



A Brief History Of Flash

“It’s far too easy for many bands to form, take the tribute title, and fill a diary with dates, but this is where we wanted Flash to be different.”

From an original idea to create a ‘best of the best’ line-up of Queen tribute musicians, there was a clear, but bumpy path to becoming ‘Flash’, but whoever said forming a band was easy? Founder member John

never gave up on his goal of finding musicians as close to their original Queen counterparts as possible, who would not just perform the music of Queen, but with a dedication to accuracy, would celebrate the legendary original live performances.

The Foundations:

All of Flash have years of experience playing in Queen tributes, but it was drummer John’s frustrations with a previous show that led to the foundations of Flash being laid back in late 2001. Fast forward to 2014, and John felt he had finally met a singer capable of performing Queens’s hits in the way they were intended. With bookings coming in, the future looked bright, but everything happens for a reason. Although it didn’t seem it at the time, their vocalist stepping down due to other commitments opened the door to an unexpected gift....

Finding ‘Freddie’:

With contracted dates in the diary, the search for a new ‘Freddie’ gathered pace, with adverts placed all over the country, and studios booked for weeks of auditions. What came next was like the good, the bad, and the fake of auditioning. Singers came and went, with the plastic false teeth and stick-on moustaches comedy breaks from the disillusion.

Close to giving up, John decided to widen his search into Europe and came across Claudio, an Italian singer based in Rome. Not really expecting a reply to his message, or given the distance, a show at the audition, John received both, and it’s here the magic started to happen. For the first time, John sang backing vocals at an audition, and they both seemed to gel. John knew from that first song he had found his ‘Freddie’.

The Live Show:

With a new frontman, came a new-found confidence in the band, and the potential in the show. Potential not just to make a mark on the tribute circuit, but to attract the standard of musicians that would complete the 'vision' of what Flash could be.

The nerves were real backstage before Claudio's debut with the band, as everyone wondered how he would perform live, and interact with a UK crowd. Those fears were unfounded. Three songs in, with his winning smile and boundless energy, Claudio had won over the audience and the sparks have been flying ever since.

Enter stage left, Flash as you know and love them today. Bass player Daniel impressed with his 'John Deacon-Esque' playing style, Tom with his knowledge of Queens Hits and love of performing live, and as for Nathan, we'll leave that one to John. "There was simply no other guitarist that I've worked with or heard that can emulate that unique Brian May sound and style like Nathan. His obvious love for Queen, guitar, and Brian May shines through like nobody else I've seen."

John, Tom, and Nathan have played together previously, and it's this mix of experience and familiarity, coupled with the new energy and ideas that Daniel and Claudio bring, that has seen the band go from strength to strength, and there is yet more to come...

The Future:

"Although we take it seriously on the technical and performance side, it's just as much fun as the first time we did it, never seems to get tired, and with the recent Queen biopic creating a whole new generation of Queen fans, it looks very unlikely the interest will ever end. Truly a dream come true."

In 2019 Flash performed over 120 shows including the Fake Festivals Tour, GlastonBARRY, Foodies Festivals, Mavellous Festival, West Ham FC, The Official Queen Fan Club, and gigs in Malta and Dubai. Where will the journey take them next? Only time will tell, but with your love and support, it's going to be an unforgettable ride.