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<https://www.forbes.com/sites/jimryan1/2019/11/26/tim-farriss-of-inxs-on-performing-at-wembley-stadium-as-live-baby-live-heads-to-theaters-for-one-night-only/#a86b1fb33d14>

## Tim Farriss Of INXS On Performing At Wembley Stadium As Live Baby Live Heads To Theaters For One Night Only



Michael Hutchence of Inxs during 1990 MTV VMA's Rehearsal at Universal Amphitheater in Universal City, CA, United States. (Photo by Jeff Kravitz/FilmMagic, Inc)  
FILMMAGIC, INC

On July 13, 1991, [INXS](#) performed in front of 74,000 people at a sold out Wembley Stadium in London, England. It was the band's largest concert to date as frontman Michael Hutchence would inform the crowd on stage, a moment captured by director David Mallet during the group's first live concert film *Live Baby Live*.

The concert was filmed 28 years ago on sixteen 35 mm cameras. A helicopter provided sweeping aerial shots of the band on stage amidst the iconic Wembley throno. The newly restored film will be presented in cinematic widescreen, featuring sound remastered in Dolby Atmos by Giles Martin and Sam Okell at Abbey Road studios, when it [hits theaters](#) for one night only courtesy of CinEvents / Eagle Rock Films / [Fathom Events](#) on December 9.

While the 1991 show, part of the group's massive world tour in support of its seventh studio album *X*, stood as their biggest headlining performance, it wasn't the first time INXS performed at Wembley.

Five years prior, almost to the day, the group did two shows at Wembley Stadium on July 11 and 12, 1986 as the opening act for Queen during the "Magic" tour (the group's final full tour with singer Freddie Mercury).

Remarkably, the pair of 1986 shows fell exactly one year after Queen's triumphant Wembley performance at Live Aid and loomed large for INXS five years later as they recorded their own headlining performance at the stadium.

"It wasn't an entirely easy concert for us to do, the two nights," said INXS guitarist Tim Farriss of the opening slot. "After the first night, I was standing where Brian May would stand and the hardcore Queen fans are right down in the very front throwing loaves of bread at us. And we still got a great reaction and it felt like a great gig but it was like, 'Well, I've never had anything thrown at me before...'" the guitarist joked. "When we got to do it ourselves, it was like, 'There won't be any bread tonight!'"



LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM - JUNE 24: Tim Farriss and Michael Hutchence of INXS perform on stage on the 'Kick' tour at Wembley Arena on June 24th, 1988 in London, United Kingdom. (Photo by Pete Still/Redferns)  
REDFERNS

In 1989, the Rolling Stones launched their enormous “Steel Wheels” world tour, creating an arms race in terms of concert production that still hasn’t stopped. But *Live Baby Live* is a stripped down affair in comparison that thrives thanks to a great band firing on all cylinders, the incomparable presence of one of rock’s all time great frontmen and a Wembley crowd characteristically teetering on the brink of being out of control.

“We’d played Wembley Stadium before with Queen and they’re amazing. But that had to be a typical English rock extravaganza, which happens really at every stadium show you see. But we didn’t go for images of ourselves or balloons or grand pianos, backing vocalists, dancers or anything like that. It’s just the six of us,” Farriss explained. “And Michael hardly even says anything! I just sat there going, ‘Wow! I can’t believe we did that. And I can’t believe the audience loved it that much.’ I mean, the music does sound great but it seems to be this cycle going between the audience and the band.”

Free of the trappings that denote most large concerts today, *Live Baby Live* puts the focus squarely on singer Michael Hutchence and the music of INXS. *X* followed up the worldwide breakout success of the *Kick* album in 1987 and the Wembley recording features a band reaching its commercial peak.

The newly restored edition of the London concert, which was released digitally and on CD/vinyl earlier this month and hits [theaters in December](#), features for the first time the group's playing that night of the *X* deep cut "Lately," a performance previously thought lost. The group's stature by that point allowed them to take some chances creatively on stage.

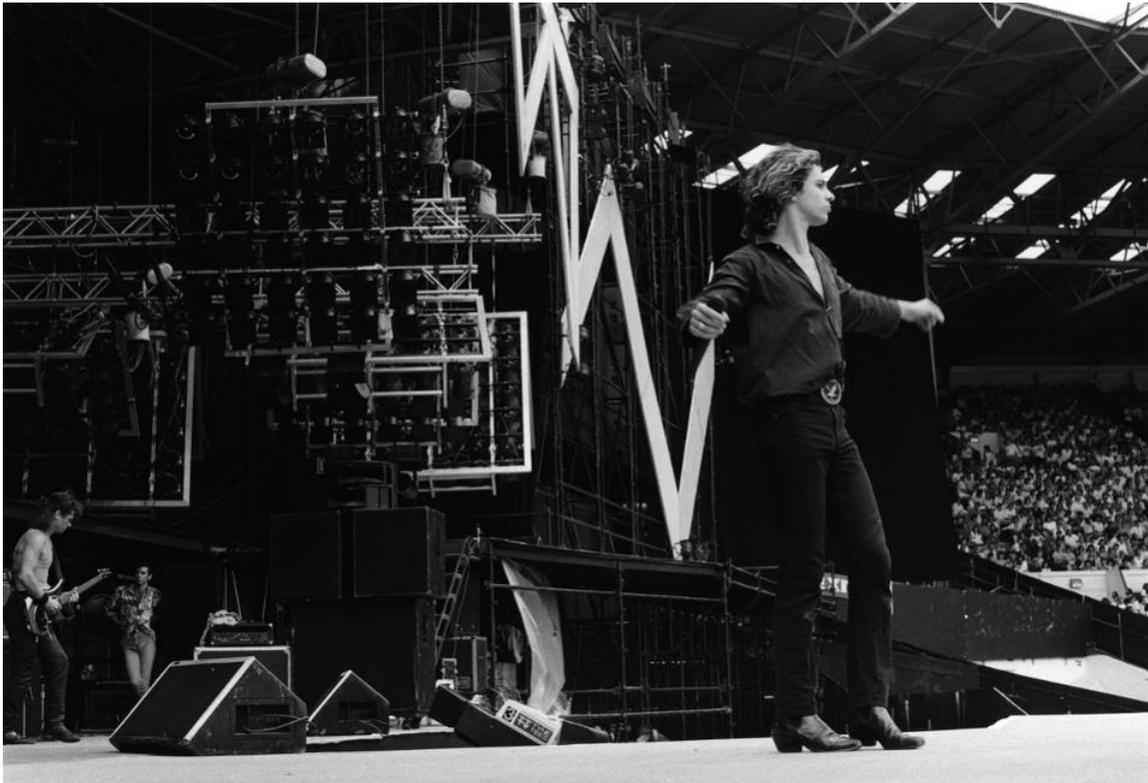
"The thing about it was the band was so relaxed. We went out there and jammed to start the show. And [INXS drummer] Jonny [Farriss] running out by himself first without any of the rest of us, that wasn't planned. So we all sort of came out and started jamming before he pulls the band in on the first chords and away we go. That's what you do at a club, not a stadium show!" said the guitarist. "And ['Guns in the Sky'] wasn't even a hit," recalled Farriss of the group's opening cut that night. "Sure, it was a well-known song off the *Kick* album but, normally, in a stadium show, you might think about opening with a hit. But we just changed the set up a bit and had fun with it. Just seeing the audience really helped the band feel like, 'This is gonna be fun...'"

The fun the band appears to be having on stage during the Wembley concert is contagious. And director David Mallet managed to capture a warm exchange between Farriss and Hutchence for posterity. It happened during a particularly incisive rendition of "What You Need."

Drummer Jon Farriss sets forth a funky beat as the band slows things down for a moment, stretching out to jam. Hutchence shimmies left, wrapping his right arm around his guitarist, and the two have an inaudible exchange during the embrace. Shortly thereafter, Hutchence, laughing, goads the guitarist to, "play the f---ing riff, Timmy." Farriss, also laughing, responds in kind with a searing take on the song's hook - and a measured word for Hutchence - pulling the band from the jam and back into the performance.

"Well, it was kind of an inside joke. Because I came up to him and said, 'Mike, this is the biggest f---ing pub we've ever played.' And he turns around and says it to the audience," said Farriss. "So I said to him, 'Why

didn't you tell them I said that?' So we were having a bit of a friendly gibe at each other during the night to egg each other on. It was a very, very warm moment between us, I have to admit. It was great. Michael and I did 95% of all of the interviews so we had a certain in joke between us, yes. We were having a fun night."



UNITED KINGDOM - JUNE 01: WEMBLEY STADIUM Photo of Michael HUTCHENCE and INXS, Michael Hutchence (right) performing on stage (Photo by Fin Costello/Redferns) REDFERNs

By the '91 Wembley show, Hutchence had established himself as the perfect rock combo of sex appeal and charisma with the substance and depth of the group's catalog to back it all up. He was the rare frontman equally as adept at reaching fans in the front row as he was those at the back of the massive Wembley gathering or on screen in a theater. And he shines during *Live Baby Live*.

"Well, you know, it's a funny thing. I've heard people say that Michael could've fronted any band. And it's like, 'Well, I suppose... But he didn't,'" said Farriss of the late INXS frontman. "And the thing is that when he started singing with us, he really wasn't the singer. He'd never really sung. He was a schoolkid. He'd messed around with poetry a little

bit,” he continued. “We all sort of grew up together. We were family. And we were all so different. And Michael evolved with us. And he saw his role as the frontman and he started to take that on from way early on. And he got better and better and better at it. And it was a wonderful thing to watch that flower open.”

Director Richard Lowenstein takes a deeper dive into Hutchence’s world in the new documentary *Mystify: Michael Hutchence*, a film which hits theaters [for one night](#) on January 7, 2020.

“It’s interesting that Richard Lowenstein’s film *Mystify* came out about a really similar time to the *Live Baby Live* film. And that was kind of a coincidence - but a nicely timed coincidence,” said Farriss. “Because, on the one hand, you see that that film is all about Michael - it’s really not to do with us - but then if you entail it with the live Wembley show, they go well together in a way.”

With rumors of a Broadway musical in the works, *Mystify* and *Live Baby Live* go a long way toward helping to secure the legacy of both Hutchence and INXS twenty-two years after the singer’s untimely passing. It’s a role Tim Farriss in particular has embraced.

As *Live Baby Live* lands in theaters on [December 9](#), Farriss has only one hope.

“So I went to the cinema by myself and watched it. Which is kind of weird. Because there were so many people in the audience of the film I was watching and it was only me watching it [in the theater]. But I still clapped,” joked the guitarist of his private screening. “I was actually blown away to be honest. It was a surreal experience. I’d seen it on television. But this was completely different, sitting in the cinema like you’re at a concert. I felt like I was watching our concert properly, like I was in the audience. I had never seen us like that. So it was wonderful. It just brought back so many memories of the night,” Farriss said. “I’d love to be in a cinema incognito. In fact, when it comes out, I’m probably going to do that. And watch it and see what it’s like with other people watching it. Because I’m dying to see their reactions, you know? I just hope they play it loud.”

\*\*\* *INXS: Live Baby Live Wembley Stadium* is now available digitally and on CD/vinyl. The film hits theaters for one night only on December

9, 2019 courtesy of CinEvents / Eagle Rock Films / Fathom Events. To purchase tickets for screenings in your area, click [HERE](#).

\*\*\* *Mystify: Michael Hutchence* is [now available](#) and will be shown in theaters on January 7, 2020. To purchase tickets for screenings in your area, click [HERE](#).