

4a- Queen at Live Aid: the real story of how one band made rock history

-1-

Live Aid, which took place simultaneously at Wembley Stadium in London and John F. Kennedy Stadium in Philadelphia on July 13, 1985, was the [most ambitious rock concert](#) of its era. Geldof, the rocker behind Band wanted to raise more money for famine relief in Ethiopia. The result was a 16-hour concert featuring more than 50 sets from the biggest pop and rock acts of the era, including Madonna, David Bowie and U2.

Geldof approached Mercury through Spike Edney, a former member of Geldof's own band, who had recently joined Queen to play keyboards during the group's live shows. Queen was noncommittal because the group was exhausted after a spring 1985 tour of New Zealand, Australia and Japan. And Mercury had recently cast doubt on the band's future by releasing a solo album, "Mr. Bad Guy," to a lukewarm reception.

"We were all forming a sort of a rut," Mercury said at the time. "I wanted to get out of this last 10 years of what we were doing. It was so routine. It was like, go to the studio, do an album, go out on the road, go round the world and flog it to death, and by the time you came back it was time to do another album. After a while it's like a painter... you know, you paint away, and then you stand back and look at it in perspective. That's exactly what we needed. We just needed to be away from each other, otherwise you just keep going in that routine and you don't even know if you're going down."