

# Spectrum to Ariel

feat. Glyn Mason

## The Mike Rudd & Glyn Mason story

Glyn Mason was already well known to Spectrum and Ariel's founder members Mike Rudd and Bill Putt when he accepted the pair's invitation to join Ariel and journey to the UK in 1975 to help promote the *Rock & Roll Scars* album, which Ariel had recorded at Abbey Road Studios earlier that same year.

Ariel's UK tour was certainly action-packed, but after drummer John Lee quit the band returned to Australia where guitarist Harvey James famously also left the band to join Sherbet. Despite a few more personnel changes, Glyn stuck with Rudd and Putt right up to Ariel's final *Island Fantasia* concert at Dallas Brooks Hall in 1977.

Glyn was still on board to record Ariel's last studio album *Goodnight Fiona*, which saw his emergence as an assured songwriter. It's interesting to note that Ariel's final single, *It's Only Love*, written by Glyn, was Billy Thorpe's favourite Australian single.

## How Spectrum to Ariel came about

It was Laneway Music's Vincent Donato who suggested to Mike Rudd that he put on a special one-off concert on at Melbourne's famous Caravan Music Club. The concert would be based around Laneway's *re-Visionary* album, an eclectic collection of Mike's songs culled from Spectrum, Murtceps and Ariel albums, which. Laneway planned to release on iTunes simultaneously with the concert.

Rudd has resisted similar propositions in the past on the grounds that a one-off concert demands so much rehearsal time with little prospect for the band to exploit in future. Unlikely as it might seem, at over 70 years of age Mike remains an active musician, still forging his unique musical path in the comparatively small Australian market, with an active local fan-base.

# Spectrum to Ariel!

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On further discussion it was agreed that if the concert was successful it would be the fore-runner to similar concerts in the future - which is when Mike remembered Glyn Mason, whose soulful voice and muscular guitar playing had become synonymous with the latter-day versions of Ariel.

Glyn enthusiastically agreed to be involved and rehearsals began in earnest. As well as the Laneway selection Rudd decided to include a selection of the various bands' singles - titles like Ariel's *Disco Dilemma*, *I'll Take You High* and Glyn's *It's Only Love*, Murtceps' *Esmeralda* and *The Indelible Shuffle* and Spectrum's *Launching Place Part II*, never forgetting the perennial Spectrum biggie, *I'll Be Gone (Someday I'll have money)* and, *voila*, there was the basis for a hit show!

## The show

The rest is history. The Caravan Club show and the support for Brian Cadd at Palms at Crown in 2016 went down extraordinarily well with avid Spectrum/Ariel fans, punters and fellow musicians alike. With the addition of Glyn Mason's guitar and soulful voice the band sounds much as it did in Ariel's halcyon days, and the inclusion of Glyn's songs helps counter-point Rudd's relentless quirkiness. In his role as ring-master Rudd takes the opportunity to introduce the songs in his cheerfully illuminating way and the Spectrum to Ariel band unequivocally rocks!

As well as the singles, the Spectrum to Ariel set comprises of a selection of early Spectrum and Indelible Murtceps' songs from *Spectrum Part One*, *Milesago* and *Warts Up Your Nose*, blended with Ariel songs largely drawn from the *Rock & Roll Scars* and *Goodnight Fiona* albums.

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## The set-list

**Going Home** - Spectrum

**Play a Song That I Know** - Spectrum

**Drifting** - Spectrum

**But That's Alright** - Spectrum

**We Are Indelible** – The Indelible Murtceps

**The Indelible Shuffle** – The Indelible Murtceps

**Redwing** – Ariel (Glyn Mason)

**Launching Place Pt II** - Spectrum / Ariel

**Red Hot Momma** - Ariel

**Keep on Dancing** - Ariel

**Jamaican Farewell** - Ariel

**Disco Dilemma** - Ariel

**I'll Take You High** - Ariel

**Cypherland Blues** - Ariel

**Rock Critic** - Ariel

**Hard Way to Go** - Ariel

**Real Meanie** – Spectrum / Ariel

**I'll Not Fade Away** – Ariel (Glyn Mason)

**It's Only Love** – Ariel (Glyn Mason)

**Rock & Roll Scars** - Ariel

**Some Good Advice** – The Indelible Murtceps / Ariel

**I'll Be Gone** - Spectrum

**Esmeralda** – The Indelible Murtceps

**Worm-Turning Blues** - Ariel