

Now We're Talkin

By Helen Marketti

An Interview with Colin Blunstone of The Zombies

The Zombies have made their mark in the music industry with a 60-year career! The tidal wave began in the 1960s with The British Invasion bands from England flooding America with their chart-topping hits while changing the culture and a generation. The Zombies were a pivotal band during that time with their hits, She's Not There, Tell Her No, Time of the Season and more! Their recently released album, Different Game offers 10 tracks that offers a mix of rock, ballad and the Zombie sound. The band will perform their signature hits and new cuts at the MGM Northfield Park on October 22nd. Lead singer, Colin Blunstone shares his thoughts on The Zombies career, new album and soon-to-be released documentary about the band.

North Coast Voice: Please share how the album, "Different Game" came about, the timing of it and why a new album at this time for The Zombies?

Colin Blunstone: There was a general feeling after The Zombies were inducted into The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2019 that we could use the energy and excitement of that moment to start a new album. Unfortunately, the Covid lockdown changed our original timetable meaning "Different Game" took far longer to record than would normally be the case.

NCV: Colin, your voice is outstanding! I love all of the tracks. I especially like Different Game and Got to Move On! How do you (and the band) keep motivated and inspired?

CB: I think we are all fascinated by the process of writing, recording and performing!

After a while this simply becomes a way of life.

NCV: What is it about working together in the studio again that makes it worthwhile?

CB: There's something very exciting and fulfilling about watching a song idea grow in the studio as everyone in a band makes their contribution. Later that same song idea may well transform again as the original concept is expanded into a live concert performance. It's this process of writing, recording and performing that has always fascinated and energized me. Although many bands choose to record separately, possibly even in different studios

we find there is an extra energy if we are all in the studio together recording at the same time.

NCV: The Zombies were part of the British Invasion during the mayhem of the 1960s, can you please share what that was like? And why the music still appeals to new generations?

CB: It was a period of huge change, a time when it felt anything was possible.

It was also a time when the U.K. seemed to be the center of the artistic world, all made possible initially by the phenomenal success of The Beatles. On a personal note, during the summer of 1964 with the release of our first single "She's Not There" The Zombies transformed from an amateur local band into an international chart-topping touring band seemingly overnight. Looking back, it all seems a lot to take in but I think we just took it one day at a time and allowed fate to play its hand.

NCV: What can fans who have followed your career since the beginning as well as new fans expect from your show?

CB: In concert we always try to perform our better-known tracks but it is also very important to us to play new material as well. Hopefully there will be something for everybody as we feature songs written and recorded over a sixty-year period.

NCV: In regards to the Hung Up On A Dream Documentary, how did this project begin?

CB: The project began as the brainchild of incredible director Robert Schartzman who always thought there was a story to be told about The Zombies.

NCV: What do you hope to accomplish with the release of this documentary?

CB: With the release of the documentary, I hope people will understand more about the musical journey of the original Zombies and about the present incarnation of the band as well and that that knowledge will help them to more fully enjoy and understand the records we have recorded.

NCV: When is the release date and where can fans access a copy?

CB: At the moment "Hung Up On A Dream" is being featured in film festivals around



The Zombies

the world. It premiered at the SXSW Film Festival earlier this year and will play at The Woodstock Film Festival later this month. In November it will feature at The Barbican in London. Negotiations for a release are currently ongoing.

NCV: Is "Time of the Season" an anthem for the 1960s? It can be a signature song for any generation because it transcends for anything going on in our world. What are your thoughts?

CB: The Zombies were incredibly fortunate to have two outstanding writers in the band. Their songs have a timeless quality about them that make them seem as fresh and relevant today as they were when they were first recorded. "Time of the Season" is a perfect example of a timeless classic that is celebrated by all ages in countries all around the world.

<https://www.thezombiesmusic.com/>

www.helenrosemarketti.com

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