

THE MAESTRO

It's 1967 and Jimi Hendrix — one of the greatest guitarists of all time — is interviewed by Rolling Stone Magazine. He's asked to name his favorite groups and names only three. Much to my surprise, one of them is Clear Light!!

In '67, Clear Light is a fixture in the New York club scene. We are living at the Albert Hotel along with seven to 10 other bands. We rehearse in the basement on off days and play pretty much constantly at places like Steve Paul's The Scene, the Electric Circus, the Cheetah, the Fillmore East, and so on.

At one show our drummer, Dallas Taylor, bursts into the dressing room. He is very excited!

"I think I just saw Jimi Hendrix in the balcony!" he says.

Yeah right, Dallas. Jimi ... in the balcony. Right.

We do our show.

A few weeks later we're playing The Scene. Dallas bursts into the dressing room! He is very excited!

"I swear that Jimi's in the audience!" he shouts.

This time we take a peek ... and sure enough, Jimi Hendrix IS in the audience! Dallas turns into "Mr. I Told Ya So!"

We're all pretty goddamned impressed ... and a little nervous that he'll be watching us play.

Later — halfway through our second set — Jimi saunters up to the stage and asks if he can sit in!!! Just as bold as brass!

"Can I play bass?" Hendrix asks.

I hand him my prized EB-1 Gibson and take a seat in front. He plays his ass off, and I have to keep pinching myself! Can this really be happening??!!