THE LAST TIME

The Rolling Stones at The Granada 1964

By Alan Miles [email]

I do not remember exactly when The Stones appeared with The Ronettes at The Granada, but I think it was in late January 1964. The audience were quieter than the audience at The Leyton Baths in 1963; nonetheless there was still a great deal of screaming. I can't really remember what numbers they played, for some reason. However, The Ronettes were just brilliant. I remember them more 'Shimmey-Shimmering'.

However, it was at the old Granada where the notorious, legendary, 'Mars Bar' actually made news, before the Marianne Faithfull yarn. I once knew a lady called Pam who worked at the Granada, who sold Mick Jagger a Mars Bar in the forum that evening before the show. On passing Mick Jagger the Mars Bar she told Mick that he 'could do with a good bath', this brought fame for Pam in the national press. Mars Bars seem to be a bit of a jinx for Mick! On another occasion Pam also bought Roy Orbison a pair of socks from the High Street, for Roy needed a new pair due to a broken ankle.

There were posters being sold by a bloke outside the Granada, he was walking up and down the large queue, saying The Stones were here to rout The Beatles. I bought one of the posters, they were fairly large posters with pictures of all members of The Stones on them (in black and white), with Mick Jagger centred. After the show, a large group of fans waited by the side exit, of The Granada which led to Hoe Street .The Stones in their dark blue van, pulled out of the Exit Gate slowly. Keith Richards was sitting by the front-left window, I tapped with my poster on the windscreen, and I showed him my large rolled-up poster. He beckoned me to give it to him. I gave him the poster and he passed it to the other Stones inside. It came back to Keith who signed it, and he passed it back to me, they signed all the pictures of themselves for me .They finally pulled out, then drove off towards The Bell corner, and that was the last time I ever saw them.

The Stones returned to The Leyton Baths, April 10th 1964, I didn't attend sadly. There they performed for The Joe Loss pop show which was broadcasted between 12.30am-1.30pm, the group performed "Not Fade Away", "High-Heeled Sneakers" "I just want to make Love to you "and finally "I'm moving on". This particular detail and information about dates, I obtained from Terry Rawlings superb book "Good Times Bad Times, The Definitive Diary of The Rolling Stones 1960-1969"...

It is significant I feel that as I submit this reflection to Walthamstow Memories that I am preparing to settle down this evening to watch "Crossfire Hurricane, the documentary charting the 50 year career of The Rolling Stones.

Alan Miles

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