

ISSUE NO.7  
DEC 2010

# STRANGE FOLK

KULA SHAKER FANZINE

KVLA  
GOES  
EAST

AN INTRODUCTION  
**KarmaDeva**

**PLUS!**  
interviews  
with the band

**REVIEWS &  
PHOTOS**  
from the Far East Tour



# Dear fellow fans,

**WITHOUT A DOUBT:** The past months weren't the easiest in the life of a Kula Shaker fan. The emotional rollercoaster began with the amazing new album Pilgrims Progress together with a long-awaited London-gig and a much celebrated festival-tour through the Far East. Shortly after that the evil tidings arrived: No following gigs were announced due to film projects. Kula world started to crumble with wives piping up and fans being disappointed. The rumour mill was working overtime: Would the band split up once again? But Kula Shaker wouldn't be Kula Shaker if they wouldn't prove us wrong. They went back into the studio to record a Christmas-single. STRANGE FOLK issue 7 has some pics of the recording session in London and an exclusive interview with the band in which they talk about experiences in the Far East, plans for Christmas and their future.

During the past months we were busy collecting reviews, experiences and photos from Taipei, Hong Kong & Co. Loads of funny and touching articles as well as a huge collection of gig photos came together. We sure hope you enjoy them – you can feel the excitement!

Before you start to skim the zine we want to share a video with you. Some of you might remember the Peter Pan RIP video competition – the fanzine got more than 60,000 people to watch the video and won a personal video message from the band.

Here it is:



<http://vimeo.com/17756959>

And now enjoy issue 7 of the one and only Kula Shaker fanzine STRANGE FOLK. We sure hope it won't be the last one for the next 758 years...

Merry Christmas!

*Andrea & Anni*



Cover Photo by Ade Branuza

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Thanks to Maurice & the band

# CONTENTS



- 2 EDITORS LETTER
- 3 CONTENTS / CONTRIBUTORS
  
- 4 EXCLUSIVE PHOTOS from the studio
- 6 LYRICS Christmas single "Snowflake"
  
- 7 INTERVIEW with the band
  
- 12 FAR EAST TOUR SPECIAL
  - \* Twinkle Rock, Taiwan
  - \* Fuji Rock, Japan
  - \* Live Event Hall, Kuala Lumpur
  - \* Lapangan Basket ABC Gelora Bung Karno, Indonesia
    - + A Wake up Call & tour interview by Marina
  - \* Asia World Arena, Hong Kong
    - + Govinda Jaya Jaya by Claudia M. Tam
  
- 26 INTRODUCING KarmaDeva
  
- 27 ARTWORK by Peter Bruce

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# Back in the saddle

RECORDING  
"CHRISTMAS TIME (IS HERE AGAIN)"  
AND "SNOWFLAKE"





*Merry Christmas!*

# SNOWFLAKE



I'm, I'm a little snowflake,  
Just a little snowflake,  
Just waiting for Christmas, Christmas time

I'm a little snowflake,  
just a little snowflake,  
a lonely little snowflake,  
I'm waiting for Christmas,  
Christmas time time time, oh! yeah!

All the children singing Little Donkey,  
but I can never come out to play,  
I'm always too late cos the weathers so wonky,  
can't have a white Xmas in February anyway.

I'm, I'm a little snowflake,  
a lonely little snowflake,  
Just waiting for Christmas, Christmas time.

Ah-ah-I'm a waiting for Xmas time.  
I'm waitin'!  
Yeah!  
Snowflake!  
Yeah!  
Oo-oo!

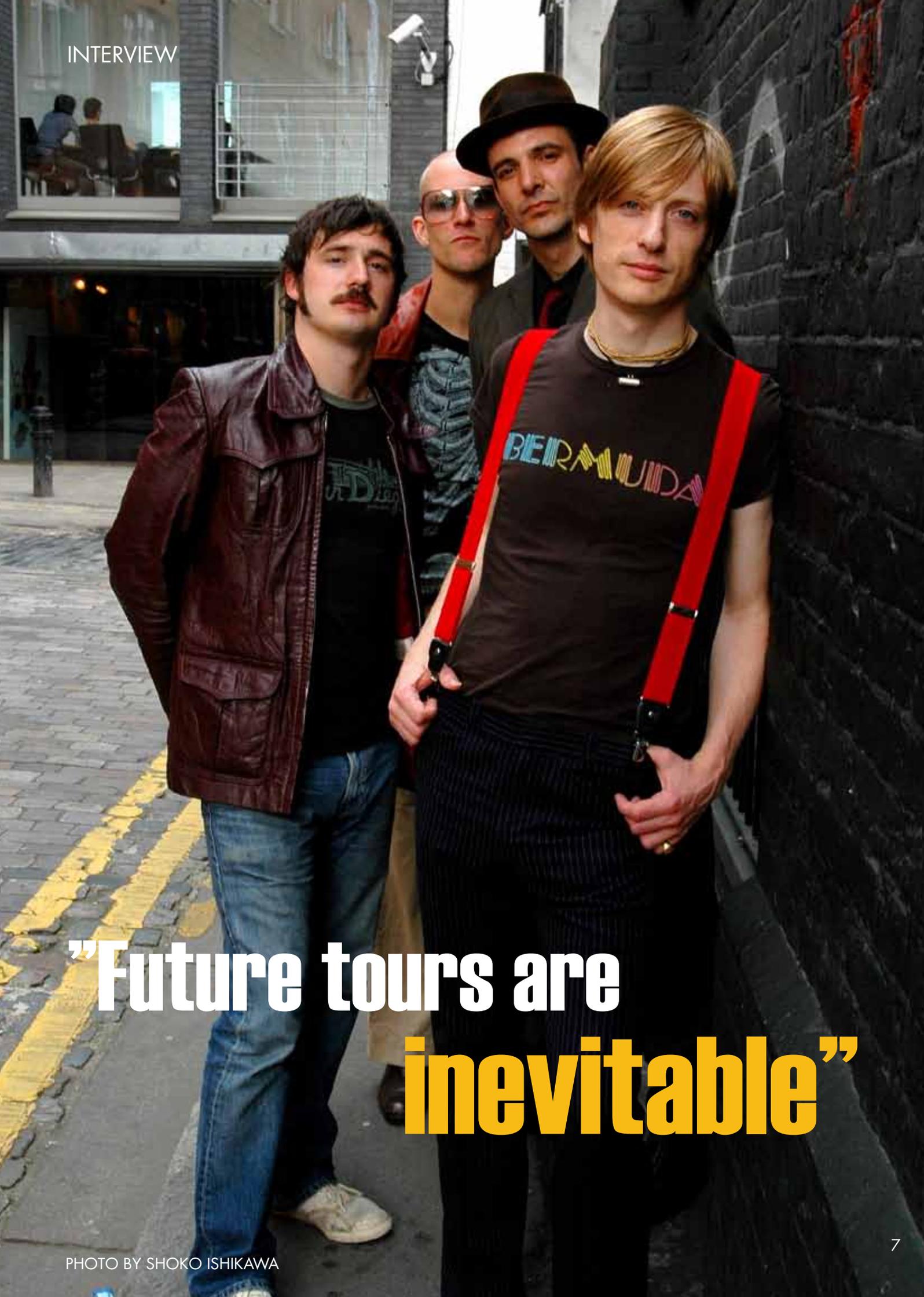


Away in a manger and three wise men,  
It's A Wonderful Life is on TV again,  
Santa and his elves are looting the shelves,  
Your alcoholic uncle is having dizzy spells,  
An hour long extension of the worst TV show  
Get a nosebleed under the mistletoe

Uh-uh-uh-uh-uh-uh-oh  
Uh-uh-uh-uh-uh-uh-oh  
Snowflake!  
Uh-uh-uh-uh-uh-uh-oh  
Snowflake!  
Uh-uh-uh-uh-uh-uh-oh  
Snowflake!  
Snowflake!

Oh yeah- Snowflake!  
Oh yeah- Snowflake!  
yeah- Snowflake!  
yeah- Snowflake!  
Snowflake!





**“Future tours are  
inevitable”**

# Kula Shaker on the Far East tour and their future

They got loads of great reviews for 'Pilgrims Progress'. They played an amazing tour in the Far East. But then Crispian announced that there will be no tour anytime soon. What does the rest of KULA SHAKER think about that? What are their plans for the future and what do they upto at Christmas? STRANGE FOLK got on the case and found out.

by STRANGE FOLK and fans

## What was your most memorable experience in the Far East?

**ALONZA:** Apart from some fantastic audiences the most memorable experience was the vegetarian food in Taiwan.

**PAUL:** Playing!!!!

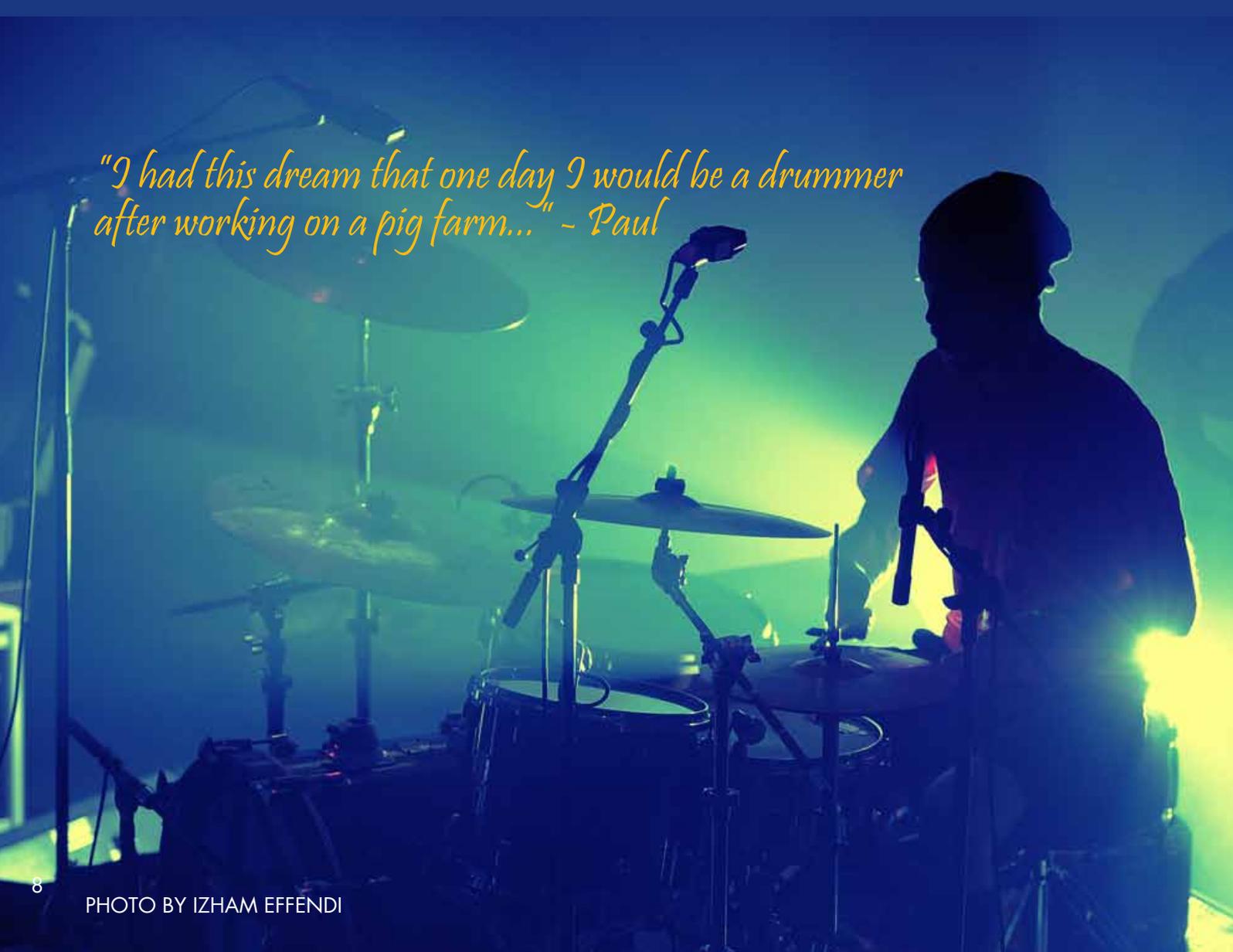
**CRISPIAN:** Playing to six thousand people going mental at our gig in Hong Kong, and thinking I was only about two miles from where my grandmother grew up, 100 years ago.

**HARRY:** There were quite a few. We were all very touched at the show in the Garage (London), when everyone started singing 'Peter Pan' along with Crispian. The trend continued all through Asia – It's a toss up between the Fuji Rock crowd

singing 'Peter Pan', the police escort in Jakharta and the entire stage rig going down in Korea. This coincided with some urgent bathroom visits for Alonza, Paul disappearing and then Crispian refusing to go on until Lonz had 'got it all out'. This left Mike our monitor engineer to entertain the crowd with some call and response. Quite a moment.

## What was the first guitar/drums/keyboard that you learned to play on? Who got you interested in going into music as a career?

**ALONZA:** The first bass I played was some kind of Ibanez which I borrowed off a friend of my father. He was a session player and songwriter



*"I had this dream that one day I would be a drummer after working on a pig farm..." - Paul*

and probably the first person I'd met who was actually making a living from music.

**PAUL:** I had this dream that one day I would be a drummer after working on a pig farm...

**CRISPIAN:** My first acoustic guitar was a 'K' spanish acoustic with steel strings, for £10. I should have read the signs and portents in the name, but playing the bastard was agony, so I quickly moved on to a bright-pink Hohner Stratocaster copy, which my Mum bought me for £85. Ben Castle the saxophone player, who I went to school with, got me into music. When I was 11 he got me into Deep Purple and all that hairy stuff.

**HARRY:** The first instrument I learned was the cello. Actually, that's not true - I learned the recorder first. My mum was very proud that I could play the match of the day theme tune. I had piano lessons as well and I hated them. Go figure... When I was 11 I started learning the drums and then went on to try to start a career as a drummer. My route into playing rock organ and other keys was by accident and misadventure more than anything else, but it seemed to work out well. Pretty much all my family are musicians

so becoming a musician was kind of a normal thing - I never really imagined anything else.

**What are the rest of the band doing while Crispian works on the film project? Do you have projects of your own?**

**ALONZA:** Apart from walking the dog and drinking a lot of tea I'll be developing the studio here in Belgium. I've been working on an album with my wife Audrey for some time so hopefully we'll have the time to finish that. There are also other projects coming through the pipeline of Strange F.O.L.K. Records and I've already had Harry over, recording some very cool tunes. Any spare time I shall spend practising my new Banjo (present from the wife)... got to nail Cripple Creek.

**PAUL:** Cry most of the time apart from when I play my drums.

**HARRY:** Amongst a few other things I've started work on a record. It's been a long time coming really - most of the songs have been hanging around for ages, in various stages of completion. It's been a busy couple of years for me, so it's been a little tricky to find the time to get

*"Maybe Paul will make that spoken word album he's been threatening for so long." - Harry*



anything off the ground. I've just come back from a week at Lonza's getting some drums down - its still early stages though so when I know more about what it is that I'm doing I'll let you know.

**Regarding Kula Shaker - what happens next? (excluding the Christmas single) Plus - is there any idea, no matter how remote, about when the next UK tour will be?**

**ALONZA:** It's hard to make any definite plans with uncertain schedules etc... However we've talked about doing some more recording and maybe doing some live shows with a different approach.

**PAUL:** Good question no idea.

**CRISPIAN:** What do you mean 'EXCLUDING' the Christmas single! I'm going to be raving about these tracks for at least another 11 months!

As for the tour: When everyone is available and up for it!

**HARRY:** Basically we wait for Crispian to make the film. Obviously we share some of the fans irritation - Pilgrim's Progress is an amazing record that I'm very proud to have been involved in making, and its a terrible shame that we're not

going to tour it right now, but its a big opportunity that Crispian's been given and irritated though I may be, I understand why he can't turn it down. Future tours, like future arguments, are inevitable. We certainly had a ball in the studio the other day doing the Christmas thing - much silliness was had by all. In the meantime we've got some space to do our own projects - I know Alonza has something in the pipes and I've already started. Maybe Paul will make that spoken word album he's been threatening for so long.

**What plans do you have for Christmas?**

**ALONZA:** At Christmas I shall regret inviting everyone to my house.

**PAUL:** To get lots of drum practice and eat lots of Italian food cooked by my mother in law.

**CRISPIAN:** I'm going to stay at home with the family, a few packs of Xanax, and just take it easy.

**HARRY:** Christmas-wise I'll be with my family in London and then on open plains of Friuli in North East Italy.

*"The most memorable experience was the vegetarian food in Taiwan." - Alonza*



## ASKING CRISPIAN...

### **Would you share some details on your film project with us?**

Unfortunately, I'm not legally allowed to say anything until it gets formally announced next year, at which point I'll be very happy to give you an exclusive. All I can say is, it's very exciting, full of music, and you won't be disappointed.

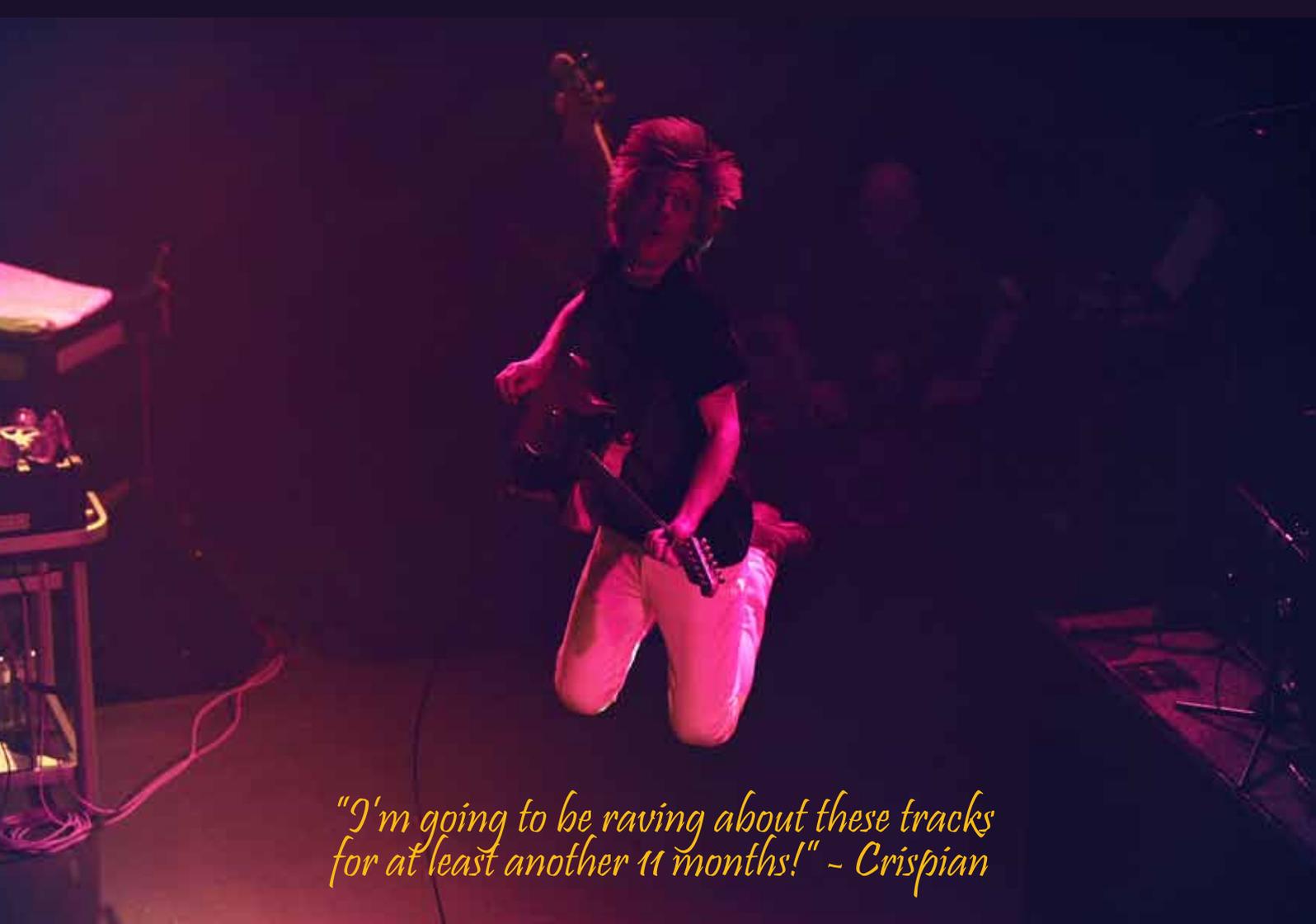
### **We have noticed that again, this year you will be in attendance of the Anno's Africa charity gig. Do you now have a special place in your life for this particular charity?**

Absolutely. I guess I'm part of the Anno's Africa family now. It's very different, in that, instead of

just providing kids with food and medicine and clothes, and all those things, it's about helping them explore and nurture their own creativity with theatre and dance and painting. So it's not just about survival, it's about self expression and quality of life.

### **Is there a special new song which is as touching and personal as Peter Pan RIP to play at this year's event?**

I think I'm going to play Forever Young by Bob Dylan, which I've sort of adapted a bit for the occasion.



*"I'm going to be raving about these tracks for at least another 11 months!" - Crispian*



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TAIPEI, TAIWAN



# Twinkle Rock





# Fuji Rock



by Jam

**JULY 31ST, THE SECOND** day of FUJI ROCK. It was rainy on the eve and the first day but today it seems cloudy. My purpose is to see Kula Shaker, so I don't need to use up a lot of energy for the rest. I moved to the front area of the Green Stage before the previous band, The John Butler Trio started because I wanted to see Kula in from the first row. I was relieved to be able to stay in the first row in front of Alonza when audiences were watching The John Butler Trio. But then - Heavy rain down at a stroke! I got soaking wet and would have to move to get my raincoat, as there it is over there! I wanted to pick it up (as I was afraid my mobile phone and other electric products would get wet) but, instead, I just put up with the situation! "The blissful moment will come soon" I kept reminding myself. Although the waiting always seems to last forever, I wondered if it should have started by now. The crews were now setting equipment out carefully and I worried it might not go well.

Kula Shaker's gig had standard tunes at the opening and ending of their slot. My most favourite is 'Sound of Drums' so the opening number is very important for me. I really wanted them play 'Sound of Drums' this time because they played it only once at the last Japanese tour. My wish was granted, and they started with 'Sound of Drums'. My tension level went up at a stretch! The fourth song was 'Peter Pan RIP'. To be honest, when I heard CD, I thought it was OK, but it didn't make an impression so much. But that completely changed. So Cool! A talking part in the chorus part (His last...) was very cool particularly. Harry had borrowed drumsticks from Paul before

second or third song. I wondered what he uses that for. Anyway, he used it to beat a bell or something like that (cowbell?) during 'Modern Blues'. They jammed regular numbers from then on. I was excited by electrifying order of '303' to 'Mystical Machine Gun' and then 'Hey Dude', and I was delighted by 'Tattva' to 'Hush'. I knew that they had no other choice but to cut 'Grateful When You're Dead', which should have played after 'Hush', as they were running out of time on Sony web site. Of course, it ended with 'Govinda'. It had stateliness and mystery as Crispian conducted the great chorus with the audiences of the Green Stage. It seemed the weather responded to it too, as it got better too! (However, it was unexpected that the weather also responded to John Fogerty "Have You Ever Seen the Rain" by giving us heavy rain several hours later! Anyway, I will look forward to the next performance in Japan!!

## 31/7/2010 Fuji Rock Festival Set List

1. Sound of Drums
2. Under the Hammer
3. High in a Heaven
4. Peter Pan R.I.P.
5. Modern Blues
6. Temple of Everlasting Light
7. 303
8. Mystical Machine Gun
9. Hey Dude
10. Tattva
11. Hush
12. Govinda



# Live Event Hall

KUALA LUMPUR 

# Lapangan Basket ABC Gelora Bung Karno



by Aniesah Hasan Syihab

**FROM ALL THE CONCERTS** I've seen, I could say that this Kula Shaker concert was the most awesome one. I've been waiting for years for this incredible band to finally perform in my country, Indonesia. The gig was held in a basketball hall called Lapangan Basket ABC Gelora Bung Karno in Jakarta. Although the gig was outdoor and it was raining, all the fans were very excited to stand in line, waiting the gate to be opened.

After waiting for about two hours, the fans began to shout happily as the "Radhe-Radhe" started echoing from the giant speakers and one by one, the members of *Mighty Kula Shaker* entered the stage and took their positions. My heart stopped for a moment. There he was, Crispian Mills, Krishna Kantha Dasa, standing only three meters from me (I was in front row). It is unbelievable.

Then, they opened the show with 'Sound of Drums'. Our energy gathered and came out as a collection of voices, singing along to the song. With the incredible 50.000 Watt lighting, the band continued with 'Grateful When You're Dead' then 'Peter Pan RIP'. Funnily, just before they sing 'Peter Pan RIP', Crispian said "This song's called Peter Pan RIP, but not that porn star". He referred to a member of an Indonesian band called Peter Pan whose sex scandal was booming in Indonesia and even appeared internationally on CNN, Aljazeera, etc.

During the show, Kula Shaker mostly played songs from K like 'Hey Dude', 'Tattva', 'Temple of Everlasting Light', 'Grateful When You're Dead', '303'. Some singles like 'Shower Your Love' and 'Mystical Machine Gun' from the 'Peasants, Pigs & Astronauts' were also played. But from the *Pilgrim's Progress* album they only played 'Peter Pan RIP' and 'Modern Blues'. I think it's because here in Indonesia, the fans can't easily buy that album. It has not been sold in any music stores yet. So maybe the fans didnt really know the songs from the new album.

After playing about 15 songs, the band began to play the intro of 'Govinda'. Suddenly the uproars of the fans raised. It's like they finally found 'something' they have been longing for ages. The energy, spirituality, and the soul of 'Govinda' possessed our souls. It seemed like we're unconsciously singing that divine song, letting the song take over our minds. Apparently, 'Govinda' was the last song they played that night. Crispian, Alonza, Harry, and Paul bowed, and then left the stage. Although they didn't play many songs that night (because it was a dual concert Kula Shaker - Ian Brown), they had successfully satisfied our thirst with the content and beauty of their songs. Because just like Crispian once said, "instead of wasting time talking about sex and depression in music, why don't we talk about universal truth and bring some hope to the people".

# A Wake up Call



# Spiritual pilgrimage from Indonesia to India

by Marina Kusumawardhani

**I REMEMBER IT WAS** February 1997, when the 'Govinda' video first came onto television in Indonesia, in which it instantly became quite "a shock". Suddenly, all radio stations in Indonesia were playing it for months, MTV Southeast Asia was also crazy about it and made Kula Shaker the Artist of the Month for February 1997. Kula Shaker suddenly became a name as big as Oasis, Blur or Radiohead.

Oddly enough, right now, if you ask any Indonesian if they know 'Kula Shaker' or 'Crispian Mills', they might say yes or no. But if you ask if they know the song "Govinda Jaya-jaya", people from any social stratum will likely say yes. It has been somewhat as popular as Michael Jackson's "Hee-hee!" in the collective mind.

There are some factors to understand this Govinda phenomenon in Indonesia. "Jaya" is actually also an Indonesian word, meaning also "glory" like in Sanskrit language, and sung in some "serious" occasions like in national anthems. But it's actually the Indian influence factor that seems to bewilder the Indonesian youth who, with the reason of being cool, avoid anything that has something to do with India and Bollywood. So you can imagine that in the middle of Britpop fever in big cities, and at the same time Bollywood fever in villages, suddenly there is a British band singing an Indian song, but at the same time capable of making it sound great. It has a cross-barrier quality as an effect. Another reason is that there is a kind of historical closeness to the song. Indonesia has for a long time been a Hindu/Buddhist kingdom, and after the peaceful integration with Islam in 13th century (making it the world's biggest Islamic country – and the 3rd biggest democratic country after US and India), we still remember the story of Mahabharata and Bhagavad Gita as a part of our childhood. Those epic stories are told by our parents (who were once told by their parents, grandparents, and so on); I remember once my mum said that Kula Shaker were the only band on MTV that she can understand.

That was all already 13 years ago. The song and the album have made me an instant fan of the band, and after 13 years, it was again "a shock" to me to find out that Kula Shaker were coming to Jakarta for a concert (especially because I live in Vienna, Austria, and was just visiting Indonesia for a month when they came).

## SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

There were many things happening in that 13 years span in relation to the band. The most significant is maybe that I went to India in 2003 in a somewhat-called "spiritual pilgrimage".

Back then, Kula Shaker meant more to me than just popular songs. There is some kind of depth in their music. So it was more of a curiosity to a deeper mystery behind all those rock-n-roll attributes, to a message of universal truth that they are bringing. I think when you are singing from your soul, then that's always exactly where you are going to touch the listeners.

The curiosity became quite intense that I decided to go to India to explore what it's about. I went to Kashmir, Laddakh, Rishikesh, Vrindavan... met and talked to Sufis, Tibetan monks, Yogis, and, of course, the Hare Krishnas... wondering together of the eternal question that we are all asking: who are we? (In Vrindavan, I met an old lady who turns out to be a friend of George Harrison in the 70's. I told her about Kula Shaker; she doesn't know anything about the band, but she said that Crispian must be quite a "powerful soul" to be able to spread the words like that to the world).

It was quite funny that some years after the journey, I heard the song 'Tattva' again and for the first time, I understand what it really means by 'Acintya Bheda-bheda Tattva' – Reality is one but many... many but one. It's "many" because our mind works in duality, it needs "hot" to define "cold"; "non-tree", "non-glass", "non-me", to define "tree", "glass", "me". So things appear to be quite separate from each other. To get out of this

mind-play is to find oneness and to “get back home”, because in reality everything is one – literally (even quantum physics confirms this). The very same thing is being spoken by many spiritual traditions like Zen Buddhism, or by the famous Sufi-poet Rumi, who metaphors human beings or creations like rays of sun, which are yet coming from the same sun – it’s that one sun from beginning to end.

I wrote about the journey into a book. And in the beginning of the book I wrote that the band is such a wake-up call; “an invitation” through a plate of a CD. Strange how reality and truth is calling you... can be through so many disguises, but how else can it attract the mind of a 13 year old teenager except in a form of a Britpop band with a cute singer?

The book was eventually published by the biggest publisher in Indonesia (my first book with them became a national bestseller), and three weeks after its launch – which is done together with the ex-presidential spokesman of the late Gus Dur (Indonesia’s 4th President) –

I had the privilege to have Kula Shaker visiting Jakarta and to meet Crispian himself (as a reporter).

I gave the book “back” to him, “Consider it as a gift – a souvenir from Indonesia...” To me, the moment is priceless because I could finally say to him that the band matters. It’s not an easy task, I believe, to bring down something so deep like spirituality to a pop scale, and inspire people into it. Kula Shaker might have faced difficult challenges from the mainstream culture and hostile media, but I guess Kula Shaker is always a band of “quality” rather than “quantity”. Meaning that they might not attract as many people as in the Lady Gaga madness, but when it does, it does deeply.

So Crispian, Alonza, Harry/Jay, Paul, it all has been worth it, really. Glad you are back.... Always proud to be a Kula Shaker fan!

(And oh, greetings from the lady in Vrindavan...)



## INTERVIEW



KULA SHAKER, THE SULTAN HOTEL, JAKARTA, 6TH AUGUST 2010

### **What makes you come back?**

Simply said, it is because we want to make a new album/record. But this wish became so strong that it seems to be an issue of life and death for us to come back.

### **Was it easy to come back?**

For sure we did it slowly and quietly. I think it's quite understandable because as a band with a big name once, to come back really felt like you are on a top of a diving board and looks deep down into the ocean – you know what I mean. So that is why we then tried to do it around the swimming pool first.

### **You have a new keyboardist with the band now. Has this caused any difficulty for your come back?**

Not really, because actually I have known Harry for quite for long time, and it was actually through him that I came to know my wife. So the conclusion is that he is a really good “matchmaker”, so anyone of you (reporters) who wants the same service – looking for a partner – contact him directly.

### **I think we all know that the most distinct thing about Kula Shaker is the Indian influence inside the music. Why did you decide to add Indian music and spirituality into your music?**

Well that is a complicated question. Basically we believe that every person is a spiritual being, but maybe just the ways are different. And we believe that people can find their deepest happiness inside spirituality. In our case, we are deeply inspired by Indian music, and if you hear Indian music, you can hear that it is quite inseparable from its spirituality.

### **Why isn't this Indian influence heard again in your fourth album, 'Pilgrim's Progress'?**

It's there, but maybe now only in the form of recipe. The most important thing is that we just have to take it easy. We don't have to always expressively use Indian music, maybe we can also just suddenly add Bollywood music in our next album, but the point is we have to take it easy. The music can take any form, but the recipe stays there.


 HONG KONG

# Asia World Arena



By Mizuho

**LUCKILY, I GOT THE CHANCE** of seeing a couple of KS gigs this summer: the FRF and the HK gig. I had planned to visit Hong Kong this autumn to see my friends who live there, but I changed my mind and re-planned the visit for this summer when I heard the announcement that Kula Shaker will play in HK on 7th August. This was to be the third country in which I would see a KS gig outside of Japan, following the UK and Holland.

On the early morning of the 5th Aug, I flew to Hong Kong. It took about 4 and a half hours from Narita, and there is only one hour time difference between those 2 cities, so I didn't get jet lag. It was totally hot and humid in Tokyo this year, but it was hotter and even more humid in HK than Tokyo... There are a lot of vegetarian restaurants in HK, so I guess the Kula camp didn't have trouble finding good ones.

Pure Veggie House (<http://www.topstandard.com.hk/pureveggieho> use/eng/home.html) is my favourite, if you go to

HK and want to eat some good chinese vegetarian foods, I recommend it!

On 7th August, I went to the venue, AsianWorld-Expo, with my friends by Airport Express. We didn't know when the doors would open, because our tickets didn't say and there was no information, but anyway, we arrived at 18:30. It was an hour and half before the show was due to start, and there were already 50 or 100 or more fans sitting in front of the doors. It seemed you could enter early if you got there early. Here in Japan, most gig tickets have a unique reference number and you cannot enter until your number is called. So you need to get a good number if you want to enter early to get a good place.

Around 19:30, we were allowed to go inside, and I managed to get my spot in front of Alonza. 20:00 was the time the KS gig should have started, but for some reason they didn't appear. We had to wait for another hour. At 21:00, the sound of "Les Fleur" by 4hero reached

our ears and finally Kula Shaker came on stage!

The first song was "Sound of Drums"; huge cheers arose from the crowd, but nobody pushed me at all! It was really comfortable. In my country, the crowd tend to push people in front of them to come closer to the stage when the show starts. I thought it may be the same in HK, but thankfully I was wrong.

The setlist was almost the same as the FRF, but we got to hear another six songs because it was KS's own gig, and not a festival. The 3rd song was "High in a Heaven"; one of my favourite songs. The recorded version seems to have been made a long time ago, as I can hear that Crispian's voice is very young on it. As for this live version, his voice is more mature and it gives a different impression. Two songs from 'Pilgrim Progress' - "Peter Pan R.I.P" and "Modern Blues" - followed it.

Although you can enjoy hearing those familiar songs, you can find a different kind of enjoyment when you hear new songs. The most fascinating aspects of KS for me are: the quality of the songs, their attitude to gigs in always trying to do their best, and the brilliant live performances, I think. The recorded versions are elaborate, but their live performance are really filled with energy and these songs are arranged nicely to fit the live shows. I believe they never disappoint my expectations, so I manage to find the money to go and see their gigs, even if

they're taking place outside my country. I love seeing their gigs, especially when I can hear them play new songs, new cover songs or jam sessions, I can rediscover the charm of KS as a live band. I also love seeing things like Crispian telling the crew to turn the volume of his microphone up/down, I feel like it shows his sincere attitude to the gig.

When "Shower Your Love" started, the crowd sang along with the band. HK fans sang some of the songs, and I was kind of impressed with it. In Japan, singing along with the band is kind of rare. I wonder if it's because they don't remember the lyrics, or maybe just that they're shy...but I don't know. "True Love Will Find You in the End" is becoming one of the standard songs of their gigs, and when they started playing it, I realised the gig had already entered its final part.

This was the last show of the Far East Tour, so Crispian introduced their crew to the audience before the encore. On their return "Jerry Was There", "Great Hosannah" and "Govinda" were played. It was kind of a shame they didn't play many new songs, but considering it was their first gig in HK, it may have been the appropriate setlist. But I would love to hear more new songs the next time, and am looking forward to the next tour! Anyway, thank you so much for the brilliant show!



#### Setlist:

Sound of Drums  
Under the Hammer  
High in a Heaven  
Peter Pan R.I.P  
Modern Blues  
Temple of Everlasting Light  
303  
All Dressed Up  
Mystical Machine Gun  
Shower Your Love  
Hey DudeTattva  
Hush  
True Love Will Find You in the End  
Song of Love/Narayana  
  
Jerry Was There  
Great Hosannah  
Govinda


**HONG KONG**

# Asia World Arena

by Veronica Chan

**IT'S BEEN A LONG** awaited event in my life! Even though I've just seen the 1st stop of this Far East Tour Taipei, in only one week I will be seeing Kula Shaker live in Hong Kong. It is just like a dream especially when it is in my home town. And it seems taking ages to wait the day to come!

The date has come finally. August 7, 2010 - Kula Shaker Live in Hong Kong, the last stop of this Far East Tour. Once the band stepped onto the stage, there were so many different feelings inside of me. However, there's no time for me to figure out each of them because I hear the 'Sound of Drums' starting. The crowds are instantly into the mood with this opening song. After this, Crispian announced that they would play more old songs in the night which really cheers the crowd up. That's when we heard 'Under the Hammer', 'High in a Heaven' and 'Temple of the Everlasting Light'! The band is so considerate as always. It's also a surprise to hear 'All Dressed Up Ready' and a cover - 'True Love will find you in the End', and it makes this live event in HK a special one!

The band, the crowd and the sound were great. Moreover, the images showing on the stage were a thing that we couldn't miss! The images start with 'Grateful When You're Dead/Jerry was There', and the Sanskrit with 'Tattva' and Sri Krishan with 'Govinda' are all touching my heart so deeply. These make this first ever Kula Shaker live in HK to be a fantastic and unforgettable one!

It's been a long road to wait for seeing Kula Shaker live. I know the band is so tired with these packed Far East Tour Dates. They are just amazing with their performance. Like something I've read before - to see them live "They NEVER disappoint you". I do feel another energy as well as Kula Shaker feels a power growing on stage!?

P.S. I'm so glad that I could have a short conversation with Crispian the next day. He told my friend and me that HK had a noisy crowd. When they toured in Europe, the crowd sang 'Govinda Jaya Jaya' with rambling. In HK, he can hear us sing along the whole song. Oh wow, so we have a compliment here in HK. What we - the HK crowd should be proud of!



PHOTOS BY CLAUDIA M. TAM

# Govinda Jaya Jaya

HOW KULA SHAKER CHANGED MY LIFE



Claudia M. Tam became a Kula Shaker fan in 1996. Now, 14 years later she finally saw them live for the first time in Hong Kong. Now she has agreed to share her very own KS story with us.

*"Govinda Jaya Jaya... Gopala Jaya Jaya..."*

**I HUMBLY PRAY** to Sri Krishna, thanks for leading me to Kula Shaker, the most important band in my life!! Yes, they are that important to me. Fourteen years ago, when I first heard 'Govinda', it felt just like it was shocking my soul... the words, the melody - they were all so familiar to me. Since then, I kept searching for the meaning of 'Govinda'. Who is he? What is he? Then, finally I found out. He is one of the 108 names of the Indian God - Krishna. But that is not all. There still seemed to be a question in my mind, but I couldn't tell what it was. After 6 years' searching, through books, internet, the Indians I met, my question was still there, until Krishna again and again showed me the miracles, until I met the Lord Shiva whilst meditating. All I can believe is Kula Shaker led me to the absolute truth and the eternal happiness. In these 6 years, many things happened and changed. This included Kula Shaker temporarily disbanding. However, my passion to the "new" religion occupied everything, until this year (2006), they announced their reunion. This news brought me back to 1996, how I was ecstatic over Kula Shaker... but more than that, I found the new meanings of their songs. They are passing

important messages in their "teachings". They are just great! I listen to the songs over and over, I read the lyrics over and over... and I get the feeling that Crispian is Krishna! (Not the same as Krishna Kantha Dasa). Kula Shaker's songs are about the Absolute truth! – *"Oh brother please we are born to this world again, how can we see when we're travelling in time? Love is the key and the key is the name my friend. When will we see that we're travelling in time?"* – *"At the moment that you wake from sleeping and you know it's all a dream. Well the truth may come in strange disguises, never knowing what it means."* – *"For you will be tomorrow, like you have been today. If it was never ending, what more can you say?"*

These are their messages! And there are so many more. 'Great Hosannah', 'Last Farewell', 'Temple of Everlasting Light', 'Drop in the Sea'. Lord Krishna said in Bhagavad Gita, that we need a good companion to accompany with in the path of enlightenment. Therefore, I am so happy that Kula Shaker exists in my life, and their songs are the prayer, the mantra. "Om Namah Narayana Om Keshavaya Namaha Jay Sri Radhe Sri Krishna sankirtanam"

P.S. That's true! "Only Love can take you there!"

In October a wonderful new store for children's clothing opened in London. Nixie Clothing is owned by Paul's wife Nicole and uses only sustainable and vintage fabrics in the production of the collections. The materials are locally sourced and all garments are made in London. Nixie Clothing has just presented a stunning new collection, consisting of eight designs, fully inspired by the Scottish Highlands, the untouched beauty of nature in autumn.



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With Real Depth and Resonance

# KarmaDeva

It is friendship that connects the English four-piece KarmaDeva to Kula Shaker. Next year their paths will cross again: Alonza will produce KarmaDevas next single.

**SOMEWHERE BETWEEN** the Yeah Yeah Yeah's Karen O and Patti Smith there is the dazzling, charismatic JJ Stanness, singer of KarmaDeva. With vibrant guitar sounds, driving bass and powerfully expressive vocals this band are comparable to the likes of White Lies, Florence and the Machine, Blondie, Siouxsie and the Banshees and The Editors. In KarmaDeva's captivating music a cool unforgiving urgency combines with New Wave Post Punk to create the unique sound of KarmaDeva.

KD is fronted by the enigmatic and unpredictable JJ Stanness, whose prom dress and bunches sweetness, is streaked with a darkness betraying her former life as a mordantly satirical award winning scriptwriter. Fans have likened her voice to Patti Smith and whilst they share a smokily compelling penetration, JJ reveals her individuality with seductive, soaring, and at times touchingly vulnerable vocals. KarmaDeva emerged onto the UK scene with such bands as Boxer Rebellion, The Joy Formidable, Nylo, Broken Links and American

indie band NRWO. Their powerful stage presence and refreshingly unique take on the New Wave sound has been captivating audiences, drawing them into the excitement of their atmospheric yet catchy songs. This is a band with real depth and resonance, whose vivid and lyrical imagery of love, longing and redemption seduce your consciousness, hook you in, and take up residence.

KarmaDeva have completed three German tours, appeared on National TV and become hot favourites on the Berlin scene. They have shared the stage with an eclectic mix of bands including Boxer Rebellion, The Holloways, The Zutons, People in Planes, The Avengers, The Joy Formidable, Supergrass, NRWO, Super Furry Animals, Nylo, and also supported such legendary acts as The Fall, Grace Jones, Caravan, The Damned, Ten Years After, Lene Lovich and Arthur Lee and Love.

Distinctive and wonderfully original KarmaDeva are sweeping across the UK like a brooding electric storm full of grace and power.

# The Pilgrims Progress...

by Peter Bruce

