

A Tribute to Queen

Only a stone's throw from Harrods – where tourists rarely venture past the sentinel of bus stops – the cobbled mews and historic buildings of Knightsbridge remain the private property of the resident Londoner.

A kaleidoscope of blooms spill over the hanging baskets and terracotta pots, displaying evidence of the beautiful English summer. The miscellany of sticky Petunia teases their way through crimson and purple aubretia, white Alyssum and clusters of violet blue Ageratum.

The intensity of the red, white and blue blooms heightens the chemistry in London on the evening of the 28th July 1981. It is the eve of the most popular and glorious royal wedding in modern history.

The potpourri of fragrances, mingling with the exotic spices of the East, fuse together outside the distinguished Shezan restaurant in Cheval Place. The cool azure tiles and the hypnotic flow of a simple water fountain relax visitors prior to their introduction to Shezan's gastronomic Eastern delights.

The restaurant is exquisite, intimate and peaceful. We find ourselves seated next to the Queen. Not the mother-in-law in waiting, but the celebrated and constitutionally unrestricted rock band of the era. The poise and polish of Freddie Mercury generates a respectful curiosity amongst the diners. He is, without doubt, a man of considerable presence, grace, dignity and talent.

THE QUEEN TRIBUTE BAND

The 'ultimate Queen tribute band' was formed in 1989, playing Queen covers around the Humber side area. It was not long before they attracted a distinguished and dedicated following throughout the United Kingdom. With the vocalists' magnificent portrayal of the late Freddie Mercury – even down to his theatrical and flamboyant stage presence – we can affectionately remember one of the finest rock entertainers that Britain has ever produced.

THE TRIBUTE BAND COMES TO THE DUBAI COUNTRY CLUB ...

The band's two and a half hour animated 'Tribute to Queen', included twenty-two memorable songs – some yodelling – some comedy – some filming – and small tribute to our local culture.

Stimulating and encouraging audience participation from the outset, the band guaranteed a full dance floor and 400 potential Freddie Mercury singers chanting 'Radio Ga-Ga', 'We are the Champion's' and 'I want to break free', amongst other favourites.

'Bohemian Rhapsody' magnetically conveyed the audience into a therapeutic and contented hypnosis, culminating in one of the finest live entertains the Club has staged ... 'God Save the Queen'.

POLLY HEALY
THE COUNTRY LIFE MAGAZINE,
DUBAI - 1995