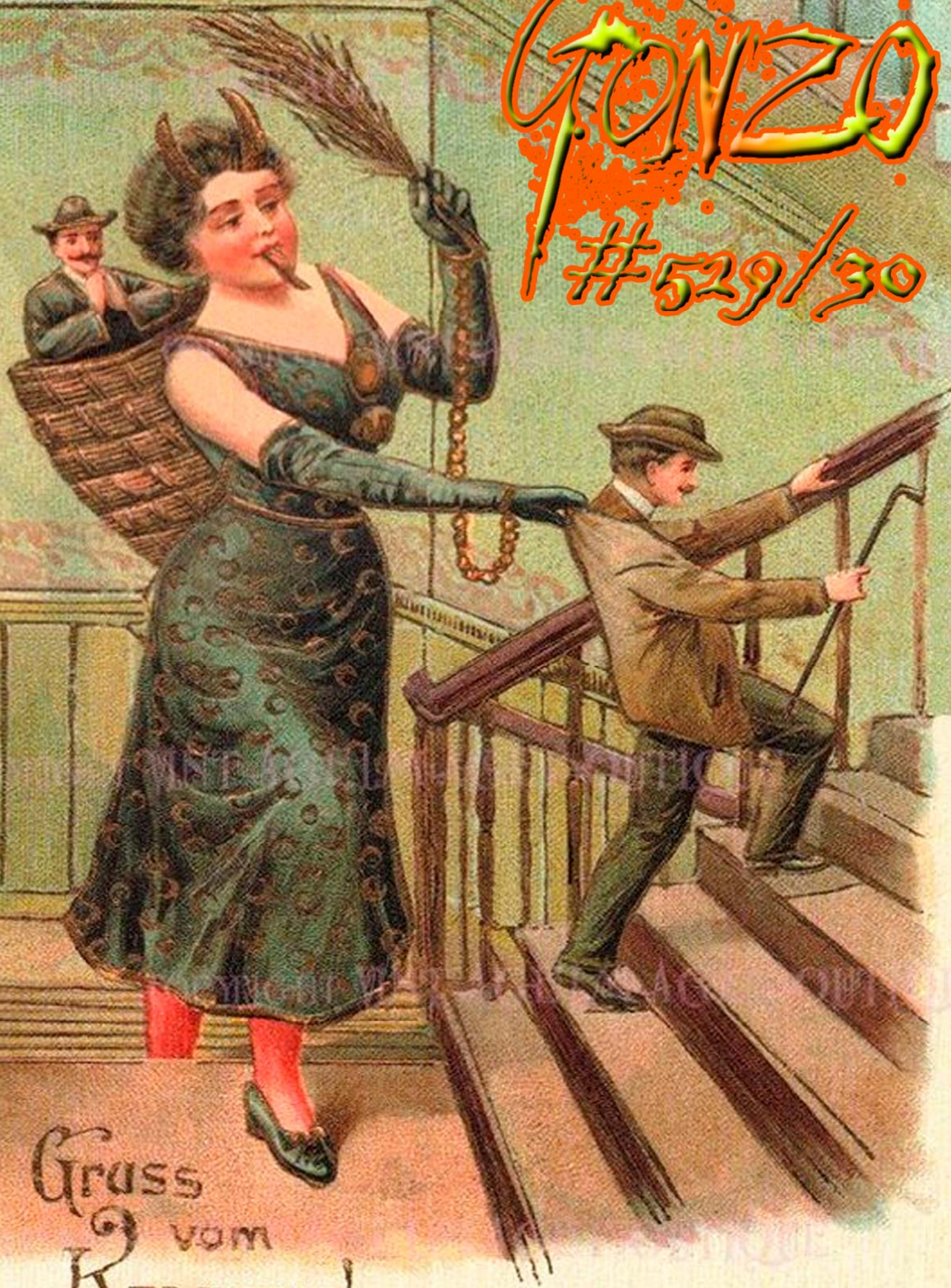


GONZO
#529/30



Grass
vom
Krampus!



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LEST WE FORGET



John Brodie Good



Dave McMann



Mick Farren



Corinna Downes



Tim Rundall

THE THREE COMMANDMENTS OF GONZO WEEKLY:

1. Art is as important as science and more important than money
2. There is life after (beyond and before) Pop Idol
3. Music can and sometimes does change the world

If you think those three ideas are stupid then you should probably give up reading this magazine now.
Otherwise... enjoy

Kelly Kettles for Ukraine

My Dear Friends,

Like many people, I have spent much of this year gazing in horror at the news stories which have come from Ukraine. It seems beyond belief that the levels of bitterness, conflict and brutality could be seen in a contemporary European country. Also, like many of you, I have felt impotent in that there is nothing that I could do directly to help those who have been dispossessed or whose lives are in danger from this conflict.

Being a cynical old fellow, I don't usually like sending money to charities unless I know exactly where the money will be spent. Now, the opportunity has arisen for us all to send money to somewhere, where we know exactly where it will be spent. As I believe some of you know, my brother Richard, is a clergyman based in Germany. I am also a member of the Church of England, albeit with a far more esoteric overlay. I have always admired what my brother does, but never more so than at the moment.

He visited Ukraine recently, and as a direct result of this he has started a remarkably generous and game-changing campaign. I was so moved when I heard about this, that I decided it was my duty, not only as his brother but as a human being to help him in any way that I could. Hence this feature which is going to appear in all the various publications I edit until the Spring, and if the war is still going when the weather begins to get colder next year, I shall do the same again.

I do urge you all to get involved as much as you can.

Love to you all,
Jon Downes

Dear friends,

KELLY KETTLES FOR UKRAINE

Those of you who joined us on Zoom in Church today know something of this already. Following my recent visit to Ukraine, we have been led to launch a charity appeal to send wood burning kettles to the Ukraine so that people have means to boil water and cook without the need for gas or electricity. A combination of freezing temperatures and frequent power outages caused by war damage has left the lives of thousands of Ukrainian people in jeopardy.

YOU CAN HELP



From Ireland comes the amazing "Kelly Kettle" which boils 1.6 L of water in a matter of minutes with just a handful of e.g. dry sticks, newspaper, acorns, bark, pine cones etc. Fill it with water, light a small, safe, contained fire in the base and the water in the chimney is quickly heated from within. Use the stove and cook set provided and meals can be cooked over the chimney.

Patrick Kelly of Kelly Kettles is kindly supporting this project by offering each unit at trade prices just €69 (RRP €134) for each 1.6 L Unit including kettle, stove, pans and mugs/plates. The money will all be used for buying kettles and arranging their delivery and nothing else. There are no other costs to



cover. If you would like to support us please make your donation by direct bank to : Charity account: Lippische Landeskirche : Spendenkonto bei der Sparkasse Paderborn-Detmold:

IBAN: DE97 4765 0130 0000 0484 47

Please add the keyword “Kettle for Ukraine” or “Kessel für die Ukraine”

Having made your donation please record the amount you have donated in the donation tracker. All will be explained when you click on the following link which will take you to our information page: Kelly Kettles for Ukraine

<https://tinyurl.com/4fn5a7j9>

Alternatively you can use this QR Code with your phone which will take you to the same site:

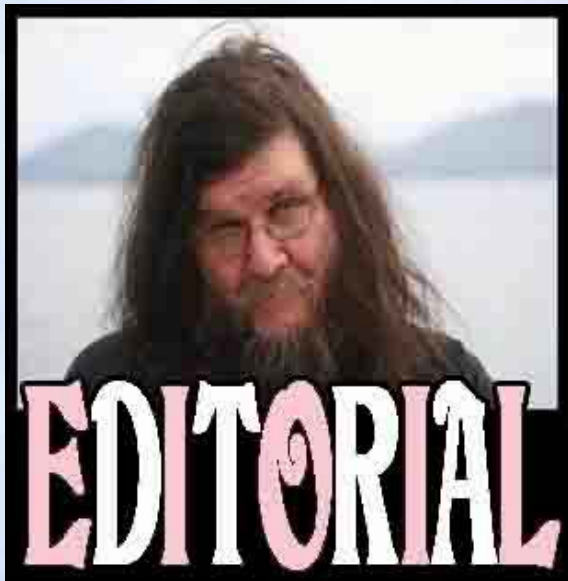
Please feel free to forward the Link and QR Code onto anyone and everyone you can think of.

Donations will be collected and bulk purchase (s) will be made by us directly from Kelly Kettles who will ship the units to our NGO contact in Romania for onward transport to Kyiv or an NGO in Germany who will do the same. Your donation will be used to purchase kettles and offset the minimal cost of transportation only. There are no other additional costs and the NGO, especially in Romania is known by me personally and is to be utterly trusted. The receiving NGO in Kyiv work especially with Ukrainian war widows, orphans and displaced people.

Please do give generously, but every little helps.
Thank you and bless you

Richard





Dear Friends,

Welcome to another issue of this increasingly peculiar little magazine. The latest demonstration of its peculiarity is that the last issue was dedicated to Wilko Johnson, but there was no editorial about him but now there is!

I had always been aware of Wilko Johnson ever since the first Dr Feelgood album, '*Down by the Jetty*' back in 1975, but for some reason I never heard the record until a year after it was first released. By that time I was totally engrossed in the culture of punk, yet despite the fact I was particularly unhappy and unsuccessful at a school on the outskirts of Exmoor from which I was eventually expelled, I still considered myself to be a punk rocker. In contrast and disregarding the 12 months between the music press deciding that punk was the 'thing' and the same bunch of journalists deciding that it was not the 'thing' anymore, the record I listened to most of all was by Pink Floyd. For whatever reason, Dr Feelgood and the other "pub-rock" bands of the time seemed to me to be terribly passé, as did most things which were performed by people who didn't have spiky hair and a safety pin through one earlobe. Again, with the benefit of hindsight, it is



GULLIBLE'S TRAVELS

I still considered myself to be a punk rocker.

impossible not to see that records by the Sex Pistols and the Clash were pretty damn good, and records by Crass were politically spot on even though they were a bloody awful noise (luckily I like bloody awful noises). Other records which I bought at the time, for example, by the Lurkers and the UK Subs have not worn well with the years in my opinion, and I would have been much better off had I listened to Dr Feelgood from the start.

In 1976, there was a short-lived record shop in Bideford which used to play the latest records to the delight of their customers. It was here that I first heard 'Roxette' by Dr Feelgood and 'One of those Days in England' by Roy Harper. To this day I still don't know why it took me so long to become a fan of Wilko Johnson and his first band.

Exactly ten years ago, Johnson was



rushed to hospital with an undisclosed ailment and in January 2013, he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer but elected not to receive any chemo-therapy. He had never stopped recording or touring, but had not been in the public eye for many years. However, no sooner had he given an interview to John Wilson on the BBC 4 Arts programme, 'Front Row', than he found himself - in over a quarter of a century - back in the public eye - back in the front row. He told Wilson that he had nine or ten months left to live and was going to do a "farewell tour" of the UK in March of that year. He would then spend his final days recording a farewell album with Roger Daltrey.

The tour and the album came and went and Johnson told the press that he was mildly embarrassed that the "farewell tour" had turned out not to be his "farewell" after all. Within three or four months of his original diagnosis he should have died, A year or so later he was still alive and kicking.

One of my great disappointments in life is that when he appeared with Norman Watt-Roy, at a secret gig in Bideford, of all places, I didn't find out about it until a week later. It was a show I would have loved to have been in the audience.

Then everything changed. It was discovered that Wilko had a pancreatic, neuro-endocrine tumour which is a far less aggressive and a more treatable form of pancreatic cancer than adenocarcinoma with

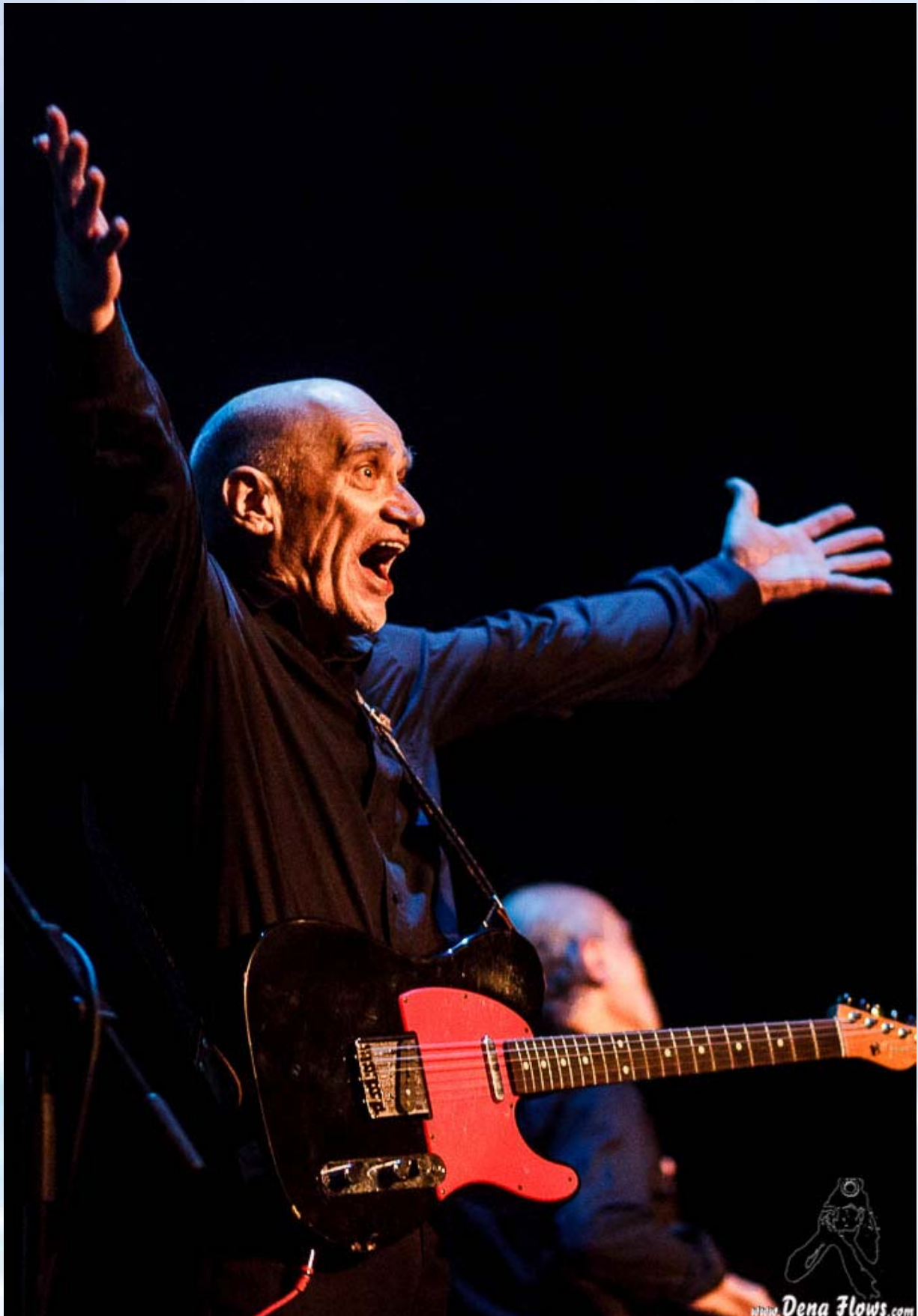
which he had originally been diagnosed. He then had a 12-hour operation removing a tumour the size of a baby and in October 2014 he announced himself to be cancer free. He resumed his career, this time front and centre of the public eye.

And so paradoxically when he died a couple of weeks ago, at the age of 75, it was almost like an anti-climax because the nine years he had been blessed with following his initial diagnosis had been largely seen as being similar to injury-time during a football match.

Although, as I have said earlier, I had been aware of Dr Feelgood I had only become a bona fide fan - like many other people - in the wake of his initial 'death sentence' in 2013. I had read much about his aggressive theatrical stage presence, in which he would stalk up and down like a panther with a machine gun. I never really took it onboard until I sat down at my office computer and found that Wilko, and his erstwhile band mates particularly Lee Brilleaux, were splattered all over YouTube. Although I didn't need anything else to distract me from what I should have been doing, I spent many happy hours enthralled watching gigs from 40 years before. I will freely admit that this is something which I have continued to do ever since.

Last night, for example, I stayed up far later than I should have watching a show by Wilko's post-Dr Feelgood' band, the Solid Senders. The greatest

اللجنة لهم إذا كانوا لا تأخذ نكتة



tragedy of Wilko's life and career is not, in my humble opinion, the tragic mis-diagnosis of 2012 and its subsequent happy ending, but that he was kicked out of Dr Feelgood in April 1977. This was after only a couple of years as a 'Feelgood' member yet nobody in the band's management ever managed to broker a peace deal. It was a terrible pity both for Wilko and the band because neither of them, despite hit singles for Dr Feelgood, ever reached such stellar musical heights again.

After the Solid Senders, Wilko went on to be the guitarist for Ian Dury and the Blockheads which was a musical pairing that raised many eyebrows at the time. Possibly because the Blockheads already had a Dickensian-looking front man who looked as if he could start a fight in an empty room and by all accounts often did. The resulting album, *'Laughter'*, was one of the most eccentric that Dury ever produced, and that is saying something! It included such wonderful tracks as 'Take Your Elbow Out of the

Soup', 'Your Sitting on the Chicken' and 'Fucking Ada'. But then the band split up, and Wilko went on to do all sorts of other things for the next 30 years.

He even appeared in Game of Thrones as an executioner. A piece of inspired casting in which he not only looked the part with his legendary 'Clockwork Orange-esque' stare, but that he could actually act.

It is truly upsetting to come to terms that we will never see him again. I typeset obituaries and write about dead rock stars in my professional career, and I don't usually get upset about the death of people who I don't know, as I think that is a fairly pointless exercise. To qualify this, over the years I have lost various artists who were personal friends or acquaintances such as Nick Turner, late of Hawkwind, and Keith Levene, the original guitarist with the Clash and a founding member of Public image Limited (PiL). I have been very sad to lose both of them. But I am also sad to have lost



Wilko Johnson, although he wasn't somebody I knew personally. But I wish I had in the last decade, he would have been in the top list of people I would have liked to have interviewed and who I would have liked to have been better acquainted with, so it is a slightly different kind of loss. It is interesting that people who I did know who were involved with Dr Feelgood and who knew Wilko Johnson personally, such as the late Mick Farren who, even in the last years of his life, talked about Dr Feelgood as enthusiastically as he had written about them four decades before.

So, in the season which is marked quite definitely with all sorts of bullshit ringing out the old and bringing in the new, it seems appropriate to be bidding a fond farewell to an old Dickensian of a rock & roller; someone who could quite possibly have played the role of Jacob Marley if the BBC had decided to do yet another dramatisation of 'A Christmas Carol' if the old bugger had lived any longer.

But they haven't and he didn't, and I am much sadder about this than I have any right to be.

This is the time of year when a fat bloke with a beard mumbles "Ho Ho Ho" and shows an unhealthy interest in the contents of stockings.

But that's enough about me.

This is not a time of year that I am fond of, but I wish all of you in reader-land a Happy Christmas and a safe and comfortable New Year.

Peace and Love,

Jon



IT'S A LEGAL MATTER BABY

A lot of the time the pictures that we include in this publication are unique to Gonzo Weekly, and used with the photographer's permission. However, this magazine is free, and at least at the moment only available online, and so in our opinion we are covered by a recent decision by the European Courts of Justice.

Websites can link to freely available content without the permission of the copyright holder, the European Court of Justice says. The court's decision came after a dispute in Sweden between journalists and a web company that had posted links on its site to online news articles.

A Swedish court had asked the EU court to consider whether this broke copyright law.

Some of the pictures in this magazine are hotlinked to other websites where they are freely available. It is our opinion that we are covered by this ruling. So there!

Of course if someone objects to our using their material we will be good fellows and take it down, unless (and this is a big unless) we feel that it is not in the public interest to comply.

But normally we shall not stand on ceremony. If you want to read more about this decision go to:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-26187730>

Dramatis Personae



THE GONZO WEEKLY
all the gonzo news that's fit to print
ISSN 2516-1946

This is quite simply the best magazine you will ever find that is edited by a mad bloke (and his small orange cat), and produced from a tumbledown potato shed on the outskirts of a tiny village that nobody's heard of in North Devon. The fact that it is published with Gonzo Multimedia - probably the grooviest record company in the known universe - is merely an added bonus.

NAMING THOSE RESPONSIBLE

This issue was put together by me and Captain Frunobulax the Magnificent, (who is, in case you didn't know, an insane orange cat) ably assisted by:

Alan Dearling,
(Contributing Editor, Features writer)
Douglas Harr,
(Features writer, columnist)
Bart Lancia,
(My favourite roving reporter)
Thom the World Poet,
(Bard in residence)
Graham Inglis,
(Columnist, *Hawkwind* nut)
C.J.Stone,
(Columnist, commentator
and all round good egg)
John Brodie-Good
(in memoriam)
Jeremy Smith
(Staff Writer)
Richard Foreman
(Staff Writer)
Mr Biffo
(Columnist)
Kev Rowland
(Columnist)

Richard Freeman,
(Scary stuff)
Orrin Hare,
(Sybarite and literary *bon viveur*)
Mark Raines,
(Cartoonist)
Davey Curtis,
(tales from the north)
Phil Bayliss
(Ace backroom guy on proofing and research)
Dean Phillips
(The House Wally)
Rob Ayling
(The *Grande Fromage*,
of whom we are all in awe)
and **Peter McAdam**
(McDada in residence)

This is the nearest that you are ever going to get to a posh weekend colour supplement from the *Gonzo Daily* team. Each week we shall go through the best bits of the week before, and if there aren't any we shall make some up, or simply make our excuses and leave (you can tell the editor once did contract work at the *News of the World* can't ya?)

This weekly magazine is free, and will remain so. It is published by Gonzo Multimedia in conjunction with CFZ Publications, or is it the other way round? We're actually not that sure. Contact us with bribes and free stuff:

Jonathan Downes,
Editor: Gonzo Daily (Music and More)
Editor: Gonzo Weekly magazine
The Centre for Fortean Zoology,
Myrtle Cottage,
Woolfardisworthy,
Bideford, North Devon
EX39 5QR

Telephone 01237 431413
Fax+44 (0)7006-074-925
eMail jon@eclipse.co.uk

so what's it all about, Alfie?

It is simple; my name is Jon and I'm the editor of the Gonzo Multimedia daily online bloggything, and wot what a long, strange trip it is gonna be...

I keep on thinking that I ought to have some sort of a mission statement in each issue, but it is more than a little difficult to do one.

Basically, (if you don't mind me sounding more like a wishy washy old hippy than my haircut in the photograph on the previous page would imply) I think that books and music are immensely important.

I look around and see that we are living in a world where the things that I think are important are valued less and less by society as a whole; a world where asinine gameshows and so-called reality TV (which is actually a complete oxymoron, but don't get me started) are of more importance to most people than anything of cultural or spiritual value.

I am also very disappointed by much of what the contemporary music press puts out, and I decided many years ago, that probably the only way I could read the things that I want to read, would be to publish them myself.

So this is what I have been doing for much of my life. I am also naive enough to think that music and art *can* change the world, and as the world is in desperate need of change, I am gonna do my best to help.

Now is an even better time than usual to subscribe because, not only is it FREE (yes, Oxford English Dictionary free, not yer usual publisher free which means that we sell all the mailing list emails that we garner to a company trying to flog Viagra and/or Double Glazing).

No this is FREE as in Gratis. Not a Sausage. But I digress. So make an old hippy a happy chappy and **SUBSCRIBE TODAY**

ROCKIN' THE CITY OF ANGELS

IN THIS LAVISHLY ILLUSTRATED celebration of classic and progressive rock bands of the 1970s, author Doug Harr shares his vivid memories of the mind-altering rock spectacles he witnessed in his hometown of Los Angeles—the City of Angels—at the genesis of a new art form. Get a front-row seat at three-dozen spectacular concerts and the albums that spawned them. Revisit these legendary records and concerts along with reviews of the best video documents of the era, each band illuminated by a hand-picked collection of brilliant images—most never-before seen—by the era's best rock photographers. This 396-page hardcover book features over 600 images. Foreword by Armando Gallo.

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LED ZEPPELIN E.L.O.
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JOHN DIXIE DREGS
TYX HEART WINGS P.F.M.
HAPPY THE MAN KATE BUSH
& MORE!



Rockin' the City of Angels features the work of some of the rock era's greatest photographers, including Richard E. Aaron, Jørgen Angel, Fin Costello, Ian Dickson, Armando Gallo, Stacey Katsis, Terry O'Neill, Neal Preston, Michael Putland, Jim Summaria, Lisa Tanner, Brian Weiner, Neil Zlowzower and more!

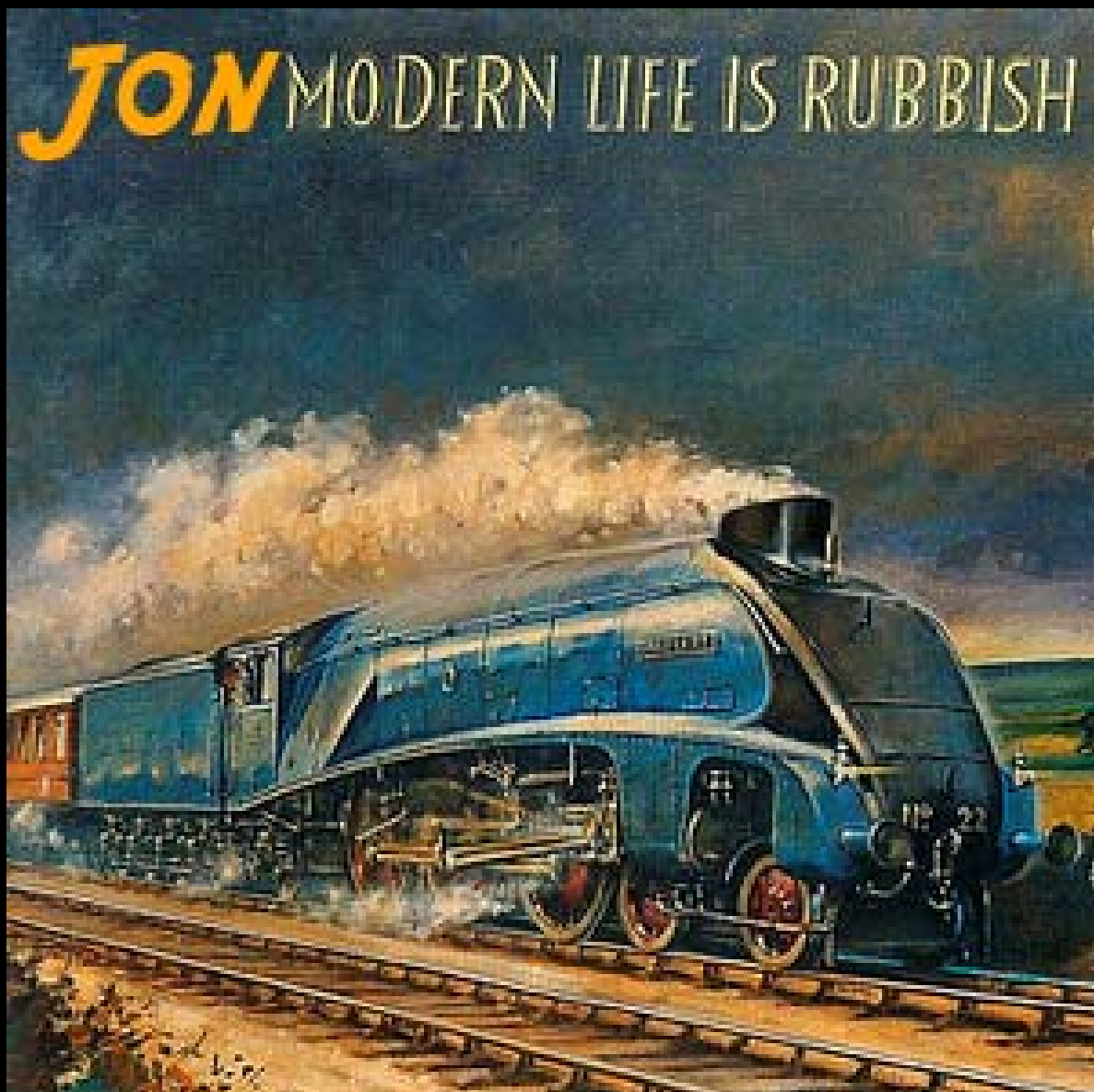


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It is very difficult to be a journalist in these times with the story that is on everybody's lips changing so rapidly. Each day I am receiving stories from all around the world; some from people I know, others from total strangers. This is undoubtedly the worst global crisis to happen in my lifetime, and I am 63 this year, and I wrote a few years ago that I thought that Covid was "going to be the biggest game changer at least since 9-11, and possibly since the end of the Second World War. Whatever happens during the unfolding crisis, nothing will ever be the same again".

But then came a vicious war in Eastern Europe and the threat of Armageddon, and whilst all this shit is going down things all around us are going tits up.

I am not even going to attempt to keep an up-to-the-minute journal of events, but I would like to try and produce an ongoing oral history of what happens, and how – most importantly – it affects the readers of this magazine. Please grab me on Facebook, (using my personal account as Jonathan Downes, rather than the magazine account) or by email at jon@eclipse.co.uk if you want to contribute.

*Things May
Come and
Things May
Go but the
Dance of
Lies Goes
on forever*

**Lies! And Damned
Lies! Freedom of
Speech, Truth...
Misinformation, Fake
News...**

*Musings from Alan
Dearling*

" 'But what is the point of giving persons Freedom of Speech,' declaimed Butt the Hoopoe, 'if you then say they must not utilize same? And is it not the Power of Speech the greatest Power of all? Then surely it must be exercised to the full?' "

Salman Rushdie in 'Harmoun and the Sea of Stories'



alan dearling



Freedom for the rights to protest and for dissent are often viewed as the 'measure' of democracy. Underlying this is the concept of 'free speech'. But, what is it?

It's inevitably complex and socially constructed notion, BUT...what happens when 'unreality shows', 'tweets' and the 'podcasts' of 'influencers', politicians, government regimes, religious leaders along with self-styled pundits, historians and commentators become facts and are accorded the status of 'truth'. Truth, for many, lies in 'history'. Or, more accurately, 'histories' - interpretations of the past – excuses for, and explanations for 'beliefs' and calls to action. Oft times, propaganda for masses, perpetrated by pundits.

"The past is difficult, you see. You think you understand a person or event, but then you turn a corner and everything is different once again."

Peter Ackroyd

We're are living in strange, unsettling times. After the UK's internal and external wranglings and arguments over Brexit, the worldwide debates, fights, outbursts and protests over Covid, vaccinations and health care – these have further fuelled distrust, misinformation, conspiracy theories and disunity.

We are not necessarily served well by the mainstream media or the social

network media. And shouting, hostile arguments and hate-fuelled protests and accusations are occurring across the globe. So too are bullying, repression, lockdowns of freedoms, incarcerations and genocide. Fed at best by ignorance, fear of 'others/otherness' and cultural, social and religious differences, and, at worst by dictators, despots, institutions and governments.

The tightrope is stretched tightly between left and right-wing opponents. But the tactics can be similar or even the same. Tolerance and kindness seem to be in ever shorter supply. It seems that hate feeds on intolerance and on political 'correctness' and 'incorrectness'.

It's worrisome. It's also a complicated and a contradictory minefield of how to allow/enable/enfranchise, and the contrary, (often predictable) inclination by governments and people going about their everyday lives, to seek to curtail/restrict/ban and control.

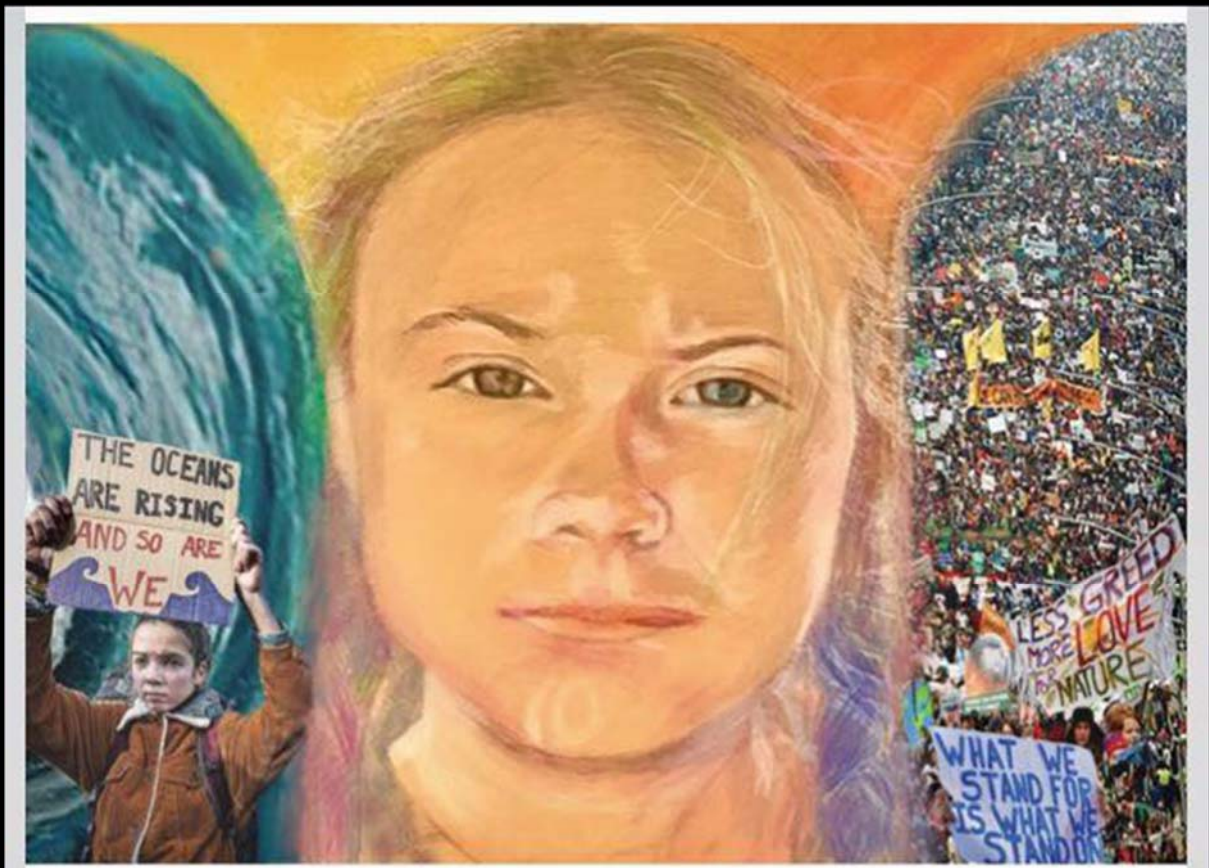
But, just how can anyone know when views and actions become too dangerous, hateful, and incite violence, prejudice, misogyny and at the extreme: crimes against humanity?

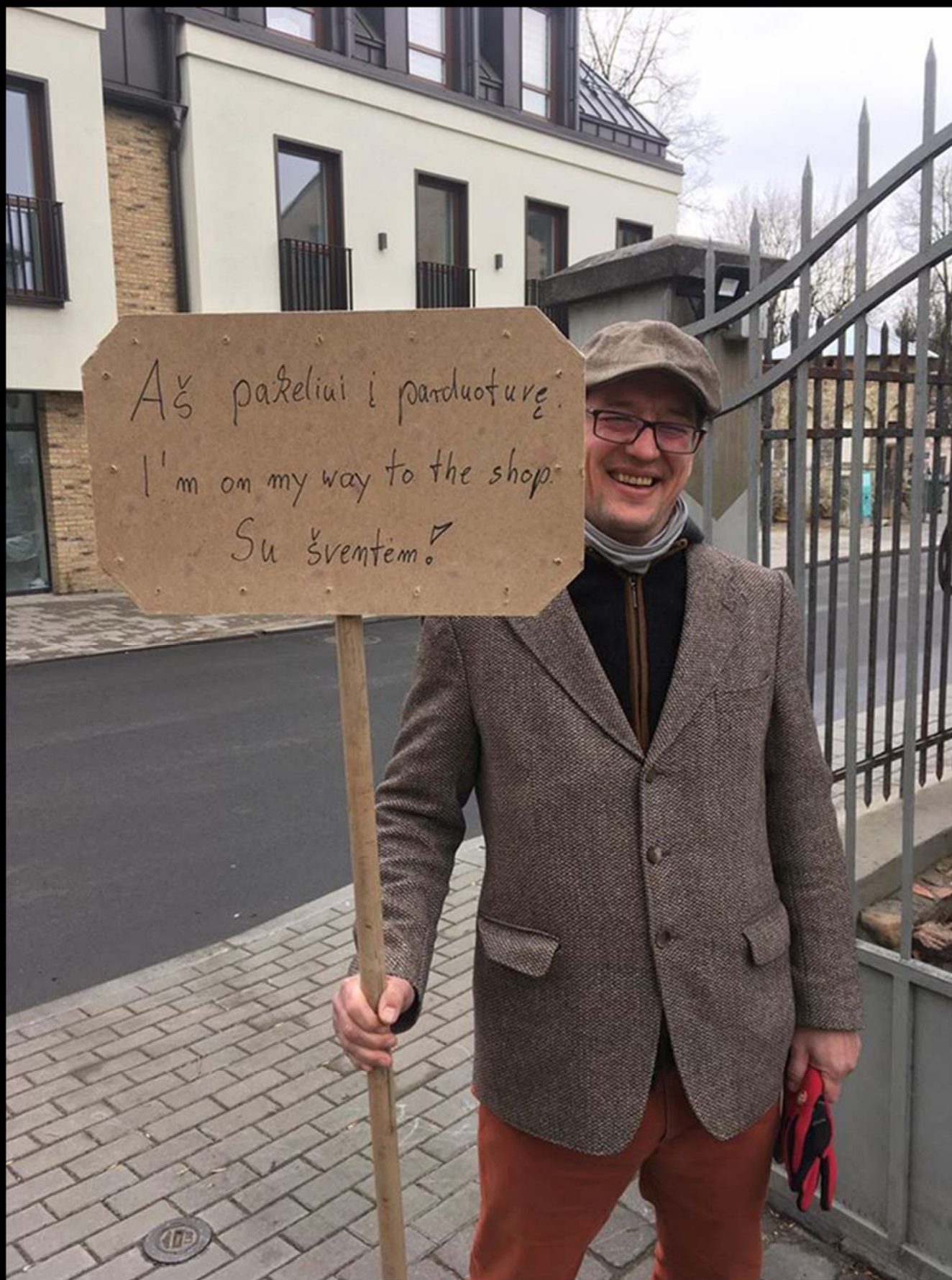
Perhaps this tightrope needs to be more closely analysed and be openly debated?

Insanely tricky. Similar to the dilemmas over the ethics and moralities surrounding religions and 'beliefs'.

To name but a few: Where does this place the views of David Icke, Donald Trump, Vladimir Putin, John Cleese, David Goodhart, David Starkey, QAnon, Piers Morgan and Rudyard Lynch? Or, George Monbiot, Kate Adie, Barack Obama, Greta Thunberg and David Attenborough?

The recent media frenzy around Elon Musk and the decision-making process over Freedom of Speech on 'Twitter' is





an interesting example. Likewise, where is the 'Freedom' at the Football World Cup in Qatar with the ban on the rainbow-coloured Gay Pride, 'One Love' armbands, and the ban on alcohol in the stadia (despite Budweiser being a major sponsor). One wonders how the 'war' in Ukraine will be viewed and evaluated in fifty years' time within the context of Eastern Europe, Russia and world social, economic and political history. There are no 'hard facts', no 'absolute truths' interpretations, value judgements, views, opinions, information, statistics, conspiracies and sometimes just downright lies...

My old colleague, one of the top podcasters, Nigel Warburton @philosophybites on Twitter, suggests:

"I strongly believe that the value of public philosophy is not just to reflect back to us what we already believe, but to stimulate us to think for ourselves."

What indeed is the price/cost of Freedoms of Speech? And, 'Freedom of Thought' and 'Freedom of Action'? It's obviously a set of banal questions, but ones that face individuals, communities and society. It probably requires a diverse range of 'bottom-up' thinking as well as 'top-down' pronouncements, rules and diktats.

Dogma, of all kinds, almost always leads to discord and disaster. End of rant!

Time for respite care and a nice glass of apples (dry cider in my case!).

Things May Come and Things May Go but the Netflix scandal Goes on forever

Here we are at the end of another year, and I think this one has been the most momentous and indeed disturbing year in my recent lifetime. It is a year that has seen the first major European war since 1945. It has seen political turmoil in America and Britain, it has seen the death of the Queen, it has seen the worst inflation for decades, mainly as a result of the list above and it has seen the popularity of the British government sink to unparalleled lows. Therefore, in my humble opinion this has been the definitive year that the prophets of doom have been warning us about all my life.

And you know what? Next year is going to be even worse!

I have been a journalist and an editor for most of my adult life. Indeed, I started my dual career path as a schoolboy and I assert there is something deep within the DNA of British journalists and editors which makes one always want to write something cheerful and uplifting at Christmas. I am afraid that you are just going to have to get used to it, kiddies; uplifting and cheerful things are hard to find this Christmastide. Even your beloved editor (me) is in imminent danger of having his leg amputated and even the opportunity of taking the piss out of Prince Harry and his doleful other half isn't going to make that prospect more appealing.

I am writing this on Tuesday evening in the week after the last issue was published. I am trying to get even more ahead of myself than usual in order to get all the things that need to be written before the end of the year sorted, done and dusted. Not surprisingly, there is a bloody shit load of them to do as always.

Global realpolitik is always concerning, but at the moment it is

particularly so. Dr David Starkey has announced on many occasions that the western paradigm - "the world supports us in our position as far as Russia is concerned," is simply not true. The anglophone countries support us to a greater or lesser extent as do most of the countries in the European Union but China, India, Pakistan, South America and South Africa don't support us, and two of those countries are at least vaguely anglophone. The truth is that only about 25% of the world is on our side, with the rest of them being either pro-Russia or sitting on the fence to see what happens. Furthermore, China, the sleeping tiger, ain't sleeping anymore and whatever is likely to happen with the relationship between China and Taiwan is not likely to be very nice.

It is very disturbing that everybody is talking about nuclear war, whether to say it's not gonna happen, or to warn that it is. I am mostly in the first subgroup of media pundits, but I'm not going to dismiss the second possibility out of hand. I am very glad that I am just an elderly hippy with enough money to cope with the ridiculous rise in the cost of living. I am also glad that I have made big savings in my personal life by getting on the water wagon. This was not to save money even though it has, but it



was for health reasons; mostly that I can't drink anymore without getting heartburn to a horrific degree.

As I said a few paragraphs ago, I am writing this early in the week before we go to press - some 10 days before you're going to read this. Once again I am hoist by my own economic petard.

It's just two days before the long-awaited streaming documentary series featuring the Duke and Duchess of Sussex appears on Netflix. In a remarkable piece of pre-publicity there are several trailers whizzing about the internet. However, it appears that all is not what it seems.

The BBC notes: "A photograph of paparazzi appears in the first trailer, just before a clip of Harry saying he "had to do everything he could to protect his family". However, the photo is said to have been taken at a Harry Potter premiere, five years before the Duke and Duchess met.

Analysis of the image by *The Sun* shows a large number of similarities

between the paparazzi scrum at the film premiere and the photo used in the Harry and Meghan trailer. The image of the photographers is the first one that pops up if you search the word "paparazzi" on Alamy, the picture agency site. Alamy says it was taken on 7 July 2011 - the date of the London premiere of *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2*.

Now the truth can be told. Lord Voldemort was not just the brutal arch enemy of Harry Potter, but that he had anyone by the name of Harry in his sights.

The BBC continues:

"...of course, that's not to say that Prince Harry and Meghan Markle have never been hounded by a tonne of photographers before - we all know that in the past they've struggled with press intrusion and being thrust into the spotlight," as noted by *Cosmopolitan*. But the inclusion of this particular image, while demonstrative of what they've experienced previously, isn't a factual representation of a real day and time that the Sussexes were feeling 'stressed by the press'."



FIRST DAY AT WORK



35-YEAR-OLD MAN VOWS TO MOVE OUT OF PARENTS' HOUSE, GIVE UP ALLOWANCE



At the time of writing, the latest shit-storm which is dividing all and sundry is what happened at an evening gathering at Buckingham Palace hosted by Her Majesty Queen Camilla. I can't remember all the details off hand and to be quite honest I can't be arsed to, but it appears there was some sort of a shindig raising awareness for victims of domestic violence. Apparently, one of the late Majesty's ladies-in-waiting, who was also Prince William's godmother, managed to piss-off the woke brigade by repeatedly asking one of the guests who was wearing what appeared to be an African fancy dress, "Where she had come from?". Lady Hussey is well into her eighties, and as anyone who has had a loved one of that advanced age will know, the tactfulness circuits in the brains of our senior citizens are quite often not what they used to be. I remember when a friend and colleague of mine who is of Jewish ancestry came to visit us one day, only for my mother-in-law to keep on telling her how kind

Hitler was to his mother and to actually go as far as to quote from her own copy of *Mein Kampf*. I found that massively funny, as did my visitor, but it must be said that if my friend had been less tolerant, a nasty scene might well have ensued. By the way, I have no idea why my late mother-in-law had a copy of *Mein Kampf*. I have one somewhere alongside various books by such unsavoury characters as Aleister Crowley, the Marquis de Sade and Gerry Adams. However, I have lived a far more exotic life than I imagine my mother-in-law would have led and also, let's face it, I write books and articles about a whole range of esoteric subjects the result of which is that my library contains some peculiar items.

Now, this is where it gets a little confusing because, depending on who you believe, it turns out that the lady of colour in question was not on the guest list and had arrived as a guest of someone who was. The guest also used a false name because, apparently, the name 'Marlene Headly' was not exotic enough for someone

deliberately flaunting her African heritage when she didn't actually have one. I am very careful what I write here as there are so many conflicting accounts both for and against this lady so it is difficult to know what is true and what is horse-shit. Moreover, she took her acquired Christian name allegedly from one that is popular in Nigeria, and her surname from the name of a tribe in West Africa. It is unlikely that the two names would ever be found together except artificially or when someone is wanting to blag their false heritage.

She has no African lineage, not directly anyway. Her parents emigrated from the West Indies sometime in the 1950s or 1960s.

Three other allegations (amusing or shocking, depending on which side of the fence you are sitting) have been made. Firstly, that she had not actually bothered to change her name by deed poll.

The laws on such matters in Britain explicitly say that one can use any name as one wants, as long as it is not with the aim of committing fraud.

Where the idea of calling yourself Ngozi Fulani apparently with the express intention of justifying an appearance in public wearing a costume including plastic lion claws and fake leopard skin counts as fraud, I don't know. I will leave that matter to those learned gentlemen who are far more educated in such matters than I. Secondly, It has been alleged that she turned away at least one bi-racial woman from the domestic violence charity that she runs, claiming that because she had white blood in her that she was "privileged". Questions have also been raised as to the legitimacy of her charity considering she seems to be the only employee of the organisation drawing a salary of £60,000 and having filed £100,000 worth of expense claims.

"ALLEGEDLY" as I said earlier, I am not claiming that any of this is true, but some

of these allegations have appeared in national newspapers as well as the more gossipy areas of Quora and Twitter on the web. I am only repeating what I have read, honest, guv!

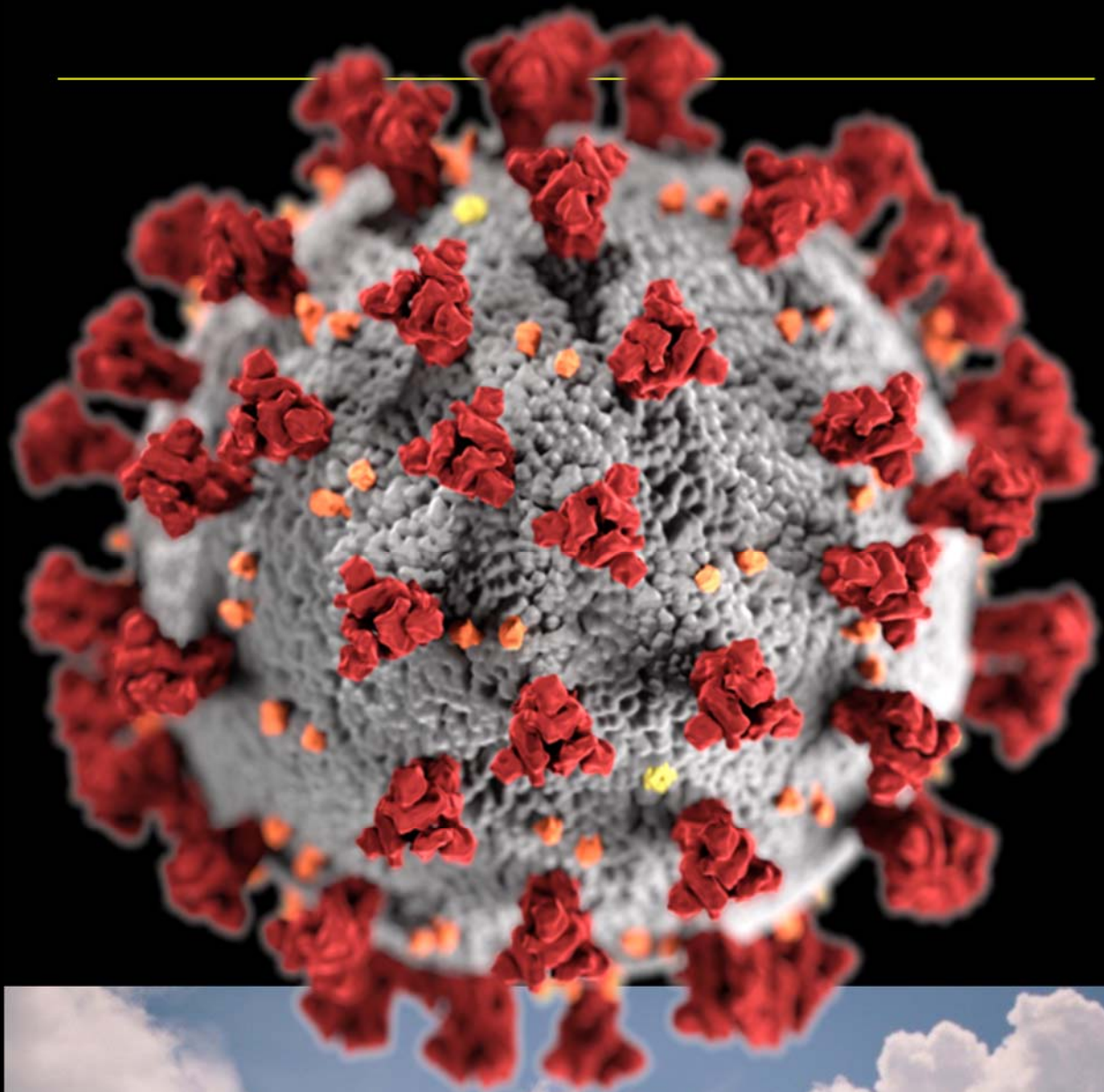
Various people are now beginning to put two and two together. Apparently, this lady of colour who was so egregiously abused at the Queen Consort's soirée is a friend and supporter of the Duke & Duchess of Sussex. It has also been alleged that she has lied about this in certain media appearances since the event at Buck House. Several people have suggested that Ms Fulani was also wearing a hidden recording device at the ill-fated soirée just like the Duchess of Sussex has alleged to have done at the Jubilee bunfight at Westminster Abbey earlier in the year.

I haven't even seen the show yet.

I think with all this stuff brewing, 2023 is shaping up to be full of interesting times. You know what the ancient Chinese proverb says about "interesting times"...

Jon





MORE MASTERPIECES from RICK WAKEMAN



TWO SIDES OF YES

Double CD set. The very best of Yes, Wakeman style
HFG2013CD



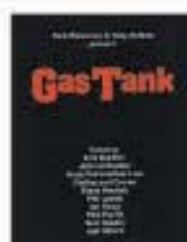
THE STAGE COLLECTION

Recorded live in August 1993 in Buenos Aires
HFG2004CD



TIME MACHINE

Guest vocalists include John Parr, Tracey Ackerman, Ashley Holt, and Roy Wood
HFG2012CD



GASTANK

Double DVD set. Rick's classic 1982 music and chat show
HFG2012DVD



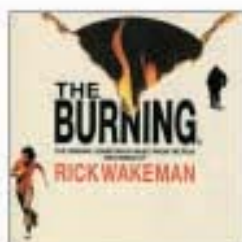
GOLÉ!

Soundtrack album featuring Tony Fernandez and Jackie McAuley
HFG241-CD



COUNTRY AIRS

The original recording, with two new tracks
HFG2014CD



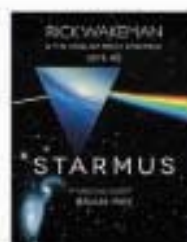
THE BURNING

The original Soundtrack album, back in print at last!
HFG2014CD



LURE OF THE WILD

With Adam Wakeman. Entirely instrumental
HFG2003CD



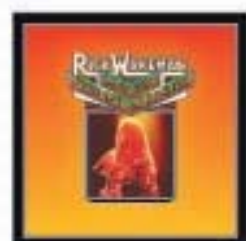
STARMUS

With Brian May and The English Rock Ensemble. DVD
HFG2010VD



MYTHS AND LEGENDS

Double CD set. The expanded 2016 version
HFG2016CD



LIVE AT THE WINTERLAND THEATRE 1975

Live in San Francisco
HFG2019CD



THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

Double CD + DVD
HFG2005CD



CAN YOU HEAR ME?

Featuring The English Chamber Choir
HFG2005CD



CRIMES OF PASSION

A wicked and erotic soundtrack!
HFG2018CD



BEYOND THE PLANETS

With Jeff Wayne and Kevin Peek
HFG2019CD



WAKEMAN'S MUSIC EMPORIUM



Available from rickwakemansmusicemporium.com
and all other good music retailers



It is both sad and shameful that when night falls and the setts of southern England stir, their gentle folk will be needlessly slaughtered. That in spite of science and public will, the wrath of ignorance will further bloody and bleed our countryside of its riches of life. That brutalist thugs, liars and frauds will destroy our wildlife and dishonour our nation's reputation as conservationists and animal lovers. I feel sick, sad, disempowered, betrayed, angry and crushed by the corruption of all that I know as right.

-Chris Packham



stop.the.cull



Right On Chris

IT IS TIME TO STAND UP AND BE COUNTED



For those of you interested in such things several members of the Editorial Team put out a monthly web TV show covering cryptozoology, green issues and all sorts of other stuff that we basically make up as we go along...

IF YOU ARE NOT A PART OF THE SOLUTION YOU ARE A PART OF THE PROBLEM.

ELDRIDGE CLEAVER

Two types of people visit rhino in the wild

**The strong and courageous
take a camera**

**The weak and cowardly
take a gun**

**What sort of
person are you?**

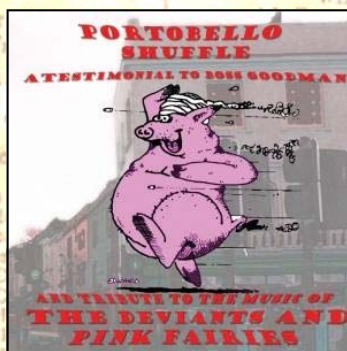
**Celebrate wildlife on
World Wildlife Day
don't shoot it.**





I'M ON BOARD!

I stand with the volunteers on the Greenpeace ship *Esperanza* to speak for the Arctic.



Portobello Shuffle CDs still at special low price of £5.00 each, 1 x CD inc. p&p = UK £6.80; Mainland Europe £8.90; USA £9.95; Rest of the World, contact Rich Deakin for postage price.

arsydeedee@yahoo.co.uk



Butterfly Conservation

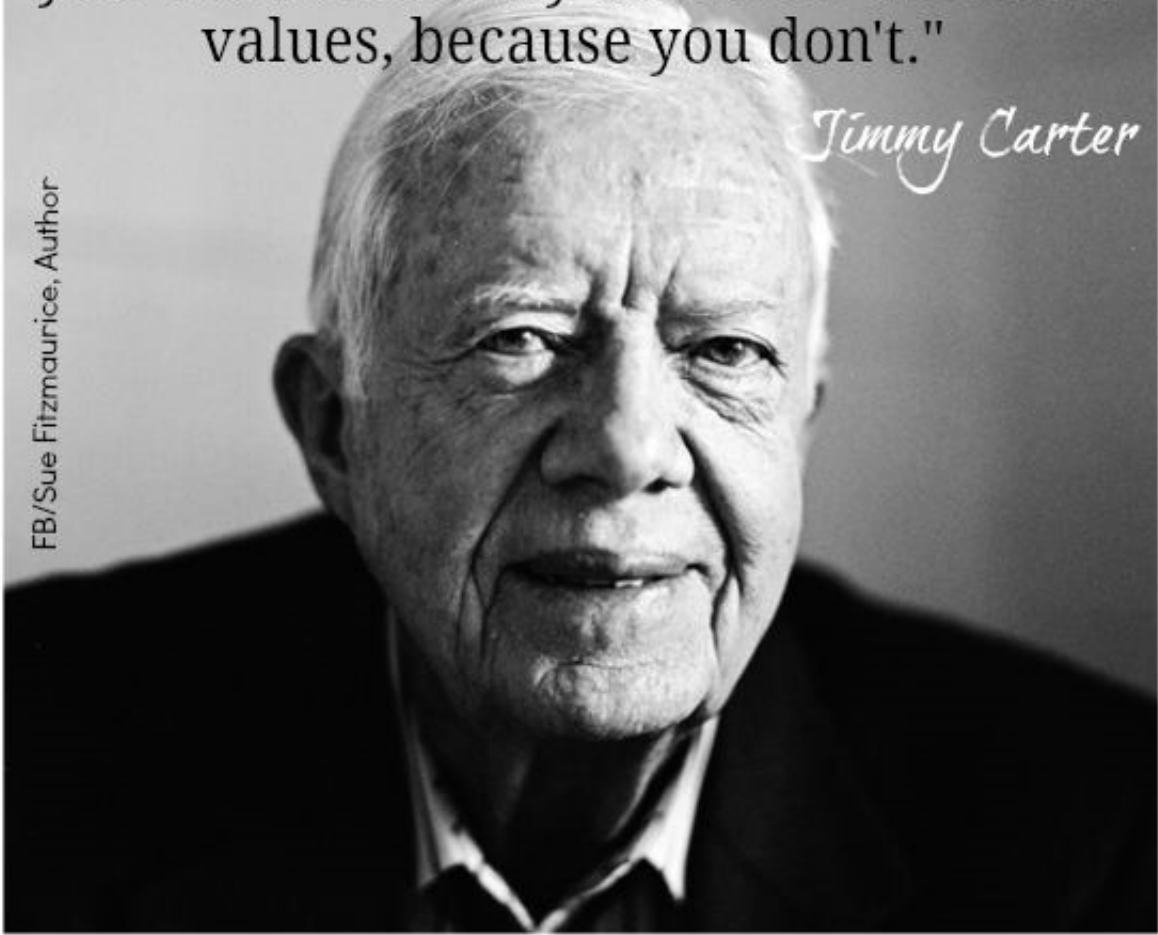
Saving butterflies, moths and our environment



"If you don't want your tax dollars to help the poor, then stop saying you want a country based on Christian values, because you don't."

Jimmy Carter

FB/Sue Fitzmaurice, Author



Trying to pick my favorite politician is like trying to decide which STD is just right for me.



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Gonzo Web Radio started off as a medium by which interviews and radio programmes about the various acts covered by Gonzo Multimedia could be broadcast to an eagerly attentive world.

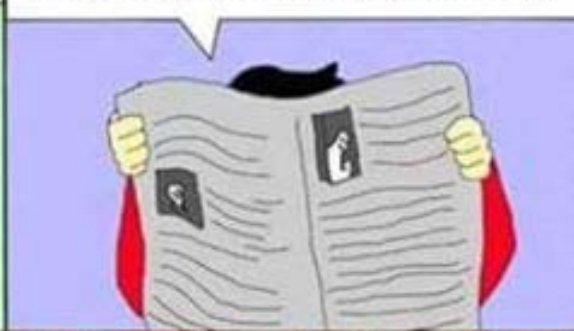
But over the past few years, it has become more than that. We now host regular weekly shows by Neil Nixon, a lecturer in professional writing at North West Kent College who uses his weekly radio show, Strange Fruit, as a learning experience for his students on the Foundation Course. I've known Neil for years, and he approached me with the idea of syndicating his show.

I agreed, and then the floodgates opened. We have regular weekly shows from the mysterious M Destiny on the other side of the pond with Friday Night Progressive. We also have a regular visit to the world of the Canterbury Scene courtesy of our friend Matthew Watkins. There are several other shows in the wings, waiting to join us, so stay glued to your seats boys and girls, your life is never going to be the same again!

Bye Daddy! I'm leaving
for my date tonight!



Hmph... You be careful, those
boys only care about one thing.



Sex?



No...

Prog



**ME TRYING TO FIND
GIRLS IN A PROG CONCERT**





Strange Fruit is a unique two-hour radio show exploring the world of underground, strange and generally neglected music. All shows are themed and all shows set out to give the most hardened of sound-hounds some new delight to sample.

The show is also unique in providing homework for undergraduate students on North West Kent College's Foundation Degree in Professional Writing (who dig up many of the odd facts featured in the links between tracks).

Neil Nixon, the founder and presenter of the show has released a book about rare albums for Gonzo Multimedia.

The show is broadcast on Miskin Radio every Sunday from 10-00-midnight.

<https://www.mixcloud.com/jonathan-downes3/playlists-19-12-2021-show-441-2021-best/>

HereDonovan:	I Am the Shaman
A Formal Horse:	I am a Lasagne
Indigo de Souza:	Hold U
Cobalt Chapel:	Message To
Richard Dawson and Circle:	Lily
Jane Weaver:	Heartlow
The Weather Station:	Atlantic (Live)
Beautify Junkyards:	Reverie
Frostlake:	Moth People
Fatima Al Qadiri:	Sheba
Anandammide:	Syd
Cobalt Chapel:	Cry a Spiral
Vanishing Twin:	Light Vessel
Wet Leg:	Chaise Longue
Lorde:	Hold no Grudge
The Reginald Forsythe Orchestra:	Garden of Weed
Jenni Lowe:	Ghost Tracks
Cloud if i:	Sod
Altin Gun:	Yekte
New Age Doom and Lee Scratch Perry:	Life is an Experiment
Field Works:	In the Gloaming
Salami Rose Joe Louis:	Do You Care
Grimm Hollywood:	L'il Heartbreaker
Monster Rally:	Imaginary Palms
Cobalt Chapel:	Orange Synthetic
1516:	Echo Chambers
Jokehold:	Unnoticeably Returning the Urn to its Mantle
Porkboii:	Affection is Nice
Serenade Systems:	See you Soon

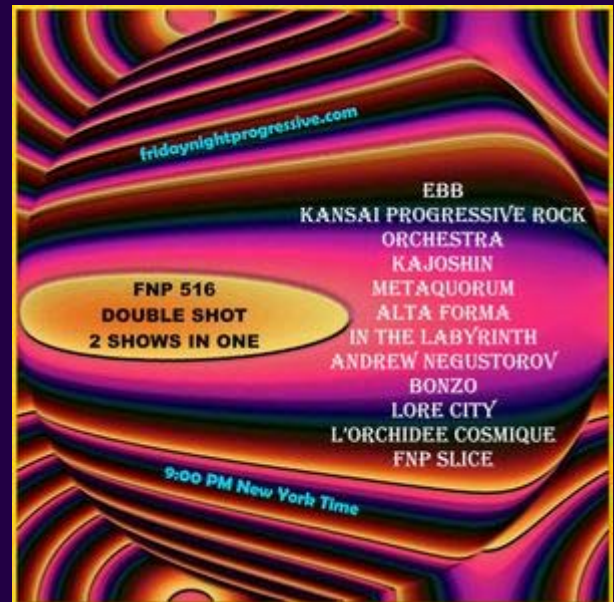
**Listen
Here**



I first came across Friday Night Progressive totally by accident, but I soon found myself beguiled by the style and taste of presenter M Destiny who presents a weekly two-hour show showcasing all sorts of progressive music that you are unlikely to hear anywhere else. This is surely a man after my own heart. I also very much approve of the way that it is the hub of a whole community of artists, musicians, and collaborators. I hope that you enjoy them as much as I do. Welcome aboard, chaps.

Hello, I am M Destiny host of Friday Night Progressive. You will find it to be an incredible independent internet broadcast show. But it's more than that. We tend to boast that the musicians played on FNP are above the status quo. This includes the multi-instrumentalist and the educated musician. We tend to shy away from computer generated creations and rely on talent using musical instruments and steer this talent for purposes of sheer inspirational indulgence. It is only in the FNP chat room where you will find the most talented musicians packed at one time into such an honored space.

<https://www.mixcloud.com/ronald-marquiss/fnp-516-double-shot-10-14-2022/>



This week we have a double shot evening. Two shows in one. The FNP 516 SHOW and an interview only show called "FNP SLICE" 12 min in length.

FNP SLICE is a fun artist bio creation for historical and educational purposes.

ARTISTS:

EBB

Kansai Progressive Rock Orchestra

KAJOSHIN

MetaQuorum

Alta Forma

In the labyrinth

Andrew Negustorov

Bonzo

Lore City

L'Orchidee Cosmique

FNP SLICE

**Listen
Here**

Friday Night Progressive



The Merrell Fankhauser Show- Merrell's Music Performed by Various Artists

During this Show Numerous Artists are performing Merrell's Music. Make sure to check out Merrell Fankhauser's You Tube Channel <https://www.youtube.com/user/manfrommu>

And his Website www.merrellfankhauser.com All Music is Written and Performed by Merrell Fankhauser and aired on You Tube with his Written Permission.... Fankhauser Music Publishing Company - ASCAP

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wiHWtyvd9Ds>

**Listen
Here**



The Real Music Club has been a Brighton musical institution for over 15 years, founded by 'Judge' Trev Thoms, Tim Rundall and Stuart McKay as 'Real Festival Music' the idea was to bring the diverse styles of the anarchistic free music festivals indoors and to make sure the performers got paid. The club has always been run by a committee who decided on the acts that would be asked to play at the monthly shows and that meant that the music was as diverse as its members. I had been going to the club for a few years when Trev died and the loss of one of its founders was a bit of a setback. It did not put any shows on for a couple of months and, when I innocently said, 'You can't let it die down now' I got asked to join the committee. One of the first things I suggested was that we ran a Radio Show and we were offered a weekly slot on Brighton and Hove Community Radio – a station that Judge Trev had helped set up.

I have been doing the weekly shows for nine years now and the main ideas behind them are to promote the live Real Music Club events by playing tracks for the participating artists and to find and play new and less mainstream music. I have had many guests on the show over those nine years and I usually ask them to bring in tracks that influenced them or that they particularly like and I talk to them about new releases and how they have got started in music.

It has normally gone out live from the BHCR studio but, during the Covid crisis, I have been recording the show at home. I still, however, do it as a live show. When I do the without guests I use tracks I have found or been sent and one of the other problems of the lockdown has been that I cannot browse the shelves of Resident Records in Brighton for new music. I often take a punt on something sometimes you hit lucky and find a new 'Wow!' This is a habit I got into back in the early 70s when I lived in Barking. Just down the hill from the station was a second hand record shop which had shelves of LPs marked 'Not For Resale'. Obviously a reviewer lived in the area and was selling off the stuff they were sent. It was this way I found 'Rupert Hine', an artist I have liked all through his career and, in many ways, that find set the theme for how I seek out music for the show.

There are eight years of archive recordings you can browse (we lost the first couple of years when the archive got wiped):

<http://therealmusicclub.com/radio-archive/>

With an index here:

<http://therealmusicclub.com/radio-show-index/>

Do have a listen.

**Listen
Here**

BETWEEN YOU & ME



Marillion from Fish to h

Regular readers of my inky fingered scribblings, here and elsewhere, will have heard me talk about my old friend, Paul Rose. They will also be aware that, starting in 1993, Paul was the head honcho of the Channel 4 teletext video-games magazine, called Digitiser. Quite a few of Digitiser's readers, including me and my mate Richard Freeman, had next to no interest in video games, but tuned in daily, just because of Biffo's ridiculous humour.

Biffo and I became friends about thirteen years ago, and have collaborated on a few things since then.

The latest project from Biffo and his adorable wife, Sanja, is a podcast about Marillion. For those of whom are not in the know, Marillion are a long-

standing British progressive rock band, and – also for those of you not in the know – my late wife Corinna once went on a date with their drummer, many years before meeting and marrying me.

So, with all these personal and professional links, how could I not add Mr and Mrs Biffo's new project to the Gonzo Web Radio section in this esteemed magazine?

And you know what, readers? I have done just that!

Happiness Is The Road - Part 1

Ep. 102

<https://shows.acast.com/between-you-and-me/episodes/happiness-is-the-road-part-1>

We start an epic look at Marillion's 15th album, *Happiness Is The Road*, with an analysis of the album's launch - and the band's controversial decision to put it out for free on peer-to-peer sites ahead of the physical release. Noses were put out of joint... but did Marillion have any other choice, and were fans right to react as they did?

**Listen
Here**



Both yer esteemed editor and yer Gonzo *Grande Fromage* are interested in the great mysteries of the universe, and so it was truly only a matter of time before Fortean related content began to seep its way into the magazine and onto Gonzo Web Radio...

"Mack Maloney is the author of the best-selling "Wingman" science-fiction series, plus "UFOs in Wartime, What They Didn't Want You To Know," (Berkley Books).

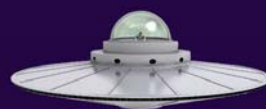
He's a member of SKY CLUB, Gonzo recording artists. He's been a radio host since 2010. He lives with his wife, Doreen, on an island off the coast of Massachusetts."



AND LOOK WHAT MACK HAS FOR YOU THIS WEEK

Cat Bombs, Flying Tanks & Stalin's Army of Monkeys
08/12/2022

Playing for a \$100 prize, the gang learns a lot of weird facts during this edition of the MMMX-Files World War 2 trivia contest. Did Stalin really create an army of ape soldiers called the "Humanzees?" Does "Nazi" really mean "moron" in German? Did Haiti once declare war on Rumania? These answers and more are revealed during this special two-hour broadcast honouring Homes for Our Troops, the charity organization that builds free homes for our veterans wounded in combat after 9/11. Special...



**Listen
Here**

<https://tunein.com/podcasts/Mack-Maloney's-Military-X-Files-p1250977/?topicId=224731659>



Jake Flint
1985 - 2022

Jake Flint was an American Red Dirt country singer. His father, Douglas J. Flint,

was a wildcat oilman. Flint died in his sleep a few hours after his wedding to Brenda Flint, on November 27, 2022, at the age of 37.



Jenny McLeod
1941 - 2022

Jennifer Helen McLeod ONZM was a New Zealand composer and professor of music at Victoria University of Wellington. She composed several major works for big groups including Under the Sun for four orchestras and 450 children, and the opera Hōhepa. McLeod is best known for two major works, Earth and Sky and Under the Sun for large forces. She also composed many songs and hymns in Māori.

THOSE WE HAVE LOST

COLLATED BY HARRY WADHAM



Christine McVie 1943 - 2022

Christine Anne McVie was an English musician and songwriter. A member of several bands on the mid-1960s British Blues scene, notably Chicken Shack, she began playing with Fleetwood Mac in 1968, initially as a contract session player, before formally joining the band in 1970. She started to emerge as a songwriter by 1971. As a member of Fleetwood Mac, McVie was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, received the Brit Award for Outstanding Contribution to Music in 1998, and received two Grammy awards. After a brief illness, McVie died in hospital on 30 November 2022 at the age of 79.



THOSE WE HAVE LOST



Haralds Sīmanis 1951 - 2022

Haralds Sīmanis was a Latvian singer and composer. In his younger years, he did not receive a musical education, but learned to play guitar and organ. Sīmanis gained notoriety in 1980 when he performed the ballad Ezers at that year's Mikrofona aptauja (an annual song contest that took place in Latvia, in 1968–1994), which catapulted his career onwards. Sīmanis primarily composed music for organ on his own, but collaborated with others on occasion.



Andrew Speight 1964 - 2022



Andrew Speight was an Australian-born American jazz saxophonist. His band, the Andrew Speight Quartet, won the 1999 ARIA Award for Best Jazz Album with their self-titled album. Speight had previously fronted the jazz quintet Now's the Time. In March 2020 at the start of the coronavirus pandemic, Speight launched the first of 117 consecutive weekly live sessions streamed to Facebook from bassist Jeff Saxton's residence. Speight was killed in a train accident on 1 December 2022, in Burlingame, California. He was 58.

THOSE WE HAVE LOST



Laila Storch
1921 - 2022

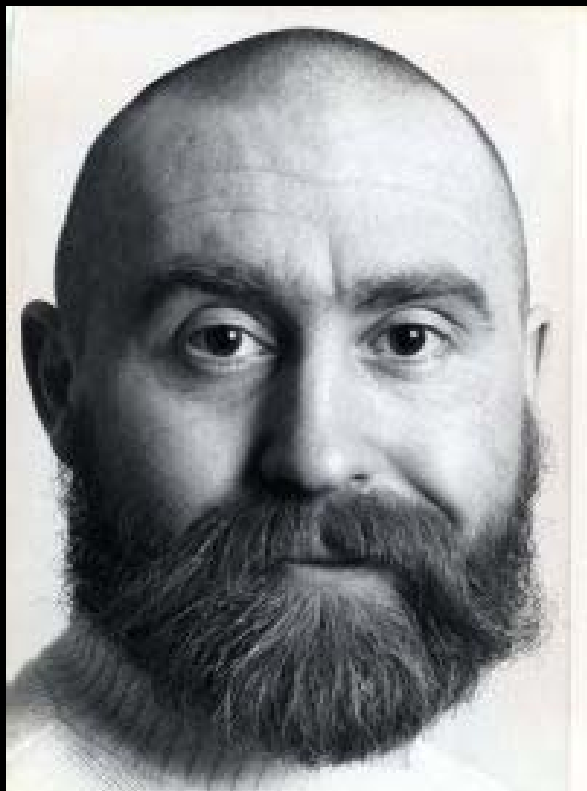
Laila Storch was an American oboist. She was the first woman oboist to graduate from the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia, where she studied with Marcel Tabuteau. Storch was the principal oboist for the Houston Symphony Orchestra, Carmel Bach Festival, the Bethlehem Bach Festival, Marlboro Music Festival, and the Casals Festivals, playing with other orchestras too.



Jo Carol Pierce
1944 - 2022

Jo Carol Pierce was an American singer-songwriter, playwright, and screenwriter who lived in Austin, Texas from 1970. She became a songwriter in the 1980s. In addition to her albums, she has also written multiple cabaret plays, including *In the West* and *Bad Girls Upset by the Truth*, the latter of which is a semi-autobiographical musical comedy. Pierce died from cancer in Houston, Texas, on December 2, 2022, at the age of 78.

THOSE WE HAVE LOST



Alexandre Zelkine
1938 - 2022

Alexandre Zelkine, also called Alexander Zelkin or Sasha Zelkin, was a French folk music singer and rail transport modelist. He was an active singer in the 1960s and 70s in North America. In 1965, Zelkine published an album of Russian folk songs titled *Sasha Sings Folk Songs Of Russia* under the pseudonym Sasha Zelkin. In the album, he played the balalaika. His daughter, Ludmilla Zelkine, was a pioneer of rap in Quebec under the stage name Blondie B.



Svenne Hedlund
1945 - 2022

Sven Ove Hedlund was a Swedish pop singer who was a member of the music group Idolerna. Hedlund sang in the Swedish bands Clifftones and Hep Stars in the 1960s. In 1968, the singer Charlotte Walker (born 1944) became a member of the band, and they formed the duo Svenne and Lotta (called "Sven and Charlotte" in several countries) the following year. The couple were married from 1969 until they divorced in 2014.

THOSE WE HAVE LOST



Jamie Freeman
1965 - 2022

Jamie Freeman was a British singer, songwriter, musician, and record producer, who previously fronted The Jamie Freeman Agreement. He was the brother of actor Martin Freeman and musician Tim Freeman of Frazier Chorus. Freeman's primary instrument was guitar but he was also a drummer. He started drumming at the age of 13 and played with Brighton alt.country rockers Salter Cane for eight years. He played electric and acoustic guitar, and a kick-drum when playing solo. In the studio he also played keyboards, bass, lap steel and percussion. Freeman died from brain cancer on 3 December 2022. He was 57 years old.



Bob McGrath
1932 - 2022

Robert Emmett McGrath was an American actor, musician, and children's author best known for playing original human character Bob Johnson on the long-running educational television series Sesame Street. In the mid-1960s, McGrath became a well-known recording artist in Japan, releasing a series of successful albums of Irish and other folk songs and ballads sung in Japanese. From 1969 to 2016, McGrath was a regular cast member on Sesame Street, playing the character of Bob Johnson. McGrath was one of the two

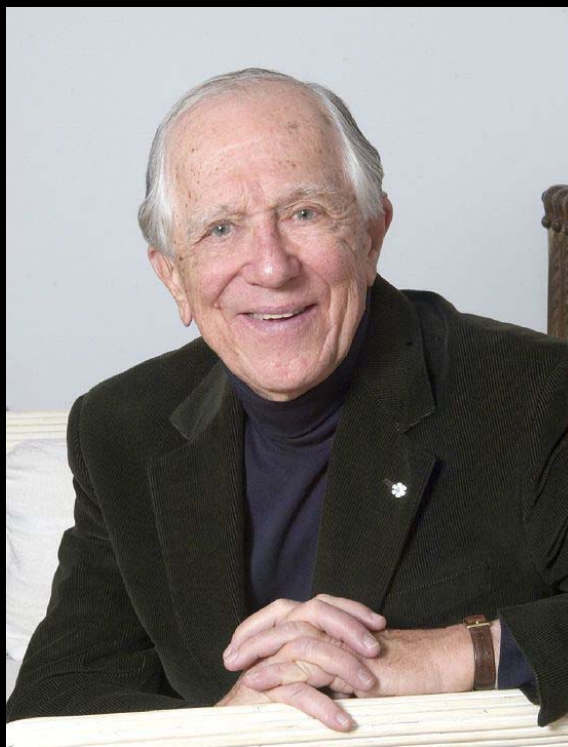
THOSE WE HAVE LOST

longest-lasting human characters on the series since the show's debut. McGrath died from complications of a stroke at home on December 4, 2022, at age 90.



Hamsou Garba
1958 - 2022

Hamsou Garba, sometimes referred to as Habsou, was a Nigerian singer. Her first album, Gargadi, was released in 2008, followed in 2009 by Tout est possible, and as of 2011 she was working on two more. As a performer, she travelled widely throughout West Africa. Garba remained politically active throughout much of her career.



John Beckwith CM
1927 - 2022

John Beckwith CM was a Canadian composer, writer, pianist, teacher, and administrator. He started teaching in the Faculty of Music at the University of Toronto in 1952. From 1970 to 1977, he was the dean of the faculty. He was founding director of the Institute for Canadian Music at the University of Toronto. He retired in 1990. Beckwith wrote over 160 compositions covering stage, orchestral, chamber, solo and choral genres. In addition, he wrote 17 books, the most recent of which was published 3 months before his death. In 1987, he was made a Member of the Order of Canada (CM). Beckwith died from pneumonia at Toronto Western Hospital, on December 5, 2022, at the age of 95.

THOSE WE HAVE LOST



Edino Krieger
1928 - 2022

Edino Krieger was a Brazilian avant-garde composer, conductor, record producer and musical critic. During his career Krieger composed over 150 pieces, as well as songs, incidental music and film scores. Among his best known works is the 1972 suite "Canticum Naturale", in which the orchestra recreates Amazonian natural sounds.



Hamish Kilgour
1957 - 2022

Hamish Kilgour was a New Zealand musician who co-founded the indie rock band The Clean with his brother David in 1978. Kilgour also co-founded the band Bailter Space in 1987 and later recorded as a solo artist. The Clean, including Kilgour, were inducted into the New Zealand Music Hall of Fame in 2017. Kilgour was last seen at a shopping centre in Christchurch on 27 November 2022. On 6 December 2022, the police confirmed that Kilgour's body had been found.

THOSE WE HAVE LOST



Jet Black
1938 - 2022

Brian John Duffy, professionally known as Jet Black, was an English drummer and founding member of punk rock/new wave band The Stranglers. He last performed with the band in 2015, and officially retired in 2018. His style was usually simple and jazz-influenced. Black died at his home in Wales on 6 December 2022, at the age of 84.



Roddy Jackson
1942 - 2022

George Rodrick Jackson, better known as Roddy Jackson, was an American rockabilly and rock and roll singer, songwriter, pianist and saxophonist, who recorded for Specialty Records in the 1950s. In 1956, after becoming influenced by Fats Domino and Little Richard, he formed a new multi-racial rock and roll band, the Blue Notes, from among his friends at high school. Jackson's first session as a solo singer was in December 1957. Jackson did not record in later years, but continued to make occasional local performances. He re-emerged more publicly in the 1990s, and started making regular festival appearances in the United Kingdom, France, and elsewhere.



THOSE WE HAVE LOST



Yitzhak Klepter
1950 - 2022

Yitzhak Klepter was an Israeli singer, composer and guitarist. At the age of 15, he founded his first band, "The Churchills." In the Israel Defense Forces, he served in the armoured corps but switched to the armoured corps band. In 1973, he joined Kaveret, often referred to as Israel's Beatles.



Qamar Gula
قمر گله
قمر گل
1952 - 2022

Qamar Gula was an Afghan Canadian musician, who has been credited with being the second female Pashto language singer (after Rukhshana) to sing for the Radio Television Afghanistan. A veteran of Afghan music, she had a career that spanned nearly five decades. Gula immigrated to Canada due to the civil war in Afghanistan. She lived in the province of Ontario, where she continued her music career. Gula died of a prolonged illness on 9 December 2022, at the age of 70.



THOSE WE HAVE LOST



Herbert Deutsch
1932 - 2022

Herbert A. Deutsch was an American composer, inventor, and educator. Until his death in 2022, he was professor emeritus of electronic music and composition at Hofstra University. He was best known for co-inventing the Moog synthesizer with Bob Moog in 1964. The prototype Moog synthesizer is part of the collection of The Henry Ford museum. Deutsch was a dedicated educator. He taught at Hofstra University for over 50 years and was twice the chair of the music department.



Jovit Balddivino
1993 - 2022

Jovit Lasin Balddivino was a Filipino singer and actor. He was the first winner of reality talent competition show Pilipinas Got Talent in 2010, after which he went on to release his own albums. On December 3, 2022, Balddivino was rushed to the Jesus of Nazareth Hospital in Batangas City after he experienced difficulty of breathing after performing a song during a Christmas party. He subsequently suffered a mild hemorrhagic stroke and became comatose after an operation. He never regained consciousness and eventually died due to brain aneurysm on December 9, 2022.

THOSE WE HAVE LOST



Kihnu Virve
1928 - 2022

Virve-Elfriide Köster (née Haavik), best known as Kihnu Virve, was an Estonian folk singer. Her songs are among the top-selling folk music in Estonia. Virve lived in a log cabin on the small women-dominated island of Kihnu. She was the island's best-known songwriter and one of its most famous residents. Virve began writing songs at age 15, and she went on to write over 300 of them. She composed the songs, both melody and lyrics, in her head, then wrote them down later. After writing and performing music for family and friends for decades, Virve reinvented herself in her seventies and found widespread success as a folk musician, becoming one of Estonia's top-selling female folk singers.



Aziouz Raïs
عزيوز رايس
1954 - 2022

Aziouz Raïs was an Algerian chaabi singer. He began performing at marriage celebrations in 1969 and rose to success in the 1990s. Raïs died from a stroke on 10 December 2022 at the age of 68.

THOSE WE HAVE LOST



Georgia Holt
1926 - 2022

Georgia Holt (born Jackie Jean Crouch) was an American singer-songwriter, actress, and model. She was also the mother of singer and actress Cher. Holt sang on an Oklahoma City radio station when she was six years old, and by age 10 sang with bandleader Bob Wills and the Texas Playboys. She won several talent and beauty competitions, and had a number of minor television and film roles in the 1950s. Holt was the subject of the 2013 Lifetime documentary *Dear Mom, Love Cher*, which was executive produced by her daughter, Cher.



J. J. Barnes
1943 - 2022

James Jay Barnes was an American R&B singer and songwriter. He recorded several singles, starting in 1960. Barnes was a member of the Holidays, a trio which also included Edwin Starr and Steve Mancha. Barnes' biggest hit single came in 1967, and Barnes moved to England in the 1970s, becoming popular. He became a favourite artist of the UK Northern soul scene, and performed frequently in the UK.

THOSE WE HAVE LOST



John Aler
1949 - 2022

John Aler was an American lyric tenor who performed in concerts, recitals, and operas. He was particularly known for his interpretations of the works of Mozart, Rossini, Donizetti,

A Few Facts About Plastic Pollution



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thrown
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of all trash floating on the ocean



The average American
throws away
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Jethro Tull

Spin Me Back Down The Years deluxe edition



One of the longest-running groups in British rock music, Jethro Tull are more than band, they are an institution. With their latest album, *The Zealot Gene*, breaking an almost two-decade silence, now is the time to celebrate their 50-plus year history in all its tangled glory...

With *Spin Me Back Down The Years*, Jethro Tull archivist Pat Kent has done just that across a two-volume collection that recounts the group's epic history – from pre-Tull outfits such as The Blades and The Dwellers, through to the post-Tull exploits of former band members. In between are the tales of the career-making Aqualung and *Thick As A Brick* albums, the group's folk-rock excursions of the late 70s, and the incorporation of Middle Eastern music that characterised 90s outings such as *Roots To Branches*. A companion volume, *The Boy Scout Manual*, adds an array of previously unpublished photos, rare memorabilia and biographies of key band members.

Based on the unparalleled research of Pat Kent, along with Charlie Kenney and Erin Ward, of the renowned fan collective The Jethro Tull Group, *Spin Me Back Down The Years* is the detailed history the group's legacy demands.

Available in hardback and softback, a limited slipcased edition includes an exclusive 7" vinyl of a 1968 acetate recording belonging to founding drummer Clive Bunker, featuring "Clive Bunker & Friends". You'd be thick as a brick to miss it. "The book has been a labour of love for the three of us... dedicated to a band that has provided the soundtrack to our lives" – **Pat Kent**

<https://www.musicglue.com/jethro-tull-spin-me-back-down-the-years-by-pat-kent/>



Inside Number 3

A Visual History Of Apple Records

Looking from the outside like an unassuming terraced town house in the centre of London, Number 3 Savile Row was the site of an unprecedented outpouring of creativity in the late 60s and early 70s. Home to The Beatles' Apple Records, it was where the group recorded much of the material for their Let It Be album – including the legendary rooftop concert of 30 January



1969 – and also acted as the nerve centre for a string of projects conceived under the Apple banner, among them solo Beatles records and albums by artists as diverse as James Taylor, The Modern Jazz Quartet, Billy Preston and Badfinger.

For Inside Number 3 – A Visual History, collector Nigel Pearce opens the lid on a privately curated collection of records, press releases, internal memos and photographs that stretches back to 1968, granting readers unprecedented access to the inner workings of The Beatles' fiercely guarded creativity. Both a tribute to one man's passion and a celebration of one of the most important bodies of work in popular music, Inside Number 3 is an essential purchase for Beatles collectors around the world.

Limited to 100 copies worldwide, the deluxe edition of Inside Number 3 comes signed and numbered, and includes repro memorabilia from Pearce's personal treasure trove.

"This book has the ability to astound all who care to enter this lost and much sought-after world... It shows what went on behind that famous door" – Nigel Pearce

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Fuzzbox

We've Got A... CD... And We're Gonna Play It!

Cult Birmingham four-piece We've Got A Fuzzbox And We're Gonna Use It!! became darlings of Britain's late-80s alt-rock scene thanks to a string of much-loved releases, among them the album Bostin' Steve Austin and the UK Top 20 singles International Rescue and Pink Sunshine. Subtitled The Best Of Fuzzbox Reimagined, We've Got A... CD... And We're Gonna Play It! finds the remaining duo of Vix and Maggie Dunne giving their catalogue a gleeful overhaul, stripping Pink Sunshine's bubblegum pop back to a rockabilly-tinged guitar rocker, and refashioning their punk-pop assault on Spirit In The Sky into a dubbed-out sound collage that spins off into the stratosphere. Seems they've still got a fuzzbox... and nothing is off-limits.

"This is a great comeback album and a joy to behold" – Louder Than War

- <https://www.musicglue.com/gonzo-multimedia/products/fuzzbox-weve-got-a-dot-dot-dot-cd-dot-dot-dot-and-were-gonna-play-it>

The Fall

Take America

10CD box set

Led by the Mancunian revolutionary Mark E Smith, The Fall were a quintessentially British post-punk band, critiquing the fabric of social constructs while tearing up all notions of music-making in the late 20th century. Spanning the years 1981 to 2006, the 10CD *Take America* box set presents a quarter of a century of sonic assaults, following the group across the Atlantic as they strafed audiences from New York City to Los Angeles, Detroit to Chicago, and

way down south in Austin, Texas. Tracing The Fall's development from their legendary 1982 record *Hex Enduction Hour* to their uncompromising 2006 outing, *Fall Heads Roll*, it offers a parallel discography to their notoriously intimidating studio catalogue, with Mark E Smith and co gleefully dismantling and rebuilding their own legacy every time they take the stage.

"The gigs I enjoy are the ones where I'm so angry and paranoid... that I put everything into it to feed off the aggressive side of it" – Mark E Smith

<https://www.musicglue.com/cog-sinister/products/the-fall-take-america-10-cd-box-set>



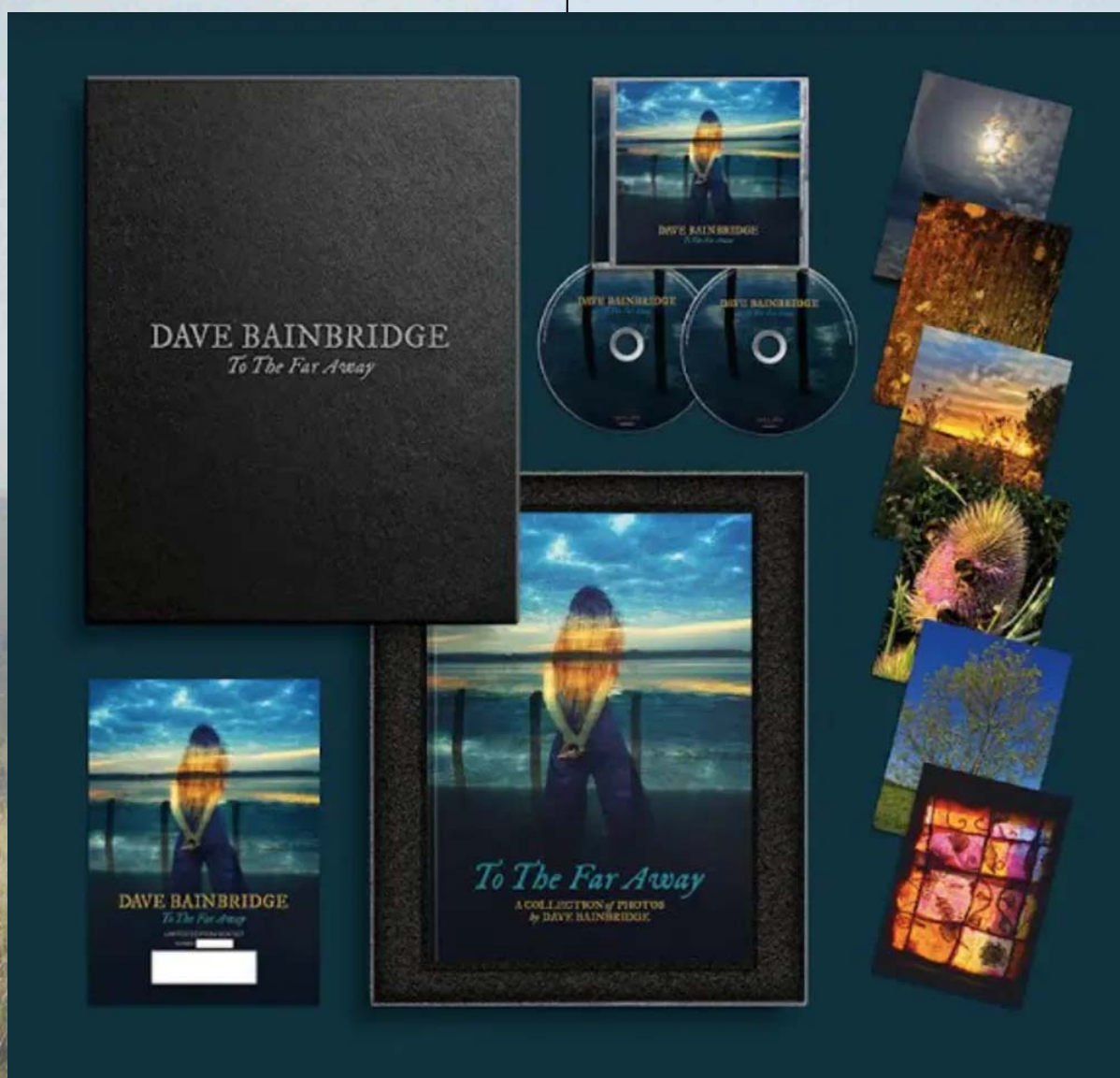
Dave Bainbridge *To The Far Away* **limited deluxe-edition box set – final copies remaining**

Having been re-pressed due to demand, the final copies of the 2CD deluxe edition of Dave Bainbridge's fourth solo album, *To The Far Away*, are fast running out. Featuring the full album on Disc One, plus over an hour's worth of demo recordings, alternate mixes and five extra songs, the limited edition box set presents the whole picture of a deeply personal work for the IONA co-founder.

Written during lockdown and released at the end of 2021, *To The Far Away* captures Bainbridge in a period of reflection, and was written in response to his forced separation from his soon-to-be wife, Sharon, just days before their wedding. With the Atlantic Ocean literally keeping the couple far away from each other, Bainbridge recorded an emotive work that sought to make a connection during a time of uncertainty. It has since been hailed as one of his greatest achievements.

The deluxe edition box set also includes:

- A signed, numbered certificate
- Hardback photo book with over 100 photos taken by Dave Bainbridge himself



- Six postcards featuring photos by Bainbridge

Grab the final copies before they are forever out of reach...

“Powerful, heartfelt and exhilarating progressive rock of the highest order” – Prog Archives

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Pre-order: **Maggie Reilly** *Echoes* (Deluxe Edition)

Originally released in 1992, Maggie Reilly's debut album, *Echoes*, continued to build on the early fame she found as a guest singer with Mike Oldfield in the 80s. Now celebrating its 30th anniversary, the Norwegian chart-topping album is a one-stop shop of everything that makes the



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Glasgow-born singer such a unique voice: from the pop-rock album opener, *Everytime We Touch*, to the heartfelt charity recording *What About Tomorrow's Children* and the electronica-fuelled *Wait, Echoes* continues to resonate as a landmark recording from one of the UK's most gifted singers. The deluxe edition bonus tracks *Break The Ice* and a *Rhythm Mix* of *Everytime We Touch* offer further evidence of Reilly's beguiling voice.

"Listening to these good friends, that are a part of so many people's soundtracks, will be a whole new experience" – Maggie Reilly

<https://www.gonzomultimedia.co.uk/products/maggie-reilly-echoes-deluxe-version>



Dave Bainbridge *Celestial Fire – Live In The UK*

If you thought Dave Bainbridge's 2014 studio album, *Celestial Fire*, was a mind-boggling trawl through his formidable bag of tricks, then brace yourself for the *Celestial Fire* live experience. Taking their name from that record, Bainbridge's group do true justice to their leader's legacy on *Celestial Fire – Live In London*. Recorded during the band's first live tour, the 2CD+DVD set

includes a full concert performance during which the band run through solo Bainbridge material, standouts and rarities from his former group, IONA (including the seldom travelled Brendan's *Voyage/Return*), plus a head-spinning cover of Yes' *Roundabout*. From beginning to end, it is an incendiary experience.

"A masterful package that deserves a huge audience" – Prog Archives

<https://www.musicglue.com/iona/products/dave-bainbridge-celestial-fire-live-in-the-uk-2cd-slash-dvd>

Celestial Fire

Live in the UK



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Now, I don't know whether this is a good idea, a bad idea, or just an idea, but - as I believe you know - this magazine is put out each week on a budget of £25, and is free. It will remain free, but I would like to be able to generate some income so I can pay our contributing writers. So, 'why not flog *Gonzo Weekly* T Shirts?' I thought. 'Why not', I answered...

<http://www.zazzle.co.uk/gonzowekly>



From danger to safety...

When we started flying missions, we had no idea where this adventure would take us. We just knew that pups were in danger, so we had to help them. Over ten years later, thanks to YOU, we've run hundreds of missions and rescued more than 13,000 animals across the country! Just as importantly, we're stronger than ever and ready to keep flying.

That's why we're very excited to make a big announcement. Starting today, we are changing our name to No Dog Left Behind. It reflects the national network of shelter partners we've built in our first decade of work.

Pittsburgh will always be the heart of our operation, and everything we do is thanks to the love and support of our Steel City volunteers and supporters. Thanks to YOU, our mission is growing. We are excited to see where the next ten plus years takes us!

One more thing....

While the large majority of the animals we have helped over the years have been dogs, we do equally love our little kitties. We are super excited to show you our new Cat logo, No Cat Left Behind! She doesn't have a nickname yet and we are definitely open to suggestions!

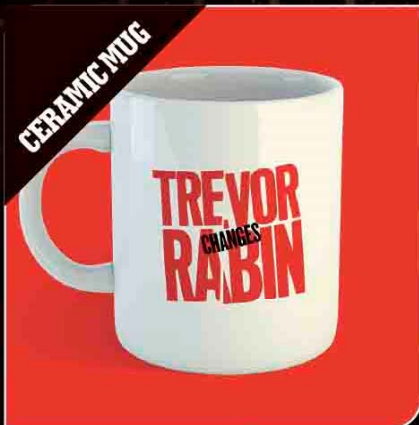
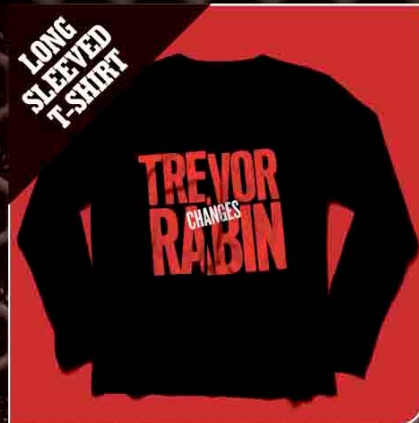
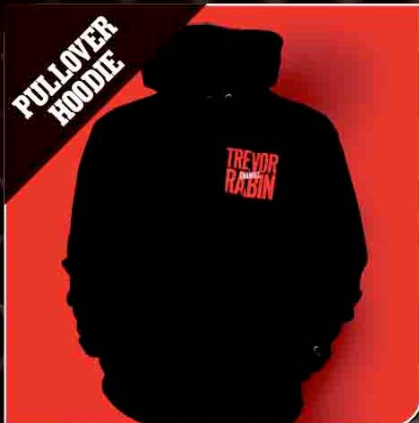
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TOP 10

2022

Now boys and girls, before we go any further, let me say that these records are not necessarily listed in the order of where they rank in my list of favourites. The first three are pretty much equal in my favour, and it is practically impossible for me to list the other seven in any meaningful way, so am I not even going to attempt to.



1. Tears for Fears: The Tipping Point

I have always liked this band, but being a traditionalist of sorts, I thought that they got better when they started using conventional instruments alongside the synthesisers from which they made their name back in the first half of the 1980s. The two members went their separate ways about 30 years ago, with

Roland Orzabal keeping custody of the band name and producing two absolutely smashing records without his partner, Curt Smith. The second of these, *Raroule and the Kings of Spain*, became one of my favourite albums of all time which surprised many of the people who know me. The band reformed at the turn of the current century and four years later eventually produced an album called *Everybody Loves a Happy Ending*. It was pretty good, and lots of people found it mildly entertaining, but it was truly nothing really to write home about.

Since then, the band has released two live albums, an unseemly number of compilations (no less than 20), a couple of boxsets, toured incessantly as well as releasing one very obscure single. But this year, pretty much out of the blue, came a fantastic new album which draws inspiration from the various eras of the band's 40-year career. I adore this album and would recommend it to anyone.

2. Wet Leg

This year, everybody from ex-President Obama to the Mercury music prizes,



have sung the praises of the Isle of Wight duo, Wet Leg. The two girls who

form the nucleus of the band have been friends for well over a decade and only started working together by accident. The image which they project on stage and in their various witty videos is of two young ladies wearing dresses of which Jane Austen would have approved. They are fey and very girly. Nevertheless, the glorious punky noise they produce sounds for all the world like something off one of the 'Nuggets' compilations from yesteryear. Although bristling with contemporary melody twists, it is completely irresistible. At least I have not been able to resist it.

As I said at the top of the run down of these records, the precise order in which they should really be displayed is very much open to discussion however, one thing that is not open to discussion is my favourite new band of the year because that honour definitely goes to Wet Leg. In addition to the music described above there is a penchant for dirty jokes, double entendres, and a wry look at pop culture. This band, and this their debut album, cannot be recommended highly enough.

3. Kula Shaker: 1st Congregational Church Of Eternal Love and Free Hugs.

God, I love this record!! Kula Shaker first hit the public consciousness about a quarter of a century ago with their debut album *K*. It was a glorious mixture of hard rock and Indian chants, wrapped up in a pop sensibility that one would never have associated with previous bands, like Quintessence, who inhabited this musical territory. The front man, enigmatically enough, was the grandson of classical British film star, Sir John Mills and the son of his equally famous daughter, Hayley, who I fancied to bits when I was a school boy. They produced another album three years later which was entertaining enough but it didn't have the spark of the debut and subsequently they split up. During the eight years before they reformed with



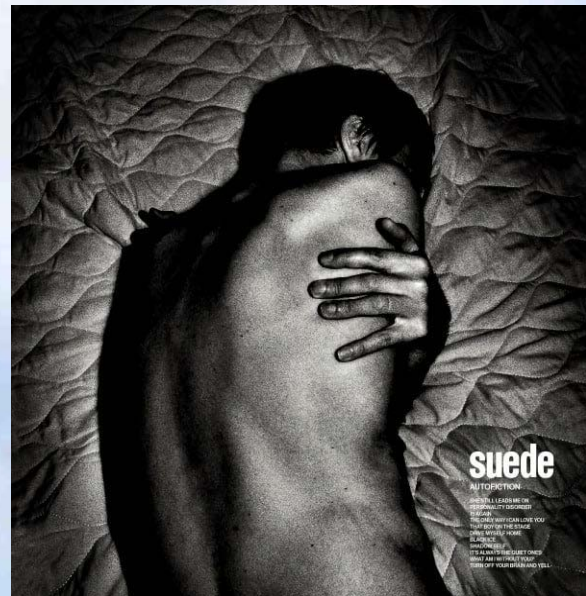
an album called *Strangefolk* in 2007, all sorts of strange things went down. Crispin Mills unwisely decided that as the band usually use Indian style artwork on their record sleeves, it would not matter if he included the ancient Hindu symbol of a swastika. Wrong decision! For at least five minutes everyone was accusing him of being a Nazi before they forgot about it and went-off to pick on someone else.

This is their fourth album since they reformed and stands head and shoulders above the rest. Indeed, regardless of the fact the debut album has had 25 years to embed itself into our consciousness, I think it is quite possibly their best record yet. This is particularly surprising since, for some unknown reason, it is presented in the form of a radio play set in a tumbledown church with a leaky roof. The songs are sparkling with ideas like the after effects of what would happen if someone threw a fag end into a fireworks factory. Even the repeated references to the Archangel Michael and his battle with Lucifer begin to make some sort of sense.

4. Suede: Autofiction

I first heard about this band when my old boss, Steve Harley of Cockney

Rebel fame gave me a copy of their first album and told me that reviewers said that it sounded like his early works. Did it bollocks! If anything, it sounded like a weird glam version of The Smiths, but I liked it a lot. Then came their masterpiece, *Dog Man Star*, which was released towards the end



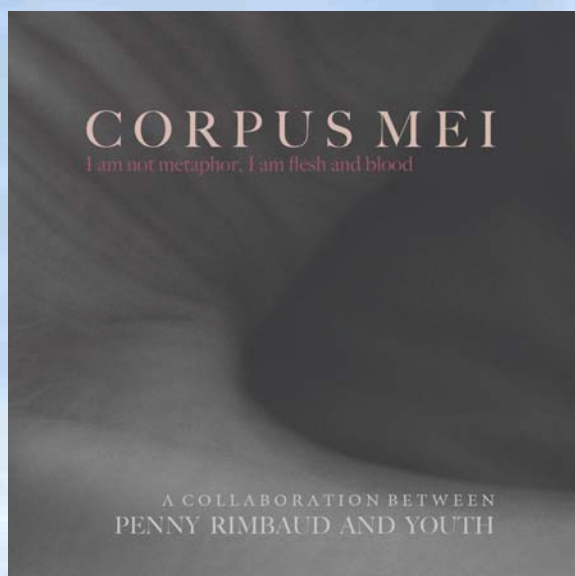
of 1995 and which is still one of my favourite albums of all time. The band continued albeit without the original guitarist until 2002, reforming in 2013 and this is their fourth album since coming back. The five albums they released before splitting up can be divided in two, the ones with Bernard Butler on guitar and the ones without. The ones with Bernard Butler had far more depth and gravitas to them. I am very pleased to say that with this, their ninth album, Suede may not have brought Bernard Butler back into the fold, but they have recovered that air of importance and respectability which has been missing for so long. Without it, they were merely a clever and accomplished pop group. With it, they are a clever and a much more accomplished rock band. This record seems as if it is the end of an era. They are looking back but simultaneously looking forward. They are clever little so and so's because their earlier works have not been forgotten,

but they have definitely referenced them in this latest album without appearing slightly nostalgic. To me, it feels very positive and makes one think that the brilliant future that Dog Man Star hinted at, is once again on the table.

5. Penny Rimbaud/Youth: Corpus Mei

One of the most important figures at the intelligent end of popular music for the last 40 years has been Martin Glover, most commonly known by his nickname, 'Youth', from way back when he was the bass player with Killing Joke. He is only just over a year younger than me and one wonders how long he is going to keep this moniker going but, bloody hell, he has produced so much as a bass player, composer and producer his track record is not to be scoffed at.

Who else would it be possible to say had worked with Paul McCartney and the



former drummer of ranting anarchists, Crass because as far as I know, this album is his first collaboration with Penny Rimbaud who, in the third of a century since Crass called it a day, has worked more and more in the jazz/classical and avant-garde idioms. This album showcases the last of these two musical styles. Penny Rimbaud has always been interested in the poets from the first world war, and as far back as his book *Christ's Reality Asylum* back in 1976 or '77,

he has been referencing people like Wilfred Owen and Siegfried Sassoon in his work.

This is a glorious multi-layered record with lush orchestration beautifully complementing Rimbaud's lyrics which bizarrely are more accessible and less acerbic than they ever were in days gone by.

6. Jarv Is... : This is going to hurt (OST)

I don't usually like film soundtrack albums that much, like Elton John used to say, "They have a distressing habit of including chunks of dialogue and the sounds of pissing in the lake, along with the songs and instrumental music included in the film". This has to be an exception. Jarv Is..., is of course, a vehicle for Jarvis Cocker, best known as the lead singer from Pulp back in the day. However, like so many people whose fame comes from being a member of one particular band, Cocker's solo work has proved rather patchy. His first album was quite good, but the second album sounded like a not-

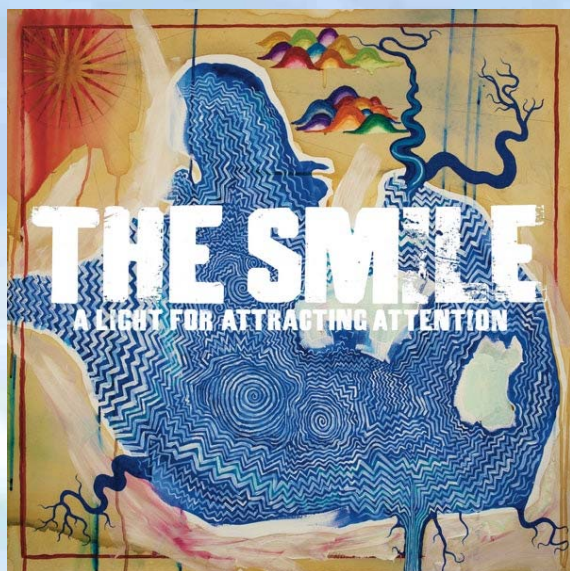


very-good Deep Purple cover band which was followed by a bunch of eccentric collaborations and a collection of songs sung in French which, as one of the great appeals of Cocker are his English lyrics, is somewhat of an own goal. So I approached this album with trepidation, but I needn't have.

If you are hoping that this is going to mirror the glory days of Pulp, well I will let you down quickly. It isn't. It is largely electronic, there is very little orchestration and the music is far more straightforward than Cocker has created in the past. Nevertheless, I think history will prove me right when I say that this is a very positive sign of a return to form for Sheffield's greatest modern bard.

7. The Smile: A Light for Attracting Attention.

I have always quite liked Radiohead ever since the director of a film which Graham and I made in Puerto Rico in 1998, recommended I listen to *OK Computer*. I liked it but really got into them with the two electronic experimental albums around the turn of the century. However, this was where the band eschewed a tune from us (and yes kiddies, their first three albums were bristling with tunes) for electronic soundscapes. I have not really followed them since about 2004 mainly because my late wife disliked both Radiohead and U2 immensely. I am not the sort of person



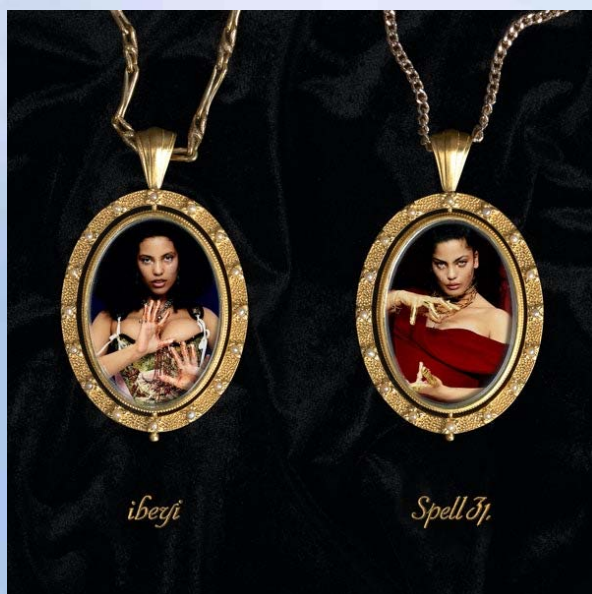
who would stop listening to something just because the missus disapproved, but I did stop playing them on sitting room hi-fi and so got out of the habit of listening to both bands. This century's albums have tended to be on the spikey and experimental side, but - wonder of wonders - Thom Yorke and

Jonny Greenwood, who were (one suspects) the main architects of the experimental Radiohead, have formed another band as a side project together with drummer Tom Skinner and producer Nigel Godrich. It is absolutely full of tunes and harmonies and all sorts of other things one would have thought never to hear from them again. In fact, if I had to give any comparison for this debut album (which, by the way, features orchestration from a load of guest musicians from the London Contemporary Orchestra), it would be The Beach Boys. This is where I suspect the band's name comes from however, it is a beautiful and exquisitely crafted record which became the personal soundtrack to my summer.

8. Ibeyi: Spell 31.

Back in 1998, as I have already alluded to above, I was also in Miami with Graham Inglis and a film crew from UK Channel 4. We were in search of the mystical character, Chupacabras. For reasons that I cannot remember, the director insisted that we appear on an early-morning radio show which also featured a Santería princess. Santería is a religion developed during the 19th century to a process of syncretism between the Yoruba religion of West Africa and Roman Catholicism with a smattering of Spiritism (an obscure form of spiritualism established in mid 19th century France). The Santería princess was not in the same studio at the same time as us, but I found what she had to say fascinating and I have been interested in the subject of religious syncretism ever since. It should go without saying that the Yoruba part of the mix is because large numbers of the slaves which were shipped to the West Indies by many countries particularly, Spain and Portugal, were from what is now Nigeria.

Although Britain was not as involved as the Iberians, it was not involved to the extent that contemporary historical revisionists would like to claim. I am also very interested in Santería because, I too, am very nearly from Nigeria as well. I was conceived there and were it not for the fact that my mother had already



miscarried several babies and wanted to give birth in an English hospital, I would have been born there. It was the land where I spent the early years of my life although I can't remember anything about it.

Some years ago, I discovered Ibeyi. They are twin sisters originally from Cuba but now living in France. Their music has elements of Yoruba, Afrranchi and Afro-Cuban traditional music and fuses jazz with bit samples of traditional instruments. I strongly suspect that the two girls (in Yoruba beyi meaning twins) are, or at least have been, devotees of Santería but they have not been Santería princesses in their own rights. This is their third album and just like their first two recordings, they continue to mine a rich seam of cultural riches which shows no sign whatsoever of running dry.

I truly love this band, and one of my cherished accomplishments of the year was to introduce their music to my brother's daughter, Anne-Marie. As my brother is a clergyman of the Church of England, I am not certain that he would approve however, since my niece's boyfriend plays in a death metal band I think she is hardly going

to tell him.

9. Emily Jane White: Alluvion

Emily Jane White is an American singer from California. It is amazing that it was only on the release of her 7th solo album that I discovered her. She explains her interest in the "shadow side of life", by stating that "you can unveil and reveal subtleties and nuances and such things that no-one wants to talk about".

I was immediately impressed by this since in many ways, this is what I do with my writing. It is what leads me to my interest in the "reality tunnel" theories of Robert Anton Wilson. What seems to describe this music excellently to me is that it is like the action of river water on the gradual increase of land by a riverbank (Drove my Chevy to the levee). If I had to suggest a musical comparison it would be that this album is an updated



version of the sort of thing Throwing Muses used to do back in the day. Or the sort of hypnotic even minimalist electronica produced by Penelope Trappes has been taken and is now played beautifully on analogue instruments. I would suggest that you check out this lady's music because I sincerely believe that it deserves further investigation.

It is not easy listening. Despite the fact that the tunes and rhythms are relatively straightforward, one has to negotiate many layers to get to the meat and potatoes. Moreover, this is totally intentional on the part of the artist and if you like this sort of thing, and I do, then this sublime, often almost spiritual music is well worth exploring. It is just like removing the peel and layers of an onion. And what an onion!

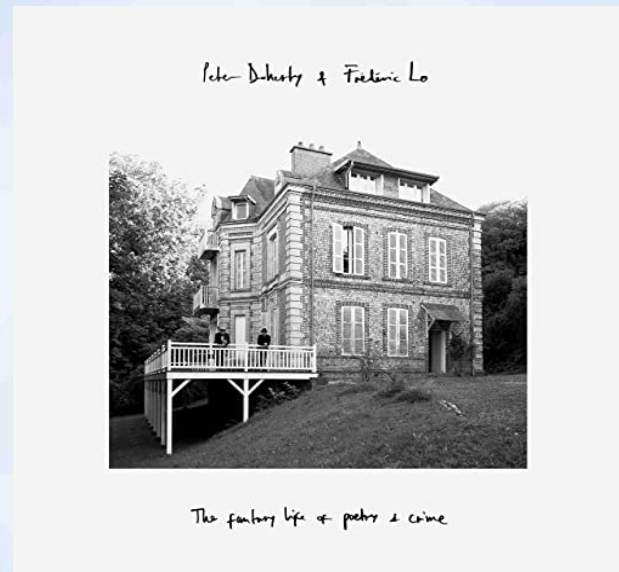
10. Frédéric Lo and Pete Doherty: The Fantasy life of Poetry and Crime

I always thought Pete Doherty was rather a dick. His continual problems with the law, his on/off heroin use and his spells at Her Majesty's pleasure always struck me as rather irritating. Lots of people have fucked around with opioids - even I have - and cold turkey is a bitch. But you don't see me whining about it on YouTube.

What is worse, is that he was being portrayed by everybody, including himself, as a major artist. Although I quite liked some of the songs he did with Babyshambles and I was mildly entertained by The Libertines, I would never have described Doherty as a major anything unless of course, we are talking about a major twat!!

Out of interest, I have listened to his solo albums once or twice and like everything else he has done to date, I found myself forced into the current idiom of "Meh" when trying to describe them. However, this new album is an absolute cracker.

I don't know who Frédéric Lo is apart from being French, but it appears that he provided the music while Doherty provided the words and the vocals. In the face of a particularly vicious review in *The Guardian*, I find that Doherty's obvious attempts at copying the vocal style of Lou Reed at his most wasted goes rather well with the music that Lo



has written.

Therefore, in spite of my reservations, I am in the peculiar position of entering this album into my top ten albums of 2022.



From Beyond
by
T.H.E.M.

From Beyond is the latest EP from UK Hip Hop crew T.H.E.M. which is comprised of Seek The Northerner, Karlow, Lomax and Bruva Smokes and signed to Northentic Records. The tracks that make up this EP were originally slated to be on the upcoming album from the group, which

STEVE RIDER

was originally going to be a two LP release but, due to costs etc, the crew decided to switch the album to a single disc release and drop the tracks that did not make the album on this digital release.

Out of Burnley the history of this crew goes back a long way and if you want to know more about the crew and their background, I suggest you check out their chat with Blade over on the 05:21 YouTube channel, where you can hear everything you need to know because these guys are all about real Hip Hop and connecting with others to keep the scene alive so, that interview is essential listening.

That said, it's time to get deep into this EP and get a taste of what T.H.E.M. will be bringing to the table with their debut album...

The EP kicks off in style with **Chessboard Dynamics** which brings a real head nod vibe of drums and percussion vibes alongside this background of strings and flute notes that not only grabs your attention but, has you closing your eyes while your head nods, allowing the vocals to seep into your awareness. What T.H.E.M. does here is to deliver wordplay, knowledge and the kind of dexterous delivery that could be compared to the play of a chess grandmaster. At times you fully understand what's going on, it all seems kinda raw and hardcore but, just as you think you've got it sussed out, the guys hit you with a new gambit, hitting your mind from multiple angles and leaving you in awe, and if that wasn't enough the cut-up samples and razor-sharp scratches have hyped up and breathless. There is no let up as a funky guitar and more cuts galore lead us into **Think Twice**, before the beat drops and it all merges to form this funky up vibe that has this reggae piano twist to it, and all you can do is vibe to it. Once more the verbal skills displayed here have you second guessing everything you hear, proving that **Think Twice** is not just a title but, also another talent these guys display as every verse and every bar has you questioning what you heard the more you listen.

Represent hits with this mind-numbing sound scape of cuts, heavy drums and what sounds like a ukulele or banjo, all combining with some sonic vibes to keep the energy levels high and the frequency vibrating your entire body. At first listen you might be for wondering exactly what this one is saying and it almost appears like there is a juxtaposition here with T.H.E.M. demonstrating how they are representing the UK scene but, you also get this vibe that they are taking a shot at those who say they are representing but, in truth, are out for nothing but, themselves and maybe that is a shot at the politicians and rich elitists who claim to be looking out for everyone's best interests but, are only out for how much they can line their pockets. So, is it one or the other here? Perhaps it's a bit of everything, you decide. Drums, guitars, and bass form backdrop to the EP's title track, **From Beyond** and the vibe is once more on keeping those energy levels up with a boom bap style feel. Here the guys take us on a tongue-in-cheek look at real life in Burnley while, at the same time, expertly twisting and stretching our minds with their words to blur our concept of what the true reality is. We are left wondering what the truth is here and what has been taken from some weird view that is beyond reality and rooted firmly in the mind of the beholder...

The vibe of **Games All Love** is a more upbeat feel with drums, piano, and strings alongside the cuts keeping you moving. Here we find T.H.E.M. dropping verses on why they do what they do, the inspirations and the love for the game. This really shows that you don't always have to be rhyming over dark heavy beats to deliver some solid bars that still reflect the reality of life and your love of good Hip Hop. Heading into the final track of the EP, **T.H.E.M.**, we almost float into it on an orchestral soundscape before the beat drops and the cuts slice deeply into our awareness creating this banging boom bap vibe with that orchestral sound bringing an almost soundtrack feel. The guys take us on a journey into all that is and makes up **T.H.E.M.** but, this journey is more like an audible trip where the truths are a part of a



dream like escapade that is drawn directly from their own minds to keep you entertained whilst wondering what is real and what is simply T.H.E.M.

After listening to this, the first thing that came to mind was, if *From Beyond* is formed of tracks that didn't make it to the album then just how good is the album? Because, *From Beyond* is a stunning EP and, quite honestly, one of the best I've heard this year.

The production is solid and has your adrenaline levels at their peak throughout the whole album and providing the perfect backdrop for what is a lyrical masterpiece. The wordplay skills demonstrated by T.H.E.M. is second to none. These guys know how to pack their verses full of intellectual and complex lyrics that flow like water through your awareness but, the more you listen, the more you realise that these guys really have proper rhyming skills, end of. Alongside that solid production and verbal mastery, there is this love of real Hip Hop in its purest form, the kind of Hip Hop that was seeded in the UK in the eighties and has flourished on the underground scene, T.H.E.M. completely embody the essence of that true Hip Hop sound.

I don't think I can say much more. But here are six tracks of pure underground Hip Hop that has the energy to span the ages creating a sound that would be at home in the 80's and 90's as it is here and now. These guys have enough experience between them to take themselves to the pinnacle of the UK Underground scene and beyond. Are T.H.E.M. one to watch? Well, that's a no brainer for sure.

From Beyond is available from T.H.E.M. on Bandcamp etc, now.

On that note,

I'm out, see ya...

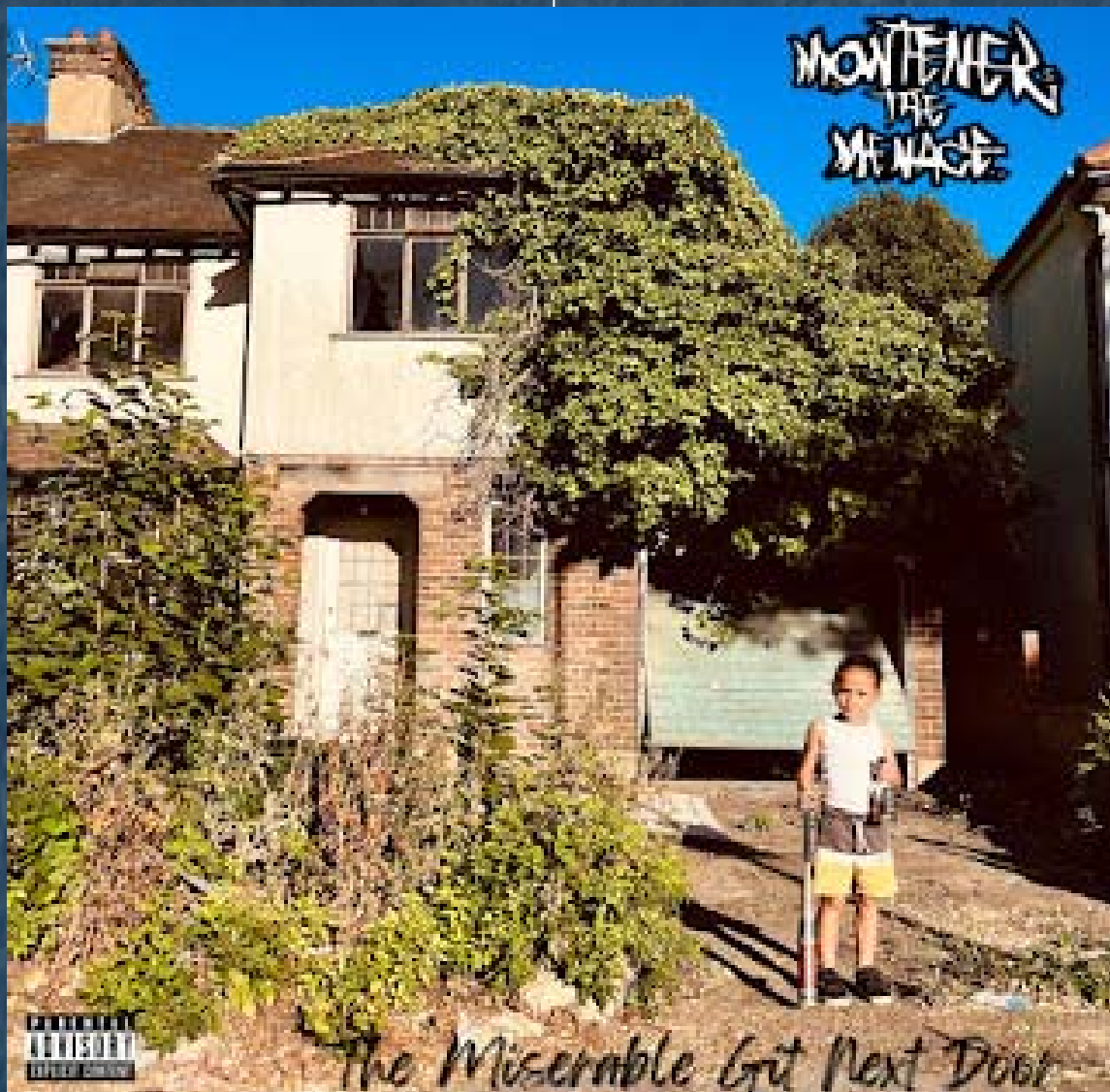
Steve.

The Miserable Git Next Door by Montener The Menace

Back in May of 2021 I published my review for *Anyone Home?* The awesome follow up to the debut *I Have A Hidden Hobby* from Montener The Menace. At that time, it was suggested that *Anyone Home?* could well be Montener's final album but, here we are, some nineteen months later and the man from Croydon is back and we are about to be treated to his next album, *The Miserable Git Next Door*.

The album is released on Montener's own Hidden Hobby Records and, as with his previous albums, it sees a plethora of producers and guest artists joining him. I have reviewed both *I Have A Hidden Hobby* and *Anyone Home?* both of which have been instant underground Hip Hop classics. Can we expect something similar from what even Montener himself suggests is his best work...?

Well, let's see shall we. Join me as I breakdown *The Miserable Git Next Door*...



Montener doesn't mess around as he instantly takes us to meet **The Miserable Git Next Door**. The album's title track is produced by Jack Cliff, who brings together strings, organ notes and drums to give us this easy-going vibe that just seems to carry us along, letting us focus on the lyrics. Here Montener spins a tale that seems to hover between unsettling and comedic. He is that miserable git next door who wants to be left alone. When new neighbours move in things go downhill rapidly, ending with an all-out war between the two households but, you are left wondering who was truly at fault, the neighbours, or that miserable git next door. With those thoughts still rattling around your head, that train of thought is broken by the faint whistling of a spaghetti western, before the beats drops with drums,

bass, vocal samples, and slick cuts, produced by g-man, the vibe is a deep melodic head nod sound. A perfect backdrop for Montener to be joined by A-F -R-O and Skyzoo for **Tomorrow's Never Promised**. There is a profound message here for all three emcees and its pretty simple, live, love and laugh for the day, this moment that you are living right now because there is no guarantee that you'll see another sunrise so, live every day like it's your last. It's a sobering thought for sure but, one that's delivered here by three emcees who know how to make their lyrics hit home. now your mind is deep in contemplation, your mind is open and Montener only has to utter one word grab your attention, that word is Gunslinger. Guitar and whistling herald the return of the **Gunslinger (High Noon Pt. 2)**, the



beat hits with tinges of bass (produced by Da Vigilante) as we are treated to what happened to the Gunslinger in the aftermath of Anyone Home's, High Noon. Our anti-hero is now out on his own, with his mind on a new life he heads for one last score before settling down but, that story is for another day...

Sliding Doors Pt. 1 is up next and Red Master's production gives us a reflective vibe with strings and drums providing the musical backdrop. Montener The Menace is in full story telling mode here as he details the story of an inner-city youth from a broken home who gets caught up in the gang culture. By the time the track fades out we are left wondering what will happen to Audley in part 2. With two stories

leaving us hanging in the balance our minds are left with a tinge of anxious anticipation and JL Beats production on **Decisions** tugs at our frayed nerves with some high-pitched jazzy piano alongside drums that seek to pound those split nerve endings. The Legendary UK emcee Skinnyman, Reks and Guilty Simpson join Montener on the track that speaks on all the decisions we make in life. These decisions can take us down a great many roads, some lead to positive outcomes and others to more negative ones. How life plays out hinges on those decisions, there are no right, or wrong answers here just paths we walk based on what life puts before us, so remember, chose wisely. Drums and jazzy piano vibes once more form the basis for **Hate To Love**, where Barry Manalog gives

us a more upbeat feel to proceedings. Here Montener takes us on an often-lighthearted journey through the Yin and Yang of what it is to experience Love and Hate as we walk through life and it is so true what he says in that those experiences that bring us Love, give us so much while anything that brings hate takes so much from us. The key thing here is to eclipse the hate with love, that will make life sure a positive experience.

Moving in to the second half of the album, we find Montener The Menace keeping our mind spinning like those old energy meters or a 78 rpm record. Jack Cliff brings us a mariachi style vibe of horns, drums, and guitars for **Teachered Artist** which finds

Montener schooling us to the pitfalls of working as a teacher. There is plenty to make you grin as Montener warns against making teaching a career. To polish things off here there is a nice sprinkling of cuts from Jabbathakut. Strings, piano and drums, from Domingo, merge to create a deep vibe that has that contrasting, **Juxtaposition** feel with the sounds of marching and cuts that also pervade the track. Verbz joins Montener The Menace here as they combine to drop a story that shows that its not always what you do in a moment but, how you look or conduct yourself is what can get you into trouble with the law. So, many times the those who are guilty of a crime are overlooked in favour of those who just dress a certain



way or act a certain way but, may never have actually done anything wrong, this is just antagonistic and serves to create a situation that is negative, where it never needed to be. With our minds racing, from the injustice we just heard, strings fade in and ease our outrage. Guitar and drums drop, and Covert Pawns production gets our heads nodding. Montener becomes the **Movie Decade Crusader** as he takes us on journey through the movies he has enjoyed growing up. He expertly weaves the very best of the 80's and 90's movies into this one. It's like a trip down memory lane for some of us older heads.

Moving into the final quarter of the album the one Keith Murrey provides the intro and production from Rocwell brings us this heavy sound of bass, drums, and horns that really makes you wanna stand up and jump around. This one is all about Montener The Menace using his wordplay skills to do two things, which is to entertain us while doing what he does best, **Running My Mouth**. With our energy levels pushing into the red, a soulful intro allows us a short breather before the Jack Cliff beats drops with horns, guitar and pounding drums. We are nodding our heads once more as a posse style cut drops which see's an incredible line-up of some of cream of emcees join Montener. BVA, Sean Peng, Phoenix Da Icefire, Ramson Badbonez, Tesla's Ghost, Genesis Elijah, Frisco Boogie, Cracker Jon, Mick Swagger, boodah, Cosm, Slippery Skills, Blade and Joe Publik all drop bars that are all **About Love** and the impact it has in live. It's all about what you love doing, what brings you love or perhaps a lack of love and even whether you can see love around you or not. With a penultimate track like that how do you finish things off? Simple, you get Mighty Mindless Cartoons to drop a heavy pounding beat of drums, cymbals, and horns for a quick little **Outro** of the chorus from *The Miserable Git Next Door*, nothing else is needed, end of...

So, let's get one thing straight, *The Miserable Git Next Door* is one hell of a ride from start to finish. Montener The Menace has, once again, tabled another

album that is a potential classic. He shows that he matures from one album to the next and displays wordplay skills that show no sigh of letting up, the more he produces. He is just as comfortable on track with guest artists, as he is on his solo tracks. Mixing up the subject matter with tracks that are based in reality and personal experience to those that are just for fun and displaying the depth of his vocal skills and flows.

Bringing in a wealth of producers adds such a depth of musical backdrops allowing Montener and the guest artists to fully display their skills whilst fully complementing each other. The production here is second to none really and helps keep the album flowing while systematically allowing you to focus on the vocals with ease. I can't speak on the production without mentioning that all the cuts on the album are performed by the legendary UK turntablist Jabbathakut, whose skills really do serve to dot all the i's in the Hip Hop masterclass.

The guest artists that feature on the album range from up-and-coming status right up to legendary status and span both sides of the pond. The quality of all those artists really speak for themselves and need nothing further except that they add the icing to this perfectly cooked up Hip Hop cake.

All in all, what I see here is a UK emcee who always delivers quality and who has the respect of his peers the world over. Let's face it here, it's not everyone who can tempt Blade to drop a feature, you gotta have a special quality to do that and also good to see another legendary UK emcee in Skinnyman feature here also. The consistent quality that Montener The Menace delivers is a credit to himself and the UK scene and I for one look forward to possibility of him dropping more down the line. I mean, he can't leave us hanging on the escapades of the Gunslinger or the outcome of Sliding Doors.

Everyone knows I don't like giving my reviews a score. For me I want my words and the music to do all the talking, and



The Miserable Git Next Door is no exception. But, if I really had to score this one, I could not give it any less than a 9, maybe even a 9.2 HA HA, because I love the drive, the vocals, the quality and the work ethic of Montener as an emcee and when you mix that with top quality production, Jabbathakut and some top-notch features then how can you score it any less.

Montener *The Menace* is constantly pushing himself to always be another rung closer to perfection with every release. He is all about quality over quantity, pushing the boundaries of his creativity to always deliver what people want to hear.

The Miserable Git Next Door is out today on digital and limited CD versions. I highly recommend that you grab one of the limited CD copies which gives you two bonus tracks, the **High Noon** Jabbathakut remix and **Sliding Doors Pt. 2**, giving you the chance to find out what happens to Audley.

Huge thanks to the man himself, Montener *The Menace*, for putting this my way.

On That Note,

I'm outta here,

Steve

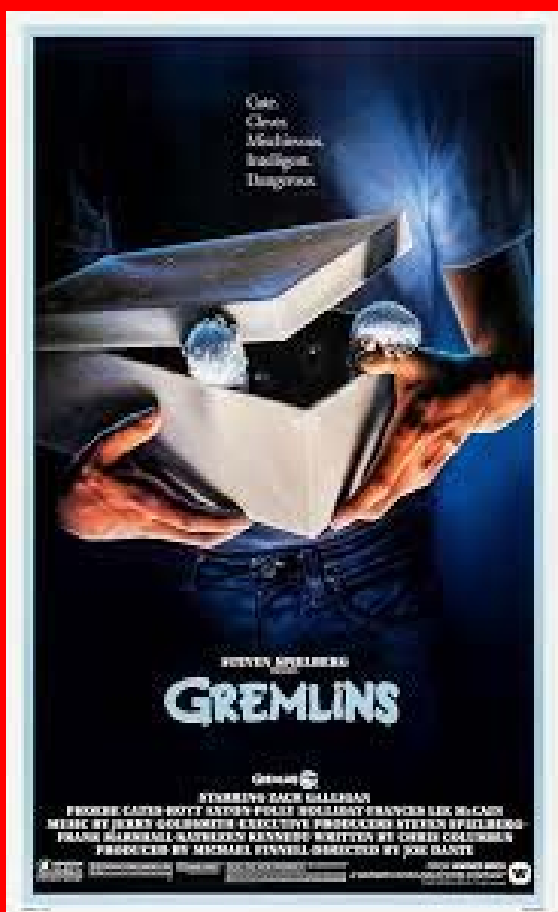


MARK AT THE MOVIES

Mark Raines

Yes, it had to happen a Christmas movie special, you may ho, ho, ho or ba humbug so it's back to reading my choices of Christmas films to watch after you are full of a turkey or nut roast.

Mark



Gremlins (1984)

Plot

Struggling inventor Randall Peltzer visits a Chinatown antique store, hoping to find a Christmas present for his son Billy. Inside, Randall encounters a small, furry creature called a mogwai (Cantonese: 魔怪, 'devil'). The owner, Mr. Wing, refuses to sell Randall the creature, but his grandson secretly does, warning Randall to remember three important rules: do not expose the mogwai to light, especially sunlight, which will kill it; do not let it come in contact with water; and above all, never feed it after midnight.

Randall returns home to Kingston Falls, where he gives the mogwai to

Here we have a new series for Gonzo Weekly. It comes from none other than our regular cartoonist Mark Raines who has contributed other articles (most notably his critique of the recent Disney Plus series about the Sex Pistols.

He described the series that he wanted to write to me and it sounded smashing, so I told him to go full speed ahead...

Billy as a pet. Billy works in the local bank, but fears that his dog Barney will be put down by widowed miser Mrs. Deagle. Randall names the mogwai "Gizmo" and explains the three rules. When Billy's young friend Pete accidentally spills water over Gizmo, five more mogwai spawn from his back, a more troublemaking sort led by the aggressive Stripe, named for the tuft of fur on his head. Billy shows one of the mogwais to his former elementary school science teacher, Mr. Hanson, spawning another mogwai, on whom Hanson experiments. Back at home, Stripe and his fellow mogwai trick Billy into feeding them after midnight by severing the power cord on his alarm clock. They form cocoons, as does Hanson's mogwai, which soon hatches, emerging as mischievous, dark green, reptilian monsters, who then torture Gizmo and attack Billy's mother, Lynn. Hanson is killed by his gremlin.

Lynn and Billy can kill off the gremlins, except for Stripe, who escapes to a local YMCA. There, Stripe jumps into the swimming pool, spawning an army of gremlins who wreak havoc in Kingston Falls. Many people are injured or outright killed by the gremlins' rampage, including Mrs. Deagle. Billy reports this to the police, but they prove to be no help as they don't believe his story, even after he shows them Gizmo.

As Billy rescues his girlfriend, Kate Beringer, they hide in the now-abandoned bank where Kate reveals to Billy and Gizmo why she hates Christmas: when she was nine years old, her father went missing on Christmas Eve and did not come home on Christmas Day either; several days later, he was found dead in their chimney while dressed as Santa Claus. Planning to surprise her and her mother, he accidentally

slipped and broke his neck while climbing down the chimney. Still suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder because of the event, Kate confesses this is how she discovered the truth about Santa Claus.

Billy and Kate discover that the town has fallen silent and the gremlins are watching Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs in the local cinema

They set off a natural gas explosion, incinerating all the gremlins except for Stripe, who is left to commandeer more sweets at a Montgomery Ward store across the street. As morning approaches, they follow Stripe into the department store, where Stripe attempts to use a water fountain to spawn more gremlins. Gizmo opens a skylight, exposing Stripe to sunlight, and killing him.

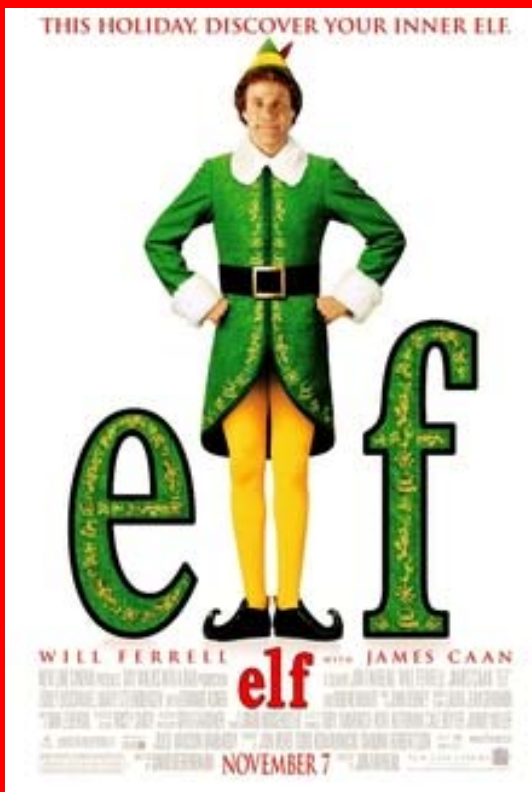
As the local news reports on the day's mysterious tragedies, Mr. Wing reclaims Gizmo at the Peltzer home. He criticizes both the Peltzer and Western society for their carelessness with nature. However, as he turns to leave, Gizmo, having bonded with Billy, bids the young man goodbye. A touched Mr. Wing then concedes that Billy may be ready one day, and until then, Gizmo will be waiting.

Who can resist cute Mogwai? There are just three simple rules;

Don't wet Mogwai. Don't feed them after midnight and don't shine bright light on him

This film is all about the chaos the gremlins cause when feeding after midnight, they are like naughty children on acid. It is funny, outrageous, and a very fast-paced film.

Running time (106. Minutes)
Rated (15)



Elf (2003)

Plot

On Christmas Eve, an orphaned baby crawls into Santa Claus' sack at the sight of a teddy bear and is unknowingly taken back to the North Pole from an orphanage. After the infant is discovered at the workshop, the elves name him Buddy after his nappy's brand label: Little Buddy Diapers, and Papa Elf adopts him. Buddy is accepted by the elf community and grows up thinking he is an elf. As an adult, Buddy overhears he is a human. Papa Elf explains to Buddy that he was born to Walter Hobbs and Susan Wells. Susan put him up for adoption before her death. Walter now works as a children's book publisher at the Empire State Building in New York City and is unaware of Buddy's existence. Santa reveals that Walter is on the Naughty List due to his selfishness, but suggests Buddy could help redeem him with some Christmas spirit.

Buddy travels to New York and finds Walter at work, but Walter mistakes him for a Christmas mail messenger and has him ejected. Buddy heads to a local Gimbels department store where the security guards sarcastically tell him to go, where he meets Jovie, an unenthusiastic employee, whom he is instantly smitten with. Hearing that Santa will be at the store the following day, Buddy redecorates the store overnight. However, upon realizing that the Gimbels Santa is not the genuine article, Buddy un masks him and causes a brawl in the store that the manager breaks up.

Walter reluctantly bails Buddy out of the police station and takes him for a DNA test, confirming that Buddy is his biological son. Dr. Leonardo convinces Walter to take Buddy home to meet his stepmother Emily and half-brother Michael. Walter and Michael are unnerved by Buddy's strange behaviour, but Emily insists that they take care of him until he "recovers". Michael warms to Buddy after they defeat a gang of bullies in a snowball fight and encourages Buddy to ask Jovie out on a date. During the date, the two fall in love.

Meanwhile, Walter's publishing company is failing after its latest book flops. Walter's boss, Fulton Greenway, expects Walter to have a new book ready by Christmas Eve. Walter and his team secure a meeting with best-selling children's author Miles Finch, but Buddy interrupts the meeting and mistakes Finch, who has dwarfism, for an elf. Buddy unintentionally insults Finch before the latter attacks him and angrily leaves the meeting, upon which Walter loses his temper and harshly disowns Buddy. Heartbroken, Buddy writes an apology note on an Etch A Sketch and leaves Walter's apartment.

Upon finding Finch's notebook full of

ideas, Walter and his team scramble to create a book to pitch. As Walter prepares to pitch the book to Greenway, Michael arrives and informs Walter of Buddy's departure. Realizing his mistake, Walter quits his job and walks out with Michael to find Buddy. Meanwhile, Buddy sees Santa's sleigh crash in Central Park, attracting a large crowd. Santa explains that the sleigh's engine is lost and cannot fly without it due to a shortage of Christmas spirit.

Buddy finds the engine and reunites with Walter and Michael. Walter apologizes to Buddy for his harsh words and accepts him as his son. After he takes them to meet Santa, Michael takes Santa's list and reads it in front of television news cameras gathered outside the park, proving that Santa is real. A group of Central Park Rangers, who are angry at Santa for placing them on the Naughty List, chase the sleigh as Buddy tries to reattach the engine. Jovie leads the crowd and those watching on television in singing "Santa Claus Is Coming to Town", raising enough Christmas spirit to fully power the sleigh without the engine.

By the following Christmas, Buddy writes a book about his life, which becomes a bestseller and allows Walter to establish his own publishing company. Buddy also marries Jovie and brings their newborn daughter Susie to visit Papa Elf.

Just sit back and enjoy the fun and laughter of a fully grown man raised in the North Pole as an elf who goes to New York City to find his father and ends up causing havoc, it has talking animals too, a hugely feel-good movie.

Running time (97 Minutes)
Rated (PG)
4 out of 4.



Miracle on 34th Street (1947)

Plot

Kris Kringle is indignant to find that the man assigned to play Santa in the annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade is intoxicated. When he complains to event director Doris Walker, she persuades Kris to take his place. He does so well that he is hired to play Santa at Macy's New York City store on 34th Street.

Ignoring instructions from the toy department head, Mr. Shellhammer, to recommend overstocked items to undecided shoppers, Kris directs one woman to another store to fulfil her son's Christmas request. Impressed by Kris's honesty and helpfulness, she informs Shellhammer that she will now become a loyal Macy's customer.

Attorney Fred Gailey, Doris's neighbour, takes the young divorcée's daughter

Susan to see Santa. Doris has raised her to not believe in fairy tales, but Susan is shaken after seeing Kris speak Dutch with a girl who does not know English. Doris asks Kringle to tell Susan that he is not Santa, but he insists that he is.

Worried, Doris decides to fire him, but Kris has generated so much positive publicity and goodwill that the store's owner promises bonuses. To alleviate Doris's misgivings, Granville Sawyer is asked to administer a "psychological evaluation" and recommends Kris' dismissal. Meanwhile, Susan shows Kris a magazine photo of her dream house and tells him she wants it for Christmas; reluctantly he promises to do his best.

In the company cafeteria, young employee Alfred tells Kris that Sawyer convinced him that he is unstable simply because he is kind-hearted. Kris immediately goes to confront Sawyer, eventually striking him on the head with an umbrella. Sawyer exaggerates his pain to have Kris confined to Bellevue Hospital. Tricked into cooperating, and believing Doris to be in on the deception, Kris deliberately fails his examination and is recommended for permanent commitment. However, Fred persuades Kris not to give up.

At a hearing before Judge Henry X. Harper, District Attorney Thomas Mara gets Kris to assert that he is Santa Claus and rests his case, asking Harper to rule that Santa does not exist. In private, Harper's political adviser, Charlie Halloran, warns him that doing so would be disastrous for his upcoming reelection bid. Harper buys time by hearing further evidence.

Fred calls Macy as a witness and persuades him to admit that he does believe in Santa. On leaving the stand, Macy fires Sawyer. Next, Fred calls Mara's young son, who testifies that his

father told him that Santa was real. Mara has to concede the point but goes on to demand that Fred prove that Kris is "the one and only" Santa Claus based on some competent authority by the following day.

Meanwhile, Susan writes Kris a letter to cheer him up, which Doris also signs. When a New York Post Office mail sorter sees Susan's letter, which is addressed to Kris at the New York courthouse, he suggests delivering all of the dead letters addressed to Santa Claus to Kris.

As court resumes, Fred is told of the delivery of mailbags to the courthouse; he argues that the Post Office — a branch of the U.S. federal government — has acknowledged that Kris is the one and only Santa Claus by delivering the letters. When the judge insists on seeing them, Fred has them dump bag after bag on Harper's desk. Half concealed behind them, Harper dismisses the case.

On Christmas morning, Susan loses faith in Kris when he admits he was not able to get her the house she wanted. However, after Kris offers Fred and Doris a route home that avoids traffic, Susan sees her dream house with a "For Sale" sign in front. Demanding that Fred stop the car, she joyfully runs into the house, exclaiming "Mr. Kringle IS Santa Claus!" Fred learns that Doris had encouraged Susan to have faith and suggests they purchase the house. He then boasts that he must be a great lawyer since he proved an eccentric old man was Santa. However, when he and Doris spot a cane in the house that looks just like Kris's, he is not so sure.

This film will let you relive your childhood belief in Santa Claus. It's the story of a little girl and a lawyer trying to prove the man claiming to be Santa Claus is the real deal is just magical.

4 out of 4

Plot.

Chicago-area resident Clark Griswold plans to have a great Christmas with his entire family. He drives his wife Ellen, daughter Audrey, and son Rusty out to the country to find a tree. After walking through the snow for hours, Clark picks out the largest tree he can find. Realizing too late that they did not bring any tools to cut the tree down, they are forced to uproot it instead, before driving home with the tree strapped to the roof of their car.

Soon after, both Clark's and Ellen's parents arrive for Christmas, but their bickering quickly begins to annoy the family. Clark, however, maintains a positive attitude, determined to have a "fun old-fashioned family Christmas". He covers the house's entire exterior with 25,000 twinkle lights, which fail to work at first, as he has accidentally wired them through his garage's light switch. When they finally come on, they temporarily cause a citywide power shortage and create chaos for Clark's yuppie neighbours, Todd and Margo Chester. While standing on the front lawn admiring the lights, Clark is shocked to see Ellen's country-based cousin Catherine and her husband Eddie, as they arrive unannounced with their children, Rocky and Ruby Sue, and their pet Rottweiler Snots. Eddie later admits that they are living in the RV they arrived in, as he is broke and has been forced to sell his home and land. In addition, his older children are too busy to join Eddie in the visit. Clark offers to buy gifts for Eddie's kids so they can still enjoy Christmas. Soon afterward, Clark's senile Aunt Bethany and grumpy Uncle Lewis arrive as well.

Clark begins to wonder why his boss, Frank Shirley, has not given him his

yearly bonus, which he desperately needs to replace an advance payment he has made to install a swimming pool for the coming summer. After a disastrous Christmas Eve dinner, along with Bethany's cat getting electrocuted and Uncle Lewis accidentally burning down the Christmas tree while lighting his cigar, he finally receives an envelope from a company messenger, who had failed to deliver it the day before. Instead of the presumed bonus, the envelope contains a free year's membership for the "Jelly of the Month Club". This prompts Clark to snap and launch into a tirade about Frank and, out of anger, request that he be delivered to the house, wrapped in a bow, so Clark can insult him to his face.

Taking Clark's request literally, Eddie drives to Frank's mansion and kidnaps him. Frank admits to having cancelled the Christmas bonuses, and Clark chastises him for doing so. Meanwhile, Frank's wife, Helen, calls the police, and a SWAT team storms the Griswold house and holds everyone at gunpoint. Frank decides not to press charges and explains the situation to his wife and the SWAT leader, both of whom scold him for his decision to scrap the bonuses. Frank ultimately decides to reinstate the bonuses and gives Clark the amount he received in the previous year, plus 20% more.

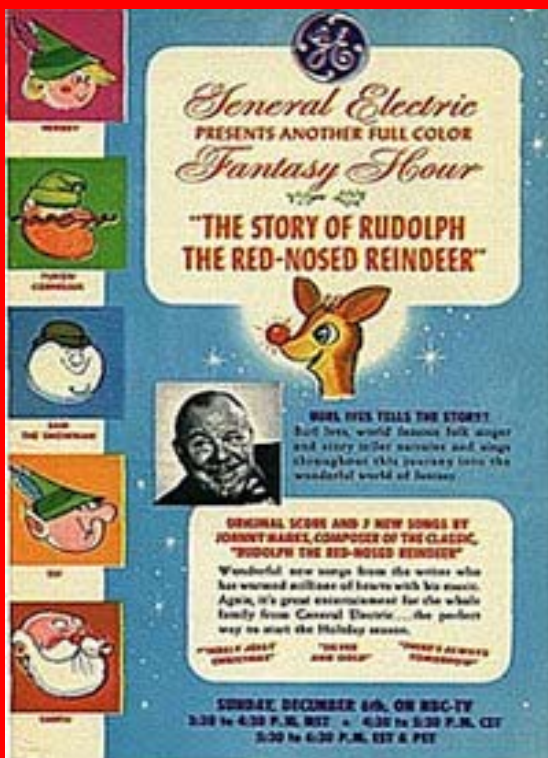
The family heads outside when Rocky and Ruby Sue believe they see Santa Claus in the distance. Clark tells them it is actually the Christmas Star and that he finally realizes what the holiday means to him. Uncle Lewis says the light is coming from the sewage treatment plant, reminding Clark that Eddie had been dumping his RV sewage into the nearby storm drain. Before Clark can stop him, Uncle Lewis tosses a match used to light his cigar into the drain, triggering an explosion that sends Santa's sleigh decoration flying into the sky. Aunt Bethany starts

singing "The Star-Spangled Banner" and everyone joins in as the flaming decoration flies into the distance.

The entire family, Frank, and Helen, and the SWAT team members then celebrate inside the house, while Clark and Ellen happily share a Christmas kiss, and Clark stands outside satisfied that he provided a great Christmas for his family. As the credits roll, he manages to give Snots the petting he wanted.

This film is like being with your family at Christmas and all the arguments and disaster-prone events of the day all rolled up in fantastic slapstick humour and silly pranks; a cracker of a movie.

Running time (97 Minutes)
Rated (12).
4 out of 4.



Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer.

(1964) Television Movie. (1965)

Plot.

Donner, Santa's lead reindeer, and his wife have a new fawn named Rudolph. They are surprised to find out he was born with a glowing red nose. Donner attempts to first cover Rudolph's nose with mud, and later uses a fake nose, so Rudolph will fit in with the other reindeer. The following spring, Rudolph goes out for the reindeer games, where the new fawns learn to fly and are scouted by Santa for future sleigh duty. Rudolph meets a doe named Clarice, who tells him he is cute, making Rudolph fly. While he celebrates with the other bucks, Rudolph's fake nose pops off, causing the other reindeer to mock him and Coach Comet to expel him.

Rudolph meets and joins Hermey, a misfit elf who left Santa's workshop because he wants to be a dentist, and Yukon Cornelius, a prospector who has spent his life searching for silver and gold. After escaping the Abominable Snow Monster, all three land on the Island of Misfit Toys. It is a place where unloved or unwanted toys reside with their ruler, a winged lion named King Moonracer, who brings the toys to the island until he can find homes and children who will love them. The king allows them to stay one night on the island and asks them to ask Santa to find homes for them. Rudolph leaves on his own, worried that his nose will endanger his friends.

Time passes and Rudolph, now a young stag, returns home to find that his parents and Clarice have been searching for him. He then travels to the Abominable's cave, where they are being held captive. Rudolph attempts to rescue Clarice until the monster knocks him down with a stalactite. Hermey and Yukon eventually show up with a plan to help out Rudolph. Hermey lures the monster out of the cave by imitating the sound of a pig and pulls out the Abominable's teeth after Yukon knocks him out. Yukon drives the toothless

monster back over a cliff and falls with it. Rudolph, Hermey, Clarice, and the Donners return home and everyone apologizes to them. Yukon returns with a tamed Abominable, now trained to trim a Christmas tree, explaining that the monster's bouncing ability saved both of their lives. Christmas Eve comes and while everybody is celebrating, Santa announces that a big snowstorm is approaching, forcing him to cancel Christmas. Blinded by Rudolph's bright nose, he changes his mind and asks Rudolph to lead the sleigh. Rudolph accepts, and their first stop is the Island of Misfit Toys, where Santa delivers the toys to the children.

Time to include a film for the little ones to sit down with some milk and cookies, this is an easy-watching extremely cute, fun, and enjoyable version of the classic song and story.

Running Time (47 minutes)
Rated (U). 4 out of 4



Home Alone (1990).

Plot.

The McCallister family is preparing to spend Christmas in Paris, gathering at Peter and Kate's home in a Chicago suburb on the night before their departure. Peter and Kate's youngest son, Kevin, is the subject of ridicule by his older siblings and cousins. Kevin inadvertently ruins the family dinner after a brief scuffle with his oldest brother Buzz, resulting in Kate sending him up to the attic. Kevin berates his mother for allowing the rest of the family to pick on him and wishes that his family would disappear. During the night, heavy winds create a power outage, disabling the alarm clocks and causing the family to oversleep. In the confusion and rush to get to the airport, Kevin is accidentally left behind.

Kevin wakes to find the house empty. Thinking that his wish has come true, he is overjoyed with his newfound freedom. Later, Kevin becomes frightened by his next-door neighbour, "Old Man" Marley, who is rumoured by the local children to be a serial killer who murdered his own family. The McCallister home is soon stalked by the "Wet Bandits", Harry and Marv, a pair of burglars who have been breaking into other vacant houses in the neighbourhood. Kevin tricks them into thinking that his family is still home, forcing them to postpone their plans to rob the McCallister house.

Kate realizes mid-flight that Kevin was left behind, and upon arrival in Paris, the family discovers that all flights for the next two days are booked and that the phone lines are still down back home in Chicago. Peter and the rest of the family stay in his brother's apartment in Paris, while Kate manages to get a flight back to Scranton, Pennsylvania. She attempts to find a flight to Chicago, but all the

flights are booked. Kate is overheard by Gus Polinski, the lead member of a travelling polka band, who offers to let her travel with them to Chicago in a moving van.

Meanwhile, Harry and Marv finally realize that only Kevin is in the McCallister home, and on Christmas Eve, Kevin overhears them discussing plans to break into the house that night. Kevin starts to miss his family and asks the local Santa Claus impersonator if he could bring his family back for Christmas. He goes to church and watches a choir perform, and encounters Marley, who proves the rumours about him are false. Marley points out his granddaughter in the choir and mentions he has never met her since she is the daughter of his estranged son. Kevin suggests to Marley that he should reconcile with his son.

Kevin returns home and rigs the house with booby traps. Harry and Marv break in, spring the traps, and suffer various injuries. While Harry and Marv pursue Kevin around the house, he calls the police and lures the duo into a vacant neighbouring house which they had previously broken into. Harry and Marv ambush Kevin and prepare to get their revenge, but Marley intervenes and knocks them unconscious with his snow shovel. The police arrive and arrest Harry and Marv, having identified all the houses that they broke into due to Marv's destructive habit of flooding them.

On Christmas Day, Kevin is initially disappointed to find that his family is still gone, although Kate arrives home and they reconcile. The rest of the family soon return after waiting in Paris until they could obtain a direct flight to Chicago. Kevin keeps silent about his encounter with Harry and Marv, although Peter finds Harry's

knocked-out gold tooth. Kevin then watches Marley reuniting with his son, daughter-in-law, and granddaughter. Marley notices Kevin, and they wave to each other.

It's not Christmas until you watch this film and just watch and laugh out loud at the cartoon violence often seen in Tom and Jerry coming to life as he gives the burglars a lesson on not robbing the house that Kevin has been left alone in.

A feel-good movie for all the family
Running time(103 Minutes)
Rated (PG)
4 out of 4.



It's A Wonderful Life (1946)

Plot

On Christmas Eve 1945, in Bedford Falls, New York, George Bailey contemplates suicide. The prayers of his family and friends reach Heaven,

where guardian angel, second class Clarence Odbody, is assigned to save George to earn his wings. Clarence is shown flashbacks of George's life. He watches 12-year-old George rescue his younger brother Harry from drowning, but becomes deaf in his left ear. Later, George prevents the pharmacist, Mr. Gower, distraught over the death of his son, from accidentally poisoning a prescription.

In 1928, George plans a world tour before college. He is reintroduced to Mary Hatch, who has been enamoured with him since childhood. When his father dies suddenly, George postpones his travel to settle the family business, Bailey Brothers Building and Loan. Avaricious board member Henry F. Potter, who controls most of the town, seeks to dissolve it, but the board votes to keep the Building and Loan open if George runs it. George acquiesces and works alongside his uncle, Billy, and gives his tuition to Harry with the understanding that Harry will run the business when he graduates.

Harry returns from college married and with a job offer from his father-in-law, and George resigns himself to running the Building and Loan. George and Mary rekindle their relationship and are married. They witness a run on the bank and use their honeymoon savings to keep the Building and Loan solvent. Under George's leadership, the company establishes Bailey Park, a modern housing development surpassing Potter's overpriced slums. Potter entices George with a job for \$20,000 a year but, realizing that Potter's true intention is to close the Building and Loan, George rebuffs the offer.

During World War II, George is ineligible for service because of his deaf ear but is active in the domestic

war effort. On Christmas Eve 1945, the town prepares a hero's welcome for Harry, who was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions as a U.S. Navy fighter pilot preventing a kamikaze attack on a troop transport. Billy goes to Potter's bank to deposit \$8,000 of the Building and Loan's cash. He taunts Potter with a newspaper headline about Harry, but absentmindedly wraps the envelope of cash in Potter's newspaper. Potter finds the money and keeps it, while Billy cannot recall how he misplaced it. With a bank examiner reviewing the company's records, George realizes scandal and criminal charges will follow. Fruitlessly retracing Billy's steps, George berates him and takes out his frustration on Mary and their kids. George appeals to Potter for a loan, offering his life insurance policy as collateral. Potter chastises George, refuses to help, and phones the police.

George flees Potter's office, gets drunk at a bar, and prays for help. Suicidal, he goes to a nearby bridge, but before he can jump, Clarence dives into the river and George rescues him. When George wishes he had never been born, Clarence shows George a timeline in which he never existed. Bedford Falls is now Pottersville, an unsavoury town occupied by sleazy entertainment venues, crime, and callous people. Mr. Gower was imprisoned for manslaughter because George was not there to stop him from accidentally poisoning the prescription. George's mother does not know him. Uncle Billy was institutionalized after the Building and Loan failed. Bailey Park is a cemetery, where George discovers Harry's grave. Without George, Harry had drowned as a child, and without Harry to save them, the troops aboard the transport ship were killed. George finds Mary, now a spinster,

and when he claims to be her husband, she screams for the police and George flees.

*George races back to the bridge and begs Clarence for his life back. The original reality is restored, and a grateful George rushes home to await his arrest. Meanwhile, Mary and Billy have rallied the townspeople, who donate more than enough to cover the missing money. Harry arrives and toasts George as "the richest man in town." Among the donations, George finds a copy of *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, a gift from Clarence, with a note assuring him that no man is a failure who has friends and thanking him for his wings. When a bell on the Christmas tree rings, George's youngest daughter, Zuzu, explains that it means that an angel has earned his wings. George realizes that he truly has a wonderful life.*

When you think that if I was not born to go and search out this film. When the angel shows the main character

what would have happened if he was not alive. What he had wished would happen to people he loved leads to a truly magical ending.

The Christmas spirit will enter your soul.

Running Time(130 minutes,)

Rated (U).

4 out of 4.

Films selected are in my top 10. There are many more to choose from, and I am sure your list will differ from mine. So sit down in a comfortable chair watching a film either on the television or streaming services and have yourself a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



NEW MUSIC & REVIEWS

**Ready for Christmas!
New and old music and
video releases**

*...with comments from
Alan Dearling*

alan dearling

Otyken

On Youtube we are informed: “*OTYKEN is an ethno-musical group from Siberia. The main members of the group are the Chulymys (a small indigenous people of central Siberia).*” It almost sounds like the ultimate spoof band, Siberian Female Chillums, plus a few false beards! Throat-singing, jaws’ harps (vargans) interspersed with strange stringed and drum musical sounds... traditional music gone through a veritable shredder, plus more than a shade of K-Pop (Korean pop, methinks). An on-line sensation.

From Russia with love?

Otyken: ‘Legend’:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tXLop9iSU5Y>

Otyken: ‘Storm’ (with additional screams and heavy-metalness):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CqwrwwOzVcQ>

But they are causing ripples and waves across Europe. Weird-indie, ‘yes, indeedy’ (to steal a phrase from Gene Kelly!)...

And, **Billx & Otyken** - My wing (Rave music edit):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yIUsg-yUZ8>

Lady Blackbird – *Black Acid Soul deluxe* (double CD)

The deluxe double release of ‘Black Acid Soul’ with a second CD of additional tracks is pretty much my favourite album of 2022. Think laid-back blues and jazz clubs. Old Skool with a coating of the new.





It's a musical space crammed full of purity, musical joy, sadness – emotion-filled jazz with many resonances of Billie Holiday and Nina Simone. A finely crafted set of songs to highlight the songstress skills of Lady Blackbird, with ripples of bass, piano – melodic and soulful, but also stripped to the bare component parts. The album was produced by Chris Seefried and features an absolutely stellar band including former Miles Davis pianist, Deron Johnson

A thing of joy for anyone who enjoys this genre and is looking for high quality playing and singing. It's now the original album, plus 11 additional recordings including a number of remixes. It's a fascinating blend of beguiling blues. The beginnings of an illustrious and transcendent career for Marley Munroe. As one Italian reviewer on amazon says: *“Una voce, a mio giudizio, calda ed avvolgente”* (A voice, in my opinion, warm and enveloping).

One of the tracks from the second CD: ‘I am what I am’:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yss4mxx2B6k>

And, ‘It'll Never Happen Again (Live at Capitol “A”):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aovHCegOS7I>

Ezra Collective – *Where I'm meant to be*

Sometimes billed as a ‘Hip-Hop’ band, the Ezra Collective are much, much more. An exhilarating British jazz-based collective, led by Femi Koleoso, with many guests including Sampa The Great, Kojey Radical, Emile Sandé, Steve McQueen, and Nao. MOBO best jazz act winners 2022, and well-deserved. The Guardian calls them *‘brilliant!’* Stellar playing, ‘genre-hopping’ is much more accurate. What it is says on Bandcamp:

“Ezra Collective’s new era, a venture in discovered maturity and raised stakes, will be defined by their second album.

‘Where I’m Meant To Be’ is a thumping celebration of life.



A natural product of years improvising together on-stage, the album will light up sweaty dance floors and soundtrack dinner parties in equal measure”
Absolutely

fantabadosie... ‘Victory Dance’ video:

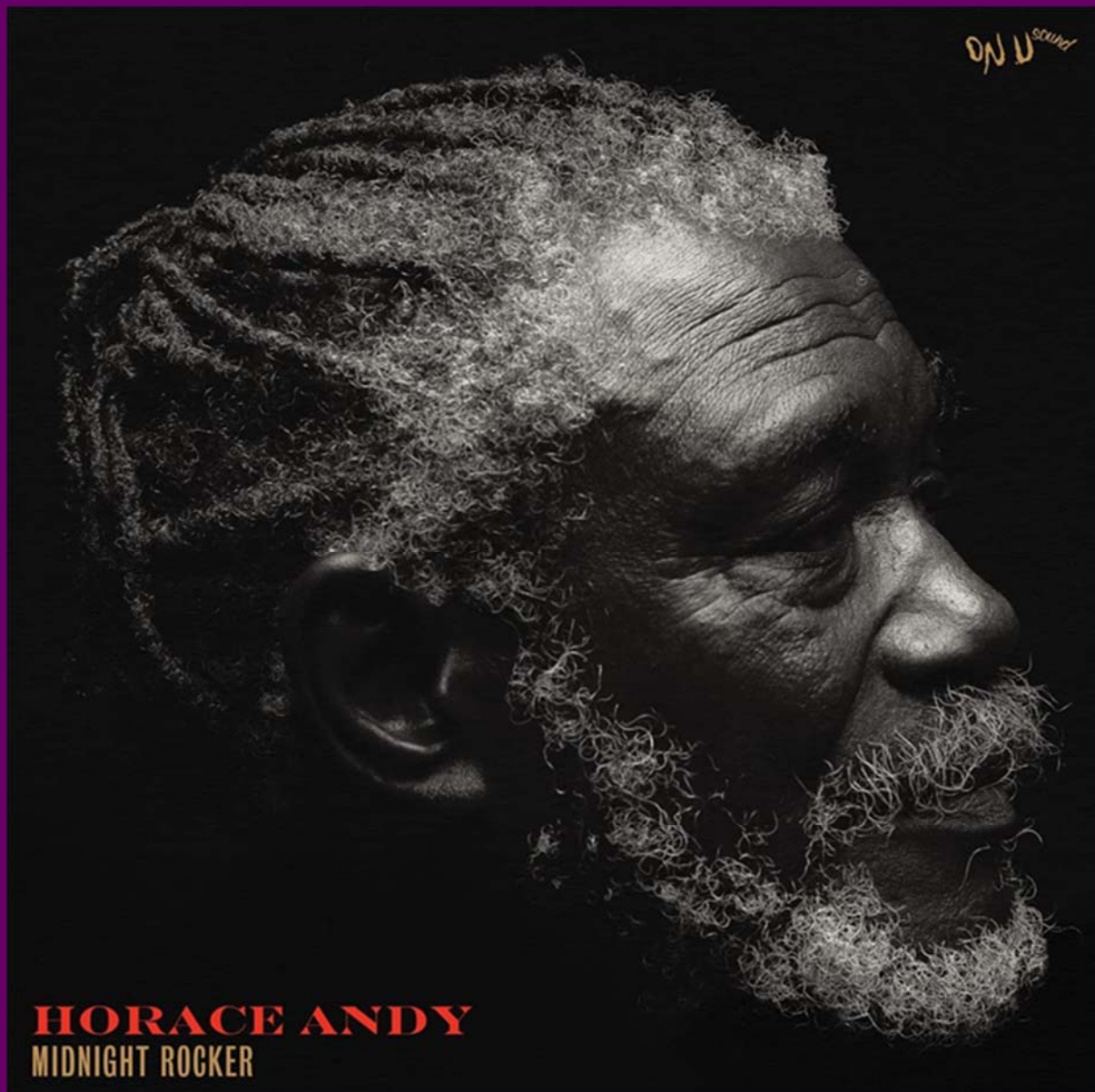
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NiZPsN2pbTM>

Backstage ‘No confusion’:

<https://www.facebook.com/EzraCollective/videos/806260113820960>

Horace Andy – *Midnight Rocker*

A reggae survivor. (He’s actually almost exactly the same age as me: 72 –next birthday). Perhaps best known, and loved, for his vocal contributions to all five of the Massive Attack albums. Really one of the greats of reggae and much respected in his home country of Jamaica. And this new album, released earlier in 2022 is a fine addition. Lots of instant classic songs and ear-worms. It’s produced by Adrian Sherwood of On-U Sound. Apparently, Andy’s vocals were recorded in Jamaica, with the tracks sent back and forth between vocalist and producer until they were complete. Check it out. Possibly the best new reggae album of the year.



I fell for its charms when I first heard the single, written for Horace by his friend Jeb Loy Nichols:

‘Try Love’:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pLCUbhGHmkY>

And an excerpt from Jeb Loy:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oYPC7_7G1EU

From On-U Sound we find out more about this relationship:

“Jeb Loy wrote three songs for Horace Andy on Midnight Rocker: ‘Easy Money’, ‘Today Is Right Here’, and ‘Try Love’. When asked about his relationship with Horace, Jeb Loy said:

“I first met Horace in 2001 when I was asked to both open and DJ for him on a tour of Britain. Horace was doing an acoustic show, just a guitarist and a percussionist. We all shared a van and Horace was in charge of the video player. His favourite videos were highlights of Muhammed Ali’s fights, Enter The Dragon with Bruce Lee, The Making of Songs In The Key Of Life, and The Best Of Richard Pryor. It was, from the beginning, a pure joy. On the second day he began referring to me as Conscience Brother. The entire tour was a blessing. Thanks Horace.”

Jeb Loy’s album track, ‘The United States Of The Broken Hearted’ is here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GXE8slS6bII>

Ministry of Echology - *Horizon*

Reggae music-makers from Vilnius in Lithuania. But now entering into new

musical territories. Ugnius from the band contacted me asking me to check out their new album:

“Ministry of Echology have just released their 4th album HORIZON.

This album was created in Vilnius, Lithuania and the dubby sound of it is what the band is like in their live concerts. After three initial albums Ministry of Echology opened up to the exploration of multiple genres, soaking them in what they love about reggae and dub - word, sound and power.

You already heard its first single ‘Čiobreliai’ that I sent you a few weeks ago and the album just showed up online today:

<https://ministryofechology.bandcamp.com/album/horizon>

See what you think... good to see and hear a soul-gospel-reggae-techno collision alive and well in the Baltic States.

Here’s the video for the single, ‘Čiobreliai’ (meaning ‘Thyme’ in Lithuanian). Definitely a ‘rave’ anthem:

<https://youtu.be/eqEFaza6jP8>

The Doors - *Paris Blues*

*“I wish I was a girl of sixteen
Be the queen of the magazine
I’d drive around in a great big car
I’d see the world as a great big dream
All night long you could hear me scream
Hear me scream”*

Here’s an unofficial, evocative video as background for the ‘**Paris Blues**’ track. Not the bestest best of The Doors’ blues, but good to have out and about – Jim’s voice and some great blues noodling on guitar and organ.





<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ycH5ggqrkrQ>

The album I learned was released on vinyl for Record Store Day, November 2022. So, *Paris Blues* is a compilation of some of The Doors' live blues recordings both in the studio and on the stage. The never-before-released track 'Paris Blues' is the jewel in proverbial crown. And the original artwork created for album was created by Robby Krieger. From musicuniverse.com (but not too sure who wrote these notes):

"An original blues song written by the band, the track was recorded during one of the band's recording sessions for

either The Soft Parade or LA Woman (no one seems to remember). The master tape of the song was lost, and the only surviving copy was given to Doors keyboardist Ray Manzarek. Sadly, this copy was partially damaged by his son Pablo — a toddler at the time — who recorded over a few short parts. Now, through some creative editing, the song has been rescued from obscurity for the new album.

Other highlights include two previously unreleased live recordings of singer Jim Morrison and Krieger performing as a duo at a benefit for Norman Mailer's mayoral campaign on May 31, 1969, in West Hollywood. The first song is 'I Will Never Be Untrue', a band original written for, but

left off of, 1970's *Morrison Hotel*. The other is a cover of Robert Johnson's 'Me And The Devil Blues'. Both songs were recorded by Frank Lisciandro, a filmmaker who befriended Manzarek and Morrison when all three attended the film program at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA).

Paris Blues also contains a pair of outtakes recorded during the band's sessions for 1969's *The Soft Parade* – '(You Need Meat) Don't Go No Further' and 'I'm Your Doctor'. Both feature Manzarek on vocals backed by Krieger and drummer John Densmore. In 2019, bass by Robert DeLeo of Stone Temple Pilots was added to the songs.

The flipside of *Paris Blues* collects three songs from *Live in Vancouver 1970*, a concert album released in 2010 by The Doors' Bright Midnight Archive label. Recorded during the band's 1970 tour, these live tracks spotlight legendary bluesman Albert King, who joined the band onstage during its June 6, 1970, show at the Pacific Coliseum in Vancouver. Morrison's introduction of King is included along with live versions of 'Little Red Rooster', 'Rock Me Baby', and 'Who Do You Love?' "

A wonderfully demented Jim vocal on 'Little Red Rooster':

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w57Xn1NVZx8>

IN DANGER OF DISAPPEARING

Today, the Asian elephant is considered an endangered species with only around 50,000 left in the wild. Please give generously.

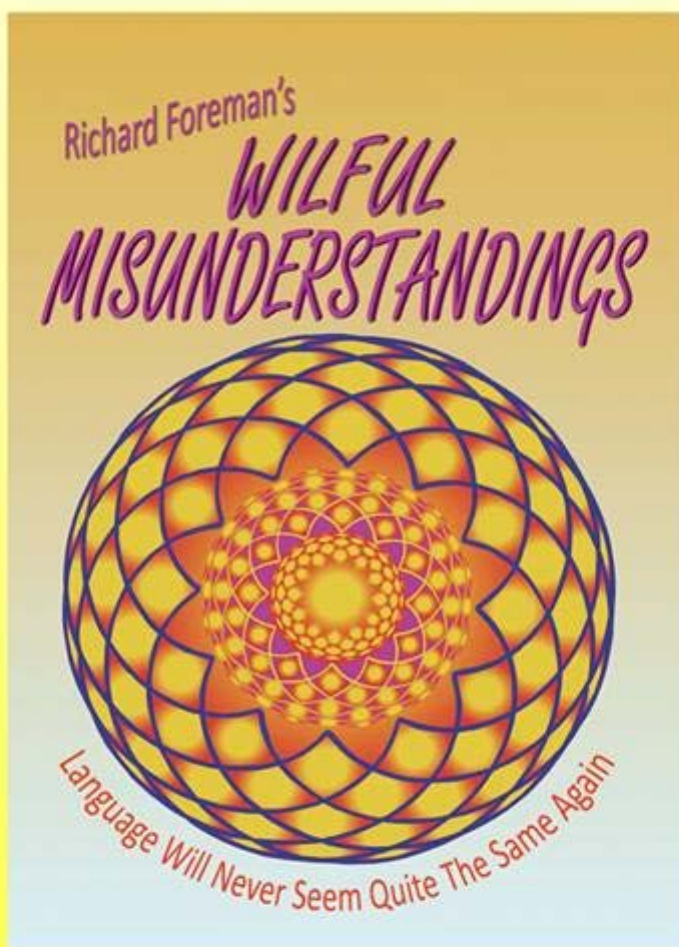


Expect the Unexpected!

'An excursion to a strangely familiar place that you have never previously dreamed of.' (Alan Moore, writer Jerusalem, From Hell)

'Utterly beguiling and often unsettling... a tour de force of storytelling.' (David Caddy, editor 'Tears in the Fence')

'Within five minutes of picking the book up I was immediately entranced.' (Jonathan Downes, editor 'Gonzo Weekly' magazine)



Readers' comments:

'Stories like dreams half remembered, tapping into a seam (or seeming) of the unconscious mind.'

'A sanctuary, a haven, a totally immersive other world...'

'A book to tickle and amaze, to ruffle and amuse and sometimes to raise the hairs on the back of your neck.'

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KEV'S WORLD

Kev's Top 10's - 2022

Last year, as a bit of fun, I put together my Top 10's of NZ music for the year. I may well have created an issue for myself though, as more than a few have asked when the 2022 version is coming out, so here it is in time for the last ever MNZ newsletter in its current form. MNZ is going through some changes, which will result in a modern site, with all relevant data carried over and some old features dropped. Technology has changed dramatically since the site started all those years ago, but we are still the biggest and longest-running music site in NZ, with our 25th anniversary not far away.

I have been writing reviews for more than 30 years, and although I have been in

Aotearoa for the last 16, for some strange reason I had never really thrown myself into the NZ Music scene until 2020 when I volunteered for MNZ, and I can safely say my musical education has been ongoing since then. I am an in-demand writer for multiple sites and magazines in different countries, and this year I have already written more than 650 reviews on bands from all over the world, of which 244 have been for MNZ (don't worry, I am going to break the 250, at least). The breakdown is 63 albums, 35 EP's, 94 singles and 52 gigs. That is only a tiny percentage of what has been released in 2022 by our amazing bands, but I doubt there are many who hear as much music as I do, so hopefully the lists are representative.

Please note these are my personal opinion and does not reflect that of the site itself (and will probably change tomorrow anyway). I did also give myself certain rules – no band can appear in the same list more than once (although they can be in more than one list), no single can be included if either the album or EP it is taken from also appears, no live albums or compilations. You will also note there are a couple of Top 12's as I could just not bear to leave the others off, and a Top 9, but that's the way the cookie crumbles sometimes.

This is just a bit of fun, and hopefully it will encourage you to investigate some of the reviews which go with them. There are a few which have appeared on sites other than MNZ as they were reviewed by someone else for this site, so the link will be where my review appeared elsewhere. This list is again all over the place regarding genres, and I highly recommend every band included.

Singles



1 Coridian - Rakasha

<https://houseofprog.comblog/2022/08/28/coridian-rakshasa-2022-single/>



2 Aro - Tohora

<https://www.muzic.net.nz/articles/reviews/93129/singlevideo-review-tohora>



3 Villainy - The Launch

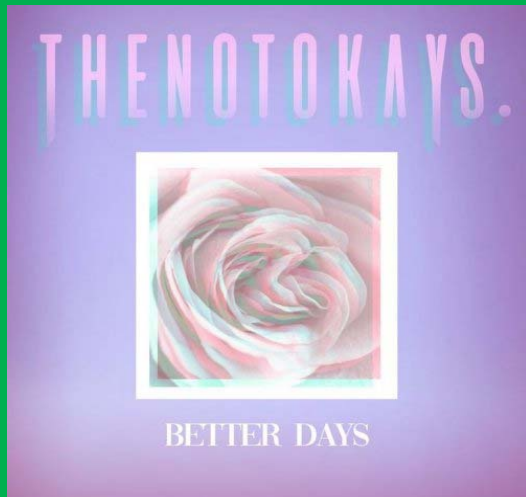
<https://www.muzic.net.nz/articles/reviews/93917/single-review-the-launch>



4. Volts - When You Go

<https://www.muzic.net.nz/articles/reviews/93900/single-review-when-you-go>





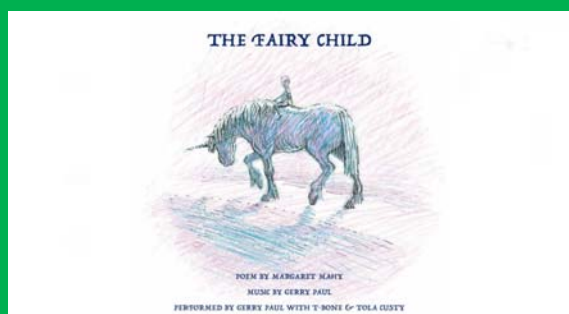
5. The Not Okays - Better Days

<https://www.muzic.net.nz/articles/reviews/93134/singlevideo-review-better-days>



6. Dead Favours - Sink or Swim

<https://www.muzic.net.nz/articles/reviews/93843/single-review-sink-or-swim>



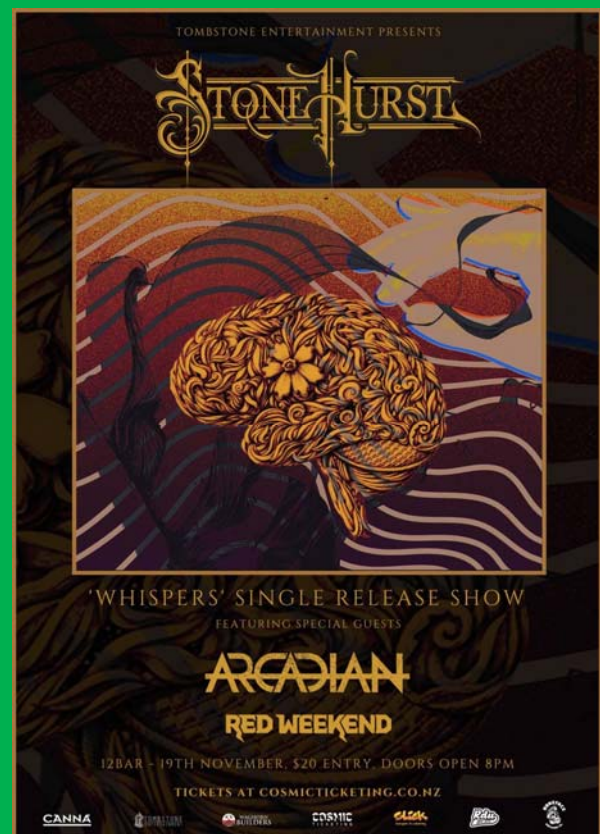
7 Gerry Paul - The Fairy Child

<https://www.muzic.net.nz/articles/reviews/93566/single-review-the-fairy-child>



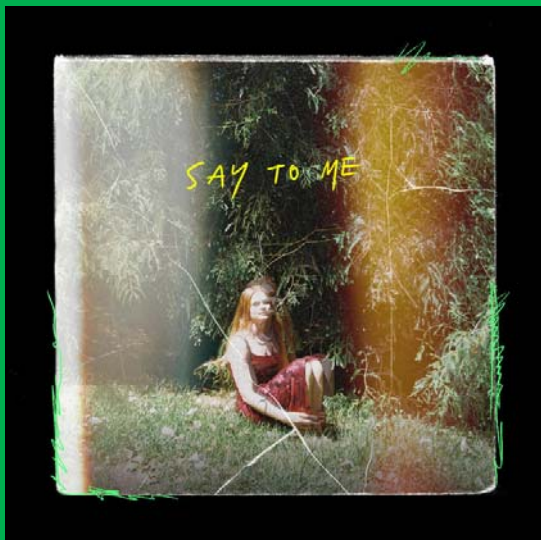
8 End Boss - Punished

<https://www.muzic.net.nz/articles/reviews/93022/singlevideo-review-punished>



9 Stonehurst - Whispers

<https://www.muzic.net.nz/articles/reviews/93966/single-review-whispers>



10 Ayla Wesley - Say To Me
<https://www.muzic.net.nz/articles/reviews/93499/single-review-say-to-me>



11 Ed Waaka - E Kura
<https://www.muzic.net.nz/articles/reviews/93497/single-review-e-kura>



12 Sam Bartells - Good Intentions
<https://www.muzic.net.nz/articles/reviews/93472/single-review-good-intentions>

EPs



1 Ekko Park - UnMute
<https://www.muzic.net.nz/articles/reviews/93813/ep-review-unmute>



2 Anderson Rocio - Chapter One
<https://www.muzic.net.nz/articles/reviews/94067/ep-review-chapter-one>

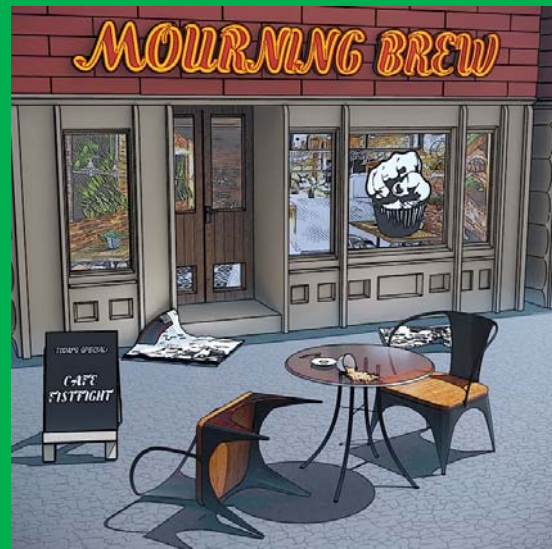




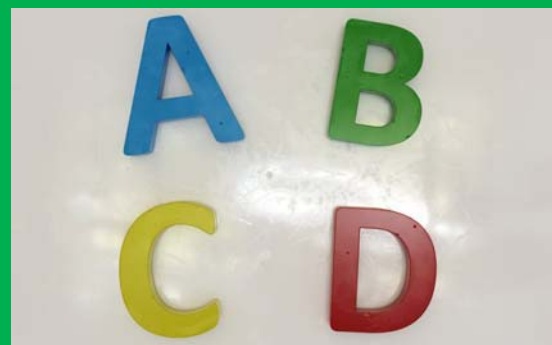
3 South for Winter - Acoustic Sessions
<https://www.muzic.net.nz/articles/reviews/93471/ep-review-acoustic-sessions>



4 Gideon Voon - EPsode II: Wanderer's Path
<https://www.muzic.net.nz/articles/reviews/93439/ep-review-epsode-ii-wanderers-path>



5 Cafe Fistfight - Mourning Brew
<https://www.muzic.net.nz/articles/reviews/93367/ep-review-mourning-brew>



6 Melanie - ABCD
<https://www.muzic.net.nz/artists/5063/melanie>



ARIA - Love Songs Till Midnight
<https://www.muzic.net.nz/articles/reviews/93305/ep-review-love-songs-till-midnight>



8 Checcaine - Black River

<https://www.muzic.net.nz/articles/reviews/93250/ep-review-black-river>



9 Sea Mouse - Evil Heart

<https://www.muzic.net.nz/articles/reviews/93585/ep-review-evil-heart>



Albums



1 Troy Kingi - The Year of the Ratbags And Their Musty Theme Songs

<https://www.muzic.net.nz/articles/reviews/93909/album-review-the-year-of-the-ratbags-and-their-musty-theme-songs>



2 Capital Theatre - A Hero's Journey

<https://www.muzic.net.nz/articles/reviews/93473/album-review-a-heros-journey>

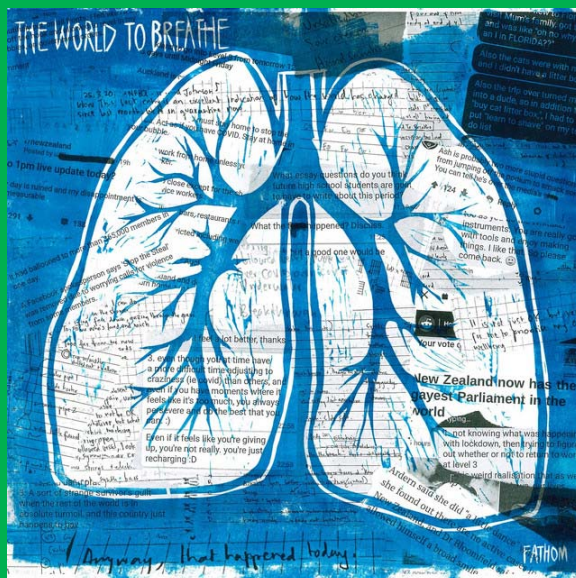




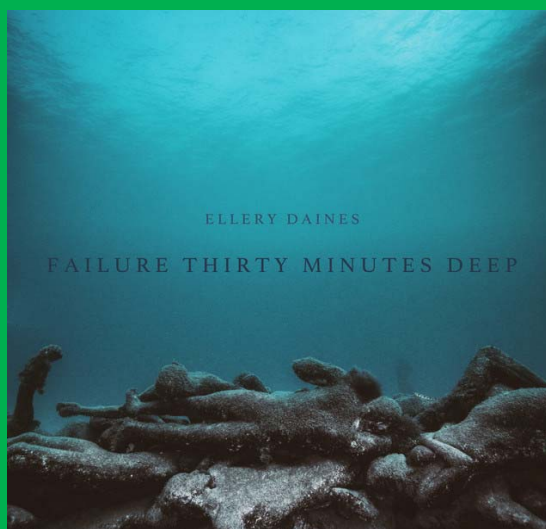
3 Lee Martin - Gypsy Soul
<https://www.muzic.net.nz/articles/reviews/93085/album-review-gypsy-soul>



4 Goldsmith Baynes - E Rere Ra
<https://www.muzic.net.nz/articles/reviews/93706/album-review-e-rere-ra>



5 Fathom - The World To Breathe
<https://www.muzic.net.nz/articles/reviews/93016/album-review-the-world-to-breathe>



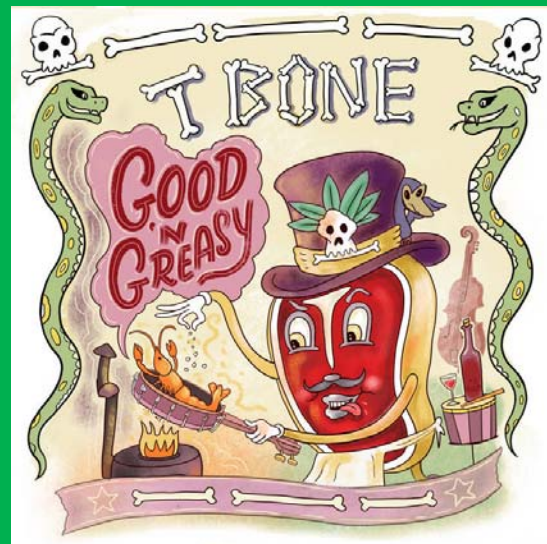
6 Ellery Daines - Failure Thirty Minutes Deep
<https://www.muzic.net.nz/articles/reviews/93291/album-review-failure-thirty-minutes-deep>



7



Turkey The Bird - When Turkeys Fly
<https://www.muzic.net.nz/articles/reviews/93232/album-review-when-turkeys-fly>



9 T-Bone - Good n Greasy
<https://www.muzic.net.nz/articles/reviews/93457/album-review-good-n-greasy>

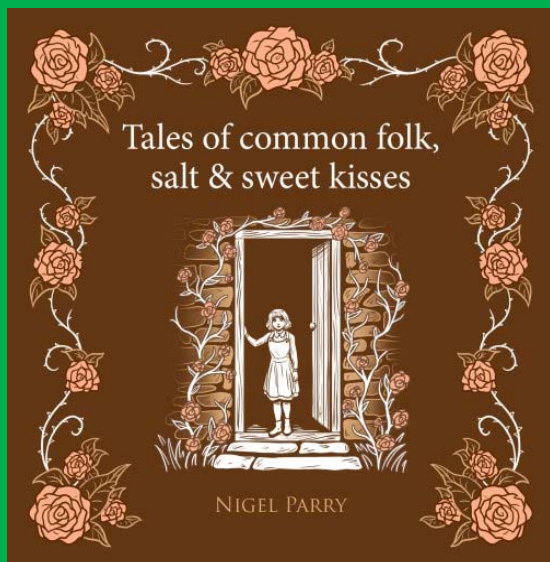


8 Tall Folk - Wiser
<https://www.muzic.net.nz/articles/reviews/92970/album-review-wiser>



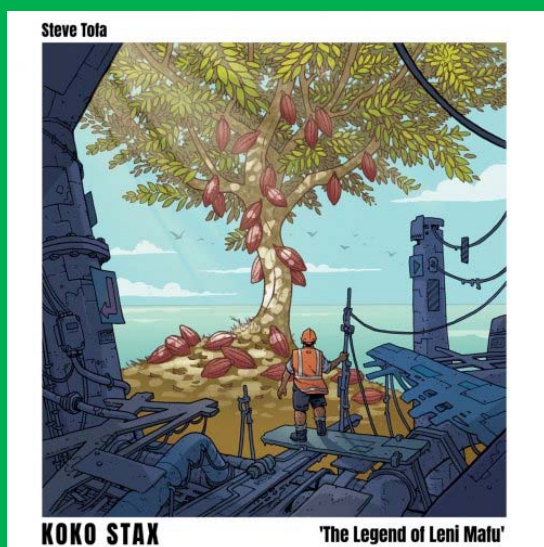
10 Jenny Mitchell - Tug of War
<https://houseofprog.com/blog/2022/07/30/jenny-mitchell-tug-of-war-2022/>





11 Nigel Parry - Tales of Common Folk: Salt & Sweet Kisses

<https://www.muzic.net.nz/articles/reviews/93244/album-review-tales-of-common-folk-salt-sweet-kisses>



12 Steve Tofa - Koko Stax: The Legend Of Leni Mafu

<https://www.muzic.net.nz/articles/reviews/93243/album-review-koko-stax-the-legend-of-leni-mafu>

Concerts

This was by far the hardest category to gauge, and although only the headline band is named, it is the complete line-up that night which made it what it was.

1 Written By Wolves - Tuning Fork, Auckland - 12/11/2022

<https://www.muzic.net.nz/articles/reviews/94049/gig-review-written-by-wolves-tuning-fork-auckland-12112022>

2 Villainy - The Powerstation, Auckland - 28/10/2022

<https://www.muzic.net.nz/articles/reviews/93988/gig-review-villainy-the-powerstation-auckland-28102022>

3 Troy Kingi - Auckland Town Hall - 19/08/2022

<https://www.muzic.net.nz/artists/3718/troy-kingi>

4 Reb Fountain - Town Hall, Auckland - 29/07/2022

<https://www.muzic.net.nz/articles/reviews/93592/gig-review-reb-fountain-town-hall-auckland-29072022>



5 The Jordan Luck Band - The Tuning Fork, Auckland - 3/09/2022

<https://www.muzic.net.nz/articles/reviews/93709/gig-review-the-jordan-luck-band-ekko-park-the-tuning-fork-auckland-3092022>

6 Lee Martin - Wunderbar, Lyttleton - 09/03/2022

<https://www.muzic.net.nz/articles/reviews/93137/gig-review-lee-martin-wunderbar-lyttleton-09032022>

7 Looking For Alaska & Albi & The Wolves - Leigh Sawmill, Leigh - 12/02/2022

<https://www.muzic.net.nz/articles/reviews/93044/gig-review-looking-for-alaska-albi-the-wolves-leigh-sawmill-leigh-12022022>

8 French For Rabbits - The Tuning Fork, Auckland - 13/05/2022

<https://www.muzic.net.nz/articles/reviews/93350/gig-review-french-for-rabbits-the-tuning-fork-auckland-13052022>

9 Fur Patrol - The Tuning Fork, Auckland - 20/08/2022

<https://www.muzic.net.nz/articles/reviews/93661/gig-review-fur-patrol-the-tuning-fork-auckland-20082022>

10 South for Winter - Ministry of Folk, Auckland - 17/02/2022

<https://www.muzic.net.nz/articles/reviews/93060/gig-review-south-for-winter-the-ministry-of-folk-auckland-17022022>

11 Turkey The Bird - Ministry of Folk, Auckland - 11/06/2022

<https://www.muzic.net.nz/articles/reviews/93442/gig-review-turkey-the-bird-ministry-of-folk-auckland-11062022>

12 T-Bone - The Tuning Fork, Auckland - 03/07/2022

<https://www.muzic.net.nz/articles/reviews/93510/gig-review-t-bone-the-tuning-fork-auckland-03072022>

Band of the Year

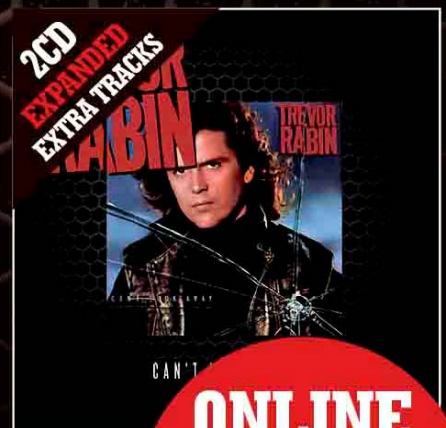
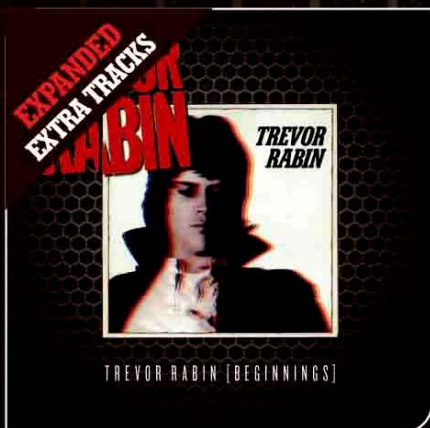
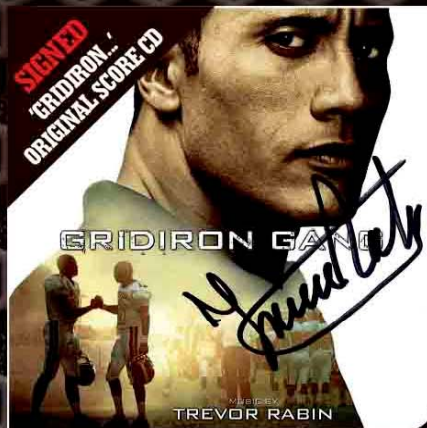
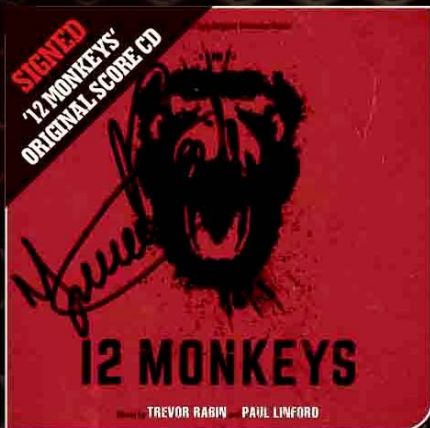
Written By Wolves

They may have not released any new material in 2022, but I managed to see them play three times, and am always made to feel very much part of the family.

Such a wonderful group of people, producing amazing music, and with a new album out in 2023 the sky is the limit.



TREVOR RABIN



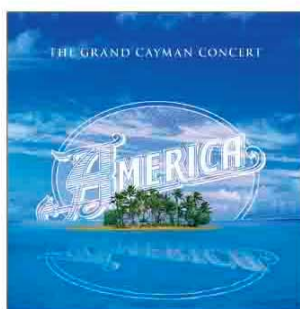
ONLINE STORE: www.musicglue.com/trevor-rabin
 WEBSITE: www.trevorrabinmusic.com TWITTER: @trevorrabin
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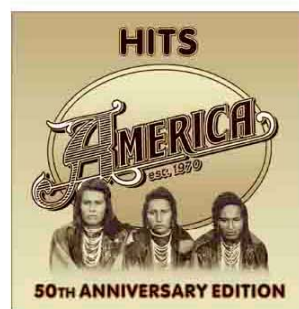
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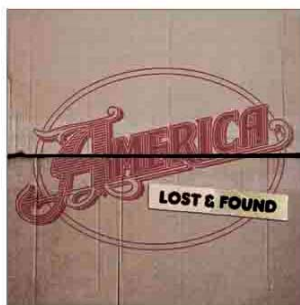
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HITS - 50TH ANNIVERSARY
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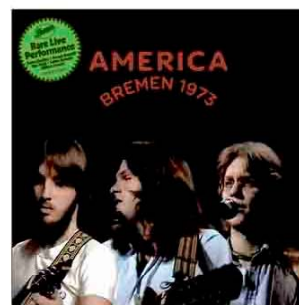
WILDWOOD SPRINGS
USGZ106CD



LOST & FOUND
USGZ114CD



HOLIDAY HARMONY
USGZ115CD



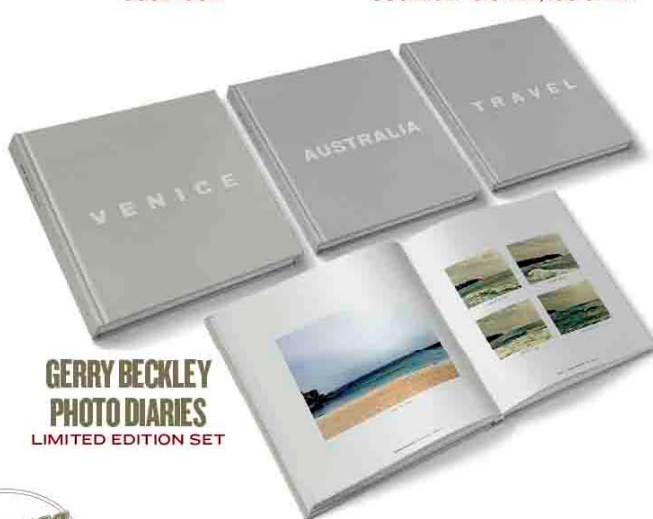
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HORIZONTAL FALL**
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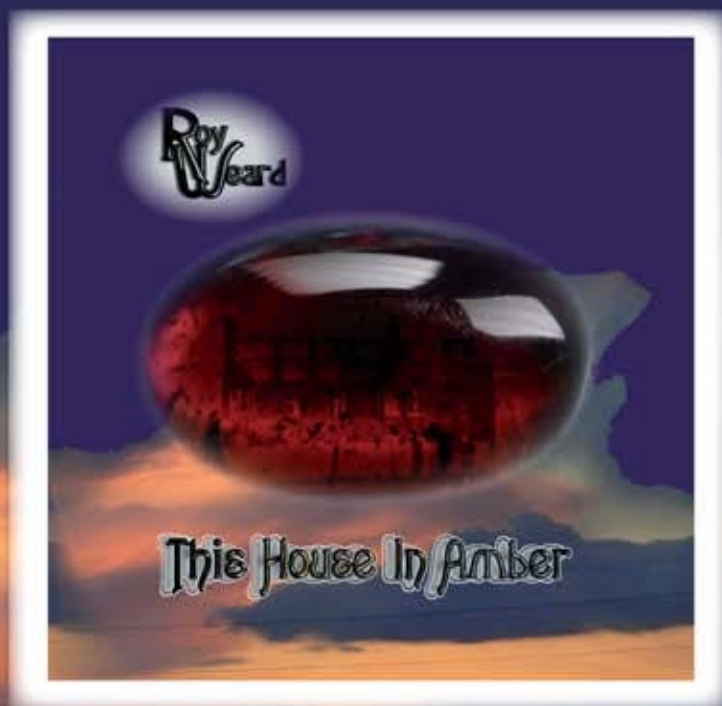


**GERRY BECKLEY
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Available from www.musicglue.com/america/shop





Roy
Weard

This House In Amber

New Album out now

Available on CD from :

www.weard.co.uk

CD / digital download :

<https://royweard.bandcamp.com/album/this-house-in-amber>



This is the most important moment in history to do something for African elephants. Because it's the worst time in history to be an elephant.

In 1980 there were 1.2 million elephants in Africa. Now there are just 430,000 and 20,000 were killed last year alone to fuel soaring demand for ivory. About one every 20 minutes.

That's why The Nature Conservancy has teamed up with music industry icon Martin Guitar on #SaveElephants -- a movement to provide people with simple actions to help elephants that will add up to make a difference.

Martin Guitar has been a leader in elephant protection since the 1970s when the company made the decision to stop using ivory on its guitars and started to phase the material from its supply chain. As the founding sponsor of #SaveElephants, Martin has donated five custom elephant-themed guitars for raising funds.

#SaveElephants is part of a partnership between the Conservancy's programs in Africa and China to increase wildlife security, expand habitat, reduce demand, and reduce poverty and instability in places where elephants range -- the root cause of poaching.

Ultimately, this is bigger than elephants. Poaching spreads crime and instability, threatening lives and tourism-based income that's desperately needed by the people who live among elephants.

We have to do more. That's why we're thrilled to be working with Martin Guitar -- and with you. Together, we're powerful.

Asante sana (thank you very much),

David Banks
Director, Africa Region
The Nature Conservancy

p.s. Start helping elephants today at [nature.org/elephants](https://www.nature.org/elephants) and follow us on Instagram, Facebook or Twitter to get action alerts.





Hawkwind Earth Visitors Passport - The "Hawkwind Passport"

The stated aim is that Hawkwind fans can have access to special Hawkwind events such as Hawkfest, to obtain limited DVDs and CDs of unreleased material and to attend private Hawkwind parties. So far, six Hawkfests (outdoor festivals), five Hawkeasters, and some other events such as Rock for Rescue have been on the gigs list.

The application form is available via Hawkwind.com and needs to be filled out and physically posted off to Mission Control with two passport sized photographs and a stamped addressed envelope.



DEEP IN THE FOREST SOMETHING STIRS. TWO
NOVELS, ONE HORRIFIC SECRET...

JONATHAN DOWNES



WILD COLONIAL BOY

a childhood with animals and ghosts in hong kong

tinyurl.com/13jgqcbg

NEWS FROM THE POTTING SHED

Martin Springett was born in Crayford, Kent, England, in 1947. He studied art (that is he learned to play the Guitar) for two semesters at the Brassey School of Art in Hastings, Sussex. He emigrated to the West Coast of Canada in 1965, but returned to the UK in 1973 to pursue music in various bands. He spent time in Germany, and toured through Europe.

While in London Martin started to illustrate and design record covers for Columbia records. Upon his return to Vancouver, Martin carried on with music and illustrated various books and magazines. In 1978 he moved to Toronto, maintaining activity in every area where illustration is required. He released his own album, "The Gardening Club", in 1983.

In 1984 Martin was commissioned to illustrate the cover of "The Summer Tree" by Guy Gavriel Kay. This and the subsequent volumes of The Fionavar Tapestry Trilogy were published around the world along with Martin's covers. Martin continued his work in fantasy illustration, illustrating many covers for fantasy novels, including "The Traveller In Black" by John Brunner. In 1990 he illustrated his first children's book, "Mei Ming and the Dragon's Daughter" written by Lydia Bailey. Martin has just finished illustrating his sixth children's book, called "The Follower" by Richard Thompson. He has been nominated for various awards, including the Governor Generals Award For Illustration. He has won the Aurora Award For Excellence in Fantasy Art, and two Silver Awards from the Art Directors Club of Toronto and Best Classical Record Cover of The Year Award (UK).

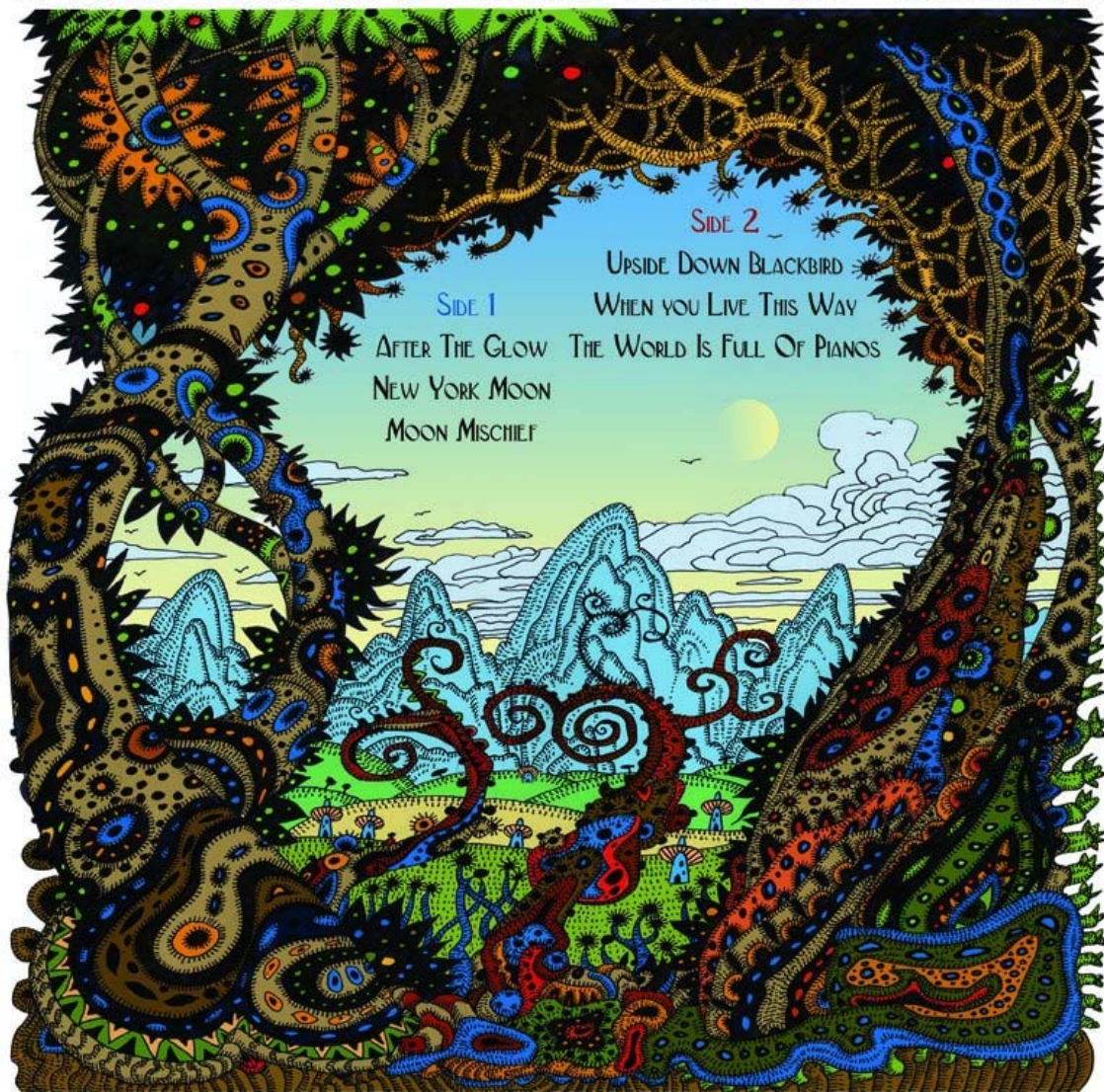
Martin still pursues the Musical Muse, recently producing a new CD, "Blue Evening" with his band "FREEFALL", an independent, instrumental album called "Rough Magic"; a collection of explorations on the guitar, and a collection of tunes inspired by the writings of Guy Gavriel Kay called "Bright Weaving".

www.martinspringett.com/

<https://spacewreckrecords.bandcamp.com>



THE GARDENING CLUB



s o n g s f r o m t h e g r e e n h o u s e



Thom the World Poet

Rob Ayling writes:

"Thom the World poet is an old mate of mine from way back in my history. Even pre-dating Voiceprint, when I was running "Otter Songs" and Tom's poetry tapes and guest appearances with Daavid Allen, Gilli Smyth *Mother Gong* are well known and highly regarded. It just felt right to include a daily poem from Thom on our Gonzo blog and when I approached him to do so, he replied with in seconds!!! Thom is a great talent and just wants to spread poetry, light and positive energy across the globe. If we at Gonzo can help him do that - why not? why not indeed!!!"

STRESSMAS

Racing though traffic, bad weather, for gifts
that may be returned post-Christmas.
It is dark now. People get S.A.D
Lights need be LOUD and coloured.
Traffic accidents high. So, too, suicides.
Solo folk with empty parcel blues. Who loves you?
Re-verse the Magic — WHO DO YOU LOVE?
How can you add to the joys of these Seasons?
Time to focus upon Inner Work — attitudes of Gratitude
at being here with the Gifts of Time, Energy and Attention to
"Add your Light to the Sum of Light!"
and to shine as Bright as Moon, Stars, Galaxies and Constellations..
Be The Night Sky! SHINE!

!

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Mark
E Smith



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classic Fall
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The Fall:
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www.musicglue.com/cog-sinister

The shop for Mark E Smith and The Fall merchandise, CDs and vinyl

Inside Number Three.

A Visual History of Apple Records

By Nigel Pearce

*Inside
No 3*

Deluxe box, hardback,
and softback editions
available



When you open this beautiful book, you will enter a world that millions of people never knew existed. It's a world of colour, innovation, revolution, coupled with a completely fresh and different mode of marketing from Apple Records, the label owned by The Beatles.

Savile Row was the epicentre of this world, nestling in a sumptuous Georgian Terrace in London's West End commercial belt. No 3 Savile Row is where it all happened in a way beyond belief operation that still inspires artists from all walks and ages of music and life. This book shows a very personal collection, carefully obtained and collated since 1968 that defies description, and has the ability to astound all who care to enter this lost and much sought-after world.

Memos, records, press statements, photographs, albums and so much more. This private collection so carefully assembled, cared for since 1968 has been expertly photographed in full detail to bring this beautiful and innovating world to you, as a tribute and recognition of The Beatles, the world's greatest ever group, and the ever-growing legacy that still astounds fans and historians the world over. It's a record of love, devotion and a longing for all fans, that need wait no more to see this remarkable and stunning world. It shows what went on behind that famous door Inside No 3.

Available to pre-order from www.insideandoutsidenono3.com

THE WORLD OF GONZO ACCORDING TO

Mark Raines



Mark has a podcast: The Holsworthy Mark Show podbean. He says that it is a show "in which I talk about news myself, and do interviews. I sent it up as I found video a bit hard. I just hope people like and support it. If anyone wants to be part of it or just to come along for the ride they are welcome".

PS shows can be downloaded

<http://maraines88.podbean.com/>

And so here we are, ladies & gentlemen. at the end of another issue. It has been a particularly complicated issue to put together to dear Phil for the fact that the proof has got to him for correction two days late.

There is no real reason for this, but various things came in a little late and other things needed far more work than I had originally anticipated and the fact that I am in and out of hospital three times a week, makes things even more confusing and complicated. So, Phil, my dear, I hope you will forgive me because I feel completely embarrassed about all this. I hope that the next issue, which at the moment is supposed to come out on New Year's eve, will be more straightforward, but as my domestic situation and everything seems to get more and more complicated, with more and more hospital visits for me and with my nearest and dearest having health problems, I wouldn't bet on it.

As I intimated elsewhere in this issue, the world seems to have gone completely mad at the moment and I can't see it getting any better any time soon, but with a New Year looming over us, and furthermore the New Year that the Justified Ancients of MuMu wrote about in their novel of the same name, gives one a certain amount of hope that whilst the year will remain interesting, it might have enough entertainment value to live through successfully.

I certainly hope so!



So, my dears, I sincerely hope that you all have a happy, prosperous and safe New Year. I hope you all survive this winter, with its overtones of dystopia and rampant inflation, and I hope that you manage to wring as much enjoyment from it as you can.

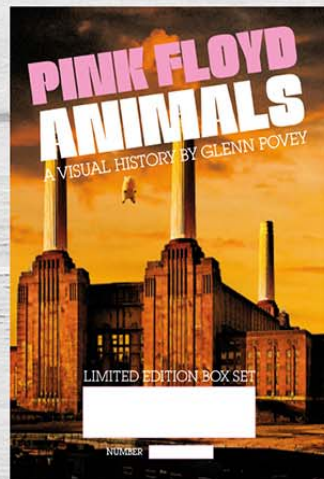
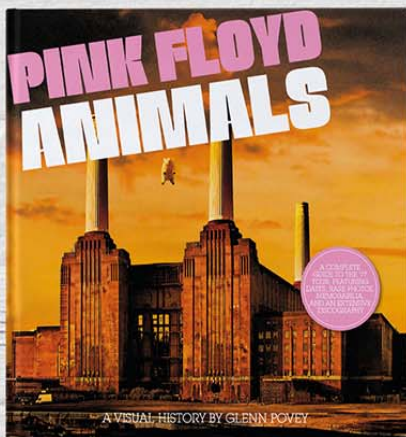
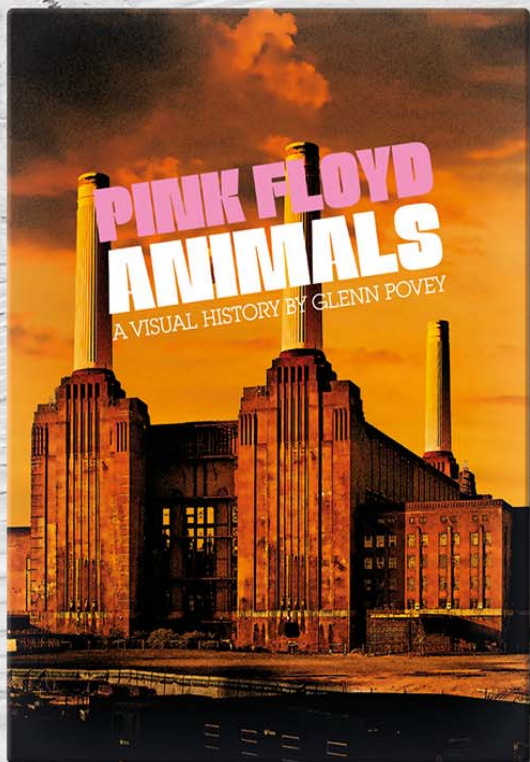
My love goes out to all of you and your loved ones, and if that sounds effusive and gushing, please remember that I am an old hippy and "All You Need is Love" is a pretty damn good way of living one's life,. I will see you on New Year's eve when, no doubt, I will have more news, views, and general bollocks, to write about.

Peace and love

Jon



THE BEST LAID PLANS



**"Oink, Oink,
Woof, Woof,
Baaaaa."**



BACKSTAGE PASS
PINK FLOYD
NON-RESTRICTED
Date 3/8 1977

En chair et en os
PINK FLOYD
In the flesh
LE STADE OLYMPIQUE

