

# STRANGE FOLK

KULA SHAKER FANZINE

ISSUE NO.3  
OCT 2007

ALBUM REVIEW

## Strangefolk

INTERVIEWS with

## Alonza, Harry & Paul

EXCLUSIVE COLUMN

## Guru Madness

## Gig Reviews

2 x LONDON, BRISTOL  
and FUJIROCK FESTIVAL  
PLUS PHOTOS!

# Dear Dudes and Dudettes,



**Welcome to STRANGE FOLK issue #3. Yes, we're back and, once again, have loads of great exclusive stuff for you!**

First of all, thanks to all those who downloaded the first two issues, we are pleased to welcome a rising number of readers to each issue.

As it happens, Kula Shaker decided to call their long-awaited third album *Strangefolk*. As you probably noticed the very same name we chose for our very own fanzine, nice little coincidence. But let us just make it clear, brave reader, that we had no clue of the album title when we chose our name and yes, we are in litigation with Kula Shaker over use of the name!

After that act of fortuity we thought about becoming mystical fortune-tellers, traveling around the world making prophecies and warning people of their future! But we came to the conclusion to just stick to what we're best at: Supplying you with the latest news from the Kula-camp!

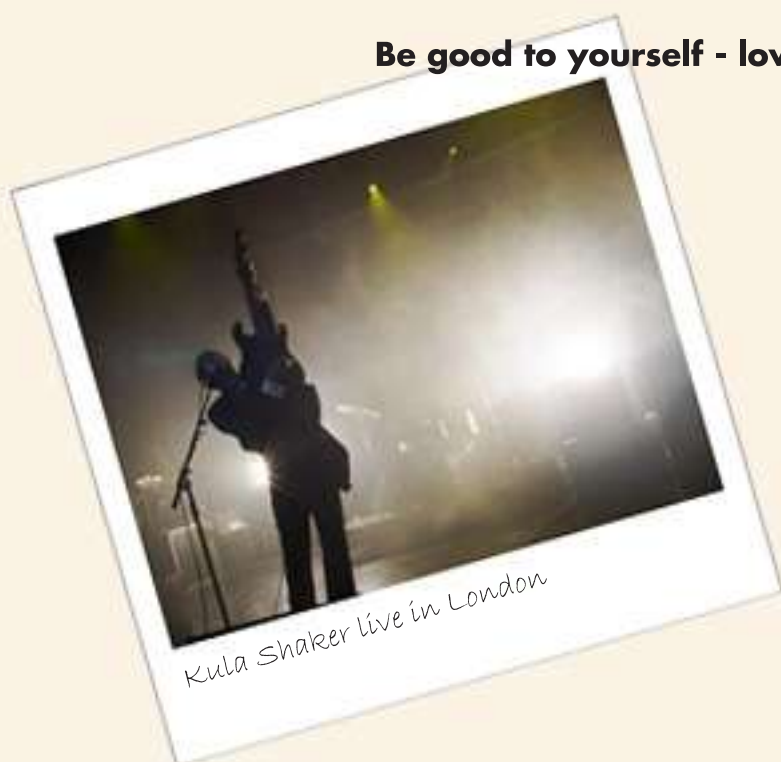
Over the past six months we've been very busy collecting interviews, reviews, pictures, columns and other worthy Kula-related knowledge for you. Many unanswered questions were asked and many long-awaited answers were given.

Do you know what the rarest Kula Shaker release is? What Alonza is addicted to? Why Harry decided to grow himself a big old hairy moustache? What Paul will take all his clothes off for? Just who the elusive Guru Madness is? Well we do, and we will reveal all!

We hope you enjoy reading *Strange Folk* #3. Comments and criticism are as always most welcome. Stay tuned for #4 and don't forget:

**Be good to yourself - love with your heart!**

Daniel & Andrea



*Kula Shaker live in London*

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Thank You to the Pecker family

and to Mizuho and Mayuko for translating the fanzines into Japanese



Check out the fanzine myspace at: <http://www.myspace.com/kulafanzine>

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# Contents



- 2** INTRODUCTION
- 4** CONTENTS
- 5** NEWS & GOSSIP
- 6** STRANGEFOLK album review
- 9** SECOND SIGHT single review
- 10** TIME-TRAVELLING INTO THE BIG CITY  
London gig reviews by Andrea
- 13** THE THEKLA SOCIAL , BRISTOL  
review by Dan
- 16** iTUNES FESTIVAL , LONDON  
review by Dan
- 19** FUJIROCK FESTIVAL '07, JAPAN  
review by Mizuho
- 21** GIG PHOTO SPECIAL
- 24** GURU MADNESS  
Don Pecker's column
- 26** INTERVIEWS  
with Paul, Alonza & Harry
- 33** KULA INSTRUMENT SECTION  
Part 3: Bass
- 34** Introducing the editors





# News & Gossip

As we are sure most of you are aware, Kula Shaker released their third album this year. Unsurprisingly the NME were not very sympathetic in their review, so we thought it might be funny to show their review of K when it first came out:

9 (out of 10) - ...*K is enormous; generating mighty, vertical grooves of pan-dimensional power pop which will surely have The Stone Roses gnawing at their innards....it's The Verve gone ethno-berserk, as huge as the horizon itself....astonishingly confident, musicianly gifted, gloriously hedonistic...*

New Musical Express (09/14/1996)

The band auditioned a new rhythm guitarist for the band over the summer, but thankfully nothing happened.

A hitherto unreleased short film has come to light which was made by Paul Winterhart's brother Joff, under the moniker of "Broken Crayon". The main stars are Don and Simon, it features a cameo appearance by Paul and the soundtrack is exclusively by Mr Pecker and Bucky. Look out for details in the next issue of how to buy your very own copy!

Strange Folk have also heard of an unreleased track recorded some time in the mid nineties written by Don Pecker called "Into the Void" where he is backed by Kula Shaker. If all goes to plan a copy of this mighty tune may become available to all you discerning Kula fans out there!

Did you know that for all the songs that Kula Shaker have covered (Hush, Ballad of a Thin Man, Peace Frog), Paul has never actually owned a copy of the songs until long after the band have recorded their own versions!

2007 also saw the release of a budget Kula Shaker compilation entitled "Tattva" and featuring some HORRENDOUS artwork!

Acid Jazz also released a psych compilation this spring entitled Sugar Lumps which features Shep's (whose illustrious members include Alonza and Paul) original demo version of Second Sight.

The Second Sight video was filmed in Bristol.

The model for the cover of Strangefolk is none other than Crispian's other half, Joe Mills.

The Kays used to play the band Naked (more famously known as Reef) at football, apparently Kula were the better of the two teams!

Paul has backed Gary Stringer (of Reef) on some dates in Europe in the past!

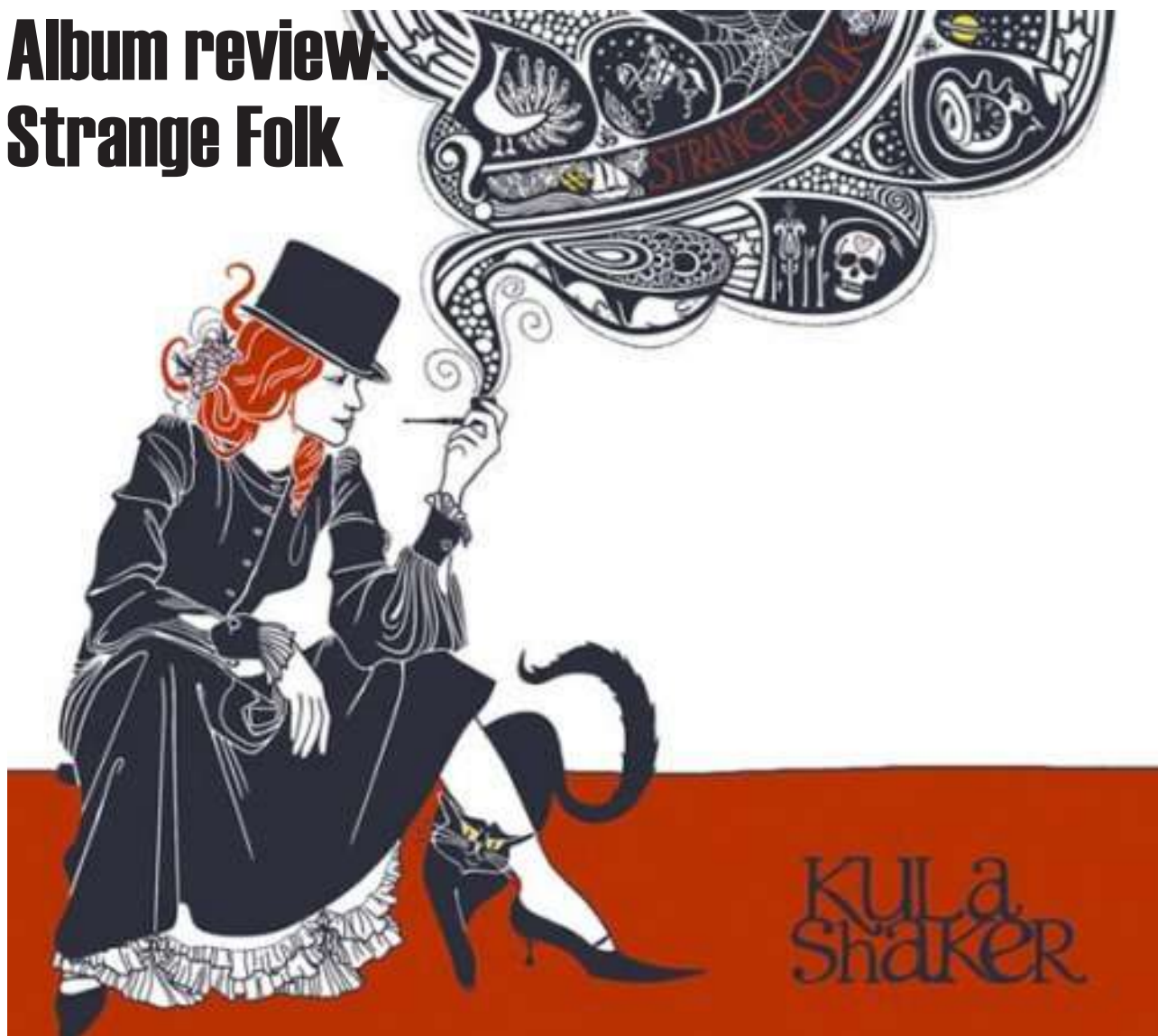
Did you know that The Jeevas Publishers Cowboy Music, was named after a George Harrison song?

If you ever wondered what kind of drinks are served in their backstage rooms: It's the best british tea!

Kula Shaker is planning a Japanese tour in the beginning of 2008. After that they will also tour the United States.

The band enjoyed the first part of the European tour in the UK which kicked off in the UK at Southampton on Sunday the 30th of September. They are now heading to more famous places like Hamburg and Brussels. They enjoyed the gig at London's Koko most (so far) which was the biggest venue they played after the reunion.

# Album review: Strange Folk



**Here is what your STRANGE FOLK editors think about the new masterpiece by Kula Shaker, their third album Strangefolk.**

## OUT ON THE HIGHWAY

**Dan:** Well, it gets off to a good start with Out on the Highway, easily my favourite out of the new songs, it's got a kind of classic feel to it. The melody is great and it manages to sound uplifting and not depressing even if the subject matter is a little melancholic, i.e. the premature passing of Mills' family friend.

**Andrea:** Great stuff. This is how you expect a Kula Shaker album to begin. Even though

this song carries a sad story it gives you a warm welcome to Strangefolk.

## SECOND SIGHT

**Dan:** I always skip this song, not a personal favourite. It has moments when you realise that it could have been really good, but it never reaches its potential in my own humble opinion. It's written by Alonza and contains a reference to Don Pecker!

**Andrea:** The very important first single. A good choice if you ask me, even though the intro could've been a bit shorter. I tend to fast-forward till the actual song starts. It does very well in the live version though.

### DIE FOR LOVE

**Dan:** This is another good tune, a very maturely written song about love and pacifism. They have changed the original lyric from "fuck you up inside" to "burn you up in side" which I still haven't got used to! It's definitely a song that grows on you.

**Andrea:** We've heard that before, didn't we? But it remains a lovely little song. I love that "defeat your enemies with a song" bit. Crispian is a very wise man.

### GREAT DICTATOR

**Dan:** Another song that I don't like, don't get me wrong I am a massive fan of the band, but I prefer the original garage version. Lyrically and musically, it feels like they are making a political point just for the sake of it!

**Andrea:** People might say what they want, I still love this tune! Yes, it is silly in a way, and yes, it was not necessary to put in on the album, but it's very enjoyable to see live. Plus, it's a lot more straight-forward than most of the other songs on this album and I like the way they arranged the background lyrics.

### STRANGEFOLK

**Dan:** Nice little interlude, it feels like this is the point in the album that you would walk down the aisle and get an ice cream. It would have worked just as well, if not better without the vocals. Just in case anyone was wondering this bears no resemblance to the epic lost track of the same name from the PPA sessions.

**Andrea:** You might say this could have been left out. And that you wanted the original song to appear on this album. I agree! They should have used the original PLUS this narration. Cos I actually like it and I think it is well placed before Song of Love.

### SONG OF LOVE/NARAYANA

**Dan:** Here it is, the album's token epic Indian Number, or epic folly depending on who you ask, I love it personally. It's here that you get a mantra, funky horns, a sruti box, Dhol Drums, ghostly vocals all in the melting pot topped off with a lyrical theme about our collective

global world conscience. Although there is an annoying little organ squelch at 1.09 in the left side of the stereo image, which should have been taken out as I don't think it sounds intentional, but that aside it is a mighty tune.

**Andrea:** This is what people expect from Kula Shaker: An epic track which is partly sung in sanskrit. I would have been sad if they'd abandoned anything (obviously) Indian from the record. Even though we'd already known Narayan from gigs and past collaborations they succeeded in rearranging it. One of the best tracks on the album, I hope it'll become a true hymn like Govinda!

### SHADOWLANDS

**Dan:** I think that this one would have worked better acoustically, it's a really nice number, great melody, nice lyrics, but I don't think that the arrangement suits it. It would be interesting to see the band do it live though.

**Andrea:** What a beautiful track, isn't it? I love every second of it.

### FOOL THAT I AM

**Dan:** My personal favourite and a blatant pop tune, it's as catchy as the common cold, the chorus is the high point for the whole album for me.

**Andrea:** Totally agree – definitely one of my favourites with genius lyrics too.

### HURRICANE SEASON

**Dan:** This is Kula Shaker in unfamiliar waters, it's better live as it's quite experimental but the album version doesn't do it for me.

**Andrea:** You think so? I think it's just such a great song – both on the album and live. I like the fact that it actually tells a whole story.

### OL' JACK TAR

**Dan:** I think that this would have been more suited as a Bside.

**Andrea:** Worst song on the album in my humble opinion. I tend to skip it. Sorry.

### 6FT DOWN

**Dan:** Another reworking of a track from the



Garage EP. It doesn't improve on the original version so I would rather listen to the garage version. It's still a good tune but it is a little ruined on the album for me as I already know it.

**Andrea:** Nothing new to the ears of a Kula fan. I like it till the chorus starts. I wonder why they decided to record it again. Oh, but do they actually sing "Jeeva" in the background or are my ears betraying me?

DR. KITT

**Dan:** I love this song. It's epic psychedelia at its very best, great imagery. Quite a nice play on the normal "Doctor, Doctor I think I am going mad" quote; it being transformed into "Doctor, Doctor they say you're a miracle man", for me this song is what Kula Shaker is all about.

**Andrea:** Best song on the album! Definitely. I hope they pick it as the next single. It's Kula Shaker at their best – you feel taken back to the 60s with their great hammond sound. A catchy tune which would help them to get back in the charts.

PERSEPHONE

**Dan:** The album officially ends with Dr Kitt, but this being Kula Shaker there is a hidden track, albeit a VERY short one in French. The European version of the album then has Persephone as a bonus track, the Japanese release has Super CB Operator and Wannabe Famous. I really like Persephone, it works whilst at the same time is like nothing that Kula Shaker have done before. The cello is great and compliments the song, most easily the album's most Beatles-esque song. A nice way to wrap the proceedings up. The Japanese exclusive bonus track is a right corker of a song, but they were right to include it as a bonus track as it doesn't fit in with the rest of the album. It's a jaunty country style song, very reminiscent of The Kinks, both in its lyrics, theme and melody. It would not have sounded out of place on a Jeevas album...

**Andrea:** Persephone is one of the most beautiful songs I've ever heard. When I heard

it for the first time I was a bit irritated since there'd never been cellos on a Kula song before, but it really grew on me.

OVERALL THOUGHTS

**Dan:** I definitely think that you can tell that it has been produced by more than one person, as the actual sound image lacks a coherent theme. However I'm comparing it to the last album that Kula Shaker released, that being Peasants, Pigs and Astronauts, which was expertly produced by Bob Ezrin. What is unusual, is how high the bass guitar is in the mix, I would have brought it down a little but that's just a personal preference. I also don't like the sound of the guitars, it doesn't sound like they spent a lot of time getting a nice natural guitar sound, plus the organ sound just doesn't do it for me. All the above critiques are regarding the production, as you certainly cannot fault the actual performances, but I feel that the production is not sympathetic to the bands vision. I do think that it is a good album, but if they had included Be Merciful and Revenge of the King I think that it would have been an amazing album...

**Andrea:** Well, first of all I'm just very thankful that they recorded another album. You certainly can't compare it to K or PP&A, it has a completely different vibe to it. The psychedelic influences are being explored to their fullest and we get some real classics with songs like Song of Love and Dr Kitt. While K and PPA could be seen as a whole, Strangefolk is split into two halves which are separated by the title track Strangefolk. Out on the Highway was a good choice as the opener, and the following songs fit in very well. Same for Shadowlands, Fool That I am, Hurricane Season and Ol' Jack Tar. For me Dr Kitt is the outstanding track on the album – I like the European version best where it is followed by Persephone. Compared to the first albums Strangefolk sounds more technical to me, I'd have loved them to keep more of that "recorded in a garage" vibe to it.

# Second Sight

released in the UK 13/9/07

The Garage EP aside this was the first UK single to be released from the reformed Kula Shaker since the nineties, so what can I say? Well I cannot stand the artwork for one thing; since when did pink, black and bright green go together? But the artwork was done by Stylorouge, so that was nice little piece of continuity even if it was horrible, as Stylorouge did most of the artwork for the band in the 90s.

It was released on three formats: CD, 7" and Download. The 7" and download Bside being an acoustic version of Out on the Highway, which all you hardcore fans out there will already have if you bought the Japanese EP (Freedom Lovin' People) and I won't bother talking about as it is being reviewed separately! The artwork aside, it's quite a nice little single. I must admit that Second Sight is not my favourite track off of the album, I would have thought that Out on the Highway would have been a much more obvious choice for the first single, but then again they weren't going to ask me before they released it were they...

With bands, I find that you can always judge their quality upon the quality of their Bsides, as it is in the Bsides that a band can really let their hair down as they have nothing to prove. It is the two Bsides to the CD single that really make it worth buying in my opinion, as they are two stomping psychedelic rock pieces, more psychedelic than any of the tracks on the album actually (well Song of Love aside). The first Bside is All I Need, a song penned by Alonza and sung by himself as well - am I the only person to find it interesting that Alonza is finally singing lead vocals on Kula Shaker tracks? It is very Sixties and has an up tempo folksy air to it. It starts off acoustic and before you know it, is an electrical behemoth. What makes the track for me is the psychedelic



backwards guitar, heavy reverb/delay on the middle 8, I also really love the crazy horns! It should also be noted that this track reeks of mid-sixties The Who, (Can't Explain, anyone?). This isn't a major surprise as Alonza is a big fan of the band!

The last song is a rocking little piece, ideal for playing in the car or putting onto a mix tape of obscure songs! Lyrically it's a mish mash of medieval crusading imagery with heavy parallels drawn to the current situation in Iraq, Afghanistan and the Middle East. It has a really nice heavy guitar intro, with each instrument coming in individually, so after a few bars of guitar the organ kicks in, Paul does a little roll on the drums, Alonza comes in on the bass, once the vocals start, the guitar starts playing short stabs (a trait very prevalent in Sixties soul songs) and the song is rolling along! It's a nice little tune, quite catchy in an offbeat way. It also has a middle eight which is classic Kula and reminds me of the middle 8 in Holy River. The song then grinds to a halt as most of their tracks do live, i.e. it slows down and they end on a big chord that slowly fades away.

Not a bad comeback at all if you ask me!



# Time-travelling into the big city

**It felt like travelling in time. I was sitting in the plane which would carry me to my second home: London. I tried to remember when I last travelled that far to see a band. It was 1999. And it was Kula Shaker.**

At that time I saw them six times in one year. The high point was three Kula gigs in one week in May. And that is definitely my personal record when it comes to musical madness. I was young and there couldn't have been anything better than seeing your favourite band as often as you can. Actually you would

think I should have grown up during the past eight years and spend my money for more useful things. Wrong thought. When it comes to Kula Shaker I still feel like 16. This band never lost its magic for me. And if you think about it, Germany's not that far from England. It's only 500 miles and a 1.5 hour flight.

Six hours of annoying airport check-outs, long train rides and a lot of bus travelling later I was standing in front of this tiny little stage in the middle of a small bar in Hoxton. I had just met a bunch of people whom I had spoken to anonymously on a message board for years.



They were just as lovely as I'd imagined and it was nice to be able to put names to faces at last. Finally I had found the real Kula fans who had been longing for their return as much as I had done.

We managed to capture the first row and were drinking our third beer when the first riffs of „Sound of Drums“ filled the room. For a second it felt unreal to me. How often did I go to see bands and imagined what it would be like if they were Kula Shaker? Now they were back and I realised it. I smiled, I danced. All my worries were suddenly banished from my head. All that counted was this minute, this hour, with my favourite band. I remember telling people what it was like to see them live. I tried to explain it. But you can't put it into words. You have to experience it, be there and feel the atmosphere. Look at the guys, watch Crispian, the way he plays guitar. And you know that's it. There can't be anything better.

If there hadn't have been a bootleg I definitely wouldn't be able to recite the setlist. Hearing it as a recording is good and takes you back for a few minutes.

They played a nice mixture of old and new songs plus some unexpected surprises. „Since it is the 13th we decided to play 13 songs today!“, Crispian announced. Could have been more, but there you go. It was the first time that they would play songs like „Second Sight“, „On The Highway“ and „Dr. Kitt“ live in England's capital. I especially liked the version of the Doors' „Peace Frog“ which fitted in very well. And that was the only song for which Crispian needed the lyrics as a reminder, written on a piece of paper to his feet. Definitely surprising was the inclusion of „Ballad of a Thin Man“, which I really love, and „Temple of Everlasting Light“. Class! For the final encores they saved „Tattva“, „Hush“, „Hey Dude“ and of course, „Govinda“. A bit of a shame, because the crowd had just begun to enjoy themselves when they left the

stage after the last tunes of „Govinda“. And I? I kept on smiling. It was so good to be back in the Kula world. And it wasn't over yet. There was another gig to come, only two days after this. I used the day inbetween to relax, do some sightseeing, shopping and definitely spent too much time in pubs. God bless England.



We arrived early at the Bush Hall. I was joined by my boyfriend Sebastian, Sarah and my fellow fanzine-colleague Dan. Since Dan and I failed badly at the Hoxton gig, we had one very important mission to complete: to get interviews with the band for this very fanzine. We'd been collecting questions over questions for each band member and were full of hope to succeed this time.

To be honest, I don't feel very comfortable standing in front of a club five hours before the gigs begins. But probably that's what makes a true fan... And after all, the long wait should pay off. They arrived one after the other: At first Simon, who was complaining about how uncomfortable it is to park the band van in a town like London. Shortly after that Paul showed up to help unload the gear. He was the first one we could catch for a little chat. After that Alonza agreed to answer some questions and thanks to Sarah we were also able to speak to Harry. What lovely guys they all are! The only one who was still missing was Crispian. And as it turned out that was the only downer: Even though we tried hard we couldn't get hold of him.

Kula Shaker, Hoxton Bar and Grill & Bush Hall, London

Our disappointment faded away as soon as Kula entered the stage later that evening. The setlist was similar to the Hoxton one. The venue was much bigger and resembled a sauna by the time they came on stage. But we braved the heat and sang along to old and new material. At first Crispian looked a bit out of place, probably not feeling well. But he got more and more into it. The crowd went mad during „Hey Dude“ and „Hush“ and as the encore started, it seemed like the band wanted to say „Thank you“ with a wonderful extended version of Govinda. That was definitely the perfect ending to a perfect time in London.

SETLIST HOXTON:

- 01 Sound Of Drums
- 02 Second Sight
- 03 Die For Love
- 04 Great Dictator (Of The Free World)
- 05 303
- 06 Ballad Of A Thin Man
- 07 On The Highway
- 08 Temple Of Everlasting Light
- 09 Peace Frog
- 10 Dr.Kitt
- 11 Tattva
- 12 Hush
- 13 Hey Dude
- 14 Govinda



*In case someone has read my little review to this point and been inspired, I have to warn you about something. If you really fancy going to a Kula gig there's a big risk of becoming addicted. And this addiction can become quite expensive if you don't live in England. But I still advise you: do it! There's no better addiction!*



## Bristol review

**The whole evening started with me getting a train from Paddington to Bristol in the English summer rain, upon arriving into Bristol I casually asked at the station when the last train was, the reply "At eleven" kind of threw a spanner in the works, I was like "shit the gig probably won't finish until 11:30". I then tried to find a Bed and Breakfast, but like the nativity in the Bible, no joy.**

I then found out that there was a bus back to London, but not until 4 in the morning, so it was with a heavy heart that I got a ticket, there is nothing better for killing a post gig buzz than a four hour wait in a cold bus station! Anyway I headed down to the venue, which was a boat in the harbour, had a fast whiskey and soda inside and then joined the queue for the concert. The doors opened at 7:30, I got a good spot at the front, and stood through possibly the WORST support band that I have seen in recent years (actually ever).

It was one guy with a keyboard, one of his lyrics was "Dolphins are beautiful", enough said! At 8:50-ish the band hit the stage and played an absolutely blinding set, despite the fact that they had all gone down with the flu! Or in their own words "We've been cursed with Bubonic plague by a coven of witches, but we're in negotiations with them at the moment and it's all going to work out fine!"

They kicked the set off with a stomping version of Sound of Drums, which was at its epic best, all ancient pagan imagery, droning guitar riffs and pounding drums. Crispian's voice was a little worse for the wear, but the band played with such an energy that it didn't really matter! They then broke into Second Sight, which is a lot more rockier live than the recorded version, more garage and less parking permit!

The room itself was packed, the stage was small, I suppose the journalistic slang for this would be "intimate", so intimate in fact that Harry and Alonza were tucked behind two



monitors so you probably wouldn't have seen them at all if you were upstairs. They then played Die for Love and in my eyes really became at home onstage, found their groove so to speak.

This was followed by Great Dictator of the Free World, quite possibly my least favourite Kula Shaker song, quickly followed by 303, which is always a really heavy beast live. It always seems to get the crowd going and is the song that will probably never ever get dropped from the set!

Next up was Ballad of a Thin Man, a song that I would not have expected them to play on this tour, but they did and managed to make it their own, no mean feat in itself. The guitar solo was especially good during this as well. After this song ground to a halt someone in the audience shouted out for Be Merciful and much to my surprise the band decided to do it. It was less rehearsed as the y mix, the sort of song that you would play at the end of the day, and in my eyes a logical follow on from I'm Still Here.

They then returned to their normal set with Out on the Highway and it was from here that the gig really started to be amazing, it is such an epic number, heavy yet light at the same time! They then did Temple of Everlasting Light; it struck me just how much this song sounds like it belongs in the sixties, it has a driving rhythm, a quiet section, a heavy section and a really abrupt finish.

They followed this by a song actually from the sixties (well 1970 to be exact) Peace Frog a Doors cover, from their album "Hotel Morrison, Hard Rock Cafe", the original is worth checking out! Musically it was very tight, but Crispian still hadn't nailed the words properly! Harry really came into his own on this song, lots of funky Hammond jabs. This then segued into Dr Kitt, possibly my favourite of all the new Kula Shaker songs live, it really has a classic quality to it.

They then did the obligatory Tattva, which is sounding more and more Beatlesy with time, what was especially good when Crispian pulled out a harmonica and started doing the Hallelujah, it shouldn't work but it does! Then came Hush with the crowd shouting the words back at the stage, and there was even a little crowd surfing! They then left the stage, but everybody knew that they were going to come back on as they hadn't done Govinda.



After a short wait they came back on stage and did Super CB Operator, the recorded version certainly doesn't do it any justice! It went down well and was followed by Hey Dude, the intro was longer than usual with a lot of funky bass from Alonza.

They then invited a special guest onto the stage for a number, none other than Don Pecker, the song being Fairyland the first time the band and Don have played it live as Kula Shaker, ever! It was a good version minus the

picked intro on the record and REALLY folky, kind of dark folk, the best kind! It was more rockier than the version we all know, but it worked. Crispian just watched from the sidelines, Don then gave the guitar back to Crispian and they finally did Govinda. I have NEVER heard a bad version of Govinda and this version did not disappoint either! Such a great song to end a night with, which is exactly what they did.

I had been checking my watch the whole of the gig and by the time of the encore I realised that I may be able to make the last train, as I was not going to leave a gig early (I have principals dammit). Once they got more than half-way through Govinda, I edged towards the back. When the final chord had just been struck I made a run (literally) for the train station, made the last train with 10 minutes to spare! In hindsight flip flops, a poster, the weekend paper, and a sandwich are NOT the most ideal things to run a mile with!

Overall thoughts... The band were in good spirits, they were obviously enjoying being on stage together, even if most of the onstage banter was the same as the rest of the tour. I mean, can you say that a song is "so new we haven't played it yet" after you have played it 6 times in the past week?

It is always interesting seeing a band a few times in a short space of time, as you can get really critical as to what is a good gig. On this tour they just got better the further into the tour they went! So for me this was definitely the highlight of the tour, even if the actual sound itself wasn't great, but then I was standing right in front of the drums, so the bass drum was level with my head, but 3 metres back. I shouldn't complain because I did actually manage to catch the last train home, so it was a perfect evening!

Set list:  
Sound of Drums  
Second Sight  
Die for Love  
303  
Ballad of a Thin Man  
Be Merciful  
Out on the Highway  
Temple of Everlasting Light  
Peace Frog  
Dr Kitt  
Tattva  
Hush

Encore:  
Super CB operator  
Hey Dude  
Fairyland Feat. Don Pecker  
Govinda



# iTunes review



**This gig almost slipped under the radar as far as I was concerned, as I was doing some recording with a friend of mine who was over from Sweden and we were spending lots of time in the studio arguing over bass lines!**

However on Saturday the 5th of July I checked my emails and had gotten an email regarding a free Kula Shaker gig the next Monday! The closing date to enter the guest list prize draw was the very same day! I promptly entered my name and lo and behold the next day we got an email saying that we had tickets for the gig. What made it extra special is that my mate is actually a big fan of Kula Shaker and

he had never had the pleasure of seeing them live, needless to say I took his Kula gig virginity!

So we left the recording studio early on the Monday rushed home had a bite to eat, changed into something not smelling of being in the studio for 9 hours and found ourself walking down the Strand to the ICA in the English summer rain! The gig was in the ICA, the room was a decent size and we got a good spot at the front and met up with some other fans of the band! The support band were Loney, Dear; they really didn't do anything for me but my friend loved them.

Anyway sometime after 9pm, after the hall had filled, two Sikhs bedecked in all their



ceremonial finery took the stage both carrying two huge dhol drums! The fact that they were wearing black and white puma trainers made them seem extra imposing. The swirling strains of Indian music came on over the PA, they started pounding the drums and the band came on after a few bars and burst into Sound of Drums.



It was a mighty performance and one that smacked heavily of late 1960s psychedelia! The band were on form, they fluffed up the set a little, getting the order of the songs wrong, but that aside the performances were rock solid, everyone slotting in nicely behind Crispian's guitar. Plus the actual sound itself was really really good, nice acoustics, whoever was responsible for the sound was doing a good job!

The new (well newish) songs were very well rehearsed and didn't sound out of place along side some of the older classics! The highlight of the gig for me was Song of Love/ Narayana as it was the first time that I had heard it live, it was jokingly introduced as the song that the band was going to play at Live Earth, but didn't as they weren't asked to perform!

Seeing as the gig was to be released on iTunes they did a special acoustic set halfway through the gig. The songs that got the acoustic treatment were Shower Your Love, Dictator; just Alonza and Crispian (who was playing a

very small guitar,) it was a lovely little performance and bizarrely enough Dictator sounded a little countryish, and they rounded off the acoustic section with a lovely intimate version of Be Merciful.

They strapped back on their guitars and played a suitable laid back rendition of Dr Kitt which just built and built until it crescendoed in a great guitar solo, pure Kula Shaker! This then morphed into Tattva whereby the two dhol drummers, Johnny Kalsi and Jas Daffu retook the stage and rocked out, whilst Crispian played mouth organ over the outro of the song, it shouldn't have sounded amazing, but it did! They finished the first part of the set with a suitably epic version of Govinda. The band left the stage only to be coaxed back on again to play a really folk version of Jerry Was There but with some really bizarre Star Wars influenced alternate lyrics. They then wrapped



the proceedings up with Hey Dude. As far as everyone understood the whole gig was to be released on iTunes, it then became clear with time that only an EP length release of the gig was forthcoming! As I sit here and write this, it has yet to be released.

Not content in giving music fans a free concert iTunes also gave everyone who attended the gig a voucher with 10 free songs, with which to buy the live release when it came out on iTunes, but me being a music freak that I am, the voucher was spent a long time ago!

All in all it was a beautifully mature set, you could almost sense that the band were on fine form as they were conscious of being recorded for posterity! It was a nice surprise after having spent so much time and money travelling to see the band around England, to be able to see them for free in my hometown, plus I had the joy of being able to take someone to a Kula Shaker gig who was actually appreciative of their music!

Set list

1. Sound of Drums (feat Johnny and Jas)
2. Out on the Highway
3. Second Sight
4. Die for Love
5. Temple of Everlasting Light
6. 303
7. Song of Love/Narayana
8. Shower your Love (Acoustic)
9. Dictator of the free world (Acoustic)
10. Be Merciful to Me (Acoustic)
11. Dr Kitt
12. Tattva (feat Johnny and Jas)
13. Hush
14. Govinda

Encore

15. Jerry was There
16. Hey Dude



# Fuji Rock

**One day in March, I heard that Kula Shaker would be coming to the Fuji Rock Festival'07. The Jeevas came to the FRF two straight years (in 2002 and 2003). So I was hoping that Kula would also come this year, then when it became a reality, I was so happy about it! "I'll be able to see their performance at the FRF this year too!"**

To begin with, what is the FRF? I guess most of the people who live outside Japan have never been to the FRF even if they're familiar with the name of the festival itself. The FRF takes place on a mountain, and yet the mountain is not Mount Fuji. Instead it is Mount Naeba which is in Nigata. Then, why is the FRF called the FUJI Rock Festival? It's simple. The first time The FRF was held was in 1997, at the Tenjinyama Ski resort on Mount Fuji. The FRF was held in Tokyo in 1998 and then moved to Mount Naeba in 1999, it has taken place there since and is loved as the "Fuji Rock Festival" to this day. By the way, it is an extremely clean festival indeed. I'm sure if you came to the festival without any prior knowledge of it, you would be surprised that it's hard to find any rubbish on the ground at all! All of the crowd, staff and artists unite to try to make the FRF the cleanest festival in the world.

Also, I'm not sure if you know this, but here in Japan, in most cases, we are banned from taking photos of the bands on stage. The FRF is no exception. So I haven't got any Kula pics, sorry!

Last year, Kula Shaker performed at a small covered space which is called the Red Marquee; the capacity is about 5,000. It was packed with a lot of people who wanted to see the re-formed Kula, and so many people



couldn't get in because of the restricted admission. Their performance was perfect! "Kula did come back!", everyone who was there must have thought so. And this year, they came back to the Green stage, the biggest stage of the FRF, whose capacity is about 40,000. It was a shame that it was still light out when they were on, but I was so excited to be able to see their performance in a wide open space!

At 15:45, 5 minutes ahead of schedule, an Indian song marked the beginning of the Kula show. It has been a year since I saw them at the FRF last year! Kula appeared on stage at the end of the song, and they started playing the intro to "Hey Dude". The crowd let out a cheer. I assumed that this was some people's first time seeing them, and considering the time and the stage, it was good for the opening of the show. A lot of people reached up their hands to the sky as if trying to catch the sun along with Crispian when he sang "catch the sun!". And yes, I definitely caught something. Everyone must have caught a brilliant time!

They played "Out on the Highway", then Harry started playing the intro of J.S.Bach's "Toccata and Fugue in D minor", which segued into "Second Sight". The fourth song was "Die For Love". It's one of my favourite songs; I especially like this part of the lyric: "you don't have to pray for the death of your enemies, we'll defeat them with a song". With Crispian's emotional singing, the lyric touched my heart even more.



Next was "Temple of Everlasting Light", which they played on their most recent UK tour for the first time, even though it was originally released in 1996. Crispian changed the lyric to "if I wait another day to travel to Fuji!". Crispian threw his Strat in the air when "303" finished; I was a bit frightened that he might drop it, but he caught it nicely! Actually, I didn't like "Great Dictator (of the Free World)" so much, but they had arranged it very well, it was totally cool! When Crispian and Alonza came here to do promotion, they played an acoustic version of it on a radio show. I heard it and liked it. I think it stands out during live performance. This is a nice example of what you realise is one of the big attractions of Kula Shaker when you see them play live!

Unfortunately, I was not able to see Paul at all from my position, but I was able to imagine how he played the drums just from the sound he made. Harry was wearing a nice costume and playing regally at the front of the stage. Alonza was playing fascinating bass lines and adding beautiful harmonies (needless to say, there is no doubt that his harmony-singing is also one of the charms of Kula!). I was riveted by Crispian's guitar playing, I love it, his playing fascinates me. When I see him play the guitar so intently, every time it makes me feel that he is a real guitarist. He said in an interview\* as a joke, "if nobody knows our songs (at the FRF), then I think probably I'll just play 'Hotel California' (by the Eagles) for an hour, and play a very very long guitar solo (laugh)". Well, personally, I'd like to see that too!

"Strangefolk" came from the speakers, which ran into "Song of Love/Narayana". Then Crispian played a few notes on the guitar, and I realised that the next song was "Shower Your Love". According to the setlist on Sony Japan site afterwards, the song had been listed as "Be Merciful (Shower Your Love)". I wonder if he made his choice based on his feeling at that particular moment. Both of them are among my favourites, so I would've been happy

whichever one they played. But in this case, I feel that his choice fitted the atmosphere more than the alternative. As you know, it's a sweet, lovely song, I always get a really heartwarming feeling from it. I love the song... They started playing "Dr Kitt", it was one of the songs from "Strangefolk" that I wanted to hear live (I wonder if I'll get to hear "Fool That I Am" and "Hurricane Season" someday too. I'd love to hear them!).

And then the festival filled with the mystical sounds of "Tattva". I liked the decision to let "Tattva" follow on from "Dr Kitt". Then "Hush" heated up the crowd, they jumped up strongly and demonstrated their enjoyment of the show with their whole bodies! When they played the intro of "Govinda", people who realised that this was the last song of the show roared. The time Kula were given was an hour. I sang along to "Govinda" with Kula and the rest of the crowd. The show was finished at 16:45, it was only an hour since the start. I was left wanting more... They were absolutely fantastic! Thank you for coming to the FRF and for the brilliant performance!

Setlist:

Hey Dude  
Out on the Highway  
Second Sight  
Die for Love  
Temple of Everlasting Light  
303  
Great Dictator (of the Free World)  
Strangefolk  
Song of Love/Narayana  
Shower Your Love  
Dr Kitt  
Tattva  
Hush  
Govinda

\*interview at [excite.co.jp](http://excite.co.jp)

# Gig photo special









This is an exclusive regular column  
with Strange Folk's very own guru in residence,

by Don Pecker

# Guru Madness

DOWN THE RABBIT HOLE



**Yes once more, dear readers, Strange Folk braved the abyss to venture inside the looking glass and deep, deep into the rabbit hole to bag yet another exclusive column for the fanzine!**

So...

Guru Madness would just like to update all you freedom loving people out there, that as mentioned in the last column a golf course HAS actually been built in the holy land, namely Brindavan, India the birthplace of the supreme godhead Krishna. Because of this Guru Madness has risen to the occasion and expanded on his previous charity match scheme, which will now be rock stars versus world leaders, the team being made up of Meatloaf, well the artist formerly "known as" - after converting to vegetarianism he is now called Nut loaf!, Alice Cooper (a miserable son of a bitch) and Dodger Mills, versus world leaders from Communist China, Burma, Japan and America.

This would be a positive thing for all involved because golf is truly a transcendental pastime which would greatly benefit both rock stars and world leaders (both of which are renown for their humongous egos), such is its allure that many souls become golfers instead of Monks! The holiness of golf is further backed up the film "The Legend of Bagger Vance" the whole plot being a thinly disguised allegory of the Bhagavad-Gita.

But enough of golf, what has his most reverential holiness Guru Madness been up to since the last column?

Well Guru Madness continues to go out and gig with his musical duo Hobby Horse in the South West of England, working on new material, so keep your eyes and ears peeled for a new Hobby Horse album in the New Year. It should be noted that all proceeds of Hobby Horse CD/gig sales go directly to the Tricky Warren Horse and Pony Rescue Centre (so get your cheque books out). Since the last column Guru Madness has rescued another ex race horse from within 13 metres of the Knackers yard, he is the latest happy camper down the rabbit hole!



Guru Madness also beamed out of the Rabbit hole for his official live debut with Kula Shaker, after ten years and a lovely introduction by Crispian. This was only made possible because the gig in question was aboard a ship, as Guru Madness can still not set his hallowed feet upon dry land.

In case you are wondering, Crispian has still to beat Guru Madness at golf! As Guru Madness's eyesight fades and his arthritis takes hold, Crispian may be able to beat him, however Crispian will never be able to beat Guru Madness as he was in his prime. None the less Crispian is longing for the day when he can beat Guru Madness.

Guru Madness is very proud of his Kula boys and is proud to be their madness mentor. Guru Madness also says to expect great things in 2008, because 2008 is the year of the rat and Crispian was born in the year of the rat. Also 2008 adds up to ten ( $2+0+0+8=10$ ), a mystical number very special to the band. Guru Madness has a divine vision that the band will spring into action with a number one pop song and this will be the year that it will happen... This is a prophecy!! Guru Madness is looking forward to playing more guest spots with the Kula Shaker, weddings, funerals, christenings and Barmitzvas!

As to the driving of the stretch limo, this dream has faded into the sacred mists of Avalon, because of Guru Madness's poor health and eyesight the band could not afford the insurance! But he still could be a co-pilot/navigator along with his good friend Simon Roberts (of Bucky fame) at the wheel.

It should also be noted that Mr Pecker played a gig in the Moles club in Bath with one half of Bucky, Joff Winterhart, under the moniker "Won't Never". The gig went down very well and is just one of many projects on the go.

By now you may have realised that Guru Madness and Don Pecker are one and the same!

LONG LIVE THE MANTRAS!  
HARE KRSNA

GURU MADNESS 2007



## Interviews

### Paul

"RIVER DEEP, MOUNTAIN HIGH"

#### How are you finding the current tour?

It's going alright, it's only a quick hop round the country.

#### So it's more like a pre-tour then?

Yes, we did some of these venues last year, Nottingham, Manchester... It's really just for some press, our business thing is not that organised you know, we're doing quite a lot.

#### What's your opinion on the state of the current music industry?

I'm not very up with the music industry, I just like to play my drums and get out of the way. But it's obviously different from how it was, in terms of the internet and everything. For example when it comes to Kula Shaker I'm part of the musical side, I'm part of the personal side but I am not down with the business side!

#### Was making the recent album a long drawn out process?

No, it was quite a short process. The perception is that we've had a torturous couple of months in the studio, but we haven't. We kind of did with the second record. Finishing it has been difficult for Crispian and Alonza, actually saying "right we'll stop now", but this year we haven't done much. I have only done a day or two's drumming on it, we did most of it before Christmas! Since Christmas we've just been topping and tailing it.

#### It must have been a different experience recording this album compared to the last Kula Shaker album, PPA, as that took a famously long time to complete.

It was, Henry wasn't on that, but he might have enjoyed parts of it because it was on Gilmour's boat on the Thames. It was quite



smart so we did lots of dressing up, lots of rowing and I actually went swimming in the Thames.

#### Really, and survived?

Yes, I swam across from the Richmond side to the Twickenham side.

#### That part of the rivers quite wide isn't it?

Probably about 50 yards actually.

#### So it must have taken a good 5 minutes.

I don't know, but I was thinking about my life.

#### What when you got half way?

Not that I would get carried down stream, just that if I swallowed more than an 8th of a cupful of water that would have been it for me.

(Daniel): Yeah I have been for a swim in a lake in London and all I could think to myself was "this water looks really dirty, keep your mouth shut".

Which one?

The one in Hyde park.

The serpentine.

**Yea that's the one, apparently it's quite clean because of all the algae, but it is quite scary because you cannot see your hands!**

I go swimming in the men's pond in Hampstead Heath, it's very nice! I went up there on a sunny day a couple of weeks ago with my Australian cousin!

**Have you ever been for a swim in the winter?**

Yes, I've been round there in the winter.

**So I take it your quite a hardcore dipper then?**

Yeah, back in the day, every cold bit of water I would see I would jump into, I've swum off of the north coast of England, I've swum in the North sea in December, where the air is COLD.

**Even if its cold the water never goes beneath 2 or 3 degrees, but that is still really cold.**

No, it's not frozen. There is a swimmer guy who used to be a serious swimmer, who's swum in polar waters (Lewis Pugh). They measured his body temperature and his body temperature rises in the anticipation of going into the cold water, it knows it's going to go in!

**Right, so back to the questions. How do you feel about Kula being back together, now that you've been back together 18 months, has it been better?**

It's been alright, if you get 4 pains in the arse in the same van, it's complicated you know.

**What question do you always wish you were asked in interviews?**

Well I don't have any interest in any questions. I don't mind fanzines, you know, fanzines are fine but the press, DJs and the mainstream media, they can take a fine walk past me. I'm fine doing this and online stuff, MySpace whatever. I'm fine talking to you guys (the fans) because you guys are very supportive of us and nice. Fans appeal to me, they like hearing bits of gossip and stuff, but in terms

of musicians opening their mouths to the wider world, I'm not sure it's a good idea.

I think you should say what you want to say through your music, I'm not up for bands talking about politics, but then I don't read Q, I'm not interested. My favourite artists and bands, I don't know anything about them. All I know is that they made great records and you read odd little titbits, you hear stuff at gigs or you read tiny little articles about them. But the artists I'm into, like Lee Dorsey and Led Zeppelin, apart from what you read about them, they generally never did any press. People I love, they didn't do any press, I don't know anything about them, it's mysterious, partly why you like them is the mystique!

**A final question, what has been your weirdest Kula experience to date?**

Weirdest, there's been quite a few weird recent experiences, but the one that sticks out was when I was in India with Alonza back in 98 and we were up a mountain and I overheard a conversation. People saying "Oh this band, Western band, they are chanting Govinda Jaya Jaya, shouting Govinda", and I knew he was talking about the band, I knew he was. I was just like "I can believe this conversation is going on about my band and I am overhearing it and I am nothing to do with it, they don't know anything about me". These guys are just having a conversation saying that they had heard this Western song where they were shouting Govinda, they just couldn't believe it!

**So in conclusion do you have a message for the fans?**

Hmm a message. I hope that you like the album, in whatever context you hear it, whether it's before it's released, or if it's on a mountain in India, or if it's played at Christmas time, or however. I hope you enjoy it, we will be touring in autumn, playing bigger places, so if you haven't been able to buy a ticket this time, you can see us then, and well have gotten our shit together by then!

# Alonza

"DRINK TEA, BE NICE"



## **How are you finding the tour ?**

The end of the tour, no it's good. It's just good to get out playing, it's been months hasn't it. It's been really good to get back on tour, after recording the album. Paul's has been going out of his mind, I am sure he's told you, we've been busy in the studio but Paul's been twiddling his thumbs! Its just a shame this tour wasn't longer! But then again we aren't that fit, I am getting exhausted after each gig.

## **Has it been the late nights?**

Its just been a lot of driving.

## **So have you developed any good hangover cures for all those late nights, early starts and long stretches on the motorway?**

Tea, lots of tea. I don't drink alcohol really, I am not a great drinker.

## **So what is your perfect cup of tea then, what is the best cup of tea you have ever had?**

I am trying to think of the very best, it's hard. You know just the one that you made at home, the first one of the day!

## **It's actually quite addictive stuff.**

It is, it's not like coffee where you get all wired and strung out if you have too much, whereas with tea you just cant have enough of!

## **Is there any reason you aren't playing 'Revenge of the King' on this tour?**

I don't know, I just think that we moved on from that. We've been having trouble fitting in enough songs as it is on this tour, 'cos you don't wanna do too long a set in these venues. It's a case of having a good balance between songs from the new album and songs from the past. There are loads of new songs from the album that we play as a band but we aren't playing on this tour, maybe on the next tour in the autumn.

## **So you've finished the album now then, what was the best track on the album for you, the one that you enjoyed recording the most?**

I think the song Hurricane Season, we love playing that, it's quite an ambitious one. It's all about sailors going off to the sea dealing with a hurricane and all that metaphorical stuff as well, hurricanes of life!

## **What's been your best ever gig that you have played ?**

I guess I don't know, no, no I cant pick one.

## **What's the story behind 'Second Sight' being released on an Acid Jazz compilation?**

Well it was a song that we had done with Kula Shaker just before we split up. We were toying with that and then I had a band called Shep along with Pauli and a couple of guys. We used that, we just rocked it up a little and it was just a demo that we did for Shep.



I knew a guy at Acid Jazz who just asked us if we had anything that we wanted to put out for a compilation he was putting together. You know, there are those pebbles compilations, nuggets and all that and he wanted a garage psyche tune for that! So I did write a track for that and he asked me if I had any more stuff. And I played him that demo of Second Sight and he really liked it so he stuck that on! But we have reworked it now for the new album, we're getting our money's worth.

**Is there any folk on the new album?**

Yes, there are a couple of folk tracks. Persephone, it's a full on pottery pie. We have a little secret society, Harry, Paul, Crispian and I, called The Potters, we use potters tincture, gather around the potters wheel. The whole thing started as a joke, but it's actually quite frightening.

**So will you have to kill us now that you've told us?**

(Worrying silence)

**Right so then, we heard various rumours that you've been having trouble getting the album finished, were these just rumours?**

Well, it just took a bloody long time, I don't know why because we started it last September with Tchad at Real World, all the tracking and all the recording went fine. It was just when we came to mix it that we had lived with it so long that we weren't sure what we wanted. We thought oh shit we should have a track like this on it. We then started bringing in more tracks. It's been worthwhile though, but we probably had it finished last year to tell you the truth, but I think that we have made it better record as a result!

**So are there a lot of tracks that didn't make it onto the album?**

Yes.

**Is there any chance that they will see the light of day?**

I am sure they will come out, they always do don't they? There are some B-sides coming out too.

**Are there any singles planned?**

Yes, we have 'Second Sight' coming out in the UK. We've just done the video, I got to dress up as a woman, the mother of Pauli who is my idiot son who has been hypnotised. Harry got to dress up as Watson, who gets put in a trance and fights a rabbit, it's fun. It's the first non-performance video we have done!

**Do you have any other projects in the pipeline, with Shep for example?**

I haven't got time, what with family, but I am doing some musical stuff with my wife. But mostly I am just pottering around at home.

**Are there any plans to tour outside of Japan and the UK?**

Yes, well, we're off to Japan next week. We're setting up a UK tour for this autumn at the moment and we will hopefully do Europe as well. Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, Spain, Benelux, not France but we will get out there!

**So it's going to be quite hectic over the next few months?**

We'll see, we'll see, it depends on how the record does as well. The busier you are the better, because it means that the record has been well received.

**Do you find it strange touring Japan as they are such hardcore fans of the band?**

They are obsessive in a very polite way.

**On a totally different note, if you had to choose only three albums to listen to for the rest of your life, which three would you choose?**

Hmmm that's a tricky one. Love - Forever Changes... but you'd go for compilations wouldn't you? Just so that you could get the best of everything, the cream so to speak.

Abbey Road - Beatles... I don't know, maybe some Indian classical music.

**So was there one band that made you really want to start playing music?**

Yes, The Who, I'm a big Who fan. They were the first band I really got into and their bassist John Entwistle was a GREAT musician. So really, The Who, as those early records are really well made records. There's a lot of The Who in our stuff as well.

**Where do you see the band in one year's time?**

Erm I don't know, we'll see. We should be back in the studio doing another record. We really want to do the festivals next year though, as we missed them this year.

**Do you have any message to the many fans of Kula shaker?**

Drink tea, be nice.



## Harry

"INDIA – BUT ONLY FOR A CRICKET MATCH"

**So you've been in the band a year and a half now, how's it been?**

It's been a ride, they're a nice bunch of guys.

**Were you ever a fan of the band back in the 90s?**

I wouldn't say that I was a fan, but it was certainly a nice phonecall to get (being asked

to join the band)! I was like "Yeah, ok". My one memory of the band is working in a pub in the nineties and Hush being played to the death over the pub radio.

**You used to be in a band called The Kilometres, right?**

Yes.

**Did they actually poach you away from them?**

No, we still do stuff in The Kilometres, now and again. The whole point of that band is

that it is a side-project for everyone involved, we do stuff when we can. It's another band called the Dirty Feel, who actually supported us the other day in Manchester. They are a three-piece and when I play with them we are The Kilometres. It's like a good, fun live show.

**Have you released anything?**

There's an album on scenario, err yeah.

**So was that the only album you did before joining Kula shaker and recording Strangefolk?**

No, I've done all sorts of stuff. Played with a guy called Victor Davies, a soul singer, we used to tour in Europe a lot. In fact he gave me my first keyboard, because I used to be a drummer and I used to play drums for him, and the keyboard player got sick before a tour so I took over from him.

**So you must be quite a good musician then to be able to switch instruments so fast.**

Well no, we had a couple of rehearsals, but it was nervy for me, I remember being very nervous.

**So are you still the new guy in the band then?**

No, enough time has passed, of course I am going to be the new guy, they got such a legacy. You've got some ups and downs, it took a while to adjust.

**So have they managed to convert you to vegetarianism yet then?**

Almost! No, I don't mind them trying though.

**Do you have a favourite track that you like playing with the band?**

Out of the new stuff Dr Kitt as it seems to be going down well and it is fun to play. But strangely enough, as it's not my tune, Hey Dude's a lot of fun, it's great fun. Second Sight's great fun as well.

**So what's happening with your moustache then?**

Well we're going to go more for an Edwardian thing as a band, but moustaches do take a lot of effort, like those moustache nets that Hercule Poirot used to wear.

**I suppose that moustaches are the sort of thing that people either love or hate, I mean I have met very few girls who like moustaches.**

There are few people who don't like them and there are a few that really do.

**Well to be fair, all good bands have at least one tached member in the band. I mean that Beatles were at their best when they had moustaches**

They were, they had a whole tache quartet.

**So what was it like touring Japan with the band, was it a bit of a mind fuck 'cos Kula are quite big out there?**

You know it was actually. Not only because we were only out there for 4 days, but because we got no sleep and then we would get pushed out on stage and there was just all these people out there and we weren't sure what the gear was like and it was a little hairy. But it was great, they are brilliant out in Japan, it's a beautiful place. It was the first time I had been there.

**Have you been to India?**

Funnily enough when they first asked me to join the band, I couldn't rehearse with them as I was going to India. Which is kind of ironic, but it was a little different to Crispian because I was going out there to watch a cricket match, which we won. It was very good.

**So you're quite a big fan of cricket then?**

Yea, I'm not an über fan, you know. There are people who are, they are called the barmy army, but I'm not in the barmy army. A friend of mine got tickets to watch a game in Bombay and he asked me if I wanted to go. I was like yeah, as cricket is massive out there, it is huge, it's like bigger than football is here. The match



was in a big stadium, it was awesome, the whole place was pumping. You know a game of cricket lasts 5 days and all the English fans were sat in this heat trying to keep cool, whilst the whole Indian section of the stand are just jumping up and down all day.

**I have also been hearing rumours of a secret sect in the band, called The Potters.**

Ahhhh well yes, anyone can join or anyone can leave at any different moment, but it's not really secret. It's more confusing than secret, it just seems to happen occasionally and then it goes away. It's a musical way of being, in a pottering kind of way.

**Is there any message that you would like to give to the fans in conclusion?**

Well just that it's been great being here, I've felt really welcomed by everyone. In general the vibe has been really nice!



*Kula Shaker interview by Daniel and Andrea, conducted upon the 15th of June 2007, at Bush Hall, London*

# Music section: Bass

**Hello, Bonjour, Buon giorno, Wilkomen, Namaste, Hola (apologies if I missed out any other countries, but that's the extent of my knowledge of foreign languages) and welcome to this third installment of the ever popular Kula Instrument Section.**

This week I will be mostly talking about that funny welsh man, Alonza Bevan, his basses and his bass playing.

Along with the lush vocals and guitar talents of Crispian Mills, the pounding beats of Pauli Winter-Hart and the psychedelic Hammond sounds of Jay, and now Harry, Alonza has a big part to play in the Kula sound. But, I hear you all cry, how does he achieve those fat bass sounds that we, the fans, have come to know and love? Well, read on, and all will be revealed.



## FOR THE LOW END COMMUNITY

If you listen to any of Kula Shaker songs you will notice that Alonza's sound is very much rather a deep and rather clean sound, with the "occasional bit of drive." And to eliminate that annoying "finger sound", Alonza likes to

keep his strings dead. So "dead" in fact, they hardly ever need changing. "I'm aiming for a sound with loads of bottom end and no finger noise, sort of Jah Wobble meets Paul McCartney, a pretty clean sound with an occasional bit of drive."

## THE BASS SHAKER

Mr. Bevan's of choice is a 1970's vintage cream Fender Precision bass, with only the neck pickup used for more bass. This is currently being played through a Matchless 4x10 cabinet and Matchless Amp. However, back in the day, when Kula Shaker were one of Britain's biggest bands, Alonza was playing a Trace Elliot V6 Amp head, and a custom made 2x15 cabinet. Consequently, to achieve his unique sound, the settings on his amp were thus: bass up, mid right off, treble down. This is then all put straight through to the P.A. through a D.I. box, even though the cabinet is mic'd up. This is to prevent the nightmare scenario of losing all the bass guitar through the P.A.

And there you have it, the bass set-up of that the smooth Welshman, Alonza Bevan. One bass, one amp, and a whole lotta talent.

Until next time my beloved gear heads; PEACE, LOVE AND BASS GUITARS!

Toodle ooo!

TME

In case anyone's ever been wondering who's behind all this...

## Introducing... the fanzine people

### Andrea

**Age...** 26

**Hometown...**

between Bremen  
and Hamburg  
(Northern  
Germany)

**2nd Home...**

London

**Working as...**

a journalist for a  
newspaper (local  
reports and youth  
pages), as an  
author for a horse  
magazine, author  
of the children's  
book "Chantis foal diary" (2006)



**First heard of Kula Shaker in...** 1997  
when I was at a friend's watching UK MTV

**First seen Kula Shaker in...** 1999 in a  
small club in Hamburg. That would change  
my understanding of music forever

**Likes Kula Shaker because...** they are  
the best live band around, their music inspired  
me in many ways and accompanied me for  
the past 10 years through ups and downs

**Fave Kula Shaker song is...** Great  
Hosannah

**Seen Kula Shaker live...** 11 times

**Best Kula Shaker gig...** Düsseldorf, Tor  
3, 1999

**Most treasurable Kula memorabilia...**  
Signed K tiger press edition, signed Crispian

plectrum

**Also into...** Placebo, Blur, Beatles, Harrison,  
Kasabian, Muse, Raconteurs...

**Other interests...** My horse Chanti, reading,  
writing, drawing, painting

**Is spending a silly amount of time  
doing a fanzine because...** Kula Shaker  
are the only band who deserve this plus it  
actually can be fun doing this when you're  
not waiting for another article Dan didn't come  
around finishing ;)

### Daniel

**Age...** 23 (born  
in Bampton,  
Southwest  
England)

**Hometown...**  
London

**Work...** Currently  
working at the  
British Film Institute  
answering the  
phone in a  
plummy English  
accent. When I'm  
not working I

either play in a band (using a vintage Gibson  
SG1 from 1971!) or eat yummy food at my  
sister's place!

**First heard of Kula Shaker...** in 1996,  
on the radio methinks

**Likes Kula Shaker because...** The facial  
hair (I miss Jay's beard)

**Favourite Kula Shaker song...** Sound of  
Drums, nuff said

(Continued)





**Seen Kula Shaker live...** 12 times  
(probably about 7 times too many)

**Most treasured Kula memorabilia...**

I do own some nice Kula goodies, pride of place might go to a signed vinyl copy of K (Jay included).

**Also into...** I do actually like other bands apart from Kula Shaker and my record collection would physically crush me if it fell on me. Some of my favourite albums are: Tea for the Tillerman - Cat Stevens, I Want to See the Bright Lights Tonight - Richard and Linda Thompson, B-sides Seaside and Freerides - Ocean Colour Scene, Easter - Patti Smith and Black Keys - Magic Potion!

**Other interests...** Apart from writing articles for the only Kula Shaker fanzine around, I tend to listen to, buy, appreciate, discuss and make music. I also have a victorian neckbeard and do occasionally look like I stumbled into the wrong century. I also like the English countryside and neckscarves!

There's meaning in it. I got through my teen-years listening Kula, and over the years the songs never faded from my mind.

**Fave Kula Shaker song is...** Hey Dude/  
Hush/ Out on the Highway

**Seen Kula Shaker live...** Never... yet!  
This will be changed very soon.

**Most treasurable Kula memorabilia...**

All of the albums and singles I managed to collect so far... at the top is Revenge of the King LP which was mailed to me by James.

**Also into...** Led Zeppelin, Radiohead and everything inbetween.

**Other interests...** Computer Graphics, random friends, finding good music, coffee

**Is spending a silly amount of time doing a fanzine because...** It's a fun project with my friends, and it's close to what I'd like to do for a living as well.

## Anni

**Age...** 26

**Hometown...**

Helsinki (rock city!)

**2nd Home...** the  
Internet

**Working...** on  
my thesis on  
Scalable Vector  
Graphics, so yes,  
I'm still a student.

**First heard of  
Kula Shaker**

**in...** '96 on the  
radio, I think Govinda was the first song I  
heard.

**Likes Kula Shaker because...** They were  
so different from all the other music I'd heard.

