

Julia Kirby Memories

The first concert I attended at Town Hall was the Tyrannosaurus Rex one in 1970. My best friend was in love with Marc Bolan and we sat in the middle of the front row of the upper gallery and watched adoringly as Marc sat cross legged on the stage and warbled his way through songs like Deborah. Looking at the dates on the tickets it was less than a year later when he stood up, picked up his electric guitar, shortened the band name and became a big rock star, something he had always wanted (I realised many years later) but we thought he had sold out and didn't like having to share him with all his new fans.

In the early 70s the Town Hall was the place to go to see bands. I don't seem to have the ticket any more but we saw David Bowie there. It was just at the point when Space Oddity had been released for the second time and he was on the verge of being massive. I remember when he sang Space Oddity he was elevated on what was probably a cherry picker across the stage.

We also saw the Kinks and the Faces at Town Hall - I have the Faces ticket but have lost the Kinks one. Again it was before Rod Stewart became big. Ron Wood was still with the Faces at that point.

I went to see a few bands on my own - Al Stewart (who is still touring) sang Summertime Blues as his encore, it was odd as Marc Bolan had also sang that as an encore a few weeks earlier. Both seemed unlikely choices and I remember thinking what an odd coincidence.

The Humble Pie tickets? I had a crush on Peter Frampton even though I wasn't really keen on the band (bit heavy for me) so obviously went to see them - he's another one that became massive a few years later but I went off him then!

Apart from Quintessence and Yes I can't really remember any of the other bands. Some, like Edgar Broughton, I suspect I never actually saw. We used to go without tickets and someone already inside would come out and hand us their stubs and we just showed those and then went in and sat in spare seats or even on the stairs! The only one I remember this not working for is Edgar Broughton though I kept the ticket.

A very memorable night was the night of Stiff Record's Penny Concert - Elvis Costello was the one we knew well and liked best. Wreckless Eric played and I think Lena Lovich... though this needs checking. Ian Drury and the Blockheads were the headliners. We got our money's worth that night! I think we did have our own tickets that night too, a penny was affordable. I have a Stiff T Shirt with 'If it's not Stiff it's not worth a F*ck' on it, not sure where I got it from, probably not the Town Hall!

So that's my memories of Town Hall, very important in my early teen years.