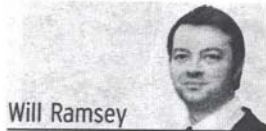


A brother with yarns



Will Ramsey

At the height of his fame in 1960s London, John Walker found himself besieged by fans.

As one third of the Walker Brothers – the Californian pop band – the singer was followed wherever he went.

“As soon as we became popular in England, everything went nuts,” he said.

“We could not go out anywhere anymore. It was really strange – everywhere you went, people would be watching you.

“I remember wanting to go to the cinema one night, so I had to call the manager at the Empire, in Leicester Square, and get him to close the entire balcony.

“It seemed a bit lonely being up there on my own, but that’s the way it was – we were super

popular.”

The “brothers” (all three adopted the surname Walker for the stage), reversed the British Invasion of America by the Beatles, by bringing American pop to London.

Famed for tracks including *The Sun Ain’t Gonna Shine Anymore*, they eventually disbanded during the 1970s.

And while Scott Walker continued to record, John took a 26 year break from the stage to become a music producer.

It was only phone calls from a fellow veteran of the 1960s music scene – Dave Dee – that persuaded John to come back in 2004 as a regular member of the *Solid Silver 60s Show*.

This touring concert, featuring contemporaries including the Searchers and the Merseybeats, is back for its fifth jaunt around Britain.

“It was scary at first,” admitted John.

“I was not sure how people were going to react. For a lot of people we were the Walker Brothers, I wasn’t sure what they were going to make of me singing those songs by myself.

“But it didn’t seem to matter –

we’ve been getting people coming back every time, so they must like what I’m doing.”

For John, there’s been the enjoyment of getting re-acquainted with friends from those heady days. And there’s also the enjoyment of returning to Britain, where he lived for 20 years before returning to California.

“I feel almost more at home here than I do in America,” he said.

“I spent all those years here, from my 20s until my 40s and as soon as I get off the plane in England, I think ‘I’m back.’

“It’s strange, you can drop me off in the middle of a city in England and I’ll find my way around a lot easier than I would in Los Angeles.”

» SOLID SILVER 60s SHOW

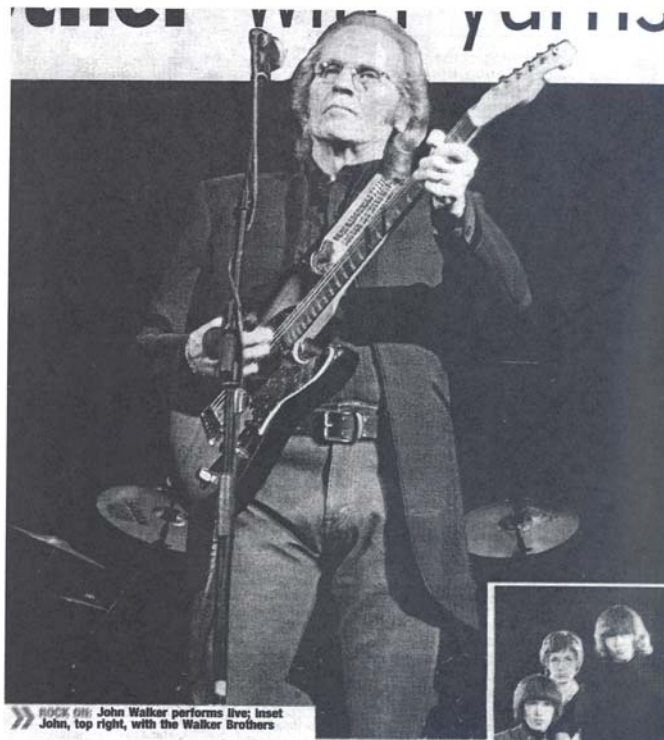
Where: Hull City Hall, Queen Victoria Square, Hull

When: Friday, 7.30pm

Tickets: £17.50-£22

Call: (01482) 226655

Links: www.hullcc.gov.uk



» ROCK ON: John Walker performs live; inset John, top right, with the Walker Brothers