

1984

23 October

Hampstead Moonlight (anti-heroin benefit)

Date: 23rd October 1984

Location: Hampstead Moonlight, London, England

Supporting: (along with Mercenary Skank and High Noon) and a secret special guest, who turned out to be Pete Townshend.

Media reviews:

Memories of fans:

I am not the biggest fan of The Stone Roses but it turns out I was at their first ever gig. So, a mate of mine told me that I should share my story and I was pointed in your direction. So here we go. You can have this.

It was the first time I saw Pete Townshend live and I was (and still am) an avid fan of The Who, but before I seen him I waited anxiously and watched the support group. Recently I found out that they were a little known group called The Stone Roses. They turned out to be the biggest band of their generation. I remember very little of their set. But I can remember them like The Cure. I remember how the singer was in charge of the stage. That was a week after I turned 17 and not only did I manage to see my hero, Pete Townshend for the first time but I managed to see, possibly the inventors of Brit-pop and saviours of British guitar rock, The Stone Roses. I saw the Stone Roses at Leicester many years later and there was a difference but more memory with the latter.

I was speaking to a friend in Brussels who did have photos of The Stone Roses live at the Moonlight in 1984 but sold them around 1995 to a collector in London for £700.

Eddie Dent

Bootlegs:

Pictures:

Setlist:

1. Mission Impossible
2. Nowhere Fast
3. All Stripped Down
4. Tradjic Roundabout
5. Heart On The Staves

Reni performed on 'Substitute' and 'Pictures of Lily' with secret special guest Pete Townshend.

Information:

The Stone Roses' first ever gig was a high profile one. Ian saw an ad in Sounds magazine that asked for bands to take part in an anti-heroin benefit in support of Pete Townshend's Double O Charity. He sent a demo tape to Caroline Read, manager of post-punk outfit Mercenary Skank, who was suitably impressed and duly booked the band for this, their first ever gig. Ian claimed that the band had a significant following when in truth, they had yet to emerge from the recording studio, and appealed to the organisers' sense of civic duty, writing 'I'm surrounded by skag heads. I wanna smash 'em. Can you give us a show?' Following the performance, Reed briefly became manager of the band and booked them for a couple of London shows before Howard Jones became their full-time manager.

Reni impressed 'special guest star' Pete Townshend so much that Townshend invited him back on stage to perform on 'Substitute' and 'Pictures of Lily'. The Stone Roses were in on the identity of the 'special guest star', through meeting and correspondence with Reed a month prior to the London show. Townshend had recently returned from the US, playing to 50,000 people with The Who at Shea Stadium, and was looking out for guitarists and a drummer. Townshend was highly impressed by Reni and the other Roses became concerned that he would poach their most naturally talented musical member: "We were like, 'Shit, Reni's gonna leave. Townshend's nicking Reni.'"

A video shot by Mercenary Skank's manager Caroline Read apparently exists.

Band lineup:

John Squire (lead guitar)
Ian Brown (vocals)
Andy Couzens (rhythm guitar, vox)
Alan Wren (drums, backing vocals)
Pete Garner (bass)

21 November Exeter Ad Lib Club

Date: 21st November 1984

Location: Ad Lib Club, Exeter, England.

Supporting: Mercenary Skank

Media reviews:

Memories of fans:

Bootlegs:

Pictures:

Setlist:

Information:

After rubbing shoulders with Pete Townshend in Hampstead, The Stone Roses started playing gigs more befitting of their status; approximately forty people attended this gig, at which they provided support for Mercenary Skank. Andrew Tunnicliffe, guitarist of Mercenary Skank was quite praising: "They were a bit like The Clash. They went on stage and made a racket. I particularly liked them."

Band lineup:

John Squire (lead guitar)

Ian Brown (vocals)

Andy Couzens (rhythm guitar, vox)

Alan Wren (drums, backing vocals)

Pete Garner (bass)

22 November

Kensington Ad Lib Club

Date: 22nd November 1984

Location: Ad Lib Club, Kensington, London, England.

Supporting: Mercenary Skank

Media reviews:

Sounds (5th January 1985) (no link)

Memories of fans:

Bootlegs:

Pictures:

<http://www.pdmcauley.co.uk/Gigs/Gf1.jpg>

Setlist:

Information:

In his Sounds live review (5th January 1985), Robin Gibson described The Stone Roses as "...clumsy and Clash-influenced: slicked back hair and some obvious emotion with nowhere to go."

The photo of the band on the insert of the Garage Flower sleeve was taken at this gig. The 'A' of the title is just missing from the background writing. See the link above.

Band lineup:

John Squire (lead guitar)
Ian Brown (vocals)
Andy Couzens (rhythm guitar, vox)
Alan Wren (drums, backing vocals)
Pete Garner (bass)