

Review of the cancelled Lasse Passage release-concert 22 of April 2015

We were all gathered in the small but charming club called MIR in Oslo. The joint was packed already at 19:00, although the concert would never start any earlier than 21:00. But people obviously took no risk in being refused entrance at the door at such a small club, and arrived proper on time.

The incredible line-up announced for this concert combined with the high expectations for the upcoming album "Stop Making Sense and Start Making Success - Vol. 3" had made the word of mouth gone wild in town. Me and the photographer from the magazine fought ourselves to the bar to get our hands on some fairly priced pints. Just as we got the taste of the nights first beers, a man in suit came on stage tapping a microphone standing there.

*"Ok ok, hello everybody, can u hear me? can I please have some silence?
So - my name is Berthold and I'll be your host for this evening. I'm very pleased to see so many coming to this very special Lasse Passage release-concert for Vol. 3.*

To kick this off - Lasse has asked me to do a couple of jokes just to put you in the right mood.

So, how do you call on a dog that has no legs?"

[the crowd is not paying attention]

no-body?

Ok, I'll give it to you: It does not matter - it will never come!! hahah".

*Yes, so - being from Scotland, I love the summer.
It's my favorite day of the year.*

[haha]

By the way, did I tell you about my friend up there in the highlands? He was cheating on his girlfriend Lorraine with a woman called Clearly.

Then all of a sudden Lorraine died!

At the funeral my friend stood up and started singing:

"I can see Clearly now, Lorraine is gone"

Etc. etc.

After the comedy act, a warm-up band was announced by Berthold. We all knew that Lasse Passage is very particular in what kind of warmup act he will allow for

his shows, so the crowd immediately got silent - anxiously waiting for what would happen. And as we silently tried to sneak over to the bar to grab a couple of beers, the following act went down:

A clown comes on stage.

Goes to the center of the podium.

Looks intensely at the audience.

Looks at every one of the audience.

It's so silent that you could drop a needle.

The clown does nothing. Just looks, looks and looks at the audience. Just keeps looking deeply into all the people's eyes filling the room with an uncanny feeling. He's not a children's clown, but a real clown clown.

Then he starts to hum. One deep tone. Softly, balanced, perfect. The clown is somehow able to hold the tone forever. Forever constant. So he just stares and hums. This one deep and rich tone fills the whole room and you start hearing a wide spectrum of tones traveling up and down. The sound-engineer is turning up the volume, adding bass and spinning the sound around the room.

People start feeling dizzy. The one insistent tone is penetrating their state of mind. Some put down their beers, afraid that they will drop them. But the clown just keeps on singing persistently, intensely looking into people's eyes.

After some time it's so loud it's becoming a physical experience. The whole room is shaking and the lights are being turned down to complete black-out with a spotlight appearing on the face of the clown. The eyeballs of the clown slowly start spinning round and round. Everybody is mesmerized by this and they keep spinning faster and faster until people are getting hypnotized. Smoke is coming out from under the podium filling the room. The audience is going into a trance. It's getting louder and louder and people start laying down on the floor. Time is passing as fast as money in a Norwegian bar.

My photographer that was supposed to document this event has saliva drooling down his chin. But no-one can see anything anyway, because the whole room is at this point full of smoke.

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I can't recall what happened after this. If 20 min has passed or 2 hours. The only thing I remember is that I am waking up on the floor. Eyes half open. The drone is gone, but I'm not sure about the clown because the whole room is still filled with smoke.

As me and the others are slowly waking up, we can see a small spot on the keyboard player. Wow, it must be Andreas Stensland Løwe! With an incredible organ sound. So organic, but yet so technological fresh. Playing through a small guitar tube amp with slight tape-delay. As he is building up the hook - the light design moves out to include more band members on stage. And - "smack" - then the drums enters. It's the multitalented hotshot Swedish post-hipster/pre-hippie drummer Andreas Werliin banging away on a perfectly tuned snaredrum. The well known local hero - bearing the indian name *Steady as a mountain, Slick as a tiger* - bass player aka Jo Berger Myhre is delicately distributing his fingers over across the neck of a fender retro. People are standing up again now, slowly realizing what is happening; the concert has started!!

And as the smoke is disappearing, the band is appearing; we can see the mighty beautiful and trick-up-her-sleeve charming Johanne Birkeland behind a table of weird string instruments and home-build electronics. She takes a sip from something that looks like a premium beer - yet fully focused with the unique awareness that makes the crowd feel loved. Alexander Simms is adding a layer of perfect guitar sound - surfing like a smooth stomach crunching Australian upon Jo's and Andreas's wave. The band is building up and the crowd is getting more and more eager - but where is Lasse Passage?

The as the music gears up and moves in for a potential modulation, the light designer creates a centered spot in the center of the stage where an empty mic is seemingly waiting. And, !BOOM! - as the modulation is happening - the floor cracks open and two doors open up from the ground of the podium. The mic stand trips over and up on a small elevating stage - Lasse Passage is appearing dressed in a one-piece made out of candy and a hat made of beaver fur (in the style of a turban). He stars crooning on the new tune "Excludium" which will be released when Vol. 4 is being made available in autumn 2015. (It will be available in physical format Vinyl 12" x 2 (with a stunningly beautiful cover), and digital. Physically only in a few stores, but in every digital store that sell digital music. Wimp, Tidal Spotifu, iTunes, you know - the lot. Digital distro is very easy these days).

This was followed up by a breathtaking concert with all my favorite Lasse Passage tunes, played better then ever before. At some point the percussion player Joel Wästberg also started making whiskey-sours with his shaker and handed out free drinks to the crowd. But as I thought the concert was coming to an end - the strangest and best part came:

A brand new tune - with a hard hitting disco kick came on. Building up like the good old 90's - the pumping beat got harder and harder. Andreas Løwe - was tapping away as quick as he could. Like a ramshackle orchestra - this naive fully

bloods dance tune really gained speed. People jumping up and down in pure joy - Jo Berger Myhre seizes the opportunity to stage dive at the same time hammering in the 16th notes with a plectrum. Andreas Werliin throws over the entire drumsset and starts dancing some kind of indian war dance with only percussion on feet and hands. Alexander Simm has his head inside the guitar amp and can't seem to get out! Johanne is pouring prosecco from a great altitude down her mouth while singing some insanely catchy dance hooks.

Then on the count of 4 - BREEAAAK, Whind that Baaaackk - and BOOOOM a few ledges in the ceiling opens up and pills of MDMA and ecstasy is dropping to the floor. The crowd is munching away like they've never seen pills before! The band is stepping up the game with more hard hitting tunes. Techno, gabber, jersey beat - boom, boom, boom--boom-boom. etc - all with classic Lasse Passage arrangement.

Things go on and on and the *last* thing I remember I am on a big fat-boy, the dance floor has turned into on big spooning session and soft ska is being played by the DJ. The sun is coming up again. My photographer is gone. Free food is being served in the bar, there is now a swimming pool in the basement instead of fussball. Free silky morning gowns is being handed out by the Lasse Passage crew, and I hear roomers that there will be a breakfast concert with Johanne Birkeland's new solo project.

"Stop Making Sense and Start Making Success - Vol. 3" was released 22 April 2015.

The vinyl "Stop Making Sense and Start Making Success" which consists of Vol. 1/2/3 & 4 - will be released this autumn 2015.

For enquiries and pre-order og vinyl you'll find all the info you need at:

www.lassepassage.com