



PEPPY CASTRO, ONE OF THE FOUNDING MEMBERS OF THE SEMINAL LONG ISLAND-BASED CLASSIC ROCK BAND BARNABY BYE, WAS IN A GREAT MOOD – AND IT WAS EASY TO FIGURE OUT WHY.

"I'm also happy to report that the Boulton is now 10 tickets away from being sold out," said Castro, referring to the band's highly anticipated comeback show at the YMCA Boulton Center in Bay Shore on Saturday, April 5. "There's quite a lot going on for us after our long snooze of over 35 years!"

Despite the odds, Barnaby Bye is back, and the veteran act doesn't appear to be slowing down any time in the near future. For our younger readers, however, a bit of history must be discussed:

The four members of Barnaby Bye – bassist Peppy Castro, keyboardists and guitarists Bobby and Billy Alessi, and drummer Mike Ricciardella – met

City and Long Island before hitting the studio. Their debut, Room To Grow, was released in 1973 to critical raves. Their 1974 follow-up was Touch, which earned headlines when legendary producer Jack Richardson – the man who brought Canada's The Guess Who to platinum success four years earlier – was brought on board to work with the foursome. The band started work on a third album, but after sluggish sales and other problems, the group decided to call it a day in 1975.

Successes were still to come for all four members, however. The Alessi Brothers scored a major international hit single in the late 1970s with "Oh Lori," and have recorded steadily throughout the years. Castro, who previously was a founding member of another national act, The Blues Magoos, wrote songs that were covered by Diana Ross, Kiss and Cher, among others, and he's worked with such national artists as Laura Branigan, Michael Bolton, Liza Minnelli, Ronnie Spector, Peter Allen,

working with musicians as noted as Alice Cooper.

Despite all the members of Bye continuing to make their livings in the music industry, there was something about Barnaby Bye that kept them in

the hearts and minds of area music fans decades after their breakup. And finally, there was a reunion: In December 2004, all four performed for the first time in ages at an Alessi Brothers show, and the electricity was back. A 2005 reunion performance at the former Long Island music club The Downtown was turned into a best-selling DVD, so the band decided to hit the studio to record a new album, Thrice Upon A Time. Now, touring beckons once again: They're heading for Europe in the coming weeks. Amazingly, they've all retained their good looks and musical talents as if time has stood still.

"At present, we're talking to Looney Tunes and the Apple Store in Huntington about live in-store events to support our new CD," said Castro. "We've been asked to perform at an event in September at the Brookhaven Amphitheater for the Long Island Rock 'n' Roll Hall Of Fame. In addition, after we return from our European mini-tour, we'll be at Crash Mansion in New York City on April 24 for a CD release party. And, we'll be donating our talents as the featured performer for the 20th annual benefit for the Save The Children Leadership Council of Long Island on June 21." Is there any doubt that Barnaby Bye is back?

For more information, log on to barnabybye.com.

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when they were performing in the Broadway musical Hair in 1970 and decided to form their band. After being scouted by Atlantic Records, then the gold standard of rock music record labels, they were signed to a recording contract after impressing legendary music impresario Ahmet Ertegun. The band proceeded to gather a still-legendary following in New York

Paul Stanley, Gene Simmons, Joan Jett, Buzzy Lindhart, Rex Smith, Ritchie Havens, John Denver, Darlene Love, and Aldo Nova. Ricciardella, who previous to Barnaby Bye was in yet another national act, The Illusion, went on to form Wiggy Bits (with Castro) and performed in Network and Aviator, and has been an in-demand drum expert. He's released best-selling instructional guides while

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