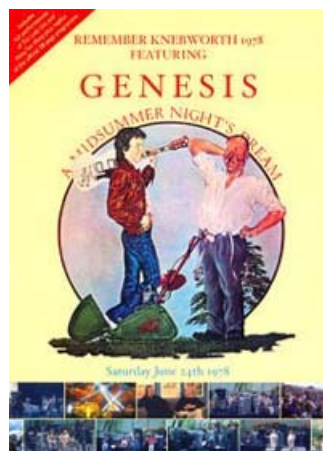


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## Remembering Knebworth 1978 Featuring Genesis: A Midsummer Night's Dream Genesis



In 1978, British concert promoter Freddy Bannister was hoping to avoid the politics and pitfalls he'd experienced two years earlier with the Rolling Stones at the Knebworth Fair. So, instead of putting on one show with a high maintenance headliner like the Stones or Led Zeppelin (who would eventually play the festival over two weekends in 1979), Bannister promoted what he presumed to be two lower key shows at Knebworth.

Both were wildly diverse in billing. Genesis, along with Jefferson Starship, Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers, Devo, Brand X, Atlanta Rhythm Section and Roy Harper, played on June 24 and drew 80,000 people. Frank Zappa (a personal favorite of Bannister's), the Tubes, Peter Gabriel, the Boomtown Rats and Rockpile played to a smaller, yet equally enthusiastic crowd on September 9.

From this an odd and old 23-minute film has surfaced on a DVD called **Remembering Knebworth 1978 Featuring Genesis: A Midsummer Night's Dream**. Stiffly narrated and routinely shot, this news-style profile includes individual interviews with Phil Collins, Mike Rutherford and Tony Banks; a sound check video of "Many Too Many"; and some live clips featuring "Lady Lies" from the June 24 festival.

On closer inspection, you may notice that this film is actually the tail end of another, lengthier Genesis documentary included on the CD/DVD reissue of **And Then There Were Three**. To balance it out, there's a couple of added bonuses here: an photo gallery of all the bands that played with Genesis, and an interview with Freddy Bannister from 2007. The retired promoter talks with Jon Kirkman about the Knebworth festivals he promoted, leading up to *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and how well it came off. For an interview that clocks in at around 30 minutes, it would have been nice to hear some of Bannister's more colorful stories about his dealings with the Stones and Zeppelin at Knebworth, but maybe they're saving those for future releases.

For now, this DVD is another trinket Knebworth fans can savor, although there's plenty more memorabilia from the festival at [Rockmusicmemorabilia.com Ltd](http://Rockmusicmemorabilia.com). Still, with Zeppelin's slice of the Knebworth pie given a glowing restoration via the group's best-selling DVD, one can only hope other moments from the historic Knebworth shows of the 70s find their way to the cleaners and out into the market soon.

~ Shawn Perry

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