

“Only The Lonely”

Roy Orbison with The Searchers at The Granada 1964

In 1964 I saw and this time heard, Roy Orbison at the Granada. It is very hard to forget him. There he stood a true legend dressed all in black; he was so professional as he sang a medley of all his hits. This memory I cherish.

Pam who worked at The Granada and, who has previously been, mentioned in one of my articles, as the girl who sold a Mars Bar to Mick Jagger, and who also told him to have a bath had to help Roy that day. Unfortunately that day in 1964, Roy had broken his ankle, and so Pam had to pop out to the High Street, and buy him a pair of socks, so he could put one of them over his ankle.

One thing I cannot stand is people who call Roy Orbison ‘The Big O’, because he was a modest and humble man. On that evening in 1964, Roy was supported on the bill by The Searchers.

Andrea my earth angel and wife have seen The Searchers twice recently, and we are going to see them again at The Millfield Theatre in Edmonton in March. They do a really good show ALMOST as good as The Counterfeit Stones. John McNally, it seems still wears the same suit, that I saw him wearing nearly 50 years ago (haha) when I saw The Searchers at The Granada.

Just think, back then in Walthamstow, we were able to see two, now iconic bands on the same bill for about 10 bob .The audience were more civil and attentive that night, that I saw Roy and The Searchers, and Uncle Ernie, the beloved Commissioner, had an easy night that night.

I have always called Ernie, ‘Uncle Ernie’, because as a kid, I was a Walthamstow Grenadier, and used to go to the Saturday morning pictures, and our song was “One for One and All for All, the Walthamstow Grenadiers”.

If it happened to be your birthday, and Uncle Ernie knew of it, you were invited on stage with Uncle Ernie, and Uncle Ernie would give you an apple or orange for a birthday present, and all the kids would sing “Happy Birthday To You“. Sometimes a little kid would cry on stage with embarrassment .

This piece is a tribute to Ernie the Commissioner, who ‘fell in the battle’ to save The Granada.

Alan Miles, 2013

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