

# BILLY RANKIN

Over the last few years Scotland has proved itself a potent breeding ground in terms of turning out some very good musicians and song-writers. Somebody who fills both those roles is Billy Rankin, who with his debut album 'Growin' Up Too Fast' has managed to produce a record that re-defines both the terms; Rock and Pop at the same time, hard edged guitars with contagious melodies.

Hailing from Glasgow, Billy Rankin served his apprenticeship in Various small time local bands, culminating in an invitation when he Was still only 17 years old to play guitar with ex- Alex Harvey band guitarist Zal Cleminson in his new band Zal. Enthusiastically received by the press and public alike the band split when Zal Cleminson decided to quit. Now a free agent again Billy got involved with a series of bands and projects, none of which came to fruition yet all giving a still very young musician invaluable knowledge of the music business minefield.

Billy's next major break came when he was asked to join Nazareth. Within days of accepting he was on a plane winging his way to the States to join up with the band for two days of intense rehearsal before the tour started. Add to this fact that the tour was being filmed and recorded for a live album and video and the term 'in at the deep end' is something of an understatement.

It was not only Nazareth that had recognized Billy's talents, on that Tour he also came to the attention of the band's American record Label A&M who upon also hearing some of his demos snapped him up for a Worldwide solo deal.



During the summer of '83 Billy went into the studio to record his Debut album "Growin' Up Too Fast", a mixture of vibrant pop, razor edged rock and soulful ballads. Compare the cataclysmic drive of 'Rip It Up' to the stirring pathos of 'Burning Down' and it is not Hard to see that Billy Rankin is a man not to be put into any one musical bag. Being raised on a diet of early '70's pop the under riding influence is apparent in the album's dynamics, sense of melody and overall energy. One of those early influences was Zal Cleminson and his unusual guitar technique when playing with the Sensational Alex Harvey Band. Much admired by Billy he was asked to provide some additional guitar on the aforementioned 'Rip It Up' and 'Call Me Automatic'

Though a testament to good time music 'Growin' Up Too Fast' will also Indelibly imprint the name of Billy Rankin on the minds of anyone Who comes into contact with it and by next year it may just be a case of Billy Rankin growing up faster than anyone else.

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