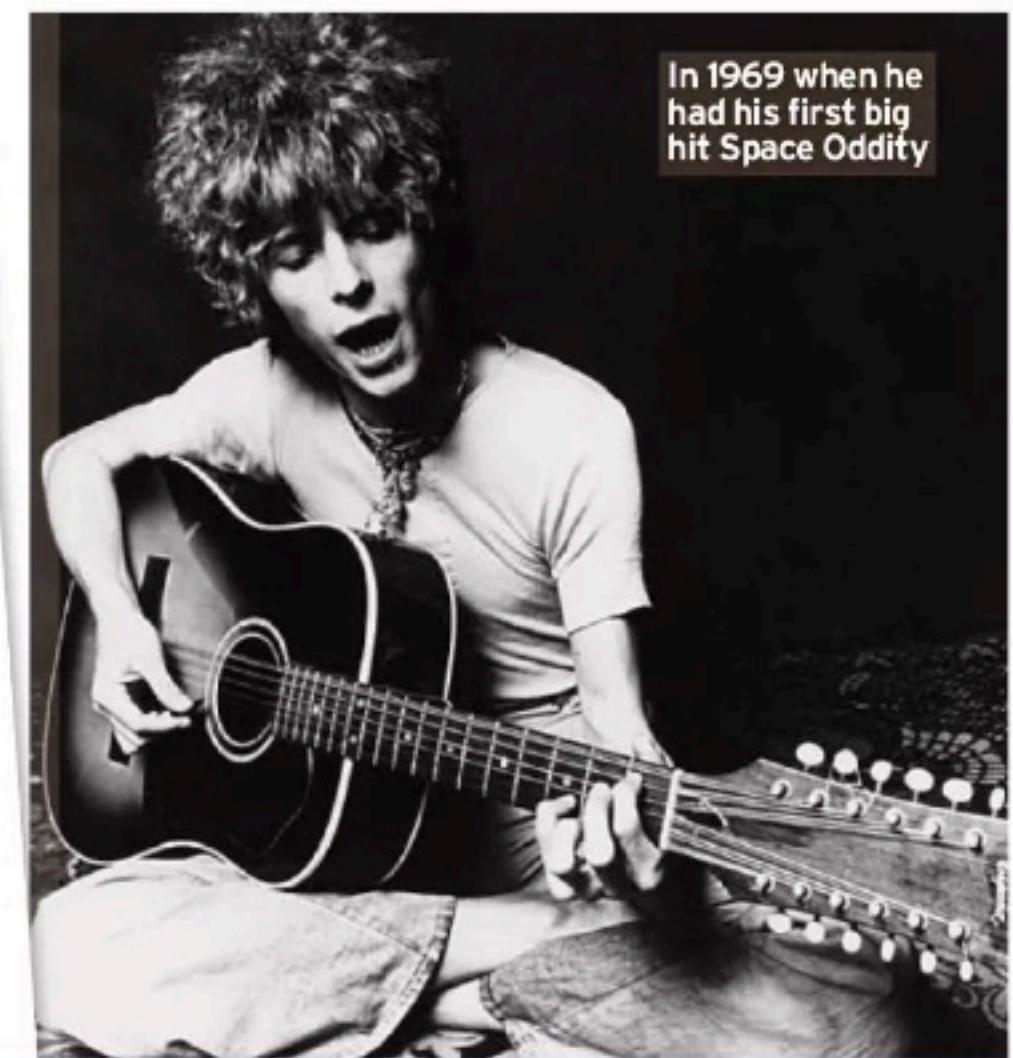


Young David Jones at the Plaistow Grove terraced home



In 1969 when he had his first big hit Space Oddity

From boy... to Bowie

Late rock star's early home set for restoration

BY TOM BRYANT
Associate Editor (Showbiz)

DAVID Bowie's childhood home is being ch-ch-ch-ch-changed back to how it was when he was a youngster - including his old bedroom.

The singer, who would have turned 79 yesterday, lived with his parents at 4 Plaistow Grove, Bromley, from the age of eight to 20, when he was still called David Jones.

On the eve of the tenth anniversary of his death from liver cancer, the terraced house has been acquired by the Heritage of London Trust.

Working with the V&A, it plans to restore the railway workers' cottage to its 1960s appearance.

They aim to recreate the interior layout exactly as it was when Bowie's father worked at charity Dr Barnardo's and his mother was a waitress.

A particular focus will be on Bowie's old 9ft x 10ft bedroom, where he began writing songs.

V&A's Geoffrey Marsh said: "It was in his tiny bedroom that Bowie evolved from a suburban schoolboy to the beginnings of an extraordinary international stardom."

"As he said, 'I spent so much time in my bedroom. It really was my entire world. I had books



up there, my music

up there, my record player".

The house is near the Edwardian 'Bowie' bandstand where he performed in 1969 - which itself was restored in 2024 - and will host creative and skills workshops for young people, like Bowie's 1969 Beckenham Arts Lab. Once finished, the home is due to open in late 2027.



Home where youngster plotted his music career

Aged eight Bowie played *Tutti Frutti* by Little Richard on a gramophone brought home by his dad.

He later said: "My heart nearly burst with excitement."

Bowie last visited Plaistow Grove two years before his death, with wife Iman and daughter Lexi.

Musician George Underwood, who was Bowie's lifelong friend, said he is delighted that the south-

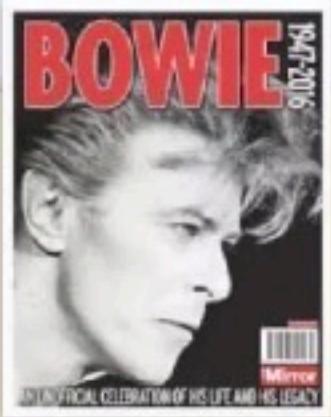
east London house will be restored, adding: "We spent so much time together, listening to and playing music."

"It all started here, from such small beginnings, in this house."

"We were dreamers, and look what he became."

tom.bryant@mirror.co.uk

VOICE OF MIRROR: PAGE 8



On sale now:
our **Bowie**
special edition

Scan the code or visit
Reachshops.co.uk/bowie



Bowie in 1973,
after finding
rock stardom