

Rockin' USA 1970.

In 1970 the popularity in the Netherlands of the recording artists Steve Miller, Frank Zappa and The Band was growing but promotional visits were not expected at the time. Being the promotion and publicity manager of EMI Holland, reason enough to find a way to visit the artists in the United States together with a Dutch television crew in order to produce tv documentaries. TV director of Dutch VPRO Roelof Kiers (†1994) liked the idea which resulted in a three weeks trip in America together with camera man Peter Bos (†1971). During this tour I took the pictures shown in this website.

Frank Zappa (guitar, vocals, †1993) and the Mothers of Invention, with Howard Kaylan and Mark Volman (The Turtles Flo and Eddie), George Duke (keyboards), Ian Underwood (keyboards), Jeff Simmons (bass) and Aynsley Dunbar (drums) were interviewed and filmed in the studio and residence of Zappa in Los Angeles and filmed in the Fillmore West (San Francisco) and the Fillmore East (New York). Miss Pamela and Miss Lucy (†1991) of Zappa's GTO's (Girls Together Outrageously) were also featured in the documentary.

The Steve Miller Band, with Steve Miller (guitar, vocals), Ross Valory (bass, vocals), Bobby Winkelman (guitar, vocals) and Jack King (drums, vocals) were filmed in concert in Denver and interviewed on Stinson Beach and in the residence and studio of Steve Miller.

The Band, with Robbie Robertson (guitar, vocals), Richard Manuel (piano, harmonica, drums, saxophone, keyboards, vocals, †1986), Garth Hudson (keyboards, clarinet, accordion, synthesizer, saxophone, trombone), Rick Danko (bass, violin, trombone, vocals, †1999) and Levon Helm (drums, mandolin, guitar, bass, vocals, †2012) were filmed in concert in Pittsburg and in New York.

The credits in the documentaries show the name Jan Rap as sound recordist. In reality this was director Roelof Kiers handling a Nagra tape recorder. Bert Roozemond was responsible for the film editing.

During our stay in Los Angeles Capitol Records invited us for a concert of Grand Funk Railroad at the Anaheim Convention Centre. Once the riot police entered the concert hall we decided to leave the premises... However, we did enjoy the concert of the Beach Boys in the club Whisky a Gogo as well as concerts of Linda Ronstadt and Van Morrison.

This trip certainly was a highlight in my career in the music industry. It is very sad that my travelling friends died at a far to early age.

Olaf Klijn

[www.olafklijn.nl](http://www.olafklijn.nl).