

GONZO

Weekly #139

EXCLUSIVE:
Michael Rescigno
reveals all

And there is also quite a lot of other engaging material including what happened when John when to see **Fleetwood Mac**, Doug revisiting **Relayer** by **Yes**, Jon discovers that **Gram Parsons** was actually a dickhead with the voice of an angel, plus radio shows, news, reviews...



How the blinking flip did this bloke get a legendary ex-member of Badfinger to join his band?

ON THE RAZ

JON MEETS MICHAEL

This was one of the more peculiar editorial commissions that I have been given. The *Grande Fromage* sent me an email asking me to interview a dude called Michael Rescigno. Only trouble was, he omitted to give me anything except for an email address for the man, and I have to admit that I had never heard of him.

So I did what any good researcher worth his salt does in these decadent days and looked him up on Google. There are all sorts of men with his name, including an interesting fellow who has done research on the growth rates of meadow grass, and although I quite fancy talking to him, I cannot truly say that this is gonna be the sort of thing which will make headline news in a rock and roll weekly, no





matter how eccentric.

So I did what I should have done in the first place and emailed him, and soon found why I could not find any information about him. He has always played under the stage name of Michael Raz, and his Raz Band has been playing for a hell of a long time, and furthermore the current incarnation includes two of my favourite musicians, namely:

- **Joseph "Joey" Charles Molland** (born 21 June 1947, Edge Hill, Liverpool, England) is an English composer and rock guitarist whose recording career spans four decades. He is best

known as a member of Badfinger, the most successful of the acts he performed with.

- **Joseph Anthony "Joe" Vitale** is an American musician primarily known as a drummer but also a flautist, keyboardist and singer. He has played with many of the top names in music during a career dating back to the 1970s.

Bloody hell! These two guys have played on some of my favourite albums. Molland played on *All things must Pass* by George Harrison, arguably the best post *Beatle* solo album by any of the Fab Four, and Vitale played on the massively under-rated *Long May You Run* by the Stills-Young Band, which is one of the greatest things that either Neil Young or Steven Stills played on.

So I asked for a biography and I was sent this:

Members: Michael Rescigno, Jeff Hutchinson, Jim Manzo, Joey Molland, Joe Vitale
 "The RAZ Band" Celebrates 30 Years of Hits and Stuff" Songs You Should Know and Love!
 Remember where you were the first time you heard TRB???

One day Raz played the new songs for a record company executive who said, "I love these songs, this is a great band, but you're too old to sign. Why don't you find some 20 year olds, teach them the songs and I'll sign them." It was then that Raz came up with the new name for the band: "The RAZ Band".

So "The RAZ Band" were born! The End. P.S. This is a true story.

Raz played in bands in High School. With his





friends Hutch & Neil. And they would would go see Joey Molland when Badfinger was playing in the New York/New Jersey area. As well as fans of Joe Vitale when he toured with Joe Walsh in the New York/New Jersey area.

Raz & Hutch went to L.A. (winter in Jersey sucks). They formed the band "The Contents", played all over LA: Madame Wongs East & West, Troubadour, Whisky, The Central, Gazzaris, and many other clubs. The Contents disbanded and then some of The Contents formed "The Raz Nasty Band" They made records/cds, videos, kept playing live around town, Started to play colleges.

Then one night at Filthy McNasty's, Raz Nasty became "RAZ". Jim Manzo joined the band. Joey Molland would either play guitar, sing or produce RAZ. Joe Vitale would either play keyboards, drums, sing or produce RAZ. (lots of history here) (how they came to play with RAZ is another story).

Then Raz & Hutch went back to New Jersey for

their High School reunion. Being the kind of fellas that they are they played at the reunion. So Thank you for reading our story, listen to the music, watch the video, read the blog, and please don't do drugs and clean up your room, make your bed, don't stay out to late etc.;; I don't like the looks of those people that you're hanging out with! You know the drill. late, peace, out.....see ya.

Cheers

So I took the bull by the horns and telephoned him for what turned out to be one of the enjoyable interviews of my chequered career.

**Listen
Here**