

CREATIVE PIKE!

The creativity of one Travis Edward Pike is off the charts. Musician, singer-songwriter, screenwriter and writer of poetry and prose, Mr Pike will have you appreciating the prolific path of his art. **by Harvey Kubernik**

GOLDMINE: There's a comment on your "The Way That I Need You" YouTube page, asking if you are the European rock star named Travis Pike who lived in the big house near the lake, (in Newton Centre, MA.), that was considered haunted.

TRAVIS PIKE: Well, to be fair, my father's house on Lake Avenue in Newton Centre, Massachusetts was reputed to be haunted. As for me being a European rock star, that's not really as far-fetched as it sounds. Although I'm an American, born in Boston, my first shot at rock "stardom" came while I was stationed in Germany, where I was billed as Teddy Pike, Twist and Show Sensation. So, being discovered in Europe, if I was a rock star, I was, geographically, a European rock star, long before I ever approached anything like that status stateside.

GOLDMINE: And now it's happening again, this time, in Britain, where they've been playing songs on the radio that you recorded and performed for the 1966 movie, *Feelin' Good*, never before heard outside of movie theaters and drive-ins until you restored and posted clips from that movie on YouTube, in October 2016. Did you ever imagine that you'd get the online reactions you did, or that a record deal would come from it?

TRAVIS PIKE: No, I didn't. I wrote 10 songs for that movie, and recorded and performed eight of them on screen, backed by Oedipus and His Mothers, renamed The Brattle Street East in the movie, a band of three college students from Harvard and one from Boston University. So, on Monday, November 7, 2016, when the Canadian-based Perlich Post blog reported "The Best music video of 2016 was actually shot in 1966," -- that, in reference to "Watch Out Woman" -- I was flabbergasted! As for it being the best rock video of 2016, I suppose that's a matter of opinion, but given what's been happening lately, it may just be that my northern neighbor has impeccable taste.

GOLDMINE: Your YouTube "Watch Out Woman" page got raves, and has now been viewed more than 5,000 times, which is pretty good for a tune that was hitherto only heard in theaters and drive-ins some half-century ago.

TP: Yes. That's all changed now. That film clip led to me being contacted by State Records, in the UK, and now they've released

a vinyl 45 rpm version of the restored "Watch Out Woman" mono optical soundtrack from *Feelin' Good*, featuring "The Way That I Need You" on the flip side. Both are songs I sang in the movie, on the Charles River Esplanade, in Boston.

GOLDMINE: What sort of memories and initial reactions did you feel when you first were approached for re-releases from UK record producers?

TP: It was very gratifying to learn that my 50-year-plan to become an overnight sensation was working. (laughs)

GOLDMINE: What sort of feelings emerged when you were in the process of negotiating new deals for some of your catalog?

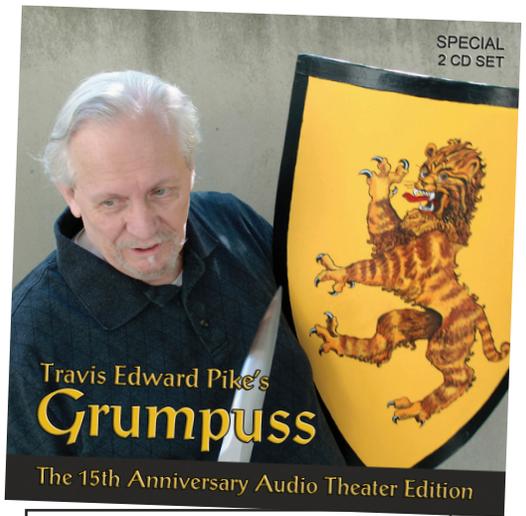
TP: Well, the piece that initially caught the UK market's attention was the only Travis Pike's Tea Party 1967 single, "If I Didn't Love You Girl," released in German and British compilation albums, dating back to the early 90's. Being asked for a mechanical license for that performance, a half-century after its initial release, was a most pleasant surprise. As for the songs from the 1966 movie, to the best of my knowledge, they are the only video clips of me performing from my entire early career, so when "Watch Out Woman" began to rock the internet, and I got the offer from State Records, everything began falling into place.

However, as exciting as it all is, both of these deals are based on recordings I made back in the mid-60s, so I'm still waiting to see if their popularity will validate my current efforts, and get collectors to consider the new albums of my '60's songs, recorded with my brother, Adam, between 2013 and 2016.

GOLDMINE: In all, you and Adam have now released six albums from your back catalog.

TP: Eight, counting the two spoken word albums, but not all of them go back to the '60s. I wrote many of the songs in my new album, *Mystical Encounter (Song's from Changeling's Return)*, in 1974, when I composed my first attempt at a rock opera, then called *Changeling*. I revisited it in 1987, renamed it *Morningstone*, and *Morningstone* it remained, until this year, when I gave up trying to turn it into a novel, renamed it and released the screenplay in my book, *Changeling's Return*.

GOLDMINE: We discussed *Changeling's Return* in an interview that serves as an introduction to that fascinating property.



The Five Beats international showband

Besetzung

Teddy Pike USA Twist and Show Sensation

Enriko Lombardi ITALIA Gesang, Gitarre

Eddy Christers Gesang, Gitarre, Klarinette, Baß

Charly Ross Saxophon, Baß, Gesang

Ringo Gesang, Schlagzeug

Chorty West Gesang, Gitarre, Saxophon

Die Stationen dieser erfolgreichen Band waren:

Star-Palast~Kiel

Studio 62
Eckornförde

Schützenhof
Rendsburg

Demnächst auch **Star-Club**
Hamburg-St. Pauli

TRAVIS PIKE'S "Grumpuss" Dual CD (top, above) and a 60s German concert poster, when Pike was billed as "Teddy Pike, Twist and Show Sensation."

TP: We discussed its history, but since then, I've remembered more about its origins. I told you that the songs "Witchy Stew" and "The Stranger" predated *Changeling*, and that's true. I wrote both of them, (along with "Witch," finally released in my *Outside the Box* album), for my original rock musical storyline about a 20th Century *Faust*, which I believed would be popular because of the pervading interest in everything occult reflected in all the astrology-based articles of the day. The property evolved into its current form as a result of my multi-disciplinary studies at CalPoly, Pomona, which were, in turn, inspired by my childhood discoveries of Rachael Carson's works, years earlier.

GOLDMINE: It will happen. We're now talking about this year's release of *Mystical Encounter (Songs from Changeling's Return)*, and as conscious as I am of the depths you fearlessly explore in your works, I'll admit I was floored by "The Fool." I know enough about the Kabbalah to be aware that

THE BEGINNING OF THE CONTINUING SAGA OF TRAVIS EDWARD PIKE

THE BOOK, THE MOVIE, AND THE TWO CDS THAT RESTARTED IT ALL!

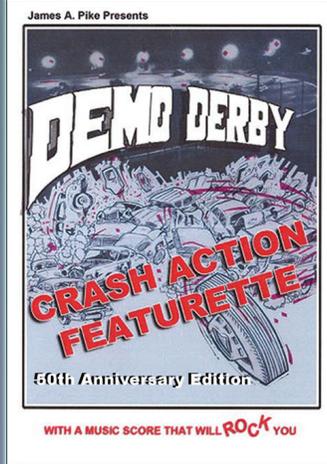
Travis Edward Pike's Odd Tales and Wonders



1964-1974: A Decade of Performance

Foreword by music journalist Harvey Kubernik, author of *A Perfect Haze: The Illustrated History of the Monterey International Pop Festival and Canyon of Dreams: The Magic and Music of Laurel Canyon.*

THE BOOK: In this 1968 cover photo, the wee one on Travis' knee is his brother Adam, who now is helping Travis record all the words and music Travis composed at the height of the 60's musical and cultural revolution. **\$19.95 MORE ODD TALES INSIDE!**



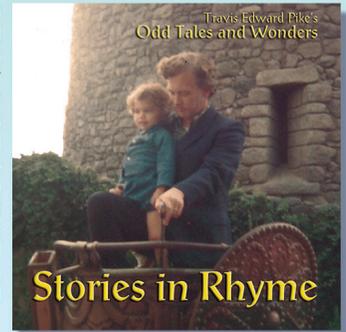
THE MOVIE: WARNING!

We of the sixties generation, have been romanticized for our rebellious idealism. Unless you want your children and grandchildren to know just how incredibly naive and innocent we really were, **KEEP THIS DVD UNDER LOCK AND KEY! \$12.95.**

THE TWO CDS:

Travis wrote most of these novelty songs to entertain servicemen and coffeehouse crowds, but both "Till the End" (the Vampire Song), and "The Red-backed, Scaly, Black-bellied, Tusked, Bat-winged Dragon" were popular with Travis Pike's Tea Party fans, and "Sorcerer's Waltz" and "Loup Garou" (The Werewolf Song) are still popular with Travis' fans today! **\$12.95.**

Travis' storytelling rhymes were also popular with GIs and coffeehouse crowds, and often performed during brief power outages, or to keep the show going while broken guitar strings or drumheads were being replaced. "Santa's Magic" was written after the move to Southern California, but the rest of these short *Stories in Rhyme* go all the way back to 1965, and Travis still gets requests for "The Twaddle and the Gurck," and "The Peeless Goth." **\$12.95.**



WHERE AND HOW TO GET THEM:

Start at oddtalesandwonders.com. When you've gotten a handle on the content, go to the *Production Office*, where you'll find a *Music and Spoken Word Samples & Where To Buy* link, or click on the *Book Sample Pages, DVD Trailers & Where To Buy* link. *Odd Tales and Wonders 1964-1974: A Decade of Performance* is available in print and ebook editions. The CDs are also available as downloads at CDBaby, and the Book, Movie and Recordings are all available on Amazon and through select retailers worldwide.

TRAVIS EDWARD PIKE SINGS HIS ORIGINAL SIXTIES AUDIENCE FAVORITES... PLUS!



"Feelin' Better" is new. So is "Cold, Cold Morning," but "Rock 'n' Roll" and "End of Summer" were composed in 1965 for Travis' German-Italian showband, The Five Beats, and the other seven songs were in the 1966 movie, *Feelin' Good*. **\$14.95.**

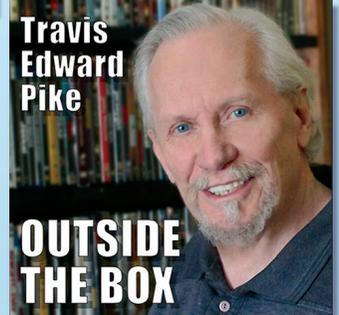
State Records released two surviving original soundtrack recordings (see banner below).

Travis performed these songs in coffeehouses in the mid-to-late sixties. Many were performed by Travis Pike's Tea Party, too, exceptions being "She's Gonna Be a Woman Someday," and "Tommy Tew Run Run," but none have ever been heard or recorded before in these new, enhanced arrangements, the work of Travis' talented youngest brother, Adam. *Wrap your head around this!* **\$14.95.**



Travis and his brother Adam capture both the essence of Travis Pike's Tea Party's early performances, and the spirit of those musically exciting and turbulent times. These eleven cuts are representative of the original repertoire that thrilled Travis' sixties concert fans, and include a new recording of the rare collector classic, "If I Didn't Love You Girl." *Rock like it used to be!* **\$14.95.**

COLLECTOR'S ALERT! Outside the Box is the *PLUS*. With the exception of "Witch," these songs were never before performed or recorded in their entirety. The "Andalusian Bride Suite" is a tone-poem with lyrics, and the eclectic collection also includes two novelty songs, four driving rockers, two tender ballads and a stirring otherworldly march! *A feast for starving ears!* **\$14.95.**



CDS & DIGITAL DOWNLOADS SOLD BY CDBABY, AMAZON & SELECT RETAILERS WORLDWIDE

OUT NOW on State Records...
Previously unreleased 1966 garage **KILLERS** from living legend

TRAVIS PIKE
with The Brattle Street East

Feelin' Good *Watch Out Woman" b/w "The Way That I Need You"*

Limited edition (500—only) vinyl 7", beautifully presented in front-laminated flipback sleeve! (Record # THS—028)

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symbolism and secret knowledge are common in the more esoteric writings of the past, but your detailed explanation of the lyrics to “The Fool” was my introduction to the bardic symbolism and hidden meanings found in Celtic myth and poetry – and in *Changeling’s Return*.

When I first heard “The Fool,” I enjoyed it as a bit of theatrical nonsense, a clever showtune, exuberant and entertaining, but in the section of *Changeling’s Return* titled *His Secrets All Revealed*, you really do explore the mysteries, and when I read what those lyrics conceal, except to someone versed in bardic folklore or, as Robert Graves called it, “the historical grammar of poetic myth,” I realized it was not a course offered where I went to school.

I thought your placement of the otherworldly “Dog, Roebuck and Lapwing” was intended as counterpoint to the bombastic “Fool,” but when you explained the bardic symbolism of those creatures, concealing and revealing their significance at the same time in an ethereal piece of music, itself, an invitation to an out-of-body experience, I realized that in *Mystical Encounter*, you really have woven spells into the music.

TP: Thank you, Harvey. I think that’s the most you’ve ever said, all in one breath, about any of my works. And thank you for the time you took to explore *Changeling’s Return* so thoroughly.

GOLDMINE: It’s all good, but I have to ask why you cut “Peepin’ Tom” from the album?

TP: In the screenplay, it’s cut from the album for being too suggestive, but in order to be cut, it has to have been included as an option in the screenplay, and that suggests that if ever there is a soundtrack album, “Peeping Tom” will be on it. Meanwhile, for readers following the screenplay, or for that matter, anyone who simply wants to hear the song, I’ve released “Peeping Tom” as a downloadable single, and posted it on YouTube so *Changeling’s Return* fans can hear it there, free.

GOLDMINE: If there is any sense of fairness left in our universe (or loonyverse), I hope to see *Changeling’s Return* on the big screen one day.

TP: That’s why I put it out there. Now, if we can just get some of Hollywood’s movers and shakers to look at it . . .

GOLDMINE: I wouldn’t be at all surprised if a British filmmaker steps forward. You’re liable to get a lot of attention over there with your upcoming 20th anniversary DVD release of your critically acclaimed, award-winning, live bardic performance of your 99-minute epic narrative rhyme *Grumpuss*. That’s still on, isn’t it?

TP: Absolutely! The Dual CD *Grumpuss 15th Anniversary Audio Theater Edition* is already in release,

As of now, my 1997, live, world premiere performance has been transferred from the original PAL Digi-beta at Deluxe Labs in Burbank, and we’ve authored it for DVD.

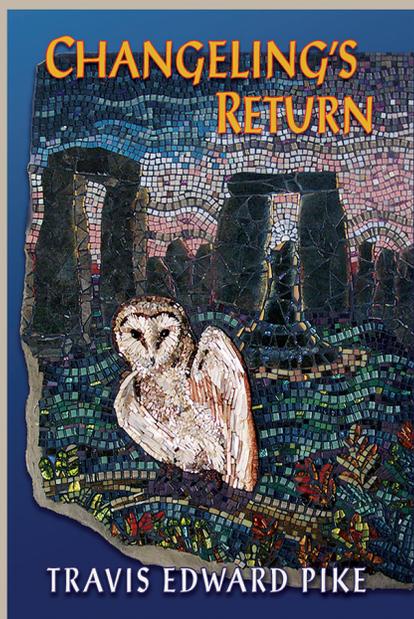
We’re currently assembling the *Special Features* that collectors expect when they

purchase a DVD. My team at Otherworld Cottage wants me to talk about why and how I staged the production at Blenheim Palace in the UK, and I’m gathering up still photos to help tell that story. We’re also considering a slideshow-like presentation about the charity gala. Whatever we decide, it has to be completed for release prior to November 1st, 2017, the 20th anniversary of that world-premiere performance.

GOLDMINE: You grew up in a world where movies were on film and 45 rpm recordings were the popular configuration. Now, the same sounds and images are conveyed on CD, DVD or streamed online. How do you feel about the digital domain?

TP: Actually, when I started collecting records, they were still running at 78 rpm, my record player wound up with a crank, and I had to change the phonograph needle about once a week. But to answer your question, I think the digital domain is wonderful, especially for movie collectors like myself. I’m on YouTube now, so even though I haven’t broken through on broadcast radio, new fans are discovering me, hearing my songs for the first time, and that’s fantastic as far as it goes. But I’m still trying to work out how to earn a living from my collected performances in the digital domain.

GOLDMINE: At the rate you’re going, I’ve no doubt that you will.

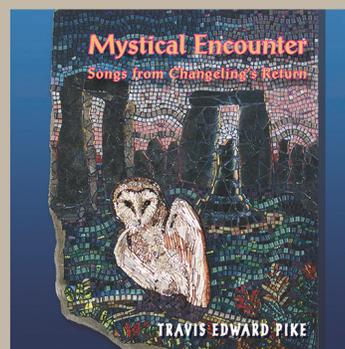


MORE THAN 40 YEARS IN DEVELOPMENT. THEIR TIME HAS COME! CHANGELING’S RETURN AND MYSTICAL ENCOUNTER

Travis Edward Pike invites you to explore the otherworldly regions between the worlds in this timely tale of an American rock star, whose out-of-body experience triggers a sudden, profound commitment to the environment, and a dramatic change in his music, lyrical content, and purpose. Whether the singer-songwriter is actually human, inspired by his out-of-body experience, or a supernatural whelp, reared by humans, and reawakened to his ethereal origins during his mystical encounter, is deliberately left unresolved in this progressive rock musical.

The story is set in the present-day Midlands and in Morningstone, a paranormal parcel of real estate where our unwitting adventurer is challenged by Furies, beguiled by Muses, and where Fates still weave Man’s destiny.

Presented in screenplay form, the book features an 11-page introductory interview of award-winning writer, Travis Edward Pike, by acclaimed author and pop culture historian, Harvey Kubernik. Pike includes an illuminating 46-page section, *His Secrets All Revealed*, exploring the history, folklore, mythology, and sympathetic magic in the story, and a selected bibliography is included.



WHERE AND HOW TO GET THEM: Preview pages from *Changeling’s Return* on Amazon or at otherworldcottage.com. Audition the *Mystical Encounter (Songs from Changeling’s Return)* CD at CDBaby or on Amazon. If you’re considering these products as gifts, be aware that shipping books to countries outside the USA can take anywhere from 30 to 60 days. CDs usually arrive more quickly, but can sometimes take up to four weeks. Happily, if you are eager to get them for personal entertainment, the book, album and all the singles are available as digital downloads at CDBaby, Amazon, and select retailers worldwide.



WARNING!

“Peeping Tom” underscores the chase scene inspired by Laurel’s erotic torch-lit dance. It is in the screenplay, and will likely be in the movie and soundtrack album, but within the story there is concern that the song, out of context, might incite violent, misogynistic behavior, and it is cut from *Mystical Encounter* in the story and the album currently in release. Labeled EXPLICIT, not for its language but for its brutish content, its inclusion is discussed in depth in the section of the book, *His Secrets All Revealed*. “Peeping Tom” is sold online as a downloadable single.