

MUSIC

NOW BOOKING

CLARE TEAL
Grantham



Multi-award-winning jazz artist and BBC Radio 2 presenter Clare Teal is heading to Grantham's Guildford Theatre in February as part of her new tour. In a celebration of popular music from the golden age of song, she'll be joined by a trio comprising the celebrated Jason Rebello - who has played with Jeff Beck, Peter Gabriel, Sting, Joss Stone and Phil Collins - on keyboards, Simon Little on double bass and drummer Ben Reynolds. With some fabulous arrangements interspersed with Clare's warm and witty storytelling, this brand new show promises a rich jazz-infused repertoire in its many forms bringing you more exhilarating swing as Clare and her Trio celebrate 100 years of music featuring some of the greatest songs ever written from the Great American and British Song books and contemporary writers creating the standards of today.

Clare Teal and her Trio, Thursday, February 13, Guildford Theatre, Guildhall Arts Centre, St Peter's Hill, Grantham NG31 6PZ
Tickets: guildhallartscentre.com/whats-on/all-shows/clare-teal-and-her-trio, 01476 406158, £20/£18 conc.



Jason Rebello

'I wasn't terribly comfortable in my skin in the 80s'

Thirty five years after their debut single *We Close Our Eyes* hit the top five, Go West are coming to Leicester. **HELEN BARNES** talked to singer Peter Cox

We are very excited that you're coming to De Montfort Hall - it's been a couple of years since we last saw you in the East Midlands. I guess this will be pretty different to that as it's just you and Paul Young?

Yes, very different. We are in discussions at the moment about the content, so I can't tell you the details of the show yet; Paul will be singing his hits and we will be doing the Go West ones, but other than that, you will have to wait and see, as will I!

Are you and Paul Young good friends then? I don't know Paul really well, but there were a lot of singers whose work I enjoyed when we finally had our success in the mid-80s, so Paul would have been one of those. We both share a love of Motown. He's a real musicologist and knows his music way back into history much better than I do - and

obviously he recorded *Wherever I Lay My Hat*, which was originally recorded by Marvin Gaye, so we certainly have several influences in common.

When you tour with just one other artist like this, does it matter who's on first - do you toss a coin?

Good question. I think if you're on a bill with a load of other artists and you're opening the show and people are still coming in, that's not an ideal spot, for obvious reasons, but again, if you're on last, then that's often a poisoned chalice, with people thinking "I'd better get my car out of the car park, I'm going to work tomorrow", or whatever - you don't necessarily have people's full attention then, either: it's tricky - at a festival I think the best spot would be around 8pm, so that you're not the headline but you do have the benefit of the lights and people hopefully still have

some energy left to enjoy what you're doing. That didn't answer your question about the tour with Paul though, did it?

If you could pick one Paul Young song to add to your set, what would it be? I'm not going to pick my favourite. Because of the energy of the song, I'd say 'Tear Your Playhouse Down' - as it would be fun to watch our bass player tackling that fretless bassline!

And what about a song of yours that you'd like to hear Paul sing? Oh, I don't know... maybe *Goodnight Girl*? I think that would suit Paul's voice.

2020 is a huge year for Go West. Apart from the 10-date tour with Paul Young, what else have you planned? Well, we are doing 35 varied shows



Go West, with Peter Cox, left

throughout the year. A couple are in places that have been important in our career - we are playing the Rose Theatre, in Kingston, as our opening date of the year; that's the closest to where Richard and I were living when we wrote the song for the first album. Also, a theatre in Chipping Norton - an unlikely place to play, but that's because we recorded the basis of *Call Me* and *We Close Our Eyes* in a studio in Chipping Norton. We are doing our first orchestral performances, on bigger bills, in Leeds and Brighton, and then a number of the Let's Rock festivals in the summer, which are always a blast, so I'm looking forward to those.

I saw that on your recent Australian tour, you were given some lovely presents by your fans - what's the weirdest present you've ever been given? Someone once gave us an illustrated poem about us and at the end, we died. A little unsettling. After that, our management started screening our mail.

If you could just relive one moment again from your 35 years with Go West, what would it be? There are probably many because I wasn't terribly comfortable in my skin in the 80s and had this idea of what other people expected so-called pop stars to be like or look like. Our first real experience of playing live

was on tour with Culture Club, The Style Council and The Associates - I did the gigs, which I think went all right, but it really did go by in a blur. As I wasn't the most self-confident of pop singers, I didn't spend any time hanging out with Boy George or the others - I understand there were many drunken get-togethers around the hotel piano, but I would generally be in my room!

What's your message to anyone that's never seen you play live and may be tempted by these anniversary celebrations?

I would say, if you've enjoyed any of our songs on the radio - come and see us live. The band is awesome, and we have taken great trouble to keep the standard of our live performances as high as possible too. We try to bring some energy and make the show as exciting as we can.

Are you going to have 35 new white shirts? You're the second person today to ask me about the white shirt thing. It's extraordinary to me that anyone thinks a white shirt is interesting, yet there's always a lot of feedback about this shirt or that. I have taken lately to a more practical way of dressing for shows - so, I may wear a white shirt or it may be a T-shirt, a black one.

Did you have a New Year's Resolution?

To seize the moment - I know it's a cliché, but I haven't always done that.

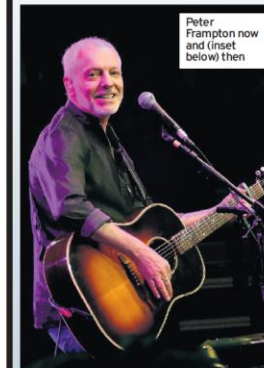
Finally, if you were Helen Barnes, interviewing Pete Cox right now, what would you think is a cool question to ask him? OK, Would you have imagined in 1985 that you'd still be performing and making a living from music and what do you think about fans that travel so far to see you play?

And the answer? Er, no, I wouldn't have imagined. We never had a plan. We never thought beyond "will we have enough success with our first album that they will let us make another?". That was kind of the limit of our ambition, which is probably as far from the Gallagher point of view you can get - but that's the honest truth. Now that I'm slightly more comfortable as a performer, as I kind of think what you see is what you get, and people still keep coming to the shows, which is an ongoing surprise to me, I hope I'm a little bit more able to count my blessings. I do now think how lucky I am to be doing something I genuinely love for a living, which I do appreciate is a lot more fortunate than the vast majority of people.

Go West and Paul Young play De Montfort Hall, Tuesday, September 15, demontforthal.co.uk, 0116 233 3111. From £31.50.

DON'T MISS

PETER FRAMPTON
Nottingham



Peter Frampton now and (inset below) then

THIS is possibly the last time you'll be able to see the legendary guitarist Peter Frampton in the region as part of a major tour.

Described by Rolling Stone magazine as "one of rock 'n' roll's lifelong major players", Frampton has confirmed just five UK dates on the Peter Frampton Finale - The Farewell Tour. And Nottingham's Royal Concert Hall is on the list.

Heading to the East Midlands on Tuesday, May 26, Frampton says: "I look forward to seeing my dear friends in the UK. My Finale Tour is a trip through my music with my incredible Peter Frampton Band."

Following the new UK dates Frampton plans to retire from regular vigorous touring due to his diagnosis of the autoimmune disease Inclusion Body Myositis (IBM). IBM is a progressive muscle disorder characterised by muscle inflammation, weakness and atrophy.

Peter Frampton remains one of the most loved artists in rock history. A schoolfriend of the late music legend David Bowie - with whom, he toured the world in 1987 - he joined forces with Steve Marriott of Small Faces to form Humble Pie in 1968, when it was just 18. In 1976, he released his best-selling album *Frampton Comes Alive*, which went platinum eight times.

Last year, The Music Business Association presented him with the Chairman's Award for Sustained Creative Achievement at the Awards & Hall of Fame Dinner that is part of the Association's annual conference - Music Biz 2019.

Peter Frampton Finale: The Farewell Tour; Royal Concert Hall Nottingham on Tuesday, May 26. Tickets: trch.co.uk, 0115 989 5555, £52-£60 plus VIP packages available.

See 'The Black Beatles'

The poster calls them "the other four lads from Liverpool that changed the face of British music...". They are '70s and 80s band The Real Thing. And if you don't know who they are, then there's a new documentary showing in selected cinemas to enlighten you.

A documentary *The Real Thing* as well as Trevor Nelson, David Essex, Billy Ocean, Kim Wilde and Jeff Wayne. It charts the highs and lows of a band that the press dubbed "The Black Beatles". From growing up in Toxteth, one of Liverpool's toughest neighbourhoods, to becoming Britain's most celebrated originators of soul, funk and disco, and the string of hits the band had

throughout the 70s & 80s with iconic songs like *You To Me Are Everything*, *Can't Get By Without You* and *Can You Feel The Force*. After the screening, there will be a Q&A with director Simon Sheridan and original band members Chris Amoo and Dave Smith, hosted by Jeremy Prince.



The Real Thing

Tickets: broadwayorg.uk/whats-on/everything-real-thing-story-qa, 0115 952 6611, from £5 (under 25s) to £9.50 (full price).