



"THIS is me with Paul and Linda McCartney during the heyday of Wings. I can't tell you what the occasion

was but it's like that when you're making records – a lot of time you're so busy that you don't remember what happened the day before.

Those were good times though, and when I look at pictures like this today, I appreciate our success much more than I did back then.

When I first met the Beatles I was in a band called Denny Laine and the Diplomats. We were all touring on the same circuit and one night we were playing at this theatre in Birmingham. There was a revolving stage, and as we came off the Beatles walked on to the other side to sing *Love Me Do*. But someone had forgotten to unplug the speaker leads, so they flew out when the stage swung round and the Beatles' microphones didn't work. It didn't matter though – you wouldn't have heard them anyway because the girls were screaming so loudly.

When I joined The Moody Blues in about 1965, we were signed to the same agency as the Beatles, so we stayed in touch. It was as a result of being their friend over the years that Paul approached me to join Wings, after the Beatles broke up. I think he wanted someone he knew, rather than someone who might be hard to work with.

Wings ran for 10 years but don't be mistaken – it wasn't all sex, drugs and rock'n'roll. Paul and Linda were renovating an old farmhouse in

Scotland, so we went there to rehearse and write every year. I slept in the garage the first night. We would mess around up there and have a laugh while Linda did the cooking.

It was a very casual way of putting a band together. Paul and I would jam and write lyrics, and we were more like old friends hanging out. I never had any problems with Paul because I could adapt to what he was trying to achieve. We never had to talk much about anything

because we already knew each other very well.

Paul and I went through a lot together and we still run into each other now and again. We will always be friends but when people talk about a Wings reunion I don't see the point of it. Wings was just as much about Linda as anyone else. These days when I perform I play a few Wings songs as a tribute but I don't live in the past. I'm the kind of person who prefers to keep moving forward.

Since I left Wings I've been establishing myself as a solo songwriter and performer. I've been playing in Las Vegas and I've released a solo album, *Valley of Dreams*. It's the story of an Englishman coming to America and being influenced by all the different, amazing styles of music." **S**

Denny was interviewed at The Hollywood Show in Los Angeles. For more details, visit www.hollywoodshow.com.



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My favourite photo – by musician Denny Laine

Denny, 68, had a good thing going with the Moody Blues – but then Paul McCartney asked him to join the band, as he tells Tiffany Rose