

# JOE LYNN TURNER

*Vocalist Joe Lynn Turner was recently in the UK performing some unplugged gigs. Despite a chest infection he caught in Scotland, he put on a great evening's entertainment at The Borderline in London and now Turner is scheduled to return to the UK to play the Rewind Festival. James Gaden called the singer in the Faroe Islands, where he was performing, to talk Rewind, Rated X and Rainbow...*

**You were critical of yourself at the unplugged show in London, you mentioned the infection stopped you from doing what you wanted to do, but you still sounded good!**

Thanks, but when I went to Europe, I played with the Dynazty guys in Stockholm, and they said "Oh, we see the difference between when you were sick and now!" It was frustrating, it stopped me hitting my highs. I appreciate the kind words though - I'm much better now!

**You're back in the UK to play the Rewind Festival this summer. Mickey Thomas played it doing Starship stuff and Steve Augeri did a Journey slot. Did they recommend it?**

Actually, it was Kim Wilde who suggested me to the promoters. They were looking for an 80s Rocker and Kim went to bat for me, said I still sounded great and was a good guy, she really went to the wall for me. So she got me the job. Some journalists were bashing it, saying "God knows why he would do the Rewind Festival!" Why wouldn't I? I do three, maybe four songs, they have been pre-determined, they're in an email someplace. I play with their core band, which requires one day of rehearsal, it's all set up and I'm really looking forward to it. I think it'll be so much fun, everyone just reliving the 80s. What's wrong with that? Enjoy the good old songs. It's better than half the crap that's out there today! (laughs)

**It's a great festival and it'll impress people who have maybe lost track of you since Rainbow.**

Precisely! It's always good to get out there in front of people, so I'm not sure what these guys thought was the downside. It was some people in the English press, claiming my decision was "more puzzling than a Rubik's Cube". Unbelievable.

**With the obvious exception of Fireworks, the British press doesn't exactly endear itself to anyone.**

I know, I get misquoted all the time. I'll say something, they'll take it to the maximum and later on in the article they might put what I actually said. It's to sell magazines, I suppose.

**You also mentioned about bringing Rated X over to the UK around the same time, is that still going ahead?**

Aah, Tony [Franklin, bass] can't make it. He's got a gig with this whole Russian production, it's centred around a Russian

guitarist and there's a dance troupe, ballet, a big show and they hired Tony and have him on a retainer. It's good money and Tony thought I'd be pissed but I'm not, we have to do what we do to make money. To cut to the chase, the promoter wanted Rated X. So he suggested putting someone else in to play Tony's part. But then we'd probably have Nikolo Kotzev standing in for Karl [Cochran, guitar] who is still recovering and if we got say a Swedish bass player to fill in for Tony... it's getting increasingly difficult to get together and rehearse. My theory, James, has always been a no show is better than a bad show. I'm not saying we would be bad, but we certainly wouldn't be on top of our game. How good can you be when everyone is learning the songs at home and you only have one real day of rehearsal? So I might play some shows in Japan, it's not locked down yet but if it comes off it would be me, Mickey Thomas, Mike Reno and Steve Augeri playing at Budokan. We did it last year with Haruhisa Handa who is an amazing singer, he's a Shinto priest, he has over 100,000 followers and working with him, we sold the place out. So you spend four days and basically live like a king.

**I'd rather wait to see the real Rated X than see a watered down version when it's you and Carmine [Appice, drums], with two guys standing in for Karl and Tony. It devalues the whole point of the band.**

Yeah, and I've signed a lot of Rated X CD's lately, so it's not like people aren't buying it. I know that you don't sell what you used to in this day and age but I don't think it was promoted that well, I think it could be out there a bit more.

**When I saw you at the Borderline, you were asked a question from the crowd about a Rainbow reunion. You gave an honest answer that you were due to meet up with Ritchie Blackmore in the autumn and have a discussion. You said you wanted to do something with Rainbow, but ultimately this was Blackmore we were talking about and nothing is set in stone. Some outlets seemed to take that as it was a done deal and wrote headlines suggesting that.**

Yeah, that's exactly what I'm talking about. I used the word "possible" and on some articles, that actually appeared about two thirds of the way down! You've never

misquoted me and I appreciate that, you're the last honest man.

**Thank you! I wanted to get you on tape, answering that question again, and I'll put it down word for word so nobody is in any doubt what you said.**

You know what James, I'll say what I said before. It was a possibility. Now it's a probability. Ritchie and I are going to be meeting. However, once we get in that room, we may look at each other over a beer and say "What do you want to do then?" It could be nothing. I could say "Let's try for a Rainbow reunion." It might be "Let's do a Blackmore/Turner Blues album". It might be remakes of old songs, we don't know! You don't ever know with Ritchie. However, the fact Ritchie has asked to get together and discuss it, I think that is a massive plus. So I used the word "probable" because we haven't met yet and there's nothing confirmed. Yes, I want to work with Ritchie again and I think a Rainbow reunion would be huge, but we haven't even met up yet. We can't do anything without Ritchie.

**Joe Lynn Turner will appear at Rewind Scotland on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July and Rewind South on Saturday 22 August. For full details, visit [www.rewindfestival.com](http://www.rewindfestival.com)**

