

STRANGE FOLK

ISSUE NO.4
MAY 2008

KULA SHAKER FANZINE

EXCLUSIVE
INTERVIEW with
Crispian

AFTER THE TOUR
**Reviews &
Impressions**

GET TO KNOW

Simon Roberts & Dr Joel

Gigs, incense and more gigs!

Dear Dudes and Dudettes,

We know you can't believe it. Finally STRANGE FOLK is back! Your one and only Kula Shaker fanzine – which we offer for FREE download as always – sees its fourth issue within two years.

And what an issue it is: Expect even more exclusives than ever!

Finally and after much patience we managed to get hold of Mr Mills himself to answer some questions which had been preying on our minds. And got some pretty good replies, we think. Speaking of this interview – we shouldn't forget to mention Paul Winterhart. He was the main force that led us to what you now read in printed version on pages 21 to 24.

But that's not enough extras for this issue. Once again we spoke to Don Pecker to get another exclusive Guru Madness column for you!

Then we got asked if we want to publish an interview with Paul and Harry Yasmin and Tazeen Khatib did last year. Of course we do! We added it as a special treat on pages 33 to 36.

Furthermore, we took a look behind the scenes. What does Dr Joel think about the Mighty Shaker? How does Simon Roberts deal with his job for the band? All this will be revealed on the next pages. And, since this is a fanzine, you'll also get to know all about the last tour.



Enjoy!

Andrea & Dan



Check out the STRANGE FOLK fanzine Myspace at:
WWW.MYSPACE.COM/KULAFANZINE

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News & Gossip

FESTIVAL DATES

Kula Shaker played their first festival date at the beginning of May in Haarlem (Holland), at the BevrijdingsPop Festival. So far, only four other dates were announced:

June 20th, Murcia Sound, Lorqui, Spain

June 29th, Parkpop, The Hague, Holland

July 5th, Guilfest, Guildford, UK

August 15th, Ola! Festival, El Ejido, Spain

MUSIC VIDEO NOMINATION

It's no Brit Award and no European Music trophy, but Kula Shaker's video for "Drink Tea (for the love of God!)", has been nominated for best music video at France's Annecy animation festival! Fingers crossed for Sean and Jason, the video's creators at Model Robot. The festival takes place from Monday 9th to Saturday 14th June. To watch the video click here:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O5jTXdiBwas>



ALBUM PLANS

After the tours in spring the guys went off to relax a bit.

According to Paul, they should be recording some new stuff by now. "I'm sure Crispian is going to get us in the studio as soon as he can", he said. He doesn't think the album will be released before 2009 though.

SPECIAL GUESTS

Some special guests at Kula Shaker's Shepherd's Bush London show: Paul's two young daughters were allowed to watch their daddy play. "I think it got boring after two songs", he laughs.

GETTING ALONG...

During the last tour the Kula guys had to share rooms. Whilst Paul had to get along with Crispian, Alonza and Harry shared a bedroom.

OLD ARTICLES

For anyone who wants to do some research in the past: Ian put up some old Kula articles on his homepage:

<http://www.drykid.ukfsn.org/kulashaker/>

You get all the cheesy stuff, a lot of nonsense and the truth behind Crispian's swastika comment.

NEW ALBUM SCOOP

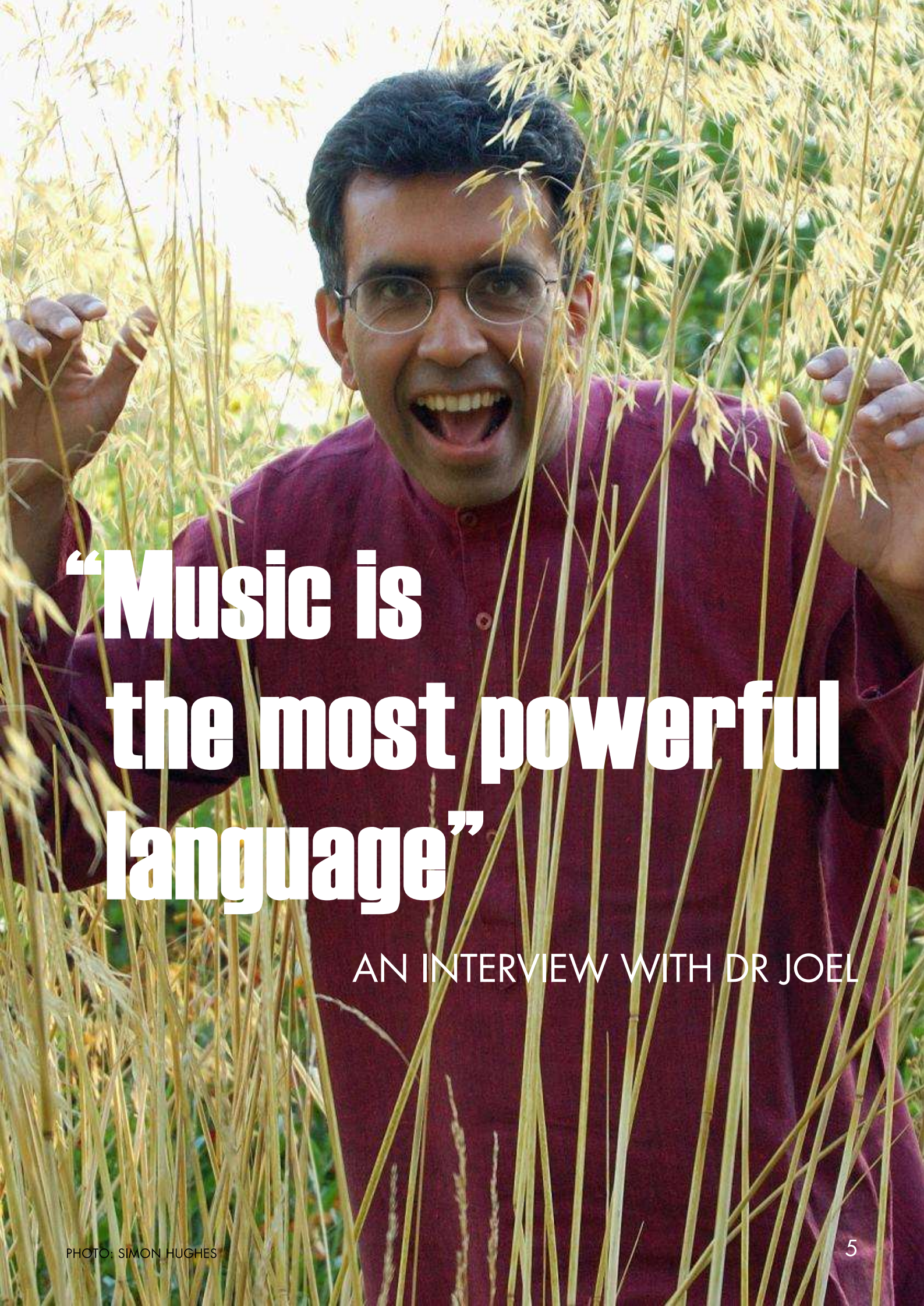
In February, an interview with Crispian was published in a Japanese magazine. He revealed some of the plans for the new album:

"I'll give you a scoop today. Probably Kula Shaker itself will get bigger on the next album, I mean, we will make the new album with our families and musical friends. But it doesn't mean new members will join Kula, well, it's like a... I think it will become like a new project, 'presented by KS' thing." And: "The next album will have Indian sounds more and it may be more acoustic album. I think it'll be the most unique and the best album we've ever made."

Studio album chart positions:

Album	US Bb/	US Hs*	UK	SWI	NLD	NZ	NO	AST	BE	FN	SE	JPN
K	200	11	1	-	22	23	19	-	47	22	20	13
P, P & A	-	-	8	41	63	-	6	31	38	17	26	21
Strangefolk	-	-	69	-	57	-	-	-	-	-	-	32

*US Billboard 200/ US Heatseekers



**“Music is
the most powerful
language”**

AN INTERVIEW WITH DR JOEL

Divine Intervention

by Andrea Zachrau

Who does not remember him – Dr Joel had been the most eccentric support act Kula Shaker ever toured with. We all roared with him like a tiger and howled like a wolf. But who is Dr Joel? How did he get in touch with the world's best band? STRANGE FOLK spoke with the master of Konnakol and reveals what he thinks about music, Kula Shaker and his Italian mates from the Companeros.

When did you first get in touch with music?

I apparently started picking out tunes by ear at the age of three. I started writing music at the age of six.

Where did you learn the language of rhythm?

I learnt Konnakol, the language of rhythm, in Madras (now called Chennai), south India. Madras is in Tamil Nadu state, just like Srirangam - where King Kulasekara lived. Madras/Chennai has the oldest and leading rhythm academy in India: the Sri Jaya Ganesh Tala Vadya Vidyalaya (Jaya Ganesh Academy of Rhythm). My late guru Sri T. R. Hariharasarma founded the academy. His son Sri T. H. Subash Chandran is known as the "King of Konnakol". I studied under Subash Chandran too, and performed in a trio called "J G Laya" (Jaya Ganesh Laya) with him and his older brother Sri T. H. "Vikku" Vinayakram.

By co-incidence, Vikku featured in the very first Indian music concert that Crispian ever attended! Vikku won a Grammy for the "Planet Drum" album, where he played alongside Mickey Hart of the Grateful Dead. So it is very pleasing for me to hear Kula Shaker play "Jerry Was There." I feel as if all the dots are being connected.

Given that I come from the Jaya Ganesh academy, it was also a great privilege to help launch Kula Shaker's first "big" tour of 2007 on Ganesh Chaturti (the birthday of Ganesh), in Southampton. I had already planned to start my performance with a song in the raga Hamsadhwani, which is Ganesh's raga. The whole crowd joined me in chanting "Ganapati Bapa Morya!"



In India we consider Ganesh to be the remover of obstacles. I hope that the Ganesh Chaturti launch will help Kula Shaker come through any future obstacles.

I did my first radio broadcast, in a kids' show, when I was about seven I think. I started teaching after being approached for Konnakol lessons by Sheila Chandra, who had become famous with the group Monsoon and the hit song "Ever So Lonely".

How would you describe your music?

My solo performing style is a bit individual: perhaps it might be called Konnakol Rock? I like rhythm, I like the power of words, and I like laughing. My solo shows allow me to indulge these guilty pleasures. At the same time, I try to be as musical as I can. I do put a bit of effort into the songwriting. I try to write songs that make people think, "I recognize that feeling"; and preferably songs which grab people and won't let go. If knowledgeable musicians spot what's going on musically, even better. Although I don't want the audience to notice the craft that enables their experience: I just want them to have a great time, and to feel moved by the songs in some way.

There is a whole other side to my music. I also work as a contemporary classical composer. I relish the challenge and opportunity of this kind of creativity, having an entire orchestral palette of sounds to work with. I try to go where nobody has ventured before, in musical terms. It is a bit like walking in the dark, even though

mastery of particular techniques can help. The challenge is to make something soul-stirring, without just imitating the many giants of classical music.

What inspires you?

I admire great songwriters, who write simple but amazing songs that move people. I love reading great poetry. Indian classical music and contemporary western classical music are my favourite listening, alongside great rock groups. I never tire of observing and writing about relationships. If I could eavesdrop on the internal conversation that people have with themselves, I would listen all day and night. I love to try and understand what makes people tick. I'm particularly fascinated by the sometimes differing perceptions of males and females.

During a performance, the thing that inspires me most is the joy that the audience and performers create together. It is probably the most fun that people can have with their clothes on.

How did you get in touch with Kula Shaker?

Kula Shaker got in touch with me. Must have been divine intervention. I had known of their work and admired the concept from afar, although I couldn't have named any of their songs. Rock plus Indian music is my favourite musical blend, and nobody does it better or with more conviction than Kula Shaker. I got a phone call out of the blue. Krishna did it. He brought Pauli to one of my private performances, at the surprise birthday party for Joff from Bucky. Paul then called me.

I discovered only later that Crispian and some of his family had been to Kodaikanal in Tamil Nadu, India. I used to live there. It is a beautiful but small lakeside town at an altitude of about 2000 metres, not far from virgin forests, waterfalls and wonderful wildlife. I think it might be more than co-incidence that our paths had crossed without our knowledge.

What was it like supporting them?

I have never felt more at home, musically and even spiritually. Usually if I support someone I try to hold back a bit, since it is my duty to help cast a spotlight on the main act. I realized right from the start that Kula Shaker are in this as much for the music itself as for anything else. The best I could do for Kula Shaker was to not hold back or dilute my music in any way. Their music has so much meaning and power that nothing less than my best would suffice as a fine aperitif or wine to go with the main meal of Kula Shaker.

To my surprise and delight I found that their lyrics sometimes deal with the deep, existential questions of human life. I've never believed that molecules and the forces of physics are sufficient to explain the fact of subjective experience among human beings. Many knowledgeable neurophysiologists share my scepticism. I believe we are more than molecules. It was wonderful to be in musical company that is not too shy to deal explicitly with such questions. There aren't many rock groups in the world that sing "Beyond human understanding, one and yet not one." Such songs don't come from chasing passing fashions, as some critics allege. They come from grappling with the sorts of questions that human beings have always tended to ask.

I was also delighted by Kula Shaker's genuine devotion to music. I feel that Music is not a mere cow to be milked for money and fame. It is the most powerful and magical language in the world. If one marries Music just for money or fame, the marriage is liable to break down. On the other hand, if one is in love with Music, then people will often pay for the privilege of gazing into the magical world of Music on which one opens a window.

It seems paradoxical, but the best way to have a sustainable career in music is probably to be completely in love with Music. Otherwise what should be a lifelong relationship with Music can turn into a brief, sordid affair based on superficialities and ending in tears. I believe Kula Shaker's devotion to Music augurs a long and happy marriage with Music.

I've been to many good rock shows where I've come away feeling that the music, although deafening, was merely lukewarm. After the best Kula Shaker shows I feel as if I'm floating on a cloud of beautiful music. Govinda is one of my favourite songs ever, and it is wonderful to go away with that chant ringing in my head.

Is there any tour gossip to share?

Yes. But I promised the chaps not to mention dwarves, ghosts, forked lightning, dancing elephants, an orange moon and the way that blue cheese can start to crawl if prodded gently enough with a bottle of champagne at precisely the stroke of midnight.

Oops. Have I said too much already?

Who came up with the idea to form "The Companeros"?

Krishna. Kula Shaker agreed. I did too.



What was it like performing with Kula Shaker?

Like sinking into a well-loved armchair. It is easy to find groups of great musicians who each think like soloists. It is less easy to find groups where each member thinks like a composer or producer: hearing the totality of sounds and adjusting their own contribution accordingly. Kula Shaker is a listening group. That's why their musical parts fit so well together, especially when the venue and sound are favourable.

Was it just a side-project or can we expect more indian-italian collaborations?

It all depends on the price of haircuts. There is an entourage of overweight, moustachioed Mesopotamian barbers who follow us around on the Indian-Italian collaborations. If the barbers get drunk, as they are prone to do, our show suffers. In such adverse circumstances I have even had to perform solo as a last resort. Also, my Italian friends are taking a crash course in English, learning words such as "discombobulate" which are essential for the purpose of writing songs in English. It is a pain to rely on web translation services for every sentence.

I got as far as one sentence in Italian before the computer crashed, reducing us all to improvised sign language. Once my Italian companions learn English, we can all expect more great songs. I think the song "Something Dangerous" is a hit lurking in the shadows. There must be more great songs where that came from.

Where can people buy Dr Joels music?

I'm hoping to do an album in 2008.

When are you performing next in the UK/Europe?

I'm concentrating on tightening some aspects of my performance, hence not accepting many dates. Probably some festivals, the occasional headline date here and there, maybe a private party or two. I want to take my performance to the next level, to offer a musical experience that moves people more deeply. I'll get there, one day.



For more info, check:

<http://www.myspace.com/drjoelmusic>



Europe & Japan

REVIEWS
AUTUMN 2007
SPRING 2008

SOME FAN EXPERIENCES
OVER THE NEXT TEN PAGES



Wishes come true

HAMBURG, OCT 29

by Anni Kotisalo

PHOTOS: ANDREA ZACHRAU

The evening started downtown as I was trying to find some friends; Andrea, Sebi (her boyfriend), Tibor (his brother) and Caro (her friend). The plane had arrived at the Fuhlsbuettel airport a bit after 12 – ahead of schedule, as the wind had been blowing from the north giving a little push, which was a nice surprise. I spent the afternoon walking around in town, remembering the last time I was in Hamburg. It was 10 years ago, about the same time since I have been a fan of Kula Shaker.

My walks stayed within a safe distance from the central station, where I was supposed to meet Tibor, cos I didn't want to get lost... As I walked towards the Rathaus, a feeling of familiarity struck me, I recognized the place. "Hey I've been here before", I thought, "after all these years I still remembered it!" Eventually I met with Tibor after 4pm and then went on to find the Markthalle where were supposed to meet Andrea and her friend Caro. After some wrong directions and looking at the map again and again, we managed to find them, drove to the Reeperbahn and found a parking spot very near to the Grünsplan where the gig was going to take place.

As it was still quite early evening, we went to find something to eat and talk about what was going to

happen later. After a slice of pizza Andrea went back to the Grünsplan to get an interview, and the rest of us went walking on the Reeperbahn. Tibor and Caro showed me some of the local curiosities, told stories of the usual nightlife on that street... It all reminded me a lot of Amsterdam. The whole atmosphere had the air of accepting all sides of life, the good and the bad, side by side. A bottle of strawberry goodness was consumed during the walk.

We made our way back to the Grünsplan where Andrea had finished the interview and met up with Sebi. The band was rushing to and from the tour-bus, going quickly past us while we stood outside. We decided to put our coats and stuff to the car and went in the club. The place was all black and dark red, somehow very fitting for a place where I was to see Kula Shaker for the first time. There weren't too many people yet at the front, so we took our place by the stage, right under Harry's equipment... and waited with a drink in hand.

First there was a German guy with an acoustic guitar playing a few songs – in an American accent; I was told he had grown up in the US. He sounded okay but didn't hold my attention much as we were chatting on... Next was Dr. Joel, quite a character, with a keyboard that

promoted his myspace-page and bells around his ankles. He played some silly songs in English, making drumming noises with his voice and got the crowd really into it by telling us to clap and make noises as well! It was lots of fun. (The songs were very catchy, I had one called "Ravenous like a tiger" stuck in my head all weekend!) During the performance Harry peaked in from the door at the side of the stage and Paul was filming Dr. Joel and the audience, both with big smiles on their faces. You couldn't help but smile watching the performance.

Then finally, as everyone was happy and laughing after Dr. Joel, the lights dimmed and Kula Shaker walked up on stage. A dream became reality in front of my eyes, images became real people and the music came to life from their instruments.

They started with "Hey Dude", of course, which was followed with "Under the Hammer", a special treat! Next one was "Out on the Highway", one of my favourites off the new album, and it works really well live. On "Jerry Was There" Crispian was saying something as if speaking with the voice of Jerry – he also had a huge badge on his jacket with the name Jerry on it – talking to "his children" about love and life, I liked it. Other highlights

for me were "303", "Hurricane Season", "Dr. Kitt" and "Hush". Towards the end the tracks that stood out were "Be Merciful" (always beautiful) and "Song of Love", which had everyone chanting along.

The songs flowed together perfectly, and song by song the atmosphere got more hot and exciting... The crowd was into it, the band was into it, everything was as I had imagined it. Even the lights that danced on stage and disappeared into the shadows were perfect. The set was a great combination of old and new songs. It couldn't have been better.

After the encore, "Great Dictator" and "Govinda", I was thinking that this was not the end just yet, and I was right. The band came back on stage to play a second encore, which meant that they had enjoyed the gig, so I was happy... I told Andrea, standing next to me, that yes indeed I'd have to see them again. I'd become hooked! The last songs were "Great Hosannah" and "Sound of Drums" - a guy had been shouting "Sound of drums! Sound of drums!" many times during the gig so he got his wish! And so had I.

Continued...



Later we were standing outside, just us three girls then, watching as people were leaving and we were trying to think how we could try to meet the band. The last thing we wanted was to bother them if they weren't in the mood to meet anyone. Luckily, Jo was bringing some food to the bus, so Andrea asked her if we could meet them, saying that I had come all the way from Finland (oh dear, I wanted to hide) to the gig... She was all "awww!" and went to ask, and a moment later came back saying we could come in for 5 minutes, because they were really tired. We followed her in through the back-door into a small hallway and one by one the band wandered in there to meet us...

First was Pauli, throwing some odd questions at me: "Do you like heavy metal? Do you like Pearl Jam?" He also told he knows some Finnish people in London and that they're all *mad*, and went on to ask "Are you mad?" Of course, I had to say that maybe I *am*. He also pointed out that he had seen Andrea laughing at – no, being entertained by – Dr. Joel. Everyone agreed it was great fun. Then came Crispian in, saying "So who's the one from Sweden?" and I'm sure it was on purpose (it's a joke-insult for a Finn to be mistaken for a Swede). To continue the conversation, Andrea told him I'd just flown to Hamburg (from Finland) the same day. "That's a long way. Where in Finland are you from?" "Helsinki." "We've been there once..." Alonza nodded.

They also asked where in Germany Andrea and Caro are from, and were curious about how we know each other and what our forum-names were and so on. At some point Alonza and Harry had come in, but they didn't say much. I have to admit I hardly noticed them as I was trying hard to concentrate to understand what was being said, listening to Crispian, Jo and Paul talk with Andrea. They were all interested about the fanzine, she told them the third issue is out ("Oh really?") and then Crispian told a detailed story about how his

interview was lost because his computer was stolen! (Still wondering if that was true...)

Jo remembered to ask about us having something to sign, so I handed my gig-ticket and it was signed by all of them! Then I said that I actually had something for them, and took out the pack of Sisu from my bag. I explained what the pack contained and the meaning of the word sisu – "It means the strength of mind, that you have courage", which seemed to impress Crispian. "And this works as a maraccas as well!" he smiled, shaking the pack in his hand. (Sisus are finnish black sweets, which also got a mention on the Daniel Johnston cover of "Walking the Cow" that Kula Shaker released free this past winter!)

Harry was leaving to the bus and on his way out trying to go past me, clutching some stuff in his arms, he said "I must go now, but it was nice meeting you" and I quickly replied "Yeah, you too" and he was gone. Our 5 minutes had stretched into 15 at least, and it was time to go. So we said our goodbyes to the rest of the band, and I thanked them for the show. Jo walked us out and said good-night as we walked towards the car and drove away with "Strange Folk" playing.



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Japan Tour: Shibuya AX

TOKYO, JAN 17



by Mayuko



The first Kula Shaker gig this year was in Japan. It's the long-awaited tour! All tickets of 3 days were sold-out immediately after the first announcement, and additional gigs of Tokyo were sold-out, too. It was a nice happening that a re-addition gig was decided furthermore.

I wasn't able to go to Ebisu because of work, so SHIBUYA-AX (the biggest place in this tour) was the first day for me, and it was the 2nd day in Japan for Kula. And there they played the most songs. I found a place on the PA side one step higher from the rear of the first floor. Great viewing - I could look around the whole stage!

The opening act played for a good 30 minutes, then I was kept waiting for 30 more minutes... and then finally 4hero's "Les Fleur" began to play loudly and the feeling rose! And as it changed to Radhe-Radhe, Kula Shaker appeared! I've heard that the opening song yesterday was Hey Dude, so I thought it would certainly come... but the riff on the guitar was Sound of Drums! It reminded me of the first Fuji Rock after their reunion! S.O.D was also an opening song at that time. Though it was some time ago, the audience was awesome... When the first guitar riff sounded, they shouted of joy. When Crispian began to sing "I hear the sound..." they shouted. I had the feeling that everybody was very pleased with the revival of Kula. And they were just as

loud as at Fuji Rock. It felt as if like everybody had been waiting for this moment. And this song is really most suitable for such a reunion. But regrettably, the balance of sound was not quite satisfying.

Next song was Hey Dude. "Catch the Sun!" after a long time!! Oh? Do you already do it? However, on the other side, there are lots of songs which can get high later. Whenever I hear it, the baseline of this is super. I've never known anything like this. Plastic bottles had already flown over the audience's heads then!

After a short greeting by Crispian, Out On The Highway. Introduction of Harry was inserted, and next was Second Sight. The audience's reaction was better than on Out On The Highway. Everybody and Crispian were jumping and clapping along to the beat. Fade-in from Second Sight to Jerry Was There was great. This flow is fresh! The intro that is likely to be applied to magic, and the organ sound that talks was also feeling good. It turned into the vocal that gradually cries and followed screaming guitar solo... The best version I heard of this song so far!! The highlight of my beginning was this song.

A song introduction is followed and it is Die For Love. My ears will focus on drums. Do only I think that it depends on Paul's drumming which is far more

emotional and dramatic than on CD? The performance of Paul today was also powerful and wonderful. And then Into The Deep began! Great to hear to this song! Because I didn't pay much attention to it in the past, I was surprised very much. I remember that lighting turned round and round, it was beautiful.... My head got high by that light and the lyrics "Fly brother fly".



The next song began with a shout of Crispian "Kick out the Jam, Motherfucker!!!" As if someone slapped my melted head! It turns out that the 4-beat rock song which has the classic smell is not a new song but a cover clearly. Apparently it is the song of a punk band that played an active part in 60s called MC5. Who did select this song? I'm glad to be able to touch the root of the band with such cover.

And it came at last! Mystical Machine Gun! Performing MMG after reunion, this Japan tour seems to be the first time. Lucky! We were heated with surprise and joy as soon as the intro could be heard. Everybody likes MMG after all. In those days when PPA was released, it had been used for a TV commercial of the dry battery of Sony. And Shower Your Love continued with a little more rock. Though there was always a slightly sentimental impression, it was rather cheerful this time.

Crispian introduces Alonza at last. Then the short version of Temple of Everlasting Light. Was this meant as an interlude? It's over quickly, unfortunately... But then that wow guitar that has been heard the next moment! 303! "I'm just a, just a, just a..." BIG chorus! That's a surely rocking track! Because I read an episode about 303 in fanzine #3, a picture appeared in my head and made it possible to enjoy it even more.

I was thinking it's going to end soon with great force in terms of time, but it continued still more. Dr Kitt was on next. I was happy that I was able to hear this. Though this song seems to have a high approval in the U.K. and Europe, it's not much liked in Japan. OK, what is next? I was able to hear today's 2nd cover song, Melody Day. Crispian had said the song was his favorite lately. I was

surprised that they played it themselves. Since I haven't heard the original, this Kula version was the first time I heard the song. It's similar to a song called "the Group Sounds" (kind of music genre, Japlish!) which has caused a boom in the late 60's in Japan. (Before when I was born of course!) I'm not sure if it's really the same style, but the way to play a chord, and the chorus makes it alike. It was a little unexpected that this song was liked by Crispian.

Next sounds to be heard were a bird, a wave and then Hurricane Season. Jack Sparrow suddenly came to my mind. Or rather a more stereotype pirate, not such a cool one. It sounds like a quite typical pirate song when I hear it again. The organ solo surely is! I thought I could certainly hear it again during the tour, but they only did it, also Dr Kitt and Into The Deep, at the AX. I would have hoped to hear it more properly!

Then the sound of a familiar sitar came up. It came! It's Tattva! The crowd raised and waved both hands. It was like seaweed, it was lighted up by the wavering light... And it was fantastic in eyes and ears. You have to hear it at a gig to really experience this song. Because then you hear a harmonica "hallelujah" solo of Crispian! This gains momentum, and so does Hush! The crowd jumped towards the stage as if they had been waiting for that. Crazy! Crispian counted 1, 2, 3, 4 in Japanese, "Ichi, Ni, San, Shi!" and lets the audience sing along to "Na Na Na...", and 1,000 sang the chorus! The tunes that Harry played on the organ were impressive. Of course the other three guys played great, too. Crispian disheveled his hair, Paul played with his whole body and Alonza looked cool, but must have been drenched with sweat. (It's far from me to them, so I couldn't see their expression.)

The four Kula guys were in exquisite balance when I think back. When Harry joined the band for Jay, then I think the the attitude of the band became more poppy. That's only my impression.



(Royal) Prince's (nickname of Crispian in Japan) words "ARIGATO, Thank you" were heard, I thought it ended... well, will you stay? The one he began to sing for the encore was a song called True Love Will Find You in the End. It's a cover of Daniel Johnston. I think it fits very well to Crispian's voice. It may be because I'm used to listening to the Jeevas. It's very pleasant, and they seemed to try to calm down the excitement of Hush. Next is Song of Love/Narayana! I see, this will be the new standard song in which to anchor the gig from now on, won't it? The second half, a chorus of AUM NAMAHA NARAYANA, regular rhythm and the resonantly horn section made me feel brilliant!

The band members, who had finished playing 19 songs, left the stage. There were loads of voices shouting for them to come back! In only a few minutes, they returned again. And there were fans who had begun to sing Happy Birthday in the front. Crispian's birthday was the next day! (7 days after Harry! I did not know that.) Crispian laughed in embarrassment.

"OK, this is an early song we wrote for this record, and it is a silly song, it's for children to sing to each other at school in the playground, and it's for all the freedom lovin' people in the world out there, you know, even Hillary Clinton has a dick!" He said so, and started off with Great Dictator (of the Free World). This song was familiar to the crowd: It was released as a first single from the new album in Japan, and it was on the radio mainly. This song makes much fun at gigs! It's good fun to watch Crispian who sings and plays the guitar madly, the high chorus sung by Alonza was also great. Jumping and singing together was very refreshing! I'm certain that there would be a lot of people who didn't know the meaning and were singing repeatedly with dick. LOL. But! We have to spread more messages like this all over the world!

Ah, that song would start at last: "Govinda". The intro rose very gentle and a special feeling was spread. The British and the Japanese sing together in Sanskrit! The sense of togetherness with this song is special after all. I was crying in my mind "Don't be over!" when I heard the outro song... Kula said "See you soon", and then went off stage. 21 songs in total! It was excellent!

Did I have such a good feeling because there were a lot of songs? I heard that Crispian wasn't feeling good after the gig, I did not feel like that at all. Four knights who had fought with 1000 people. They were splendid!



SETLIST

Sound of Drums
 Hey Dude
 Out on the Highway
 Second Sight
 Jerry Was There
 Die for Love
 Into the Deep
 Kick out the Jam
 Mystical Machine Gun
 Shower Your Love
 Temple of Everlasting Light
 303
 Dr Kitt
 Melody Day
 Hurricane Season
 Tattva
 Hush
 True Love Will Find You in the End
 Song of Love / Narayana

Great Dictator
 Govinda



SETLIST:

Sound of Drums
Hey Dude
Out On The Highway
Second Sight
Jerry Was There
303
Mystical Machine Gun
Shower Your Love
Hurricane Season
Tattva
Hush
True Love
Song of Love

Great Dictator
Great Hosannah
Govinda



Bologna, February 22nd

by Valeria MASTRI

"See ya next February or March!"... These were the words used by Alonza, Harry, Paul and Crispian to greet us after the marvellous gig that reformed Kula Shaker held last October at Bronson club in Ravenna, showing their return to Italy after their split in 1999. And the boys have kept their promises: in February 2008 Kula Shaker return to Italy for another 2 gigs, in Bologna, 22nd and in Turin, 23rd. I went to Bologna's gig, together with my boyfriend, our friend Flavio, and especially with the fantastic girls already known in October concert: Manila and her friends Noemi, Pat (disciple of the Vaisnavi's cult!) And Michela! Obviously we were the first to arrive... The only people who were already there were... PAUL, ALONZA and their cook Salvatore!

After 2 hours spent outside in cold and fog we finally got into the Estragon club and... surprise... Paul was behind the entrance.... He seemed like one who count the people coming inside! He stayed at the bar drinking and talking to

everyone until the beginning of the show! We took a photo with him and when I asked him if he was ready for the gig he said "no" because he didn't already do the usual preparation and so he started to run and make some physical exercises! What a character!

Finally the concert begins, and the boys come on stage with "Sound of Drums"! Crispian greets the Italian crowd then starts "Hey Dude"... Everyone joyfully sings along! No one has forgotten the old songs even though 10 years have passed! New songs too in their live version enthused the crowd very much, especially "Song of Love", "Out on the Highway" and "Great Dictator"! The best moment for me was, without doubt, "Shower your Love", my favourite Kula Shaker song!

Anyone who has seen Kula at least once in their lifetime can certainly understand the atmosphere during "Govinda"... Images projected behind the band make everything surreal and psychedelic.... like a dream!

... Unfortunately, like all beautiful dreams, they finish quickly! However, 10 minutes after the end of the gig, Paul and Harry came back to chat and take pictures with us (Harry has also talked about the tale of viagra in Japan and he also received a proposal of marriage from my friend Pat and he, as a true gentleman, said that she should have remember him this next time she'll be in London!).

Then, near their tour bus we met also Crispian; despite the fatigue, he signed autographs, chatted and take pictures with all the fans; and Alonza, always smiling, to whom I literally begged to return in Italy soon for other gigs!

The amazing evening with Kula Shaker ended with Harry who photographed me and Alonza near their bus! What a lovely boy our Harry!

When they got on their bus and greeted us, saying "Ciao", it was really like to see very old friends leaving!

COME BACK SOON GUYS!



Chanting for the heavens above

by Andrea Zachrau

COLOGNE, FEBRUARY 26TH &
GRONINGEN, FEBRUARY 28TH

An old chocolate factory and a classic music hall – there's no place in which a Kula gig wouldn't fit. Cologne and Groningen were two of the last gigs of the European tour in the beginning of 2008 – and at the same time were our choices to be pushed into the magic psychedelia that is Kula Shaker.

Travelling to Cologne is something you'd refuse to do if you had a choice. Traffic jams followed by weird routing. Our GPS disobeys us, the three-hour driving time becomes four. It feels like forever though. But, there's no need to hurry – we finally arrive in Cologne at 4pm and decide to have a look at the famous dome at first.

Something is different in the city. There are omens that this isn't a normal day in Cologne... One of them is Harry – while we enter the shopping street we bump into him, hiding under an umbrella like ourselves. Second sight is Mr Mills – unfortunately only printed on paper though – the famous Hard Rock Café decided to let him welcome the people at the entrance. While driving around we

also get to see Alonza – bravely walking through the rain without any shelter. Now, after all those hints that Kula are in town, where was Pauli?

Those signs finally led us to the Stollwerck, a huge building which used to be a chocolate factory. Nowadays all kinds of cultural events find a home in there. So what fits better in this place of creativity than Kula Shaker?

The concert room was slowly filled with people of all ages – only the first row was soon occupied by some fans. I'd say the average age must've been loads lower this time. There was a family right at the front with two young girls (who turned out to be only eleven!) but also some old hippies who'd have been good competitors for our own Madness Guru Don Pecker. After the famous Les Fleurs Kula finally entered the stage – I must say I didn't mind the lack a support band at all! There was nothing that distracted us from the Mighty Shaker and the enthusiasm of the crowd grew with every song on the setlist. And what a great setlist it

was! They kicked off with a stunning "Hey Dude", followed by "Out on the Highway". I loved the video interludes, especially Jerry appearing out of the blue! My live favourites are definitely "Hurricane Season", "Great Hosannah" and "Mystical Machine Gun". They are a true guarantee for making me shiver. The cover version of Daniel Johnston's "True Love will find you in the end" fitted in very well, and was accompanied by "Song of Love" which truly filled the room with magic. Even those who'd never heard the lyrics before joined in with the chanting and I bet the heavens above were shaking with all the love that was sent out!

The first (!) encore kicked off with "Dictator", Crispian announcing it as a song children sing to each other on the playground. Well, do they push something in their faces, as well? Then my fave song of all time, "Great Hosannah", which was just as stunning as always. And of course, "Govinda", which was joined by Krishna Himself, who was glancing at the audience while the biggest mantra Kula dedicated to him spread its love all over Cologne.

The guys looked so happy when they left the stage and seemed very grateful for the enthusiastic cheering that wouldn't stop! Crispian jumped into the air and gave us big thumbs up, and what can I say, that was the moment I thought it could happen, we may get another encore! Of course, it helped that everyone kept cheering like mad, and a poor Simon had to hurry to get the guitars back in gear when the band came back on stage! YAY!

They led us into the Temple of Everlasting Light – and how amazing it was in there! As the very last song of the evening we got "Sound of Drums", what a nice treat to close the evening... Afterwards Pauli told us he doesn't know what it is about this Cologne crowd, but they always get the second encore! They didn't play any during the whole tour through the UK and Japan...

Usually when you attend a Kula gig you suffer from bad withdrawal symptoms mixed with a huge depression that sets in after you've calmed down. Fortunately, we were saved from this as there was another gig to look forward to!

Two days later we were off to Groningen, the city of cheese, flowers, the best pancakes on Earth and canals that cross your way wherever you walk. Unlike Cologne, there wasn't much Kula in the air when we arrived – well, if you don't count the countless coffee-shops at every street corner.

The band were to play the Oosterpoort, a huge concert hall which is usually used for classic concerts. Therefore we got an amazing light show, a big screen and perfect sound. The only downer was the Dutch crowd which seemed rather unimpressed by the performance. Okay, they applauded after every song and slightly nodded the heads during songs like "303" and "Second Sight", but that was it! There was a seated area at the back and what can I say – all the seats were occupied! How can anyone possibly SIT at a Kula gig?!

I got a place right at the front which wasn't a difficult task at all – there were some people in the first row followed by a big hole until where the rest of the crowd was standing. It was basically the same setlist as in Cologne and we enjoyed the

show a lot, despite the fact we were surrounded by dull Dutch people. Understandably, Crispian wasn't really talkative but that didn't mean the performance was lacking in brilliancy. Well, of course we didn't get a second encore this time round but seeing Kula Shaker is the biggest gift you can get, so I absorbed every second of this incomparable sound that gives a meaning to life.

After the gig and the difficult choice - which t-shirt should I get this time (as they didn't have any tea cups left for the European leg of the tour!!) - we started our long journey home. This time with a bitter aftertaste – no other Kula show to look forward to. But, of course I shouldn't let that fact spoil these past days – luckily there were two concerts to add to memory!

SETLIST Cologne

Hey Dude
Out on the Highway
Second Sight
Jerry was there
303
Mystical Machine Gun
Shower your Love
Hurricane Season
Tattva
Hush
True Love
Song of Love
Dictator
Great Hosannah
Govinda
Temple
Sound of Drums





Gig impressions



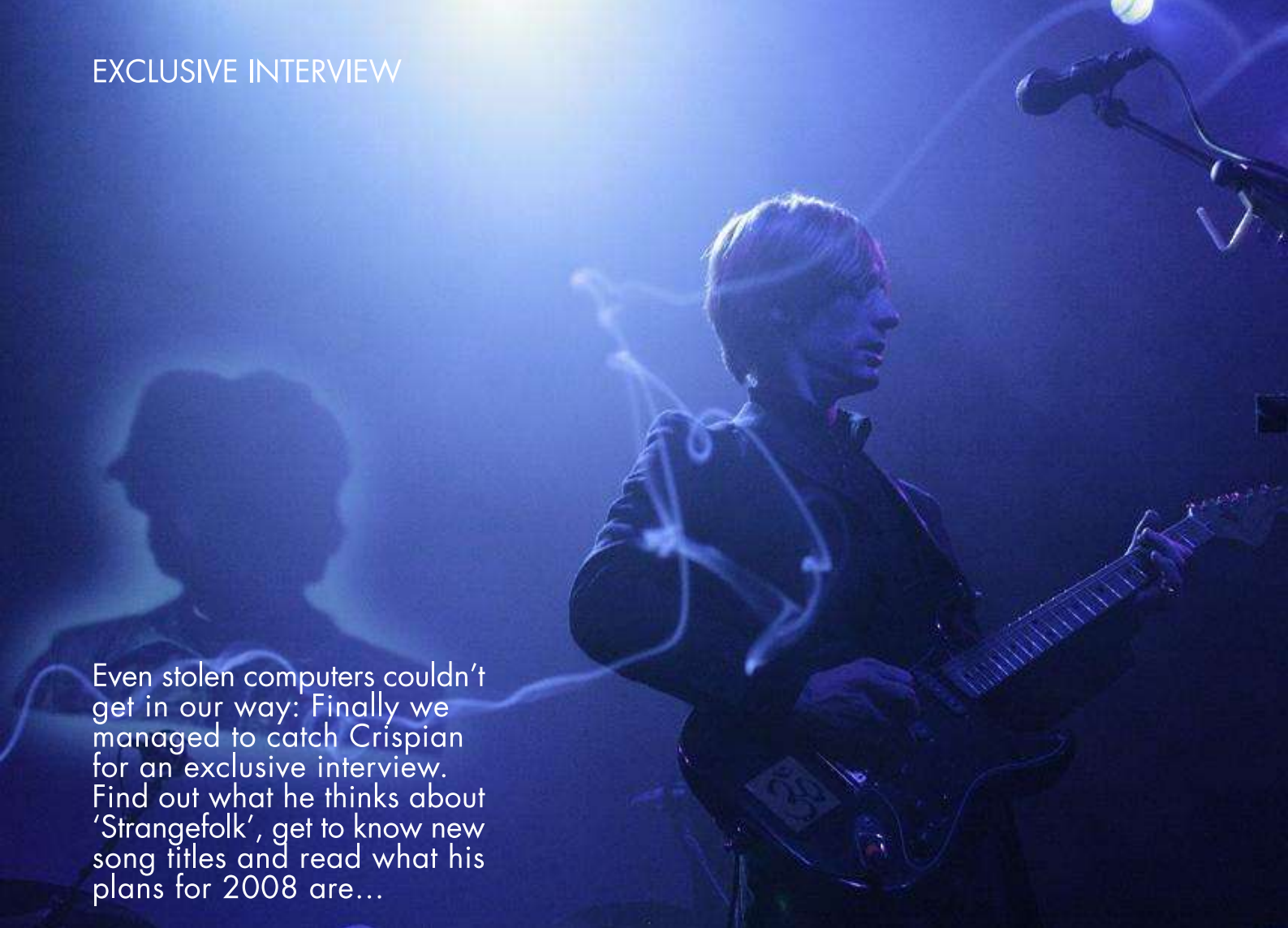


A black and white photograph of a man with long, light-colored hair, wearing a dark suit and tie. He is playing a dark electric guitar, looking down at it with a focused expression. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights on his face and the guitar's neck.

INTERVIEW WITH CRISPIAN

**“I’ve rearranged my
emotional
and spiritual DNA”**

PHOTO: SIMONE CECCHETTI



Even stolen computers couldn't get in our way: Finally we managed to catch Crispian for an exclusive interview. Find out what he thinks about 'Strangefolk', get to know new song titles and read what his plans for 2008 are...

Love, magic, infinite possibilities

By Andrea & Daniel

What was the highlight of recording *Strangefolk* and what is your honest opinion of the album now that it has been released, any regrets etc?

It's a good companion to the other records, it's got some superb moments and some nice ideas. It's very much a live album in that it was written and recorded whilst our early touring in 2006. It's the album we needed to make to get back on our feet. And the cover is BEAUTIFUL!

What was the inspiration behind "Dr Kitt"?

Alonza had a demo with the harp riff and acoustic. It sounded very moody and gothic – the lyrics just came quite naturally. I think there's some Don Pecker in Dr Kitt, a mad old sorcerer and a young apprentice.

What has been your craziest Kula Shaker experience to date?

Every day is crazy. We're used to it, it all merges together. Trips to Japan, supporting Aerosmith. I think our singing

cossacks on MTV Awards was quite surreal. Paul reckons splitting up and finding out who you were outside of the band was quite strange.

To what extent do your religious beliefs influence your song-writing?

Whatever you believe, it goes into the bubbling cauldron of creativity. If you don't believe in anything, if you think life is just an accident, a sick joke, then that will come out in the wash. I believe in love, magic and infinite possibilities.

Are you still travelling to India regularly?

Not as much as I'd like. Maybe once a year.

As regards your writing partnership with Alonza has that changed since you guys were last in a band together?

I think we appreciate each other more, or at least, I like to think so anyway.

Is there a lot of unreleased Kula Shaker Material in the vaults that could maybe be used for a box set?

Yes, a lot. It's called 'the bottom drawer'. We always check to see what's left over as it often gets assimilated into other songs. That's why we don't release work in progress.

What's happening on the managerial front?

We have just signed with new managers, a European company called Sinnamon.

Who came up with the idea of forming "The Companeros" and what where the thoughts behind it?

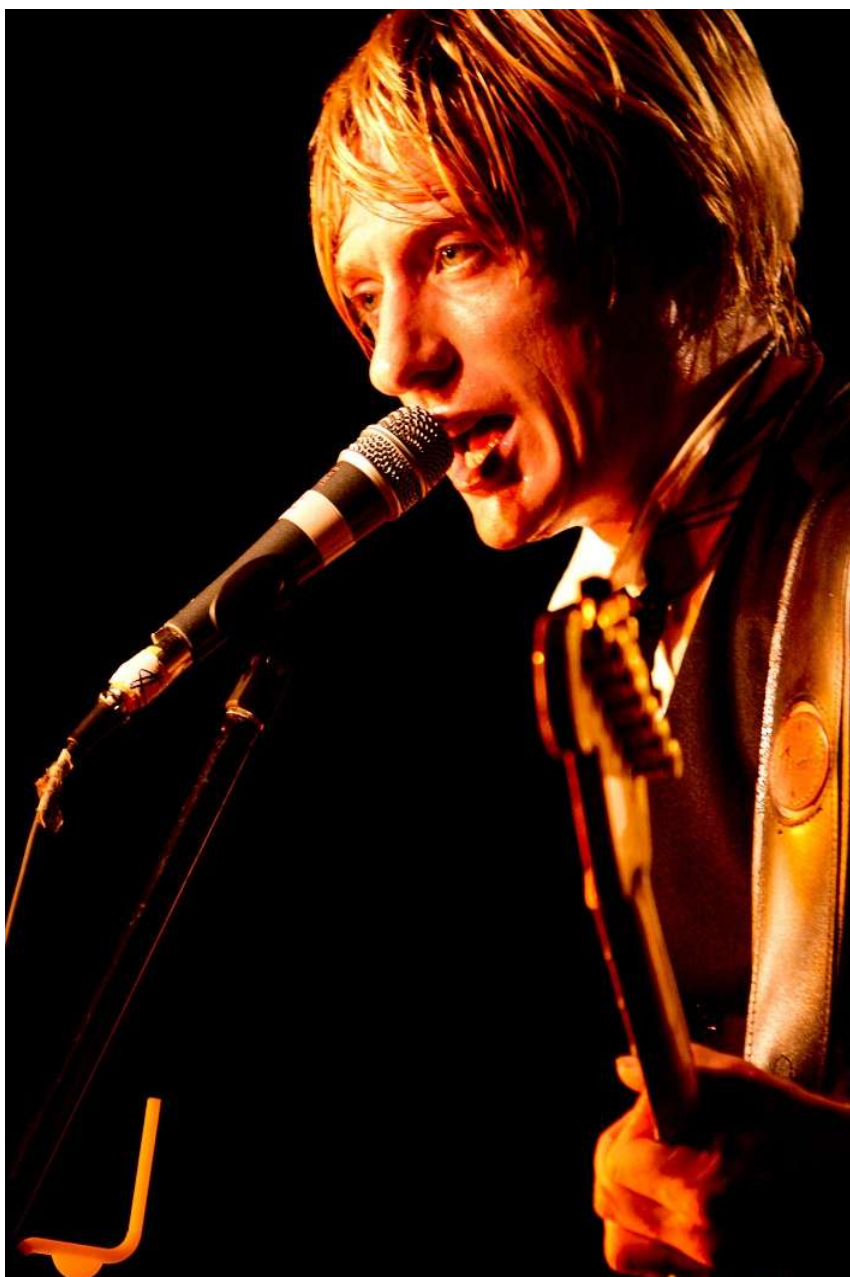
We wanted to try out some acoustic material. The wigs were just a bit of fun. It was all just a bit of light entertainment.

How do you feel about the European tour in 2008?

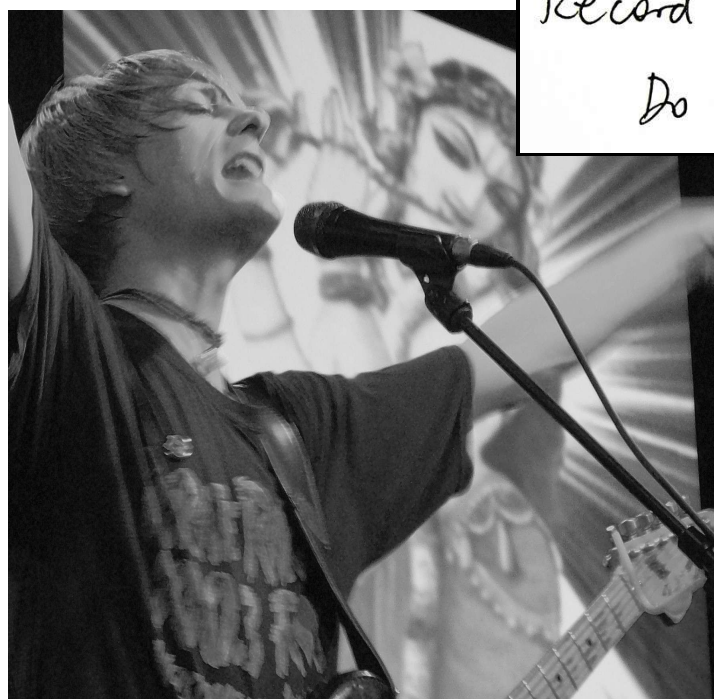
Great to be out seeing who our audience is. Really all shapes and sizes and ages. We had two girls of 11 in Köln!!

It is early days but do you have any thoughts on what the fourth album will be like, the direction it is likely to take?

Can't really say at present, but we hope to break new ground. It will probably have more Indian sounds on it, you'll be pleased to hear.



Record Album 4. Have a baby.
Do some festivals.



Did you already write/record any new songs which haven't been played live yet? Any chance to reveal some titles?

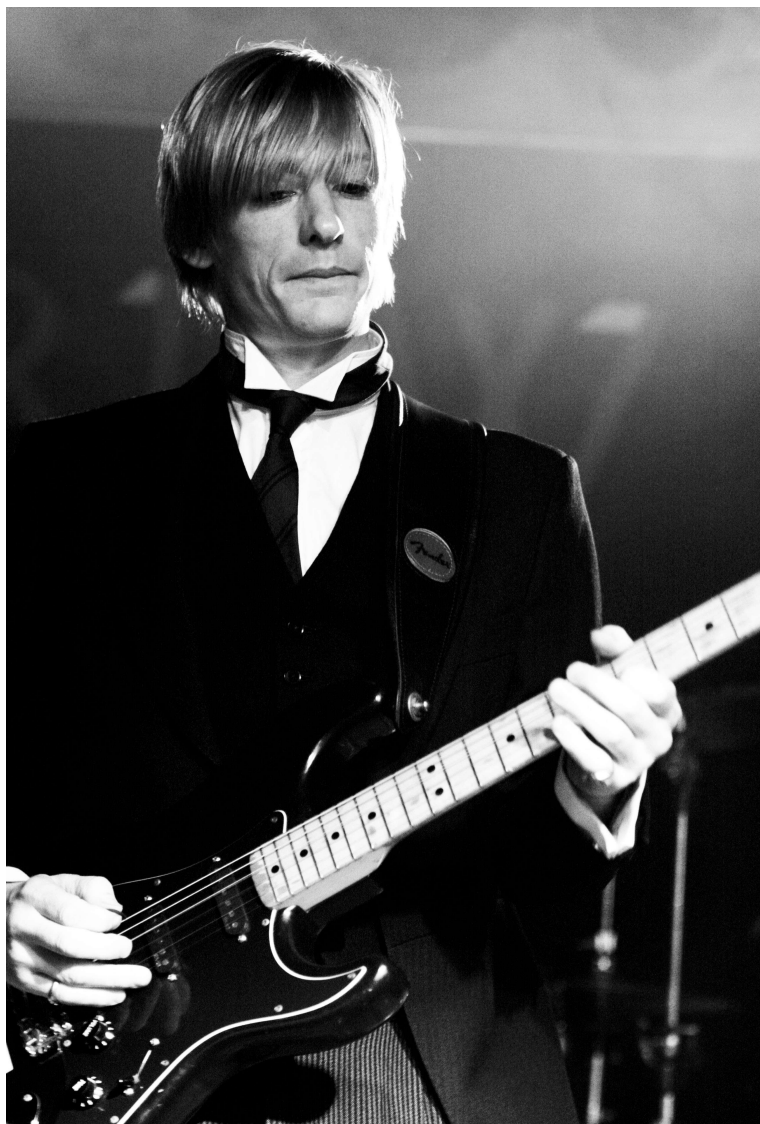
"Baby's got Codeine Sulphate" – about a girlfriend addicted to cough syrup.

After the European tour – what are your plans for 2008?

Record Album 4. Have a baby. Do some festivals.

Which artists/albums/songs do you aspire to?

Songwriters with passion, stories to tell, independent thinkers. Like Daniel Johnston, for instance.



Have there been any further developments as regards "The Winged Boy"?

I'll probably make it after album 4. If you meet anyone with 5 million quid to blow, contact me.

If you could change the past, what would you change?

RIEN. NIENTE. NUTHIN'!

You can't change the past, only yourself. I've rearranged my emotional and spiritual DNA.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years time?

Somewhere in the South Pacific?

God knows.

Do you have a message for the fans who are reading this right now?

Thanks for all your love and support.

Lastly, is there a question that you always wish that you were asked in interviews, if so what is it and what's the answer?

No – these were fine. Thanks folks!!

JD 35



“Kula Shaker kick Oasis’ arse!”

We’ve heard enough fans’ canticles. Now let us all have a look at the evil press. What did European journalists think about the latest live shows of the Mighty Shaker? Don’t fear. It’s not all bad.

“SONGS LIKE ‘OUT ON THE HIGHWAY’ AND ‘SECOND SIGHT’ WITH THEIR FULL ROCK SOUND TOGETHER WITH TIGHT MUSICIANSHIP, MORE THAN FILLED THE HIGH CEILINGS OF THE EMPIRE. (...) ALL IN ALL A SOLID SHOW AND PROOF THAT THESE GUYS CONTINUE TO PRODUCE AND PERFORM POP-ROCK WITH BIG HOOKS.”
MUSIC-NEWS.COM

“THE BAND HAS GROWN UP CONSIDERABLY SINCE 1996.”
BBC.CO.UK

“SINCE THOSE HEADY DAYS THEY’VE DISAPPEARED OFF THE RADAR, WHILE BLUR AND OASIS HOG THE HISTORY BOOKS. TONIGHT THOUGH, AT EXETER GREAT HALL, I REALISE THOSE TOMES NEED TO BE RE-WITTEN BECAUSE MUSICALLY KULA SHAKER KICK OASIS’ ARSE!”
EGIGS.CO.UK

“IT’S DELICIOUS, OCCASIONALLY INDULGENT AND FULL OF THE PASSION FOR MUSIC AND LIFE THAT LACKS FROM THE CURRENT SCENE...”
BBC.CO.UK

“SO THE KOMBACK KIDS ARE REINCARNATED... AS THEMSELVES: LOVE THEM OR LOATHE THEM, DON’T BE SURPRISED IF THEY’RE ALL OVER THE AIRWAVES LATER THIS YEAR.”
MUSICOMH.COM

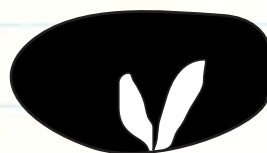
“THEY WERE RECEIVED LIKE LONG-LOST FRIENDS LAST NIGHT AT THE LIQUID ROOM, LEADING OFF THEIR PULSATING LIVE SHOW WITH MC5’S GARAGE-ROCK CLASSIC, KICK OUT THE JAMS. (...) THE BAND POWERED THEIR WAY THROUGH A 75-MINUTE SET WITH ALL THE ENERGY OF A SOUPED-UP HOT ROD RACE CAR.”
EDINBURGH EVENING NEWS

“THOSE WHO SLEPT IN WITH A SMILE ON THEIR FACE MUST DEFINETELY HAVE ATTENDED KULA SHAKER’S GIG TONIGHT.”
SOUNDMAG.DE

“A CONCERT LIKE A TRIP THAT SHOULD NEVER BE ENDING.”
LAXMAG.DE

Guru Madness

In the merry month of May, in the year of our lord 2008



Brought to you from deep within an Avalonian rabbit hole!

First things first: Guru Madness asks you all to take note of the Vedic principal of Ahimsa, which can be described as Compassion, Mercy and Non Violence to every living creature, time, intelligence and circumstance permitting. So this means compassion to all life but the most importantly not killing cows!

The unrestricted slaughter of cows is a terrible thing, eating meat causes among other things, bowel cancer, so please be compassionate! The meat industry is also one of the main causes of deforestation, a large contributor to global warming.

There are no excuses, now is the time!

It's all tangled up with the Mayan calendar which only goes as far as 2012, well to be exact, the 21st of December, 2012 until 11:11 am. Which means, according to the Mayans, that the end of the world as we know it is nigh. The world is already heading into a global recession/ meltdown, don't take any heed of the media, the fuel will run out very soon, not in the far distant future but in the next few years (that's why there is so much rapeseed being grown in England at the moment, it's for bio diesel).

We should all be using the principal of Ahimsa to counteract all this negativity, as all good knights use the principal of Ahimsa to counteract Reverse Demonic Consciousness. As humans our consciousness is very precious, as we are able to achieve higher levels of spirituality, becoming so aware that we are aware we are aware. For we are all divine children of god, unity of consciousness must prevail, drop all concepts of religion and all will be beautiful, everything will become sublime, the planets trauma will settle. People must now become self contained; as there must be a big change in global consciousness.

But fear not brave readers, the Kula Camp are on the case (yes, yes, to save the planet once again)!

For when the going gets tough, the knights run away! But only to a safe spiritual haven, so that they can return to be a light in times of darkness for generations to come. Though we only have a few knights left, they are needed now more than ever, for it is said in the Vedas that when the law is corrupt, we DO have to take the law into our own hands! People with any compassion and dignity (wrong word), will have to do whatever they can do to save the children. Hare Krishna. Our father who Art in Heaven! I speak for all the knights who remain on the planet, whose identities will be kept secret, but believe me they are working for the right cause.

Guru madness also sends all well being and divine blessings to the emperor of Japan, Akihito. If his nobleness the emperor would like a game of divine golf at Nagasaki golf course, Guru Madness and Crispian are more than happy to fly out to play and discuss the world crisis. However they won't fly till all the airline's fuel has been converted to recycled chip fat, bought from Hippies in Somerset – long live divine hippyness, Somerset and nettles, we like nettles!

We are also still waiting for Alice Cooper to get back in touch as regards the Charity golf match; we even have some hamsters in store for him.

Guru Madness also recently noticed that the winner of the New market 2,000 Guineas was "Henry the Navigator". Which is very auspicious as it also happens to be the unwieldy moniker of Kula Shaker's very own organist extraordinaire.

Many divine portents come to Guru Madness from the world of horse racing. Some may think this strange, but horses are supremely magical beings, the closest living things to Unicorns and Centaurs. Krishna has a strong affinity with horses as Krishna was given a divine white horse called Devadatta when he incarnated under the guise of Kalki. Kalki is a Divine Knight, who destroys bogus kings and false prophets; Kalki will ride forth upon Devadatta at the ending of the Kali Yuga Age. It's all coming full circle as they are about to build a huge horse sculpture in Ebbsfleet, Kent, to be the angel of the south!

On a more worldly note, Hobby Horse (featuring Don Pecker) have a new album on the go, people are at long LAST actually buying copies of the first album, so keep it up please and help us save the horses (proceeds of Hobby Horse sales go to the Tricky Warren horse sanctuary). We also plead with the Japanese Nation (from the Emperor downwards) to put their hands in their pockets and buy the album.

On a final note:

BIG things are in the pipeline, all of which will be revealed very, very soon. (Editor: I can't tell you what, when or who or I'll get kneecapped three times, sorry.)



Hare Hare

The Right Honorable

GURU MADNESS

Crispian's Guitar

Hello, and welcome to, what will be the final installment of the Kula Shaker instrument section. This week, I will be mostly talking about Crispian's guitars.

For Kula MKII, the guitar setup is an altogether simpler affair. Gone are the days of the multi-effects processors, the excessive Fender Twin Reverb amps, and the in-ear monitors. Crispian's set-up since the come back tour of 2006 has been as follows: Fender Twin Reverb amp, various effects and various effects, most notably however, the trusty Fender Stratocaster.

More about these, right about... now.

THE AMP

The Fender Twin has been the choice of many a guitarist over the decades, including: Steve Cook (Sex Pistols), Thom Yorke (Radiohead), and Peter Hayes (BRMC) to name but three.

The crunchy tones from the two 12-inch speakers seem to be favoured by Mr. Mills to accentuate his awe inspiring solos, and neat rhythms.

THE EFFECTS

The one mainstay of Crispian's setup, past and present, has been the delicious Crybaby Wah, which can be clearly heard on most Kula recordings. This, apparently, has been put down to Crispian's teen obsession with The Stone Roses and John Squire.

For now, Crispian has now got a variety of stomp boxes that make up the noisy, and sometimes just plain weird sounds. Thanks to a very nice chap called Lois, we were able to find out just what Crispian uses:

"He had a number of Moollon pedals including a tremolo, a combined overdrive and distortion, Moollon wah, plus another few Moollon which I think were a boost pedal, lotus octave, also he uses a Line 6 Delay modeler." (Thanks to Lois and Andrea for that!)





THE GUITAR

Crispian has used a variety of different guitars through his time with Kula Shaker, The Jeevas and his solo career. These have included a Telecasters, Les Pauls and a Rickenbacker 360 12 string, and his favorites, the Stratocaster. However, more recently, he seems to favor a Blonde 60's Telecaster, though often coming back to his beloved Strat his main one being the black and white "St. George" model. This model now sports a new black scratch plate.

So there you have it kids: a short, but sweet run down of the setup of one of the greatest axmen, of one of the greatest bands of our time. I sincerely hope you've enjoyed reading my music sections. I have had great fun writing them, so thank you for all your support.

A massive thanks you too, to all those that have helped out: Andrea, Dan, Mary, Anni, and the rest of the crew! You're all brill! Until next time!

EASY!
XXXXXXXXXX



Simon Roberts...

...a smashing bloke

As many of you will know, Simon Roberts was the tour manager to Kula Shaker and is the man that helps make the magic happen before the gigs. From this interview, you will see that Simon has a rather demanding role in the smooth running of the Kula Shaker front. But he is a smashing bloke, who seems to manage it all in his own good time, as well as still managing to keep up with Pauli's brother Joff, performing as "Bucky the Band". So read on to find out about Simon's friendship with the Winterhart family, as well Harry with a pre-show Martini... All this and more from a man who is a dab-hand with the tambourine, and still manages to keep the Nag Champa burning...

Let the magic happen

Simon, in a previous conversation with yourself and Joff, you told me about the decision to call yourselves Bucky – after Bucky Barnes, the brave side kick of Captain America. But what made you and Joff want to form Bucky in the first place?

We had many different names previously ('Fighting and Onions' & 'Big Bad Crayon' being two of them) but Bucky was the only one which stuck. We both like the pipe smoking genius Buckminster Fuller (nicknamed Bucky), a truly eccentric visionary and inventor of the geodesic dome, dymaxion car and discoverer of 'Bucky Balls' (look them up). My sister was known as Bucky as a baby cos she bucked in her baby bouncer when she got excited, and of course, Bucky Barnes and Buckfast tonic wine.

We formed our band in the countryside just outside Glastonbury in 1994. We wanted to be a garage band but didn't have one so we were a bedroom band instead. I played some magazines with brushes & Joff played his mouth-organ in his brother Paul's bedroom until one day we found out our friend was selling an electric guitar (the Azumi!) which I bought and Joff played on a kit made from bits of Paul's and bits of their dad's drums. We were terrible but we spent the next four years happily thinking up song titles, taking stupid pictures of each other and generally making a loud noise without worrying about being a 'proper' band. I say four years, that's how long it took until we actually played a concert but to be honest we have spent the last thirteen years with that attitude.

Having had the pleasure of seeing you guys playing, it appeared that you were both having a great time together on stage, which is not always something you see with live performers. Do you always have such good fun?

Joff & I met at school but became close at college. We have known each other and been very close friends for something like seventeen years so it is pretty easy to be with him on stage especially as there are only the two of us in the band. I get very nervous before a show, which I think helps my adrenaline levels but there was one show which we played acoustically (usually fine if we are prepared!) which was dreadful & I got really cross with him and couldn't hide it on stage... Horrible. We both fuss about stupid stuff before shows and we try not to have too many expectations so if we mess up we can justify it after. Luckily most audiences are

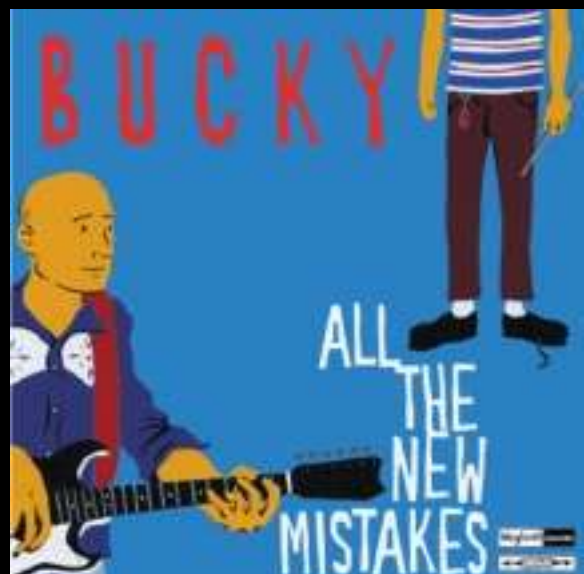
pretty nice to us. I think a lot of performers start out as a unit of friends but some who become popular end up just treating it as a job to keep a certain life style or to pay the mortgage, which sucks.

Our band is a fun part of our lives but isn't our main focus, which is what I think has kept it going all these years. Occasionally we talk about breaking up cos we've been going so long and we are old now but as long as we have fun, the audience has fun and we get booked I guess we'll keep playing.

You have clearly had a good friendship with the Winterhart family for some time. When did you all initially meet, and do you think this was instrumental in you becoming tour manager with Kula Shaker in the first instance?

Joff & I probably initially met in our prams in London as babies. His family lived in the next street to mine but we didn't find this out until school in Glastonbury!

The Winterhart family became my second family when I was sixteen, after my dad died. I got closer to Joff and ended up spending a lot of time with them long before Kula Shaker was around. I ended up doing a theatre degree in London; Pauli knew I was doing technical stuff so he got me to help them lug their gear around just after they changed their name to Kula Shaker. I just ended up staying with them. I was always a stage tech rather than tour manager, I was tour manager last year while they found their feet again but I do a lot of jobs for them already so I'm so glad Mozza is back!





Did this role help you to decide to make a career out of doing tour management?

I never really felt like a professional first time round, it's odd because if you end up working for your friends accidentally it can all seem a bit abstract sometimes, I ended up working for some other bands after KS split which really helped my confidence in many ways but after a couple of tours with very male crews with testosterone to spare, I got fed up with that lifestyle. I ended up doing bits of this and that, working as a gardener, painter and decorator, festival driver, art gallery picture hanger, songwriter for local community films, pop video extra and other random jobs. I particularly enjoyed helping with the Second Sight video, from conception to realisation in a couple of weeks was quite a feat, lots of hard work, rushing around collecting and making props and building and dressing the set.

Joff and I once discussed the pros & cons of trying a bit harder with our band, to see if we could possibly earn some money from it but I'm glad we didn't, I don't think we'd still be together now.

Do you feel that your responsibilities as tour manager have progressed with Kula Shaker?

Very much so. When they broke up I was Pauli's drum tech and Brett's percussion tech. I wasn't even playing tambourine cos Brett had all percussive bases covered! When I think about those days now I wonder what I was doing all day. I remember worrying a lot about my abilities but this time round I don't have as much time to worry about nothing. Through working for the Jeevas I ended up with a pretty good understanding of Crispian's guitar set up so I was pretty confident when he asked me to be their tech this time round. I didn't realise I would end up being everyone's tech, drive the van, play the tambourine and try to be tour manager too! The band were great though, everyone mucked in and still do.

Putting all members of Kula Shaker to the side in this instance, I would like to ask what other bands have you toured with?

After KS I toured with Kirsty MacColl for a year before she sadly died. I was drum tech to Dave Ruffy and percussion tech to Michelle Drees who are both lovely. I really enjoyed working with all her band and crew especially as Mozza and Stig were part of it. I worked for Elvis Costello as drum tech for Pete Thomas at an Irish festival where I got into trouble with Bob Dylan (I was a bit flippant with him but he was being rude). I worked for a band called Vega 4 who were big in Germany (I didn't really enjoy that). I toured with a lovely band called Straw, which was always pretty fun and of course had Andy Nixon and Dan McKinna in it.

Harry has obviously brought a new spin to the band. He has become a very beloved member of Kula Shaker to many. How are you enjoying working with him?

Harry is great. His facial hair is not to be missed. I'm enjoying him now but give it time and a few more high profile shows and I'm sure he'll be parading around in a kaftan, supping a pre-show Martini, waxing his 'tache and asking if his seat has been warmed for him! Only joking, I like seeing his reactions to touring situations which are new to him; it makes me feel like a real old git!

And finally, from March 1941, the world enjoyed the patriotism of Captain America. Sadly, 2007 seen the death of this character. How did you and Joff feel about that?

Well, I enjoyed Captain America as a kid but after sixty-six years he'd probably had enough of being America's constant saviour, I'm sure there must have been some pretty ropery storylines now and again so maybe it's good that he will now get some rest. That is, of course, until they run out of ideas and he miraculously rises from his grave, "phew, it was all just a bad dream..."

For more about Bucky, visit:

<http://www.buckytheband.com>

EXTRA!

Interview with Paul & Harry

By Yasmin and Tazeen Khatib.

THANKS TO SANDRA HOOD FOR TRANSCRIPTION

One crisp October evening, we sat with Paul Winterhart and Harry Broadbent for an interview before their sell out gig at Camden's Koko club. After Mr. Winterhart kindly provides us with finely brewed tea, we discuss all things Kula and strange.

How does making music now compare with music you made 10 years' ago?

PAUL: Uh, making music? Alonza and Crispian generally write separately you know, often mess around with each others songs but then generally write separately and recording it, putting it down, has been... should be a lot more straight forward but because of our personalities it's actually probably as much of a pain in the bum as it used to be. It's not torturous.

HARRY: I think that's part of the process though isn't, if it was very easy it wouldn't be any good.

PAUL: sometimes when you record it with people it is effortless and quick and painless.

HARRY: Well, sometimes, but it doesn't necessarily, doesn't really mean it is any good does it?!

Is the end result something that you are always happy with?

HARRY: I think so.

PAUL: I prefer a more shift back approach. But Crispian and Alonza love layering things, they love making things sound massive, they love tambourines and BVs.

HARRY: Paul hates tambourines.

PAUL: I think sometimes they overcook the vegetarian goose.

HARRY: I think they have been very good, I don't think so; I think it's not got over the top yet.

But is writing music more painful now than it was 10 years' ago or equally painful?

PAUL: No, no not quite as painful. I think we were more neurotic then

Who are your greatest musical influences when the band first got together and have these changed since you guys have re-formed?

PAUL: Harry has opened up for us a whole new world of sweet sounds. I'm very bad with technology so I have been going round to Harry's and he's been putting stuff on an i-pod for me and I've been checking out loads of stuff that I knew I liked... hanging out with guys with better record collections than me and there's a DJ there who would do anything he had a room half this size with a good system in it and a desk and he used to play me Quincy Jones and loads of sort of... and soul stuff and I haven't seen him for a year or two but I... Harry plays me some obscure American soul stuff that some of the stuff that... and loads of weird stuff Harry has played me.

Harry, you played very different music before you joined Kula shaker didn't you?

HARRY: Yes, it's not that different. I mean based on a journalism thing, it was jazz it's not rock and roll but I am quite lucky that Kula Shaker is essentially a sort of a jam band, it's different every night, there is improvisation all the time. It's not like playing the same part night after night so we do we all get to stretch out a bit.

PAUL: Different bands have different sets of rules, you know and this one has got a definite set of rules in as much as, there's things you can't do and there is loads of things you can do.

HARRY: Yeah... Sometimes you do the stuff you can't do and it's all right! (Laughs)

PAUL: Henry was talking about this the other day. It is great fun to go back and listen to the records you were into when you were a teenager. It is fun to go back and listen again and I feel like that about Little Feet or Rush or loads of other really cool bands.

HARRY: Rush is where we...

Differ?

PAUL: We saw Rush coming out of a hotel in Glasgow and I was super star struck. I just turned into a geek. Not that any Rush fan isn't a geek but I turned into a desperate geek. I didn't know what to say, so I said 'have a good gig'. I wanted to say 'I'm on my way to a gig I'm playing in'. I became a stalker fairly quickly with these middle aged Canadians. There's not that many middle aged Canadians that I go all gooey kneed at!

HARRY: I don't know what to say! (Laughs)

What do you do to make your newest member Harry fit in?

PAUL: Get him to wear funny clothes!

HARRY: Regiment my diet!

PAUL: Trying to get him build on his part-time vegetarianism

HARRY: They were a very welcoming bunch of people from the word go...

Making him grow facial hair?

HARRY: Making me, forcing me into facial hair, yes!

You guys all lived together when you were recording?

HARRY: When we were in the cottage, I was sleeping in the amp room.

PAUL: It was a bungalow; a bungalow doesn't sound as good as a cottage...

HARRY: It was an amazing place; it was really in the middle of nowhere, literally. It was nice to be out in the countryside, to go for walks.

PAUL: In Cornwall.

PAUL: We recorded over the half of the record there didn't we?

HARRY: The best stuff really came from there.

PAUL: We had done some stuff with Tchad Blake... He had very narrow very short working hours.

HARRY: Alonza doesn't get going until about 1 in the morning.

PAUL: And Crispian as well.



HARRY: It is a luxury actually to be in that situation, it is not the most comfortable thing in the world but to be sleeping and eating and recording... anything you want whenever, it is actually a real luxury to be able to do that and not be constrained by money and time other people everyone is there and what you need is there.

PAUL: The initial situation was short hours. We only did 10 days at Real World and then...

HARRY: Unreal world.

PAUL: It is a bit too much you know, nice food, nice atmosphere, incredible kit.

HARRY: Incredibly posh.

PAUL: And Tchad is very high tech about the sounds he gets. We went and sat in the middle of nowhere and everyone was excited to be able to do long hours and be able to do things... we were cooking for ourselves, we were almost happiest that way because it means that there were no instructions are there. We had two weeks there I was a bit nervous before, but it was fine.

Your current album features more love songs compared with the two previous albums... is there a reason for this?

HARRY: I don't know.

PAUL: You should ask Crispian really, I mean it is definitely a favourite theme of his.

Harry: He's an old romantic.

PAUL: I think it is a reaction against where are you now. Because when we started out it was going to be too much like death.

HARRY: That's right, when we first started even thinking about recording we had 9 songs about death! And we thought maybe it was just one too many.

Do you believe in life after death?

HARRY: Um, wow what a question!

HARRY: Right now I am an agnostic, is the only way to describe.

Sitting on the fence?

I think that is a negative way to look at being agnostic, as not being able to make a decision. I think there is a glorious wonder in the epiphany that you haven't got a clue and you're not in control and anything can happen, do you know what I mean?

Yeah.

HARRY: It is a freeing thing. Rather than to be just to imagine being nervy and like I don't know what to believe in.

PAUL: I believe in life after death... I believe I knew my wife before, and we didn't get on so well back then...

HARRY: That is very interesting.

PAUL: Yes, I mean...

HARRY: Sometimes, sorry [interrupts Paul], sometimes you believe in all sorts of things, sometimes you don't. Like superstition for example, when things go wrong, everyone gets very superstitious, you know, they start thinking this is the reason for something happening. When things go wrong, I am superstitious and then other times you think I am not superstitious at all and it is claptrap.

I think it boils down to fate, free will versus destiny.

HARRY: But equally sometimes, I feel I am completely in control of free will and other times you look at yourself and your personality and all the mistakes you continually make over and over again and you think we; it is destiny and I am obviously not in control of anything I do because I just do the same screw ups over and over again or good things.

All the same things kind of hitting you in the face even if you are trying to avoid it?

HARRY: Yes, but then also you can turn that around at

anything that happens to you. You have actually generated it yourself, you have projected those sorts of things and the way you feel about things that are happening to you are actually because you projected it out there and it is just coming back. I don't know, that's why I am an agnostic.

Which song do you enjoy performing the most?

HARRY: It changes a lot, at the moment Song of Love. It always seems to be working.

PAUL: I'm not keen on that one. I like hurricane season, we worked that out a bit more.

Who is Doctor Kitt?

HARRY: Doctor Kitt is an arbitrary idea of a friend of ours, crossed with how the song came about. Lonz did a demo for Crispian to play with and he sang some melody ideas over the top and he sort of hummed them and his voice sounded like a cross between Eartha Kitt and Dr. John, so the working title carried on from there.

If you could bury a time capsule for your descendants to open in 300 years time, what would you put inside it?

PAUL: Tea, bitches brew, uh, some pictures from the 60's or from the 1830's.

HARRY: From the wrong era! Some pictures from the wrong era?!

HARRY: I suppose a little bit of weed and see what it is like how it compared to the future.

PAUL: Two pairs of breeding tigers in ice.

HARRY: In ice, wow!

Do you believe in ghosts?

PAUL: I don't go round thinking about ghosts much, but I was on the 303 with Lonz. We were driving in Crispian's van on 303 a long time ago when I used to go and see my parents more often... before we had success the first time back in 94, 93. We were driving to Glastonbury in the van. I don't know why we were driving Crispian's van, but we were definitely in his van, doing about normal speed, near Stonehenge about 60 or 70. I was driving along and all of a sudden, very quickly, I could see in front of me a sort of spectre of a cyclist. I could see through it so I knew it wasn't actually a cyclist, it was 2 in the morning so I wasn't that worried about it being actually a cyclist. As quickly as I saw it, I went through it.

Rationally, I thought I must have imagined it. It must have been a bit of fog. Five minutes later, I asked Alonza, 'did you see it?' He said 'Yes'. It was a vision in front of us and we went through it.

What advice would you have for any new band starting out new to the music industry?

HARRY: I have been very lucky that joining this band. I have been given an instant fan base, it has been a very lucky break for me, but there is still all sorts of ups and downs with it and I think that the best thing to do is to concentrate on the creativity rather than any kind of big venues and large crowds.

PAUL: Doing your own thing.

HARRY: Doing the thing you do well and being creative.

PAUL: We are lucky, we do our own thing... we didn't ever have any pressures on trying to be something, a vague identity of what we like and what we will do, in some ways it is narrow and some ways it is broad, it's difficult to know what that is... it's good to know what that is whether it is narrow, commercial, within a certain tempo or whatever or if it is incredibly broad, it is experimental, one of the nice things is you can set your own parameters of what how wiped out you can get, how sensible you can be.

HARRY: It is always useful to have someone away from it though to say.

What do you envisage the future to hold for Kula Shaker?

PAUL: We want to be true to what we are.

HARRY: I think output. That's what I think the future holds for Kula Shaker.

HARRY: And more ginger beer!

STRANGE AND RANDOM TRIVIA

What's your favourite meal?

HARRY: I used to like bread and cheese.

PAUL: Melon Parmigiano.

HARRY: Curry, I'm a big curry fan.

What's your favourite drink?

HARRY: They all do different things, you know. There's red wine - very nice, real ale - that's very nice, Guinness is very nice, whisky is very nice - but you don't have whisky at the wrong time, it's a bit intense. It is pretty intense, I drink it straight, it's like uh, if you drink too much of it, it is like cocaine, it keeps you awake, it's crazy.

What are you currently reading?

HARRY: I am currently reading the amazing adventures of Cavallius and Clay.

PAUL: It's a great book.

HARRY: I am well into Haruki Murakami, he's wicked, yeah. Check him out.

PAUL: I'm reading a book that I borrowed from Crispian's house by Eric Fromm. It is very slow... I read about a page every 2 days.

HARRY: Alonza has been reading A History of Europe since I met him. Every time we get out onto a plane he drags out this massive thing and opens it you know and he is forcing himself to get through it I don't know if he will ever finish it.

PAUL: He just keeps re-reading the same page.

HARRY: Makes him look very clever.

What's your favourite film?

HARRY: Jaws 1 was the greatest movie ever made.

THANKS FOR READING!



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