

BLACK CARROT

FEBRUARY, 2025
ISSUE 2

THE ACCIDENTAL DRUMMER!

WE GET UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL WITH CHRIS. TO FIND OUT HOW A DETERMINED GUITARIST, ACCIDENTALLY BECAME THE BANDS DRUMMER.

ALBUM REVIEWS

MOVIE REVIEWS

GIG GUIDE

EXCLUSIVE FEATURES

... AND LOADS MORE!



CARROT IS THE NEW
BLACK

Dive inside,
and have a
look!

www.blackcarrot.co.uk



Follow us on Facebook

If you have not already, please remember to FOLLOW us on FACEBOOK. It really does make a difference. Although Instagram is a great place to show some pictures, we do most of our talking through FB. Plus, the amount of followers we have can affect what venues & promoters offer us gigs, and radio stations give us airtime.

The more followers we have will help us to grow this very magazine you are reading now. It really is a numbers game. The bigger the numbers, the better the opportunities.

And we will keep the content and posts about cool & funny things coming.

Things like the CARROT ARMY are all done on FACEBOOK. So if you get your photo taken with a band member or one of our Plushie Carrots! Then it will be FB that we post your photo.

FOLLOWERS are important, so please make sure you are following us. Hey! use the link on this very page!!



BLACK CARROT

FEBRUARY, 2025
ISSUE 2

Wow! How time flies. It has been 3 months since the first issue was published, back in November. And as you go through the pages of issue 2, you will see how much it has grown already. In just two issues!

In addition to the popular features from the previous issue, this time we have added; Albums Reviews, Movie Reviews, Ones to watch, and details of how to be a Superfan. We have also added a gig guide, which was the most popular request we received from the feedback forum we opened.

Now! If you live in, or are around the areas of Herts, Beds, Bucks and Cambs, and want to know what bands are playing. We can help!

In this issue we have a couple of fantastic features to get your teeth into. Our very own Chris gives you the lowdown on his musical journey. And we have a special guest feature on the legend that is Deborah Wildish, former JOANovARC drummer and now full time drum teacher.

Another great addition to this issue is the inclusion of some advertising support from local businesses. We thank them for their support and encourage anyone wanting to advertise in a future issue of the mag, to get in contact with us on the email link provided below.

After a fantastic 2024 for the band, we finished strong with two fantastic gigs at The Horn in St Albans, and Club 85 in Hitchin. Both Hertfordshire.

There is nothing better than performing full set gigs on great stages and meeting other bands on the line up. Making new contacts, new friends, and playing our songs Live. That is what it is all about. Making music in the studio, and then hitting the road to perform the material to audiences of music lovers.

Thank you to the promoters who booked us, the bands we played with, and the audiences we sang our songs to. We hope to do many more gigs in 2025, in support of our forthcoming next single and album.

And hey! If you see any of us out and about, come say hello. We can get a photo and you could be in a future Carrot Army feature.

I hope you enjoy the issue.

**A CARROT A DAY WILL
TURN YOU ORANGE,
EVENTUALLY!**

Darren Brett
Editor & Publisher



@blackcarrotmusic www.blackcarrot.co.uk
contactus@blackcarrot.co.uk

NEWS

GIGS! GIGS! GIGS!

It's a new year and we are looking to be very busy on stages far & wide.

At the time of writing we are super pleased to be able to share with you the following shows

March 4th - The Horn, St Albans. Herts.

March 26th - Corn Exchange, Hertford. Herts.

April 4th - Johnny's Bar, Watford. Herts.

May 17th - The Phoenix - High Wycombe.

June 8th - Rock In The Park - Stevenage (12pm Stage Time)

As gig news changes all the time, the best place to be kept up to date with where we are playing is by signing up to be a Superfan:



Or by following us on FaceBook:

[● FOLLOW US](#)

NEWS

AMAZING EXPOSURE

We continued to get some great exposure over the past couple of months with more support from Radio. With 'Heavy Metal Through The Ghetto Blaster' being played on Royston Radio's The Cave Sessions. With Ryan Davies. All The Cave Sessions can be accessed via Ryan's MixCloud page. Ryan is also the owner of RCD Audio. Check links below.

ROYSTON RADIO

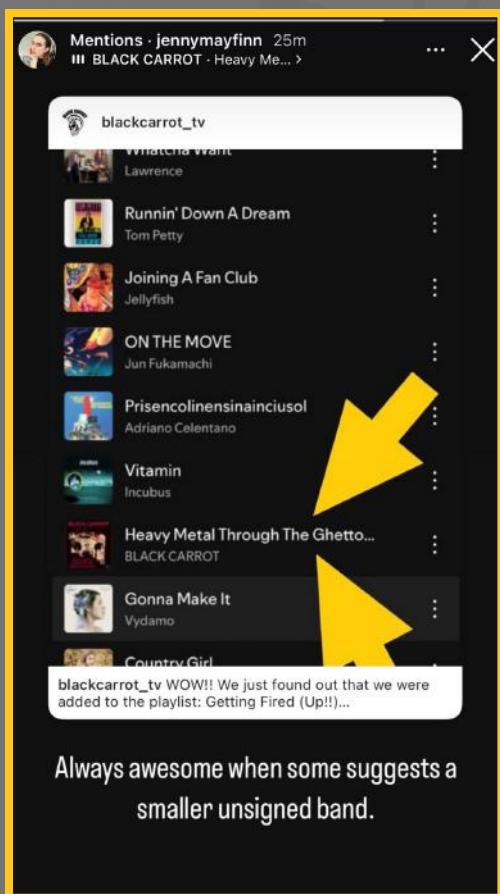
Mixcloud

RCD AUDIO

AMAZING EXPOSURE

We were thrilled to be added to a Spotify Playlist of the one & only, Jenny May Finn. The social media strategist, YouTube Consultant & Fan Engagement Expert, who famously works with (amongst other massively famous people) the AMAZING!! Justin Hawkins of THE DARKNESS, whose new single we review in this issue. Click here to read.

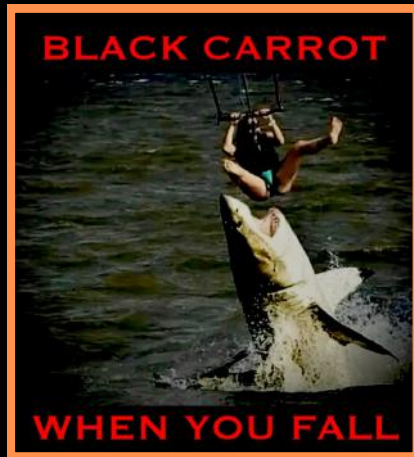
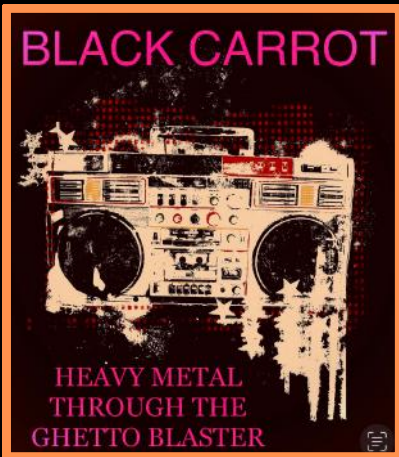
Check out some of her awesome work on these active links!!



ADVERTISEMENT

BLACK CARROT

CARROT IS THE NEW BLACK



5 SINGLES NOW STREAMING



BLOCKBUSTER VIDEO!



OUR FIRST OFFICIAL MUSIC VIDEO IS NOW STREAMING ON YOUTUBE. 'TRAMPLED' IS A BIG LIVE FAVOURITE AND THIS SPECIALLY HAND DRAWN LYRIC VIDEO CAPTURES ITS MESSAGE PERFECTLY.



**JIMMY FALLON
APPROVED!**

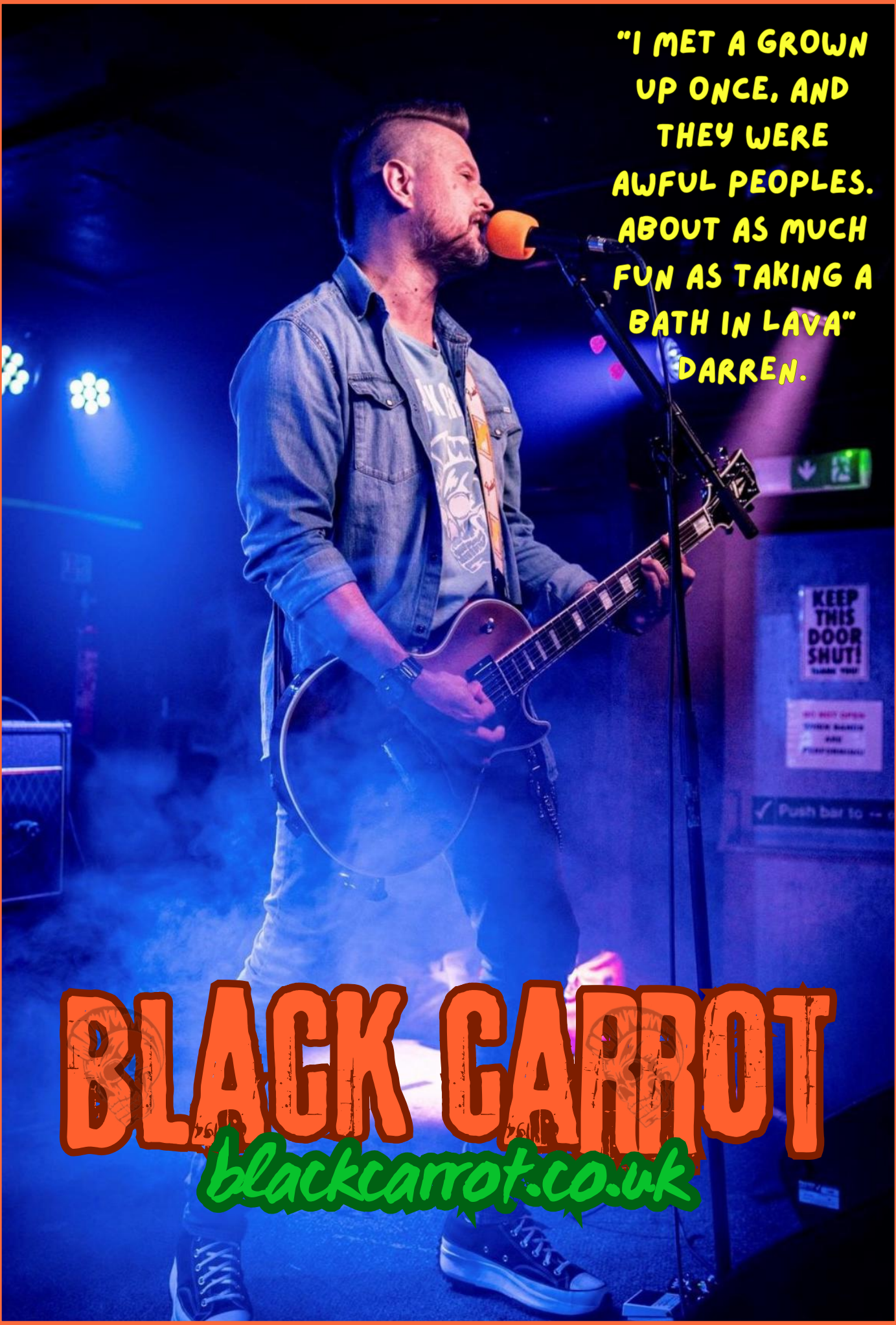


**LIKE &
SUBSCRIBE**



@blackcarrotmusic

www.blackcarrot.co.uk



"I MET A GROWN
UP ONCE, AND
THEY WERE
AWFUL PEOPLES.
ABOUT AS MUCH
FUN AS TAKING A
BATH IN LAVA"
DARREN.

BLACK CARROT
blackcarrot.co.uk

ON THE ROAD AGAIN!

THE HORN, ST ALBANS

27/11/2024



A brilliant night at the famous Hertfordshire venue

BLACK CARROT



**RECRUITMENT
DRIVE**

**RECRUITMENT
DRIVE**

EST. 2020

blackcarrot.co.uk

**GUITARIST:
LOOKING FOR A RHYTHM PLAYER
WHO CAN HANDLE SOME LEAD,
MUST HAVE OWN GEAR, AND OWN
TRANSPORT. ABILITY TO BE ABLE
TO COMMIT TO A WEEKLY
EVENING REHEARSAL IN
STEVENAGE, HERTS.**

Apply at: contactus@blackcarrot.co.uk

ON THE ROAD AGAIN!

CLUB 85, HITCHIN

19/12/2024



What a way to end the year! At the amazing Club 85!!!



STORY BEHIND THE SONG!

PART 2: THE LOVE SONG



Officially released back in October, as the 5th single. **ONE TRACK KIND**, is an old style love song. The likes of which a lot of bands don't write anymore. A song about loving someone so much you just want to tell the world.

The early stage of a relationship when your tummy is full of goosebumps, and the time together goes in a flash, whilst the time apart drags on forever.

Holding hands and plenty of PDA. Little in-jokes with each other, and romantic gestures. Dirty weekends away, and love notes in each others lunchboxes.

Otherwise known as the calm before the storm. The bit before the shit!

A song that unashamedly celebrates the phenomenon that is puppy love. To be One Track Kind, is to be all soppy and gooey, and a big fat cringe fest for everyone around you. And not giving a good god damn.

LISTEN NOW ON SPOTIFY. CLICK HERE!





DARREN CARROT
MOVIE FILM REVIEWS

FILM OF THE YEAR 2024



RUNNER UP



CLICK TO FOLLOW NOW!

MASSIVE INFLUENCES!

PART 2:

GREEN DAY

By Darren



By Darren

It must have been something like August 1994. I was watching MTV, probably holding a bowl of cereal and wearing what I wore to bed the night before. No plans for the day, and just assuming I would doss around eating my parents food, then going to one of my mates house for a few hours to doss around a bit more, eating their parents food. The day to comprise of MTV on in the background, food we didn't pay for, and talking nonsense whilst having someone's parents ask us at some point, "Aren't you going to do something worthwhile today!" To which our reply would be a shrug, followed by a mumble, and the use of the word *Lame*.

What happened however whilst I was eating my 12pm breakfast, was on my TV a man in a white suit walked through a cage like door holding a surf green Fender Stratocaster with stickers all over it. He gives the guitar to a young man wearing all black, who puts it around him whilst looking very confused and numbed out. The young man then starts playing the guitar and the words come out, "Do you have the time, to listen to me whine, about nothing and everything all at once".

For the next 3 minutes and 14 seconds, I am speechless. My jaw dropped so low to the floor that my chin is rubbing on the carpet.

Then another guy is brought on in a stretcher, and handed a Bass guitar, whilst a 3rd guy in a wheelchair is pushed up to a drum kit.

Then the song really kicks in and from that very moment my life is changed forever. One of those moments that music gives you that is very special. You feel the special hit you like a shovel to the face.

The song finished and although I hadn't moved, I felt out of breath. I was completely bamboozled by the video I had just seen and the song I had just heard.



MASSIVE INFLUENCES! CONTINUED



I got dressed and rushed down to my local record shop, straight up to the counter as there was no time to waste. I said "Have you got Basket Case, By GREENDAY"

The record shop man said, "I have it on limited edition green case CD single". I already assumed that the record shop man was Jesus (His name was Andy, actually) but this confirmed it. And Jesus, handed me the CD that would dominate my week.

Shortly after I got the full album, Dookie. And this album has been in my top 5 albums of all time ever since. And in GREENDAY a band that are not only my favourite Punk/Pop Punk band of them all, but I would say 2nd or 3rd favourite band, period.

They are one of the bands who even the songs of theirs I know are not great, I would still argue are the greatest ever. My bias is off the scale when it comes to GREENDAY. They are like toys to me. They are cherished. They make me happy just thinking about them.

I would say that of all the bands who influence the BLACK CARROT sound (and there are many), GREENDAY & WEEZER are the top two.

They are part of me. Part of my youth. Part of my coming of age.

That is why when I wrote 'Heavy Metal Through The Ghetto Blaster', the 1st Black Carrot single, I had GREENDAY firmly in my mind as I reminisced about my younger self, sitting there that day with his cereal not knowing what was about to happen to his ears!



become a...

SUPERFAN

It's easy!

SIMPLY FOLLOW THE LINK BELOW TO OUR WEBSITE AND ENTER YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS IN THE BOX AT THE BOTTOM OF THE HOMEPAGE.

THEN! APPROVE YOUR SUBSCRIPTION VIA THE CONFIRMATION EMAIL YOU WILL BE SENT.

YOU WILL THEN BE A SUPERFAN!

YOU WILL:

- NEVER MISS AN ISSUE OF BLACK CARROT MAGAZINE
- GET EXCLUSIVE TRACKS WHICH WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE ANYWHERE ELSE
- BE INFORMED FIRST ABOUT UPCOMING GIGS AND RELEASES, VIA DIRECT EMAIL UPDATES.
- GET DISCOUNTS ON MERCH ITEMS
- AND LOADS MORE STUFF BEING THOUGHT UP ALL THE TIME.

ITS FREE TO BE A SUPERFAN. YOU SIMPLY NEED TO SUBSCRIBE ON THE LINK BELOW.

SUBSCRIBE



STAGE PLAN

<https://stage-plan.com>

Get Gig Ready!

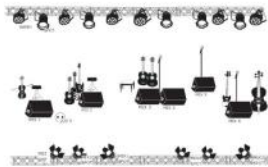
Professional Stage Plot Creator



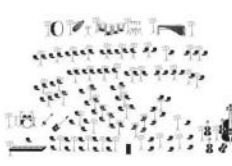
Rock Bands



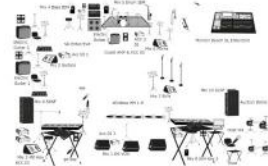
Extra Lighting



Orchestras



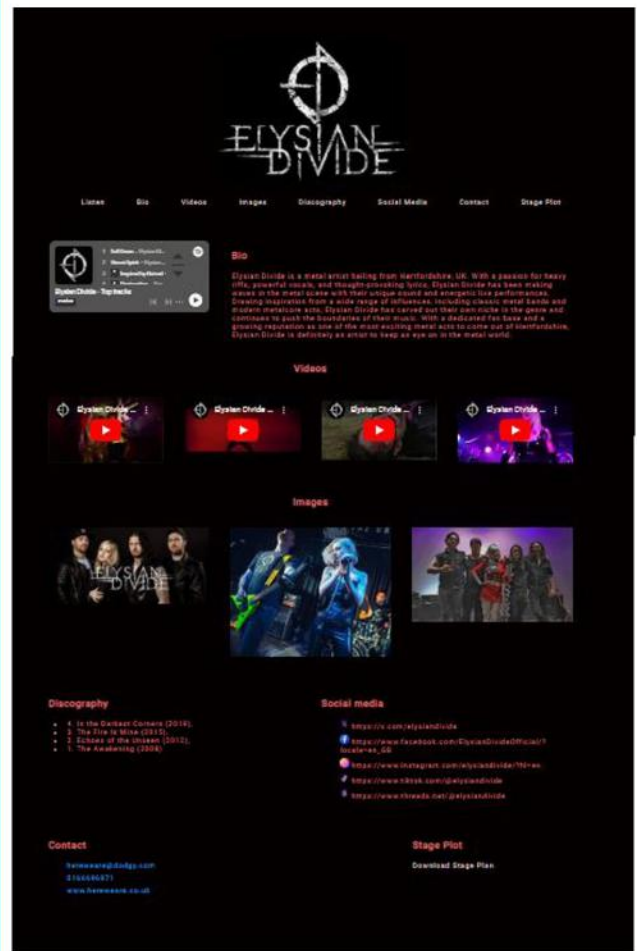
Musical / Broadway



Professional services: Input lists, Monitor Mixes, Set Lists, Hospitality Rider, Create PDF*

Electronic Press Kit Creator

Online EPK creator designed by industry professionals, and it's cheaper than Wordpress



Free and paid stage plot creator options

<https://stage-plan.com>



* Professional services for stage plots cost



GET TO KNOW YOUR CARROTS!



EACH ISSUE A MEMBER OF TEAM WILL FIELD SOME QUESTIONS FOR A LITTLE INSIGHT!

NEXT UP, MARK

DO YOU FEEL NERVOUS BEFORE GOING ONSTAGE?

Not really, more excited to get up there and play. However if we have a new song in the set then it might be on my mind to concentrate more on that one.

FAVOURITE BAND AND WHY?

It varies from day to day but a consistent favourite is Pearl Jam. I love Eddie Vedder's vocal delivery, lyrics, and how much they rock Live.

HOW OLD WERE YOU WHEN YOU FIRST STARTED TO GET INTO MUSIC?

Probably around 10. I remember singing along to Michael Jackson's Bad album. Especially the song, Man in the Mirror.

WHAT IS YOUR PREFERRED INSTRUMENT?

Has to be Guitar. It's what I gravitate to when writing, or coming up with parts.

ANY OTHER PASSIONS?

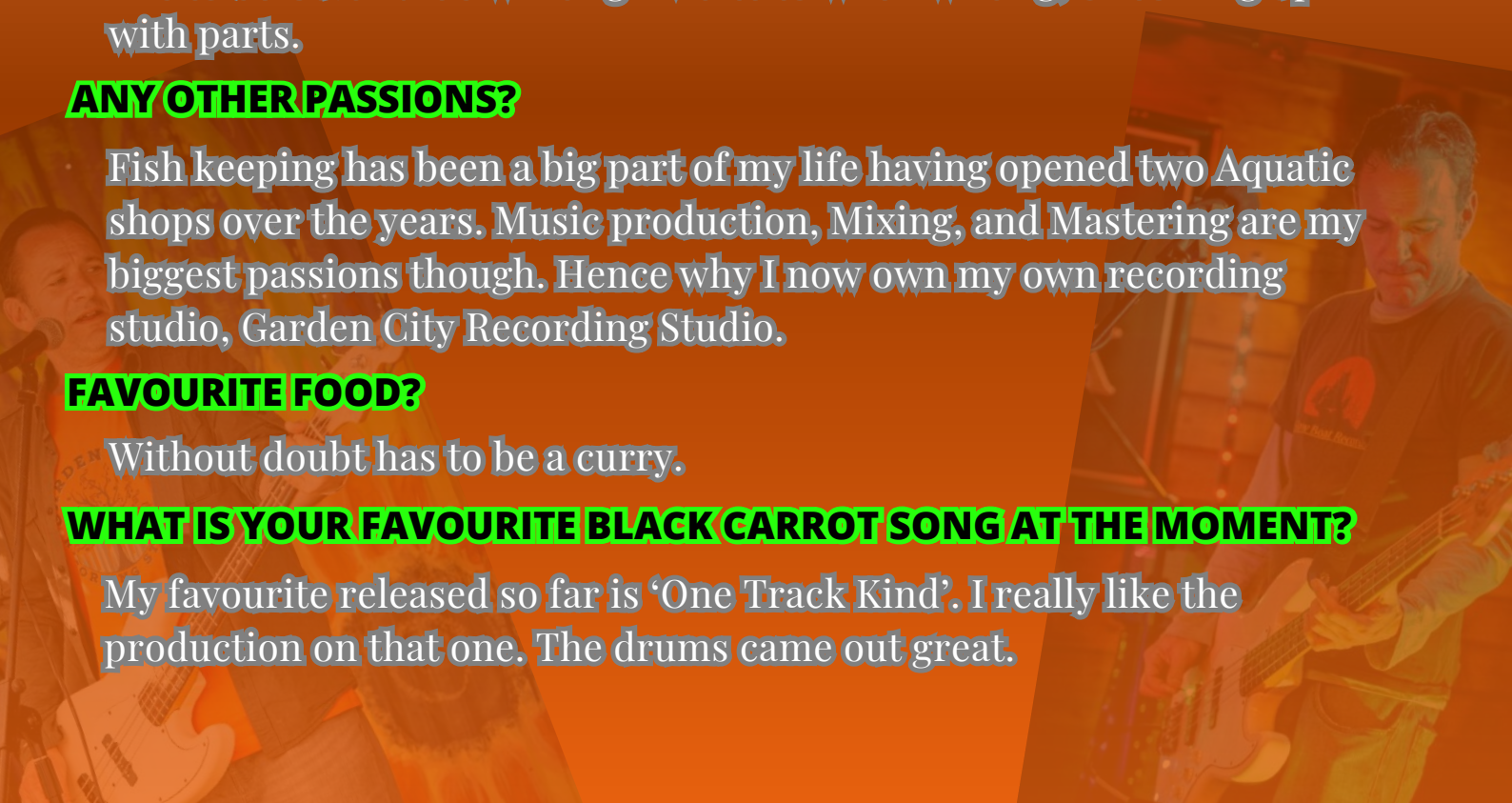
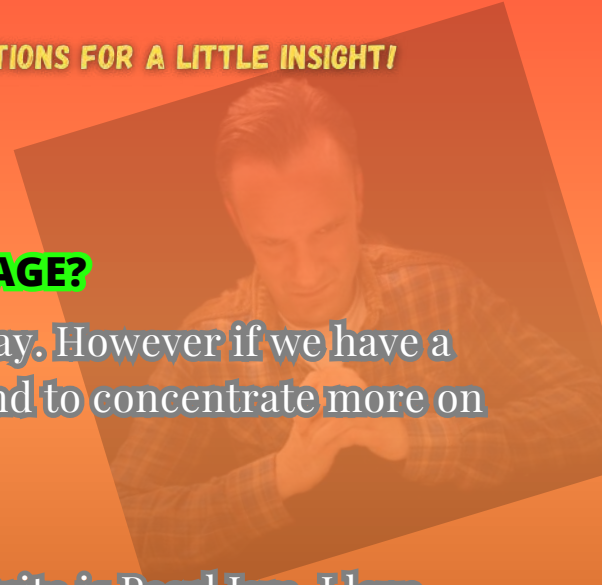
Fish keeping has been a big part of my life having opened two Aquatic shops over the years. Music production, Mixing, and Mastering are my biggest passions though. Hence why I now own my own recording studio, Garden City Recording Studio.

FAVOURITE FOOD?

Without doubt has to be a curry.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE BLACK CARROT SONG AT THE MOMENT?

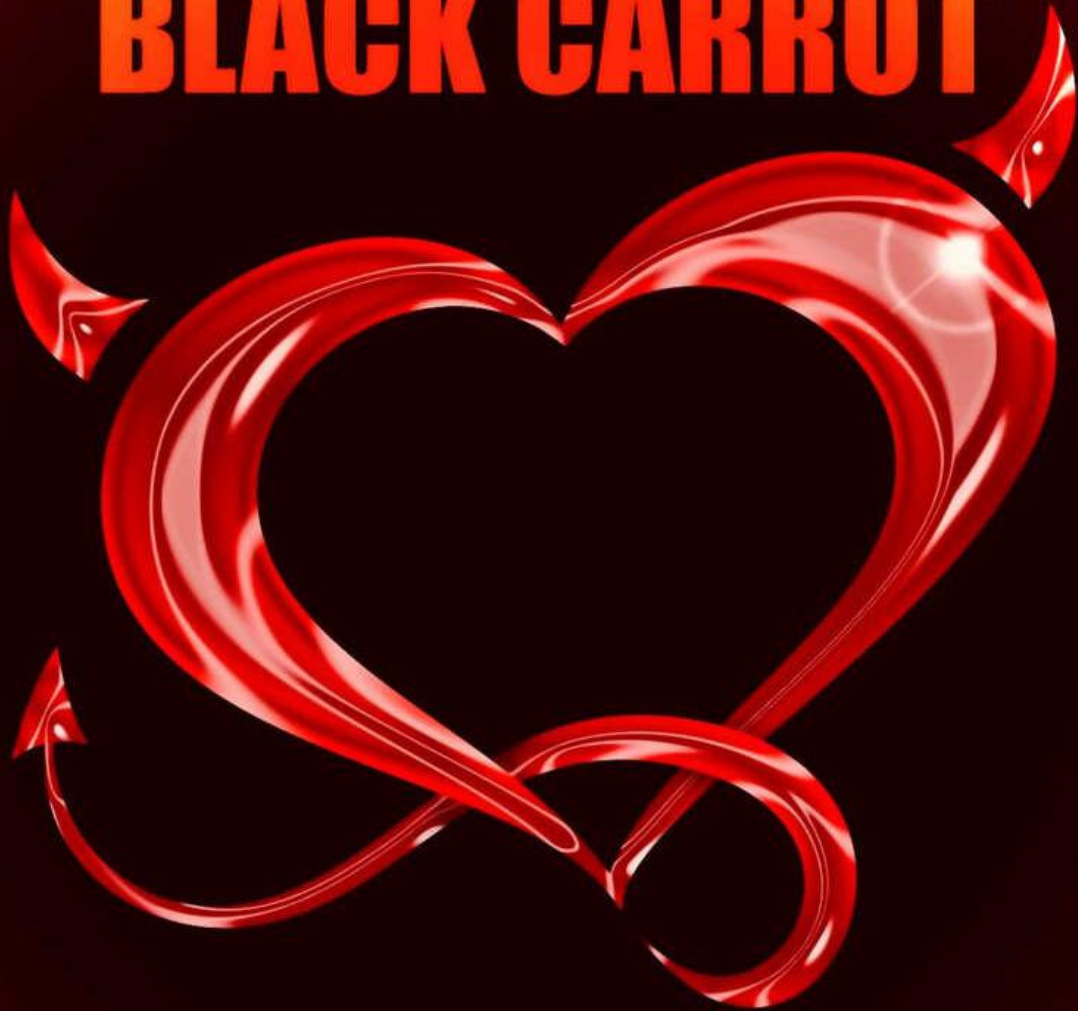
My favourite released so far is 'One Track Kind'. I really like the production on that one. The drums came out great.



NEW RELEASE

DISTROKID

BLACK CARROT



ONE TRACK KIND

NOW AVAILABLE



THE ACCIDENTAL DRUMMER!

This issue we get up close and personal with BLACK CARROT drummer Chris. To find out how a determined guitarist, accidentally became the bands drummer.

Ask most people I've met to describe me musically, and they'll probably reply "Chris? Well, he's that guitar player who hates Green Day". So, you may be forgiven for asking "What the hell are you doing playing drums in pop-punks next big thing – Black Carrot!?" Well, to answer that question, we must go back to a Cash-Converters in the Year of our Lemmy: 2003. My dad had always wanted to learn a musical instrument, so when he saw drum kits for sale-(brand new for a mere £150)-needless to say, the family become proud owners of the finest way to piss off your neighbours.

At this time, I was sixteen; five years earlier I had heard Van Halen's "Beat It" solo and acquired a Squire Strat. Rock 'n' Roll stardom was already firmly fixed in my mind. The arrival of a glorified set of pots and pans in the shed held little interest for me. I had a play about- learned to hold a 4/4 beat- but my interest soon waned. Like son like father, the drums became a vestigial instrument, more ornament than rock 'n' roll engine room. That changed after a conversation at school. The chat was short; they asked me "Hey, you play drums, don't you?" I replied with trepidation, "Well...I have a drum kit?" The reply came, "Good enough, you're in!"



And just like that, I became the drummer for groove-metal band Scar My Eyes. My renewed love of music and my first taste of real gigs! The Hertford Marquee, The Square in Harlow, and Hitchin's Club 85—was exhilarating. But I was no drummer. My feet flailed on the double kick, hoping no one noticed my lack of skill. Rudiments, syncopation, and fills? Forget it—I relied on brute force and speed to get through.





COVER FEATURE

THE ACCIDENTAL DRUMMER!

CONTINUED.....

When I left Scar My Eyes after two years, it was amicable. No egos or Metallica-style tantrums, just good friends parting ways. I returned to guitar, joined other bands, and eventually hit life's checklist: marriage, kids, work, and a mortgage. My rock 'n' roll dreams faded, but I gained three amazing kids and an incredible partner, Caroline, who supports me in ways I never thought possible, and is a wonderful human being.

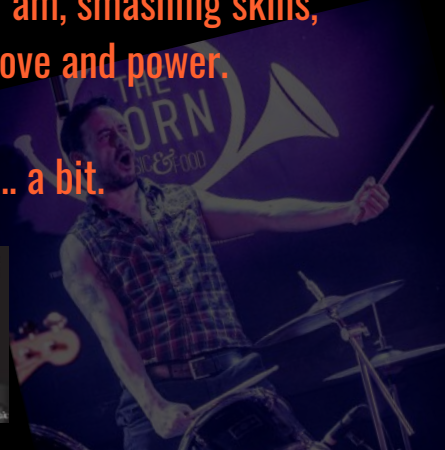
Still, the call of the stage lingered. Post-lockdown, I decided to return to music. What started as a rehearsal-room project, Sonic Remedy, evolved into a pub cover band. Determined to do better than my Scar My Eyes days, I committed to learning drums properly. My rule: one kick pedal only. My personal listening shifted to rhythm, and I became fascinated by the nuance great drummers bring to their craft.

The drummer who stands out most to me is Ian "Paicey" Paice of Deep Purple. His mix of groove, power, and tightness is unmatched, and his work became my compass. Playing drums with Sonic Remedy was a revelation. I eventually switched back to guitar, but the cover band scene didn't click for me. The camaraderie and creative spark of grassroots music were missing, though Sonic Remedy remains a fantastic sing-along band.

Then! A certain Mr. Darren Brett appeared, asking if I'd play guitar for Black Carrot. I listened to "Heavy Metal Through the Ghetto Blaster" and was hooked. The song's infectious energy and message reeled me in. The band needed a drummer, so I volunteered temporarily. But as time passed and no replacement was found, I grew to love the role.

Playing drums again reignited something in me. Every song became an opportunity to find new fills or beats, and I worked to expand my abilities. Now, here I am, smashing skins, loving every minute, and chasing that perfect balance of groove and power.

And Green Day? Well, maybe they're growing on me... a bit.



BUY-SELL-TRADE
★ QUALITY ★
VINYL
CD'S
BLU-RAYS
DVD'S
DECKS
01438-487170
www.revolutionrecords.co.uk



"LIFE'S LIKE A BOX
OF CHOCOLATES,
EAT THEM ALL"
MARK.

BLACK CARROT

blackcarrot.co.uk

With a little help to our
Friends!

EACH ISSUE WE WILL SHOWCASE A BAND/ARTIST WE
KNOW & LOVE & WANT YOU TO AS WELL.
NEXT UP!



**GIMMICK SWINGERS OF
MUSIC! PLAYING 50'S POP
BALLADS TO THE 00'S,
TURNING THEM INTO PUNK
ROCK!**

THE REAL MCKOYS are very simply the best cover band in the region. They are certainly the most fun!

They take your average joe pop classics like: Careless Whisper, Torn, or Angels. And give them a full Pop-Punk makeover.

Dressed in Hawaiian Shirts, White Stetson's, Sunglasses, and the tightest white jeans you will ever see! Their Live Shows are truly magnificent. Frontman Kylee McKoy is the perfect host for a fun & joyous evening of great songs made even better. He is often venturing into the audience to encourage everyone in the room has the best time possible. Check out their gigs & music & socials on the link below and find out why we LOVE these guys so much.



click to follow
Linktree*





CARROT ARMY



WE DON'T CALL THEM FANS, WE CALL THEM SOLDIERS!!

PART 1: DANGEROUS DAVID HAYZEN, GUITARIST OF ESCAPE ROUTE

DO YOU REMEMBER BIG CHRIS, IN LOCK STOCK & TWO SMOKING BARRELS? THE HARD MAN PLAYED EQUISTILY BY VINNIE JONES??

WELL DANGEROUS DAVE, IS THE REAL LIFE VERSION OF THAT. HE EATS BULLETS FOR BREAKFAST, AND DRINKS ACID TO COOL DOWN. IT IS REPORTED THAT WHILE SWIMMING IN A SEAL COLONY IN SOUTH AFRICA. DANGEROUS, WAS INVOLVED IN A SHARK ATTACK WITH FOUR! 20FT GREAT WHITES. AFTER A FURIOUS 30 MINUTE BATTLE THE SHARKS SADLY PASSED AWAY.

DANGEROUS, IS ALSO THE GUITARIST IN ROCK BAND ESCAPE ROUTE WHO IF YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOOD FOR YOU, YOU WILL FOLLOW IMMEDIATELY. NOW YOU'VE READ THIS, IF YOU DON'T, DANGEROUS WILL KNOW. AND USING A UNIQUE SET OF SKILLS WHICH MAKE HIM A NIGHTMARE FOR MERE MORTALS TO DEAL WITH, HE WILL HUNT YOU DOWN AND FORCE YOU TO LISTEN TO RAP YODEL!!

THE REAL DEAL. HE CAME TO KICK ASS AND CHEW GUM. AND HE'S ALL OUT OF GUM.

ESCAPE ROUTE

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE FEATURED AS A SOLDIER IN THE CARROT ARMY, JUST GET A PICTURE WITH A BAND MEMBER OR A PLUSHIE, OR AN ORANGE NOSE AT ANY GIG



ADVERTISEMENT

THE PRACTICE ROOMZ

REHEARSE | RECORD | CREATE



WWW.THEPRACTICEROOMZ.COM

01438 488 681



Thank you!

Each issue we want to thank someone special to us who has helped in some way. Whether a large act or a small gesture. Nothing goes unnoticed.



This month we thank the amazing Mr. Steve Simpson, and the amazing Mix 92.6 fm.

We reached out to Steve earlier in 2024 when our debut single 'Heavy Metal Through The Ghetto Blaster' came out, to ask if he would play it on his live & local show. Not only did Steve support us by playing the song, but he also invited Darren to play a special acoustic set for a charity gig too. In which he gave Darren a wonderful introduction to the stage and further championed the single by shouting out "Great song", when it was announced in the set.

Steve is a real champion for unsigned groups & artists, especially those in the local regions to Herts, Beds and Bucks. He is a champion of local charities as well and is one of those people who genuinely wants to know about people. A man with a smile that fills a room. A man who looks you in the eye when talking to you. A man who remembers your name, your band, your songs!

And a real credit to the fantastic radio station that is Mix 92.6 fm.

Mix is a station we will champion forever. The nicest and most supportive people. Not just Steve, but also Director, Nick Hazell. And Elly O'Meara who has mentioned us a couple of times on one of the breakfast shows, when we attempted to guess the song in her lyric's competition.

Mix, also help aspiring radio presenters to get experience with their volunteer programme. This is brilliant as Radio is a hard industry to get in to and they can provide the perfect platform for anyone.



LOOKING FOR BOOKINGS!

**FULLY ORIGINAL MATERIAL
UPBEAT EXCITING LIVE BAND
PUNK/POP PUNK/ROCK
SUPPORT & HEADLINE SETS
WEBSITE/FACEBOOK/SPOTIFY
www.blackcarrot.co.uk**



CONTACTS US NOW TO PLAY YOUR VENUE, OR OPEN FOR YOUR BAND



contactus@blackcarrot.co.uk

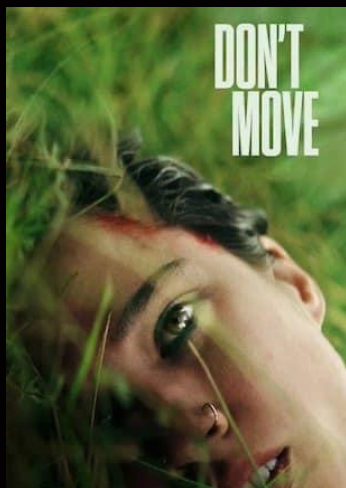
DARREN CARROT

MOVIE FILM REVIEWS

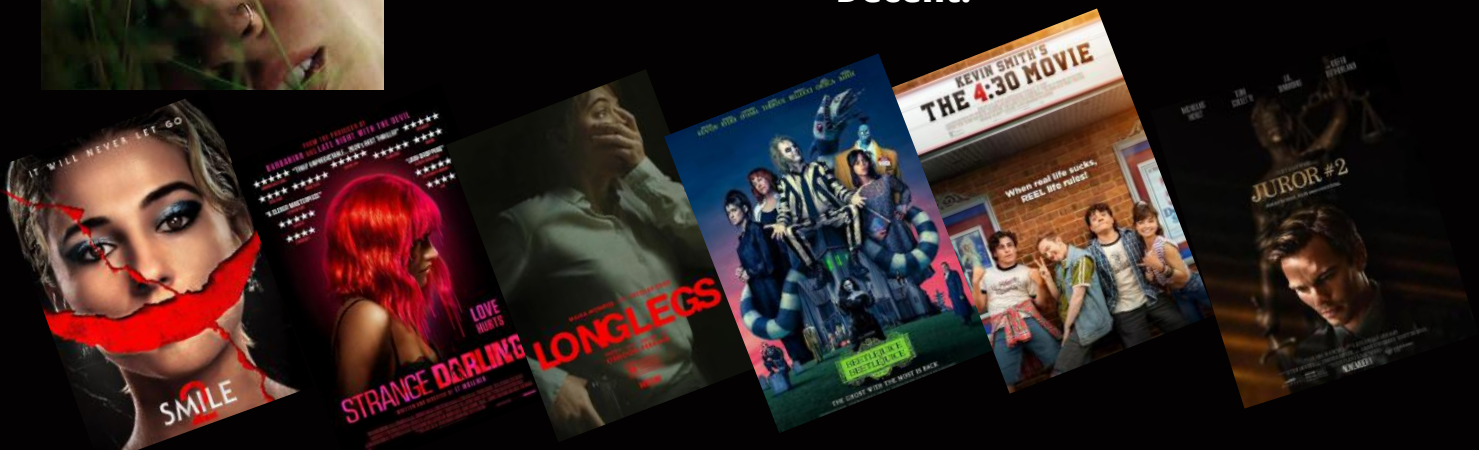
Not only a Music Fanatic, Darren is also a huge Movie Fan, and he has a review page on Facebook. Make sure you follow to find out what he is doing in the Movie & TV Show World! Here is some of the things he watched the past few weeks. Full reviews on the facebook page. Link Below.



WHAT YOU WISH FOR (2023). What a little belter!! A great thriller. I didn't read the synopsis I just took the recommendation and gave it a chance. I'd say do the same if I was you. Tense, a little disgusting, and well acted. An original idea well executed.



DONT MOVE (2024). This was well worth giving a go. I was very pleasantly surprised. A nice little thriller, cat and mousey type movie film. It kept my interest. I genuinely felt sorry for the victim, and genuinely hated the baddie. Which isn't something many films manage to get right often. Decent.



www.facebook.com/darrencarrotmoviefilmreviews

DARREN CARROT

MOVIE FILM REVIEWS



THE LAST STOP IN YUMA COUNTY (2023). What a find! Jim Cummings, Richard Brake & Jocelin Donahue!!! All in the same movie film!!! Yes please thank you very much A bunch of people are stuck at a petrol station diner in the arse end of nowhere when they run out of petrol at the pumps. The collective of people include bank robbers, petty thieves, a couple of gun happy pensioners, a sheriff's wife, and a desperate knife salesman. Cue the carnage!!!!

I loved it. Great cast, great soundtrack, great script, and at only 90 minutes doesn't have time to drag.



LOWLIFES (2024). I enjoyed this one a lot. A great little find. A lovely slasher for a frosty night. Also a nice little nod to never judging a book by its cover. Go straight in you'll love it.



MEGAN IS MISSING (2011). Hard hitting found footage movie film about two girls who go missing after chatting with a guy they don't know online. It's a tough watch at times, and left me feeling really low. Well made, thought provoking, sickening, and upsetting. All the boxes ticked for a proper horror.



LIVE . MUSIC . MATTERS



ONES TO WATCH

THE LIVE MUSIC SCENE IS JAM PACKED WITH EXCEPTIONAL TALENT. EACH ISSUE WE WILL SHOWCASE SOME OF THE ONES TO WATCH!



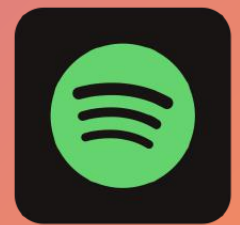
We had the honour of playing with these guys just before Christmas at our club 85 show in Herts. To put it lightly, they blew the roof off the place!

Fast paced, energetic, thrilling pop punk, full of piss & vinegar to give the audience an unforgettable experience.

At the start of this year, we were lucky enough to be in the sell-out audience of the Hertford Corn Exchange, to see them win the final of the battle of the bands competition.

We are confident this is the start of a very big journey. One that could take them to the top.

Get involved with The Skive, now! So you can legitimately say you were in from the start. Check them out on Facebook & Spotify.



SUPPORT LIVE MUSIC

ALBUM REVIEWS

AS MUSIC FANATICS, WE DON'T JUST WRITE & PERFORM, WE LISTEN TOO. HERE IS SOME OF WHAT WE HAVE BEEN LISTENING TO RECENTLY, AND WHAT WE THINK.



CJ WILDHEART - SLOTS

I think I make this the 7th original material solo album now from what breaks my heart to say, the Ex-Wildhearts guitarist. I have loved The Wildhearts for 30 years and having CJ & Ginger at odds with each other is like having your parents arguing. But as heartbreaking as that situation is, what I do get now is loads of material from both of them. Whilst Ginger flicks from one style to another with various projects, CJ keeps the devil horns raised high, with what he often describes as Punk n'Roll. Picking up very much where the previous album 'SPLiT' left off, this low slung guitars, massive choruses, leather jackets, balls to the wall album doesn't draw a breath from frantic opener 'Another Big Mistake' to the gnarley as fuck closer 'I Don't Know What It Is'. This album smacks you in the face with one banger after another. To say the infectious pop punk tastic 'You Got The Best Part Of Me', and 'The Baddest Girl In The World' are two favourites of mine is daft because all the songs on this album are brilliant. But those two certainly leave my throat hoarse from singing them on repeat loud in my house. CJ has done it AGAIN!! The fella gets better with every release. His music just like his hot sauce, blows your fucking head off!!! (Darren)

FEATURE ALBUM



CJ & Me, 2014 in Camden



ALBUM REVIEWS

AS MUSIC FANATICS, WE DON'T JUST WRITE & PERFORM, WE LISTEN TOO. HERE IS SOME OF WHAT WE HAVE BEEN LISTENING TO RECENTLY, AND WHAT WE THINK.



Linkin Park – From Zero

Long anticipated and highly divisive, this album will be remembered as a key moment in the history of a generation-defining band. The big “let’s see” was always going to be Armstrong’s contribution. For me, her voice encapsulates the raw, blistering emotion of the bands most acclaimed anthems, whilst avoiding becoming a novelty-gender-switch. For me, Armstrong delivers an electric performance, showing this band can still conjure pain and angst, and throw it at us with maximum effect. However, I wanted more; much more. Which brings me to my big complaint. It is too short. Whilst some have praised the album as getting to the point and avoiding filler, I think it’s limited runtime feels lazy and I felt shortchanged. Linkin Park’s music cuts to the core of the human experience, and the great songs on this album deserve more time to develop their ideas and envelop their audience 4/5 (Chris)



Evergrey – Theories of Emptiness

Swedish prog metal legends Evergrey continue their steady output of melancholic offerings, which loyalists may find lacklustre but could attract newbies. Whilst the band have delivered a solid album, the songwriting breaks little new ground with the same recognisable themes and emotions entwined with Englund’s haunting vocal. It seems after the more intricate “Heartless Portrait” album, the band have turned to a simpler approach - focusing on big, memorable chorus’. From the catchy “Say” and “One Heart”, to the natural air puncher “We Are the North”, the subsequent tour will see plenty of mouths singing along. The only low point for me was “Ghost of my Hero”; a plodding, dull attempt at heartfelt that falls flat and needed much more to jerk the tears. Overall, a pleasant albeit uneventful listen for established fans, but some good hooks that may catch the band some well-deserved new fans 3/5 (Chris)

ALBUM REVIEWS

AS MUSIC FANATICS, WE DON'T JUST WRITE & PERFORM, WE LISTEN TOO. HERE IS SOME OF WHAT WE HAVE BEEN LISTENING TO RECENTLY, AND WHAT WE THINK.



Venom – Live from the Hammersmith Odeon 1985

If you're into metal, and you don't know who Venom are – that's your homework. Now, you don't have to like Venom, but their influence and place in metal folklore is undeniable. This recording showcases their blistering live show and perfectly distills the frantic, raw power of a band that took no prisoners. Moreso, the recording and mix are so masterful they allow the listener to hear every guttural excretion from Cronos' demon-riddled guts. The tone and effect changes in Mantas' furious guitar playing are crystal clear and offer real dynamics to the album. Recorded at the pinnacle of the bands creative output, the track list could easily be a best-of compilation. If you are too young (as I am) to have seen the legendary spectacle of early 80's Venom in their full satanic glory, this album and a pair of headphones turned up to 11 will get you halfway there 5/5 (Chris)



Deep Purple – Fireball

For my first retrospective review, I wanted to cover an album which I feel has long been written off as “part of the evolution” of a band. Due to its predecessor and follow up, Fireball has been overshadowed. But the truth is this album is a superb stand-alone album that contains the same high-quality musicianship, hard edge and songcraft of other classic Purple albums. The title track smashes the album wide open with as much power as “Speed King”. Although the pace never returns to this level, there's no shortage of swagger and attitude with “Demon's Eye” and “Fools”.

You are consistently hit with the irresistible assault of Lord/Blackmore,

intermingled with the groove and chomp of Paicey/Glover in a way that tells us the previous effort was not a fluke. Having said all that, nothing on there is Smoke on the Water, is it? 4/5 (Chris)

ALBUM REVIEWS

AS MUSIC FANATICS, WE DON'T JUST WRITE & PERFORM, WE LISTEN TOO. HERE IS SOME OF WHAT WE HAVE BEEN LISTENING TO RECENTLY, AND WHAT WE THINK.



SINGLE

The Wildhearts – Failure Is The Mother Of Success

Wow! What a come back single! The boys are back with a bang.

Clocking in at 7 minutes 45 seconds, the first single from the forthcoming new album 'Satanic Rites Of The Wildhearts', comes out the blocks like Usain Bolt when he's in a hurry, and hits like a Tyson from out of the blue! This one certainly delivers the required crunch. And then in true Wildhearts fashion goes off on a journey of surprise, in a wonderlust of weaving and bobbing sections that all fit together seamlessly. The end I have to say on my first listen had me blubbing like a baby who had its pacifier taken away. The song ends with a repeated yet hard hitting line about being the person you are today by the knocks you took. The line up may be different again, but it's still The Motherfucking Wildhearts. Its still the tortured genius that is Ginger, and its still my favourite band on planet earth. (Darren)



SINGLE

The Darkness – I Hate Myself

Ah Yes! Now we are talking. I have said it before, and I will say it again. If you don't like The Darkness, then you don't like Rock N'Roll. The second single from the forthcoming new album 'Dreams On Toast' is a full swing, foot tapping, head banging, hip bopping rocker. Easily up there with their best songs of yesteryear. Although for me the quality never dipped on any album.

'I Hate Myself' is so infectious. It's catchier than Covid in 2020, and just continues spinning around your brain forcing you to just give in and play it again.

Along with the excellent first single 'The Longest Kiss' released a few weeks earlier, the new album is looking like being a classic. I can't wait to get my ears all over it. (Darren)

CATCHING UP WITH...!



JOANovARC, have been rocking audiences since the early 00's, and the all girl hard rock group are still living the dream now. But what about one of their most popular ex-members? We caught up with the drum legend that is Deborah Wildish to find out how things played out for her, and what she is doing now!

WHAT WAS YOUR JOA STORY?

The 15 years I spent being the drummer for Joanovarc were the best years of my life. I met the girls in 2004 as a dep drummer and formed such a bond with Shelley and Sam that in a short space of time became a full time member. We worked hard, practicing weekly and gigging at every opportunity. Juggling the band with a full time job and also an evening pub job was hectic but once we started gigging for money, I was able to give up my pub job, and years later, I even tried to go full time as a professional musician (it lasted a year!).

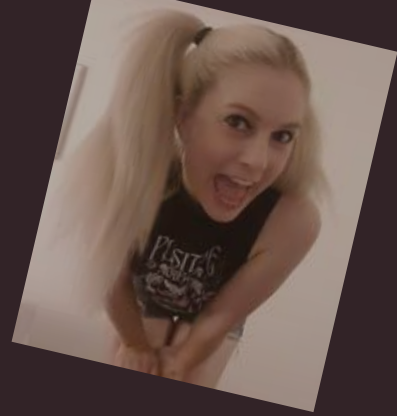


WHAT CAME NEXT?

We were fortunate to experience some incredible musical achievements – we recorded our first album *The Ride Of Your Life* at Rockfields Studio, with legendary producer, Gil Norton. We supported many artists including Slade, Wizzard, Toploader, Skindred and gained many friends and fans along the way. The touring never stopped... we travelled all over the world and although what we earned seemed to go back into paying for a lot of these experiences, the passion for the music and the buzz of playing was, and is, still priceless. If it hadn't been for the band, I would never have had the opportunity to visit so many beautiful and interesting places and made the friends that I have.

On one of the cruise ships that we worked on, we met John Altman (Nick Cotton on *Eastenders*) and we collaborated with him to release a Christmas single. It was brilliantly cheesy and a lot of fun to make. We also played a few gigs together.





SO IT WAS ALL GOOD, ALL THE TIME!?

There was a lot of turbulence too – a couple of extra members came and went, we had 4 management deals and a publishing deal which didn't work out – a lot of people thought selling an all - female band would make everyone lots of money very quickly, but I think it was realised that the music industry, at that time, was still very narrow minded and male dominated. I like to think that things have changed rather a lot in the last 10 years and I feel proud when an all - female band becomes mainstream.

DO YOU STILL KEEP IN TOUCH?

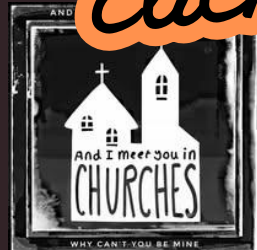
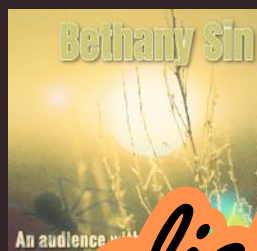
Even though I don't play for Joanovarc anymore, I am still good friends with the girls and occasionally do a covers gig or contract (up until recently, we would play in a hotel in Israel for a month every summer). I hope this never stops because having played with them for so long, I click with them musically as well as emotionally.



AND WHAT ABOUT NOW?

I teach drums now and I absolutely love it. I can't really call it a job because I look forward to it every day. I do also have current musical projects, I recently recorded with my local bands 'And I Meet You In Churches' and 'Bethany Sin' and last year I played a number of gigs with 'Kasien'.

I don't think I will ever hang up the sticks, I love it too much.



click to follow

A photograph of a man with a beard and tattoos, wearing a plaid sleeveless shirt, playing a drum set on a stage. He is captured in a dynamic pose with his mouth open as if shouting or singing. Behind him is a large circular logo with the text 'THE ORN' and 'SIC & FOOD' below it. The stage is lit with purple and blue lights. A quote in green, outlined text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

**"TOMORROW
WON'T ALWAYS
BE AN OPTION.
STOP PUTTING
OFF YOUR
HAPPINESS AND
DO IT.....
WHATEVER IT IS.
TODAY!"
CHRIS.**

BLACK CARROT
blackcarrot.co.uk

ADVERTISEMENT



www.gardencityrecordingstudio.com

THE HOME OF BLACK CARROT, CAN ALSO BE HOME TO YOUR MUSIC TOO!

IF YOU ARE A SINGER, SOLO ARTIST, BAND, VOICE ACTOR, OR JUST NEED SOMETHING RECORDED! COME TO GARDEN CITY RECORDING STUDIO, LETCHWORTH, HERTS.

WE CAN HELP YOU RECORD YOUR SONGS, WRITE SONGS, MASTER YOUR SONGS, AND EVERYTHING ELSE!
BEST RATES AROUND.



WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GARDENCITYRECORDINGSTUDIO

GIG GUIDE

HERTFORDSHIRE



BEDFORDSHIRE

ESQUIRES

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE



CAMBRIDGESHIRE



*Cambridge
Pub & Venue*



JUST CLICK ON A VENUE LOGO TO SEE WHAT GIGS THEY HAVE COMING UP!