

Something for the Weekend

Know that John loved and was inspired by Bermuda

- YOKO ONO



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By SIMON COSYNS

IN 1980, before he was shot dead, John Lennon began a life-affirming adventure.

At 8pm on June 4, the former Beatle boarded a 43ft sloop called Megan Jaye at Newport, Rhode Island, and set sail for Bermuda. The voyage took a week including a raging three-day storm – but it left Lennon invigorated by the power, fury and beauty of nature. He likened dealing with the towering waves to being lowered into New York's Shea Stadium by helicopter with The Beatles in 1965 to be greeted by 55,000 screaming fans.

On June 11, the message he left in the ship's log was addressed to the Megan Jaye herself: "Dear Megan, there's no place like nowhere, and thanks, Hank (a pseudonym)."

Lennon – and son Sean – spent nearly two months on the British colony 640 miles off the US coast.

While there, he wrote songs for his final album Double Fantasy. He even named the album after the Double Fantasy freesia he saw in the Bermuda Botanical Gardens as he felt it perfectly described his marriage to Yoko Ono.

Another product of this trip was the poignant Grow Old With Me, which appeared on 1984's posthumous release Milk And Honey.

Of course, he never grew old with Yoko but this little-known episode in Lennon's 40-year life is being commemorated in the book, Lennon Bermuda.

Journalist Scott Neil, from Bermuda's daily paper, The Royal Gazette, pieced together the story which is beautifully illustrated by local artist Graham Foster.

Photographs in the book show Lennon happy, healthy, relaxed and at home, enjoying his time out of the limelight.

The book comes with two CDs of John Lennon songs, Beatles and solo, reimagined by artists including Bryan Ferry, Judie Tzuke, Paul Carrack and Maxi Priest.

In her foreword to Lennon Bermuda, Yoko, 80, says: "Know that he loved and was immensely inspired by Bermuda. His spirit is now a part of the beautiful botanical gardens, where I hope peace and love will grow."

Just four months after returning to his New York home, Lennon's life less ordinary was snuffed out.

Years later, it was reported he made this telling comment boarding his flight from Bermuda: "I guess it's time to say goodbye to paradise."

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NEW MUSIC

By JIM GELLATLY

Three Blind Wolves
WHO: Ross Clark (vocals/guitar), Davie Cleary (guitar/vocals), Kevin MacKay (bass/vocals), Fearghas Lyon (drums/vocals)
WHERE: Glasgow
FOR FANS OF: Kings Of Leon, Frightened Rabbit, Mumford & Sons
JIM SAYS: Greetings from Inverness! Three Blind Wolves are just one of around 80 acts performing at this year's goNorth Festival which ran back to back with RockNess.

They debuted a couple of years ago with their Sound Of The Storm EP.

That was released by the Mumford & Sons-affiliated label, Communion – a platform for acts as diverse as Michael Kiwanuka, Ben Howard and Deap Vally.

Having just unleashed their debut long-player Sing Halle-lujah For The Old Machine their reputation continues to grow.

Starting life as Ross Clark And The Scarfs Go Missing, they are far more than a vehicle for the talents of their front-man.

Ross said: "I recruited the other guys after being a solo artist for years. I wanted to have a fuller sound and the guys were able to provide that."

"Ever since we have been striving to progress to an even bigger and tighter sound."

They've certainly achieved that on the album. It really does rock in places, while still

maintaining the alt. folk sound that's been breaking through to the mainstream in recent years.

Last month they embarked upon a massive UK headline tour, plus dates in Europe supporting Canadian outfit Wintersleep.

Sing Hallelujah For The Old Machine is released through happening Glasgow label Instinctive Racon.

It may look across the Atlantic for its musical lead, with shades of country and bluegrass, but Ross reckons it's a record with 'Scotland' stamped all over it.

He explained: "Sing Halle-lujah For The Old Machine is a look at Glasgow through my eyes."

"It's about my love and life in the city I live. I was trying to write a different record to Sound Of The Storm and I would like to think this album has a Glasgow theme running through it."

Three Blind Wolves play the Wee Chind at SWG3 in Glasgow on June 29 as part of the West End Festival.

They also return north for the Belladrum Tartan Heart Festival near Inverness in August, followed by further UK and European dates in September.

MORE: threeblindwolves.com

Jim will be playing Three Blind Wolves on in-Demand Uncut this Sunday when the show comes live from RockNess. Tune in from 7pm on Clyde 1, Forth One, Northsound 1, Radio Borders, Tay FM, West FM & West Sound FM. indemandscotland.co.uk



SUPERSTARS
... Falconer, above, will lead The View, main pic, onstage to open the huge Stone Roses' gig in Glasgow

EXCLUSIVE
By CHRIS SWEENEY

WILD boys The View never thought they'd get to see their boyhood heroes The Stone Roses play – never mind share a stage and have a booze up with them.

They've topped the charts, rocked huge crowds, had high profile scrapes and all that goes with success.

But next weekend, the Dundee lads will be in front of 50,000 punters as part of the star-studded line-up for The Roses gig at Glasgow Green, along with rockers Primal Scream and young gun Jake Bugg.

Guitarist Pete Reilly said: "This is the biggest gig of the year, anywhere."

"We're over the moon and we're absolutely buzzing for it."

"We grew up listening to The Roses, but our generation missed the boat in terms of seeing them."

Blow

"Then, when we heard they were getting back together, it was like 'oh yes'."

"We thought we'd get to see them live, which on it's own was enough to blow us away."

"But to be asked to play with them, it's a total joke to be a honest."

The golden invitation came from Roses' bass player Mani, who was impressed by The View during his stint with Primal Scream.

Pete, 26, said: "It's because of our association with Primal Scream and doing a few tours with them, we've always kept in contact and got on."

"So if The Roses were going to do a Scottish gig I reckoned Mani would sort us out."

"It's really appreciated, them thinking we'd be perfect to be part of this."

"It's a total honour to be on the same stage as them."

"I watched The Roses at T in the Park last year. I'd seen Pri-



We're absolutely buzzing... everything has come up Roses

mal Scream a million times and I've seen Ian Brown a few times doing solo stuff. And I saw John Squire at T in the Park too."

"So I'd seen them all individually but seeing them back together last year was just amazing."

Even though they can't wait to strut their stuff alongside their heroes.

Pete admits the band – singer Kyle Falconer, bass player Kieren Webster and drummer Steven Morrison – can't get any more pumped up. He said: "One of us would probably spontaneously combust if we were to get any live-lier. The show is going to be great. We're on first – so we can just get on, get the job done and enjoy the rest of it."

"We won't be nervous, Kyle always gets a bit anxious. But we'll be fine, these are the kind of gigs you want to play."

"If you're nervous about being up there, then you shouldn't be there."

And the boys are also pretty confident they'll hold their own when it comes to livening things up backstage. Pete added: "The Roses and Primal Scream's reputation goes before them – and I don't have to say anything about us. It's going to be very messy, I'm sure of it."

And the ball keeps on rolling for The View too.

Right after the Glasgow Green bash, they release their 20-strong compilation album Seven Year Setlist – featuring two new songs Kill Kyle and Dirty Magazine.

They just don't want anyone calling it a greatest hits. Pete



NEXT weekend's show marks 23 years since The Stone Roses first played Glasgow Green.

The band have admitted that it was one of their best ever gigs, with 7,000 fans rammed into a tent.

It was just after critics slammed the poor sound and set-up at their Spike Island gig – and they wanted to set the record straight.

Bootlegs of the gig still circulate on forums and download sites.

Mani said: "The greatest show The Stone Roses ever played was at Glasgow Green in my humble estimation – magical."

"When we were on stage that day, we all looked at each other and then just went up another level."

snapped: "We didn't want anyone calling it that and rather it was a sort of 'best of' collection. People think when you do a greatest hits, that it's the end. It's not, it keeps us fresh in everybody's minds while we're doing the next album."

"It was brought to us by our management."

"If we weren't at this stage of four albums down the line, it would be the equivalent of us doing an EP."

Special

"There are a few new songs, so we thought we might as well put songs from all the albums on it, rather than just making a wee EP."

"And it's laid out like we'd do a gig. There are a few, like Distant Dublin, that we only play on special occasions but it's done like a set list."

"We're far too young to be doing a greatest hits, there's plenty of time for that."

● Pre-order the album and win a chance to have the band play in your living room at theviewwareonfire.com.