

# Biography



Artist: **Verra Cruz**  
Title: **Emancipation Day**  
Release Date: **26th June 2006**  
Label: **VC Records / Fierce! Distribution**

Verra Cruz are a hard rocking British trio originally from St Albans, a small town just north of London, UK.

Singer/guitarist/lap-steel player **Marc James** formed the band in the late 90's with drummer **Jimmy Cooke** as an outlet for his growing collection of brilliantly crafted songs. **Nick Bright** (bass) joined the band in September 2000.

Together they are a powerful, tight and passionate live band and have a large and loyal fan base. They have toured hard and appeared at festivals as far away as South Africa - which they toured in September 2001. Since summer 2000 Verra Cruz have also played in **France, Belgium, Germany, Holland, Sweden, Czech Republic, Poland, Lithuania and Estonia**, as well as playing all over the **UK**.

Growing interest in the band in the US lead to a series of shows in LA and New York in April 2003. They then returned to play festivals in Sweden and Germany, as well as a showcase at In The City in Manchester.

In June of 2003, Verra Cruz recorded sessions with US rock producer **Jason Corsaro** (Soundgarden /Soulfly). Jason's involvement with the band came about after hearing a demo and believing them to be the most exciting band he had heard since the early 90's. The sessions were engineered by **Matthew Ollivier** (Doves) and mastered by **Howie Weinberg** as a favour to Jason. They became the **Soul Collides EP**.

January 2004 - the Soul Collides EP was picked up by radio stations across America, from **KUPD** in Phoenix to **WBCN** in Boston. The EP reached # 7 in the FMQB US radio specialty chart. Jed the Fish at **KROQ**, Los Angeles' premier rock station received a copy of the EP and instantly made it his Catch of the Day. He so liked Soul Collides he again made it his Catch of the Day for the second time within a week. The band returned to LA in June 04 to play a showcase at **The Viper Room** in Hollywood.

Soul Collides was released as a single in the UK through Universal Distribution in July 04. '**Built on a riff so sturdy you could build a hotel on it...**' - **Kerrang!** It gained strong support at **Radio 1** from **Zane Lowe** and **Mary-Anne Hobbs** and from **Ian Camfield** at **XFM** who had the band in to record a session. Other radio support included **Kerrang! Radio** and **XFM's Music Response**. A video was shot and was A-listed at **Scuzz TV**.

The second single, Corner of my Mind, was released in the UK in November 04 also through Universal Distribution. The band was on the road throughout November supporting **X Is Loaded** on a club tour of the UK. The single release marked the band's first airing on **MTV2**, when the Corner video was played on **Headbanger's Ball** in December. Support for Verra Cruz continues at US radio, most notably with **Indie 103.1 FM** in LA.

The band were back on the road in February 2005 for a small UK club tour and returned to USA for a storming gig at the **Key Club** in Hollywood in May. Most recently the band have begun work on their debut album with producers **Paul Burton & Tom Mills** (Oversol), due for release 26 June 2006.

Verra Cruz has developed a unique sound rooted in strong songwriting, with the distinctive nature of Marc James' voice and powerful rhythm section merging to create an inspired and dynamic live show.

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