

# Mad Believers

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# UNDER THE INFLUENCE

Johnny Marr as a mentor and inspiration

Where do I begin with this? One of the most massive things that Johnny has influenced me as a guitarist is learning to acknowledge every guitar player's unique subtleties that make them great. I would read in different places about how much he loves James Williamson of The Stooges, or I remember him saying how he loved Richard Lloyd from Television, or Sterling Morrison from Velvet Underground. Guitarists that kind of go under the radar a bit, but when you actually focus on what's going on in their music it's quite remarkable how most guitarists have something brilliant to offer - whether it's subtle or very noticeable.

Another not so obvious influence is the production side of putting guitars on an album. Let's just say a lot of Johnny's albums were played heavily in the studio while making my own albums. Just the way of layering guitar parts with several different sounding electrics, or panning multiple acoustic tracks in both speakers to give this beautiful lush sweep to the songs.

One thing that I feel that doesn't get talked about in Johnny's playing is his massive street knowledge of chords and how he can take very basic chords and give them a completely different colour using capos, inversions of chords, subtracting/adding notes to chords, and basically just getting away from the powerchord and first position shapes. He created a whole new way of playing rock guitar that was so much more cinematic and romantic than what people were used to hearing. An aesthetic to guitar that I hold dearly when writing my songs. Because of this, Johnny has expanded my knowledge of chord choices profoundly and I'm forever grateful for that.

- Dillon Ryan

I started playing guitar when I was 14, but when I discovered Johnny's music at 17 it completely changed my approach. Johnny Marr taught me that there is so much more to guitar music than power chords and screaming solos. I learnt to paint a picture with arpeggios and draw a riff out of a chord progression. I learnt that clean tones can be made aggressive with clever but sparing use of effects pedals. You don't need to show off all the time, but you do need to have something important to play. He taught me to blend in without going missing, to let people know you're there without waving your junk in their faces-- and to make sure you've got a nice shirt to wear on stage.

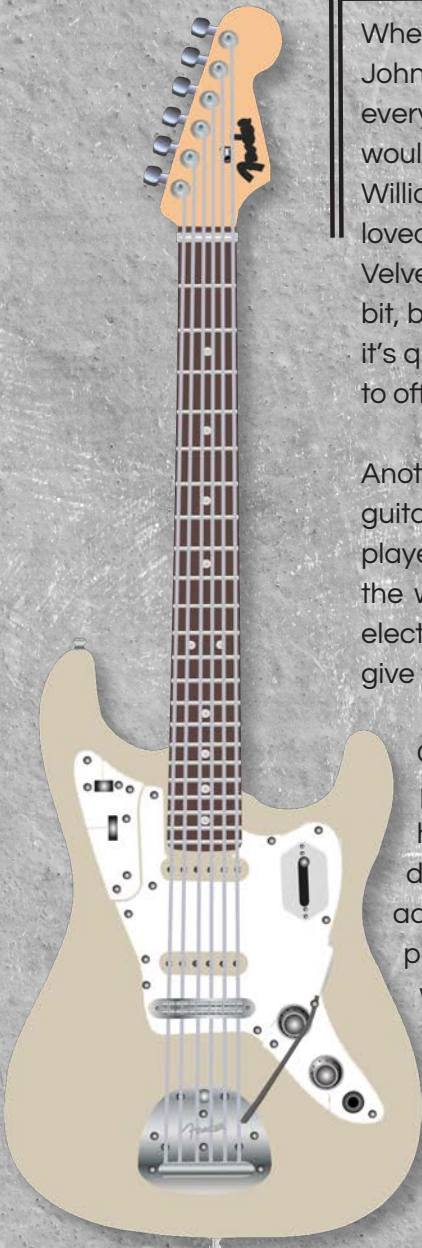
- Jack Elliott

It was definitely Johnny that got me interested in the guitar and guitar music in particular. I just kind of had a Noel Gallagher-type moment when I first saw and heard him. He was, and still is, so different to most other guitarists. His playing is so fluid and subtle and he adds a sprinkling of magic to every single recording he's ever played on. He's the greatest guitarist of all time in my humble opinion.

- Craig McMahon

The reason I picked up a guitar for the very first time was because of Johnny Marr. It all started during my journeys to primary school in the car with my Dad as he CONSTANTLY listened to The Smiths and Electronic. I'd often be sat in the passenger seat pretending to play along with Johnny (I was an amazing air guitarist for such a young age, ha) and it was then that I asked for my first guitar for Christmas. When I started year 4 I was finally allowed to join the schools guitar club and I haven't looked back since! Johnny also inspired me to finally save and buy my dream guitar, a Rickenbacker 330. Even years later all of Johnny's work has and still continues to inspire me to keep on playing.

- Jess Beesley





I don't know if I really qualify as a guitarist as I've only been playing for a couple of years. But Johnny has definitely influenced how I approach the instrument, in understanding the importance of subtlety and that you don't need to be ostentatious or a show off for your playing to have "wow factor". He also taught me to be open to draw on a wide range of sources to inspire your style, from folk to rock to disco to techno. Johnny's confidence in the uniqueness of his sound has given me hope that soon I'll find my own unique sound too.

- Ruby Pickering

Johnny Marr's guitar playing has influenced me in many different ways and on many different levels.

Firstly, to push for progression and to try and be as good as I possibly can, because he was extremely accomplished at a very young age. Realised, assured, identifiable and unique, he forged his own style and sound and leaned on many different musical influences that were not indicative of the time. He made me study and think about the purpose of melody, accompaniment and composition - he is a true master of creating a song within a song.

Johnny Marr's guitar playing made me want to expand my knowledge of music theory and harmony. He made me want to listen to Bert Jansch, Nils Lofgren, Ry Cooder, Nile Rodgers and James Honeyman-Scott amongst others. The pursuit to understand the origins, to join all the dots and step into the universe.

He came at the guitar from an original and distinct viewpoint, rarely playing in standard 440 tuning. His compositions and chord progressions were sophisticated, full of unusual ideas and unorthodox sounds, open strings, sounds processed backwards and harmonised, challenging rhythms and reoccurring themes and motifs layered to enrich. He embellished and detailed three minutes of music like no other guitar player at the time.

As enthusiasts of the guitar, most of us are still continuing to study and learn from the masters, be it a chord, a riff, a sound, a chorus or a whole song - we are what we eat. I would like to personally thank Johnny for the inspiration, ideas, motivation and enjoyment you have given me for the last 30 years. I'm still learning, I'm still inspired and I'm still in awe.

- Chris Barry

When I started playing the guitar, it was only out of boredom. I was 13 and felt out of touch with the world, as teenagers do; I didn't like myself, let alone my parents and even my friends. To put it mildly, I was completely uncomfortable in my own skin. I started playing a mate's ramshackle acoustic guitar to pop songs, learned chords out of books and started finger picking. I discovered The Smiths: suddenly, things changed. I can still remember learning to play "This Charming Man" on that nylon-stringed hellacious guitar, which took me ages and loads of frustration to work out.

Then, the next hurdle: I discovered the album "Meat Is Murder" - how the hell could I ever unravel "The Headmaster Ritual"? Fucker Marr! That song - and many Smiths tracks, to me - consisted of 50% beauty and 50% headfuck as I had to unpuzzle them, much like a math problem. And I hated maths.

Once I'd figured out how to play tracks like that and later, how to configure an amp to sound like "How Soon Is Now?", it paved a way to getting better at maths and experimentation into making my own music. Johnny's playing has so obviously always been punk - in the DIY sense - and he was key in making me appreciate historical guitar-playing techniques as well as trying zany stuff, like smacking strings with drum sticks, feeding an electric guitar through a computer and applying filters, et cetera. He's there in the background, having shaped my playing.

- Niklas Puvic



Me  
& My  
JOHNNY MARR JAG

"I only ever picked up a guitar because of Johnny, and so when his signature model came out I couldn't resist! It is the perfect guitar. I play in a couple of bands and I've used it live and when we record. I actually got another one, a second hand one in the Metallic KO colour, which I use in a different tuning - to me it is the coolest guitar about. But what would you expect when it is designed by the coolest guitar player around?!"

JONNY  
HUGHES  
Pontefract, UK



EDWARD  
KIM  
Chicago, USA



"Operating a vessel of Escapism in the Now. The roots of my subconscious flows through my Johnny Marr Jaguar."





KATHEY  
NORTON  
Sacramento,  
USA

"I'm so proud to play the Fender Johnny Marr Signature Jaguar. I know Johnny put his heart and soul into designing a guitar he would love to play. It is the perfect marriage of technology, artistry, and style. I love my Olympic White so much!"

"When writing this, I've only had my Johnny Marr Jaguar for a day! It's an absolutely gorgeous guitar (especially in black) and I haven't been able to put it down - now that's a great first impression!"

JADE  
BAILEY  
Newcastle, UK



"Here's me with my prized possessions. I will pass these down to my son, Alfie one day if he still shares my passion for all things guitar shaped! Out of everything in my collection, I always return to the JM Jag. Johnny certainly has good taste in guitars..."



CHRIS  
BEATTIE  
North Wales, UK



SAWAKO  
HUNTER  
London, UK

"I know the Sherwood Green Jaguar looks super cool, but I like Olympic White the most among other beautiful colours and think this colour more suits girls. When I saw Johnny Marr playing an Olympic White Jaguar on the Messenger tour I instantly fell in love with that guitar and decided to buy a JM Jag in Olympic White. This amazing guitar brings me very good feeling whenever I touch, hold and play!"





The personal impact Johnny Marr has had on myself is very deep. It goes back to hearing that guitar riff in "How Soon Is Now?" at the age of eight. It was different to any guitar riff I've ever heard. Johnny really in my opinion changed music by being able to experiment with technology. That's what you really hear in his work with The Smiths, and it followed him into his other projects later too.

You can also hear it in his work today. His sound is so raw - nobody else sounds like Johnny Marr. When you listen to his work, you can tell it's his own. As an artist, that's amazing.

His impact on me is so extraordinary. I saw his first show in 2013. It was a wonderful gig! I met his son Nile Marr during that show too. He was so kind, and really down to earth. To me, that spoke volumes about Mr. Marr himself; that he is a very down to earth man too. He raised his children to be that awesome.

I think Johnny has this wonderful impact on his fans because he reaches out to them. He's not afraid to take photos or sign autographs. Not many rock stars reach out to their fans like that. He shows compassion and gives back to us fans. That's why he's so beloved by us.

*He shows compassion  
and gives back to us  
fans. That's why he's so  
beloved by us.*

Someday, I hope to meet Johnny at a gig. It would be such a great honor! I'm hoping he makes his way back to Ohio. His impact on myself will always be greatly appreciated. Because Johnny Marr changed the way I hear music, and music is definitely a huge part of my life.

With all that said, thank you Johnny for the music! Your music has saved my life during very tough times. And I can't thank you enough for that.

From a fan that loves you dearly,  
*Bethany Mercer*



# MARRTORIAL

## *Elegance*

**H**ow to sum up the elegant style of Johnny Marr, the icon, outstanding guitar standard and legend to legions of followers both male and female?

To me it's a mix of maturity (forgive me sir!), confidence in self-image, confidence in self-knowledge and comfort in his position, influence and outlook on life.

Consider the denim jacket adorned with the emblems of homage and respect. Labels to deeply held passion for subjects and people appreciated, respected and understood. A seemingly casual nod to deeper founded ideology or sometimes just simply a favoured image.

A tailored jacket, be it velvet or otherwise, displaying a more mature side. Simple elegance accompanied by a slim fit trouser and stylish footwear reflecting a youthful approach but with fashion know-how that younger men often fail to appreciate.

The now iconic striped t-shirt that I would expect to adorn the vast majority of fans in a concert crowd, or an artistic blouse. Who cares who the blouse was intended for? A good design is worth more, artistry is tantamount.

I've been influenced by the style and by the man both sartorially, musically, ideologically and have been left wanting more. Enigmatic yet accessible, stylish yet not overstated. Mr Reliable on all counts. A gentleman whose intelligence, inner peace and comfort at his juncture in life reflected in style and confidence is truly something to admire.

From a six foot man just shy of thirteen stone even I can feel comfortable in attire similar to Johnny...and do.

I hope I do the look some justice, my friend.

- Adrian Harrold





Sharing a sense of style with Johnny (not to say copying, I have some dignity, please), makes me feel, in a very silly way I'd say, somewhat close to him.

Dressing this way has also given me the freedom to finally express myself as a lesbian woman in a very stylish way, escaping from certain clichés (yes, I still do wear plaid and flannel, come on - but everything is very well fitted), so I don't think that when people look at me, the first thing that comes to their minds is "look at that dyke"; it actually is "oh, look at that very well dressed beautiful dyke with great hair".

Every morning, as soon as I finish getting dressed, I look at myself in the mirror and I ask myself: "Would Johnny approve of my look? Would he be happy to see me waiting for him after one of his concerts and think 'oh, this girl is wearing a nice outfit, I'm glad she's a fan of mine.'? Would he think I'm a cool chick if he saw me walking on the street?" If the answer is a resounding YES, then I'm good to go. If I have any doubts, then I have to go back and choose another outfit, but I don't think I have ever had any maybes as an answer: I'm pretty content with my (stolen) looks.

- Érica Pucci





**I**t's because of Johnny Marr that I rediscovered fashion and a hairstyle.

I've always deep down been a mod. I love the clothes. I love the music and I love the whole era.

For years though, the style of clothing I liked wasn't available (pre internet times we are talking, of course), so I never bought any for years.

Fast forward to 2013 and I had finally decided to take the plunge and grow my hair longer as I have always wanted it - and bang there on Later with Jools Holland is Johnny sporting the hair cut I wanted, and dressed how I wanted to look as well.

I downloaded photos of him and told my hairdresser that is how I want my hair.

Now I spend way too much money on clothes, and spend way too much time in front of a mirror doing my hair to the point where my wife and I fight over the hair straighteners.

*- Adam Roberts*

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Johnny Marr's own clothing has always been classically stylish. His timeless selection of jackets - from leather to tweed to denim, and often adorned with a selection of fascinating enamel badges and antique brooches - were key staples along with a pair of skinny jeans, but I also have always appreciated Johnny's more daring choices as well, such as sheer, embroidered floral blouses and eye-dazzling diamanté necklaces. Johnny's wardrobe always seemed the right balance between classically chic staples and bold statement pieces - a balance I try to strike as well when choosing new items for my wardrobe. Johnny taught me the importance of quality over quantity, rather than settling for fast fashion. One can only admire his resourcefulness in finding just the right item, which to his own admission, like a true vintage lover, he'd 'walk miles' to find.

Johnny's penchant for unique, one-of-a-kind vintage items, along with a conscious effort to minimise my ecological footprint, has inspired many a thrift shop purchase. Whether it's vintage bargains, upcycled and re-fitted blouses, or antique brooches, the quest for those items in itself is a source of great joy - and of course, I admit, being afforded the slightly smug 'It's vintage' reply to questions and compliments regarding my outfit and accessories.

Johnny's aesthetic of gender-fluid, urbane and highly colour-smart ensembles makes it practical for his fans of both genders to imitate (flatteringly, natch) his style. His staple item of skin-tight jeans, for example, is translated in my wardrobe to a classic black A-shaped skirt - which, like Johnny, I try to mix and match with different items.

Sometimes incorporating certain items into my wardrobe requires some degree of resourcefulness, especially with men's shoes such as Clarks Wallabees. An extra pair of socks and the creative use of sponges can make a size 3.5 lady snag a size 5 or even 6 in the most desirable boots. (Men really do have the best shoes - can I get a hallelujah?).

Johnny's stylishness is also further enhanced by the charm and confidence of his person, which is another quality of his that I try to emulate. Johnny has taught me to be more comfortable in my own skin and to feel confident in developing my own sense of style, which is something I will always be grateful to him for.

- Ory Englander





# MARR-NARCHY IN THE UK

Let's face it. When we go to Johnny gigs we are all peacocks.

In every local pub around a venue that Johnny is playing in, you will find groups of people assessing each other, trying to work out who is going to the gig. In particular, we will be checking out hair and footwear. Grown men and women will have spent way too long deciding what to wear. Because there is a standard and no one wants to let the side down.

Inside the venue you will discover there is no one type of Johnny Marr fan. These days at least four generations seem to be evidenced and the breadth of his appeal is in itself fascinating. The crowd splits into specialised subsets of JM fandom: the madness of the fans in the front rows, the groups of shy lads at the back nursing warm pints, couples standing quietly in each others' arms by the t-shirt stand. The most unexpected of men can be seen hurling themselves around in front of the stage, singing and gesturing romantically to our slender god. The more reserved look on, wishing they too had the guts to throw themselves, so abandoned into the moment. Maybe it works because we each make up for a lack in the other and have a quiet admiration for our opposites. Together we become a balanced unit and find a sense of belonging.

But UK crowds are also regional. We like our local identity and we like it when Johnny celebrates that with us. Having said that, even gigs in the same venue can be different two nights in a row. In smaller venues there is an assurance that everyone has been in the know and has managed to get a ticket within the first twenty minutes of their release before it sells out. These gigs are always magic: The Leadmill in Sheffield, The Brudenell in Leeds. Bigger venues can be more problematic as the natural reserve of UK crowds in some places can make us appear reluctant to embrace the event even when we are burning with passion.

It isn't all about the music. In the everyday world in the UK, Johnny fans would regard themselves as being politically astute, to not accept what is on offer and to be ready to fight the establishment. He is quoted with regularity in the press on anything from Brexit to the state of our creative industries, putting the case forward for intelligent, common sense left wing politics.

Ultimately, though, it's about being part of the coolest gang in town or pretending that you are. Stay loyal, stay young, stay cool.

- Helen Angell

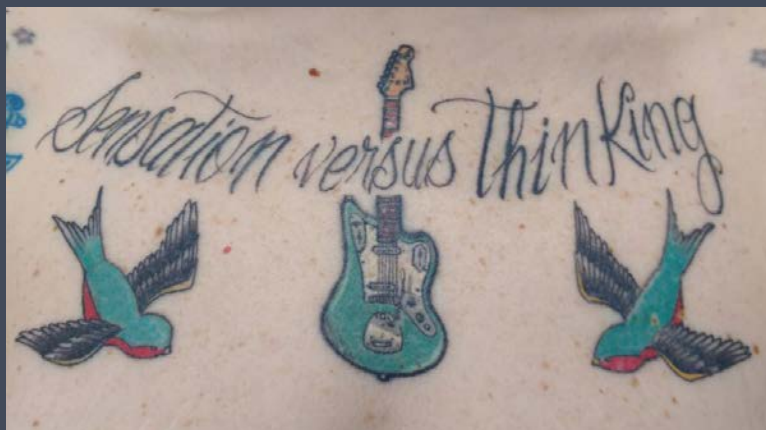


# From the INSIDE & THE OUTSIDE

## Johnny Marr inspired tattoos

I've wanted to commemorate my adoration for Mr. Marr for some time now on my skin, and finally did it earlier this year. I couldn't pick a single lyric or song, so I thought I'd show tribute to the whole album with a message in a bottle to represent The Messenger, one of the finest albums released this millennium in my opinion! It will be the first of perhaps many.

- Liv Parker



I had been thinking about getting a JM tattoo for a long time but couldn't decide on which song, or which sentence, until I finally decide to tattoo a verse from 'Generate! Generate!'. I got it done a few days after my 35th birthday. This verse, "sensation versus thinking", is very important to me and I hold it very close to my heart (quite literally now, as the tat is on my chest!) The Sherwood Green Jag is my favourite and the swallows are a nod to his own on his neck.

- Érica Pucci



I finally had my chance to meet you, Johnny, on Thursday April 25, 2013, at The Metro in Chicago, Illinois. I was armed with a new blue Sharpie marker and giddy like a teenager. When I asked you to sign my body for a tattoo, you joked and said to me, "I hope you won't get in trouble for this." I told you I've been waiting since I was a kid to finally meet you. I also told you I was going immediately to the tattoo shop and would show you the tattoo the next day at The Majestic in Detroit, Michigan. By the way, everyone at the tattoo shop was excited and said you're f\*\*king awesome. The tattoo artist warned me that particular spot was going to be painful. Shit, he wasn't kidding. But I sucked it up! The next day after The Majestic gig, you came out and you said, "You really did do it." I removed the surgical gauze to show you. I told you it hurt like hell but so very worth it! Thank you very much for taking the time, Johnny. I will forever cherish that wonderful memory.

- Marissa Rivera

When The Messenger was released and I first heard 'Generate! Generate!', I was more than a little amused by Johnny's pun on Descartes' 'Cogito ergo sum'. What can I say? It appealed to the philosophy nerd in me. It kept playing through my mind as I worked through the final year of my philosophy degree, and after a while it seemed the ideal choice for my first ever tattoo. To me, it represents my dedication to the subject while still being able to find fun and playfulness in it.

The second lyric, from 'Spiral Cities', is a self-explanatory mantra. It represents the pursuit of both enlightenment and positivity in all aspects of life.

Together, I think the two lyrics create a bit of a yin-yang effect: playful vs serious; academic vs spiritual. It's this sort of duality that I find so appealing in Johnny's work in general.

- Aly Stevenson





# MY FAVOURITE JOHNNY MARR SONG





I love all of Johnny's songs, without exception – but my favourite is easy for me to pick: New Town Velocity.

It's one of those songs that I listen to when I'm feeling a bit down, a bit stressed or simply needing to chill out and find my sense of equilibrium. It never ever fails to boost me – the words, the guitar and the melody combine so effortlessly. When it comes into its own is when it's performed as part of a set – watching Johnny seemingly lose himself in the song is something very moving and very special.

It's one 7" vinyl that I absolutely had to have in my collection, and after some serious effort I managed to track down a copy. You can't beat a great song spinning on your record player: and this is one of them!

- Alison Moore

"Candidate" is one of my favourite tracks from Johnny's terrific two recent solo albums. It sums up much of Johnny at his best: skillfully picked mandolin sounds at the start, then evolving into a strident pulse of electric guitar as the song progresses. Lyrically, the imprecation to "be a part of the story" feels like a welcoming to the JM fandom when you hear it live. I've mused over "Pictures don't only fade, they reappear into view" too; those lines suggesting how his career has moved on, with new vitality, rather than settling for a day job of only re-playing songs from his first era of success. "And the moments come, just let the story go on" are sentiments that I'm sure will be shared by any lover of "The Messenger," "Playland," and "Adrenalin Baby."

- Dave Medley

From the moment I heard Dynamo it lifted my spirits. I lost my father in March 2015, and suffer from depression. Friends I have made since this event in my life call me amazing for finding strength to carry on. They are to me incredible human beings. "Somebody's reached me and now it's my turn. I'm a mad believer, turn the alchemy on me". To give and receive love and understanding. This idea to me encompasses the attitude of Johnny Marr himself.

Dynamo has a soaring, almost flying, freeing feeling of guitar sound. The lyrics in my opinion are about inviting people into your realm of existence, and how you affect each other. It is about love. A way of touching souls. Reminding us to enjoy being playful. "You're a living thing" and "Some divine illusion calls, now I'm here to belong". I feel connected more to people through music. Johnny Marr's Dynamo. "Dreamer Serene come inside, glide, you are invited". Johnny Marr has taught me to appreciate the beauty of life. Dynamo for me is about encouraging everyone to soar high and be true to their heart and soul, for when you do you will glow brighter than the sun, making those around you feel the light in life.

- Lauren Brezarich

Playland to me is just a pure adrenalin rush - the drums on the intro, the glam rock feel, the e-Bow, the feedback, the riff...I love the way Johnny plays it live with such panache. I don't think I can remember such a great start to a set the first time I heard this played live. There are so many great tracks over the last couple of records, and hearing this on the studio album and on Adrenalin Baby, you can feel the energy dripping through the speakers. Great stuff!

- Tommy Hughes

### 'Lockdown'

When I first heard The Messenger, this song really stuck out to me as being a great song of catchy and emotive melodies. Still to this day I'm quite surprised that it wasn't released as a single! I love the classic Johnny Marr descending melancholic chord line in this song. The whole song has this great dark but beautiful Post-Punk feel to it. Also, what a vocal! This song, Generate, Generate, New Town Velocity and Word Starts Attack make this a perfect album alone!

- Dillon Ryan

As a writer and musician, I identify most with New Town Velocity because I sense the struggle between convention and breaking away to pursue one's dreams. As a young person you want to avoid having others jam you into a box and limit your options. When you're a creative person you're not sure where you fit exactly in the world, but you know if you fall in line and follow the status quo you will end up not taking that chance. To me, New Town Velocity is about this internal struggle all artists face when we realize we have to take that risk or spend the rest of our lives regretting playing it safe. You're not sure how it will turn out and there is massive self-doubt at times, but you just have to break free and try. I also left college at one point to write poetry and pursue my career as a novelist and screenwriter, so I love Johnny's line about "leave school for poetry." It's such a reflective and heartfelt song.

- Kathey Norton

To pick just one song is so hard! But, after an afternoon with Johnny's records, I have to say "Say Demesne" still has this magical thing that makes me pick it as my favourite Johnny Marr song. Here's why: "Say Demesne" is a song with a dark sound and very tough lyrics that guide you through the story of Demesne and you can understand what's going on under her skin. It's one of the main songs on my playlist whenever I write and even inspired a short story based on the lyrics.

- Ali Molina

There are so many great songs, it is hard to choose just one... but I think my favourite Johnny Marr song is "Generate! Generate!". It is direct, a pure rock and roll song with a superb guitar. I had never heard Johnny singing before, so his voice surprised me in the best way. This was one of the first songs in recent years that I listened to that renewed my interest in music, and I remember I thought at that time: "That's it! This is what I like!". The music scene was becoming very poor, so repetitive, with nothing new to show. This song represents to me a kind of energy that rock music had lost for some time. And listening to Johnny playing guitar in its purest way is absolutely fantastic.

- Amelia Kubota

I could have written about several songs - but I chose New Town Velocity, as this particular song took some time to grow on me.

First - when listening to it, I really liked it. But it did not strike me as the genius tune it is - not right away.

After listening to The Messenger, Candidate, Easy Money and other great songs... over and over... Then one night, watching a video with Johnny and his band playing New Town Velocity - I thought to myself: This is a perfect song! It's pure perfection!

Not that I always look for perfection when it comes to music - not at all really - but I sure do appreciate it when it comes along.

Watching different videos by them doing New Town Velocity, it makes me glad to see Johnny happy about this song; his guitar playing, the bands' perfect interaction, the melody, the lyrics. He's truly proud of it - one can tell.

The song makes me smile - and often I sing it to myself. (When I'm by myself, that is).

- Tove Vangen

I've got, like many fellow Johnny fans, tons of favorite songs written by Johnny. In this lovely chance, I'd love to speak of a more recent track titled "Dynamo".

To me it's a very positive song in itself: both words and music are truly inspiring and they get me by anytime I need a little push of cheerful energy, just to say so.

This song invites you to dream, live and keep going and going: looking back in order to go on and shine in your life.

We, as human beings, always are in a learning process, coping with diverse situations day after day. And I find this message in Dynamo.

"I'm a mad believer

Turn the alchemy on me

On the sidewalk beaches

We play like the sun..."

Thank you Johnny for everything you have done for me.

- Mariana Polizzi

My favourite song is 'New Town Velocity'. It is beautiful and has a relaxing effect on my body and mind every time I listen to it. I'm in love with the lyrics because they give me hope that everything is going to be alright, that's why I like to listen this song when I'm worried - it possesses such a positive vibe to keep me going and hope for the best. My sister loves it too, and I always remind her to listen to it whenever she feels stressed and it sure helps every time. Also I like that it encourages us to keep pursuing our dreams and work to achieve our goals in this life. Thanks to Johnny for writing this incredible piece of art.

- Mel Blake

### 'Easy Money'

A beautiful pop song... This song will live with me forever as the song my youngest son and I would sing together. I remember the first time he heard the song: I had left a CD in the car, and the opening riff came crashing in... By the end of the 10 minute journey and the third listen, my son said "I love Johnny Marr".

- Craig Spence

To me, The Messenger is the best album of the decade (I'm a music journalist here in Brazil, so I listen to a lot of stuff) and "New Town Velocity" is the song of the decade. There is nothing out there that can sound like it, plus the lyrics are just astonishingly beautiful. Everything is perfect from the start to finish.

- Gabriel Souza

My favorite song from Johnny's solo career is New Town Velocity. It was love at first hearing. Its melancholy tune and nostalgia-laden lyrics bring back many memories. In a way, it was a reconnection with certain events from my youth which shaped my later life. Although my high school days were quite happy, for some reason I could not fit in. My "problem" was that I was too normal and an incurably ordinary individual who could not draw attention; a ghost. I've always been a kind of person who preferred silent wanderings around my hometown, instead of being in a noisy crowd. That's why I left an impression of an introverted loner, although I was actually a misunderstood realist with a touch of healthy idealism. Whenever I listen to New Town Velocity, it evokes feelings I had during my teenage years and how I managed to get through that difficult time. Faith and music were my dearest companions. I'm really grateful for that.

- Lucia Naletilić

My favorite song is different from what I consider the best song. My favorite song touches me and makes me feel different when I listen to it. My hands sweat and I feel that shiver down the spine. "Dynamo" makes me feel this way. It's what I consider a cute song. There is no special situation related to the song, but I think music is like this: it touches you!

- Fatima Kubota

### 'New Town Velocity'

I kind of fell in love with it after just hearing the intro. An absolutely splendid tune, has no special meaning for me particularly, it's just got that type of dreamy guitar sound and an instantly catchy hook.

New Town Velocity is a perfect example of what a good popular music song should sound like.

Is almost criminal that these songs haven't been heard by a wider audience, however it's quite nice to know that only us discerning music fans appreciate them!

One thing I love about Johnny is that he plays a great mix of his own solo stuff, and also Smiths tracks, and all of them sound just as fresh and exciting as they did 30 years ago.

- Mike Thomas

My favourite Johnny song... it has to be 25 Hours. I love love love the beat on it. I don't know if it's an offbeat song, but it's different and something about the beat, and the lyric rhythm, grabs me. It gives me goosebumps every time I hear it, and the guitar on it is stunning! This door really goes somewhere.

- Julia Barkel

My favourite Johnny Marr song is "The Right Thing Right", no doubt, and for several reasons.

A little preamble: I'm Italian and for me English is a foreign language. This means that when I listen to a song for the first time, music comes always first.

"The Right Thing Right" blasted me with its power and energy, it is the song that made me run to record shop to buy "The Messenger", and the first song I heard live at the beginning of the first Johnny gig I attended (1st July 2013, in Milan). The song I always listen to when I need to gather strength. At the same time, I think this song has a vintage atmosphere, something that reminds me of the 60s hits of The Who, The Kinks, etc. In one word: beautiful!

- Elisabetta Bonuccelli

New Town Velocity is my favourite Johnny Marr song by far. I ditched my school prom to go and see Johnny play at Hyde Park last summer and I didn't regret that decision in the slightest. As soon as the song started up, it hit me pretty immediately that I'd finally left school and would never have to go back.

The lyrics just connected with me in a way that they hadn't ever before, and all of a sudden New Town Velocity made perfect sense. Every time I listen to that song, whether it's being played live or through a set of headphones, it never fails to remind me of how overwhelmed I felt back in Hyde Park.

- Jade Bailey

The B-side to Upstarts has always given me chills. It reminds me of 'There is a light that never goes out' somehow. I felt like this would have been a strong track for the album had it made it on to 'The Messenger' album.

Psychic Beginner knows, that the way he plays that melody, I can't resist dancing.

- Steve Bates

Choosing just one favourite Johnny Marr song is so hard, but one song I keep coming back to is "I want the heartbeat". I love the frenetic energy of it (it's great to listen to while running!) and I think it really captures Johnny's own mental pace as well. I also love the story behind the lyrics. It's so unusual and creative - I would love to know what Johnny was thinking when he was inspired to write it!

- Bernadette Rumsen

Probably my favorite song by Johnny would have to be "Sun and Moon". It has a very strong garage rock feel to it, from the simple 3 note riff to the pounding drums. That's probably why I love the song, it's just the simplicity of it as a whole. There is energy in this simplicity and you can feel it and hear it. During the end, with the rising feedback delay, all this energy gathers up into one moment and it seems that it won't for a while. But from that moment is the release, the sudden output of emotions.

- Erik Gutierrez

My favourite Johnny Marr song is New Town Velocity: It's magic. I never get tired of it. The intro that grows into the song, that relieving guitar sound. I have a personal first aid kit with songs saved for emotional breakdowns. This song is one of the key elements on it.

- Giselle Hidalgo

My favourite Johnny Marr song is "Spiral Cities", even though I know it's not released yet! It's really uplifting but also with a tiny hint of eeriness that gives it a very unique sound. I'm really looking forward to seeing it on the next album. (I hope!)

- Derek Lee



# FORZA JOHNNY



Although originally from Glasgow, I've lived permanently in Southern Italy since the early 90s. By the time I settled here I had already been a fan of Johnny for many years.

I'm "old school", and throughout my childhood and adolescence I grew up listening to the radio. It was thanks to British DJs of the time, such as John Peel and Annie Nightingale, that I was introduced to iconic punk, new wave and indie bands, including The Smiths. To date, the radio has always been my main source of contact with music. I remember when I first came to Italy, I had very basic accommodation with no television. Consequently, I relied heavily on the radio as my main form of entertainment. I recall being profoundly disappointed with the multitude of poor quality music stations offered to Italian listeners. This came as a shock. After all, wasn't Italy meant to be the land of art, music and culture? Where were all the varied and innovative music styles that I'd grown to love during my years in the UK?



In my view, the majority of people in Italy seem to fit into two categories: those who listen to Italian pop music, and individuals who are fans of English or American rock. The latter tend to favour 60s and 70s groups such as Pink Floyd, Led Zeppelin, Queen, etc. A very small number appreciate the Alternative/Indie genre. Therefore, it pains me to say that in Italy Johnny Marr is not so widely followed as an artist.

As the saying goes though, it's quality that's important, not quantity. Although JM fans are in the minority, we tend to be passionate to the extreme, and that for me is what matters. Fans here have to depend mainly on the internet to keep updated with Johnny's news and music. In my case this has been accentuated by being part of the "Johnny Marr: Ode to a Godlike Genius" Facebook group, where I've contacted and become friends with many like-minded people in Italy and around the world. (Some of whom I've gone on to meet in person.) Long live the Marrdom!

My British friends are always telling me how lucky I am to live in Italy. Unfortunately, as an avid music lover, it's not the best place to abide. Very few international musicians venture into the country. Those who do, inevitably go to the North to hold their concerts. It seems ironic that when I lived in Scotland I used to complain that most bands concentrated their gigs in the South! Sadly, to go to see an artist live usually requires having to travel far afield, often abroad, and it becomes a very expensive and time consuming activity.

On a more positive note, sometimes I find articles about Johnny in the Italian music press. I'm delighted to report that to date I have not read one bad review. There seems to be a huge respect for Johnny's work, including his solo material. It can be said that Italian music journalists definitely hold Johnny in high esteem. One thing that gets mentioned a lot is his fantastic dress sense. Believe me, it's an extremely rare occurrence to hear an Italian compliment an Englishman on his style!! Forza Johnny. Way to go!

**- LINDA POULNOTT**



# my most memorable johnny marr gig

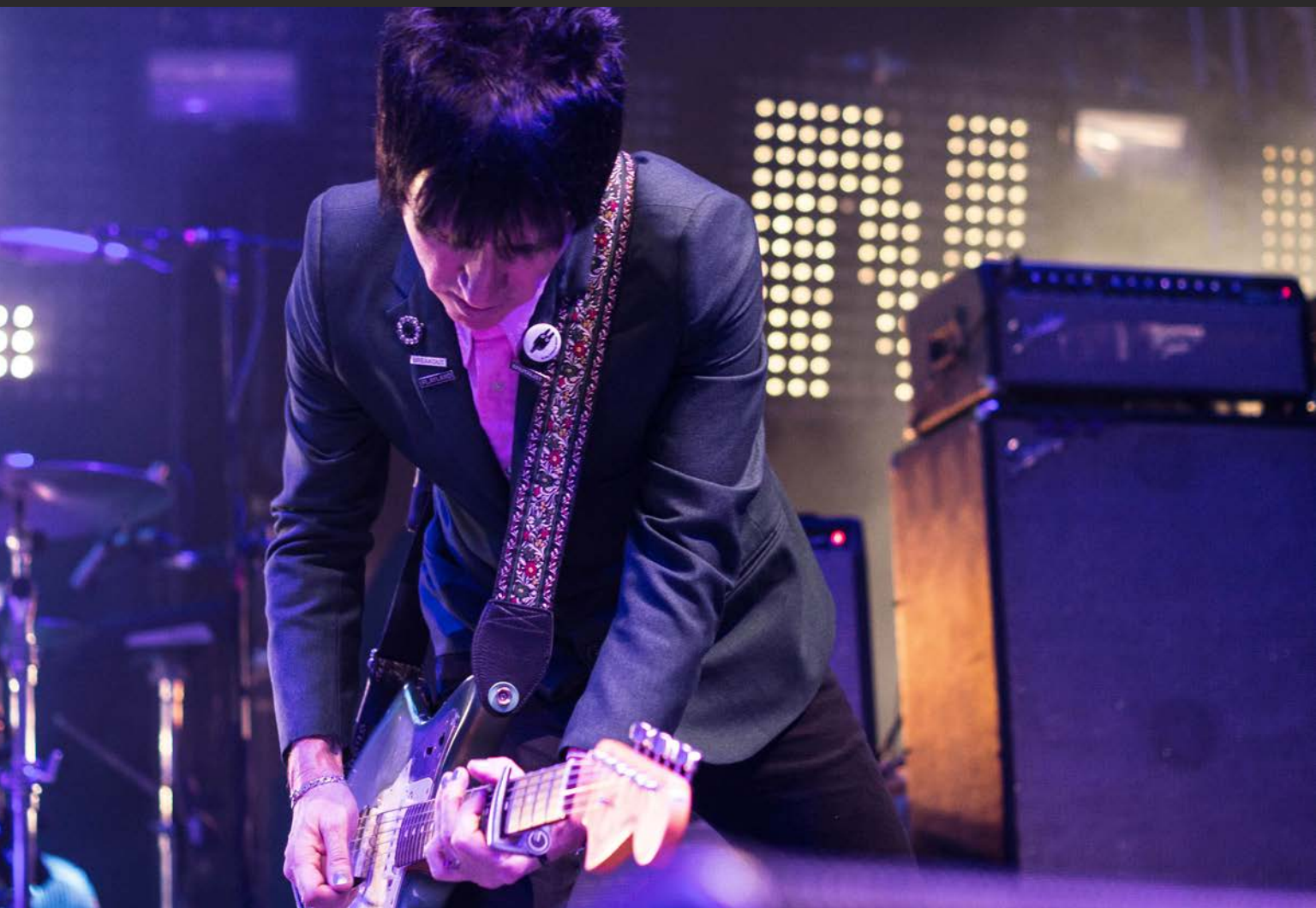


Photo by Sarah Doone

How on earth am I supposed to pick my most memorable Johnny Marr gig? It's virtually impossible to pick. Seeing Johnny for the very first time when he appeared with Neil Finn at the Lowry in 2014 blew my mind; struggling to the Apollo in Manchester 4 weeks after major surgery was quite a feat; supporting Teenage Cancer Trust at The Royal Albert Hall when Johnny appeared with Paul Weller was phenomenal; getting right to the front at the BST Hyde Park gig was utterly brilliant, and flying to Dublin to witness Johnny at Hans Zimmer Live was simply breathtaking. My most memorable gig has to be the Limelight Bar, Belfast: a great, great gig that I shared with the lovely "Harrolds", having met the charming and engaging Mr Marr on the street earlier that day (a meeting that will stay with me forever).

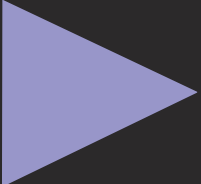
- Alison Moore

My first ever gig was at the Manchester Albert Hall to see Johnny. I arrived extremely early to make sure I was on front row to see the legendary guitarist. After seven painful hours of standing in line without even sitting down, in ice cold winter weather and no toilet break, the doors were opened and I staggered in. I couldn't feel my body anymore, and I'll never forget the struggle of waiting for those doors to open... but it was so worth it. I got right to the front immediately, and before long I was treated to one of the best gigs I've ever been to and at that very special first - with a great support from Man Made too. I'm very proud and honoured as a massive fan of The Smiths and Johnny Marr's solo work that he was the subject of my first gig. So thank you Johnny for an unforgettable night, and I hope to meet you at a future gig.

- Tom Ebbrell

When Johnny came to my home town of Adelaide, Australia, I was in hospital. I missed out on a gig of a lifetime and it still bothers me to this day. Instead of moping, however, I remembered I was heading to the UK in a few months time with my partner's band, and hoped that there might be an opportunity to catch him over there. My face lit up when I found out I'd be in the north-east at the same time he was playing Newcastle - there was no way I was going to be missing out this time! When I got there, I ran to the front, and as soon as the main man himself came onto stage, I was overwhelmed by this surge of happiness and excitement that went right through me. I've been to a hell of a lot of gigs, but there has been none that compared to this one. I can honestly say I've never been quite as moved at a gig as I was during New Town Velocity, I found myself brought to tears, it shocked me. I didn't want it to end, but like they say, all good things must. I can't wait until my next JM gig. I'm sure there'll be many more to come, and I'll be welcoming them with open arms!

- Liv Parker



My most memorably Johnny Marr gig would have to be the Liverpool Royal Court gig on the Meat is Murder tour, March 1985. I have seen so many bands but have never been so into a band as I was The Smiths at that moment, and Johnny was -and still is- my hero. I was only 15 years old but it meant everything to me. We had managed to meet the band in the afternoon and they were all great with us, which just made the gig even more of an event. James were the support band that night and as a fan of theirs I really enjoyed them, but I was there for The Smiths and especially Johnny Marr. I managed to push my way to the stage, front right hand side, so Johnny was right in front of me. I had seen him standing in the wings waiting to come on during Dance of the Knights by Prokofiev, and I was going nuts! Watching him play William (the opener that night), so close up, was the single greatest moment I've had at a gig. Meat is Murder had been out just over a month, so hearing songs like The Headmaster Ritual and That Joke Isn't Funny Anymore live for the first time was special. They also did Shakespeare's Sister, which had been out a week. So many great songs. The atmosphere was electric and they did two encores (back when an encore meant something). They finished with Miserable Lie and we left knowing we had just witnessed something beyond special. I saw The Smiths many times after that, but that was the best gig I have ever seen by far.

- *Graham Harley*

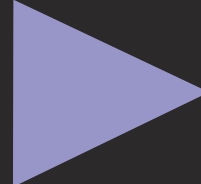
I've seen Johnny Marr five times now, but my first time - Coachella 2013 - was by far the most unforgettable. My husband witnessed Johnny's brilliance in The Smiths in 1985 and 1986, but that Friday in the desert was my first experience. And it wasn't just about seeing Johnny in the flesh; we'd been listening to The Messenger non-stop leading up to the show, so we knew all the songs as if they'd been in rotation for a year, and the live versions far exceeded expectations. We were about three rows from the stage, too. Not only was the vantage point great, the band's energy was palpable. (And whose hair looks that amazing in 90-degree weather? Theirs!)

We were catching our breath near the bar area afterward when my husband left me to go say hello to a couple guys. I was still in orbit and blinded by the sun, so when I walked up to them to shake hands, I asked my husband, "Do you guys work together?" But nope, they weren't workmates - it was Jack and Iwan. I'm not sure how I didn't place them immediately; it honestly didn't occur to me that we'd cross paths with anyone from a band, let alone Johnny Marr's. I may have been slightly mortified.

We chatted with them for a bit and hooked up for another hello later in the evening. And thanks to their coolness and generosity, we did Coachella all over again the next weekend. Our daughter was four at the time, and getting out as a twosome was rare. So going to a weekend-long festival to see one of the few records that are "ours" played live twice over - and meeting some of the band - is something we haven't forgotten and never will. Sincerely grateful, you guys!

- *Michelle Prather*

Although every single one of Johnny's gigs I've attended have been memorable, the first time seeing him live will always be my greatest gig of all time.



It was the 12th of October 2013 and it was the day of one of my art foundation exams in college. I'm from Liverpool and my college was in St Helens, so I darted from my exam halfway through in order to make the train to Lime Street to then get to Manchester on time and it was 100% worth it. The atmosphere in Manchester Academy that night was unreal, you could tell everybody was excited for Johnny to come on stage, and when he did I had the most amazing time singing out the lyrics to all of my favourite songs with my biggest musical influence right in front of me for the first time! It was also so exciting to hear his solo work played live too. It was without a doubt the most memorable gig I've ever been to!

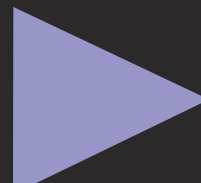
- *Jess Beesley*

My most memorable Johnny Marr gig was at Lollapalooza Argentina 2014: this was my very first Johnny Marr concert. It was emotional. There was a huge crowd even though it was 3 in the afternoon. We all went properly nuts, singing every song with him, mesmerized by the sound of his Jaguar and his excellent band. I couldn't believe he was there, looking so young with his blue blazer, full of energy, with his injured hand, so great, so charming and so punk. My friends and I were in tears after his set.

There was a more intense side show the following night in a club. But that previous show was his first performance in my country. The sun was shining during There Is A Light That Never Goes Out. It was a big deal.

- *Giselle Hidalgo*

British Summer Time, Hyde Park, 2015



Every band that played on the main stage took my breath away, but Johnny was my favourite by far, and the person that I was most excited to see. He was like a ray of sunshine, and incidentally played during one of the brief moments that the sun was out for. He kept suddenly smiling, and speaking to us in witty northern observations and feelings. You could see how he put the love into rock music. He dedicated 'There is a light that never goes out' to the crowd "and nobody fucking else", and refused to cover a song yelled out by a member of the crowd because "that is not one of my songs sir, that's done by one of those bands with beards. Do you see any stubble on this stage?" A charismatic, considerate, kind, funny, cool, and energetic presence. Everything you could ask for in a genius.

- *Jai Deo*



Having seen Johnny five times in 2015, choosing the most special gig is difficult, but it has to be at Castlefield Bowl on 11th July when Marr performed with Noel Gallagher. This gig was the first time I ever had the pleasure of seeing Johnny live and it was unbelievably good! The energy and atmosphere of the crowd was extraordinary, and seeing a brilliant musician like Marr at one of my favourite venues was more than special and something I will never forget. After experiencing this gig we then travelled over to Looe a few months later and were lucky enough to see Marr whilst dancing on Looe beach.

- Hannah Perry

27 April 2013: this would be my first time seeing and meeting Johnny Marr live, and the baited hook into this fandom. I hadn't been fully introduced to Johnny's complete works at this time, so the people I met and the conversations I had made the day even more special, but the overall atmosphere and feeling at the gig was incredible. It was so hot in the venue, but I don't think anyone cared. The biggest reason for it being so memorable is because my friend Brandon (who had introduced me to The Smiths) and I were directly in front of Johnny for his entire performance. The crowd did not seem to be there for me, I just phased them out, and sung along to what I knew. The top moment was Kevin Drew of Broken Social Scene joining Johnny on stage for I Fought The Law: it was quite the spectacle. Amazing.

- Steve Bates

My most memorable gig was on October 5th 2013 at Wrexham's Central Station as it was the first time I saw Johnny live.

I was having a particularly bad day at work when I first found out Johnny would be playing Central Station as part of The Messenger tour, and the realisation I was finally going to see him in the flesh and hear his music live completely altered my mood and made a bad day bearable. The added bonus of him playing almost on my doorstep made this a must-see gig that nothing was going to stop me from experiencing.

We got to the gig nice and early and got a great spot to see him, and he did not disappoint. He played an unbelievable set including all my favourites from "The Messenger", caused mass sing-alongs with his Smiths classics, and created absolute bedlam by where we were by covering "I Fought the Law", but my personal highlight was finally hearing "Getting away with it" played live.

On a personal note, we brought a friend with us who was a massive Smiths fan from childhood, and she drove down from Liverpool to join us for the gig and had an absolute brilliant time. Unfortunately she was taken ill the following year and sadly died in June 2014. The gig was the last time we got to see her, so the gig is definitely one we will not ever forget.

- Adam Roberts



Photo by Sarah Doone



# mini marrs

move over, GI Joe...



What a long way Knitted Johnny has come since my first Knitted Smiths staggered off the needles. Pattern tweaks.... hair techniques.... proper doll eyes.... learning to sew the outfits. But what really upped the game for me was the discovery that I could buy ten inch model guitars. I've recently found you can get six inch guitars, too.... watch this space for a Micro Marr!

- Kate Park



Modelling cold porcelain has always been one of my favourite hobbies. I've made dolls since I was nine. I have made many of them, all kind of musicians and characters, including dolls of Paul McCartney, George Harrison, the Gallagher brothers (I actually gave one of them to Noel in March, so Johnny and Noel could meet up and play with them together, haha), Darth Vader, etc. I like to gift them to my loved ones. I always say it's my way to say "I love you and I'm happy you are in my life". Since I knew I had the chance to meet Johnny Marr before the show in Buenos Aires, I decided to make one for him. I try to keep a defined style or design, and I thought he would find it cute. The Smiths are there in my saddest and happiest moments (I even have Smiths anecdotes in my love stories), so I felt like I wanted Johnny to have something from me - as I said, it's my way to return love. Johnny was scared at first when he saw the box (he asked me if it was a spider or something gross, haha), but when he opened it he loved it. His smiling face looking at it is something I will never forget. I almost burst into happy tears when I saw he uploaded a photo of it with Jack on Instagram. I carry his music with me all the time, so I feel really blessed knowing that he has something I made myself with him. And his pink shirt looks fabulous in any material!

- Mara Romanessi





I had the idea when my sister Fátima told me she was going to see Johnny in Southampton. When I met him in Brazil, I couldn't make a proper present for him and ever since then, I was thinking of making something special with my personal touch to give to him and his band. I love making handcrafted things in my free time, and feltwork is one of them. I spent 3 weeks in all to make the dolls, including research, the design, the prototype and the final dolls. The best part is that my sister was able to give them my dolls in person, so everything went surprisingly well with a really happy ending!

- Amelia Kubota



Vector Johnny (or VJ, as we've come to affectionately nickname him) has become a symbol of the Johnny Marvellous network over the past couple of years, so it seemed fitting to have him immortalised in polyresin as a gift for Johnny on the Adrenalin Baby tour of 2015.

Over several months we worked with a friendly chap by the name of Wakim -who coincidentally turned out to be a fan of Johnny's himself- to convert our original 2D design into a 3D model, which was then cast and painted. We were delighted that so many small but important details, such as Johnny's guitar strap pattern, lapel badges and the tag on his right Wallabee, were able to be incorporated into the design.

It was such a lovely moment for us to see the look on Johnny's face when we presented him with the finished product. As for Bobblehead Johnny, the nodding of his little head seemed to indicate he approved of his new owner...

- Aly & Ory





# JOHNNY MARR: *under the Brazilian sun*



Johnny Marr is very respected by both media and fans in Brazil. Mostly because of his years in The Smiths. On the radio you will still listen to The Smiths frequently. Their success in the 80s is undeniable, and it also happened in Brazil. They influenced some rock bands that were emerging at that time, like Legião Urbana, a very successful band in the late 80s, also with deep lyrics and touching melodies.

A great number of The Smiths' fans followed Johnny Marr's career over the years and over the different bands he joined. Among New Order fans, Electronic is one of the most loved projects he worked on and even encouraged some fans to discover his past works. His years in The The and in Modest Mouse, although once they didn't reach the media in Brazil, are better known by those who are musicians and fans.

His two live performances in São Paulo, Brazil had good reviews. It was like seeing a legend playing live. Johnny Marr is a great frontman with an awesome interaction with the public. The fans loved it. Many of them believe that he should have started his solo career earlier. Now he seems to be free playing his own style and singing to the world. His voice used to be hidden behind his guitar and when it showed up it was surprisingly nice! We are all expecting new releases and gigs!

Although his solo career is still a little shy around here, he's seen as an important part of the rock story and he will always be considered a great musician by those who love music.

- *Fátima Kubota*

Thanks to: Amelia MK, Marcello Neves, Daniel Souza, Well Santos, Ricardo Fernandes, Paulo Santiago, Andrea Novato, Luis Aracri, Marco.

"I shot  
Johnny  
Marr"

in conversation with

photographers from the Johnny Marr fandom



## How did you first become interested in photography?

I've always had a camera in my hands since I was young and most of my family have been involved with photography in one way or another, so I guess it just sort of happened over time. I became interested in music photography after reading magazines such as the NME and Q when I was younger and thought "I could do that". So I started off taking a small point and shoot camera to gigs and improving my eye for live music photography via that before doing it professionally.

## Do you remember the first time you photographed one of Johnny's shows? What were your first impressions of him as a performer?

I'd previously seen him live, but first photographed him at Victorious Festival (Southsea) last year. First impressions? That he's a legend and definitely one of a kind.

## What is it that you think makes Johnny different from other artists you've photographed?

There are some bands/artists that are very fun to photograph and Johnny quickly became one of them among a few others. He's got a stage presence that no one else can really compare to.

## What is your favourite pose of Johnny's to photograph? What makes for the best images?

There's far too many to choose! Probably all the variations of him holding the guitar in the air! (See chosen photo opposite.)

## What are your general impressions of Johnny's audiences?

Friendly, appreciative and very dedicated!

## Can you describe the differences in perspective between being at one of Johnny's shows as a photographer and being at one of his shows as a fan/audience member?

I concentrate too much to focus on the music whilst photographing. I can't actually remember hearing the first two or three Johnny Marr songs I



was photographing at Victorious Festival, so it's always good to take a step back and appreciate the performance as a whole when not photographing.

## Who are some of your own favourite photographers?

Music photography-wise, Danny North has done some fantastic stuff with/of Kaiser Chiefs, Muse, Oasis and I've been influenced by his photography for a while now. Non-music wise though, Rut Blee Luxemburg has done a lot of amazing urban, night photography and is also known for her photos being used on the album covers of Bloc Party - A Weekend In The City and The Streets - Original Pirate Material.

## What would be your dream photo shoot with Johnny?

Good question! I generally don't like to photograph people in a "staged" or "posed" way when doing anything portraiture based and would rather photograph people in a more natural way. So maybe a "day in the life of...", which I guess would be more of a documentary project.

*You can find more of Nikki's photography online at [www.flickr.com/photos/\\_modernway\\_/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/_modernway_/)*





## How did you first become interested in photography?

I was already creative to some extent with photography and painting from a young age, but mostly just capturing a moment - friends and family and my two cats. I wanted to do music photography basically the first time I realised music photography was a job, so probably 12/13 years old. I was (and still am, really) obsessed with music, the bands, the looks, and wanted to be involved in the industry somehow. I didn't get my first SLR til 2011 and shot my first gig that night; however I don't describe myself as a music photographer. Enthusiastic amateur.

## Do you remember the first time you photographed one of Johnny's shows? What were your first impressions of him as a performer?

Yes: Shepherd's Bush Empire in March 2013. I was shooting a club night afterwards from midnight til 4am and had been working all day, so it took a lot of enthusiasm to get all the way to west London to shoot an unpaid gig. Luckily I have always loved The Smiths and Electronic and he was a bucket list shoot.

## What is it that you think makes Johnny different from other artists you've photographed?

He really makes an effort to get around the stage and up to the front, so in theory it's not tricky to get a cool shot of him.

## What is your favourite pose of Johnny's to photograph? What makes for the best images?

As soon as he gets into the first tune he usually gets right up to the front of the stage and looks out into the audience, which looks great. The mic is not a photographer's best friend so it's also good to catch him out from behind it.

## What are your general impressions of Johnny's audiences?

It would be suicide to say anything terrible but I genuinely think they're great. Maybe it's because they're a bit more chill as they're, dare I say, more



mature...? But they're great and always helpful and friendly if you're stuck at the back trying to get in, or in the pit trying to get out.

## Can you describe the differences in perspective between being at one of Johnny's shows as a photographer and being at one of his shows as a fan/audience member?

It's hard to say as I don't think I've seen him and not been shooting, but the obvious answer is that you can get right up close for those first three songs which, as he always puts on a really energetic show, is very exciting. However you're also there to catch shots, so you can't really relax and enjoy it. It's a different sort of fun. Then, if you have time you can go to the back and be a punter - unless you're at certain London venues who then kick you out!

## Who are some of your own favourite photographers?

Well I'd have to say Jill Furmanovsky - she's shot everyone, Bob Marley, Blondie, Led Zep, the list



goes on - but I really love her Oasis shots. Obviously Pennie Smith - her Clash photo seems a bit obvious to mention, but she's an inspiration as she's still shooting as far as I know. Roger Sargent is great and also Carolina Faruolo. She's a young photographer who I cross paths with and whom I have worked at the same mags with.

## What would be your dream photo shoot with Johnny?

Look, I'd be being dishonest if I didn't say "anywhere with Morrissey", so there's that. Maybe somewhere

in LA - on a yacht off Redondo or something. I'm half joking. Maybe Johnny and Noel Gallagher playing pool. Bit of a cliché, but I think it would be more dignified than bar billiards or lacrosse.

*You can find more of Sarah's photography online at [www.sarahdoone.co.uk](http://www.sarahdoone.co.uk)*



## How did you first become interested in photography?

This is a relatively new thing for me; I've only been doing music photography with any kind of seriousness for about 18 months. Before my son hit 16, I was the 'responsible adult' who allowed him to get into gigs. Happily he has great taste; one of the first ones was Johnny's Roundhouse show in October 2013. We'd travel together then split and I started playing around with a pocket camera, getting to understand the lighting and angles. One night I saw someone in the crowd holding up a really expensive looking camera over a mosh pit and thought he was crazy - then the next day I saw his pictures and it all made sense. I made a huge camera upgrade, learnt as I went along and have had some brilliant opportunities along the way.

## Do you remember the first time you photographed one of Johnny's shows? What were your first impressions of him as a performer?

The first time I shot Johnny from the pit was the warm up gig for the Adrenalin Baby tour at the Engine Rooms in Southampton. I was a bit overawed to be honest; it's a small venue and I genuinely kept thinking 'remember to take some pictures, don't just stare at his shoes' but, you know, he wears good shoes and they were very close to my face! As a performer he has a huge ability to connect to everyone, close up or otherwise.

## What is it that you think makes Johnny different from other artists you've photographed?

There are three things that I hope for from any artist I see live - someone who can play well, has loads of energy and who looks like they're loving every minute. Johnny does all three by the bucket load, every show, no question. From a shooting perspective, you can't lose concentration for a second; there's always something different going on.

## What is your favourite pose of Johnny's to photograph? What makes for the best images?

There are lots of stances that make great shots; the end of show guitar above the head being a classic.



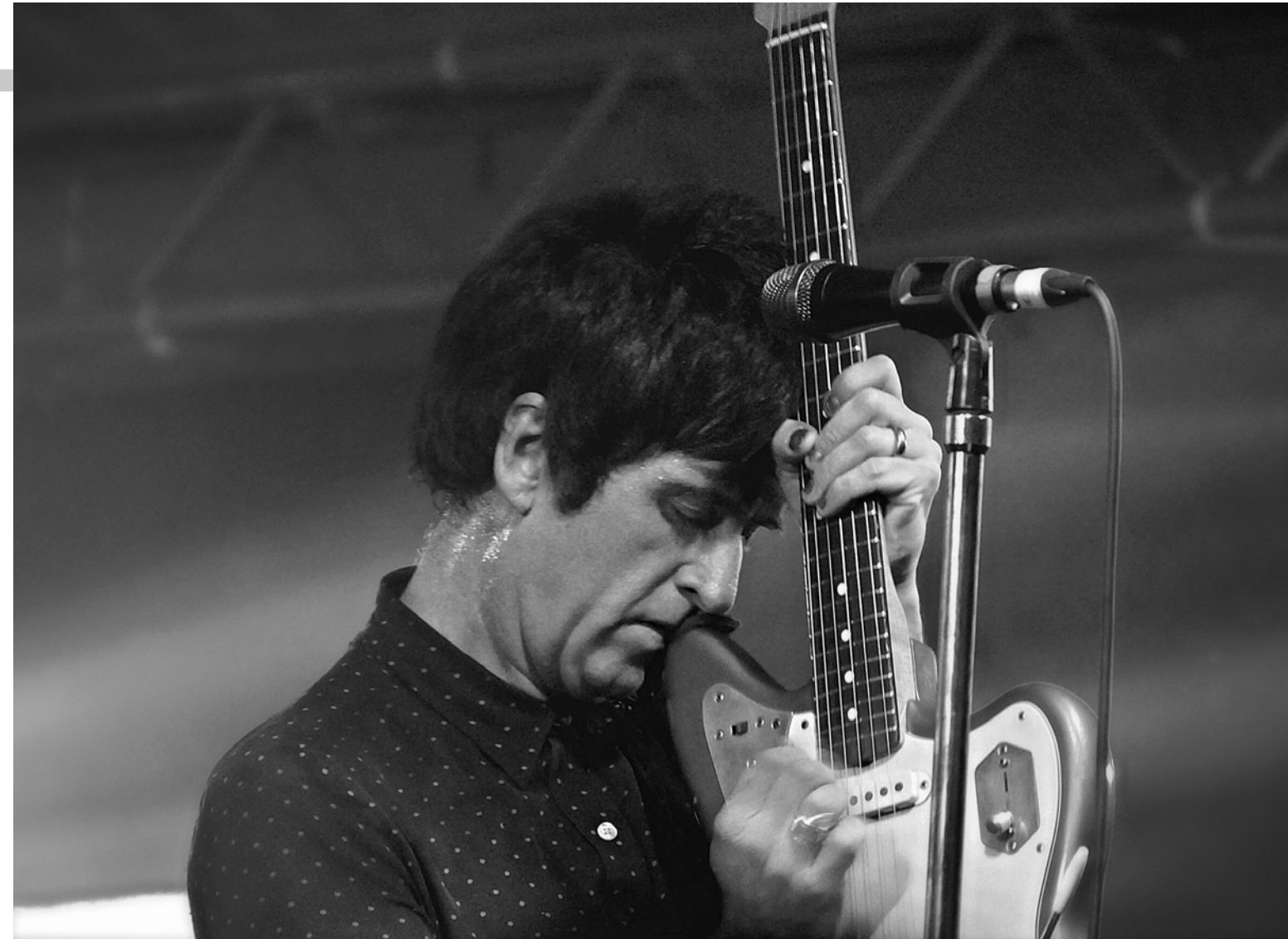
For me though, I lean towards the ones where you can see that he's totally in sync with his guitar and it almost looks like he could be playing to an empty room, lost in the moment.

## What are your general impressions of Johnny's audiences?

I've met some good people through Johnny's gigs (in person and on social media). We're all ages and backgrounds but there's a link there that brings about understanding and mutual respect.

## Can you describe the differences in perspective between being at one of Johnny's shows as a photographer and being at one of his shows as a fan/audience member?

It's a double edged sword. Getting the chance to shoot Johnny from the pit is amazing and a real privilege. But there will always be a bit of you that wants to be out in the crowd. I have a dilemma about whether to look at the setlist. With a general rule of three songs in the pit it's useful to see what those three songs are but, then again, I like the suspense of not knowing what's coming next. The anticipation is



the same though wherever you're standing, you hear the intro as the band come on, adrenalin kicks in and you know you're heading for something special.

## Who are some of your own favourite photographers?

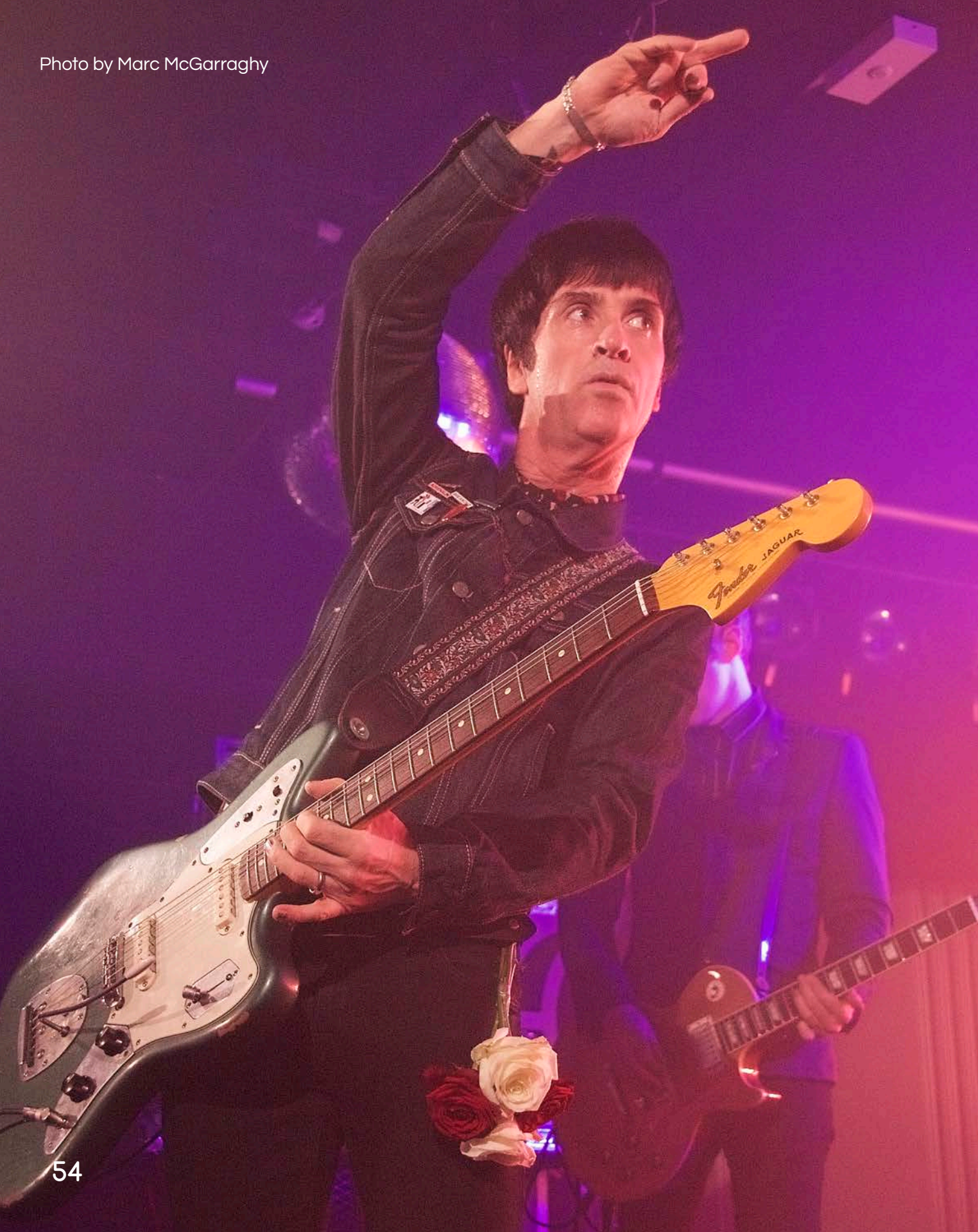
In terms of big names, my favourite photographer has to be Rankin; imagine being that talented. He took some awesome shots of Bowie in the mid 90s that just capture a beautiful side of him. In general though I like seeing pictures that people I know have taken, especially if we were at the same gig. You do get some very competitive photographers but the majority who I've met are decent people and I think we're all quite supportive of each other.

## What would be your dream photo shoot with Johnny?

I live on the coast; there's something very levelling about watching the sea and it makes a perfect backdrop so if I were to shoot Johnny anywhere off stage I'd choose the beach. (Would have to take into account not damaging the shoes though, obviously, I'm not a monster).

*You can find more of Siobhan's photography online at [www.16beasleystphotos.wordpress.com](http://www.16beasleystphotos.wordpress.com)*





## Marc McGarraghy

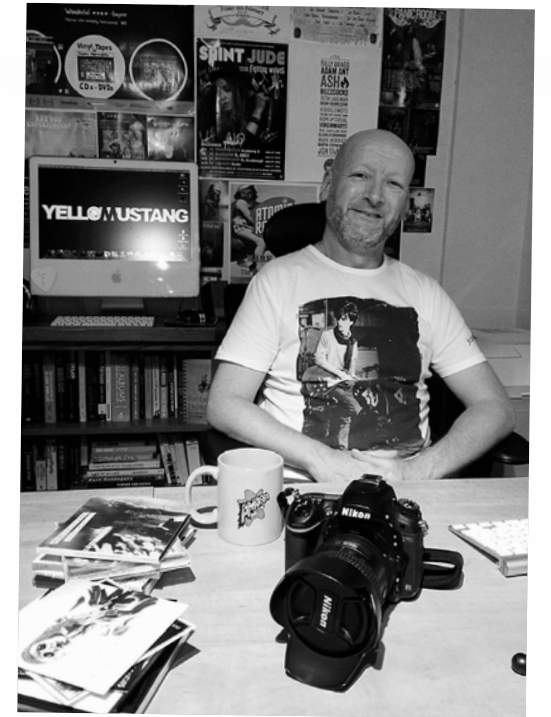
### How did you first become interested in photography?

I'm a latecomer to the world of capturing images, in fact whilst I've always admired the work of great photographers, especially those who capture social history or moments in time, if anything I was resistant to the idea of taking control of a camera for a long time. For childish reasons really. My dad was a passionate and very good amateur photographer, with a home darkroom and array of camera club trophies and a great collection of images of events and places in Manchester (where I was born and raised). For many years I carried the teenage rebellion flag by not wanting to be my dad or do what he did; I had to be different. Life took over and music, football and great nights out were the passions before two paths in life collided to make me really want to do this. One was maturity and the other a sudden sense of my dad's mortality and wanting to share a passion. As music was where I spent 90% of my time and I'd always wanted to contribute something but couldn't play or sing, it was natural to channel my interests into capturing and sharing what it is I love about going and to try to help promote local bands, live music and be part of what makes it all happen.

### Do you remember the first time you photographed one of Johnny's shows? What were your first impressions of him as a performer?

I do, vividly. It was at The Duchess in York, a small, cramped venue with more than a few lighting challenges (if you're a photographer). I'd seen him several times before but as I was still learning my new trade and he's a long time hero, it was a nervy night. I set out on my journey in live music photography to try to catch something of the essence of a gig, the performance and the artist that makes more people want to be there next time, but ultimately I'll always be there as a fan myself too and I think that made it easier that night in the end. As with every one of Johnny's gigs I've shot, I find the fan taking over and the photographer following the fan...if that makes sense?

As a performer before I photographed him, on that night and consistently since, my impressions have never wavered. If anything they've become more



resolute. What you see is what you get. Someone 'real', no ego or staged persona. There to share his music and his passion for it, be himself and give something of both to the fans (on and off stage).

### What is it that you think makes Johnny different from other artists you've photographed?

Taking a photographer's perspective for me, it's just such an easy and enjoyable experience. The obvious reason is I'm a fan. I love pretty much every genre of music and rarely see or shoot a band or artist I can't find time to like or appreciate in some way, but this man and his music have been part of my life for so long, always with a positive or emotional association that it's a privilege to be part of documenting him perform.

On a professional note though I have to credit not just Johnny himself (who has consistently acknowledged my presence at a gig) but his management team. Starting with the sorely missed Joe Moss (RIP) who was exceptionally helpful to me authorising my work at gigs here and abroad and championing



my photography and now with Dave and the team at Trust Management who have also been great to work with.

**What is your favourite pose of Johnny's to photograph? What makes for the best images?**

There are the obvious ones, with the Jaguar held aloft or slung low between his legs. There's THE wink and the rose, but I'm going to be greedy and choose two favourites....any and all that interact with the crowd, and a special moment for me when he turned to face me at the back of the stage at the Albert Hall in Manchester with his hands aloft and the happiest crowd behind him.

**What are your general impressions of Johnny's audiences?**

Passionate. Knowledgeable. Loyal. Friendly. Truly global. Being part of the JohnnyMarrvellous/Dynamic journey and many Johnny Marr and Smiths forums and pages, I see a wave of anticipation before every tour, gig and release. I see the depth of their knowledge and commitment to his music and in the venues you can feel the electricity and goodwill in the air. But the overriding sense is of respect and admiration for a man everyone sees as still being 'one of us' despite having otherworldly talents and that thing called fame that can take a lot of its hostages to very different places.

**Can you describe the differences in perspective between being at one of Johnny's shows as a photographer and being at one of his shows as a fan/audience member?**

Well, having said what I've said above about the fan in me taking over, you'd think not I guess. But I do feel very lucky to be doing a job I love in an arena I love (music) and it does allow you to see step back sometimes and watch Johnny's shows from a very different perspective, between him and the crowd or indeed above or behind both.

Pre-gig, waiting pit side, I've come to know a lot of familiar and friendly faces on the front row at Johnny's gigs, and the fact that they let on is a really nice start to the event, feeling part of both the crowd and the event itself. During the gig it really does depend on the venue to be honest. I've been wedged practically on the floor in front of him looking up, ushered into the pit for just the first three songs and then back out again where you've little time to take in the audience perspective or

interaction, and on occasion I've been fortunate enough to shoot the whole event. Here you have a great opportunity to observe and capture Johnny and the band at their best, not just playing and enjoying the occasion, but at one with the crowd and vice-versa, and these moments lift the experience up another notch for me.

Two of my favourite moments so far came at the Filmore in San Francisco and at the Apollo in Manchester. At the Filmore I shot from the crowd at the front for part of the show and was stood with two sisters who'd travelled from Mexico: one was just sixteen but the passion in her voice and eyes for Johnny as she talked excitedly ahead of the show commencing, and the wonderful sound of her singing every word to his songs (including the old Smiths songs), and the connection through music over so many miles was very special. At the Apollo, being up on the balcony by this stage of the show and able to watch every member of the audience sing 'Bigmouth' in tribute to Joe (Moss) who had married that day and be able to see what it meant to Johnny 'at home' equally touched every musical and human nerve possible. Being able to capture the man and the action on stage close up and then go on to observe these special moments with the audience during the same show...just the very best it gets.

**Who are some of your own favourite photographers?**

When it comes to music photography I love and have been inspired by the work of Manchester based Shirlaine Forrest and Liverpool based Sakura, two great people and it's always nice if I'm lucky enough to bump into them in the pit. Overseas the great Italian music photographer Cristina Arrigoni, based in New York, produces some very cool images on and off stage too.

**What would be your dream photo shoot with Johnny?**

A photographic diary of a walk around some of his old Manchester haunts with the man himself taking in people and places that mean something special to him and have inspired songs, lyrics and personal passions (so we might both have to end up at the Etihad stadium too), and perhaps haven't been shared before.

*You can see more of Marc's photography online at [www.yellowmustang.co.uk](http://www.yellowmustang.co.uk)*



I was waiting patiently at his bus with another fan that had scored the set list from the stage. We were the only two waiting at the bus and after what seemed like 30 minutes of waiting, the bus door opened and out comes Johnny in his jean jacket. All I remember is Johnny asking me what my name was and me just asking "Can I please hug you?", and his response was "Of course!"

He politely signed my Smiths album and signed an autograph to my daughter Maia.

I hear of many people meeting their heroes and being disappointed, but I can tell you that meeting Johnny was surreal. He was so down to earth and kind.

I am a fan for life.

*- José Daniel Romero*



# BIG IN JAPAN

I saw Johnny play for the first time at Fuji Rock Festival and was completely overwhelmed by his presence and charisma. At the same time, it was very impressive that I could estimate that about half of the audience were young people who clearly reacted only to his solo songs. Even before the show began, I witnessed the young people talking about him as "Johnny Marr teacher", or "Teacher", in many places of the venue. I was interested and checked it out later, and discovered that he is introduced in Japan like that.

He has influenced the Brit pop generation and the world's alternative rock musicians who were active after the 90s, such as Noel Gallagher of Oasis, Bernard Butler of Suede, and Kula Shaker. So he is praised as an important person who played an important role in the flow of UK Rock that continues even today, and as a man of influence in the industry.

Particularly, it is a well-known fact that Johnny Marr inspired Noel Gallagher to play guitar, and that he gave him one of his precious favorite guitars - Yes, God gave him a guitar - and even more generously, he did so twice. This kind of anecdote is considered a part of the reason why he is praised as a pioneer and a great master of guitar for young UK Rock fans in Japan.

Some fans began to listen under the influence of Oasis, but there are also quick-eyed UK rock fans who noticed his presence through his activities in Modest Mouse (who twice visited Japan), The Cribs (who played Fuji Rock Festival in 2008), his own previous band Johnny Marr & The Healers (who played Fuji Rock Festival in 2000), and his solo band now. Of course, there are also the fans among them who have followed his activity since after The Smiths' split.

Solo activities of Johnny Marr have won a new generation of fans. That makes me a little proud of myself as a fan from The Smiths era, and I think it is natural. From the beginning, the music he created has charms that never grow old.

Because there were so many bands in the 80s in the U.K, a few of them ended up as one hit wonders. Meanwhile though, The Smiths are treated as one of the bands of the neo-acoustic movement - they swept over indie charts, and now today they are recognized as one of the most important rock bands from the U.K. in the 80s.

Johnny's music is so delicate and mellow, but also has classic rock'n'roll taste. He doesn't ignore technical aspects, and never shows off. I think that the beauty of the melody he creates is still universal while also adopting the new sounds of each era.

Johnny will keep being a main leading figure of the UK rock scene for Japanese fans from now on. I'd like to expect him to keep making and playing songs even if times change.

— AKIKO KOGO

# A touch of **MARR**



I've collected badges for as long as I can remember, but my favourite subset of my collection would have to be my Johnny Marr badges. As somebody who's, shall we say, artistically challenged, it's the best way to add Johnny-themed accessories to my wardrobe. Some of my badges are official ones from merch stands at gigs, while others are eBay finds and cool freebies acquired through the Johnny Marrvellous site/Dynamic Duo, but all are equally treasured in my collection and on my lapels.

- Bernadette Rumson

Earlier this year I started up a hobby under the name Little Legends, hand making and designing earrings and brooches from Shrink Plastic of my favourite musicians, film characters and pop culture figures. It got a little attention on Instagram and I thought who better to make than Johnny (for Aly). Johnny has such an iconic look. It's the hair mainly - that Mod rocker mop-top. It's a wearable cartoon homage to a man I admire and a big thank-you to the fandom who celebrates him so wonderfully. I hope to make many more Marrs in the future!

- Holly Flynn



I made a t-shirt in the style of one of Johnny's plectrums for the first time I went to one of his gigs, in 2013.

- Niamh McGuinness

I saw these on an Etsy shop online and thought they were really cool (and kinda funny!) The box they came in too was awesome and hand designed!

- Jess Beesley



In 2013 I thought it'd be a great idea to make my very own Johnny Marr t-shirt for his Newcastle gig, purely because my parents didn't like the idea of me wearing a Johnny Fuckin' Marr shirt (that didn't last very long, though).

I remember spending ages working on it to make a proper cool shirt, but the end result wasn't all that great since I'm not the most talented artist... The Jaguar that I had painted didn't really look like a Jaguar, and Johnny's name was a little wonky - but I was 14 and extremely proud at what I'd created.

- Jade Bailey







This jacket was designed in celebration of the Adrenalin Baby tour. My mother assisted me in pinning down the design to the back of jacket and sewing it on with deft artistry, while I did the careful work of measuring and cutting the design off a well ironed, official merch shirt.

I thought this particular design would work well for a jacket's back as it's very striking, due to its primary colour scheme. It is a nod and homage to the Smiths fans using the same technique to create their own jackets.

Johnny, never one to miss an opportunity of trying on a fine thread, even had the chance to wear it himself. Ever since, whenever I wear it, I play the guitar more fluently than ever! (Ok, not really - but it's a nice dream...)

*- Ory Englander*



A birthday gift several years ago, this statement necklace designed by my (very talented) best friend Ory is one of the most cherished items of jewellery I own. It's a symbol of how the most treasured parts of my life all tie together: my best friend, my long-time hero, and the music that has been such an enormous part of my life.

*- Aly Stevenson*







My favourite video is the one for The Messenger - for so many reasons. First of all, I absolutely love black and white videos, so this is always a special thrill - and in this case it is so wonderfully executed. I love the way it is shot, the play with the light, but probably above all I love it for its symbolic aspects - the forest, the journey... images that provoke some deeper thinking. And it's this symbolic dimension beyond the initial impression of straightforward simplicity which keeps me intrigued while watching it every time.

It was also the first thing I saw (and heard) from the first album - and it's usually also the first video I show to others when I want to introduce them to Johnny's music. It's all I can wish for - a wonderful song that I never get tired of, and its impact made even stronger by the great video!

- Donka Petrova

My favourite Johnny Marr video is the video for "Upstarts", because I think the simplicity of the video helps the song speak for itself without distraction. To me it also reflects Johnny's confidence in his sound and as a solo artist, especially considering how early in his solo career it was released. Plus he just looks cool as fuck in that red jumper!

- Derek Lee



As much as I love watching all of Johnny's videos, "New Town Velocity" is my favourite. An artistic masterpiece which frames a brilliant song. Not only as it's shot in black and white, but I love all the shadows, angles, geometry and references to Johnny's roots. Johnny and I share the same era and both had working class childhoods in Northern cities surrounded by Brutalist architecture. For most of my life I didn't even know it had a name. I lived in a tower block similar to the one at the start of the video. We were conditioned to associate these buildings with poverty and deprived living. Apart from inspiring me to play the guitar, Johnny inspired me to love the buildings of my past and appreciate their beauty. This video pays homage to that.

- Linda Paulkott

I love the playfulness of Johnny's "Easy Money" video. There are so many fun and quirky touches, and Johnny's expressions throughout are often endearingly cheeky. (Point in case: the scene where he's sitting next to the portrait of David Cameron. Brilliant!) To me, the video is just good fun, and it's nice to see the band enjoying themselves too.

I wonder if Doviak won his bingo game?

- Bernadette Runsen



My favourite video is the video for Dynamo because it takes me back to the first time I saw Johnny play it on the Playland tour. It captures the same energy as the gig and makes me feel like I'm reliving that excitement. And you can't go wrong with Johnny in a pink shirt!

- Ruby Pickering

I Feel You has always appealed to me: being so different from the original version, Johnny managed to give it his special touch. I like this video the best because of the standard effects such as shadows and cut-aways, the use of inversion and tilted cameras - nothing fancy, but it still stood out.

- Steve Bates



My favorite video done by Johnny is "Candidate". The song is top notch and is in my definite list of all time favorite Johnny Marr songs. It's nice to see how he and the band work on songs during the recording of an album. To see this personal glimpse of a song being recorded bit by bit is something rare that most people do not see - the only one that comes to mind in recent times is the band Bully and their song "I Remember". Also being a gear nerd, I like to see what equipment they all use during song construction and recording, the effects, the synths and whatnot. It does offer a bit of a view on his work ethic as a recording musician.

- Erik Gutierrez





*have faith in  
the fans=*

## PERCEPTIONS OF THE JOHNNY MARR FANDOM IN AUSTRALIA

Since I discovered Johnny Marr's music in 2004, he has frequently toured Australia – twice with Modest Mouse, once with The Cribs, and twice as a solo artist. The Healers played here with Pearl Jam in 2002; The The toured here in the 1990s. Fans of Johnny in Australia are almost spoilt: we have had so many opportunities to see him, and in almost all of the phases of his career. With each tour, we have seen the new art in the flesh: different guitars, new songs, a new LP, a different band, a new haircut, another amazing jacket, another venue: each time a fresh canvas and a new palate. Never the same, and always loud, always exciting. And most significantly, always moving, in both the emotive and forward-thinking senses of the word.

I finally met Johnny in Melbourne, after his show at the Northcote Social Club on January 5, 2014. But I had tried to meet him on many occasions before then – at a Modest Mouse show, after a Cribs show, and at his solo show at the Corner Hotel. On each occasion though, I did succeed in meeting people – fans, and sometimes other band members. And during these meetings I invariably found myself thinking 'Where have you guys been all my life?'

I think the best way to look at how Johnny Marr is received in Australia, and what that fandom means here, is not by looking at how the press rate him – pretty damn highly, natch – but by thinking about his fans. For each Johnny Marr related gig or album release that I have attended, I can recall meeting someone great. Here they are, some names excluded.

### Modest Mouse, The Palace, St. Kilda, December 29, 2006

If only I could begin this list a bit earlier than 2006 – I know there will be people reading this who could. We all have to start somewhere though, and this is where I began.

#### People met:

Jeremiah Green, drummer in Modest Mouse: He had one of those North American hats with ear-flaps, and there was a tambourine tied to a string, running down the inside of his trouser leg. The tambourine clanked after him on the pavement as he walked. None of this is really too unusual for St. Kilda though. Not knowing what to say, but wanting to say something, I told him I liked his band and that I was a huge JM fan. He was very friendly and up for a chat.

Unknown Mancunian: Near the end of the gig there was a small pocket in the audience chanting 'Johnny Marr.' Closest to me was a man staring as intently at Johnny's guitar as I was. At the end of the show I asked where he was from. 'Manchester,' he said proudly. This isn't exactly a wild anecdote, but as a 20 year old, there seemed something providential about the whole experience.

### Modest Mouse, V Festival, Melbourne, 2008

I had friends in a band called Little Red, who had won a competition to play V Festival. I couldn't go, but told my friends to watch as much Modest Mouse as they could. Next time I



saw Little Red play, their singer-guitarist Dominic bounded on stage in sneakers and a jacket, posed legs apart and really let rip – in a word, inspired. Sound familiar?

**People met (besides Dominic):**

Lodi, singer in Mission Control, also on the V Festival bill: I knew Lodi from a supermarket job – he’s a dead stylish Italian with fantastic taste in music. Years later he told me that at V Festival, he’d found Johnny ‘super approachable, the gentleman of indie rock.’

**The Cribs, Billboard the Venue, Melbourne, February 17, 2010**

Perhaps my favourite Johnny Marr gig: some of my favourite music ever written by him, played so loud and with such abandon. Brilliant.

**People met:**

Three Cribs/Smiths fans: Super stylish, and immediately affable. We were hanging in the dingy laneway beside the venue in Chinatown, waiting for Johnny and the Jarmans. We were on such a high that we started talked about the setlist even before we got each other’s names – connecting with each other really was that easy.

Ryan, Gary and Ross Jarman: I vaguely remember Ryan asking us where they could go out in Melbourne. Good question: unfortunately it was a Wednesday night. It was a pleasure to meet them – three more gentleman of rock’n’roll. I’ve been a huge Cribs fan, with and without Johnny, ever since this night.

**Johnny Marr, Corner Hotel, Melbourne, January 4, 2014**

The first headline date of his first Australian solo tour. He came on stage rocking the burgundy velvet jacket and was huge in every way.

**People met:**

JM fans, archivists, writers and artists in their own right, Aly Stevenson and Ory Englander: My abiding memory of these two is that they seemed quiet (hard to believe, right?!). I introduced myself and it was good to immediately sense that we had this unspoken connection through JM’s music. I also remember that my eyes were immediately drawn to Aly’s The The badge. Lapel badges are like code: as soon you see one, there’s a lot you can infer about the person. I knew that these guys were about as real as you can get, as well as super tight; and full of fun as well.

**Johnny Marr, Northcote Social Club, Northcote, January 5, 2014**

**People met (besides Johnny, Aly and Ory):**

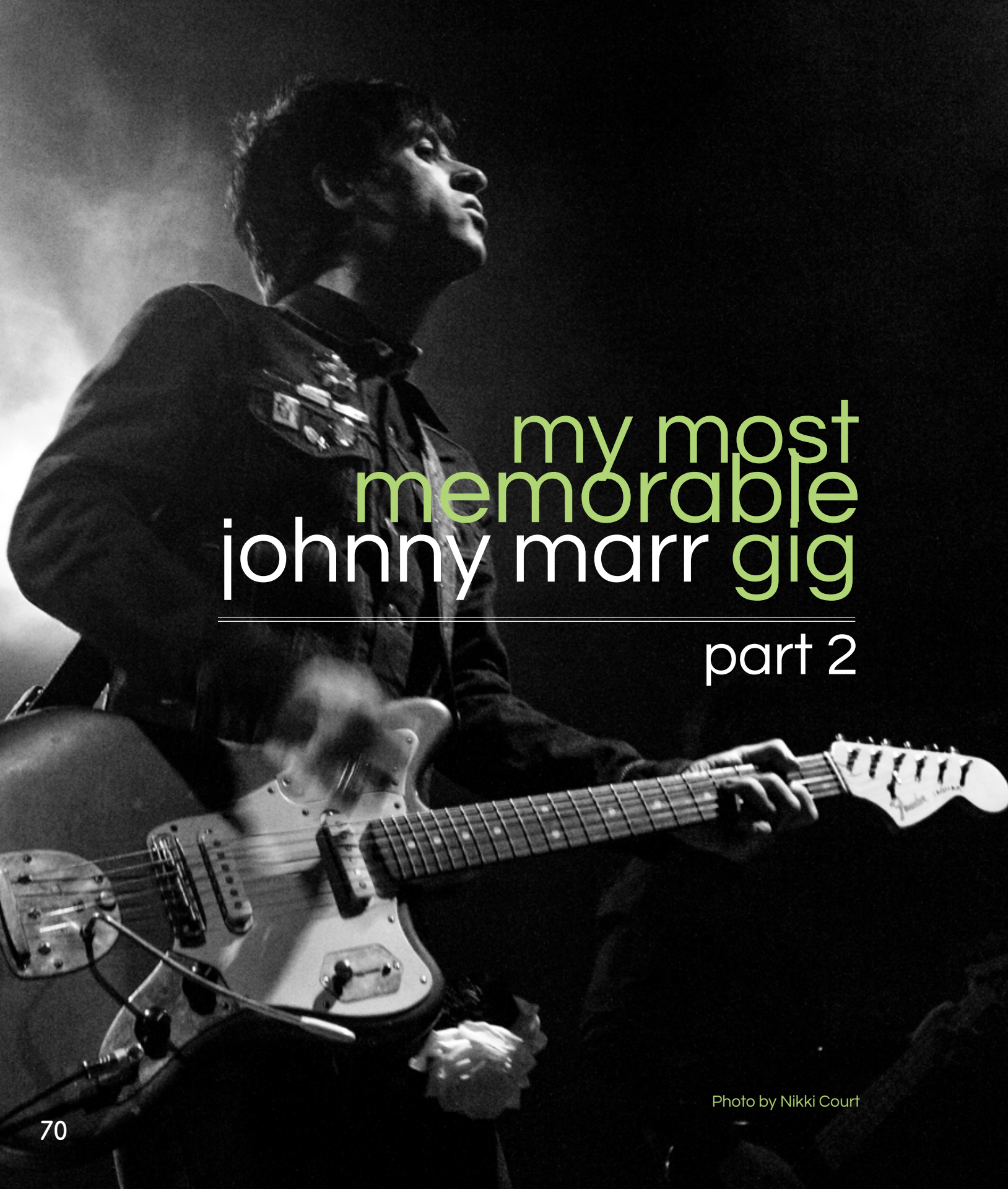
Two guitar players from out of state, with whom I still keep in touch: Waiting for Johnny after the show, I overheard somebody say the words ‘Les Paul.’ ‘Why not?’ I thought, ‘the spirit is good – I’m gonna join in.’ Pretty soon I was talking Gibson and Fender with two JM fanatics who’d flown over from Adelaide just for this show. They were due to fly back at 6am the next morning. Super committed.

Two local guitar players: Both of whom, I soon realised, worked in a cool guitar shop in Carlton. One of them bought a Metallic KO JM Jaguar the next day, on the strength of Johnny’s tone at the gig.

It transpires that a lot of people who I’ve met in the intervening years were at Johnny’s gig at the Northcote Social Club: at least two other musicians and writers that I can think of. Of course it shouldn’t be surprising that musicians went to a Johnny Marr gig, but it is good to know that his work is admired and his influence acknowledged in the music scene in Australia. Johnny says that many of the best bands sound like where they come from. Applying that theory to Melbourne, you could say that guitar music here is characterised by a noisy, sometimes discordant, ravaged post-punk style: this is, after all, the city of The Birthday Party and Rowland S. Howard. That legacy can be heard in many of the bands that play Melbourne’s pubs and clubs every weekend. Although there is clear reverence for Johnny’s music in Australia, there aren’t many guitar players here who sound like him: this has always surprised me. But to borrow a phrase from Johnny’s lecture at the University of Salford, the best bands in Australia – as with the best bands anywhere – ‘build their own ark.’ And that, I think, is something of which I think Johnny would approve.

- ANDY CAMPBELL





# my most memorable johnny marr gig

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## part 2

Photo by Nikki Court

My most memorable Johnny Marr concert was when he performed at the Looe Music Festival on the 20th September 2015. What a night! Where do I even start to describe the atmosphere and vibe of that amazing gig?! Johnny came onstage to the buzz of excited cheers and screams from the crowd, dressed in a vibrant red shirt with small, white polka dots on it, a black velvet jacket with a few badges pinned to the collar, and a pair of black trousers with the trademark bouquet of flowers hanging off the side of them.

From the very first strum of the guitar, it was as if every person in the audience were one. The same emotions being experienced, the same energy being felt, the same lyrics being sang by each individual, all at the same moment in time.

Marr took us all on a journey of music over the past thirty or so years by including some golden oldies by the likes of The Smiths, The Clash and The Primitives as well as his solo material. The energy from the audience on the beach was highly energetic and emotional when songs such as 'There is a Light That Never Goes Out' and 'Panic' were being performed. It was almost as if the audience had been especially saving their energy for these particular songs. My personal favourite song to hear performed live was 'Easy Money', because that is just a tune and a half! After Johnny and the band had walked offstage at what we thought was the end of the gig, the deafening cheering and screaming called for an encore. Johnny and the band once again came onstage to a now much more energetic and excitable (and hot and sweaty!) crowd to play a small handful of songs to make a fantastic ending to such a memorable concert.

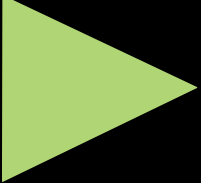
For once in my life I didn't mind the post-gig headache and ringing ears the following day. It reminded me that the previous night was real and wasn't just some crazy, imaginative dream.

*- Megon Wedge*

My most memorable Johnny Marr gig was at the Glass House, Pomona, during the California Jam Tour. Being my first and so far only show, I was pretty excited to finally see him. This alone made it special enough in my books, as I don't go to a lot of shows. The performance itself was stellar enough as his setlist was comprised of songs off of his solo albums, Smiths, Electronic and surprisingly Depeche Mode's "I Feel You". The amount of energy that he puts into his shows is great and the audience really feeds off it. Everybody is there just to have a good time and escape from the modern world, especially for American politics. Him calling Trump a fascist billionaire and comparing his hair to an omelette made the night most memorable, and was the first thing I told my friends about. Sadly though, looking back upon the gig it feels nothing more than a dream, but at least I know that it was a dream that came true.

*- Erik Gutierrez*



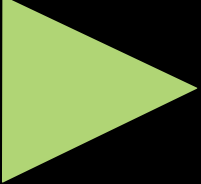


I never thought I'd see a show of Johnny Marr. But my dream came true on April 3, 2014: the legendary guitarist and composer of The Smiths presented himself for the first time in Buenos Aires, in a venue with a capacity of less than 2000 people. My eyes could not believe they were watching live the very founder and creator of all the music of the band that saved my life. The show started well up with "The Right Thing Right" to continue with "Stop Me ...". They followed with more songs from their debut album, such as "Upstarts" and the great "The Crack Up". During "Panic" the atmosphere exploded and virtually the whole place was jumping. Johnny looked really happy. I loved the singles "New Town Velocity" and "The Messenger". "Generate! Generate!" was dedicated to the Argentine footballer Aguero, Manchester City player. The main set closed with "How Soon Is Now?" dedicated to "old and new friends". Witnessing that moment was a real ecstasy, as well as the beautiful "Please Please Please Let Me Get What I Want". All the nostalgic climate changed suddenly with a furious version of the classic "I Fought The Law". And the last songs were also covers: Marr gave us a dance-rock version of "Getting Away With It". But the precise blow came with "There Is A Light That Never Goes Out". The atmosphere was melted in a mixture of melancholy and overflowing emotion, singing with our open hearts – even the magnificent riffs. Johnny greeted, thanked and promised to return soon (he kept his promise and played again in 2015). We were all amazed by his genius, style and kindness. Thanks Johnny "Fucking" Marr. We love you.

*- Alejandro Kapacevich*

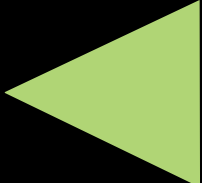
My most memorable Johnny gig was at Fat Sam's in Dundee in October 2013. It was the first time I had seen him and was beyond excited! I had been listening to The Messenger on constant repeat for months. The venue was perfect because it was small and so intimate. Where my hubster and I were standing, we could see him waiting to come on stage and as soon as I saw him I just burst into tears - it was such an emotional moment. I had waited so long and there he was! The whole gig passed in a blur as I was totally in awe of the genius on stage! What made it for me was seeing him play 'There is a Light...'. That will always be special because it felt like he was singing it just to me! I have seen him twice since then but that first gig was just very special and one I will never forget.

*- Fiona O'Neill*



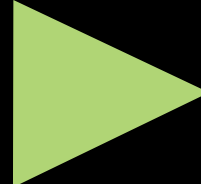
My most memorable Johnny Marr gig was the 14th of October 2014 gig at Southend Cliffs Pavilion because it was my first Johnny gig with my girlfriend who is also a big fan. It was really special to be at that gig together because we met through being Johnny fans. I also got one of the set lists at the end of the night and a cool "I love Johnny Marr" badge from The Dynamic Duo, both which made the gig even more special. Since then we've also traveled together to Manchester to see Johnny in his hometown (8th of October 2015 at The Albert Hall — what a night) as well as in London and Oxford, and can't wait for more gigs (or a book signing!) soon!

*- Derek Lee*



My most memorable Johnny Marr gig was his hometown gig in Manchester. Why was that? Well, there are several reasons for that. First of all it was Manchester itself, because me and my husband love the city and its music so much. We had seen Johnny before in Cologne, Germany, which was in a very small venue, where I was in the front row and he just blew me away. But I never thought I would manage to get to the front row in Manchester – but I did and I even grabbed a setlist, which was the second reason to make it unforgettable. And last but not least I – by a heavenly coincidence – happened to meet Emma Palor while waiting in front of the venue, who introduced me to Aly and Ory via Facebook. Since then I feel like a part of this Johnny-Marr-fan-family which is just awesome.

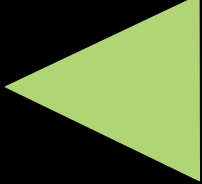
*- Sabine Kaczynski*



### Brudenell Social Club, Leeds – 7th March 2013

I pretty much stumbled upon this gig completely by accident, as I was just searching online to see what was going on around my 19th birthday, and was somewhat surprised to see that: a) Johnny was playing a run of solo gigs at all, and b) that the one nearest to me just so happened to be on that exact day. As big a fan of The Smiths I was already, by that point, I didn't really know much at all about what he'd been up to since the days of Electronic. So naturally, I had to get tickets. I mean, how often do you get the chance to see one of your favourite musicians play on your birthday? I wasn't going to pass on that chance. Of course, with this being the first I'd heard of the current chapter of Johnny's expansive career, I hadn't yet listened to any of 'The Messenger', so I decided to keep it that way until the gig itself. Naturally, I expected he'd throw a few of The Smiths' songs into the set, so that wasn't a surprise, but apart from that, I was listening to everything else for the first time, which was an incredible experience. In particular 'New Town Velocity', which has remained my favourite song from Johnny's solo work since the moment I heard it at that gig. Since then I've been to seven other gigs on various tours, and I don't exactly know how it's possible, but the man just keeps getting better and better.

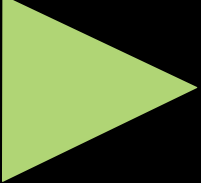
*- Alex Graham*



My most memorable Johnny gig has to be Looe Music Festival in September 2015 in Cornwall. I'd just seen him for the first time after years of waiting at Castlefield Bowl where he supported Noel Gallagher and I was blown away. I then discovered that he was playing this festival that just happened to be held in the town where me and my family holiday every year; couldn't be missed. Seeing Johnny play on the beach in my favourite place was pretty special and not something I'll be forgetting in a hurry! Also, the set was brilliant, all the Smiths classics and a good selection of Johnny's solo material. We travelled a good 8 hours to see Johnny and we'd do it again in a heartbeat.

*- Saffron Goodwin*





To my eternal shame and regret, up until last year I'd never even laid eyes on Johnny in the flesh, never mind seen him do a gig. So when the dates were announced for his autumn tour I made damned sure I got tickets for me and the hubster! We were privileged enough to see Johnny at the Albert Hall in Manchester - what a fantastic venue! And as for the performance itself, well, it was bloody well amazing, Johnny was on fire! The beautiful rendition of "There is a Light that never goes out" in particular had me in tears, as I'd never heard it live before. Johnny's rant at Dave CaMoron (the Tories were in town that night) was epic too, God love that man!

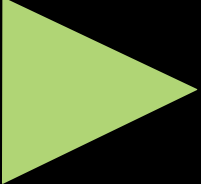
- Angie Cooke

My impressions may change over time. My first favourite gig of Johnny's was initially my first, at London's Roundhouse. My current favourite is my most recent, at Rockaway Beach.

My reasons are purely selfish. I'm a diminutive lass of five foot half an inch. Much as I'd love to stand at gigs, it is impractical; I end up stuck behind someone a foot taller. Or worse still, behind the person filming the gig on their tablet! I decided this would change at Bognor, staking out the front row early in the evening. Naturally, I found the Dynamic Duo there, too! Somehow, my patience and dogged determination paid off... Other fans had gone to see the other Saturday night bands in the other venues, planning to return later. But I was in position, full of anticipation.

What a show! So many wonderful moments.... An emotional version of Candidate, the rabble rousing Easy Money, the starlight of Generate Generate, the slide guitar shimmer of The Right Thing Right. Perfectly performed; tight, deft and vital. The dreamy New Town Velocity, with semi autobiographical lyrics, always makes the hairs on my neck stand on end... I finally got to hear Johnny play The Headmaster Ritual, and what a surprise, You Just Haven't Earned It Yet Baby is a newly revived live song. A glorious Getting Away With It, with effervescent guitar break to die for, was another highlight. Spiral Cities, still unreleased, was melodic and immediate enough to receive love from the crowd. The Primitives song Crash, How Soon Is Now, and all too quickly the 18 song set was over. Somehow I snagged the set list, making my experience perfect. A night to remember.

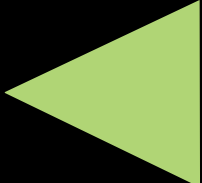
- Snigdha Nag



Having seen him five times now (twice with the Cribbs), I think it was the first solo gig that I class as my favourite. March 2013, Ritz in Manchester. Awesome gig. It was also the first time I heard European Me live. It's funny because the two other times after this were much manic experiences, but the first time seeing the great man live will always stick in the memory.

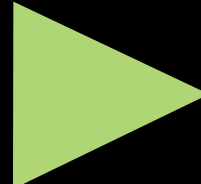
- Lee Bellfield

My favourite Johnny Marr gig memory didn't actually happen at a Johnny Marr show.



In July, I attended The Last Shadow Puppets' gig at Alexandra Palace. I love the band, but that day in particular I wasn't overly excited for the show - my girlfriend was about to move back to America, so I was feeling down. I had heard about Johnny joining them on stage at their previous gig in Manchester, but I was certain he wouldn't be at the London show. When TLSP took the stage for their first song I noticed that there was one extra person onstage. I didn't know who it was straight away as I was standing quite a way back, but the moment they sprung into Last Night I Dreamt That Somebody Loved Me, I blurted out "Fuck, it's Johnny fuckin Marr!" This is my favourite memory because of how unexpected it was to see my hero that evening. It instantly improved my mood and completely made the gig.

- Jack Elliott



I had not listened to UK rock so much for a long time except that I went to Fuji Rock Festival once a year, but I could imagine how it would be nice to listen directly to the sound of Johnny Marr's guitar in front of him at an open-air stage.

Actually, the real Johnny Marr was just beyond description. I was just fascinated by the tone of the guitar of the Johnny Marr which echoed in the mountains of Naeba, and my body moved naturally even if I did not know some of the songs.

The audience had a lot of young fans delighted by a variety of choice in the songs - his solo work, a cover song of Depeche Mode, and Electronic. When he was playing "Getting Away with it", he started wriggling his body, and singing in a sweet voice. Everybody there thought he was so cute and sexy.

He was playing the guitar freely and loudly in the middle of the stage, it was so shining and cool.

I've been to a gig of The The about 25 years ago, but he didn't play those songs, and his handsome face was covered with a long forelock as usual in dark illumination. I hardly feel having seen him. So I was really glad to see that he was so lively now.

In addition, when I watched the video of his gig at Summer Sonic the previous year, I was surprised he was playing songs by The Smiths in his gig. And I was surprised I didn't feel a sense of discomfort at all.

After the Fuji Rock Festival, I viewed the comments on the Internet that a male fan said "I have waited for 30 years...I couldn't stop crying".

Although I myself didn't have time to cry because I was singing the songs in a small voice.

Anyway, I really regret I couldn't go to the gig at the Ebisu Liquid Room next day. He played much more close to the audience.

- Akiko Kago

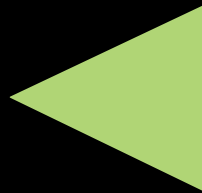




I've been to about half a dozen Johnny Marr gigs by now, but the most special for me was at La Trabendo in November 2014. The excitement of jetting off to Paris on a near-whim, combined with the intimacy of the venue and Johnny being on top form as always, made it a very special night. From the front row, it was amazing to be able to watch his hands up close as he played, and I must confess I swooned a little when he looked right at me during "Getting away with it". (With those eyes of his, can you blame me?) Johnny's gigs are brilliant no matter where he's playing, but something about being at a small venue in a foreign city and then getting to be in the front row on top of it all, made the whole experience even more exhilarating. Merci beaucoup, Johnny!

- Bernadette Rummen

I've seen Johnny Marr twice in Buenos Aires, Argentina. In 2014 and 2015 at Niceto Club. To me both gigs were outstanding and unforgettable for too many reasons, but if I had to pick just one of those, I'd rather stick with the first concert. Why? Because I live in Argentina and I never thought I'd be able to see Johnny live! Not even close in my greatest dreams.




I still recall the day I found out the great news! I was at the office of my previous job and one of my best friends (yes, I was lucky enough to work with lovely people at the time!), who already knew I was a crazed Smiths fan, sent me an email with details about the event and so on. The point is, I was going to see my favorite artist live for the first time. And not only that, I was going to see him with so many friends around! That was all special for me: to share my happiness with more people who were also happy about it!

The day came and the concert was all I expected to be: an emotional collision of music, greatness, love, energy, happiness, sympathy et al. I loved every single second out of it, laughing, crying, cheering, singing... To me it was a push of endorphin that night! AMAZING! Smiled with Generate! Generate! (it was neat of Johnny to dedicate that one to our great player Sergio Agüero!), was rocked with Panic, danced to Getting Away with It, and finally cried of joy with There Is A Light That Never Goes Out.

Johnny, I really hope you feel the joy I felt that night, when you read these lines. I just wish to meet you one day. Please visit us again, because the pleasure, the privilege is all mine.

- Mariana Polizzi



Last year Johnny was playing a gig at the Olympia Theatre in my hometown of Dublin, Ireland. Words can't describe how much Johnny and his music means to me and my younger brother (I was 17 and my brother was 13). So we went in to try and meet Johnny before he carried out his sound check. We were slightly skeptical before meeting him because people tend to say you should never meet your heroes because you'll be left disappointed. However when we saw him arrive for the sound check he was so generous and kind. He start talking to us and I was immediately star struck because it was my idol standing face to face with me. He was really nice and signed the two albums we brought in with us, "The Queen is Dead" and "Rank". He posed for photos too and even gave us guitar picks. He also was flattered when we told him he was the reason we started playing guitar, and told us to keep playing. This was probably just something Johnny encounters every other day, but for me and my younger brother it was the best day of our lives and still can't quite believe we met our hero, Johnny Fuckin' Marr! Thanks Johnny!

- Kyle Bellew



Argentina, the southeast of souths, is inhabited by some of the most passionate Brit-music lovers. Among this diversity of people of different ages and social status are found those who show particular interest in The Smiths and Johnny Marr. There are many individualities, but we can put the majority in one of these two groups:

- The old Smiths fan that is fond of Johnny Marr as a guitarist, composer and more recently, a solo artist.
- The new fan who is discovering everything at once. Between the younger ones there are some musicians and guitarists particularly curious about Johnny.

Of course, there are some of those interested in the solo career of one member of the band and not the band itself or its members, while others only care for The Smiths. But I've never met a Johnny Marr fan that is not also a big Smiths fan.

The mainstream media is only focused on Johnny when he's on tour like last year's, or involved in big collaborations like the one for Spiderman OST. The Indie media (like the magazine I'm writing for) is always behind any news they can find about him: shows with Noel Gallagher or The Last Shadow Puppets, Johnny's forthcoming autobiography, and even some of his tweets about music or politics.

Last year I had the chance to send some questions to Johnny via e-mail. I had to ask about Playland and the show he was about to play in Buenos Aires, but I've read a lot of interviews and reviews already to try some original questions. I found that most of the media was asking the same obvious questions. Maybe that's when the fans can make a difference.

- Giselle Hidalgo

## JOHNNY MARR & THE SMITHS ARGENTINIAN FANDOM

The date will be emblazoned on my mind forevermore; 4th February 2016. Me and my husband had just done a radio interview with Mike Sweeney at BBC Radio Manchester (following up a recent TV interview that I'd also done with Mike for local TV), about my enduring love for The Smiths. As we left the studio and turned the corner, who was sat waiting for us but JOHNNY FUCKIN' MARR (AND CLINT BOON!)! Talk about gobsmacked! Well, I just launched myself at the pair of them! We had a good old chinwag about various things, and Johnny kindly signed my "All Men Have Secrets" book, too. He even gave me a plectrum, yay! His eyes are ridiculously stunning, I can see why so many people are a little bit in love with him!

- Angie Cooke





# PLAYLAND



*Emma Palor*  
October 2015



*Connor Whyte*  
August 2016

# PILGRIMAGE



*Saffron Goodwin*  
November 2015



*Hannah Perry*  
November 2015





*Fernanda  
Marques*  
January 2016



*Erica Pucci*  
January 2016



*Alison Moore*  
February 2016



*Ory Englander*  
October 2014



*Aly Stevenson*  
October 2014





*When Johnny Marr Speaks Out,  
He Reaches Out To America*

As reverence and respect for The Smiths continues to grow many years after the band's demise, the Mancunian band's recorded catalog holds a near and dear place in the hearts of fans around the globe. Here in the United States, where the band toured sparingly, word of The Smiths originally traveled via word of mouth and exposure through college rock radio stations.

Thanks to the influence and the impact the band's had over many younger groups in their wake, the love and adoration for The Smiths has never really waned in the U.S. As many fans here in America equate the history and the legend of The Smiths with Morrissey (who still tours the U.S. frequently), most of group's still loyal and truly devoted fan base is well aware of the contributions the four individual members of the band made.

And it's not just the guitar players that idolize the band who are the in the know about Johnny Marr's indelible mark on the band's look, sound and legacy.

A huge part of what separated the British foursome from their contemporaries was their penchant for gorgeous harmonies propped up by smart, well-crafted songs. From the ringing, sparkling riffs of "Heaven Knows I'm Miserable Now" from the band's 1984 debut album through the plaintive, expressive strumming of "Girlfriend In A Coma" from the band's final release, 1987's *Strangeways Here We Come*, Marr's guitar artistry and songwriting prowess served as a pillar for the band's sound and helped to define the mystique and the magic behind their appeal.

In the years since the band's breakup, Marr has clung to his stature as a renowned guitarist and a musical visionary and pioneer. Through his stints with The The, The Pretenders, Electronic, The Cribs and Modest Mouse, Marr has added a layer of hipness, credibility and coolness to any project in which he's participated.

In more recent years, as a solo recording and touring act, Marr has continued to bolster his stature and his reputation as a viable all-around, well-respected artist in his own right. His visibility and his presence through his recent stellar recorded solo output and his dedication to touring throughout the entire U.S. have certainly helped to increase his visibility throughout the States.

As critics and those in the know acknowledge Marr's integral contributions to forming and shaping the music of the last three decades, there are still many who aren't as familiar with the work of this musical innovator as they should be.

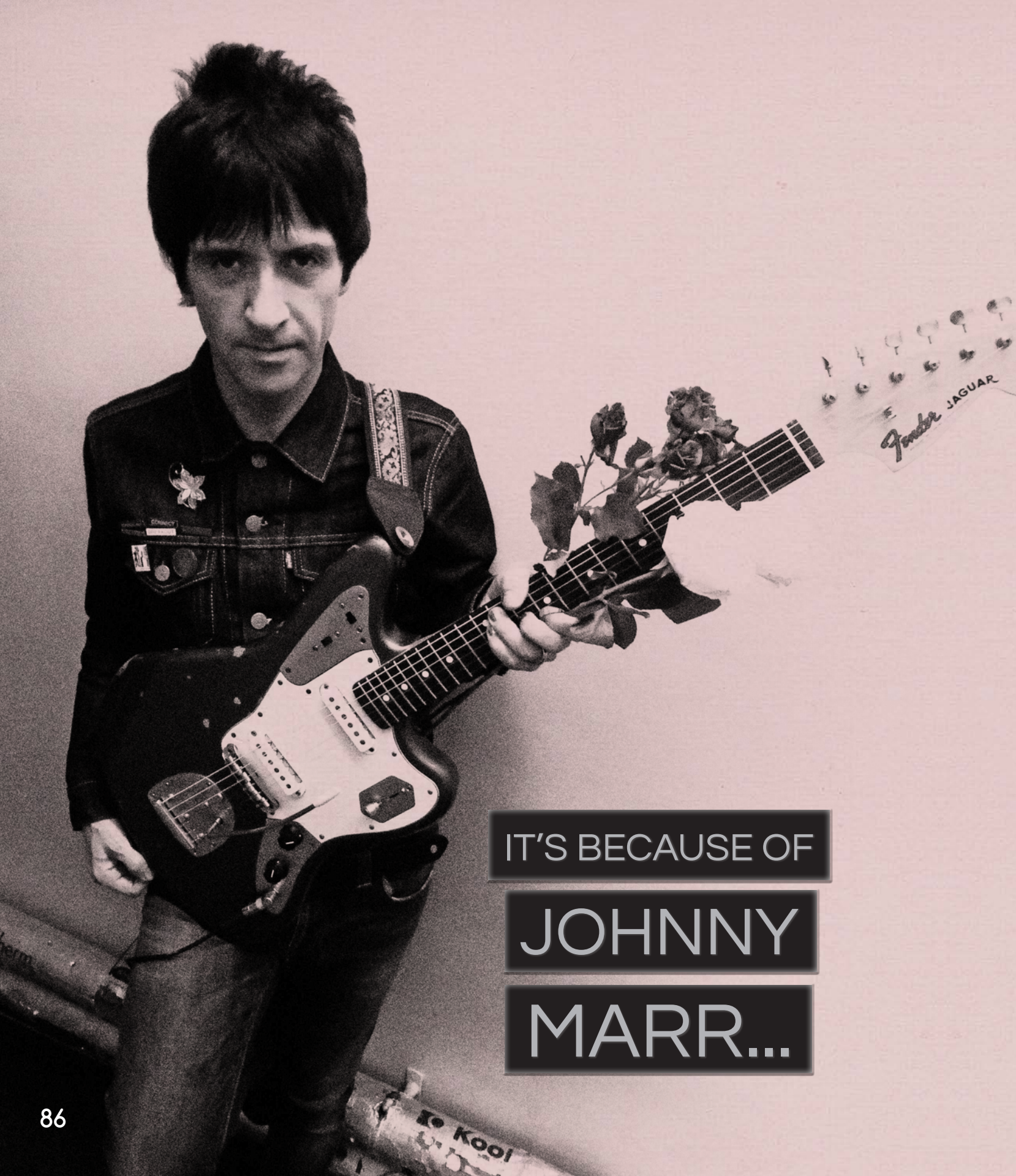
However Marr, never one to rest on his laurels, seems determined and happy to continue to work. And in doing so, is achieving plenty in spreading his mighty message of music while treating American audiences to an up-close and personal peek into his many talents and gifts.

Smartly designing live set lists that find him dipping back into the catalog of The Smiths while delivering a healthy dose of his own fine solo material, Marr continues to remind American concert audiences of his many musical skills and talents.

And for those who are uninformed, next time a friend tells you how much they love "How Soon Is Now?" or "This Charming Man", do them the great service of cluing them into the life and livelihood of the great Johnny Marr and turn them onto *Playland* or *The Messenger*. While Marr can do plenty to preach his musical message to his followers on his own, word of mouth is always a great way to expose others to the music you dig.

*- Gabe Echazabal*



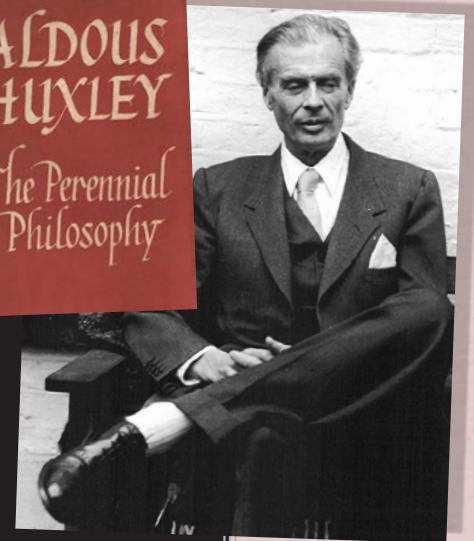


IT'S BECAUSE OF  
JOHNNY  
MARR...

It's because of Johnny Marr I fell in love with Aldous Huxley. Sure, I knew about Huxley and had even read *Brave New World*, but Johnny's admiration of Huxley made me interested in further exploring the man and his writings. To say "Huxley changed my life" would be cliché; I prefer to say, "Huxley inspired, or rather inspires, my life." I owe Johnny a tremendous amount of gratitude for bringing Aldous Huxley to my attention. Huxley wrote, "After silence, that which comes nearest to expressing the inexpressible is music." I have no doubt that Huxley would have been as much of a fan of Johnny's music, as Johnny is of Huxley's books.

- MJ Zander

ALDOUS  
HUXLEY  
*The Perennial  
Philosophy*



It's because of Johnny Marr that I discovered (and continue to discover) lots of amazing music.

When Johnny released his brilliant cover of Depeche Mode's "I Feel You", it prompted me to go and listen to their back catalogue, which resulted in them now being one of my favourite ever bands, up there with The Smiths!

By following the New Wave/Post Punk route drawn by Johnny's tour playlists and bands he's mentioned in interviews, I found many bands that I absolutely love and am still in the fun process of getting into at the moment. I know for sure I wouldn't have known of most of that music if it weren't for Johnny, and I'm so thankful for that introduction. It's such an interesting, smart, and real kind of pop music, and totally different from what I knew by the definition of "pop" as it is today.

I'm sure that those bands' timeless, important music will stay with me for a long, long time, continue to inspire, be of solace, and affect me in many ways. Like Johnny (and inspired by him), who didn't forget about the records and bands he loved as a teen once passing the age of the "time to get boring, cynical, laugh at your teenage passionate self, and start watching X Factor" timeline dot that I'm being told again and again everybody reaches - I will forever cherish the music that's now shaping me and see it as a valuable and essential thing.

- Emma Palor





Johnny Marr is the main reason I got the full motivation to be able to go off and be a solo artist and break out of the creative confines of being in a democratic band. I had been playing in bands for almost 10 years, never being happy with the outcome of the music. I remember when the Messenger came out in early 2013. I listened to it for several months and was blown away by how energetic and sincere it sounded. It dawned on me that it was because it was completely 100 percent how Johnny wanted it, and his voice sounds so confident because he's singing songs that he's completely invested in. September of that year I quit what I was doing being a guitarist for a few bands and started my band, "Dillon Ryan's Hindsight" (the first time I took the duties of vocalist/lyricist as well as still doing lead guitar). I just love the idea that he is a solo artist and plays with hand selected musicians that he really respects. Even though it's under his name, he acknowledges it as a group and I think that's a very honest and admirable way to go about being a songwriter with hired musicians. With all this being said, I can honestly admit that Johnny's recent solo career was a bit of a blueprint for what I have been doing extensively for the last 2.5 years. I've never been happier as a Musician!

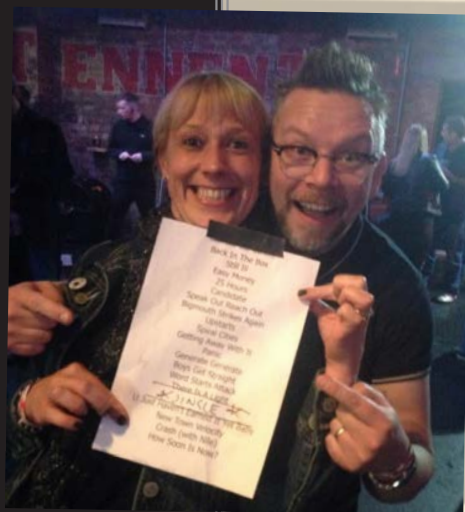
- Dillon Ryan

I've met some great people who share my passion for the music that Johnny produces and entertains us with: people who wouldn't have come into my life otherwise, and people who have become not only acquaintances, but who I regard as being friends.

One of the very best people I've had the pleasure of now calling my friend is Adrian Harrold. It is purely and simply because of Johnny Marr that our paths have crossed – we've exchanged banter on the Facebook group, we shared a cracking evening in Belfast experiencing Johnny's Limelight Bar gig together (with our partners, affectionately known as #johnnymarrwidows, thoroughly enjoying the craic too), and we then shared a very civilised post-gig beer together in a lovely bar.

Amongst Adrian's incredible talents is his artwork – and particularly his ability to capture Johnny so brilliantly. I am now the very proud owner of a stunning portrait of Johnny Marr, created just for me by my dear friend – how blooming brilliant is that then? And it's all because of Johnny.

- Alison Moore



It's because of Johnny Marr that I recently got into Psychogeography and Brutalism. To be honest, I've never been particularly interested in these topics, until I saw the 'New Town Velocity' video. Although you can appreciate a lot of urbanism content in Johnny's videos (from The Smiths to solo, passing by The The and Electronic of course!), my click has come with The Messenger album.

When you see videos like New Town Velocity and The Messenger, you realise how much those scenarios represent and also fit in with Johnny's music all the way! What appeals to me is the sense of interaction between the artist and the mysterious landscapes and how music seems to be the soundtrack to different stories waiting to be told.

On the other hand, reading Dynamic and checking out Aly's and Ory's updates, it all helped me a lot in order to increase my immersion related to the topics. It's nice to see how many articles have been written since the first issue of the fanzine, because it means Johnny has influenced us to learn new interesting things and keep talking about them. I was amazed to discover how much both Manchester and London are perfect examples of these contents.

- Mariana Polizzi



I decided to become vegan early last year, after reading an interview with Johnny where he talked about becoming vegan as a way to push himself further. As a runner I admire that attitude, and since I was already a vegetarian it didn't feel too dramatic a transition, and I honestly feel healthier now.

What I like about Johnny's approach to veganism is that he's not at all preachy or condescending about it. He's very respectful of other people's right to make their own choices even if he doesn't personally agree with them. I think that makes Johnny a more successful role model for the vegan movement than someone who's critical of non vegans and makes them feel defensive. Johnny has taught me a lot about tolerance as well, also through his refusal to play dirty in the press by criticising other musicians. Johnny's tolerance, respectfulness and confidence is an inspiration.

- Ruby Pickering



He's the man that got me back into Clarks shoes....  
But seriously, the appreciation of his music has got me through  
the power of social media to interact with some of the coolest,  
nicest people out there. I will forever be grateful for that.

- Lee Bellfield



It's because of Johnny Marr that I met my girlfriend, who is also a big fan of Johnny. We started  
talking at a mate's house when he put on The Messenger, and went to our first Johnny gig  
together later that same year. We also got our first cat together in April and named him "Marr".  
(Sorry Johnny.)

It's also because of Johnny that I discovered Man Made, who are one of my favourite new  
bands right now. Talent runs in the family!

- Derek Lee



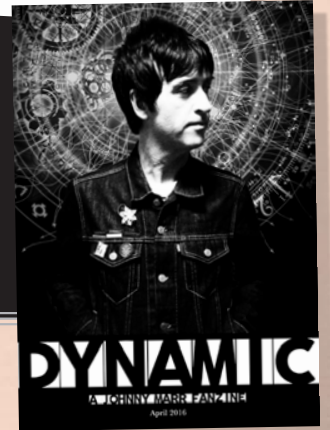
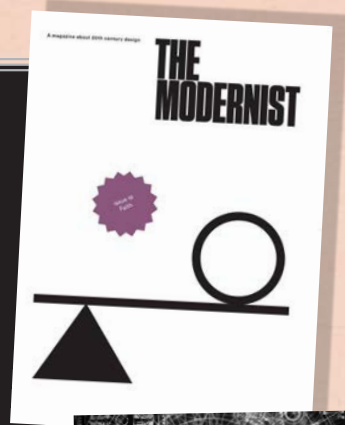
Thanks to Johnny I was very much inspired to buy  
a Fender Jaguar. It's just the classic player version  
I have, but there are still a few things on it that have  
been improved in the same direction as Johnny's,  
over the standard and reissue ones. I can't put into  
words how great it is. The neck scale and what it has  
to offer and its sound are just perfection, and it's the  
most amazing colour. I've just started having lessons  
again too for the first time in 22 years, as I reached a  
point where I really need some guidance and to gain  
some confidence. I've no idea where I'm going but  
I'm definitely enjoying the ride. I still have my eyes on  
the prize though...one day the Black Beauty will be  
mine!

- Catherine Smith

It's because of Johnny Marr that...

- I travelled to Manchester for the first time, after years of  
magazines, books, and documentaries related to the musical  
heritage of this town.
- I started again, after a very long time, to be involved in a fanzine.  
To take part to the johnnymarrvellousians activities is amazing!  
We can celebrate an anniversary, write a review, select a good  
picture for the tour book, or submit something for a contest...  
I'm interested since ever in Pop Culture and all its expressions;  
for me it is always pure fun.
- I became a subscriber of "The Modernist".
- I've re-discovered The The and re-remembered how REALLY good  
Matt Johnson is.

- Elisabetta Bonuccelli



It's because of Johnny Marr that I have bonded with the most incredible people in the world at  
a time in my life that felt surreal. I lost my father in March 2015. I felt very lost. Lonely. Since then  
I have discovered and become magically connected to other Smiths fans. We all have Johnny  
in common. Being a fan of Johnny Marr usually means you have a certain sort of outlook on life.  
Johnny's personality shines through his music. I have found that Marr fans are kind, passionate  
and hungry for life type of people. Their souls long to be part of this family that began way  
back with The Smiths. When I see a person in a Smiths or Johnny Marr shirt my heart races,  
I automatically am drawn to them to chat! Akin to finding a long lost family member, we are  
immediately friends. Johnny inspires us in our way of life, whether it be showing empathy  
towards another or becoming a vegetarian or to write or play guitar. Johnny helps connect  
people in his humble way. He shines a light on the positivity and kindness of the world. I have not  
seen Johnny perform live apart from long ago when he was in The The, but I will see him again.  
Watching videos of fans at his gigs, you can see the unity, the passion, while they sing along  
or lose themselves in his guitar chords. He radiates love. Us fans naturally respond to this and  
share it with each other. His music is influential to me, aspiring to do more with my life. I have  
forged life long friendships with people through our mutual love of The Smiths and Johnny's  
music. My life will never be the same thanks to my friends and Mr. Marr.

- Lauren Brezarich





Because of Johnny Marr, I picked up a guitar for the very first time.

Now, I'm one year into a music performance course and have had the best academic year of my life. Along the way I have met so many young and talented musicians that are the best group of friends you could ever ask for. I've had so many amazing opportunities in such a short amount of time, including making a music video, busking in Newcastle to raise money for charity, and session playing for a friend's debut EP - my personal favourite will always be covering Girls Aloud, though! Writing original music with a band has been the most enjoyable experience I have ever had in education, and my college tutors are some of the coolest musicians I know (bar one, of course...).

Instead of sitting in a giant exam hall for what seems like forever, my college's final way of assessing us was to host a 'Battle Of The Bands' competition instead. My band somehow made it into the final, and playing our songs that we'd written together over the course of a few months in front of 200 people was an experience that I will never forget. I can't wait to see what my next year of college has in store for me, and if it wasn't for Johnny I would've probably been stuck in school for another 2 years instead...not cool!

- Jade Bailey

It's because of Johnny Marr that I took the decision to go vegan. I first had the inspiration to give up meat after being a Smiths fan for a while - it was hard to listen to Meat is Murder and not want to go vegetarian. After a few months I realised that being vegan would prevent even more cruelty to animals, but I was worried that it wouldn't be healthy and I wouldn't be able to sustain it. I ended up reading some articles and interviews with Johnny where he spoke about being vegan, and the way he talks about the lifestyle made me realise it's not unhealthy at all; it's an all-round positive change. Johnny showed me that someone can lead a super busy life and keep up their fitness - not in spite of being vegan, but because of it! Having a role model who advocates veganism is really important, because it makes it so much easier for people to become aware of the benefits of the lifestyle. I realised because of Johnny that the stereotype that being vegan is bad for you is totally wrong, and I would say that going vegan is probably the best decision I ever made!

- Niamh McGuinness

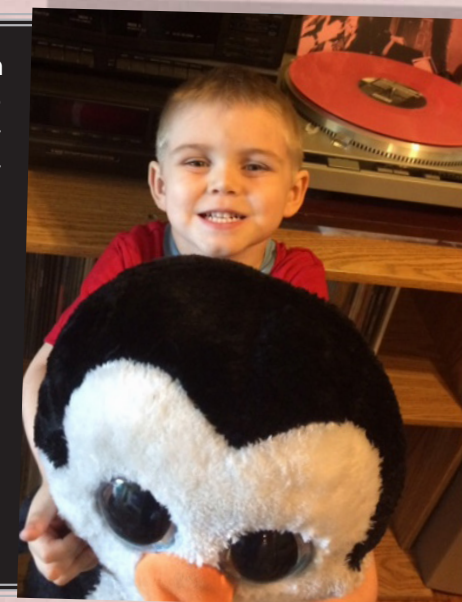
I'm 41 and specifically remember being 10 years of age, on a family holiday at Ruda Holiday Park, and at the disco when What Difference Does It Make came on. I was hooked by the guitar part of the song and nothing else; I also remember the DJ saying the name of the band: "The Smiths", which also grabbed my attention! It wasn't until I turned 13 and remembered an older friend who had Strangeways....The rest is history. It's because of Johnny that I play the guitar and sincerely believe his arrangements are almost orchestral. He is, and I don't mind saying this at 41, my ultimate "guitar hero". He has always dressed sharp, which is an added bonus of course!

- Kevin Casson

It's because of Johnny Marr that my son named his plush penguin Johnny. The Messenger album was released the month before my youngest son Dexter was born, and it was really all that I was listening to at the time, so he didn't hear much else for his first few months. At the age of 2 we purchased a rather large plush penguin for him. He didn't speak much at this point, but could say quite a bit more than his older brother did at his age, and when we asked him what he would like to name him, he replied "Johmmy Mahh".

He now calls all penguins by the name Johnny Marr.

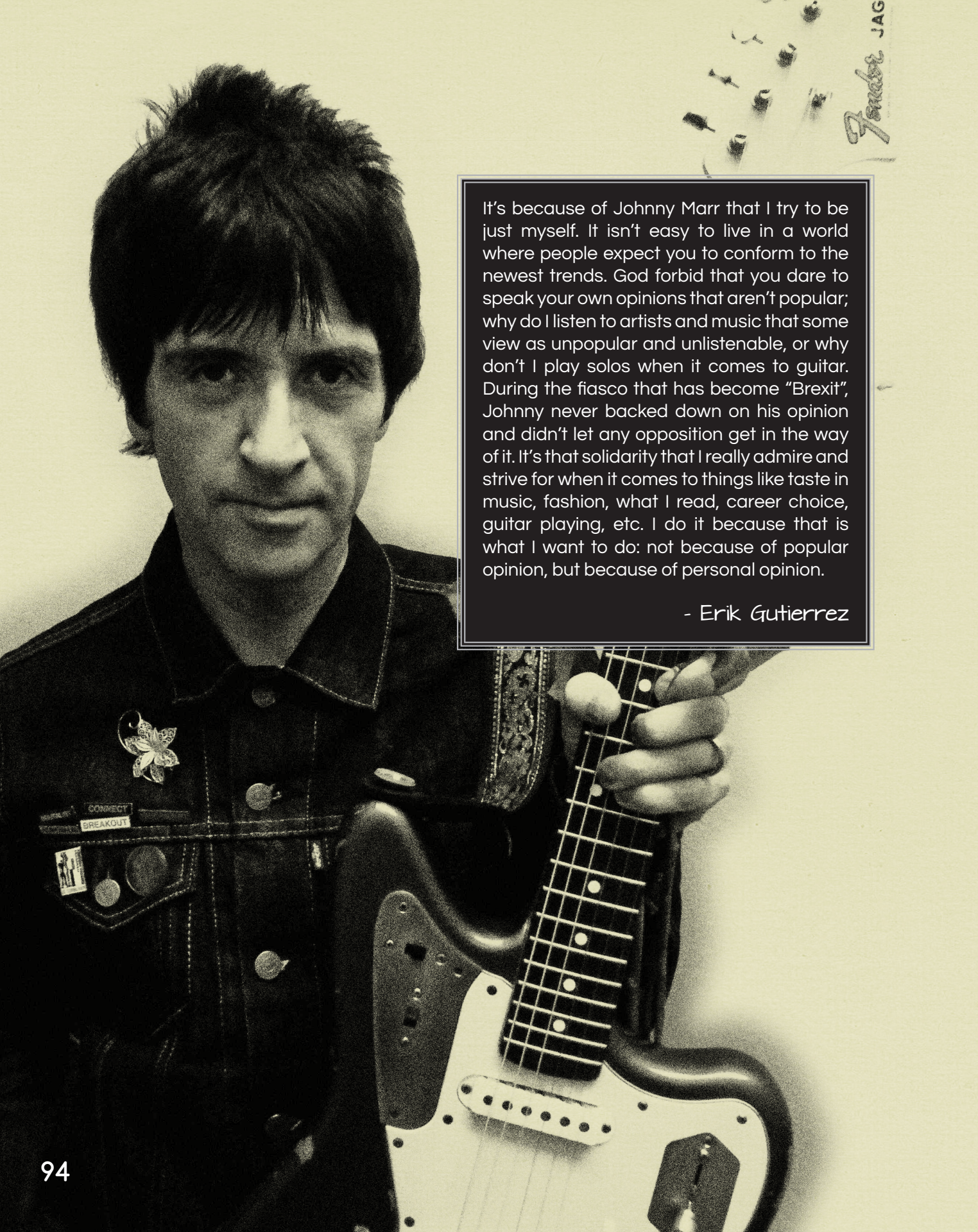
- Steve Bates



It's because of Johnny Marr that I found a new meaning to traveling! Most people love traveling and knowing new places. I am not one of these people, and I used to feel a little guilty because of it. Last year I decided to take every opportunity to travel. So I went on a trip with some friends around Europe, including London. Lucky me, there was going to be a Johnny Marr gig in Southampton, a few hours from London. I invited my Brazilian friend that lives in Edinburgh to go with me and he accepted! By the way, we are friends because of music - once he was a DJ in a 80s party in the 2000s! This concert made my trip much more exciting and meaningful. And it's because of Johnny Marr (and also The Smiths and New Order!) that I will travel to Manchester for the first time later this year.

- Fátima Kubota





It's because of Johnny Marr that I try to be just myself. It isn't easy to live in a world where people expect you to conform to the newest trends. God forbid that you dare to speak your own opinions that aren't popular; why do I listen to artists and music that some view as unpopular and unlistenable, or why don't I play solos when it comes to guitar. During the fiasco that has become "Brexit", Johnny never backed down on his opinion and didn't let any opposition get in the way of it. It's that solidarity that I really admire and strive for when it comes to things like taste in music, fashion, what I read, career choice, guitar playing, etc. I do it because that is what I want to do: not because of popular opinion, but because of personal opinion.

- Erik Gutierrez



# JOHNNY MARRVELLOUS

*Class of 2016*



# JOHNNY MARRVELLOUS YEARBOOK



**JADE BAILEY**  
Newcastle,  
United Kingdom

*"Johnny Marr is the person who inspired me to pick up a guitar for the very first time, and it's best thing that I could've ever done."*



**JULS BARKEL**  
Aberdeen,  
United Kingdom

*"Johnny Marr made me find my love of all things strings again. Inspiration and admiration galore!"*



**CHRIS BARRY**  
Southend-on-Sea,  
United Kingdom

*"Johnny Marr achieved more in his first four years as a recording artist than most people do in a lifetime. His songwriting, arrangements and guitar work are second to none."*



**STEVE BATES**  
Brampton, Canada

*"Johnny Marr's guitar style helped shape rock music, in my opinion."*



**CHRIS BEATTIE**  
North Wales,  
United Kingdom

*"Johnny Marr is the only guitarist that I have ever known to take guitar playing to a dimension that most guitar players fear."*



**JESS BEESLEY**  
Liverpool,  
United Kingdom

*"From my first years of primary school to my final few weeks of university, Johnny Marr has been and continues to be my biggest inspiration."*



**ELISABETTA BONUCELLI**  
Milan, Italy

*"Johnny, you are great, great, great... great like only you can be."*



**ANDY CAMPBELL**  
Melbourne, Australia

*"Johnny's songs are companions for life: sublime, self-contained little worlds that can lift you into the day, or into whose psychological spheres you can disappear."*



**KEVIN CASSON**  
Sutton Coldfield,  
United Kingdom

*"Without Johnny Marr, there is no doubt about it, I would not be playing guitar. His tone is perfect and his attention to detail is nothing more than meticulous. I would remortgage the house for a 15 minute jam, though my wife would have something to say about that!"*



**ANGIE COOKE**  
Manchester,  
United Kingdom

*"Johnny 'Fuckin' Marr is a national treasure, a most excellent human being and a proper star! How I love that man!"*



**NIKKI COURT**  
Farnham,  
United Kingdom

*"Johnny Marr is someone that everyone should see live at least once. A legend in his own right."*



**JAIPREET DEO**  
Leicester,  
United Kingdom

*"I'm always inspired not just by the music, but by the way Johnny acts as a person. It's so important to be conscious and kind in the face of fame like he is."*



**SARAH DOONE**  
East Peckham,  
United Kingdom

*"I've got a lot of respect for Johnny Marr because he seems to conduct himself with a bit of dignity and I've got a lot of respect for anyone who is vegan - it's one of the most selfless things you can do in my opinion."*



**HOLLY FLYNN**  
Melbourne, Australia

*"I didn't discover Johnny Marr until recently. I was offered review tickets to his Melbourne show last year and got front row. And there he was - this stylish little Mancunian legend, soloing on the lip of the stage right in front of me. Instant guitar and hair envy. Instant fan."*



**SAFFRON GOODWIN**  
Manchester,  
United Kingdom

*"Johnny's guitar playing leaves me mesmerised. He is unbelievably talented and a lovely person too. Some of my happiest memories are seeing Johnny play live."*



**ERIK GUTIERREZ**  
Cathedral City, USA

*"Johnny basically took what people knew about a guitar and completely reworked it. More so than Hendrix did."*





**GRAHAM HARLEY**  
Liverpool,  
United Kingdom

*"They say don't meet your heroes. At 15, I met mine and he never let me down, even if he wouldn't give me his cap."*



**ADRIAN HARROLD**  
Omagh,  
United Kingdom

*"Avid follower of the Godlike genius. Musical maestro and quintessential gun-slinger. Inspiration, motivation, education and all round top notch geezer!"*



**GISELLE HIDALGO**  
Buenos Aires, Argentina

*"Johnny's music helped me develop latent interests in my life and also getting through rough times and painful experiences. Also, Johnny's positivity is inspiring for someone who naturally tends to depression like me."*



**SABINE KACZYNSKI**  
Ingolstadt, Germany

*"Johnny Marr is simply a musical genius. His tunes are awesome and will live forever!"*



**DEREK LEE**  
Colchester,  
United Kingdom

*"Johnny is the full package: cool, INSANELY talented, smart, good looking, and just a proper nice guy to top it off!"*



**FERNANDA MARQUES**  
São Paulo, Brazil

*"Johnny Marr is a lifestyle to me: from his songs to his fashion sense. His music makes me dream with every strum of his Jaguar. Mr Marr is love and inspiration in everything he does."*



**MARC MCGARRAGHY**  
York, United Kingdom

*"You don't have to be Mancunian to be proud of and inspired by what Johnny creates, how he performs and who he is offstage, but I am."*



**NIAMH MCGUINNESS**  
Grantham,  
United Kingdom

*"Throughout Johnny's whole career he's been able to make unique music that really speaks to people. I don't think there's anyone else like him!"*



**ALEJANDRO KAPACEVICH**  
Buenos Aires, Argentina

*"I thank God for your magical music."*



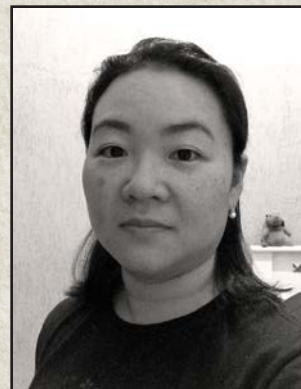
**AKIKO KOGO**  
Chiba, Japan

*"Johnny Marr is god-like existence, but his tweets and 'Dynamic' zine makes me feel familiar with him, and inspires me to brush up my poor English after a long interval."*



**AMELIA KUBOTA**  
São Paulo, Brazil

*"The talent and creativity of Johnny Marr is incomparable, his music is unique."*



**FÁTIMA KUBOTA**  
São Paulo, Brazil

*"He's a musical genius and a lovely person! Meeting Johnny has woken up some forgotten dreams and increased my love for his music!"*



**CRAIG MCMAHON**  
Ayrshire, United Kingdom

*"Johnny's music and Johnny the person have meant the world to me for 25 years and will continue to do so for evermore. He is, simply, the greatest."*



**BETHANY A. MERCER**  
Ohio, USA

*"Johnny Marr changed my life. He changed the way we hear guitars in Indie music today. He literally is a guitar Genius! There is no better guitarist in the history of music in my book, PERIOD!"*



**ALISON MOORE**  
Leyland, United Kingdom

*"A performance by Johnny Marr is always a wonderfully euphoric experience - his ability to effortlessly combine natural talent, stage presence and warmth of spirit makes him so endearing."*



**SNIGDHA NAG**  
London, United Kingdom

*"Shimmering melodicism, killer riffs, original chord progressions, a guitar style so innovative it hurts. Johnny Marr is a guitar god, ultimate songwriter and total inspiration."*





**KATHEY NORTON**  
Sacramento, USA

*"Johnny Marr inspires me every day to become a better guitarist. His music and live performances keep me motivated to continue playing and improving."*



**SIOBHAN O'DRISCOLL**  
Worthing,  
United Kingdom

*"In the real world Guitar Hero's not a game; it's a man called Johnny Marr."*



**FIONA O'NEILL**  
Perth, United Kingdom

*"Johnny Marr is a legend in my eyes. I hope I'm lucky enough to meet him one day so I can say thank you."*



**EMMA PALOR**  
Ashdod, Israel

*"Johnny Marr is the best hero to have, and the best artist around. He continues to inspire me with his beautiful music and coolest personality."*



**LINDA POULCOTT**  
Monte di Procida, Italy

*"I know Johnny has something unique when I am able to recognize his playing after hearing a few notes. Absolute genius."*



**MICHELLE PRATHER**  
Los Angeles County, USA

*"One time on Twitter Johnny replied, 'Tidings, Japan Fan,' and I'm pretty sure I've never had a better day on Twitter."*



**ÉRICA PUCCI**  
São Paulo, Brazil

*"In the wise words of the Brazilian legend Wando, Johnny Marr is light, lightning, star and moonlight. A sunny morning, my yaya, my yoyo."*



**MARISSA RIVERA**  
Chicago, USA

*"Besides being a talented musician and continually influencing me through his music; Johnny has influenced me put on my sneakers and run. Thank you, Johnny, for being a positive role model. Not just through your music but your actions and lifestyle."*



**DONKA PETROVA**  
Sofia, Bulgaria

*"Since my teens Johnny's music has been a constant companion for me and a source of so much inspiration and excitement, but also comfort."*



**NIKLAS PIVIC**  
Stockholm, Sweden

*"Master of crafting brilliant, memorable melodies and making the song - not just the guitar-playing - shine: what's not to love?"*



**PAUL PLIMMER**  
Telford, United Kingdom

*"Johnny Marr. His melodies, the very best of them, stop me in my tracks and demand I listen. I'm not sure there is any greater compliment than that."*



**MARIANA POLIZZI**  
Buenos Aires, Argentina

*"Anytime I listen to Johnny Marr, a powerful collision of both joy and energy surround me with a sound. There's magic in the air, everything's so fine and I feel unstoppable all the way through!"*



**ADAM ROBERTS**  
Oswestry, United Kingdom

*"It's great to think Johnny is still cooler than the Fonz even after thirty years since I first saw him."*



**MARA ROMANESSI**  
Mar del Plata, Argentina

*"We should feel very lucky to be contemporary with Johnny Marr. When God ladled out talent and class, he spilled the whole bucket on him."*



**JOSÉ DANIEL ROMERO**  
Davis, USA

*"In good times and bad, Johnny has always been there for me and continues to be the constant remedy to the daily grind we call life."*



**DILLON RYAN**  
Miramichi, Canada

*"The first guitar player that was able to make Rock & Roll music that was emotive, pretty, interesting, funky and dark all at the same time without conforming to the norm in Rock Music."*





CATHERINE SMITH  
Aberdeen,  
United Kingdom  
*"If any of my teachers  
had ever been as remotely  
as cool or fractionally as  
inspirational as Dr Johnny  
F. Marr, I'd still be at school  
right now..."*



GABRIEL SOUZA  
São Paulo, Brazil  
*"Listening to Johnny Marr  
changed my mind a lot!  
He showed me how a guitar  
really should work on music.  
VIVA JOHNNY MARR!"*



CRAIG SPENCE  
Gourock, United Kingdom  
*"Johnny's music has inspired  
my creative pursuits since I  
was 15!  
Johnny inspires all  
generations with great style,  
work ethic and heaven sent  
guitar melodies."*



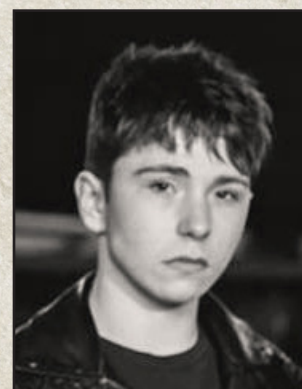
MIKE THOMAS  
Milton Keynes,  
United Kingdom  
*"Johnny Marr wrote the  
sound track to my life.  
Without his music, I may not  
have gotten here!"*



TOVE VANGEN  
Northern Norway  
*"I think Johnny is one of the  
most talented guitarists in the  
world.  
Also he looks amazingly  
present and cool onstage.  
He seems charming and  
friendly, yet he definitely is  
star material."*



MEGAN WEDGE  
St Ives, United Kingdom  
*"Johnny Marr's a one of  
a kind musical genius who  
has written some of the most  
recognisable guitar riffs since  
the invention of the guitar."*



CONNOR WHYTE  
Dunfermline,  
United Kingdom  
*"Johnny has been the main  
influence on my life since I  
was 11 years old. Before  
that I went from guitarist to  
guitarist. I've never looked  
elsewhere since I first heard  
Johnny's music... He'll  
always be my hero. He's the  
very best there ever has been  
and ever will be."*



MJ ZANDER  
Baltimore, USA  
*"Johnny's music is first class.  
He's brought intellect back to  
music."*

Marr-vellous by name and  
Marr-vellous by nature: what a  
brilliant fandom to celebrate the  
brilliance of Johnny Marr.  
Everything about it mirrors what  
defines the man: inclusive,  
positive, funny, humble, respectful,  
compassionate and tolerant.  
It is such a joy to share my  
passion with other like-minded  
fans and to have developed  
some wonderful friendships – all  
facilitated and supported by the  
tireless efforts of Aly and Ory:  
who work so hard to support the  
fandom and to provide the link  
with the man we all admire.

- Alison Moore



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