

stan's still bullish!

Kiran Sdhu on Jazz at Barnes



With shows such as *X-Factor* and *Britain's Got Talent*, the question of longevity is always at the forefront of the minds of cynics. Has an artist got real core talent to see them through the test of time, or, like so many others before them, will we all be saying, 'they were good at the time'?

Stan Tracey, musician, composer and jazz legend has certainly stood the test of time, his feet firmly rooted and his talent nurtured. His career has lasted more than 60 years and he's still gigging and composing, whether he's part of a quintet, duo or trio.

Born in 1926, Tracey has had an impressive, illustrious career. He's been dubbed the Godfather of British Jazz, has an OBE and a CBE and was commissioned by Chris Patten to compose a piece of music to mark the handover of Hong Kong to the Chinese.

From the late 50s to the early 60s, Tracey was resident pianist at the world-famous Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club in Soho, at a time when the club was in its heyday. He played alongside musical jazz giants such as Sonny Rollins, Zoot Sims and Ben Webster. Stan Tracey says his time at Ronnie's was his 'musical highlight,' a time he believes he was at his most creative.

It's hard to believe that the Bull's Head, in the sleepy urban village of Barnes, is the regular venue for such a prolific and well-respected jazz giant as Tracey. In fact, The Bull's Head is well-known for attracting iconic jazz musicians and has earned its place on the jazz circuit.

Stan Tracey will be bringing his quintet to the Bull's Head on two dates in March and April. Accompanying him will be his son, Clark Tracey, on drums. Watch Tracey and hear him play. You'll be witnessing a living legend.

*Stan Tracey's Quintet, The Bull's Head, 373 Lonsdale Road, Barnes SW13 9PY
26 March and 30 April, 8.30pm; Tickets £12.00.*