

★CLASSIC★ Rock



Dave Ling's Diary

<http://www.daveling.co.uk>

This journal of the comings'n'goings and musings'n'enthusings of Dave Ling will be updated daily (except after nights of excess)

Wednesday 28th May - Apart from an extremely drunken afternoon at the Canterbury Fayre festival, and an appearance with Van Halen at an after-show knees-up in London, I'd never actually seen Deborah Bonham onstage before. So I came away from last night's album showcase at the 100 Club full of respect and admiration. Bonham – okay, let's get this out of the way... she's John's sister and Jason's aunt, but a gifted singer in her own right – has crafted a highly enjoyable new album called 'Duchess' (Rhino Records, June 24) that even features a guest appearance from Paul Rodgers on 'Hold On'. Backed by a band that included legendary sticksman Jerry Shirley (making what was rumoured to be the ex-Humble Pie/Fastway man's last ever appearance behind a drum kit), Debbie displayed a set of strong blues-rock pipes whilst previewing a broad cross-section of the record's songs, including 'Love You So', 'Grace', 'Jack Past Eight', 'Pretty Thing', 'Waiting So Long', 'Love Lies', 'Duchess', '(If You) Had A Little Love' and 'Hole In My Heart'. There's an interesting story behind the latter, which was brought to the band in semi-written state by Jerry Shirley, who'd messed around with it many moons ago with the late, great Steve Marriott. But the set proper finished in emotional style with 'The Old Hyde', a wistful, plaintive song that Bonham based on the farm in which her family used to live, and how she's looking forward to seeing her relatives again. On paper it probably sounds cheesy, or quite possibly morbid, but Deborah sang it so beautifully I couldn't give a damn.