

# GONZO

Weeklyish #613/4

POLLING  
STATION

NOW WE  
KNOW WHY  
HE CROSSED  
THE ROAD



ISSN 2516-1946





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**LEST WE FORGET**



John Brodie Good



Dave McMann



Mick Farren



Corinna Downes



Doug Harr



Tim Rundall



Phil Bayliss

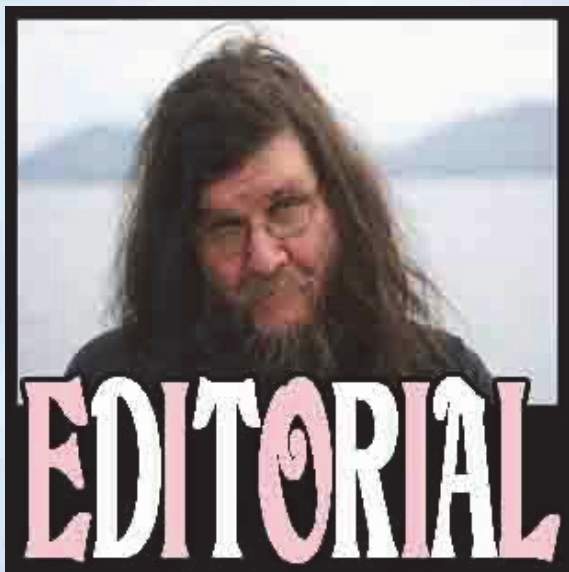


# THE THREE COMMANDMENTS OF GONZO WEEKLY:

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,

Welcome to another issue of the magazine which, if there we're such a thing as a digital budgerigar, would certainly be on the floor of its cage each fortnight. Because if digital budgerigars turn out to be as messy as their real life counterpart then quite a lot of

newsprint would be needed. And this magazine averages about 100 pages an issue.

But, as far as I am aware, there is no such thing as a digital budgerigar, and so, except for one brief demi-sentence, The previous paragraph was complete bollocks. The one brief demi-sentence being "welcome to another issue of this magazine". It is a good job that I'm not paid by the word, otherwise I could be quite justly accused of coming up with extraneous bollocks in order to improve my income.

But enough of all that. At the time of writing (Monday afternoon) I am still reeling from the effects of staying up all night on Thursday to watch the election results. This shows that I'm getting old.

Once upon a time I would stay up all



# GULLIBLE'S TRAVELS



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I am still reeling from the effects of staying up all night on Thursday to watch the election results. This shows that I'm getting old.

night, drink like a pig until I drank myself sober and then go to work the next day having had no sleep, but now I can't even stay up until eight in the morning without being punch drunk for the next three or four days.

What a pity. I am very sad for the loss of the dissolute libertine who seems to have vanished about five years ago. Around about the time I turned 60, and probably before. It's

just been fine out over the years that the most advanced mammalian species are those who remain in the juvenile form for longest. As I remained juvenile until my mid to late 50s, I think I probably am the most advanced species here on this planet. And I have not really grown up yet.

I hope you all forgive me if I continue to

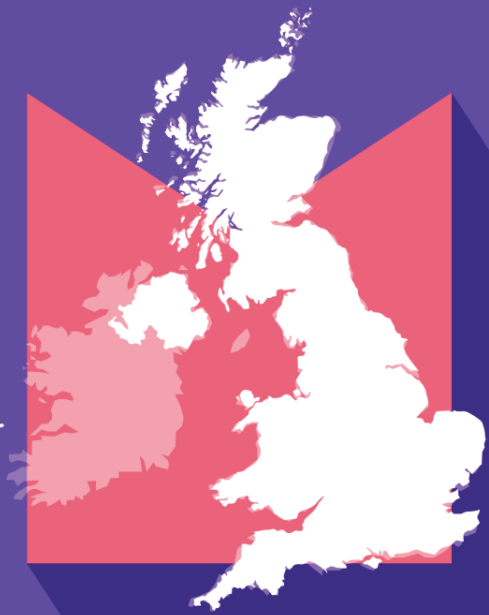




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# GENERAL ELECTION 2024

UK policy calls



talk about the general election, because it has thrown up some ten subjects that I think are worthy of discussion.

First of all, although I have been watching general elections as a spectators sport since the first of the two which took place 50 years ago this year, and staying up all night to watch them since 1979, this was the least entertaining general election that I have ever watched. I think it is probably because there was so much at stake.

Secondly, although I did not vote for him, I think the events of election night gave me more reason to have hope in the government of Sir Keir Starmer might not be quite the disaster that I was afraid it was going to be. Starmer himself is behaving in a far more approachable and sober manner than any prime minister for decades, and I am very pleased to see it.

Thirdly, Sir Ed Davey dances even more badly than I do and in my humble opinion, made a twat of himself with idiotic stunts all the way through the election campaign, and in the repeated film clip of him and the Liberal faithful disporting themselves along with Neil Diamond's Sweet Caroline song. No wonder he is the most successful Liberal party leader since Lloyd George.

Fourthly, it has thrown up that old debate about proportional representation once again. The correlation between the numbers of seats gained and the numbers of votes cast is once again completely out of kilter. Reform UK, for example, got more votes than the Liberal Democrats. However, they only got 5 seats to the Lib Dems 70 odd. I wouldn't of wanted to see a Reform UK government, but it might have been interesting if they had been close to being His Majesty's loyal opposition.





Fifthly, as I both expected and predicted, the predictions that the Conservative party would only get a small handful of seats and would be facing extinction were very far off the mark. It may have been the worst defeat in history, but it's not that far worse than what happened when Blair beat John Major in 1997. Yes, it is perfectly obvious that the Conservative party are going to have to reinvent themselves, and hopefully, this time, they won't make such a horrible cock up of it.

Sixthly, Following on from the above point, I was sad to see two of the three Conservative MPs whom I thought were not just good eggs, but could have a definite future in helping to reinvent the party, went the way of all flesh. Penny Mordaunt was someone that I thought would have made a

bloody good job of being the next shadow Prime Minister, and Grant Shapps has always seen the bloody good bloke.

The third person in this category is Sir Geoffrey Cox, who was, and is, my own MP, and who has been very good to me and kind to me personally on a number of occasions.

Seventhly. The behaviour of ex Prime Minister Liz Truss as she left the camp was most peculiar. She looked like she was on acid. I am glad that she lost her seat, although I will still admit in the interest of full disclosure, that I still fancy the arse off her, which is something that none of my friends and loved ones understand.

Eighthly. The Labour Party only one is slightly bigger proportion of the votes than



previously. The only way and reason that they did win was the public kicking that the British public quite understandably decided to give to the Conservative Party, and the complete and utter collapse of the Scottish Nationalist party as a result of two First Ministers who appear to have committed major fraud, a ruling party more interested in ridiculous Identity Politics than actually doing anything important, and then a party leader who hailed from somewhere in the Middle East and appeared to be more interested in the politics of Palestine than the politics of Scotland.

Whereas I suspect that the Conservative Party will be reasonably functional again by the next election, whether or not they win, I suspect that the Scottish Nationalist party is fucked for decades.

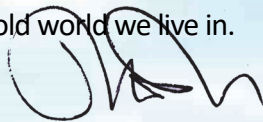
Ninthly. I missed Lord Buckethead. Count Binface was a poor substitute.

Tenthly. I am afraid that Labour did not win the election. The Conservatives lost it.

It was not a very entertaining election, I'm afraid, but I suspect that the political manoeuvrings which are going to take place on the right of British politics, and those are going to take place north of the border are going to be very interesting as we traverse the next five years before we end up having to go and do the whole thing all over again.

What a weird old world we live in.

Hare Bol



#### IT'S A LEGAL MATTER BABY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



# Dramatis Personae



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

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

## NAMING THOSE RESPONSIBLE

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

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

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

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

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

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# *so what's it all about, Alfie?*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



# THE <sup>gonzo</sup> NEWSROOM

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

Quo, Rick, Little Feat For Cropedy Rayo  
<https://hellorayo.co.uk/planet-rock/news/rock-news/quo-rick-little-feat-for-cropedy/>

Quo will headline the Fairport Convention organised festival on Thursday 12 August, while Little Feat take to the stage on Friday 13 August. Rick will ...

Asia Launches 2024 Summer Tour: Set List, Video - DRGNews  
<https://drgnews.com/2024/07/05/asia-launches-2024-summer-tour-set-list-video/>

Geoff Downes debuts new band lineup in Connecticut. Continue reading

John Mitchell and Harry Whitley on the new Asia lineup and The Heat of the Moment tour



# The Gospel According to *BART*

Look what my favourite roving reporter sent me this week. This summer, Downes and his new version of Asia are hitting the road on "The Heat of The Moment Tour."

<https://originalasia.com/tour-dates-2/>

"Heat of the Moment," the rock hit by Asia that dominated the radio in summer

1982, started far different from its final form.

"It was a country song on the piano," recalls Asia keyboardist Geoff Downes. "John [Wetton, Asia's original lead singer and bassist] had this chorus. We sat down at the piano one day and said let's try and do something with it. It was actually the last song we recorded for the album, which is amazing. It had a summer sound to it, so we were very lucky in that respect."

That self-titled debut by Asia, an English supergroup comprised of prog-rock and new wave thoroughbreds, topped the Billboard albums chart for nine weeks and went on to become 1982's biggest selling album. "Heat of the Moment" was a top five single.

Asia's sleek sound, with Journey's producer Mike Stone behind the console, wasn't what some beard-stroking critics expected from a supergroup comprised of Yes guitarist Steve Howe, Emerson, Lake & Palmer drummer Carl Palmer, King Crimson expat Wetton, and Downes from "Video Killed the Radio Star" icons The Buggles.

<https://progreport.com/interview-john-mitchell-and-harry-whitley-on-the-new-asia-lineup/>

Asia has announced The Heat of The Moment Tour, with a new lineup that includes original keyboardist Geoff

Downes, drummer Virgil Donatti (UK ...

Jon Anderson on Yes' Prog Epic 'Close to the Edge': 'It's Still Fresh' - SPIN

<https://www.spin.com/2024/07/jon-anderson-yes-close-to-the-edge-interview/>

Jon Anderson looks back at the ambition and "abstract musical reality" of Yes' 1972 prog epic "Close to the Edge."



Jon Anderson recalls the "state of madness" that gave us Olias Of Sunhillow - Louder Sound

<https://www.loudersound.com/features/jon-anderson-olias-of-sunhillow>

In 2016, to mark the 40th anniversary of his debut solo album, former Yes singer Jon Anderson looked told Prog about the amount of pressure he'd ...



"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

Frank Zappa "Live At The Whisky A Go Go 1968" Double vinyl Review - All About The Rock

<https://allabouttherock.co.uk/frank-zappa-live-at-the-whisky-a-go-go-1968-double-vinyl-review/>

"Live At The Whisky A Go Go 1968" double vinyl by Frank Zappa is like a time machine. It takes you back to a vibrant era of musical innovation and

YES Keyboard Legend RICK WAKEMAN Announces 'Final One Man' Fall 2024 Solo Tour  
<https://blabbermouth.net/news/yes-keyboard-legend-rick-wakeman-announces-final-one-man-fall-2024-solo-tour>

The ultimate keyboard wizard Rick Wakeman CBE will embark on a tour of

the U.S. with a series of solo piano concerts for the last time in 2024.

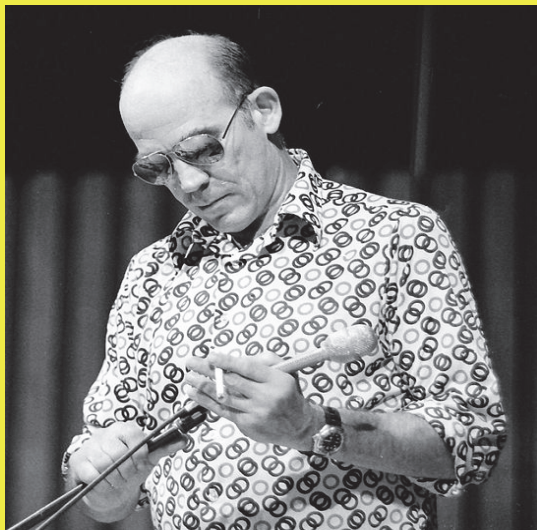
Yes: Fragile (Super Deluxe Edition) (Rhino) - review | Under the Radar Magazine

[https://www.undertheradarmag.com/reviews/fragile\\_super\\_deluxe\\_edition\\_yes](https://www.undertheradarmag.com/reviews/fragile_super_deluxe_edition_yes)

"The Fish (Schindleria Praematurus)" is a bass-driven, almost-funk exercise written by bassist Chris Squire. "Five Per Cent for Nothing," drummer ...

Shaun Ryder, Barbara Dickson and more to perform at Beacon Arts Centre | Greenock Telegraph  
<https://www.greenocktelegraph.co.uk/news/24440348.shawn-ryder-barbara-dickson-perform-beacon-arts-centre/>





## 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:

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...

"My life has been the polar opposite of safe, but I am proud of it and so is my son, and that is good enough for me. I would do it all over again without changing the beat, although I have never recommended it to others. That would be cruel and irresponsible and wrong, I think, and I am none of those things."

Hunter S. Thompson

... Barbara Dickson lined up. The Greenock venue will play host to comedy



shows, musical tributes and gripping theatre performances in the coming ...

Andy Warhol Hosts Frank Zappa on His Cable TV Show, and Later Recalls, "I Hated Him ...

[https://](https://www.openculture.com/2024/07/andy-warhol-hosts-frank-zappa-on-his-cable-tv-show-and-hated-him.html)

[www.openculture.com/2024/07/andy-warhol-hosts-frank-zappa-on-his-cable-tv-show-and-hated-him.html](https://www.openculture.com/2024/07/andy-warhol-hosts-frank-zappa-on-his-cable-tv-show-and-hated-him.html)

By 1983, one might have thought he'd have gotten the hang of it, yet he seems especially awkward when cranky prog genius Frank Zappa appeared on his ...

you've got the ideas": Dave Brock on Hawkwind's late-period purple patch - Louder Sound

<https://www.loudersound.com/features/hawkwind-dave-brock-stories-time-space>

On 36th studio album Stories From Time And Space, Hawkwind have lost





# ROCKIN' THE CITY OF ANGELS

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

AVAILABLE NOW!

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KING CRIMSON RUSH  
YES GENTLE GIANT  
JETHRO TULL CAMEL  
PINK FLOYD THE WHO  
QUEEN DAVID BOWIE  
KANSAS  
ZAPPA  
EMERSON  
LAKE & PALMER  
LED ZEPPELIN E.L.O.  
ROLLING STONES  
JOHN DIXIE DREGS  
TYX HEART WINGS P.F.M.  
HAPPY THE MAN KATE BUSH  
& MORE!





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



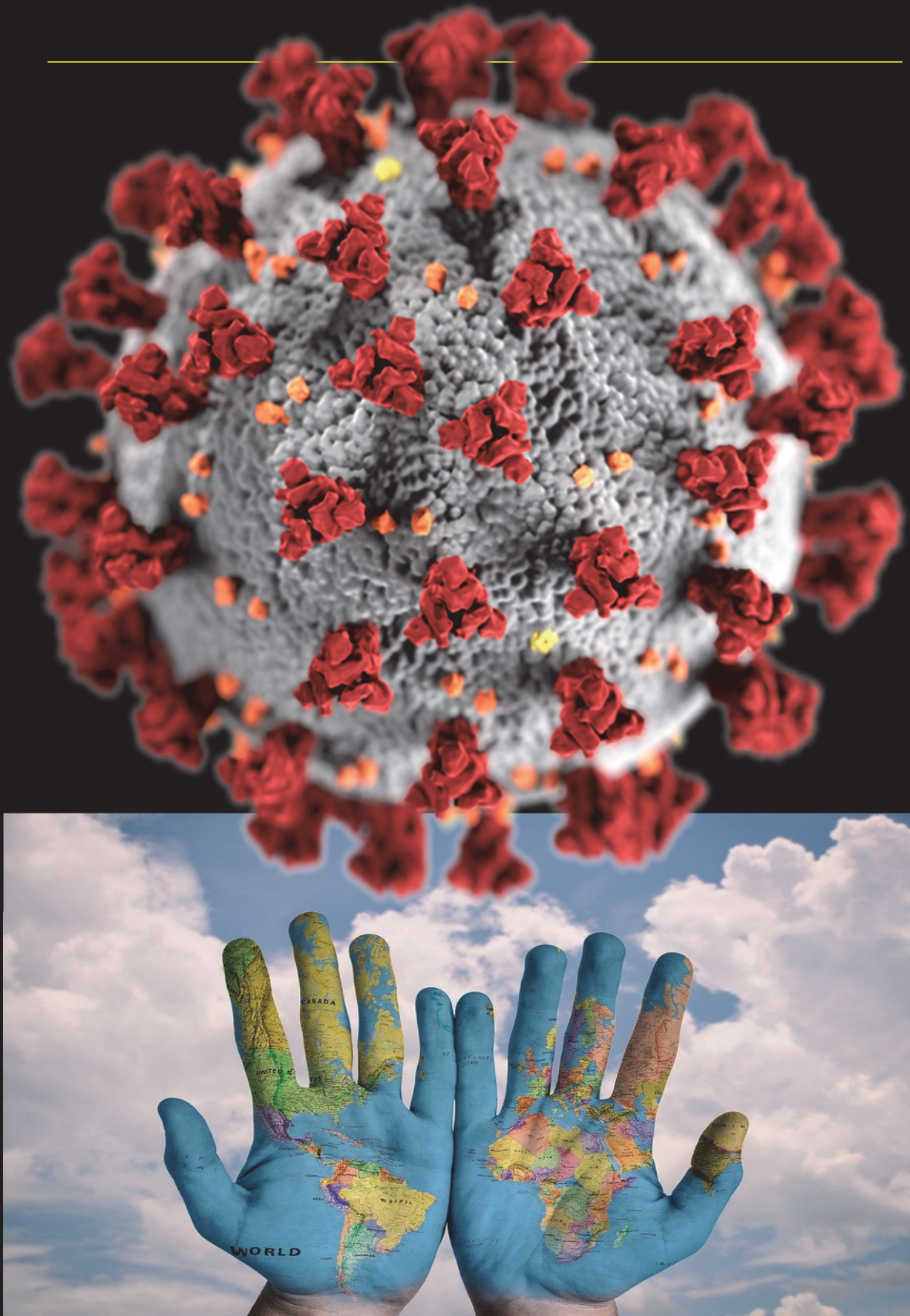
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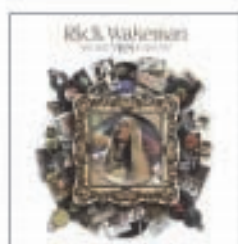
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# MORE MASTERPIECES from RICK WAKEMAN



## TWO SIDES OF YES

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

MFG2013CD



## THE STAGE COLLECTION

Recorded live in August  
1993 in Buenos Aires

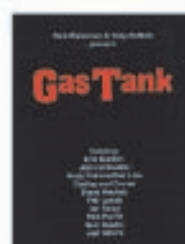
MFG2004CD



## TIME MACHINE

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

MFG2012CD



## GASTANK

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

MFG2022DVD



## GOLÉ!

Soundtrack album  
featuring Tony Fernandez  
and Jackie McAuley

REC41-42



## COUNTRY AIRS

The original recording,  
with two new tracks

MFG2014CD



## THE BURNING

The original Soundtrack  
album, back in print at last!

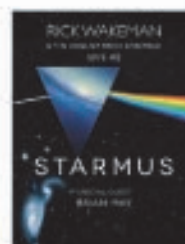
MFG2024CD



## LURE OF THE WILD

With Adam Wakeman.  
Entirely instrumental

MFG2003CD



## STARMUS

With Brian May and  
The English Rock  
Ensemble. DVD

MFG2010DVD



## MYTHS AND LEGENDS

Double CD set. The  
expanded 2016 version

MFG2016CD



## LIVE AT THE WINTERLAND THEATRE 1975

Live in San Francisco

MFG2015CD



## THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

Double CD + DVD

MFG2005CD



## CAN YOU HEAR ME?

Featuring The English  
Chamber Choir

MFG2005



## CRIMES OF PASSION

A wicked and erotic  
soundtrack!

MFG2018CD



## BEYOND THE PLANETS

With Jeff Wayne and  
Kevin Peek

MFG2009CD



WAKEMAN'S MUSIC EMPORIUM

Available from [rickwakemansmusicemporium.com](http://rickwakemansmusicemporium.com)  
and all other good music retailers





-Chris Packham



# IT IS TIME TO STAND UP AND BE COUNTED

PRATT, DOWNES & SCOTT,  
(Successors to T. W. & O. P. BARBOUR.)





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

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

**ELDRIDGE CLEAVER**

## Two types of people visit rhino in the wild

The strong and courageous  
take a camera

The weak and cowardly  
take a gun

**What sort of  
person are you?**

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

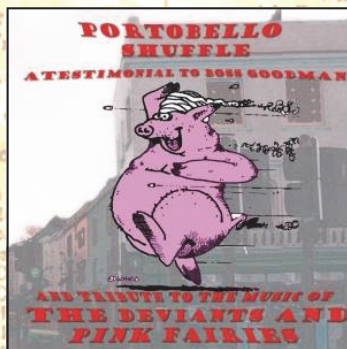






# I'M ON BOARD!

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



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

[arsydeedee@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:arsydeedee@yahoo.co.uk)



**Butterfly Conservation**

Saving butterflies, moths and our environment

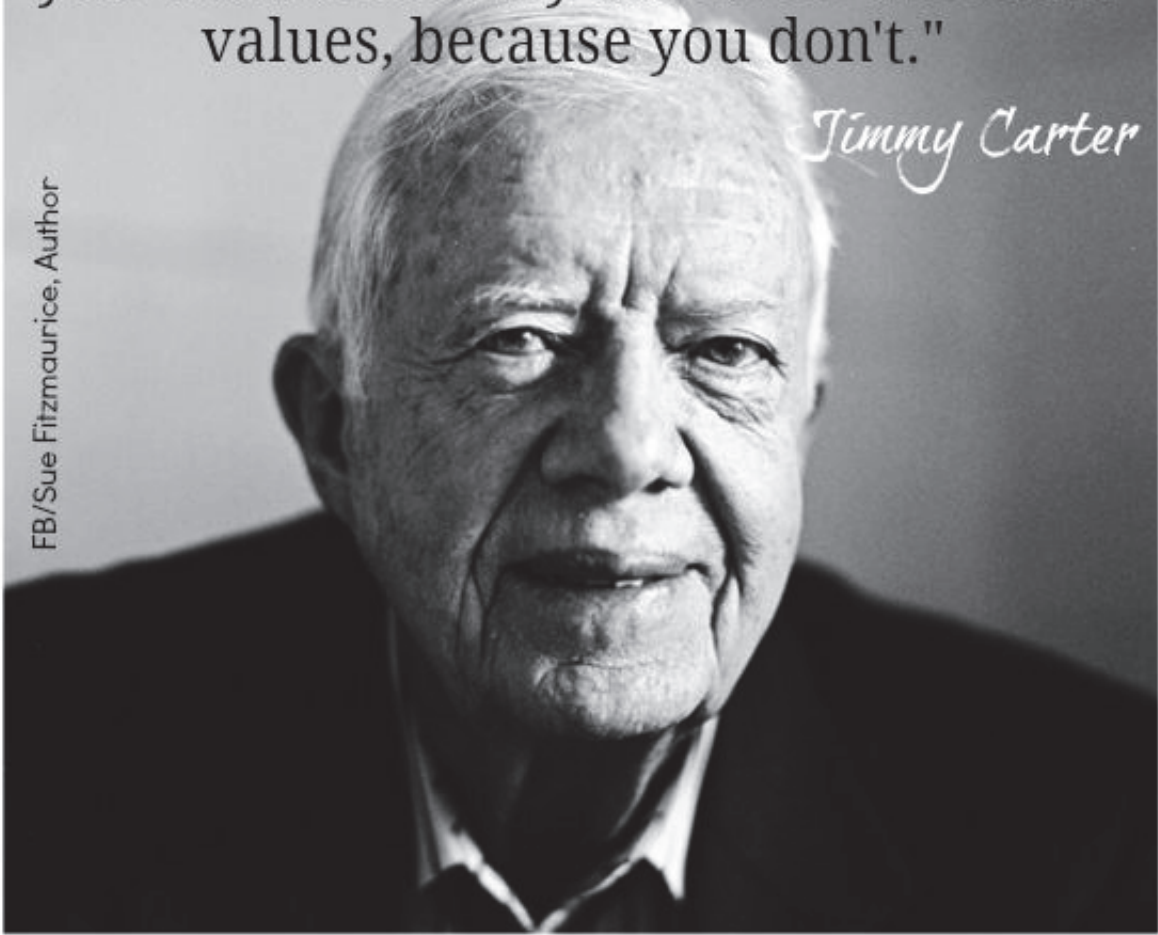




"If you don't want your tax dollars to help the poor, then stop saying you want a country based on Christian values, because you don't."

*Jimmy Carter*

FB/Sue Fitzmaurice, Author



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



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Every effort has been made to ensure that pictures used for the obituaries and every other article in the magazine are copyright free or we own the copyright ourselves. However, following in the footsteps of the jolly nice people at Wikipedia, there are occasions in which illustrations which are presumably copyrighted, are used as identification purposes only and as they are already widely distributed across the internet, usually as album covers, we think that we are justified in using them. If, however, you believe you are the copyright holder of any images in this magazine, please do not hesitate to contact the editor at [cfzjon@gmail.com](mailto:cfzjon@gmail.com).





Fausto  
1948 - 2024

Carlos Fausto Bordalo Gomes Dias, OL, known mononymously as Fausto, was a Portuguese composer, guitarist and singer. Fausto formed his first band Os Rebeldes in the former Portuguese overseas province. He released his first album in Lisbon at 20, winning the Revelation Award in 1969. He associated with influential names like José Afonso and Manuel Freire and shifted from protest songs to traditional Portuguese music after the Carnation Revolution. Fausto released 12 recordings between 1970 and 2011 before passing away in 2024 in Lisbon.



Laurie Lindeen  
1962 - 2024

Laurie Lindeen was an American writer and musician, playing as a member of the Zuzu's Petals. Zuzu's Petals was a notable all-female band in local clubs, recording a debut cassette before they released two albums under Twin/Tone Records. Lindeen later focused on writing and earned a master's degree in creative writing. She still occasionally performed, though she moved to offering writing lessons in Minneapolis. In 2007, she published her memoir *Petal Pusher: A Rock and Roll Cinderella Story*.

THOSE WE HAVE LOST

COLLATED BY HARRY WADHAM





Nino Vella  
1992 - 2024

Nino Vella was a French composer, pianist, singer, and music producer. Vella started studying music at age six, first focusing on classical and jazz before exploring electronic music at 11 in a home studio. He joined his first bands at 14. Vella started by composing original music for plays before

forming the band Babel. He performed with the band in various countries from 2010 to 2018 and produced a rap album in 2016. He later signed with Universal Music. In 2020, he composed music for a Netflix film and went on tour with Yseult as a pianist and singer. Vella also founded the band Rouquine, later releasing an album titled Masculine and touring in several countries. Nino Vella died on 1 July 2024, at the age of 31.



Cliff Waldron  
1941 - 2024

Clifford Waldron was an American bluegrass musician. Waldron is best known for his collaborations with bluegrass musician Bill Emerson, with the two forming the bluegrass duo Emerson & Waldron, as well as the formation of his

# THOSE WE HAVE LOST



own band, Cliff Waldron and the New Shades Of Grass. The band released successful albums until the mid-1970s, after which Waldron worked for the National Park Service. Despite this, he continued to occasionally perform music at his church and record private gospel music. In 1975, Waldron became dedicated to religion and released two gospel albums. After retiring in 1996, he returned to bluegrass music and recorded four new albums from 1998 to 2003. He died on July 1, 2024, in Virginia, at the age of 83.



Tom Fowler  
1941 - 2024

Thomas W. Fowler was an American bass guitarist. He began playing the violin at a young age before transitioning to the upright bass and finally the electric bass. He performed

with various artists such as Frank Zappa, Ray Charles, and Steve Hackett. Fowler also played with his siblings in the band Air Pocket. Fowler died on July 2, 2024, at the age of 73, following complications from an aneurysm.



Liana Isakadze  
ლიანა ისაკაძე  
Лиана Исакадзе  
1946 - 2024

Liana Alexandres asuli Isakadze was a prominent Georgian violinist and

THOSE WE HAVE LOST



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conductor. Following a career as a violin soloist with leading orchestras throughout Europe, she served as conductor of the Georgian State Chamber Orchestra and in 1988 was recognized as the People's Artist of the USSR – the youngest musician in the history of the Soviet Union to obtain that title. After 2011, Liana established the "Virtuosi from Facebook" orchestra with renowned musicians from different countries. Their first shows were at Liana Isakadze Festivals in Batumi. Her death was announced on 5 July 2024.



Giuseppe Chierchia  
1952 - 2024

Giuseppe Chierchia, known professionally as Pino D'Angiò, was an Italo disco artist. He was best known for his 1980 hit song, "Ma quale idea". In 1979, D'Angiò made his recording debut with the single "È libero, scusi?". He gained international success in 1980 with his hit song "Ma quale

idea", selling over two million copies. Throughout his career, he released more singles and albums in a similar style. Besides music, he also worked as a TV and radio presenter, and on occasion, composed songs for other artists. In his later years D'Angiò faced multiple health issues, including throat cancer, lung cancer, and a stroke. In 2024, he participated in the Sanremo Music Festival. He died on 6 July 2024, at the age of 71.



Paul Sperry  
1934 - 2024

Paul John Sperry was an American lyric tenor. He was known for performing classical and contemporary music at numerous theaters and concerts. He earned his B.S. and M.S. degrees at Harvard

# THOSE WE HAVE LOST



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University. He was a lyric tenor and a recitalist, and later a faculty member at Juilliard School during the 1980s. Sperry died of heart failure in Manhattan, on June 13, 2024, at the age of 90.



Martti Wallén  
1948 - 2024

Martti Wallén was a Finnish operatic bass singer. Born in Helsinki, he performed both internationally and in his native country where he was a visiting soloist at the Finnish National Opera for many years. He created the role of the Judge in the world premiere of Aulis Sallinen's *The Horseman* at the Savonlinna Opera Festival in 1975. He was a member of the Royal Swedish

Opera from 1975 to 2000. Wallén died in Sineu on 29 June 2024, at the age of 75.



Lucius Banda  
1970 - 2024

Lucius Chicco Banda, better known by his stage name Soldier Lucius Banda, was a Malawian singer-songwriter, music producer and politician. Lucius Banda began his music career in 1983 at the age of 13, singing with his brother Paul Banda and the Alleluya Band. He furthered his music education by attending a music school in South Africa in 1993. He recorded his first album, "Son of a Poor Man," and in 1997, formed his own band, Zembani, with the goal of promoting local musicians in Malawi. His political career brought challenges, such as being convicted of having fake academic qualifications and serving time in prison. However, he was able to bounce back and even regain a seat

THOSE WE HAVE LOST



in parliament in 2014. Throughout his career, he released numerous albums and was involved in international performances that brought attention to the political situation in Malawi. Latterly, Banda faced health issues, including high blood pressure and kidney failure. Banda died of renal failure at Sunninghill Hospital in South Africa, aged 53.



Kong Nay  
កង់ នៃ  
1944 - 2024

Kong Nay, also known as Kong Nai, was a Cambodian musician from Kampot Province known for playing the traditional chapei dang veng (a Cambodian two-stringed, long-necked guitar that is usually plucked). He won the 2017 Fukuoka Arts and Culture Prize for his contributions to music. Blinded by smallpox at a young age, Kong Nay learned to play the chapei by mimicking the sounds he heard in his village. He quickly became proficient and started playing professionally at the age of 18. After winning a national chapei competition in 1991, he received a monthly salary and land in Phnom Penh. In declining health towards the end of his life, Kong Nay passed away on 28 June at the age of 80 in 2024.



Lando Bartolini  
1937 - 2024

Lando Bartolini was an Italian operatic tenor who appeared internationally at major opera houses and festivals. After studies in Philadelphia, he made his debut there in 1968, and received international attention in 1973 in Mascagni's Iris at the Liceu in

THOSE WE HAVE LOST



Barcelona. He was a member of the New York City Opera from 1976 to 1979, and performed at the Arena di Verona between 1983 and 1998. With a spinto voice, he focused on Italian opera from bel canto to verismo, appearing in 49 roles. He died at his home in the Pistoia mountains on 28 June 2024, after a prolonged illness.



Alexander Knaifel  
Алекса́ндр Кна́йфель  
1943 - 2024

Alexander Aronovich Knaifel was a Soviet composer from Tashkent, Uzbekistan, known for his operas *The Ghost of*

*Canterville* and *Alice in Wonderland* as well as for his music for cinema. He produced over 80 compositions in various genres and more than 40 film scores. Some of his works, such as *Agnus Dei*, *Nika*, and *Solaris*, showcase his unique approach to music composition. He later faced being blacklisted in 1979, for participating in Western music festivals.



Gary Grant  
n.d. - 2024

Gary E. Grant was an American trumpet player, composer and producer, and session musician. After graduation, he toured with the Woody Herman band as a lead trumpet player and featured soloist. Gary spent

THOSE WE HAVE LOST



three years in Hawaii before moving to Los Angeles in 1975 to pursue a career as a full-time musician. He played with his own big band and 7 piece ensemble, recorded with Quincy Jones, and was a member of the Jerry Hey Horns. During his career, Grant has played on hundreds of commercial recordings.



## Ray St. Germain 1940 - 2024

Ray St. Germain, OM, was a Canadian singer, author, and television host known for his work on various television shows, including Time for Living and Big Sky Country. He also ran for federal office in 2006 as a Liberal candidate. St. Germain

was an active voice actor, working on children's series like Tipi Tales. He was a founding member of the Alberta Old Tyme Fiddlers' Association and hosted over 600 television shows on different networks. St. Germain received numerous awards for his contributions to Canadian culture, including the Order of Manitoba and induction into the Canadian Country Music Hall of Fame. He entertained Canadian Forces overseas and was highly involved in promoting Métis culture through his work with APTN. St. Germain passed away on 25 June 2024, aged 83.



## John DeFrancesco 1940 - 2024

"Papa" John DeFrancesco was an American jazz organist and vocalist, and father of musicians Joey DeFrancesco and Johnny DeFrancesco. His discography includes several albums released from 1993 to 2011. He passed away on June 25, 2024.

# THOSE WE HAVE LOST





## Jewel Brown 1937 - 2024

Jewel Brown was an American jazz and blues singer. She began her career at a young age by performing in clubs in Galveston and Houston. She later joined Louis Armstrong's band in the 1960s and performed with notable artists like Dizzy Gillespie. In 2007, Brown was inducted into the Blues Smithsonian Hall of Fame. She passed away on June 25, 2024, at the age of 86, due to colon cancer.



## Gunnar Stubseid 1948 - 2024

Gunnar Stubseid was a Norwegian educator, folk musician, writer, and magazine editor. He played the Hardanger fiddle and was part of the music group Slinkombas. They released two albums, one of which won a Spellemannprisen award. Stubseid also edited the magazine Spelemannsbladet and wrote several books, including a biography of folk musician Sigbjørn Bernhoft Osa. He served as rector at the Ole Bull Academy from 2003 to 2011. He died in June 2024, at 76 years old.

# THOSE WE HAVE LOST





## Shifty Shellshock 1974 - 2024

Seth Brooks Binzer, better known by his stage name Shifty Shellshock, was an American rapper and singer-songwriter who cofounded the rap rock band Crazy Town, known for their hit song "Butterfly". He later had a solo career as well. Binzer released his only solo album, *Happy Love Sick*, in 2004. In July 2010, Binzer's new group, Shifty and the Big Shots, released their first single, "Save Me".

Binzer struggled with addiction throughout his career and appeared on the reality television series *Celebrity Rehab* and *Sober House*. Binzer was found dead at his home in Los Angeles on June 24, 2024, at the age of 49, from an accidental drug overdose.



## Betty Veldpaus 1952 - 2024

Betty Veldpaus was a Dutch musician, known for the country and pop band Pussycat, fronted with sisters Toni and Marianne. Their song "Mississippi" was a number one hit in most European countries, including the UK, in 1975/6. Their career in Europe spanned more than a decade and included some seventeen albums. In 2001, the compilation album *25 Years After Mississippi* was released and reached the charts. In 2005, the band recorded "Somewhere Someone" with Major Dundee and contributed background vocals to a Dutch reggae cover in 2007. In 2023, unreleased demos were released as the album *"Unreleased Demos 1983."* On 28 June 2024, Betty Veldpaus died at the age of 72.

# THOSE WE HAVE LOST



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marine mammals are  
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**BILLION**  
plastic  
water  
bottles are  
thrown  
away every  
year

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approximately

**90%**

of all trash floating on the ocean



The average American  
throws away  
approximately



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## Jethro Tull

*Spin Me Back Down The Years deluxe edition*





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

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

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

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

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





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## *Inside Number 3*

# A Visual History Of Apple Records

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





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

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

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

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

<https://www.musicglue.com/inside-no-3/>



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

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

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

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



# The Fall

## *Take America*

### 10CD box set

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

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

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

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





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

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

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

The deluxe edition box set also includes:

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





- Six postcards featuring photos by Bainbridge

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

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

<https://www.musicglue.com/iona/products/dave-bainbridge-deluxe-box-set-with-signed-and-numbered-certificate-includes-cd1-high-quality-wav-for-immediate-download-in-stock-now-2>

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

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



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

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

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





## **Dave Bainbridge** *Celestial Fire – Live In The UK*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Jonathan & Brad



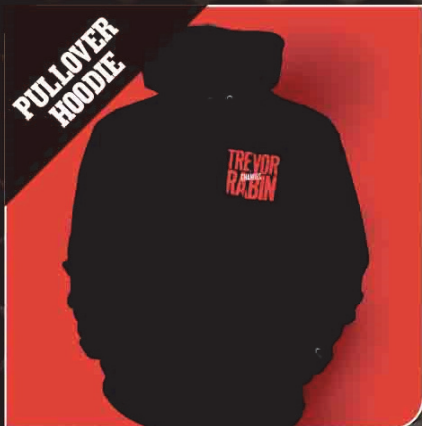
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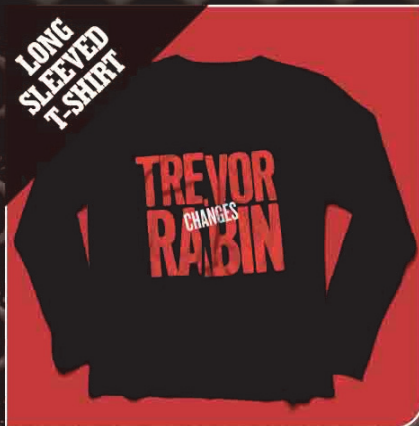


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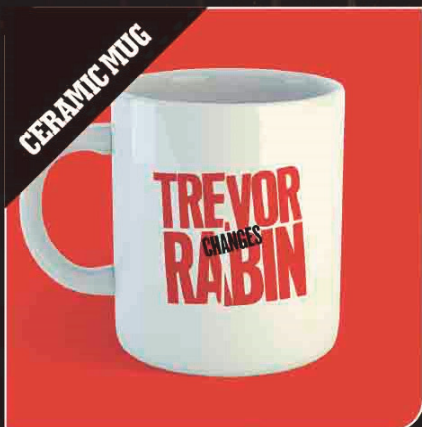
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# Official Merchandise





**Jolicoeur**

**By**

**Configa x Tommy Evans**

Whenever anything comes my way via UK Super Producer Configa, you can

bet that there is always a fellow legendary name in Hip Hop attached and this one is no different. Jolicoeur is the hot new release from what is Hip Hop's first Rapper/Producer PhD collaboration, yes indeed both Configa and veteran UK Emcee Tommy Evans, both have a PhD.

# STEVE RIDER



If you are familiar with the blog then you will know my previous reviews for Configa and be well acquainted with the main man himself, who has worked with the likes of Arrested Development, Chuck D and Big Daddy Kane alongside his producer albums but, this will be the first time I have featured Tommy Evans. I am not going to give you a huge lowdown on him but, for those of you who might not be familiar with his work; he was born in Leeds before making London his home. Introduced to Hip Hop in the early eighties, he began rapping seriously in 1995 and was linked with a number of crews before forming Junkyard Tactics in 1996. After JYT supported De La Soul in 1997, Tommy went solo in 1998, and linked up with the YNR Crew in Huddersfield before making his debut on Jehst's 1999 "Premonitions EP" with the track Deadly Combination. Since that time he has dropped his own releases via YNR, his own label run with Jehst and Cee-Why, and worked along some of the UK's best. His debut album, New Years Revolutions, came in 2004 on YNR. It is impossible for me to list Tommy's collaborations and achievements here but just know that it is extensive and worldwide. I followed many of the YNR releases myself back in the late 90's and early 2000's, so it is truly a pleasure to feature his work here.

The album Jolicoeur, meaning A Gallant Heart, is a homage to the late Dave of De La Soul but still encapsulates the artistic ethos and authenticity of both Configa and Tommy Evans. The project features appearances from Speech (Arrested Development), Sarah Sayed (Lebanese-American Poet), Matthew Allman and Malala, alongside some of London's emerging vocal talents including Doella, Glorynade, Nyotaa, Tay-Shan, and VVN, there is even an appearance from another legendary UK emcee in the form of Kyza. You really get the sense, even before listening, that this album is shaping up to be something special, if maybe a little different.

However, there is only one way to know that for sure and that is to follow me as I take you through my impressions of the album.

The album begins with Summertime which features Matthew Allman, Configa brings this stunning funk fuelled beat that has bass, guitars, and keys, all of which combine to give a vibe that is the very definition of how summer sounds. Matthew Allmans soulful vocals are like an audible summer breeze, cooling you from the heat. Tommy Evans brings some uplifting vocals that takes us on brief but enjoyable trip through the summer months, letting us know that it's all about the things that uplift you and bring a smile to your face. That smile remains firmly planted on your face as the bass, drums and keys of Every Situation keeps the vibe going with an infectious sound that keeps you moving. This one sees Tommy Evans speaking on how you see yourself and the outcome of the situations you find yourself in every day. It's all about keeping a positive outlook as you go into each one, even seeing yourself already living in the best possible outcome and keeping that faith as you walk forward.

They Are Not Expecting Us To Fight features Speech and sees regular collaborator Configa bring us a solid boom bap beat with guitar vibes that gets your head nodding and your fists pumping the sky. This one really has that revolutionary vibe to it, which really reflects the feelings of so many of us in today's society. All round the world people are becoming fed up with the narratives imposed on them by the ruling elite and are standing up to be heard and to fight for their rights as free people. Straight after that feeling of the energy of millions of people all around the world coming together Getaway is about the opposite and brings keys, drums and bass to the table with a vibe that brings your focus back to the self with the jazzy vocals of Doella. This






one really does look at taking time for yourself, doing whatever it takes to ground yourself and bring you back into who you truly are, because the world around you often gets too much with the constant influx of negative stimulus and just being you again is the best way to reset, regardless of how you achieve it...

We Made It features Tay-Shan and Sarah Sayad, Configa brings us the kind of uplifting sound that is reminiscent of his work with Arrested Development, bringing an infectious vibe you can't help but move to. Tay-Shan's soulful vocals, Sarah Sayad's poetry and Tommy Evans' lyrics all merge to bring you a vibe that brings

those good feelings to the forefront as it lifts you up, making you think about all that you have achieved yourself, and invites you to really feel good about those moments because they made you who you are and put you in this place, in the here and now, so be proud of that because you made it too. Thunder and the sound of rain herald the arrival of The Water, featuring Glorynade, this one has drums and keys that bring a more Lo-Fi Hip Hop vibe, inviting you to listen a little bit more. In fact, this one invites you to think more about the part water plays in our lives and just how much our experiences with water so often mirror so many of life's experiences. Water is critical to our survival, but it can also be detrimental if






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## Jolicoeur

by Configa x Tommy Evans




 They Are Not Expecting Us To Fight (feat. Speech)  
00:00 / 03:36


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-  1. Summertime (feat. Matthew Allman) 03:17
-  2. Every Situation 02:51
-  3. They Are Not Expecting Us To Fight (feat. Speech) 03:36



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we drink too much; water can also help us travel to places or we can drown in it. We have to respect the part water plays in our lives and treat it with the respect it deserves.

Keep The Faith features Kyza and Nyotaa and has strings alongside the bass and drums, bringing a soulful vibe that you want to close your eyes to and just feel it. The message here is just to keep the faith that all will be ok. There are so many challenges that we are presented with in our day-to-day lives that it is easy to give up or look for the easy way out, but the important thing is to stay in a positive frame of mind and know that the brighter days are coming and soon enough the sun will shine on you. There is this mariachi guitar vibe on Senoritas, alongside a nice head nod beat too of course, that gets you in a reflective mood. VVN brings some chilled soul vibes here as it is all about how that special someone can bring so much to your life, bringing maturity and love. This one also made me reflect on just what feminine energy can bring to your life, you just have to be open to it.

The penultimate track is Memory Lane which features Doella's jazzy vocals once more. Configa brings strings, bass and drums, creating a chilled feel-good sound. Tommy Evans takes us on an uplifting trip down his own memory lane, giving us a great insight into some of the experiences he has had along the way. As you listen, it kind of makes you cast your own mind back to some of those moments that were perhaps life defining or just those which you enjoyed, bringing a smile to your face again. The last track is Love Like This, which features Malala and has this big uplifting sound that will have you moving regardless. You can't get more uplifting than love, and when you can express love for all that is around you, that is something special but, as Tommy says, when you can truly love yourself, then that is a love unlike anything you have ever felt until that moment. So, walk through life expressing love for all you see around you because the more love you give out, the more you will receive.

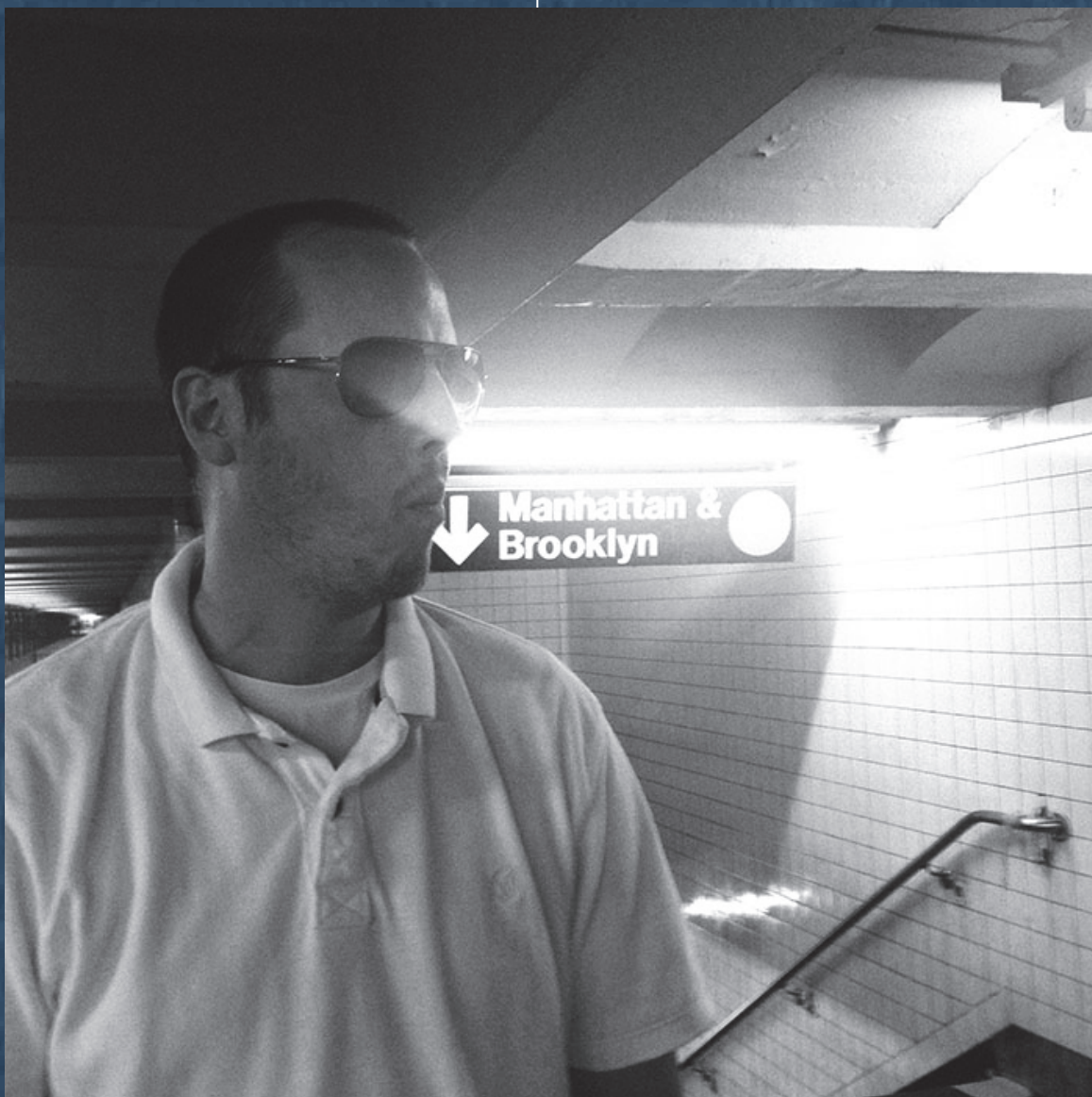




Now, it is not often that you will listen to an album that uplifts you and keeps you there throughout its duration, but Jolicoeur does just that, it really is a triumph in feel-good music. It really is hard to say anything more about this than it is a true pleasure to listen to. From start to finish, Jolicoeur raises you right up and holds you there, keeping you in this state of near euphoria. The energy seems to emanate from both the music and the lyrics and gives you the feeling that this album has been infused with good vibes. This album is like lighting a good incense, it fills your mind, body and soul with positive vibes, just like the way the incense fills the room with an uplifting aroma.

Configa proves, yet again, why he is one of THE go to Hip Hop producers as he brings the kind of uplifting energy infused beats that you just don't want to turn off, which is really hard when you are trying to review because you don't want to pause the track or stop it to keep writing. He has this knack of being in sync with whoever he is working with, bringing the perfect sound to life that will create a platform for their vocals and lyrics, and that is perfect for Tommy Evans here. I say that because Tommy's lyrics are from the heart and come with this infectious positivity that takes over your whole body, just like the touch from Midas. To be honest, even the way his lyrics flow has an uplifting feel to it and that is why I say





he performs from the heart, because when you truly come from the heart, a place of love, you project nothing but positive vibes into everything you do, and this album really does have that feel about it.

I would even say that all the guest artists who feature on this album also bring that air of positivity and love. They all fit so well into their places on the album, imbuing each track with an extra dimension of energy and feeling that speaks to you on an unconscious level, perfectly mirroring the overall energy of the album.

I really don't think there is much more that I need to say here. Jolicoeur is an

uplifting Hip Hop masterpiece that will make you feel good no matter the time of year you listen to it. However, it is out right now so I suggest you listen to it in the present...

My humble thanks to Configa once more for giving me the chance to do my thing on such a truly stunning album.

I'll see ya next time.

Steve.





# MARK AT THE MOVIES

*Mark Raines*



**Directed by Alex Brewer, Ben Brewer**

**Release dates**

**March 13, 2016 (SXSW)**

**April 14, 2016 (United States)**

## **Plot**

Young police Sergeant David Waters and his older boss and friend Lieutenant Jim Stone both work in the Evidence Management unit of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department. Disillusioned and bored

with their jobs, they also find it hard to make ends meet financially. While looking through case files, Jim comes across a mysterious case: a low level drug dealer who was bailed out of jail—paid for with \$200,000 in cash—indicating that this dealer has access to large amounts of money.

Using his vacation days, Jim conducts unapproved undercover surveillance at the hotel where the drug dealer works. He discovers that all of the merchandise that the dealer's gang moves is taken to one building, and never moved out. David acquires blueprints from the county planning office and discovers that the gang has built a large safe in the back of an industrial freezer in the building. Realizing it is unguarded, Jim and David decide to break into the safe and steal the contents. They map out the exact location of the safe and

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

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



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acquire a floor-standing drill press and a diamond-tipped drill from Germany to drill into the safe door. They also buy black market firearms to use instead of their service pistols, paying for everything with illegally acquired cash from a corrupt colleague. The complicated plan requires them to drill into the safe door from the residential apartment above the freezer, to allow them to attack the safe without triggering "failsafe" door locks. Much of the heist is planned in meticulous detail, but the plan for dealing with whoever is in the targeted apartment is left unclear.

On the day of the theft, the two break into the apartment above the freezer, but they do not handle the two occupants, a man and a woman, very well. They restrain and muffle the two, but Jim ends up shooting and killing the man after a spitting incident goes bad. They use up two regular drill bits going through the concrete that divides the two spaces. They then use the diamond-tipped drill to go into the safe door, but the drill press stops working when a drive belt breaks. Having no spare belts, the two build an improvised explosive to finish the hole. Once the hole is completed, Jim watches the safe's tumblers using a long flexible cystoscope, while David manipulates the safe's dial. As each number is identified, David writes it on the safe door. When the door is opened, the two discover that the high-tech vault is filled with extraordinary high-value gems and cash. Jim is elated, but David becomes concerned that stealing so many valuables from the gang will get them tracked down and killed. They decide to return to the apartment to clean up, in preparation to leave, and David locks the safe behind him as the two

go back upstairs.

In the apartment, David, becomes empathetic for the surviving female hostage. She asks David to call her husband, so she can make sure that her 3-year-old son is taken care of—David agrees and the woman has a very brief conversation with whoever answers the phone. They break down the drillbit and discuss what is left to be done before they leave. When Jim and David return to the safe, Jim discovers that David not only re-locked the safe door, but also erased the combination numbers. Enraged, Jim threatens David at gunpoint, forcing him to open the safe. The valuables are loaded into bags and Jim begins loading bags into their van. But when David goes to kill the woman, he gets cold feet and shoots Jim instead. After a brief shootout, Jim is finally killed.

David returns all the valuables back into the safe and loads the woman hostage into the van, promising her that he will release her when they get far enough away from the city. As they are driving on a deserted stretch of road, the van is surrounded by other vehicles, including a contractor's truck marked with a company's phone number—the same phone number that the woman had David call earlier. David attempts to identify himself as a police officer, but he is shot dead, and the movie closes with physical evidence from the car and heist being catalogued and stored in the Evidence Management building where David and Jim used to work.

### **Solidly workmanlike plot**

#### **Film Trailer**

<https://youtu.be/TLspHA8m6Ac?si=O9Mr02k1I0riL15B>



**Running Time 1 H 30 M**  
**Rated 18**

**3 out of 4**

**Directed by Guy Hamilton**  
**Release date**  
**25 January 1955**

### **Plot**

During World War II, the Germans transformed Colditz Castle into a high security prisoner-of-war camp called Oflag IV-C. Its purpose was to restrain those Allied prisoners who had attempted to escape from other Oflag's and so Colditz housed various nationalities who were mainly British, Dutch, French and Polish. Among the British prisoners are Pat Reid and Senior British Officer Colonel Richmond. Richmond is warned by the

Kommandant that "escaping is verboten" but Richmond has no intention of heeding this advice. All the prisoners are wary of Priem, the chief security officer, who is efficient and tenacious.

Reid and other British officers attempt to open a manhole cover one night but are foiled by a simultaneous French attempt which alerts the German guards. Reid and La Tour argue about the lack of co-operation, both blaming the other. Later, a British tunnel is making progress until it meets another being dug by the Dutch officers and a collapse occurs. Richmond decides to act and proposes the creation by each nationality of escape officers who must liaise at all times to make sure attempts do not interfere with each other. This would be on the understanding that the escape officers





do not themselves take part in an escape. Reid accepts the post for the British contingent. Soon afterwards, Winslow is hidden among palliasses being taken out of the castle and is not immediately caught.

Richmond gains agreement for his own escape plan which hinges on his impersonation of a feldwebel called Franz Josef. This seems to be succeeding until, at the key moment, the German guards emerge and arrest all concerned. Tyler is shot and wounded. Richmond, Reid and a dozen others are placed in solitary for a month and the likelihood of an informer is first discussed. This turns out to be the case when one of the Polish officers, whose family have been threatened by the Gestapo, is found to be collaborating with the guards and betraying escape plans.

After two weeks on the run, Winslow is recaptured and returned to Colditz. While he is in the solitary compound, he talks to La Tour during a physical exercise session and watches as La Tour, helped by a compatriot, leaps over the barbed wire fence. Winslow runs into a guard to stop him shooting La Tour who runs to freedom. Soon afterwards, Richmond expresses annoyance that no British officer has yet made a complete escape.

Reid's friend McGill approaches Richmond with a new plan but says he will only disclose it if Richmond will relieve Reid from his escape officer duties so that McGill and Reid can make the attempt together. Richmond agrees and McGill convinces Reid that the plan is feasible. The escapees will be disguised as German officers but

will approach the guards from the direction of the German mess. McGill argues that previous attempts have failed because the escapees came from the wrong direction. The attempt will coincide with a revue being staged in the castle theatre, to which all senior German officers are being invited.

McGill is very tall and has antagonised the guards many times by reckless behaviour. Richmond realises that he will be too conspicuous and asks him to stand down so that other officers including Reid will have a good chance of making the plan work. McGill accepts Richmond's reasoning but is devastated. Next day, he attempts to scale the wire fence surrounding the exercise compound and is shot dead by the guards. Reid, on learning of Richmond's decision, says he will not let the escape attempt proceed but Richmond persuades him to do it for McGill's sake. The escape goes ahead as planned while the revue is being staged. Four men get out of the castle but two are soon recaptured. Several days later, Richmond receives a postcard with a cryptic message. He announces to the assembled and cheering prisoners that Reid and Winslow have successfully crossed into neutral Switzerland.

### **Classic Wartime Film**

#### **Film Trailer**

<https://youtu.be/GdF5oXNC-GU?si=S5rkdYHhGJrqto>

**Running Time 1 H 34 M**  
**Rated U**

**4 out of 4**





**Directed by Marc Webb**

**Release date**

**April 7, 2017 (United States)**

### **Plot**

In St. Petersburg, Florida, seven-year-old Mary Adler, a mathematical genius, lives with her uncle and de facto guardian, Frank. Her best friend is her 43-year-old neighbor, Roberta Taylor. Frank, a former philosophy professor now boat mechanic, feels strongly that Mary should attend a normal elementary school so she can have a normal childhood.

On her first day of first grade, she shows remarkable mathematical talent, which impresses her teacher, Bonnie Stevenson. Bonnie tries to ask Frank about it but he tries to pass it off as the Trachtenberg system until Bonnie tricks Mary into completing a college math test, and confronts Frank again. It emerges that Mary's mother, Diane, had been a promising mathematician, dedicated to the Navier–Stokes

problem (one of the unsolved Millennium Prize Problems) before committing suicide when Mary was six months old. Mary has lived with Frank ever since.

Despite Mary's initial disdain for average children her own age and her boredom with their classwork, she begins to bond with them when she brings her one-eyed cat, Fred, for show-and-tell. Later, she defends a classmate from a bully on the school bus, something that Frank is not concerned about. After the incident, the principal, having discovered Mary's math talent, encourages Frank to send Mary to a private school for gifted children, offering the opportunity of a scholarship. However, Frank turns it down, based on his family's experiences with similar schools.

The principal contacts Frank's estranged mother and Mary's maternal grandmother, Evelyn. Evelyn, a former mathematician herself, is of the opinion that people with capabilities such as Mary's have an obligation to use their talents to further help society and therefore feels that Mary should be specially tutored in preparation for a life devoted to mathematics, much as Diane was. But Frank is adamant that his sister would want Mary to be in a normal school and have the childhood she did not have. Evelyn later sues him for full custody.

While Evelyn is on the stand in court, it is revealed that she kept Diane socially isolated and forced her to be completely focused on mathematics. When Diane and her teenage boyfriend ran away to a ski resort, Evelyn threatened to charge him with kidnapping, forcing him to break up with Diane. Diane attempted suicide for the first time shortly after, which Evelyn argues was an isolated incident.



When Frank takes the stand, he admits working at a low-paying job without health insurance. His lawyer, worried that the judge will side with Evelyn who has a better financial situation, encourages Frank to take a deal offered by Evelyn's lawyer. Mary would be placed in foster care and attend the private school dictated by Evelyn. The foster parents live 25 minutes from Frank's home, he will be entitled to scheduled visits, and Mary will be able to decide where she wants to live after her 12th birthday.

Devastated at being placed in foster care, Mary refuses to see Frank when he visits. Later, he learns that Fred was put up for adoption. Frank realizes that Evelyn, who is allergic to cats, is overseeing Mary's education in the foster home.

Frank goes to the foster home and reconciles with Mary. He reveals to Evelyn that Diane had completed the Navier–Stokes Problem which Evelyn was obsessed with and pushed her to solve. However, Diane instructed Frank to publish the equation only after Evelyn's death, which reveals her deep resentment for her mother. Frank offers Evelyn the opportunity to publish Diane's work in exchange for Mary's custody, to which she agrees. Mary is placed back in Frank's custody, she socializes with children her age while taking college-level courses.

**It's a simple, straightforward film, but sometimes that's all you need as long as its heart is true.**

#### Film Trailer

<https://youtu.be/x7CAjpdRaXU?si=Xoovx1uPuxsPyrnU>

**Running Time 1 H 41 M**  
**Rated 12**

**4 out of 4**



**Directed by Julius Avery**

#### Release dates

**16 October 2014 (Australia)**

**30 January 2015 (United Kingdom)**

#### Plot

A 19-year-old youth, JR, is sent to an Australian prison for a minor crime. His cellmate is being sexually abused by a prison gang led by a man named Dave. JR also meets the charismatic Brendan Lynch, a notorious Scottish armed robber. Later, JR finds his cellmate sharpening a shiv to defend himself. When Dave and his gang move against the cellmate, JR initiates a fight to forestall the attack. Lynch scolds JR for meddling, and soon after, JR's cellmate is again sexually assaulted and commits suicide. When Dave and his gang try to rape JR, Lynch and his men, Sterlo



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and Merv, rescue JR and kill Dave. In exchange for Lynch's protection during JR's sentence, JR agrees to perform tasks for Lynch once he is paroled.

Upon release six months later, JR meets crime lord Sam and his nephew Josh. JR is given an apartment and a briefcase of Lynch's personal effects, including a pistol. A young woman named Tasha arrives at the apartment to give JR cash and a cellphone. Following instructions, JR illegally purchases high-powered firearms and hijacks a scenic tour helicopter, forcing the pilot at gunpoint to extract Lynch and his gang under heavy gunfire. They continue their escape by car, but while Merv buys food at a convenience store, the other three discover from a radio broadcast that Merv lied about being incarcerated for GBH; he actually raped a schoolgirl. Lynch brutally beats Merv and expels him from the gang.

The three head to Sam's estate. There he recruits Lynch and his men to execute a gold heist at Kalgoorlie, with an expected payout in the millions. During a party at the estate, JR spots Tasha, whom he follows to the poolside, where Josh pushes him into the pool. JR, unable to swim, is rescued by Tasha, and the two go to a restaurant. Tasha reveals her relationship with Sam and tells JR that people who run from Sam are killed.

The next morning, Lynch warns JR not to be distracted by Tasha. They then visit the quarry they plan to rob. Lynch tells JR that his role in the heist will be to access the room with the gold and ensure that no employee presses a panic button. Lynch also recruits a rally racer named Chris as the getaway driver.

Back at Sam's estate, the gang plan the heist and a fight breaks out between JR and Josh. JR heads to the bar where he uses his gun to scare away some men who are harassing Tasha. Lacking proper immigration papers, she is angry with JR's impulsiveness, but she proposes meeting at the beach near his house. Later that night, JR sneaks out to meet Tasha; they go into the water and have sex.

The next day, the group infiltrates the quarry and inserts JR into the ventilation shaft above the gold room. JR successfully intimidates the employees into not pressing the panic button and lets the rest of the crew in. Lynch tells Josh to guard the employees while JR watches the gold poured into bars. This infuriates Josh, who shoots an employee in the leg, whereupon Lynch breaks Josh's nose. When police arrive, the crew, disguised as employees, carries six gold bars into the open while holding the real employees at gunpoint. Lynch releases the hostages and opens fire. Chris arrives with the getaway vehicle, but Sterlo is shot. Chris causes two pursuit vehicles to crash and the gang escapes. Sterlo dies after instructing Lynch to give his cut of the heist to his daughter.

Sam betrays Lynch, JR, and Tasha, but the three escape safely and travel to Melbourne, where Sam plans to meet his fence. JR and Lynch sabotage the rendezvous, killing Sam's henchman and kidnapping Josh. After interrogating him, they find the gold stashed in a storage unit.

Lynch and JR kill Sam at his estate, and Lynch offers JR \$350,000 to leave. JR reveals that he realized Lynch would discard him once he had acquired the gold, so he masterminded a plan to steal the gold with Tasha and take half. Lynch has no choice but to accept JR's terms



and wait, but a woman identifies Lynch, who is captured and jailed. Later JR sends Lynch a message detailing where the gold has been left for him, written on the back of a photo of a pregnant Tasha, hinting at an optimistic future.

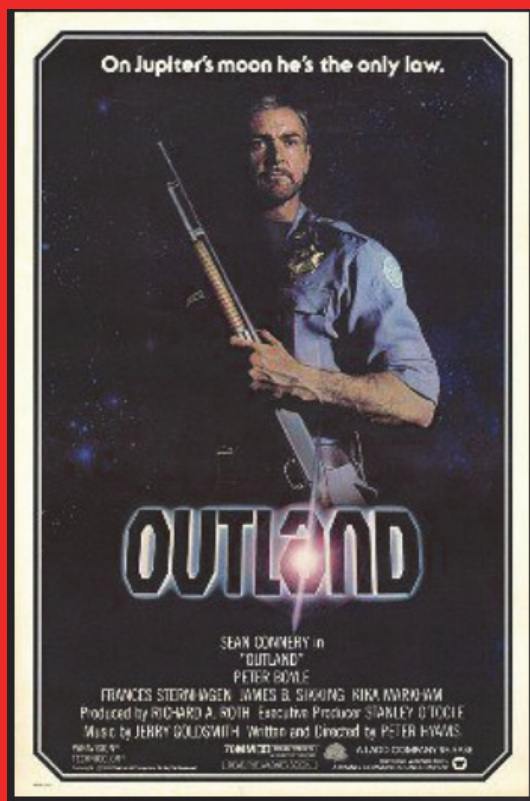
### Crime Drama

#### Film Trailer

<https://youtu.be/v6LQzRBDjA0?si=ZM4soGg01nazZe5r>

**Running Time 1 H 48 M**  
**Rated 15**

**3 out of 4**



**Directed by Peter Hyams**  
**Release date**  
**22 May 1981 (US)**

#### Plot

Federal Marshal William O'Niel is

assigned to a tour of duty at the titanium ore mining outpost Con-Am 27, operated by the company Con-Amalgamated on the Jovian moon of Io. Conditions on Io are difficult; gravity is 1/6 that of Earth's with no breathable atmosphere, and spacesuits are cumbersome with limited air. Shifts are long but significant bonuses are paid. The general manager, Mark Sheppard, boasts that productivity has broken all records since he took over. Carol, O'Niel's wife, feels she cannot raise their son Paul on Io and leaves with their child to the Jupiter space station to await a shuttle back to Earth. Tarlow, a miner, suffers an attack of stimulant psychosis – he sees spiders and rips open his spacesuit – resulting in death by explosive decompression. Cane, another miner, enters an elevator without his spacesuit during another psychotic episode and dies from decompression. With the reluctant assistance of Dr. Lazarus, O'Niel investigates the deaths.

Another incident involves a worker, Sagan, who takes a prostitute hostage and threatens to kill her with a knife. O'Niel attempts to calm the man while Montone, his sergeant, sneaks in via the air duct and kills Sagan with a shotgun. O'Niel and Lazarus discover that Sagan had traces of polydichloric euthimal, a powerful amphetamine-type drug in his bloodstream, which would allow a miner to work continuously for days at a time until they burn out and turn psychotic after approximately ten months of use. O'Niel uncovers a drug distribution ring run by Sheppard and sanctioned by now repentant Montone.

Using surveillance cameras, O'Niel finds and captures Nicholas Spota, one of Sheppard's dealers, who is murdered before he can be questioned. Montone is found garrotted. In a meat locker, O'Niel





finds the latest shipment of drugs, which was shipped from the space station. He is attacked there by another dealer, Russell Yario. O'Niel, wearing an anti-garrotting collar, knocks him out, then destroys the shipment of drugs. When Sheppard finds out, he threatens O'Niel and contacts his drug distributor, asking him to send in professional hitmen. O'Niel is prepared, having hacked into Sheppard's communications.

O'Niel waits for the arrival of the hitmen on a supply shuttle from the other side of Jupiter. Realizing what is coming and with only Dr. Lazarus willing to help him, O'Niel sends a message to his family promising to return to Earth when his "job is done". O'Niel ambushes the assassins one by one. Lazarus helps him kill the first by trapping him in a pressurized corridor; O'Niel activates a bomb, causing an explosive decompression that kills the man. The second is killed in a glass greenhouse structure of the outpost when O'Niel tricks him into shooting a window, causing it to break open and blow him out to his death.

O'Niel is then confronted and

attacked by Sheppard's inside man - one of his own deputies, Sgt. Ballard. The two fight outside the outpost near the satellite structure until O'Niel pulls Ballard's oxygen hose, suffocating him as he pushes him into an electrical generation station, vaporizing him on impact. O'Niel then confronts the surprised Sheppard inside the outpost's recreation bar, knocking him out with one punch. It is implied Sheppard will now be brought to justice or murdered by his own associates. O'Niel, however, has already contacted his superiors about Sheppard's associates, some of whom are Con-Am executives, and shortly before his departure receives a communication that warrants have been issued for their arrests. O'Niel bids farewell to Lazarus and leaves on the shuttle to join his wife and son on the journey back to Earth.

"A brilliant sci-fi Western.

#### Film Trailer

<https://youtu.be/mYc2GQyrAlw?si=MfG0iELNS4J6ShgL>

**Running Time 1 H 45 M**  
**Rated 15**

**3 out of 4**





c.j.stone

# DRUIDS

“Are you a druid?” she said.

“Pardon? Whatever gave you that idea?” I said, slightly bemused. It’s not often you get asked a question like that. Not in the stairwell of one of the blocks on Somerset Meadows it isn’t.

Her name is Mrs Rivers. She’s quite deaf. She screws up her face and watches my mouth when I talk, but she doesn’t hear what I’m saying. It’s easier and more polite to listen than to talk, so that’s what I do. I listen, and I never did find out what made her think I was a druid.

So she launched into this story, about the time she lived in Salisbury and went to Stonehenge for the solstice. This was in 1964, she said. It was very different in those days. There weren’t any fences and you could mingle freely with the stones. She went with a friend but they got the date wrong so there was no one there. But then they went back the next night and that’s when it all happened.

She was laughing while she told me this.

“And then the druids turned up,” she said. “They all had on those white headdresses, you know, and they were blowing trumpets, up in the air. No one seemed to know what was going on. We were all just milling around waiting for something to happen, and then the sun came up and we

all went home.”

I laughed. Not much has changed, I thought. The last time I went to Stonehenge for the solstice the sun came up and we all went home too.

After that Mrs Rivers and I smiled our goodbyes. I carried on down the stairs while she carried on up, and we’ve never had occasion to talk about Stonehenge again.

Somerset Meadows is where I live. It’s a cul-de-sac consisting of a number of red-brick blocks set in spacious communal lawns.

There are no gardens in Somerset Meadows. Every so often a man comes and buzzes round on a sit-down mower cutting the lawn and there are benches lined up on the sunny side of the blocks where people gather in the summer months to drink tea and chat. The small flower beds lining the blocks are tended communally. You get to know your neighbours very well around here. Your neighbours are never very far away.

It’s also full of old people.

I don’t quite know why that should be. It wasn’t designed with old people in mind. Not everyone is old. I just think that, not having gardens to tend, and with a residents



association to take care of the external repairs, it tends to suit older people.

Also I think that some people have been here since it was first built, way back in the 60s.

There's a lot of infirmity and the occasional death to witness.

I've been meditating on mortality ever since I came here.

But I liked Mrs Rivers' story. She went to Stonehenge thirty five years ago, nothing much happened and she still remembers it.

How like life that is.

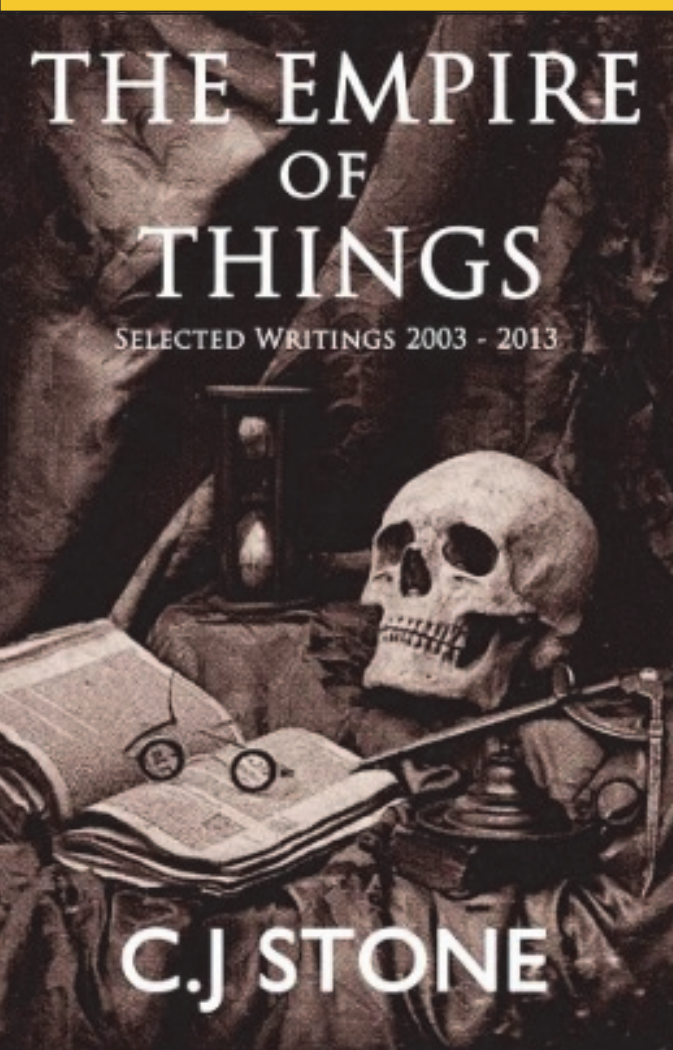
Well what actually happened is that the sun came up. The sun comes up every day, of course, but we're not always around to witness it. What made it memorable for Mrs Rivers is that she was at Stonehenge and she saw the druids. They blew their trumpets in the air in the eye of the sun in order to celebrate the moment, turning it

from a mundane event into a magical one.

Which reminds us: there's nothing mundane about a sunrise. It's a cosmic event, meaning that it takes place in the cosmos. It's part of the vast interweaving of the universe in its infinite play, complex and precise. It is only our perspective that makes it appear mundane and it is by our intent that we restore it to its magical glory once more.

# Read on

<https://discover.hubpages.com/religion-philosophy/Kindred-Spirit-Tales-of-Ordinary-Magic>



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# “Completely Quackers?”

Is this a fair comment on the Brits  
and their holiday-time games, muses  
*Alan Dearling*

This year the May Bank holiday Duck Race in Todmorden had to be postponed. It was too wet! It then took place a couple of weeks later – despite being another wet day in the Calderdale Valley! As ever, it provided twenty minutes of lively laughs as the plastic ducks, of all sizes, were dropped from into the river from a digger truck sited on road bridge in the

---

alan dearling





centre of town. The Duck Race was organised from the Tod Market with the Market Tavern landlord, Mark Arrowsmith, acting as the Master of Ceremonies on a mobile PA, calling out a loud, *“One – Two – Three. Go!”*

Whether a Duck Race is a raffle, a type of lottery, or, a gambling game, is a tad contentious. According to Wikipedia, the Duck Race is a relatively new event, (or, form of







popular madness, perhaps):

*“The location and origin of the first Duck Race is unclear... one source stat-*

*ing it took place in 1987 in Ottawa, Canada, while another says that a charity in Dyserth, Wales, held its first annual Duck Race in 1980.”*









Certainly, adopting a racing plastic duck and watching it career down a water-course has a quintessentially British feel to it. To my mind it is definitely a modern successor to Poohsticks' racing from A.A. Milne's Winnie the Pooh tale of Pooh's Game. It featured in the 1928 book, 'The House at Pooh Corner'. The bridge from where the Poohsticks were dropped was based on one in Ashdown Forest in East Sussex, which was itself was apparently the archetype for 100 Acre Wood in the Pooh stories.

In the 1960s I well remember building little model rafts with my mate David in Bognor Regis in Sussex and dumping them into the stream known locally as the River Rife. We then followed them from the banks along with David's three dogs. Sometimes we'd add excitement by attempting to 'bomb' the rafts with stones and mud-balls in order to sabotage and sink each other's maritime racing models. Aaah, the nostalgia for the simple pleasures of youth!

In the USA the unofficial record for the United States' duck races stands at over 200,000 ducks in Cincinnati which briefly raced in the Ohio River and raised more than a million dollars for the local foodbank. According to Wikipedia, *"The biggest duck race so far has taken place on London's River Thames on 31 August 2008. It was called the Great British Duck Race, with 250,000 blue rubber ducks in usage."*

Blue ducks were used after some spectators had dropped their own 'forged' traditional yellow ducks into the River Thames near the finishing line in a previous race leading to much confusion.

#

Here is the rest of the sequence of photos from the Todmorden annual charity fund-raising event. At the finishing line some rogue ducks and ducklings made a Great Escape, despite spectators on the bridge yelling out to the two Duck Race organisers in the river, *"They are BEHIND you!!!"*

## A NATION OF WEIRDOS?

It is one of the things that I love about the British is that there so completely ridiculous. One cannot imagine the Americans, or the French, for example, fielding parliamentary candidates with buckets on their heads, or even having the conception of the Official Monster Raving Loony Party.

And it is not just in contemporary times that such ridiculous behaviour has been the norm. Until the fascists in the Health and Safety Executive came involved one of the great British annual festivals took place in Gloucestershire, and I am pleased to be able to tell you that despite the disapproval of the authorities, with the exception of two years when COVID-19 stopped everything, the event continued unofficially, and continues to this day.

And can you imagine any other country celebrating anything as completely ludicrous as Morris dancing? Or any other country having come up with Monty Python's flying Circus?

Dare I quote from the legendary Michael Collins who once said to Winston Churchill, "how did you fucking eejits ever get an empire?"

Possibly because we were too peculiar and stupid to fail.

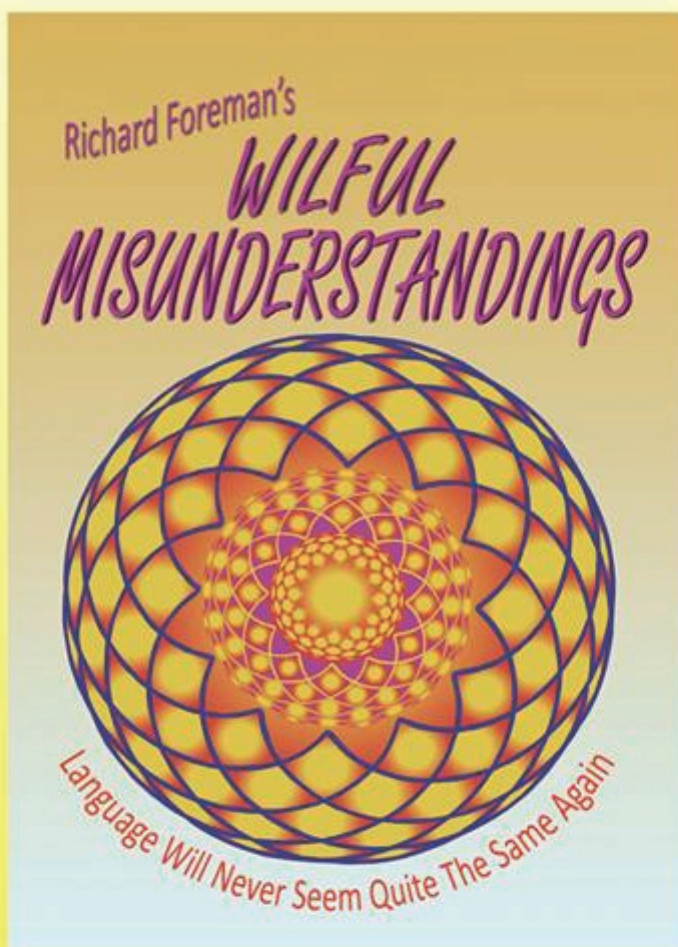


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# KEV'S WORLD



## **LEON ALVARADO THE CHANGING TIDE MELODIC REVOLUTION**

Keyboard player, drummer and singer Leon Alvarado has returned with his latest album which is very much a homage to the mighty Pink Floyd, something which is obvious from the first of the six songs through to the last which is a cover of "Brain Damage" and the only one to feature vocals. We even get small sound additions such as the ticking of a clock, a heartbeat etc which ensures the listener understands fully where the influences are coming from. To assist him in this

endeavour, Leon has brought in bassists Tony Franklin and Gary Gnaedinger, guitarists Edoardo Scordo and Damian Darlington (both members of Brit Floyd, who say they produce the world's greatest Pink Floyd show), alongside Jimmy Griggers (guitars) and saxophonist John Helliwell (Supertramp). Additionally, L.A. session musician Pablo Hopehayn contributes on strings and the backing vocals on "Brain Damage" are provided by Jeff Sanson, Liz Hall, and Linda Alvarado. I mean, just listen to the first half of "A Day of a Different Sort" and one would think this is a lost track from 'Dark Side' with Gilmour guitars, Waters bass and Wright-style keyboards. This song, more than any, moves from being influenced by Floyd to attempting very hard indeed to recreate the classic sound, not as a parody but as a homage.

There will be some Floyd fans who will be horrified that someone has attempted to reproduce the sound so closely, but for the most part there will be many others who are incredibly pleased in hearing this style being brought back to life, much more so than many of the bands who treat them more as an influence, such as RPWL. This is not a covers band, as most of the tracks are original, but when they

# KEV ROWLAND



want to move in that direction Leon is more than happy to oblige with a stunning rendition of “Brain Damage” to close it out. It may not be truly original, but then little is these days, and if you are a fan of classic Floyd then there is a great deal here to enjoy.



**MATT JOE GOW  
THE WOODSHED SESSIONS  
INDEPENDENT**

I have been fortunate to see Matt play in concert a few times, twice as totally solo and one with Kerry Fields and his Dead Leaves bandmate Andy Pollock. This acoustic session finds him with just Andy and long-time Dead Leaves member Katya Horrop, recording live in the studio on September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, with everything just one take with no overdubs. The three of them have been working together for years, and it shows in this set of songs taken from his award-winning albums, stripped back with the three musicians linked in as well, with Matt's wonderfully worn and broad vocals contrasting greatly with the sweet voice of Katya who harmonises wonderfully with him when the time is right.

A singer and a single instrument will always be the purest form of music for me, and I feel incredibly lucky to have seen Melbourne-based Gow play so many times in Auckland. He is at his most poignant when it is him and his guitar, and here the additional piano/banjo etc are

nuanced and adding to the emotion without distracting from it. The title cut of his last studio release, “Between Tonight & Tomorrow” is evocative, passionate and full of fragile strength. It is no wonder that his alt country style has won him so many accolades in both the country where he now resides and the country of his birth as there is a depth of feeling here which is honest and calls to the hearts of the listener. The last time I saw him play I phoned my wife and let her listen to what was taking place, and she was blown away by what she heard, something that is true of all fans of this style of music. He may not be from the Deep South of America, but he is from Dunedin and that is pretty much the same thing (-45.87416, 170.50361), and this is an album I can play time and time again. Matt writes songs which are relevant and full of pathos, and he has friends around him how fully understand what he wants to achieve and enables him to do just that. This is essential for all fans of modern country, full of soul and heart.



**MATT JOE GOW & KERRY  
FIELDS  
I REMEMBER YOU  
OILY RAG RECORDS**

Matt and Kerry may now be residents of Melbourne in Victoria, but they both grew up in Aotearoa, Matt on South Island and Kerry on the North. They are both well-known in their new home, with Matt's



'Between Tonight and Tomorrow' winning Music Victoria's Best Country Album 2023, while Kerryn's 'Water' won Music Victoria's Best Folk Album 2022. Here they have combined their songwriting skills in an album which is alt country with some folk influences, even covering some NZ royalty in Sir Dave Dobbyn's "It Dawned on Me" (how can that song be 30 years old now?). They have brought in a host of musicians to help them achieve their dreams, with Matt's Dead Leaves bandmate Andy Pollock very much at the heart of things, and it was this trio which I saw performing together to promote the album last year.

This album was only released at the beginning of May, but songs from it have been winning awards and recognition over the last year, yet while I enjoyed it, I found myself comparing Kerryn's vocals to Katya Horrop with whom Matt often performs as part of Dead Leaves, and I must confess I much prefer Katya's. That may be due to the genre, as I do not know Kerryn's own music, only what she has performed with Matt, but to my ears their voices do not always blend well together. She has a vocal style of her own, and I am sure that comes across better when not being placed with such a strong male performer as Matt. Given the huge kudos this album has received I am sure I am very much in the minority, and there are plenty of people out there calling this a masterpiece, but while there are some absolute classics on here such as "Heart of Gold", where Kerryn's vocals work very well indeed, there are plenty of others where they do not. Given the amount of publicity this album has been gaining I only hope it helps break them through into a much wider audience, but only time will tell if this project has longevity or if they decide to work in future as solo artists. For fans of alt country.



### **MELANIE MAU & MARTIN SCHNELLA THE RAINBOW TREEINDEPENDENT**

I have long been a fan of Melanie and Martin, who not only work together in multiple progressive rock bands but have also been producing wonderful albums where they take well-known songs and turn them into something quite different indeed. I have never been a fan of bands attempting to reproduce note for note, especially in a studio, a song which has been already been a hit. One of my very favourite covers is "Hotel California" by Alabama 3 who took the classic and made it something far darker and twisted – it is the taking of something and making it their own which makes the art of doing so totally worthwhile, and that is always the case with Melanie and Martin.

When the CD arrived, I was immediately taken by the bright artwork and opened up the digipak to discover a business card and a QR code which I immediately scanned and was delighted to find that as well as the original 14 songs there were another 11 alternate versions which could be downloaded free of charge, one of which was a song not included on the main release. The core band for this album is Martin Schnella (vocals, acoustic guitars, additional percussion), Melanie Mau (vocals), Mathias Ruck (vocals), Lars Lehmann (bass, fretless bass) and Simon Schröder (percussion) plus they have assorted guests (including none other than Dave Meros). What makes this such



an insanely enjoyable album is that they have put their own stamp onto it so much that if one did not know any of the songs then one would think this was an album of originals as they all fit seamlessly into the same pattern. This is prog folk, mostly acoustic with an electric bass and built around wonderful vocals, which sometimes are singular, and others are wonderful three-part harmonies. Given the background of those involved it will be no surprise to find covers of the likes of Gentle Giant, Neal Morse, Peter Gabriel, but they move all over the place musically so Massive Attack sits happily alongside Porcupine Tree and Nightwish, but Iron Maiden? I have been a fan of Maiden since 1980 and was fortunate enough to see them on the 'Beast on the Road' tour in 1982, which is where I first heard "Hallowed Be Thy Name", but it never sounded like this, and it has been paired with "For The Greater Good of God" from 2006's 'A Matter of Life and Death', which works very well indeed. This is aggressive acoustic music which takes the original and drives new beauty into a subject which has always been emotional, taking it to new levels.

Starting with Gentle Giant and ending with a traditional number which has been performed by the likes of Clannad, this album is a thing of beauty and joy. That we then get to hear different versions of many of the songs again before ending now with Damn Yankees really is the icing on the cake. Whatever you may think of cover versions, take it from me this is no Guns 'n' Roses doing "Knockin' on Heaven's Door" but instead is taking songs we know and turning them into something which now belongs to Melanie Mau and Martin Schnella – truly superb, and totally essential.



### **NEAL MORSE THE RESTORATION – JOSEPH: PART TWO FRONTIERS**

I strongly felt Neal's last album was a real return to form after his previous Christian musical, 'Jesus Christ The Exorcist', which was for me one of his weakest releases, although to be fair I do not think it is possible for Morse to put out a truly poor album. Needless to say, I have been looking forward to hearing this, and at long last we have the concluding part of the well-known story. 'The Dreamer - Joseph: Part One' finished with Joseph unjustly imprisoned, and in 'The Restoration - Joseph: Part Two,' we find him becoming the viceroy of Egypt and reuniting with his family. Neal assumes the lead vocalist role, plus there are a host of guests including Nick D'Virgilio (Spock's Beard, Big Big Train), Ted Leonard (Spock's Beard, Pattern Seeking Animals, Enchant), Matt Smith (Theocracy), Ross Jennings (Haken), Jake Livgren (Proto-Kaw, Emerald City Council) and Alan Morse (Spock's Beard), along with members of the Neal Morse Band, such as Bill Hubauer and Eric Gillette.

It must be said that some of this does seem somewhat like Morse by numbers, and there is no doubt we have previously heard the vocal approach on "The Argument" on songs like "Gibberish" – it is very clever but there is definitely the feeling we have come across this before. It is a shame as the driving guitar which



precedes it is simply wonderful, and then we morph into “Make Like a Breeze” where we are into classic driving prog which makes me almost forgive what just came before. The man is a genius, of that there is no doubt, but when working in a multi-instrumentalist fashion there is always the risk of not taking on new ideas and falling back on what is safe. The result is an album I have thoroughly enjoyed but is not at the heights of being truly indispensable, and given how much I enjoyed the first part I must admit to being somewhat disappointed. I understand that Neal feels it is his duty to keep spreading the word of Christianity as it is incredibly important to him, and over the years he has released some truly great albums (seeing him perform ‘Testimony’ in London was a very special event indeed), but if he is going to have the impact he desires then he also needs to rethink his musical approach, as while there are times when this is truly brilliant there are also others where we feel we have heard it before and are looking for something new.

It may not have been the brilliant conclusion I was looking for, but it is still worthy of investigation for those like me who have followed his career with interest ever since the arrival of ‘The Light’ all those years ago.



**NOAGE**  
**FROM DARKNESS TO LIFE**  
**REVALVE RECORDS**

Earlier this year I reviewed the debut

album by keyboard player and singer Massimo Pieretti, ‘A New Beginning’, and he has now sent me the debut album from one of the bands he is in, Noage. Formed by singer Germana Noage (Aetherna), the rest of the line-up is Massimo (keyboards), bassist Michele Raspanti (Graal, S.O.S., ex-Tular, ex-Secret Rule), guitarist Michele "El Diablo" Serra (Mindcrime, ex- Daylight Silence), and drummer Andres Gualco (Darker, ex-Tersivel). They released a single in 2021, and another in 2022, neither of which appear on this release which came out at the end of 2023. They describe their music as, “metal with gothic hues but which pays great attention to the melodies, never banal arrangements with influences ranging from Nightwish to early Queensrÿche and Fates Warning”.

There is no doubt that Germana is a professionally trained singer with a great range, but she is less Tarja Turunen or Floor Jansen and more Anette Olzon although she sings in a higher level. This is commercial symphonic metal, and I must admit not hearing much in the way of gothic overtones, although there are some nice banks of keyboard sounds. The drums are thundering with nice triplets and fills, Andres is obviously someone who is always looking to add to music as opposed to just sitting at the back and being a human metronome, while bassist Raspanti switches between providing foundation and counter melodies to keep it interesting. With that foundation behind them, Serra can crunch away with nice riffs, attacking the music while Pieretti gives us the curtain of sounds with Germana in full control at all times.

“Never Too Late” is a more dynamic piece with far more space within, showing a very different side of the band. It also features a guest in Kate Nord whose vocals take the song in a very different direction — she also performed on Massimo Pieretti’s solo album, and her appearance here is both a delight and a surprise (what an operatic range she has). We also get a guest guitarist on

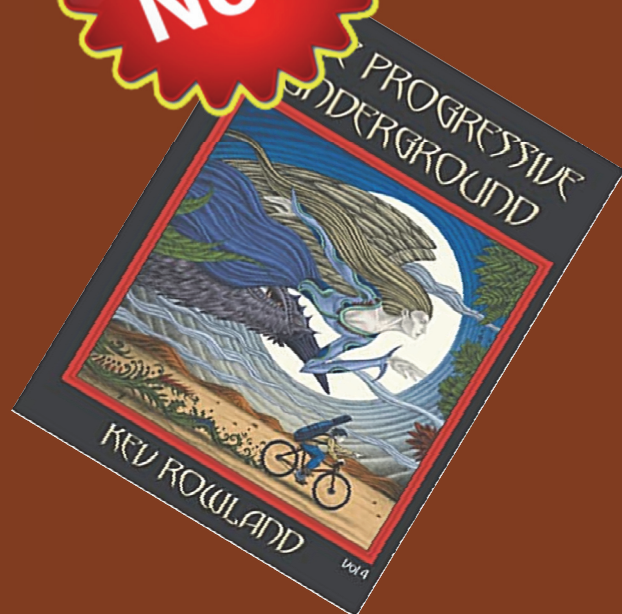
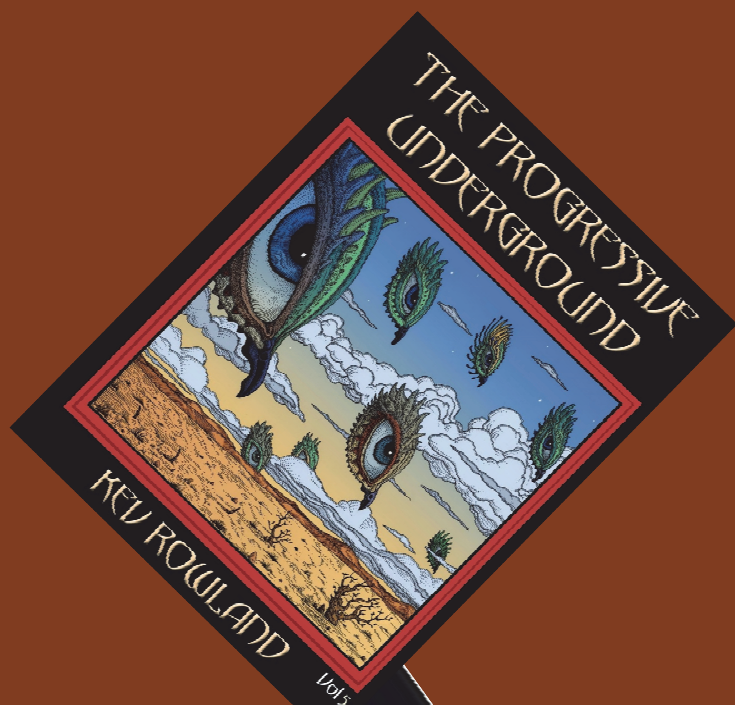


“Superhero” where Francesco Mattei (Noveria) joins to bring us another attack. That we finish with the biting and hard-hitting number “Fuck The World” which is packed full of aggression is nothing but a delight as the band lay it on the line, knowing it is never going to get airplay but is sure to be a favourite in concert.

If you enjoy female-fronted symphonic metal by the likes of Epica and Nightwish then this is a band to look out for, available on Bandcamp.

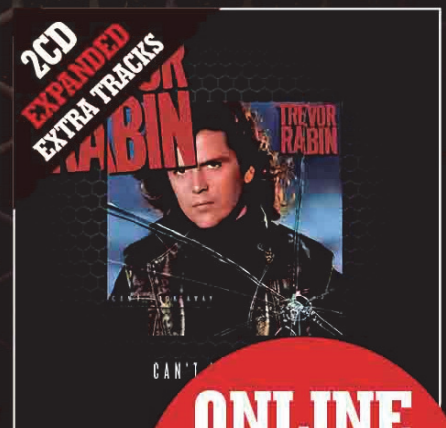
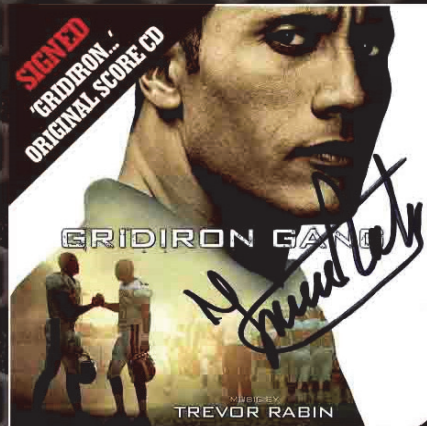
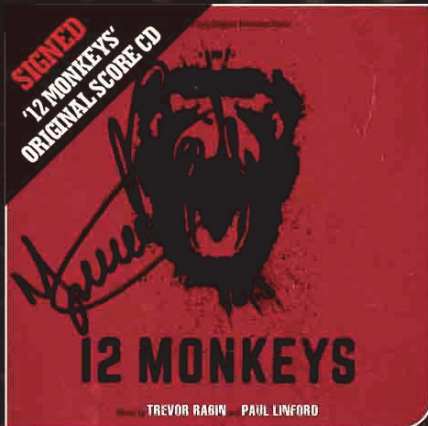


Kev is a self confessed music addict who has been toiling in the rock and roll vineyard for many years, and Gonzo are chuffed to bits to be publishing his remarkable series of books which disprove any suggestion that prog died with the advent of punk...





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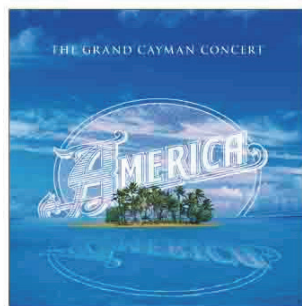
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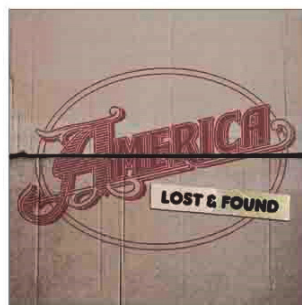
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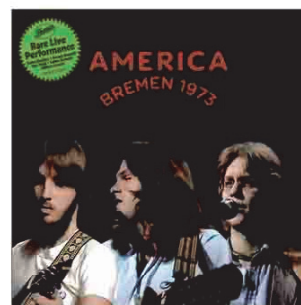
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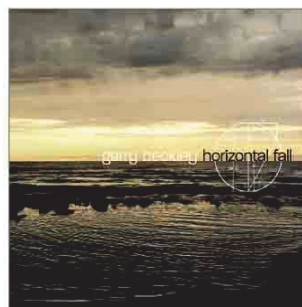
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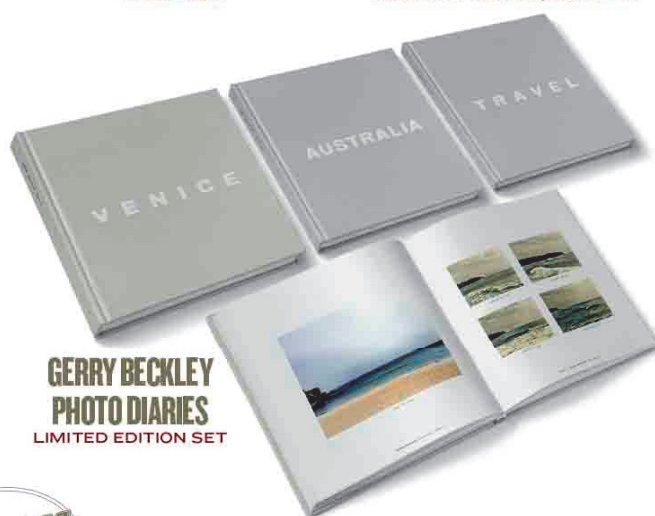
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Martin Guitar has been a leader in elephant protection since the 1970s when the company made the decision to stop using ivory on its guitars and started to phase the material from its supply chain. As the founding sponsor of #SaveElephants, Martin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

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

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

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  
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# Hawkwind Earth Visitors Passport - The "Hawkwind Passport"

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JONATHAN DOWNES



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a childhood with animals and ghosts in hong kong

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# NEWS FROM THE POTTING SHED

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

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

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

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

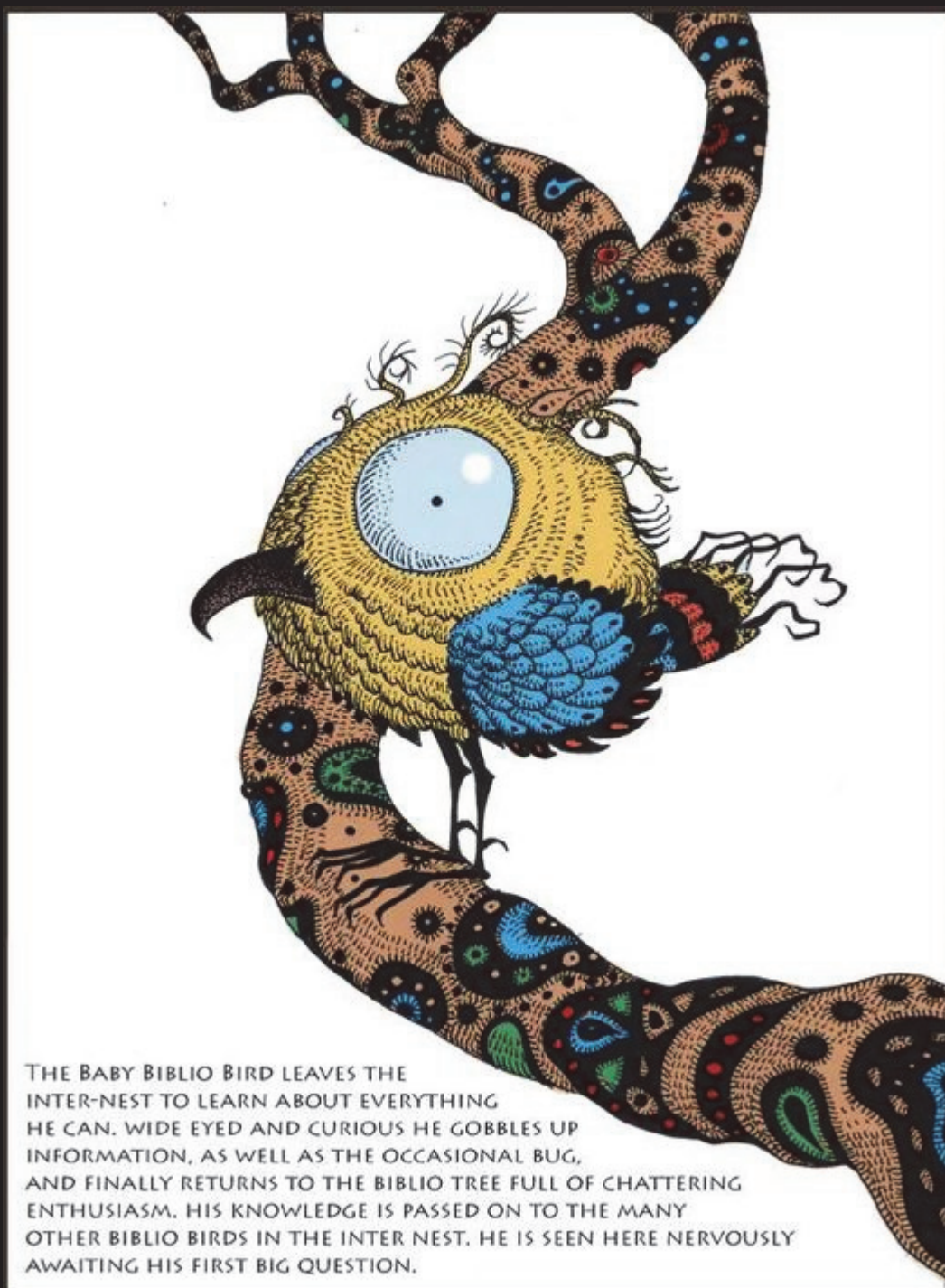
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# Thom the World Poet

**Rob Ayling writes:**

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

## "WE ARE THE PEOPLE..WHAT ELSE WOULD YOU CALL US?" (Carl Sandburg)

Yet the current oligarchic United States is based upon Roman (not Greek) institutions..  
Senate as in Roman Senate,Capitol as in (Roman)Capitoline Hill,  
rather than Demos&Kratos &Ecclesia(meeting in the Pnyx) of direct democracy  
Selection and election rather than sortition.  
Thucydides rather than Pericles.  
Both Madison in The Federalist Papers  
(suggesting "filtration" via representation,  
and Hamilton resisting "mob rule"abjured the Athenian model as a "tyranny".  
Grote & Mill, Finley and Arendt vs Hobbes, Mitford and our Founding Fathers  
The passionate rhetorical power of Pericles  
still evokes support for Greek Republics vs Turkish Invaders,  
but the mob rule of that French Revolution turned our leaders more towards orderly Roman  
models.  
NOVUS ORDO SECLORUM, ANNUIT COEPTIS&RES PUBLICA vs Oxyrhynchus & Ochlocracy.  
Note that our currency bears that motto stolen from a Roman poet(Virgil)  
We still praise our Roman Generals (from Washington, Scott, Lee, Grant, Patton, Eisenhower)  
We also prosecute and persecute our whistleblowers  
(our Socrates-poets like Ginsberg, satirists like Lenny Bruce)  
We are a hybrid of Greek democratic aspirations and Roman regulation/corruption.  
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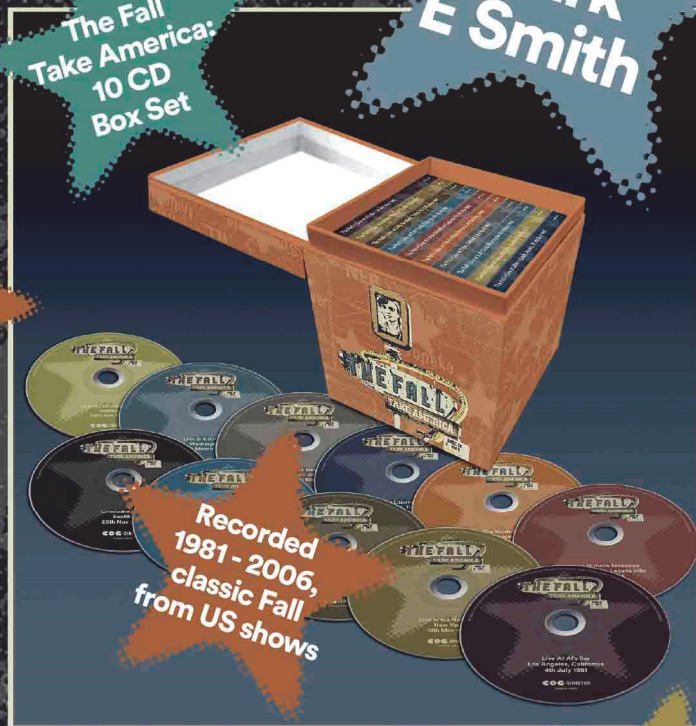
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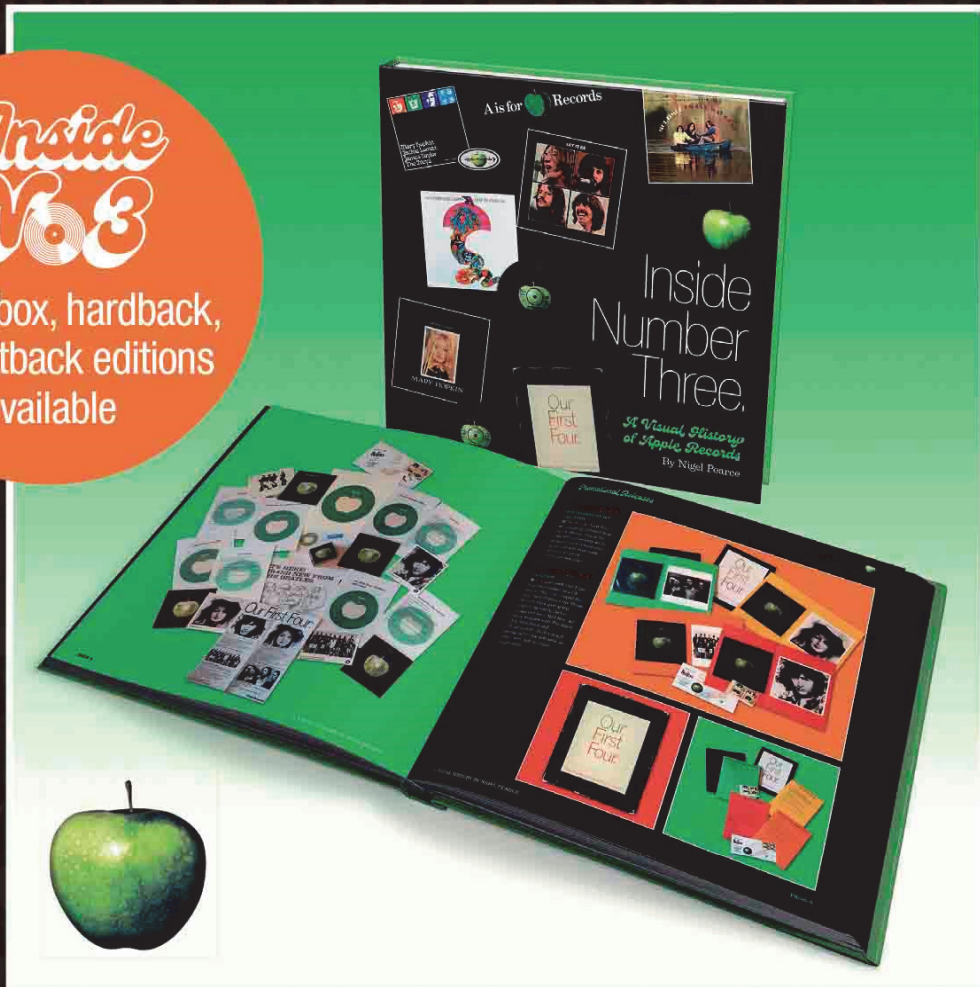
# Inside Number Three.

## *A Visual History of Apple Records*

By Nigel Pearce

*Inside  
No 3*

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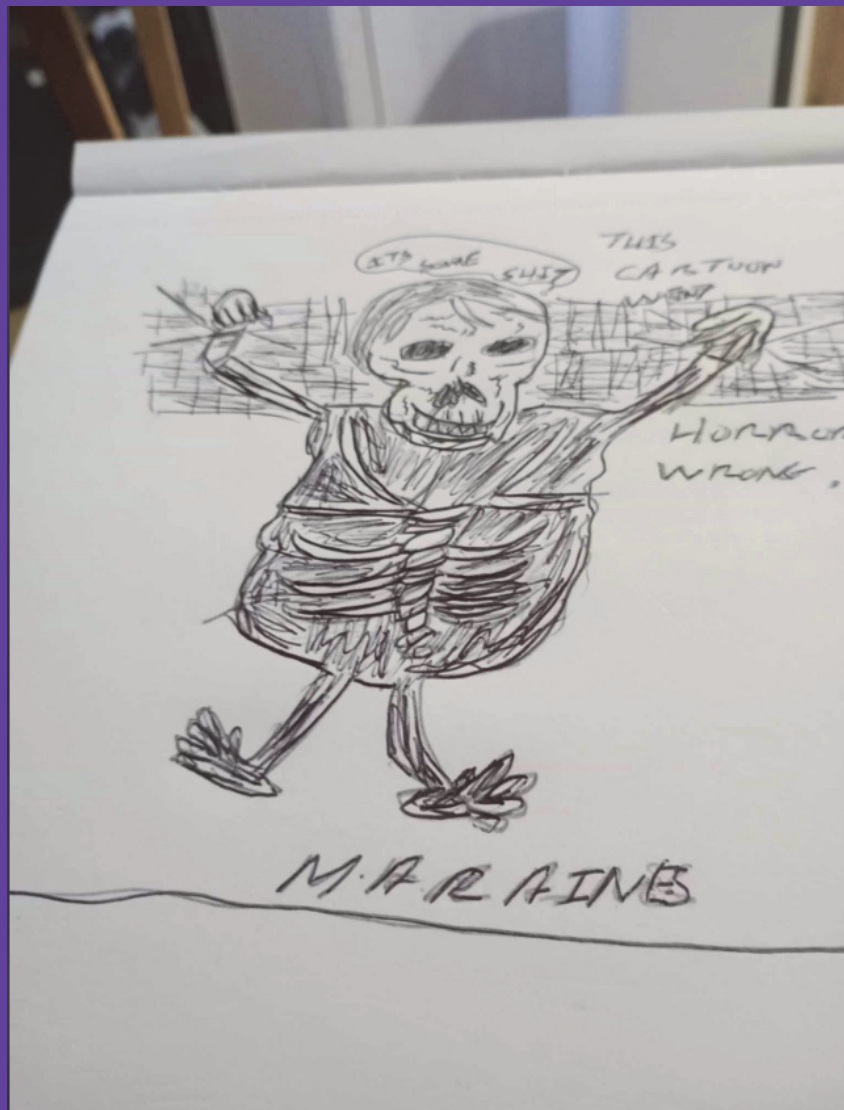
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THE WORLD OF GONZO ACCORDING TO

# Mark Raines



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

PS shows can be downloaded

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



And so, dear readers, here we are at the end of another issue. And with it, at the end of another of the two week periods over which each issue is compiled and put together.

I sincerely hope that I will be able to get back to writing about sex drugs and rock 'n' roll with the next issue because an awful lott of what I've been writing about recently has been politics or the impending threat of Armageddon. And sex, drugs, and rock 'n' roll are far more fun. I can, I think, give you a brief taster of what I am likely to be writing about over the next few issues way back in the late 1980s when my first wife and I were writing various fanzines, including the official one for the Steve Harley and Cockney Rebel appreciation society, a band from Leeds called the Wedding Present put out a absolutely brilliant album of Ukrainian folk songs, together with a bloke called the Legendary Len Liggins.

Despite their undoubted popularity amongst the Indy crowd, I never got the Wedding Present. I always thought they were charmless and dull. But I loved the Ukrainian Album and I played it to death. Many years later, I discovered that a spinoff from the Wedding Present was called the Ukrainians and they carried on with the punked up versions of traditional Ukrainian songs until the present day, like an



Eastern European version of the Pogues. Now there is a book about them, which – unsurprisingly in the present political climate – not only deals with the story of the band but also talks about the reactions to the current horrors taking place in Ukraine. I was sent a review copy of this a couple of days ago and I am certain that this is going to form the basis for an editorial, or at least a book review very soon.

I hope you enjoyed this issue. I'm really rather proud of it, and I look forward to seeing you all in a couple of weeks.

Hare bol,

Jon



# THE BEST LAID PLANS



