

Ginger Baker and Jonathan King

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Superb and fascinating BBC Imagine on Ginger. My one story about him is as follows.

He was one of the great session drummers in 1966 and my brilliant producer at the time, Ken Jones, who produced The Zombies, which was why I'd signed to him, loved my idea of doing an unknown Dylan song Just Like A Woman, so booked a session at Lansdowne Studios.

The drummer turned up - it was Ginger Baker and he had broken his foot which was cased in plaster and bandaged.

"How on earth are you going to be able to use the bass drum pedal?" I asked him. Even though I wasn't producing, Ken knew I liked a really prominent bass drum beat.

"Don't worry; it'll be fine", replied Ginger.

And it was. Still to this day I regard it as one of my best tracks, far better than Manfred Mann's cover (which beat mine in the charts).

After the session I went down to the studio to thank the musicians and asked Ginger how on earth he'd got such a great sound. "Oh I didn't bother with the pedal. I just kicked the bass drum" he answered with a smile.

I looked down at his foot. It was scarlet, soaked with blood. "Ginger, you've given blood for me" I grinned.

Not only was he a great drummer but he was OK by me.