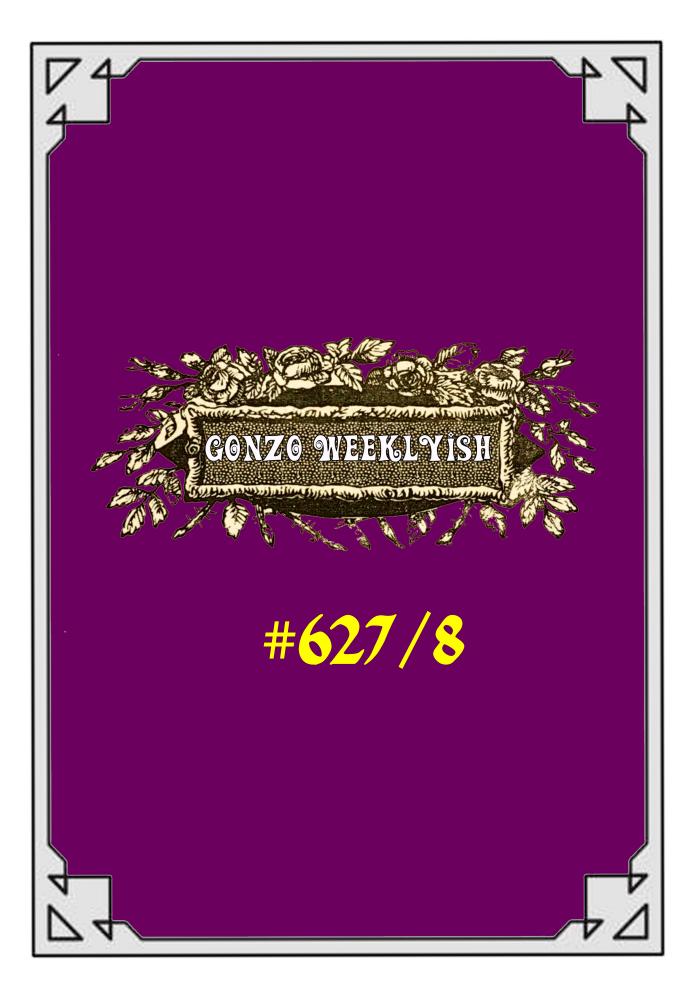
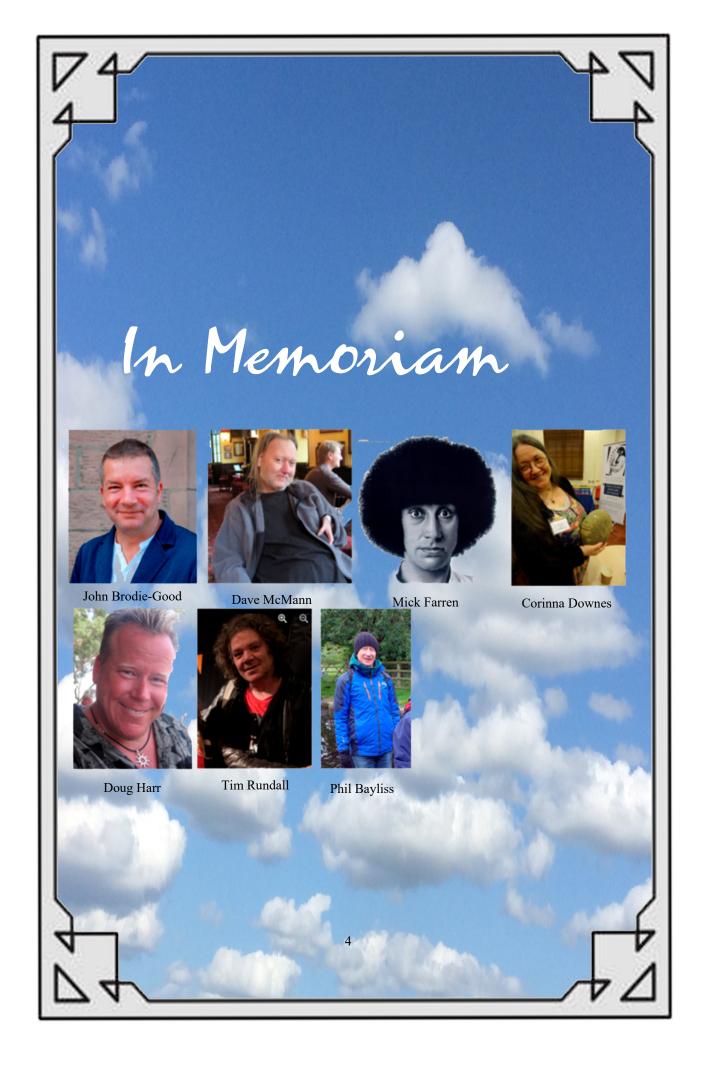
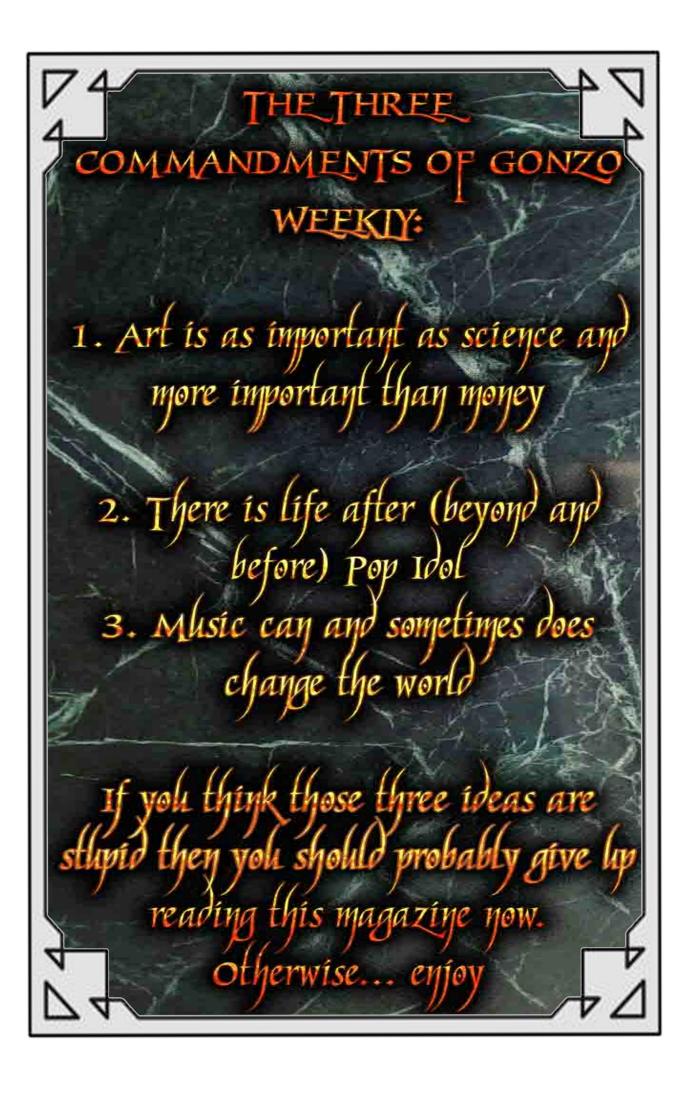


Because nothing says Merry Christmas quite like a mouse riding a lobster









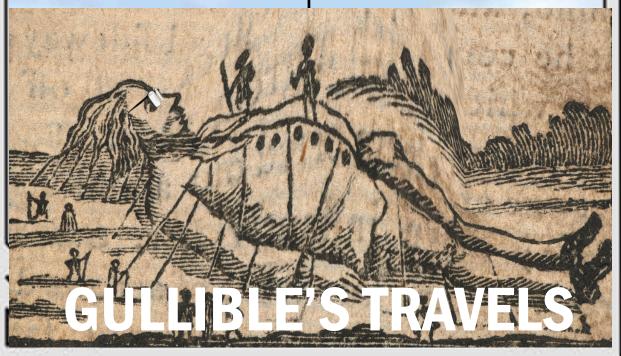
Dear friends,

Welcome to another issue of this ever more peculiar little magazine. Once again, I am sitting down in my comfortable armchair with my little dog sitting on my lap as I do my best to dictate deathless prose to my iPad. I long ago gave up on trying to make this a conventional music magazine, indeed a conventional anything. Outside, something that I believe is called Gale Daraggh is blowing an absolute hoolie, and I have heard a rather a present crunching sound from outside which I believe may be one of the roof tiles blowing off. As they

have been there over 150 years since the thatched roof was replaced by tiles in about 1870, I am always worried that bits will drop off every time we have a storm. And the storm is absolutely horrific.

So, what is a boy and his doggie to do? Listen to some music, I think, and at the moment my music of choice comes from somebody called Sananda Francesco Maitreya. Never heard of him? Well, neither had I until the other day, except for the fact that of course I had.

My wife always used to say one of the most annoying things about me (insinuating, here, that it was only one of many annoying things about me was that I could jump from listening to one genre of music, to a completely different one without notice. I could listen to Tchaikovsky, then move to Throbbing Gristle, and then move to listening to something by Prince or perhaps Belle and Sebastian, a band which for some reason she detested. Admittedly, I have a very wide range of musical tastes, but they all make sense to me, even



if they make no sense to anybody else.

As people who follow my inkyfingered scribblings, here and elsewhere, will be aware, I am not very good at the full moon, and usually try to hide in my darkened bedroom, usually with my little cat Lilith Tinkerbell and sometimes with the dog. During the last full moon, I lay in bed listening to the most recent album by the Polyphonic Spree, whose surreal, choral extravaganzaa are something I am very fond of. When the album was finished, I let the algorithm behind Spotify choose what I listened to next and this is how I discovered Sananda Francesco Maitreya.

Maitreya certainly ticked the same emotional boxes for me as, say, the Flaming Lips, or the Polyphonic Spree, or the more mellow bits of Kula Shaker. So I look him up on Wikipedia and found, to my surprise that he was somebody I had heard of first nearly 40 years ago,

when he was almost a fixture on the final series of The Tube, and the on dit was that he was shagging PaulaYates.

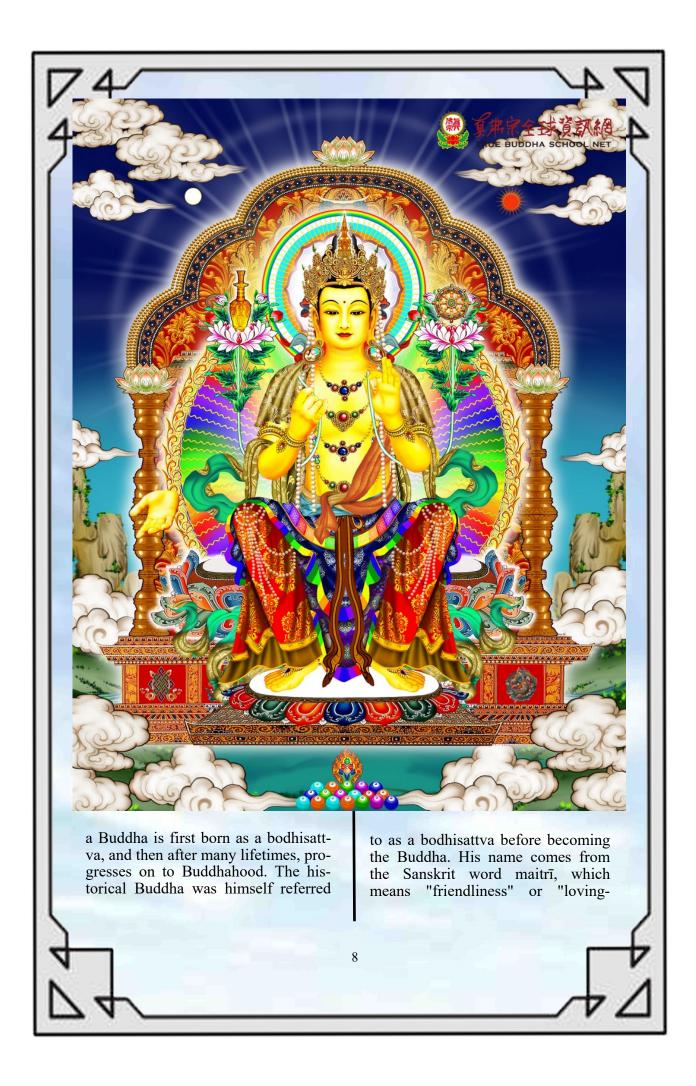
Over to those jolly nice fellows at Wikipedia:

"Sananda Francesco Maitreya (born Terence Trent Howard; March 15, 1962), who started his career with the stage name Terence Trent D'Arby, is an American singer and songwriter who came to fame with his debut studio album, Introducing the Hardline According to Terence Trent D'Arby (1987). The album included the singles "If You Let Me Stay", "Sign Your Name", "Dance Little Sister", and "Wishing Well"."

Aaah. This is all beginning to make sense now.

According to all branches of Buddhism, Maitreya is the Buddha of the future, who will be born to teach enlightenment in the next age. According to Mahayana teachings,





kindness"

Even back when he was known as Terrence Trent D'Arby, he was accused continually of self a grand moment. For example, he claimed that his debut album was the most important records in Sergeant Pepper. He went further, and claimed that he was either possessed by, or working alongside the spirit of a late Beatle. "I had a premonition," he re-

Rebel's debut album, when all they had released was a solitary single that featured a 40-piece orchestra, which had failed to make the UK charts – he proclaimed his band "a musical force that others will follow" and pitted himself squarely against the biggest names in British pop. Cockney Rebel, he suggested, would kick David Bowie "up the arse": "he'll say 'I've got to step on it to stay at the top'."



calls. "I was on a street corner in New York, and I saw him coming towards me. As he did, he had his hand out and seemed to recognise me. Then he disappeared into me."

The late Steve Harley, who is both my employer, and a friend for some years, and my biggest influence as a songwriter and singer was also accused of self aggrandizement. In his first big music press interview – before the appearance of Cockney And then: ""I feel like God's touched me and said 'here's a mission and someone's gotta do it'."

So there is plenty of presidents in my own personal collection of rock 'n' roll hagiographies, for somebody whose opinion of their own selfworth reaches completely ludicrous levels. But what is the music like?

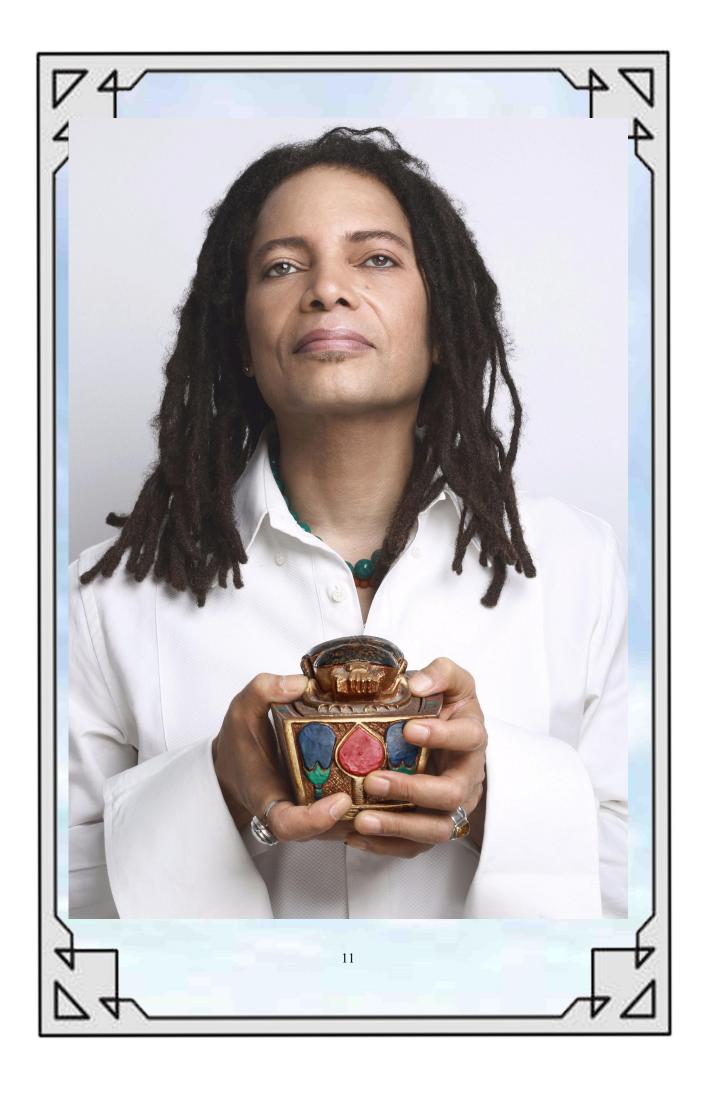
Psychedelic Baby magazine rights of Maitreya's latest album:



"Sananda Maitreya, the visionary artist known for his genre-defying approach, recently released 'Pegasus and the Swan,' a bold new project that blends orchestral grandeur with his signature eclectic sound.

This album, part 3 of his recent album series, marks a new chapter in his musical journey. Divided into two distinct sides, the album delves into mythological and spiritual themes, exploring the transformative power of creativity. Known for his fiercely independent spirit, Maitreya rarely col-

laborates, but this time he joined forces with conductor Diego Basso and the Budapest National Art Orchestra to elevate his sonic palette. Tracks like 'New World Forming' and 'Madame Swan' revisit past works, now infused with renewed depth and relevance for today's world. With influences ranging from Frank Sinatra to Lou Reed, his music continues to defy genre and expectation. Maitreya's ever-evolving artistry challenges the norms of modern music, combining narrative complexwith emotional resonance. 'Pegasus and the Swan' promises to









Pandora's PlayHouse — 2CD Audio

€19,99



Prometheus & Pandora – 3CD Audio

€21,99 €19,99







be not just an album, but a dynamic musical journey, inviting listeners into a world where mythology and self-reflection collide."

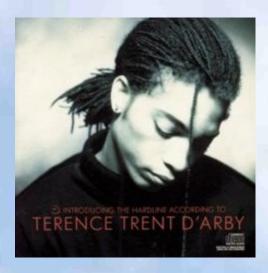
#### And the man himself says:

"The Pegasus Project: Pegasus & the Swan' is the ending of a trilogy that began with 'Prometheus & Pandora' and the predecessor album to this one, 'Pandora's PlayHouse.' So, from 'Prometheus & Pandora,' 'Pandora's PlayHouse,' to the 'Pegasus Project,' we've basically exhausted our alliteration of the letter "P." You'll notice the theme is that we have used the story of Prometheus as basically a proxy story that stands in for the life that I have lived myself and seen. I could relate very, very easily to the

idea of a god who was banished from the top of Mount Olympus because of the jealousy and confusion of the other gods as to what Prometheus was a harbinger of and what he represented. And so, basically, it became politically expedient for Zeus, his father and the king of the gods, to banish him because he understood that if he didn't, he was going to lose the support of the gods that were already there on Olympus. He understood how much he needed those gods because they had helped him overthrow the Titans, which were led by his father. Prometheus' story is one that I've always, along with the story of Orpheus, had the most powerful emotional connection to. So, I saw myself in his story, and that's what allowed me to use it to basical-



ly express a lot of the concerns and the emotions that I had as an artist.'



What the fuck does that mean? I am not a stupid man, but I have no idea what the former Trent D'arby is talking about. Furthermore, I have listened to all three of the albums he is talking about, again and again. They appeared to touch something deep within my psyche which makes life easier to deal with, but I cannot extrapolate any recognisable story from them.

But the music is fantastic. I would seriously suggest that you check them out. And please, if you do manage to find out what the fuck he is on about, please let me know.

I hope you enjoy this issue,

Hare bol,



#### 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



# EYEWITNESS

# **Goldie Lookin Chain**

The Corn Exchange,
Newport
23rd November
2024
Live Music Review
by Ian Squibbs

At the turn of the century, South Wales was a hotbed for music with bands such as the Stereophonics, Manic Street Preachers, and Super Fury Animals, all breaking through and achieving mainstream success. There was even something for the grandparents in the form of child prodigy songstress, Charlotte Church, otherwise known as Voice of an Angel. Not to mention the emergence of a Jackass style extreme stunt type show, broadcast on



20th Anniversary of their debut album 'Greatest Hits'



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# THE CORN EXCHANGE NEWPORT

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a Crosstown Concerts presentation by arrangement with Insanity Live



MTV and making stars of a group of mentally unstable Welsh skateboarders. Amongst all this, we also saw the rise of Welsh comedy hip hop ensemble Goldie Lookin Chain or GLC for short.

By the mid-2000s, GLC had 'arrived.' Regular features in the music press and lad mags, appearances on TV programs such as Soccer AM and Celebrity Big Brother, sell out concerts and a respectable amount of UK singles and album chart success.

Hailing from Newport, South Wales, the group usually performs as a six, seven or eight piece, all taking a share of the vocals. Social commentary on



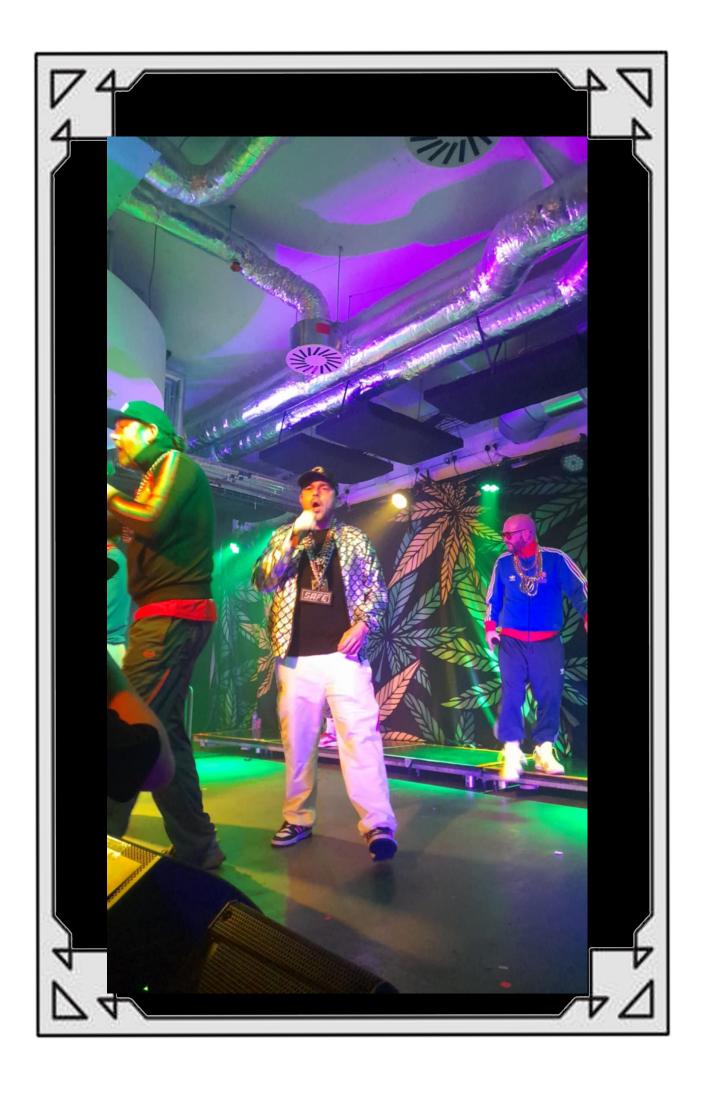
subjects such as drugs, drinking, car parks, supermarkets, off-licences and fancying your girl-friend's sister and her best friend, through the medium of obscenity laden rap made the band truly unique.

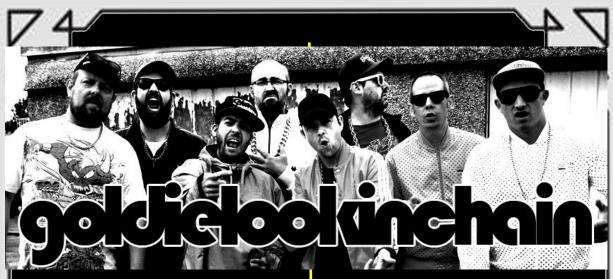
A highlight for GLC in this era was in 2005, when the band were invited by the Football Association of Wales to perform before the World Cup qualifying match against Eng-

land at Cardiff's Millennium
Stadium. The band dedicated their song "Your Missus Is a Nutter" to David Beckham about his wife, who was present at the match.

Though their days in the mainstream have long gone, they have continued to tour and thrive, consistently releasing new mate-







rial and being mainstays on the festival and mid-sized venue circuit,

I last saw GLC live about fifteen years ago, so when they announced that they were doing shows in their hometown at Newport Corn Exchange, for their 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of their first Album tour, I knew this wasn't one to miss.

A walk to the venue in the dull cold rainy Welsh evening was perfect preparation for the night ahead, and what a night it was.

I can't say much about the support act as I was queuing at the bar and at the cloak room when they were on, but I'm sure they were fine. The sell-out crowd then waited in anticipation until Mike Balls, Eggsy, Adam Hussain and Co finally bounded onto the stage, sporting their trademark mixture of classic Adidas, Nike and Lidl tracksuits accessorised by chucky gold neck chains, all in front of a Cannabis leaf design backdrop.

They were older than the last time I saw them, but just as good. I counted at least six members of the band crammed onto the stage, though it may have been more as they kicked off the night on a happy note with a song about committing suicide called Self Suicide. What followed was about 20 classics from their back catalogue over the best part of the next two hours. Tight rapping through Half Man, Half Machine, a track about a young lad who thinks he's a robot, a take on the Vanilla Ice classic in the form of Ice, Ice, Dildo, a tribute to their local off-licence with Baneswell Express is thrown in and the band take us down memory lane with 70s Muff.

Next was their parody of the 2009 Jay-Z and Alicia Keys hit, Empire State of Mind, which paid homage to their hometown, Newport State of Mind (You're Not from Newport), which was well received by the locals.

It's all very confusing if you don't

get it, but those in the know can't get enough of it.

Things were slowed down with a 90s boyband style ballad You Knows I Loves You and a rap about wanting to get off with your girlfriends' sister, and her best friend, called Sister. Whilst 21 Ounces and Soapbar indicated the bands interest in soft narcotics

A rendition of their take on gangster culture and their biggest hit, Guns Don't Kill People, Rappers





Do, which reached number 3 in the UK charts in 2004, kept the energy high and Your Misses is a Nutter got the male members of the audience singing along.

The show entered a high tempo closing session, with a sing/dance along to a mix of 90s rave classics.

To finish on, the much-anticipated sample of the *Greg Phillinganes* synth classic *Behind the Mask*, led into the GLC anthem, *Your Mothers Got a Penis*, much to the delight of the non-PC faithful.

For some strange reason, watching a group of middle-aged men, who really should know better, run around a stage rapping about a range subjects which should have been left in the school playground, whilst wearing tracksuits and faux gold jewellery, seems to make a highly entertaining night out. Don't ask me how it works, it just does.



The Line is composed of the following Paciets:

Because we no longer do the daily Gonzo blogs, we are making changes to the news pages here in the magazine. For over a decade, we have been subscribed to Google News alerts for each of the Gonzo artist, and have we posted interesting pieces of news on the blog.

Now, there is no blog, so we will be re-posting them here each

When Frank Zappa Shocked The World With His PMRC Senate Hear-

front on the U.S. Senate PMRC hearing, American musician Frank Zappa railed against the committee's prem-

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19 Frank Zappa Quotes That Are as True Now as They Were Then - MSN https://www.msn.com/en-us/music/news/19-frank-zappa-quotes-that-are-as-true-now-as-they-were-then/ss-AA1tC6Th?ocid=UE01DHP

Frank Zappa, an iconoclastic musical genius, carved a permanent place in the world of music and culture with his fearless innovation and.

FRANK ZAPPA: IT JUST MIGHT BE A ONE - SHOT DEAL (1972) - OANNES https://oannes.gr/frank-zappa-it-just-might-be-a-one-shot-deal-1972/

We 'll hear plenty of Frank Zappa's music on his birthday month, starting with a song from Waka/ Jawaka. Apart from anything else, it contains one of ...

Jon Anderson and the Band Geeks
Announce 2024 Tour Dates - MSN

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https://www.msn.com/enus/music/news/jonanderson-and-the-bandgeeks-announce-2024-tour-dates/ar-BB1jnmq4?

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Jon Anderson and the Band Geeks will hit the road this year for the Yes Epics, Classics and More tour. The trek will begin May 30 in New Brunswick ...



Hawkwind - 6 Dec 2024 - Classic Rock Magazine - Readly https://gb.readly.com/magazines/ korne classic-rock/2024-12-06/674bab4b427810d8d6e685ad

Southbridge, and Sturbridge

Prop The gestation period of Stories From NE Time And Space goes back almost a year, when founder and leader Dave Brock told Prog magazine that work was .... and the every article

Rick Wakeman Shares One Thing

Fans Didn't Realize About Yes' Mixes, 'It Was A Nightmare' https://rockcelebrities.net/rickwakeman-shares-one-thing-fansdidnt-realize-yes-mixes-it-was-a-

nightmare/

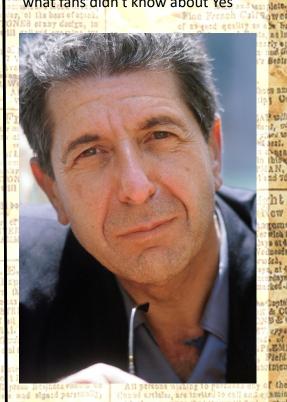
During a new interview with Rick Beato, Rick Wakeman explained what fans didn't know about Yes'

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mixes. "But mixing was a joke.

The song that exposed Jack Black to Leonard Cohen's genius - Far Out Magazine https://faroutmagazine.co.uk/songmade-jack-black-leonard-cohen-

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Worcester, Feb 11.

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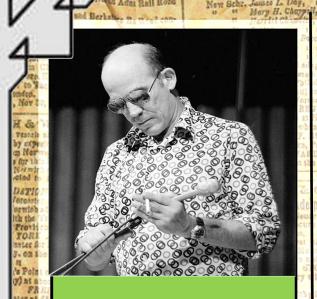
However, very few folk song-The Gospel According to alphing their writers could ever hope to er to obtain match the poetic genius of Leonard nes of sisframe week, Cohen. Often classed as a folk artist, o entroppy of Cohen's music largely .... ma patentoli to laventers, i informatica, d'attenument. Rick Wakeman Extends U.S. **Farewell Tour Dates Into 2025** Fairport Convention to perform at Enginer. Hexham's Queen's Hall Look what my favourite roving rehttps://www.hexhamporter says: "He'll continue on Mate !... Bart in America" courant.co.uk/ BOOTS wes Beols, a he found in as initation of news/24766660.fairport-conventionhttps://ultimateclassicrock.com/ perform-hexhams-queens-hall/ rick-wakeman-2025-tour/ riy e pai to the mel first Books, Beets, with low Rick Wakeman Extends U.S. Fare-An influential and award-winning well Tour Dates Into 2025 Mike Coppola, Getty Images s and Bhopers band is bringing its winter tour to Hexham next year. Fairport Conveno will had it for it, wason is the seculere Boots Rick Wakeman has added tion, the architects of British folkanother set of U.S. dates, extending his Farewell Tour into Spring 2025 rock, will. bissier. with a special appearance on the next Cruise to the Edge <a href="https://">https:// nd 75 Mein St. cruisetotheedge.com/>. When Frank Zappa saw the downfall ht Line. of the music industry - Far Out Mag-He'll play three Florida shows ew York. coment. elca for N. York a et é o'cl'à P.M mestays as 400. azine around the cruise, which sails out of Miami from April 4-9, 2025, on the https://faroutmagazine.co.uk/the-Norwegian Gem. Wakeman will at 4 of the P. H. moment-the-music-industry-beganalso stop in Charlotte; Charleston, rdays, at 4 dus to-decline-according-to-frank-zappa/ South Carolina; and Nashville. & CO., Nove These concerts follow a busy 2024, There have always been some nefariwhich started with February dates of A GAICUL dubbed the Return of the Caped ous figures looming over the music EMENTS AND Crusader. Wakeman then played the business, but Frank Zappa thought ment of Westen first leg of farewell that they had fully taken over by shows March and April in the U.S. the above men and South America, followed by a the ... choice selection; second U.S. leg in October and S CONVERSE. Southbridge, and Sturbridge November. rot Headliners Trevor Horn and Albert Front St. Lee to join festival hosts Fairport ed a New Store, Convention at Cropredy ... ES, with every article https:// o run THE EXwww.northamptonchron.co.uk/ charges Families, charges generally Daily whats-on/arts-and-entertainment/ headliners-trevor-horn-and-albert-

lee-to-join-festival-hosts-fairport-

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Worcester, Feb 11.

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### WHO GONZO? WHY GONZO? WHAT GONZO?

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What? You don't know who Hunter Thompson is/was/might have been/will be? Without Hunter Thompson there would be no Gonzo Multimedia. It would have been completely different and that would have been an unforgivable pity. So here is:

C.J.Stone suggested that as well as explaining Gonzo to those wot don't understand, we should do a weekly quote from the man himself...

"In a closed society where everybody's guilty, the only crime is getting caught. In a world of thieves, the only final sin is stupidity."

— Hunter S. Thompson, Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas

#### convention-at-cropredy-nextsummer-4901978

Trevor Horn, Albert Lee and hosts Fairport Convention will headline Cropredy Convention which will return next year

Big change for Fairport's Banburyshire festival as max numbers are reduced by thousands https://

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www.banburyguardian.co.uk/ lifestyle/outdoors/big-change-for -fairports-banburyshire-festivalas-max-numbers-are-reduced-by -thousands-4901828

There is a big change for Fairport's Cropredy Festival next year as the maximum number of tickets on sale is reduced.



Rick Wakeman Extends U.S. Farewell Tour Dates Into 2025 https://ultimateclassicrock.com/ rick-wakeman-2025-tour/

Rick Wakeman confirmed a string of Spring 2025 U.S. concerts that includes an appearance on Cruise to the Edge.

24 TIS BRAMAN,

Worcester, Feb 11.

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#### 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) 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)

Kev Rowland

(Columnist)

**Guin Palmer** 

(Sub Editor)

Richard Freeman,

(Scary stuff)

Davey Curtis,

(tales from the north)

Dean Phillips

(The House Wally)

**Rob Ayling** 

(The *Grande Fromage*, of whom we are all in awe)

This is the nearest that you are ever going to get to a posh weekend colour supplement from the *Gonzo* 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



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





# MOREMASTERPIECES from RICK WAKEMA



TWO SIDES OF YES

Double CD set. The very best of Yes, Wakeman style HHG20I3CD



THE STAGE COLLECTION

Recorded live in August 1993 in Buenos Aires



TIME MACHINE

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



GASTANK

Double DVD set, Rich's classic 1982 musi and chat show



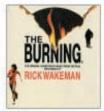
GOLE!

Soundtrack album featuring Tony Fernandes and Jaclae McAuley



COUNTRY AIRS

The original recording, with two new tracks HECZONICE



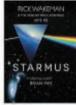
THE BURNING

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



LURE OF THE WILD

With Adam Wa keman Entirely instrumental HFGZ003CD



With Brian May and The English Rock Ensemble, DVD





MYTHS AND LEGENDS

Double CD set. The expanded 2016 version PEGZBOCO



LIVE AT THE WINTERLAND THEATRE 1975

Live in San Francisco



THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

Double CD + DVDPECZMISCO



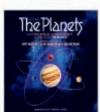
CAN YOU HEAR ME?

Featuring The English Chamber Choir H4H00005



CRIMES OF PASSION A wicked and erotic soundtrack!

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BEYOND THE PLANETS

With Jeff Wayne and Kevin Peek HERMED

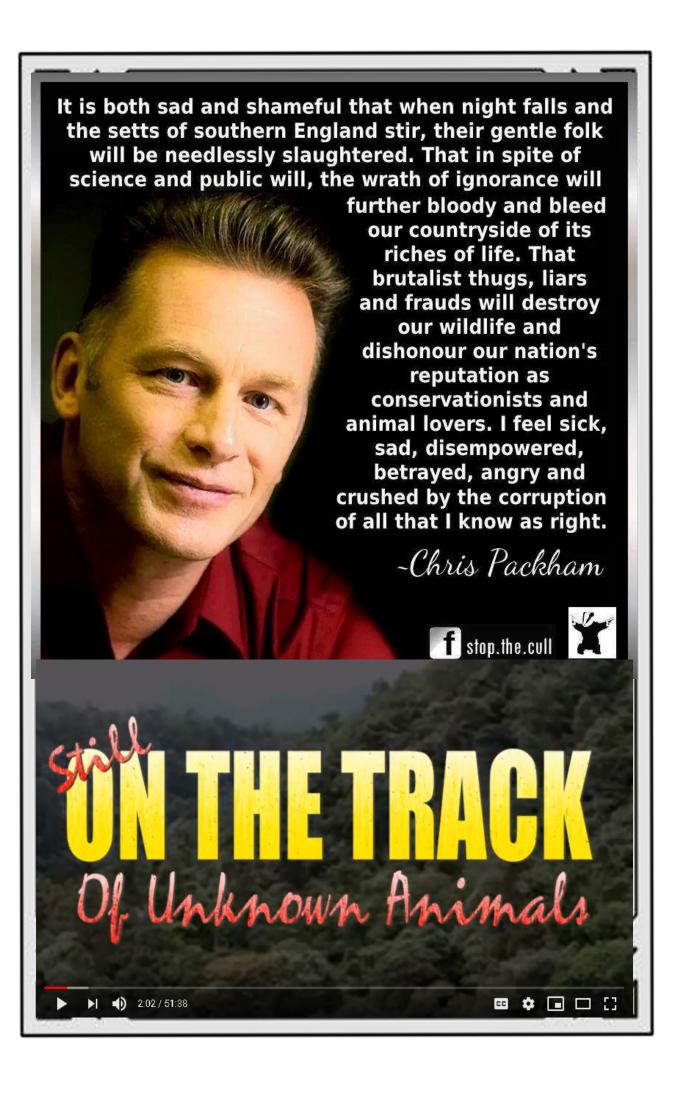


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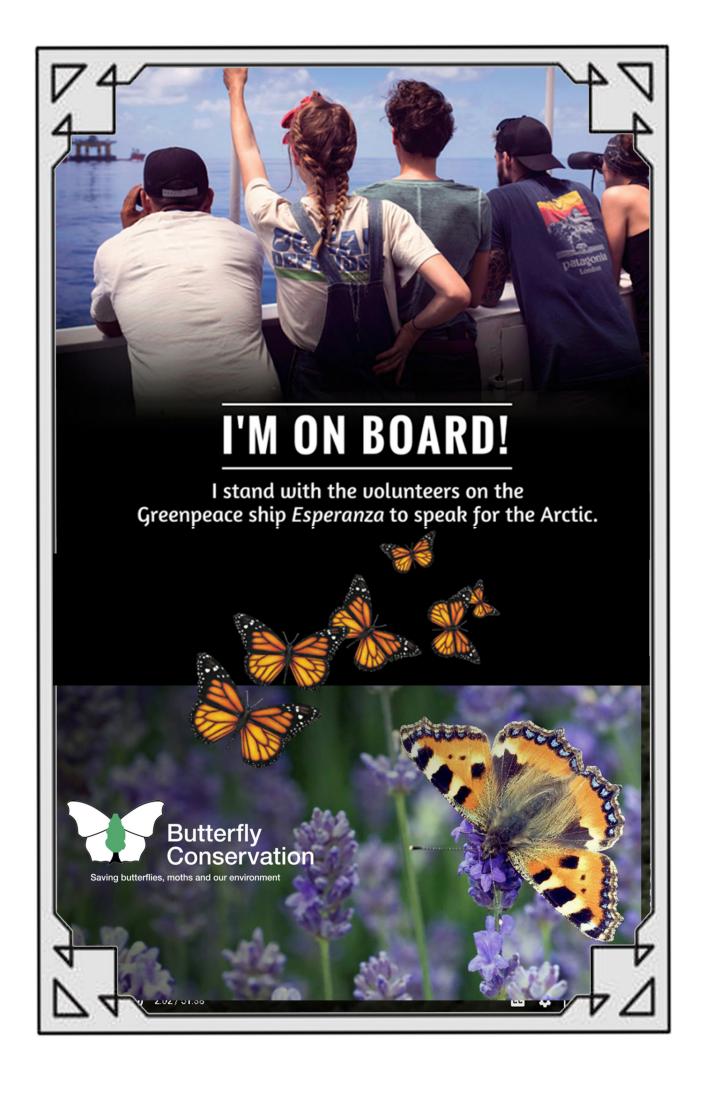
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# THOSE HE HAHE LOST



Manuel Torregrosa 1940 - 2024

Manuel Lillo Torregrosa was a Spanish composer. Torregrosa joined the Banda Sinfónica Municipal de Madrid in 1959, and later the Orquesta Nacional de España. He was well known for his paso doble compositions. Torregrosa died on 21 November 2024, at the age of 84.



Artt Frank 1933 - 2024

Artt Frank was an American jazz drummer specializing in the bebop, hard bop, and cool jazz styles. He is best known for having toured with trumpet player Chet Baker during much of his career. He was inducted into the Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame in 2010. Frank died on November 27, 2024, at the age of 91.

COLLATED BY HARRY WADHAM



## Lía Crucet 1952 - 2024

Delia Crucet, known as Lía Crucet, was an Argentine singer, model and actress. Starting out as a vedette, she began her singing career in the 80s, best known for her Argentine cumbia records such as "La güera Salomé" and "Qué bello.". On November 28, 2024, she died at the age of 72 in a hospital in Buenos Aires, due to bronchopulmonary cancer.



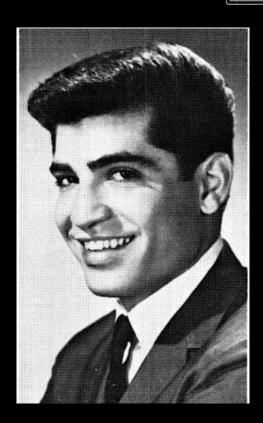
Will Cullen Hart 1971 - 2024

William Cullen Hart was an American musician, singer, songwriter and visual artist. He was a co-founder of The Elephant 6 Recording Company, as well as the rock band The Olivia Tremor Control. Following that band's breakup, Hart and several other former members regrouped to create Circulatory System. Hart died from a heart attack on November 29, 2024, at the age of 53.



Bert De Coninck 1949 - 2024

Hubert Frans Joanna "Bert" De Coninck was a Belgian poet, singer, and guitarist. The Flemish singer was a pioneer of Dutch-language rock and Belpop. His greatest successes were during the 1970s and 1980s. De Coninck died in Lagos, Portugal on 29 November 2024, at the age of 75.



Steve Alaimo 1939 - 2024

Stephen Charles Alaimo was an American singer in the early 1960s. He later became a record producer and label owner, but he is best known for hosting and co-producing Dick Clark's Where the Action Is in the late 1960s. Alaimo died on November 30, 2024, at the age of 84.



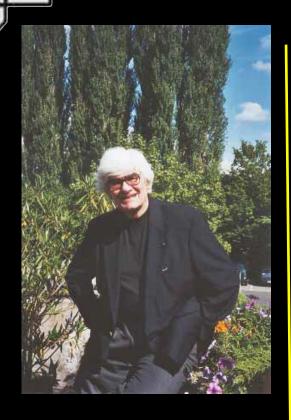
## Ryszard Poznakowski 1946 - 2024

Ryszard Poznakowski was a Polish musician, composer and arranger. From 1969 to 1971 and 1973 to 2005, Poznakowski was a member of the band Trubadurzy, with whom he also performed occasionally from 2010 to 2023. From 2012 to 2024, he was leader of the Poznakowski Band. He later wrote songs for other artists. Poznakowski died on 30 November 2024, at the age of 78.



### Jacques Barsamian 1943 - 2024

Jacques Barsamian was a French singer, writer, and journalist who specialised in rock music. He collaborated with the likes of Rock & Folk, Europe 1, France Inter, and RMC. He also authored a series of works on rock and popular music alongside François Jouffa. Barsamian died on 1 December 2024, at the age of 81.



Marlos Nobre 1939 - 2024

Marlos Nobre was a Brazilian composer. Nobre received commissions from various institutions worldwide. His eclectic style combined classical techniques with Brazilian influences. He studied under prominent composers, enhancing his diverse approach to composition. Nobre died in Rio de Janeiro on December 2, 2024, at the age of 85.



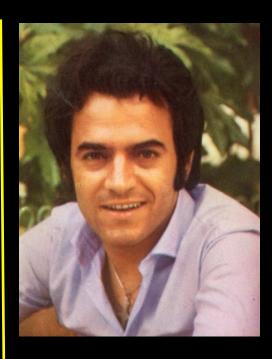
Liu Chia-chang 劉家昌 1943 - 2024

Steven Liu Chia-chang was a Taiwanese songwriter, singer, screenwriter, director, and actor. His discography featured multiple film scores, as well as collaborations with other artists. Liu died of cancer in Taipei on 2 December 2024.



Huang Zhun 1926 - 2024

Huang Zhun was a Chinese composer known for film scores. She studied at the Lu Xun Academy of Fine Arts, going on to perform as a mezzosoprano before working at various film studios, composing music. She composed many famous songs and won several awards for her work, including the National Children's Song Award. Huang passed away on December 3, 2024, at the age of 98.



Mario Tessuto 1943 - 2024

Mario Buongiovanni, known professionally as Mario Tessuto, was an Italian pop singer, best known for the song "Lisa dagli occhi blu". He was discovered in 1963, but it took some years and appearances in talent competitions for him to achieve success in 1969. He partook in music festivals in the 1970s, and in the 1980s he formed a duo with his wife Donatella. Tessuto died in Vigevano on 5 December 2024, at the age of 81.



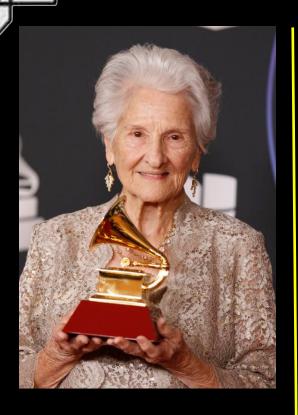
Dickie Rock 1936 - 2024

Richard "Dickie" Rock was an Irish singer. Chiefly associated with the era of showbands in Ireland, Rock came to prominence as a member of The Miami Showband in the 1960s, subsequently becoming a solo artist in 1973. He represented Ireland in the Eurovision Song Contest 1966. Rock continued to tour for several decades until his retirement in 2021. Rock died on 6 December 2024 at the age of 88.



Miho Nakayama 中山 美穂 1970 - 2024

Miho Nakayama was a Japanese singer and actress who made her debut in 1985. Nakayama released her debut single, "C", shortly after, and finished the year with a film debut, cementing her as a popular idol during the 1980s. She later achieved five number one dance singles. In the 1990s, she wrote lyrics and recorded ballads, resulting in several platinum singles and her biggest sales. She died on 6 December 2024, at the age of 54.



#### Ángela Álvarez 1927 - 2024

Ángela Álvarez was a Cuban-born American singer and the oldest Latin Grammy Award for Best New Artist winner ever. Her songs were first recorded on an album produced by her grandson, film composer and producer Carlos José Alvarez. On December 6, 2024, Álvarez died in Baton Rouge at the age of 97.



Steady Bongo 1966 - 2024

Lansana Sheriff, popularly known by his stage name Steady Bongo, was a Sierra Leonean musician and record producer. He hosted a programme called "Variety Time" at the Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service (SLBS). His first album was released in 1990 and became an instant success, and his following three albums enjoyed similar success. Sheriff died in a traffic collision in Liberia, on 7 December 2024, at the age of 58.

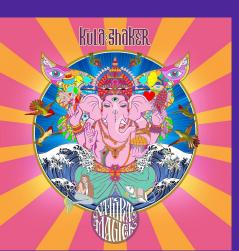


Samantha Lawrence 1966 - 2024

Samantha Lawrence was a British musician, best known as one half of the rap duo Wee Papa Girl Rappers alongside her sister Sandra. The sisters were initially backing singers for Feargal Sharkey. As the Wee Papa Girl Rappers, they enjoyed TV airtime and charts success from 1988, putting out two albums and several singles. Samantha Lawrence died on 1 December 2024, aged 55.



Apart from the fact that the number one album listed below is certainly my number one album of the year, the other records listed are vaguely in any sort of order of merit or preference. And if I had listed them in order of my preference, I would probably have changed my mind by teatime.



1 Kula Shaker: Natural
Magic

I don't think that the fact that I am a fan of this band can have escaped the notice of many readers of this magazine. I have always liked their fusion of Indian music with white, Western rock music. And this album is more of the same, except for the fact that it continues on from the last couple of albums with more absolutely peerless songwriting. They have always produced good songs, but as the band get older, their songwriting has matured and improved beyond measure. Something else which is particularly impressive are the guest vocals of Alanoud Gigante and an extra extraordinary record, which mixes both Bollywood stylisings and believe it or not - mariachi. But the the cake icing on are the extraordinary vocals of LaBoni Barua, A British Bangladeshi singer who, although I have always liked Kula Shaker's Indian stylings, makes the two songs on which she sings the most authentic Indian music the band have ever made. I can't wait to hear what the next record sounds like.

And anyone who names a record after a book by Dion Fortune is OK by me.



2 The Last Dinner Party: *Prelude to Ecstasy* 

This band are certainly the breakout new act of this year. The Last Dinner Party are a British indie rock band from London, formed in 2021.

The band consists of Abigail Morris (vocals), Lizzie Mayland (vocals, guitar), Emily Roberts (lead guitar, mandolin, flute), Georgia Davies (bass) and Aurora Nishevci (keyboards, vocals). They have no permanent drummer, and are currently joined during live performances by Casper Miles.

If you can imagine a orchestral version of the second Roxy Music

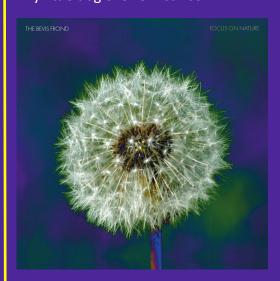
album performed by an all girl band, you might get slightly somewhere towards this extraordinary record. I know that every music journalist will be making this their record of the year, in the same way as they made the Wet Leg debut album their record of the year a couple of years ago. But like Wet Leg, this band deserve it massively.



## 3 Elephant Stone: Back Into the Dream

There seems to be some sort of a pattern developing in this year's music. As a Fortean investigator during my day job I noticed that things do move in patterns and waves, and the waves of creativity in popular music seem to be no exception.

Elephant Stone is Canadian band which infuses Rock music with Indian classical music, a little bit in the way that Kula Shaker do, although they are far less rocky. They are far more reminiscent of the band Throwing Muses or something of that ilk mixed with Indian elements, and I am surprised that I've never heard of them before. But this album is an absolute bloody masterpiece, and it's the sixth! They've done five albums already and I've not heard of them, and I've got an awful lot of catching up to do while I listen to stuff in my bed with my little dog over Christmas.



4 The Bevis Frond: Focus on nature

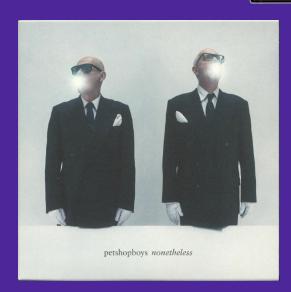
This band are fronted by Nick Salomon, and over the years have gone from being a solo project to a real band and back again. I'm not quite sure what the current status is. I used to be quite friendly with Nick back when I was married to my first wife and we went on tour with Steve Harley and Cockney Rebel twice a year.

Like so many other relationships from that part of my life, it fell apart with my marriage, and I haven't seen him in many years.

This is actually the first time I've listened to one of his records for a long time and, whilst it is still recognisably Nick, the production and presentation of far more slick and contemporary than they used to be.

But it has been 30 years since I've seen him, and I suppose that's not really surprising. I enjoyed this record, with its mixture of classic rock and psychedelia very much indeed, and have set myself another holiday task; to do my best to catch up with all the Bevis Frond albums that have taken place over the past three

decades.



## 5 The Pet Shop Boys: Nonetheless

I love this band, and always have done since I first heard *It's a Sin* sometime in the very late 1980s.

They are intelligent, sophisticated and literate, and even I could—once upon a time—dance to them. It is one of the things over which I bonded with my current Innamorata, Isabel. And I'm very happy to say with this album, the Pet Shop Boys are back on track.

It's not that they ever were not on track, but some of their recent

albums have been a bit too different from the emotionally laden electro pop that is what they do best. Isabel, has just interjected that she disagrees with me entirely.

She has seen them in concert doing an acoustic set which was awesome, she says. And a wise journalist does not argue with his girlfriend.

However, I think this is one of their best albums, returning to the delicious melancholia of the third album, the name of which escapes me.

If I have any criticism of the Pet Shop Boys, it is that I can never remember which album is which because they all have the clever one word names.

This is a criticism of my memory rather than the bands oeuvre but this album is mildly reminiscent of the one that has *Being Boring* on it. And that is very high praise indeed. And by the way, me and Miss Isabel have just discovered the latest single which is a version of Bowie's *All the* 

Young Dudes. Fucking hell that's good.



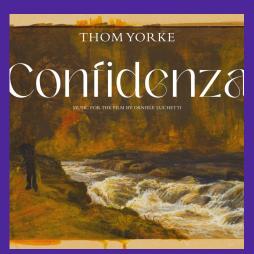
#### 6 Dexys Midnight Runners: The Feminine Divine live

This is another band that I have followed since the beginning, and have — I think — enjoyed all the peculiar twists and turns of their career. Kevin Rowland (not the bloke in New Zealand who writes for this magazine) has always been a singular and often cantankerous artist, a little bit like a less bad tempered version of Van Morrison.

Of course, Dexy's Midnight Runners, are basically him, although there are other supporting musicians who have been with him for a long time, others coming and going.

Last year he released a beautiful quasi feminist album called *The Feminine Divine*, and this album basically performs the record live, with the second disc of his greatest hits.

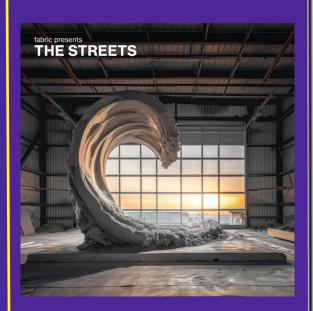
What's not to like?



7 Thom Yorke: Confidenza

I really like this record from the front man of Radiohead. Unlike his previous solo records it is far less electronic, and there are far less mildly annoying beeping noises coming in just to prove how avant garde the song is. This is the soundtrack for a movie of the same name, but I have carefully not looked

the film up because I want to judge the record on its own merits. And believe me, it has many of them. Thom Yorke has always been a songwriter able to pepper his music, even at its most abstruse, with lots of little tuneful flourishes, and this album proves that as if any proof is necessary. It bristles with ideas like the results of a fag end thrown into a firework factory, And although some of the music would indicate that there is at least some sort of romantic element of the plot, it also feels somewhat crazy at times, so if there is love, it is mad love. Go check it out, I doubt whether you'll be disappointed.



8. The Streets: fabric presents
The Streets

Mike Skinner has always been at the intelligent literate end of hip-hop, and what is even more important is the fact that he is unashamedly English. Fabric is, as far as I can understand, a nightclub of some sort, and they do a series of fabric presents albums of which this featuring both Mike Skinner and a bunch of up-and-coming stars, is the latest.

"I've spent many nights wasted but not wasted any nights in fabric over the years.

The dedication to underground music and innovation, the way the bodysonic bass transducers sent the sounds through your body via your



feet, the queues, the camaraderie and a real sense of being part of something that people will remember through the haze as the home of some of the greatest moments of their lives," said Skinner.

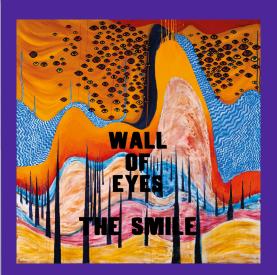


## 9. Sananda Maitreya: Pegasus Project - Pegasus and the Swan

If you've read this far in the magazine, you will know that I've already written the best part of an editorial about this record.

It is lovely. It fits in totally with my vibe for this year, being tuneful funk rock with an Indian overlay and intelligent lyrics. The only thing that I can say about this record, however, is that I have listened to it a lot over the last few weeks, and I have absolutely no idea what it's about.

But again, this is part of my holiday task to listen to it and the two predecessor in this trilogy and to try and get my head around what the fuck is happening.



10. The Smile: Wall of Eyes

And we have Thom Yorke again. This album features half of Radiohead in a spinoff project. They actually have released two albums this year, of which this is the first. Far looser, and surprisingly acoustic, If it wasn't for the characteristic tunes,

which I have described earlier on Yorke's solo album, One would have no idea that this has anything to do with Radiohead. There are a band I've always liked, and have preferred the more Abstract and experimental side to the band. If you can imagine somebody doing Kid A unplugged, you might have some sort of an anything about what it's all about. But it is far more than that. I am going to check out the second album of the year over the next few weeks and I confidently expect that I will be doing an editorial about them...



#### **A Few Facts About Plastic Pollution**



is thrown away each year to circle the Earth

4 times!

**ONE MILLION** 

sea birds & 100,000 marine mammals are killed annually from plastic in our oceans 35 BILLION plastic

plastic water bottles are thrown away every year

Plastic constitutes approximately

90% SLA of all trash floating on the ocean

The average American throws away approximately



of plastic per year.

50%

of the plastic we use, we use JUST ONCE and throw away.

Facts found on ecowatch.com



## YESSPENK

FEATURING THE CLASSIC LINE-UP
Jon Anderson Steve Howe Chris Squire Alan White Rick Wakeman



## Narrated by Roger Daltrey TW0-DISC SET

Recorded During The 55th Anniversary European Tour On Stage And Off Stage, In Their Words And Their Music These Are The 'Wonderous' Stories Of YES The World's Finest Progressive Rock Band

E EXEMPT FROM CLASSIFICATION

DVD

#### Yesspeak Double DVD Digipack

FEATURING THE CLASSIC LINE-UP JON ANDERSON, STEVE HOWE, CHRIS SQUIRE, ALAN WHITE, RICK WAKEMAN#

Narrated by Roger Daltrey

TWO DISC SET

Recorded During The 35th Anniversary European Tour On Stage And Off Stage, In Their Words And Their Music These Are The Wonderous Stories Of YES. The Worlds Finest Progressive Rock Band DVD artwork designed by Roger Dean Shot during the group's 35th

# GOVEDIA ELABEL FOR CONNOISSEURS

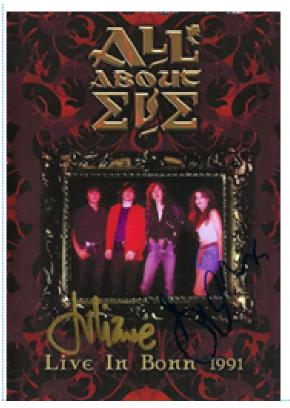
Anniversary European Tour, Yesspeak offers a 169-minute documentary about the classic progressive rock band Yes. The feature, narrated by Roger Daltrey, has a near three-hour running time allowing rather more depth than the usual rockumentary. Divided into 10 chapters the programme systematically covers the background, history and outlook of the group before an extended interview with each of the five members of the classic line-up: Jon Anderson (vocals), Steve Howe (guitar), Chris Squire (bass), Alan White (drums), and Rick Wakeman (keys).

Archive material and glimpses of the 2003 tour are interwoven with the interviews, this is very much a documentary, not a concert On the DVD: Yesspeak comes as a two-disc set. Disc 1 offers the first five chapters and 89 minutes of the documentary, while the remaining 80 minutes are featured on Disc 2. The picture is an excellent amamorphically enhanced 16:9 widescreen presentation, though by necessity the archive material is of variable quality. There are excellent Dolby Digital 5.1 and DTS soundtracks. Disc 2 also showcases 126 minutes of concert audio. This is accompanied by concert photos but the sound is only Dolby Digital 5.1, without a DTS option.

Chapters: 1. Sacred Ground 2. Full CIrcle 3. There's Always Been A Yes 4. Spotlight On Chris 5. Spotlight On Jon 6. Spotlight On Steve 7. Spotlight On Alan 8. Spotlight On Rick 9. On The Road 10. Yes Music

Features highlights from: Siberian Khatru, Magnification, Don't Kill The Whale, We Have Heaven, South Side Of The Sky, And You And I, To Be Over, Show Me, Heart Of The Sunrise, Long Distance Runaround, The Fish, Awaken, I've Seen All Good People, Roundabout, Yours Is No Disgrace & No Opportunity Necessary, No Experience Needed

Special Feature: Audio Only Feature - The Entire Live Set in Dolby 2.0 & 5.1



#### All About Eve 'Live in Bonn' 1991 SIGNED DVD

Signed DVD.

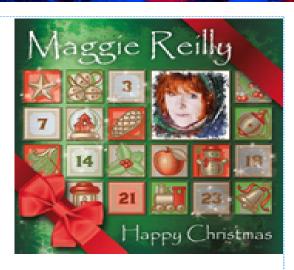
In September 1991 All About Eve had recently released their third album Touched By Jesus. It was a special album for a number of reasons. Firstly it was that all important third album and secondly it was the first album to feature new guitarist Marty Wilson-Piper. When the band rolled up at the Biskuithalle in Bonn on the 5th of September it was to perform only its fourth concert was to be filmed for the long running German music television programme Rockpalast. The set list included six of the eleven tracks included on the Touched by Jesus album which certainly

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showed that the band were solidly behind the new album. The songs included Strangeway, Share It With Me, Touched By Jesus, Hide Child, Farewell Mr Sorrow and Rhythm of Life. The band still performed a couple of stahwarts from the previous albums such as In The Clouds, Wild Hearted Woman, Road To Your Soul and Every Angel but this was a new All About Eve and one that the fans took to immediately as can be seen by the reception on this DVD. All About Eve would go on to record a further album in 1992 entitled Ultraviolet before splitting in 1993. The band however did reform in the late nineties and found that there was still a huge audience for their music as there will be for this DVD.

- 1. Strangeway
- Share It With Me
- 3. Wild Hearted Woman
- 4. Touched by Jesus
- 5 In The Clouds
- 6 Hide Child
- 7. Road To Your Soul
- 8. Farewell Mr Sorrow
- 9. Dreamer
- 10 Rhythm of Life
- 11. Every Angel

All Too Much



#### Maggie Reilly -Happy Christmas

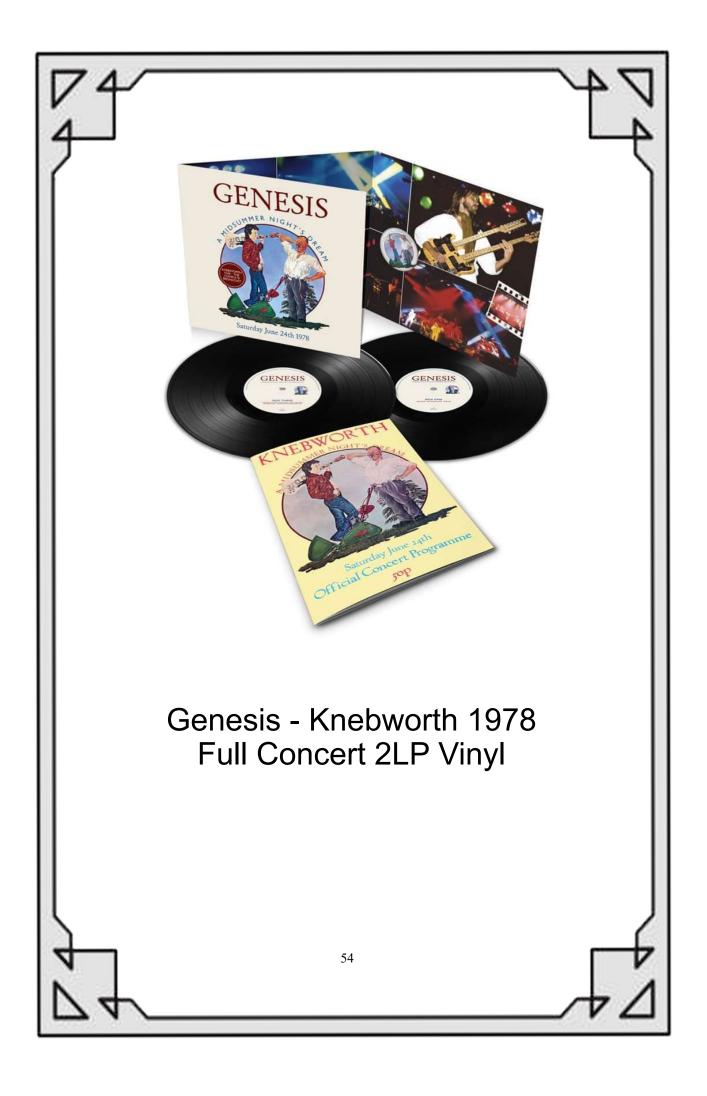
Maggie Reilly (born 15 September 1956) is a Scotti: Mike Oldfield. Most notably, she performed lead voca France" and "Foreign Affair", all of which were intern

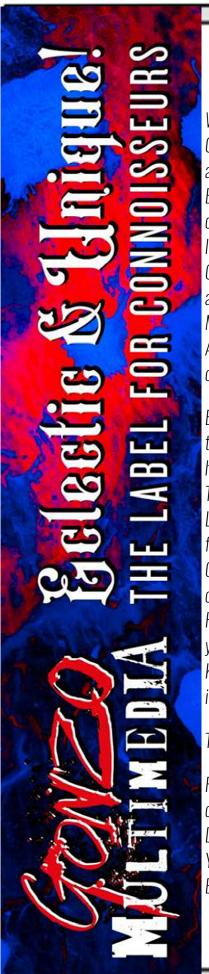
Here Maggie sings some of our favourite songs and c

Track Listing: Do You Hear What | Hear? | | Believe ii Christmas To You) | Oh Little Town of Bethlehem | Wi Night | | Saw Three Ships | God Rest Ye Merry Gentle

https://www.voutube.com/watch?v=vMkblNvL2xk







With the departure of guitarist Steve Hackett in 1977, Genesis were reduced to a trio. Yet with their ninth studio album, ... And Then There Were Three..., Phil Collins, Tony Banks and Mike Rutherford continued to expand the scope of what the group could achieve. Released as the album's lead single, the classic Follow You Follow Me proved that Genesis could be chart hitmakers, while their performance at Knebworth on 26 June 1978 – headlining the day-long A Midsummer Night's Dream festival, on a bill with Tom Petty And The Heartbreakers, Jefferson Starship and Devo – continued their ascent to arena-filling mega-stardom.

Broadcast on UK TV, the Knebworth show took a trip through Genesis' shape-shifting history to date, including highlights from the Nursery Cryme and Selling England By The Pound albums (The Fountain Of Salmacis, I Know What I Like (In Your Wardrobe)), along with standout moments from the post-Peter Gabriel era (Ripples, A Trick Of The Tail; One For The Vine, Wind & Wuthering) and a healthy serving of songs from their new three-man incarnation, Burning Rope and Follow You Follow Me among them. In just two years, the group would reinvent themselves again, making Knebworth 1978 a fascinating document of a crucial period in Genesis' development.

#### Track Listing:

Radio Intro | Quonk | Burning Rope | Ripples | The Fountain of Salmacis | One For The Vine | Radio Outro | Radio Intro | Deep in the Motherlode | The Lady Lies | Afterglow | Follow You Follow Me | Dance of the Volcanoes | Drum Duet | Los Endos | I Know What I Like | Radio Outro



This is a deluxe edition mastered from the best available FM off air sources. Produced in a heavyweight sleeve, with contemporary artwork and visuals from the era and if that wasn't enough, this edition contains a faithful reproduction of the tour program from this tour the recording relates to.

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#### Track Listing:

- Side One: Radio Intro | Squonk | Burning Rope | Ripples
- Side Two: The Fountain of Salmacis | One For The Vine
- Side Three: Deep in the Motherlode | The Lady Lies
- Side Four: Afterglow | Follow You Follow Me | Dance of the Volcanoes
- Side Five: Drum Duet | Los Endos
- Side Six: I Know What I Like





## Pink Floyd - The Animals Tour: Hardcover Edition (Smaller Version)

Hardcover Book

Pink Floyd's 10th studio album "Animals" was released almost 10 years on from their psychedelic debut that launched the band on to the world stage. But this release couldn't be farther from "The Piper At The Gates Of Dawn" if you tried: It was a hard-hitting politically charged heavy rock album. Its three central pieces, "Pigs (Three Different Ones)", "Dogs" and "Sheep" each extending to over 10 minutes each drew parallels with George Orwell's dystopian nightmare "Animal Farm". Its lyrics continued to project Roger Waters' eternal themes of life's struggles where the subservient masses are sheep controlled by tyrannical pigs and authoritarian dogs.

Recorded over the summer of 1976, in the space of time it took punk to both explode and promptly fizzle out, at their own Britannia Row studios in north London, it also marked a shift

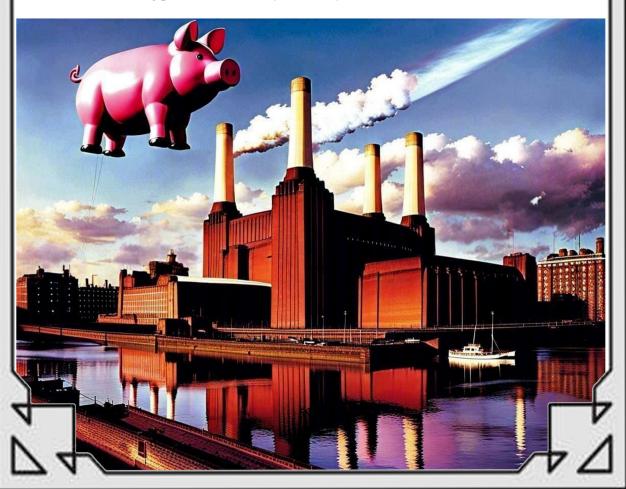
## GOVEDIA THE LABEL FOR CONNOISSEURS

from their traditional base of EMI at Abbey Road. Arguably one of Pink Floyd's least well recorded works it does however hold a fond place in many fans hearts and Animals has enjoyed a legacy — Roger Waters in particular reviving those tracks to shoehorn into his own politically charged live solo shows in recent years.

The corresponding tour through the first half of 1977 was also not without compromise and built on the stadium spectacular that had been successfully developed over the previous two years of touring. Creatively, there was no limit to their ambition as large-scale inflatable structures, screen films, special effects and state of the art sound reinforcement were utilized that enveloped the audience in an ever-increasing immersive experience. But, despite all this, as their fan base increased exponentially so too did the rowdy nature of the stadium environment which, coupled with band members personal issues, ultimately led to inter-band rifts and Roger Waters' increasing intolerance of and disdain towards the adulation of the fans.

This all finally came to a spectacular head during their final show of the "Animals" tour in Montreal in July and the events that unfolded became the lynchpin of Waters' vision of isolation and madness that eventually led to the creation of "The Wall" two years later.

"Pink Floyd – The Animals Tour – A Visual History" By Glenn Povey documents both the history of the recording of the album and the supporting tours which remains one of the most fascinating periods in Pink Floyd's history.





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Ter original Gonzo Weekly shirt







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...

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### 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....

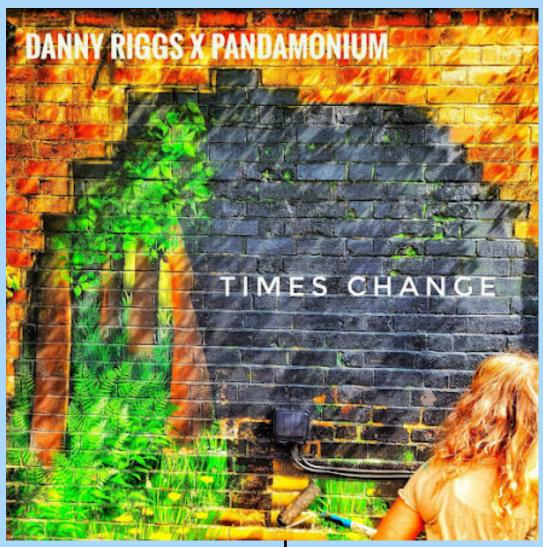
While the large majority of the animals we have helped over the years have been dogs, we do equally love our little kitties. We are super excited to show you our new Cat logo, No Cat Left Behind! She doesn't have a nickname yet and we are definitely open to suggestions!

Jonathan & Brad





## STEVE RIGER



#### Times Change By Danny Riggs X Pandamonium

Somewhere back in the mists of time, my good friend and DJ / Producer / Emcee and all-round good egg Pandamonium put out an offer to fully produce an album, EP or whatever for a

proper bargain price, and one of the projects that grew from that was a collaboration with upcoming rapper / Singer / Songwriter and drummer from Nottingham UK, Danny Riggs.

That collaboration is now available for everyone to check out and is ti-

tled Times Change. Now, aside from being fully produced by Pandamonium, it features some pretty heavy hitters as well including Louis Cypher and Zar! Plus, there is a posse style cut that features a host of emcees in the form of Louis Cypher, Aquatic Ape, C Hayez, Tippyvshummanity, Odox, Cali Green and the legend that is Cappo. With a line-up like that, it is hard to write anymore, so I'm just gonna get into it...

Times Change clocks in at a sneeze under forty minutes long across ten tracks and kicks off with Intro\_spective, which has Pandamonium's trademark jazzy vibe but, with a more laid-back sound of horns, guitar, and cymbals. The focus of this intro is an invitation for all of us to look within to make the greatest changes. Keeping our focus on what is outside of us and on what others are doing will never be transformative, only a quick fix...

With that thought firmly rooted into our awareness, the album in earnest with Loading In, keeping it laid back here, there is that nice little addition of that 80's digital computer loading sound, the drumbeat is proper Hip Hop here and backed by bass, kays and horns, which keeps that jazz-hop vibe going. Here we find Danny bringing us the lowdown on who he is and the things that inspire him to do what he does behind the Mic. It is refreshing to get that insight because, with Danny being one of the younger generation of rappers out there, it

gives us this deep look at what drives him and that there is this desire within him to see people inviting love into their lives to bring more of it into the world. From that personal note, its time to get more head nod with No Breaks. Pandamonium gives us a nice beat and handclaps to get out heads moving and there are more samples thrown in with quick turns of pace that keep us on our toes. Here we find Danny taking us through some of those moments in life where we feel we just can't catch a break. He delivers this with some great comedic lines that will have you grinning for sure. You can keep that grin on your face as Playing Games opens with that Nintendo Wii electronic little tune, as a father and son get ready to play on the console. Panda then spins that tune with a nice little head nod beat to give Danny the perfect background to reminisce on his younger days, name dropping a plethora of video games, TV shows and more from the 2000's. I bet us older heads will recognise most of these as we watched em with our kids too.

Real Business takes us back to that laid-back jazzy vibe of piano and other keys over another nice drumbeat getting us almost swaying back and forth. Danny, drawing on his personal experience, takes us on a trip that is all about doing what you love and constantly aiming to reach your goals. It's a long journey where some will doubt you and criticize you but, use that energy to fuel your

passion for what you do and keep walking forward no matter what. It's now time for a brief Technical Interlude with serves to introduce what's about to happen in the second part of the album. Very tongue-incheek this one and Panda's beat has this very lift or elevator music about it but, before you know it, we're all good and its time to move on to Haters which see's Louis Cypher making his first appearance. This one turns up the energy levels more than a few notches with a cracking sound that mixes horns, keys and more with a nice infectious beat. This one has the air of battle rap about it as Danny and Louis give us a solid display of wordplay, spinning line after line that will make anyone think twice about stepping up on them...

Almost Blind sees Zar! Step up alongside Danny, with Panda providing a more chilled beat with this electronic sample that gives this one a nerve tweaking edge but, not in bad way, as it just anchors your focus on the words. As you listen to this one it really has a message that echoes the introduction, where its all about having faith in yourself, never giving up, and letting love guide you to a better place. With those sentiments still ringing in your ears, the penultimate track here seems to show what is possible if you don't give up but, aim for your goals. Legacy is a track that weighs in at nearly ten minutes in length and sees Danny joined by Louis Cypher, Aquatic Ape, C Hayez, Tippyvshummanity, Odox, Green and Cappo. Panda drops a deep funky vibe on this one with deep beat, bass and this funked out guitar that really gets you moving. Less of a hardcore posse cut that you might expect, this one is more a collective of emcees speaking on just what it means to them to leave a legacy behind them. The core thing here is not leaving money or material things but, leaving a legacy of words that have true meaning; creating something that will speak to people for years to come, and the length seems to float by as you listen intently. This is a deep and thought-provoking track that you can't help but take something from. The album ends with The Best Is Yet To Come Outro which sees Panda on form with a nice head nod little track with bass, guitars and cuts, rounding off the album and suggesting to all that this is just the beginning of the journey for Danny Riggs and the best, well that's to come and we'll just have to wait and see what that brings...

Overall, what can I say about this one? Well, one thing I can say is that it was a pleasure to wrote to, as the sound and lyrics just made the listening and writing something that flowed with ease; and I love it when that happens because it makes my job easier.

As this was my introduction to Danny Riggs, I was pleasantly surprised to hear someone who has a passion and confidence in his craft. He has some great wordplay and turns of flow while delivering everything with an air that says he is more than able to make a name for himself on the UK scene, and there is no reason to believe that he will not still be here doing his thing for years to come. It will be interesting to watch how he progresses and matures as his journey continues. He is definitely one to watch.

It was also interesting to see how the album had this distinct feel of two halves, separated by this little comedic ditty. The first half showed what Danny can do flying solo, while the second half gave him the chance to drop verses alongside some big name features too. It really showed that he has the capability to hold his own, regardless of if he does it solo or alongside other artists.

He did a great job picking Pandamonium to work with on this project as it does seem to show that he fits really well with Panda's production style. Each beat panda provided worked so well with the essence of what Danny was going for. Mixing up the styles and the pace gave Danny some good platforms to show how he too can mix things up. Now, I didn't mention much about the cuts in the write-up for each track, and Panda does not drop a lot of them but, when he does, they are used in just the right places and form to bring that full on Hip Hop vibe to proceedings.

The features artists on the second half of the album all fit so well into the vibe of what Danny is giving us here. He gives us names that we know very well, alongside some that we might not know so well but, it all works perfectly and adds that icing to the cake.

All-in-All, Times Change is an impressive release by one of the UK's up and coming rap artists who delivers the kind of message that says fairly and squarely, I'm here and I'm one to watch. Plus, as us old heads know, times do change and here we have someone who looks to fit so well within the UK Hip Hop scene, drawing on the essence of that real Hip Hop sound.

Times Change is out now,

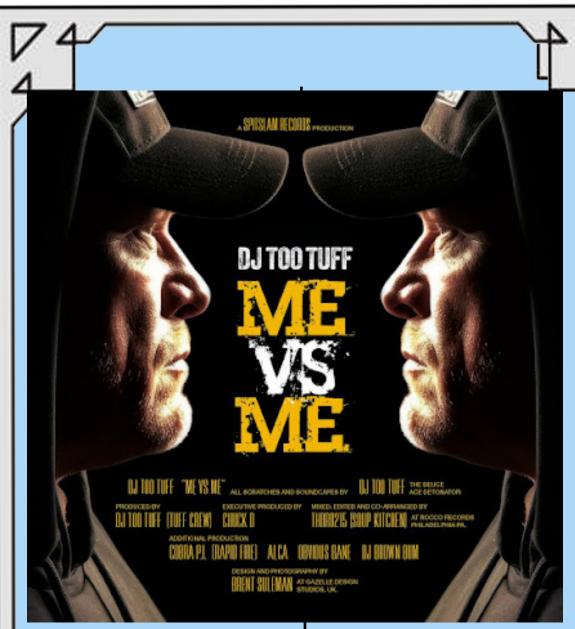
So, go grab it and roll with it.

I'll See ya next time.

Steve.

Me Vs Me By DJ Too Tuff

Now, there is a bit of a story behind this review, which I'll try and keep short for you, but it is definitely worth mentioning here. On the 28th September 2024 I got the chance to go to a gig in Southampton as an old friend was unable to go (Thanks to Mr John Mac for that). The gig was a 50th birthday gig for one of Southampton's legendary figures Stevo, and if you know, you know. I knew Stevo from back in the days in Southampton when he was a part of Movement Records etc. The headliner for this gig was none other than Tuff Crew Legend DJ Too Tuff. So, alongside my brother Scott and mate



Matt, plus the likes of Whirlwind D, Specifik, Soul 45 DJs, and so many more, we enjoyed an awesome gig with some cracking DJs rounded off by a stunning set from DJ Too Tuff.

It was as the gig drew to a close that myself, Scott and Matt were able to go backstage and chat with the man himself, and you can't find a more humble and stand-up guy than Too Tuff. It was during this chat that I mentioned my reviews, to which Too Tuff handed me his phone to put my contact details in, and to say I was buzzin' is an understatement and, to cut a long story short, the rest is history.

Just for those who might not know much about DJ Too Tuff, here is a little bit about his background. DJ Too Tuff aka The Deuce Ace Detonator is a DJ/Producer and emcee from Philadelphia USA and exploded on to the Hip Hop scene with Tuff Crew, especially on the legendary hit My Part of Town from 1988. He became known for his lightning-fast cuts and scratches and is now one of Hip Hops most skilled DJs. The Tuff Crew released a number of albums including Phanjam (1987), Dangerzone (1988), Back To The Wreck Shop (1989), Still Dangerous (1991), and most recently Back By Dope Demand (2023). Beyond his work with Tuff Crew, DJ Too Tuff has released two albums back in 2022 with Behold The Detonator (SpitSLAM) and DJ Too Tuff's Lost Archives Part Too (Hip-Hop Enterprise), it was 2023 that saw the release of his third album Me Vs Me, which was also released through SpitSLAM Records.

Too Tuff toured extensively in the US with the Tuff Crew seeing them share the stage with some amazing Hip Hop legends including Roxanne Shante, Big Daddy Kane, Ultramagnetic MCs, 2 Live Crew, Salt-N-Pepa and Kid 'N' Play. Tuff Crew also headlined the Urban Matterz event in 2022 alongside Jeru The Damaja, Dres (Black Sheep) and Philly legend Schooly D (who Too Tuff also deejayed for). 2023 saw Too Tuff as the house DJ for the Urban Matterz event in Helmond Netherlands, where he teamed up with another legendary Hip Hop DJ Mantronik for a legendary performance. Earlier in 2024 Too Tuff was the tour DJ for the Ultramagnectic MCs on their Year Of The Ultra European Tour. 2024 also saw

Too Tuff as tour DJ for OT The Real and Benny The Butcher for the Everybody Can't Go Tour.

Too Tuff is currently working on solo projects for SpitSLAM Records (owned by Chuck D). He has also featured on Chuck's 2023 album Summer of Hahm album for the track Bringing Back 88. 2023 also saw him team up with UK producer Cobra P.I. from Rapid Fire to release In Danger.

So, if reading through all that little lot has wetted your appetite, join me now on a deep dive into DJ Too Tuff's most recent album, 2023's Me Vs Me, produced, scratched, created, arranged and recorded by the man himself it features guest appearances from Tuff Crew, OT The Real, Class B and Phoenix Jordan, as well as some feature production from Cobra P.I., Alca, Obvious Bane and DJ Brown Bum. All this with Chuck D as the Executive Producer.

So, let's go...

Me Vs Me is some twenty tracks deep and kick's off with Cold Blood. This one hits hard and heavy from the get go with this pounding that gets the adrenaline pumping, but over this is a John Carpenter Halloween piano that gives the whole thing a darker edge, just like your standing in the shadows, watching everything happening around you. Too Tuff brings his trademark style skills to bear perfectly here cutting up and scratching in frantic razor-sharp

style, leaving you almost breathless in just under two and a half minutes. Next up is the short skit concerning facemask head coverings or Shiesties which could be just a skit or could be a reference to there being no masks being used here. This is Too Tuff and he don't need no mask. He Gots 2 Die hits with a battle style routine as Too Tuff seems to battle himself with all his skills over this heavy piano and flute drive beat. There is this sense of the cuts going back and forth, just like you might battle between the light and shadow self to see which will win out. Pillowcase sees Too Tuff bring a classic Public Enemy sample and then cut it to great effect over the drumbeat. This one is a perfect example of how you can effectively use a single sample to pound the ears of the listener over and over, bringing them into submission.

Someone To Beef With hits with vibe where the beat is almost softened into the background by the frantic and intense nature of Too Tuff's turntable skills. The more you listen to this one, the more it puts you in mind of the old skool battle rap records, DJ Battles and more. It brings you to thoughts that, always having someone to test your skills against, keeps you at the peak of your skill level; and sometimes that means you have to battle yourself just to make sure you are consistently at your best. Stalker takes us in a new direction as Too Tuff drops us into the mean streets of Philly. Here, heavy bass notes and pounding drums create the background as he cuts up vocal samples to create a narrative that looks at some dark times on the streets. There is also a deeper aspect here that asks you never underestimate your opponent; always expect the unexpected and that goes for yourself too. Now it's time to Salute The Sample with a short track that celebrates that famous Rocky sample that was used in Going The Distance, the opening track of Back To The Wreck Shop, and if you know this album you will know that this is one of the most legendary openings to a Hip Hop albums. Call Me The Deuce finds Too Tuff joined by the one and only Tuff Crew, with additional production from Cobra P.I. (Rapid Fire). Too Tuff's rapid fire cuts merge with Cora P.I.'s intense beat, guitar samples and much more to bring you a vibe that ramps up the adrenaline levels. It's all about bringing in the Tuff Crew to celebrate just who is DJ Too Tuff, The Deuce Ace Detonator. If you still had any questions, this one answers them and leaves you hungry for more.

Come To Pass features production from ALCA with a pounding drumbeat, strings, and cymbals, which all come together to bring this somewhat laid-back sound, but one that has no less impact. Too Tuff's cut's up the vocal sample to bring you something that makes you think intently about the words you hear. The message here is that what you spend your time focusing on, is what will manifest in your life. If you look around you and all you see is fear, pain and suffering, then that is what will come to pass in your life. You

have to turn it around and focus on the good things, the positive things. It is a profound message delivered in a way that hits you a little differently than if you were just listening to someone speaking. With those words still ringing deeply in your awareness, your focus is drawn away to the emotive piano sound of 9mm, where this short sees a youngster (Phoenix Jordan) speaking on different firearms. The context seems a struggle to grasp until you realise it is the intro to School Shooter; where Too Tuff brings our attention to the disturbing facts of children taking guns to school and engaging in shootouts over this pounding beat that is mixed with this nerve shredding electronic organ sound. It also looks at the connection between violent video games and the behaviour of these children. This does bring the focus to the availability of guns in the US and the fact that children are able to freely obtain and play violent games such as GTA. Everyone will have their own opinions on gun control and video game availability and the effect those may have on children, but the fact is that it happens, and these things do need to be addressed, it is the same in the UK; we might have more gun control in the UK but, here it is knife crime that is the worry. These are worrying facts that impact our lives every day and something else that impacts us is drugs; and Too Tuff brings this to our awareness on The Recipe, that



sees someone describe the process used to create Crack Cocaine. There is a heavy sound of a heavy drum beat with this eerie piano that has all the hallmarks of John Carpenter.

2 Nicks is a skit that continues the focus on the drug problem and where a nick refers to a nickel bag which holds about a quarter gram of weed. Next up, OT The Real joins Too Tuff on The Burning, A heavy pounding beat over a sample of the theme tune from John Carpenters 'The Fog' with more of Too Tuff's frantic, razorsharp scratching that sees him bring our focus to drug related gun violence. There is this deep juxtaposition here between the almost brutal nature of the scratching and that deep melodic sound of The Fog Sample, mirroring the violence of gun crime mixed with the peace of the night and the drug induced calm. The focus switches once more to the incredibly heavy beat and ferocious cuts of Pitbull. This is another that hits incredibly hard and seems to be just an incredible display of how adept Too Tuff is on the turntables. In fact, from the title you almost get the feeling that this feels like a musical sound adaption of what it might feel like to be caught in the jaws of a Pitbull. Scratchin' #'s Off (Scratchin' Numbers Off) features production from Obvious Bane (Sum Entertainment) and has this heavy sounding beat with keys and guitars etc, and provides the perfect platform for Too Tuff to drop another display of his skills, something I'm never gonna get tired of...

Shake The Devils Hand has this piano

vibe over the beat that gives this one heavy sound that kind of takes you back into the streets; and here Too Tuff uses that blistering pace to great effect as he focuses on the violence of the innercity areas of Philadelphia. Giving you a sense that those involved in this, do so with little concern for others, only focusing on their own ends. One of the outcomes of the violence is looked at on Died At The Hospital. The beat raises the adrenaline levels once more as Too Tuff uses classic IceCube vocal samples to highlight the sad end to another night of violence in the city. We move into the penultimate track of the album, Trip To Flatbush, which features Class B and production from DJ Brown Bum. Drums, bass, and guitars to bring you this raw dirty sound that reflects living life on the other side of the law. Class B drops a gritty expose of the life of someone on the other side of the law, fitting perfectly with the tone of the track. There is no silver lining to this one it's just telling it how it is. The albums outro is a short skit that puts Too Tuff as the defendant in The Peoples Court. Sampling the theme from the UK TV series The Professionals, this one leaves you thinking that DJ Too Tuff is both innocent and guilty; he is innocent of any and all charges but, also guilty of being exactly who he says he is, so let him do his thing already...

After such an intense rollercoaster, across around 40 mins, what can you say about this album overall?

Well, you could say a lot about this one because what Me Vs Me does is to highlight just how good a DJ and producer Too Tuff is. This is Hip Hop to the core that shows what a legendary DJ can do when they put their minds to a project. Here we see that it is not just Too Tuff's DJ skills that take the limelight but, also how he deftly uses that skill to take you on a journey, telling you stories along the way by cutting up sound bites, news stories and so much more. It proves that you don't necessarily have to be skilled on the mic to be able to tell people how it is and to take them to the kind of emotive places that only someone who truly knows the truth can do. Having said that, I know that Too Tuff also has the skills as an emcee too, courtesy of his performance in Southampton so, maybe we might get to see more of that side of him in the future...

I found this album to be solid from top to bottom as it mixed hardcore and emotive stories with incredible cutting and scratching, alongside the kind of production that will have Hip Hop headz old and new bouncing and punching the air. It takes a lot to be able to draw focus to such topics in a way that is unapologetic and still entertaining, while not lessening the impact it has; and this is the kind of display by a legendary figure that not only takes you back to the golden age of the eighties but, also shows that people like Too Tuff can keep it 100% real Hip Hop in a time where so many feel that Hip Hop has lost its way. You also get a sense of just how much of an impact Philly has had on

Hip Hop music too. I could easily go on for ages about just how much I enjoy scratch DJ routines and albums like this (trust me, I never get tired of watching scratch routines and skilled DJ's are at doing what they do) and I could even dive deeper into Philadelphia, Too Tuff and Hip Hop but, the best way for me to show how much I enjoyed this is just to say, go get it.

Me Vs Me shows there is only one winner and that DJ Too Tuff, The Deuce Ace Detonator. So, now that we have settled that one out of court, it's time to Rock On...

Additional credits go to Thoro215 (Soup Kitchen, Thorobred Bangerz LLC) at Rocco Records Philidelphia for mixing, editing and co-arranging the album. Design and photography comes from Brent Suleman at Gazelle Design Studios, Bristol UK.

My huge and humble thanks to DJ Too Tuff for giving me the chance to review this stunning album.

I'll see ya next time.

Peace,

Steve.



#### Spirits in a material world

DOES the Earth have a spirit? That depends upon your point of view of course. Does anything have a spirit? Is there even such a thing? I only pose the question because what follows depends not so much on the answer as on whether you think the question is worth asking in the first place.

The pagan eco-warriors of Little Solsbury Hill, overlooking the watermeadows of Bath, are in no doubt. The Earth has a spirit, as do all things upon it: trees, plants, animals, even rocks and stones. Mother Earth nurtures all creatures, including ourselves. And how do we repay her? We rip her, wound her, tear down those lovely tree-spirit-beings to make way for motorways. I'm speaking for them now. I'm sure they'd agree that this is the essence of their message. So convinced are they by the truth of this philosophy, that they daily perform acts of extreme courage, shinning up the arms of the JCBs, locking themselves to machinery and even – I saw this – throwing themselves behind the reversing wheels of a truck full of hard-core about to disgorge its load.

One of them told me a story which – having observed a number of such things – I feel perfectly inclined to believe. He'd attached himself by a noose to a tree that was about to come down. Had the tree fallen, of course, he would have gone with it. The supervisor came over to him and asked, "are you serious?"

"Look into my eyes and tell me whether you

think I'm serious or not."

I saw that look as he was telling me the story. I'm certain that the supervisor made the right decision in stopping the digger.

Such conviction is both startling and educational. What we are observing here is a new kind of politics: at least in Britain, at least in recent years. Old-style left-wing politics had a tendency to cynicism and behind the scenes wrangling. It appealed to the greed in human beings, not to their idealism. Trade Unionism was inevitably tied to differentials based on collective bargaining power. On the other hand, the crystal gazing selfindulgence of the conventional New Age opted out of politics altogether for personal self-improvement. One philosophy involved sneering reductionism, the other selfrighteous self-aggrandisement. Both were peculiarly fitting for the Thatcher years and doomed to failure. The tribal warriors of Little Solsbury Hill, and other places, represent a new New Age: clear on the question of collective action, politically astute and media-wise, spiritually aware without the attendant vanity.

I'd gone there the first time with a BBC Open Space crew to make a film about the Criminal Justice Bill. This is precisely the kind of protest that section 5 of the bill threatens to make illegal depending, as it does, on trespass, peaceful disruption of work and historical squatting rights. Our first encounter was unpromising. They came spilling out of one of the squats, blinking into the light like some mutant horde. One of them launched himself straight at me and began fingering my waistcoat. "Nice waist-

coat. What's it like on the back?"
He was trying to pull the coat off
my shoulders to see what the material was like. I lit a cigarette to
cover my irritation.

"Two's up on yer fag, mate?"

Just then the cameraman appeared in his Barbour jacket, battery-pack drawn about his waist like a gun-belt, camera, armed and dangerous, slung across his shoulder like a bazooka.

"Nice coat, mate. Ten's up on yer salary."

The quips came thick and fast.

"Used to be a hippie. Now he's all tan..." referring to my costume. He was right, and not just about the colour of my coat. This character turned out to be Lee Tree. I mentioned alienation.

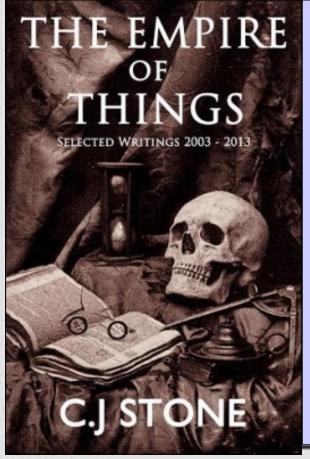
"Don't talk to me about alienation. My Dad was a miner. I was brought up on the strike. I know all about alienation."

We were making our way up the hill when – magically – another of the company squatted on her haunches on a small knoll and began

to expound. There was something very precise about this, as if this particular spot on the Earth had something to say for itself. She was addressing me directly. This was Sam, who I later discovered to be the Queen of the Donga tribe. She was talking about the trackways of Twyford Down - the famous dongas from which the tribe got its name - and I was particularly drawn to the quality of unaffected sincerity in her voice. She seemed to be speaking to me from some very ancient, sacred space. Meanwhile Lee mentioned a walk they were proposing, along the length of the Ridgeway, dragging handcarts. He was wearing a multicoloured hat like a fairy hood. I had a clear image of this raggle -taggle band of pagan revellers, with their penny-whistles and their bright patchwork clothes, strutting the hills like something out of a fairy-story, and was momentarily drawn into their world-view: "We are the old peo-ple, we are the new people, we are the same people, stronger than before," as Lee was later to say to me.

#### READ ON:

https://
christopherjamesstone.wordpress.com/2023/04/04/
spirits-in-a-material-world/



#### NOW AVAILABLE FROM GONZO MULTIMEDIA

"Stone writes with intelligence, wit and sensitivity."

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"Wry, acute, and sometimes hellishly entertaining essays in squalor and rebellion."

Herald

"The best guide to the Underground since Charon ferried dead souls across the Styx." Independent on Sunday



# Alan's New & Old Music Reviews Winter 2024

More musings and ruminations from Alan Dearling God Speed You! Black Emperor: No Title - As of 13 February 28,340 Dead

This music collective are political and produce a fuzzed-up sound that is just as anachronistic as their song titles. Titles such as 'Sun is a Hole Sun is Vapors'. That track is almost a sound poem. It offers sounds and spirits escaping from the catacombs. It is all very filmic. An epic sound experience, which is alternately an enchantment and rather exhausting. It combines found sounds, spoken words – in all, it is challenging, but interestingly inventive. There have been comments about them suggesting that they are, "...reinventing what protest music can be.

'Grey Rubble – Green Shoots' is the single and offers yet another magnif-

alan dearling



icent enigma. Even without knowing that they hail from Montreal, their vibe is somewhat similar to their compatriots, Arcade Fire.

'Grey Rubble':

https://www.youtube.com/watch? y=w9WvC2707hY

#### Joan Armatrading: How did this happen and what does it mean

Many of the tracks from this new album sound almost instantly familiar. The opener, '25 Kisses' is very, very poppy. It's personally one of my least favourite tracks. There are oodles of Joan's trademark echo throughout and even two noodling





guitar instrumentals where she colonises the sounds of Jeff Beck. A lot of it is quite cheery and offers plenty of opportunities to sing-along. 'Redemption Love' is one of the stronger songs and reminds one of the depth of Joan's singing and songwriting craftsmanship. 'I gave you my keys' is another tougher, more thoughtful song, with a tinge of added acid. All in all, I guess we should be pleased to receive new music from

Joan Armatrading who has been a trail-blazer for Black Women musicians.

'25 Kisses':

https://www.youtube.com/watch? v=M24W35NbpcY&list=OLAK5uy kJevfj98iYl6hhS2QCBVGwX0zPm KwlyZc&index=1

## LAST GREAT TRAFF JAM

Traffic: The Last Great Traffic Jam

Finally released in 2021, this truly magnificent live double CD captures the Traffic band at their majestic height. Stevie Winwood and Jim Capaldi are recorded in 1994 on their 'Far from Home' Reunion Tour with a fabulous set of musicians including Roscoe Gee/bass, Randall Bramblett/

winds, Mike McEvoy/keys, guitars Walfredo Reyes Jr/percussions, drums.

There is even a guest performance from Jerry Garcia on 'Dear Mr Fantasy'. Jim Capaldi died in 2004. It is also available as a film of the concert. Here's an excerpt of their extemporising:

https://www.youtube.com/watch? v=VdUF8kVO0dI



#### The Cure: Songs of a Lost World

Plenty of grandeur. Plenty of musical soundscapes. Instrumentally it's a strong album. Whether you like the somewhat anguished, doomy vocals is very much a matter of personal taste! Lots of Gothick symphonic moments. 'Drone No Drone' is crammed full of swirling, psychedelic

instrumentation. 'End Song' offers a kind of requiem, with a militaristic undertow. Funereal... "I'm outside in the Dark, wondering how I got so old". Plenty of eerie feedback, lovelorne desperation and some fine music. 'Nothing is Forever' and 'Alone' are the titles of the two opening tracks and they set the tone for the entire album. Ambitious.

Epic version of 'Drone No Drone'

live, Troxy 2024:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8TEkX8WjHoA

Andy Sharrocks: Country Rock 'n' Roll 'n' Durty Blues (triple vinyl)

Recording and releasing a triple album on vinyl is a considerable undertaking. It largely offers what it says on the tin. 'Little Boogaloo' is a storming starter, with Andy's swampfilled voice being a bit reminiscent of

Dr Feelgood, which is no bad thing. Andy also reminds one somewhat of Tom Waits on tracks like 'Old Leather Coat'. It's eclectic and very varied. One feels that Andy likes to cross the genre-divides. So, it is almost beyond eclectic. Here's one of the strong, blues songs, where he implores us to, "Join this Love Revolution!"

'Where's All the Love gone?' live



from the Narrowboat Sessions 2024: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G</a>-lnoGct7-o

There is such a lot on the triple set. Perhaps a pared-down single CD version would make sense. He certainly needs to keep 'Muddy Waters Blues', which is one of Andy's live favourites.

Lady Blackbird: Slang Spirituals
The final track on her new album is

absolute corker. It's titled, 'Whatever His Name', and it starts like Who track from out 'Quadrophenia', and moves into the quieter end of Janis Joplin territory, with added extra-terrestrial sounds. It almost self-combusts - wonderful stuff! Overall, the album is heavily orchestrated, a big production collection, with many tracks sounding like something from a musical such as Hair, with its 'Let the sunshine in'.



It's rockier and less bluesy than her previous album, 'Black Acid Soul'. There's still a jazz influence too, evident on the sultry tones of 'When the Game is played on you' and the opening of 'The City' before it becomes another Big Production Number.

"I'm running out of whiskey, bring me my bottle!"

'Whatever his name':

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

#### Paul Simon: Graceland (Re-mixed and re-mastered)

I missed this release when it came out in 2012. There's absolutely no point me talking about this famous album, the tracks or the back-story about the responses around the world to Paul Simon's recordings during the boycott of South Africa over

#### PAUL · SIMON GRACELAND



apartheid. The new recording is pristine. Everything is cleaner and much more precise. From 'Graceland' through 'Boy in the Bubble' to 'Under African skies', we know these songs as old friends. The re-mastering makes every instrument and Paul's voice have a new resonance. Does it work? In my view, yes and no. It's almost too perfect, almost clinical, and at times it becomes almost surreal when new effects have been added. It certainly shines a totally new light on most of the songs. So, if you haven't

heard it – it is worth checking out. There are also four bonus tracks, three of which are alternative versions of tracks from the original 1986 album.

I think that this is 'Graceland' from the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary re-master: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?">https://www.youtube.com/watch?</a> v=GP6a-7MP91g

Keith Tippett and Julie Tippetts: Sound on Stone – Couple in Spirit A recent personal message from Ju-



lie Tippetts was shared with me from Martin Archer at Discus Music (on Bandcamp). She's moving home, down-sizing, and is short of cash. She has asked her friends to buy some of her music direct from her. We were promised that the income will go directly to her. Over the years, I was involved in booking Julie, very early on when she was in Steampacket with Rod Stewart, Long John Baldry and others. She was still Julie Driscoll way back when in the 1960s. And I was involved with a Keith Tippett/Stan Tracey concert in Essex where they played grand pianos. That was avant garde jazz, lots of improvisations, which is also true of the album 'Sound on Stone', which has been completed by Julie after the death of her husband Keith in 2020. For almost 'free jazz' it is reasonably accessible with some bluesy tracks such 'Riding'. Their duo version of 'Windmills of your mind', offers a surreal intense take on the song, "Never ending or beginning, Like a wheel within a wheel".

https://discusmusic.bandcamp.com/track/windmills-of-your-mind



# Expect the Unexpected!

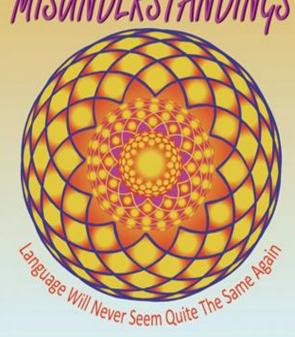
'An excursion to a strangely familiar place that you have never previously dreamed of.' (Alan Moore, writer Jerusalem, From Hell)

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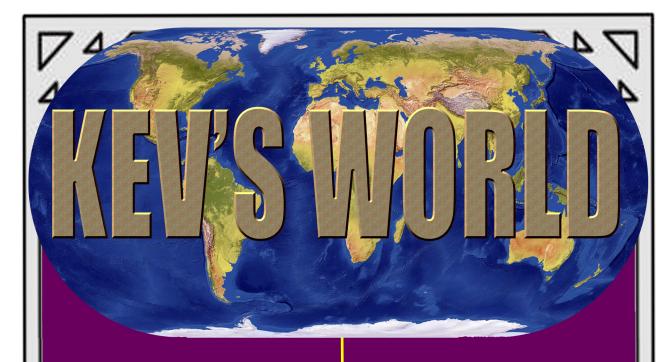
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#### SIMON CARE AND GARETH TURNER TWO'S UP TWO TALKING ELEPHANT

In 1997, two of England'S most famous folk melodeon players got together for a laugh to record 'Two's Up'. Simon Care (Albion Band/Banter) and Gareth Turner (Little Johnny England/Phil Beer Band) musical careers were interlinked and often crisscrossing, as Simon actually

taught Gareth to play the melodeon which meant Simon was able on many occasions to substitute him into bands that he (Simon) was playing with – including The Albion Band and the Phil Beer Band. It took a long time for the guys to get back together for the follow-up, 27 years to be precise, and just as they started Gareth became ill, dying not long after the recording was completed. The decision was made to remaster the original album, and make that available as part of a double CD set, so what we have here is not only the new album but the one they completed all that time ago.

To be honest, this does not really sound like two albums recorded more than a quarter of a century apart, but instead feels like two top class musicians settling in for a sesh and having a load of fun along the way. One can certainly hear why they have both been in demand within the folk scene for so many years as this is a joy from the first note to

the very last. Bothe albums feature some additional musicians to assist on some of the tracks, with only Phil beer (Show of Hands) on both. There is less traditional arranged on the second album than the first, while the second also features much more cowrites than the debut. What is incredible throughout is the sheer vitality and joy of all those involved and if it were not for the press release I would have no idea that Gareth was suffering as much as he was during the recording process as this is light and buoyant, and it often feels they are back in their youth, once again involved with the Moulton Morris men. Apparently, Gareth said at one point "morphine isn't a performance enhancing drug", but there is no less of dexterity in his fingers as he and Simon weave a folktastic spell throughout. All that is missing is the crack of wood and wood and shouts of "Hey" and the jingle of bells as this is folk music designed to be danced to and is a fitting end to Gareth's lengthy career in the genre. Alongside the original album this is an absolute delight and it is great that Talking Elephant have seen fit to release them together as one pack as it gives us double the





#### DEICIDE BANISHED BY SIN REIGNING PHOENIX MUSIC

It is strange to realise that Deicide will soon be celebrating their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, being formed back in 1987, with bassist vocalist/Glen Benton and drummer Steve Asheim still around. There have been a few changes in guitarists over the years, but Kevin Quirion has been there on and off since 2007 although there is now a new boy in Taylor Nordberg for what is only their second album since 2013's 'In The Minds of Evil'. I am having troubles working out if Deicide have decidedly mellowed since I started listening to them in the early Nineties, or if I just appreciate death metal that much more than I did when I was younger, but this album feels far more mainstream and polished than what I expect from the band. Some of the material feels quite commercial, and if there was a different singer then I am sure the music would be viewed in a quite

different light. Mind you, it is hard to think of anyone but Glen at the front of this band, tying his bass in with the pummelling Asheim while still producing the guttural growls we are all so used to.

Part of me thinks Deicide are somewhat going through the same old styles, knowing the fans will enjoy it so they do not have to put too much thought into it (like apparently using AI to generate the cover image which is way too clean), while the rest of me thinks Deicide have found their groove and are continuing to go down the path they helped create all those years ago. It may not be as raw and vital as it once was, but Benton and Asheim are in their fifties now, and most people do change somewhat as they get older, but even though this has a commercial angle and is far smoother than one might expect, it is still incredible heavy and wonderfully brutal. Hopefully the next album won't take as long as this one, and they can bed Taylor in on the road so they come back even heavier.





#### BLISSBLISS HORIZONS PEACOCK SUNRISE RECORDS

Over the last 35+ years I have reviewed many thousands of albums, but while I cover a wide variety of genres, it must be said that soul and pop are not the styles one would normally come across when reading my works. It is also not a style I expect when thinking of Nick Katona and his labels, so to say I was somewhat surprised when I put this on the player is something of an understatement. What makes this work are the wonderful arrangements with Lang Bliss on the drums, Zane Bliss on bass and keyboard player Eric Bikales (Stevie Wonder, Cher, Patti LeBelle, Tom Waits) combining with guitarist and engineer Townsend(Reliant K, DC Talk, Jennifer Knapp) to create something which is modern yet also very Seventies, mixing Stevie Wonder with Sister Sledge and Steely Dan. Then at the front are the lus-

cious vocals of Renee Bliss who is wonderfully smooth so one just falls into this min album, thoroughly enjoying the experience. There are a whole host of additional musicians involved as well, all bringing their polish to proceedings: David Davidson (Sheryl Crow, Katy Perry, Jason Mraz, Colin Hay), Tabitha Fair (Sting, Travis Tritt, Michael McDonald, Amy Grant, Celine Dion, Vanessa Williams), Kim Keyes (Peter Cetera, Amy Grant, Vince Gill, Billy Joel, Reba McEntire, Rascal Flatts), Soren Wohlers (arranger, vocal and musical director, Nashville studio), Scott Bernard (Kenny Loggins, studio), Kurt Stowe (Juke House Saints, studio), Mark Douthit (Lionel Richie, Elton John, Amy Grant, Billy Joel, Vanessa Williams) and Kelly Johnson (Bryan Duncan, studio).

There is just one cover (at least it is the only one I recognise), Marvin Gaye's "What's Going On" which has some glorious orchestration, stunning sax, really nice drums and then those lovely vocals at the front. I feel totally out of my depth when trying to write a review of music like this as it is not something I normally listen to, and is not a style I will ever play out of choice (there is not a single Stevie Wonder or Marvin Gaye album in my collection), but I can recognise a superb piece of work when I hear it even if the genre is not normally for me, and when the vocals, songs, arrangements, performance and production is as good as this I can certainly understand why Nick took the opportunity to release it. Polished and smooth, this takes us back in time to when music like this was produced by real performers and not computers and pro tools. The only downside is that at 34 minutes it is just not long enough.



#### BRUTALISM SOLACE IN ABSURDITY COMATOSE MUSIC

"...a seething mass of chaos, of endless gaping maws, slathering tongues and thrashing limbs, chattering teeth and sibilant whispers of lunacy and obscenity. There is no silence, there is no peace, there is no sense or order. With all laws of structure and reason obliterated and swirling like dust in the ever-moving eddies that spin across the oceans of blood and tears, all is undone, all is lost... Dragged beneath the surface we drink deep of madness and find our only salvation, our only solace in absurdity...". When a band decides to call themselves Brutalism it is a safe bet they are not going to sound like The Osmonds, and this quintet from Boise, Idaho are doing their level best to live up to their name with a brutal death metal debut.

I am not sure why, but as I have got older I listen more and more to metal which I would have probably passed by in my younger days, and every week I can be found relaxing to the likes of Napalm Death, Agoraphobic Nosebleed or Pig Destroyer, so when I come across an album like this I tend to sit up and pay close attention. One of the things I really like about this is that while they tend to be BDM for the most part, they are also highly technical and bassist Ian Dodd has a key role to play in this as there are times when he comes right to the front to provide unexpected notes and styles, which allows the bombast of guitarists Jason Taylor and London Howell to be even more in your face when it returns. They are both shredders of some note, and are more than happy to be moving at speed up and down the neck, while at others they keep it riff happy and at the bottom end of the scale. Dante Haas is a powering presence at the back, although I do wish the snare was not quite as in your face as it is in much of this, while at the front we have Cameron Bass who is obviously a fan of Lee Dorian. There is a lot to enjoy on this debut, and if you are into bands like Morbid Angel, Immolation, Defeated Sanity or Suffocation you will get a lot from this as this is quite a step up from many bands within the genre, and is a band to certainly keep an eye on.

#### LAZY FIFTY SITTING IN THE SHADOWS INDEPENDENT

"Sitting In the Shadows" is the fourth single off Lazy Fifty's upcom-



ing album 'Neighbour of the Beast'. This album is the second collaboration between Adrian Athy (vocals, guitars, bass) and renowned producer Greg "not my problem" Haver (Manic Street Preachers, Tom Jones (Reload), Catatonia, Bullet For My Valentine, Devilskin) who also provided drums.

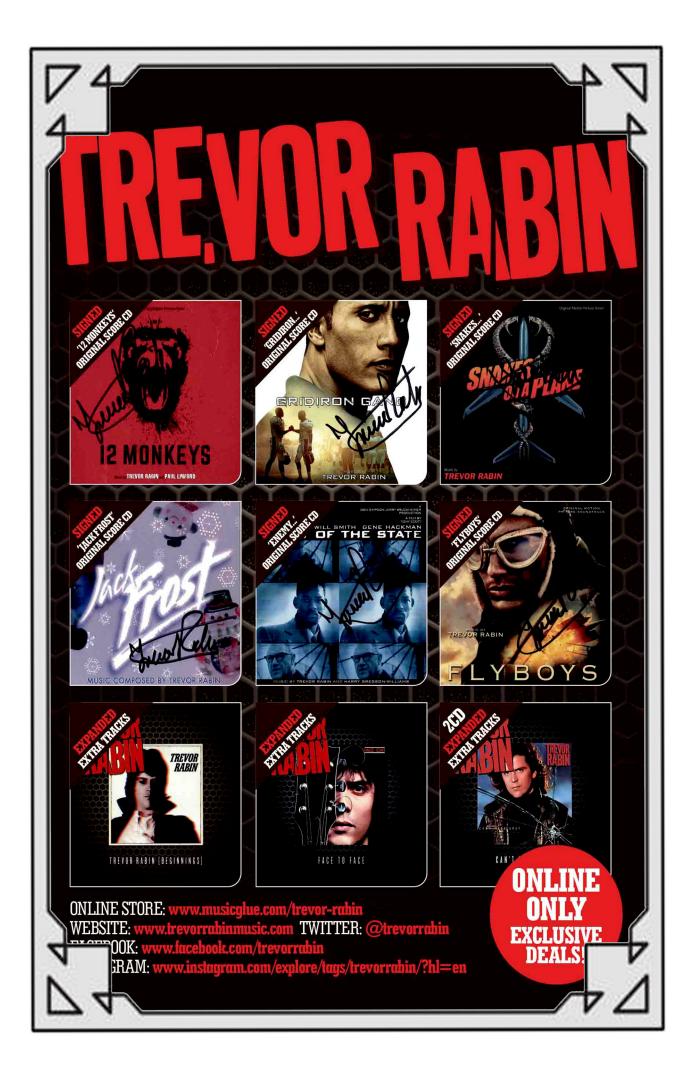
I was fortunate enough to see Lazy Fifty play a while back, and also really enjoyed their debut album, as Adrian has a knack for producing songs with great hooks and that is again the case here, with layers of melodies and harmonies all combining to create a wonderfully symphonic melodic rock belter which is designed for the airwaves.

It hits hard when it needs to, and it is possible to hear the Iron Maiden and Thin Lizzy references coming through, albeit mostly in the dual guitar leads and the introduction, as opposed to being anything like as heavy as either of the bands.

The guys have just been booked to play at one of India's largest music festivals in a few months' time so I can only hope they get the recognition they deserve as they have a knack of producing great songs.



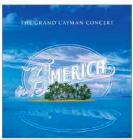








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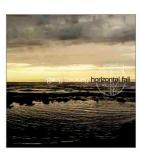
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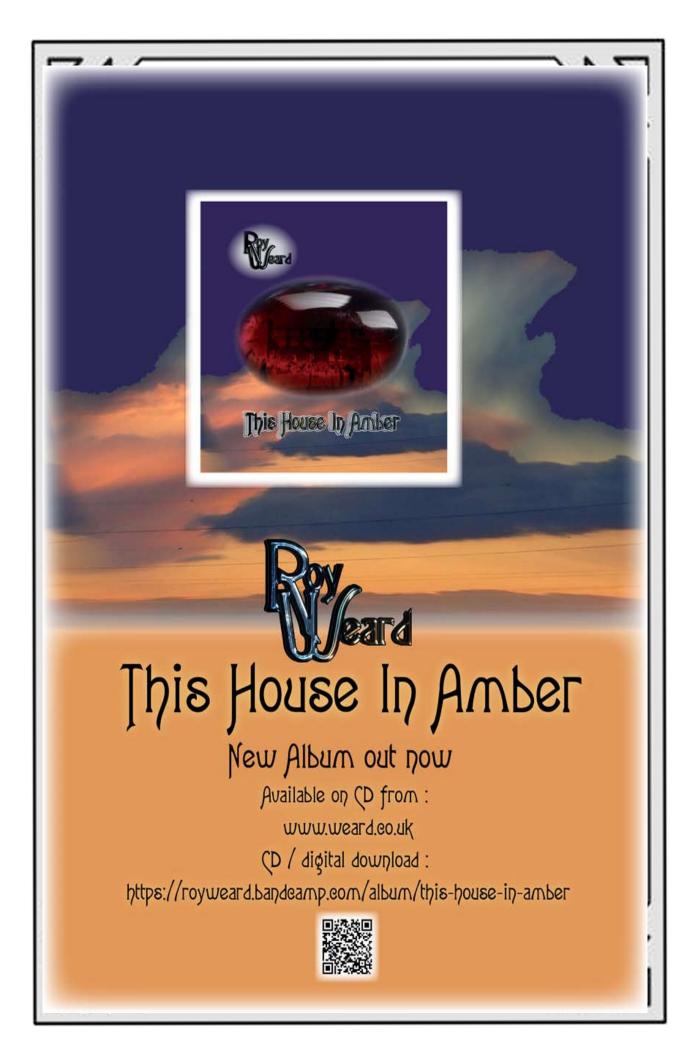
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Martin Guitar has been a leader in elephant protection since the 1970s when the company made the decision to stop using ivory on its guitars and started to phase the material from its supply chain. As the founding sponsor of #SaveElephants, Martin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

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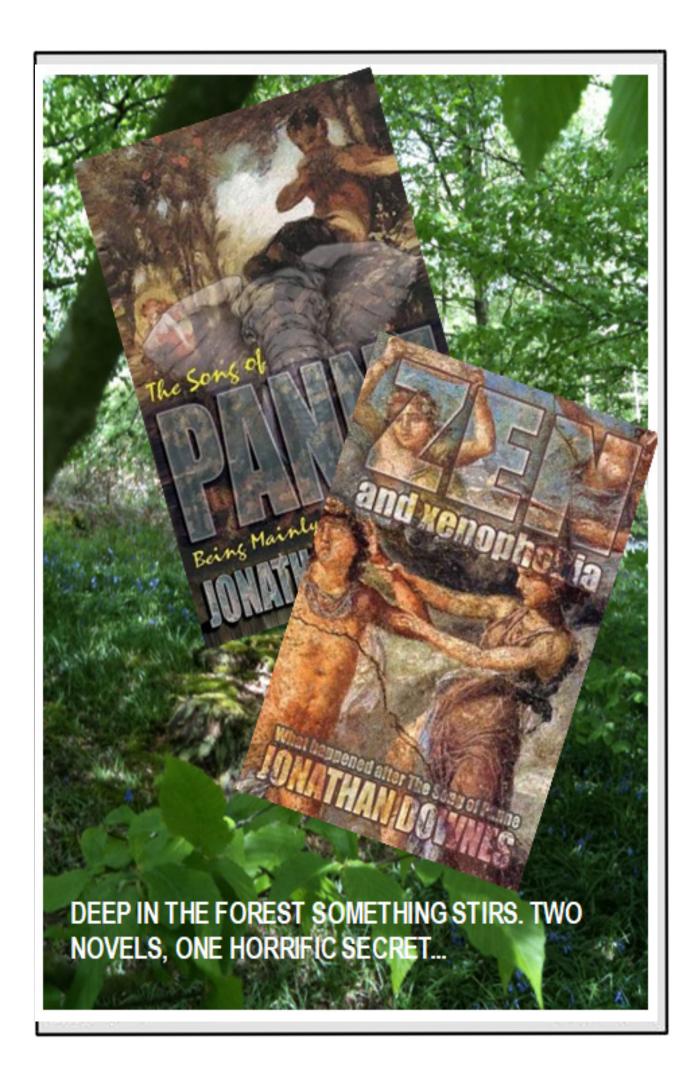
Asante sana (thank you very much),

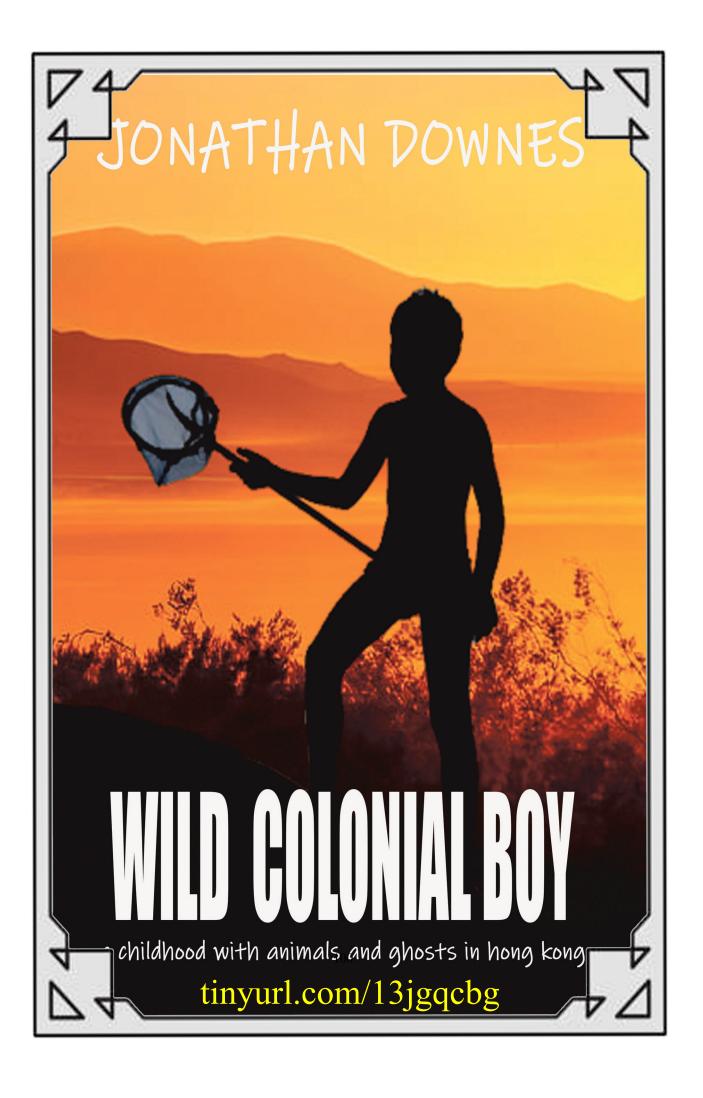
David Banks Director, Africa Region The Nature Conservancy

p.s. Start helping elephants today at nature.org/elephants and follow us on Instagram, Facebook or Twitter to get action alerts.









# 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 sixfn 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.

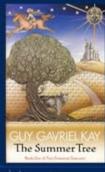
Award (UK).

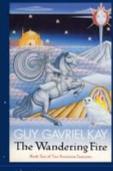
Martin still pursues the Musical Muse, recently producing a new CD, "Blue Evening" with his band "FREEFALL", an independent, instrumental album called "Rough Magic"; a collection of explorations on the guitar, and a collection of tunes inspired by the writings of Guy Gavriel Kay called "Bright Weaving".

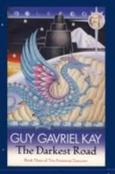
www.martinspringett.com/

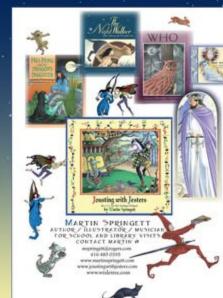
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Lillian H Smith Library Lower Level / 239 College St Toronto Thursday December 12th / 6.30 to 8 pm





### 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 Daevid 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!!"

#### WINGS

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THERE ARE BIRDS WE CANNOT KEEP-Those winged ones that avoid our gunsFlying high, feral and free("Sweet Birds of Liberty!")

THERE ARE BIRDS IN CAGES BEHIND GLASS IN MUSEUMS-To show that Dodo extinction awaits all winged onesThreatened Species-Sparrows,Pigeons,Galahs,Cockatoos THERE ARE LEGENDARY BIRDS OF HIGH MYTHOLOGYFlying reptiles,larger than dino-

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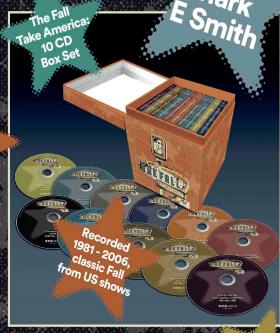
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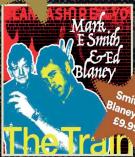


























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### Inside Number Three.

A Visual History of Apple Records

By Nigel Pearce



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And so, here we are, once again, at the end of another issue. At the end of another two weeks cycle. And at the end of another year. It's Christmas once again; the time when capitalism has managed to con large numbers of people in the Western world into nearly bankrupting themselves in name of the birth of a God they don't believe in.

Many of us who actually are believers know perfectly well that December 25 is actually the old Roman festival of Sol Invictus, and the historical records would suggest that our Lord and Saviour was born sometime in March.

And that it was an attempt by the Emperor Constantine to Christianify the Roman Empire that meant that the festival celebrating that birth was moved to coincide with one of the most popular days of the Roman people.

As you may have gathered by now, I don't like Christmas, and I will be heartily glad when this is over. But I know that I'm in the minority. Me, I support Ebeneezer Scrooge wholeheartedly, and every time I see a rendition of A Christmas Carol, I want to punch Tiny Tim in the face.

But I wish you all what you would wish yourselves, and I hope you have a happy, and

joyful Christmas with your loved ones. For those a few who are interested in such things that there is a two part special being broadcaston CFZtv on YouTube; the first half on Christmas Day, the second half on New Year's Day, and the second half is so festive it has serial killers in it.

The next issue of this magazine will be out in that weird week between Christmas and New Year when the rest of the universe will be over eating and becoming hard to be sick of cold turkey.

Love to you all

Jon



