

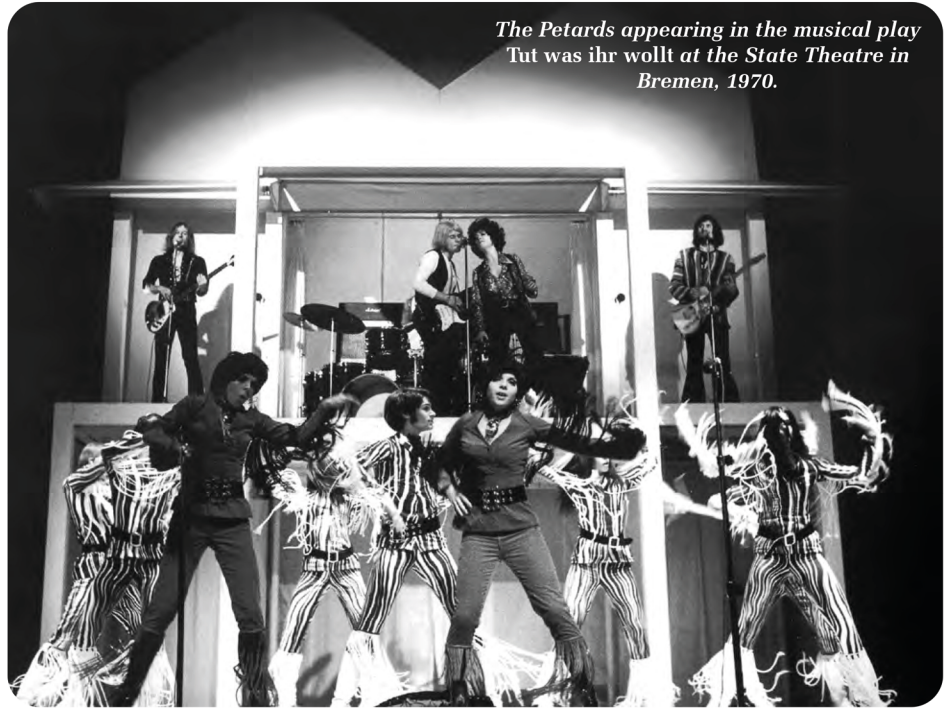
Chapter 7: Pet Arts

In early 1970 the Petards were chosen by director Charles Lang from among numerous other applicants to appear in his musical play *Tut was ihr wollt* (Do What You Like), a radically modernist adaptation of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*. The play premiered on April 5, 1970 at the State Theatre in Bremen and continued through May and June of that year.

"At the request of the director, we recorded the [musical] pieces beforehand in a Bremen studio and played them back in the performances using full playback," remembers Roger. "Our amplification system and instruments were on a high stage that was only accessible via a ladder. We often had to climb down to the main stage as we also had acting roles, which I enjoyed a lot.

"So much for the history," he continues. "The premiere began with the title song and a performance by the two go girls from the well-known TV show *Beat Club* in front of a sold-out house. The actor Thomas Fritsch, who wanted to perform the musical in Stuttgart, sat in the front row of the audience. Shortly before the performance, the well-known actress Helga Anders came into our dressing room, high, and borrowed stage clothes from us. During the performance, she unexpectedly climbed onto our stage, stood behind Arno and exposed herself to the audience. The stage manager had great difficulty in dissuading her from her plan.

"The premiere went great. After the order of applause, we stood at the front of the stage, we bowed, and then there was uproar: we had agreed on the title song as an encore, but it came off the tape before we even climbed onto our elevated stage. There were a few boos as the incident indicated that the music was off tape. As 'compensation' we gave a half-hour live concert with our own songs after each performance. With that it also gave viewers over 30 years of age the opportunity to 'officially' get a picture of the music that their children were listening to. Altogether we had 30 per-



*The Petards appearing in the musical play
Tut was ihr wollt at the State Theatre in
Bremen, 1970.*

formances in Bremen. In 1971/72 there was a new production of the musical with us at the Landestheater Darmstadt. Here we played live; the main actress was the Fassbinder actress Barbara Sukowa."

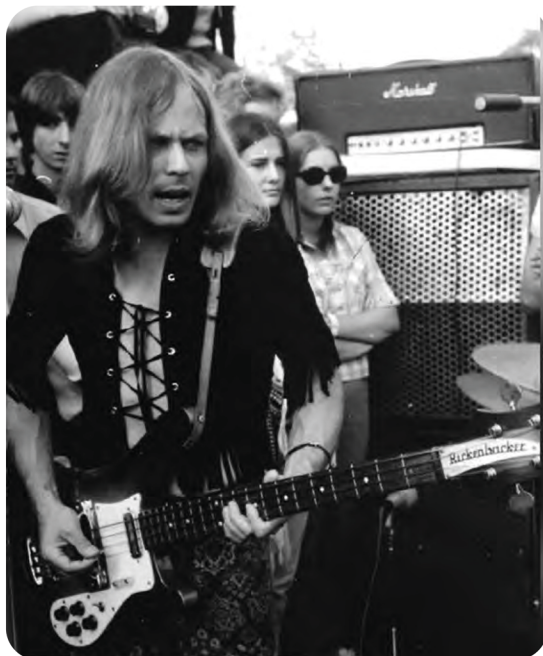
On the weekend of May 1-3, 1970—between appearances in *Tut was ihr wollt*—the Petards hosted their third and largest event so far at Herzberg castle. Billed as the 1st Deutsches Pop-Festival (the first two were "Beat-Festivals"), it boasted a who's who of the top German progressive bands of the day including Amon Duul II, Guru Guru, Gila Fuck, Floh De Cologne, Checkpoint Charlie, Sameti, Frumpy, Jeronimo, Xhol Caravan, and Missus Beasty. The Petards played twice.

Later that month a new single was released with two new Ebert brothers compositions,

"Baby Man" and "On the Road Drinking Wine," recorded a few months earlier in Cologne with a new producer. "Siggi Loch was now president of our record company, Liberty, and delegated the production work to his colleague Dieter Eberle," explains Roger. Both songs are strong, especially the A-side with its threatening vocals, dueling lead guitars and nimble drumming.

Loch took time out to produce one more single with the band. Released in October, "Don't You Feel Like Me" is a tight, catchy rock 'n' roll number, and the B-side, "Rainy Day," a superb, moody ballad with gorgeous harmonies supported by some evocative rippling guitar work; it sounds like a cross between Love and the Bee Gees.

In November and December, the group repaired to Dieter Dierks' studio in the village of



Ugly Things

Herzberg Festival, May 1970.

