



This is Tom Jones

It's not unusual for big stars to come to town these days, but none are bigger than Tom Jones. (Ice Palace, Sep 13)

This is a story of a Welsh boy from a church choir who became a real man. No one doesn't quite remember what was he like in his childhood (now he's over sixty). But, fittingly for a future pop star, he didn't want to go to school and he didn't listen to his parents (father, a coalminer, mother, a housewife). From the very beginning he felt himself an artist and was getting onto her mum's nerves asking her to "announce his entrance" from behind the home screen, and then to beat her hands clapping. Even then the underage Thomas Jones Woodworth knew for sure that only music and girls are worth anything under this moon.

Various sources have a common opinion about each of Tom Jones' years: they all were sensational and thrilling. After some singing in the bars and proles' dancing halls of his native Pontiprid, occasional jobs at construction sites and after selling vacuum cleaners Tom moved to London according to the advice of his newly found producer Gordon Mills. At first the record companies were afraid of Jones' driving voice and his off-hand image; only Decca records got scared enough to sign him. It proved successful; after an initial hit with *It's Not Unusual* Tom Jones had plenty more. Pretty much a regular fairy-tale, Las Vegas style: you win a million, you get married and you get buried in the desert, all in one night.

He got married early, at the tender age of seventeen. Only his grandmother approved of his manly action saying that lovers should be together. The future proved her right: Tom and Melinda are still together like they were in their teens. They have a son and grandchildren, houses in Bel Air and South Wales.

Gold discs after international hits. Parts in musicals after invitations to host a talk show. In the late '60s, just four years after his career was kickstarted, Tom Jones found himself as a TV star, inviting on Aretha Franklin and Stevie Wonder, Janis Joplin and Elvis Presley – all of whom were his equals. Fast forward to late eighties – Tom

Pretty much a regular fairy-tale, Las Vegas style

International Panorama

In Russia there are fifteen World Heritage sites – as defined by the United Nations. One photographer intends to capture them all using a unique technique

When the Taliban authorities destroyed hundreds of unique religious statues and temples in Afghanistan earlier this year, one filmmaker and photographer in Belgium was outraged.

Tito Dupret says he was shocked at the loss of the ancient sites which now exist only in memory – and photographs.

As a reaction to the destruction of a part of the world's cultural heritage, Tito decided to record for posterity the vast riches that remain.

Using the UNESCO list of designated World Heritage sites as a guide, he has embarked on a world-wide odyssey to photograph all 690 sites in 122 countries (a list is avail-

able at www.unesco.org), using a unique panoramic technique that captures the full character of each site.

It is a daunting task, but the young Brussels native, who has previously lived in Kenya and Paris, says the Taliban's actions have spurred him on.

After tackling his hometown's UNESCO sites, he has come to St Petersburg, one of 15 official World Heritage sites in Russia. Using an ordinary camera and some laptop technology, Tito produces full 360 deg panoramas, such as the one of Winter Palace Square shown in two parts here (*below and right*) which he will exhibit and sell in each site where possible. After Russia, which includes a trek to a site in Kamchatka, he is off to Beijing.



photos: www.a2L.be © 2001

You can view Tito's work at Anglia British Books from September 1 – 21 or visit his website www.a2L.be for further information.



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