

1c - Biography part 3



3- It was Mercury, favoring the simplicity of a one-word name, who came up with the name Queen. He also set about completing his own transformation from shy London immigrant to rock star, with a nod to the Roman mythological messenger of the gods, henceforth becoming known as Freddie Mercury. The missing link was uncovered after a chance meeting with bassist John Deacon at a London disco in February. An electronics student at Chelsea College, Deacon was a few years younger but a seasoned performer with a Leicestershire band called The Opposition. Quiet and a quick learner, he fit right in with a headstrong group that was stubbornly plowing ahead with its musical dreams.

Indeed, it would take quite a bit of stubbornness for Queen to ride out the two-and-a-half years until their self-titled debut album hit stores, but the pieces were in place, setting the stage for the emergence of one of the most innovative and popular rock bands of the decade and beyond.

Queen's Freddie Mercury never wanted to have an in-depth discussion about his sexuality with the public. However, it was well known that this icon of rock had had relationships with both men and women. At one point he claimed to be bisexual, but he may have been a gay man who got involved with members of the opposite sex because he was trying to survive — and build a career — in a very homophobic world. Mercury died of an AIDS-related illness at the age of 45, taking his personal insights into his sexuality to the grave.

It wasn't until November 23, 1991, that he issued a statement that said in part: "Following enormous conjecture in the press, I wish to confirm that I have been tested HIV-positive and have AIDS. I felt it correct to keep this information private in order to protect the privacy of those around me." He died the next day.