

THIRSTY QUIREBOYS

Quireboys' **Spike** and **Chris Johnstone** ruminate on their latest collaboration with the late **Guy Bailey**

Tell us about the album.

Spike: It's an unexpected posthumous collaboration between me and Quireboys' co-founder, Guy Bailey. It started off as his 13 best Thirsty songs, but we've totally reworked them. I recorded new vocals over Guy's guitar and Chris Kimsey created remixes of them.

What film could it soundtrack?

One about Rosemary Kennedy and the curse of the Kennedys.

Is there anything still unissued?

Spike: Some recordings from back in the day in Los Angeles with Guy, Poison's CC Deville on second guitar, Michael Lee, drums, and Dan Rothschild, bass. No idea what happened to them.

Chris: I was recently sent a demo cassette that Guy and I did at an 8-track studio in Birmingham. It'll never ever see the light of day.

Have you done anything that fans may not know about?

Spike: Me and Guy appeared on TV on *Blue Peter*, busking by a station singing *How Much Is That Doggy In The Window?*, as they walked their new puppy by it.

When did you first hear one of your songs on vinyl?

Chris: One of our Survival singles, before we signed with EMI.

What was your favourite record shop when you started out?

Spike: Windows Records, Central Arcade, Newcastle.

Chris: Me and Guy went to school in Stone, Staffordshire: Rowneys, and a radio/TV store, Bevans.

What was your first record?

Spike: Suzi Quatro, Devil Gate Drive.

Chris: Rod Stewart, Maggie May.

What's the last album that you bought?

Spike: Macy Gray's last.

Chris: Richard & Linda Thompson *I Want To See The Bright Lights*.

What record made you want to go pro?

Spike: The Rolling Stones, *Tumbling Dice*.

Chris: T.Rex, *Hot Love*.

What records most influenced your style?

Spike: *Sticky Fingers*, *Exile On Main St.*, *Let It Bleed*.

Chris: Big Joe Turner's *Boogie Woogie Country Girl*, Floyd Kramer's *Last Date*. Guy's were *Chuck Berry 20 All Time Party Hits* and *Dr Feelgood Stupidity*.

Was anyone in your family a musician?

Spike: My niece, Francesca, is a singing teacher.

Chris: My mother played classical piano.

What'd you ask your music hero?

Spike: Mick and Keef. How they kept going so long?

Chris: I'd ask Anne Briggs why she was so uninterested in the music business.



Left: Chris Johnstone, Right: Spike

What's your most prized music item?

Spike: A Yamaha classical guitar that my father bought me, age 12.

Chris: I have Ozzy Osbourne's grand piano. Sharon was our manager and she gave it to me.

Which if your songs is the most personally meaningful?

Spike: *King Of New York*, my late father's favourite.

Chris: *How Do Ya Feel*. Guy's would probably be *I Don't Love You Any More*.

What record do you own that may surprise fans?

Spike: Ralph McTell *Spiral Staircase*.

Chris: Yes *Close To The Edge*. Guy's was Nat 'King' Cole.

Which album, on first-listen, is the most startling that you ever heard?

Spike: Television *Marquee Moon*.

Chris: Lynyrd Skynyrd *Second Helping*.

Do you have a go-to 'comfort album'?

Spike: Ralph McTell *Albert & Sydney*.

Chris: John Martyn *Solid Air*. Guy was Tom Petty & The Heartbreakers' first.

What's your favourite songwriter's best lyric?

Spike: John Lennon, *Imagine*.

Thirsty Quireboys God Bless America – Best Of Thirsty blue LP is on Cadiz.