



The Korgis

London 100 Club
11/2/22

A colourful, surreal, engaging electro-pop explosion of psychedelic suits, *The Jetsons*-esque videos and twin lead guitars saw The Korgis deliver their 80s hits, including Everybody's Got To Learn Sometime. James Warren remains to the fore, with near-original John Baker and more recent recruit, Al Steele, both singing, guitar-wielding mainstays of the new *Kartoon World*. Add synth, drums and chirpy vocal backing, and the uplifting mix sounded not unlike Stackridge circa 1999 and, indeed, they played the glorious Something About The Beatles, from that period. Lively new cuts, Bringing Back The Spirit Of Love and Back In The Eighties, danced beside dreamier vintage material such as If I Had You, making this an irrepressible show.

Nick Dalton



The Bristol Folk House – April 30th 2019

James Warren may well have channelled his inner John Lennon in this rare gig, but what it did demonstrate is the power of his own great songwriting, vocals and bass. Corraling such a happy bunch of musicians is no mean feat either.

For Warren Watchers there was something to please from all aspects of his career. Sadly his first major recording band Stackridge played their last gig – also in Bristol – back in 2015. This was particularly sad because a few years earlier they'd released one of their best albums – 'A Victory For Common Sense' – which could have been the conduit to a wider, mainstream acceptance.

Thankfully we heard two songs from that album tonight, including the rebooted 'Boots And Shoes' (originally a Korgis song!), along with the more quirky first single 'Dora The Explorer'.

Although billed as The Korgis it was clear from the start that the brief was wider and in fact there was always a bit of overlap with latter day Stackridge. But, pleasingly, Warren featured heavily his excellent recent solo outing *Innocent Bystander*.

He was aided throughout by a cracking band including three backing vocalists – Ava, Emmy and Jay – who provided both visual and aural enhancement, even if their am-dram diversion during 'Cold Tea' didn't really suit that song's gritty delivery and couldn't be seen by most of the audience.

This was an evening of highlights and surprises, not least a nod to Steve Lindsey (who with The Planets was also signed to Rialto Records) and the John Baker sung 'Lines'. Baker then fronted the very fine 'One Life' (from 1992's *This World's For Everyone*, one of those underrated albums that also yielded the excellent 'Wreckage Of A Broken Heart' and re-made 'All The Love In The World' although, sadly, both omitted tonight).

'One Life' really represented a stage band at the top of their game – it was like listening to a souped-up recorded version – and it was followed by yet another gem 'Something About The Beatles' which at once is a superb tribute and a wonderful song in its own right. It segued to a very accurate version of 'A Day In The Life'.

Such greatness may have even overshadowed the "big hit" but, no, it could only get better and 'Everybody's Got To Learn Sometime' brought the show to a close.

The Korgis may have been a very eighties phenomena but Warren demonstrated their songs (and his others) are still hugely relevant. Interpreted by such a happy and competent bunch of musicians – guitarist Al Steele's jaws must have ached the following day – this gig should be on everyone's bucket list.

Mention too of local folkie Barry Walsh who invited James Warren to join him at this local gig held in what was not unlike a school hall. He provided an entertaining opening set with his band which included fine contributions from Sarah Mitchell on violin and backing vocals (Sarah appears on that last Stackridge studio outing).

Setlist: *This World's For Everyone/Boots and Shoes/The First Time/If I Had You/Have You Seen The Colours/High Time/Lines/Dumb Waiters/If It's Alright With You Baby/Cold Tea/First Kiss/Dora The Female Explorer/Fundamentally Yours/Set Me Free/True Life Confessions/Lost And Found/Everybody Needs Somebody To Love/That's What You Do To Me/One Life/Something About The Beatles/A Day In The Life/Everybody's Got To Learn Sometime/Mount Everest Sings The Blues*

Review and photos by David Randall / Get Ready to Rock magazine



The 100 Club - March 17th 2019

I've been so busy ,I've not had time yet to tell you what else I got up to on Friday night,

I spent a terrific evening at the 100 Club to see a rare gig from The Korgis ,who some of you may remember them for their big smooth hits 'If I Had You' from 1979 and the ballad 'Everybody's Got To Learn Sometime' from a year later.

Frontman James Warren was joined by latter-day Korgis members John Baker and Al Steele on guitars plus keyboardist Glenn Tommey from Warren's former band Stackridge. Together with a vibrant trio of backing singers ,who also provided extra added spices of percussion ,made for a formidable live unit.

A set list made up of Korgis ,Stackridge and solo tracks from James Warren's solo album 'Innocent Bystander' . The Korgis originally had a pop flavour but live they certainly rocked, especially with Warren's sturdy and leading direction of the bass. With the evident influences of the Beatles, this was like a prog version of Squeeze. Pop, punk, prog and rock were all thrown into the musical canon. A tribute to the Fab Four with 'Something About The Beatles' smartly segued into a magnificent version of 'A Day In The Life'.

A superb and lively gig that surpassed all expectations.

Review and photos by Mick Taylor



The Sunshine Festival - June 24th 2018

Having been blessed with good weather over the last few August Bank Holiday weekends, this year the forecast was rather poor. The main acts were due to start at 6.00pm on Friday Evening; however, the torrential rain that came in across the Malvern Hills on Friday afternoon flooded the Main Stage and delayed the grand opening.

The **SC Entertainments** team worked frantically all afternoon to move the various bands around and liaised with their managers to ensure all acts were able to perform; although some agreed to slightly shorter sets.

The second act moved from the Main Stage on Friday night were British pop veterans **The Korgis** who were shoe-horned into the small Variety tent.

Original member (Singer / Bassist) **James Warren**, guitarist **John Baker** and their backing band gave a great performance after a stressful evening being moved from stage to stage.

The highlights of their set were their big hits *“If I Had You”* and *“Everybody’s Got To Learn Sometime”*, but they were accompanied by many other catchy tunes from the last forty years, as well as some new tracks.

This is an extract taken from the whole festival review!

Review by Andy Gregory / Patchford News



James Warren and John Baker from The Korgis rocking the Stage Two Marquee

Photo Credit: Andrew Gregory



The Rondo Theatre, Bath - October 29th 2017

The Rondo Theatre, Larkhall, Bath is a delightful little gem and many other Stackridge fans will also recall it from some of the six concerts the band played there in 2007-09. It didn't disappoint yesterday, either.

Neither did James Warren. His band, comprising himself on bass guitar, Al Steele on lead and slide guitar, the inestimable Glenn Tommey on keyboards, John 'Bill' Baker on acoustic guitar and vocals, Paul Smith on drums and the impressive, energetic backing singers of Jay, Ava and Emmy ensured that every single song of the 9 song set was imbued with punch, verve and dynamism.

Interspersed amongst the songs were questions asked by fans and put to James by John. (Simes, your question about whether Mr W was at one time going to collaborate with Pete Townshend on a 'posh' version of the rock opera, called Thomas, was also featured). Robin Miller - who was happily able to be present - also saw his question answered.

The songs included five from Innocent Bystander, including Set Me Free, a sublime You've Got The Love That Matters, Have You Seen The Colours? and appropriately as a gig-opener, The First Time. For You've Got The Love, a vocal three-hander (three-voicer), James and John had the excellent Jay filling in for Steve Robinson (The Planets, The Harrisons and many other local legends). Although 'filling in' implies something second-best - and he certainly wasn't.

More familiar fare came with second and third songs Fundamentally Yours and If I Had You. despite Al's modesty, his slide guitar playing was of the highest calibre. The set concluded with Everybody's Got To Learn Sometime and, as an encore, Something About The Beatles.

Colours and SATB featured projected films by Ceri, a talented young student and what was jokingly referred to as a "live link-up" saw the cellist and violinists used on Set Me Free in another filmed back-drop, as the band played live in the foreground.

As ever, it was a real pleasure to chat again with James, John, Glenn and also Ava, Emmy. Jay, Al during the soundcheck and before and after the promo set. I am pleased to report that CD sales were brisk too. Anybody who already had the CD and expects a live sound along the same lines is in for a surprise, as there is much more vigour and thrust to the live renditions.

The gig was filmed and some or all of the performances will be appearing on YouTube. Check them out, even if you've got the CD already.

It was nice to meet the legendary producer David Lord, as well. Naturally, the reunions among the 'faithful' were equally good, with Sue, Robinho, Ed (NTHD), Stuart - I managed to squeeze a tenner out of him for the CD. Quite a feat, him being a Yorkshireman! - Robert, Mike W and others all there and enhancing the occasion.

A curry in the place three doors down with Sue and Ed ended a very nice afternoon/evening, before driving home (having met James, Clare Warren, Jay, John and Al once again, still packing up their gear).

