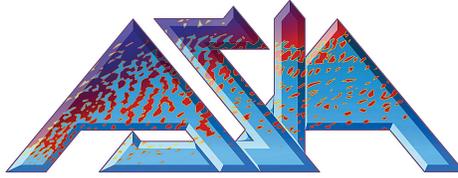


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## The new ASIA set to embark on 2019 “Royal Affair” Tour with Yes, John Lodge Band, and Carl Palmer’s ELP Legacy.

Ron “Bumblefoot” Thal joins line-up as new singer/ guitarist.  
Original guitarist and former member STEVE HOWE  
to make guest appearance each night.

The dragon has risen again.

Two years after the band’s critically acclaimed and successful US trek opening for Journey, an all-new ASIA line-up will return to concert stages across North America as special guests of the YES “ROYAL AFFAIR” tour. The influential British Rock band that rose to the top of the charts with its initial albums and a number of hits including “Only Time Will Tell,” “Heat Of The Moment,” “Don’t Cry,” and “Sole Survivor,” returns with a new line-up that includes founding members **Carl Palmer** on drums, **Geoff Downes** on keyboards and backing vocals, and current Yes bassist **Billy Sherwood**.

Joining the band for the first time is lead guitarist and vocalist **Ron “Bumblefoot” Thal**, an acclaimed solo artist and former member of Guns N Roses for eight years. Thal is also in the prog-rock band Sons Of Apollo.

The invitation to join the band came from both Palmer and Downes, after Geoff had worked with him in a project called The Platinum Rock All Stars. “Ron is a remarkably innovative guitarist,” says Downes, “with a multi-range lead vocal ability. I believe it will give our material a whole new dimension.”

Also appearing on the tour with YES and ASIA, will be Moody Blues member John Lodge and his band and Carl Palmer’s ELP Legacy, with special guest vocalist, Arthur Brown. Founding member and original guitarist Steve Howe will join ASIA on stage each night on the Royal Affair tour to play on a few of the band’s biggest hits and honor the memory of his friend, John Wetton. It will mark the first time Howe has performed with the band since his departure in 2013.

Asia’s debut album exploded onto the music scene in April 1982, featuring Billboard top 10 classics amongst six radio hits. It became the best-selling album in the World in 1982. Featuring Geoff Downes on keyboards, Steve Howe on guitar, Carl Palmer on drums and John Wetton on lead vocal and bass, Asia was the logical successor to their collective bands of the 70s - Yes, ELP, King Crimson, UK and The Buggles.

Asia became one of the most played acts during the first year of MTV. Throughout most of '82, Asia ruled the radio airwaves and MTV, selling out every date on tour as the debut album crushed all the competition in record stores around the World.

The original line-up of ASIA reformed in 2006. It was the first time the four original members had worked together in 23 years. After Howe’s departure, the band regrouped in 2013, with guitarist Sam Coulson and a new studio album, Gravitas, followed. Tragedy struck in January 2017, when John Wetton lost a valiant battle against cancer, just as the band was about to embark on a 43 date tour opening arena shows for JOURNEY. Despite this huge loss, the band recruited old friend bassist Billy Sherwood from YES and completed the tour, triumphantly. In 2018, Coulson left the line-up to concentrate on solo projects, with sincere gratitude from ASIA for his five years of contributions.

“The original members of Asia were progressive musical heroes of mine,” says Ron Thal. “It’s a great honor to be asked to play with these legendary musicians with a legacy of great songs, and also contribute some of my own musical ideas. Very much looking forward to our time on the road together.”

“There is a great energy when we step on stage,” says Geoff Downes. “We can feel it and I know the fans can feel it.” For ASIA’s long-devoted fans, the band’s return to the concert stage cannot come soon enough.” And Downes confirms: “It is what John would have wanted”.

As Carl Palmer has said in the past: "Performing on stage is where this band truly comes into its element. Seeing the fans reacting to our music is what makes it all worthwhile. It is the fuel that drives this train we call ASIA."

**ASIA on THE 2019 “ROYAL AFFAIR TOUR”  
with Yes, The John Lodge Band, and  
Carl Palmer’s ELP Legacy with Arthur Brown.**

Wed. 6/12/19	Bethlehem PA - Bethlehem Event Center Event Center
Fri. 6/14/19	Farmingdale, NY Long Island Community Hospital Amphitheater
Sat. 6/15/19	Atlantic City, NY -Mark Etess Arena at Hard Rock Casino
Sun.6/16/19	Holmdel, NJ - PNC Bank Arts Center
Thu. 6/20/19	Westchester, NY - Westchester County Center
Fri. 6/21/19	Pittsburgh, PA- Stage AE
Sat.6/22/19	Baltimore, MD- MECU Pavilion
Mon.6/24/19	Toronto, ON - Budweiser Stage
Tue.6/25/19	Lewiston, NY - Artpark Amphitheater
Thur. 6/27/19	Bethel, NY - Bethel Woods Center for the Arts
Sat. 6/29/19	Gilford, NH - Bank of NH Pavilion
Sun.6/30/19	E. Providence, RI - Bold Point Park
Wed.7/3/19	Rochester Hills, MI - Meadow Brook Amphitheatre
Fri. 7/5/19	Columbus OH- Express Live
Sat. 7/6/19	Aurora, IL - River Edge Park
Mon.7/8/19	Nashville, TN - Opry House
Wed.7/10/19	Cary NC - Koka Booth Amphitheatre
Fri. 7/12/19	Clearwater, FL. - Ruth Eckerd Hall
Sat. 7/13/19	Hollywood, FL - Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino
Thu.7/18/19	St. Augustine, FL - St. Augustine Amphitheatre
Sat. 7/20/19	Irving, TX - Toyota Music Factory
Sun.7/21/19	Rogers, AR - Wal-Mart Amphitheater
Wed.7/24/19	Phoenix AZ - Comerica Theatre
Fri. 7/26/19	Las Vegas, NV - Hard Rock Casino
Sat.7/27/19	Irvine, CA - Five Points Amphitheatre
Sun.7/28/19	Saratoga, CA - The Mountain Winery

**TO PURCHASE TICKETS:** [www.yesworld.com/live](http://www.yesworld.com/live)

**MORE DATES TO BE ANNOUNCED!**

To see the promotional film about the ROYAL AFFAIR TOUR please visit:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pkN5R1Gh7Po>