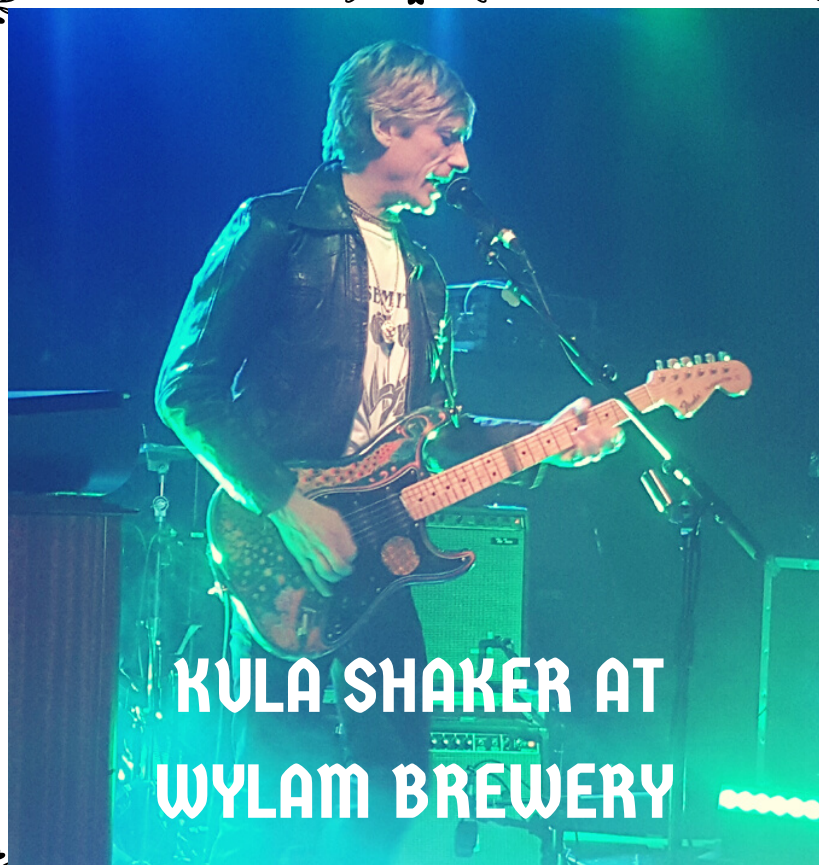


DIRGE

[Devilish Interviews Reviews Gigs & Entertainment]

darlodirge@gmail.com

Issue 1
March 2023



KULA SHAKER AT
WYLAM BREWERY

DARLO SEX CULT



DIRECTOR JAMES
CAMPBELL SELECTS
HIS TOP 5 **HORROR**
SOUNDTRACKS

WE REVIEW
WOOLCRAFT - Y.Y.U.Y.B

MISFITS
MARKET



Viddy Welll, My
Brother. Viddy Well.

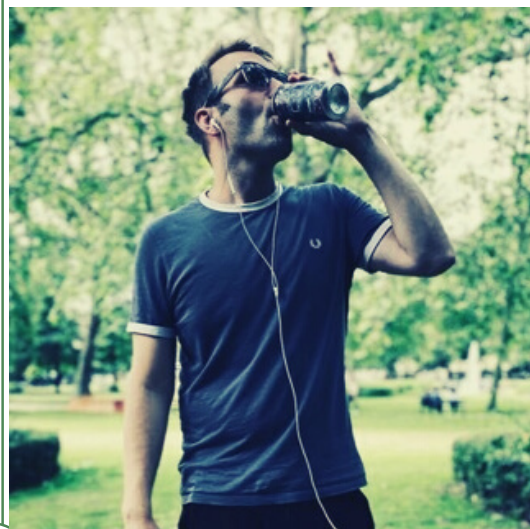


FREE!

FREE!

FREE!

WE GET DEEP DOWN WITH
RESIDENT **SYNTH WIZARD**
RICH STEPHENSON



WE PREVIEW
STRAIGHTEN OUT AT
THE FORUM



MUSIC REVIEWS

STUFF

INTERVIEWS

TU

FILMS

noun

DIRGE

a lament for the dead, especially one forming part of a funeral rite.

WELCOME TO THE FIRST ISSUE OF **DIRGE**! I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG IT WILL LAST OR IN WHAT CAPACITY JUST LIKE ELECTRICAL STUFF YOU GET FROM POUNDLAND, BUT I AM ENJOYING IT (MOSTLY) AT THE MOMENT SO LET'S GO.



If **DIRGE** can promote cool local businesses, venues and decent local music and give some exposure even if it's just in a little way then that's great. And of course, as we all know times are hard at the moment so if you are reading a physical copy of **DIRGE** then you can always wipe your arse with it or burn it to keep warm.

If you want to contribute, well, you can! Just send any ideas to the email address below or message me on the Facebook page. I'm doing all this myself so at the moment it's going to be out every two months in conjunction with a website to bring more up to date news of all the exciting things happening in the interim. If printing costs too much then I'll probably just keep it to a website and in PDF format. If you want to advertise your gig, venue, event, shop, or whatever you want just get in touch.

If it entertains you even for just 5 minutes then it all will have been worth while.

All opinions on here are my own.

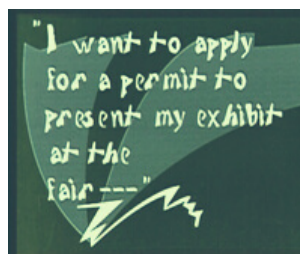
Roz



darlodirge@gmail.com



www.facebook.com/darlodirge



APPEARING SOMEWHERE INSIDE...

HEAD Bookshop

Crispian & Co at Wylam Brewery

J.C's Favourite Horror Soundtracks

Straighten Out at The Forum Preview

UEP

Vista of the Month (VOM)

Lest We Forget - Them Amazing Babies

Pondering Dognoise

Misfits Market

George Skapone picks his top 5 albums

Guitar Heroes at The Hipp

The Lair of Local Music Reviews

The Great Beyond not so Local Music Reviews

Darlo Sex Cult

Rich Stevo Interview

and some other stuff



REVIEW

KULA SHAKER AT

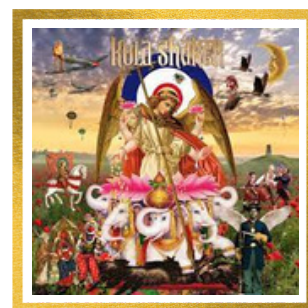
WYLAM BREWERY

23/01/23



I was 11 when Kula Shakers debut album 'K' came out on 1996. I was old enough to love music but not quite old enough to go to gigs. The mid 90's to me represented the last great era of music, and Kula Shaker had their part in it. I was an avid collector of NME and fondly remember the time **Crispian Mills** wore a swastika arm band on stage and then wondered why there was an uproar. Ok Crispy... Yes, It was originally a Sanskrit symbol of peace but I believe there is quite a nasty man in the early 20th century who rebranded it for his own nefarious ends. I'm not sure why it has taken this long for me to see them, maybe because after their second album they went off the boil some what, but we have our tickets and hotel booked so it's off to **Wylam Brewery** on a short train journey North, tired as I was too excited to sleep the night before so I did some late night cleaning.

Jay Darlington has always been one of my favourite keyboardists. Not because he's all that inventive or his amazing surname but because he looks cool AF. Long beard and long hair, like an early 70's George Harrison. So when I heard he was returning for this tour after years out of the band I was happy.



Newcastle is a great city and I enjoy going there to gigs. I've seen loads of top bands there over the years and it boasts some amazing venues. Wylam Brewery being one I have not visited previously. It's an impressive building with real art deco vibes. Palatial. Big pillars of sandstone like a building you would find in **Berlin**.

The auditorium is big. It's got a lot of character to it. The bar serves its own (pricey) house drinks. The support band were unremarkable. I didn't catch their name but they sounded like a poor man's female fronted U2.

We went outside and talked at people for a few minutes and then came back in to take our place at the front. The same side as Gandalf's keyboards.

Kula Shaker graced the stage about 9 o'clock instantly drawing the crowd in with an amazing version of Hey Dude before going straight into Sound of Drums. Crispian Mills (Son of actress Hayley Mills) is still full of energy after all these years. A great natural performer.

I thought the set list would be dominated by the new album (which I would recommend) but actually they played quite a lot off **K** and some other early stuff. Which kept the crowd happy and there was a real buzz about the place. They finished on Govinda which was amazing to see live. I also nabbed some of Jay's cue sheets that were near me on the stage as a little memento.

And then we headed off into the night, got an overpriced Pizza and went to sleep while watching 1996's **The Craft** on the tele.

4.5/5

"You'll be grateful when you're dead"



BABYLON BERLIN

Tantalising Crime Thriller set during the decade of political discontent in sleazy Weimar Germany.

Do you like **Weimar** Era Germany ?

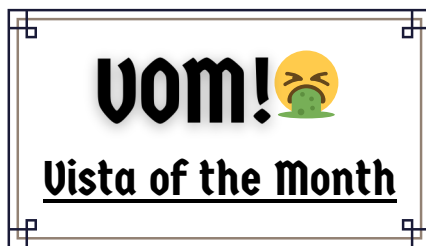
I do. The music, the films, the art, the sleaze, the freedom, the culture, the political rivalries, the scandals, the literature, the architecture. I could go on and on. Which I actually in fact do quite a lot, so my wife switches off to me sometimes. Anyway...



Babylon Berlin, which is a **German language** series reflects a few of these things. Definitely the sleaze part anyway. It focuses on a Great War veteran called Gereon Rath who appears to have some sort of residual nerve damage or what we would now call PTSD. He is subject to regular shaking fits which I was interested to see that in the context of the time was not accepted in normal society and these poor men (who were treated similar to how Vietnam Vets were years later) were mocked and shunned by the public. When actually they should have been revered as heroes.

Rath experiences all manner of hijinx in late 1920's Berlin including child porn rings, political intrigue, prostitution, and his own inner demons. It's available on Netflix U.S which you can access via a VPN or I've heard there are other ways of watching it online....Keep your eyes peeled for **Bryan Ferry**!

4/5



"Each Issue we strive to bring you the most untouched, picturesque views in our fair town."

This time we turn our focus to boutique eatery, **McDonald's** on Meynell Road, serving the finest in local cuisine with ingredients sourced from local livestock and agriculture. Darlington's best kept secret.



McDonald's, Meynell Road / Whessoe Road

Have you got a vom for us? Email it to darlodirge@gmail.com

"And the first
commandment reads,
that human flesh and
blood is sacred until
there is no more food"

PREVIEW

straighten out

at The Forum

I was too young to see the classic Stranglers line up. So thank God **Straighten Out** exists!

This majestic tribute to the world's best band use most of the original gear (instruments not Heroin) the band did in the 1970's and sound more like **The Stranglers** than the actual Men In Black do these days. (RIP Jet Black & Dave Greenfield). Mick on keyboards is a real treat. Don't tell him I'm going though as for some reason he finds me a bit annoying, I'm thinking of disguises I can wear so he doesn't recognise me.

I've seen them two or three times before and they always create a vibe. It will be even better this time as I will be taking my son along who is also a massive fan. **Go** to this gig, you will not be disappointed!



Straighten Out at The Forum

"I'll **see you up there** if you get the inclinations, you might find that it cures
your aggravation"

Door Tax - **£12 OTD**

Venue - **The Forum, Borough Road.**

Date - **Sat 11th March**

Start time - **8.30 (Approx)**





HMV LIVE AND LOCAL WANT YOU!

Well that's if you are any good of course. But no, once upon a time **instores** at Record Shops were only for bands like Nirvana and Oasis, but now they are open to local musical types like you and I! Apply now. Simply ask in store for details!

GO!



Looking for a place for your band to rehearse ?

Why not try **THE SAW MILL** on Whessoe Road?



Even better, get some **good quality acid** and just stare at the amazingly rich, vibrant psychedelic tapestries while playing an A7 chord over and over and chant. But then your drummer starts having a bad trip, and kills all the other members and becomes what's known as The Darlo Chain Sawmill Massacre.



facebook.com/thesawmilluk

THE VAULT - DARLINGTON'S NEXT NEW HIT BAR ?

So the subterranean depths of The Market are currently being renovated with a view to becoming a Prohibition era **Speakeasy** themed bar.

I mean it's not the worst idea the Darlington powers that be have ever imagined and by the looks of it it should have a decent vibe. Although I'm pretty sure the drinks won't be sold at 1930's prices. After all it costs over £4 at the Market tap for a pint of McEwan's Lager of all things. Admittedly it was quite a nice pint.

I wonder if they will have a life sized cut out of **Al Capone** with a machine gun beckoning you in? Personally, I would have turned it into a 1970's Horror themed bar and called it The Vault of Horror. Good luck to all involved though. They will probably need it.

DOGNOISE

The Only Dedicated Independent Music Site for Darlington www.dognoise.co.uk



Latest Articles - [Red are Dead](#) - [The New Cool](#) - [Happy New Year!!](#) - [This Thursday Night!!](#) - [Solano!!](#)

Friday 14th January 2005

RED ARE DEAD

MAIN MENU

HOME

FORUM

ARTICLES

THE DOGBOX

SCENE ON FILM

FLASHBACKS

ABOUT

LINKS

COLUMNISTS

LASZLO

SIMON SAYS

RABID

COMING SOON

THE KENNEL

RED METHOD CALL IT A DAY



In a town such as ours it isn't uncommon that bands come and go, are born and then fade away. The 'scene' changes rapidly, fuelled by the metamorphosis of new, inexperienced college bands into developed groups of not just musicians, but friends. As individuals, they grow independent and self-assured. They find their own separate paths. The pack splits, but the friendship stays.

Our community is small, the Dognoise community, the Darlington community. As people we are constantly circling around each other, arguing, agreeing, sharing a passion for music (whatever the genre), playing the same venues, sometimes watching the same bands. The scene is a melting pot, swirling round in discontinuous cycles, swelling then dwindling then swelling once more.

The lack of a University in Darlington often forces us to become more insular than say, Teesside or Durham, our nearest student town neighbours. This adds strength to our cause, as bands aren't built on University 'whims', yet leaves us bare when the flocks of 'A' Level successes migrate. We have a constant battle against the odds, with restrictions to the dozen, but friendship and passion pull us through. And that's why we'll always have music in Darlington.



Warm hub

Free drinks and snacks

A place for children to play

2-5pm

Every Monday

Everyone welcome

Holy Trinity Church,

Woodlands Road DL3 7AT

www.holytrinity-darlington.org.uk



DOGNOISE

THE GOLDEN AGE OF DARLINGTON MUSIC

I'll always be grateful to Dave and Stu of Darlington Music Website and Legendary Forum - Dognoise.

It promoted a sense of local music community which I'm afraid is lacking a bit these days. I made some good mates and got introduced to some wicked local music. It was a genuine pleasure to interact with people on the Forum for a while and then meet them face to face at one of the **Dognoise** socials. Members would be given regular DJ slots on a Friday night at what used to be known as Seen. Gigs were occasions to catch up with people as well as watching whichever band was playing that night. Ahhhh.....Halcyon Days!

I've been trying to think what the modern day equivalent of Dognoise is. And unfortunately all I can think of is a **Darlington Music** Facebook group. Where people don't share opinions and ideas, but instead post adverts for up coming Open mic nights and covers bands and I suspect some sad people only lurk on there not to add anything of value just to wait until someone does a typo so they can pounce on it and have their thrill for the day. The sense of community is all but lost.

There are a core group of people in the town that do try their best to promote music. But it all feels a bit more disparate and disconnected than it ever used to.

Obviously there is a hint of nostalgia and possibly some rose tinted specs at play here. But I personally find the current status quo depressing. And that's why I've started this. It might only last one or two issues but at least I can say I've tried.



THE LAIR OF LOCAL

This is a local page for local music. We'll have no trouble here!



Chris Mardula - Fade Away

Chris Mardula is a solo artist hailing from Newton Aycliffe. I think I would be prone to singing 'Why won't it all just fade away' if I had to live there too... Jokes.

This song has excellent production values. I wish I could mix as well as Mr. Mardula (I gather he does it all in his home studio) The ambient pre-ambles that segue gently into the acoustic intro works nicely and sets you up for what is to follow.

Vocally Chris can hold a tune and has a pleasant voice but I think the delivery comes across as a bit 90's Boy Band trying to graduate to Indie. But the song is sufficiently catchy and has a decent hook. It goes on a bit long for me. It could have been done and dusted in three minutes and been a lot snappier.

I like how Chris did a fade to end. The song literally did just fade away. It would make a good Stereophonics B side. **2.9/5**

[Facebook.com/chrimardulamusic](https://www.facebook.com/chrimardulamusic)

Machiner - The Sound of Disappearing

FM synth tones and Pink Floyd Wish you Were Here era violined guitars abound on this one from Hartlepool lads Machiner. Recorded at Tower Street Studios, the band do indeed create a bit of a vibe on this.

Sombre, downbeat lyrics come across as a little bit earnest in delivery though. The programmed drum beat has Nine Inch Nails vibes. Is that a little stab of vocoder I hear in the distance? Always welcome with me! The song goes on a little bit long without going anywhere much but there is a nice flurry of melody and power towards the end. **3.2/5**

machiner.bandcamp.com

San Niguel - Drunk On A Sunday

San Niguel. Named so as he is called Nige, speaks Spanish and likes Spanish beer. I can't really argue with that.

I speak German and enjoy German Beer myself so I wonder what Nige would dub me as? Anyhoo... The song sounds like it was pulled straight from the depths of an obscure early 80's Punk Compilation. I mean that in a good way.

It's about getting drunk on a work night. So I can relate to it wholeheartedly. He claims he doesn't do it much anymore which is a relief because I don't want him to get the sack. The song structure and melody reminds me of a few other Punk Songs I can think of but it still holds its own.

The tune opens with an Early Cure sounding riff. It's upbeat, it's catchy, lyrics are amusing. A surprising addition of Piano halfway through which works for me. I dug it. **3/5**

[facebook.com/nige.bryan](https://www.facebook.com/nige.bryan)

Jeshika Jaynes - You

I can't help thinking of Sean Connery attempting to pronounce the word Jessica when I consider this lass' name. She certainly seems to have a decent fanbase and a generous amount of plays on Spotify. Anyway to the track!

Production is dead good. Not sure if Jeshika did it herself or has a little production team but either way they've done a sterling job. Starts off with an infectious guitar loop which sounds fresh and wins your interest from the get go.

She has a good voice for pop music, nice and natural with little or no studio effects to embellish it. And this is what essentially this is - Pop Music. And it's done well! **3.1/5**

[facebook.com/jeshikajaynes](https://www.facebook.com/jeshikajaynes)

Compression Session - Circuit Breaker

This band are a good, honest Darlo band. Not an acoustic guitar or Cajon in sight and they probably wouldn't go down that well at a wine bar.

Is the band's name a take on the phrase "Depression Session"? Or does main man Stu just really like compressing stuff?

I don't know but I do like the Gang of Four style Post-Punk angular guitars. I dig the way the drums have been recorded, nice and roomy with plenty of reverb. The vocals are heavily effected, I can't help thinking of Sean Ryder mixed with Joe Strummer. I think they should add some keyboards here and there.

I think the song is too long. Which is in fact a regular foible with me, I think it could have been 3 minutes long and hit harder.

This would be good to see live. **3.4/5**

[@compression1253 on YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=compression1253)

Downtown Lester Brown - Last Laugh

I'm not actually sure to make of this. I don't mean that in a bad way at all. Just there is such an amalgam of genres at play here. It kicks off with a riff that sounds like Stevie Ray Vaughan covering Stevie Wonder. Dirty.

I'm sensing some James Taylor Quartet in there too and some Acid Jazz vibes. Hammond Organ is always a welcome addition although I think it could have sounded dirtier and I reckon the solo could have been more direct and expressive. I'm not sure the electric guitar solo at the start works, I think it detracts from the rhythm. The chorus is catchy enough. The song is just about the right length.

Coral style vocal harmonies. "Duck and dive just like a KGB mole" is a good lyric. **3.5/5**

www.downtownlesterbrown.com

Denis - Stone Tapes

Denis gave me a full album to listen to but as I am only reviewing single tracks in this bit I chose one not quite at random. I chose Stone Tapes because 'The Stone Tape' is the name of a very good British Sci-Fi T.V. thriller from the 1970's. It's on YouTube. Watch it if you haven't already.

Hailing from Durham City he manages to create a very hypnotic ambient vapor cloud, using to my humble ears at least solely a guitar. No drums or electronics here! Obvious comparisons would be mid 70's German Music Cosmische, think something produced by Conny Plank in rural Cologne in 1974.

I like it. It would slot in nicely in my Krautrock collection. Okay, Krautrock folder. Give it a listen if you want some German tinged ambience in your life. **3.3/5**

denis5.bandcamp.com

Lost Lot - We Built A House

I wish I was skilled enough to build a house. Matt's got a nice voice. Powerful yet paradoxically soft, with a good delivery. The mix is good. Even and spacious although I can't help feeling the acoustic guitar is distorting ever so slightly, it seems to be clashing with the bass a little. I dug the dreamy Rhodes Piano in the right pan.

This isn't really a genre of music I'm fond of, but I can see it doing well as it has all the elements that make up a good pop song. Lyrically, it's written well if a tad on the cheesy side but with a lovely sentiment without being too sentimental. They will be launching the single at Mosaic Tap in Newcastle on 31.03.23. **3.1/5**

[facebook.com/lostlotband](https://www.facebook.com/lostlotband)

THE GREAT BEYOND

I've heard there is a universe outside of The North East.



Pebble Bra - Alone

It is Nice to hear Stephen Hawking in presumably one of his last spoken word performances before his demise.

Musically it's a bit all over the place. It sounds as though it's been recorded over Zoom. The vocals are very dry and quite overpowering in the mix. It's got a decent enough riff and with better production values could be good. **2.5/5**

pebblebra.bandcamp.com

Open Arms - Let's Just Leave It

Let's Just Leave It by Brum's Open Arms is an accomplished, modern pop track. The bassline jumps around nicely and along with the 808 style drums is an effective foundation for the live guitars, vocal harmonies and programmed synths.

A pleasant experience was had every time I listened to it. **3/5**

facebook.com/OpenArmsUk

Mallerstang - Ride or Die

I thought this band had named themselves after an obscure Second World War Wehrmacht tank. It turns out Mallerstang is actually a small part of Cumbria, the band's homeland. Who knew?

A rock solid beat by the marvellously named Johnny Gash launches Ride or Die like the aforementioned tank and is further embellished by a very gnarly riff by Troy "Face like a potato" Slater.

I'm not quite sure how this two piece band bring da heat in a live sphere as there is lots going on in the mix, and it's a very good mix. I like this because there are no tacky American accents on the vocals, it is very English in approach. It's a really good, in yer face bit of music. **3.8/5**

mallerstang-official.com

Feverjaw - When You Know

Hailing from South Wales, Feverjaw provides a hark back to the days of Brit Pop but with a slightly harder edge, coupled with a Foo Fighters esque American sound.

The drums appear to my ears at least to be programmed yet try to sound realistic. Which in itself is completely fine but these sound ever so slightly robotic except when they deviate to a snare fill, when they seem to go out of time in a bit of a clunky way.

All in all a decent, poppy, catchy song, if a little lacking in originality. **3.2/5**

feverjaw.bandcamp.com

Jonny Swift - Hollywood

Jonny Swift. Another Cumbrian in this month's reviews. A lovely county and obviously a place that seems to produce some good music.

Hollywood is Jangly and upbeat. And clocking in at exactly 2 minutes is just the right length for a pop track! I dig the JJ Burnel esque gnarling bass sound coupled with the arrpeggiated, picked, swirly guitars.

Apparently he's made quite a lot of money for charity so good on him for that too.

It's not quite as good as its 1974 namesake by Cluster but that is a work of art so that would be difficult. All in all. A nice slice of indie pop from the Swiftmeister. **3.1/5**

jonnyswift.bandcamp.com

TEN WORD REVIEWS

David Crabtree - Running with the Wolves - **Catchy. Well Produced.**
Bryan Adams. Earnest. Bit generic. Rustic Video.

Analogue Blood - Control. **Trance with Guitars. Lively. Disparate.**
Repetitive. 90's. Creepy Vocals. Decent.

Dead Heroines - Hooks In Me. Joan Jett. **Catchy. American accent.**
Probably fun live. Good Stuff.

Endless Season - You Want It. **Rapey lyrics. Will appeal to young 'uns.**
Busted. Tight. Cohesive.

Whitenoise - Colours. **Doorsy. Good drum sound. Has potential.**
Atmospheric Keys. Indie Anthem!

Nine Altars - Eternal Penance. **Grandiose Vocals. Witchfinder General**
but more serious. Heavy, doomy guitars.

crib

SATURDAY
APR 29



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OASIS
COURTEENERS
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#15



We hounded Bass Player Extraordinaire of The Skapones George Stead for ages until he finally gave us his top 5 albums...



1. Peter Tosh - Mama Africa

Peter Tosh has to be my favourite reggae artists. All of his albums are superb. Mama Africa is the most consistent for me from start to finish. When waking up on a morning to a red hot, sunny day this is definitely a go to album I stick on immediately.



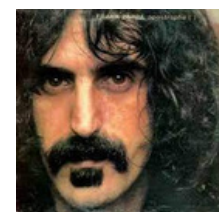
2. Ian Dury - Sex & Drugs & Rock n Roll (Compilation)

Again, another album that is consistent from start to finish. Norman Watt-Roy is an exceptional bass player supplying the grooves throughout. An excellent band with excellent songs. Superman's Big Sister is a great track! As is Inbetweenies, the title track and More Than Fair has a great Reggae groove and lyrics. There isn't a bad track on there really.



3. Frank Zappa - Apostrophe

I figured I'd have to choose a Zappa album. I was stuck between Sheik Yerbouti, Over-Nite Sensation, One Size Fits All, Joe's Garage and Hot Rats. I mean the list is endless with Zappa, releasing over 60 albums. They don't make them like Zappa anymore. Apostrophe contains some excellent tracks like Nanook Rubs It, Cosmik Debris, Uncle Remus & Stink Foot which are my favourites off this album, it's well worth a listen from beginning to end.



4. Steely Dan - Can't Buy a Thrill

Steely Dan definitely need a mention. You can't fall off with 'Can't Buy a Thrill'. I like a lot of Steely Dan's work, well who doesn't? But their 1972 debut release can't go unmentioned. 'Only a fool would say that' is one of my favourites. It's mad to think how much good music there was around in the 60s and 70s, the level of playing and musicianship makes majority of the music from that Era, Ageless. It's as relevant now as it was then.



5. Caravan - The Land of Grey and Pink

My good pal Roz introduced me to this band in 2017. They caught my attention instantly. The first track I was shown was 'The Dog the Dog, He's at it Again' from the album 'For Girls who Grow Plump in The Night' A Fantastic song, give it a listen. But I've chosen The Land of Grey and Pink as another album I love, my favourite track being 'Winter Wine'. I do think That's one of the problems with my generation though, people don't appreciate sitting down and enjoying a full album for what it is, like in the past. People are too used to flicking from song to song, album to album, artist to artist. We're all guilty of it.



This is just 5 albums I love from a rather large list. I think it would be too difficult to name my 'Favourite 5'. (The printers would have a field day if I was to talk about them all).

George will be appearing live with the Skapones at Vortex Bar & Night Club, Wakefield. 18.03.23.

INTERVIEW - RICH STEPHENSON

We catch up with electronic musician, Session Keyboardist and self confessed synth nerd Rich Stephenson.

What, in your opinion is the best **Chip Shop** in Darlington?

Mowden Park Fisheries, Classic Chip Shop vibe, nice place.

I fear going bald. Do You?

I would embrace it and probably would invest in some badass hats for when it's hot and for when it is cold.

What is your favourite non musical sound?

The sound of silence. Sometimes hearing absolutely nothing for a few minutes can make a world of difference.

If you had to choose a **Synthesizer** to make love to. What would it be and why ?

It would have to be the Yamaha GX-1 aka The Dream Machine, if you're going to go big, go BIG!. I'd spend hours riding that!

What was the last gig you went to?

Cut Copy in Leeds. The last major gig for me was seeing Parliament / Funkadelic and meeting **George Clinton**, so that was nice.

What are your musical plans for 2023 ?

This year will be spent playing in a few different projects. **Jen Dixon** has some great gigs lined up so I'm looking forward to those. I've been working on a few electronic tracks with the intention of using guest vocalists too.

Follow Rich on Twitter -@flash_ahhhh



Rich's Ideal Sex Synth - Yamaha GX-1

An advertisement for The Skapones. At the top, the band's name "THE Skapones" is written in a stylized, cursive font with a registered trademark symbol. Below the name, the text "PREORDER NORTHERN GODS FROM THE WEBSITE ON CD & VINYL" is displayed. The central image shows the album cover for "Northern Gods" and two vinyl records. The album cover features a fiery, apocalyptic scene with the band's name and the album title. The vinyl records are black with red labels that say "NORTHERN GODS" and "THE SKAPONES". In the bottom right corner, there is a small logo for "COSA NOSTRA RECORDS" featuring a skull and the words "COSA NOSTRA RECORDS". At the bottom, the website "WWW.THESKAPONES.CO.UK" is printed.

THE STORY OF GUITAR HEROES AT THE HIPPODROME

We check out The Hippodrome's latest musical extravaganza

What is it with The Hippodrome's apparent disdain for cameras which level that of Soviet Russia?

Thankfully I managed to get a clandestine shot of the band before my camera was wrestled out of my hand by an Usher like a KGB operative in East Berlin, circa 1966 (Not really.)

I've been to The Hipp in a concert setting once before to see The David Bowie Experience and I found the evening a mixture of enjoyable and a little bit sterile too. Everything was choreographed to the nth degree, which I suppose is to be expected as it is essentially a theatre production. You know at the end of Ziggy Stardust where Bowie exclaims 'Ziggy played guitar.' Make believe Bowie didn't. He literally couldn't play his guitar. He was making chord shapes that would make even Phoebe from Friends cringe.

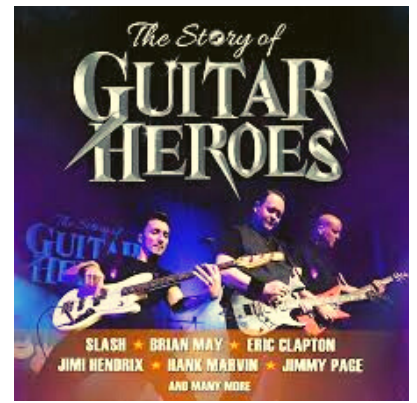
This show seemed a much more freeform affair. Although the stage did look rather sparse due to the lack of amplification (All instruments went through a selection of multi effects pedals directly into the P.A, and not a Marshall Stack to be found). There was a lot of opportunity for audience participation and although the band did seem to take advantage of the click track and sequenced synths rather than hire an actual keyboard player, their musical prowess and versatility narrowly made up for it.

The lead guitarist/band leader/singer looked like Mr Tumble's long lost brother albeit with a lot more talent. He provided the bulk of the vocals, with the bass player and second guitarist helping out. Each had his own time to shine, sometimes multiple songs in the spotlight and shine they did. The story took us more or less in chronological order complete with accompanying informative projections on the big screen featuring interviews, text and pictures. It spanned from the mid 1950's with stuff like Buddy Holly and Hank Marvin, via Eric Clapton, Peter Green, my namesake Rory Gallagher and Tony Iommi, to 80's guitarists like Prince, Van Halen and finally Brian May.

The demographic was mainly middle aged up to pensioner as you would expect. Everyone seemed to have a great time and although I had to remain seated through out which isn't exactly my go to concert position we had a good night. 3.5/5



The lads in action. View from Dress Circle





WRITER&DIRECTOR (AND SERIAL SOUNDTRACK PROCURER) **JAMES CAMPBELL** GIVES US THE LOW DOWN ON HIS TOP 5 FAVOURITE HORROR SOUNDTRACKS

The Shining (1980)

Stanley Kubrick's 'The Shining' is what I refer to as "epic" horror due to the talent involved both in front and behind the camera, and that most definitely includes the score. Kubrick again works with the legendary Wendy Carlos, who brings that synth-dread which works so well with those lovely slow zoom Kubrick shots and underlying that constant feel of dread throughout. But it's not just Carlos' work that stands out but also Kubrick's choice of using the music of Polish composer Krzysztof Penderecki which really helps to heighten the feeling of anxiety and panic as the film unfolds.



Halloween 3: Season of the Witch (1982)

I've really grown to love this film more and more over the years, and you can see why people were kicking up a fuss when it originally came out. I also think it would've made a great X-Files episode with its contained, standalone nature and sci-fi horror themes. But the thing that I find the best about this film is the score created by John Carpenter and Alan Howarth which I think is one of the greats of the genre and my favourite Carpenter score of all time. This was also my first Death Waltz Recording company vinyl purchase which then opened the door to a very expensive hobby.



Bram Stoker's Dracula (1992)

Another film I consider to be "epic" horror due to its director Francis Ford Coppola, the cast, the costume, overall production design and craftsmanship, and of course the score by Polish composer Wojciech Kilar. The score itself can also be described as "epic" as you listen to the the first opening tracks which prepare you for battle followed by pieces that inevitably hit you with the sadness and love. I just recently used a couple of pieces of Kilar's music to score a proof of concept Batman vs Vampires short that we shot in Darlington. (Have a look on YouTube!)



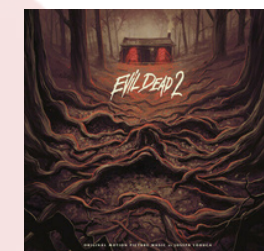
Suspiria (1977)

Dario Argento's Suspiria is one of the greatest horror films of all time in my opinion and it's not just the dreamlike imagery, blood and performances by its cast – but the utterly brilliant and terrifying score by Italian Prog-Rock band Goblin, that actually takes you deeper into this nightmare/beautiful world that Argento creates. I basically listened to this score on repeat whilst developing our Giallo inspired Batman vs Jack the Ripper short film back in 2015. The brilliant synth score by Darlo's own Metal Machine Music is also available to buy on vinyl and download.



Evil Dead 2 (1987)

I absolutely adore everything about Sam Raimi's classic horror film that combines comedy, gore and scares in equal measure. Joseph Loduca's score is amazing too and perfectly fits the mood and overall ambition of the film. There's a nice mix of stuff you'd expect to hear in classic Ray Harryhausen epics, sweet lullabies, heroic themes and even some James Horner Aliens in there. I think the mark of a great horror score is when the listener has the ability to picture the scene in your mind just from listening to it.



Further listening:

Profondo Rosso – Goblin
Zombie Flesh Eaters – Fabio Frizzi
Fright Night – Brad Fiedel

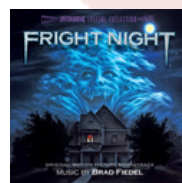




Photo - Lesley Anne Rose

Each issue we bring you a classic Darlo band from the distant past. This time we feature **THEM AMAZING BABIES**.

The picture above shows the band in their classic incarnation. From L to R - **Ben Pearson, Stephen Walker, Bryan Fury and Rob Powton**.

Ben remembers - "A candid shot taken a couple of minutes before we went on the Main stage at the Newcastle Carling Academy in September 2006. We were playing with The Subways and the Sunshine Underground. We were starting off our set with a song called Paraphernalia which has one of those really long drawn out bass lines like "Where the Streets Have no Name" type loops. We made Rob go out first, picking up his instrument to a smattering of applause and whoops from the audience. He starts up the bassline alone and within 15 seconds, the whole crowd hands above their heads join in, giving him the classic crowd clap beat."

"Rob said it was the best moment of his life up till that point, I think it's still up there for him. Me too actually. Knowing Rob you'd think he'd be nervous walking out there alone like that, but he had no nerves at all, he was in his absolute element. Exactly where he should be and just had a fucking blast the whole gig. After about 40 seconds we each walked on out stage, maybe one every 20 seconds or so and picked up our respective instruments layering up the parts, it was a cracking start to the night."

I saw them live a few times and they always gave a good show. My favourite song by them was probably Private Detective. A good bunch of blokes too that I have heard live in different parts of the globe now with Ben Pearson residing in Japan, Bryan Fury somewhere in the continent of Asia, Rob residing in good old Darlo (I see him from ASDA from time to time) and Stephen Walker, the drummer, parts unknown.

LEST WE FORGET - **THEM AMAZING BABIES**



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THE FORUM

(Photos by **Holly Cuthbert**)

Q.) Am I a misfit ? A.) Possibly, Yes.

Q.) Do I like buying stuff A.) Also Yes.

The **Misfits Market** could be ideally suited to me!

My mam and daughter have been visiting the Misfits Market on a monthly basis since it started and they seem to rate it, so I took a look in with my two eldest. I like what they are doing with the market. People moan that the outdoor market is never used any more but I'm afraid it's a sign of the times. Evolve or become Extinct, so they say.

There is regular music on the market stage (If a little bland), some varied street food outlets, (if a little pricey) and the usual market traders that have managed to survive the entity that is online shopping, such as the legend **Robin Blair**. And now there is the monthly Misfits Market too.

We arrived around 6 to get them two something to eat to build up their stamina for walking round. They got a bowl of chips each from the Thai place. They are evidently a cheap date. Thumbs up from the sprogs on that one.



Sufficiently heartened by the **Thai Fries** we made our way to the Misfits Market proper. Which is essentially a square in between the old skool stalls and the new fangled street food cavalcade.

The first shop we came upon sold little artefacts and curios. My daughter, Holly chose a pebble with a runic character on it. I was marginally put out to pay for what essentially was a stone with some paint on it but fortunately the card machine wasn't working so we got it for free. A great start to my Misfit journey!

It's quite busy at the Market. I'd say the strongest demographic, without trying to be stereotypical could probably be described as female, 15-30 with an alt look. Ranging from a casual Nirvana tote bag to full on archetypal Goth clobber. There were one or two people dressed up as anime characters which was quite cool. It seemed to be a bit of a meeting place for them which is heartening. Back in the 90's it was the Fountain out the back of **Boyes**.

There was a speaker blasting music which I didn't recognise. It sounded like some sort of Pop Punk dross which isn't my genre of choice. I would have preferred the quiet but I am pushing 40 now so I'm essentially an old fart. I do think that the stage could be utilised and perhaps a band could perform on the stage at intervals. It could definitely add to proceedings. Imagine! One day they could have a Misfits Music Festival.

All the bands could be wearing items from the Market stalls like human mannequins to advertise it and the street food would do a roaring trade. One step at a time, Rory.

My favourite stall there sells paintings which appear to be on wood. Ranging from around £5 to over £50. Lots of great designs like Bela Lugosi, **Frankenstein**, Salvador Dali and more. There was a hot sauce stall, which did free samples which I will try next time as I like to burn my mouth off every now and again. **Refrill** Vintage Shop have a lovely little stall there where my daughter likes to buy old coins and postcards. There was a Tarot reader, a quaint little art print stall from which I have a Nosferatu print on my wall at home. Ceramics, Jewellery, edible Knobs, candles, badges, clothes and loads more! Oh and it's free to get in. So as Jack Torrance would say. **GO CHECK IT OUT.**





JET BLACK 1938 - 2022

Another legendary British musician ascends to The Great Gig in the Sky. Renaissance Man and Stranglers drummer Jet Black.

Jet (real name **Brian Duffy**) considerably older than the other members of the band would take on the wise, fatherly role in the group. He could turn his hand to anything, whether that was making furniture, patenting his own electronic drum hardware, or documenting the bands history in his own archive.

Originally a Jazz drummer, he initially gave up his sticks to begin a venture into business, with an off licence in Guildford and a fleet of Ice Cream vans, one of which the Men in Black would use to transport their gear to gigs.

I always remember the chants of "Jet Black" at Stranglers shows. Still puts the hairs on the back of my neck on end. A very understated and criminally underrated drummer who came up with some amazingly inventive beats, like **Genetix** from 1979's The Raven.

He will be missed and I am very grateful I was able to see him on stage for the first time in 1998 and then regularly after. RIP Jet.

Black's Best Beats

Genetix (The Raven, 1979)

Peasant in the Big Shitty (No More Heroes, 1977)

Nice n Sleazy (Black & White, 1978)

Second Coming (Gospel According to The Men In Black, 1981)

Ice (The Raven, 1979)

The Hoptimist. Ironic Choice of word play. When I walked past it the other day everyone inside looked completely broken.

WESTGARTH SOCIAL CLUB

1912 - 2023



Alas, another independent venue will close its doors for the last time. I've been lucky enough to play at The Westgarth on a couple of occasions and it was always a lot of fun. It's been at the Vanguard of the **Middlesbrough** live music scene for many years and will be missed in the town and beyond.

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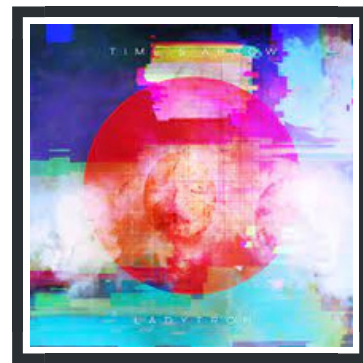


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REVIEW

LADYTRON - TIME'S ARROW



A much needed return to form for Liverpool's Lo/Sci - Fi Poster People ?

I first heard Ladytron in 1999 on Steve Lamacq's **Evening session**. It was a live sesh of 'Playgirl' from the debut album 604. I was endeared instantly to the innocent, naïve home made sound. Let's see if the new album Time's Arrow hits the mark.

I'm not sure the album title is an ode to Martin Amis' 1991 Novel or more likely, knowing the band's penchant for retro-futuristic themes (The band were known for wearing outfits similar to those from 1971's **The Andromeda Strain**, a slow burning Sci-Fi thriller) Arthur C. Clarke's short story of the same name from 1950. Or possibly, they just love science in general.

Unfortunately this album is verging on self parody. It's well produced but over produced. It's amazing how bands plough on and insist every new album they release is their best. Every single Ladytron album has got consistently less listenable and it's eventually devolved into this release.

The debut album 604 and their follow up Light and Magic are two of my favourite albums ever and this is a very big drop from the raw, obscure drum machine powered, dry, obsolete synth laden melodies and kooky lyrical content. Some of it is actually difficult to listen to as a fan of over 20 years.

Flight from Angkor stands out as it features a rare vocal from **Mira Aroyo** accompanied by some nostalgic early 80s Joy Division style string synth. If I'm completely honest Mira is a great asset to the band but she can't sing very well. Presumably why her vocal input was reserved for spoken word parts which were at the time, very effective and gave The Tron their trademark sound in the early days.

It's actually not all bad. City of Angels sounds as though it could have been from their third album 'Witching Hour' and as a tune holds up well but it has a sheen that probably isn't needed and it sounds quite thin. Misery Remember Me is a bit of an 80's style power ballad and is one of the better songs on the album with the heavenly voice of Helen Marnie shining through. Never went away has some live drums and a melodious vocal delivery from Helen once again.

You can listen to it on **Bandcamp** if you want. I mean you can. But if you're a hardened fan prepare to be a bit disappointed.

2.7/5

ladytron.bandcamp.com

SKAPONES NOTCH UP 500K VIEWS

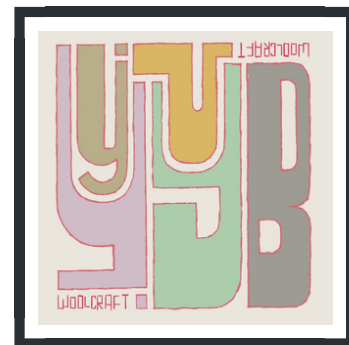
The Skapones have already hit the milestone of half a million views on YouTube with their '**A Message to You, Rishi**' performance on the picket line outside St. John's Academy in Darlington. Featuring some amazingly expressive **Cajon** playing from the man, the myth, the legend - George Stead.

Balaclavas like the one used in the video with the words 'George Stead - Cajon King' are now selling like hot cakes on his website. Watch it on YouTube Now! 'A Message to You, Rishi' will be released as a **single** with all moneys going to **National Education Union** (NEU) Trust Fund for Hardship. What's even better is it features Lynval Golding of The Specials.



REVIEW

WOOLCRAFT - Y.Y.U.Y.B



WE ARE NOT SHEEPISH WHEN IT COMES TO REVIEWING.....

Woolcraft are the North's premier folk infused tribute to Kraftwerk. Playing mainly in rural venues, dressing up in red and black woollen jumpers. They do an amazing version of 'The Model', you have to see it, it's a laugh riot.

Hang on. Wrong band. Sorry. I'll start that again.

Woolcraft are a Teesside entity powered by the vivid imagination of one Michael Baines. You may also know him from local misfits Werbeniuk. He sent me his latest album (In fact the 7th he's released to date) and I was going to pick the best song to review but I dug it so much I thought I'd do the whole album.

Fizzy River - Discordant and Atonal with echoes of early Scritti Politti and a glorious lo-fi sound. A cornucopia of samples of live percussion and ethnic instruments all accompanied by a Teesside accent. Which is a **WIN**. I think I heard Michael say the word '**Trustarfarian**' which is one of my favourite words of all time. So that's another win. It's got shades of Beta Band with the live looped instruments. Lyrically it's on point. Evocative, abstract, yet memorable.

Dinglalinga - Bass line is super phat. Delayed piano is on point. Synth is wicked. Dinglalinga sounds like Stereolab meets Black Moth Super Rainbow. Really good. The chorus or I suppose what you would call a refrain has almost got a big, grandiose, orchestral sound which wouldn't sound out of place on a film soundtrack (Which is where it may have been sourced).

Misery Junction - The drum loop on Misery Junction is a low fidelity, frenetic affair. It's a similar beat to Bang Bang Bang by Mark Ronson. But as the title suggests this is more a sombre entity. It's got a real 60's pop feel, almost **Scott Walker**-esque. There are some lovely octaved backing vocals. I love octaved backing vocals.

Pocket Square - I like the instrumentation on this one. Really nostalgic ethereal type sounds. It launches with a riff not dissimilar in feel to the Get Carter soundtrack by Roy Budd.

Monitor Foot - Do I detect the staple of any self-respecting open Mic Night, The Cajon? This really has all the bells and whistles. Extended percussion intro. Brass samples and bass added later. I mean it's a bit of filler but it's a nice little intermission of silliness.

Street Smarts - Urban grooves from the heart of Teesside. For the city streets for the hip hop beats. Love the synths. Rapping with an infusion of Teesside deadpan-ness. Excellent, Old skool 90's feel.

And my mom - Samples abound again on this one. Musically, early on it reminds me a bit of Mr Wendal by Arrested Development but then morphs into something that feels like it could have been released by Warp Records in 1997. Sort of a happier more upbeat version of **Boards of Canada**.

All in all. An impressive release that shows that there is a good deal of talent in the area. For lovers of old samples and the good old Teesside accent. And apparently, **Y.Y.U.Y.B** is the new Y.O.L.O.

HEAD

Post House Wynd



I like to think that this bijou **Post House Wynd** establishment was named after the oft overlooked Monkees Movie from 1968, produced by Jack Nicholson and featuring, weirdly enough, Frank Zappa and Dennis Hopper. Or perhaps that annoying statue from classic 90's CITV show Art Attack.

Either way it's one of my favourite shops in **Darlington**. I like the art, the records, the occult book section. You should take a look in if you haven't already. They also have cassettes, collectibles, DVDs and music books.

The friendly people at **HEAD** stock local music too, mostly on the **Butterfly Effect** label. If you want to see about the shop featuring your latest release, whether on Vinyl, Cassette, or C.D then apply within! Maybe they could eventually start doing HMU style In Stores with slightly more left field artists. It is quite a cosy shop but if Sound it Out can find the space then anyone can!

I believe the same principal applies to local authors. If you are local and have a new book out, chances are they will sell it in the shop for you. Maybe they could also start doing book readings.

SO, a great little hidden gem on Darlo's historic Post House Wynd. Get down!

www.facebook.com/headbookshop



Featuring in **HMU's** latest run of in store performances is Dales based folk rock troubadour Kim Ralls. Or as his legion of fans call him '**Rallsy**'. Be sure to head down to what promises to be an entertaining afternoon. I'm sure he will be more effervescent than he appears to be in this photo. He's on from 2pm so that gives you plenty of opportunity for some morning drinking to really soak up the folkiness to da max.

Also in this latest strand of In Stores is **Caitlin Morrow**, the slightly edgier alternative to Hayley McKay and local rockers **Coral Snake**. Not to mention local Ska Heroes The Skapones who will be launching their new album 'Northern Gods'.

@hmdarlington

DARLINGTON



We trawl Darlington's dark underbelly for tales of historic, salacious criminality...

I have this memory. It's like one of those fever dream type things where everything is all hazy and sickly and surreal like a 1920's Dadaist performance. Only this, really happened.

I was sauntering through Queen Street, I must have been about 20, and something caught my attention, up near Stationery Box, in my peripheral vision.

I had to rub my eyes as what appeared before me left me dumbfounded. It was a man, in some sort of dodgy, cut price S&M wear, leading a scantily clad woman around using a dog leash. She was on all fours, the whole shebang.

It was what these days would be coined a WTF moment. I watched on in shock as the gimped up **Gorean** walked this human dog hybrid abomination into **Stationery Box**. I dread to think what he may have been buying for their Saturday Afternoon entertainment.

It turns out that the weirdo was none other than Lee Thompson, apparently Darlington's self styled 'Pagan Faith Healer' cum the area's Poundland version of Charles Manson. Accompanied by one of what later transpired to be one of his female slaves.

He based his doctrine on a series of **Science Fiction novels** from the 1960s by Professor John Norman in which women were subservient to men. Deviant Lee claimed to be descended from a High Priestess who had passed on her powers to him.

But I'm afraid it wasn't all as esoteric and mysterious as Mr Thompson would have had you believe. He was nothing more than a predator and manipulator. A pimp, who enjoyed power over women. And rather offputtingly, has apparently fathered children all over the globe.

He was apprehended in 2006 at his den of inequity in **Forster Street** and later sentenced to 3 years in Prison, which he served at HMP Acklington in Northumberland. He then later moved to the Midlands.

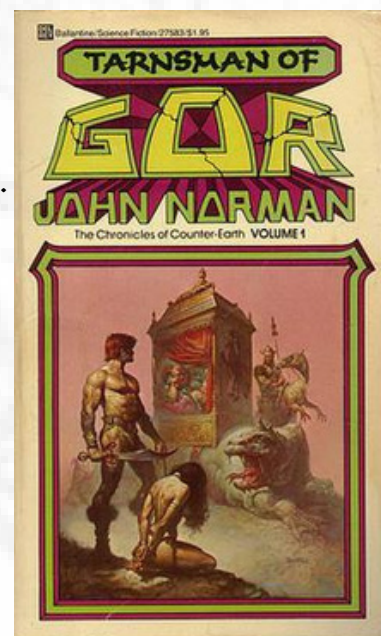


The pin denotes Forster Street

While incarcerated he made contact with a tabloid newspaper to get the message out that prisons were way too comfortable for inmates. I'm sure he would have felt more at home in a dungeon anyway.

And to my knowledge he was never heard from again, if anyone has his appearance on **The Trisha Show** on UHS please let me know!

SICK! The deviant, Lee Thompson



Thompson's Bible

**Sarah from ambient/spoken word project VEP
gives us an insight into what inspired her latest
Bandcamp release 'Raven Girl'.**

My interest in **witches** mainly stems from a book I read as a child which was called Tales from Tartary Book 2. Written by James Riorden.

The first tale that caught my imagination was The Fern girl. "Dressed all in black, stepped the Devil's eighth daughter. She had one crooked leg. One arm, as crooked as her leg. A hideous dead eye in the centre of her forehead. With a long black tongue that hung down to her breast."

I was hooked. Throughout my life I have been intrigued by fiction and non fiction alike and in recent years I have been drawn in particular towards folk tales from Japan.

Japanese folklore, especially the kind that features Witches is quite dark yet also very satisfying. The **Rokurokubi** is a name mentioned time and again. A woman who terrorises men at night, stripping them of all ego to uncover the abuser within. These were stories told throughout the rural villages to try and instil morality among the male population.

While I was looking for new Japanese horror to devour I came across an animated tale on YouTube entitled One night With the Dead. The narrator tells the story of a particular Rokurokubi. A family had lost their daughter in suspicious circumstances but if they had taken the potential crime to the police it would have only brought shame upon them. So they decided to take matters into their own hands.

The widower was put into a room with only one window. Then his wife's corpse was placed in the centre of the room, covered only by a white sheet. He had to remain there overnight. The plan being that they would send an elder dressed in white into the room after a few hours which would hopefully scare the widower into a confession. However a darker fate awaits him...

Another story that inspired me was written by **Jippensha Ikku** in the late Edo period. This particular yarn has a very urban myth feel to it.

A monk and a young woman eloped together; soon after the woman collapsed due to illness. Since their money had run out the monk decided to kill her and soon after he moved on and met someone else.

One night when they slept together, the girl's neck stretched, morphing into that of his former partner. Feeling fearful and guilty, he desperately turned to the girl's father, seeking some sort of catharsis.

He told his lurid story, in which he killed his love, stole her money, then used it to open an Inn. Years later his new wife became pregnant. The baby was a girl, and due to the unresolved karma his daughter turned into a Rokurokubi.

Sarah Parilla

vepmusic.bandcamp.com



Raven Girl by VEP



Rokurokubi





GURU
1972 - 2023