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An old person holding a guitar

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Step inside the extraordinary story of one man’s musical journey as part of the most iconic bands in rock history with *John Illsley: The Life and Times of Dire Straits*, captivating live UK tour launching on **24th October 2025**.

As a founding member and long-time bass player of Dire Straits, John Illsley helped shape a band that sold over 120 million albums worldwide and became a global phenomenon. With their unmistakable sound, poetic song writing, and genre-defining musicianship, Dire Straits conquered the world stage, none more so than with the ground breaking 1985 release of *Brothers in Arms*, which turns **40** this year.

A landmark moment in music history, *Brothers in Arms* was the first album to sell over one million copies on CD and topped the charts in over 20 countries. Featuring timeless classics like “Money for Nothing,” “Walk of Life,” and the haunting title track, the album cemented Dire Straits as one of the biggest bands of the 1980s and beyond.

Now, John Illsley invites audiences on a personal journey through that remarkable era. In an intimate evening of music and conversation, he’ll reflect on the band's meteoric rise, the madness of worldwide fame, and the enduring power of their music. With exclusive behind-the-scenes stories and rare insights only an insider could offer, this is a night no music lover should miss.

Live on stage, John will be joined in conversation by his long-time friend and former Dire Straits co-manager Paul Cummins, offering a relaxed Q&A format that brings fans closer to the band’s incredible story. The evening also features live performances of Dire Straits classics and John’s own solo work accompanied by his stellar band featuring musicians Robbie McIntosh, Steve Smith, and Hannah Robinson.

With multiple Brit and Grammy Awards, an Ivor Novello for Outstanding Contribution to British Music, and a Rock and Roll Hall of Fame induction in 2018, John’s place in music history is undeniable. His 2021 memoir *My Life in Dire Straits* (Penguin) became an international bestseller, further affirming the legacy of a band whose music continues to resonate across generations.

Whether you were there at the beginning or are only just discovering the magic of Dire Straits, *John Illsley: The Life and Times of Dire Straits* promises a night of unforgettable music and candid memories.

24-Oct-25 **Winchester** Theatre Royal

25-Oct-25 **Monmouth** Savoy Theatre

26-Oct-25 **Bude** Park House Centre

27-Oct-25 **Milton Keynes** Stables

28-Oct-25 **Worcester** Huntingdon Hall

29-Oct-25 **Hove** The Old Market

30-Oct-25 **Portsmouth** The Lens Studio

2-Nov-25 **Stroud** Sub Rooms

3-Nov-25 **Leeds** City Varieties

4-Nov-25 **Norwich** Playhouse Theatre

5-Nov-25 **Wimbourne** Tivoli

8-Nov-25 **Teddington** Landmark Theatre

10-Nov-25 **Dorking** Dorking Halls

11-Nov-25 **Bury St Edmunds** Apex Theatre

13-Nov-25 **Alnwick** Playhouse

14-Nov-25 **Liverpool** Tung Auditorium

15-Nov-25 **Barnard Castle** The Witham

16-Nov-25 **Bury** The Met Arts Centre

27-Nov-25 **Lyme Regis** Marine Theatre

28-Nov-25 **Beckenham** St Georges Arts Centre

29-Nov-25 **Hastings** White Rock Theatre

Tickets available from venue box office & [www.johnillsleymusic.com/tour](http://www.johnillsleymusic.com/tour)

**For more information please contact** [**warren@chuffmedia.com**](mailto:warren@chuffmedia.com) **on 07762 130510**