

STRANGE FOLK

KULA SHAKER
FANZINE

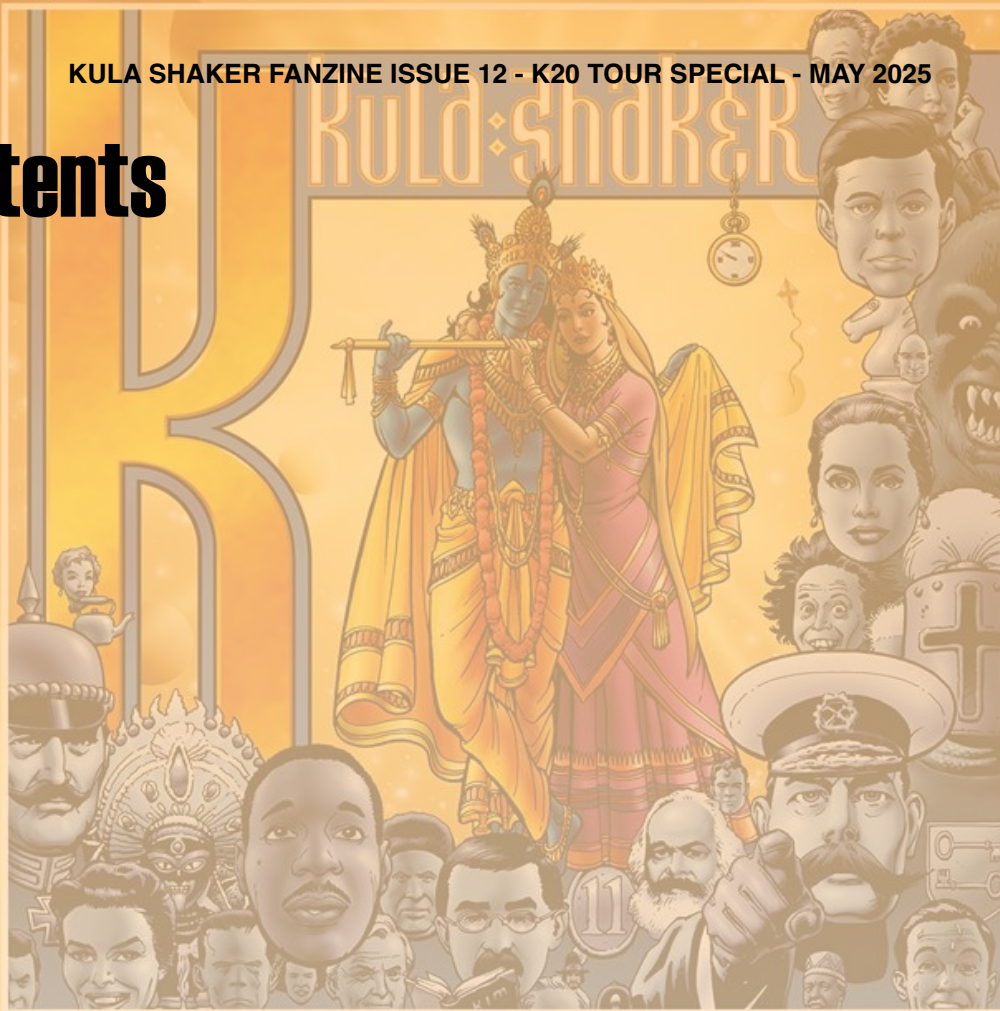
ISSUE No. 12
APRIL 2017

UR SPECIAL - K20 TOUR SPECIAL - K20 TOUR SPECIAL - K20 TOUR SPECIAL - K



K20 TOUR:
Relive the magick

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CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF K PERFORMING K IN ITS ENTIRETY FOR THE FIRST TIME

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STRANGE FOLK Kula Shaker fanzine team:

Andrea - editor

Anni - layout & design

Mary - proof-reading

Cover photo: Luke Jones

With many thanks to contributors:

Reviews & photos: Jamie Davis, Jayne Scarman,
Pav Varma, Peter Bruce, Mike Bray, Karen
Rogerson, Mizuho M

Photos: Luke Jones, John Hayhurst, Marc
Osborne

Dear Strange Folks,

The original song 'Strangefolk' was long lost. It did not make it onto 'Peasants, Pigs and Astronauts' but then, as if by Magick, it appeared as a hidden sample track on 'Kollekted'. The whole song finally saw the light of the day in 2009, when the 10 year anniversary edition of 'PP&A' was released.

This issue of STRANGE FOLK that you are reading right now shares a similar fate as the song that gave us our name. Right after the 'K20' tour, many fans sent in their reviews of these magickal gigs for fanzine #12. The plan was to publish it along with other Kula Shaker news as usual. But as it happens, the band disappeared for another five years, and we consequently put everything on hold.

Until today! We decided that all of these special reviews and amazing photos deserve to be published, even 9 years later! We still kept the original publishing month though - April 2017.

We hope you will enjoy reliving the Magick of the 'K20' tour and for those who want to read about what is currently going on in Kula verse, issue #13 will be published at the same time and contains many current interviews and gig reviews.

Enjoy the little time travel!
STRANGE FOLK xx



Fanzine creators Andrea & Anni with the band in Guildford, Dec 2016

**Relive the
magic of the
K20 tour:
Reviews,
photos and
more!**

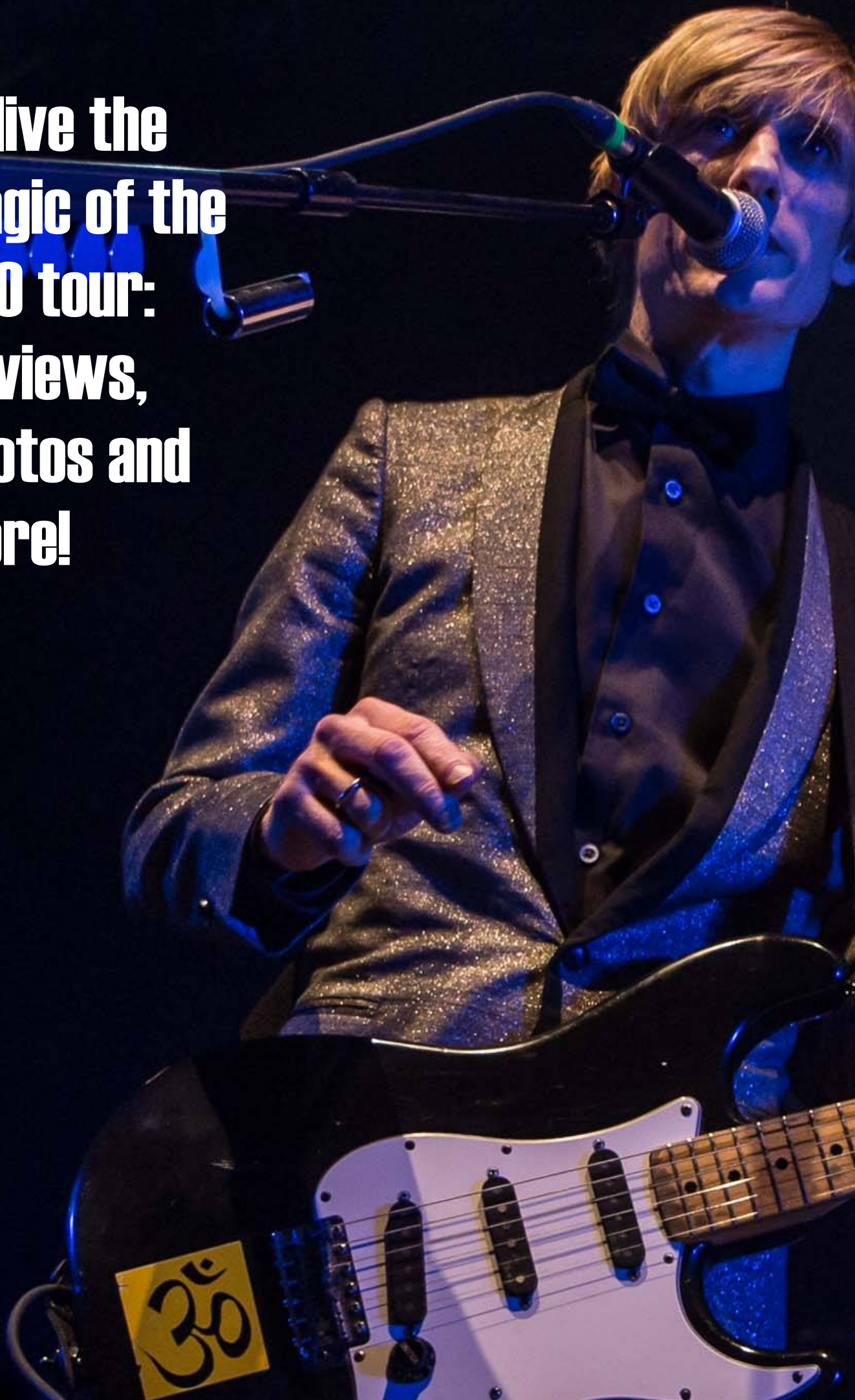




Photo: John Hayhurst



KULA SHAKER K20-TOUR: BOURNEMOUTH

Thank you for bringing 'K' back!

BY JAMIE DAVIS

I got to the O2 Academy early to ensure a front row spot. The venue is very local to me & I've seen countless bands there over the years – but never one of my all-time favourites, 'Kula Shaker'. Even better, they were performing a special 20th Anniversary tour of their seminal, influential, classic 1996 album, 'K'. So, I was pretty excited!

After the warm up act, a short wait then led to the band taking the stage & starting with a cover of The Beatles 'Sgt Pepper's Lonely Heart Club Band', as it opens with the line "it was 20 years ago today". A complete treat as the audience were all expecting the band to launch straight into 'K'.

Photo: Jamie Davis

KULA SHAKER K20-TOUR: BOURNEMOUTH

Following that, we were given 'Let Love B (with U)' before Crispian stopped for a chat to tell us they were going to be playing all of 'K'. A roadie then appeared with a record player which he placed on top of Harry's keyboard and Crispian produces a vinyl copy of the album and placed the needle carefully onto track one. The guys slam us into 'K' with 'Hey Dude'. I don't know what was happening behind me in the beautiful art deco building, but I was going bonkers. I love that song so much!

We (psychedelic) rocked through the rest of Side 1 (with one obvious exception – more later), at which point Crispian stops for a chat again. He tells us there were a few songs recorded at the time which were planned for 'K' but didn't make the final record. We are then in for a real treat as we get 'Under The Hammer', 'Shower Your Love' which goes down a storm with the crowd all joining in the chorus and, then, they played 'Gokula'. Our beautifully suited frontman then turns back to the record player, flips over the vinyl & off we go with Side 2. Highlights of Side 2 being 'Grateful When You're Dead/Jerry Was There', which was a wonderful, mystical 6 or 7 minutes, '303' and 'Start All Over'. The latter being an underrated song on the album, in my opinion. The band then give it one last effort by doing 'Hush', in which both Alonza and Paul are on top form.

Off the band go to do whatever bands do backstage when they are waiting for the Encore. When they reappear, things slow down briefly as we are presented with '33 Crows' and the fabulous 'Infinite Sun', which just proves that the band are still on top form with song writing and performing after 20 years. The final throws of the gig are the totally amazing 'Great Hosannah' and then we are left with the wonderful 'Govinda' which was left out of the 'K' set so it could be the end song. Whilst I'm sure most of the crowd have no clue as to the proper lyrics or meaning to this superb song, we all give it a massive sing-a-long and it leaves us with a wonderful togetherness as we all love the 'K'!

As it's nearly Christmas, the band have one last present for us and they launch into 'Christmas Time/Shaker maker' which gets us all in the Christmas mood! The show is over & Crispian and the lads seem very grateful that their career has lasted this long and their work is still loved after 20 years. He thanks us profusely for coming to see the show. No, Kula Shaker, thank YOU for bringing 'K' to us in the first place & then bringing it back after all this time. What a great night!



Photo: Jamie Davis

A show of wonders, treats and delights

BY JAYNE SCARMAN

Kula Shaker described the K anniversary tour as 'coming full circle', so it felt rather fitting that for my first date of the tour, I should go home. Growing up in a small place like Lincoln, Nottingham offered the bright lights of the big city. As teenagers, my best friends and I would spend Saturday afternoon's buying incense and tie-dye in the hippy shops of Goose Gate, before stopping for tea in one of our favourite veggie hangouts. As we got a bit older, 'Rock City' was the pinnacle of an indie girl's night out, a proper alternative scene that you just couldn't experience in our sleepy home towns. Returning now as a thirty-something, to hear the album that opened my 13 year old mind to so many new themes, on home turf felt really special.

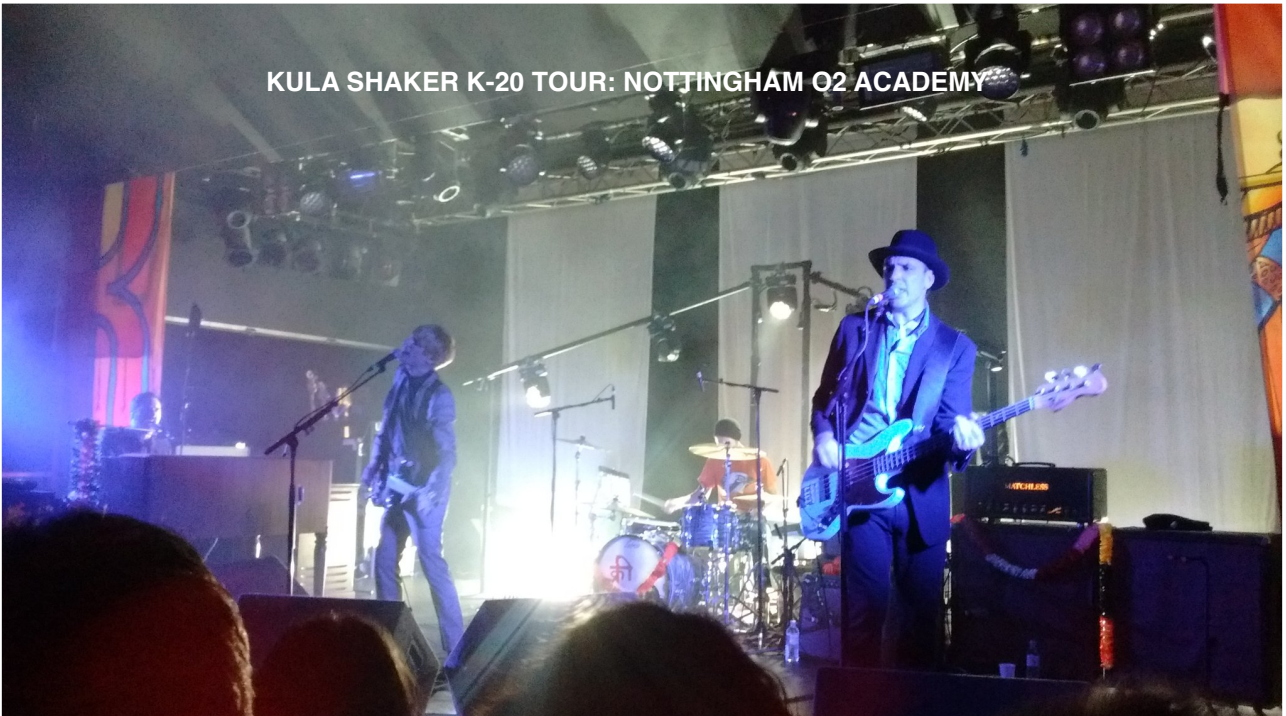
Entering the dark den of 'Rock City', the excitement as the soulful sounds of Merry Clayton and Minnie Ripperton blared from the speakers was palpable; the patchouli was burning and a kaleidoscope of K's told us the band was not far away.

Led by Pauli, it was a thrilling moment as always, one by one the band appeared on stage. With

their instruments poised, I was ready to burst into a frenzy of bouncing at the opening slide of 'Hey Dude'. But no! This was a proper show with a beginning, middle and end, and instead they opened with a rendition of 'Kula Shaker's craving hearts' club band', an apt nod to one of 'K's' big influences. Then it was straight on to the recent single 'Let Love B (with U)', which seemed to go down well with the Saturday night crowd.

Introductions out of the way, it was time to open a door to let the past into the future. The joke about playing 'K' in full had everyone laughing, before a panto-style countdown saw the Nottingham crowd inexplicably start counting at 4(!) and then we were off, partying like its 1996.

Album openers 'Hey Dude' and 'Knight on the Town' were as raucous as they ever were, with the band playing as youthfully as when these songs were first written. 'Temple of Everlasting Light' was mesmerizingly sublime and for a moment it sounded like it was transitioning into 'Govinda'. ("Will they play it twice?" I wondered. "Would they finish on Hush? Or Great Hosannah?"). But then



the characteristic riff of 'Smart Dogs' kicked in and we were all bouncing around in the mosh pit again. There was no way a 'Kula Shaker' gig was going to finish with anything other than the mystical 'Govinda'. With another change in tempo, Alonza joined Harry at the piano for a filmic rendition of 'Magic Theatre', before side A drew to a close with a good old hearty singalong to 'Into the Deep'.

Time for an interlude; I didn't know it yet but I was about to hear something really special. Not being old enough to see the band in the 'K' days (it was 1998's Revolution for Fun tour before my mom drove me over to Wolverhampton Civic Hall for my first ever gig), I'd never seen 'Under the Hammer' or 'Gokula' performed live. I couldn't quite believe my ears as Crispian shredded his way through these two frenetic B sides (he wasn't kidding when in Bristol he said they only play 'Under the Hammer' to keep fit), with Paul thunderously pushing the pace. Both tracks were rip-roaringly good, a band playing tight and loud and bursting with energy.

Somehow they found time to squeeze in the delightful 'Shower Your Love' too, which for me is a song that evokes long summer days and an eclipse watched in the back garden. We delved back into 'K' with 'Sleeping Jiva' gently melting away into 'Tattva', which sounded as compelling as when I first heard it. Things got loud for a bit with set list standards 'Grateful When You're Dead / Jerry Was There' and '303'. Then came my teenage favourite 'Start All Over', sounding mellow and beautiful. Probably the surprise of the night for me though (after the B sides of course) was 'Hollow Man', which sounded wondrous, with

stunning visuals to accompany it. Quite simply it was the perfect closing track.

Or at least it was, until the opening bars of 'Hush' made the whole room erupt and go crazy. Sorry to whoever's foot it was I landed on! With 'K' put to bed, the band came back on stage for their encore, with Crispian begging to bring it down a bit, just for a moment. It was worth it though, as we were treated to '33 Crows', an achingly beautiful song from 2016's 'K2.0', which seems to be a firm crowd favourite.

Alonza led the traditional clap-along to 'Infinite Sun' before things got funky to 'Great Hosannah'. I can't get enough of the bassline in this version, the song is spectacular live. And by the time we transcended into 'Govinda' the energy in the room was electric and strangely profound. But there was one last treat in store. A Christmas song! 'Kula Shaker' closed with a mixture of Shakermaker / Christmas Time (Is Here Again), an inspired choice that drew on the Britpop landscape and the re-discovery of 'The Beatles' by a new generation that made 'K' possible in 1996.

This was an anniversary show of wonders, treats and delights. A band on top form, appearing to love playing together, with phenomenal musicianship and a real sense of humour. For those there for the nineties nostalgia, it was a reminder of what a great album 'K' was. For the Kula devotees, it was a truly special opportunity to hear the album as it was intended, along with some pretty memorable rarities. And for me, this anniversary year has been a reminder of how all the things you loved in your formative years stay with you, even if it takes a while to realise how or why. It's a long road, a long journey home.

The wizard is here, hold on to your hats

BY PAV VARMA

20 years. It's still hard to fathom that it really has been that long since 'Kula Shaker' shook up the British music scene with 'K'. In the midst of Britpop bands like 'Blur', 'Oasis' and 'Radiohead', they always stood apart. The obvious differences were pretty obvious. Eastern influenced, psychedelic rock was hard to find in 90's Britain. But the real difference for me was always in the live experience. The music lends itself to a crowd experience. I don't mean in the sense that stadium rock does. I can't help but feel like I'm part of some kind of weird, beautiful cult at a 'Kula Shaker' gig. The openness and energy with which the band delivered their music blew me away. This band definitely filled a void in the music scene at the time. I was hooked.

So when the band resurfaced again this year with new material and a tour, it was with childlike excitement and a fair amount of trepidation that I went along to the O2 Academy in good old Kentish Town. You see, I had seen 'Kula Shaker' a few times this year. But this was different – this was 'K'. New material is always fresh and always exciting, particularly when it's from one of your

favourite bands. But to play the entire first album, the one that holds so many great memories, that really means something and, more importantly, the one for which you have points of reference – is a gamble. Like I said, it's been 20 years. Will it still be as exciting? Will it still be as fresh? Will they still be into it?

From the start this felt like a bigger gig. From queuing outside, to ticket touts and knock off t-shirts (sorry guys I couldn't resist), these were things I hadn't seen at a 'Kula Shaker' gig since the first time around. It felt like an event. The crowd was what we've come to expect from a Kula Shaker gig, all ages, all backgrounds, all welcoming. A few came off the back of loving 'Hush' or 'Govinda' 'back in the day', but most whom I spoke to, had followed this band right through from 'K' to 'K2.0' and everything in between.

When the band appeared Crispian was suitably attired for the occasion in an emerald green tux. The wizard is here, hold on to your hats. Opening with a cover of 'Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club

KULA SHAKER K-20 TOUR: LONDON THURSDAY

Band' with a Kula Shaker twist warmed things up nicely. 'Let Love B with U' followed, a track from the frankly awesome 'K2.0'.

Then it was down to business. Crispian encouraging the crowd to join him in a spot of time travel and, along with suitably Doctor Who-esque sound effects off we went. As soon as the first note for 'Hey Dude' began, the crowd were there, this was it, we were all back in the 90s, we were all kids again. Let the mass sing-a-long begin. In all honesty the next few songs were all a bit of a blur, rattling through the first half of the album (minus 'Govinda'). 'Magic Theatre' was a particular highlight as my memory doesn't recall having heard this live before (also because I was with my wife and this song freaks her out!).

Then it was onto side B, but not before a few B-Sides, including the rip roaring 'Under the Hammer' and 'Gokula' complete with a George Harrison tribute light show for the borrowed riff. The quite beautiful 'Shower Your Love' followed; which, we were informed, was the track that never made in onto 'K', but later made it onto 'Peasants, Pigs and Astronauts'. With 'Sleeping Jiva' on playback, we waited for Side B to begin. 'Tattva' was the first Kula Shaker track I remember hearing back when it all began and it was a comforting feeling hearing the opening riff starting us off on act 2.

The jumping and exuberant crowd were turned up a notch with 'Grateful When you're Dead/Jerry Was There' and '303' began, and the mastery of the 'Kula Shaker' rock machine is on full show. 'Hollow man part 1' was another highlight with Alonza helping out Harry on the keyboard and moving back to bass for part 2 (probably one step to cross the stage, given his frankly Cleese like build). 'Hush' finished off the set, which inevitably brought with it a fair amount of moshing (is it still called that?!). And the band joined to thank the crowd and disappear, for all of maybe 30 seconds.

The encore included material from 'K2.0' in the form of '33 Crows' and 'Infinite Sun', and also the great 'Great Hosannah' from 'Peasants..', possibly one

of the most underrated albums ever (deserves its own tour if you ask me)! Then came the inevitable. As soon as the Indian vocals came on the crowd literally went berserk. The way this song unites a crowd of English speaking, western rock fans is an astounding thing to behold. Even the security guard minding the stage, who had his best poker face plastered on him the whole night couldn't help but grin like a Cheshire cat when he saw the 100's of people arms outstretched singing along to the Hindu mantra. Priceless.

And then we were done. All over. Lights up and off we go.

So I did it live up to it? Yes. I am biased, if you're reading this YOU are biased. But I wouldn't have it any other way. I hurt the next day, that's all the evidence I need.

This has been one hell of a year for 'Kula Shaker' fans. A new album, loads of gigs and ending with a trip back to the start with the 'K' tour. A 'Hurricane Season' which I hope comes again - and soon. Don't make us wait too long, ok?



Pav & Crispian (taken at Rough Trade gig)

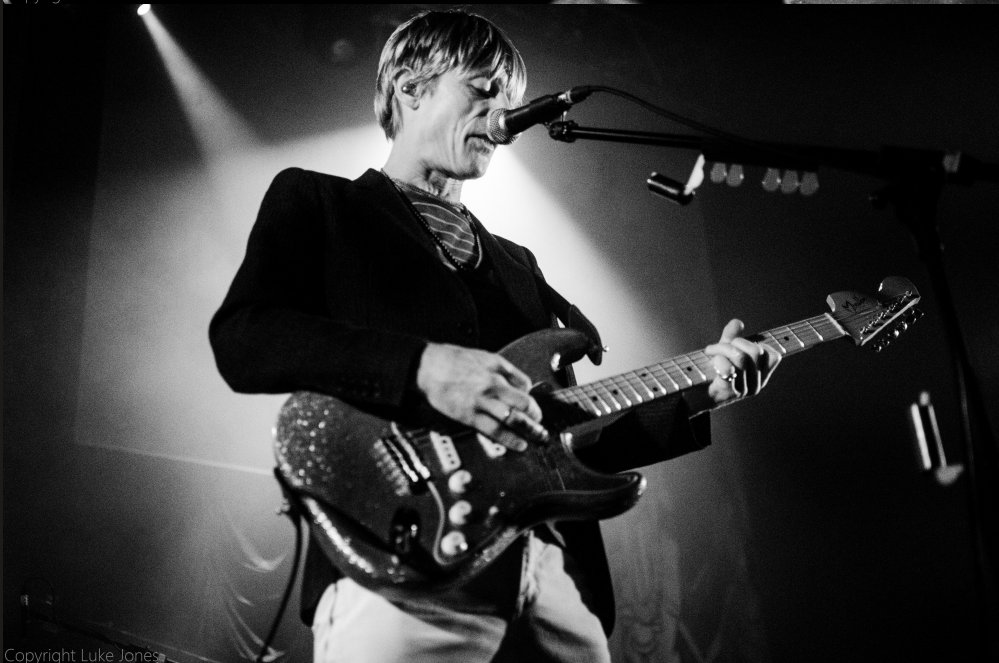
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TOUR PHOTO GALLERY



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Photos: Luke Morby, Marc Osborne

New fans were made



BY PETER BRUCE

Time to set the scene... it was my birthday week, and I had booked two tickets in huge advance to take myself and my girlfriend to see Kula Shaker. She is younger than me and hadn't heard of the band. This whole night was going to be a gamble as to whether she had fun or not... the pressure was on!

The place is quiet. I worry about whether the venue will fill... does anyone even know or care about Kula Shaker anymore? Have I dragged my girlfriend along to see a band she doesn't know, just to watch them die on stage? Worries flooded my mind, and a mix of excitement and fear came over me. I knew if the place got filled, then the band would be explosive, and my girlfriend would love it.

I need not have worried. The venue filled, the excitement built, and the lights dimmed. The gig started with a superb rendition of the Beatles track 'Sgt Pepper', but with the words edited for 'Kula Shakers lonely hearts club band'... an instant hit with the crowd. It then went on to include the latest single, and a few old favourites before Crispian took to the mic to address the crowd properly.

He introduced that this was a gig like no other, and explained that together as a shared experience,

we will all listen to 'K' from start to finish, share our thoughts after etc. He then went ahead to grab a vinyl record, and turntable, before pausing to look up at the crowd and say "we really ARE just going to listen to 'K'..." which got a big laugh from everybody (even my girlfriend!) this was all a big joke of course, and soon the band were blasting out the hits of old, and it has to be said that before the gig, my girlfriend didn't know any of the lyrics, but since that night she can't stop quoting them at me!

The energy and love in that room that night will stay with me - I've seen the band 3 times now and this was the absolute best I've ever seen them perform. The classic 'Tattva/Star Wars' bit was great to hear again too. I'd kept that tradition to myself just in case they did it, as my partner is a big 'Star Wars' fan. Let's just say it had the desired response!

Kula still has the power to garner new fans and embrace new audiences, and their ever changing, always electrifying performances will continue to prove that this is a band to stay, and I hope in my heart that this is the case, at least for one more album. The world needs Kula Shaker, and your latest new fan wants to see you live again.

KULA SHAKER K-20 TOUR: LEEDS O2 ACADEMY

Huge, long and loud

BY MIKE BRAY

Photo: John Hayhurst

KULA SHAKER K-20 TOUR: LEEDS O2 ACADEMY

I was lucky enough to see Kula Shaker 4 times this year, and even luckier to see them twice in a week when I saw the 20th Anniversary tour of 'K' in Bristol and again in Leeds. This was because my wife bought me tickets for the Leeds show as a Christmas present! This of course raised the question of which gig to write about? Luckily, the answer was obvious; it had to be the Leeds gig, as I missed the first song and half of the second at the Bristol gig because I was chatting to Don Pecker at the bar, but these things happen...! First, a nod to the 'Rudy Warman & The Heavy Weather,' an excellent support band, and rumour has it that they have been Kula Shaker fans from way back in the day when they were The Kays, which puts me to shame!

Once the stage was set, Simon had ensured that all was ready to go and the incense was burning, we knew it was about to begin. Minnie Ripperton's 'Les Fleurs' came on, which then told me we were about to start, and then they came on stage, all smiles and happy. Crispian was wearing a full tuxedo and bow tie, and then picked up a new sparkly gold guitar and they began to play. But not 'Hey Dude' as I expected, but a cover of 'Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band' which included the lines "it was 20 years ago today, Kula Shaker played the album K, they've been going in and out of style, but are guaranteed to raise a smile". Were any words more true? The lyrics also included "Kula Shaker's Craving Heart Club Band" and even Crispian himself almost laughed aloud at it.

'Love B with U' then followed, my favourite from K2.0 and I was really pleased to see and hear how many people knew this one, hopefully the band noticed too. But this is supposed to be a 20th Anniversary tour of 'K', playing the album in full, isn't it? Crispian was then handed a vinyl copy of 'K,' and before placing it on the record deck, he said "well, we said we would be playing 'K' in full, so let us all listen together!" After the laughter from the crowd he said that they do not want to reminisce on the past but bring it into the future. A count down from five started and then the stage went black. Strange sounds could be heard and then the mantra from the end of 'K' was spoken, the sound then built up and up before finally, Crispian looks at Paul, a beat starts, and the crowd go mad as 'Hey Dude's' powerful intro starts.

'Knight on the Town' follows then 'Temple of Everlasting Light,' from this point, we now know that we are hearing 'K' in full now. But as 'Temple'

is ending, I am starting to wonder if they are going to play 'Govinda' now, and if so, what do they end the show with? 'Temple of Everlasting Light' ends, the music builds up and up and 'Govinda' is imminent.... then 'Smart Dogs' hits out and we are back on track! Crispian jokes later that they have missed one out, but they will come back to that one later.

For 'Magic Theatre,' Alonza joins Harry on the keys and now we hear one of the album's more intimate tracks, beautifully done, the sound effects are all there just as the recorded version we know. 'Into the Deep' follows, with parts from the 'K-15' version which was good to hear.

END OF SIDE A

Crispian then pauses the album for a bit, and tells a tale of writing some other songs around the same time as 'K', about a hard time when they were renting a house in London, this led to 'Under the Hammer', which had all the power and energy that it ever had, the crowd love it, some singing along, some enjoying the ride. Crispian tells the story of how the record company wanted pop songs and less 'Sanskrit bollocks,' so 'Shower Your Love' was next, but as he said, although it was written 20 years ago, it did not appear until 'Peasants, Pigs and Astronauts'. He then tells the story of the 'Gokula' Riff, and how they wanted to borrow George Harrison's riff for this track. An excellent Harrison impression tells the crowd "That's Eric Clapton's riff," but they recorded it anyway as they did not have Clapton's phone number! He then goes back to the record player, spins it over, ready for...

SIDE B

Side B starts with 'Sleeping Jiva,' which got much more applause than I was expecting, maybe because everyone knows what is next. I honestly think that this was the best rendition of 'Tattva' that I have ever heard. Everyone in the crowd knows this one, when the riff kicks in, everyone reacts, something changes, and it really feels like this is a real Kula Shaker gig now. The words "acintya bheda bheda Tattva" ring around the venue and 1996 is alive again. 'Tattva' then had a quiet moment and piece of John Williams' 'Star Wars' theme was heard from Crispian's slide guitar, merging in the first long slide of the 'Tattva' solo into 'Star Wars' – brilliant.

'Grateful' and 'Jerry' suitably followed, the words to Jerry Was There seem to change every time I hear



Photo: John Hayhurst

it live but the crowd enjoyed it, even though it was not how they remembered it. We are then introduced to a love song about a road – the 303. As a Kula Shaker fan who lives in Somerset, the A303 is a well-known road, but I did wonder if all the Yorkshire folk understood that reference. Needless to say, the crowd lapped it up, and the guys at the front really got going, and there was the first bit of crowd surfing of the night. Amazingly, this continued for 'Start All Over' and Crispian said "that's the first time I've seen anyone mosh to Start All Over!"

Then, my personal favourite from the album, 'Hollow Man parts 1 and 2' - the first time I had heard it in full live. An extra solo was played during part two, and before I knew it, it was all over, and the stage was empty.

END OF SIDE B

But we all know it is not over yet...the boys return, to huge applause and '33 Crows' is introduced as written by Simon, who gives a wave from the side.

The imagery on stage shows crows flying, which then turn into an Eagle, as Infinite Sun starts and we "fly like an eagle." 'Great Hosannah' follows, and again it is great to hear so many people singing to PPA's opener. All the band have been working so hard, the physical energy they all have, especially Crispian, is incredible. To do this night after night must be exhausting.

Then... 'Govinda.' The build-up is huge, long, and loud. Each band member looking at each other as if they are in the moment themselves and the crowd just happen to be there. Pauli's drums hit down hard and Gouri's vocals come through the speakers. The song starts in earnest, and two thousand people start singing "Govinda Jaya Jaya, Gopala Jaya Jaya," a truly magical moment. I know that I am biased, but no song and band connect to the audience quite like this.

Then it really is all over. The band take a bow, arm in arm, smiles all round, and then I start my wait for the next album, tour, and gig; however long it takes.



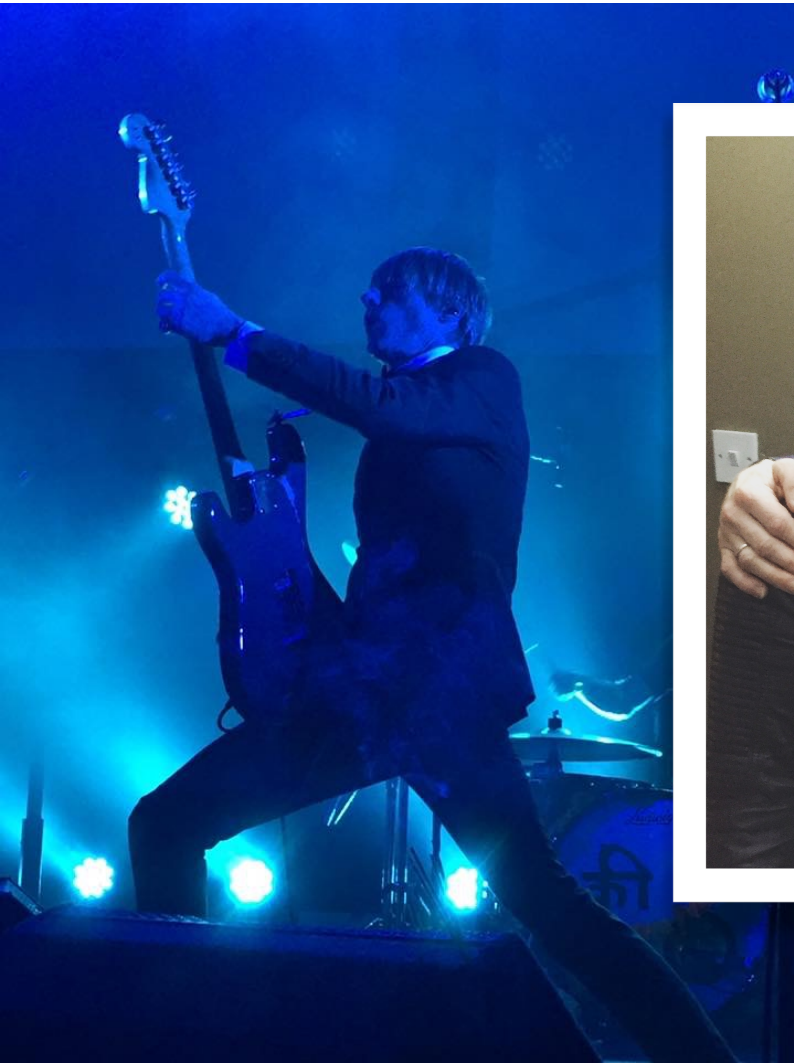
Sanskrit in a broad Scottish accent

BY KAREN ROGERSON

As I was standing directly in front of the mic, inhaling the all too familiar aroma of incense, the anticipation amongst Glasgow's eager audience was immense! The buildup was intensified by a kaleidoscopic feast of eclectic faces adorning the back drops, which included R2D2, JFK, Gandhi, Keith Harris and Orville to name but a few! As 'Les Fleur' finished, the lights went down and Kula Shaker made their entrance! As the stage illuminated, the band were greeted with cheers from the ecstatic crowd! Crispian stood out in a bottle green suit looking remarkably festive, if somewhat Peter Pan like! Alonza, Harry and Paul took position and 'K' was slipped from its album cover in all its vinyl glory, to be placed onto the turnstile in ceremonial fashion as Crispian then tempted us all to go back in time. We were off on our freaky rollercoaster ride!

An amazing mash up of 'Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band' and 'Hey Dude' kicked us off in style! We rocked along to side one of 'K', with the audience enthusiastically joining in and moving as one to the familiar rifts! 'Magic Theatre' was a treat live – with Alonza pairing up with Harry on the keys!

A few new tracks were thrown into the mix for good measure before side two took off! We all sang away to the hypnotic classics with the audience loyally chanting their version of Sanskrit in a broad Scottish accent (never have I been more proud of Scotland)! Classics such as 'Hush', 'Shower Your Love' and 'Grateful When Your Dead' were blended with Kula Shaker's latest treats, 'Infinite Sun' and '33 Crows'. 'Gokula' had the crowd buzzing as Crispian dedicated the track to the late great George Harrison – he even



managed to nail the late Beatles Liverpoolian droll! 'Under the Hammer' had the audience jumping up and down before we reunited once more to sing along to 'Govinda'.

Just when we thought the fun was over we were treated to 'Merry Christmas' and, the acknowledgement that Glasgow had brought the band full circle, having kicked off their tour in February of 2016 at the same venue! Special shout out to Crispian for his excellent pronunciation of Sauchiehall Street!

I've been a huge fan of the band since the start. I was an aspiring art student back in the 90's and I was obsessed with classic bands like 'The Beatles', 'Deep Purple', 'Led Zeppelin', 'Pink Floyd' and 'Cream'. At that time music was pretty much the same; that was until I heard the almighty guitar rift from the opening to 'Grateful When Your Dead'! Soon it was my mission to find out more about 'Kula Shaker' and 'Tattva' was my game changer. It led me to buying my cherished copy of 'K' – the album that became the soundtrack to my youth,

the album that helped me create my art portfolio that got me into art school and, the album that accompanied me as I left home for the first time and set off on my own adventures!

So, 16 year old me, we finally did it! We celebrated that poignant album and fulfilled a lifelong dream by meeting the main man himself... Crispian! I'm afraid the 36 year old me let you down with my over excitement, but Crispian was kind enough to entertain my enthusiasm whilst we posed for pictures taken by none other than actor Simon Pegg! I even wore a Bindi in your honor 90's Karen! Now I'm a mother and my 11 month old daughter Zoe is already an avid fan of 'Kula Shaker'! She loves nothing more than a good bob up and down and shake of her maracas to 'Infinite Sun'!

And so concludes our mystical adventure with the mighty 'Kula Shaker' for 2016! It may have been 20 years since the release of 'K', but it just goes to show talent is timeless even if we are all getting a bit older! Thank you Kula Shaker! Here's to many more years to come!

20 years made the band even more powerful

BY MIZUHO M

In May 2016, a promoter announced a Japan tour of Kula Shaker. The band played at the Fuji Rock Festival in summer, but the Japan tour was for the first in 8 years! Crispian mentioned Japanese dates in November in the fanzine Strange Folk issue 10, but I didn't expect it until the promoter announced the dates. So, I was so excited when I read it! Later they announced those shows will be the 20th Anniversary of K. I wanted to hear some songs from K2.0 because the 5th album is brilliant, but it was very happy for me that they included us in The 20th Anniversary Of K tour, and I could celebrate the 20th anniversary Of K with the band here!

The Japan tour had 3 dates (Two dates in Tokyo and one date in Osaka), luckily, I could see all of the shows. Both of the Tokyo dates had a support band in each show and both of them were nice. Especially the lead singer of the band which is called OWARIKARA on the second night - he seemed a big fan of Kula Shaker. He made me smile as he said 'K' is the album I listened to most in my life, I'm really glad to be playing on same stage with Kula Shaker! Then incense sticks were lit at the front of the stage, it told us the band will

come soon. The venue was filled with fans. After the familiar song, 'Les Fleurs' by Minnie Ripperton, finally, the band who we had been eagerly awaited turned up in front of us! The gig started with a cover of the Beatles Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band (they changed the lyrics), it was good choice as opening. The second song was Let Love Be (With U). This was one of the songs I wanted to hear at a gig! I had been waiting for the day to come that I could hear it, since I watched a video of the song recorded at a London show on YouTube, as this song is so cool. And it was more amazing than the video!

Then Crispian told us about this tour. He spoke slowly and clearly so that we could understand, so I guess I managed to get know what he meant in most of what he said - well, maybe. I think he said something like "open the door and let the past into the present, so count down with me", then he (and us) counted down in Japanese. Then the door opened, they started to play the 'Hey Dude' intro and everyone gave a big cheer. They played almost in order to the tracking list of K, just put Govinda to the last and inserted some songs between A sides and B sides. Every song was

KULA SHAKER K-20 TOUR: TOKYO & OSAKA, JAPAN

familiar but fresh, and there were some songs I had never heard at a gig. One was 'Magic Theatre', it was pretty dark on the stage. However, I realised instantly that the figure who was playing the piano was Alonza. I saw this up close as I was in front row of stage right. The beautiful sound fascinated me. On the centre of the stage, Crispian started singing and playing his guitar, the venue was filled with a melancholy atmosphere. Another was 'Sleeping Jiva'. I never expected the day to come that I hear the song at a gig! And the other was 'Hollow Man (Part I)', it was lovely that we could hear 'Part I & II' continuously.

As mentioned above, they played some songs after A side from 'K' such as 'Under the Hammer', 'Shower Your Love', 'Dance in Your Shadow' and 'Gokula'. It was the first time I had heard 'Dance in Your Shadow' live, what a nice surprise! On the B side, Crispian said before 'Grateful When You're Dead / Jerry Was There,' "this is the first song we released in Japan, so when we play this song, it reminds us of the first trip to Japan". I'm glad to hear that they sometimes think of their memories in Japan! When "Hollow Man (Part II)" was finished, Crispian explained to us "actually, in England, that is the end of this album, but here in Japan, one special track we put on the record, cos our Japanese record company wanted it (laugh)" or something like that, then "Raagy One (Waiting For Tomorrow)" started. Nice surprise again! We are truly lucky we could hear those unexpected 2 songs," Dance in Your Shadow" and "Raagy One", it seems they didn't play those songs on the UK tour.

Kula Shaker has got a lot of brilliant songs which they rarely play, it really is a shame. It would be great if they had a show(s) that only play songs

that had been chosen by their fans. I've got a several (or more) songs I'd love to hear at a gig! After "Raagy One", the band walked to off stage but came back soon. On the second night, I was surprised that we got 6 songs as an encore! The first song was "Infinite Sun" from "K2.0", we could see Crispian sang along with a puppet which a fan made at Osaka show, it was cute! "Sound of Drums", "33 crows" and "Hush" followed, then next was "Great Hosannah", one of my favourite song! It's so cool even if I listened to it so many times, I can't get enough of this song. The intro for "Govinda" came to our ears. This told us the end of the gig was coming up. Everyone sang along with Crispian, and in the great cheers, the gig was finished.

All of the gigs were totally amazing, filled with energy. I can't find a big difference between 20 years ago and now. Twenty years might have made the band more powerful though. That was an energetic and dynamic show! The Japan tour was very emotional for me. When they were quiet for 5 years, I had been wondering if the day would come that I could see them again. At first, I had thought they would restart when Crispian finished making "A Fantastic Fear of Everything", but time passed without a sign. I didn't know whether I should just keep waiting patiently or to tell myself that it was over.

Now I kind of feel lonely because the long awaited Japan tour has finished. But more than that, my heart is filled with the joy of having been able to see them again! I really hope that they will continue to tour and record!

My dear Kula Shaker, if you have time to rest again, please come back to Japan as soon as possible!



K EXPLAINED



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Kali the Indian Goddess of destruction I believe.

DAVE

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'Mother' Kali is the fierce shadow-aspect of the Eternal Goddess. She oversees the temporarily manifested universes (according to the Vedas, there innumerable universes - ours is quite small). If anyone's in charge of rock 'n' roll, it's Kali Ma.

CRISPIAN

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Lord Kitchener, "your country wants you!" - A World War I poster icon.

DAVE

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Dave using Kitchener was a stroke of genius. Not only did it conjure up some of that Victoriana psychedelic aesthetic we all love and balance the composition graphically, but it literally reached out and drew you in. When we first saw the art we were thrilled. Jay found it especially amusing, as he'd often joke about how we lived in our own little self contained cult. Now we had Kitchener there, reaching out as if to say "JOIN USssss!" It felt like Dave had tuned into something going on in the band psyche.

CRISPIAN

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K EXPLAINED



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And a watch that shows a certain time that again I can't remember what the mystical significance of that is.

DAVE

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10 to 10 was a very lucky time for us. 10 was a lucky number. When we signed with Sony it was 10, they had two 10's either side of the building. Our great friend Don, who is an amazing busker, used to tell us that when the Knights of the Round Table rode into battle, they'd blow their bugles and yell “tunto-tunnnn!!”, so he was convinced 10 to 10 was extremely lucky. We all found very amusing, but 10 to 10 consistently proved to be a surprisingly potent time for us all.

CRISPIAN

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Finally, we have Krishna and Mrs Krishna, whose name I can't quite recall.

DAVE

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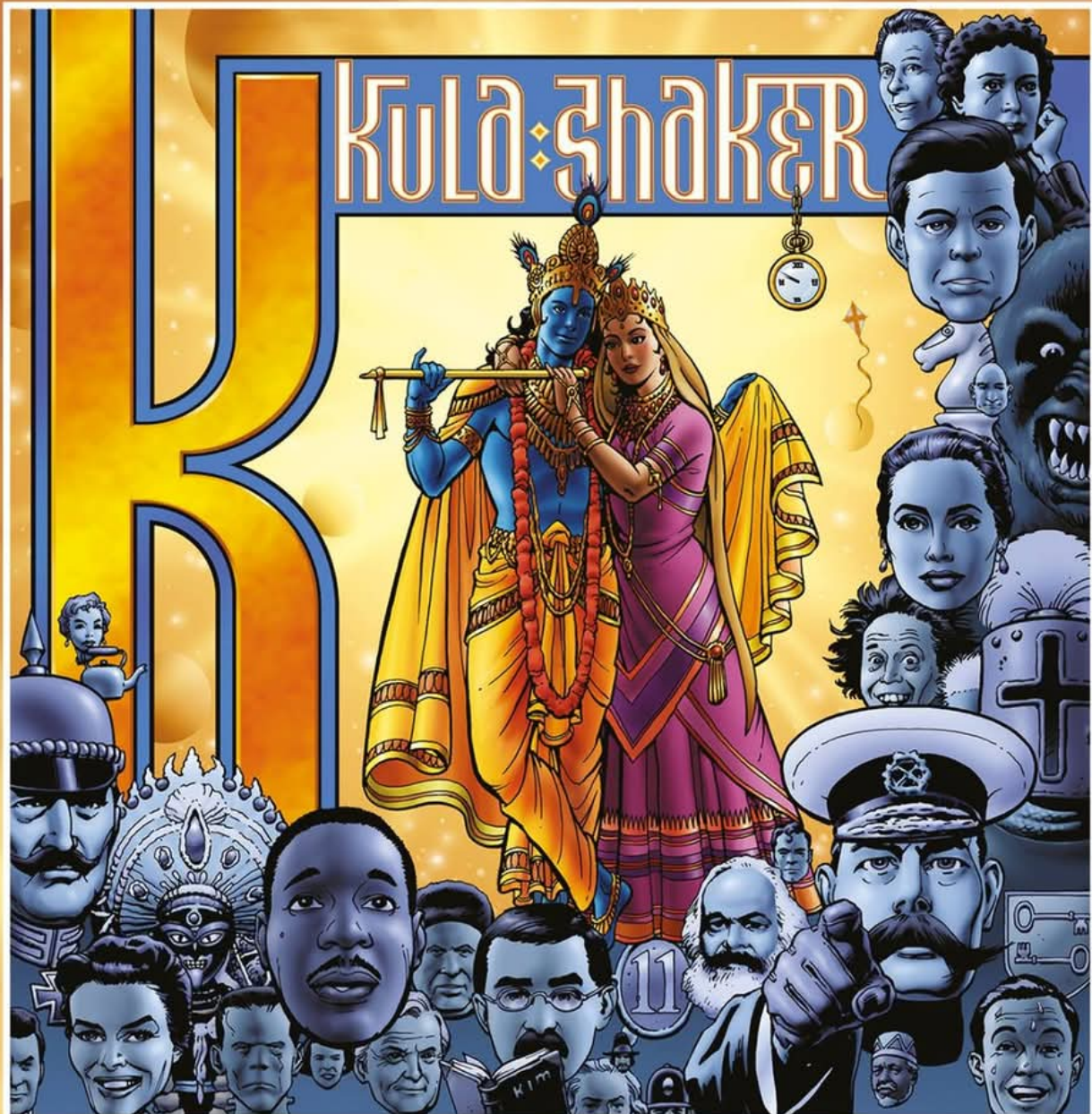
Haha. She is the Supreme transcendental Goddess, Sri Radha. And they are not married. The original idea was to have the swirling sea of Ks all emanating from Krishna, the primeval source of all incarnations and cosmic manifestations. Govinda is one the many, many Names of Krishna. It was the first song we ever played as a band, and to this day, we've never performed without playing it. Govinda is considered one of Krishna's most intimate names, as it relates to his eternal childhood pastimes in Braja.

CRISPIAN

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