

A PENCIL

A Much Requested Overview From A PENCIL

Promulgation Society (En Francaise).

"Contrary to popular belief, A Pencil has not split, no Stewart Granger. The situation at present is that, as is well known, Mik Gregori (keyboards) has left for new pastures. Good luck to yer, mate. Android Scribble (bass) has left to concentrate on his university work and writing but is interested in helping in any way he can. What a little dart he is! The present line-up is:-

HAYDN AINSLIE STUB - Vocals
JO KNEE LURX - Drums A Pencil
MICK BASSICK - Bassic Bass (ex/roadie)
DEVOID DE VOID - Guitar and FX

The first gig of the present line-up was a support date for Here & Now at Leeds University on March 8th. Oops! Just knocked the draw all over the carpet (How embarrassing) - Quel Embarrasment. A good gig overall. Mik fitting in naturally after playing bass for only 10 weeks with a few lessons from Devoid.

6th April - The Hammersmith Experience Interlude

"What a bunch of wasters! Un Pencil avec some autre types manage to arriver en London avec a borrowed (true, n'est-ce pas?) van. Le place de la gig était le Clarendon Hotel, Hammersmith, organisé by Johnathon Boatrace and Barnet, all time Here & Now stooge. Billed as the "Idiot Ballroom", it certainly lived up to its title, full Monty. Billed as a talent contest to encourage audience participation with disco by Sir Alias, compèred by the inimitable Grant Showbiz of Blue Midnight and F.O. Records fame - a regular monster of ceremonies.

The first act was Jenny from "Youth in Asia" reciting a poem she'd just written to the accompaniment of some mutter on the guitar. The sceme was set for a maniacally weird, good time out.

Other acts were El Drunk, the escapologist who couldn't. A ventriloquist who couldn't. Suze de Blooz and Anne Wombat (ex Here & Now) who pretended to - in Spanish. Cheeky Eddie Chippington, alternative comedy last seen in these parts at Bury with Here & Now. Los Trios Collapsos, dozens of loonies who were announced to be Argentinians who had just been entertaining in the Falklands (what a mind bender!). Their human pyramid symbolizing the strength of capitalism symbolically collapses to chants of "Collapsos, collapsos, collapsos, collapsos" - try chanting it fast when you're next out to lunch. There were an awful lot of them for a "Trios". Last of the talent section came the eventual winners, the Murphy Feds. Dada theatre which left one (or two) frustratingly trying to grapple with an explanation of the meaning of it all but smiling all the same. Everybody certainly had totally blown 'em. Their prize was the entire F.O. Records vinyl collection (give it to me!).

Next billed from Manchester as Anarcho, Jazz, Futurist, Funk, Punk, Spacers were A Pencil whose souncheck had been rubbish due to an unusual guitar amp, the like Devoid had never experienced. But they looked good anyway. After a quick sort out of tone and tuning check during the general mayhem, A Pencil began their set with "Monopoly". This was their first London gig and all the tension of the occasion flew away as they developed a good atmosphere with themselves and the receptive bopping audience. "The Advertiser" was particularly well received with the usual dream-like, rhythmical dance and appreciative applause.

Blue Midnight finished the evening off with their usual bubble of Contemporary Urban Blues with Brass Section, Grant Showbiz playing some nice unstunning bass. Bob (short-haired weirdo with A Pencil's crew) fell in love with the violin player. He wasn't the only one; I fell in love with Africa.