



## Press Release

*Welsh-born international cabaret artist, presenter and author Patti Flynn presents an intimate evening of celebration to mark the 105<sup>th</sup> birthday of her childhood mentor and Tiger Bay iconic jazz guitarist, Victor Parker.*

**'Remembering Victor Parker'** celebrates the music of this much loved guitarist and singer through the recollections of two of his protégés. The event is organised as part of the Black History Month Wales programme and also marks the occasion of the jazz guitarist's birthday who would have been 105 on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2015.

Renowned Tiger Bay jazz singer **Patti Flynn** and respected British jazz trumpeter **Chris Hodgkins** will treat the audience to stories of their experiences as budding performers where they honed their craft by singing and playing alongside their mentor Victor Parker when he played in the clubs and pubs of Tiger Bay in the 1950s, 60s and 70s.

Jazz singer and **Radio Cardiff** presenter **Humie Webbe** will host the evening which will feature some of Vic Parker's best loved tunes performed by Patti, Chris and his Trio. Humie says *'Patti and Chris are established performers and great raconteurs so the audience are in for a great fun evening!'*

Patti says *'it's really important for the next generation to remember musicians such as Vic Parker as he paved the way for so many musicians at the time who were just starting out. He encouraged me to sing as a young girl and I can look back with pride over my achievements as an international cabaret artist, West End star and author and see how his mentoring helped shape my career'*

Chris regularly played with Vic Parker during the 1970's as a young man and remembers -

*'I used to work with him in the Quebec every Monday and Wednesday. We had a little duo, just playing standards, and he would sing in a Cardiff accent. When you're young you forget so much. You can be handed the keys to the kingdom and you don't notice. Working with Vic was like that – he was in his late 60s then, one of the nicest guys you could meet'*

**'Remembering Victor Parker'** takes place on **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2015, 7 pm at Butetown Community Centre, Loudoun Square, Cardiff CF10 5UZ**. Door opens 6.30 pm. Free entry for Butetown Community Centre members. £2 for nonmembers payable on the door. For more information contact Humie Webbe on [humie.webbe@gmail.com](mailto:humie.webbe@gmail.com) or mobile 07828978345.

## **Notes to editors Patti Flynn Biography**

Jazz singer and author Patti Flynn has a string of credits which include numerous TV, radio and theatre performances. She is the original Bay Jazz Diva and internationally renowned vocalist and star of West End shows such as Bubbling Brown Sugar.

As an international cabaret artist Patti has performed with her own jazz group in such places as Southern Africa, Bombay, Monte Carlo, Turkey and the Arab Emirates. Patti was involved in the children's charity APRONA in Estepona and co-produced the first Costa Del Sol Jazz Festival in 1990.

Patti presented her own radio show in Spain, produced her own highly acclaimed one woman shows and supported artistes such as Sacha Distel and Matt Munro.

Patti is co-founder of the Butetown Bay Jazz Heritage Festival which she established in 2009 with her friend and colleague Humie Webbe.

As a writer/author Patti has written and produced a school play '*Reflections of The Bay*' (100 years of Cardiff Docks) and her first book '*Fractured Horizons*' in conjunction with University of Wales was published by Butetown History and Arts Centre in 2003

Patti is currently recording an audio version of an edited version of her latest book '*Born Down My Tiger Bay*' which will be previewed on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at the Black History Month Wales Finale Showcase at the Wales Millennium Centre.

In 2013 Patti received an honorary invitation to the Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's Garden Party at Buckingham Palace for her commitment and voluntary services to her community and various charities over the years. Patti is also a Champion for the mental health anti-stigma campaign Time to Change Wales.

## **Chris Hodgkins Biography**

Chris was raised in Cardiff, and in 1974 co-founded the Welsh Jazz Festival with Geoff Palser. He was instrumental, four years later, in establishing the Welsh Jazz Society with David Greensmith. As a jazz trumpeter Chris joined the Icon Jazzmen when he was 18. As a professional trumpeter, Chris toured the UK and Europe with Johnny Bastable's Chosen Six, Monty Sunshine, Route 66; appearing at the Sacramento Jazz Festival in the States with the Pete Allen Band, and made tours of Germany with the Chris Haskins Band.

The Chris Hodgkins Band made a name for itself supporting the likes of Buddy Tate, Humphrey Lyttelton, Kathy Stobart, Bud Freeman, Dick Carey, Joe Temperly, Howard McGhee, Peanuts Hucko, Benny Waters and Wild Bill Davison who said "It is a hell of a good band". The band made a number of television and radio appearances.

Chris relocated to London to play professionally. In 1985 he was appointed Director of Jazz Services the national organisation funded by Arts Council England to provide services in information, touring, education, communications and publishing to the UK jazz community. In 2005, Jazz Services won the Best Website category in the first Parliamentary Jazz Awards; Chris was made a Fellow of The Chartered Institute of

Marketing the same year. Jazz Services received the 2008 Parliamentary Jazz Awards for Jazz UK as best jazz magazine. In January 2011 Jazz Services was awarded National Portfolio Organisation status by Arts Council England for three years from 2012 to 2015. As Chair of the National Jazz Archive, Chris led the team that secured investment of £346,300 in the National Jazz Archive by the Heritage Lottery Fund in July 2011. In May 2012 Jazz Services received the 2012 Parliamentary Jazz Awards for Jazz UK as best jazz magazine.

In 2005, Chris Hodgkins Trio featuring Alison Rayner on double bass and Max Brittain on guitar, released *Present Continuous* and *Future Continuous* followed a year later. In 2008 the Chris Hodgkins Quartet featuring Alison Rayner on bass, Max Brittain on guitar and Dianne McLoughlin on alto sax released an album based on Boswell's *London Journal*, co-composed by Chris Hodgkins and Eddie Harvey and arranged by Eddie Harvey.

The Chris Hodgkins Jazz Quartet album, *Boswell's London Journal* of original tunes, garnered critical praise and scooping the *Evening Standard's* prestigious Jazz CD of the Week slot. *Boswell's London Journal* is inspired by the daily diary kept by James Boswell, best known as the biographer of Dr Samuel Johnson, between 1762 and 1763.

In September 2014 with Dave Price, Erika Lyons and Ashley Long John, Chris completed the album '*Back in Your Own Back Yard*'. Chris returned to Wales to rehearse and record the album. The album was released in March 2015.

Chris Hodgkins presents a weekly show for Jazz London Radio called *Jazz Then and Now* which delves into the history of the music and presents what is happening on the scene today with a watchful eye on British contemporary jazz.

### **Humie Webbe Biography**

Humie is an award winning performer, educator, events and project manager who has made numerous TV and radio appearances. Her vocals featured on the Oscar-nominated animation '*Famous Fred*' and Humie has received a Welsh Diversity Award for Best Achievement in Performing Arts.

In recognition of her community arts and voluntary work Humie was invited to meet HRM Queen Elizabeth 11 at Buckingham Palace and in 2002 met the then Prime Minister Tony Blair at 10 Downing Street. Humie is Co-founder and Director of Butetown Bay Jazz Festival with fellow jazz singer and author Patti Flynn. Humie presents a weekly jazz show *The Jazz Train* on Radio Cardiff.

Humie is a specialist youth worker and develops training programmes and projects with and for young people with autism spectrum disorders. Humie is also employed as a National Diversity Co-ordinator for the mental health anti-stigma campaign *Time to Change Wales*.

## **Vic Parker Biography**

Victor Parker was born in Cardiff Docklands area in 1910 and became a world renowned jazz guitarist attracting audiences from across Wales and the United Kingdom who regularly came to see Vic perform at the various pubs and clubs present in Tiger Bay during its heyday of the 1950's 60s and 70s. His unique playing style and charismatic personality won Vic Parker many fans and he became a mentor for musicians and singers whom he encouraged. When he died in 1976 his funeral was televised and his beloved docklands community gave him a New Orleans style send off with a traditional marching band followed by hundreds of mourners.

A full biography from Val Wilmer of guitarist Vic Parker (1910-1978) is available at the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography at

<http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/75564>