



WWW.TONYHAZZARD.COM / INFO@TONYHAZZARD.COM

MEDIA RELEASE / APRIL 28TH 2014 / WITH PICTURES.

**LEGENDARY SONGWRITER
RETURNS TO LIVERPOOL AFTER 50 YEARS**

FIFTY years after he last played on Merseyside - and fifty-four years after he turned down a gig at the Cavern - one of Liverpool's most prolific hitmakers, who became a legendary figure of pop's golden age, is on his way home.

Tony Hazzard returns for two special performances at Liverpool's International Pop Overthrow at The Cavern on Friday, May 16th.

Tony was the author of international smashes like *Ha Ha Said the Clown* and *Fox on the Run* for stars ranging from The Hollies to Manfred Mann, from Cliff Richard to Andy Williams. In an eight-year period from 1966 to 1974, he penned a host of top 20 hits recorded by The Yardbirds, Gene Pitney, Herman's Hermits and many others.

He also sang on Elton John's first three albums and performed live with him, wrote for TV and cinema (winning an award at the Cannes Film Festival) and worked as a session singer and guitarist.

Tony's songs are still played, sung and recorded all over the world – *Fox on the Run* won a Citation of Achievement from BMI in the USA, having become a bluegrass standard, while songs such as *Fade Away Maureen*, recorded by The Yardbirds, have become much anthologised psych-pop classics. Tony's 1970s singer-songwriter albums *Loudwater House* and *Was That Alright Then?* are cult collectors' items.

After a long break from the music business (during which time he retrained as a counsellor and ran one of Britain's leading drug and alcohol rehabs), Tony released his first album in 35 years in 2011. *Songs From The Lynher* (pron: Liner) was an immediate hit with his small but devoted army of fans. It was featured by Spencer Leigh on BBC Radio Merseyside. Tony, who was born and brought up in Rainhill and went to Prescot Grammar School, has toured widely in the UK and Spain to play songs from it and from his extraordinary back catalogue.

"AN AMAZING BODY OF WORK – AN AMAZING SONGWRITER" – BETH NIELSEN CHAPMAN

"CLASSIC ROCK BY THE SINGER-SONGWRITER" – CORNWALL FOLK FESTIVAL, 2013

"SONGS OF LIFE AND LOVE FUELLED BY AGE AND EXPERIENCE" – *WESTERN MORNING NEWS*

WWW.TONYHAZZARD.COM / INFO@TONYHAZZARD.COM

Publicity by FraserWords  www.fraserwords.co.uk

Tony said: “When I was invited to play the IPO I was delighted to say ‘yes’, mainly because I chickened out of the chance to play The Cavern in 1960 because I didn’t think my little trio were quite up to it and here’s my chance to make up for that.

“I used to go to The Cavern in the late fifties and early sixties when it was mainly trad jazz and groups at the lunchtime sessions. I saw most of the Liverpool groups: The Beatles, in leather, just back from Hamburg, Derry Wilkie, Gerry and the Pacemakers and The Big Three (great band).

“I had a little group when I was about seventeen (around 1960/1) and we used to play at Rainhill Mental Hospital dances every Thursday (for the public, not the patients). One lunchtime, two of us were at a Cavern lunchtime session and Bob Wooler announced that if any groups wanted to play at The Cavern to let him know. We decided that we weren’t experienced enough (having seen Beatles, Gerry, etc) so we chickened out. When David Bash asked if I would play the IPO this year I thought it might make up for chickening out all those years ago.”

Tony plays the front stage of The Cavern at 6.15pm and the back stage at 9.30pm, both on May 16th. That afternoon, he’s making a live special guest appearance on BBC Radio Merseyside’s Billy Butler show at 2.30pm.

Songs From the Lynher was recorded in Tony’s home studio on the banks of the River Lynher in Cornwall and mixed by Grammy award-winning engineer, Jerry Boys (*Buena Vista Social Club*, Ry Cooder). A totally solo production, the album is a simple suite of songs reflecting on life and love from the standpoint of age and experience – with lyrical insight and melodic flair in common with those great hits of the past. It’s available from www.tonyhazzard.com

- Tony Hazzard, Liverpool IPO, The Cavern, May 16th 2014, 6.15pm and 9.30pm.

Editor's notes:

Picture captions -

Tony Hazzard JPEG (JPEG): Tony Hazzard.

Tony Hazzard in 1967 (JPEG): Tony Hazzard in 1967, Parliament Hill Fields, London.

Information / contact: www.tonyhazzard.com / info@tonyhazzard.com /
Mobile 07736 183297

Publicity / interviews / stills: Stuart Fraser at
stuart@fraserwords.co.uk / 01579 362667 / 07760 369757