

# Faces Faced

**THE FACES**

**GENESIS**

**£345**

**ISBN 978-1-905662-19-7**

Not often do fantasies materialise. But picture yourself being driven in utmost style, say, in a classic Rolls Royce with gold-trimmed purple velvet upholstery, a fully stocked bar on board and your favourite rock grooves spilling out of the stereo whilst you travel back in time to see one of Britain's best bands up close & personal from your very own window. That, I feel is the closest I get to accurately describing Genesis publications' latest instalment - ladies & gentlemen.....The Faces.

It has been a while since I had the sheer pleasure of handling a Genesis instalment so I carefully unwrapped it, sat down, put on the Faces' first album, poured myself a drink and started the ritual that is the opening of a spanking new Genesis tome. Coming from the cardboard postage box is a neat little bag - just so you can carry your tome everywhere and impress your friends down the pub would be an option... But joking aside, the real pleasure begins when you ever so carefully lift the book out of the bag. You may not be history-savvy where books are concerned but I challenge anyone not to feel moved by seeing a book of such splendour. And that's what I like so much about Genesis publishing; they take such great care, such great pride proudly delivering the most amazing tomes, very much how books, I guess, *used* to be produced or at least *should* be produced. And it's worth every penny.

Adverts for Faces' gigs & backstage passes present a suitable entry upon opening the book and the journey you're about to take within these pages before modern Modfather Paul Weller has his say in the first introduction successfully summing up the band in one single line: *"Great haircuts, good clothes, fit birds, laughs and fun, football, drink, quality gear and The Music ."*

Then the title page lists the tome's main contributors: Ronnie Wood, Ian McLagan & Kenney Jones. Sad to see Rod Stewart isn't there....but the book is signed by all three mentioned. Maybe the total signing of 1,975 copies of this limited edition proved too much for ol' Rodney... we can only but guess... Then there are written contributions from Slash, Mick Hucknall (Simply Red) & the Sex Pistols' Glen Matlock paying tribute to this extraordinary group of music makers. For they are...with all their genuine, fun loving, bluesy, soulful, pissed-up, pubbed-out, rockin' & rolling and down right "I don't give a shit"-type attitude.... hell, they are the Faces!

After a brief history by Brad Tolinski, it's down to business with the flamin' men whilst the photos come flooding in. Ronnie, Ian & Kenney all comment exclusively with great quotes from the late great Mr. Ronnie Lane thrown in for a very good measure. Sure 'Plonk' will drink to that! And that's where a veritable feast of words & pictures come together. The turning of each heavy, high quality page reveals an eclectic mix of candid, often emotional, personal and melancholic reminisces or simply some great historical facts by the remaining band members interspersed with amazing images in grainy b/w or vibrant full-colour of the band being in tune, out of tune at the best of times, being shot on & off guard, in the studio, on-stage / off-stage, pretty much posing or some fly-on-the-wall shot but all the time of great interest. They were simply amazing!

The total of these marvellous 272 pages come to an end with the Faces "in three words" (Ronnie: "A mad band", Kenney: "Sex, drugs, rock 'n' roll" and Ian: "Fun or nothing") plus an afterword by Paul Westerberg (The Replacements) followed by a bit of bio and a flurry of memorabilia including handwritten lyrics. All in all a perfect package. And so a final farewell to some truly great times gone by... but, hell, it's an excellent one...it's a Genesis one!