

Marc Bolan

Rare Records & Memorabilia 1968-71



Michael Green

Marc, 1968
Photo by
Barrie Wentzell



Introduction

After 3 solo singles and a brief, but productive, stint with mod rockers John's Children, Marc formed Tyrannosaurus Rex sometime around late June/early July 1967.

Tyrannosaurus Rex's debut gig was at the then named Electric Garden at Covent Garden on the 22nd July 1967. The venue would later be renamed as Middle Earth where Tyrannosaurus Rex would perform many times. For their debut gig, the group appeared as a 4, or possibly 5, piece band with Marc on vocals and guitar, Steve Peregrin(e) Took on drums and a second guitarist and a bass player. By all accounts, the band were un-rehearsed and the gig a disaster. The group then carried on as a duo of Marc and Steve.

Tyrannosaurus Rex performed at Middle Earth in late September 1967 and were filmed for a Dutch TV programme. When the programme was broadcast in the Netherlands on the 2nd October, Sara Crazy Child was shown (which can be viewed on YouTube) along with an interview with John Peel with the duo playing Mustang Ford in the background.

The duo continued to gain an audience before the release of their first record Debora in April 1968 which reached 34 in the singles chart. A few months later, their first LP would peak at 15 in the album chart. The group were moderately successful with record sales and commanded a fee of £350 to £500 for gigs around 1969-70 time (a lot of money for a duo in those days!).

The talented Steve Took left the band in 1969 and was quickly replaced with the charismatic Mickey Finn who was a perfect foil for Marc.



Michael Green and Mickey Finn at Bolanfest in 2000

Tyrannosaurus Rex continued much the same with Mickey on bongos and the band doing reasonably well but not having the big breakthrough that Marc was hoping for. That was until October 1970 when they changed their name to T Rex and released the single Ride A White Swan.

Ride A White Swan, looking splendid in a picture sleeve, took a long time to get to its peak position of number 2 in the charts but it finally gave Marc the major hit that he had longed for.

The follow up single, Hot Love, was released in February 1971 while Ride A White Swan was still in the top 20. Hot Love would go on to top the charts for 6 weeks. T Rex were expanded to a four piece band with Steve Currie on bass guitar and Bill Legend on drums.

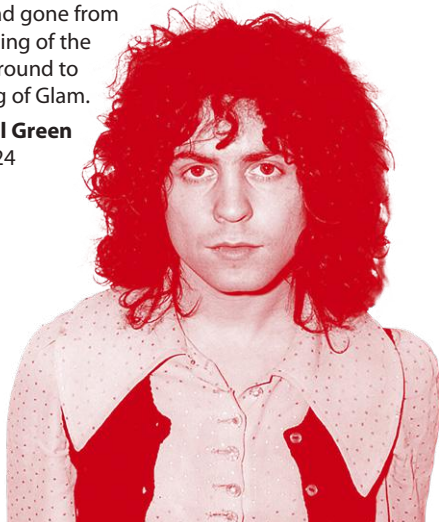
With the pressure on Marc to deliver, how do you follow up two hugely successful singles? In Marc's case, you release Get It On – possibly the greatest single ever.

Released in July 1971, Get It On gave T Rex another major hit single, peaking at number 1 for 4 weeks. As a 10 year old, after seeing T Rex on Top of the Pops, I went out and bought the single and played both sides of it over and over. The boy looked at Marc, and the boy was hooked.

Electric Warrior, released in September, gave the band a number 1 album and they finished 1971 with the LP top of the album chart and Jeepster at number 2 in the singles chart.

Within a short space of time, Marc had gone from the darling of the underground to the King of Glam.

Michael Green
July 2024



Donovan Folk Concert programme 21st March 1968

Even before the release of their debut single, Tyrannosaurus Rex had become popular enough to warrant a support slot at a Donovan charity event in aid of the Leukemia Research Fund. In a review, Keith Altham noted that there was 'some good guitar work from Marc Bolan'.

The pic of Tyrannosaurus Rex in the programme was taken by photographer Ray Stevenson.



TYRANNOSAURUS REX

Marc Bolan—Vocal, Guitar.
Steve Peregrine Took—Vocals,
Bongo's, Chinese Gong, and
Pixiephone.

L.P. release on **Regal Zonophone**
Mid April.

"My people were fair and had
sky in their hair
But now they're content to wear
stars on their brows."

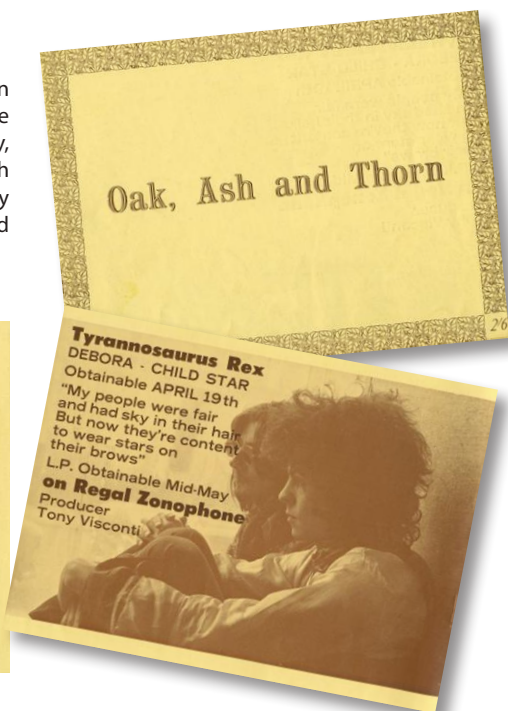
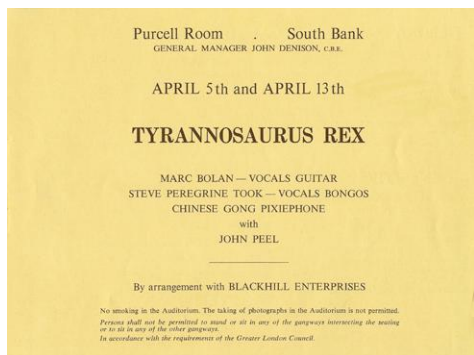
Oak, Ash and Thorn—Two con-
certs by Tyrannosaurus Rex
will be given on 5th and 13th
April at London's Purcell
Room, Southbank. John Peel
will be narrating.

Tyrannosaurus Rex appear by
arrangement with **Blackhill**
Enterprises.



Oak, Ash and Thorn programme Purcell Room, 5th & 13th April 1968

After numerous appearances at Middle Earth in Covent Garden, Tyrannosaurus Rex's first headline gig in London was at the intimate, 365 capacity, Purcell Room – the smallest of the three South Bank venues. Tyrannosaurus Rex would later play both the Queen Elizabeth Hall (916 capacity) and the Royal Festival Hall (2,500 capacity).





Debora

Released 19th April 1968

The release of Debora was followed by generally positive reviews. In Disc and Music Echo, Penny Valentine described it as 'Few words, lots of sounds, and it's pretty in a strange way'.

The promo copies of the single came in a picture sleeve with Debora mis-spelt as Deborah on both the cover and the record label. The same mistake was on the French release of the single.

Debora spent 7 weeks in the top 50 of the singles chart with a peak position of 34.



Tyrannosaurus Rex

William Neave Parker (1910-1961)

The illustration of a Tyrannosaurus Rex that was used extensively in 1968 to 1970, was painted by William Neave Parker.

Neave Parker was commissioned by the Natural History Museum, then known as the British Museum (Natural History), to produce dinosaur illustrations for a non-technical audience. The first of his illustrations appeared in the London News in 1950. He then produced a series of illustrations which were sold as postcards.

Marc and Steve have been added to the image as a photo montage.

The Babylonian Mouthpiece Show

3rd June 1968

A concert organised by Tyrannosaurus Rex's management company Blackhill Enterprises with the bizarre title of The Babylonian Mouthpiece Show. John Peel was compere and Marc's friend, David Bowie, performed mime.

It was at Blackhill Enterprises, in February 1968, that Marc met future wife June Child, who worked there as a secretary.



Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, London

My People Were Fair Released 5th July 1968

An encouraging debut LP for Tyrannosaurus Rex as the album spent 9 weeks in the charts reaching a peak position of 15.

Not surprisingly, the album's full title of My People Were Fair And Had Sky In Their Hair...But Now They're Content To Wear Stars On Their Brows is usually shortened to My People Were Fair.

The album shown on the right, which has been encased in self adhesive covering film to protect it (never a good idea!), has been signed by Marc, Steve Took, John Peel and Vytas Serelis, an Australian sitar player who was the support act at a Tyrannosaurus Rex concert at the Queen Elizabeth Hall in London on 13th January 1969.

My People Were Fair was released in South Africa on the Continental label.



BLACKHILL ENTERPRISES
presents — for one night only

TYRANNOSAURUS REX

ROY HARPER

with **STEFAN GROSSMAN** and **DAVID BOWIE**
Vibrations by **JOHN PEEL**
at **THE ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL**
(General Manager John Denison, C.B.E.)

on **WHIT MONDAY, JUNE 3rd, 1968, 8 p.m.**
Tickets from **The Royal Festival Hall Box Office (WAT 3191)** and
Musiland, 230 Portobello Road (01-229 3077), or at the door

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
GENERAL MANAGER JOHN DENISON, C.B.E.

THE BABYLONIAN MOUTHPIECE SHOW

MONDAY, 3 JUNE, 1968
8 p.m.
Management: Blackhill Enterprises

ANNEXE 15/- **GANGWAY 6 ROW SEAT A 57**

RED SIDE
Please enter the auditorium by **DOOR 4 LEVEL 4**

EMI
TYRANNOSAURUS REX

Hot Rod Mama
1. SCENESCAPE
2. CHILD STAR
3. STRANGE ORCHESTRAS
4. CHATEAU IN VIRGINIA WATERS
5. DWARFISH TRUMPET BLUES

MUSTANG FORD 1
AFGHAN WOMAN 2
KNIGHT 3
GRACEFUL PAT SHERA 4
WELDER OF WOUNDS 5
PROWING ATAHUALLEPA 6

Dedicated to Asian and the Old Americans

Mustang Ford, Afghan Woman, Knight, Graceful Pat Shera, Welder of Wounds, Prowling Atahuallepa

Children - very much by John Peel
Long Green Valley - Anderson
European - Gerald Clarke
Knights - Robert Palmer and
Children - The Band
European - Trevor - Tony Wilson

All Songs Written by Marc Bolan. Published by Concord Music Ltd.
Produced by Tony Newman for Strategic Record Productions Ltd.

Tyrannosaurus Rex rose out of the sad and scattered leaves of an older summer. During the hard, grey winter they were tended and strengthened by those who love them. They blossomed with the coming of spring, children rejoiced and the earth sang with them. It will be a long and ecstatic summer. - John Peel

REGAL
RECORDS
STEREO
S.E.L.N.P.M.





One Inch Rock 23rd August 1968

The single had positive reviews in the music press and had a moderate degree of success with 7 weeks in the top 50 of the singles chart with a peak position of 28 in late September 1968.

Peter Jones in his Record Mirror review enthused about the single and said 'We're all pretty much unanimous that this will be a big hit for the two lads' – I can't remember ever seeing Marc described as a 'lad' before!

Derek Johnson, in New Musical Express, described it as being 'happy, light-hearted and thoroughly infectious' and having a 'toe-tapping bouncy shuffle beat'. The same chord structure would later be used on T Rex's 1975 hit New York City.



The Great South Coast Bank Holiday Pop Festivity

31st August 1968, Isle of Wight

Around 10,000 attended the two day festival that ran from 6pm to 10am the next morning. Two low-loader trailers formed a platform for the stage and a canvas material covered the scaffold and lighting rig over the make-shift stage. There was very little running water and no toilet facilities at the site, other than a dug-out trench.



(Above) Signed promo card (with spelling mistake)

(Left) Tyrannosaurus Rex at Godhill

Glastonbury Tor

October 1968

Sometime between the 19th and 24th October, Marc, John Peel and Peter Sanders visited the legendary Glastonbury Tor. I visited the site in 2010 and found that there is still a bench in the same position on the path to St Michael's Tower.



Prophets, Seers & Sages

1st November 1968

Less than 4 months after the release of their debut album, Tyrannosaurus Rex released their second LP.

Although I was given an original copy of this album from my brother back in 1971, I couldn't resist this signed copy of the album with Marc's small, but carefully placed, autograph. Also signed by Steve, I later got the inner sleeve signed by Tony Visconti (producer) and Peter Sanders (photographer).

The album reached a disappointing 44 in the charts.



The Rag Top Gear Show, Newcastle

1st November 1968

Tyrannosaurus Rex co-headlined this student event with the progressive rock band The Nice (which included Keith Emerson). John Peel was the compere for the evening. The gig took place on the same day as the Prophets LP was released.



NEWCASTLE STUDENTS' CHARITIES APPEAL

THE RAG TOP GEAR SHOW—Tonight at the City Hall

TYRANNOSAURUS REX : THE NICE

Chicken Shack : Savoy Brown : Principal Edwards' Magic Theatre
Compered by John Peel

Two Houses—6.30 and 8.45 p.m.

Tickets 12/6, 10/6, 8/6, 7/6, 5/-

Tickets only available from City Hall Box Office

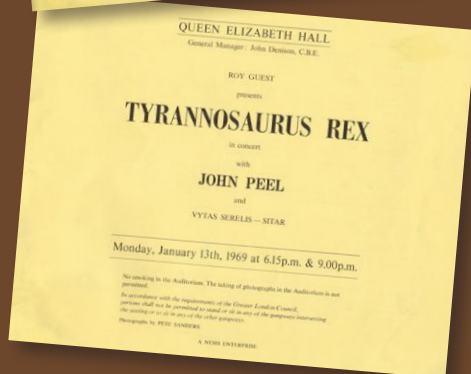
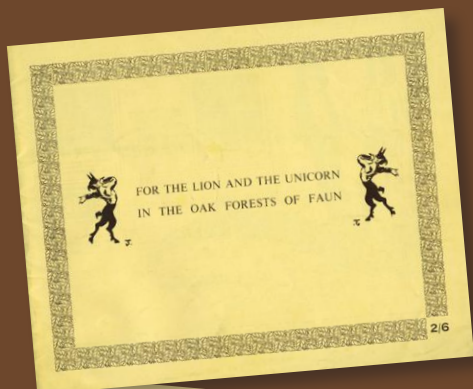
For The Lion And The Unicorn

13th January 1969

This is the programme for the gig at Queen Elizabeth Hall at South Bank in London.

There were two shows, at 6.15pm and 9pm. The tickets for the earlier show were considerably cheaper than the later show. An advert for the gig states 'Both shows have the same value but the first show is primarily for students and kids with less money'.

Along with the likes of Conesuala and One Inch Rock, Tyrannosaurus Rex also performed their soon to be released single Pewter Suitor.



Pewter Suitor

Released 17th January 1969

Released to very mixed reviews, the single failed to make the charts. Several reviewers gave positive comments about the vocal overlays and the 'fantastic rhythm', but others said it was 'over-involved' and of 'little substance'.

My least favourite of the Tyrannosaurus Rex singles, the song was hard to come by for fans as it, not surprisingly, did not feature on any of the 'best of' type compilations in the 1970s and, along with Do You Remember, only became available again in 1984, on the Rare Magic 12" EP.

I bought my stock copy of the single at a record fair in Coventry in the 1980s. I remember asking the seller to play it on his small record player and then paying £17 for it after some haggling. I still remember the sound of Pewter Suitor filling the record fair at the Methodist Hall and thinking I wonder what others think of this strange sound.

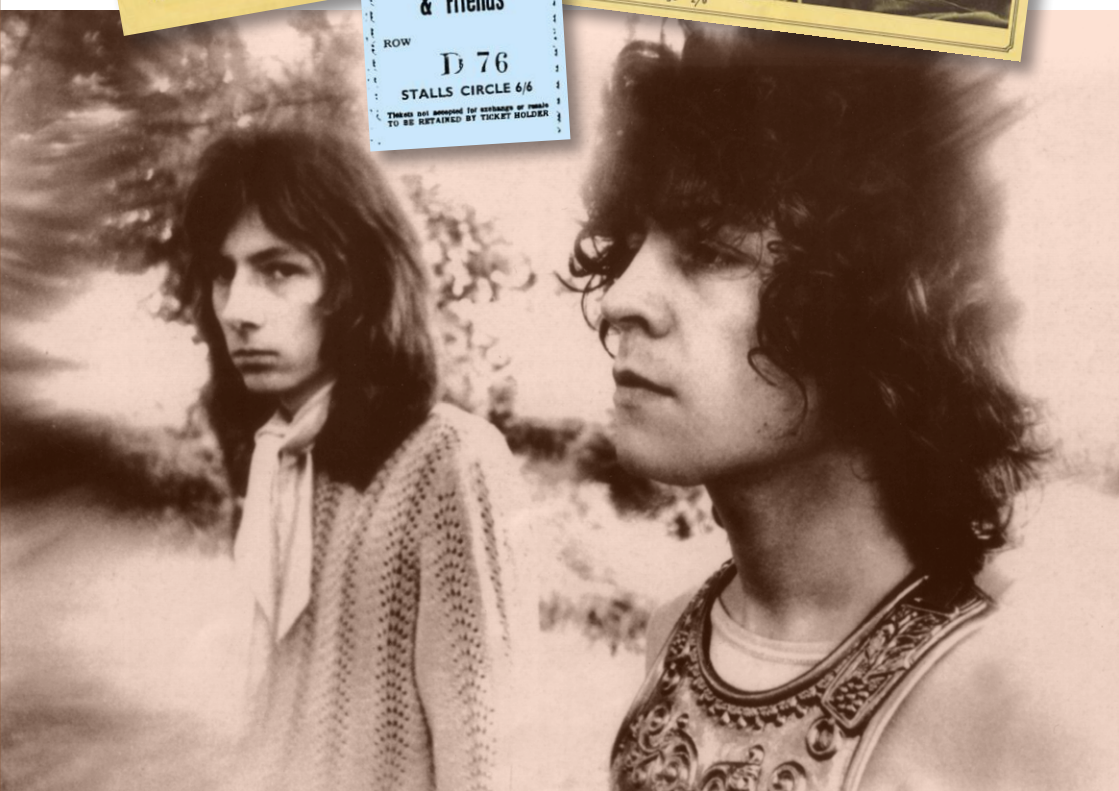
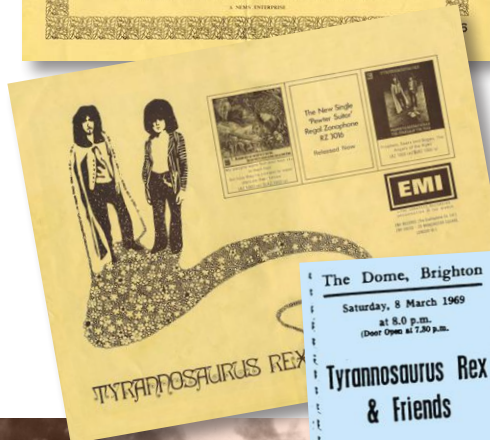
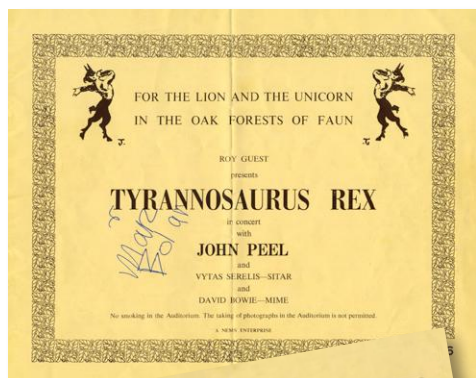
Unlike the previous two singles, the promo copy for Pewter Suitor did not have a picture sleeve.



For The Lion And The Unicorn tour February & March 1969

Tyrannosaurus Rex went on tour in February and March with support acts Vytas Serelis (sitar player) and David Bowie performing mime. The compere for the shows was John Peel. Fairport Convention was the support for one of the gigs.

The short tour ended at Brighton Dome on the 8th March, just a week before the publication of Marc's poetry book *The Warlock of Love*.



Marsha Hunt

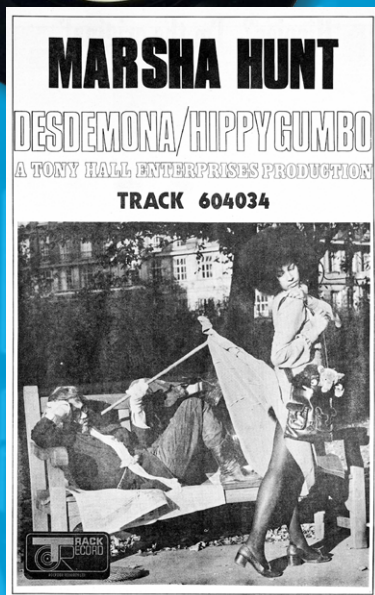
Desdemona (1969) & Woman Child (1971)

Marsha Hunt, who was already well known for her appearances in the musical Hair, met Marc in 1969 during the Unicorn sessions and the two had a brief, but close, friendship.

Desdemona, released in the UK in 1969, was produced by Kit Lambert. It was Lambert, along with Chris Stamp, that set up Track Records in 1967, so he would have already been familiar with the song through John's Children.

The flipside to Desdemona was Hippy Gumbo, another Bolan composition, which was produced by Tony Visconti.

Marsha's Woman Child album was released in 1971 and featured Desdemona, Stacey Grove, and a slightly re-titled Hot Rod Poppa. However, on the track My World Is Empty Without You, Marc can be heard saying 'Hickory Dickory Dock, the mouse ran up the clock' before giving out a scream.





The illustration on the poster has been taken from this photo.

T' Rex Kard Bar poster Newcastle

A poster produced for the Kard Bar in Newcastle. Although undated, it appears to be from 1968 or 1969. Tyrannosaurus Rex was shortened to T' Rex – possibly the first time a shortened version of the name had been used in print.



Tyrannosaurus Rex songbook Lupus Music

Published by Lupus Music in 1969, this music book has a couple of photos of Marc and Steve along with music and lyrics to four Tyrannosaurus Rex songs and a poem.

Tyrannosaurus Rex take up half of the book with the other half taken up by Pink Floyd.



The Warlock Of Love

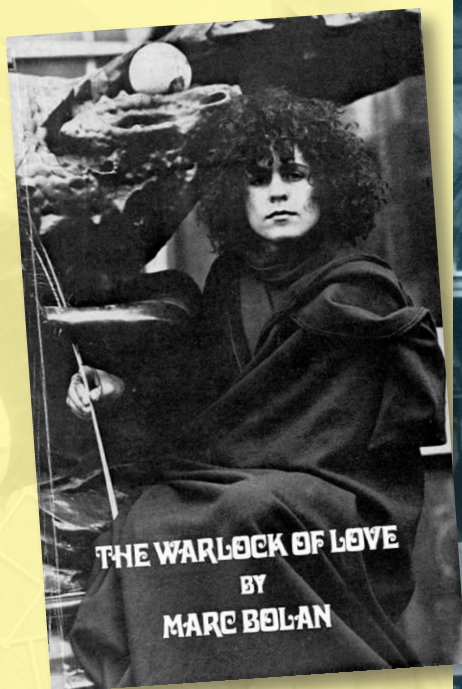
Published 15th March 1969

The photo used on the cover of The Warlock of Love was taken at the Tate Gallery which is now known as Tate Britain. The statue behind Marc is The Rescue of Andromeda (1893) by Henry C. Fehr.

Presumably taken on the same day, the photo of Marc and Steve shows them in front of The Death of Dirce (1906), a bronze statue based on the Farnese Bull. Both statues are still on display on the terraces to the left and right of the main entrance of Tate Britain. Photos were taken by photographer Peter Sanders.

The poster (shown on the right) is missing a small amount on the right-hand side edge. The poster must have had a small print run as it is very rare.

The Rupert annual that Steve is holding was published in 1968.



**Tyrannosaurus Rex April
News Letter**

Well, it's Easter month and I hope you all have a very happy Easter and get lots of Easter eggs.

I hope you have all entered the competition, and you will be hearing the winner just as soon as Annabel and I have decided just who that lucky person is. Annabel, as you have probably guessed is now helping me with the fan club. Actually the work is shared by doing half each.

Marc has just bought himself an electric guitar, so may be in the future their act will consist of Marc playing his new electric guitar.

Last month Marc gave a talk on crums and various other subjects that five year olds understand, to a class of five to six year olds at a school called Robin Ross School, in Wimbledon. Then I asked Marc about it later, he told me he enjoyed every minute of it and so did the children. He also mentioned that he would love to do more things like this in the future. He said the children behaved themselves completely, and they were so interested that they just wouldn't let him go.

May is going to be an exciting month for Tyrannosaurus Rex. First their latest album is to be released on May 2nd (just as soon as I get more news about it, I shall let you all know). Also in May Marc and Steve are going to America.

At the moment various concerts are in progress to be held at the end of this month. But as yet I have no details about them, but as soon as I do, I shall let you all know about them.

This Month's poem:-

A lily in my mouth
White daisy-like flower with rose thorn.
A stroke of bone escapes the single-tone
Of the throne of my stone-grown-gente white tusks
all unseen and stony.
Like a swollen lake bearing smallwood bumps
Disregarding ears and jodely earrings
Blessed by priestly Gothic wooden
With purely dancing fingers
Grown on bones of silver dusk rams.

Fan club newsletter April 1969

This fan club newsletter from April 1969 is interesting for two reasons. The newsletter says 'Marc has just bought himself a guitar, so may be in the future their act will consist of Marc playing his new electric guitar'. Presumably, the guitar referred to is Marc's white Fender Stratocaster guitar which was embellished with a tear drop.

However, perhaps more interestingly, the newsletter says that Marc gave a talk to 5 and 6 year olds in a school. The school is named as 'Robin Ross School in Wimbledon'. I suspect that the school that Marc went to was actually Ronald Ross Primary School in Wimbledon, a mere 2 miles away from his parents prefab in Summerstown.

As the visit to the school is talked about in the past tense, it almost certainly happened.

Bay Hotel, Sunderland 27th June 1969

The organiser of the gig was Geoff Docherty, a well known music promoter in the North East. In his excellent book, 'A Promoter's Tale', he said that Marc was very discerning about where they played but after hearing good reports from John Peel, he agreed to play the Bay Hotel. The fee for the appearance was £350. Admission to the gig was 12/6d, approximately 63p in decimal money. Almost two and a half years later, when T Rex had already had a couple of number 1 singles, the ticket price for their gig at Newcastle City Hall was only 60p.

Support came from Free and This Years Girl. Free had released their first album 3 months earlier. Unfortunately, on the way to the gig, the car that June was driving broke down around Sheffield. June phoned Geoff Docherty who, with a sell out crowd at the Bay Hotel, agreed to pay for a taxi from Sheffield to Sunderland at a cost of £17.

Marc and Steve were so late that Docherty got Free to play a second set of songs, who by that time, had a full house of around 800 to play to.

As Docherty says in his book 'Marc and Steve finally arrived and were ushered straight on stage to wild and rapturous applause'. Post gig, Docherty said 'Backstage, the door leading to Marc Bolan's dressing room was jammed with female admirers who were desperate to meet him. Some were even crying with emotion'.

Bay Hotel — Tonight

SPECIAL LATE DANCE—LATE BAR

TYRANNOSAURUS REX

★ *Free* ★

THIS YEARS GIRL

7—1 A.M. PAY AT DOOR 2/6



Perhaps Bolanmania started earlier than we think. Just 4 weeks after this gig, Tyrannosaurus Rex released King of the Rumbling Spires. I would have loved to have seen Marc perform that song live. Sadly, the Bay Hotel has now been demolished.

King Of The Rumbling Spires

Released 25th July 1969

Following on from the very hippy-trippy sound of Pewter Sutor, this single release was a sign of things to come. With Marc on electric guitar, Took on a full drum kit and Tony Visconti on bass and keyboards, this is a precursor to the T Rex sound.

Melody Maker described the song as 'Bolan's most commercial production to date'.

Personally, I think this is a great song and made for a single that should have given the group a much deserved hit record. In the end, it only managed to reach 44 in the singles chart.

The song did not feature on Unicorn and for many years was only available on The Best of T Rex LP.

In a letter to a fan, Marc wrote 'the King of the rumbling spires is my poetic name for my gaudian [sic] angel, we all have one you know'.



Marc and Mickey promo photo October 1969

It was already decided that Steve would leave Tyrannosaurus Rex before the duo embarked on what turned out to be a disastrous North American tour in August/September 1969.

Steve was replaced by the more affable Mickey Finn in October after Marc was introduced to him through mutual friend Peter Sanders – Marc's favoured photographer at the time. The promo photo shown here is from the first photo session with Peter Sanders.

The 'Tony Barrow International Limited' logo shown on the promo photo refers to legendary PR man Tony Barrow who had worked with The Beatles for several years and is the person who is credited for coining the phrase 'The Fab Four'. In 1968 he set up an independent PR consultancy based in Mayfair, London and subsequently went on to represent many artists in the 1970s including The Kinks and the Bay City Rollers.



CITY HALL - NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE

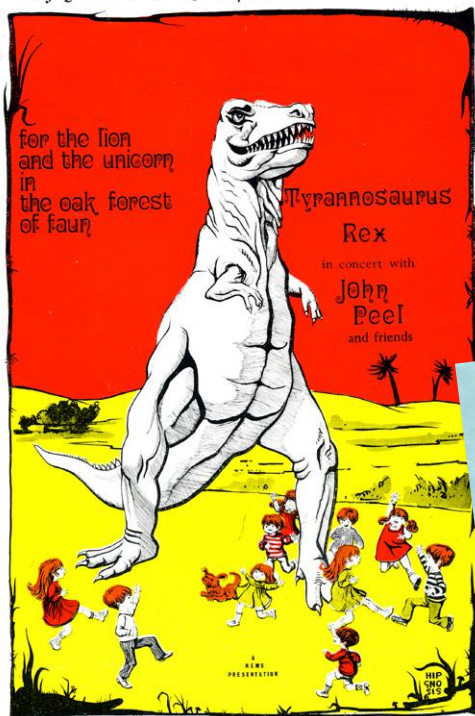
Telephones: 0632-20007

SUNDAY, 23rd NOVEMBER at 7.30 p.m.

Tickets: 15/- 12/6 10/- 7/6

from City Hall Box Office.

Roy Guest and Vic Lewis present



Printed by Hastings Printing Company, Drury Lane, Hastings, Sussex. Telephone: Hastings 2288/4 0-2450

City Hall, Newcastle

23rd November 1969

This is a flyer for the gig at Newcastle. Flyers exist for a number of other venues on the tour along with posters using the same dinosaur graphic.

Strange to think that 5 days later, the group played Sunderland Locarno, a mere 10 miles or so away from Newcastle.

John Peel was the compere for the show and the support act for the gig was Bridget St John. Bridget was a singer-songwriter and guitarist best known for the 3 albums she recorded between 1969 and 1972 for John Peel's Dandelion label.

FREE TRADE HALL (Peter Street) MANCHESTER

ROY GUEST and VIC LEWIS present—

**JOHN PEEL and FRIENDS
TYRANNOSAURUS REX**

FRIDAY, 21st NOVEMBER, 1969
at 7.45 p.m.

— A NEMS PRESENTATION —

STALLS

M 29

10/6

D32

FRONT STALLS

ALL, CROYDON

PYPER, M.I.M.Ent.

**SATURDAY
DECEMBER 27**
at 7.45 p.m.

TYRANNOSAURUS REX

(Equivalent 85p)

17/-

Valid until a convenient break in the
be exchanged or money refunded.

Fairfield Hall, Croydon

27th December 1969

This ticket is for the last Tyrannosaurus Rex gig of the 1960s. The hippy years of the 60s were coming to an end and the groups that emerged in the 1970s would be very different...none more so than T Rex.

LIVE! AT THE FAIRFIELD

FAIRFIELD HALL, CROYDON

Manager: Thomas J. Pyper, M.I.M.Ent.

SATURDAY, 27th DECEMBER, at 7.45 p.m.

JOHN & TONY SMITH PRESENT

**TYRANNOSAURUS
REX**

IN CONCERT

WITH BOPPING FRIENDS

SEATS: 17/-, 15/-, 13/-, 10/-, 8/-

Bookable in advance from: BOX OFFICE, FAIRFIELD HALL,
CROYDON. TEL: CRO 9291. Open 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.



Radio Spots promo single Blue Thumb Records

Record comprises of short interviews with Marc talking to John Peel about the upcoming USA tour.

Blue Thumb Records released Unicorn and A Beard of Stars in the USA. This record was used by the label to promote the band's August/September 1969 tour of America.



By the Light Of A Magical Moon Released 16th January 1970

Once again, the duo got favourable reviews for their latest single but somehow managed to avoid the charts. New Musical Express described it as 'hauntingly insistent' with a 'colourful lyric and throbbing beat'.

Some copies of the UK single have the wrong title of By The Light of THE Magical Moon. The Irish version of the single managed to get both the title wrong and the name of the group, calling them Tryannosaurus Rex. For the small music press ads, the title of the song was shortened to simply Magical Moon.

The West German release of the single featured an out of date photo of Marc and Steve on the sleeve.

Like Pewter Suitor, the demo single did not have a picture sleeve.





Tour programme Late 1969 / Early 1970

This programme was bought in an Oxfam auction and was signed by Marc, Mickey, John Peel and June Child (Marc's partner and future wife).

For many years now I have believed that there were three people who, collectively, were key to Marc's success.

John Peel was unrelenting in giving Marc exposure on his radio programme and roadshows. June gave Marc immense love and support, and producer and friend Tony Visconti, with his immense production skills, provided the technical know-how to capture perfectly the sound that Marc wanted.

In 2019, I couldn't resist asking producer Tony Visconti to put his autograph alongside those of John Peel and June.

The programme does not mention any gig dates so is difficult to date. Mickey made his live debut on 8th November 1969 at Leeds University and the programme has an ad for Unicorn, but not one for A Beard of Stars, which was released on the 13th March 1970.

Inside the programme, there are printed lyrics to 10 songs including eight from A Beard of Stars.

ROY GUEST
presents
**TYRANNOSAURUS
REX**

in concert with

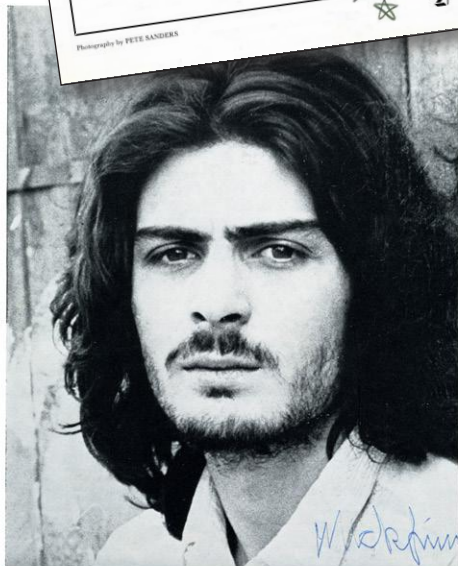
JOHN PEEL

and
FRIENDS

Thankyou for
being so nice
Love
June Child

Photographs by PETER SANDERS

21-



MICKY FINN—VOGALS BONGOS
AFRICAN-TALKING DRUMS CHINESE GONG
PIXIEPHONE ASSORTED PERCUSSION
TABLA AND BASS



MARC BOLAN—VOGALS GUITARS AND ORGAN

A Beard Of Stars

Released 13th March 1970

The fourth, and final, Tyrannosaurus Rex album received favourable reviews but only managed to reach a position of 21 in the charts.

Photography was once again by Peter Sanders.



Caird Hall, Dundee

24th May 1970

It seems a strange coupling, but Tyrannosaurus Rex appeared as support band to popular blues rock band Ten Years After. Depending on which source you believe, Tyrannosaurus Rex appeared as support group to Ten Years After at two or three gigs in Scotland.



Programme
and ticket

Bay Hotel, Sunderland

29th May 1970





Love & Music film still 27th June 1970

The Holland Pop Festival was held over 3 days with the band appearing on the 27th of June. The festival was filmed and later had a cinema release.

Although the original festival poster advertised the duo as Tyrannosaurus Rex, by the time the Stamping Ground film came out they were listed as T Rex. The only song by the duo to feature in the film is By The Light Of A Magical Moon.

The festival at Rotterdam was sponsored by Coca-Cola and attended by around 100,000 people. Marc wore dark blue dungarees for the performance.

The Stamping Ground film was issued in West Germany using the title of Love and Music.

Oh Baby

Released 4th September 1970

Released under the name of Dib Cochran & The Earwigs, the band comprised of Marc on guitar; Tony Visconti on lead vocals, bass and string arrangements; Rick Wakeman on keyboards and David Bowie's drummer John Cambridge. Bowie's guitarist, Mick Ronson was present at the recording session but did not feature.

The recording session for Oh Baby and the B side, Universal Love, took place on the 24th March 1970 at CTS Studios in Bayswater, London. Rumours have long persisted that David Bowie plays on the record – he does not.

The single was released on the Bell label and, with little or, more likely, no promotion, the record sank without trace. It is a highly sought after record for many Bolan collectors.



Ride A White Swan

9th October 1970

The first single to be released using the T Rex name came in a picture sleeve and had a steady climb up the UK charts resulting in their first (of many) Top of the Pops appearance.

Sadly, their first performance, broadcast on the 12th November 1970, has been wiped by the BBC. For this performance, Marc played his favoured Les Paul and wore blue dungarees, probably the same pair worn at the Holland Pop Festival gig, and Mickey 'played' bass guitar.

Their second Top of the Pops appearance was on the 26th November 1970 and, featured Marc playing the white Stratocaster guitar and Mickey 'playing' bass guitar. Although by that time Steve Currie had joined the band, he did not appear with Marc and Mickey. The BBC recording of this performance has also been wiped.

The single sold very well and eventually peaked at number 2 in the UK charts. The record that kept it from reaching number 1 was the novelty hit Grandad by Clive Dunn – a song co-written by Herbie Flowers who would later join T Rex in 1976.

The single Ride A White Swan was released on the 9th October 1970 and, on the same day, T Rex (not Tyrannosaurus Rex as the ticket states) played the Albert Hall in Nottingham.

After nearly 5 years of record releases, Marc was finally on the cusp of the major breakthrough he so much desired.





(Above) The Greek version of the single, like its follow up Hot Love, was pressed on multi-colour vinyl.

(Left) Although the sleeve for the Italian release has Tyrannosaurus Rex on the sleeve, the record has T. Rex.

T. Rex album

18th December 1970

Often referred to as the 'Brown Album', the first T Rex album, released on the Fly label, peaked at number 7 in the UK album chart. The hit single

Ride A White Swan is not on the album, though it was included on the USA Reprise pressing of the album (shown below).



T. Rex poster

c1970

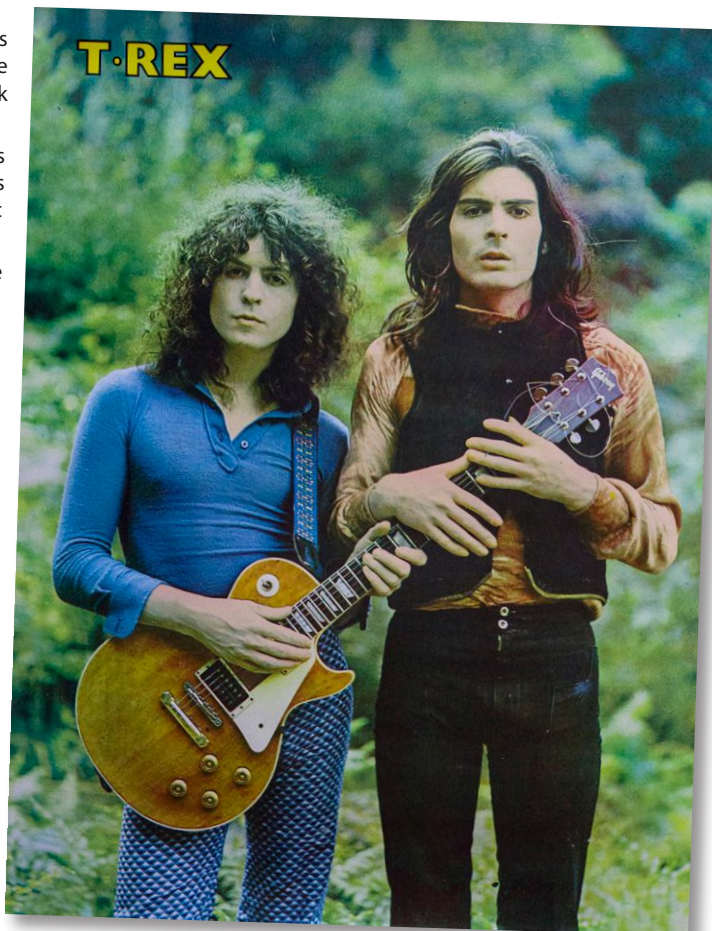
Many fans believe that this is a promo poster for the first T Rex album, but I think that is very unlikely.

I bought a copy of this poster in the early 1970s from the Spinning Disc record shop in Sunderland.

Obviously taken from the same Peter Sanders photo session as the photo used on the T Rex album it is, however, a slightly different pose by Marc and Mickey. In addition, the poster has a green colour cast (indicating poor quality control at the printing stage) and lacks the Fly logo. My suspicion is that the poster was printed somewhere around the Sunderland area to be sold in local shops and, possibly, at T Rex gigs.

My original poster was put on the bedroom wall and then put into one of my many Marc scrapbooks.

A few years ago I bought a mint condition copy of the poster. The seller lived in Sunderland.



Signed Christmas card

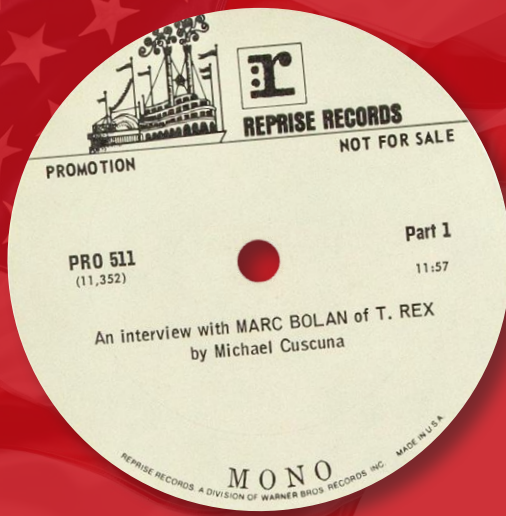
December 1970

The card is undated but, as it has white swans on it, is possibly from Christmas 1970.



Sincere Greetings
and Best Wishes for CHRISTMAS
and the
NEW YEAR

*Marc
Bolan
x*



Michael Cuscuna interview album Reprise Records, USA, 1971

An interview with Marc Bolan by USA DJ Michael Cuscuna which was subsequently pressed as a promo LP to promote the Electric Warrior album in America sometime around November 1971.

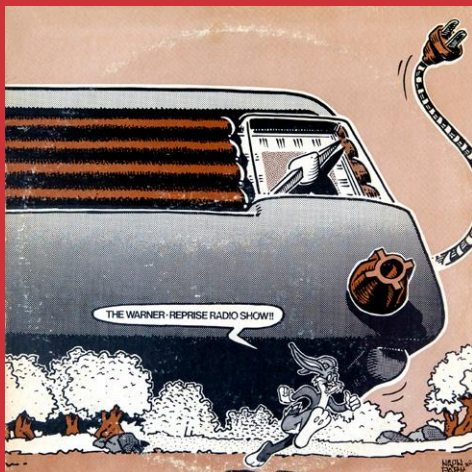
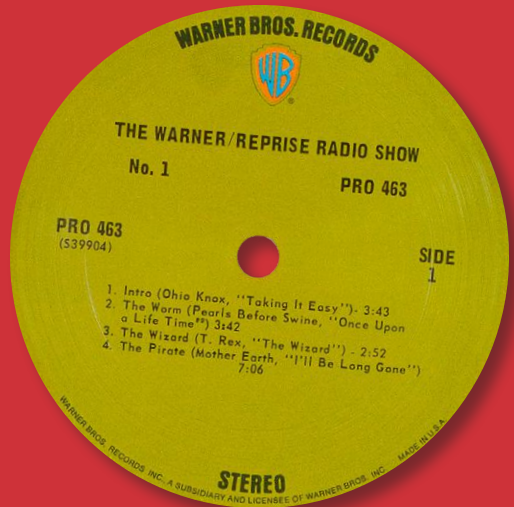
Lasting around 26 minutes, Marc talks about Electric Warrior; the differences between England and America and he sounds much more confident than the whispering Marc of the Blue Thumb promo Radio Spots interview just a couple of years earlier.

Electric Warrior was released on the Reprise label in October 1971.



The Warner/Reprise Radio Show Warner Bros. Records, 1971

This album has a unique version of The Wizard which fades out part of the way through the song and Marc talks about someone who is deaf, dumb and blind who plays a plastic trumpet (not a pinball machine!). The song fades back in and ends with a child shouting 'T Rex, T Rex, T Rex'. A very strange version of the song.

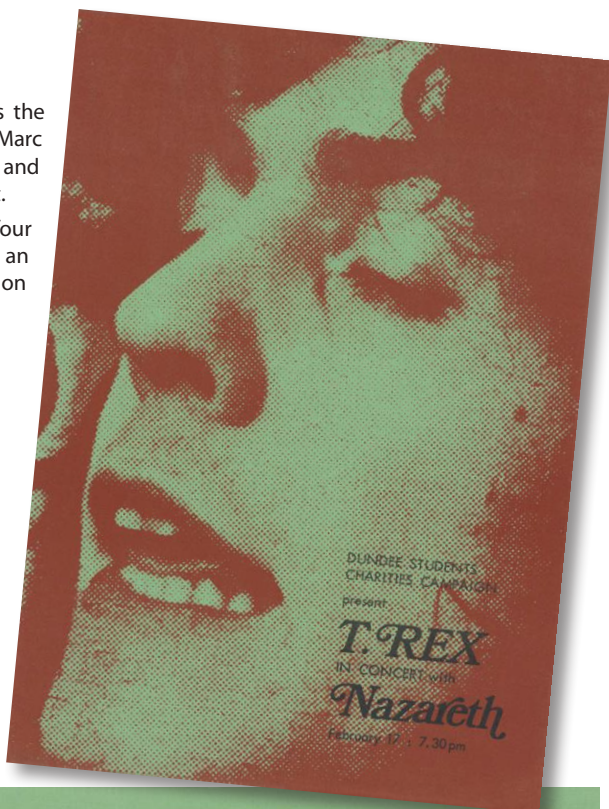


Caird Hall, Dundee

17th February 1971

Nine months after playing Dundee as the support band to Ten Years After, Marc returned to Caird Hall with T Rex and Scottish rock band Nazareth as support.

A few years ago a box of 60 original four page flyers was found and then sold in an auction. Individual flyers now turn up on eBay on a regular basis.



T.REX ARE A DUET - USUALLY
T.REX ARE A FOLK DUO - NOT ANY MORE

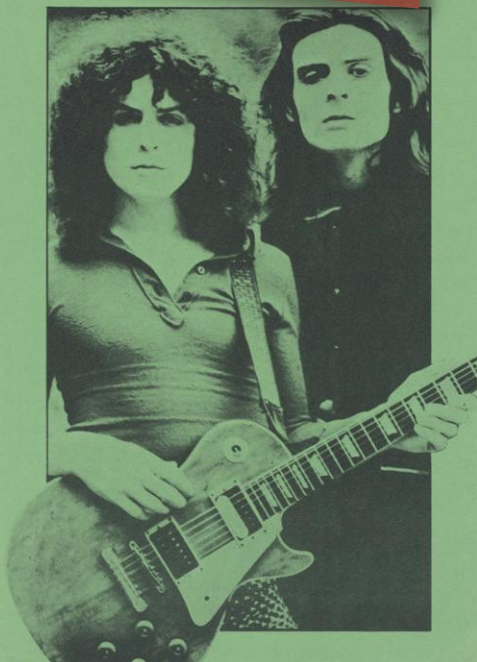
"T.REX ARE THE NEW LED ZEPPELIN"
- Marc Bolan in Melody Maker

"T.REX WILL BE EXCEEDINGLY BIG IN 1971"
- RH in MM

"T.REX ARE AN ACQUIRED TASTE"
- Ray Miller in Sounds
.... BUT VERY EASILY ACQUIRED - RD

"T.REX - HEAVIER THAN EVER BEFORE, AND
AT THEIR MOST FUNKY"
- RH in MM of 'Children of Rarn' LP

"T.REX'S LIVE GIGS WILL BE BETTER THIS
YEAR. FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW
THEY ARE NOW REALLY EXCITING"
- Marc Bolan in MM



Mayfair, Newcastle 18th February 1971

The group's third, and final, gig at the Mayfair in Newcastle was on the day before the release of their soon to be chart topping hit *Hot Love*. For this gig, T Rex were a 3 piece band with Steve Currie on bass, having joined the band a few months earlier.

Support was from If, a prog rock/jazz rock band.

T Rex were paid £350 for the gig and tickets prices were 15/- (75p).



Hot Love

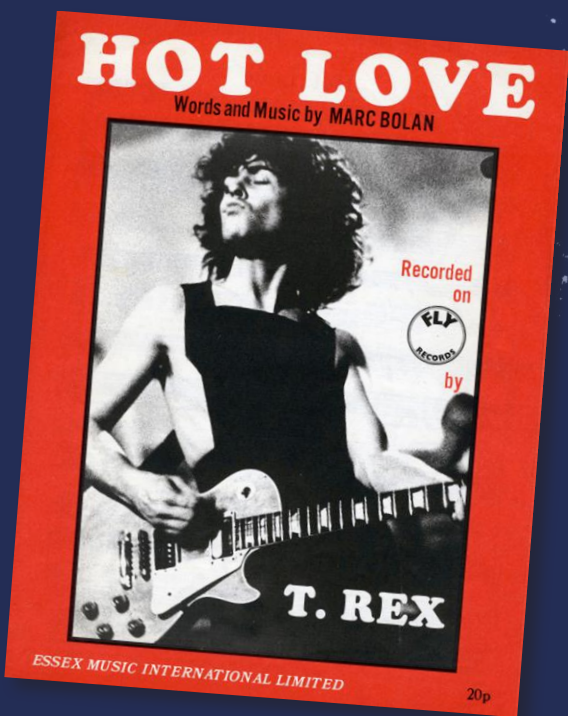
19th February 1971

Released in February 1971, Hot Love entered the UK singles charts at 31 while Ride A White Swan was still charting at 26. Hot Love would go on to top the charts for 6 weeks and spend a total of 17 weeks in the top 50.

In 1971 there was huge competition in the UK singles chart. To get to the top, Hot Love leapfrogged a top four that consisted of Baby Jump by Mungo Jerry; Another Day by Paul McCartney; Rose Garden by Lyn Anderson and My Sweet Lord by George Harrison – all major hits in that year. Building on the success of Ride A White Swan, this was a massive step in the right direction for T Rex.

The single got very positive reviews in the music press. Derek Johnson in New Musical Express said, 'The very simplicity of the number is the key to its assured popularity.'

Initial copies of the record were pressed on the mustard-coloured labels with a basic logo. Later copies of the single had black labels with a Roger Dean illustration of a fly. Due to the huge success of the single, the record was pressed many times with the record label having at least 17 variants.





Japan



Greece

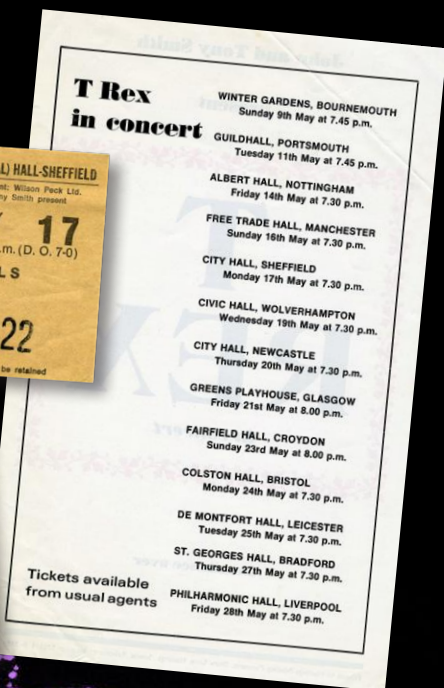
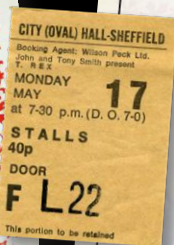


Hot Love 11th March 1971

For the first Top of the Pops performance for Hot Love, Marc used his Telecaster guitar and sang into an open mic, fluffing his lines at the end of the second verse. Mickey 'played' the drums and Steve Currie was on bass.

The photos shown here are from the rehearsals.





Tour flyer May 1971

With two huge hit singles behind them, the May 1971 tour was hugely successful. Several gig reviews commented on the changing face of the T Rex audience. A review of the Leicester gig talked about 'the adolescent screams of ecstatic teenage girl fans. The object of their worship was curly haired Marc Bolan'.

The photo of Marc used on the front cover of *Electric Warrior* was taken at Nottingham on the 14th of May.





JOHN &
TONY SMITH
PRESENT



*Here's the time on a windy day,
I've wanted to hold the hand of all the people that ever thought my name,
But hands are many and the days grow fewer,
Now I know you, and like it.*

Mark Bolan, 1971.



T. REX

MAY 1971

Get It On 2nd July 1971

The basic track was recorded in Los Angeles with further production work added in London. Sax was added by King Crimson's Ian McDonald and piano glissandos by Rick Wakeman. Marc was aware that Wakeman was struggling to pay his rent at the time so offered him the session work. Backing vocals were by ex-Turtles, Mark Volman and Howard Kaylan.

The song spent 13 weeks on the UK chart and held the number 1 position for 4 weeks. In America, as there was already a song with the title Get It On by jazz rock group Chase, the T Rex single was released on the Reprise label in early August as Bang A Gong (Get It On). It took T Rex seven months to finally reach a peak position of number 10 in the USA Billboard chart.

In the UK, the single got very favourable reviews from the music press with the exception of John Peel's review in Sounds, in which he describes it merely as 'an above-average record'. Sadly, Marc took exception to Peel's indifference to the record and that brought about an end to their friendship.

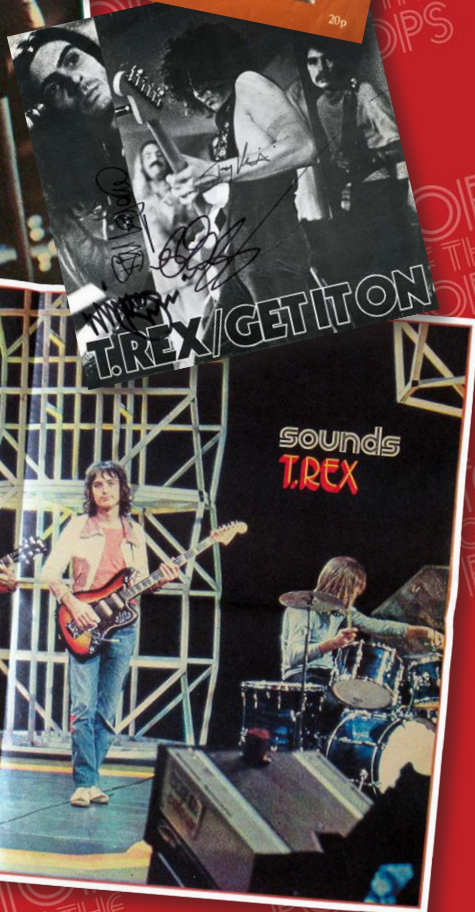
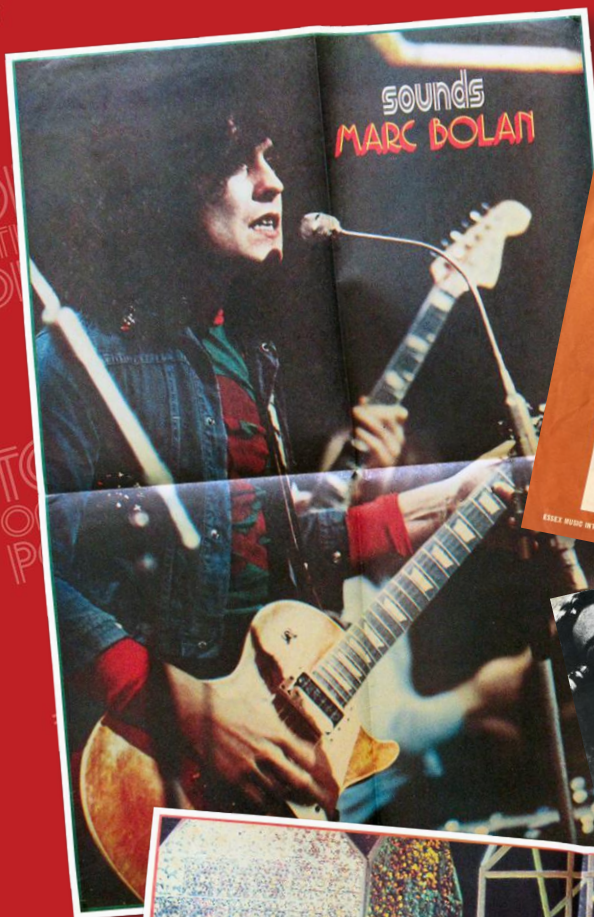
Released on the Fly label, initial copies of the single came with a B&W picture sleeve showing the 3 piece T Rex.

Get It On gave T Rex a hit single

in many parts of the world. In Japan, in addition to the normal black version, the single was also pressed on red vinyl and, for some unknown reason, they chose an old photo of Marc playing a keyboard for the front cover of the sleeve.

Unfortunately, too late to get the picture sleeve version, I bought Get It On after seeing T Rex on Top of the Pops on the 8th July 1971. With a flipside every bit as good as the A side, this was, and remains, in my opinion, the greatest single ever released. I was only 10 years old when I bought the record, but I love it as much now as I did then. A timeless classic.





Weeley Festival 29th August 1971

The Weeley Festival was organised as a charity fundraising event by the Clacton Round Table for around 5,000 people. After plans for an Isle of Wight Festival fell through, the Weeley Festival became THE festival of the summer. With advance ticket sales of over 100,000 and, due to the very basic design of the ticket, many more were copied, no-one knows how many attended over the weekend but estimates suggest up to 150,000.

Running over the Bank Holiday weekend, the first group went on stage at midnight on the 27th August and then there was continuous music running for the duration of the festival.

After a crowd pleasing set by Rod Stewart & The Faces earlier in the evening, Marc received some hostility from the crowd when T Rex took to the stage. In truth, this was not a typical T Rex audience but Marc, by all accounts, won over the majority.

There was a lot of violence at the festival, mainly between Hell's Angels and the caterers. The Great British Woodstock book by Ray Clark gives a in-depth account of the festival and is well worth reading. There is also a CD release of T Rex live at Weeley Festival.

Steve Harley of Cockney Rebel fame attended the gig and would later become one of Marc's best friends.

I think this is probably the largest festival that Marc ever played in this country and is hugely important. I visited the field in 2021 and found it quiet and calm, and I could only imagine what it must have been like 50 years earlier.





Electric Warrior

24th September 1971

Leaving behind the two transitional albums of A Beard of Stars and T Rex, Electric Warrior was 11 tracks of Bolan at his best, gave the group 8 weeks at number 1 and a chart run of 44 weeks.

The album received excellent reviews in the music press. Penny Valentine, in *Sounds*, described it as 'a major achievement in Bolan's career' and said 'On Monolith you might be listening to a '71 remake of Duke of Earl'. In a studio out-take released many years later, Tony Visconti asked Marc what the song is called, and he says 'Monolith...or Duke of Earl. You got the choice'.

The photos used on the sleeve and the free poster inside were taken by Kieron 'Spud' Murphy. The album also had an inner sleeve with illustrations of Marc and Mickey by George Underwood. On hindsight it seems strange, but the photo used on the label on side 2 of the album was taken by Peter Sanders as part of the photography session for the previous album.

This was the first T Rex album that I bought and I got the cassette version. When I got a stereo a couple of years later, I then bought the vinyl LP.

The LP sleeve shown below has been signed by Bill Legend, Tony Visconti and Rick Wakeman, and the inner sleeve by George Underwood.



Special Preview single
to promote the
Electric Warrior LP



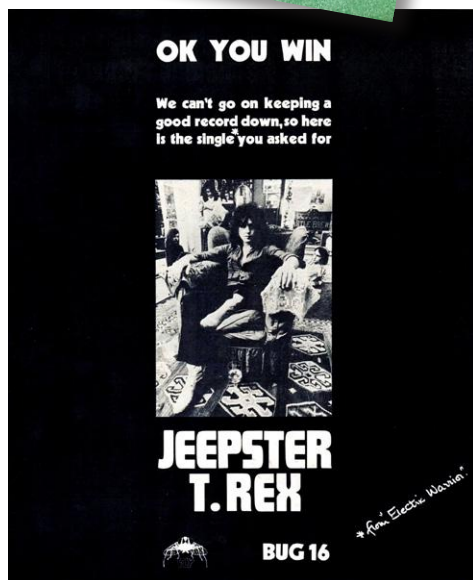
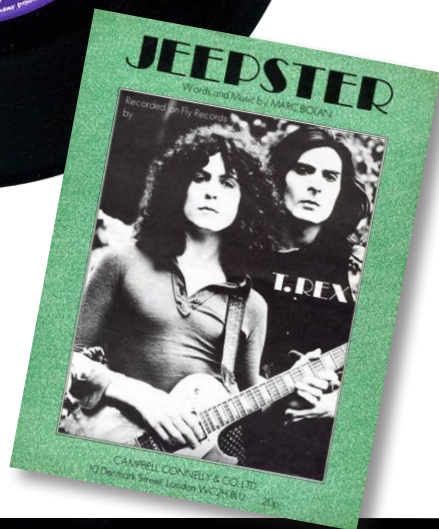
Jeepster 5th November 1971

Get It On had given Marc a huge hit single and, against his wishes, and with relatively little promotion from T Rex, Jeepster was released on the Fly label.

By the time Jeepster was released, Marc had already signed a deal with EMI to release records on his own T Rex Wax Co label.

An obvious choice for a single, Jeepster went on to reach number 2 in the charts and gave Marc another hit single. Jeepster spent 5 weeks at number 2 in the charts with Benny Hill's Ernie (The Fastest Milkman in the West) novelty single keeping T Rex off the top spot for 4 weeks.

It's incredible to think that Benny Hill's Ernie single stopped T Rex having a third consecutive number 1 and the much coveted top spot in the Christmas chart. As Electric Warrior was number 1 in the albums chart, T Rex came so close to topping both charts over the Christmas period. This was a good time to be a T Rex fan!



Autumn Tour October/November 1971

With T Rextasy in full swing, this large tour was primarily to promote the Electric Warrior album with, predictably, Jeepster and Get It On being performed alongside album tracks Girl and Cosmic Dancer. T Rex also performed a number of then unreleased songs such as Cadillac, Thunderwing, Baby Strange and Spaceball Ricochet.

After being a T Rex fan for all of three months, and at 10 years old and still in Primary School, I asked my Mum if I could go and see T Rex at Newcastle City Hall. She said 'No', and described my fascination with T Rex as being a 'passing phase'. A passing phase that has lasted a lifetime.



John & Tony Smith
in association with E.R. Management present:

Electric Warriors
T. REX in concert

All seats bookable
from box offices
& usual agents

October Dates:

Tuesday	19th	Guildhall Portsmouth
Wednesday	20th	ABC Glasgow, Plymouth
Thursday	21st	Capital Cardiff
Friday	22nd	City Hall Sheffield
Saturday	23rd	Parkfield, Croydon
Sunday	24th	St. George's Hall, Bradford
Monday	25th	St. George's Hall, Bradford
Tuesday	26th	St. George's Hall, Bradford
Wednesday	27th	St. George's Hall, Bradford
Thursday	28th	St. George's Hall, Bradford
Friday	29th	St. George's Hall, Bradford
Saturday	30th	City Hall, Newcastle

November Dates:

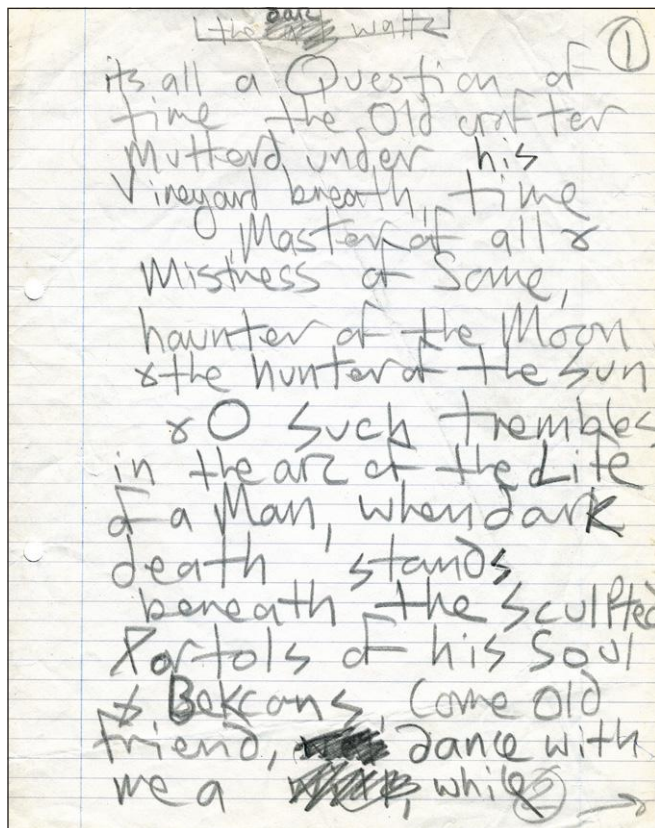
Tuesday	5th	ABC Glasgow
Wednesday	6th	Town Hall, Birmingham
Thursday	7th	Town Hall, Birmingham
Friday	8th	De Montfort Hall Leicester
Saturday	9th	ABC Glasgow
Sunday	10th	ABC Glasgow
Monday	11th	ABC Glasgow
Tuesday	12th	ABC Glasgow
Wednesday	13th	ABC Glasgow

The Darc Waltz

Date unknown

Although undated, the handwriting is typical of Marc's writing in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

I had this for a while but then sold it in 2009. It's turned up on eBay a few times since then.



the darc waltz

its all a Question of time the old crofter mutterd under his vineyard breath, time Master of all & mistress of some, haunter of the Moon & the hunter of the sun & O such trembles in the arc of the Life of a Man, when dark death stands beneath the sculpted Portals of his Soul & Bekcons, come old friend, dance with me a while.



Record Mirror

25th December 1971

Marc finished the year as the Special Santa on the front cover of the Christmas issue of Record Mirror.

In 1971 Marc had finally achieved the chart success that he had long desired and Bolanmania was well under way. With a new record deal with EMI in place, which gave Marc his own T Rex label and sleeve, 1972 was to see Marc riding the crest of the wave as Britain's leading pop star. Sell out shows at Wembley with footage from the concerts making up the bulk of the Born to Boogie movie would see Marc cement his place in rock history.

With Electric Warrior number 1 in the album chart and Jeepster number 2 in the singles chart, I suspect Marc had a great Rexmas!



King of the Rumbling Spires
Tyrannosaurus Rex
Released 25th July 1969

www.dandyintheunderworld.co.uk