

Bombay Rock

Joe Gaultieri

“After we finished at the Bourke Street club, I found a new location in Brunswick. It was a Greek nightclub called the Copacabana. I knew the owner, but they weren’t doing any good, so they let me take it over. I wanted to make it the best venue I could.

The main room upstairs held over a 1,000 people. I recreated it like a big studio. I put the big stage in so everyone could see the bands, put baffles on the windows, a big curtain up along the left-hand wall, so the room had a great sound. I took care with picking the bills so all the bands would complement each other. People might be keen to see the main act, but they’d all come early to see the support acts too. All the bands wanted to play the hot room and Bombay Rock became the hot room. So, people came in happy, and it was a really good vibe.

I guess the only problem was that the roadies had to lug all the gear up the back stairs. Every band wanted to use their own PA system because their sound guys knew how to run it, but going up and down those back stairs was a killer for the roadies!”

**Source: Third Stone Press – Bombay Rock, written by Ian McFarlane, 2018.
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Sean Kelly

“I remember playing there with Teenage Radio Stars and then Models,” says musician Sean Kelly. “It was always a great gig, a sizeable room with a proper concert stage. Quite often at other venues you’d play on a temporary stage on the floor, close to the audience; this place was different. It did have an odd layout I seem to recall. It was a long room with the dressing room at the opposite end of the hall, so you had to walk out through the crowd. There seemed to be three or four dressing rooms, it felt like maybe there was a mini-function room we’d all gather in after the show. Joe always treated the bands really well.

The audience vibe was really good, I liked it. I’d go there all the time, even when I wasn’t working, to see other bands and just hang out. There was a raised section up the back, let’s not call it the VIP lounge, more like just a guest area. There was a long bar running along one wall and the whole place had a vaguely rococo decor. It was a big room, not a pub as such and you got the feeling it was deliberately designed as a live venue. It seemed like they could have hosed it out afterwards if it got too messy.”

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