**‘An evening with The Cure’s Lol Tolhurst: Lol describes his Cure’. Published in *Razur Cuts III*. July 2017.**

Writer: Sean Z Fitzgerald ©2016

Lol Tolhurst offers insights and musings on the beginnings of The Cure and his friendship with the band’s co-founder Robert Smith in an intimate evening of interviews, questions and readings from his new book, *Cured: The Tale of Two Imaginary Boys*.

**Lol describes his Cure**

The Lower Mews building, part- stone, part-prefab sits in the lee of the small but impressive Christ Church in Bath. This sparse hall would have been the type of venue a group of imaginary boys, thirty-three or so years ago would be likely to turn up and play a moody, brooding and contemplative gig. Tonight, only one of those boys is present but the audience, in youthful music-loving spirit, is still the same. The focus is on Lol Tolhurst, one of the founding members of *The Cure* and his book *Cured*, a personal memoir about friendships, music and belonging.

Looking as comfortable behind a microphone with a book in his hand, as a pair of sticks or keys, the presence of Lol Tolhurst is the real draw for the evening. For acolytes of Goth (of which a smattering are evidently present), there is extra interest with *All About Eve*’s Julianne Regan asking the questions and shaping the discussion.

Tolhurst begins with what seems like a slightly odd prelude both to the evening’s discussion and his book, *Cured*. He explains why he left the country for the deserts and plains and freedom of California, twenty-two years ago. The reasons, he says, were to grow beyond what he had become. By being a “stranger in a strange land”, he had been able to do just that. Without that shedding of the past, he says this book, and his many projects including his current musical project, *Levinhurst*, would never have come to fruition. The audience nods in appreciation and understanding. It’s a clear-the-air moment.

The black-clad Tolhurst (what else would you expect), opens with answers to: ‘Why a book?’ and ‘Why now?’ To help make sense of it all to him personally, is the overriding message which comes out from the ensuing discussion. Tolhurst seems comfortable with his and Robert Smith’s interwoven relationship which is *The Cure*. He feels the story of their journey from punks under “the grey, leaden skies of Crawley”, to world-wide success, is a tale he is now able to tell and engage publicly with. There is a sense that this plateau has taken a long-time to reach but one which has brought a calming perspective.

Regan, in an effusive but clinical-style manages to elicit points of key formative information from *The Cure* co-founder (and the one proudly responsible for their name). These shed some (shafts) of light onto how his and Smith’s attention to the music, style and attitude of the first punk bands (*Clash*, *Stranglers*) witnessed locally first-hand, came together to draw their own musical ambitions into focus. Tolhurst adds (by way of an aside) that as well as being brought up in the Roman Catholic faith, he was an altar boy for a long period during his formative years, and even went as far as taking ‘Instructions’ for the priesthood, for a year. Perhaps, this explains the ‘gothic style and attitude’, one of the audience members comments later on. Perhaps. A murmur of agreement rises in the audience as those with a similar experience make themselves known. In an understated way, of course.

Lol Tolhurst captures the audience with two mesmerising readings from his book. Both are powerful, personal memories of what it took for *The Cure* and their original sound to emerge from amongst a backdrop of outsiders and mis-fits. Albeit ones with desire and a goal to escape the mundane surroundings of Crawley and the Sussex suburban hinterland of the nineteen-seventies. However, according to Tolhurst they could never seem to escape as they were constantly drawn back. Perhaps California, where he settled all those years ago finally provided the opportunity to break free of his binding roots.

Of course, the imaginary Lower Mews gig in reality was held *The Moles Club* on the 28th July 1983. For Tolhurst’s return visit, there were even a couple of stalwarts from that night in the audience to reminisce on the experience.

*(Book Event and Discussion hosted by Toppings Bath, 26/09/16.)*

*(2 Photos attached)*

