

# ChildLine Rocks

London IndigO2

The kids are alright with this annual benefit of rock-star talent.

★ After just two years, ChildLine Rocks is carving out a promising musical niche for its annual charity show with a mix of rock veterans and rising stars.

This year it opens with the weather-beaten Phil May and Dick Taylor of **The Pretty Things** busking a couple of songs, before the hotly touted **Sons Of Albion** raise the energy levels with Logan 'son of Robert' Plant showing some tantalising chips off the old block as the band put a fresh twist on their Soundgarden-styled rock.

**Uriah Heep** add some veteran vim, showing that while Mick Box (whose trademark cocked leg and wavy hand movements are trotted out with relish) may be the sole founder member left, only their drummer has less than 20 years service with the band; and singer Bernie Shaw arguably makes Heep classics like *Gypsy* and *Easy Livin'* his own.

**Thunder** may be bowing out this summer after a paltry 20 years but their best bits – *Back Street Symphony*, *The Devil Made Me Do It*, *I Love You More Than Rock 'N' Roll* – have enough pizzazz to warrant a reunion or two. Danny Bowes might be getting into promotion, but the rest of the group broaden their career opportunities by becoming the house band for the evening.

Next up are **Hot Leg**, Justin Hawkins's latest step in his rock rehabilitation programme. Hawkins isn't about to let a football-sustained ankle injury stop him, although the hefty leg brace certainly slows him down and puts more emphasis on the songs, which are gradually getting there – notably *Which Ever Way You Wanna Give It* – but Hawkins's insistence on winging it on stage, which works when you're winning, is a risky strategy when faced with a sceptical audience.

**Jon Lord** lends gravitas with his pomp-laden *Pictured Within*, sung by Steve Balsamo from The Stranglers who also does a creditable job on *Child In Time*. The Deep Purple thread turns into a rope with the arrival of **Glenn Hughes**, reuniting with Lord for the first time in 33 years, so he tells us, and bringing *You Keep On Moving*, from 1975's *Come Taste The Band*, out of mothballs. Looking like a *Transformer*-era Lou Reed, Hughes lets loose his wide vocal range on *Mistreated* and *Soul Mover*.

The run-up to the grand finalé features Hawkins in lederhosen and still believing in a thing called love, before **Steve Harley** comes up and sees us and makes us smile, then the entire ensemble rock out on *Smoke On The Water* – many of them with child-like glee.

Hugh Fielder

1528  
**'Veterans and rising stars mix to carve out a promising niche.'**



Sweet charity: Hot Leg's Justin Hawkins (main pic), Heep's Bernie Shaw (inset, top) and Glenn Hughes (left) come together for ChildLine.