



## **Tam White Press Release – February 2004**

**Tam White's** new definitive album *Hold On* came about after Tam met film producer Norman Stone at the James Taylor gig at Lennoxlove, Scotland in 1999. Tam performed as support at the gig and after hearing one of his songs *Mandancin'*, Norman was inspired with an idea for a feature film using the song title and scenario.

Last year Norman asked Tam to contribute three songs for the film in which he also plays the part of Johnny Bus Stop, a street singer/entertainer. Iain McKinna from Offbeat was asked to produce the songs. Shortly after completing the music for the film, he decided to release an album of Tam's songs on his *Offbeat Scotland* label to coincide with the film's release. *Mandancin'* has secured UCG distribution in the UK and is due for release on February 20<sup>th</sup> 2004. The album *Hold On* is being distributed by *Discovery Music* and will also be released in the UK on February 20<sup>th</sup>.

*Hold On* contains a great collection of Tam's own songs, which showcase his lyrical and vocal talent. Seasoned musicians he has played with over the years accompany him. Like a good whisky, Tam's voice and new songs keep improving over time and this album promises to firmly establish him as one of Scotland's leading singer/songwriters.

Tam also has a healthy acting career, having played Clan Chief McGregor in *Braveheart* as well as a part alongside Gina Davis in *Cutthroat Island*. His most recent appearance was in the Xmas and New Year specials of *Eastenders*.

Tam was also the singing voice of Big Gazza played by Robbie Coltrane in the BAFTA award-winning *Tutti -Frutti* by John Byrne and he featured heavily on the BBC album of the series. His music career began in the 60's when he signed to Decca Records where he was produced by the legendary *Joe Meek*. In the 70's he achieved a record of the week on Radio 1 on both the Noel Edmunds and Johnny Walker shows with a record produced by Mickey Most entitled *What In The World's Come Over You?* In the early 70's he hosted three television series by STV called *Colour me White* where he performed with *Eartha Kitt*, *Olivia Newton John* and *Dana* amongst many others.

Tam's early career was dogged by alcohol addiction, which he finally beat in the late 80's after a long fight. In recent years he has recorded several albums, including *Keep It Under Your Hat*, which was recorded live at Ronnie Scott's in 1994 where he fronted a series of shows with his big band.

### **Other Film Credits**

*Wreck on the Highway* (Leading role) BBC TV  
*The Negotiator* with Brian Cox (TV special for BBC TV)  
*Paper Mask* with Paul McGann (Film on 4)  
*Rebus* (BBC TV series)  
*The Lodge* (Granada TV)

### **Artists Tam has supported**

BB King, James Taylor, Al Green, Van Morrison, James Taylor, Paul Jones, Charlie Musselwhite.

### **Discography**

Tam White

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*Hold On*  
Offbeat Scotland OS008CD

Tam White/Brian Kellock  
*The Crossing*  
Caber Records CABER009

Tam White  
*Man Dancin'*  
Dick Bros. Records DDICK23CD

The Tam White Band  
*Blue Eccentricity*  
Expression Records EXCD1

The Tam White Band  
*Keep it under your hat*  
Ronnie Scott's Jazz House JHCD018

Tam White/Boz Burrell  
*The Groove Connection*  
Catalyst Records CD001

Tam White's Shoestring  
*The Real Deal*  
Greentrax Records

The Buzz

The Buzz made just one single in 1966. However, it excites collectors both because of its wild guitar sounds — the epitome of the mod/R&B/proto-psychedelic collision collectors have retroactively dubbed "freakbeat" — and because it was produced by *Joe Meek*. *You're Holding Me Down* was a beehive orgy of frenzied guitars and typically compressed Meek production, and was one of the relatively few examples of Meek managing to adapt to the changing trends of the British Invasion (the Syndicats' *Crawdaddy Simone* being another one). Singer Tam White recalled that Meek flooded the song with echo, and that the B-side, *I've Gotta Buzz*, was one of the worst songs he (White) had heard. *You're Holding Me Down* was reissued on the compilation *Freak Beat Fantoms* in 1989.

The Buzz had evolved from an Edinburgh band called the *Boston Dexters*, and Meek had originally planned to record them covering the Drifters' song *Please Stay*, which he instead produced with the *Cryin' Shames* (who had a small hit with it in Britain). The Buzz broke up just a few months after their single, with Tam White going on to record a few singles for Decca, and an album for *Middle Earth*. (The Buzz that recorded *You're Holding Me Down*, incidentally, are totally unrelated to the group called the Buzz that backed David Bowie in 1966.)