

IGGY POP REUNION IN ANN ARBOR LAST NIGHT
Guess Who Got Mentioned?
April 21, 2011

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I got a pleasant surprise when I got up this morning, actually about 1 AM, which is often when I start stirring. There was a flashing red light on my answering machine that when pressed turned into the sound of a loud party and the voice of an old friend somewhere in the midst of it.

Punk rocker (and Hall of Fame inductee) Iggy Pop was giving a concert in Ann Arbor last night that sold out in a jiffy and could have been sold out (I am told) three times over. It was packed and like old-home week according to attendees. I for one am proud Iggy was finally given the credit he is due for his pioneering work. He deserves to be in the Rock n' Roll Hall of Fame.

Those of you who know much about my past know that Iggy was my drummer when I was lead singer and Chicago-style electrified harmonica player in the Prime Movers Blues Band, a band my brother Dan and I started in the summer of 1965. When Iggy joined our band he came from a frat band called the Iguanas, so we called him "Iguana" for a while and then shortened that to "Iggy," which stuck. Iggy went on to become "Iggy Pop" of the The Stooges.

Anyway, Iggy gave a special concert in Ann Arbor last night and tickets to the after-concert party were rarer than hen's teeth. I didn't get one. What I did get, so this late-night phone call told, me was a public mention by Iggy during the concert, apparently the only person he called out by name from his past. And since I still am known by some in Ann Arbor (my home town) I am told I got a round of applause. We are talking history some 45 years ago! Thanks Iggy.

That was gratifying to hear and I thought I would share this with you folks. The enclosed photo was taken in 1966 at the Living End venue in Detroit. This is an old photo, but you can see Iggy in the center back part of the stage on the drums. I am in the lower left singing, my brother Dan Erlewine on lead guitar is in the lower right, Jerry Lewis (rhythm guitar) is center stage, Jack Dawson on bass (later with Siegel-Schwall) is upper right, and our fantastic keyboard player Robert Sheff (now famous avant-garde composer "Blue" Gene Tyranny) is to my right. The photo is hi-res, so you can download it and see more detail if you wish.

Anyway, fun memories.

People keep asking me if we made any albums, and we did not. In fact there were no surviving recordings of the Prime Movers Blues Band until someone pulled an old reel-to-reel tape out of their basement a few years ago. On that tape were recordings of one set on one night in a bar in Ann Arbor. I sound pretty bad, but if you want to hear what our band sounded like, and my harmonica and singing, here you go. Don't shoot me.

P.S. The video also shows you many of our bands concert posters that I designed and printed myself.

<http://www.youtube.com/user/merlewine#p/u/16/MngsVYSd1C0>

