

THE WHOTLES

A Retrospective written by C O'Mitty

With the benefit of hindsight it all seemed so perfectly logical, the greatest live band ever had lost its rhythm section and although Pino Palladino and Kenney Jones were undoubtedly great musicians you just couldn't hope to reasonably replace Moon and The Ox.

Meanwhile over in Abbey Road Ringo and Sir Paul were bereft of guitarists and the little twiddly bits that make plod and bash so interesting; the solo albums had kept the wolf from the door but they'd long left their rock n roll hearts in Hamburg and nothing could quite replace the squalor and degradation of living 4 to a cockroach infested room whilst playing 4, 5 or 6 hours a night to drunken sailors on shore leave.

A chance meeting at a salmon farm brought the two disparate halves of what would become the most uncompromising bands of the 21st Century into one gobsmacking whole and an all too brief career erupted volcano-like across the world map of rock.

Choosing to launch themselves onto the gig circuit via a low key series of unannounced unpublicised and largely unattended gigs at Village Halls and Social Clubs The Whotles announced themselves with a Macca induced Whobie doobie doo yeah yeah yeah and rock never looked back.

The living embodiment of the old adage that in adversity there is creativity The Whotles tore through sets of modern classics such as Won't get Fooled on the Hill Again and Here There Anyhow Anytime and Anywhere until such time as low key gigs were nigh on impossible and they had to cross over to Stadia, Indoor Arenas and Ice Rinks, with the ice covered over.

Their debut album Meet The Whotles set new sales records for downloads uploads vinyl and CD and offered 12 tracks of raw energy including I Can't Explain why you can't buy me love and Pinball you need is love With an little help form my wizard.

It was a maelstrom, a hurricane and a tornado all wrapped up in one messy cyclone that turned into no more than a whirlwind romance. On their debut US tour The Whotles walked straight into a media trap and were cajoled into declaring themselves bigger than Jesus Jones, the band who by their own web site were "Almost totally ignored by the press (and) failed to do as well as hoped and as a result EMI dropped the band". What they;d actually meant was that they were bigger than Janie Jones, the 60s 'madam' who found 15 seconds of fame as a Clash album track title.

The damage, though, was already done and soon large bonfires of Whotles merchandise and album covers were raging the length and breadth of North America. The band returned to the UK in shame and never regained their prominence leaving us with only newspaper clippings, memories and slightly charred second hand copies of Meet the Whotles.

Discography:

Meet the Whotles

Won't Get Fooled on the Hill Again
I Can't Explain why you Can't Buy me Love
Behind Blue Jay Way
Baba Ob La Di Ob La Da O'Reilly
Here There Anyhow Anytime and Anywhere
Boris in the Sky with Spiders
Get Happy Jack Back
Happiness is a Warm Tommy Gun
Maxwell Lily's Silver Picture Hammer
Lucy in the Magic Bus with Happy Jack (Cluedo mix)
Pinball you need is love with a little help from my Wizard
Going mobile back to where you once belong
You've got to hide your pictures of Lily away.