



## Working at the Winter Gardens

Transcription of excerpt from an interview with Stuart Davis who recalls working at Malvern Winter Gardens in the 1970s

**Stuart:** I wasn't actually part of Cherry Red. I think probably because I was so busy. I mean Richard, who'd then moved to London to Croydon Art College, where he met Iain, they, you know, had this idea of starting a promotions company. And Will had already had these ideas as well, so it was like a natural thing that the three of them did that. I didn't get involved, I was busy doing other things, I had enough to do.

I'd started doing lighting. And by that time you were into, you know, the seventies now, a lot of bands used to bring their own lighting. Of course the problem was, I mean you couldn't run this lighting off a thirteen amp plug, so they needed much more power. And so I was the one that used to come and wire in the bands into a temporary supply so they could, you know, have all this lighting that they were doing themselves by then. So I used to do that side of thing on the night.

We used to work with the assistant manager then who was Glen Kilday, who was very supportive of Cherry Red and everything else that we did. And then, one day he offered me a job. It was a whole variety of things they used to do. I mean it wasn't anywhere as busy as it is now, but it seemed at the time to be quite a lot, yeah. 'Cause you used to have exhibitions, you used to have bands on, used to be the big thing was wrestling, which I hated, but there you go, we had to do it. Wrestling. We used to have to literally store, we had this ring there, which we had to put up, and it, oh, it was a nightmare of a job. And part of the job was being the timekeeper for the wrestling, and I remember getting hit over the head by some little old lady with an umbrella because I'd rung the bell at a crucial time. It was huge at one time. Very popular. I remember Big Daddy. And there was some others I can't remember, but they were--, they were quite big names in the wrestling world. But I think the reason why I didn't used to like it because it was all fake. I mean you'd hear them in the dressing rooms arranging who was going to do a fall first. It was all pre-planned, you know. Although it was entertainment wasn't it? It wasn't a sp--, I didn't class it as a sport, it was literally entertainment, and it was all pre worked out, what they were going to do and even who was going to win, I think.

*A transcript of the full interview with Stuart Davis is available from*

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