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ELLIOTT in action at Glastonbury

Drummer finds his way to Glastonbury

by Brian Lashley
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A former Wilmslow schoolboy proved a big hit when he took to the main stage at Glastonbury.

Drummer Elliott Henshaw, a former pupil of Wilmslow High School, backed crooner Tony Christie in front of more than 80,000 fans.

Elliott who played a 50-minute set that included the hit Amarillo, described it as the gig of his life.

He was booked to play after bandmate Matt Steele, son of TV doctor Chris Steele, recommended him.

Elliott had just two weeks to prepare and downloaded Tony's hits from the internet and listened to them on his ipod round the clock.

Despite all his preparation he admits standing back stage watching Status Quo and waiting to go on was nerve-racking.

Elliott, who has his own band named the Elliott Henshaw band said: "We were all nervous before going on and I've been playing for 20 years. We've played big gigs before but it doesn't get much bigger than Glastonbury.

"When you get out there with all the smoke and everything else you just go into auto pilot because of the atmosphere. The set was 50 minutes but it just seemed to fly by. When we got off the stage we were all euphoric. It was a hell of an experience."

After getting off the main stage Elliott joined Tony again for a smaller gig in a tent before hopping onto the tour bus and watching the highlights of their performance on TV.

Elliott was a youngster when he caught the music bug. His father Philip, who ran Henshaws of Wilmslow, was a well known musician in Wilmslow and Alderley Edge.

As a child Elliott would get out the tupperware, pots and pans and play along with his dad. When he joined the school band, the self taught drummer was thrust straight into action as the band did not have a drummer.

Elliott is now living in London and performing every night in Priscilla Queen of the Desert. His band have just released the album titled Is That Not What You Wanted and is preparing to work on a new album with Tony Christie.

Wilmslow band Doves also performed at Glastonbury.

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