we love the most and something that is often forgotten....ourselves!

Moving forward to 2024.

New hosts seem to arrive in the post each day, soon we will be closing the doors to applicants as we are almost full! That being said, there are a couple of planned new additions coming in January with which I am really pleased about, so watch the socials!!!! Speaking of which, in the last week we gained 400 new Faceache followers and we are over the 27k milestone. Please follow us and tell your friends, we are a station that will not bombard you with endless ads on the radio (only a

certain few) and a few sensible adverts in this magazine. We will never charge a music fan nor will we extort money from underground bands.

However we do need to make something to carry on in what we do. The best way for us to do that is with a public show of support.

'23 saw some great albums released, Blind River, King Kraken, The Blue Lena, Attack, The Hot One Two and a load of others. '24 will be even better with albums on the way by These Wicked Rivers, Florence Black, Magnum and Sons Of Liberty. The latter is just so damn good and different to what they have done before. I have already tagged it as my Album of '24 precisely because they have evolved so much. Don't get me wrong, there are still 'Hell Yeah's' by the bucket load!

What else are myself and the team thinking of doing?

Improve. We can always improve on what we do.

So, flick through the Magazine while you chew on Turkey leftovers and tell your friends all about us. I thank each and every one of you for your support and I'd like to thank the entire team for being the BEST there is!

## Happy New Year!!!!!!



## NICK GILES TOP 10 ALBUMS

Green Lung – This Heathen Land

Jaaw – Supercluster

The Blunders – Magic And Manipulation

AlterModerns – Side Effects Of Reality

Savage Cut – Holes In The Mind

Black Rainbows – SuperSkull

Doris Brendel/Lee Dunham – Pigs Might Fly

Skindred – Smile

Oranzada – Karma Tango

St Lucifer – Disgraceland





*Mizz Hydes*

*Welcome To The Hydeside*

*Reviews  
&  
Views  
From My Side*



Band Black Roze

Reviewed By Candy Roxx

Band Members

Viixen: Lead Vocals

Baz Roze: Guitarist

Steve Rankin: Bass

Vic Finch: Drums

Kent rockers Black Roze started writing tracks for their new album back in 2021 & 2022 heading to work with Dan Lucas at Joplin House recording studio. Art Of The Exile created the album cover.

everything set to go April 28th 2023 Black Roze released Penny For Your Sins. Reaching number 3 in the Amazon Album Rock Charts, Only to Be kept off the top spot by Metallica & Hawkwind. On June 17th 2023 we seen the album launch party & Black Roze have not stopped. From performing with some great bands & artist, to appearing at various festivals & the year is not over yet. Black Roze definitely Get Their Kix from Rock & Roll. So here are my thoughts about all the tracks that make up the album.

Penny For Your Sins.

For those of you who haven't listened to Penny For Sins with headphones on then you should, because you get an unbelievable mix. It opens with Baz playing in your right ear like he is in some empty alleyway, then boom the full sound of both ears being filled by Steve's bass in the left before you get the full sound in your ears & Vic Finch's drums feeling like they are on top of your head along with Vix vocals .

Now you can ask any producer, engineer, because that is the way you want your final mix to be. With Penny For Your Sins this is perfect. Baz's Jackson guitar has just enough distortion added, because if you use a Jackson & I do you don't need to turn that pedal up.

So this punchy as hell track has some great bass lines from Steve & is used loads throughout Penny For Your Sins, as it is proved in the opening to the lead break which sounds like Baz knocks the distortion off for a clean double tracked guitar both slightly different adding to build up of the lead break that is to follow. Steve adds a beautiful high scale bass line then it's a balls out lead break with Baz adding a bit of a wahwah pedal just to kick it up a notch. Not sure if Vix removed a new rock boot & threw it at Baz because that lead break could have lasted forever.

The drum fills & construction are very well done. Now only one ingredient is missing & here it comes like I can only describe as Vix is standing on your head, her powerful vocal & opening yell appears from over the back of your skull as Vix isn't holding back from start to finish. I love Vix vocals & here is why. It has a tone unique to Vix it is mid range then off into high then Vix drops her vocal to low on sins & that is in one breath. Awesome.

### Give Yourself To Me

This is a complete difference to the opening track, it's slower, it's got great riffs & drums. Drops into a deep fill before the chorus, that tells you this is a dark like track.

I can't help been taken back to the band & vocals of Poly Styrene from X-ray Spex. Don't compare the two because Give Yourself To Me just makes me remember that era of music & we all those bands that do. This is one of those tracks that triggers it perfectly. If you were growing up in that era then you will know they tried to censorship everything from music to those 18 plus places. If you want to know what Steve Rankin was writing about then buy the CD & read the lyrics.

Give Yourself To Me is like a mix of rock meets that X-ray Spex punk era & Black Roze put it together perfectly.

### Hit Me Up

Now if you know of the band T Rex then this has to be one of most perfect tributes to Marc Bolan & T Rex ever. Then Black Roze do what they do best & make it theirs because it is. They wrote. What Black Roze did was take a catchy as hell T. Rex riff & build Hit Me Up into this track Marc Bolan would be proud of. Put it with that Viixen vocal & boom.

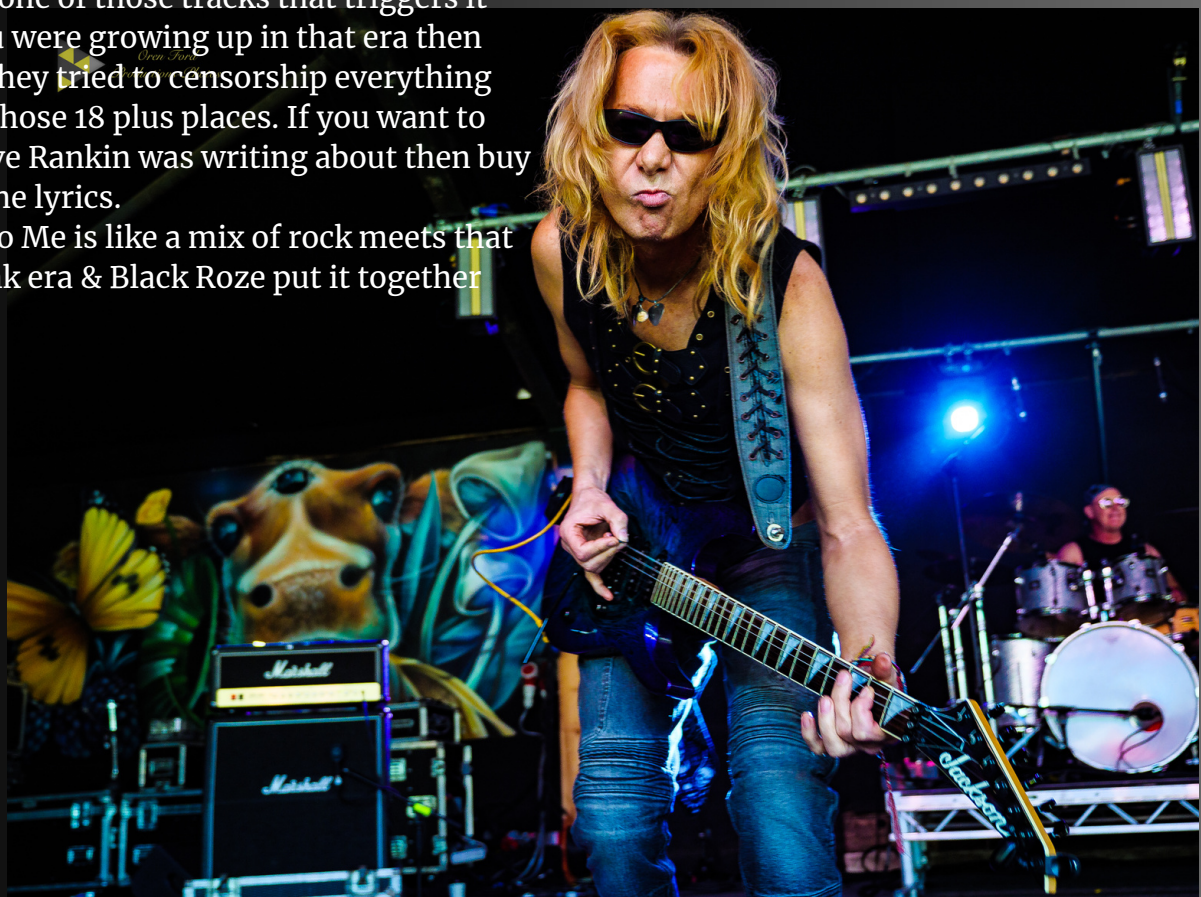
My only regret is we no longer have Marc Bolan with us & I'm 100% sure he would have loved to have been on this track with Black Roze & sing along with Vix. Let alone Suzi Quatro. Get her asked because I'd love to hear Vix & Suzi together on a track.

Hit Me Up is simply a feel good track & sometimes less is more when you want to put a track like this together, listen & learn from the riffs of Baz Roze, to the bass of Steve Rankin & the Drumming of Vic Finch.

The vocal will do the rest & Vix delivers that with a perfect little high squeal part way through Hit Me Up & it adds so much to this feel good weekend vibe track. In the words of Vix  
NOW THAT'S WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT.

### Devils Door.

Now Devils Door is really cleverly done, because if you know the story behind the lyrics to Devils Door you will realise that the opening sounds like a



hospital trolley bed being wheel down one of those horrible corridors to the mortuary, before Baz adds an opening lead like the sirens of an ambulance it's haunting.

Then Vix ask you the question of have you ever been in that place between life & death?

If like me you have then this will resonate with you.

Vix goes from from soft to power as it builds then returns from verse to chorus, Steve adds a bass line like a heart beat all over the place, it's high one minute, beautifully soft leading from baz's guitar as it slips into that haunting ambulance, Vic's drums adding tension.

Vix vocal is amazing it's like Hazel O'Conner one moment as it twist into some witch like voice then back to some other place as Vix sings her heart out in the chorus with unbelievable power that matches the power of baz's guitar.

The keyboards sound like some distant quire in the build up to the chorus, then just simply used in the background.

If you want to know how tight of a machine Black Roze are Devils Door is your proof.

& for any vocalists out there here is some advice for you from Vix, instead of trying to reach for a high note, you are better off coming down on it, imagine falling off a cliff OK. Don't make us push you. Ha-ha.

Listen to Devils door to hear that advice in full use. Plus it is a song that will leave you wanting more.

Wake Up.

Love Steve's bass line in Wake Up. Reminds me of how the start of Pump It Up by Elvis Costello but the cover version Skin did as it starts with a bass & so few songs ever start with a bass line so it's really good to hear that.

You can't say Wake Up is punk, it's pop, it's rock, etc. etc. because it's everything.

If you don't agree with me then listen to Vic's bass drum because that is thrash metal at one point & works perfectly in Wake Up. This track goes from here to there then back to here again, then comes the to hell with it part. This is Black Roze doing what they love doing, making music their way, their style.

Burn It Down.

The opening from Baz sounds to me like his guitar is going through a couple of nice effect pedals, with a touch of reverb, an octave higher & if that is reverb it adds depth, them turn them off & let those

punchy riffs do their work. Steve once again adds some cool bass lines, Vic adds in some really good drum fills.

Vix vocal again is amazing & just wait for those power stops as Vix's vocal is all you hear.

Baz's lead break is amazing as it drops away to have Steve's bass take over.

Baz put in not one but two lead breaks, very clever as the second one is done like the opening of Burn It Down. I'm not sure but to me it sounds like Baz is using a touch of distortion, Octave plus & a touch of reverb. Now for those of you don't know what an octave plus is, it is a pedal that make the guitar sound higher or lower. But whatever tricks Baz used on Burn It Down it sounds awesome. Love it.



Foot Prints In The Sand.

Now many will probably refer to Footprints In The Sand as a ballad, I'm not going to do that, yes it's a slow song, but what the lyrics are about don't put Footprints in that bracket & I hate putting songs into brackets.

Footprints In The Sand is a beautifully written & constructed track from start to finish.

Steve wrote what he was feeling from the heart. Vix, Baz & Vic all felt this too as they worked to give Footprints In The Sand the attention to detail it deserved, Now I'm not for one moment saying they didn't with the other tracks on the album, of course Black Roze did.

You just know when tracks come from the heart & Footprints is the second one on the Penny For Your Sin album. They just mean more than anything. What I'm saying is this, because Black Roze are not just a bunch of friends making music, Black Roze are





because it's a great little number that makes you to get on stage & join in singing with Vix to I get my Kix from rock & roll. Another punchy kick ass, feel good vibe all round, Baz is going all out with fancy guitar solos. He gave it exactly enough. Steve put in some great bass fills, Vic kept the beat going like a machine. Vix is in the driving seat as everything wrapping around her vocal. The repeat on Vix vocal in the verses is brilliant, especially because Dan Lucas the engineer & the guy who did the final mix of the album added a little extra to those repeats Vix sung again.

a family & this is another track proving the case.. Footprints In The Sand is clean track with just a hint of distortion on Baz's guitar, giving that beautiful clean crisp opening. As Baz told me the other night as Vix, Baz & myself talked about Penny For Your Sins. I'm not revealing everything we talked about. But I wanted a bit more background into the making of this album.

Footprints In The Sand is one of those tracks, because I've been playing tracks from Penny For Your Sins on my show for a while now, you forget the people behind the music & why they wrote them as they trigger your own battles in life, your lose, your fight for survival etc. & I personally wanted to give Penny For Sins Justice by removing those thoughts.

Baz & Vix were amazing as we talked Footprints In The Sand etc. & all I can honestly say is what I said at the beginning it is beautifully written by Steve sharing his thoughts & emotions, constructed in a very meaningful way, with Vix laying down a heartfelt vocal. Never a more true message in this track filled with heartfelt emotion.

Kix.

This is the Viixen song. It's Vix telling us what she loves the most & that is getting on that stage & giving it her all getting her kicks from Rock & Roll. It's a track you wish was a minute longer, just

Not Your Whore Anymore.

Right I will say this now, because I'm hooked on this track & it's because I love ending my radio show with it.

Not Your Whore Anymore opens with Steve sliding his fingers down that fret board, then Baz adds an amazing lead over that. Before it drops & Vix adds her vocal, then it builds up again into the a full powerhouse chorus. Steve is giving his bass a real workout he is up the fret board, down the fret board, pounding out that beat is Vic & then it drops back into the verse before here they go again, it's a roller coaster ride of fast, faster, that climb to the top again before your speeding down the other side into that chorus. It has a delay which is brilliant & an ending like it's falling into a well as it fades out. It's stick it on repeat & lets take that adrenaline ride again.

Poison Voices.

Take a pinch of Hazel O'Connor because when Vix isn't powering out her rock vixen & you hear her soft vocal, you catch a hint of Hazel, if like me your old enough to remember who Hazel O'Connor is. You will know back then artist with a vocal like Vix were popular, because you only had to hear it to recognise who it was, that list is big & Vix is among them. So don't for minute think I'm comparing Vix or any band to another I'm merely pointing out these bands & artist were signed to major labels & Black Roze are not.

They have to work endlessly promoting & pushing their music to be heard by us. Black Roze deserve to be heard by many many more for many of a reason. Vix vocal is just one of them, her vocal is unique now & Vix has a very talented bunch of musicians behind her in Baz Roze, Steve Rankin & Vic Finch.

Poison Voices slips from from beautiful soft onto powerful deep riffs. Once again Steve provides some bass lines that Baz compliments with a power chord. No one takes the lead in any track & Poison Voices proves what three musicians can when you work with your vocalist to great effect.

It don't matter weather it sounds punkish, pop rock, hard rock, soft rock all those are just silly pointless labels you want to give to bands. I will spell it out what it is BLACK ROZE full stop.

They are a rock band & don't say anything else because Black Roze can & will surprise you with their music. But if you want great punchy, kick ass tracks a couple of very well constructed slower track. Penny For Your Sins is really worth checking out, it is mixed perfectly from start to finish.

## Curse Of The Black Roze pt 2

This is a bonus track on the album & wow, I'll just say Fleetwood Mac, Stevie Nicks. Black Roze style. I'm simply not going to give anything more away, than be prepared for an outstanding alum from

beginning to end, that is a journey of Black Roze from tracks written during lock down, to tracks written in the studio. It covers everything from near death, addiction, losing the people we love & fetish. Now if that ain't an album written from the heart & then some.

So if Penny For Your Sins has left you wanting more then don't worry Black Roze are busy writing one. We can't wait to where that one will take us.

With every review I write, I merely tell how the track sounds & how it makes me feel & the recording quality of of the album, which Dan Lucas made a fantastic job of doing.

I just show you the door, it is up to you to step through it & I strongly suggest that you do. Penny For Your Sins is all very written & constructed album, Dan Lucas & Joplin House recording Studio is the unknown member of Black Roze & like many bands & artists out there these studios & more importantly the recording final mix of every track is vital. So don't jump at the cheapest etc., Don't think that because you can now download mixing & recording programmes you can produce your own album, it takes years of practice & knowledge to be able to that. This is the reason Black Roze will be working with Dan Lucas on their next album.





## ROGER NICHOLLS TOP 10 ALBUMS

- Star Collector – Attack, Sustain, Decay Repeat
- Peter Daltrey & The Know Escape – Running Through Chelsea
- Kevin Robertson – Magic Spells Abound
- Sun Dial – Messages From the Mothership
- Jody and the Jerms – Wonder
- Hanford Flyover – Source
- Arthur Alexander – Steppin' Out
- Goat – Medicine
- Shplang – You Valued Customer
- Carla Olson – Have Harmony Will Travel 3





## KEITH NICKLESS TOP 10 ALBUMS

### Defiance Pt 1 – Ian Hunter

Awesome collection of songs full of experience, emotion and fighting spirit from an 84 year old who is too busy being a genius to be in a retirement home.

### Times New Roman – Queens of the Stone Age

The highlight of Glastonbury for me Desert Rock that brings you chills on the hottest day

### Dust Coda – Loco Paradise

Two years on from Mojo Skyline they are two years tougher and tighter, but they have melody in their thunder.

### Alice Cooper – Road

Another old trooper refusing to go quietly with a collection of songs that make you smile as you look over your shoulder.

### Foo Fighters – But Here We Are

The nicest man in rock and his jolly band bounce from tragedy with hooky melodic tunes that have a velvet coating and a heart of concrete.

### 6) Avenged Sevenfold – Life Is But A Dream

The most surprising album of the year no explicit lyrics to upset the vicar and more piano than all their other albums put together.

### 7) Metallica – 72 Seasons

Does exactly what it says on the tin. High quality riffage, steel core lyrics and something to make you scream “Yeah”! Every time you turn it on.

### When Rivers Meet – Aces Are High.

Forget the cottage industry narrative a great album from a band that’s tight and swings. Aaron Bond is a great guitarist and Grace is a vocal goddess. Why aren’t they on bigger stages.

# Rival Sons – Darkfighter.

A brilliant album that plumbs the depths of your imagination but always with one foot in safety. Performed live it made my soul glow

# Hackney Diamonds – Rolling Stones

We may have similar songs before but transports you back to when was so cool and the Stones stood for rebellion and sex



# SaN PR

*SaN PR specialises in band promotion and PR*



Hugely inviting heavy rock quartet NIGHT THIEVES are back with an immersive new EP. The Brit rockers unleash their third EP in three years, *Polarity*, which lands on Friday 19th January. Hailing from the nation's capital, NIGHT THIEVES soon earned glowing comparisons to everyone from Biffy Clyro, Royal Blood, Architects, and Spiritbox. Dispatching a sound that is steeped with stout riffery, intriguing phrasing, and captivating vocal lines, the band soon picked up a legion of followers after a raft of highly engaging live performances. With much revered support from Planet Rock, Fireworks Magazine, Powerplay, HRH, Total Rock, and ERB Magazine, NIGHT THIEVES are destined to break through in 2024.

For more see:

<https://www.facebook.com/NightThievesOfficial>

Commanding Brit Nu-metalcore quartet DRIP FED EMPIRE are poised to unleash a full-blooded assault on the UK armed with their debut album, *Revolutionist*, which drops on Friday 26th January. The self-proclaimed "genre bending metalheads" bring together a wealth of influences drawing from metalcore and industrial, through to nu-metal, and have already racked up glowing comparisons to everyone from Rage Against The Machine, Enter Shikari, and Bring Me The Horizon. Expressing a style and phrasing that are uniquely their own, DRIP FED EMPIRE are a group with a political voice and strong social conscience, and this is depicted through their deeply engaging lyrical themes and messages.

Check out more at: <https://linktr.ee/dripfedempire>



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[www.sanpr.co.uk](http://www.sanpr.co.uk)

**The Walrus & the Carpenter Show**



Tuesday 7pm  
Thursday 9am

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## TOP 10 ALBUMS

- Wille And The Bandits - The Kernow Sessions-Live
- Dom Martin -Buried In The Hail
- B'ee -What's It Gonna B'ee
- Joshua Burnell - Glass Knight
- Phil Manca -Layers Of Pain
- Bison Hip -Older Stronger Better
- Voodoo Ramble -Home Again
- Rumour -Raised On River Blues
- The Bluesbones -Unchained
- Selina And The Howlin Dogs -Biscuit City





*Here Comes the Rain*



# MAGNUM

## Weathering The Storm

### Here Comes The Rain, New Album 12/1/24

If there is one band that has been a constant in my life, it has to be Magnum.

They were there at the beginning for me, when I started looking at other bands other than Status Quo and Thin Lizzy like everyone else was at my school when I was what....12/13? It was literally by sheer chance that I picked up *The Eleventh Hour*. I'd heard people talking about Chase The Dragon, how good it was and all that but unbeknown to me, the Gods had decided to put Magnum's latest album (cassette) in the bargain £1 bin at the checkout, in Debenhams, Taunton, the Saturday after it was released. Me being that spotty teenager with very little money saw this cassette and took a punt. I had no idea that it had just been

released, I knew nothing about the history of the Band other than the little I had heard. That tape is still with me to this day. I have no idea if it works still, but I had my money's worth out of it and then some!

This one rather excellent and underrated album was the cornerstone of what was to come. *Storytellers Night* came next, seeing these guys on a Channel 4 TV show at the time whetted my appetite to see them play but it wasn't to be at that time. *Vigilante* came out, pretty much to the day I met my now wife. Again, I saw the cassette by chance in Woolworths and I had to have it. Those early days of courtship and driving around the countryside, always had *Vigilante* as its soundtrack.





My first Live experience was not until The Wings Of Heaven tour of March '88 in Bristol. What a gig to attend though, the band were on top form and really firing on all 8 cylinders. It was only a few days before the Hammersmith gig that was filmed for Video release and to this day, is probably the best Live album never to get an audio only release (WHY?????). I must admit, I'd purchased a true Stereo Video player so when the VHS came out, I did the 2-tape shuffle and had my own version for the car within a couple of hours!

December '88 saw the Christmas tour at a sold-out NEC Arena in Birmingham. The one astounding memory I have of that gig is looking down from the rafters and seeing everyone pumping their fists to Don't Wake The Lion. That moment left me in awe, and I realised that this was a one-of-a-kind gig that will be with me until I die.

I was gutted when they announced the 'Final' gig in the mid-nineties, I was of course there, but I couldn't believe it was the end. Thankfully, it was brief, with a revamped lineup, we were given another ten or so albums. I had seen them ten times before this and I took the decision at that time to concentrate on my farm, I hardly saw any bands until my boys were getting into music and we went to Sonisphere for a day in 2010. 15 years nearly without a gig. I was still buying Magnum albums, yet I did not get to see them until my 50th birthday in Oslo for the Lost/Eternity tour. What had I missed??? What had I been thinking? My love for the band and seeing them play was rekindled that cold evening and if I'm honest, it was probably at that point when I started looking outwards and finding something to do other than farming which had taken away

the best years of my life and given me nothing but stress in return. Maybe it was then I started to look at music media?

Now, we all know I write a bit here and I do a bit of radio in the mornings. I can safely say that Magnum have been the driving force of my love of music. Yes, I have other favourite bands, I mean it would be a little odd if I was so narrow minded that I literally only listened to this band, there are people out there like it but I'm not one of them. Magnum have always had a broad spectrum of appeal; My daughter was a baby when Sleepwalking came out and it's still one of her favourite albums and she has now passed on the love of all things Magnum to HER daughter who now explores their back catalogue on the streaming platforms. It's mind-blowing to think that there are 3 generations of fans out there, I wonder if they ever conceived that they would leave such a mark on history?

I last saw Magnum play in The Fleece in Bristol 12 months ago. They were still a force to be reckoned with on stage and it is sad to think that with Tony's recent announcement about his health, that this will be the last time I get to see them play. I fully understand how he is feeling, farming battered me ten shades of sideways and I am having to adjust what I do as I get older. It sucks, it really does so I know how hard it must've been for him to cancel the tour. Working in pain is no fun at all.

I find it hard to believe that this will be the end of live gigs for the band, someone as driven as Tony, who cannot not write music and is prolific as he is will not be able to sit still for too long. There is usually a way around most obstacles in life and maybe.... the odd show will get announced here and



there. I firmly believe it is the end of the 2-month tour cycle for the guys and I don't blame them, however, Studio albums I think will be flowing out at a high rate. New stuff reworked old stuff and maybe other music we hadn't even thought about! It's new material heading our way that is the reason for this article. For me, the last 12 months have been unbelievable to be fair, I never in a million years thought I would get the chance to speak with Bob like I did last year at the Fleece for about half an hour, nor did I think he would call me up for an interview about the new album. It's all been a little surreal, but I am glad it's happened!

As it was a look at Magnum historically, my first interview with Bob, it is probably more apt to pick out a few relevant pieces from that interview now, in case you have been living under a rock and have no idea about the band.

Dave - You really don't look old enough to be celebrating 50 years.

Bob - Something to celebrate. And we've been doing it all year! So, we're a bit worn out. So yes, it's worth celebrating that we've been working together. was starting in 1972 with the Rum Runner nightclub in Birmingham, right. And we were part of a resident band called Magnum. We were there for people to have a dance to basically sound crap and it was, but it was real. That's two new bands, resident bands. And Tony comes along. He joins me and our old drummer kex, who's no longer with us, unfortunately, bless him And we called ourselves Magnum. And we've been working together ever since. And he got a bit fed up playing the top forty. But that was the gig. It was a bit of money. But he said I've got some songs. I'm a songwriter. So, do you want to

play some on the stage? Yeah, great. Let's do it. Unbeknown to the people who employed us they just wanted us to be a jukebox you know. not original. Can't dance that Well, I don't know this one. Now I haven't heard of this one. Sorry. We know so we were to do a bit of both. But it was the early start of Magnum that we'll know a little now. We got sacked.! And we went on the road in 1976. And we started doing gigs up and down the country around the Midlands and a residency here and the residency at somewhere called the railway in Birmingham, which is now turning into the HS two station.

And then we got to do some demos. And we got Jeff Lynn to take some demos down to Don Arden. Jet records set up. So, we recorded it, and it took two years to come out for some reason. And in between Tony said, I've got some newer ones that we use to update the album more to 1978. And that's when it came out, Kingdom Of Madness, that was our first record. And now in January we had our 22nd album come out, which is the monster roars. So, everything in between. So that's it. We started early. And here we are all these years later, like, I'm still enjoying it, I still get a kick out of it.





Dave - over the years, what have been your personal highlights with Magnum?

Bob - Walking onstage in front of the audience. Is the highlight. The only highlight you need is the audience in front of you. It's brilliant. You know if you can sell out a show, you know, people are having a good time. That's a highlighting itself. But I know what you mean. Yeah. We toured with Ozzy, Which was 82 somewhat of a highlight. Fantastic time we had. I mean, nobody knew who we were in America. But we went down really well. Because we were mates with Ozzy you know, we came from the same town, from Birmingham. Yep. Same town. Same record label, which really helped. Yeah, that was a massive getting connected to Tommy Vance's Radio One rock show Every Friday and we were doing Hammersmith Odeon and went live. You went live in front of 3 million listeners or something like that. Yeah. So that was great. And we had Alan Freeman come on to introduce us to Fluff Freeman. So, stuff like that. There were lots of things. Monsters of Rock was another in 1985 And that was the day that we signed the Polydor record deal really, Backstage talking to the likes of Jon Bon Jovi and Richie Sambora. My mom was there having her photo taken with them all.

Dave - For me, it all started 30 odd years ago with Eleventh Hour and Wings Of Heaven, the Christmas '88 tour was possibly one of my favourite gigs ever.

Bob - So that's where you came into Magnum? Yeah. Yes, that was a good, very underrated album. Songs Were great. But not very commercial. But that's how we were at the time. We had Rodney Matthews doing the artwork. Yeah, brilliant.

you have to listen to the songs you know. But we lightened up a little bit with Storytellers Night after that, and that spread to a lot more people. Absolutely, because it was more listenable on the radio, you know better for radio play in that and that attracted a lot of people to magnum then we started building up our audiences. We did like various supports before that, but after that it was the other way around. Because of the radio exposure and suddenly doing videos, oh my god video for just like an Arrow, yes, I saw it the other day so Wow. How young do I look? So that started us really in the Polydor deal. And we just went from strength to strength and even played Wembley Arena. I can't believe we did that. That's fantastic.

Dave - Would you go back and do it again?

Bob - We'd do it all again. I prefer the theatres myself. Tony would tell you the same, there's a nicer atmosphere for the band on the stage. You know, and hopefully the audience as well. The arenas are great and the festivals that was a big gap and then there's a barrier then as the audience where in the theatre is people are more in your face down a lot of clubs like a rock club like tonight only a big this tonight you know theatres Shepherds Bush Empire Liverpool Empire Great. Birmingham Odeon used to be a fantastic venue for bands. But then they turned it into a multiplex cinema, boo. But it was a fantastic Venue. You know, we were there a few times. Yeah, it was just a great atmosphere. And you don't get that in an arena, great as arena is with the screens and all that big stuff. And but I suppose, I guess I'm just basically



talking about the atmosphere thing. I mean, you know, but it's just a personal thing. We've made the theatres and the gods in the balcony. And then there's another balcony and the top balcony is called the gods. Yeah. Yeah. And that's in Sacred Hour, you're in the gods shown with awe and splendour. And people think we're talking about God, we don't know it's the people in that level in the balcony. But that's Tony's way of putting something across. And it's, you know, it's very political, I think. For a bit it's a more of a down to earth subject. And that's it, but it's wrapped up in poetry and imagery. And I think that's what, that's what Magnum fans like, I think, yeah. What's that mean? We'll get it wrong. I'll get it wrong myself. Sometimes it was now it's not about like, it's about this. Okay. So, I'm a Magnum fan myself

Dave - Okay, so what's your favourite Album?

Bob - Well, I love the monster Roars, But I also love all sorts. I think Wings of Heaven was great. When it got mixed properly. The second time round. Mixing was awful. Getting all remixed. It was all recorded fine, but it was mixed terribly. Really thin or something. Wings Of Heaven was great. It's not Tony's favourite, because he's talking about the production, so lame and weak. And it ended up much better, but still not as good as the production that we have now. If we had the technology then. That we have now. You know, it'd be fantastic. But this music is fantastic. I mean, don't wake the lion for goodness's sake. It's 11 and a half 11 minutes long or something. So yeah. But oh, monster roars, that's a great album as well. came out in January. It's done real good. I think the music on there is fantastic. And the production is awesome, dude. Some people say not me, I'm from Birmingham. Awesome. But I like a lot of albums in between that rock art and great. sleepwalking. That's great music, great artwork, the whole package. Fantastic. Then vigilante was a cracking album. We did that with Roger Taylor in Switzerland. Did a great job him and Dave Richards. His main man, his engineer. Great songs. Great production. It was quite experimental for us coming from Storytellers, so it was recording that in UB40 studio and then to go to Switzerland with Roger. Roger Taylor. I shouldn't say Roger, it's too familiar, fantastic. I love that man.

So, I like most of our albums that we've done in varying degrees and Tony would say the same. So, it's about it really, you can't like everything. sometimes when you do them on tour later, some years later, ah, and you change it to bring it up to this level of now, with our why did we record it like

that? But when you record now, I mean, you've that's it you finished? Don't get another go with it. Why don't you want to rerecord it some years later, but I don't see the point in that. Tony wants to move on all the time, you know, with new songs, but on the stage, the old songs that we're doing come across so much better. Of course, it was like any band years earlier. It's like, oh, it was all right then, but now it's fantastic. Why didn't we do that? And anybody who says that, with hindsight is a wonderful thing. Isn't this you would have done it like that. But there you go. You can't keep recording something all year, you gotta put the pen down. Put the mic down. So, it's the same for everybody. But yeah, generally I like all the albums. We've done 22 now and we're still doing it. On SPV steam hammer, And we have been for some years since some 2002. They are a very supportive Record Company. That's the story of Magnum.



In the space of a few pages, we have the entire history of Magnum and my own recollections of the band. It's a bit like that old TV program, This Is Your Life, where we have done the complete biography and given the band the big red book...that must be it surely?

Well, no it isn't.

As we have inferred, there is still more to come, like a brand-new album in January '24, Here Comes The Rain.

It has a very British title, we all like to comment about the weather but as with all Magnum songs and lyrics, you really should dig a little deeper, this isn't some light comment about buying a coat but

more of an in-depth look about the human fights and struggles we have from day to day. Made even more poignant when you consider the life-changing decision Tony has had to make recently.

I have to add, I really do look forward to new music from these guys because when a couple of long-standing members left a few years ago, Rick and Lee brought in their own talents which I think made Tony look harder at what the band were now capable of. Gone were the days of the old members second -guessing what he wanted from them to create the Magnum sound, since Lost/Eternity I believe the new dynamics have evolved Magnum to an even higher level of competence. I think Tony has been able to draw more from the Band than I think he even thought was possible. So, with that being said, How does 'Here Comes The Rain' stand alongside the entire catalogue of Magnum?



Even writing that makes me shudder a little, they have that holy trinity of albums that everyone knows, but that was 40ish years ago, things and times have changed. Look at the opening track, "Run Into The Shadows", You are intrigued by the intro and as soon as the melody/riff kicks in, you are reaching for the volume control and cranking it up. By the time you get to the first chorus you are as embedded into this album as the rest of the band. This track sucks you into the reality that is a Magnum album, and it has you in a firm grip for the entire 50 minutes.

The title track, "Here Comes The Rain" has so many things on so many different levels. The vocals and the melodies are perfect, the pace of the song is not over rushed so it allows the magic of the words and the music wash over you yet come the end you still find that your breath has been taken away. Listen to this track, the lyrics are very subtle yet is a stark comment on what is going on in this world today. It provokes thought, it questions things you had probably overlooked...this is a huge track in every way.

"Some Kind Of Treachery" has a very subtle start with the Piano and Bob's vocals, yet it flies away. Lyrically it's dark, maybe about those people we find surrounding us in our day to day lives that we could do without. The sway of the overall melody is perfect.

"After The Silence" picks up the pace again and strikes a chord with particular parts of my life at the moment, I'm sure those involved would agree. Some 'great' songs happen by chance, and they mark a particular point in our lives where they have so much relevance, this track will definitely be one of those and it helps that it's a fantastic track as well!



It has everything you'd expect from modern-day Magnum, classic tracks, ballads, upbeat rockier tunes and the slower deeper tracks that make you think a little. What makes this a little more special than The Monster Roars and Serpent Rings? Timing. I really do believe the circumstances of the times when those albums came out, had a knock-on effect on how we viewed the releases. Both are stellar albums which are a credit to the band. But I think The Band had to dig a little deeper this time around for no other reason than life itself. Digging that bit deeper has paid off ten-fold because I firmly believe that this is one of the best albums they have EVER done.



“Blue Tango” is that upbeat Rocky good time track that we didn’t know we needed until we heard it! Yeah, I can definitely see this being a fan favourite and is understandably the first single from the album. I can see the grins on the faces of all who played on this track, it’s one of those songs that really does push the Boogie button.

“The Day He Lied” just screams CLASSIC as soon as it opens up. That simple step Riff in the melody and the vocal in the main chorus is inspired. It is a dark tale about the break in trust and moving on from the despair, again it’s one of those songs that captures a moment in time.

“The Seventh Darkness” is such a heavy track from the start. An upbeat tempo with its poetry that gives it an immense depth. The surprise of this though is the shared solo between guitar and Sax, then the sudden breakdown into vocals and acoustic guitar. One of my favourite tracks as there is so much going on in different ways that it never feels overcrowded.

“Broken City”. You only have to watch the news each day to work out what this track is about. Sympathetic in its manner yet it hits so hard emotionally. Musically, it’s a departure from the guitars and drums, it relies on Keys and strings to speak volumes and make this an outstanding track.

“I Wanna Live” is like a sunrise, it opens and seems to cover you with light which builds and builds as the track progresses. Very uplifting from the outset, it takes you by the hand and shows you how good life can be. When you listen to the lyrics, things are a little deeper because it starts with that point where you think it’s over and you then make that decision to fight onwards.

Closing the album is “Borderline”. One word, EPIC. Making the hairs on the back of my neck stand on end, I know for a fact that they have saved the best until last. Bob’s tones are superb, and the craftwork of this track is spot on. It is the longest track on the album, but it is over in a flash. If you listen to just one track, choose this one and you will then go and buy the CD.

A brief rundown of the album ‘Here Comes The Rain’. So no, there is nothing about the British weather on this album, It really is all about weathering the storm of life and what it throws at us. There are a few digressions from this point but on the whole, it is the crux of it. To bring you back to my previous point raised about the previous two albums, as I said, the point of time when these albums were released, humanity itself was on a low. People were passing, events were being cancelled... we indeed lost 2 years of our lives to something that was out of our control, yet after all of the complications Magnum had at this time, they have continued to forge ahead and be bigger and better than before. They have produced something that is truly outstanding, Tony has captured all of that despair and uncertainty we all went through and moulded it into a piece of art that will make us think about all the trials we go through in life and still, still we come out the other side. Far from being a depressing album, it is quite the reverse, and it actually uplifts you and shows you that there is a bright side to everything. Music is a healer and possibly the best medicine out there.



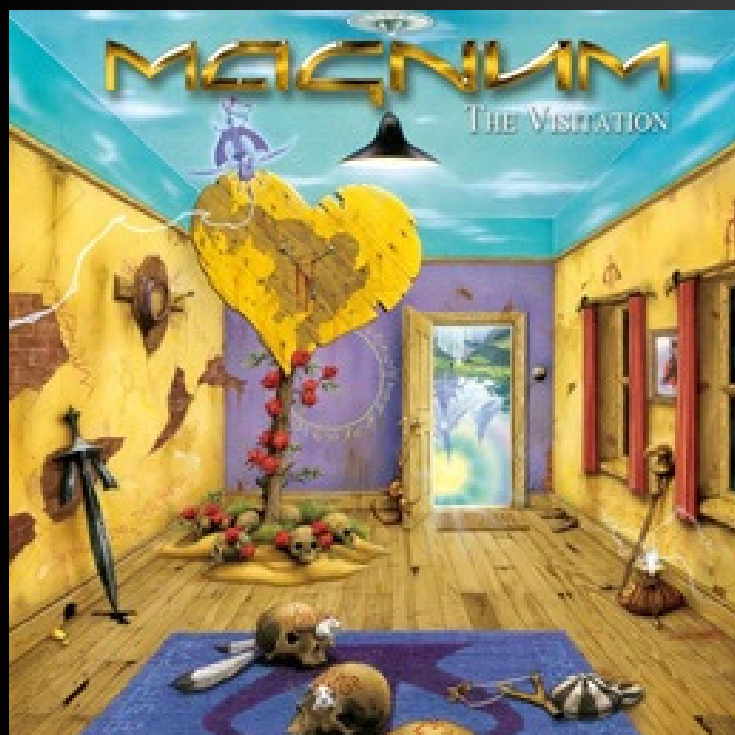
I had another chat with Bob a couple of weeks ago, obviously this was before the tour cancellation. There was no hint at the time that this would happen, and I am positive that it is a shock to the entire band as it is to us.

Bob - Hello, everybody. I hope everybody's okay out there. Yeah, I'm good. I'm just doing my million interviews. Yeah, it's quite extensive these days. But it's nice to be here. It's nice that people want to talk to us. So yeah, let's do it.

Dave - Well, you seem to have something new on the way in January.

Bob - Yeah, I was called here comes the rain, it's coming out January the 12th, I think. And 10 songs written again by Tony Clark and himself, the one and only and it's great. I love it. I've been doing it all those years. We still keep recording and touring and recording into that 23rd album now for goodness's sake! But it's in your blood, isn't it? You don't just treat this as a part time job. It's your whole life. And I should be so lucky to have all this coming up. We've got a single coming out. Which was yesterday, I think, called Blue tango. And I think everyone is going to get up and do some rock and roll to that one. Because it's a rocker! Muscle baby. Yeah, it's, it's great. I love it. And there's a lot of cool few up-tempo songs on the album, it's quite an up album. And but it's a bit of a mixture, like we always do, you know. And different subject matters. Some serious, some not so serious. And, you know, you can't be serious all the time. But we try and you know, get a good balance on the album. And I hope people will enjoy listening to it when it comes out. It's got great artwork, once again by Rodney Matthews. he wanted to know the album title, so we could know which direction to start the artwork with.

And the artwork clearly illustrates the title track it comes around. It's quite obvious that we're not talking about rain here. And you see the artwork and



its drone vultures coming across some characters from previous albums as fans will know, who have got the other albums. So, there's some recognisable people there and the drone vultures on the back. The city in the background looked a bit crumbled. And there's a track on the album called Broken City. Which is, which could be any war-torn city, and people caught in the middle of all this awful stuff that's going on around the world. so, it's all relative to today and in the past and in the future, unfortunately.

So, I think it's great. I love singing the songs. The lyrics really get me. I mean I have a couple of goes at singing that track Broken City, it quite upset me when I've started seeing an influence that happens to me sometimes because I'm a bit too emotional, overly emotional for my own good sometimes. I'm on stage when we do Les Morts Dansant and the audience sings along with me, just cracks me up now God, stop singing and they're more in control of their emotions than I am. But they're a great crowd and I love that Magnum fans have been turned up in all these years, or through 23 albums and a million tours. They're just great people and the family people that they bring the kids and the grandkids, and you know, it's all family orientated. Magnum really is. And it's the way it should be. You can be rock and roll but still have your feet on the ground. So yeah, okay. Stuff like that.

Dave - Okay. If you were to pick a couple of songs off of that album for people just to listen to just, yeah, maybe if yet to be convinced about the Magnum legend. I mean, how dare they, but you know, which two songs would you pick? Just go and listen to those two, and you'll become a lifelong fan.

Bob - Run into the shadows. Yeah. And, the single the blue Tango.

I think it's a really good, interesting album. We've spent a long time on it. This year, and last year, Tony started writing, it took most of this year to record it. And we've put a lot of ourselves into it. And you can hear that. And I think he's a real good songwriter, and producer. And that lifts me to sing his music, the way it deserves to be sung. And I'll give Tony all credit for me being the singer that I am today. Thank you, Tony. Yeah, we've worked that long together. And we've matured together. And we've grown up together. And we're going great still, you know, you got to after all these years, but I thank Tony for making Bob who he is. But my main focus in life has always and always will be Magnum. That is quite enough for me to be doing in my life. I don't do anything else. So now it's, it wouldn't be fair, it will get in the way of my relationship with those two guys (Advantasia). And I think there's enough I've got enough to do on my plate. So yeah, as much as I'd like to do other stuff. I need to break. But I have a great life. I'm very lucky to have what I have, you know, and I'm very proud of Magnum, and I shouldn't be that lucky. You know?

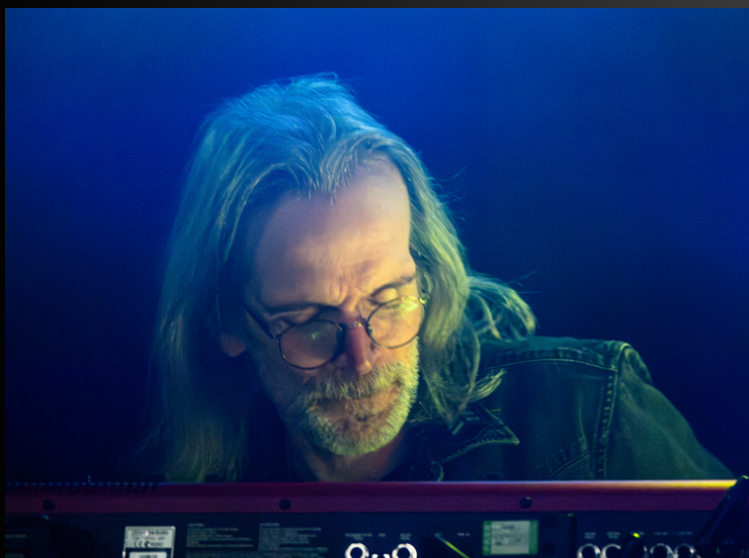
Dave - One final thing? What would you like to say to the fans?

Bob - Hello. All right? Yeah. How Are you doing everybody? Thanks for sticking with us all these years. And I hope you like our new album. Here comes the rain. And I'll see you next year. Cheers. Bye, Thank you.

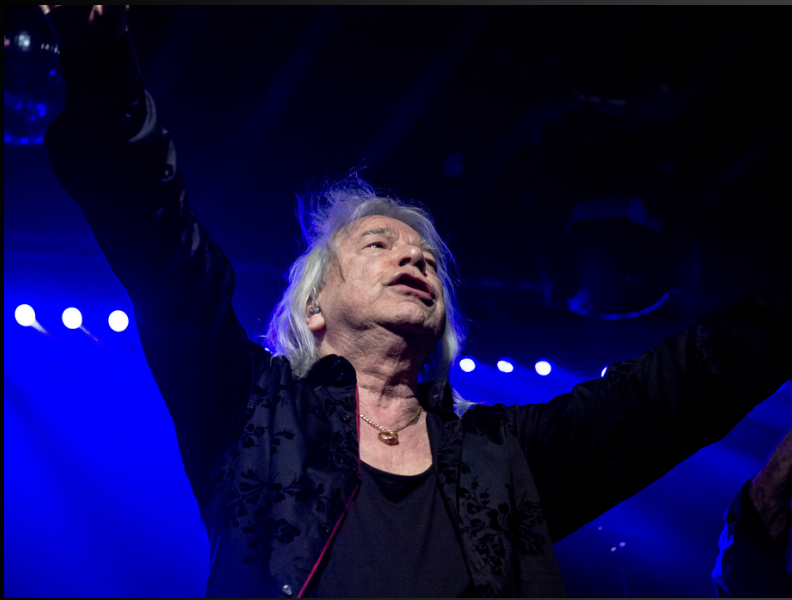
Listening back to that, It reaffirms my thoughts on the writing and of the content of the album. It really is one of their finest albums and I just love it. Bob's vocals are on point throughout the album, Tony is not only one of THE finest writers out there, but he is also an incredible Guitarist, and this comes across on the album. It's not all in your face, get as many notes out and melt faces that defines a good Guitarist, It's the ability to know when to play hard and when to rein it back, the ability to add a fill and know when less is actually more. Lee is a fine drummer, Bob and Tony are once quoted in saying that Magnum have always been blessed with good drummers... with Lee, they have a monster and one of the best I've seen play. He is also a great salesman as he sold my son-in-law an electronic kit not so long ago!!

Dennis has come in on Bass for the last few albums, filling some pretty big boots, this album we hear him at his absolute best and Finally Rick, I feel his playing on the keys, far surpasses both of his predecessors and this album again, may be his best recorded work to date. He's such a nice guy as well when we bumped into him outside of the Oslo venue on the Eternity tour. Whatever happens in the future as to touring or whatever, I feel that the Band are on another plane of excellence now, 'Here Comes The Rain' is superb. Magnum have been a big part of my life over the years, creating memories, acting as a soundtrack to some good times, some great times and they have been there when it's not been so great. There have been albums that I found harder to like than others, which would be true for any band. You can't please all of the people all of the time, however....'Here Comes The Rain' will appeal to every fan young and old, pre-order it, buy it, play it!

Dave









## NICK ADAMS TOP 10 ALBUMS

- Out Of Darkness – She Burns Red
- One More Time – Blink-182
- Sundowners – The Answer
- Inhale/Exhale – Those Damn Crows
- Chaos & Colour – Uriah Heep
- Hackney Diamonds – The Rolling Stones
- 72 Seasons – Metallica
- But Here We Are – Foo Fighters
- Wrong Side Of Paradise – Black Star Riders
- Seven – Winger





## TECHNICAL ECSTASY

# Lee James, The Man Behind The Tec, Chats About The Website

### TECHNICAL DETAILS... YAWN

Hi my name is Lee James and I'm aside from my fairly average attempt at making radio shows on a Friday night (7pm if you wanna listen in? Thought not!), I'm Chief Technical Minion here at RRUUK. I do my best to keep everything running in the best possible ways. The all important server that keeps us on air and the website that allows you to listen.

I thought I would share a few of the features of the website that you may not have known about and ramble on a bit about boring boring technical nonsense.

### IN THE BEGINNING

Dave Cyderbaby (our 'glorious leader' as I like to call him, just to annoy him haha!) came to me in the summer asking if I could maybe help get a new custom broadcast server up and running as the old one was going to be switched off at some point soon. Having already been the driving force behind one or two other stations and having been away from radio for a while I Yeah why not! I knew Dave from our time together on other stations and knew he was a good solid guy and I was happy

to lend a hand. I fully expected that once the server was set up and running correctly that be that. I said right off the bat that there was no chance of me going back on air as a presenter and I would sit quietly in the background until I was completely happy that everything worked as it should do. How wrong I was!

### AND SO IT GOES ON

Next was the website, which is still and probably always will be, an ongoing project. I'm constantly looking at ways to improve it and taking positive feedback from our listeners and presenters alike and finding ways to implement the suggestions however tricky some have been! Myself and Dave spoke constantly about different ideas for a full on rebranding while also retaining some details from the past history, which I think we have managed to do ?

There were a few absolute must haves... Top notch audio playback. Easy of access, Simple navigation, Interactive elements and interesting & engaging features.



## SOUNDING OUT

Audio quality is a big deal. Its vital that the listening experience is as good as it can be however, we needed to take into account what people use to listen. If you are connected to broadband / WIFI with your device then bandwidth is less of an issue and we could stream high bit rates and eat up lots of data to produce the sound, but that's not always the case, you maybe tuned in while out and about with your mobile device so I wanted to ensure that precious mobile data was not being gobbled up by our service. Then there is the smart speaker thing... Alexa Play Rock Radio UK! So there are the 3 main ways people get streaming audio delivered to them. (TuneIn is coming soon!!).

Our server delivers all audio encrypted at 128 kbs in MP3 format after processing. This allows smooth secure and sustainable transmission for everyone and is the best compromise when weighed up against data usage and speed of delivery. We think it works well.

I wanted to come away from the old style pop out player. It needed to be there right at the top no matter what page you are looking at and without any interruption should you navigate to another page, It should just keeps playing until you press stop or god forbid, close the page.

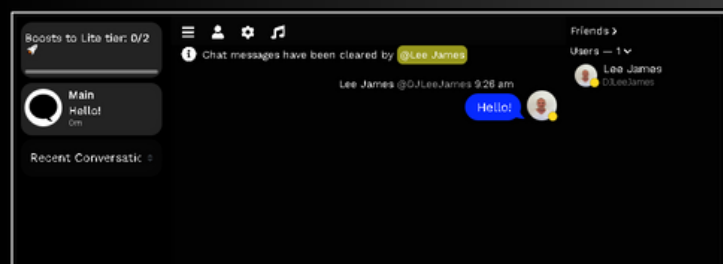
## WHATS THIS?

I was very keen to find a way to display the name & artist of any track being played out. A bit of a challenge as a fair percentage of the programs are pre-recorded so obtaining track data couldn't be done the old fashion (and way easier) way. I needed to create a 'listening service' which as the name suggests hears the music in the same way that Shazam works and reports back what it finds. That's a few hours (yeah just a few lol) I'll never get back, but I got there eventually. The system will also do its best to find the appropriate album art to display, I think it gets this right most of the time, but I'll let you be the judge of that. Displaying real time data about who's broadcasting & a bio about them, plus who's on next, including the show times which will be correct for whatever time zone you are in (not just UK), along with the shows own graphics, which by the way if you didn't know is also a link to that presenters social media page or website, so you can follow or contact them should you want! All this stuff happens in real time so will always be correct.

We thought that a list of the last ten tracks played out would be nice and then added links for each one for Spotify, Amazon Music, Apple Music and YouTube. If you really like a track you can explore it further with your favourite platform! Let us know what you think?

## SORRY I MISSED THAT

Since the changes to the station over the last 6 months you may have noticed quite a few (myself included) new presenters joining us here at RRUUK. To be honest, I've lost count of how many new shows there are now. New blood is vital to the survival of any organisation, and we are no exception, but this comes at a price. There are far fewer repeated shows during the week and maybe (and I'm sorry about this) the show time you used to listen to is now no longer there. But fear not! We have (at the last count), 20 of our shows available to listen to again via Mixcloud. All the links are right there on our 'Listen Again' page and will automatically update as and when one of the presenters uploads their show to their account. Mixcloud offers a free or subscription service with different feature for each. [www.rockradiouk.com/listen-again](http://www.rockradiouk.com/listen-again)



## TALKING NONSENSE

Fancy a chat? Why not? There is an embedded chat on the home page so you can all talk amongst yourselves and interact directly with presenters when they are on air. It's the best way we could find to allow instant communication between you and us and its proving to be a minor hit with many of our listeners, especially for shows that go out live. Give it a try! [www.rockradiouk.com](http://www.rockradiouk.com)

## ON THE BLOG

Blogging has become a big part of internet culture. It's a great way to get messages and information out to interested people and Yeah we do that too! Stuff about new presenter, interviews with artists or just general info bulletins are published frequently by us so keep an eye out on our Facebook and Instagram feeds or just check the BLOG page directly. [www.rockradiouk.com/blog](http://www.rockradiouk.com/blog)



## REMEMBER REMEMBER YOU MUST BE A MEMBER

Join our members area to get exclusive early access to our fantastic RRUUK magazine published monthly.

Membership is completely free as is the magazine and in time the only way to see the mag is to be a member so sign up now! Over the next few months, we will also have some exciting new members only features but we are keeping that to ourselves right now!

[www.rockradiouk.com/members-area](http://www.rockradiouk.com/members-area)

## THAT'S ALL FOLKS

Well that's all I have to say about that. I hope you discovered something you didn't already know about? If you have any comments or suggestions on something we could add to make your experience better or more engaging we would love to hear from you! Until next time, keep rockin' !

Lee James - [lee@rockradiouk.com](mailto:lee@rockradiouk.com)





## CHRIS FRANKUM'S TOP 10 ALBUMS

- Empyre – Relentless
- She Burns Red – Out of Darkness
- Those Damn Crows – Inhale / Exhale
- Anchor Lane – Call This A Reality?
- Promethium – Bleeding The Ghost
- The Dust Coda – Loco Paradise
- Doomsday Outlaw – Damaged Goods
- Dead Man's Whiskey – In the Storm
- Atlas – Built To Last
- Bad Touch – Bittersweet Satisfaction





# DEMENTIA AWARE FESTIVAL- HMV COVENTRY.

## THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK!

Written by Carissa

So this is something a little different for me, but here we go! Dementia Aware Festival is a charity event, that takes place in several cities across the country. Everyone involved, from the organizers to the bands give up their time, to raise awareness and raise funds to support this charity. Which I am sure a lot if not most of us have or will come across in various ways in our lifetime! For me having worked in care, I have seen how cruel this disease is and the effect it has on the victim and their families alike.

I decided to make the trip on my own in the end, sometimes it's nice to just enjoy your own company! The journey went smoothly and I made it in good time, to get my bearings and find the venue.

I was greeted at the entrance by Allison and Richard the organizers, who were very welcoming and friendly. The venue itself was bigger than it appeared from the outside. But one thing I did learn is to make sure you wear layers, it is a large space and was very cold! Other than the bar area. Thank you to Life Of A Hero, for the jumper, I probably would have resembled an ice block by the end of the night otherwise!

Anyway onto the music. First up was Steve Vincent, think late 80's glam. Alongside his band, they sounded very tight together and they brought a selection of songs from his 'Paradise Alley' days and also some from his most recent album 'Recovered From My Past'.



Next up was Black Star Bullet, a three piece, local band from Coventry. Don't be fooled by only being three of them though! They make a lot of noise and some punchy guitar riffs and raucous vocals.

Onto Life Of A Hero, these guys were formed during covid times and are a collective of musicians from other bands. Playing a selection of Powerful Melodic Rock songs from their debut album 'Letting Go' Frontman Russ Grimmitt encourages the crowd standing on the barrier and great stage presence amongst them, I think the crowd were feeling slightly warmer by this point. With great vocal range, hard hitting riffs and expressive and dynamic drumming, definitely not ones to be missed for sure.

Black Water Fiend were next up, again another first for me and I was pleasantly surprised. A little heavier than some of the other bands, but I really enjoyed their set. They brought a lot of energy to the stage! Lots of jumping around from the guitarist, from a photographers point of view, great hair shots! Definitely feel that there is more to come from these guys. However I believe it was the bassist's last performance with the band, so will have to do some more research on what is next for them.



I got a chance to see The Hot One Two back at Firevolt in the summer, they opened the Big Top Stage on the Saturday, as 'The Ones' to Watch Party' and they blew us all away then. They have great stage presence and know how to get the crowd involved, with some epic facial expressions from guitarist Kev. Having not long released their latest album 'Superbia', the lads were on top form with an incredible performance, they filled the stage and got the intimate crowd warmed up for the later headliners.

Gypsy Pistoleros are a Flamenco Punk Glam Rock band. Another first for me, I had heard lots of great things about them and have listened to a few of their tracks over the last year.





They had been celebrating their recent success with their latest album 'Duende a Go Go Loco' stormed the Album Charts! Led by frontman Lee Jones, they led a very unique sounding set and one sure to get inside your head, with punk/rock riffs and lots of flamenco energy! They did not disappoint, that's for sure. Headliners StOp sToP absolutely stole the show! I had no idea what to expect, other than the small bit of research I had done beforehand, but in terms of their stage show I had no idea, but they completely blew me away. It seemed like a little wait before they hit the stage and I was beginning to feel very tired, I was thinking of shooting the first three songs and then making my way. But I was assured that they put on an entertaining show and I am definitely glad that I stayed! Originating from Barcelona, Spain in 2009. They left everything behind brought a van and came to the UK! It is safe to say that their hard work has paid off and they have just released their latest album 'Tangled', check that out when you get a chance. Their stage performance was incredible, full of energy and fun! You will not be disappointed, at the end they joined the crowd for some extra entertainment ( I won't ruin it for anyone who hasn't seen them yet), but make sure you check them out!

Overall this event was fantastic and other dates and line ups are already announced, make sure you get some tickets and come along. You won't regret it and also will be supporting a great cause too!

Carissa Cyderbaby



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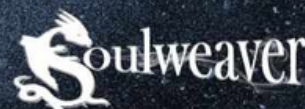
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# Phil Campbell And The Bastard Sons

## Oxford

### Brett Scarrott

Third time Phil Campbell and the Bastard Sons have visited Oxford, the first was November 19th 2017, (supporting Australian rockers Airbourne), last year, they hit us with the legendary Motorhead set, so this year, they delighted us, with the 'Kings of the Asylum' tour, not a full upstairs at the 02 Academy Oxford, but the place was rocking. as Deep Purple's Highway Star came booming out of the P.A., the lads hit the stage, 'how the f\*\*\* are you doing Oxford' Joel Peter shouts, standing large, arm in the air, and with his 'in hand' mic, throws out 'We're the bastards' from the 2020 CD/LP of the same name, followed by Schizophrenia, 'hello Oxford, how are you?' Mr Phil Campbell says smiling, 'do you want some Motorhead?' erm yes please, 'Going to Brazil' is unleashed. So from the new record we are treated to 'Hammer and Dance', 'Strike the match' and 'Maniac'.

Two covers are added to the set, the Sex Pistols, 'God save the Queen' (should that be changed to King now!!), and as Phil mentioned, 'the last song i did with Lem', Bowie's 'Heroes' As a band they are very tight, you know when you see 'certain bands, the records sound better than they do live?',

with PCATBS you get the full package, on the drums Dane, and mentioned later Tyla, Mr Bass himself, lead and rhythm Todd, and their 'Dad', the one and only Phil 'the beast' Campbell, and Mr Peter's vocals fits in perfect. We even have time for Joel to mention, 'go on Tyla, tell them what happened', Tyla actually looking blushed, Joel continues 'Tyla woke up this morning with a hangover, when i said we were in Oxford, he was happy' 'True story' Tyla says, so of course that got a great reaction. For me personally i hope PCATBS (until they get bigger) continue to tour these 'smaller' venues.

But they can always play downstairs, which holds just over 1,000. Also a big shout to both the support/guests, The Cards (featuring legendary guitarist Paul Quinn) and Sweet Electric.

Right here is the set list, Intro Deep Purple - Highway Star. 1) We're the bastards 2) Schizophrenia, 3) Going to Brazil, 4) Freak Show 5) Born to raise hell, 6) Dark days, 7) Hammer and dance, 8) God save the Queen, 9) High rule, 10) Ace of spades, 11) Strike the match, 12) 'Heroes', 13) Ringleader, 14) Killed by death, 15) Maniac.



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## Phil Campbell and the Bastard Sons

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| 23.11 | UK | LEEDS, WAREHOUSE               |
| 24.11 | UK | MANCHESTER, THE BREAD SHED     |
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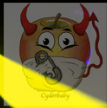
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# JP ROCK BOTTOM'S TOP 10 ALBUMS

1. She Burns Red - Out of Darkness
2. Molly Karloff - Breaking Out
3. QoTSA - In Times New Roman
4. The Damned - Darkadelic
5. Hot Milk - A Call To The Void
6. Therapy? - Hard Cold Fire
7. CJ Wildheart - Split
8. Sister Morphine - Ghosts Of Heartbreak City
9. Indya - Leather And Lace
10. Shadow Smile - Signed In Blood



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