

Top of the Photos

Hello, I thought it might be quite nice for you guys to see how touring looks through a load of random photos that have been taken while I've been on the road.

So, the first picture I would like to show you is from the time I was at the legendary TV show in the UK, Top of the Pops. Although the show actually ended quite a few years ago, every year they still get the biggest pop acts from that year to do a Christmas special. This was taken in December 2008, the year that La Roux first broke in the UK. My job was to supervise Mike, the BBC's mixer, for the broadcast. The band dressed up in Christmas outfits. William (Drummer, far left) was dressed as an Elf. Mike (Keyboard, next to William) was the most depressed Snowman I had ever seen. Elly, (centre left) had the most amazing Christmas tree in her hair, and Mickey (Centre Right) was a Christmas Pudding.



This next picture was taken from the stage when I was out in Melbourne, Australia, again with La Roux. This was our first time out to Australia and they gave us the biggest welcome. We were all really surprised to see how big this had got considering we hadn't even been there. This picture shows part of the Melbourne skyline. Just out of shot to the left is the tallest building in the southern hemisphere.

The images in this collage were taken by a very dear friend of mine, Will Thomas. We were out on tour with Seasick Steve, when we past through Queens Hall in Edinburgh, Scotland. This must have been 2008, it would have been the year before I started with La Roux.



Thinking back, this was a really good year for Steve. We started off at the AB in Belgium and planned on continuing with just a couple of small shows across Europe. It was a test run to see how the Europeans would like his music. Then, by the end of that year, we had played on the main stage at Glastonbury, and wrapped up the tour with a final show at the Royal Albert Hall in London.



This here is a photo I took from the Front of House point of view during Amy Winehouse's Union Chapel show in London sometime around 2006. As you can see it was fairly small, but completely full. A little about this venue... it is a small working chapel that puts on shows. Overall, the setup isn't particularly big, but you can see on either side of the stage sits a pair of Funktion One

Res3's.. or are they 2's? I think they might be the 2's. I really can't remember now!

Next up is a photo I took out the bus window heading into Quebec. I'd never been there before, and I've never experienced that kind of cold before. The entire River in this picture is completely frozen. Being British, it's quite usual, if your milkman leaves your milk out in the midst of winter, to experience frozen milk coming out of the top of a bottle, but to see an entire river frozen is another thing all together!



Here is another shot from the Front of House position. This time we are in France with the Hoosiers. These guys are wonderful to work with, and some of the nicest people I have ever met. This was the tour when my life at home was falling apart and these guys helped get me through.



Then we get to the wonderful Varsity Theater in Minneapolis. As you can see from the sign outside, I'd stopped here with Corinne Bailey Rae. We had the best after show here, it was the last night of a very long tour, and was my last night with the band before I moved on to Amy Winehouse, who incidentally played here the following year. The company Crane Song are based not far up the road, and it was at this venue with Amy, that I brought the HEDD192, which is a tape saturation simulator. It's really something else and sounds amazing!

There I am standing on the corner of Essex and Lexington in NYC waiting for the tour bus to come and pick myself and the rest of the La Roux team up. The Bus was actually too big to fit down the street that our hotel was on.





La Roux was asked to perform for one of the many LA radio stations. The performance was at a beach house along the Pacific Coast Highway in Santa Monica. As you can see the setup is really small but it worked very well. It was a glorious day. An off shore breeze was cooling the otherwise scorching sun, and the bbq was cooking more calories than the quietly conscious consumers could care for.

This must be my favorite console now; The Midas Pro6. As far as accuracy of sound, this console is stunning. Of course, it doesn't have the same sound as the XL4 that everyone tries to compare their consoles to. But, all in all, this one is good, really good. This photo was taken at London's Brixton Academy in May 2010 on the La Roux European tour.



Another show on the La Roux European tour; the Olympia in Paris. This must be one of the most well functioning and beautiful venues I've ever had the pleasure of making a din in. In true Parisian style, everyone seems like they don't want to be there, but the show gets up and running quickly, efficiently and the audience have a great show. I think this was one of the best shows on the tour. Actually I believe that this was the last show of the whole tour.



The most boring part of the workday is the part between the end of soundcheck and the change over.



I have no idea how the bands manage to keep themselves sane throughout a whole day of doing nothing, but I for one certainly go a little crazy if I have nothing to do. Jessica, La Roux's personal assistant caught me in one of the spare dressing rooms at such a time. I had just got off the phone to my girlfriend, and was about to get myself ready for show time. The water was mine, but that bottle of red wine was not, honest!!



This is the last photo I'm going to show you. This was taken and compiled by the very same Will Thomas who took the other similar panoramic picture. This is the National Stadium in Dublin, Ireland. It's actually used mainly as a Boxing arena, so it's more of an arena than a stadium, but it still holds a lot of people; about 5000 all in all. This was the very last show on the 2008 UK and Ireland tour for Seasick Steve.

Thank you very much for having a look through some of the pictures in my photo album. I've picked these because I think they accurately give you a little more of a personal insight into my work and, in general, a realistic view from the road. I hope you enjoyed having a look through.

-Dave