

ELTON

HERCULES

THE MAG



inside this issue:

Review of our
2001 convention
at the Cavern
Club in March

PLUS:
News, Trivia,
Quizzes,
Your Letters
& more!

Issue No. 55
JUNE 2001



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Please don't send enquiries or **fan mail** to the Elton John management, but to HERCULES Coordination. Letters will be passed on if necessary.

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FROM THE EDITOR...

Hello and welcome to another packed issue.

The highlight of recent times for Hercules was our convention at the Cavern Club in Liverpool in March. This saw a reunion of Bluesology, the entertaining company of Roger Pope and a wonderful performance by John Jorgenson. Not only was George Matlock behind the organisation of the event, but he also stood in for Reg himself by playing keyboards with Bluesology. Elton need not feel threatened but well done, George – there's not many

others who would have dared! Read John Michie's personal account on page 10.

We have reports and interviews with all our guests from the Cavern.

Elton has kept himself in the news as always, continuing to tour with Billy Joel and solo, and selling an impressive collection of cars – report and photos on page 4.

We have the fourth and final part of George Matlock's epic interview with Clive Franks – read more on page 20.

Following on from last issue's interview with Dick Morgan, we

have caught up with another old school pal of Reg, Jud Williams. See page 18 for more.

Finally I must apologise for the tardiness of this issue. Work commitments have meant the delay was unavoidable. Remember, Hercules is by the fans, for the fans and sometimes other pressures get in the way of an enjoyable hobby. Thanks for your patience.

Cheers!



SAD NEWS

Just a few days after his 50th birthday there was shocking news for Davey Johnstone as he learned about the sudden death of nine-year old son, Oliver, while performing with Elton and Billy in Chicago on May 7. Elton, who was visibly shaken up, announced it at the show just before he did Candle in the Wind. Davey was absent for the final part of the show. Oliver Johnstone drowned in the swimming pool of the family home in California.

Hercules sent its heartfelt sympathies to Davey and his family, and we passed your messages on which were sent to us. We received the following from Davey:

***To: Hercules Readers,
From: Davey Johnstone
Re: Condolences for Oliver
Kay and I have been deeply moved by your statements of love and support for our family in this very sad, difficult time. It's incredible how such a tragedy can change so many peoples lives, but thanks to our dear friends, we are trying to find a way to deal with our pain, so that maybe someday the pain will become a part of our everyday life. We will miss Oliver so much! Thank you again for your kindness.
Love, Davey***



Full details of the following news items have appeared on our Website and Hotline

HEAVY TRAFFIC

Elton auctions 20 of his prestige car collection at Christies

The sale of the biggest ever collection of a celebrity's cars was held in at auctioneers Christie's in London on June 5, 2001, when Elton auctioned 20 of his prestige collection. The 20 cars up for sale went for a total of £1.705 million, plus London auctioneer Christie's commission, which took the final figure to £1,951,725 (US\$2,749,981). Buyers for Elton's fleet of cars were worldwide, but the right-hand drive of most of the cars meant most went to UK buyers, Christie's deputy chairman Dermot Chichester told a news conference after the auction, to which Hercules was invited. He

confirmed there was interest from football personalities, but none from the Royal Family.

The highest bids were mostly for the older limos, but the highest price was struck, with commission, for the Jaguar XJ220 1993 model which went for £234,750 (US\$330,763). Only 80 were ever produced of this model. The price estimate had been £130,000 to £160,000.

Elton's 1973 Rolls-Royce Phantom VI Limousine, the one with the 36-speaker stereo Hi-Fi, was the next highest, at £223,750. It's estimate was £110,000 to £150,000. The 1987 Bentley Turbo R Four Door Saloon, which carried Gianni Versace, but also Elton to Diana, Princess of Wales' funeral in 1997, went for £49,350, far exceeding the estimate of £18,000 to £25,000. At the news conference, Elton phoned from Atlanta to say he was thrilled with the result, and realised there was a "lot of money to be made in second-hand cars!"

A spokesperson for Christies said that Elton made the decision to sell the cars before his costly High Court hearing and that it was unconnected with his legal costs.



FACE-TO-FACE TOUR CONTINUES

Elton and Billy continued their Face-to-Face tour with a Southern flavour in Atlanta on April 24. As Elton is a part time Atlanta resident - he spoke about several local things/places/friends, and how he usually comes back to Atlanta after most of his concerts in the eastern US. During Your Song, Elton used his best southern accent, changing the lyrics to say 'This One's for y'all', drawing a huge response from the crowd. The Face-to-Face tour is now finished for the time being, but we hope that more dates will be announced soon. In the meantime, Elton continues his Solo tour in Europe this summer (see page 27 for details).

VIENNA LIFE BALL

Elton declared Vienna's ninth annual Life Ball a success, after opening the event on June 18th. He made a speech at the gala, one of Europe's biggest Aids charity events, and accepted a cheque for £250,000 for his Aids foundation to support projects in Africa. He said: "We have to look reality in the eye. Aids affects not only the health of individuals, but also the economy, politics and society itself."

NB Pic available of EJ accepting the cheque

FAN TO MEET ELTON

One lucky concert goer at Elton's show in the Baltic state of Latvia will get to meet Elton just before the show - just for having the winning concert ticket. Elton is scheduled to arrive in Latvia by private plane from his mansion in Nice on July 21, two hours ahead of the concert in Skonto Stadium.



ELTON PERFORMED AT

PRIVATE PARTY

Elton played a private concert in Austin, Texas, on June 2 for Dell executive Mort Topfer and his wife on their anniversary. There were 140 guests for which Elton played a near 2 hour solo show. Everyone was stunned when the "very special guest performer" was announced to be Sir Elton John. Speculation in a local newspaper said that it cost the executive over US\$1.2 million.

SONGS FROM THE WEST COAST

Elton told a French newspaper that the new studio album, *Songs from the West Coast*, will be released in September 2001. Elton and Bernie have written and recorded 20+ songs in various sessions over the past six months. According to Elton himself, twelve songs will make it on the album which he described as "pop rock", and similar in style to *Madman Across the Water*. The release date has since been reported as October 2001.

COURT CASE APPEAL LATEST

Elton was refused permission to appeal a ruling against him in his recent multi-million pound battle over touring costs on June 6. A judge in the High Court in London rejected Elton's £14 million claim in April, landing Elton with an estimated £8 million legal bill. The same judge, Mr Justice Ferris, said he was not satisfied an appeal "would have any real prospect of success". Elton's legal team can still make a further application for permission to appeal directly to the Court of Appeal, but it is not yet clear whether Elton will pursue this. The application for permission to appeal related only to PricewaterhouseCoopers.

QUIZ SHOW EXIT

Elton pulled out of UK TV's screening of *Have I Got News For You* at the last minute - and was replaced by Hercules' lookalike: Ray Johnson, who was introduced as "Elton John". After round one, captions flashed up on the screen saying, "It's Not Really Elton John" and "Elton John was booked yesterday but he pulled out - bastard". *Have I Got News For You* spokeswoman said: "It was just a bit of fun."

According to reports, Elton pulled out of the show at the last minute because of exhaustion. His spokesman said: "Elton's been on the road constantly this year and has also been spending time in the studio. He gets tired just like everyone else." Elton has since spoken about plans to take part in the next series. "I really don't know what all the fuss was about and why people got so stroppy. I was ill at the very last minute so they couldn't get a replacement," he said, adding: "In any case, I'm going to do the show in September."

EL DORADO VIDEO

Elton and Tim Rice's animated movie *The Road to El Dorado* is available on video and DVD in UK shops, from the beginning of May.

CHARITY FASHION GALA

Elton joined old friend Donatella Versace, Mick Jagger and a host of supermodels at a charity fashion event on June 10. The Prince of Wales attended the gala evening at Waddesdon Manor in Buckinghamshire, England, in aid of the Macmillan Cancer Relief charity. Elton was booed by photographers as he entered the event, as he was running late and didn't have time to stop and pose for photos.

ELTON AT THE THEATRE

Elton was among guests at the opening of the *Pet Shop Boys'* new West End musical on May 30. *Closer To Heaven* is the first theatre attempt for the songwriters, who Elton counts among his good friends. The musical is a tale of sex, drugs and rock-and-roll in London clubland. Elton attended the performance at London's Art Theatre with David, and said afterwards: "I thought it was absolutely brilliant. I thought it was one of the most incredible nights I have had at the theatre for a long time. It has great music, a great story and great performances, I would give it 11 out of 10," he added.

DAVID IS "ONE TO KNOW"

David Furnish was voted amongst the best connected people in Britain, according to a survey in the June 2001 edition of society magazine *Harpers and Queen*. He came in at 10th place; however there was no mention of Elton!

NEW NIGEL OLSSON ALBUM

Nigel's latest project, *Move the Universe*, featuring the Japanese singer i, along with Kai Olsson and Kiki Dee, is due for release in Japan on July 4. You should be able to pre-order it at any of the following websites: www.CDJapan.co.jp, www.Gemm.com, or www.CDEurope.com. There is no release date scheduled for the rest of the world, but we hope to be able to bring you news of that soon. The album features an outtake from Elton's *Made In England* album called *Building a Bird*.

EJ NEWS BULLETS...



Full details of the following news items have appeared on our Website and Hotline

CHRISTMAS NUMBER ONE?

Elton is set to star in a Christmas Special of UK TVs children's programme Bob The Builder for BBC1, to be shown on Christmas Eve. 'Bob' will also record a version of Crocodile Rock with Elton in a bid to get this year's Christmas No 1. Bob, voiced by actor Neil Morrissey, will get together with EJ later this year to record the 1972 hit. The Christmas Special TV programme will feature the Crocodile Rock track. Elton will also provide the voice for an animated Elton. The storyline is top secret but it is believed Bob is called on to help Elton win back his confidence. Neil told us: "We've just done a Christmas special show with Elton, Noddy Holder and Chris Evans, which is fantastic." Elton's spokesman confirmed he had been recording for the Christmas show in May.

NEW ELTON BOOK IN SEPTEMBER

His Song: The Musical Journey Of Elton John, by Hercules member Elizabeth J. Rosenthal, will be published by Billboard Books in September 2001. The book is being published in the United States. The book will also be distributed by Windsor Books in October 2001 in the UK and parts of Europe. As the first biography of Elton's entire career, His Song profiles all the albums and tours and explains Elton's artistic ups and downs.

YOUR SONG IN HIT FILM

Hit film Moulin Rouge features actor Ewan McGregor singing Your Song, in full. He was given the stamp of approval by Elton, Director Baz Luhrmann said: "Elton had to approve the song for Ewan. He said, 'Oh, my God, he's a real singer!'"

ONE NIGHT ONLY

ON VIDEO

Footage from "One Night Only" is now available on video in the US. The tape features Elton's performance of greatest hits, recorded at New York's Madison Square Garden on October 20 and 21, 2000.

NEW VENICE APARTMENT

UK newspaper The Mirror disclosed in May that Elton and David have bought a grand apartment overlooking the Grand Canal in Venice. We understand that Elton gave the go-ahead for the purchase on the day he was told that he had lost his High Court claim for damages. David reportedly seemed grumpy when The Mirror called to congratulate him on his new home. "How did you know about this? It's not supposed to be secret. It's not even been bought in Elton's name." So was it bought in the name of David Furnish? "I'm not saying."

RENATE IN THE PRESS

The British Press Complaints Commission upheld a complaint against the Sunday Mirror newspaper on April 24, for publishing the address of Elton's ex-wife, Renate. But the PCC rejected complaints from Renate that the article, headlined "Sad, lonely life of the woman who loved and lost Elton John", represented an invasion of her privacy, harassment and misrepresentation. The article, published in June 2000, was accompanied by photos of Ms Blauel in a gas petrol station forecourt. For the full newspaper article, minus the address references, see our website at www.eltonfan.net

FOOTBALL NEWS

Elton spoke of his delight at bringing Gianluca Vialli in as the new manager at Watford Football Club, after the retirement of Graham Taylor. Speaking in May, Elton said "I am incredibly excited that we have appointed Luca and his team," said Elton. "But following Graham Taylor is difficult as Graham is a legend."

HEIRS AND GRACES

Elton is a fan of Mayor of Plattsburgh, New York State, Daniel Stewart, reported the Plattsburgh Press-Republican newspaper on May 7. Just ahead of his concert with Billy in Montreal, Canada, Elton surprised Stewart and a friend by offering them free, front-row tickets to the show. "This guy came directly up to us and gave us these passes and said, 'Mayor Stewart, this is compliments from Elton,'" said Stewart, who is the first openly gay mayor elected in New York state.

JOHN JORGENSEN RETURNS

John Jorgenson filled in for Davey Johnstone as Davey flew back home on May 7 after the shocking news about his son. According to fans that have been to the second Chicago show, John performed very well as Davey sound&act-alike. The show started with Elton singing Happy Birthday to Billy who turned 52 that day.

ELTON ON US TV

On July 4, 2001, U.S. television TNT will broadcast an all-star tribute to Brian Wilson, featuring Elton, David Crosby, Vince Gill, Billy Joel, Ricky Martin, Carly Simon, Paul Simon, Matthew Sweet and many others, according to official reports.



AUCTION LET-DOWN

A jumpsuit owned by Elton failed to sell at all in an Internet auction held on April 21, 2001. The rhinestone jumpsuit didn't meet its \$10,000 reserve price.

UK TV APPEARANCE

Elton was the main guest on chat show So Graham Norton, Channel 4 on March 7th. On a notoriously risqué show, Graham and Elton didn't let us down, with many saucy personal stories, and a gift for Elton of a football complete with a man's genitals!

FIGHT WITH A PHOTOGRAPHER?

It has been reported that Elton was involved in a bust-up with a cameraman outside trendy London restaurant, The Ivy, in March. Elton was said to be furious at having his picture taken and began hurling abuse at the photographer, while his partner David split the two up and got Elton safely into the restaurant. Elton was also attending the nearby Ritz Hotel for a party he hosted to celebrate his birthday. An onlooker said: "Elton got out of the car and then just went mad. He was annoyed at having his picture taken and hurled abuse at the snapper." Tempers hadn't cooled when Elton left the restaurant - the pair exchanged words again.

SATURDAY NIGHT WAS ALRIGHT

Rising star Anastacia played to a sell-out crowd in London on 9 June. During the encore she spoke of the highlight of her career so far; dueting with Elton at Madison Square garden last October. "I can't remember being on stage but the man kissed my navel!" Fulfilling the hopes of two Hercules members in the audience she went on to perform Saturday Night's Alright For Fighting.



Photo: L Sykes



Photo: S Kalinoski



Photo: J Collins

JUST FOR FUN

LYRIC QUIZ

Have a go at our popular lyric quiz. We give you a line - see if you can name the song! (Answers on page 27)

- 1 Bulldog stubborn, born uneven
A classless creature, a man for all seasons
- 2 Frankenstein's inside my mind
And the wind's inside my sails
- 3 It's the same old feeling I get
When you're stealin' back into my bed again
- 4 This man holds a hand which shows a tremble
This man that I live in bears his faults
- 5 Is Memphis real or just a song
Three thousand miles from home
- 6 Staring out in black and white
From the tall grey walls on the other side
- 7 Look at me don't you believe me
Cheating hangs a noose around your neck
- 8 I ain't no puzzle piece that needs to fit
If it takes more than me let's call it quits
- 9 I'm a man working on the living part of life
You see through me
- 10 Insane they took the paddles
My arms they paralysed
- 11 Let me go back where you found me
'Cause I miss my basement
- 12 Mack he's got his Marlboros tucked up in his sleeve
He's shackled up in the basement making PCP

Elton & Billy in Chicago,

May 7, 9 and 11, 2001 *By Sharon Kalinoski*

The announcement of 3 shows at the Allstate Arena in Rosemont, Illinois, did NOT thrill me, due to the exorbitant \$175 regular ticket price. \$525+ to attend 3 concerts? At that rate it is almost cheaper to fly to Hawaii or Europe and see a few EJ-only shows! So, I initially planned on seeing only 1 or 2 of these shows near my home.

Due to some fortunate twists of fate, I ended up seeing all 3 without busting my budget. Though the set lists and antics did not vary much, I realized early into the first show that I had to go to the second show. Why? First, because I had to hear EJ's version of "Just The Way You Are" again, since it was much better than Billy's. (No apologies.) Also, because of the excellent rendition of "All the Girls Love Alice"; the EJ band really rocked. I missed John Jorgenson's guitar on this, but Bob Birch's bass stood out for a change.

Since the tour opening on the West Coast, several songs had been dropped from the set: about 2 each of Elton's, Billy's, and from their joint end-of-show jam. The Chicago shows were very nearly 3.5 hours long even with 6



missing songs.

Near the end of the first (Monday night) show, Elton made a startling announcement that would totally change the mood, and the rest of the tour. Before "Candle...", he told the crowd that the son of guitarist Davey Johnstone (Oliver, age 9) had just died in an accident that night. Fans were stunned. The next day we found out that the boy had drowned in a swimming pool at home in California.

I speculated that John Jorgenson might be called upon to fill Davey's place for the rest of the shows. That turned out to be the case, and it was great to see JJ on stage again, but very sad that it was due to a terrible tragedy. John told me that he promised Davey, "he would ROCK and have fun for him," even under the

circumstances.

During the final 2 Chicago shows, John played spectacularly. Yes, the sound was different during the guitar solos---but in a good way, sounding energetic and fresh. EJ appeared to be "wowed" a few times, and JJ gradually got more comfortable wandering over to the EJ side of the stage more

often. If Davey and John will be playing together again, perhaps they should sometimes take turns on stage so as not to cover up/down out the other's playing.

Friday's show was a celebratory capstone to the week, the music triumphant over adversity. Elton dedicated it to the Johnstone family, and I could feel that the whole band played their hearts out in tribute.

Musically, Billy injected some surprise instrumental tunes just before the final song: he started with Gershwin's "I've Got Rhythm", Elton accompanying. Together, both followed with short pieces of "The Sound of Music", and 3 or 4 other songs from the classic film, for a crowd sing-along, before finally segueing into the last "Piano Man." What a week.....!



Photo: L. Sykes

AN EMOTIONAL CONCERT - JOHN JORGENSEN

George Matlock reviews John's The Borderline gig on Nov. 20, 2000. Adapted from a report on www.eltonfan.net



Elton John band-member John Jorgensen strummed his guitar, licked it tenderly and brought out some of the city's luminaries of music, when he performed at The Borderline club in central London.

Before the show, there were antics outside the doors which remained firmly shut until gone 8pm. JJ stepped outside to conduct an interview on a mobile phone. We wondered what sort of interview it was, as we watched JJ walk over to a garbage skip and rummage in the pile. Several black polythene bags later, JJ walked back with a cream-coloured flex cable from an old electrical kettle, and remarked: "That will come in handy. Just needs a clean."

The Hercules crowd thought the interview was conducted with one Benjamin Pell, John Reid's bin raker!

But John's comment is typical of this down-to-earth, warm and personable performer.

JJ was pleased to see the Hercules fans, as was his drummer, former Elton band member Charlie Morgan, who came over from the US to support JJ's first ever UK tour. He was also joined on stage by Badfinger's Jeff Ross on keyboards and guitar, and a Glaswegian bass guitarist, Alan Thompson - tipped to play in a revival of Deacon Blue.

JJ performed songs from his

new album Emotional Savant, such as Jig in 'D', which JJ insisted he does play in 'D', as well as tracks from The Beatles, in his 1 hour-50-minute show.

JJ remarked after several songs, that he usually has an assistant that passes him new guitars on stage. "But this isn't an Elton John concert and so we don't have the budget. And that doesn't include any missing millions!"

JJ also referred to a music festival in France which he's visited four times, on an idyllic island on the River Seine at a town called Samoio. He was so inspired by the friendly locals, he wrote a song about them, a Waltz, played in the traditional rhythm by Charlie. The song was called Valse de Samoio.

Among guest appearances were producer Gus Dudgeon and Elton duet singer, the wonderfully at-ease Kiki Dee, mingling with the crowd and dancing to JJ's performance.

Several more The Beatles songs followed, as JJ, who spoke of the fun playing Liverpool's Cavern Club last week on tour, sounded as though he'd never left the Cavern. Now he's back!

SNAP BIOG:

Southern California native and a three-time winner of the Academy of Country Music award for "Guitarist of the Year," John Jorgensen was classically trained as a child - his father conducted for Benny Goodman, even played with his hero. Later, John went on to work for eight years as a member of the Jazz and Bluegrass group at Disneyland. While employed at the "happiest place on earth," John contributed his skills on a number of instruments including mandolin, saxophone, guitar and clarinet. At another point in his career he was the featured bassoonist for the L.A. Camerata. Yet it was

John's guitar skills that brought him fame and respect as he recorded with the Byrds, as well as Rose Maddox, Roy Orbison, Bob Dylan, Bonnie Raitt, Dan Fogelberg, and Michael Nesmith.

In 1986, John collaborated with West Coast cream, forming a truly traditional country-rock outfit called the Desert Rose Band. With the release of their second project in 1988, Running, they were named the Academy of Country Music's "Touring Band of the Year." This honour was repeated in 1989 and 1990.

Despite major success, by 1992 the band was fragmenting. John joined the Hellicasters, a band that came together after a one-time-only

gig in 1991. Comprised of John and fellow Hellicasters Will Ray and Jerry Donahue, the Hellicasters were made up of three lead players and no vocalist. The Return of the Hellicasters, their debut recording, was voted both "Album of the Year" and "Country Album of the Year" in 1993 by Guitar Player magazine. A second Hellicasters project in 1995, Escape from Hollywood, followed. John recorded and toured with Elton John during 1995, staying with the band until late 2000. His debut solo album Emotional Savant came in 1999, and became available on Assassination Records in Europe in 2000.

LIVERPOOL

what a weekend!



Ready to go in...



Roger Pope and George in discussion



Ray Elton Johnson cuts the cake



Mick Noller, Stewart Brown and George Matlock mid performance



March 24th 2001 was a date that many Hercules members had long had pencilled in their diaries. This was the day of the first Hercules International Convention. The Hercules hierarchy hoped this would rival the U.S. Expos and they were not to be disappointed. The event took place at the Cavern Club in Liverpool. The guests included Stewart Brown, Mick Inkpen and Freddy Gandy from Bluesology, Roger Pope and John Jorgenson.

All of the guests provided wonderful entertainment whether playing their music, answering questions or regaling

us with stories.

This occasion marked the first time Bluesology had played together for over thirty years. Freddy was unfortunately unable to play due to injury, but Stewart's cousin helping out on guitar and a certain George Matlock on keyboards joined Stewart and Mick onstage. They began their set with 'Come Back Baby' and the entertainment did not let up. For a 2 song finale they were joined on stage by Roger Pope who received rapturous applause. Earlier in the afternoon John Jorgenson had played a set accompanied by his bassist Alan. John played self – penned tracks from his

'Emotional Savant' album and also cover versions of songs by the likes of Roger McGuinn and George Harrison. He went down a storm with the audience. After his musical duties for the day were over John took questions from the floor about his career. After a short break, John was again being worked hard as he signed autographs and had informal chats with the audience. He was willing to do this for hours and it was most appreciated. All the while Roger Pope was mingling with those present, happy to sign autographs and chat at length about his time with Elton.

Other parts of the afternoon

CONVENTION

by John Michie, Photographs: S Kalinoski



Ray Elton Johnson on stage with George Matlock



The Cake



George Matlock chats to Roger Pope



John Jorgenson busy signing autographs



Mick Noller, Mick Inkpen and Stewart Brown on stage



Stewart Brown on stage with George

were familiar to those that had attended past conventions, with music and videos playing and a fiendishly difficult quiz. The day provided an opportunity, as ever, to meet up with fellow fans. Sharon Kalinoski was manning the Hercules stall that included amongst its wares a souvenir brochure. To cap everything off there was a wonderful grand piano cake to help us all celebrate Elton's 54th Birthday a day early. It almost seemed a shame to cut it, but this task was duly completed by our resident Elton lookalike, Ray Johnson.

The Cavern activity ended at 7 pm. It was difficult to drag ourselves away after such a

good day. Luckily, those of us that were staying at The Hilton, St Helens were at the same location as our special guests. A large gathering reconvened in the late hours of Saturday into the early hours of Sunday. Further anecdotes were shared and the day was relived. This was aided by Stephan having a 'slide-show' of pictures on his laptop computer.

At lunchtime on the significant date of Sunday 25th March people finally said their goodbyes. There was one final treat before everyone headed for his or her cars or trains. The hotel pianist played Song For Guy as a group photo call took

place. It just remains for me to thank Hercules, in particular George, for organising this unique event.

A VERY SPECIAL, LIMITED EDITION, VIDEO RELEASE OF THE CAVERN CLUB CONVENTION, INCLUDING BACKSTAGE AND REHEARSAL CAPERS, WILL BE RELEASED IN OCTOBER 2001 (on both NTSC and PAL formats)

More details to follow in the September fanzine.

LETTERS

Send or email your letters to David Wright, Editor
(address on page 2)

Roger THE Pope

Roger Pope hammers home to George Matlock about his early years in Elton's music. The full interview to be published in Hercules fanzine and online www.eltonfan.net later in 2001.

George,
I just wanted to drop you a line to thank you for all your efforts in making the Convention a memorable event. It was my first, so you've got a lot to live up to next time!!!

Seriously though, it was really enjoyable (apart from the tough quiz!!!). I thought all the guests were brilliant and it was a great thrill to see Bluesology (as even I'm not that old to have seen them before). Roger Pope (what a character) performed with Elton in the era that will always be my favorite. I saw Roger perform with Elton in 1976, and it made my day/year to see him up on stage again on those drums, especially having got to socialise with him hours before I knew what it meant to him.

I was disappointed at missing Jon Jorgenson when he came to London, so it was great to make up for that.

The choice of venue was superb, and to see these guys playing there was a treat. The fact that we were able to spend time with them all both at the event, and

at the hotel put the icing on the cake. Who would have thought I'd be buying Roger Pope a drink (a double at that)? They were all great and credit must go to you for getting them to attend.

Ray Johnson played his part as well, and that's a great photo of him asking for John's autograph. Listening to stories from 3 different Elton/Reg era's was really interesting, and if it wasn't for the lack of sleep, I could have continued hearing those tales long into Sunday night as well.

It was good to catch up with all the Hercules friends that I made last year, and to meet new ones including Stephan and Sharon.

My daughter Sarah enjoyed herself immensely, and said she was made to feel welcome by everyone (3 kisses from Roger Pope as well).

Anyway, thanks once again. Please pass them on to Stephan, Sharon and all the others that helped.

All the best
Mark Giles – UK Member

SNAP BIOG:
Born Whitstable, Kent, 20 March 1947, his father a drummer, and mother a singer. He left school at 15 years, and took to a drum his father bought for £25. Within 3 months was playing in local band The Soul Agents, and within a year went professional. Touring the UK, band met Rod Stewart who was with Long John Baldry's Hoochie Coochie Men, and Rod joined. Roger has backed Buddy Guy, and was a member of the Kiki Dee Band. Roger also recorded for albums by Sir Cliff Richard, Hall & Oates, drums and bass for Al Stewart, was on LJB's It Ain't Easy (1971), Harry Nilsson's Nilsson Schmilsson (1971), and China self-titled album (1977). Roger's work for Elton albums: Empty Sky, Madman Across The Water, Tumbleweed Connection, Madman Across the Water, Rock of the Westies, and Blue Moves. His Hookfoot releases were: Hookfoot (1971), Good Times a Comin' (1972), Communications (1973), Roaring (1974), and Headlines (1975). This year, some of Chris Darrow's work were re-released, 1971 debut album Chris Darrow back to back with Under My Own Disguise, with Roger on drums and tambourine.

I thought I would write and say thanks for a great convention. Martin and I really enjoyed ourselves and we were really glad we went.

My highlight was talking to John J as i brought his CD 'Emotional Savant' and in track 8 he mentioned New Zealand, my home country. I asked him all about it and he reckons it is the best country in the world. Just like Clive Franks!

All the best,
Vicki Armstrong, UK Member

Hello George,
Its Sunday night and I would like to send a very big thank you to you and the other members of Hercules who helped to make Saturdays event at the Cavern so memorable. I think Bluesology did very well considering the rather long lay off, don't you? I would like to thank you for bringing us together and so bravely sitting in for our other piano player, well done! I cannot tell you just how much I enjoyed playing once again and look forward to repeating the occasion again sometime within the next 34 years :)

Best wishes,
Michael Inkpen

It's March 10, 2001, and after several false starts, we manage to catch busy rock and roll's Roger Pope for an interview from a region he's never left since he was nine years old, the south coast of England.

Some people have misspelled his name as "Rodger", but we wonder why this drummer-with-attitude has also become labelled "rogue-er". When you chat with Roger, you realise this man who lived fast in the music years is now getting a grip on his life again. He's no rogue! He's just a solid character in a rock music industry dominated by PC-types, policed by the marketing Men In Black from the record companies.

He's even been the subject of some light-hearted ridicule. The late Jim Henson's The Muppet Show drummer was reputedly inspired by a combination of drummers Keith Moon, Ginger Baker, and Roger!

But his real past, one of great drumming, is again being recognised in high places. After years of absence, Roger is now talking to Elton again. In June 2000, Roger was able to meet Elton backstage in Broadlands, again on his beloved south coast turf. And in October 2000, Roger and his supportive partner, Sue, flew over to see Elton perform the Greatest Hits Live at Madison Square Garden, New York.

They say everyone is the author of their own fate. But colourful Roger's only syntax error came when he spoke his mind, and ruffled a few feathers. And that's exactly what the fans would expect of a rock star! Geez! He's had some great stories in his Elton time, which he wants to share with the Hercules members. So make your excuses and pull over to chat with him today!

The song now making a comeback, Tiny Dancer, reincarnated for the soundtrack to new film Almost Famous, was

actually recorded in, well, let Roger tell is as it was...

"I was in Hookfoot, a band created for the very first Elton album, Empty Sky. We had to pay our mortgages, mine was £22 a month, and we got £5 a day working on a main drainage system in Andover (south coast) as they were building a new housing estate, making the town an overspill for London. We're down the sewers, and I ask the gaffer whether we can get off early to go get an album recorded in London's Air Studios for Elton John [!]. This was for Madman Across the Water. We actually did four songs that night. I was also working this bloody big Hopper [a cement mixer]. I was covered in Cement."

GM: What was that? Semen?
 RP: "Ha! Cement dust! So, we start recording in the studio, and the cement was still in my hair. As I sweat, so this stuff is getting harder! I even still had my work clothes on. No time to get changed! Dave Glover was with me on the working site, and he was the bassist!"

Elton and John Reid were in the studio, but nobody noticed. Roger got £36 for that night's recording. He admits he cannot believe he passed up on taking a royalty, given that Tumbleweed Connection, had been a hit. Roger took a fee instead.

RP: "Elton was a friend. I wasn't doing it for the money. I'd even have done it for free. And yet I am a risk-taker who could see the album might do very well!"

Roger wanted to preserve Hookfoot, which also included Glover, Ian Duck, Freddy Gandy, and Caleb Quayle. "It was probably one of the best bands - ever", says Roger with passion. "But Dick James didn't really back us." The only album on CD, available from Germany, is Hookfoot Live in Memphis. "It's a radio show we did in 1973, and the audience were kept subdued.

I hardly noticed they were even there!" Roger firmly recommends this CD.

At MSG last year, Roger says he walked out half way through the first night's show. "I could see Elton's face, I know them eyeballs, and I knew he was about to quit!" And Roger should indeed know...at the very same venue in 1977, on the penultimate night at the illustrious venue, former Elton manager John Reid, told the band five minutes before they were going on stage, that the band was being disbanded and Elton retiring. The next night was the last time Roger worked with Elton and a chapter in the Circle of Life closed.

Now it is reopened, thanks to Sue's decision to get in touch with Elton's new manager. Roger has never stopped loving Elton, whom he calls "a generous bugger", and Roger has not lost the attitude: "I saw that So Graham Norton show last night. He was disrespectful towards 'Elsie' and I know Elton. He should have punched Norton!" That's the knock-out sound advice of a man who beats things for a living! "I think Norton should be run over!" Take a bow Roger, and welcome home.



STAR!

kiki dee

Kiki Dee chats to George Matlock.

Kiki Dee, Kor Miss Amoureuse to some of us, is still Loving & Free, as her classic self-written track from 1973 rings in our ears. She conveys instant warmth that has never faded, despite the roller-coaster ride of contemporary music.

She has managed to fend off the vices that caught out others, such as the three "ds" drugs, depression, and drink problems, and her 1981 hit *Star* says it all: "Don't you tell me it's tough... They can build you up, and they can break you down, with just the right words".

In this interview, Kiki tells it all. She has views on the get-rich-quick phenomenon, underlined by the "Popstars" hype, and even re-assessed the song *Star* while we were chatting. That's how Kiki is: no fixed, stubborn views. Always prepared to think it over again. So what was it about *Star*? She admitted it was not one of her favourites. She's happier with the acoustic guitar in hand, and the gentle ballads. She's especially proud of her first ever attempt at song-writing with *Loving & Free*.

Star was more commercialised. But I suggested the song was a decoy. Much like Terry Jacks' 1974 classic *Seasons In the Sun*, so too with *Star*. It is an up-tempo feel-good rhythm which conceals bitter or forlorn lyrics.

Her latest album, recorded at the Tickety-boo offices in 1998, is *Where Rivers Meet*. It's an interesting blend of Asian culture music, and underlines a complete revisionism in Kiki's work. That change and lust for experimentation is thanks to the new music influence in her life, Carmelo Luggeri. Recently, he has opened a studio in Hertfordshire, north of London, where demos have already been recorded.

Kiki would sure like to record again with Elton, what with a number one UK hit in 1976 *Don't Go Breaking My Heart*, and follow-ups *Loving You is Sweeter Than Ever* (1979), and *True Love* (1993). Most recently, she partnered again, at MSG last October. But Kiki doesn't want to be labelled as "Elton's singer"; she wants to be defined as an individual. "Me and Elton are musically a million miles apart with my current direction," Kiki says.

Kiki, real name Pauline Matthews, has a nickname Elton

gave her. "He calls me Stan, after the footballer Stanley Matthews," she says. "Also, I'm sometimes known as Perilous Pauline, by mostly just Keek."

Getting her name right is really important since she became a radio presenter. It was a nerve-wracking experience, when she narrated the 3-part *Elton John Story* on BBC Radio 2, in November 2000. In her own words:

"It was quite challenging. First of all, I was interviewed for it as a contributor. I heard they had thought about Phil Collins doing it, and I thought it was an odd choice. Then they asked whether I would present it! I had a script written for me. I remember having to lie down at home after doing it! I tried to narrate it in a natural way, but without punctuating it with too much of my own personality, especially





since it wasn't my words. I kept it deadpan really! It was fun."

There were a few aspects Elton might not have appreciated in this rockumentary: "There wasn't time for me to sit and analyse it, I was reading it off the cuff, and didn't

contribute towards it. The moment when John Reid was applauded for steering

something, and the drugs thing. I feel

people do dramatise that part of his life, which is understandable in

journalism."

GM: Elton does seem to encourage that too, talking a lot about the drugs situation. It came through in the recent Parkinson interview, as elsewhere.

KD: "Yes I guess he does. But the Parkinson interview was very good, Elton came across very grown up."

And which Elton songs does Kiki like? "I like Rocket Man, and ballads like Come Down In Time from that period. Daniel, because I have a friend called Daniel in New York, and I'm Still Standing. I like the ballads most.

Nigel Olsson asked Kiki to

perform the Roachford song Naked Without You, for his new album, out in Japan since February. Nigel approached Kiki during the MSG show last October. Much like with Don't Go Breaking, this song was also recorded by adding Kiki's vocals on the other side of the world, Nigel in California, Kiki in London. The song was recorded in England in November, and Carmelo produced the vocals. "I haven't heard it yet, ha!" Kiki said it's close to the original version of the song, but as a duet. "I liked the lyrics, and I think my voice sounded good on it."

Kiki, born Bradford, Yorkshire, 6 March 1947, knew she wanted to sing since she was 10. The rest, as they say, is history.



WHERE FANS AND ARTISTS MEET

CAVERN CD OFFER

Hercules has arranged a special deal for fans. You can buy Kiki's latest album, *Where Rivers Meet*, and the first 100 copies bought will be signed by the star!

The special price on this item is £12.99. Also (non-signed) copies of earlier album *Almost Naked* are priced £12.99. All prices include UK p&p, and both albums available direct from the record company

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blues for my



Stewart A. Brown & Mick Inkpen
recite the Genesis to George Matlock

Mick Inkpen, the drummer we heard at the Cavern, never much cared for a "daft" name like Bluesology, culled from a famous 1960s song by jazz man Django Reinhardt. But how wrong he was. Not only was it Elton's first proper band, and one which catapulted him into worldwide fame, the name lives on!

It lives on, **bizarrely enough, in two acts which liked the name enough, to "nick it" themselves. Firstly, there is Armand & Bluesology, and another act, a black soul jazz crooner who goes under a name I kind of like, for reasons to become obvious during this special afternoon: King George Bluesology!**

And in March, it lived on at the Cavern, as Mick and original vocalist and guitarist Stewart A Brown, together with his cousin Mick Noller on bass, re-create the sound of Come Back Baby. They were short of a keyboardist, but the name I'd recommend couldn't make it!

Stewart was all nostalgic when I called him in March on a Spanish island resort he has called home since 1976. Stewart is a crusader against the local techno muzak, and plays in a band called Me And Him, doing cover versions of songs like Daniel. "But we do them close to the original, to please the English tourists and expats. Sadly not re-interpretations," he says.

Music came early. "When I was eight, I visited three cousins of mine in Ipswich, and two of whom play. I picked up their guitar, and couldn't put it down! Someone took a photograph of me in short pants (never found it again!), and soon I acquired my own guitar," Stewart says.

Stewart was dating Reg's cousin. "I talked to her fanatically about music, and said I needed a piano player for this Blues stuff we play. She invited him. Reg came around, and played Great Balls of Fire, my goodness, exactly like Jerry Lee Lewis!"

Stewart says Elton adapted fast to Blues, the genre of the band. Both Stewart and Mick were big jazz blues fans,

perhaps because it was exotic to someone living in a comfortable London suburb instead of an impoverished outback of 1930s America.

"We are really looking forward to playing at the Cavern, and you will recognise something about Blues in the lyrics of a song we hope to perform," says Stewart.

But Stewart admits they had to find a commercial song to record. That spawned Reggie's first song, lyrics AND music, Come Back Baby. "It was his song, and his style completely, even though we didn't know what his style was back then," Stewart says. "Reg wasn't a prolific writer at that time."

Bluesology also had their scrape with the Underworld! The band's fast-talking manager Arnold Tendler convinced label Fontana to record the mono song. But he later fell from grace, a man involved with the jewellery trade who had some bad luck and went to prison for a time in the early 1970s. "But he was a sweet rough diamond! I really nice, sweet man," Stewart recalls.

Dave Murphy was another bad luck story, as Bluesology cranked up the legal points! The saxophonist fell out with the band, and took the tour van from London to Germany and was never seen again! "I gave him the sack at Clook Clique, the railway hotel in West Hampstead, and the van vanished forever! Fortunately, no instruments inside!" After that, sax was covered by Elton Dean, the half-name inspiration for Elton John.

With singers Alan Walker, Marsha Hunt and LJB, Stewart had already relinquished the lead vocals slot. But the hits came through, in November 1967 with UK chart-topper Let

baby Come

the Heartaches Begin, and later a solo debut beckoned for Stewart on Elton/Bernie-penned I Can't Go On Living Without You, arranged by Bluesology's replacement for Reggie, Jimi Horowitz. And a song Lulu didn't end up singing in the 1969 Eurovision Song Contest. Side B of the song was Don't Call Me, by Stewart and later Elton lyricist, Gary Osborne

Mick recalls the name Bluesology could be traced back to Reggie's bedroom record collection. "It was huge, about 800 LPs back then. Carefully catalogued. He had the Django album in his collection." He also had a book club collection, and no jokes please, "a Dickens collection at his fingertips."

Mick remembers not being a star on guitar, when guitar bands were all the rage. Drummers were less common. He'd already formed a lacklustre band, and heard Stewart's The Corvettes were splitting. Mick sensed his moment, and, with bass guitarist Rex Bishop, joined Stewart and Reg. Salesman Mick: "If I came with a bass player, it's a better ready-made package."

Bluesology 'toured' the UK. At one Scottish venue they wouldn't let punters have beer glasses for fear of trouble. Mick wonders whether that was the inspiration for the Scot on picture sleeve to Elton's Saturday Night's Alright (for Fightin').

But Elton knew how to quell a riot, even then. "We were the inappropriate entertainment at an Irish wedding in Neasden, London, when a fight broke out. Reg pulled out all his sheet music, and we dropped blues numbers, switching to pub standards. Soon they ran out of furniture," said Mick.

By 1967, Mick was getting tired of the routine, and

he got a further discouragement when Bluesology was asked to back Patti Labelle. Patti thought Mick couldn't manage a technique. Stewart says he's heard Mick has now perfected it!

SNAP BIOGS:

Stewart: Born 6 Feb. 1948, Hillingdon, London. Reg joined Stewart's band The Corvettes early 1960s, then Mick Inkpen as they rename Bluesology, with Twink's Fairies' Freddy Gandy later replacing Rex Bishop. In 1969 works with Nigel Olsson on Plastic Penny's last German tour. Joins Cochise with BJ Cole, a steel guitar player, for one year. Retires to travel, farm, and start a family in Wales 1972.

Mick: Born 26 January 1948, Pinner. Now lives in Devon, worked with local bands and gave up drums in 1984.



Photo: S Kallinoski

SCHOOL REPORT 2:

Teacher I need you!!



Judy in April 2000

Following the popularity of our first School Report on March 2001 fanzine, George Matlock talks to Elton fan Judy Williams who recalls Pinner County Grammar School

George Matlock: If Elton remembers you, what was your maiden name?

Judy Williams: It was Williams. I married, changed my name, then divorced, married a second time, reverting to my maiden name.

GM: How did you come to know Reginald, as Elton was then known?

JW : He was a year above me in school. I started at Pinner County in 1959. So I didn't know him an awful lot. I knew him probably more than he knew me. We weren't in classes together. It was through Dick Morgan's connection at the Royal Academy of Music that I really got to know more of Elton. That was at my third or fourth year at Pinner.

GM: Was there anything about Reg that made people take notice of him?

JW : He was not a bully. He was a pleasant person. Often those in years above you at school throw their weight around, and are intimidating. He never did.

GM: Some people are just conventional, they are just another brick in the wall, to use Pink Floyd's famous school rebel lyric. How would you describe him?

JW : He stood out insofar as he dressed a little bit differently. But one thing that's interesting: I've looked back through all my old school magazines, and he's not mentioned even once in those. That's brick in the wall. That surprises me, because when you think of his achievements at the Royal Academy – he was probably

the only person at the school who did that. It didn't get mentioned at all. I don't know why. Maybe he didn't want it mentioned. He never made a big thing about it. He was known for being good musically. He didn't strut his stuff. He didn't play sport. He didn't stand out in any other way.

GM: Perhaps he wasn't an exhibitionist, and his modesty is what cost him his peer group value. But dressing differently is often a sign of 'look at me'. In what way was it?

JW : You could always do subtle things with the regulatory school uniforms we all had to wear. Things like the collars of his shirt were different. He had a tie-pin in his collar. Waist-coats were a fashion. And I have a memory of him doing that. He wasn't tall, and he was podgy. But he just looked smart.

GM: How was he academically? You see him in television interviews and he comes over very articulate, quick-witted, and even interested in the affairs of state. I think he stood for the Conservatives in student elections, didn't he?

JW : I don't remember too well.

GM: In that case he didn't win.

JW : No, and I didn't vote for him, ha! It rings a few bells. I don't think anyone of us was particularly politically aware, being young. I was a CND supporter [Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament]. What I do remember was his musical ability being respected by the music and head masters of the school.

GM: What was the music master's name?

JW : Mr Stoupe. The headmaster, Mr Westgate-Smith, was also very interested in music. He was a



Judy at Pinner County, 1964

lovely man. He held Reg in high regards, although Reg was never written up, nor big in assembly [religious service].

GM: We know now that Elton protects his privacy. He came from a middle class family, and perhaps didn't feel the need to prove himself as much?

JW : I think you're very right. I don't think he even had a nickname at school.

GM: Did other pupils bully him?

JW : Never saw him threatened. I think his musical abilities were enough to hold off trouble. It wasn't an unpleasant school, but anyone who wasn't good at sport got bullied. The fact that the headmaster respected him also helped.

GM: Tell us about the 11-plus Grammar school. So you were bright young things?

JW : Ha! When you got to Grammar school, it was only the top form in the school that actually got any attention. So that once you got to Grammar school, having



Reg at Pinner County, 1964

been streamed, you were streamlined again! Anyone who was not in the top form was not valued as much, which I think was very sad. There was an elite of the elite. Those creamed off would go to university. I was initially in the top forms, and I think he was in the mid-streams.

GM: So, academically he didn't excel.

JW No he didn't. I don't know what his final 'O' Level results were, but doubtless passes.

GM: Did you sense at time that he was interested in university? He didn't go on to do 'A' Levels to qualify for university.

JW : No, at the time he was leaving the school in 1964 I went out once with a member of Bluesology, who I think was called John, and I remember we went to a party where Reg was there. He was earning his living through playing music. I found that odd: my career looked as though it would be university, which was the traditional route. He was unusual in that he left school, went to

work, but not in a bank or anything like that.

GM: Dick Morgan said he had few recollections of Elton being in the company of girls.

JW : No, I don't have such recollections either. I remember a group of men whom I loosely would call "dandy" when Elton was in his fifth or final year at school. They prided themselves on the way they looked, but not in an ostentatious way. And I remember Elton being part of that group. They were refined rather than rugby players, and rather than academic. I never remember him having a girlfriend.

GM: In those days, the morning religious service was a big thing in Christian schools. Was there evidence of him excelling there?

JW : Well, he was the only pupil allowed to play the school piano. It was a Steinway. Only teachers played it. Very select. But I don't have recollections of him even playing in assembly. The only thing he might remember me in, was a

school play, when he was in the Lower Sixth year. He came in during rehearsals and played the piano. The production was Bertolt Brecht's *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*. He was just around, not even particularly involved in the production. I have this memory of him coming in and just playing wow! Key-perfect just from cold.

GM: Did he have regular friends?

JW : I looked at the school photo. There was a guy called Martin, who is standing next to him in the photo. I can't think of anyone who was a real buddy. He was a loner.

GM: I bet some pupils wished they'd got to know him better! Did you try to get to know him?

JW : He was older than me. There was also hope the boy would make the first move!

GM: That would be interesting wouldn't it? Might have changed his life forever, and I don't think anyone would have thanked you for it, ha!

JW : I liked him, perhaps because he was different.

GM: The school romance – the one that got away.

JW: Oh God!

GM: So how much of a fan are you?

JW: I have many of his records, although I think I would like him whether I knew him or not. The songs touch different parts of your life at different times. I went with Dick to see Elton at Margham Park in Wales [2000]. I live at the end of the world, so it's not easy to go to shows. I grew up next door to Dick in Pinner, and we both had parents with connections with Pembrokeshire, Wales. I moved here 20 years ago. I'm currently playing his One Night Only and enjoying it.

Interview conducted February 25, 2001. Now virtually extinct in the UK, Grammar schools were state-run schools where academically-gifted children went on sitting the 11-plus exam, aged 11 years. Vocationally-skilled kids went to Secondary Modern Schools, in the days before Comprehensive education was introduced in the late 1960s.

PART 4 OF OUR EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH ELTON SOUND ENGINEER CLIVE FRANKS



Clive gave our UK manager George Matlock a full 2-hour interview on 12 July 2000:

George Matlock: The venues have tested you a bit haven't they? Tell us about Wembley Stadium June 1998, when Billy Joel famously had to pull out.

Clive Franks: That was the worst show I have ever had to deal with in my life. I knew that (sound problem) was going to happen, and I told them before that. But they wanted to play across the stadium for a more intimate feel, than having the band at one end of the stadium and crowds far out. They thought there would be more people closer to the stage. Normally, bands play lengthways, as we've done many times before. The new format was done just before us by The Eagles at Wembley. They had countless problems too! So I don't know why we didn't learn from that. And there's also the over-hanging metal roof. The sound gets trapped under there, bounces out, at about a half-second decay time, and is louder than the damn PA! So you hear two of everything, the second sound being louder and tinny and horrible. (I have delusions) of a line of people who came up to me, and my staff had to fight them off! It became very fish-eye lens to me! I saw Klu Klux Klan people, and people in black hoods with scythes and hatchets, screaming at me to do something about the sound. There was nothing I could do.

GM: The only other venue I can describe on a tinny dustbin

In the concluding part of our exclusive interview Clive Franks recalls concert venues to George Matlock, and the times he nearly quit Elton John

Richter scale is Wembley Arena, especially in December 1997 with the band.

CF: It's another tough room because, not a lot of people know, it's built with a swimming pool underneath the floor. It's hollow down there. And the sound just gets trapped in a huge hole. A nightmare. For a solo show I could get away with it, but for a band, impossible. But it was ten-times better than the Wembley Stadium! When you play a small club, the sound is pretty much uniform. But when you play such a vast area, different parts of the arena sound different. You can't get it perfect everywhere.

Clive seems to agree with Hong Kong on how to improve personal sound, with his right Red revolutionary idea.

CF: I've been saying it for years. Not have a PA system at all, but give everyone wireless headphones. Everyone would get the same sound. Of course, it would cost you a fortune because you'd only get a quarter of the headphones back! That for me would be a wonderful solution, and then I would mix, wearing headphones. Maybe it would be weird though for people to really get into a rock concert with phones on.

GM: A bit like being at home in front of the Hi-fi! Wasn't headphones for the crowd demanded by the municipal authorities in Hong Kong for the aborted Elton handover concert, July 1997. The Asian press reported Elton angered by the proposal and he quit.

CF: I remember that. I heard that comment on the radio myself. It's amazing what you read on the internet. I don't know the facts, only that the show was off because of all the rules and it was too loud. I think it was one of the things which came into it.

GM: Perhaps Beijing isn't an Elton fan!

CF: I've played places like that before. In Australia, when we played with Billy Joel in 1998, in Sydney. We did three or four nights at the Cricket Ground, and we were following Michael Jackson who had been there a few weeks before. There had been massive complaints about his sound. Not that the sound was bad – as I know the guy who mixes Michael. But volume gets out. There's a lot of low sounds in Michael Jackson's show, synth bass stuff, and it's not top end which travels but the bass. I had the Sydney council sitting with decibel meters with me, and the level they wanted me to go at...I tell you, if I'd sneezed I'd have sent their meters over the top. Such a low decibel level, so frustrating. The mix was good, but the energy wasn't there because of the low permitted level. But you cannot go against the council because you are allowed x-minutes per hour exceeding the decibel limit which was about 94 DB at the console. When the audience applauded, it did go over 94! If you go over the number of minutes allowed, you get charged thousands of dollars per extra minute. So you try not to run up those costs.

As we publish this instalment, Elton is currently trying to overturn a court ruling on overseas tour expenses at which ex-manager John Reid gave evidence, having settled with Elton out of court. In an amusing anecdote, Clive in July 2000 talked about how some costs were willfully made in that era:

CF: I remember John Reid once came out to me and said 'why is the sound so soft?' And I said 'because I'm up against this DB limit and we're gonna get fined.' He said 'sod it! Turn it up.' This one show cost us US\$10,000! He



Pictures courtesy of Clive Franks



Pictures courtesy of Elton band member John Mahon

told me to turn it up! He felt it more important for people to have a good time.

Clive admits a solo tour eases his job to get a good sound, but with the band, he sometimes despairs.

CF: With the band it's more of a challenge. I get very critical and go through bouts on tours when I get very depressed because of the sound. But my acceptance threshold is very high. Many people come up to me and say it was the best sound they have heard in this building, which is all very well, but it doesn't always make me feel good. Nowadays we only do three or four shows a week, and so there's a lot of sitting around. So for those three hour performances I want the sound to be great.

GM: So, if you're a perfectionist, how close have you ever been to quitting?

CF: Once or twice. It's hard when you've got family. Sadly, my marriage fell apart, after 19 years. It's amazing how any relationship in this (showbusiness) can last, but we're still very close, and have two wonderful kids. Sometimes everything gets on top of you. Even Elton sometimes suffers this 'oh God, another gig tomorrow'. Yet, once you're on stage you do it! People don't see the other side. People think it's all rock and roll and parties. Well, when we were younger there were the parties. Now with family commitments it's harder...but it is like a drug. Many times I've said 'Never again!'. I get home, three or four weeks, and I want to go on the road again. It's strange, it has that power. I play several instruments, and always dreamt of being a rock star, and never made it. So I was very grateful when Elton asked me to work for him, where I could channel my musical energies. I suppose I also am a performer

with my own audience! I am exhausted at the end of every show. Not because I'm getting older. I always was like that.

GM: Sounds like a Work-out.

CF: It really is! The only exercise I get, I'm a lazy bugger really, ha! Elton is a powerful character and when he's in the positive mode, which, thank God, nowadays is nearly all the time, then it's wonderful. He went through some bad times [drugs and drink] and it dragged down everyone else. It was hard to think positive. Now, Elton can walk in a room of people, and sway the mood in there. He's funny, quick-witted, but sometimes gets uncomfortable if he can't communicate with people on his level. As well as I think I know him, you might assume I can sit down with him for a chat, but I keep it more as a business relationship. We talk, but perhaps not as deeply as I might like to. I don't feel comfortable with a one-to-one chat. Weird, but you will find among many people who work for him, that we respect him so much, that aura, that it almost inhibits you from relaxing and being yourself.

GM: It seems like the big tours, big venues, means the first thing you want to do is hang up your duties and relax – which means getting away from the work and its environment.

CF: I am looking forward to having six weeks at home soon, but I know that after a few weeks I will miss this, and want to do more. A strange mix!

Clive mixes the music, not the business and social life. Keeping the space between him and Elton has probably contributed to Elton's and Clive's mutual respect.

CF: It's 95 percent a working relationship. We hardly socialise. I

did go to his South of France house the other day, but only to fix Bob Halley's computer, and then they asked me to stay for dinner. And on the way to the show in Hyde Park, London (July 9, 2001) I had to stop off at Elton's central London home. I'd never even been there. It was interesting to see 'yet another home'. Now that I live in New Zealand there's even less chance of mixing with Elton. I was invited to his 50th birthday party in London (April 1997). Had I been here I would of course have gone, but I didn't make the trek from NZ. It's a very good working relationship. I will be here as long as I can hear, and as long as he can pound the ivories and sing.

GM: Were you at the (Tiara Ball, Windsor) party last week (July 2000)?

CF: No, I wasn't invited but I'm glad I wasn't asked, as I would have felt embarrassed saying no. I don't feel comfortable in that situation. I love what I do, but I'm not overly comfortable with this industry. I like to be with more down to earth people. There are some at such events, but there's also a lot of bullshit. I cannot make small-talk. I don't have an ego at all. The only time I talk about myself is when people like you call me, which is hardly ever. I've done very few interviews. I prefer being a back-room boy.

Clive's idea of socialising is meeting old friends. The following week he was off to Cornwall, south-west England, to meet up with Joe Partridge, guitarist in the Kiki Dee Band.

Clive doesn't belong to the has-beens. Hercules salutes his work and wishes him many more years with Elton! Great thanks to Clive for this interview, and for supplying some of the photos we have used to illustrate this 4-part epic.

Dieter and new band Made In England started their first UK Tour on May 3. We publish a two part interview with the Great Pretender.

George Matlock: Dieter, thanks for agreeing to do this interview. It's a German name isn't it? But has it got anything to do with Elton's former tour sponsor, Diet Coke?

Dieter Graham: Yes, although I don't speak the language, and the only thing Diet is short for is Dieter, rather like Pete is short for Peter!

GM: You were on UK TV contest Stars in their Eyes in 1991. How did that come about? And did you win that contest?

DG: It came about by accident really. I didn't apply, and I didn't impersonate "Elton" at that time. I didn't win either, but feel rather it launched me as an impersonator, and I feel that I'm still learning to master what I've set out to do since then.

GM: How long have you been doing the Elton look-a-like and sound-a-like act? And I never asked how old you are?

DG: Some 10 years now, although I've always been a singer in my own right. I'm (43)

GM: You also do a fine vocal on Billy Joel. I'd say it's uncanny. Some fans told me at Chatsworth House in June you should have been brought in to replace Billy taken ill at Wembley Stadium in 1998! Which came first? The Elton or Billy act?

DG: Strangely both, I've been singing now for some 30 years, and both Elton and Billy inspired me in the beginning, hence the vocal likeness to them, you know it's All About Soul!

GM: Which act is more popular?

DG: That's a ridiculous question!

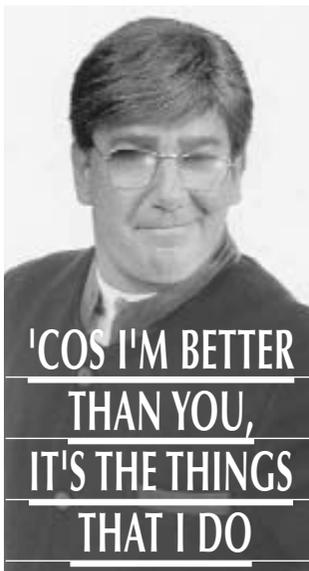
GM: Who helped you decide to do Elton John as an act?

DG: It was probably my brother John, he always thought that I sounded like him (Elton).

GM: Are you actually a fan of Elton, or do you just admire him?

DG: If you mean do I have a shrine? No! And if you admire someone then you must be a fan.

GM: Do you have a large Elton John collection? And what's your prized item?



**Entertainer Dieter Graham
Talks to George Matlock
about his Elton act**

DG: Only a modest amount of CDs and perhaps the rare masters double CD I always felt that his B sides were as good as his A sides.

GM: What's your favourite Elton John song?

DG: I don't have a particular one, as I feel that any one particular song can mean different things to the individual at any one moment in time.

GM: Do you have an Elton song which you don't like?

DG: L.S.D. (Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds).

GM: What other music do you like? And what other interests do you have?

DG: I like all kinds of music, from contemporary country through to trance. It's good not to be stale in musical tastes. Interests? Travel, sport, charities, living!

GM: Have you seen Elton solo recently?

DG: Unfortunately not, my role as impersonator takes up quite a bit of my time.

GM: Now, you have some exciting things going on with your act. No more of the funny (what I call spoof) things. You're now going ever-so-serious with the act and a new band. Tells us more about it.

DG: The show consists of a live band, Keys, drums, guitar, bass, and 4 girls, all singing dancing troupe with a 32-costume change, and it's bloody exciting for me!

GM: What's the band called? And will you take the band on tour across Europe?

DG: "MADE IN ENGLAND" is the name we've decided on, and hopefully next year (2001) will see us tour, we're in talks at this moment in time, and there are a lot of proposals being looked at!

GM: What's the background of the other band members? Are they really like Davey Johnstone, John Jorgenson, Nigel Olsson, and Dee Murray? Where did they come together from? And how much hard graft has it been to perfect their sound and act to appear like the Elton John Band?

DG: The band sound very authentic. But I wouldn't say they are all lookalikes! The band have had previous experience within the Theatre and corporate market with a female singer, who shall at this moment remain nameless (That should get you thinking, George).

GM: I have. I think she's a bloke in drag! You'll have to see the act to know the truth, however. Regrettably you don't play keyboards. That doesn't affect your act, which is strong on choreography and your singing talents. Do the band play their instruments?

DG: Indeed they do, but I do play the piano, but not on the gig. I still have another trick up my sleeve for you, but that I will save for a later date.

GM: Apart from entertainment, what other professions have you followed, since most "Stars in their Eyes" contestants have other lives too?

DG: I've worked down the mines, and for the odd TV company, and I've even been a chauffeur in the past, and occasionally used to drive James Mansion, the deposed president of the Seychelles around, but I've been a professional singer now for more than 20 years, and it's where my heart and soul are!

GM: Apart from that TV series, what other shows or highlights have there been in your show career?

DG: Various network TV shows both here in England as well as New Zealand and Australia, plus a string of regional stations, an advert for BBC 1 advertising Radio 2. Also vocal credits to Unfinished

Buisness (BBC drama), and of course Reeves and Mortimer show Shooting Stars live theatre tour for six weeks, where I opened the show every night. Yes I am mad!

GM: Well I didn't ask whether you're mad. But your CV reads true. New Zealand Hercules member Vicki Armstrong says she saw you down there some years ago! What does your family think of you doing these gigs?

DG: They are quite proud, but it's something I do for a living so when I'm at home I'm me, I don't have an identity crises, I know firmly who I am and what I want, and sometimes the stress of being away for long periods can be difficult for the family, as well as myself.

GM: Will you perform for Hercules at a special tribute act Contest in the USA next spring?

DG: I will always try to be there, as you well know, except with the band and one thing and another. It could prove tricky, but I will do whatever I can to be there, providing there is enough notice there shouldn't be a problem. But I can tell you I love doing your conventions, I get such a buzz, because the audience love it so much, it's great fun mate!!!

Dieter was interviewed after his storm show at Devonshire Arms Hotel near Chatsworth House, attended by 100 fans, June 2000

SNAP BIOG:

T.V. credits include appearances on ITV/BBC/SKY/Meridan as well as Network T.V. in Australia and New Zealand. Appearances at London's Cafe Royal, Dorchester,

The Grosvenor House, The Inn on the Park, Madame Tussaud's and Rock

Circus as well as shows attended by various members of the Royal Family.

Dieter was also a regularly feature star of "The Great Legends of Rock".

International tours included Austria, Germany, Spain, Italy, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Dubai, Jordan, Beirut, Kuwait, Seychelles and New Zealand

THE MADE IN ENGLAND UK TOUR 2001:

Wed 4th July, Embassy Theatre, Grand Parade, Skegness, Lincolnshire, +44 (0)1754 768333

Sun 8th July, Palace Theatre, Appletongate, Newark, Notts., +44 (0)1636 655755

Fri 13th July, *Marina Theatre*, The Marina, Lowestoft, Suffolk, +44 (0)1502 573318

Fri 20th July, Villa Marina Theatre, Harris Promenade, Douglas, Isle Of Man, +44 (0)1624 628855

Sun 22nd July, Leeds Grand Theatre & Opera House, 46 New Briggate, Leeds, North Yorks, +44 (0)113 222 6222

Thur 26th July, Brycheiniog Theatre, Canal Wharf, Brecon, Powys, South Wales, +44 (0)1874 611622

Fri 27th July, *Rhyl Pavilion*, The Promenade, Rhyl, Clwyd, North Wales, +44 (0)1745 330000

Sun 5th Aug, Pavilion Theatre, Cromer. Norfolk, +44 (0)1263 512495

Fri 10th Aug, Pavilion Theatre, Exmouth

Thur 23rd Aug, Ryde Theatre, Lind Street, Ryde, Isle of White, +44 (0)1983 568099

Sat 1st Sept, Skinandis Night Club, Trail Street, Thurso, Caithness, Scotland, +44 (0)1847 893129

Sun 2nd Sept, Cromlett Club, Invergordon, Scotland,

Sat 8th Sept, Palace Theatre, Kilmarnock, Scotland

Fri 14th Sept, *Lochelly Center Theatre*, Bank Street, Lochelly, Fife, Scotland, +44 (0)1592 418141



Sat 15th Sept, *The Maltings*, Eastern Lane, Berwick upon Tweed, +44 (0)1289 330999

Tues 18th Sept, Landmark Theatre, Illfroccombe

Wed 19th Sept, Oaken Gates Theatre, Telford, Essex

Thur 20th Sept, Doncaster Civic Theatre, Waterdale, Doncaster, South Yorkshire, +44 (0)1302 342349

Fri 21st Sept, Regal Theatre, Carlton Road, Worksop, Nottinghamshire, +44 (0)1909 482896

Tues 25th Sept, Ploughright Theatre, Scunthorpe

Thur 27th Sept, Blackwood Miners Institute, High Street, Blackwood, Gwent, Wales, +44 (0)1495 227206

Sat 29th Sept, Secombe Theatre, Cheam Road, Sutton, Surrey, +44 (0)208 770 6988

Sun 30th Sept, West Cliff Theatre, Clacton on Sea

Fri 5th Oct, The Platform, Central Promenade, Morecambe, +44 (0)1524 582803

Sat 6th Oct, *Glasgow Pavilion*, 121 Renfield Street, Glasgow, Scotland, +44 (0)242 332 1846

Fri 12th Oct, Customs House, South Shields

Thur 18th Oct, King George Hall, Blackburn

Tues 23rd Oct, Winding Wheel, Holywell Street, Chesterfield, +44 (0)1246 345334

Mon 26th Oct, Buxton Opera House, Buxton

Fri 30th Nov, Hilton Hotel, East Midlands Airport

Sat 1st Dec, Royal Sailors Home Club, Queens St, Portsmouth, +44 (0)2392 824231 *Billed As* 'Crocodile Rock'

GEORGE MATLOCK CHATS TATS WITH EVILTWIN, ELTON'S ALTER EGO?

Summer is on its way, and there should be a lot more naked flesh about in the northern hemisphere. But some people will look decidedly "clothed" when they are not. That's the tattoo brigade. For all his extravagancies, Elton is not known to have ever burned his skin in the name of lasting art, but some of his fans sure have.

One American fan, who calls herself Eviltwin, has gone further. She has about half her body covered in the permanent images of Elton from different scenes and eras.

George Matlock: You call yourself Eviltwin on your website. What's the significance of that name?

Eviltwin: I am an identical twin, I am the evil one of us two, so I just kinda earned the name the honest way I suppose... now it has stuck, my tag on my car even says "eviltwin"!

GM: What's your real name?

ET: My real name is Tonie Anthony Jeter. My twin sister's name is Tonia. No one actually calls me eviltwin in public or anything. Mostly it's just "twin" or "sister" or "bitch"!! I am 26, and married.

What part of the world are you from?

I live in North Carolina. I am actually quite disappointed with Elton because he has not come to Charlotte in almost four years now. It's hard for me to see him otherwise!

Well, Tonie, you're definitely no Grey Seal, judging by the array of colourful tattoos on your body. How did you come by tattooing your body?

My twin sister got a tat above her knee of the raven (like E.A. Poe's) and so I thought hey!

that's pretty cool... So I thought hard and long and settled on the Captain Fantastic logo. While Luke (my tat artist) was doing it, we joked about doing a whole collage. Well anyone who has a tat can tell you how addictive they are. Nearly a year later, I had finally decided to go all out. Next I got the Harmony locket, then it just went downhill from there! I get them done a little at a time, \$50 here, \$25 there. Whatever I can afford and whatever Luke has time for.

Why did you choose Elton?

Because Elton is like a GOD! No seriously. I LOVE him! I wanted to get something that meant something special to me. And my other interests are serial killers and horror films. I thought that the Elton artwork might be more presentable in public!

What parts of your body are tattooed? And which tattoo is on which part?

The Elton tat is on my right leg just below my knee. It's about 6 inches tall and goes all the way around in a circle.

Dare I ask why you have selected the tattoos for their specific coverage on that part of your body?

I am fat, there is no other way around it. I decided if it was gonna be in an area that everyone would see it would have to be somewhere I was happy with. I wear shorts all the time so I don't mind people seeing my chubby legs!!

Do other parts of your body sport tattoos?

I also have the symbol from my favourite comic book character on my shoulder blade (Rorschach from The Watchmen) and "Thing One" from Dr. Seuss on my upper arm. Except on its belly, instead

of Thing One, it says: "Twin A" because I was first, my sister has "Twin B"!

Was it painful to put these tattoos on? And are they the real thing? Not washable?

Anyone who says that their tat did not hurt was either drunk or stoned! It hurt like heck, but Elton is a passion of mine so I just sang through the pain!! Luke lets me pop in an Elton CD (he is also a fan!) and we both sing away while he scrapes the ink onto my body! Nope, not washable temporary stuff here. This is gonna stay for life!

Is it possible to get these items in washable format? I'm sure many fans would snap them up!

I don't reckon they can. These are all Luke Edwards originals (aside from the album art that I specifically had him do, Blue Moves, and Captain Fantastic) the piece was done one tat at a time. We didn't plan it. It was made over a three year period and about 30 man hours was probably put into it. I can recollect how much money! (not enough I am sure, this thing is priceless!) Luke is amazing, he leads a band called Tater (www.tatertime.com) and runs a bagel shop as well. He played Holiday Inn at my wedding reception! I cried!

Well Tonie, it's been a pleasure interviewing you.

Thanks for having me. Your readers are welcome to come and check out the tats.. it is actually quite behind, [she means backlog here!]. I have gotten more since then! I am getting Road to El Dorado done in a few weeks!

Part 7 of our Collector's Series on Elton's TV and video optical epics, by George Matlock & Sharon Kalinski. Should you be able to add or correct any details, please email:

HerculesUK@eltonfan.net, or write to: Hercules UK, PO Box 315, Richmond, TW9 3QX, UK.

Please note that Hercules is unable to offer for sale or exchange items listed. We provide the listings for information record only. The series is mainly a compilation of US and UK performances. However, we welcome news of other broadcasts. Thanks to Wayne Martin for his invaluable contribution to this series.

This series, when it first appeared in late 1998, was only produced up to that time. If you have dates for 1998, 1999, and 2000, please submit them now for a finale showreel of this series! In earlier episodes, we detailed Elton's commercial video releases, as well as promo video singles from the 1970s onward.

Thanks for viewing!

Kaleidoscope Eyes

1989

Our Common Future: Daniel & Sad Songs (also on BBC Radio 1) June 3

THE 90'S

1990

JANUARY

Diet Coke Advert (with Paula Abdul) U.S. TV commercial - 3 versions

Arsenio Hall Show (2 Live Songs, Interview) Jan. 19

FEBRUARY

Movietime News (Brief Interview)

APRIL

German TV. April Fool's hoax that Elton will buy German football club!

"Farm Aid" concert Daniel, I'm Still Standing, Candle in the Wind April 7

Kokomo, IN, Ryan White's Funeral (Skyline Pigeon, News Clips) April 11

MAY

MTV Unplugged

JUNE

International Rock Awards uncensored "F**k" comment from EJ June 7

Terry Wogan, Sacrifice - declares all singles royalties to AIDS charities from now on June 15

Knebworth ,UK June 30

JULY

MTV Week in Rock July 27

AUGUST

MTV Rockumentary (Interviews, Music)

OCTOBER

To Be Continued (Special) VH1

Ryan White Movie Ending 2 Minutes

DECEMBER

Jonathan Ross Show

OTHER 1990

Atlantic City

E.T. Tonight : On Sacrifice

Sacre Soirre

ChipMunk's Crocodile Rock

In Concert: Candle in the Wind

Little Richard (no EJ present here)

Sam K is a pig clip, International Rock Award

Sam K: ET, Arsenio

Sam K issue: ET

VH1 to One

Italy TV: "Sacrifice" & "Club at the End of the Street"

Ad for EJ in Montreal CanTV-Knebworth promo

Ent Tonight: Was Not Was

various. Taj Mahal

1991

SEPTEMBER

Ent. Tonight Atlanta

Atlanta Aids Day (Performs Mona Lisa, Grapevine, Your Song) Sept 23

OCTOBER

E!TV Oct 23

Ent. Tonight EJ at Planet Hollywood Oct 24

NOVEMBER

Ent. Tonight, The Who Saturday Nights Alright Nov 22

Ent Tonight on the David Frost Interview Nov 22

Ent. Tonight EJ in London

Ent. Tonight George Michael

OTHER 1991

David Frost Interview / Performs Candle in the Wind

World Music Awards

Mr. John French TV Special

Atlanta Week

Mazda Advert (Goodbye Yellow Brick Rd.)

Two Rooms "Beat UK"

Diet Coke Advert (Solo) U.S. TV commercial

Queen "The Days of Our Lives" (Brief Comment)

MTV Rain Forest Benefit clip

Box Set Promotional Press Conference

Two Rooms Tribute ABC TV Sylvester Stallone

Ent. Tonight Clips Atlanta Aids Walk

Now It Can Be Told: EJ

Jenny Jones: Phillip Norman

Nordoff Robbins - Rod Stewart

In Concert: 2 Rooms promo

1992

Now It Can Be Told with Geraldo Rivera (Story) Feb 4

3-15-92 Nashville, TN (Dee Murray Tribute) March 15

Entertainment Tonight Clips from Dee Murray Benefit March 17

APRIL

Diet Coke Advert w. other (deceased) artists!

Crook & Chase Show (Int, Live Clip, about Dee Murray) April 2

London, UK (Wembley Stadium, 2 Live Songs) April 20

MTV Day in Rock June 17 Barcelona, Spain (Live Concert) July 21

AUGUST

CNN Showbiz interview

Good Morning America (Interview, clips From Atlanta Show) Aug 12

Elton John Interview from Brazil Aug 16

Shea Stadium Aug 21

CNN Headline News Interview Aug 24

MTV Week in Rock (Interview, Clapton/EJ) Aug 29

CNN : Phillip Norman

SEPTEMBER

MTV AWARDS (The One and Guns N' Roses Sept 9

OCTOBER

Madison Square Garden Oct 7

Week In Rock MTV MSG Aids Benefit Oct 12

Regis & Kathy Lee: MSG

Clips of Madison Square Garden Aids Benefit

Walk of Fame Clips

Hard Copy Lawsuit - Elton sues U.S. tabloid for \$35,000 after alleging press intrusion

Last Song Proceeds Clip, Publishing

Ent. Tonight interview and MSG Clip Oct 18

MTV Lawsuit News

Ent. Walk of Fame award

Hard Copy: Atlanta Oct 22

E! TV Lawsuit Clip

NOVEMBER

Elton John with Various artists at the Bridge School Concert in California Nov 1

EJ Aids Foundation Advert, TV commercial Nov 11

Arsenio Hall Show (1 Live Song, Interview, Elton and Bernie) Nov 16

AIDS Benefit (2 news clips) Nov 17

MTV Rolling Stone's 25th Anniversary (Comments) Nov 18

MTV News Clip "I Feel Pretty"

Elton John Live in Estailo, Mexico

DECEMBER

Letterman Top-10 Dec 23

OTHER 1992

Whoopi Goldberg Show (Interview)

ABC In Concert (Interview, Live Clips)

Show Biz Today with Phillip Norman, MTV News Concert with Eric Clapton

The Hope Arkansas High School Marching Band Tribute to EJ

Elton John Superstar Weekend off VH1

Crook & Chase Clip

EJ Days Japan

World Music Awards

I'm Still Standing from 92 Olympics

Paul Gens: Your Song

GRT Two Rooms promo w. Oleta Adams "Don't Let the Sun"

Rolling Stone on BiSex

Versace on EJ

MTV on EJ AIDS Foundation

ET on EJ's hair

Concert of Hope, Arizona Band Tribute Live Last Song- Australia

1993

Boston Concert April

2-8-93 PBS Interview Clip Feb 8

APRIL

New York, NY (AIDS Benefit, 3 Live Songs) April 27

CNN: Aretha Franklin Duets April 28

Head Line News on Atlanta Show May 8

JULY

Good Morning America Sunday July 25

ET: Smash Hits July 27

E! TV News Daily July 28

SEPTEMBER

In a New Light (1 Live Song) Sept 4

Jay Leno Show Sept 20

Tonight Show (Live Song, Conversation) Sept 20

CNN Showbiz (Clip of Tennis Match) Sept 22

OCTOBER

CNN Showbiz (Clip of Press Conference) Oct 15

VH1 Music Talks interview & Simple Life Oct 19

NOVEMBER

CNN: Daily Mirror Nov 5

CNN Headline News Daily Mirror Court Case Nov 15

Des O' Connor Tonight U.K. Thames TV with Kiki Dee singing "True Love" Nov 17

Various news clips from London news on court case

DECEMBER

E! TV Daily News World Aids Day Dec 1

In Concert Duets Special

E! TV Rockers & Drugs

E! TV: Piano Men Special

OTHER 1993

Tommy: The Amazing Journey (Interview)

Piano Men Commercial

Live In Australia clips from Aids Benefit

Ent. Tonight: AIDS auction (Canadian TV)

Ent. Tonight :Oscar Party

Regis & Kathy Lee Special: Aretha Franklin

More Fren-Can news

EJ Comes Clean

EJ's record sale

Inside Edition: Michael Jackson

Whoopi Goldberg: Bernie

APLA Commitment to Life award

VH1: Walden Woods concert

Seinfeld Clip

1994

ABC Lion King special Jan 6

Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame Induction Jan 19

Barbara Walters Special (Interview, Music) March 21

Ent. Tonight Clips from Movie Four Weddings and a Funeral EJ Sings Chapel of Love & But Not For Me April 9

JUNE

The Making of The Lion King (Contains Elton John Interview)

The Lion King: A Musical Journey With Elton John June 15

Good Morning America: Lion King June 16

Top of The Pops "Can You Feel The Love Tonight" June 23

JULY

This Morning Interview

7-11-94 E.T. Tonight EJ&B) Tour July 11

7-15-94 Good Morning America (Int w. Elton and Billy Joel) July 15

7-26-94 Elton John & Billy Joel Meadowlands, NJ: July 26

SEPTEMBER

9-15-94 Bravo TV on George Gershwin Album Elton Sings two Gershwin songs Sept 15

9-20-94 Barbara Walters Special (with added footage) Sept 20

9-20-94 CNN Showbiz (Interview, Clips From Los Angeles) Sept 20

OCTOBER

John Reid in rare swimming pool-side interview as a "business leader"

NOVEMBER

ABC In Concert (Interview, Clips) Nov 12

CBS This Morning Nov 23

48 Hours Elton Aids Foundation : Giving Thanks Nov 23

CNN: Out the Closet shop London, w. Hercules members Nov 28

DECEMBER

Elton & Ray Royal Albert Hall London, England Dec 1

OTHER 1994

CNN Oscar Party

VH1 Flux on the Lion King

MovieNews Special on The Lion King

Hall of Fame: CBS, CNN, MTV

1995**JANUARY**

Golden Globe Awards Jan 21

Bernie on Life Styles

FEBRUARY

Brits Awards, Elton hosts with Ru Paul

Ent. Tonight on Believe Feb 21

MTV Premiere of Believe Feb 22

MTV News on Brits Awards Feb 22

Grammy Nomination (Brief Comments)

MARCH

3-1-95 VH-1 Grammy Interview March 1

3-31-95, 1995 Academy Awards, Oscar for "Lion King" song March 31

APRIL

Made In England VH1 special April 5

Elton John Anthology "His Songs" VH1 April 5

David Letterman Show (Interview & Music "Made In England") May 15

JUNE

Elton concert at EuroDisney's opening of Space Mountain near Paris

Elton John & Ray Cooper Disney Special (1994 LA concert) June 11

JULY

Carnegie Hall Highlights with Sting and Others July 5

VH1 Inside Music Walden Woods Show

SEPTEMBER

CNN: 1996 Olympics commercial uses Elton's "Georgia" U.S. TV commercial Sept 25

South Bank Show on Gershwin album

Today Show /3 Part Interview

South Bank Show, in UK on Gershwin album

NOVEMBER

Rio de Janeiro concert

David Letterman Show (Interview & Music "Blessed") Nov 15

Regis & Kathy Lee (Interview w. EJ at the Hard Rock Cafe) Nov 22

Planet Hollywood comes home (Elton performs "Saturday Night's & Made In England")

George and Alana Show (Interview & Music)

DECEMBER

Cable Ace Awards / Elton wins award for "Disney Special w. Ray Cooper" Dec 2

VH1 Fashion & Music Awards (Blessed and The Bitch is Back with Tina Turner) Dec 3

VH1 to One: Elton John Dec 9

OTHER 1995

MTV NEWS CLIP Elton Performs "I Feel Pretty"

1996

UK's ITV shows "Tantrums and Tiaras", later a video production July

1997**JULY**

1997 Hallo Deutschland: Hercules team interviewed at UNICEF Benefit Concert in Aschaffenburg, July 8

Italian television, funeral of Gianni Versace, Milan

SEPTEMBER

Funeral of Diana, performs Candle in the Wind, Sept. 6

U.K.'s ITV "An Audience With...Elton John" In 1998 released as video, Sept 1997

VH1 Storytellers House of Blues, New Orleans concert

The Nanny sitcom, US TV. Elton makes appearance

Conan O'Brien

OCTOBER

Moline, IL concert

1998

Elton & Billy Joel concert, Tokyo, Japanese TV, March 3

2000

Party in the Park, Elton et al perform Hyde Park, London, Channel 4 TV, July

NOVEMBER

Hercules members sing Crocodile Rock on Zurich TV for Elton special. Also Elton feature at the home of Swiss Hercules rep Bruno Kohli, after Zurich concert Nov. 28

SMALL ADS

Free to Hercules members. Send yours to David Wright, Editor, 100 Winkworth Rd, Banstead, Surrey SM7 2QR, UK, or e-mail him at HerculesEd@eltonfan.net

PEN PALS WANTED!

I want to find pen-pals with whom I can speak about Elton. If you need a friend, write to: NATSHA KOVALENKO, DARZU 84-4, REZEKNE, LATVIA, LV-4600.

LYRIC QUIZ ANSWERS

- 1 Idol
- 2 Let me be Your Car
- 3 Mellow
- 4 I Cry at Night
- 5 Leather Jackets
- 6 Fascist Faces
- 7 Soul Glove
- 8 I Don't Wanna Go On...
- 9 Man
- 10 Where To Now St. Peter?
- 11 Feed Me
- 12 Heavy Traffic

PLEASE REMEMBER...

ALWAYS state your membership number if you send a cheque to Hercules, or pay into one of the Club accounts.

ALWAYS let us know the expiry date of the card, and the cardholders name.

Please note that if you have paid your Membership Fee by Credit Card, your card will automatically be charged again for the renewal fee, at the end of your membership year. If your card has expired in the meantime, or if you have switched companies, please forward your new Credit Card details to Hercules Coordination in time for your next renewal.

TOUR DATES

ELTON JOHN SOLO TOUR 2001

DATE	CITY	VENUE
07-July-2001	Beiteddine, Lebanon	Beiteddine Palace
08-July-2001	Beiteddine, Lebanon	Beiteddine Palace
10-July-2001	Bergerac, France	Stadium
12-July-2001	Bremen, Germany	Stadhalle
14-July-2001	Würzburg, Germany	Residenzplatz
15-July-2001	Berlin, Germany	Waldbühne
17-July-2001	Ephessos, Turkey	The Grand Theatre
19-July-2001	St. Petersburg, Russia	Pushkin Palace
21-July-2001	Riga, Latvia	Skonto Stadium
22-July-2001	Tallin, Estonia	Lauluväljakul
24-July-2001	Stockholm, Sweden	The Globe
27-July-2001	Cassablanca, Marocco	Stadium Mohamed V

Please note: This is not an official Tour Schedule, as it contains unconfirmed dates at time of going to press.

2001

*“Suits
you Sir!!”*



For up-to-the-minute news about Elton,
callers in the UK can phone the

HERCULES Hotline on 0906 888 20 20

Calls cost 60p per minute anytime