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Maximo Parks's Song "Mary O'Brien"

Author

Topic

Laika

I start counting

Posted - 12/01/2008 : 11:24:46

Germany  
11 Posts

Since I am a newby in this forum I have no clue if this has been posted before, but the british band "Maximo Park" included a B-Side on their single "Our Velocity", which is obviously a song about the wonderful woman we adore.

These are the lyrics:

Bottle blonde until the end  
Ground down but no tap  
Found fame, faded away  
But came back, influence rubs off  
Whether appropriate or not

Less than perfect split  
She lifts the cup to her lips  
She tries to force it back  
Something in her gut starts to react

Definitely. Oh it must be-e.  
Definitely. Oh it must be-e.

Cheap crockery that was tipped  
From the top of the stairs  
What did you do that for?  
Easily swayed, unafraid  
Can't turn back  
Starting to crack  
Her mascara is streaming  
But the guests are not leaving

A less than perfect split  
She lifts the cup to her lips  
She tries to force it back  
Something in her gut starts to react

I don't really know if I want to be  
Part of this world but I must be-e  
I'm none of the above

I bought the track off iTunes. Nice little song with just an accoustic guitar tuning the sad melody.

Corinna

Forum Admin



Posted - 12/01/2008 : 13:15:20



Thanks for reminding us about this song, Astrid! We have briefly talked about it before, in this archived thread, accompanied with an article from the Guardian:

[http://www.dustyspringfield.info/forum/topic.asp?TOPIC\\_ID=1612&SearchTerms=mary,o'brien](http://www.dustyspringfield.info/forum/topic.asp?TOPIC_ID=1612&SearchTerms=mary,o'brien)

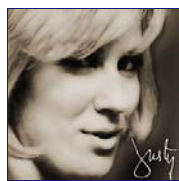
Cor xx

Sweden  
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Corinna

Posted - 12/01/2008 : 13:16:02

Forum Admin



Sweden  
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Here's the article from the Guardian (originally posted by Carole):

Looking at obituaries has become part of my everyday life. You get this little snapshot of a person's life that can open up avenues into things you didn't know about them. Lately, I've been inspired by the thought of pinpointing certain moments in people's lives and translating them into my own songs with Maximo Park, as a way of celebrating and exploring that person.

Our new single, Books From Boxes, features a B-side named after Don McPhee, the Guardian photographer who died in March, which is a case in point. I read the Guardian obituary and although a lot of people know about his photos, I was fascinated by the little anecdotes from people who had worked with him. The song starts off remembering one of these: "Two men in a double bed, shifting uncomfortably, beneath the Virgin Mary."

Don had been stranded in Knock, Ireland, working on a story about holy water with the Guardian's David Ward. There was nowhere to stay except a little guest house that had only one room and a double bed. It just struck me as hilarious, these two people - I'm sure a bit old-fashioned - having to share this, well, moment of tenderness. And even the fact that one of them had mentioned it as an anecdote about Don McPhee's life showed you how important it was or how funny they thought it was. As Ward notes, it was probably the closest a journalist ever got to a photographer.

I did a similar thing with Robert Altman, who appeared on the B-side of the single Our Velocity. The song Robert Altman wasn't about his films - until the final verse. It was more about the fact that he'd flown a plane during the war, and been conned out of all his money by some guy. These things were generally unheard-of but had obviously fuelled the fiercely independent character that made those films.

That B-side also had a song called Mary O'Brien, which is Dusty Springfield's real name. I've always found her voice deeply affecting, but I used that name to show there was a person behind the icon. She was a Catholic with an ambiguous - now accepted as lesbian - sexuality. What a conflict to go through. She had issues with drink and prescription drugs, and she once threw a whole tea set down a flight of stairs. A rock'n'roll star might throw a TV out of a window, but the image of a woman doing something like that - or starting a food fight, which apparently she liked to do - just makes this soul icon seem much more human.

I'm keen to take this idea further; I expect obituaries to feature on forthcoming Maximo Park singles, and I wouldn't rule out compiling them on an album. I'm already working on songs about Jean Baudrillard, the philosopher who died recently, the visual artist Joe Brainard and George Brown, aka Young Tiger, who was a Trinidadian calypso singer in London in the 1950s. He died in March. It interests me that he was part of that generation that came to Britain to forge a new life in a society that in some ways was quite alien.

Our guitarist, Duncan Lloyd, has been coming up with quieter things, which mean I've been singing differently from what people expect from Maximo Park. These songs are very thoughtful, intimate. On tour I've found myself sharing rooms where the beds are uncomfortably close. I can certainly relate to Don McPhee.

- Don McPhee will appear on the B-side of Maximo Park's Books from Boxes, released on June 11 on Warp

- Paul Smith was talking to Dave Simpson

Cor xx



Laika

I start counting

Posted - 12/01/2008 : 14:03:43



Thanks Corinna! I was very happy when I found the song! Now I'm informed!



Germany

11 Posts

Tim

Where am I going?



Posted - 12/01/2008 : 16:01:36



Thanks Laika - I missed this first time around.



T ;-)

'I'd like to retouch my whole life!'



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3422 Posts

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