

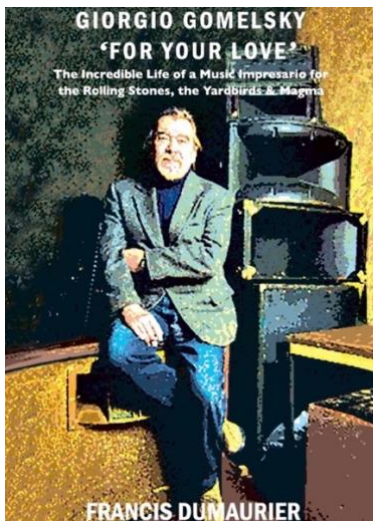
GIORGIO GOMELSKY 'FOR YOUR LOVE'

Oh, What a Night !!!

April 30th, 2023 at the site of the original Crawdaddy Club in Richmond upon Thames

Travel notes: Francis Dumaaurier – FDumaaurier@nyc.rr.com

Photographs: Lesley Aggar, Mark Dezzani, Yasmeen Doogue-Khan, Lilian Dumaaurier, Barry Penny, Steve Robson, Kevin Westbury



After one year of hard work with my publisher and editor Cheryl Robson, the director of Aurora Metro Books, my book about the life and legacy of Giorgio Gomelsky has finally seen the light of day at <https://www.aurorametro.com/team/francis-dumaaurier/> with its release in mid-April 2023 in the UK, a book launch event on April 30th in Richmond upon Thames, and an upcoming New York book launch.

Cheryl went full steam ahead with the promotion of the book launch with the help of her husband Steve, the “Cardinal Richelieu” of the house who works discretely behind the scenes, and of her assistant Yasmeen Doogue-Khan who lined up six radio interviews for me (5 from New York and 1 in London).

For the book launch, Cheryl chose the site of the original Crawdaddy Club that Giorgio opened in January 1963. This is where the Rolling Stones played their very first concert on February 24, 1963 as the lineup that would conquer the world shortly afterwards.

Cheryl also contacted Paul Endacott, the renowned organizer of the Music Heritage tours in London at <https://www.facebook.com/HeritageMusicEvents/> so that the event could benefit from Paul’s expertise and become a cultural affair.



The site was booked, Paul created the poster, and Kevin Westbury was asked to get involved with his musical protégés from a local charity known as the Basement Door.



Kevin has been successfully running this organization, that was launched in 2008, to help young people reach their full potential and build confidence through music. They can be contacted at www.thebasementdoor.org.

Kevin booked the Hornets, an extraordinary quartet that plays music from the mid-sixties to perfection, to play songs by the Yardbirds of the 3 eras with Eric Clapton, Jeff Beck, and Jimmy Page ... the early Who (first LP and EP) ... Chuck Berry and Bo Diddley songs by the Rolling Stones (including “Hey Crawdaddy”, of course) ... and classic rock legends such as Little Richard.

The Hornets are Samuel Winn (vocals), Filipp Krisan (drums), Bailey Penny (guitar), and Nelson Maclure (bass). They made the old man

Oh, What a Night !!!

April 30th, 2023

Page 2 of 11

in me feel like a teenager once again. Their link is <https://thehornets.uk/>, and several of their songs are posted on youtube.



The Hornets

In order to promote the event at the original site of Giorgio's original Crawdaddy Club, that is now known as One Kew Road across the street from the Richmond train station, Cheryl asked her assistant Yasmeen to set as many radio interviews as possible, and "Yaz" and I worked on them for a couple of weeks before my trip to Richmond.

On April 4th, I recorded an interview with Robbie Owen that you can listen to at <https://www.mixcloud.com/robbie-owen/the-jukebox-drive-in-for-23rd-april-2023-hr3-interview-about-giorgio-gomelsky/>. Robbie was one of the pirate radio station DJs in the 60s, and this interview was for one of his one hour Jukebox Drive-in programs.



Robbie Owen

On April 14th, I recorded a 15-minute interview with Ian Barclay for his Sunday Barclay's Brunch weekly program on Riverside Radio that you can hear here: <https://www.mixcloud.com/BarclaysBrunch/francis-dumaurier-on-barclays-brunch/>



Ian Barclay

On April 18th, I recorded a lengthy interview with Mark Dezzani for Radio Caroline that turned into a two hour program that you can hear at <https://www.mixcloud.com/mark-dezzani/giorgio-gomelsky-for-your-love-radio-caroline-special-with-francis-dumaurier-and-mark-dezzani/>



Mark Dezzani

On April 21st, I did a live interview with Giles Brown for Talk Radio Europe, Spain's English speaking radio station. What was supposed to be a 15-minute segment became a 30-minute walk in the park as Giles kept encouraging me to speak more and more about Giorgio while we were live at <https://www.talkradioeurope.com/clients/fdumaurier210423.mp3>



Giles Brown

On April 30th, I went to the studios of talkSPORT Radio by the London Bridge for a live interview with Jonny Owen, who turned out to be a fan of Giorgio's. I was not sure how I was going to talk about Giorgio's music on a sports talk show, when I remembered that Raul Gonzalez wrote about Giorgio being a Chelsea Football Club fan, and Giorgio comparing the team work involved between a rock band and a football (soccer) team. The "live in the studio" experience surely was a lot of fun thanks to Jonny's great sense of humor and enthusiasm, as well as Mark Webster's constant support, and I only wished that this interview had lasted longer. <https://talksport.com/radio>



Jonny Owen

Finally, on May 12, after I returned to New York, I recorded an interview with Jacqui Kerr for Radio Jackie. This station started as a pirate station in the late sixties, and my interview with Jacqui was a great coda to this new English adventure.

Oh, What a Night !!!

April 30th, 2023

Page 3 of 11

Find out more about Jacqui at <http://www.radiojackie.com/dj/jacquikerr.html>.



Jacqui Kerr

I truly enjoyed EACH radio interview on its own merits, but I must confess that the two-hour program with Mark Dezzani on Radio Caroline sent me on a sentimental journey when I heard it in real time while I was in London.

While growing up in the 60s in my parents' apartment in Paris, I listened to Radio Caroline at night on a small transistor radio, but I could only catch its weak signal in a corner of my bedroom.

For those who do not know, or do not remember, the BBC controlled the airwaves in the UK, and they would only allow for a couple of hours of "pop" music per day. Several young entrepreneurs bought old freighters, moored them in international waters, and aired all the music they wanted to hear from their floating makeshift studios.

Radio Caroline was the first to air on March 28, 1964, soon to be followed by others like Radio London (Big L), and millions of listeners started to tune in every day.

It did not take long before the government threatened to jam their signal, raid them, and sink their ship. The whole story can be found at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Radio_Caroline.

Giorgio was a good friend of Ronan O'Rahilly, the founder of Radio Caroline, and the first single Giorgio produced on Marmalade Records, the label he started in 1966, was "We love the pirates".

The Who did also insert several Radio London jingles in-between songs of their album "The Who Sell Out".

This topic was therefore a beautiful memory that Giorgio and I shared at times.

All this to explain why, on Tuesday April 25th, as Lilian and I listened to Mark's program that started at 10pm, while we were comfortably sitting on the bed of our beautiful London hotel room, I had goose bumps when I heard my voice talking about Giorgio on Radio Caroline as it brought his name back in high style on the "airwaves" of this station.

Also, I was pleasantly surprised to hear how Mark Dezzani had edited the interview to make it a two-hour long program with a rich musical selection of songs produced by Giorgio, such as the Yardbirds with Eric Clapton, the Yardbirds with Jeff Beck, the Rolling Stones singing "Hey Crawdaddy" live at the Olympia Theater in Paris in 1965, "We love the Pirates", Steampacket (with Rod Stewart, Long John

Baldry, Brian Auger and Julie Driscoll), Julie Driscoll & Brian Auger and the Trinity, John McLaughlin, Gong, Magma, and excerpts from the 1978 Zu New Music Manifestal.

Mark also played "4U and Me 2", a song by Surgery, the band that I managed in the mid-eighties in Giorgio's house, and for whom I produced a music video of this single as the backbone of a 1985 fundraiser that these Ukrainian-American musicians did with me for the restoration of the Statue of Liberty.

It was great to hear the voice of Giorgio opening for "Broken Radio", the song by Jesse Malin that features Bruce Springsteen, and the program ended beautifully with "Imagine" by John Lennon, the song that perfectly illustrates how Giorgio lived his life.

Thanks to Mark Dezzani, these two hours became one of the highlights of my life in a way that I had never thought possible, and I will forever thank him for what he did to help me pay tribute to Giorgio's legacy on his beloved Radio Caroline.

**GIORGIO
GOMELESKY
PRODUCTIONS**

The focus of this trip was, five days later, the event that Cheryl Robson organized with Paul Endacott and Kevin Westbury at One Kew Road,

Oh, What a Night !!!

April 30th, 2023

Page 4 of 11

the site of the original Crawdaddy Club that Giorgio opened in January 1963, more than 60 years ago.

75 people bought tickets and came on a Sunday night, just like it happened when the Rolling Stones started their career in what was known in those days as the back room of the Station Hotel.



It was great to meet many of the attendees who asked me to sign copies of the books they had just purchased.

Frank Holland is the legendary guitar player who played, recorded and toured with the Pretty Things for 38 years, all the way to Phil May's passing 3 years ago.

I met Frank after a concert of the Pretties at the Village Underground in New York on August 24th 2001, two weeks before 9/11, and we had a long conversation on many topics. I did not have any business card to give him, so I handed him my professional actor's postcard instead. I could have never guessed back then that he would keep it long enough to show up with it on the night of our book

event at the old Crawdaddy – close to 22 years after I had given it to him !!!

Frank and I stayed in touch by email during all these years. He had promised me that he would come for our book launch, and I was delighted to see him and to meet Lady Lesley, an accomplished photographer. It was also a real pleasure for me to be able to introduce him on stage.

Frank's amazing video of his new song, 'Breathe' is at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=il5ttq7WJ20&t=135s>, and samples of Lesley's wonderful professional photography can be seen at <https://www.lesleyaggar.com>

David Ambrose, the talented bass player who played with so many great bands, starting with a brand-new Fleetwood Mac, came to support our event, and it was great to see him share the stage with the Hornets and play bass on the Little Richard classic "Lucille" that you can view at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vdoKWfDHH-w>.

David's interview about his life in the music business is at <https://thestrangebrew.co.uk/interviews/how-to-be-a-rock-star/>

Lauri Riviera, who is organizing the upcoming July 1st festival "A Taste of Twickenham", turned out to be none other than the wife of Jake Riviera, the legendary manager of Elvis Costello and Nick Lowe, and whose amazing life is detailed at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jake_Riviera.

When we were much younger during the 1960s, Jake and I roamed the streets of the Butte Montmartre in Paris during many endless nights. We had dinner at my parents in Paris, breakfast at his in London, and I almost ruined the gearbox of his father's Triumph convertible while we were singing along with the Beatles on the car radio: "Baby, you're a rich man too".

I felt very good for him when I found out, many years after the fact, that he had forged a brilliant career for himself in the music business of the 1970s. I wished that Jake had been able to join us, but I was happy to meet Lady Lauri.

Peter Chow is the London Correspondent of the Hong Kong based Music Week digital publication, and his report in Chinese is at https://www.facebook.com/story.php/?story_fbid=pfbid02VGpwC3cE8XZDZYJt3WHzWqU6VuDhVR3RNG1kKSWX7DcCigDzeXDeBKCFreiS8oWI&id=100063653537126.

Mark Goddard is a writer, an artist, and a creative director. He kindly gave me a signed copy of his wonderful book "Losing EIDorado" found at <https://www.marktgoddard.com>

David Stark is a drummer and music business executive who wrote "It's all too much" about his adventures as a Beatles fan in the sixties at <https://itsalltoomuch.net/>

Ian "Lucky" Luck is a tour guide specializing in the rich history of the Swinging 60s in London. It's thanks to people like him that the heritage lives on for all of us.

Oh, What a Night !!!

April 30th, 2023

Page 5 of 11

I am only sorry that I did not get to meet every person who gave us their support that evening, specially since all the people I met had their own great stories to tell, and since this amazing adventure in Giorgioland will stay with me for the rest of my life.



The program started at 7pm with a great set by the Hornets. You could have sworn that the Rolling Stones, the Yardbirds and the Who were on stage playing songs from their early repertoires.

I was introduced by Kevin Westbury to talk about my book, and I mostly spoke about how Giorgio made it to London from Switzerland, his early life in London, and his opening what would become the legendary Crawdaddy Club in a way that transformed the local culture and had an impact on the rest of the world.

I took this opportunity to get our guests to clap in unison on the Bo Diddley beat while I played my blues harmonica, and to sing with me a few bars of "Hey Crawdaddy" in a call and response way that Giorgio had encouraged the Stones to use at this very same club sixty years earlier.

Paul introduced Jon Sadleir, who had just arrived from

New York – a hard to match testimony of his love for Giorgio and for this project. Jon brought rare records that Giorgio had produced, as well as unique mementos that he saved from Giorgio's house when it was condemned by the City of New York.

The Hornets came back for another set, I was called in to offer some closing remarks, and the whole affair was over in what seemed to have gone in the blink of an eye.

The best comment I heard came from Barry Penny, the manager of the Hornets, as they were packing the equipment back into their van by the back entrance of the club. He just thought that the evening was a great success because everything that happened was real: "Nothing was fake".

And that's how it ended. Everybody involved gave their best to pay tribute to the creativity and legacy of Giorgio Gomelsky.

It took me days to come back down from this high, and I'm not sure that my feet are actually touching the ground yet, which is why I am writing this newsletter while my memories are still warm.

I'm glad that, thanks to this book, I did for Giorgio what he had been unable to do for himself while he was alive, but I am also fully aware that, if not for Cheryl Robson, there would have been no book and no event.

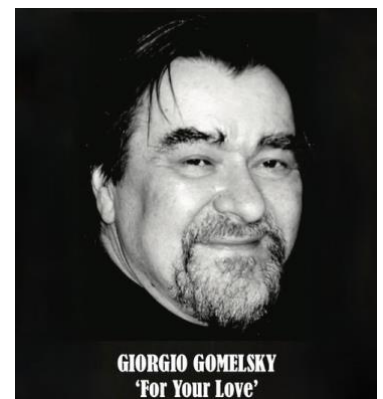
Finally, I want to tip my hat to Jon Sadleir who flew in from

New York just to be with us that night. Without Cheryl, there would have been no book but, without Jon, there would have been no Cheryl ... and without Rick Rees, there would have been no Jon Sadleir either ... Jon is at https://www.facebook.com/jc_sadleir, and Rick is at <https://rickrees.substack.com>

I'm particularly happy that the team came together to produce this event under Cheryl Robson's leadership, and I have no doubt that Giorgio is smiling on us somewhere - even though he is probably saying, in his own inimitable way, that we could have done better.

On a personal note, I'm also happy that I too now can say that I played my blues harmonica on the stage at the site of the original Crawdaddy Club.

OH, WHAT A NIGHT !!!



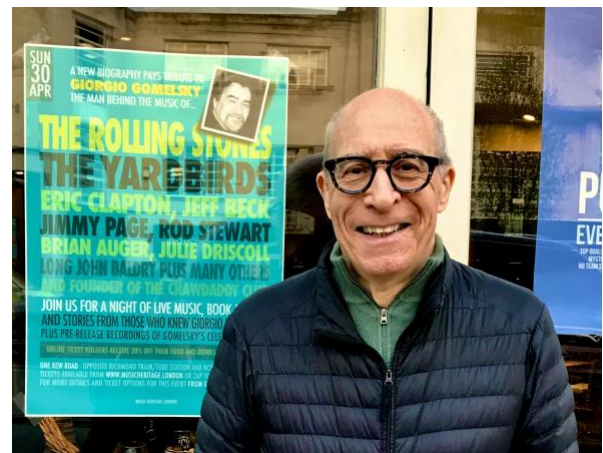
PS: as a result of their excellent performance, Mark Dezzani played the new great single of the Hornets "Loss for Words" during his Tuesday evening Radio Caroline show on May 9th. I'm really happy for them as they truly deserve it, and it shows once again that Mark has his ears down to the ground.



Francis Dumaurier and Cheryl Robson in front of the poster at the window of the "Books on the Rise" bookstore at 80 Hill Rise, Richmond upon Thames



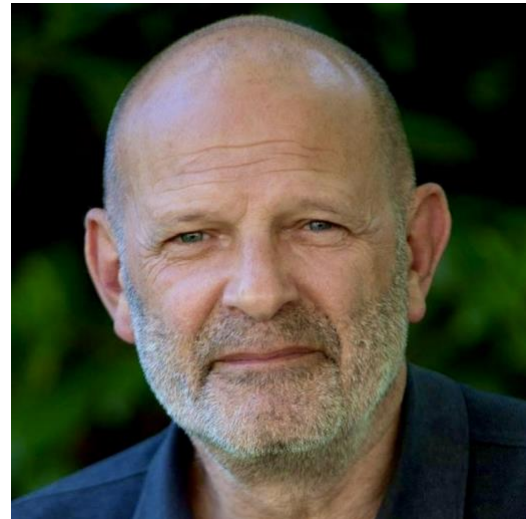
Francis Dumaurier and Steve Robson
Yasmeen Doogue-Khan



One Kew Road, the site of the original Crawdaddy Club located across the street from the Richmond train station
Francis Dumaurier in front of the poster at the window of One Kew Road



Lilian Dumaurier and Frank Holland
Francis Dumaurier and Mark Dezzani



Jon Sadleir shows Francis Dumaurier LPs produced by Giorgio Gomelsky that he just brought in from New York
Paul Endacott



The Hornets in action
Kevin Westbury, Lauri Riviera, and Francis Dumaurier



Lesley Aggar and Frank Holland
The privilege and pleasure of signing one's book



A landmark sign for the Crawdaddy at the window of One Kew Road
Mark T. Goddard and Mark Dezzani



Nelson Maclure, Samuel Winn, and Bailey Penny
Filipp Krisan



Lauri Riviera, the Hornets, and Francis Dumaurier
Mark Dezzani and David Stark



Ian "Lucky" Luck
One of Paul Endacott's tour vans



Bailey Penny, David Ambrose, Filipp Krisan, Samuel Winn, and Nelson Maclure play "Lucille"
Francis Dumaurier in front of the poster and of his book in the window at the "Books on the Rise" bookstore



Ralph Brookfield, music writer, and Mark Dezzani
Jon Sadleir and Paul Endacott



Samuel Winn and Nelson Maclure
Frank Holland holds an actor's postcard that Francis Dumaier gave him in New York in 2001



Mark Dezzani and Christopher Edwards of Offshore Echoes Magazine
Barry Penny, Nelson Maclure, Filipp Krisan, Samuel Winn, Bailey Penny, and Francis Dumaier



Kevin Westbury introduces David Ambrose
Francis Dumaurier and Frank Holland



Bailey Penny and Nelson Maclure
The Hornets in action



Bailey Penny and David Ambrose play "Lucille"
Francis Dumaurier doing the Crawdaddy at the Crawdaddy with his blues harmonica