

ON THE BALL

Issue 85



Hi Everyone

Well, it's been a very busy 6 months for Michael, and it sounds like we will have lots more to look forward to.

The "On with the Show" tour was a great success and many thanks to all of you who have sent in your experiences and photos for inclusion in this issue. We really feel like this was the best tour to date, hearing Michael perform so many of his own songs made it all that much more special. Let's hope we don't have to wait too long for the next tour.

A major change in Michael's profile has been him taking over the iconic Sunday Love Songs show on BBC Radio 2 following the sad passing of Steve Wright. We had all grown accustomed to the usual Sunday morning 11-1 show with the On The Ball quiz and celebrity interviews but we needn't have worried - Michael has settled into the new slot with his usual warmth and humour.

Michael's latest novel, "Backstage Betrayal" is due to hit the shops in November so we will be able to catch up with all the antics of the characters from "The Empire". It's a good excuse to sit down and re-read The Empire before the new release.

Looking further forward before we know it the Les Mis arena tour will be underway and it looks like we can look forward to more Ball and Boe next year - plus there is another Canaries cruise with Imagine Cruising lined up for November 2025. We are lucky fans to be able to hear Michael on the radio every week and have so much else to look forward to.



Love

Maureen and Gill

Compiled and designed by James Gaden - www.halo-graphic.com. Email: james@halo-graphic.com

Back cover photograph by Paula Marie

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Dear Everyone,

How has it been 6 months already since I last wrote to you? Time just seems to speed up as we get older doesn't it (while everything else seems to slow down!!! ☺) Actually I don't think I have slowed down this year. It's been full on and the rest of the year looks like being pretty exciting too.

The biggest and probably best thing has been the first solo tour for 5 years. I loved every show we did, every song we sang, everyone we performed for and with and can't wait to do it all again soon. Hopefully it won't be another five years. Thank you to everyone who managed to get along to see us and for me one of the biggest highlights was introducing you to the amazing Amy Wadge. To see you all getting

to know her and her amazing talent was a total joy.

The other big thing of course was the change in my radio show. Obviously there were mixed emotions ending the 'Michael Barrymore Show'. I just loved what we created and the fun we had. It was very special. So many of you came to see me at one time or another at the studio and it would always make my heart sing to see familiar faces waiting outside Wogan House on a Sunday, but now with 'Love Songs' I feel we have a chance to create something new and equally joyous. I want to share and spread the love as much as I can so please keep getting in touch, I just love hearing from you.

So what can we all look forward to for the rest of the year ???

Firstly, Algie and I are back in the studio together working on a new album, hopefully for release towards the end of the year and then, God willing, we will be announcing a tour together in early 2025. We have just loved being back together and can't wait to share our new material with you. But of course before then we have the Les Mis arena tour and I don't need to tell you how much I'm looking forward to that.

The second book in the 'Empire' saga, 'A BACKSTAGE BETRAYAL' is scheduled for November and I think you're going to love it. I'm really happy with the way the story of Jack, Grace, Lillian, Stella, Agnes, Joe and all the other characters has developed and there will be romance, intrigue, double dealing, births, deaths, marriages and a Panto!! Fabulous.

So as I speed towards my birthday I'm grabbing a quick holiday, before all the madness restarts, to recharge the batteries.

With the election looming, so much uncertainty at home and abroad in the world and no clear view of what the future holds it's easy to start feeling disconnected and worried but I urge you to hold on to those good things in life that do exist for all of us. The family and friends, the special occasions, the unexpected treats, the little wins, the communities we have created and to remember to be safe, positive and kind whenever we can.

We are here for each other and remember.... This Too SHALL Pass.

I Bloody Love You my lories and I'll see you very soon I hope.

Good Shess

Michael

20 YEARS FROM SALT LAKE

BY CAROL COX



The Beatles: It was 20 years ago today that Sgt Pepper taught the band to play.....

Actually, it was 20 years ago (May 14, 2004) that Michael Ball came to the USA to play. Michael was invited to sing with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. To add to the excitement, he also performed two live concerts and a CD signing. I flew to Salt Lake City along with my husband via Dallas, where we were delayed due to an electrical storm. Waiting with us was practically the entire Osmond family, trying to get to Salt Lake City for their mother's funeral. We finally arrived in Salt Lake City at 1am, got some sleep and then went to the Little America hotel for a luncheon with other Michael fans.



Many people had come over from the UK on a Fan Club field trip. There were more than 100 of us in a conference room for lunch when lo and behold, we were told Michael would be making an appearance. My first time ever seeing Michael in person! He was presented the key to the city by the mayor and said a few words while photos were taken. Then he was off to rehearsal for the night's concert. The audience went wild at Michael's first ever solo concert aptly titled 'This Is The Moment'.



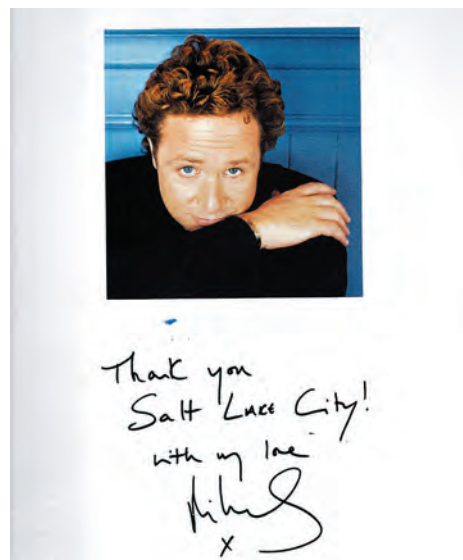
I was able to meet Michael backstage after the show for my first ever photo with him. The next day was a CD signing at Borders Bookstore where more than 700 fans showed up to meet him! He was so gracious, even though he had rehearsals again that afternoon.



The concert that night was even better than the night before, with fans screaming their approval.

The next day, Michael was due to appear with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir to sing 'Amazing Grace' and 'That's All I Ask Of You' with guest Catherine Stambaugh. Unfortunately, Michael had given it his all in the past few days with the concerts, rehearsals and the CD signing, and his voice just gave out by Sunday morning. He came out to where we were waiting and in a raspy, barely audible voice told us he was unable to perform but that we should go in and enjoy the choir, which we did.

So even though it ended on a less than desirable note, Michael's appearance in the USA in Salt Lake City 20 years ago was a dream come true for so many fans. It was that year that I began going over to the UK to see him perform every chance I got and every trip was well worth it! Twenty years, my how time flies!



ON WITH THE SHOW 2024 UK TOUR

It seems hard to fathom that Michael's previous solo tour, 'Coming Home To You', was five years ago. Therefore everyone was absolutely thrilled when he announced he was hitting the road again. Whereas the previous tours were all used to promote an album at the time, this one wasn't. It was a chance for Michael to perform some songs from the 'We Are More Than One' album which, thanks to Covid, wasn't able to be toured. He was also able to put more of his original compositions into a set than ever before, showcasing the talent and his close friendship with Amy Wadge. Naturally, there was a few musical numbers in there too! Without further ado, let's look back at what many fans thought was the best tour to date...



Michael is how lovely, warm and friendly other fans are – what an awesome bunch we are! Then on came Amy Wadge – wow! She was incredible, her voice is stunning and the stage presence she commanded with just her and her guitar was phenomenal! I came away that night and downloaded some of her solo work.

Then, 8.20pm arrived and it was time for Michael – there are no words to say just how incredible he was, the song choices, the energy, his charisma, charm, humour just blew me away – and of course I have to mention just how bloody gorgeous he looks! I don't think I can choose a favourite song of the night – but shout outs have to go to 'Stars', 'Empty Chairs At Empty Tables', 'A Million Lights', '(It Looks Like) I'll Never Fall In Love Again', 'Never Let You Go' and of course the new song 'On With The Show'. His voice was faultless for over 2 hours – there's not many artists around now who could maintain the level of energy and vocal stamina/perfection that Michael did for this long, night after night on each show of this tour. The 'Party Time' segment at the end was great, somehow Michael had managed to hold back a bundle of energy and threw it all into the last 4 songs, fans were up and dancing, everyone having a ball – pun totally intended here! This was a show I was going to remember for a long time!

I arrived home and couldn't help but want more! I checked the remaining dates and there was one left that fit around my work schedule



Originally, I had only booked to see Michael in Manchester, I placed a countdown on my phone and spent the next few months getting more and more excited, annoying my friends and colleagues every day with my excitement for this upcoming concert. Then the tour began – the first night I eagerly waited for fans to post updates and when they started coming in, I knew, this was going to be amazing. My night finally came – Manchester!

Mum and I had hot tickets and sat just slightly left of centre stage, first row. The atmosphere in the arena as fans waited for the show to start was electric! One thing that I always notice whenever I see

– Cardiff, the final show of the tour! It had to be done! I secured myself a single ticket, Row E block 1 and, though incredibly nervous decided I was going to drive down from Lancashire and see this show alone! Well...as I soon realised when I arrived in Cardiff, you are never really alone amongst Michael Ball fans – it didn't take long to meet others and there we were chatting away as if we had known each other for years. I waited, with others, at the stage door in Cardiff for Michael to arrive, and like the pure gentleman he is, he came out to greet his fans and I got a photo with him (took me all of 5 minutes to update every profile picture I have!)

The final show was incredible, still the same energy levels, the same perfection to his voice. Although I had already heard them, his stories still had me laughing and I was captured with every word he said, every note he sung. This truly was an amazing show, amazing tour! Thank you, Michael, for such an fabulous experience. I slept well in my hotel that night before my 4 hour drive back home, where I sang away to my Michael Ball playlist!

I'm back home now and enjoying looking back through my photo's and those that other fans are posting, drinking tea from my Michael Ball mug, reliving this incredible experience; and of course, I now have another countdown set up on my phone for 16th June at Huddersfield – oh how pleased my friends and colleagues will be!

Chloe-Lee Flanagan



Photo: Chloe-Lee Flanagan



Photo: Chloe-Lee Flanagan

I've seen Michael with Alfie and I've seen him in *Aspects Of Love*, but seeing him in a solo concert is a whole other kettle of fish. And due to the generosity - again - of Tracy Taylor-Scott, I had the privilege of doing just that for Michael's 17 March show at the Eventime Apollo.

While Alfie did make a guest appearance during the show to everyone's surprise and delight, and Amy Wadge (more about her later) was his support act and partner during two songs, it was Michael's show all the way.

Beaming from the moment he walked on stage while singing 'Coming Home To You' he was in charge. Each song was perfectly crafted in Michael's own inimitable style - from 'God Willing' to the soul-wrenching '(It Looks Like) I'll Never Fall in Love Again' he was in command. His voice was full, rich, and resonant despite his claim of "being knackered." The expositions leading into the songs were perfect and his stories about turning 60, his special "package from the NHS", and listening to advice from Tom

Jones were hilarious.

Of course, there were everyone's favorites from *Les Misérables* and *Hairspray*. A dreamy 'Not While I'm Around' was mellow and warm. And there was no evidence of any back trouble with his sexy hip swings in several songs - greeted with great squeals of appreciation.

His performance of 'On With The Show,' the song Amy wrote for him regarding the early demise of *Aspects Of Love* was heartbreaking as was another Amy-penned song, 'A Million Lights,' which they sang together. Their friendship was evident for all to see.

Amy's opening set was brilliant. She told of her fears of performing solo despite her 19 Grammy awards for songwriting. She needn't have worried. She was great on stage, playing her guitar and keyboard with skill. Her voice can knock you over with its strength or make you weep with its heartfelt pathos. She's giving credit to Michael now for giving her the impetus to start work on a new solo album. Her talent is enormous and that record will be one to watch for!

I flew over 5,000 miles to see Michael perform. He was worth every bit of distance, turbulence and the crowded cabin. Seeing it with friends made it that much sweeter. Enduring that for two hours on stage! Would I do it again? You better believe it!

Cathy Borchelt

THE GREATEST SHOW TOUR 2024

Words and photos by Steve Lunt

The evening started off in style with a pre-show VIP and Michael was in very good spirits and looking forward to his “home concert” with Hammersmith being so close to his house. We had a chat and pics, my daughter Blossom cheekily asked him why he wasn’t coming to Newcastle and this got a laugh from the others and Michael himself who giggled and said there was nowhere that could fit him in. He wished me well and a speedy recovery after my recent health issues and I told him how positive it was having this concert to aim for and thanked him for that. He also gave us all a programme which he personally signed to us. We also received a VIP goodie bag with a VIP lanyard and a couple of exclusive Michael Ball presents which can’t be bought anywhere else, – a special silver engraved keyring and a lovely MB candle in an engraved silver tin. After the chat and pics with the VIPs he did a Question and Answer session which was good fun. Some very interesting things and information came up, although he shocked me when he described Javert as “evil” and I certainly don’t agree with him there! He then said a collective goodbye to us all but as he was walking out, with Andrew, he spotted Blossom and she got a “Bye Blossom, see you later” which was very sweet!

After that we had time to get drinks, I stuck to Pepsi so I was very well behaved, and then headed to our amazing front row seats right in front of where Michael would be entertaining us all later.

Here I should say how touched I was, as for almost an hour we had lots of visitors to our seats to wish me well and check on my health after the recent hospital stay. Blossom was a bit overwhelmed as everyone came over saying “Hello Blossom” as she had no idea who everyone was! But yes, a massive thanks to everyone who came over, or who we saw while walking around, and it really meant a lot. Michael Ball fans are amazing

Then the lights went down and the excitement levels went up as Michael’s distinctive voice came over the speakers to welcome us all and introduce us to the incredible Amy Wadge. We were then treated to a wonderful little set from this talented lady who’s a song writing genius and the entire audience was very appreciative.



Blossom loved her and even said at one point she was enjoying her so much she might not like Michael as much later! The highlight for us both was when she performed her Eurovision hit ‘Spaceman’, which is one of Blossom’s favourite songs, but the entire set was great and certainly got us all in the mood for Michael.

After a brief interval it was time for what we had all been waiting for and the orchestra and backing singers took to the stage. The lights went dark and then the music started... and boy did it start as Michael burst onto the stage and we rose to our feet to welcome him!

What then followed was a couple of hours that absolutely flew by as we were entertained with song after song and all delivered by a man who sounded as good as he has ever done. It was probably the best I’ve ever heard him sing. We

had songs from the lockdown album he co-wrote with Amy and these for me were the highlight of the evening, as they really are brilliant songs with lovely melodies and the most beautiful (and in some cases heartbreaking) lyrics you could ever hear. Michael and Amy certainly have come together at the most opportune time and are a perfect match as a song writing team and long may their collaboration continue. I honestly think the fact we got so many of his own songs is what has made this tour extra special and why I would rate it as his best ever tour, and I’ve been watching them all for over 25 years now.

I will pick out the Michael and Amy song ‘Never Let You Go’ in particular which is so poignant and the lyrics really do strike home. Sometimes a song is just so special and hits you that it stays in your heart forever and this is one for me. So to hear it performed live was

such an experience and privilege. Michael's love letter to theatre 'On With The Show', aptly the title of this tour, is also beautifully written and crafted and deserves to reach as wide an audience as possible.

Of course we also got some musical numbers, it wouldn't be a Michael concert without them, and he paid a special tribute to the recently deceased Stephen Sondheim and *Les Misérables* rightly got a couple of numbers. From 'Empty Chairs At Empty Tables' to 'Stars' he showed he can still sing Marius but switch to Javert with such ease and 'Stars' in particular was very well received

Michael did a trio of songs that meant a lot to him growing up with his tribute to Elvis, Kenny Rogers and Tom Jones, although before he sang 'The Gambler' he joked that he was about to do a punk number which had us all laughing! His chat and stories between songs was as

great as always, he's always been so good at this, and we all shared quite a few laughs.

A personal highlight for me was 'The Rose' as I've always loved his rendition of this beautiful song and he didn't disappoint. Another highlight was when he invited Amy back to the stage where they duetted 'We've Got Tonight' and you could see the genuine emotion and affection these two have for each other.

'Love Changes Everything' was as good as always and we then surged forward to get our spot for "Party Time". Michael however started to tell us a story about how we were in for a surprise as a competition winner was going to join him on stage to sing with him, he looked down at us all and laughed and said "you've come too early haven't you!". So he explained how a young man had won a competition to perform



on stage with him and for us all to be kind as this man was very nervous and had never performed on stage before. He introduced the competition winner to the stage and on walked... Alfie Boe!!

We then had Michael and Alfie literally bouncing around the stage belting out 'The Greatest Show' which had the audience singing and dancing along with delight. The enthusiasm from them both was contagious and it was wonderful and what a lovely moment for the "competition winner"! That finished but with Alfie on stage we obviously couldn't let him go without another song so 'He Lives In You' was sung before Alfie departed to wild applause and "Party Time" could finally start!

We sang, we clapped, we waved, we danced, we all had a great time with great fun. 'You Can't Stop The Beat' was the stand out for me as I absolutely love this song. Michael had spoken earlier

in the VIP about how he'd love to play Edna again and to never say never, so who knows! We got the audience selfie and it was a joy to spot ourselves on it when he later posted it on social media. He then thanked us all and left the stage but we weren't going to let that be the end! Chants of "MICHAEL! MICHAEL!" filled this impressive venue and back he came to give us 'One Step Out Of Time' and thousands of us punched the air in delight, then 'Wonder Of You' where mega fan Nancy Garcia, over from New York especially, got her big moment! And after bringing me my all time favourite NY black n' white cookies over she certainly deserved that moment!

Sadly it was all over, far too soon as we all could have danced all night! But all good things come to an end and we had all been thoroughly entertained for what was a truly special and magical evening. As I said earlier, I actually think this was the best concert

I've ever been to, by Michael or indeed anyone which is a massive indication of how good this evening was.

From Michael, to the backing singers and of course Callum and his orchestra, everyone had played their part in this spectacle and as we made our way out of the venue it seemed everyone had been having a similar experience and we were all on a collective high. A very sleepy Blossom fell asleep on the Tube going back to the hotel but not before saying how she had really enjoyed it. I taught her the 'One Step' moves, and it was certainly a better experience than her previous Michael concert at the Palladium when the poor thing was a bit poorly.

What is interesting is Sunday was the first day since being discharged from the hospital that I didn't take any painkillers and after the concert I still slept fine! Maybe Michael is better than medicine, I wonder if I can get my next lot



of concert tickets on prescription!

Please Michael, please don't leave it another five years before a solo tour! And please, I think many fans would agree, continue to write more music with Amy as another CD and

tour to follow would be a dream.... after the *Les Misérables* arena tour of course!

Verdict - 24,601 / 10

(10 / 10 just doesn't seem enough for this!)



MICHAEL BALL SHOWS BATH THAT AFTER 40 YEARS HE IS AS GOOD AS EVER!

Words and pictures by Mark Witchell

My mum, sister and I were overjoyed when we found out that Michael was going to be undertaking his first solo tour for five years. Our first stop on the tour was our nearest venue to home in Torquay, the Bath Forum.

Michael has never performed at the Bath Forum before so it is always exciting to try out a new venue. Michael's previous appearance in Bath was a summer outdoor concert in July 2006 when he performed a special evening of musical theatre with Elaine Paige at The Rec.

The Bath Forum was actually built as an art deco cinema and was designated as a Grade II listed building in 1986 and has been used for concerts in recent years. The Forum seats 1,600 making it a key entertainment venue for touring artists in this area of the country.

Michael named his new tour 'On With The Show' after the beautiful, brand new song written for him by Amy Wadge following the closure of *Aspects of Love* in London last Summer. It was so lovely to see Amy open the show with her own set. Two highlights she performed were her 2022 Eurovision hit for Sam Ryder 'Spaceman' and the theme tune 'Faith's Song' for the hit BBC One Wales drama 'Keeping Faith'.

After a short interval Michael's band took to the stage led by Michael's long standing musical director Callum McLeod. Michael's backing singers for this tour were Tor Hills, Bex Reichwald Pizzata and Michael Conway. Michael's working relationship with the backing singers started on the first Ball and Boe tour in 2016 and it has been great to see this relationship continue as they are all so talented! Michael's last solo album 'We Are More Than One' was released in 2021 following lockdown and this was the first real opportunity for Michael to tour the album. He did perform some of the tracks in 2022 during Warner Leisure weekends, a cruise, a 'Showtime' BBC special in Cardiff and the Shooting Stars concert at the London Palladium.

The overture started and there was great anticipation in the hall before Michael bounded on to the stage to sing 'Coming Home To You' from his hit 2019 number one album and his loyal followers jumped to their feet. Michael then said "Good evening everyone. My name is Michael and I'm going to be your singer for the evening. I want you to know a little bit about the real Michael Ball". Michael launched into 'Simple Complicated Man'. Michael then explained how he has a real love for country music and sang another song that he wrote in 2019, 'Tennessee Dreams'. Michael told the audience that sometimes songs trigger other memories which is why he wrote 'The Song We Will Remember'. Michael said that the next three songs would be from three artists he absolutely idolised growing up; Elvis Presley, Kenny Rogers and Sir Tom Jones. It was so lovely to hear 'I Just Can't Help Believin',



'The Gambler' and an absolutely stunning version of 'I'll Never Fall In Love Again' which brought the house down!

Michael then explained that the next two songs would be from the world of Musical Theatre and specifically the music of Stephen Sondheim who we sadly lost at the end of 2021. 'Loving You' followed from the musical *Passion* which is a song Michael first performed live on his 1996 'Show Me' tour. He last performed it at the Sondheim Old Friends Gala Concert in 2022. Michael then performed 'Not While I'm Around' from *Sweeney Todd*.

Michael moved on to sing his 1995 hit 'The Rose' which had stunning rose formed lighting and which lit up the concert hall so spectacularly.

He then went back to the 'We Are More Than One' album for 'Never Let You Go' and 'God Willing'. Michael explained that his Gran always used to use the expression "God willing and a fair wind!" which inspired him to write that song.

It was around this point of the evening when he explained what



happened when he turned 60 in June 2022. He received two parcels on his doorstep on the morning of his birthday. One was a Freedom Pass and one was a poo test! Michael explained how to use the poo test properly for people who didn't know which had the entire audience in stitches!

It is always special when the famous bars of *Les Misérables* strike up and Michael once again took on the role of Marius as he sang 'Empty Chairs At Empty Tables'. This isn't a song that we hear Michael performing as regularly as he did many years ago but he still sings it with incredible passion. Michael then explained how Cameron Mackintosh has asked him to reprise the role of Javert for some of the performances of the UK dates of the *Les Misérables* Arena Tour in the Autumn, so 'Stars' followed which gave Michael his first deserved standing ovation of the evening. 'Anthem' from *Chess* followed which quickly gave Michael another well deserved standing ovation.

Michael invited Amy Wadge back on to stage so sing three of the songs with her. Bob Seger's 'We've Got Tonight' was first, then 'A Million Lights' followed which Amy wrote for the amazing bereavement charity 2wish. 'We Are More Than One', which Michael and Amy wrote together, followed which was performed so beautifully!

Michael then explained that after the closure of *Aspects of Love* in London last Summer, Amy sent him a song that completely summed up his emotions of how he felt at the time. He said that he had never cried so much when listening to a song for the first time. Michael



then performed the title song for the tour 'On With The Show' so beautifully. 'Love Changes Everything' was next which saw so many phone lights light up the concert hall. This was such a special moment.

It was then time for "Party Time" as all of the adoring fans ran to the front of the stage. 'All Dance Together' was quickly followed by 'You Can't Stop The Beat' from *Hairspray*. The concert had come to an end... or had it?!

Michael returned to the stage and said "When thinking about memories of the past 40 years this is one of them. 1992 and Eurovision!" 'One Step Out Of Time' followed with every single person in the 1,600 capacity venue punching the air and completing the whole choreography! The concert ended with the Elvis Presley classic 'The Wonder Of You' and Michael seemed so overwhelmed by the response from the audience as he left the stage. What a stunning evening and I believe the best ever solo concert I have ever seen Michael perform. He has taken some of his classic songs and interspersed them with new, original songs so well. This production really worked well during this concert tour to create a show with a real modern, emotional and upbeat feel. I couldn't wait to join the party again at the Utilita Arena in Cardiff on Easter Saturday! Thanks Michael for the fun and the memories! Here's to making future memories!



'ON WITH THE SHOW' SET LIST

Coming Home To You
Simple Complicated Man
Tennessee Dreams
The Song We Will Remember
I Just Can't Help Believin'
The Gambler
I'll Never Fall In Love Again
Loving You
(From 'Passion')
Not While I'm Around
(From 'Sweeney Todd')
The Rose
Never Let You Go
God Willing
Empty Chairs At Empty Tables
(From 'Les Miserables')
Stars
(From 'Les Miserables')
Anthem
(From 'Chess')
We've Got Tonight – with Amy Wadge
A Million Lights – with Amy Wadge
We Are More Than One – with Amy Wadge
On With The Show
Love Changes Everything
(From 'Aspects Of Love')
All Dance Together
You Can't Stop The Beat
(From 'Hairspray')
One Step Out Of Time
The Wonder Of You

In Brighton Michael sang 'Let's Just Dance'
In London Michael was joined by Alfie Boe
and they sang 'The Greatest Show' and
'He Lives In You'.

MR. MICHAEL BALL O.B.E - 'ONLY the BEST EVER'!

by Jen Garner



Just as sure as Spring turns into Summer and Autumn to Winter, Michael's concerts surpass anything we may have imagined. The latest one, 'On With The Show' certainly did that.

Michael has now spent 40 years in show

business – whoever would have believed it? Gill and Maureen have been running The Fan Club for 32 years and then there's me, focused on a certain curly-haired singer/actor for over 32 years, watching him in everything from *Aspects Of Love* to *Phantom Of The Opera*, *Les Misérables*, to



Eurovision concert tours and so on!

I was lucky enough to join the tour in Nottingham and saw the remainder of the concerts. I absolutely loved each and every moment. Jet-lag, what's that?

Every venue was a different experience, meeting up with old friends and new, culminating each evening with Michael's fantastic show. At each place, the audience erupted with joy, excitement and enthusiasm. This was tangible from the moment Callum and his amazing band struck up the initial introductory notes. Lights, camera, action – all of the concerts were phenomenal.

Every show I attended was incredibly enthusiastic, Am I allowed to be a teeny, weeny bit biased when I say Manchester went completely WILD though?!

It would be unfair to highlight any individual members of the band as they were all equally amazing but Tor, Bex and Michael were the perfect Backing Singers for the show.

Now to talk about Amy Wadge. Oh my goodness, what a voice, what a talent. I saw her perform with Michael in Cardiff a few years ago, when Michael recorded his TV special 'Showtime'. I loved her then but who knew about all the famous people she has worked with? These include Diana Ross and notably writing songs with the likes of Ed Sheeran, Alicia Keys, Pink, James Blunt, John Legend and the list goes on. She also wrote the lovely song for the BBC Drama Series 'Keeping Faith', has had numerous Grammy Awards and nominations. More recently she co-wrote 'Spaceman' which Sam Ryder sang for Eurovision and came a very respectable second. Amy said that Michael maintained coming second was as good as coming first!!

I, for one, was blown away with her and totally understand why Michael loves her so much. Music seems to run through her bones and the duets together of 'We've Got Tonight', 'A Million Lights' and 'We Are More Than One' were so gorgeous, meaningful and stunning.

Michael recalled that he first met Amy when she was a guest on his Sunday morning

radio show. They got on so well that they kept in touch with one another and during Lockdown they teamed up to write some songs. Amy also wrote 'On With The Show'. Michael's performance of this song in the concert was so poignant and pulled at the heart strings!

Throughout the show, Michael entertained us with his funny stories – one relating to Lockdown. He said during the day for example, he'd pay several visits to the fridge, walk the dogs, lie down on the sofa to watch the TV and eventually going to bed. All this to be repeated the following days and weeks ahead, so he joked now restrictions were a distant memory, a little bit of him missed it!

Since arriving back home, 'Coming Home To You' has been going round and round in my head. Of course it was written by Michael and was the perfect opening song with everyone on their feet welcoming him on stage.

Michael sang so many fabulous tracks paying homage to 'The King' Elvis Presley with 'I Just Can't Help Believing', Kenny Rodgers with 'The Gambler' and Tom Jones with '(It Looks Like) I'll Never Fall In Love Again'. There were times when you just had to get up on your feet, cheer and applaud, this song being one of them, as Michael's rendition was off the scale. Others were 'Stars' from *Les Misérables*, 'Anthem' from *Chess* and my personal favourite 'The Rose'.

Other people, I'm sure, will fill in the gaps regarding the set-list which also included 'Tennessee Dreams', 'The Song We Will Remember' and 'Never Let You Go' – all co-written by Michael himself.



After 'Love Changes Everything' we were invited to get up and 'All Dance Together', which we did. We were exceptionally enthusiastic in 'You Can't Stop The Beat'! Our treat was Michael's encore 'One Step Out Of Time' and 'The Wonder of You' – cue more thunderous applause and the perfect ending to a perfect concert.

Throughout the whole evening, Michael chatted away about his chosen songs and his

reasons for choosing them. I don't think many people will forget his "special birthday" stories referring to receiving his Freedom Pass for London and in particular the "poo test" story complete with instructions for those who don't know how they work! Also his tales from the 70's and his "punk phase", when he apparently wore a safety pin in his ear, a razor blade round his neck and bondage trousers! He can be totally hilarious and these were perfect examples.





How could I forget the Musical Theatre Section? ‘Empty Chairs At Empty Tables’ from *Les Mis* of course, ‘Loving You’ from *Passion* evoking many precious memories and ‘Not While I’m Around’ from *Sweeney Todd*. Michael made me laugh out loud saying how Cameron (Mackintosh) always calls him ‘Darling’ and that he swears he’s forgotten his name!

An extra bonus was bumping into Michael’s dad in Glasgow, the icing on a huge cake. He is always so charming and seems to enjoy seeing Michael’s fans as much as we like to see him.

Ah well, another tour comes to an end. Well not just “another Tour”, a Special Tour’. A 40 year Celebration Tour and in Michael’s words -- “if Tom and Cliff are still performing at 80+ years old, God Willing and a Fair Wind, why not me”?

Thank you Michael for the most wonderful time, for being so very gracious on and off stage, for having photos at the stage door, doing signings and waving ‘Good Night’ from the front of the coach each evening after the show.

You are the star that will light up our lives for years to come!





Michael's latest solo tour, 'On With The Show', just blew me away!! The set list was such a good mix of Michael's own song's and the old favourites we all love to sing along too.

The chemistry between Amy Wadge and Michael was electric, which brought something really special to that part of the show. She is such a talented lady. I was lucky enough to go to the first two nights, Brighton and Portsmouth. Michael and his team came up trumps right from the beginning of this tour, not only with the choice of songs but also with the chatter and banter, a perfect example of Michael's showmanship.

In Portsmouth I also went to the meet and greet which was really special. Michael was on top form, telling us anecdotes from his time in *Phantom of The Opera*, he had us all in stitches. He also talked about his radio quiz *On the Ball* and how he likes it when the contestants minds go blank. This happend to me when I took part a few years ago, I got seven points, and both he and I had a good laugh over it.

I also took part in a Meet And Greet on his last solo tour, 'Coming Home To You'. I took him a pair of very large knickers that I had decorated with the tour title. A few sniggers came from my fellow fans as I gave them to Michael and a bit of giggle from him too!

During both meet and greets Michael oozed kindness and empathy. A truly lovely man.

Sue Williams



Both my sister Annette and I had a most fantastic evening at Hammersmith seeing Michael in concert. Amy Wadge was lovely, and Michael just gets better and better every time he performs on stage with his wonderful band. It was really enjoyable to see Michael live again, we had really missed it after all these years. He still makes the audience feel at home, especially when he's telling us how he feels about life, what's happening in the world and how he felt about Covid, particularly when he had it at the beginning. That's what we love about him, he connects with us. Thanks Michael, you are the best! We were looking forward to when he's back on the radio again as I miss that while he's touring. Going to concerts is great but it was especially nice to see three of my friends, Lesley and John then my friend Julie from Guernsey who we hadn't seen pre-Covid. I missed seeing them very much and it was just wonderful to see Julie again before the show and have a meal together with Annette. Julie told me that it was also a celebration because we've known each other for 20 years now as we actually met on the Australian 2004 Fan Club Holiday – how time flies! So we celebrated that as well and made the meal together more special. Thanks Julie for the meal and looking forward to seeing you again soon, we hope. We always stay in touch with Christmas and Birthday cards and WhatsApp messages. A very special friendship formed by a love for Michael, and long may it continue.

Helen Easton



Photo: Chloe-Lee Flanagan



I have been a fan of Michael's for a long time, but us Canadians do not have the same access to Michael that British people do. I told my mom a couple of years ago if Michael does a solo tour I want to go to UK and see him live and visit family while we're over. Fast forward to September 2023, just a few months after my mom had passed away, Michael announced a solo tour for March 2024. I feel it was a sign from my late mom and I bought a 2nd row concert ticket, a Meet and Greet ticket and booked a trip.

The day of the concert, my sister-in-law and I were doing some sightseeing in Glasgow and decided to see if we could see Michael at the stage door. We got to the stage door about 2:30ish and thought we were probably too late to see Michael going in. I saw two ladies waiting in Michael Ball t-shirts and went over and spoke to them and asked if they knew if Michael had gone in yet. They said Michael's road manager had just gone to get him. I was so excited about seeing Michael, and made some new friends while waiting. About 25 mins later Michael arrived. I could not believe it was really him, when he got out of the car with his beautiful smile beaming. I tried and tried to talk to him and finally I was able to. I said "Michael, can I please get a selfie with you, I came all the way from Canada to meet you." He exclaimed "Wow!" with a surprised look on his face and graciously posed for a picture with me. I was so excited after the picture I was

jumping up and down and and didn't realize I dropped my small shopping bag right at Michael's feet. He picked it up and handed to me with a huge smile on his face. The Meet and Greet was an amazing experience too. Michael was a true gentleman and beyond kind. The concert was, in a word, fabulous. To see Michael perform live was an incredible experience,



I even found enough courage to go to the front of the stage at "Party Time" and dance away. Michael's music has helped me with the pain of losing my amazing mom and by making the trip to the UK to meet him and see him live in concert, I found a confidence I didn't know I had (I'm a super quiet and shy person). I made some new friends and had the experience of a life time. Thank you from the bottom of my heart Michael, you are truly an amazing man!!

Judith Allan



Photo: Paula Marie

I went to the Eventim Apollo it was a wonderful show! Michael was funny, sang superbly and I had a brilliant time. I look forward to the next tour, hope it doesn't take another five years!

Linda Stroude

THE SELFIE COLLECTION

It's become a tour tradition now - Michael taking an on-stage selfie from each venue when on tour. Can you see yourself on any of them?

BRIGHTON



PORTSMOUTH



BOURNEMOUTH



OXFORD



BATH

LONDON



GLASGOW



NOTTINGHAM



YORK



MANCHESTER



IPSWICH



BIRMINGHAM



CARDIFF





I was lucky enough to have my first Meet and Greet with Michael in Bath as a Christmas present from my dear husband Larry. It was a wonderful experience and one I will always remember. The show was amazing, I think the best he has done. I was also surprised by Larry with a trip to his Birmingham show and Cardiff which I knew about.

Dot Wilkie



Well what a wonderful, fabulous time we had. My Auntie Maureen and I feel privileged to have been able to go to our first Meet and Greet. Michael was so kind, I can't put into words the time I had. The show, that voice, he was amazing and so funny with his stories and the whole team and amazing Amy Wadge were brilliant, what a night!

Lorraine Bull



During our meet and greet in Glasgow I asked Michael if I could get him in "the buff" he told me there was no chance... but I did get him in the buff! As you can see, it was the Cancer Research tartan buff. I think his face is a mixture of cheekiness and relief and mine is just the face of getting one over on him! As ever he was very gracious.

Elaine Monro



I have been Michael Ball Fan since day one (34 years) and I have been to all the shows and tours. I'm always amazed and never disappointed. I have seen Michael at stage doors, but my daughter said I need to add a Meet & Greet to my bucket list so she arranged it for me at Ipswich. And this photo is the result and glad I did it. Here's to the next one!

Shirley Mullins



This was my first meet and greet with Michael and I was so nervous but there was absolutely no need! Michael was so kind and friendly and it was a real pleasure to meet him. A lovely memory to treasure and the concert was amazing - one of his best I think.

Kathryn Blair



Cathy Cunningham was kind enough to send in her wonderful Meet & Greet photo with Michael.



I went mid-February with my friend Carole McFarlane to see Michael after his radio show. We wanted to wish him well on his upcoming tour.

I asked him for a photo and he said "of course, come here". As I stood next to him like a besotted little school girl, I told him I had waited 30 years for this moment. He replied "well let's make it special" and this picture was taken.

What a kind gesture to make. I was flying and every time I look at it, it reminds me of how special this man is to his fans. Bless you Michael!

Denise Fawke



Myself and my beloved Barbara, my wife of 40 years, recently celebrated our Ruby anniversary. After five long years from last Meet and Greet in Brighton, we had such a great experience we decided to do it again to have something to look forward to. Michael was his usual polite and friendly, respectful and encouraging self. The concert was absolutely amazing as was Amy Wadge - she's so cool and talented. We also saw Michael at the Eventim Apollo Hammersmith which coincidentally was where we attended our first Michael concert in November 2003. Barbara was thrilled with her picture.

Jeff and Barbara Stickland

The Wonder of YOU, Michael

by Nancy Garcia



Photo: Carolyn Bell

It's been a hard couple of years for me. A lot of losses including my mother from Alzheimer's, my lifelong friend from a tragic car accident, two cousins from heart attacks, and an extended family member who just dropped dead at the age of 43. And along with all this loss was an anticipated death of a good friend who I first met through the Fan Club, Ria (she passed away on the 6th of May). Being in the health field, I was the go to for family and friends when they needed answers. While going through my own mourning, I also had to be the strong one and help others understand the how, but definitely not the why. It can be exhausting! As all this is happening, Michael announced his tour dates. This was the first time since I discovered Michael 17 years ago that I wasn't instantly excited. I was in a slump. Concert dates were 5 months away. I didn't know how I would feel then about making the trip, yet I still decided to see what tickets were available.

On the first day of presale, I was up at 5am and managed a decent seat in Oxford. Not bad. So I tried for London and nothing good (for me) was available. I feel that if I am going to pay for airfare to go to the UK for concerts, I want tickets in the first 10 rows, simple as that. I figured I would try my luck the second day of presale. I overslept by half an hour the next morning and there was no good tickets left, for me, anyway. Half an hour after, I just got this feeling to check again. I logged in to Ticketmaster and there, waiting for me, were 2 front row center tickets in London! I grabbed them as fast as I could and went to check out before they disappeared. Only then did I realize that they were the most expensive Michael tickets I had ever purchased! Too late now. They were mine!

As the tour dates came closer, I realized that this would be a solo trip. Ria was no longer able to travel, and my other travel partners were not able to make the trip. So off I went. Pictures and comments online definitely made it out to be a great tour. Finally, I was getting excited and into tour mode!

I arrived in London on a Friday morning. I always love walking around London so that took care of my Friday. I was planning a day trip to the Cotswolds for Saturday but the weather wasn't right for a walkabout so I decided to see if there were any tickets still available for the Bath concert that Saturday night. Sure enough, a fan came through and I got my ticket. A little far back for my liking, but it would do.

After seeing Michael arrive and greeting so many fans I had not seen in years I took my seat in the rear of the stalls. And I did something I have never done in a Michael concert. I cried. I cried through so many of his songs, especially during his emotional rendition of 'Never Let You Go' and 'A Million Lights' (with Amy). I finally let it all out in a dark theatre in Bath, alone in a crowd. I needed a good cry. And it took Michael

(and Amy) to get it out of me.

The following concert was London. My front row seats! Nikki Goodchild joined me up front. She had also suffered the loss of her mother recently and we promised we were not going to cry this time. All has been said about this tour was true! Just great! As the concert was coming to an end, we had the extra pleasure of having Alfie Boe as a special guest. And then 'The Wonder Of You' began. We all knew a fan would get a special moment when Michael kissed them. Some fans are a bit more eager than others to be the one. I was not one of them. Yes, tend to speak loudly and like to laugh in public BUT I do not like being the center of attention! In fact, I still can't believe I volunteered to be on Michael's TV show so many years ago. And then, from the stage, Michael pointed at me! I made eye contact and mouthed "Me?" and he nodded yes. At that moment, my face changed color to a nice tomato red! I did not want this. I just felt all eyes on me! Yet, just like I needed to cry during the Bath concert, I needed to be "the one" on this night. And I didn't even realize it. Without knowing what I had been going through in my life, Michael made me feel like everything would be OK, "God Willing". And thanks to so many fans, especially Steve Lunt and Nikki who captured that special moment for me.

I happen to pass by the stage door at the Oxford theatre as Michael was arriving. As always, I stay in the background and take pictures. Michael spotted me and a silly smile came to him and said "Your face when you got the kiss!" and started giggling. Yes, laughing at my ruby red face!

I don't know how he does it, but with a simple gesture of a kiss at the end of his concert, he made it better for me. A memory for a lifetime. Thank you Michael for being the wonder of YOU!!!





MEETING MICHAEL IS MAGIC!

By Jen Howard

I went to see Michael when he was performing in Manchester and had booked for a Meet And Greet. My usual concert buddy Suzanne was unable to go this time, so my boss and very good friend Mary Navarro came with me instead – this was her first Michael concert.

The Meet And Greet was amazing and I had to be patient as I was the next to last to have my photo taken, but as I was sat at the front I had a perfect view! Michael was lovely with everyone and when it was my turn, I got nice and close for my photo. When it was time for the Q&A my

hand shot up so quick that Michael pointed at me and said “no” but with a smile on his face! I asked my question, inquiring about how he had revisited *Les Misérables* and *Aspects Of Love* and played two different characters. So I asked if there another musical he had been in where he would like to go back and play a different character – his answer was yes, the grandpa in *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*.



Photo: Carolyn Bell

The concert itself was fabulous – the choice of songs were perfect; my favourites being ‘Stars’, ‘One Step Out Of Time’ and ‘The Gambler’. Amy Wadge, who opened the show, was also brilliant and the connection between her and Michael when they sang together was lovely to watch. The two hours went past so quickly and I loved every second. The photos are of me and Mary sat waiting for the show to start and my M&G photo – thank you Michael and all your team for an awesome evening!



Photo: Carolyn Bell

Julie Vidler wrote this poem about Michael's latest tour – she also managed to get Michael to sign her paperback copy of 'Different Aspects' and her custom bag.

5 long years we've had to wait
To see the man we appreciate

A solo tour for 2024
A time to Boogie, with Ball once more

From Brighton to Bournemouth and
Portsmouth in between
New venues where I've never been

In the theatre I take my seat
Ready to enjoy the evening's treat

The lights go down, the audience awaits
The chatter from people now abates

The band and singers enter the stage
The excitement builds, the music plays

From in the wings Michael appears
To rapturous applause and lots of cheers

On with the show is ready to start
With amazing songs sung from the heart

From musicals, albums, songs to dance to
A show that will stop you feeling blue.

Amy Wadge is Michael's special guest
With a beautiful voice she is the best

It's close to the end of the show
And nearly time for everyone to go.

Not before getting on our feet
To You Can't Stop The Beat

On with the show 2024
Has left us all wanting more

So for those who've not seen it
You're in for a treat.

A life without Michael music would be
incomplete.





Lynn McCormack took full advantage of catching Michael at a stage door by getting not only a photo, but also having Michael write out 'Love Changes Everything' which she is going to have turned into a tattoo.



After waiting for what seemed like ages, it was finally time for Michael's solo tour to get underway!

I had booked for Oxford due to its intimate feel and proximity to home.

I arrived at 11.45 with my long suffering partner in tow! I'd heard on the grapevine what time Michael arrived at the stage door approximately. After a long

4 hour wait, the tour bus finally arrived. Out came Amy Wadge followed by our Michael. Both of them were happy to chat to waiting fans.

Amy seemed delighted that Michael's fans were there to support and chat to her also.

Michael, as always, was his usual charming self, happy to pose for photos, sign autographs and to catch up with his fans.



The gig itself was absolutely amazing. Amy is such a talented and a superb supporting act. She is not only a great singer and songwriter but also an excellent musician, as she plays numerous instruments.

Then it was time for Michael and he simply did what he does best. His energy and voice were absolutely outstanding. He gets better and better. He was witty, telling some hilarious stories

whilst entertaining us with his dulcet tones.

I felt very privileged to be able to attend one of his concerts when others struggle either with health issues or financial reasons. In these difficult times, it was lovely just to be entertained by my idol and to meet him again.

Michael always gives his time selflessly and is always happy to spend time with his fans. I, for one, feel enormously thankful for that. It's not everyday people have the chance to meet their idol. This is the fifth time now I have had the privilege to meet the great man and he never disappoints. The first time I couldn't even remember my name! Now we can even share a joke about signing my unofficial t-shirt!

Keep doing what you do Michael and please don't leave it too long till the next tour!

Samantha Mason



On April 8th 2024, along with other numerous Michael fans, I was lucky enough to be able to attend 'Music Is Magic' at the Royal Albert Hall, London. In fact, considering the train strikes on that day, the venue was almost packed to capacity!

Music is Magic was staged by The Music Man Project, led by their Global Ambassadors and it included Michael, who is now a patron of this incredible charity, as one

of their special guests. They were supported by The Music Man Project massed choirs and The Band of His Majesty's Royal Marines Collingwood.

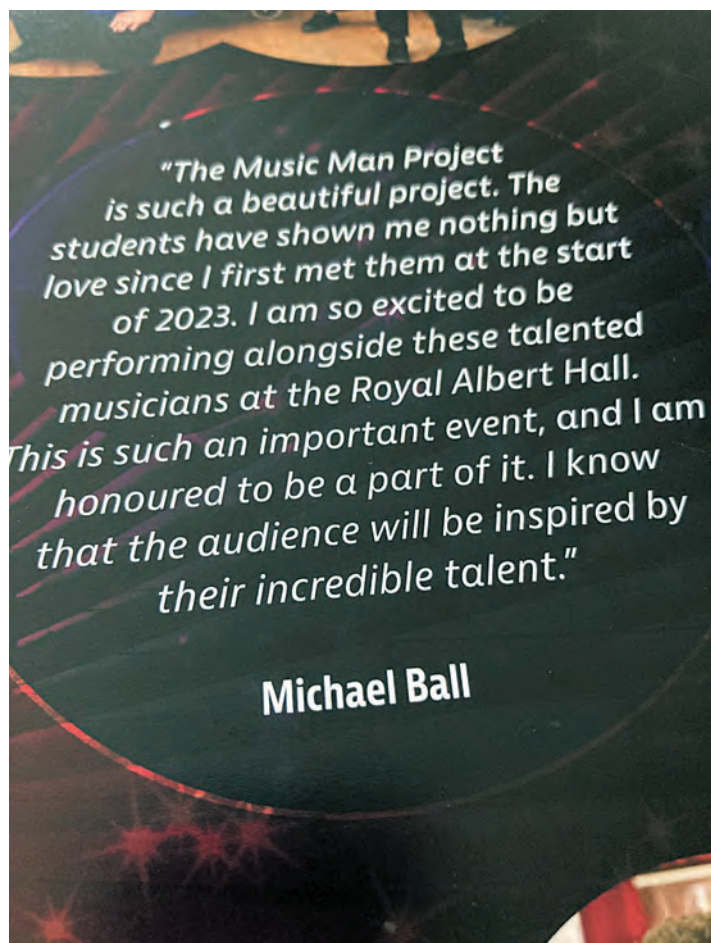
The Music Man Project, founded by David Stanley BEM, is a volunteer led multi-award winning international music education service, for people with learning disabilities. It provides accessible music tuition leading to inspirational performances,

amongst others they have performed at the Mountbatten Festival of Music, receiving a standing ovation from the King, delivered a workshop at Downing Street and danced with the Speaker of the House of Commons. Later this year they will perform in Canada with the Royal Air Force and in Milan with Italian Charity Allegro Moderato. They of course received a Special Recognition Award from Michael in February 2023, following which he became a patron of the charity and said those immortal words "I want to get involved in some way".

Fast forward to 8th April and there he was, performing with 250 Music Man students from 14 regional Music Man Projects across the UK, 280 members of the Music Man Project massed choirs, HM Royal Marines Band Collingwood and the other special guests.

Act One consisted mainly of Music Man Project songs and marches, the majority of the songs being original music and lyrics - with plenty of audience participation with the singing and signing. They were such feel good songs and had the whole audience on our feet. We were loving it.





A real highlight was the song 'Have You Ever Stopped To Think?' Throughout this song the big screens were showcasing pictures and videos of some of the students (and one of their fellow patrons Noah Wall) from birth to present day, showing how far they have come. Listening to the words of that song I doubt that there was a dry eye in the house;

*'This is who we are,
Who we want to be,
When you find your purpose,*



*You can turn the dark to light
This is why we're here today,
Showing you what we can do,
How we love to sing and play,
Hoping to inspire you,
So you know,
Why we're here.'*

The highlight of Act Two was the original musical *The Music Man Time Machine*, in which all the characters worked to free a character called Wilma and the music, who were trapped in the Time Machine. We had The Music Man, Michael, some Elvis's (most of which were played by Music Man Project students - not forgetting volunteer and carer Roger), Michael Jackson, Frank Sinatra - who Michael was most impressed with for hitting the high notes (he would have given Michael a run for his money with 'Love Changes Everything') - and Tina Turner, all appearing out of the Time Machine.

To celebrate setting Wilma and music free, all the stars of the musical including all the Music Man Project students, and Michael, sang and danced the finale - including those iconic lines "we're going to Broadway".

And how was the Time Machine reimagined on stage? Well, it was a good old portaloo - so if you've never seen Michael sitting in one of these this was your chance!

More songs and audience participation followed and the evening concluded with David Stanley being awarded a Point of Light award, to recognise outstanding volunteering, presented by Southend MP Anna Firth on behalf of Rishi Sunak PM. A very fitting end to an incredible concert.

The Music Man project students, together with their wonderful



and dedicated carers, were onsite for almost 12 hours and many of the volunteers for several hours longer. That's the way that this production, which had been at least two years in the making, was put together. It had to be seen to be believed. It is a great credit to all involved.

So many people that I have talked with since the show took place have said what a lovely person Michael is and how wonderful he is with all the students and ambassadors and they adore him in return.

I am proud to say that I am now one of those volunteers, it's strange how fate intervenes.

When I saw The Music Man Project on The Big Night of Musicals in Feb 2023 I

had never heard of this, what I considered a local charity. I then had a chance encounter on a train with David Stanley and two of the ambassadors, Sam and Dan, on Michael's birthday. They had seen *Aspects Of Love* and I had seen another show, and found out that one of their weekly practice days was a five minute walk from my home. The rest is history.

Additionally, other Essex based MBFC fans also have started to volunteer. The Music Man Project always welcomes visitors to their sessions and can be contacted at musicmanprojectuk@outlook.com or via social media.

The song 'Make A Difference', composed by David Stanley and Sarah Mann, was written for Michael to sing at this concert



and the words say:

You can make a difference in this world of ours.

It matters what we do and what we say.

The small things not the grand can help to heal the land.

Every little act of kindness leads the way.

I do hope that you all enjoyed the article and pictures, many of which were taken during rehearsal time. Music certainly is Magic!





BILL BAINBRIDGE

It is with great sadness that I share the very sad news that our lovely friend, Bill Bainbridge, passed away at the beginning of February.

Bill was the devoted husband of Annie, who sadly passed away in June 2022.

We became friends with Bill & Annie through our mutual love of Michael, and after Annie's passing, Bill continued to meet up with us and others, and accompanied us to shows and events. He was very much looking forward to joining us in York for Michael's 'On With The Show' tour.

We are all going to miss our wonderful friend greatly, but take comfort in the knowledge that he is now reunited with his beloved Annie.

Rest in peace Bill.

Following the sad passing of both Annie & Bill, in 2022 & 2024 respectively, their family very kindly gave me their Michael & Alfie memorabilia to share between fans. Thanks to very generous donations, £375 has been raised for Shooting Star Children's Hospices in their memory. Annie & Bill would be very grateful, as are Shooting Star. They wrote back, saying "This gift is such a lovely tribute in Annie & Bill's honour and we very much appreciate that Shooting Star Children's Hospices has been chosen in this special way. Gifts in memory are a very poignant way to remember and celebrate the life of someone special. Shooting Star Children's Hospices provides specialist nursing care and support 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Our bespoke support is free of charge to families and includes a comprehensive range of therapies and support groups for the whole family, specialist nursing care and respite, symptom management, end-of-life care, and bereavement support. This gift is hugely appreciated as we rely almost entirely on the generosity of our supporters for funding. Without your support, we simply wouldn't be here to help families who are faced with incredibly difficult situations. Thank you so much."

Claire Stockil

PENPALS

The fans below would love to hear from other fans of Michael:

PAT ALEXANDER

email: alexanderpatricia20@yahoo.com

LINDA STROUDE

email: lindastroude4@gmail.com

KATHRYN HORNER

Interested to know if anyone wants to meet up once a month in Wigan?

email: kathrynhorner47@gmail.com

Sandra Rhead

email: sandra.rhead@outlook.com

Sandra would love to hear from anyone living in the Dorset area.

THE MICHAEL BALL FAN CLUB ONLINE

www.mbfanclub.co.uk

The Michael Ball Fan Club is completely free to join – simply visit the website address above and register your email address and you will receive notifications every time there is some Michael Ball news to report. There is also a members area where you can download past issues of On The Ball and access Michael's past Infoline messages.

The password to access it is: **MBFC30**



