

SPIRIT-THE GROUP

SPIRIT are a band that have been around for many years, formed by Randy California (Guitar/vocals) and his stepfather Ed Cassidy (Drums) back in the 1960's. Before this, Randy had played with Jimi James (Hendrix) and Ed with Ry Cooder amongst others. Between '68 and '70, Spirit recorded four albums culminating in the wonderful "12 Dreams of Dr. Sardonicus". This was followed by a solo album from Randy California entitled "Kaptain Kopter and the Twirly Birds". In 1972, their current album, "The adventures of Kaptain Kopter and Commander Cassidy in Potatoland" was recorded but was rejected by the record companies and has only been released this year. Spirit recorded a further few albums between '75 and '77 and toured the UK with Gillan. The release of Potatoland and the consequent tour are the first activities of Spirit in Britain since then. Spirit now comprise Randy California, Ed Cassidy (now aged 51), George Valuck (keyboards) and Liberty (bass).

ED CASSIDY ↘

LIBERTY ↘



RANDY CALIFORNIA ↘

THANKS TO BOLTON EVENING NEWS FOR PICTURE ↘

THE GIG

Supporting were Inner City Unit who performed a set composed largely of songs from their new album though they did play the excellent "Space Invaders" and the costumes were novel-guitarist in a cardboard box!!

Spirit were excellent, the material spanned most of their career together from "Animal Zoo" through "12 Dreams" to the brand new "Handgun" as well as material from other artists: Dylan's "All along the watchtower" and "Like a rolling stone" and The Troggs' "Wild Thing". Musically, the band are excellent, the sound was tight and gave Randy California opportunity to indulge in numerous guitar hero antics with the aid of his FX. Ed Cassidy, though not perhaps the greatest of drummers also has his moments of showmanship, tossing his sticks away during a solo to play with his hands and both Liberty and George proved their value to the band. A measure of their brilliance was that the encores lasted half an hour! and were all cover versions but no-one objected.

Randy California and Ed Cassidy



THE CHAT



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Backstage, after the gig, we talked with Nik Turner, lead loony with Inner City Unit who has fond memories of "1984" and Prince John. He was enjoying being on tour with Spirit although they had had sound problems. They were delighted to have got an encore at Hammersmith and Nik Turner also said that he is a great believer in the value of fanzines as opposed to big music papers eg. Sounds, MM, etc, because of their unbiased views on music (well, we're almost unbiased-Ed)