

The Zombies and an Apology to Liz Brasher, whom I mis-identified as “Liz Fletcher”: Michael’s Rock and Roll Posse

A couple of years ago, I wrote about our seeing Justin Hayward of the Moody Blues at The Heights Theater, and what a great venue it was—an old, 1930’s vintage movie theater stripped down and re-purposed into a funky music venue, with perfect sight lines, moveable chairs, and perfect acoustics. Fortunately, given how much beer is consumed and spilled there, it has tile floors that can be mopped up easily. This was a good thing for us when we saw The Zombies, as a lot of beer seemed to have been spilled onto the floors at the sold-out concert on February 27, 2019. I know, you’re thinking, “what the hell, Michael. We want our posse posting while they’re fresh, not after they’ve been hibernating.” Fair enough, and I did make notes then, but I vowed I would not report in until after I had sent off my final, final edited draft of my DREAM Act history to my publisher (NYU Press), which I did last night, around 9:00 pm Central. So, this is my first duty since re-surfacing after what seemed like a month of half days (8:00 until 8:00 every day), editing, footnoting, re-writing, and trying to take the advice of excellent and helpful referees, and doing nothing else.

I still have to do the bibliography, but I need to do something else not so, well, bibliographical, first, which is celebrate the Zombies’ induction last night into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, 29 years after their eligibility and 4 times on the final ballot, last night, in Brooklyn, where I attended the induction of Linda Ronstadt, Cat Stevens/Yusuf Islam, Nirvana, and others. See the convergence here? Saw them a month ago, worked on

book for a month, Fall of Fame Induction last night, Posse Posting. I have added the recordings of their induction, and three of the four songs they sang (am missing This Will Be Our Year, the fourth song they sang:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FmuswTEGF-](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FmuswTEGF-U#action=share)

[U#action=share](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FmuswTEGF-U#action=share)); I think they probably chose this because it was exactly 50 days ago to the date that “Time of the Season” was released, from their (misspelled) album “Odessey & Oracle,” which is ranked #100 in *Rolling Stone*’s 500 Greatest Albums of All Time. Ironically, they had broken up by then.

Organist/keyboardist Rod Argent formed Argent (“Hold Your Head Up” and “God Gave Rock and Roll to You”), while lead singer Colin Blunstone left music, and then joined The Alan Parsons Project. Over the years, they have re-formed, added new members, and produced several more new records as The Zombies.

As you can tell from listening to the current YouTube versions from last night’s Induction, they are not exactly the same as 50 years ago, but Blunstone still has that reedy voice, distinctive as a fingerprint, and it is quite astonishing to hear those old songs. They are a tight group, still touring and even doing popular nostalgia cruises. Their Houston fans were in evidence, and much to my regret, The Heights stacked them in like cordwood, along the wall, where some were swaying and sort-of dancing, and beer sales were clearly in evidence. One of the unsubstantiated research subjects that should be undertaken is why my generation talks so much when they go to 60’s group concerts. I know why they talk so loud, as we are all hearing impaired if we were serious concert goers in our youth, but we should shut up during the music. It is ok when everyone chimes

in with a chorus, but the drunken laughter and inane conversations unrelated to the event (some medical; personal; possibly-felonious, if I understood correctly; and some political) just distract and diminish everyone's listening pleasure.

The Theater should not have so many people lined up in the aisles, and just charge everyone a few dollars more. I, for one, would pay a bit more for a smaller number not standing so noisily. And I am pretty sure the fire code for room design was observed in the breach. All that in, it was a remarkable event, with great and recognizable songs and sound, well performed and all in for the event. Even though they have not been together as The Zombies all these years, they seemed genuinely happy to be there with fans who sang along and even knew the more obscure songs.

Here is their setlist, which included songs from all phases of their careers. I have seen them twice in intimate settings, and I swear they were singing just for us. I also have to correct a mistake I made in mis-citing Liz Brasher, the wonderful musician who opened for them. In my haste to tweet, I called her Liz Fletcher, a local politician whose name must have come to mind. Liz Brasher [<http://lizbrasher.com/about>] writes that she is half-Italian and half-Dominican, which confirms Tina's observation that she looked Latina. Not many Dominicans sing country or folk-style music, so my confusion was excusable, but I shall not make that mistake again. She rocked for about 45 minutes, mostly songs on her recent CD, "Outcast," featured in an NPR show: <https://www.npr.org/2018/04/19/602258890/first-listen-liz-brasher-outcast>

Road Runner (Bo Diddley cover)
I Want You Back Again
I Love You
Sanctuary (Colin Blunstone & Rod Argent cover)
Moving On
Edge of the Rainbow
Tell Her No
You've Really Got a Hold on Me / Bring It On Home to Me
Care of Cell 44
This Will Be Our Year
I Want Her She Wants Me
Time of the Season
Old and Wise (The Alan Parsons Project cover)
Hold Your Head Up (Argent cover)
She's Not There
God Gave Rock and Roll to You (Argent cover)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=21&v=-QGHp-IF3xg She's Not There

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JX7uDteVkbM> Tell Her No

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HRoYqVSTGPw> Time of the Season

<https://youtu.be/Z8R5M0Jvt9g> ---Induction

I did post, but I agree it was just a placeholder:



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We saw The Zombies at Heights Theater, Houston last night, w/ Liz Fletcher opening. Their greatest work was 50+ years old, and it spectacular, and even more so that they are still touring. They deserved the Rock & Rolol Hall of Fame for their work, and they finally were voted in





9:00 AM - 28 Feb 2019

About 5 weeks more in our final teaching semester, and then a slow slipslide into retirement. We will spend the summer in NM, and then return to use sick leave for various surgeries and helping each other. Then, by December, back to Santa Fe with the woman I love for the time we have together. It has been a very good ride, and I hope Tina and I have many more concerts to share with each other and with my Posse,

Michael