



**From July 13, 2009**

Independent Concert Productions  
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I first met Peter Jacobs in 1991 when I was acting as the Entertainment Director for one of Canada's largest live venues, The Spectrum Nightclub in Eastend Toronto. An associate of mine, Gary Cormier, who was one of the country's largest concert promoters introduced Peter to me, who at the time had opened an office down the road from the venue. Peter was looking for a gig for one of his acts The Red Hot Pokers, he did get his date. The group later went on to become Van Morrison's band and from there our friendship began.

Peter a "Londoner", started in the music business in 1973, when he opened a company in South Wales with an old schoolmate Carl Leighton Pope, West Coast Entertainment, which was located in Cardiff, Wales and co-managed several bands including Sassafras, Krazy Kat, a band from Holland called Trace, and a German band called The Scorpions.

In 1977, "Popey" as he was known to his friends was asked to join North Eastern Musical Services (NEMS), founded by Brian Epstein which was the biggest talent agency in the world at the time promoting the "British Wave" and their roster included artists such as The Beatles, Gerry & the Pacemakers, Cilla Black, and later on added groups like Black Sabbath, Al Stewart and Supertramp. Peter also joined NEMS and added a more eclectic roster of artists such as Maria Muldaur, Commander Cody and the Lost Planet Airmen as well as Queen Ida and the Bon Temps Zydeco Band, and whilst working on a European Tour for The Flaming Groovies and later was appointed the very first booking agent of Dier Straits.



In 1980, Peter went on to form his own company specializing in these Cult Acts like Commander Cody who opened for Led Zeppelin on their last tour dates including the performance at Knebworth House. The company also represented Bo Diddley, George Hamilton IV and various country acts. As the clubs were all packed to capacity, Peter had an idea to put on concerts in the Provincial Theatres as they were of the right capacity and were only being used by Gospel groups and local theatrical productions. Peter was also booking shows for the "Flying Music Company" London U.K. one of which included "The Magic of the Musicals", an actual theatrical musical that toured Canada in 1992.

In 1988, Peter first came to Canada on tour with Supertramp and loved what he saw. On returning home, Peter made his application to come to Canada with his family and was soon offered a job from Doug Kirby (a local agent) in Toronto but only lasted 5 weeks, hence Independent Concerts Productions was opened on January 1st 1991.

Peter used his connections in England and with the Flying Music Company to produce a show using some of England's biggest 60's acts billed as an All Star Show called "The Solid Silver 60's" which included Gerry and the Pacemakers, Billy J Kramer and Terry Sylvester of The Hollies, and toured other acts such as The Searchers, Swinging Blue Jeans, and The Troggs (Wild Thing). Most of these artists had never toured Canada in their heyday, and there was a revived interest in the "British Invasion Tour".

In 1998, Peter was off to Australia to visit some family and also see about taking over The Elvis Presley Museum on tour. While there, Peter was introduced to The Brady's at AGA who at the time had a small show of "Irish dancers" playing the local club circuit called Galeforce Dance. Peter contacted me and was very enthusiastic to bring the show to North America and the next thing I knew we were in rehearsals for a Canadian and North American Tour. "Galeforce Dance" went on to be the 3rd largest touring show of Irish Dancers and still plays Poland and Germany on a regular basis. It was a fan favorite and the last tour booked by ICP grossed in excess of \$1.2 Million U.S.

When Peter left the production of Galeforce he was in Dublin negotiating a theatrical performance of Bear and the Big Blue House (Kid's Show) and met up with existing clients Daniel O'Donnell, Chris de Burgh and the Spirit of Ireland (later to become [Magic of Ireland](#)).

From his experience in England with the provincial theatres and promoting world tours finally in 2004 Peter decided the time was right for an authentic Irish Dance and Musical Event; all "Live" with no taped taps or music as some of the shows were doing. The Magic of Ireland was born and has completed 3 tours of England, 3 tours of Europe, 4 tours of Canada and 4 tours in the United States.

Peter Jacobs and Independent Concert Productions have become a major player in producing and touring theatrical musicals using international talent and launching them from his new home in Canada.

(Written by Bill Delingat)