

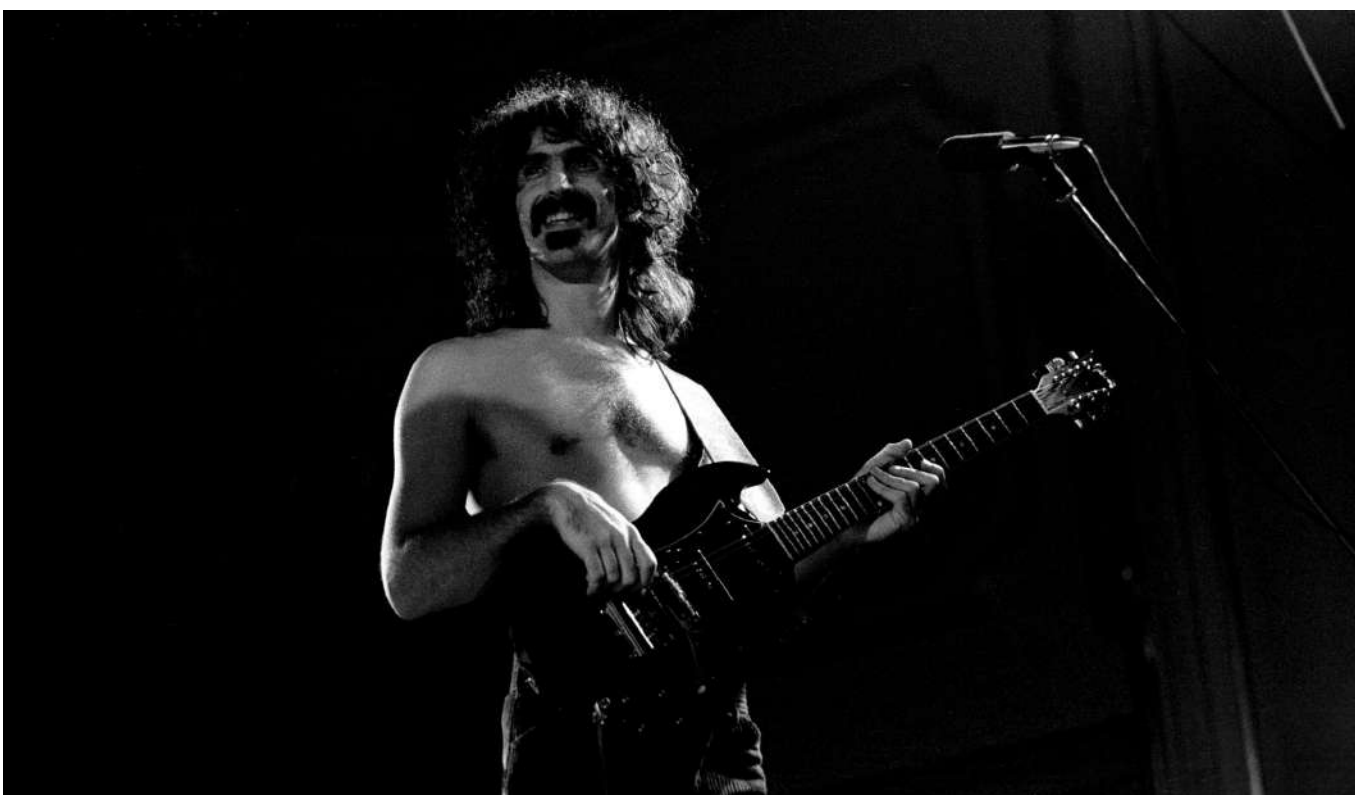
The Latest News

Legendary Guitarists In The News, Alive And Dead



ENTERTAINMENT FEATURED

By Alexander Baron



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The dead one is Frank Zappa who succumbed to prostate cancer in December 1993, less than three weeks short of his fifty-third birthday, but in his far from long life he produced an enormous body of work, some of which is still performed live today by dedicated followers including [his eldest son](#).

Although he was a superb guitarist, Frank Zappa is more renowned for his composing, music and lyrics. While some of it is truly excellent, such as the triple concept album *Joe's Garage* – arguably his finest work – other parts are, to put it mildly, an acquired taste.

Now, a documentary is to be made about Mr Zappa, like [the full works](#) with the cooperation of his family. This awesome task is to be taken on by a native Londoner, the actor, screenwriter and director Alex Winter. Earmarked for release in 2017, it will be told primarily through the great man's own words. Although both his language and his *Weltanschauung* don't seem anything like as

outrageous today as they were during his lifetime, the same cannot be said of his music, so if you like something slightly unusual, this may be for you.

Currently there are 29 songs under [his name](#) to be found at SongFacts, the world's leading song database. Doubtless more will be added in due course, but you might like to check out the official [Zappa website](#) in any case.

Ritchie Blackmore was born five years after Frank Zappa; at the age of seventy he is still making music, and hopefully will be for many years to come. Being married to a woman who makes Helen of Troy look plain is unquestionably partly responsible for that, now Ritchie and [the lovely Candice Night](#) have a new album set for release in September. You can preview *All Our Yesterdays* on the official [Blackmore's Night website](#). There will also shortly be both a new documentary about the man himself and a new solo CD from Candice.



Credit: Ore Same/Flickr

Earlier this month [it was reported](#) that the man in black was considering returning to his rock roots, but that is a bit misleading. On stage Blackmore's Night may have a heavy acoustic leaning, but on tracks like *The Circle* and *Village In The Sand*, Ritchie picks up his Fender Stratocaster, while in the studio, the magnificent *Locked Within The Crystal Ball* (performed live as an acoustic number) has some heavy overdubbing and a sound as heavy as anything ever recorded in [his Deep Purple days](#).

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