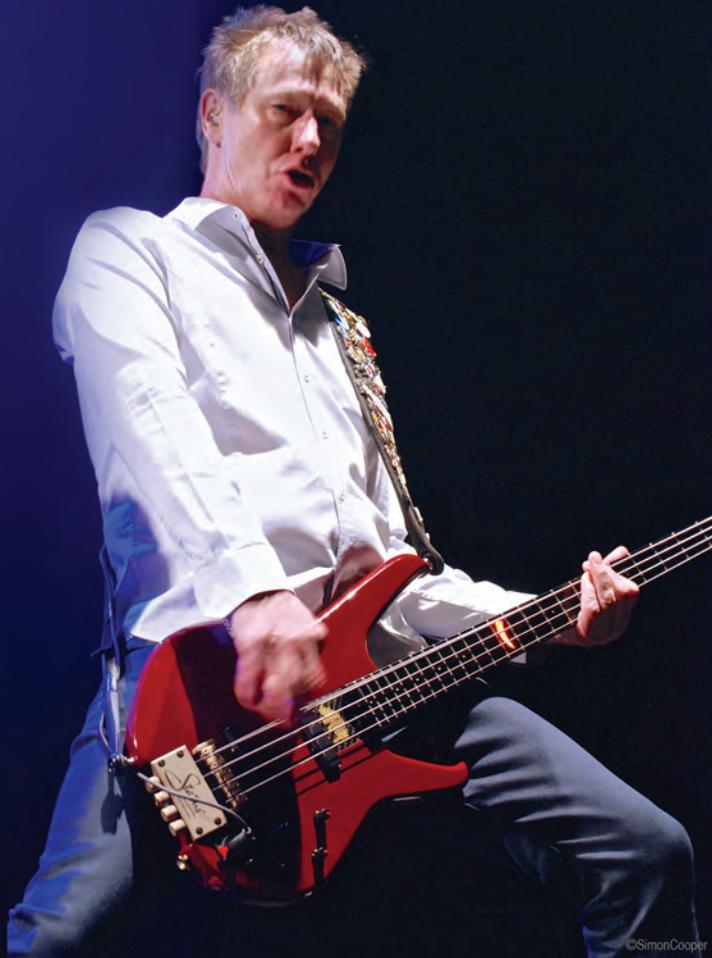


# RHINO'S REVENGE



*John 'Rhino' Edwards has been the bass player for legendary British band Status Quo since the mid-1980s, where he has contributed rock solid rhythms, backing vocals, and several co-writes with the group. In 2000 he released his first solo foray, entitled 'Rhino's Revenge'. Now, thanks mostly to Quo's hectic schedule, some fifteen years later the sequel has arrived. James Gaden spoke to Rhino to hear all about 'II'...*

When we spoke in 2011 (FW#48), you told me you were roping in your son Freddie, in fact several members of your family, to work on this record, but you had to fit it in around school times.

That's right! That's exactly what I had to do. My other son, Max, who is the drummer, he's got a brain the size of Richmond. He's on his fifth university now, he's done Cambridge, Harvard, UCLA, he's just come back from a year in Berlin –

**And he's been expelled from all of them?**

(Laughs) No, no, no! He's twenty eight and still at Uni, he's just left to go to San Diego for five years, all that time in the sun, the little shit. So yeah, he gave me some time, I had to use him before he had to go, so I got ten days out of him before he went back to his studies. My other son Freddie has become a very much in demand guitar player, and he gave me twelve days. It was great, having them play on it with me, one of the best experiences of my life. When we were making this album, Max asked me about a fill, and I never thought I'd ever make a Rock album where the drummer would turn around and say 'Dad, what about this?' It really was a big love in, the three of us, my best mate Mike Paxman producing, who does a lot of the Quo stuff, and one of the kid's best mates is the other guy in my band, and I got my daughter in on backing vocals. So it was very cheap!

**I really liked the lyrics, I think some of the lyrics here are just brilliant.**

Oh really? Thank you very much, I do place a lot of emphasis on that side. I don't see the point in listening to songs that sound like they were written on the back of a napkin in a nightclub. I can spend three weeks on a lyric, and I'm pleased you've listened to them.

**They were quirky, witty, acerbic... I connected with 'Famous' because I totally agree with your views on the "celebrities" in the mainstream media.**

Most of them are Christians being thrown to lions as far as I'm concerned. How fucked up is somebody going to be if they've

been on 'The X Factor' or 'The Voice' or whatever, and they have a number one... or like that Irish kid, who was stopped from having a number one by Rage Against The Machine... where will his head be two years down the line, when he's playing in front of twenty people for £80, and being billed as 'The X Factor Winner!' Fuck off. And most of these acts are just re-hashing old material. Where are the new songs? I know there will always be talented song writers, but they don't get the exposure. I appreciate I sound like an old git, but even a lizard can make a record nowadays, it's not difficult anymore. I'm a luddite, I don't use a computer, loads of people do, but I think the machine is dictating what's going on, and I don't like that. I like to rant in my songs. 'New New New' is another one of my rants. Don't get me started!

**I really enjoyed 'All The Girls Love A Bastard' as well, the words for that were spot on.**

And I really wanted to put that out as a single. I think it's quite funny and very ironic, and I'd like to put it out simply to see if any of the po-faced brigade got hold of it and branded it disgraceful, sexist etc, when in fact it's the opposite. There's one track on the album, 'One Note Blues' and a lot of my mates who love Quo are saying is really good, and I think it is, but it's nothing that Status Quo couldn't have done better. So I've decided I'm going to put out 'Black Widows' instead, and we're doing a video for that.

**You mentioned earlier about Mike Paxman being producer, and he has done lots of Quo stuff. Aside from the obvious bonus of him**

**being your best mate, what does he bring to the table?**

Well, he produced my first Rhino's Revenge album, and he tells me clearly if he doesn't like something. I wrote a song which was quite close to home and involved the kids and he said 'You can't put that on there.' He looks at things objectively. There were a couple on there he didn't like, but that was tough shit, because I was insistent, and he said after it was done I was right and he was wrong. He prefers things a bit more improvisational, like at the end of 'New New New', I had everything up to the bit with the trumpet, where it goes all Beatles. None of us knew where it was going after that, so we just started playing in E. I just jammed live, with my kids, recording it, and it was great, it doesn't get any better!

It's all happening now. We've just got a distribution deal so you'll be able to get the album, all the details are on the website, or you can just buy it from there. We've done some gigs, by the time this comes out we'll have done the Status Quo Fan Club Convention at Butlins in Minehead, that will be a right laugh. We did a little tour and I've got another one coming up. We're going up a gear, we're playing slightly bigger venues and we're supporting Hayseed Dixie, so that will be great. When Quo finish up at the end of the year, I've got some more shows in February, playing with Eddie and The Hot Rods. And as Max is in California, I've got my nephew drumming. Jobs for the boys! (laughs)

**The full length version of this interview is available on [www.rocktopia.co.uk](http://www.rocktopia.co.uk)**

'II' is released on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Rhino's Revenge play the following dates with Hayseed Dixie:

**Tues October 20th:**

Bury St. Edmunds - The Apex

**Thu October 22nd:**

Southampton - The Brook

**Fri October 23rd:**

London - O2 Brooklyn Bowl

**Sat October 24th:**

Frome - The Cheese & Grain

**Sun October 25th:**

Tunbridge Wells - Assembly Hall

**For more details, for February tour dates, or to order the album, visit [www.rhinosrevenge.com](http://www.rhinosrevenge.com)**