



Yes, it wasn't Queen, but it was oh so close

IN 1975 Corindi Beach resident John Burnip spent months on tour with Queen on their famous Night at the Opera tour.

John, a professional musician was the drummer with British band Mr Big, who had a number of hits – including a Top five with 'Romeo' the same year.

John has spent a lifetime in the music industry as a drummer, a manager and a producer.

Having worked with the likes of Queen, and with many other names including Tom Petty, Mott the Hoople and Sweet, John knows a good gig when he hears one.

The Coffs Coast Advocate sent him along to enjoy the Killer Queen concert at the CEX Club on Friday night. Here's his review:

FREDDIE lives on in Killer Queen. Having toured personally with the original Queen in the UK late 1975 on the Night at the Opera tour, it was with some scepticism that I went to Coffs Ex-Services club on Friday night to see the Killer Queen tribute show.

I had been told it was a good show but still needed some convincing.

First impressions were from a visual perspective and they were positive, the costumes were very accurate and each individual member bore a canny resemblance to the original members except for the Freddie Mercury character played by John Blunt, whose was so similar it was eerie.

The resemblance did not stop with the look and costumes.

John's (Freddie's) voice was obviously not the same, but as close as anyone is likely to get in a tribute band, and the guitar sounds created by Anthony Smith on his Burns replica Brian May guitar very impressive.

There was no bank of Vox AC30 amplifiers and he did use a hard plectrum instead of an old sixpence but he obviously did his homework and did a great job impersonating a very individual guitar player in Brian May.

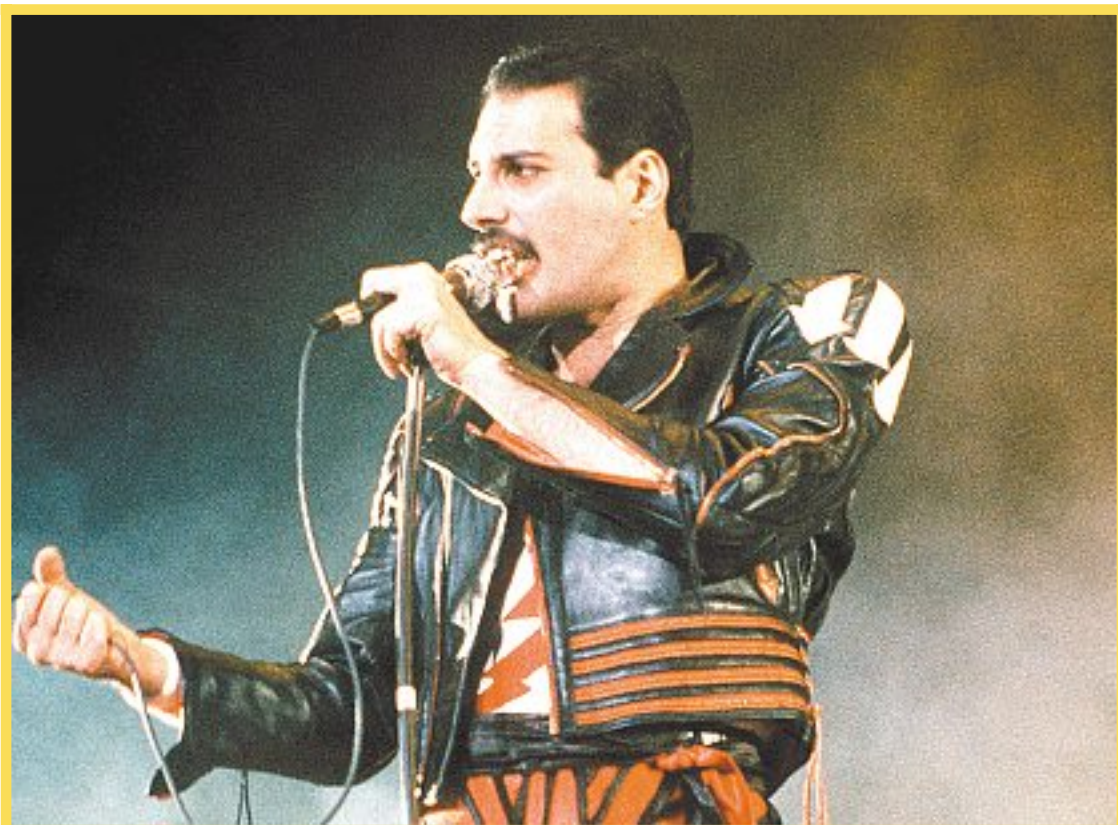
The band played two sets comprising of a comprehensive selection of Queen tracks including "We Will Rock You", "Crazy Little Thing Called Love", "Radio Ga Ga", and "I Want To Break Free".

The highlights for me however were Anthony's Brighton Rock guitar solo, the acoustic track "Love Of



THE REAL THING: Queen Lead Singer Freddie Mercury, guitarist Brian May and bassist John Deacon during a concert in 1978. PHOTO: (AP PHOTO)

My Life" and an impressive Bohemian Rhapsody which brought a tear to my eye as memories flooded back of the tour I was privileged to be part of in 1975. The evening was rounded off with God save the Queen and 'Freddie' donning a Union Jack flag behind him only to turn around with an Aussie flag on the back, which was of course met with rapturous applause and seemed very apt way to finish what was a great night for everyone present." — JOHN BURNIP



TRIBUTE: Killer Queen play a great tribute to Queen's Freddie Mercury, pictured here performing in Sydney in 1985. PHOTO: (AP PHOTO/GILL ALLEN)

GIGGUIDE

TONIGHT

Coast Hotel – Super Karaoke with Deb Lee, 7.30pm
Greenhouse Tavern – Steve Druce & DJ TNT, 7pm
Bellingen Memorial Hall – Sarah Blasko

TOMORROW

Coffs Ex-Services Club – Troy Casser-Daley with Felicity Urquhart, 8pm; John Spence, 7.30pm
Coffs Harbour Catholic Club – The Piano Bar
Plantation Hotel – DJ Karlos
Pier Hotel – Mick Bateman
Seaview Tavern – The Ford Brothers
Sawtell Hotel – 1st Avenue, 9pm
Woolgoolga Bowling Club – Noble Groove
Coast Hotel – Five Way Groove, 9.30pm
The Commercial Hotel Dorrigo – Broadfoot, 8pm

SATURDAY, JULY 25

Plantation Hotel – RnB Superclub with DJ Def Rok and MC Uncle Abe
Coffs Harbour Catholic Club – Rod Dowsett
Pier Hotel – Coastal Soul
Sawtell Hotel – Paul Bulanyi, 9pm
Coffs Ex-Services Club – Christmas in July dinner with Heart and Soul, 6.30pm; Phil Emmanuel, 8.30pm
Sawtell RSL – Mick Bateman, 8pm
Coast Hotel – Latin Salsa dance music in the Liquid Bar, 6pm to 8pm; Mary Janes Leopard, 9.30pm; DJ in the Liquid Bar, 8pm.

SUNDAY, JULY 26

Coffs Hotel – Musos' jam session with Two Shot Ducks, 2pm-6pm
Park Beach Surf Club – Sunday Sesh with Jazzrol, 3pm
Coffs Harbour Yacht Club – Wild Turkeys, 2.30pm
Coffs Ex-Services Club – Noble Groove
Coffs Harbour Catholic Club – Debra Lee's Kidz Biz, 5.30pm
Sawtell RSL – Pixie Jenkins with The Rowland Stones
Greenhouse Tavern – Broadfoot, 12.30pm

TUESDAY, JULY 28

Coast Hotel – Salsa lessons, 6.30pm

www.chats.org.au
Directed by Shirley Barnett
Featuring Beckley Vincent
A play by William Shakespeare
Produced by Advocate
Bookings: 02 6652 8088

hamlet
"Something is rotten in the state of Denmark"

BOOKINGS
Show Times: Fri July 24th, Sat July 25th, Wed July 29th, Fri July 31st & Sat August 1st at 8pm |
Matinees: Sunday July 26th & Sunday August 2nd at 2pm |
School Matinees: Tuesday 28th July & Monday 3rd August at 11am |