



RICKY SAVAGE... THE VOICE OF IRRESPONSIBILITY

Heavy and not cool

In the warped and twisted world of rock'n'roll some bands are cool, some bands achieve coolness and some just ain't ever going to get coolness thrust upon them.

From the 1960s until the music press died in the early noughties, coolness was dictated by the likes of Melody Maker, New Musical Express and Sounds and written by self-opinionated hacks who thought they knew it all. Maybe that's why one of the greatest bands to come out of Britain has never been 'cool'. Or was that just because they came from Birmingham?

Black Sabbath were never going to be trendy. They were four long-haired blokes from Brum and when Tony Iommi, Geezer Butler, Ozzy Osborne and Bill Ward got together in 1968 they had a problem. It wasn't the music, which was hard, loud and exciting; it was that they did not look or sound cool. Unlike Led Zeppelin they didn't steal from the blues, write trite ditties about stairways, have a pretty boy singer or have a guitarist who'd once been on Crackerjack. What they had was a hard driving sound. Some of it by accident as much as design.

Riff-laden rock

At 17, guitarist Tony Iommi lost the tips of two of his fingers on his right hand and, as a left-handed player, had to rethink how he played. He made plastic tips for the fingers, used lighter strings and down-tuned his guitar so that he could keep playing comfortably. Bass player Butler changed his tuning to match and, with drummer, Bill Ward, powering behind and Ozzy belting the songs that Iommi and Butler wrote they created riff-laden rock. And, when their first album was released in February 1970 heavy metal was born.

Did the music press like it? No, it wasn't cool, but it wasn't made for them, it was made for the fans and they bought in truckloads. The follow-up, Paranoid, topped the charts and the title track even got them on Top of The Pops.

Drink, drugs and madness

For the next seven years until a combination of drink, drugs and madness led to Ozzy leaving, they were the hardest, loudest and probably the most exciting band out there. There were chart LPs, sell-out tours and Sabbath were the best metal band anywhere.

From then on things fluctuated until by the mid-1980s only Iommi was left and the band folded. There have been various reunions and reformation but the last LP was in 2013 and the last gigs in 2017. But on 7 July, in Birmingham, there is one last chance to see the original line-up do what they do best. Remember, that even if you can't get tickets and there isn't a fan zone, without Sabbath there would have been no Guns'n'Roses, no Metallica and no heavy metal. Not bad for four blokes from Birmingham.

Scouts seek new helpers

The 10th Finchley (Scottish) Scout Group, based at Gordon Hall, West Finchley, provides Scouting for young people aged six to 14 years and is looking for volunteers to help support its leaders. You don't need to have been a Scout before and training is provided, most of which can be done online. Meetings take place on Tuesday and Thursday

evenings. For more information, contact Scout leader Chris Reay on chrisreay@email.com

ALL WELCOME
ALL EQUIPMENT PROVIDED
OPEN PLAY
BEGINNERS COURSES
LEMON PICKLEBALL
TRY THE FASTEST GROWING SPORT IN THE USA
CLUBS • COACHING • EVENTS
www.lemonpickleball.com

Glebelands
indoor bowling...at its best

Why not book a
30min taster session
no charge

What are you
waiting for?
just call, email or
visit the club

**Glebelands Indoor
Bowls Club**
Summers Lane
Finchley
London
N12 0PD
020 8446 2090
glebelandsibc@gmail.com
www.Glebelandsibc.co.uk

a game for all ages
100 years v 16 years

Our buy now, discard later culture



Make it better: Director Nic Stacy, right, with his interviewee Kyle Wiens, CEO of iFixit, a firm that provides repair advice for consumer goods

By Maxine Klein

When we buy ourselves a new T-shirt, phone or pair of boots do we consider what happens to stuff when we no longer need it? Nic Stacy asked himself the question after seeing the way the annual Black Friday sales phenomenon encouraged people to go out shopping whether they needed new things or not.

Hearing loss hub ambition



Lip-reading tutor: Jennie Parke Matheson

By David Melsome

A lip-reading tutor has set up a new business in Muswell Hill with the aim of creating a 'hearing loss hub' for the area. Jennie Parke Matheson decided to set up her course after noticing there was a lack of support for people living in London.

Her face-to-face classes under the name Read My Lips are running from this month on Tuesday afternoons at the refurbished United Reform Church on the corner of Queens Avenue and Tetherdown, N10. She may also offer weekly classes via Zoom if there is sufficient interest.

Jennie says: "I started in the autumn following my graduation as a lip-reading tutor at City Lit. I'd taken classes there in both lip-reading and BSL (British Sign Language). It became abundantly clear to me during my time there that there is not nearly enough support or provision for people living in London with hearing loss."

Jennie also hopes to offer one-to-one sessions for those who prefer to work individually rather than in a group. For more information, visit www.facebook.com/LearningtoLipRead

As an award-winning documentary maker he decided to make a documentary on the topic and created for Netflix the very disturbing expose on the creation of waste titled Buy Now. It is a powerful analysis on the way in which we are manipulated to consume and the consequences of doing so.

Nic went to Fortismere School where his drama teacher Jacqui Hyffe recognised his talent and encouraged him to do a degree in drama. Having qualified at Bristol University he joined the BBC. He started

as a runner and subsequently became a producer and director specialising in innovative science and history documentaries.

Deluge of shoes

In Buy Now, he uses the imagery of advertising to illustrate the volume of waste that we create. The 25 million shoes that are manufactured every hour are represented as a deluge of shoes pouring from the sky into the streets. There are also shots of Paris looking as if it were buried in discarded rubbish. It visibly questions where these items end up when they are no longer fashionable.

And where does the waste go? We are shown disturbing images of landfills and beaches covered in discarded electric items and old clothes, which do not disintegrate. A shot of a fish that had swallowed a large piece of plastic was particularly disturbing.

Apart from the items we deliberately throw away he revealed how manufacturers build in obsolescence to our gadgets so that they run out of batteries that can't be replaced, or they are designed so that they cannot be repaired.

All consumers should see this documentary and I guarantee that after seeing it you will think twice before buy anything that has to be ultimately thrown away.

Review: Handful of Nothing



World turned upside down: Tilly Lee-Kronick during a performance of her one-woman show

By Jessica Holt

This one-woman show, written and devised by local resident Tilly Lee-Kronick, explores the complex issues surrounding eating disorders. Tilly uses her singing, dance and circus skills to create a piece of drama that is informative but not triggering.

Tilly was drawn to physical theatre when she went on a school visit to see the Cornish theatre group Kneehigh performing their devised play The Wild Bride. After her A-levels, Tilly attended a circus school in Bristol called Circomedia, which developed her circus

skills and gave her the physical strength required to perform some of the aerial choreography seen in her show.

Above all Tilly wants to tell a story, the essence of drama. And she tells this story in such an inventive way. It is full of imagery, beautiful movement sequences and a sensitive musical score that plays alongside this story of recovery.

The door frame which features throughout the show is reminiscent of trapeze, but it is used in a unique way. There is also puppetry, and the way Tilly uses balloons is quite unique. She hopes her 50-minute show will be a success and she intends to perform it on tour in the future.