



# PIRATES UPDATE

No 3 - Spring 2001

## JAPANESE TOUR A BIG HIT!



Frightening the locals. The Bottom Line, Nagoya. Picture Yukiko Akagawa



"Anyone remember the words to Going Back Home?" Wilko, Mick and Frank try to work things out on stage at The Bottom Line. Picture Yukiko Akagawa

By any stretch of the imagination the five gig tour of Japan in November was a phenomenal success. Most of the venues were virtually sold out on the first day that tickets were put on sale and the audiences were enthusiastic and knowledgeable, so much so that many were word perfect on the lyrics! Amazingly, the age range was typically 17-23. Smash, the promoters, are already talking about the possibility of the band appearing at the Fuji Rock Festival in late July. Four of the gigs were shared with Wilko Johnson and his band and the two line ups got on so well that we will be undertaking a joint outing or two in the UK. At the 1000 capacity On Air East in Tokyo, Futoshi Abe the guitarist of successful local band *Thee Michelle Gun Elephant* was persuaded to get up with his idol Mick on 'Please Don't Touch'. Moreover, Mick had two experimental days with the band and recorded 3x instrumental tracks. This EP (CD&7" vinyl) entitled 'Kwacker' has just been released in Japan together with the Pirates Live In Japan 2000 CD. Herewith a few audience comments during the tour culled from local web sites:-

"I was glad they were the line up of Out Of Their Skulls. Nevertheless they are old (!), they could drive the youth like us crazy like hell; I got so excited that tears of joy sometimes blocked my sight. I want them to come back again next year." Kaz • "The Pirates were really a dynamite. I was moved with 'All In It Together' and got near to tears, but marginally, held myself." Uruppa • "When hearing Mick's cutting, I found myself shouting "WOOOOOOOOH!" Akio • "The Pirates were awesome!! When I get to their age, can I be such a cool 'old man' like them?" Yobs • "I sang All In It Together with the Pirates, I was soooooo happy!" Machiko

## DINGWALLS GIG WITH WILKO SET FOR WEDS 25 APRIL!

Following on from the successes of the two bands in Japan - on and off stage - we thought it would make for a belter night of high-octane rock/r&b if we did the same in the UK! Wilko's Band also features bassist Norman Watt-Roy and drummer Monti. The BBC will be filming the Pirates set so we need good support from you! Dingwalls, Camden Lock, Chalk Farm Rd., Camden Town, London, NW1. 0207 267 1577 Doors: 7.30 Tickets: £11.00, (S.T.B.F.) Advance sales: Stargreen 0207 734 8932 Ticketmaster 0207 344 4444, online TicketWeb: www.tickweb.co.uk or in person from Rhythm Records, 281 Camden High St., or Dingwalls. Tube Camden Town or Chalk Farm (Northern). Bus No 24 from Charing X/Tottenham Court Rds.

## JOHNNY KIDD DOCUMENTARY FOR BBC TV

Following his highly acclaimed TV documentary for the BBC on Billy Fury transmitted some 18 months ago, producer Paul Pierrot has turned his hand to a series of 30 minute films featuring early British rockers including Johnny Kidd and Vince Taylor. The Kidd slot, which is due to be broadcast in August, will feature interviews with Mick, (already in the can), Frank and John, as well as Jean Heath (JK's widow), Van Morrison, Keith Richards (who insisted on taking part!) and late line up Pirate, Nick Simper. As related elsewhere, they will be filming at Dingwalls and including live Japan tour footage.

### Live Kidd footage sought...

Paul and his assistant Tory Jones (like the producers of 'The Rock and Roll Years' before them) are desperate to find any live footage of the Kidd. Despite our own Alan Wheeler providing a list of all TV appearances by Kidd in the 60s and extensive searches at TV/film libraries, none has been found. If you have any ideas, Paul/Tory can be contacted on 020 7580 7570 or by e-mail at pierrotdocs@aol.com

## PIRATES ON CD

These titles featuring the Mick, Frank and John Pirates line up, are currently in catalogue in the UK:-

- **Out Of Their Skulls Plus**  
Zircon Zirc 1003 (20x tracks)
- **Skull Wars Plus**  
Zircon Zirc 1006 (20x)
- **Happy Birthday Rock & Roll Plus**  
Zircon Zirc 1010 (20x)
- **Out Of Their Skulls (Double)**  
West Side WESD 201 (51x)

Try your record shop, or you could freephone Magpie mail order on 08700 711611 or e-mail:-magpie@highnote.co.uk or web site: www.magpiedirect.com

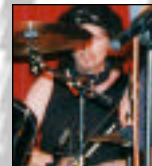
## MY BABE DON'T..

Cult Pirates solo single from 1963 'My Babe' was played by Brian Matthew on his big audience BBC Radio 2 programme SOTS and attributed to ... Johnny Kidd! Coupled with 'Castin' My Spell', both were recorded in one take at the end of a session at Abbey Road. Mick points out that they were only paid a few quid as it was deemed a 'test' pressing!

## PROJECT LEGEND

Mick's renaissance continues apace and he has undertaken recordings with Van Morrison, Bryan Ferry and Jools Holland.

## JOHNNY, MICK, AND JOHN?



A surprise was in store for those attending the recent gig in Dartford. Frank suffered a last minute recurrence of the problem he'd had following major abdominal surgery last autumn and we were suddenly short of a drummer! We were fortunate to be able to secure the services of former Earthband stickman John Lingwood who did an impressive job without one outro ricket!

## HONOURY BAND MEMBER

In Japan, Futoshi Abe, Thee Michelle Gun Elephant's guitarist guested on stage & record.



## FOR BAND INFO

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For cyber info go to:-

- Pirates: www.The-Pirates.co.uk
- J. Kidd: ww.geocities.com/sunsetstrip/frontrow/4888/
- Band images, try John 'David Essex' Galpin: www.johngalpin.co.uk