

Much more than just a “Stones” -assistant

The New Yorker Bernard Fowler is always getting called on the phone by the managers of the big bands if they need a great voice. Among other things, he was invited by Duran Duran, Yoko Ono and Herbie Hancock. But thereby he particularly impresses solo and on his own.



There are still musicians of position, who don't have any article at Wikipedia. And also not even a page at “Myspace”. One can googel Bernard Fowler. An indeed cheap homepage appears, that admittedly shows photos with the Rolling Stones and him, record-covers, which appreciate his involvement diminutive mostly, but only a much too meager biography shows up. According to it Fowler grow up in a New York slumquarter, became a Salsa bassplayer and later a Reggae-singer. Finally, he started a lucrative, but ungrateful daily job: If popstars needed a big, credible voice, they invited him.

Duran Duran and Yoko Ono, Herbie Hancock and Herp Alpert, Living Colour and the Stones... His curriculum vitae above all consist out of famous names. One cannot even find out his exact age. Even the internet maps popmusic and celebrates each small artist as an earth-shaking discovery but one still has to search for the secrets somewhere else again then. Like for example on copied papers at lampposts.

Fowlers impressing gig in Potsdam

Bernard Fowler also steps on stage at Lindenpark in a Club at the edge of the forest in Potsdam. Approximately 50 years of age. Like his audience in average. Because Fowler was advertised as a “Stones”-assistant here. At first a “Stones” -band named “Rockfall” rumbles and all is just one big mistake. Official rockstars suddenly turned to have serious cold and disappear fast. Fowler smiles, starts to sing, the band

thunders out such a rockmusic-forgotten jungle-dub, that even men with corded leather-trousers after overcoming their first shock turn to be overwhelmed. "We are admittedly only few ...," Fowler shouts out to his manageable audience "... but we are strong!" And the following concert puts every stadium-show of his employers into the shade ...

This is also due to his band. Also the band consists out of rather secret stars like Bernard Fowler himself. Today it is called "Bad Dog, but lovers of reggae-rock-experiences worldwide also know the band as "Tackhead". Its bassist Doug Wimbish already supported Madonna. The drummer Keith Le Blanc and guitarist Skip McDonald worked for James Brown. All these information can even be found at Wikipedia. Also that "Tackhead" originally played music as the house-band for "Sugarhill-Records" and so were involved in the creation of HipHop music. Shortly said: Even somebody, who does not know all these strange, beautiful records, which these virtuous musicians have recorded together or solo already listened to them unwittingly.

The instrument, which is superior to all other instruments.

That is the reason why Bernard Fowler´s first solo-album is titled "Friends With Privileges" now (Dude/Echo Beach). And this time Ron Wood plays for him and also Kid Rock roisters in the background. The songs measure Fowlers spectrum and that sounds live much more interesting in Lindenpark today than on the record. A band like Tackhead cannot do anything else than to busily deconstruct the songs. Of "White Horses" by the Stones (a must!) fragments of the lyrics are left like a musical remix. Bernard Fowler does not only roar like any other of these service-singers are doing it meanwhile. His voice also serves him as an instrument which is superior to all other instruments. Its sound simply tells about what rockmusic could mean. That is the reason why it gets called regularly by the secretaries of the managers of the rockstars.