

Wild Thing Talk with Chris Britton from The Troggs

- Q. Hello Chris and welcome to Mosman Art Gallery! Congratulations on The Troggs' Wild Thing 50th Anniversary Tour! How does it feel to be in Australia with The Troggs for the 50th Anniversary of 'Wild Thing', a classic song which was a # 1 hit in Australia in 1966?**
- A. *We have a good feeling for the forthcoming OZ tour, I have had the chance to talk to quite a few radio, press and magazine people who I hope will be able to convey our enthusiasm about getting back to the other side of the world for a few gigs and meet up with Australia again.*
- Q. It is quite a coincidence that *Wildthing* is an exhibition which is currently on display at Mosman Art Gallery. *Wildthing* is a show about animals. If you were an animal, which animal would you be and why?**
- A. *Animal I would like to be?! I'm torn between two, I am owned at the moment by a small hairy bearded Collie dog who used to be a stray but was rescued by Dog's Trust. He now has a great life and is such a smoothie he wins over every lady he meets! On the other hand I have great respect and envy for sea gulls - they are such beautifully designed flying machines, they can just hang on the wind or perform the most amazing aerobatic stunts. They always look like they're doing it for fun!*
- Q. Our exhibition *Wildthing* features animals which are caged and seeks to celebrate their wildness and untamedness. Does this describe you - are you a Wild Thing?!**
- A. *I do empathise with the freedom of wild animals, although I would be a bit cautious about meeting a free lion or polar bear in its own territory!*
- Q. The Troggs Wild Thing taps into being free. Do you think that desire for freedom still draws your audiences to the song? Tell us about your famous guitar riff and does it make your heart sing?!**
- A. *Wild Thing is such a simple song, both lyrically and musically, which is probably why we and so many other people have been drawn to it. It is often one of the first things new guitarists have a go at and it's fun to play.*

Q. Do you think the song Wild Thing broke barriers and do you still feel the need to do that with your music?

A. *I don't know about any broken barriers, we have never been sent a repair bill! I do think it cut across the kind of music that was about at the time, as much of the 60's band music did.*

Q. The Troggs had other international hits such as 'A Girl Like You' and 'Love is All Around', which are timeless songs. Wet Wet Wet's version of 'Love is All Around' featured in the 1994 film 'Four Weddings and a Funeral'. Do you feel fortunate that your songs have reached diverse audiences and such international acclaim?

A. *It's always down to the chance and luck of being in the right place at the right time with the right bit of the puzzle. Yes, we have been very fortunate.*

Q. You have had a long and illustrious musical career! Who were your major musical influences?

A. *Segovia, Julian Bream, Django Reinhardt, Big Bill Broonzy, Hank Marvin, Chuck Berry, Jimmy Hendrix, Eric Clapton, Mark Knopfler, My Granny, Mum and Dad, and most of my mates.*

Q. What would you say were some of the highlights of your career and what drives you to keep touring?

A. *Biggest event was of course the escape of Wild Thing and that it went on to develop a life of its own that we tagged along with!*

Q. We hope that The Troggs Wild Thing 50th Anniversary Tour goes very well and we hope that you enjoy the *Wildthing* exhibition at Mosman Art Gallery!

A. *Looking forward to escaping English winter to tour in Australia and also to see your *Wildthing* exhibition at Mosman Art Gallery.*