

Story of the Stags

Everyone in Holland has heard of Krezip. A blistering pop sensation and chart favourites for a decade, they are household names. After their farewell concert at Pinkpop in 2009 to 60, 000 fans, they called it a day and went out at the top.

Joost, bass, Bram, drums, and JP, guitar – the three boys from the band – started to look in a new direction. Rock was their first love, the 60s and 70s. Longhairs, hippies, psychedelics, heavy loads, gnarly dudes, soaring harmonies, showstoppers, killer riffs, prog solos, raw power, hot shows, driving guitars and at the heart of it all, the music, and doing it like it had never been done before.

They were having a great time, playing around with songs by the Allman Brothers, Led Zeppelin, Queen, The Stones, The Who, Cream....They had the band. But they didn't have the voice.

In August 2009, in Zandvoort, at Rapa Nui, they were hanging out, jamming in a club on the beach. By chance a crowd walked into the same bar. In that crowd was Michael Devlin, visiting from London. His ears pricked up. He had been listening to, playing and singing this stuff pretty much his whole life. Before he knew it he was bundled on stage, agreeing to a cover of "Whole Lotta Love". At the moment he opened his mouth to sing, everyone on that stage and in that crowd found religion. The combination of the four of them was magic. The energy was right, the personalities were right, but above all the music – well the music just came together like they had been playing in this band all their lives.

A lot of Easyjet flights, a lot of writing, a lot of hard work, a lot of pancakes, a lot of beer, and a year later; Guild of Stags play Zwarte Cross, Appelpop and Stoppelhaene.

And today, Guild of Stags has a deal with Rough Trade NL, a single, Hit n' Miss released on March 4th, massive support from 3FM's Eric Corton who is playing that single every day, festivals to play in the summer, two more singles and an album which will drop in August, and a growing following of Stag hunters. They are playing Cul de Sac Tilburg on March 10th and a showcase at Underbelly in London on March 23rd, and will be announcing more dates soon.

It's raw power. Four men on a stage who do what they do better than anyone else. This is rock n roll like it used to be.

Guild of Stags:

Bass – Joost van Haaren

Drums – Bram van den Berg

Guitar – JP Hoekstra

Vocals – Michael Devlin