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LEST WE FORGET

John Brodie Good                                      Dave McMann                                                     Mick Farren
THE THREE COMMANDMENTS OF GONZO WEEKLY:

1. Art is as important as science and more important than money

2. There is life after (beyond and before) Pop Idol

3. Music can and sometimes does change the world

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

I am actually beginning to get tired of writing in my editorials that “I am afraid that this week we have been overtaken by events” but – I am afraid – that this week we have been overtaken by events. As always, I am writing this on Tuesday, dictating to my lovely assistant Olivia via the magical medium of my iPad and Facebook Messenger. It is, as I am sure I’ve said before, a scientific and social breakthrough that one could truly not have imagined a decade ago, yet which has become completely commonplace.

It is the ubiquity of such technological advances, I think, which leads to so many prophets of doom to foretell all sorts of horrible things when we finally reach something called the ‘technological singularity’, which is a cant phrase that refers to that time in the not-so-distant future when computers reach self-awareness and immediately become the true rulers of the planet (or something like that).

But, once again, I am digressing mightily.

So, it is Tuesday, and – as I have already said – I am dictating fifteen hundred words or so of deathless prose to Olivia.
I am actually beginning to get tired of writing in my editorials that “I am afraid that this week we have been overtaken by events” but – I am afraid – that this week we have been overtaken by events.

So, what’s different? Well, for a start, Corinna is back in hospital. She had one operation yesterday and – at the time of writing – it is unclear whether she is going to have another operation today or not, although – hopefully – this will be resolved sooner rather than later. It is also unclear whether she will be home today, tomorrow, or some time next week, and so whether or not she does her normal spell-checking and HTML links remains in the lap of the gods.

The second series of events with which I have become overtaken took place yesterday. Regular readers will probably remember that in January last year I managed to injure my right foot quite seriously, and had dozens of visits to the day hospital in Bideford as a result. Well, boys and girls, I’ve done it again, except on this occasion it’s in both feet, and – to make things worse – both feet are infected, and I have been presented with dire warnings as to what is likely to happen if these infections aren’t healed post-haste.

But there’s more! There’s more at the door! The more eagle-eyed amongst you who follow this magazine and the whole general mishmash of “stuff” that surrounds it will have noticed that the most recent radio shows that should have been on Gonzo Web Radio aren’t. This is because we are in the process of transferring over to a massively groovy new online radio station, which – if I manage to work out how to do it properly, will be truly a thing of wonder. But, especially with all the other crap going on, this is not happening as quickly as one would like, and so I must ask you all to bear with us for a few more weeks.
But there’s even more! How could there be so many events to be overtaken by in just one short week?

The eagle-eyed amongst you will have also noticed that the Gonzo Multimedia websites have changed and are in a process of flux. There is a hunky-dory, all singing, all dancing, Gonzo Publications website which will feature all the Gonzo Books, the magazine, the blog posts, and everything else, but – once again – I am doing the coding for it and in the inevitable scramble to deal with everything else that I am having to deal with at the moment, not ignoring the emotional fallout from mother’s funeral only a fortnight ago, everything is delayed.

By the way, I think I ought to say here that, because I know quite a few people who read this magazine also watch the regular series of WebTV shows that I host, or co-host, on YouTube, the same problems have affected the production of these shows, so I would like to reassure you all that we have not gone away, and everything that we normally do will be done, although it might not be done as quickly or as efficiently as we normally would have liked.

Bloody hell, that’s nearly seven hundred words just explaining why everything has gone more than slightly wrong, and what we intend to do or are actually doing about it.

So, my dears, let’s get on with the editorial.

I remember when my father was roughly the same age as me, something like forty years ago, him saying that he had “lived too long” and no longer understood the world in which he was living. I thought at the time that he was being a melodramatic old ass, but, as in all sorts of other things, I have to admit that I am beginning to come around to
his point of view. Indeed, I think this all ties in with the Gadarene rush towards the Technological Singularity that we mentioned in passing just now.

In 1965, a bloke called Gordon Moore, who happened to be a co-founder of Intel, postulated a paradigm which has eventually become known as ‘Moore’s Law’. Moore's Law refers to Moore's perception that the number of transistors on a microchip doubles every two years, though the cost of computers is halved. Moore's Law states that we can expect the speed and capability of our computers to increase every couple of years, and we will pay less for them. Another tenet of Moore's Law asserts that this growth is exponential.

Today, however, the doubling of installed transistors on silicone chips occurs close to every eighteen months instead of every two years. Western society is increasingly technological in nature, and its advancement is fuelled by the technological advancements both predicted and measured by Moore's Law, and this advancement is exponential.

Therefore, things are changing much faster now than they were when my father was sixty, back in the 1980s, and it is far more difficult for an old codger like me to keep up with it all.

I do not understand many of the changes that have taken place in society over the past few years, but, on the whole, I have tried to be respectful of them, even if I don’t understand them. One of my adopted nieces, for example, has become an adopted nephew. This
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

The daily newspapers are full of sensationalised stories about the backlash that occurs amongst people known as ‘Trans Excluding Radical Feminists’ [TERFs] and their insistence that ‘female spaces’ should be reserved for people with two X chromosomes and no penis. And there is quite a vocal and even violent backlash against this point of view.

I don’t want to appear to be sitting on the fence, but on this matter I truly am. I can see both sides of the argument, and truly can’t see a way out.

I am about half way through reading John Higgs’s book, ‘Adventures in the 21st Century’, and feel that these new gender wars are only one of a myriad of paradigm shifts that we’re going to have to take on board before we can even hope to have a smooth ride through the decades ahead.

And, bloody hell, we are already 20% of the way through the 21st Century!

I hope you enjoy this issue.

Hare bol,

Jon

makes no sense to me, but it doesn’t have to. The important thing is that I (and everyone else) respects this young fellow’s decision to do what he did, and his internal battle between genotype and phenotype is truly none of my business.

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 kitten on the verge of adulthood) ably assisted by:

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

Richard Freeman,  
(Scary stuff)  
Dave McManus,  
(Sorely missed)  
Orrin Hare,  
(Sybarite and literary bon viveur)  
Mark Raines,  
(Cartoonist)  
Davey Curtis,  
(tales from the north)  
Jon Pertwee  
(Pop Culture memorabilia)  
Dean Phillips  
(The House Wally)  
Rob Ayling  
(The Grande Fromage, of whom we are all in awe)  
and Peter McAdam  
(McDada in residence)

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

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

Jonathan Downes,  
Editor, Gonzo Daily (Music and More)  
Editor, Gonzo Weekly magazine  
The Centre for Fortean Zoology,  
Myrtle Cottage,  
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Now is an even better time than usual to subscribe because, not only is it FREE (yes, Oxford English Dictionary free, not yer usual publisher free which means that we sell all the mailing list emails that we garner to a company trying to flog Viagra and/or Double Glazing).

No this is FREE as in Gratis. Not a Sausage. But I digress. So make an old hippy a happy chappy and SUBSCRIBE TODAY
Rockin' the City of Angels features the work of some of the rock era's greatest photographers, including Richard E. Aaron, Jørgen Angel, Fin Costello, Ian Dickson, Armando Gallo, Stacey Katsis, Terry O'Neill, Neal Preston, Michael Putland, Jim Summara, Lisa Tanner, Brian Weiner, Neil Zlowzower and more!

Available now!
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Ozzy Osbourne, who battled pneumonia and a string of other health problems in 2019, recently announced he's been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, and he's been thinking about his mortality, but he insisted he isn't worried about when the end will come. He said: "Do I ever think about when my time's gonna come? I think about it, I don't worry about it. I won't be here in another 15 years or whatever, not that much longer, but I don't dwell on it. It's gonna happen to us all. Am I happy now? No. I haven't got my health. That thing knocked the s*** out of me, man, but I'm still here."

But the 'Paranoid' rocker also admitted he has spent several months "feeling sorry for [himself]". He told Kerrang! magazine: "[I spent the year] lying on the f***ing bed feeling sorry for myself, going, 'I'm dead, I'm finished, it's all over'. This has been the worst f***ing year of my life. And Ozzy doesn't think he'd still be alive now if he hadn't taken the time to work on his new solo album, 'Ordinary Man'. He said: "I
"Capitalism is the extraordinary belief that the nastiest of men for the nastiest of motives will somehow work for the benefit of all."

John Maynard Keynes

wouldn't be sitting here now if I hadn't made it. It was the best medicine."

The Black Sabbath rocker also feared he'd die a year ago after he tripped over in the night and dislodged the metal rods that were put in his spine in 2003 after a serious ATV accident, and joked it wouldn't have been a particularly glamorous way to go.

The virtual band - created by Damon Albarn and Jamie Hewlett - have announced plans for the mysterious new project after posting a cryptic teaser video

GOLLY GORILLAZ
https://www.list.co.uk/article/114154-gorillaz-tease-new-song-machine-project/
WHO GONZO? WHY GONZO? WHAT GONZO?

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:

- A potted history of his life and works
- Rob Ayling explains why he called his company ’Gonzo’

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…

"Which is not really a hell of a lot to ask, Lord, because the final incredible truth is that I am not guilty. All I did was take your gibberish seriously... and you see where it got me? My primitive Christian instincts have made me a criminal.”

Hunter S. Thompson

for something titled ‘Gorillaz present Song Machine’. In the short, 20-second video, which was uploaded to YouTube, a funky, retro 70s keyboard soundtrack titled ‘Song Machine Theme Tune’ plays over an image of a synth piled high with instruments, a map of the universe, a melodica, various toys and an angry clown playing a horn.

The clip ends with the ‘Song Machine’ title blasting into mid-screen, with the four animated members of the group just below. The description for the video simply reads: “The Machine has been switched on.”

‘Song Machine’ appears to hint at a new album, as a link included in the video’s description opens up a page in which fans can choose which streaming platform they’d like to use to listen to the mystery project. Once opened up, the only songs available on the project are the 23-second ‘Song Machine Theme Tune’ and a 43-second track called ‘Song Machine: Machine Bitez #1’.

On Spotify, the listing refers to the project as “Season One”, and tells fans to “follow for the next episode (snooze you lose).”

LINDSEY LOST


Lindsey Buckingham was fired by Fleetwood Mac in 2018, and now Mick Fleetwood has ruled out the possibility of seeing the 'Go Your Own Way' legends reuniting with him in the future. Asked if he could see a scenario where Lindsey was welcome back into the fold, he told Rolling Stone magazine: “No. Fleetwood Mac is a strange creature.

"We're very, very committed to [guitarist Neil Finn and Mike Campbell], and that passed away a long time, ago, when Lindsey left. And it's not a point of
conversation, so I have do say no.”

However, Mick insisted the group’s remaining members - including Stevie Nicks and couple Christine and John McVie - would never try to play down the impact Lindsey has had on their “legacy”. He added: “It’s a full drama of Fleetwood Mac, no doubt. His legacy is alive and well, and as it should be. A major, major part that will never be taken away, and never be down-spoken by any of us. Neil and Mike have tremendous respect for Lindsey.

The situation was no secret. We were not happy. It was not working, and we parted company. And that really is the all of it.”

CHRIST ON A BIKE

Queen guitarist Brian May is selling his own sports bra, currently on sale through
his Brian May Guitars website.
Read more: Queen: 20 things you probably never knew about Bohemian Rhapsody
The underwear, which is adorned with illustrations of guitars, is on sale for £35 and was designed by May himself.

“Highlighting Brian May’s consummate artistic talents, this active wear salutes the entire range of Brian May Guitars with a bright, bold design prominently featuring the united colours of BMG – because it doesn’t have to be red to be special!” reads the clothing’s description.
Back in the halcyon summer of 1990 my first wife and I went to see Pop Will Eat Itself in a venue in Southampton. It was an excellent (if very short) gig, and I was a terrible photographer...
The wreckage of a ship that mysteriously went missing in the Bermuda Triangle almost 100 years ago has been discovered off the coast of Florida, a team of researchers has said.

The SS Cotopaxi—an American merchant steamer—left Charleston, South Carolina on November 29, 1925, loaded with coal. But the vessel vanished without a trace before arriving at its final destination, Havana, Cuba.
The fate of the Cotopaxi and the 32 people on board has long puzzled experts, and the ship's disappearance has become one of the famous stories associated with the legend of the Triangle—a notorious region of the western North Atlantic Ocean where several ships and aircraft are said to have gone missing in strange circumstances.

HIMALAYAN LURGY TIME CAPSULE

A team of researchers from The Ohio State University and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory has found a host of ancient virus groups in ice cores taken from a Tibetan glacier. They have written a paper about their discovery and uploaded it to the bioRxiv preprint server.
Back in 1992, a team of researchers collected ice core samples from a glacier in the Tibetan Plateau—they calculated the ice to be approximately 15,000 years old. Some of the samples were put into cold storage for study at a later date. Then, in 2015, another team collected ice core samples from the same glacier—they were also put into cold storage for later study. In this new effort, the researchers carried out one part of the testing planned for the cores—looking at what sort of organisms might be trapped in them.

When the two teams originally collected their ice core samples, they did not ensure the equipment they were using would not contaminate the cores they were collecting. That meant the researchers with this new effort had to take special care to remove any contamination that had occurred during initial extraction and to make sure they did not introduce any contaminants of their own.

To ensure a pristine sample, the researchers, working in a freezer, first cut off some of the outer layer of each core sample. Each of the samples was then washed with ethanol to melt off approximately 0.2 inches of ice. Each was then washed again with sterile water to melt off another 0.2 inches of ice. The team also created test samples by repeating the same cleaning procedure on ice cores that had first been covered with known viruses and bacteria. The samples that remained were then deemed pristine and ready for study.

METEORITE MADNESS

Scientists may have finally solved a more than 100-year-old mystery.

Scientists have known for over a century that a 1.2-mile-wide meteorite smashed into Earth about 790,000 years ago, scattering black, glassy blobs—known as tektites—across 20% of the Eastern Hemisphere. But they didn't know exactly where that behemoth landed.

A team of scientists now say they may have finally found the location of the long-sought crater. They believe it's in the
southern part of Southeast Asian nation of Laos, in an area known as the Bolaven plateau. The findings, earlier reported by CNN, were published last week in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* on Dec. 30.

"We present stratigraphic, geochemical, geophysical, and geochronological evidence that the 15-km diameter crater lies buried beneath a large, young volcanic field in Southern Laos," the scientists wrote.

**CHILLED TO THE MARROW**  
https://futurism.com/neoscope/bone-marrow-transplant-semen-only-donors-dna

**HIS STRANGE SITUATION COULD AFFECT THE FUTURE OF FORENSIC SCIENCE.**

Chris Long is an IT worker in the Washoe County Sheriff’s Department in Reno, Nevada. But all the DNA in his semen belongs to a German man he’s never met.

That’s because Long received a bone marrow transplant from the European stranger four years ago — and the unexpected impact it has had on his biology could affect the future of forensic science.

According to a newly published *New York Times* story, the purpose of the transplant was to treat Long’s acute myeloid leukaemia, a type of cancer that prevents the body from producing blood normally.

Following the procedure, the healthy blood-forming cells from the donor replaced Long’s unhealthy cells, allowing his body to resume normal blood production. It makes sense, then, for Long’s blood to contain the DNA of his donor.

But Long’s colleague, Renee Romero, who ran the office’s forensics lab, posited that the bone marrow transplant might affect the DNA elsewhere in his body, so she encouraged him to have samples of his DNA collected before the procedure so the
Scientists determined the identity of "JB55," one of the 19th century New England "vampires" whose remains were disturbed to prevent them from rising to afflict the community. Back in 1990, children playing near a gravel pit in Griswold, Connecticut, stumbled across a pair of skulls that had broken free of their graves in a 19th century unmarked cemetery. Subsequent excavation revealed 27 graves—including that of a middle-aged man identified only by the initials "JB55," spelled out in brass tacks on his coffin. Unlike the other burials, his skull and femurs were neatly arranged in the shape of a skull and crossbones, leading archaeologists to conclude that the man had been a suspected "vampire" by his community. Scientists finally found a likely identification for JB55, describing their findings in a paper published this summer in the journal Genes.

Analysis of JB55's bones back in the 1990s indicated the man had been a middle-aged labourer, around 55 when he died (hence, JB55, the man's initials and age at death). The remains also showed signs of lesions on the ribs, so JB55 suffered from a chronic lung condition—most likely tuberculosis, known at the time as consumption. It was frequently lethal in the 1800s, due to the lack of antibiotics, and symptoms included a bloody cough, jaundice (pale, yellowed skin), red and swollen eyes, and a general appearance of "wasting away." The infection frequently spread to family members. So perhaps it's not surprising that local folklore suspected some victims of being vampires, rising from the grave to sicken the community they left behind.

TRISTATE DRONE SWARM

Sheriff's departments across Colorado, Kansas and Nebraska have been flooded with reports of mysterious nighttime sightings. Federal agencies and local law enforcement in Colorado, Kansas and Nebraska met this week to investigate a mystery that's generated buzz in those states: swarms of drones. Since mid-December, sheriff's departments in the border area of the three states have been flooded with at least 30 reports of
nighttime drone sightings, sometimes groups of a dozen or more machines, and sometimes flying in formation. The FBI, Federal Aviation Administration and US Air Force have been called in and are reportedly investigating the drone swarms. As of now, no one seems to know who owns or has been operating them.

The Colorado Springs Gazette reported this week that the Air Force itself might be behind the drones, as part of a secretive counterdrone program designed in part to keep airborne cameras away from missile silos, a number of which are in the area of the sightings. The Gazette said the Air Force had neither confirmed nor denied this.

The Morgan County Sheriff's Office, which hosted a meeting Monday with dozens of law enforcement partners, said the Air Force had denied involvement. The Air Force didn't immediately respond to CNET's request for comment.

IT'S MINE

SEBASTIAN, Fla. (CBS12) — A Sebastian woman, walking along the shore of Tracking Station Beach in Vero Beach, discovered a land mine. A casual walk in the sand led Jayne Wilson to the findings of a historic relic, an exploitive WWII mine. “I was thinking it might have been a plate off the Spanish shipwreck,” said Wilson.

But it wasn’t. This week, after having the land mine for nine-months sitting in a cooler submerged in water in her living room, she realized it was an inactive explosive device. “I called the non-emergency police number and said, ‘I am pretty sure I have a land mine,’” she said. Wilson was then asked to evacuate the house immediately while military bomb experts were on the way to seize the device.
MORE MASTERPIECES from RICK WAKEMAN

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

-Chris Packham

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

*If you are not a part of the solution you are a part of the problem.*

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

**I'M ON BOARD!**

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

---

**Michael Des Barres on**

**LITTLE STEVEN'S UNDERGROUND GARAGE**

MAXIMUM ROCK AND ROLL

MORNINGS 8AM - 11AM ET CH 21

SIRIUS SATellite RADIO

(FILLING IN FOR ANDREW LOOG OLDMAN)
"If you don't want your tax dollars to help the poor, then stop saying you want a country based on Christian values, because you don't."

Jimmy Carter

Trying to pick my favorite politician is like trying to decide which STD is just right for me.
Gonzo Web Radio started off as a medium by which interviews and radio programmes about the various acts covered by Gonzo Multimedia could be broadcast to an eagerly attentive world.

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

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

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

Sex?

No...

Prog

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

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

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

The show is broadcast on Miskin Radio every Sunday from 10-00-midnight.
I first came across Friday Night Progressive totally by accident, but I soon found myself beguiled by the style and taste of presenter M Destiny who presents a weekly two-hour show showcasing all sorts of progressive music that you are unlikely to hear anywhere else. This is surely a man after my own heart. I also very much approve of the way that it is the hub of a whole community of artists, musicians, and collaborators. I hope that you enjoy them as much as I do. Welcome aboard, chaps.

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

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Mother Turtle
https://www.facebook.com/MotherTurtleBand

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

"Mack Maloney is the author of the best-selling "Wingman" science-fiction series, plus "UFOs in Wartime, What They Didn't Want You To Know," (Berkley Books). He's a member of SKY CLUB, Gonzo recording artists. He's been a radio host since 2010. He lives with his wife, Doreen, on an island off the coast of Massachusetts."

AND LOOK WHAT MACK HAS FOR YOU THIS WEEK

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UJ00-j0un6E
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vu_8ruAoSIU

The Merrell Fankhauser Radio Show - Message To The Universe

Tonight we will be featuring ;"Message To The Universe" . Make sure to check out Merrell Fankhauser's You Tube Channel https://www.youtube.com/user/manfrommu And his Website www.merrellfankhauser.com All Music is Written and Performed by Merrell Fankhauser and aired on You Tube with his Written Permission.... Fankhauser Music Publishing Company ASCAP

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wiHWtvyd9Ds
AND LOOK WHAT MACK HAS FOR YOU THIS WEEK

RETURN OF THE FLATWOODS MONSTER
In one of the most requested shows, Mack, Juan-Juan and Commander Cobra talk with correspondent Emily M about her investigation into West Virginia’s Flatwoods Monster, possibly the best looking cryptid ever. Also, special guest: Special Agent Chris Ahr of the (real) NCIS. Cindy Bailey Dove on sex drones, Switchblade Steve on John Keel, plus Pistol Pete and 10 Questions for Juan-Juan featuring Lois Lane.


https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UJ00-j0un6E
Chamín Correa was a Mexican guitarist. He was renowned in the Spanish-speaking world for his traditional romantic music. Member of Los Tres Caballeros together with Roberto Cantoral and Leonel Gálvez from 1954. In 1957 they gained 4 golden discs for being the trio of major success on a global scale. He died in Cuernavaca, Morelos at the age of 90.

Carmelo Esteban "Steve" Martín Caro (1948 – 2020)

Caro, originally known as Steve Martin, was an American rock musician. He is best known as the original lead singer of the 1960s baroque pop band The Left Banke. The son of flamenco guitarist/vocalist Sarita Heredia, he added his family surname Caro in the 1980s to avoid confusion with the comedian of the same name.

With The Left Banke, Steve Martin (as he was known at the time) scored chart hits with "Walk Away Renee," "Pretty Ballerina" and "Desiree" in the 1966-68 period.

Steve Martin Caro died from heart disease on January 14, 2020. He was 71.

Benjamin "Chamin" Correa was a Mexican guitarist. He was renowned in the Spanish-speaking world for his traditional romantic music. Member of Los Tres Caballeros together with Roberto Cantoral and Leonel Gálvez from 1954. In 1957 they gained 4 golden discs for being the trio of major success on a global scale. He died in Cuernavaca, Morelos at the age of 90.
Hylda Sims was an English folk musician and poet. She was born in 1932, to parents who travelled the country in a caravan selling homemade herbal remedies. Her father, Thomas Sims, was a member of the Plebs’ League, and a founding member of Performance, Teaching, Research, and Service to the Clarinet).

Guy Deplus (1924 – 2020)

Deplus was a French clarinetist. He studied clarinet at the Conservatoire de Paris, where he would later become a professor of clarinet, and received Premiers Prix in clarinet and chamber music. He taught many French orchestral clarinetists. He was also one of the clarinetists who collaborated with Buffet Crampon on the creation of the Tosca, Festival and RC Prestige clarinets.

Together with Pierre Boulez, Deplus co-founded the "Concerts du Domaine Musical". He was a soloist in the Paris Opera. Deplus received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Clarinet Association (for "Outstanding..."
the Communist Party of Great Britain. During the Second World War, Hilda attended Summerhill School in Suffolk, before leaving in her mid-teens and starting to live in Swiss Cottage, London. Her first guitar was a gift from Ivor Cutler. She joined the Young Communist League, and then the London Youth Choir set up by university lecturer John Hasted. She travelled with the choir to festivals in communist eastern Europe, and by the mid-1950s also sang and played guitar in coffee bars in central London, while working at Collet’s book and record shop.

From 1954, she was in a personal relationship with modernist painter Russell Quaye. Together with John Pilgrim and John Lapthorne, they formed the City Ramblers (later the City Ramblers Skiffle Group), playing a mixture of jazz, blues, music hall and folk songs, and in 1955 set up the weekly Studio Skiffle club in Holborn. During the British skiffle boom of the mid to late 1950s, and later, Sims toured widely as a member of the City Ramblers, and recorded for the Storyville and Topic labels.

Sims died on 13 January 2020.

**Dan Andrei Aldea**  
(1950 – 2020)

Aldea was a Romanian multi-instrumentalist (guitars, violin and keyboards, mainly) and vocalist, best known for his work with the band Sfinx, but also for his solo career.

Aldea was born in Bucharest, where he graduated from the Music Academy, and was known as one of the best electric guitar players from Romania. Aldea has lived in...
James Edward Heath  
(1926 – 2020)

Heath, nicknamed Little Bird, was an American jazz saxophonist, composer, arranger and big band leader. He was the brother of bassist Percy Heath and drummer Albert Heath.

Heath was arrested and convicted twice for the sale of heroin; he was an acknowledged addict. At a coming-home party the night after his release from Lewisburg Penitentiary, he met his eventual wife, Mona Brown, whom he married in 1960; they had two children, Roslyn and Jeffrey. Heath was the father of R&B songwriter/musician James Mtume.

In 2010 his autobiography I Walked With Giants was published by the Temple University Press. Heath stood just 5 feet, 3 inches. He notably played in a jazz concert at the White House, when President Bill Clinton himself borrowed his saxophone for one number.). Heath died on January 19, 2020 in Loganville, Georgia, of natural causes.

Robert Parker  
(1930 – 2020)

Parker was an American R&B singer and musician, best known for his 1966 hit, "Barefootin". Parker was born in New York City and grew up in Philadelphia. He began his career as a singer with the Five Embers and later formed his own group, the blues band the Northiders. Parker's most famous song, "Barefootin'", was released in 1966 and achieved commercial success.

Parker was a key figure in the development of the New Orleans sound in the 1960s and 1970s. He was known for his soulful vocals and his ability to mix R&B and jazz elements into his music. Parker was also a prolific songwriter and his music has been covered by many artists, including Etta James, the Isley Brothers, and Al Green.

Parker passed away in December 2020, aged 89, after a career that spanned over six decades. His contributions to music continue to be celebrated and remembered by fans and musicians alike.
Orleans, Louisiana, United States, and started his career as a saxophonist, playing with Professor Longhair on his hit "Mardi Gras In New Orleans" in 1949. Over the next decade, he played with most of New Orleans' musicians, including Fats Domino, Irma Thomas, and Huey "Piano" Smith. By 1958, he had started recording solo, having a local hit with the instrumental "All Night Long". In 1965 he signed for Nola Records, and had his biggest hit with "Barefootin". It sold over one million copies, and was awarded a gold disc by the RIAA. Although he continued to record, he failed to repeat his success in terms of sales, and his recording career effectively ended in the 1970s. However, he continued to perform and tour for many more years, remaining especially popular in the UK.

Parker died on January 19, 2020 at his home in Roseland, Louisiana at the age of 89 of natural causes.

Thérèse Allah, better known as Allah Thérèse (died January 19, 2020),

Sunanda Patnaik (1934 – 2020)

Sunanda was an Indian classical singer of Gwalior gharana from Odisha. Popularly known as "guruma", she was considered one of the grande dames of Hindustani music. She was the daughter of Odia poet Baikunthanath Patnaik. She started singing at All India Radio in Cuttack in 1948 at the age of 14. The then Odisha Governor Asaf Ali once heard her on Radio and was very impressed with her singing and she became a regular fixture at the Raj Bhavan whenever the Governor had guests. Once, President Rajendra Prasad heard her at Puri. He was very impressed with her singing and arranged her training under Pandit Vinayak Rao Pattavardhan at Pune with a scholarship. She was awarded the degree of Masters in Music by Pune School in 1956. She performed at All India Sadrang Sageet Sammelan in Calcutta in September 1957 where she received 13 gold coins. Since then she did many concerts in India and was known internationally.

Those We Have Lost
David Charles Olney  
(1948 – 2020)

Olney was an American folk singer-songwriter. He was born on March 23, 1948, in Providence, Rhode Island. He attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill but did not graduate. Olney joined Bland Simpson's band Simpson in 1971. They recorded one album in New York, and then Olney relocated to Atlanta in 1972.

Olney moved to Nashville in 1973, attempted to sell his songs to record labels. Olney formed the band The X-Rays, who recorded two albums for Rounder Records, appeared on Austin City Limits, opened for Elvis Costello, and broke up in 1985. Olney was a key member of Nashville’s music community since his move to Music City in 1973, the Lincoln, Rhode Island, native was a compelling and enigmatic presence. He wrote sonnets and starred at the Nashville Shakespeare Festival, and his live concerts blended tenderness and ferocity, theatre and sincerity, agitation and embrace.

Allah was a traditional singer from the village of Gbofia in the sub-prefecture of Toumodi (central Ivory Coast). A pioneer of traditional Ivorian music music, Allah Thérèse was made a Knight of the Ivorian Order of Merit in 2014. She was known for her signature hairstyle, "Akôrou Koffié" (meaning "the wife of the spider" in Baoule). In her native language of Baoule, Allah translated to iroko.

She formed a musical duet with her husband, the accordionist N'Goran-la-loi until the latter's death on 20 May 2018. In 2014, she was made a Knight of the Ivorian Order of Merit, a distinction which came with a monthly pension and a second house in her home village of Gbofia, in the sub-prefecture of Toumodi. Allah Thérèse reflected on her career in a 2018 interview, stating that she was satisfied with her life's work and her commitment to upholding tradition through music. She explained her absence from the stage in later years, stating that she was no longer up to the rigors of live performance. In the same interview Allah Thérèse commented that her commitment to music was her legacy, although she lamented the fact that she had no children. “I made the commitment to sing to immortalize my life. I feel happy when my fans call me mom. In my family, we are three girls who have not had children.” On January 19, 2020 Allah Thérèse was admitted to the general hospital of Djékanou where she died.
Olney died of an apparent heart attack during a performance onstage at the 30A Songwriter Festival in Santa Rosa Beach, Florida, on January 18, 2020, at age 71. He was in the middle of his third song "when he stopped, apologized and shut his eyes," Amy Rigby said of Olney. "David was playing a song when he paused, said 'I'm sorry' and put his chin to his chest. He never dropped his guitar or fell off his stool. It was as easy and gentle as he was," fellow singer Scott Miller said.

Chris Darrow (1944 - 2020)

Christopher Lloyd Darrow was an American multi-instrumentalist and singer-songwriter. He was considered to be a pioneer of country rock music in the late-1960s and performed and recorded with numerous groups, including Kaleidoscope and the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band.

Darrow was born in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, but grew up in the Los Angeles suburb of Claremont, California, listening to Ritchie Valens and the Everly Brothers on the radio. He began playing ukulele, but purchased his first guitar at age 13. His father Paul had played clarinet with traditional jazz band The Mentor Street Maniacs.

Darrow's first rock band was the Floggs, which also included Roger Palos (bass), Bill Stamps (lead guitar), Tommy Salisbury (drums), and Hugh Kohler (keyboards). Darrow then joined Lindley in the psychedelic band Kaleidoscope, which also included Solomon Feldthouse and Max...
Dennis Garcia
(1950 – 2020)

Garcia was a Filipino Bassist, Singer, Musician and Songwriter from Manila, Philippines. He co-founded a music band, “Hotdog,” with his brother Rene Garcia. Moreover, his group received recognition in the Philippines in the 1970s era.

Terence Graham Parry Jones
(1942 – 2020)

Terry Jones was a Welsh actor, writer, comedian, screenwriter, film director and historian. He was a member of the Monty Python comedy team. After graduating from Oxford University with a degree in English, Jones and writing partner Michael
Palin (whom he met at Oxford) wrote and performed for several high-profile British comedy programmes, including Do Not Adjust Your Set and The Frost Report, before creating Monty Python's Flying Circus with Cambridge graduates Eric Idle, John Cleese, and Graham Chapman, and American animator/filmmaker Terry Gilliam. Jones was largely responsible for the programme's innovative, surreal structure, in which sketches flowed from one to the next without the use of punchlines. He made his directorial debut with the team's first film, Monty Python and the Holy Grail, which he co-directed with Gilliam, and also directed the subsequent Python films, Life of Brian and The Meaning of Life.

Jones co-created and co-wrote with Palin the anthology series Ripping Yarns. He also wrote an early draft of Jim Henson's 1986 film Labyrinth, though little of his work remained in the final cut. Jones was a well-respected medieval historian, having written several books and presented television documentaries about the period, as well as a prolific children's book author. In 2016, Jones received a Lifetime Achievement award at the BAFTA Cymru Awards for his outstanding contribution to television and film. After living for several years with a degenerative aphasia he gradually lost the ability to speak and died on 21 January 2020.
Anne Robson (1911 - 2020)

A Scots World War II heroine who volunteered to serve her country has passed away, aged 108. Anne Robson was thought to be the oldest surviving female veteran from the era in the UK. Anne - who was born Gladys Anne Logan MacWatt in Duns, Berwickshire on September 14, 1911, sadly passed away in a care home near Edinburgh. She witnessed the suffragette movement, over 20 prime ministers, four monarchs, two world wars, the first space launch and the advent of rapidly advancing technology.

She volunteered for the Auxiliary Territorial Service - the women’s branch of the British Army - at the height of the war, forsaking her physiotherapy and teaching career for the duration. After hearing that a women’s section of the army was being formed, she decided that there was no better way to get involved. Initially she served as a PTI (Physical Training Instructor) and then went on to complete her service in the rank of Senior Commander (Major) as Assistant Inspector ATS Physical Training.

Anne stayed in the Army until the end of WW2. She is said to have remembered VE-Day very fondly, and “had a naughty twinkle in her eye” when recalling the celebrations. She remained in service for another two years after the war ended when she became a senior lecturer at the Avery Hill College of Education in London. She then married primary school headmaster, Jack Robson, in 1953, and the happy couple moved to Newcastle where Anne took up the position of deputy head at the Longhenton Secondary Modern School. Jack passed away in 1972.

Following his death Anne moved back north of the border to St Andrews.

In later years as the oldest resident of the care home, Anne used to take to the stage at Christmas and give a speech over dinner.

Many described Anne as reserved and a very “gentle woman” and “fiercely independent,” perhaps shown in the fact that she was driving up until the age of 90. Anne died at Strachan House Care Home, near Edinburgh, at the age of 108.
SAVE Stonehenge World Heritage Site

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also cut production. According to his own words, only 5000 copies would be pressed, but Rick feels that there were probably more. Recordings took place in the private studio Bajonor Studio on the Isle of Man during the months of February to July 1992.

Artist Rick Wakeman
Title The Wizard and the Forest of All Dreams
Cat No.MFGZ050CD
Label RRAW

The Wizard and the Forest of All Dreams is a studio album by Rick Wakeman and the English Chamber Choir. The album contains modern

Prayers is a Christian liturgical album released for the first time in 1993 and more of the rare of the Wakeman albums. A contemplative piece of work and as much a meditation as a musical piece. A lot of energy can be felt throughout this album and lead vocalist Chrissie Hammond has a strong presence, supported by Rick’s synthesizer and backing choir singers. Wakeman had previously written a religious album, The Gospels, and this is generally considered his follow-up. It appeared on Hope Records, a small label that

Artist Rick Wakeman
Title Prayers
Cat No.MFGZ049CD
Label RRAW

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This solo album was first released in 2006, and Albert J Mora writes: "There is an imaginary scale of perfect music from pure artistic to pure commercial, where everything is genius. On the extreme left there is perfect pure art. Think Beethoven. In the middle there is a perfect balance between pure art and pure commercialism. Think The Beatles. On the extreme right there is perfect pure commercialism. Think Madonna.

Gerry Beckley's Horizontal Fall CD is on this Genius scale. It is just to the left of the Beatles. That is, it leans more toward being pure art than toward being commercial. It is creative. It is thoughtful. It is simple. It is light. It is dark. It is haunting. Above all, it is beautiful. If this CD were not in English, it would remain fascinating to English-speaking listeners. If it had no vocals, it would remain beautiful as a pure instrumental album. The lyrics by themselves are magnificent poems. For connoisseurs, the production quality of the CD is fantastic - no shortcuts. It will bring out the best in the finest sound systems or studio headphones.

As a result, this is a CD you can listen to seemingly endless times and derive something new every time. Buy it for someone who loves permanent, thoughtful things over fleeting, trivial things. Someone smart."

And you can't say better than that.

**Artist** The Waterson Family  
**Title** Live at Hull Truck  
**Cat No.** SCARGZ105DVD-CD  
**Label** Scarlet Records

The Waterson Family celebrates 50 years as Britain's 'First Family of Folk' with this homecoming concert at Hull Truck Theatre. Norma and Mike Waterson from the original quartet are joined on stage by Norma's husband Martin Carthy and their daughter Eliza as well as various other talented members of the family.

Tony D writes: "This DVD was recorded shortly before the sad death of Mike Waterson and is a very fitting tribute to him. My wife and I have followed the Watersons for many years and attended Liverpool Philharmonic Hall for a concert last year which took the same form as this one - the whole family on
Mercurial performer, Mark E Smith, auditioned for a number of heavy metal bands but finding his musical tastes far more eclectic, formed The Fall in 1977. The Fall provided Mark with a far better base from which to utilise his talents and of course the other major plus was that it was his band. The line up of The Fall has constantly been in fluctuation around Mark, but the band has successfully weathered the storms of all these changes.

The Fall, were and indeed always have been seen as a cult band and thus they have survived the trends of the music business whilst others come and go. The late John Peel was a huge fan and one of the most high profile members of the band’s fan base. Of all the artists John Peel had welcomed to his show over the years, the session recordings of Mark E Smith and The Fall are allegedly the only ones he kept in his personal archive.

Relationships within Pink Floyd had been getting ever more strained as the 1970s dragged on, and by the time that the band convened to record the Roger Waters masterwork, The Wall, keyboard player Rick Wright had reached a head. For tax reasons, the band were recording in France, New York and Los Angeles, and for various reasons that are outside the remit of this article, soon became badly behind schedule. Rick Wright had recorded a solo album in France almost immediately before sessions for The Wall convened, and was also going through a bitter divorce, and so – unlike other members of the band – was not able to bring his children abroad with him.

As a result of all this, he was unable to see his children for quite a while, and the accumulative effect of this, his unhappiness within the band, his struggles with Waters, his artistic frustrations at playing music in which he had not had a hand in creating, and various other things, was that he fell into a deep depression. Wright’s contributions to The Wall were later described as “minimal” and, according to drummer Nick Mason, Waters was “stunned and furious” with Wright’s intransigence and felt that Wright was not doing enough to help complete the album, started to lobby for his dismissal, and eventually presented the rest of the band with an impasse; either Wright leaves...
or he would block the release of the album. Several days later, according to Wikipedia, “worried about their financial situation, and the failing interpersonal relationships within the band, Wright quit”.

Newly divorced from his previous life and previous musical activities, Rick Wright was at somewhat of a loose end and was vaguely thinking about putting a new band together, when Raphael Ravenscroft, who is best known for the saxophone break on Gerry Rafferty’s “Baker Street” (and is the son of the bloke who wrote The Spear of Destiny (1972), whom I knew a little bit in passing) introduced him to a ‘New Romantic’ musician called Dave ‘Dee’ Harris. The two of them hit it off, and – after various misadventures – decided to team up as a duo, which they called Zee. The two unlikely bedfellows produced a strange synergy, and the resulting album, Identity, worked much better than anyone could have guessed, and as a fan of both the harder edge of New Romantic music and Pink Floyd, I lapped it up. However, it had remained horribly obscure, and is probably the least known record of anything that has come out from the Pink Floyd ‘family’.

And, for reasons which remain mysterious and don’t really matter anyway, the record was soon deleted and never received an official release on CD.

... until now.

**Artist**  Chasing the Monsoon  
**Title**  No Ordinary World  
**Cat No.** CTMCD001  
**Label**  Immrama

Ian Jones is, of course, best known as the main driving force behind neo proggy band Karnataka. This album was started by Ian Jones and named after a book of the same name by Alexander Frater in which the author writes about his life changing experiences following the monsoon across India. The band name also continues Jones interest in India which is where the Karnataka band name came from.

An article on The Progmeister website reads: “The idea behind the project was to do something progressive incorporating strong rhythmic elements, world music and Celtic influence. As well as Ian Jones playing bass, acoustic guitar and programming there are some talented folk on here who were totally unknown to me, though I am pleased to say that they aren’t now. Steve Evans plays some rather tasty keys and some great vocals. Lisa Fury who is definitely a singer I will be keeping an eye on and no stranger to Karnataka fans having loaned her singing talent to the bands The Gathering Light album, and Ian Simmons playing some sumptuous guitar licks. OK, let’s get the obvious comparisons over with and out of the way shall we? Lovers of Magenta, Karnataka, Mostly Autumn, Rob Reed etc and all subsidiaries thereof may well fall in love with Chasing The Monsoon. The bloodlines are there so to speak.”
Now, I don't know whether this is a good idea, a bad idea, or just an idea, but - as I believe you know - this magazine is put out each week on a budget of £25, and is free. It will remain free, but I would like to be able to generate some income so I can pay our contributing writers. So, 'why not flog *Gonzo Weekly* T Shirts?' I thought. 'Why not', I answered...

http://www.zazzle.co.uk/gonzoweekly
Forthcoming releases from Rick Wakeman & Friends

Rick Wakeman & Brian May live from STARMUS 2015

Starmus is a festival of music and astronomy on the beautiful island of Tenerife. It is the brainchild of Garik Israelian (the astrophysicist who led the team which found the first observational evidence that supernova explosions are responsible for the formation of stellar mass black holes). Rick Wakeman has made several appearances at this festival. The most notable was in 2015 where he was joined on stage by Dr Brian May, the iconic guitarist from Queen, where Rick Wakeman and English Rock Ensemble performed amongst other tracks from throughout Rick’s career a legendary version of Starship Trouper.

This DVD is a must for all fans of Classic Rock!

Available to pre-order from www.rickwakemansmusicemporium.com
I Decided. To Bounce Back.

Back in 2017 at the ripe age of 57 I lost faith in myself. I decided my book didn’t sell enough, my career had hit a wall, my colleagues would be ashamed of me and my health was failing. All of these things with no way out, no way to back myself up, no way to find myself and become my own man again. I fell in a hole so black and so foreboding I wondered if ending myself would be less painful. It was like the lead character in the movie Get Out when the racist wizard stirs the tea and he falls backward in his chair, suddenly appearing to fall downward through the blackest empty space, powerless to reach back up
and out – frightening movie and I can tell you terrifying in reality.

I made some real mistakes while I struggled through the climb back up and out of that hole. I let Doctors guide my – psychologists and psychiatrists – while a pill did take away the despair for the few months I did it, it also racked my male body to the ground. The counselling was wonderful (clue in dude)! But it was not focused on exactly what was wrong. Then I was referred to a “man doctor” who would prescribe numerous forms of testosterone and hypothalamus enhancers. All of this prolonged my recovery. I climbed out just over a year ago, and will I expect and intend, never go back.

I’ve always and forever been drawn to men with confidence, from my original and forever hero Muhammed Ali to Robert Conrad (of Wild Wild West fame) to Bruce Lee to Jimmy Page to Phil Collins, and David Gahan (or Depeche Mode fame) to Chris Martin of Coldplay and “The Rock.” It wasn’t until the last few years I was led to understand the world of hip-hop/rap and Kanye West, today’s Muhammed Ali.

But it would be an artist of the 10’s decade and beyond who really showed me the way, down south in a hotel bar in Orange County. The DJ at said bar played Big Sean. Okay the song was an odd one for Sean, one where he was truly angry, a hit called “I Don’t Fuck with You.” It starts with a gospel refrain which caught my ear because I adore gospel music. Then a dance beat drops into your hips driven deep
by the analogue synthesizer. And the most compelling rap vocalist I’d ever heard lays down the title lyric in a confident but pleading voice. By the end of the song he thanks God for his deliverance from a bad girl – “everything got a bad side even the conscious.” My ears perked up. I asked a young woman who had been dancing on her cocktail table, doesn’t his language and what he says to that girl offend you? She looks me in the eyes and says “He ain’t talkin’ about me.” In that moment I understood the awesome appeal of hip-hop/rap.

Immediately I downloaded the 2015 album DARSKY PARADISE. My favorites kicked in quickly – “Play No Games” and “Win Some, Lose Some.” Clearly this rapper had been onto something I had been missing.  

Win some, lose some  
I heard that my whole life  
But it doesn’t make it right

Sean began his career after busting his ass for years, and through dedicated intent got to meet Kanye West and then get an audition tape to him. Eventually he was signed to Kanye’s label and released several mixtapes that garnered attention. His first studio album Finally Famous came in 2011 and since then each album seems to have more heart, more lion, more confidence. And the most important thing for this devoted listener is the overriding message of these albums – the written lyrics/raps – they are like one long positive thinking sermon.

http://diegospadeproductions.com/
Big Sean has something we all need, something he spills out in his raps but never uses as a weapon, as a criticism to others. It’s his unbelievable self-confidence. The man drips with self-assurance, with a dogged defense of his decisions, of his way of life. He will question his decisions, he will share his vulnerability, his dark thoughts. But in the end, he is redeemed over and over again for one thing – believing in himself. This my friends, this is what cured me from my own mental trauma – my own insistence on questioning myself instead of believing in myself.

The most recent album in 2017 from Sean, *I Decided*. Is a beautiful, soulful masterclass on how to be a better person. It is the musical equivalent for our times, of a much older album by Marvin Gaye – *What’s Going On*. Big Sean delivers on this one – with all of his best moves – all of his very best lyrics, with some spoken word by his mom and pop that will break your heart and then fill it with the joy of being alive and of being able to change by deciding that’s what you are going to do. It’s an album about rebirth. One critic who did a faulted review, did say it’s Sean being the poster boy for all of these qualities – hard work, sacrifice, persistence and gratitude – true that but also for being open and loving and spiritual. The album begins with his father talking to God, asking what happened to his life, same job 45 years, not enough time with his kids – who taught them – how God – and this fades then into the first sermon. The song “Light” slides in with the content I use now to talk to all young people about being positive thinkers:

```
No matter how much they gon’ shade you (nah)
Man they can't fuck with the light
They can't stop the shine
They can't fuck with the light, hell nah the boy's that bright
Even if you take away my life, you can't take the light
No matter how much they gon’ shade you
Don't let them take away your soul (no, no)
Don't let them take away what makes you whole
```

Brilliance. If you’ve never felt the need for this kind of coaching, just tuck these lyrics into your wallet – they may come in very handy someday. They might save a life. I expect they’ve saved plenty since 2017. Truly.

Even on the one hit from this album “Bounce Back” Sean’s preaching but in a way that we can all appreciate:

http://diegospadeproductions.com/
Last night took an L, but tonight I bounce back
Wake up every morning, by the night, I count stacks
Knew that ass was real when I hit, it bounce back
(You ain't getting checks)
Last night took an L, but tonight I bounce back
Boy, I been broke as hell, cashed a check and bounced back
D town LAX, every week I bounce back
If you a real one, then you know how to bounce back

The under dog just turned into the wolf and the hunger steady grows
Yeah, I call shots while you call off
Never takin' summer or fall off
When you stay that committed to it, you just fall down and never fall off

Finally the album ends with the best coda – “Bigger Than Me.”

Bigger than me
When the whole town on their feet
And they all just waiting on you to speak
That's when you realize that this

http://diegospadeproductions.com/
is bigger than me
All I wanna do is make the city
proud, yeah
Wishing all the OGs could see
me now, now yeah

This is followed by a soft ending that I
could not listen to for weeks without crying
— yeah softy yeah. His Mom’s voicer
comes into the soft synth shadings telling
Sean she loves him:

Well no matter what, I'm proud
of you
Even when you do stupid things
that I have warned you about
You must get that from your
daddy
I'm just kidding, you know I love
you. You listening?
In a way I feel like I'm living
through you
Sometimes it feels like I got
another chance at everything

Sean says:

With all the work that's goin' on I
feel like
This is like my second time doin'
it so I know that sound crazy but

You know I just I don't know why I
always imagine myself as
Like someone who failed at
everything he ever did at life
You know and I got to the end of
life and just regretted it all and
somehow
This is my chance to go back and
get it all right
And when I wake up, with that in
mind you know
It completely changes my hunger,
how I approach the whole day
I mean you decide to live your life
like that then pshh man
I guarantee we'll live life to our
best potential

And his dad says

It's that simple. It's all about living
in the moment. Period

Grab a hanky, at least for this softy.

Three years will pass before Sean releases a
new one this year 2020 and in part that must
be because he is trying to at least equal or
top this last one. I fully expect that this
lionheart man will do exactly that because
he is living his life to his best potential.
Period.

http://diegospadeproductions.com/
What began as one dog on an airplane several years ago has evolved into a team of over 100 volunteers who fly or drive animals from danger to safety. Founded in 2009 by pilots and friends Brad Childs and Jonathan Plesset, the organization became a recognized 501c(3) entity in 2012. Since then our teams have conducted a wide range of missions including hoarding cases, saving animals from dog fighting rings and natural disasters, and helping overcrowded shelters. We now have the capability to respond to a huge variety of rescue needs both near and far. During the devastating hurricanes in 2017, PAART made its first international journey, heading to the storm-ravaged island of Tortola in the British Virgin Islands to rescue not only 42 animals, but two rescuers who had found themselves stranded on the island for weeks. Our reach stretches from Texas to Florida and all the way up the East Coast to Massachusetts. We have conducted rescue missions as far inland as the Mississippi River. While Pittsburgh is in our name, it actually makes up less than 10% of the area we cover.

Our rescue partners are many, ranging in size from large organizations like The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), and North Shore Animal League America, as well as small shelters in remote areas of West Virginia, Kentucky, Virginia and beyond. One of our newer partners is St. Hubert’s Animal Welfare Center in Madison, New Jersey. With an increasing population disparity in the northern states, St. Hubert’s serves as a hub for animals heading into New England where rescue dogs are scarce but people still want to have the fulfilling opportunity to rescue a beautiful, healthy animal who otherwise would have met a devastating fate.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CWG1AdEQ48k&feature=share
37 Dogs Rescued from Portsmouth, Ohio

Our biggest rescue of the year so far just wrapped up! The PAART team brought 37 dogs from danger to safety.

Land pilots Kim Schaeffer and Larissa Friday started the lifesaving rescue by heading to Portsmouth, Ohio. They loaded up the sweet pups from Sierra’s Haven for New and Used Pets, Paris Animal Welfare Society and Menifee County Animal Shelter and headed back to PA!

This mission took two days and two different teams. After arriving from Ohio, Land pilots Craig Edwards and Fran Ruppen took over. They drove to dogs to Madison, New Jersey where the fine folks at St. Hubert’s Animal Welfare Center took in all 37 dogs!

This mission is in honor of Glenn and Erika Kolod for their generosity.

If you’re interested in adopting any of these dogs, please contact Hubert’s Animal Welfare Center!
GRAHAM KEEN
1966 AND ALL THAT
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In September 2016, my close friend, Andy Wood, attended Graham Keen’s photographic exhibition with me and his wife Katrina in Lucy Bell’s gallery in St Leonard’s. Sadly, he was close to his death from cancer. But, that night, amidst images of Yoko, Pink Floyd, William Burroughs and more, he was on great form, joking and reminiscing. Andy was a fabulous artist with a fine eye for detail, coupled with an impish sense of humour. During the last years of his life, he was President of the Royal Institute of Painters in Water Colours. I am very privileged to have a number of Andy’s paintings. Here’s one of his last, worked up from a photograph Andy took on a trip to London’s South Bank, where we had met for lunch.

This is the Facebook page dedicated to Andy’s memory (actually memories, paintings and his words):

Enjoy:

https://www.facebook.com/andywoodartist/

One of the other world-renowned artists we shared an admiration of was Joie A. Pabilando. Joie, who lives and works a world-away in the Philippines. Joie and myself became friends on Facebook. I’d now like to take the opportunity to introduce many more of my friends through Gonzo magazine to Joie and his work….

The wonderful worlds of Joie A. Pabilando

Alan: Joie – I’ve fallen under the magical spell of many of your paintings of the people and places where you live. Every-day street life…tell me a bit about your life and growing up in the Philippines.
Joie: Thank you, Alan for the kind words and compliments.

I am happy and honoured that you’ve fallen under the magical spell of many of my paintings. Growing up living a very simple life in the province of the Philippines is great to remember. I have fond of memories with my siblings and my playmates, playing anywhere, swimming in the nearest river and the sea. As a child, I watched my father and cousin as they worked with their hands. I wanted to follow them and understand what they built...to create and paint... just like them. My cousin used to draw, doodling and painting on paper, and when he gave me a place to work, and just a piece of paper, an old pencil and plenty of encouragement, I made the most wonderful things. It’s the process of drawing that makes it look simple.
Alan: Your work is very detailed. Very graphic. The work of an illustrator. Can you explain how you work?

Joie: In my twenties, I used to be a comic book Illustrator and a short-story script writer. I contributed my illustrations and stories every week to a local comic publication. It was both a great experience and a big challenge. It was not an easy task to begin with. Creating figure and life drawings are a great way to improve one’s command of human anatomy drawing. It is a skill that’s important, especially when a script may require you to illustrate people of different types, ages, anticipations, angles and actions. Working for a local comic showed me that somehow proportion is still essential, and it’s something hiring editors will scrutinise in your works.

Alan: Do you mostly paint for pleasure or for commissions?

Joie: During my early age, I started to paint for pleasure not for commissions. Later on, when other people saw my work and found it beautiful, they started to ask me to buy one of my works and work on commissions.

Alan: There’s an enormous energy in your work…movement…and a richness of colours…how did you arrive at your style?

Joie: As much as possible I want my work to be ‘simple’, appealing with a dynamic presentation. I want the public to be impressed with my work. I use ‘realism’, because there is a high degree of representation in optical realism. I am searching for a way to portray or express the way that I feel about a subject. I learned how to draw relatively life-like images, from the pictures which I’ve taken of people-scenes, suburban images, water reflections and kids playing in the rain. It took me a while to explore many things until I found my comfort zone, creating the raindrops effects.
“Pitter pattering” 29x21 – Watercolour on Arches
The initial idea of the ‘raindrops-paintings’ that I made in 2015, was when we had this show called “Mind over water”. It was a watercolour art group exhibit. The idea came into my mind when I was caught in the traffic while driving. I saw two lovers waiting to hail a cab. It was raining heavily. I took several photos of them, but only one really caught my attention.

Alan: How do you describe your style of work?

Joie: As they say, “A picture is worth a thousand words”. The duty of a successful artist is to not only make a person feel through his work, but also make them feel through your words. A painting’s title is an important part of its emotional appeal. It gives the viewer insight into what you saw as an artist. I describe my style in terms of its beauty. I want it to be well-executed, eye catching, from the fine lines to thick, and the state of being full of energy and life.

Alan: Do you make a reasonable living out of your work? Is it mostly from the sale of paintings or do you work for magazines and the media? Or, from grants?

Joie: Artists may often have to rely on a regular paying job outside of making their...
art to survive. Even some of the art galleries today are not very profitable for the artist and some galleries have had to close their doors. Making a name in the art scene can take years before you feel you are in the 'Market'. My answer is ‘yes’ to that question. I am now making a reasonable living out of my work from my paintings. I believe it is possible. Of course, it also depends upon what kind of income the artist wishes to make from his/her art.

Alan: Do you work from life, from sketches, or, from photographs?

Joie: Yes, I paint from photographs as my reference. It can be used effectively as good material for paintings, but I usually organise it first, in a sequence: sketch, study, manipulate, and then do some compositions before creating it into a final work. This is how I developed my approach, with a ‘centre of interest’ in a painting, and how I learned how to create the colour of harmony.

Alan: Where have you exhibited your works?

Joie: I started to showcase my art work in 2009, after winning numerous awards from local and International art competitions and some art organisations were interested for me to join in with them. Lately, I had an International art exhibit and festival which was held in Aiguillon, France. People from all over the World were invited.
Kultura: Noon at Ngayon
An exhibition of paintings in watercolor by the artists of IWS Philippines and the Philippine Guild of Watercolorists

TITLE
LARONG PINOY: SACK RACE

MEDIUM
watercolor on paper

SIZE
22 x 30 inches

YEAR
2017

ARTIST
Joie Pabilando

Joie Pabilando is a self-taught watercolorist. His education includes a Master of Arts at the Technological University of the Philippines and a 4-year course in Architectural Drafting at the Sorsogon State College University in 1994. His vast experience as an artist qualified him for layout animation, comic book illustrations, and as judge in art competitions. His work experience in Europe and in Asia played a great role in honing his technique and skills. His work has been exhibited both local and abroad.

iwsphilippines.org/joiepabilando/
have a lot of your works on-line on your Facebook page and websites. Is much of it for sale? Where’s the best place, or, places to view your work and make contact with you?

https://www.facebook.com/ joie.pabilando)

Joie: Yes, I do have lots of works. For the time being, Facebook is my way of building an audience, attracting fans, get more likes and leverage the people I’ve already engaged with. It helps to build my reputation by creating great, share-worthy posts. This leads to a ‘ripple effect’, when I am managing to post genuinely interesting artwork on a regular basis. People then comment on my work, and share posts, giving it to the potential for so called “virality”. But there are always more fans to find beyond my immediate search. Yes, some are for sale. Potential customers just have to leave message on Private FB messenger.

Alan: What are your favourite subjects to paint?

Joie: Each artist has their favourite subjects to paint. Whatever that subject is, it is about painting a ‘story’, a story that commands attention. For me, to make an eye-catching subject, it really requires me to make some good ‘executions’. And from that, I would say that my favourite subjects include the “raindrops”.

Alan: Your work is very precise, detailed, but always ‘human’. Roughly how long
does each work take to complete?

Joie: It depends upon the size of the painting, the circumstances, the medium you are using, your availability and your urge to paint, but the longer you spend on any work of art, the better it is. I cannot rush my artwork.

Alan: What plans, projects and hopes/dreams for the future, do you have?

Joie: I have so many plans in the near future…Solo shows, exhibits at an international event…visiting places for painting demonstrations and some other things like teaching art-techniques.

Alan: And, what are some of your personal favourites amongst your paintings?

Joie: I have some of my personal favourite paintings like my raindrops series and my other oil paintings I did back in 2010. They were inspired by my favourite artist Caravaggio.

Alan: Thanks for sharing some of your images and your thoughts with me. Much luv ‘n’ respect.

Joie: Thank you so much too for inviting me, it is an honour for me and privilege to be a part of your online magazine. Much love and respect as well.
Endnote:

Joie: My paintings have evolved in the last 20 years. Many of my favourite subjects to paint depict Filipino life, using a kind of method I call: “Realism in a classical sense”.

Video link: https://www.facebook.com/joie.pabilando/videos/pcb.10156660191985796/10156660191790796/?type=3&theater

Joie: It has been a while since I opened my chest of drawers. I just stack my paintings on top of each other, putting plastic in between, if I feel they need more protection. As you add these small paintings, the stack starts to compress and actually flattens out your pieces and they fit frames better too. I’ll pick some of them up and ready for the frame in my upcoming shows.
Expect the Unexpected!

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

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

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initially thought that here was yet another bunch of musicians who had been around thirty plus years who were trying to relive their youth, but what we have here is a band who are experienced yet are still only in their mid-twenties. Mind you, singer Johannes Braun first came to prominence when he achieved second place in the 2004 season of the German version of Star Search singing heavy metal, when he was just 12 years old.

Twin guitars, harmony vocals, hooks everywhere, this is an album that is guaranteed to make any fan of Eighties rock ‘n’ roll sit there with a silly grin their face. Like so many albums of that particular era, the music itself is way better than the naff album sleeve it comes in, and this really is a load of fun. If I hadn’t been sent it to review then I would have passed on by, as the cover is so poor (in my opinion), but then I would have missed out on a real treat as this is a blast from start to end. They may have started as a high school band, but they have moved on a long way since then, honing their skills on the road, and here have produced an album that really is one single after another. It has just the right amount of sleaze and edge to prevent it from becoming a sugar-laden monstrosity.
There is no doubt that Like A Storm are one of the most successful New Zealand bands of modern times, yet I was getting really confused just now as I have an album, ‘(Chaos) Theory Part One’ which isn’t mentioned on either the press release or the band’s website. It was only after checking a little further that I realised that this is the same album as ‘Awaken The Fire’, with the same songs, just in a different order. Anyway, onto the new album, and the brothers have continued to use the didgeridoo to create an additional bass drone (more than half of the songs include this rather Australian instrument).

They are also pumped full of the confidence that comes with releasing a hit album (‘ATF’ had 4 US Top 40 rock singles), touring the world five times, playing in 22 countries alongside the likes of Alter Bridge, Volbeat, Gojira, Godsmack and Ozzy Osbourne.

They also played with Linkin Park, and it is with that band that the guys probably have the most in common, although when they get heavy, Like A Storm get really heavy indeed. The vocals are often treated, and the production is almost like an additional instrument, controlling how the sounds are heard. They again chose to produce the album themselves, but brought in mixer Pete Rutcho (Parkway Drive) to give it additional polish. Personally, I think it has been taken too far.

Well the artwork is interesting, but after that it all goes a little awry. Italian band Kormak are a new folk metal act, led by singer Zaira de Candia, and one has to wonder who was in charge of quality control. Zaira has obviously been professional trained, but there are far too many times when she goes off key. Now, this may be just about acceptable at a gig (although not really to be honest), but in a studio recording there is really no excuse. When she tries to sing rough and gruff then it doesn’t carry enough weight or power, while musically the band don’t seem to be too convinced if they are a folk band or a power metal band and consequently make a mess of all of it.

But, and it is a fairly small “but”, there is the impression that here is a band with some good ideas that just need to be properly pushed into shape. There are bits and pieces here and there that really are good, and it is often when they are playing acoustically that they shine. What both this album and band need are a strong editor, a producer who can point them in the right direction, but until that happens I can’t see myself returning to this very often, if at all.
far, and would much rather to hear more raw aggression – given the choice between listening to this or Alien Weaponry, then I would always chose the younger Kiwis over Like A Storm. The sound is very American in so many ways, and I am sure that this is going to be another massive hit for them, I would much rather they had just plugged in and played instead of so much treatment being given to the sound.

It is a wonderful collection of work, containing so many styles that one never knows what is going to happen next. “256 Leagues Above New Orleans” combines jazz-style electric piano with shimmering synths and wonderful flute to bring together thoughts (at least in my mind) of Native Americans riding over the plains, and then there are others where Steve Adams provides incredibly fluid electric guitar, while it is always a pleasure to hear Don Schiff in the mix. There is so much going on that the album could have become disjointed, spread over two discs it is nearly two hours in length, yet there is always the desire to know what ideas are going to come through next, how it is going to come together.

LaRue isn’t a flashy “look at me” extravagant player in the realm of Wakeman or Emerson, but instead has a strong understanding of arrangements and what is needed where. There are a few numbers that drift into delicate New Age territory, but there are many others which are far harder, with real presence. The album ebbs and flows, and the result is that listeners such as myself, who haven’t previously heard much from LaRue, will feel inspired to search out more of her back catalogue. Now that she is with MRR, I am sure we will all be hearing quite a bit more of her activities, and I for one am very pleased about that.

‘Origins’ is a collection consisting of compositions and recordings from keyboard player Lisa LaRue from as long ago as 1992, up to 2016. stemming from 1992 through 2016. It is incredibly varied, as it includes pieces such as a spoken word/keyboard collaboration with Gilli Smyth of Gong, some she composed and recorded for modern ballet, selections with John Payne (Asia Featuring John Payne, GPS, Dukes of the Orient), Michael Sadler (Saga), Ryo Okumoto (Spock’s Beard), a collaboration with Italian composer/keyboards Federico Fantacone, and solo pieces. Other musicians involved include Mitch Perry (Talas, Aerosmith), Don Schiff (Rocket Scientists, Kracked Earth), John Baker (Forever Twelve, Mars Hollow) as well as Steve Adams, Brenda K, Michael Wheeler, Merrill Hale, Svetlan Raket (Par Lindh Project), John “Yafke” Timothy, Michael Alvarez.

LISA LARUE
ORIGINS
MELODIC REVOLUTION
RECORDS

‘Origins’ is a collection consisting of compositions and recordings from keyboard player Lisa LaRue from as long ago as 1992, up to 2016. stemming from 1992 through 2016. It is incredibly varied, as it includes pieces such as a spoken word/keyboard collaboration with Gilli Smyth of Gong, some she composed and recorded for modern ballet, selections with John Payne (Asia Featuring John Payne, GPS, Dukes of the Orient), Michael Sadler (Saga), Ryo Okumoto (Spock’s Beard), a collaboration with Italian composer/keyboards Federico Fantacone, and solo pieces. Other musicians involved include Mitch Perry (Talas, Aerosmith), Don Schiff (Rocket Scientists, Kracked Earth), John Baker (Forever Twelve, Mars Hollow) as well as Steve Adams, Brenda K, Michael Wheeler, Merrill Hale, Svetlan Raket (Par Lindh Project), John “Yafke” Timothy, Michael Alvarez.
Fantasy" is also one of the longest in their canon, stretching in at twelve minutes. It tells the story of a composer obsessed with the desire to write the perfect tune and ready to sign a pact with the devil to achieve this goal. The band see this as a tribute to Mozart, Beethoven, Bach, Brahms, Handel and Wagner and also to "legendary art rock bands and timeless compositions such as Genesis, "Supper's ready", Pink Floyd "Echoes", Yes "Close to the edge", The Alan Parsons Project "The turn of a friendly card" or Marillion "Grendel"." This digipak is a fine addition to any prog lover's collection, and I feel so fortunate that I have been able to hear so much of their work. This is the ninth album of theirs that I own, and is either their 10th or 11th studio release (depending as to whether you consider the debut Millenium album to actually be the second Framauro album or not), and all of them are very high quality indeed. Truly one of the great Polish progressive bands.

Some fifteen years on from their debut, and the 2014 version of Millenium still featured four of the five musicians who had played on ‘Vocanda’. Of all the wonderful progressive bands I have heard from Poland, it is with this one I feel the most affinity, as they have consistently released great albums throughout their career, and this shows no sign at all of that changing. As with their previous album they brought in some guests on vocals and additional instruments (interestingly both Darek Rybka ( saxophone) and Grzegorz Bauer (drums) joined as full members in 2017), to add additional polish and effect. The use of saxophone in modern progressive music still feels fresh, and that is again very much the case here.

This neo-prog outfit takes cues from the likes of Pink Floyd, but IQ are obviously also very much an influence, and there is always a firm concentration on songs and melodies. Singer Łukasz Gall has a wonderful voice, and is always kept to the forefront of the sound, and the female backing singers add a touch of finesse, with “Girl From A Glass Sphere” in particular managing to be beautiful, modern and timeless all at once. The last song on the album, “In The World Of Fantasy” is also one of the longest in their canon, stretching in at twelve minutes. It tells the story of a composer obsessed with the desire to write the perfect tune and ready to sign a pact with the devil to achieve this goal. The band see this as a tribute to Mozart, Beethoven, Bach, Brahms, Handel and Wagner and also to "legendary art rock bands and timeless compositions such as Genesis, "Supper's ready", Pink Floyd "Echoes", Yes "Close to the edge", The Alan Parsons Project "The turn of a friendly card" or Marillion "Grendel"." This digipak is a fine addition to any prog lover’s collection, and I feel so fortunate that I have been able to hear so much of their work. This is the ninth album of theirs that I own, and is either their 10th or 11th studio release (depending as to whether you consider the debut Millenium album to actually be the second Framauro album or not), and all of them are very high quality indeed. Truly one of the great Polish progressive bands.
songs are either rare songs taken from singles, alternative versions, demos or unreleased songs. It goes all the way back to the band’s beginning in 2014, and then right up to date with an unrealized theme from the next album.

Normally with an album of this type, reviewers would say that this is a nice set for completists and those who are already fans of the band, and move smartly onwards and not bother listening to it. But, what we have here is one of those rare instances of a rarities collection that is actually a bloody fine listen indeed. One of the real joys on this one is “Born In 67”, where keyboard player, band leader and label boss Ryszard Kramarski provides lead vocals on the demo. Contrast that to the Beatles-like “The Prose Of Life” that follows it, and I can guarantee that any listener will be smiling (at least I was). I believe this CD was only released as a limited numbered edition, so I don’t know if it is still available, but all progheads should grab this if they come across it. These days, most progheads when they think of Poland always think Riverside, but in truth there have been a great deal of wonderful bands out of that country in the last 20 years, and to my ears Millenium are right up there with the very best.

MADSEN
LICHTJAHRE
ARISING EMPIRE RECORDS

Madsen have an incredibly strong reputation in their home country of Germany, with multiple hit singles and albums, and they are now back with their seventh studio release. Comprising the three Madsen brothers, Johannes (guitar), Sebastian (vocals, guitars, lyrics) and Sascha (drums) with Niko Maurer (bass), they have been following their own path since they started back in 2004, gaining success almost immediately. One of the real selling points in Germany is that they sing in German, and then combine that with incredibly catchy hooks so that I even found myself singing along even though I had no idea at all what I was saying! It took me a while to come up with an apt description of this album, and all I can think of is if it were Offspring playing a more rock version of their own melodic punk, but with the additional abrasiveness of using German instead of English. It is energetic, melodic, poppy, and most of all great fun, with an infectiousness that transcends the language barrier. I prefer the more straight ahead rocky numbers to the ones that seem as if they have come out of the Eighties such as “Mein erstes Lied”, but overall it is definitely an album worth investigating, although if I could have understood the words then possibly it may have meant more.

MAJOR PARKINSON
TWILIGHT CINEMA
DEGATON RECORDS

This is the third of four studio albums released by this Norwegian band, and was released in 2014. I have only just come
across this group, so this was all totally new to me, and having played it and then started working out what on earth I could try and say about it! They have been listed on PA as a progressive rock group, in the eclectic sub-genre, and I can understand why that is as these guys are truly trying to move music into new areas and are progressing the sound, as opposed to attempting to regress to something that was popular 40 or 50 years ago. Firstly, the music is incredibly theatrical, timeless and also dark, yet with levity and life coming through at different stages. So let’s think Clive Nolan, but also throw in Alabama 3, some Nick Cave and possibly Tom Waits, while Johnny Cash would be stirring the pot. Then let’s add some accordion-driven pirate metal just for the hell of it, and see what the punters make of it. Clive would be the only one that I’ve mentioned that people would generally think of as prog, but all of those named have been key players in their own musical fields and have never been afraid of stretching out into different areas.

If I was going to think of just one prog band, then the approach does remind me in some strange way of classic Twelfth Night, but of course they sound nothing like them at all! This really is an album where the more attention that is paid to it, the more rewards can be obtained as the music is incredibly dense, multi-layered and faceted, and the more I listen to it the more I find within it to enjoy it. There is a darkness thrown in, as if instead of performing on a stage, the guys are on a becalmed sailing galleon at night, with lanterns providing the only lighting. There is so much happening in each song, with switches in tempo and musical approach taking place so frequently that one often loses track as to what is going on, but who cares? It is a staccato abrupt journey both into the absurd and the unknown, and I am all the richer for having heard it. Miss this at your peril.
“When there’s no more room in hell, the dead will walk the earth.”


Victor Halperin’s *White Zombie*, released in 1932, is generally cited as the original zombie movie. However, a number of films were produced during the late 1930s and the 1940s, such as *Revolt of the Zombies* (1936), *King of the Zombies* (1941), and *I Walked with a Zombie* (1943). The sub-genre was inspired by the alleged “real life” zombies of Haitian folklore, most notably through the field studies of explorer and occultist William Seabrook, in his seminal, yet highly unusual, travel book *The Magic Island* (1929). Zombies during these early years largely reflected the legendary/folkloric slave zombies of Haiti.

*A Brief History of Zombie Cinema*

Carl Marshall and Geordie Jackson

**DARK MATTERS**
The modern flesh eating zombie emerged into popular culture during the late 1960s, with George A. Romero’s classic film Night of the Living Dead (1968). Romero’s film received a sequel, Dawn of the Dead in 1978, which was the most commercially successful zombie film at the time, and is today rightly considered one of, if not, the greatest movie of the sub-genre. It received another sequel Day of the Dead in 1985, and went on to inspire numerous unofficial sequels and spin offs such as Zombi 2 (aka Zombie Flesh Eaters, 1979) and The Return of the Living Dead (1985), not to mention several largely ineffective remakes.

In the 1980s Hong Kong cinema, the Chinese Jiangshi - a zombie-like creature with an unusual method of locomotion dating back to Qing dynasty era Jiangshi fiction of the 18th and 19th centuries, was featured in a wave of Jiangshi films, popularised in 1985 by Ricky Lau’s Mr. Vampire. Hong Kong Jiangshi films became very popular in the Far East during the mid 1980s into the early 1990s.

A zombie revival later began in the Far East during the late 1990s, inspired by the 1996 Japanese zombie video games Resident Evil and The House of the Dead, which led to a wave of low-budget Asian zombie films, such as the Hong Kong zombie comedy Bio Zombie (1998) and Japanese zombie-action film Versus (2000). The zombie sub-genre revival later went global, and the worldwide success of zombie games such as Resident
the Dead remake, and the British “zom-rom-com” Shaun of the Dead (2004). The success of these movies led to the sub-genre reaching a new peak of commercial success not seen since the 1970s.

Zombie films created in the 2000s, like 28 Days Later, House of the Dead, the Resident Evil films, and the Dawn of the Dead remake, have featured zombies that are far more agile, vicious, intelligent, and stronger than the traditional zombie. This new breed of running zombies (which actually have their genesis in the Italian ‘infected cannibal’ film Nightmare City, 1980) owe much to the video games, from Resident Evil’s running zombie dogs and particularly the House of the Dead game’s running human zombies. In my opinion, the slow moving, stumbling zombie, is far more horrifying!

In the late 2010s, zombie movies began declining again in the Western world. In Japan, however, the low-budget zombie comedy One Cut of the Dead (2017) became a sleeper hit, making box office history by earning over a thousand times its original budget.

AMC’s The Walking Dead is eminently releasing the first of a new trilogy of big budget zombie/walker movies.

The zombie is showing no sign of returning to the grave anytime soon!

Evil and The House of the Dead inspired a new wave of Western zombie movies in the early 2000s, including the British ‘infection’ film 28 Days Later and the Resident Evil film series, a 2004 Dawn of
• A in-exhaustive list of notable zombie movies is as follows.

• 28 Days Later (2002, Dir. Danny Boyle)

• The Astro Zombies (1968, Dir. Ted V. Mikels)

• The Beyond (1981, Dir. Lucio Fulci)

• Brain Dead (1992, Dir. Peter Jackson)

• Burial Ground: The Nights of Terror (1981, Dir. Andrea Bianchi)

• Cemetery Man (Dellamorte Dellamore) (1994, Dir. Michele Soavi)

• City of the Living Dead (1980, Dir. Lucio Fulci)

• Dawn of the Dead (1978, Dir. George A. Romero)

• Day of the Dead (1985, Dir. George A. Romero)

• Zombie Creeping Flesh (1981, Dir. Bruno Mattei)

• The Hoard (La Horde) (2009, Dir. Yannick Dahan & Ben Rocher)

• I Walked with a Zombie (1943, Dir. Jacques Tourneur)
- *The Last Man on Earth* (L’ultimo uomo della Terra) (1964, Dir. Ubaldo Ragona)

- *Let Sleeping Corpses Lie* (The Living Dead at the Manchester Morgue) (1974, Dir. Jorge Grau)

- *Night of the Living Dead* (1968, Dir. George A. Romero)

- *Pet Sematery* (1989, Dir. Mary Lambert)


- *Rabid* (1977, Dir. David Cronenberg)


- *The Return of the Living Dead* (1985, Dir. Dan O’Bannon)

- *Shaun of the Dead* (2004, Dir. Edgar Wright)

- *Shock Waves* (1977, Dir. Ken Wiederhorn)

- *Tombs of the Blind Dead* (1972, Dir. Amando de Ossorio)

- *The Video Dead* (1987, Dir. Robert Scott)

- *White Zombie* (1932, Dir Victor Halperin)

- *World War Z* (2013, Dir. Marc Forster)

- *Zombi 2* (Zombie Flesh Eaters) (1979, Dir Lucio Fulci)

- *Zombi Holocaust* (1980, Dir. Marino Girolami)

- *Zombies of Mora Tau* (1957, Dir. Edward L. Cahn)

- *Zombieland* (2009, Dir. Ruben Fleischer)
THE COMPLETE GOSPELS

The Gospels evolved because Rick Wakeman was asked to perform at an organ recital to raise money for the Camberley United Reform Church, which was in desperate need of a new organ. Rick pondered what to play and the more he thought about it and what the evening should mean, the more he felt that something very special was about to take place.

Thoughts of the New Testament kept creeping into his mind and he decided to write an instrumental piece to the settings of the four Gospels. He began working but after a couple of hours realised that there was no way he was going to get across the feelings he wished to portray without singing. The music seemed to cry out for an operatic tenor.

Amazingly enough, just a few weeks earlier, Rick had met the famous tenor Ramon Remedios at a charity concert in which they both performed and he plucked up courage to ask him if he would kindly agree to perform the New Gospels with him. The concert was a tremendous success and Ramon's feeling and understanding of the music moved many people to tears.

The complete Gospels is a limited edition box set containing all the known recordings of the project both audio and visual. Along with a reproduction A4 x 12 page concert program.

Special Limited Edition Boxset containing
Signed by Rick Wakeman and numbered certificates.
DVD containing over 2 hours of footage including an in depth interview with Rick about the project.
Double CD 1, The Original Gospels - with Robert Powell as the Narrator.
Double CD2, The New Gospels
DVD / CD of The Gospels performed live in California - never seen before.
Reproduction A4 x 12 page concert program.

The Rainbow Suite

This is a brand new orchestral piece written and performed by Rick Wakeman and the Orion Orchestra. This is a specially written piece of therapeutic music designed for people with an Autistic Spectrum Disorder to enjoy as well aficionados of good quality instrumental music.
This is Rick and Orchestra at their finest !!!

Available to pre-order from www.rickwakemansmusicemporium.com
This is the most important moment in history to do something for African elephants. Because it's the worst time in history to be an elephant.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Asante sana (thank you very much),

David Banks
Director, Africa Region
The Nature Conservancy

p.s. Start helping elephants today at nature.org/elephants and follow us on Instagram, Facebook or Twitter to get action alerts.
This article was, as is self-evident, written some years ago, but although the names have changed, the moral dilemma remains…

Today we are going to mull over a moral dilemma. Is it right or acceptable behavior to share your own death with the paying public - Isn’t this the ultimate reality television?
Prime Minister Gordon Brown expressed his sympathies for British reality TV star Jade Goody, who has been diagnosed with terminal cancer.

He is quoted as saying that people should "applaud her determination to help her family", by her sale of the media rights to her wedding this weekend. OK! magazine has bought exclusive rights to this Sunday's ceremony for £700,000 and Living TV paid a further £100,000 to broadcast it.

The former Big Brother contestant's plight was "very sad and tragic"; Brown told his regular monthly press conference. Mr Brown went on to say: "It's very sad and tragic that such a young woman has this cancer. It's very sad indeed that the treatment has not been successful."

He added: "Her determination to help her family is something that we have got to applaud and I wish her family well."

In January 2007, Ms Goody received a huge barrage of criticism for her alleged racist bullying of her fellow Celebrity Big Brother contestant, Indian film actress Shilpa Shetty. Goody was consequently slung out of the Big Brother house.

Last year, in an ironic twist, Ms Goody appeared on the Indian version of Big Brother. She had to leave prematurely when informed she had cervical cancer.

Months of treatment followed and now it has just been revealed that the cancer had spread to her bowel, liver and groin, leaving her only months to live.

This young woman decided that she wants to share this experience to the end. She claims two reasons for doing so, the first is that she wants to provide as well as she’s able for her young sons. The second is that Jade believes that other women can benefit from the terrible lesson she is learning about regular health check ups and screenings. Apparently if Jade had followed up as she could and should have done she would have enjoyed a 90%+ chance of survival whereas she now has a 0% chance.

I know the benefits of regular medical checks myself as twice they have spotted pre-cancerous cells in me, which were quickly and easily dealt with, and following which I am fortunate enough to have suffered no consequences.

Ms. Goody is not so fortunate, and is hated and loved by many who have watched her short career as a TV celebrity, famous for being famous. She might not be the brightest intellect in the world, but surely no one deserves an end like this.

My wife was shopping a few weeks ago and found Jade distraught and crying in her car in the parking lot. She offered the young woman whatever comfort she could, but she was distraught at the obvious distress she was in. Imagine having to put on a brave face in public all the time whilst your world is literally falling apart.

There is absolutely nothing wrong with Jade’s decision to share her harrowing experience with the world; no one else has the moral right to condemn her motives, whatever they might be. I think she is very brave and deserves our total support in this, her toughest fight. In a way, if she has this support she will triumph even in her own death, and that is what she deserves.

If Jade needs the money to cushion the blow of her imminent demise for her children surely she deserves that right.

If Jade, by her terrible example, can warn just one other woman to protect herself adequately health wise then that would be wonderful. There are, in fact, reports of a 20-30% increase in young women seeking the appropriate cervical smear tests since Jade made herself a public campaign.

For those sanctimonious and patronizing members of the chattering classes who take a morally higher tone I respond with the words of Mark Twain, "Man is the only animal that blushes, or needs to."
The Scientific Investigation of the Unexplained

Phenomena Magazine

Now recognised as the leading online magazine of its type, Phenomena Magazine is a FREE magazine from Manchester’s Association of Paranormal Investigation and Training. (MAPIT)

Recognised as the leading online magazine of its type, now distributed worldwide, ‘Phenomena Magazine’ is a FREE monthly publication. Phenomena looks into the whole realm of the Strange, Profound, Unknown and Unexplained, delving into subjects of the Paranormal, Ufological, Cryptozoological, Parapsychological, Earth Mysteries, Supernatural and Fortean Events. Guest writers along with reviews of books, movies and documentaries add to the content as does recent news from around the world. Phenomena Magazine can be downloaded from our site every month for FREE in PDF Format.

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The Masters of the Universe do seem to have a steady stream of interesting stories featuring them, their various friends and relations, and alumni. Each week Graham Inglis keeps us up to date with the latest news from the Hawkverse..

Hawkwind's first gig of the new decade, headlining the indoor Giants of Rock Festival in Minehead, in late January, was, I
gather, a successful performance .... and Hawkfest, the 50th year anniversary festival, is currently the only other item on the fixtures list - scheduled for Bank Holiday weekend at the end of August, in East Devon.

It's been announced that one can rent the use of a tipi, tipi tent or bell tent at the festival, available unfurnished or simply furnished and with bedding included. These will be provided by Eve's Tipis, who have provided this for Hawkwind events before - Hawkeaster in Seaton.

Eve's Tipis website describes them thus:
This last is worth keeping in mind. My stay in one of their tipis in 2014 was a good experience, but they aren't a reinforced concrete Travelodge room, and bedding can become rather damp in wet weather, especially if one positions it close to the interior side!

"Traditional tipis are available for up to 6 people, providing a beautiful and aesthetic structure to stay in.

"The furnished options contain futon mattresses, sheets, duvets, pillows & blankets, colourful rug, low table and led lights. Bedding & Furnishings may vary.

"Unfurnished tipis are supplied with groundsheets and floor covering. Tipis are liable to allow some water in especially during heavy rain, due to their design. We aim to minimise this by wrapping the smoke flaps around and, when required, rain catchers may be fitted. Generally a few drops of water are part of the experience of staying in a tipi!"............
Hawkwind Earth Visitors Passport - The "Hawkwind Passport"

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

The application form is available via Hawkwind.com and needs to be filled out and physically posted off to Mission Control with two passport sized photographs and a stamped addressed envelope.
The Song of PANNE
Being Mainly About Elephants
JONATHAN DOWNES
Regular readers of this magazine will have noticed that the ongoing story of high strangeness and weird goings on in the woods on the North Cornwall/North Devon border can come to an end for now. A book of the story (containing extra material) will hopefully be out before the end of the year, and – at the moment – is going to be called ‘Zen and Xenophobia’.

I have found that running them as a serial in the magazine is basically the only way that I ever get a book finished, so I beg your indulgence.

For the last 5yrs I have been trying to write a book about my peculiar upbringing in Hong Kong half a century ago. In its own way it has as much drama and grotesque strangeness as the Xtl book. SO, in a desperate attempt to finish it, I am going to start serialising new bits in the magazine as I write them.

Hold on, it’s going to be a bumpy ride!

Our great exit from Hong Kong began to go awry within a few hours. We were flying over the jungles of Indochina, the first (and last) time that I had done so in daylight, and there was no cloud cover whatsoever. I was in a window seat, and stared down at the verdant green forests below me, occasionally punctuated by slow, muddy blue rivers, and let my imagination run riot. I was imagining tigers, elephants, and crocodiles, lurking amongst the huge trees, and – presciently – wondered whether there were any lost populations of the Javan rhinoceros left there. It wasn’t until the late 1980s that a population of this, probably the rarest large mammal in the world, was found in Vietnam, to the excitement of all, especially the dealers in traditional Chinese medicine, at whose door the blame can be laid for the fact that this population – the last mainland group as far as we know – was wiped out in the early 21st century.

I also wondered whether, as we flew over Vietnam and Laos, there were pitched battles going on beneath me, and I peered
intently at the forest below until I fell asleep. I have always found it particularly easy to go to sleep whilst on aeroplane flights, and I must have slept for some time because when I awoke it was because my mother was shaking me and telling me to fasten my seatbelt, because we were making an unscheduled stop in Bangkok. Apparently, something was wrong with the aeroplane.

Five decades later I cannot tell you what was wrong, if I ever knew, but, to my great excitement, we were told that we would be spending a night or two in the beautiful capital city of Thailand.

For some reason, I have always thought that cities such as Bangkok had remained, inviolate for centuries, but – actually – Bangkok traces its roots only as far back as a small trading post during the 15th century, but the parts that we saw, at least, were undeniably beautiful; strange, flat buildings with golden turrets and spires, and huge temples made of a pinkish red stone. There were many slow-moving rivers, canals and creeks in which I imagined there to be all sorts of exciting creatures, although we didn’t see anything apart from a few goldfish. The vivid blue sky was full of multi-coloured kites with long flowing tails, and it turned out that our visit had coincided with the national kite-flying competition, which was apparently a very big deal. I was particularly impressed to see several kites in the shape of enormous flying dragons and – even more incongruously – immense flying paper goldfish; anatomically correct to the smallest detail.

Richard and I spent the whole taxi journey from the airport to the hotel with our faces glued to the window, drinking in the details of this wholly unexpected but utterly delightful anabasis.

When we got to the hotel, there was a further delight in store for us in the shape of a baby elephant and its lavishly costumed keeper standing as a ceremonial
may also encounter one of the fabled mystery hominids which have been reported from swathes of jungle all across south east Asia. The fact that these jungles would have been far too far away from Bangkok to have made a visit even to the outskirts of them even slightly practical was not an issue to my feverish eleven year old mind. But in any case, it was not to be. No sooner had we settled in but my mother came down to Richard’s and my room (which, for some reason, was on a different floor to the one occupied by my parents) to tell us that plans had changed and that we were going straight back to the airport. Apparently Air India had managed to lay on a substitute aircraft, and we were to resume our interrupted journey right away.

So, we packed our cases again, went down to the foyer, bid goodbye to the baby guard outside the sumptuously decorated doorway. These days, I would have been appalled; the poor creature had probably been orphaned deliberately by the authorities in order to provide a four legged and betrunked tourist attraction. It was probably not cared for properly, and almost certainly had a short and unhappy life ahead of it. But to two little boys, one eleven and one seven years old, it was yet another delightful facet of this completely unexpected delay in our exodus from Hong Kong.

We settled into our hotel rooms, and I was already making all sorts of highly impractical plans, which would have certainly disappointed me by not coming to fruition. These mostly consisted of an investigative trip deep into the jungles of Thailand’s interior, where I would discover all sorts of new species of animal and...
security services were expecting to show up on their X-Ray machine. The scanner picked up some strange and anomalous pieces of metal, and when the soldiers frisked him it was confirmed that he had what felt like a weapon shoved underneath his clothing, on his back. The soldier in question shouted for back-up, and we were immediately surrounded by grimacing Indian military men, pointing submachine guns in our direction. My mother, brother and me were all frisked, and our luggage searched for any sign of military hardware. Of course, they didn’t find anything, and when my father’s surgical corset was revealed, the forces of law and order let us go. It was the first, but by no means the last, time in my life that I was to fall potentially foul of a country’s immigration security services.

I have no memory whatsoever of the flight to what was still called Bombay, but I do remember that within about half an hour of landing, we were all nearly arrested.

You will recall, I’m sure, that the reason for our long journey back to England was that my father had been invalided out of Her Majesty’s Overseas Civil Service because of serious osteoarthriƟs. One of the treatments that was being tried for this debilitatingly painful condition was a rigid surgical corset, which was – of course – the last thing that the members of India’s security services were expecting to show up on their X-Ray machine. The scanner picked up some strange and anomalous pieces of metal, and when the soldiers frisked him it was confirmed that he had what felt like a weapon shoved underneath his clothing, on his back. The soldier in question shouted for back-up, and we were immediately surrounded by grimacing Indian military men, pointing submachine guns in our direction. My mother, brother and me were all frisked, and our luggage searched for any sign of military hardware. Of course, they didn’t find anything, and when my father’s surgical corset was revealed, the forces of law and order let us go. It was the first, but by no means the last, time in my life that I was to fall potentially foul of a country’s immigration security services.
Martin Springett was born in Crayford, Kent, England, in 1947. He studied art (that is he learned to play the Guitar) for two semesters at the Brassey School of Art in Hastings, Sussex. He emigrated to the West Coast of Canada in 1965, but returned to the UK in 1973 to pursue music in various bands. He spent time in Germany, and toured through Europe.

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

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

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

www.martinspringett.com/

https://spacewreckrecords.bandcamp.com
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!!"

FIRST, SHE STARTED BY FEEDING THE DEER

"THEY WERE HERE BEFORE US, AND THIS IS THEIR HABITAT!"

In the interest of equality, she bought bird seed for migrating parrots
Well and good-she had feathered visitors, and tame deer
She extended her welcome to those creatures others feared-
  alligators, bobcats and vultures— even raccoons
  with their trash stealing ways, were placated
but not her Homeowners Association! Her gated community
made her pay $53,000 to settle a lawsuit. Her kindness in’ providing dog food, chicken and finger sandwiches
  to the animals of Grassy Waters Preserve (Florida)
made her aware of a primal dispute over habitat-
four-legged creatures vs two-legged disputing living space...
  Guess who is becoming extinct?
back in Florida, where his story began.

Joined by Miss Peregrine, Emma and their peculiar friends, life has become carefree. They spend days at the beach, and take part in 'normaling' lessons. But it's not meant to last.

The discovery of Jacob's grandfather's subterranean bunker leads to clues about his double-life as a peculiar operative.

Jacob begins to learn more about the dangerous legacy he's inherited, and the truths that were part of him long before he walked into Miss Peregrine's time loop.

Now, the stakes are higher than ever as Jacob and his friends are thrust into the untamed landscape of American peculiardom - a world that none of them understand.

New wonders, and dangers, await in this darkly brilliant next chapter for Miss Peregrine's Peculiar Children, illustrated with haunting vintage photographs - in full colour.

As I believe I have mentioned before in this column, I am far more of a fan of what is known as low fantasy (that is, fantasy stories which are set in a
“time loops”, most of this novel is set in real time in present day America, and it both benefits and suffers from this.

Much of the comedic subtext in the book comes from the assembled “peculiar” adjusting (or, more often, having difficulty in adjusting) to the world of the contemporary USA, after having spent seventy years or so in a “looped” portion of an island located off the coast of Wales. These sections are cleverly written, but Riggs’s dialogue lets the excellent story down somewhat. The “peculiars” do not speak as if they were from the 1940s and use a few too many contemporary idioms for my liking. But this is a small point, and I am quite prepared to discover that I am very much in the minority for thinking that this even slightly matters. The ongoing love affair between the main protagonist and his grandfather’s ex-girlfriend (this is by no means as dubious as it sounds) also suffers somewhat by being couched in 21st century terms; Emma comes over like a contemporary teenage girl rather than a 90-year-old woman with nine decades of experience behind her, stuck in a nubile young body.

I’m going to have to go back and re-read the original three novels, because it has to be said that I have no memory of this being a problem in the original trilogy, but I would like to exclude the possibility that I am just being particularly testy in my review of *Map of Days*. But the new characters are great, the plot is fantastic, and Riggs’s world building is head and shoulders above that of the vast majority of his peers. I read quite a lot of fantasy, and have even written a couple of novels
very different. Indeed, this whole book is structured in a more sophisticated manner to the original three, and I suspect it is because it is set in locations which are so familiar to the author that he could spend more of his time than before on constructing the scenario upon which this book is based.

I didn’t even know that this book came out until I was pootling about on Amazon, looking to spend a Christmas book token. I am also happy to say that, because I missed this book’s original publication date, there is a sequel already beckoning me towards it and — no doubt — I shall be succumbing to temptation and investing some of my aforementioned book token on it very soon. And I also confidently predict that you will be reading about it soon after, in this column.

As the vast majority of this book is set in a contemporary USA with which I suspect the author is more familiar than the rural Wales of his first three novels, the descriptions of locations and scenery are

in this genre myself. And, sad to say, there are more authors than I would like operating in this genre who mask the fact that they can’t write very well with a plethora of sex, drugs, violence and unicorns. This is certainly not an accusation that can be levelled at Ransom Riggs. He is an excellent writer, and the way that he hangs his stories and plot lines upon the succession of ‘found objects’ in the shape of unaccredited archive photographs that he finds in flea markets gives the whole project a pleasantly experimental and avant-garde facet that is very seldom found in young adult literature of any genre.
Stray into the woods and forests and you will enter into another world; a world of creatures that live by their own rules, protect their own kind with fierceness, and view all strangers who venture under the protective boughs with deep suspicion. Tread the forest floor with care, for this is also the home of the hairy man - the wildman of the woods. Is he a man? Is he a beast? Is he something in between? Whatever he is, he is spoken about by humans in hushed voices. They are scared of him and they tell tales of him to their children to scare them from entering the hushed darkness of the tree kingdoms. They call him many names; the woodwose, the wudawasa, the wodwos amongst them. The bane of a high-born daughter takes her unintentionally through such a forest on her last journey as a single woman to wed the man of her father's choice. Imposters from another land tramp through such a forest on a mission of their own, killing everything that comes across their path. The lives of some of the creatures that dwell in this place become unavoidably entwined with both these trespassers. The lives of some will change. Some will cease completely.
"Ev’rywhere I hear the sound of marching charging feet, boy"

http://www.zazzle.co.uk/streetfightingshirts

Auld Man's Baccie

Resonating With the Blues
RICK WAKEMAN

COUNTRY AIRS
“Music from both the mind and heart...”

www.rwcc.com
Gregg Kofi Brown has transcended many genres of music...

Rock 'n' Roll and UFOs is an anthology of music from Gregg Kofi Brown's career and contains previous unreleased songs, remixes and demos, with many guest musicians and artists such as Sting guitarist Dominic Miller, Bomb da Bass, Osibisa, the cast of the Who's Tommy; The Chimes' Pauline Henry, the Who's former keyboard guru John Rabbit Bundrick and Seal guitarist Gus Isidore.

The CD is a companion to Gregg Kofi Brown's autobiography of the same name which covers his early career in Los Angeles and London. From his first pro tour with Joe Cocker and Eric Burdon to close encounters of a third kind in a California desert and his adventures touring the world with African rock pioneers Osibisa. His journey includes starring in hit west end productions in London, recording and touring with infamous rock bands like Hanoi Rocks and the Members.

His first tour in Gambia and Senegal West Africa supporting African superstar Youssou N'Dour is well documented, as is his work in the African and West Indian music scene in the UK.

The last few years has seen Kofi perform with Damon Albarn's African Express and collaborate live with Amadou & Mariam featuring Beth Orton.

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

PS shows can be downloaded

http://maraines88.podbean.com/
And so, dear friends, we come to the end of another week. And, as is usual in my life at the moment, it has been a particularly weird one. It is quite early in the year for new music to have hit the release sheets, but there have been new albums from the Pet Shop Boys and Eminem which I think are worthy of your consideration. After only a couple of listens to both, I have made a few initial assumptions which I shall share with you.

The Pet Shop Boys album, *Hotspot*, is an uncharacteristically sombre affair. From the moment you see the front cover (Tenant and Lowe in the fog) it becomes obvious that this is not one of those joyous EDM affairs which celebrates dance floor culture. With tracks like ‘Will-o-the-Wisp’ and ‘Burning the Heather’ and rare encounters with acoustic guitar (played by Bernard Butler, who is a guitarist that I have always rated) as well as the band’s signature synthesisers, this is the nearest to a rural Pet Shop Boys album yet, and it is none the worse for that. The final track on the album, ‘Wedding in Berlin’ is by far my least favourite; it references Mendelssohn’s Wedding March along with some platitudes about same sex marriage being the same as the traditional ceremonies. Of course it is, but one would have preferred a lyric using Neil Tenant’s incisive wordsmithery, rather than something that sounds like it was written by Rote.

The Eminem album, however, is a completely different kettle of fish. I must admit to having never listened to any of his records before, but Carl Marshall (contributor to this issue, who has been staying here for the last few weeks) is a huge fan, and urged me to listen to it. So I did.

I have become massively impressed by the way that this notorious singer uses the English language, plays word games and juggles words as if they were machine gun bullets. The changes of pace, tempo and polyrhythm are dazzling, and I am beginning to formulate a theory about him. The games that he plays with tempo and presentation almost qualify him as being a prog artist, although I am certain that the people who like progressive rock would be incredibly shocked by that suggestion. But listen to what he does on this album, and the rhythmic passages produced by a band like ELP or Focus and I truly think that you might see what I’m talking about.

But, maybe it is all just the effect of the medication I am taking for my injured feet, and that – like Captain Ahab – I am “smelling land where there is no land”.

Love,
Jon
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