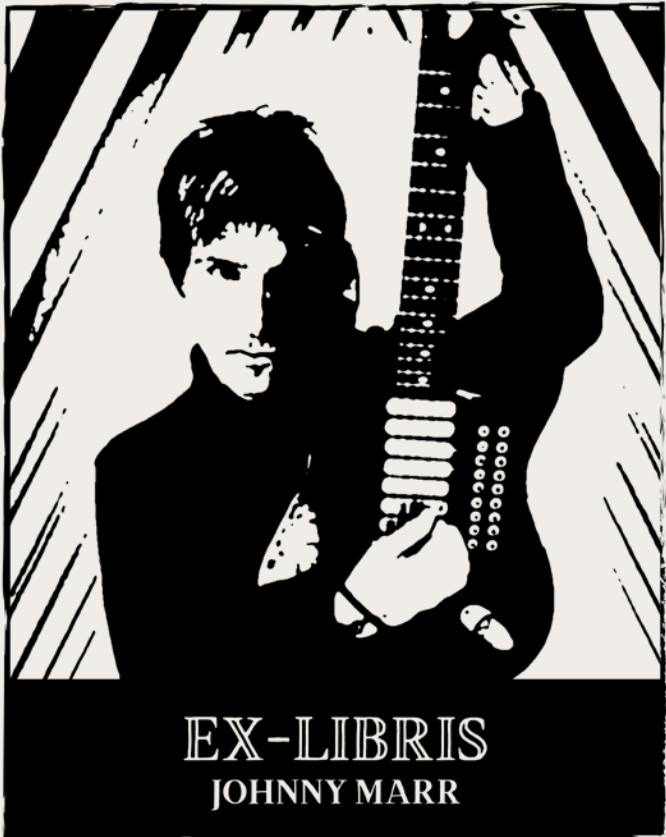


CELEBRATE!
CELEBRATE!
CELEBRATE!
JM

A CELEBRATION OF JOHNNY MARR'S SOLO CAREER FROM 2013 - 2023





A JOHNNY
MARRVELLOUS
PUBLICATION

OCTOBER 2023

PHOTO BY ILZE FREY
(NEWCASTLE, UK, 2018)



PREFACE

Since embarking on his solo journey with The Messenger back in 2013, Johnny Marr has repeatedly proven himself to be a musical force that captivates and inspires. His evolution as a solo artist has been a testament to his unwavering commitment to artistic growth and exploration, and for the past ten years he has carved a path uniquely his own, showcasing a musical odyssey brimming with innovation and authenticity.

As a performer, Johnny is, unsurprisingly, nothing short of brilliant. Whether he's revisiting iconic Smiths tracks or showcasing his incredible solo material, his masterful guitar work and charismatic stage presence creates an electrifying atmosphere that keeps fans mesmerised from the first note to the final encore.

But as reverent as we are as fans in those enchanting moments, Johnny is never completely untouchable. With a humility that belies his legendary status, he allows us to speak out, reach out, to him, welcoming each one of us into a shared journey of mutual respect and understanding. He makes each fan feel seen and valued, creating a sense of intimacy that transcends the typical artist-fan relationship. The genuine connections he forms with those who find joy, solace, and inspiration in his work, are one of the reasons he deservedly has such a dedicated fanbase.

Forged in the crucible of live performances and nurtured through his connections with his fans, Johnny Marr as both a person and as an artist, stands as a testament to the enduring power of music to unite souls across time and space. These first ten years have seen realised every hope we as fans had for his solo career, and we are so proud and excited to see what the next ten bring.

Aly Stevenson & Ory Englander

OPPOSITE PHOTO: ALY STEVENSON (LIVERPOOL UK, 2015)

“I was half-way through delivering a ridiculously earnest, embarrassingly heavy speech quietly into his ear when he turned to look at me and said
“You’re a musician.””

ANDY CAMPBELL
MELBOURNE | NORTHCOTE SOCIAL CLUB | 2014





THE MESSENGER

// 2013

// 2014

OPPOSITE PHOTO: MARC MCGARRAGHY (YELLOW MUSTANG PHOTOGRAPHY)



PHOTO BY MARC MCGARRAGHY (YELLOW MUSTANG PHOTOGRAPHY)
SAN FRANCISCO, USA | 2013

WHO DOESN'T WANT TO BE THE MESSENGER?

Johnny Marr changed my life. Sounds a little grandiose, I know. I'll come back to that shortly.

When *The Messenger* came out, in 2013, there had been a renewed and sustained buzz around Johnny for quite some time.

For lots of us, he'd remained a constant presence in our lives, from that post-Smiths period through to working with a seemingly never-ending list of musical greats. There'd been the Healers, Modest Mouse, and the Cribs, as well.

Along the way, I bought the Ray Bans, the Posture Foundation sneakers, and a guitar that Johnny had signed and donated to Oxfam. All of which prompted my wife to tease me, asking: "Do you think he'll ever know how much he means to you?"

But everything felt different in 2013. There'd been the NME Godlike Genius award, the *Inception* soundtrack, and what felt like a lot more interest from the broader media. As I said, more buzz.

Like so many others, I was in knots of anticipation over the album's release and the chance to see him touring with his own band, gigging these new songs. Those new songs were everything I (and many others) needed them to be and when they were played live they really soared — ably abetted by Doviak, Iwan and Jack. I was at the Shepherd's Bush Empire and then, a few weeks later, at the Brook in Southampton — the latter being my favourite of the two by far.

So, how did Johnny change my life?

I had a few attempts at making a career out of music in my 20s. Eventually, I went on to write for a living and that's what I've been doing for the past 30 years, one way or another.

Making money as a writer isn't much easier than making money from music. I served my time churning out a lot of dull but commercially necessary work. It put food on the table but it wasn't exactly feeding my soul.

I read something Johnny had said about why he'd worked with so many different musicians. The point he made was that if you want to be a creative person and produce your best creative work, you need to immerse yourself in creativity and surround yourself with creative people.

That message really spoke to me and has become part of my personal belief system. It's helped to define how I cope with change, shaped the decisions I make with the team of writers I lead, and it encourages me to stay away from complacency.

That's how Johnny Marr changed my life and why, for me, he will always be *The Messenger*.

Seán Fleming



“All of the philosophical and artistic ideas ricocheting off wiry guitar riffs got me hooked.”

When Johnny Marr released his debut solo album, ‘The Messenger’, I was not disappointed. All of the philosophical and artistic ideas ricocheting off wiry guitar riffs got me hooked.

My lifetime friend Nicci - who I have known from age 4 - was also buzzing about it. Johnny’s guitar playing has spoken to us for many years, and so we HAD to go and see him live! Without hesitation we booked the Manchester Ritz show.

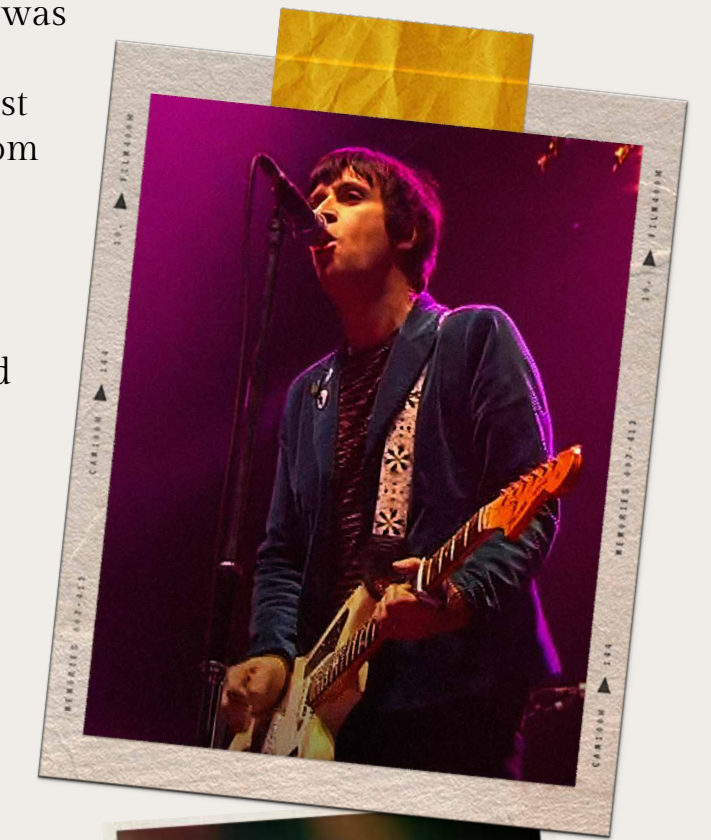
Afterwards, we decided to wait outside with a few other fans to see if we could meet Johnny. When he greeted us, we said hello and thanked him for the brilliant gig. He was the most humble and down to earth person - happy to share his time with us.

- Melissa Roden

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



Johnny’s velvet jackets were a crowd favourite. You could often hear a yell from the crowd: ‘Where d’ya get your jackets?’



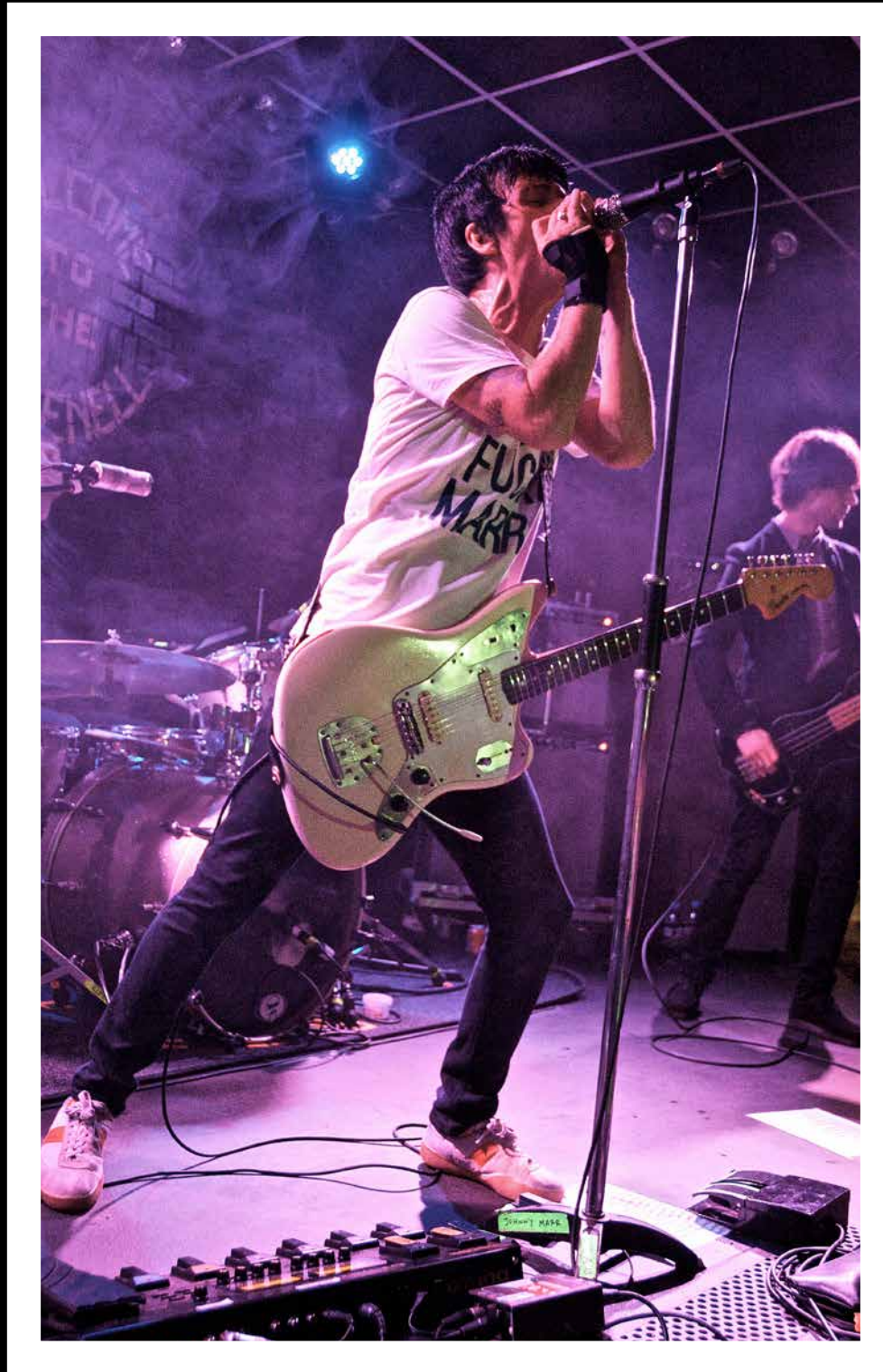


PHOTO BY MARC MCGARRAGHY (YELLOW MUSTANG PHOTOGRAPHY)
LEEDS, UK | 2014

“I heard about Johnny’s solo project at a really difficult time in my life, I’d just lost a parent and several other tragedies had meant I had no one around to support me when I most needed it. *I don’t associate his music with negative times, I associate it with feeling better. I love his music, and I’m so, so grateful for being able to experience it.*”

SARAH BIRCH
TOUCH OUT | 2015

ABC GLASGOW, 19TH MARCH, 2013

I spent over a decade in the charming city of Glasgow. It is a true place of cultural vibrancy that boasts a busy events calendar with numerous key venues supporting live music.

“I know now that this performance would cement just how feasible the transformation to solo artist actually was.

What is unforgettable is the sense of togetherness and anticipation. Everyone in the room was just as excited as I was, and everyone wanted him to do well. We all wanted him to succeed as an artist, and the venue space became the embodiment of our unity, passion and support.”

the transformation to solo artist actually was. What is unforgettable is the sense of togetherness and anticipation. Everyone in the room was just as excited as I was, and everyone wanted him to do well. We all wanted him to succeed as an artist, and the venue space became the embodiment of our unity, passion and support.

With a confident setlist, a handpicked selection of songs from The Messenger, which in addition to the title track, incorporated The Right Thing Right, Sun & Moon, European Me, Generate! Generate!, Say Demesne, I Want the Heartbeat, New Town Velocity mixed in with some

Counting myself fortunate to have seen Johnny Marr in collaboration with others, I am lucky to have enjoyed some of his live shows including Modest Mouse at ABC (same venue as this show), The Cribs (Academy Glasgow) and The Healers (Scala, London). With each show representing individual moments of originality, they highlighted Marr’s delight from working with musicians from a diverse range of backgrounds.

As notable and entertaining as these shows were, the distinct opportunity to catch one of the first shows on his Messenger tour signified something that was even bigger. An instant classic, the debut album became a favourite of all time when I first heard it in February earlier that year. The level of excitement it filled me with left no doubt in my mind about the viability of this newly launched chapter of his career.

Designed by CJ McNair, ABC’s home was a building constructed in 1875 and rebuilt in the 1920s. Utilised for over a century, its use served multiple purposes until the roof was damaged during the Art School fire in 2018. Unmistakably Art Deco in style, it served as a cinema, an ice-skating ring and a dance hall. As a music venue, with two spaces, it promoted acts of high international and domestic acclaim.

I know now that this performance would cement just how feasible

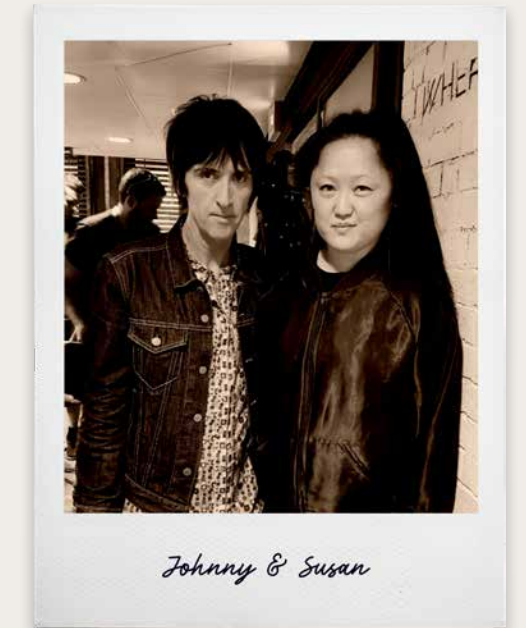
Smiths and Electronic classics, he made sure to leave no trace of doubt about his degree of sincerity.

For me this show constitutes the beginning of what was to become the truest, most authentic part of his career. Slightly on the rawer side, there was integrity and intimacy, it was structured, yet it was delivered with an openness and a flexibility. It felt as though it was trialling some component parts, with Glasgow representing a clear-cut opportunity to enjoy the reactions.

But above and beyond, the performance was inventive and electrifying. It really would shock me if to learn that I was the only person to leave with a deep awareness of how this gig and tour helped shape his lifelong ambition.

Becoming a solo artist was a natural next step for Marr, and the ABC gig depicted his intense, prolific energy coupled with an immense resourcefulness. It was special, and I will never forget being at this show.

- Susan Hansen



“For me this show constitutes the beginning of what was to become the truest, most authentic part of his career.”



"We took a train, a bus, a plane, a 3.5-hour taxi ride, then hitchhiked on a tractor, to get here. Totally worth it!"

- Aly & Ory

'The Messenger', released in 2013, is simply put, one of the best pieces of work Marr has ever put his name on.

As chief songwriter, lead guitarist, lead vocalist and co-producer of the album, Marr has lovingly and studiously combined all of the many talents he's mastered throughout his years as a musician and has, seemingly, culminated his skills and his overt love of music as both a fan and a student himself, and created the album that so many of his fans knew he had inside him for so long."

- Gabe Echazabal



PHOTO BY MARC MCGARRAGHY (YELLOW MUSTANG PHOTOGRAPHY)
YORK, UK | 2013

“I took my eldest son with me. He was 14 and this was going to be his first ever gig. I can’t actually remember the first gig I ever went to, which probably says more about the gig than anything else.

Taking my son with me felt important. Significant. One of those ‘we’re making memories’ things.”

SEÁN FLEMING
SOUTHAMPTON | THE BROOK | 2013

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!

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 I 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

I always love shows in NYC because they often add an element of surprise not offered in other cities. The sold-out show at Webster Hall did not deviate from that notion as we were treated to a gorgeous rendition of 'Please Please Please Let Me Get What I Want' with Andy Rourke joining on stage.

- Anhtu Lu



Backstage, celebrating the last night of The Messenger tour in Sydney, 2014.



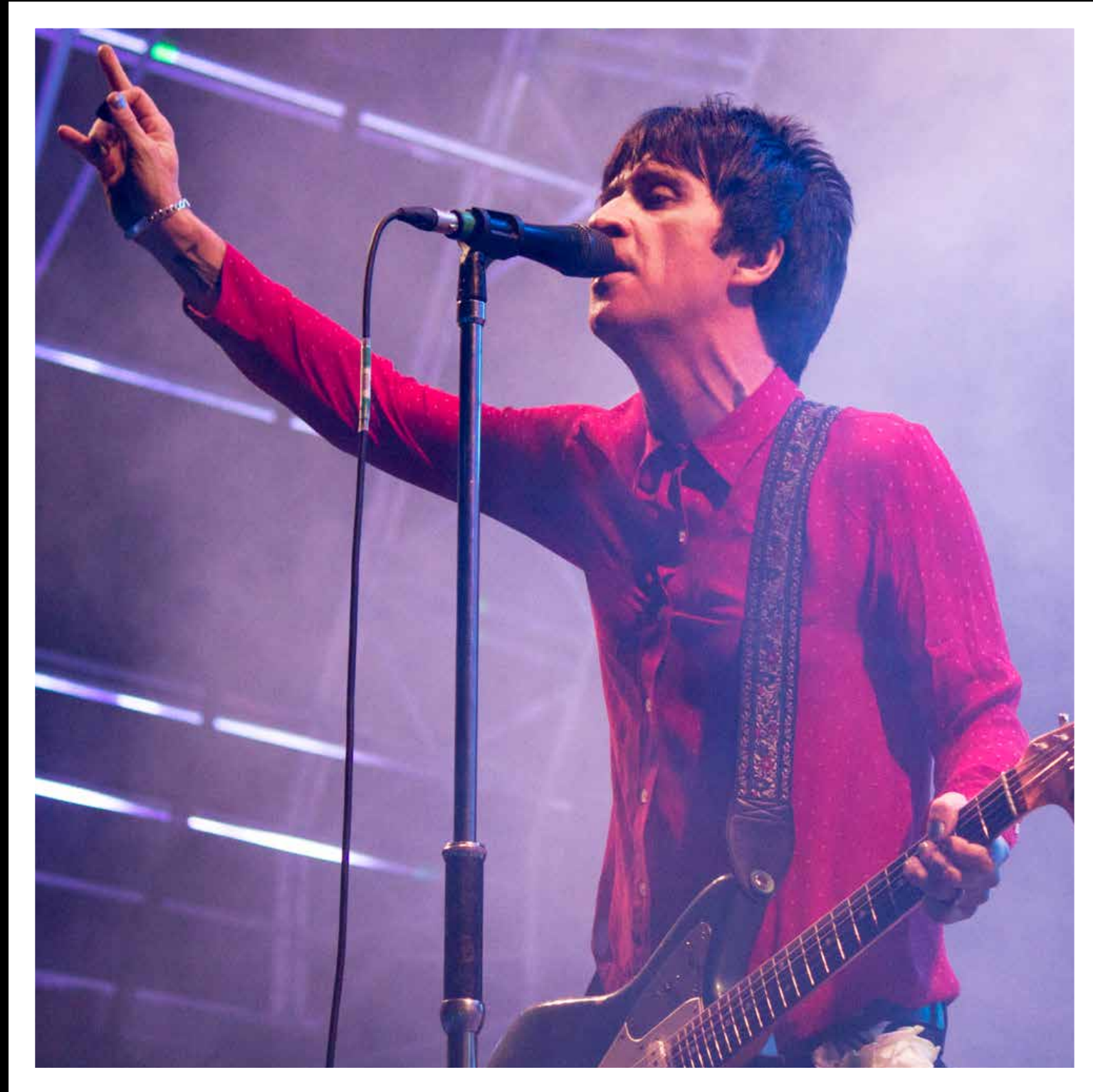


PHOTO BY NIKKI COURTENAGE
VICTORIOUS FESTIVAL, UK | 2015

“Along the years that passed,
I had to give warm hugs to
The Pretenders, Talking Heads,
Kirsty MacColl, The Healers,
The Cribs and Modest Mouse and
so on. I owe Johnny Marr a world
of music, not only by following his
career, *but also for being inspired by the
way he always explores different genres,
does what he’s passionate about and follows
his heart.*”

HILA DAGAN
TOUCH OUT | 2015



// 2014

// 2015

PLAYLAND

OPPOSITE PHOTO: MATT JOHNSTON



PHOTO BY CONNOR WHYTE
NEWCASTLE, UK | 2014

2014 was a great year to be a Johnny Marr fan. Still riding high from the release of his outstanding solo debut album, 2013's *The Messenger*, and following a triumphant tour around the world in support of that album with a fine, newly created backing band, Marr's fans were ready for more. After a long spell that saw the legendary guitarist taking residency as part of a variety of other bands (e.g. *The Cribs*, *Modest Mouse*, et al), his legion of longtime, diehard fans was now joined by some recent believers who'd only gotten a taste of Johnny Marr's exquisite playing and his songwriting chops due to his newfound status as a rock and roll frontman.

In grand and convincing fashion, Marr unleashed his sophomore outing as a solo artist, *Playland*, only twenty months after his debut had hit record store shelves. Riding high on the cohesiveness he and his new band had gained from their live performances, and seemingly capitalizing on that momentum, Marr delivered a more aggressive, bolder, and more commanding record than his first attempt had hinted at. Bolstered by the throbbing, danceable groove of "Easy Money," which served as a teaser for the full-length album several months before its release, fans got a taste of the bolder direction Johnny would be traveling in for his second act as a solo act.

Including a range of tracks that showed off Johnny's versatility and his increasing comfort level at being the leader of his own ensemble, the album delved into more straightforward, no-nonsense rockers like "Boys Get Straight" and the album's opener, "Back in the Box." Marr also switched gears and showed off his skills as a melodic writer too with catchy, hook-laden tracks like "Dynamo" and, arguably one of the best singles of his entire canon, the utterly unforgettable "Candidate."

As would be expected, the live concerts that were performed around the world in support of *Playland* were nothing short of legendary. With two full solo album's worth of material to choose from, in addition, Marr and his tight three-piece band also wisely opted to put together a setlist that contained selections from his days with *The Smiths*, a nod at his time spent in *Electronic* with a rockier, meatier version of that group's signature song "Getting Away With It" making it into the set, as well as an inspired cover of "I Fought the Law," a classic 1960s rocker that punk legends *The Clash* chose to resurrect in the late '70s and added their own flair to, which, no doubt, was an early influence on Johnny as a young, budding guitarist.

In summation, the *Playland* era was an important, fruitful time for Johnny Marr as a musician, but it also served as a complete justification for his fans, both old and new alike, who knew this was the album that would establish our guitar hero as a viable, vital, and mighty force to be reckoned with, all on his own.

Gabe Echazabal

BREAKOUT



PLAYLAND

Can we please just take a moment to appreciate how amazing Johnny sounds on "Bigmouth strikes again"? Where has he been hiding that voice all these years?!

-Sophia F.



'Johnny Knitwit'
The Engine Shed, 13 October 2014

I loved making "Johnny Knitwit", but being appallingly shy, I never thought I'd dare present him to his real-life counterpart.

In the event, I was dragged round of the back of the Lincoln Engine Shed venue by Aly and Ory and presented, dolly and all, to Johnny Marr.

JM accepted my gift most graciously and as I fled the scene, Johnny was getting himself photographed with his Mini-Me, so I think the gift went down reasonably well.

- Kate Park



CARDIFF, UK

GREAT CARDIFF HALL, 18TH OCTOBER 2014

Johnny Fuckin Marr. Godlike genius, guitar hero, indie legend - and a damn good reason for being at uni on a Saturday night. No pub, club or party in all of Wales (maybe even all of the world) could have been as rockin' tonight as Cardiff Uni's Great Hall was, graced by the presence of The Guitarist All Other Guitarists Aspire To Be, and owner of the Best Haircut In The History of Great Haircuts. Even having a beer tossed over my shoulders two songs in couldn't dampen my spirits or enthusiasm. (Although the same couldn't be said for my shirt.)

The new songs from "Playland" exceeded all expectations of how amazing they would sound live, and I have to say, Johnny has a seriously tight band behind him these days. Iwan, Jack and the mysterious Doviak were on fire tonight, and as for the main man himself? Well there are no words, or at least no adequate ones.

“No pub, club or party in all of Wales (maybe even all of the world) could have been as rockin' tonight as Cardiff Uni's Great Hall was, graced by the presence of The Guitarist All Other Guitarists Aspire To Be, and owner of the Best Haircut In The History of Great Haircuts”

The Smiths fans in the audience were catered for too though, even spoiled, as tonight saw the Playland tour debut of the ever-gorgeous "Please Please Please Let Me Get What I Want". Regrettably I couldn't hear well enough to catch who Johnny dedicated it to, but in reality it felt like a gift to the whole audience, and I could tell the people standing beside and in front of me were just as moved as I was. Not that I cried, of course. That was just allergies.

Other highlights of the set were "Easy Money", "Getting Away With It" and "Dynamo", and by the time the show was over, my first instinct was to find out where Johnny was next playing and hitchhike my way there. He's just that good.

- James Lloyd



PHOTO BY PAUL HILLMAN
CARDIFF, UK | 2014



Rockin' Birthday
The Great Cardiff Hall,
October 18th 2014

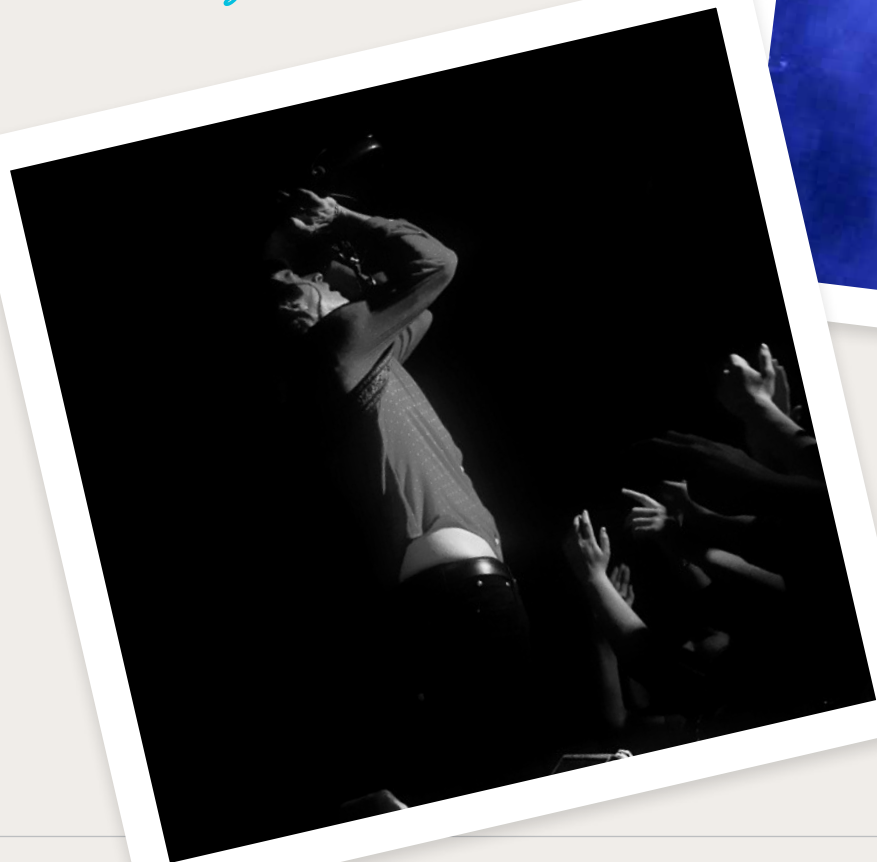
What better way is there to spend a birthday than in the company of your best friend and your biggest hero?

- Aly Stevenson

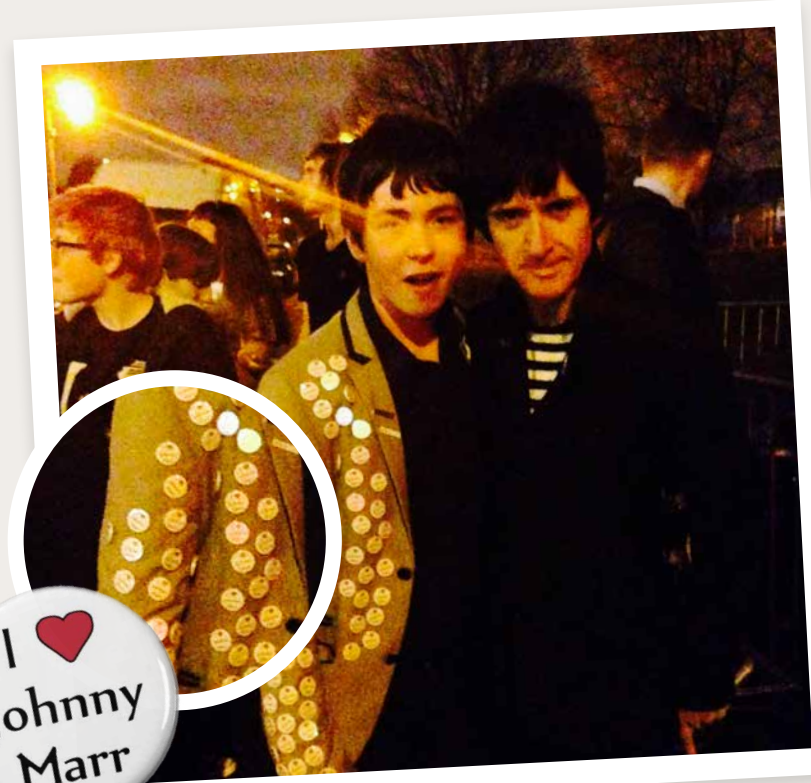


The most profound religious experience I never had.

- Ory Englander



Long-time fan, Connor, making a (fashion) statement with the timeless JohnnyMarrvellous community's I ❤️ Johnny Marr badges.



Still cant quite believe I met The Johnny Marr - was mindblowing! Far too scared to use the plectrum he gave me in case I lose it but did try playing guitar once or twice with it and I swear it gave me magical powers. Well the man is a wizard and an absolute gent.

- Zed



With the lovely Janice Mitchell. Drummer Jack's supportive mum!



MANCHESTER, UK
THE APOLLO, 25TH OCTOBER 2014

In 1985 I saw the Smiths on the Meat is Murder tour. By then I was already a huge fan and hooked on Johnny's playing.

The following year I moved away from home and went to uni. I'd put off getting tickets for any of the Queen is Dead shows because I wasn't really sure where I'd be.

Soon after moving, I became close friends with a guy called Andy Robinson - more than 30 years later the two of us are still as thick as thieves, even though we don't see that much of each other. Both big fans of the Smiths, we decided to catch one of the Queen is Dead shows later that year. But they were all sold out. All except for St Austell. We were in Sheffield - a round trip of 700 miles. Regretfully we decided to leave it and catch them next time.

Of course, there was no next time.

*“And there we were.
There we found ourselves.
side-by-side, at the
Manchester Apollo, and for a
moment, the briefest, most fleeting
of moments, I was transported back
in time to a time that never was
next time.”*

Andy lives in his home town of Manchester these days, and I'm not far from London. When tickets for the Playland tour went on sale earlier this year I got two straight away - Manchester Apollo, upstairs, front row, bang in the middle.

And there we were. There we found ourselves. side-by-side, at the Manchester Apollo, while Johnny and his band knocked out the most incredible versions of The Headmaster Ritual, Bigmouth, Still Ill and others.

And for a moment, the briefest, most fleeting of moments, I was transported back in time to a time that never was next time.

- Sean Fleming

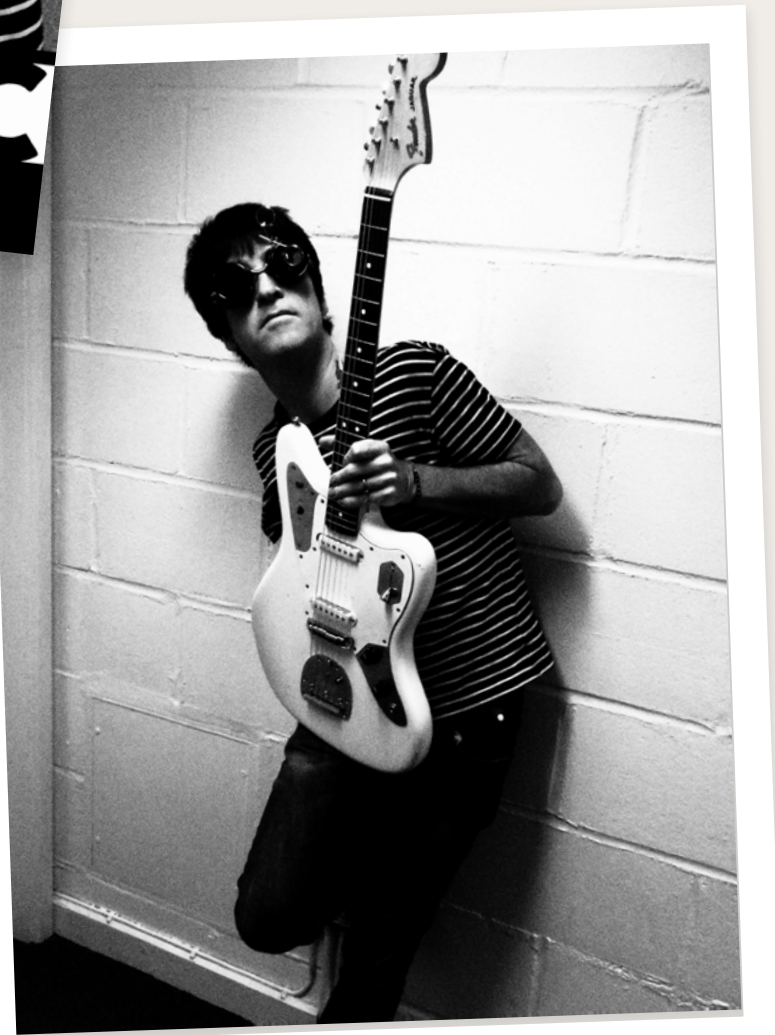
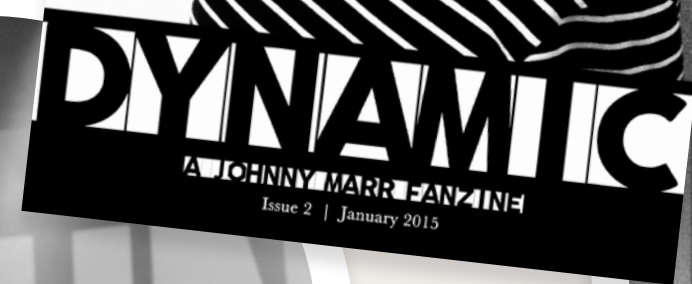
OPPOSITE PHOTO: MARC MCGARRAGHY | YELLOW MUSTANG PHOTOGRAPHY (MANCHESTER, UK, 2014)



*Did you know?
The iconic
DYNAMIC Zine 2nd
Issue Cover was shot
on the Playland tour,
in Cambridge*



*Johnny sporting
a handmade, one-off pair
of goggles, part of his
personal collection*



It was good to hear the old songs, great to hear the new songs. A mighty set enjoyed by all ages, not least my teenage son, always happy to be the first one jumping (handy really, always know roughly where he is!) Then a moment of recognition in Word Starts Attack when Johnny encouraged him to 'jump higher'. And yes, of course he did.

- Siobhan O'Driscoll

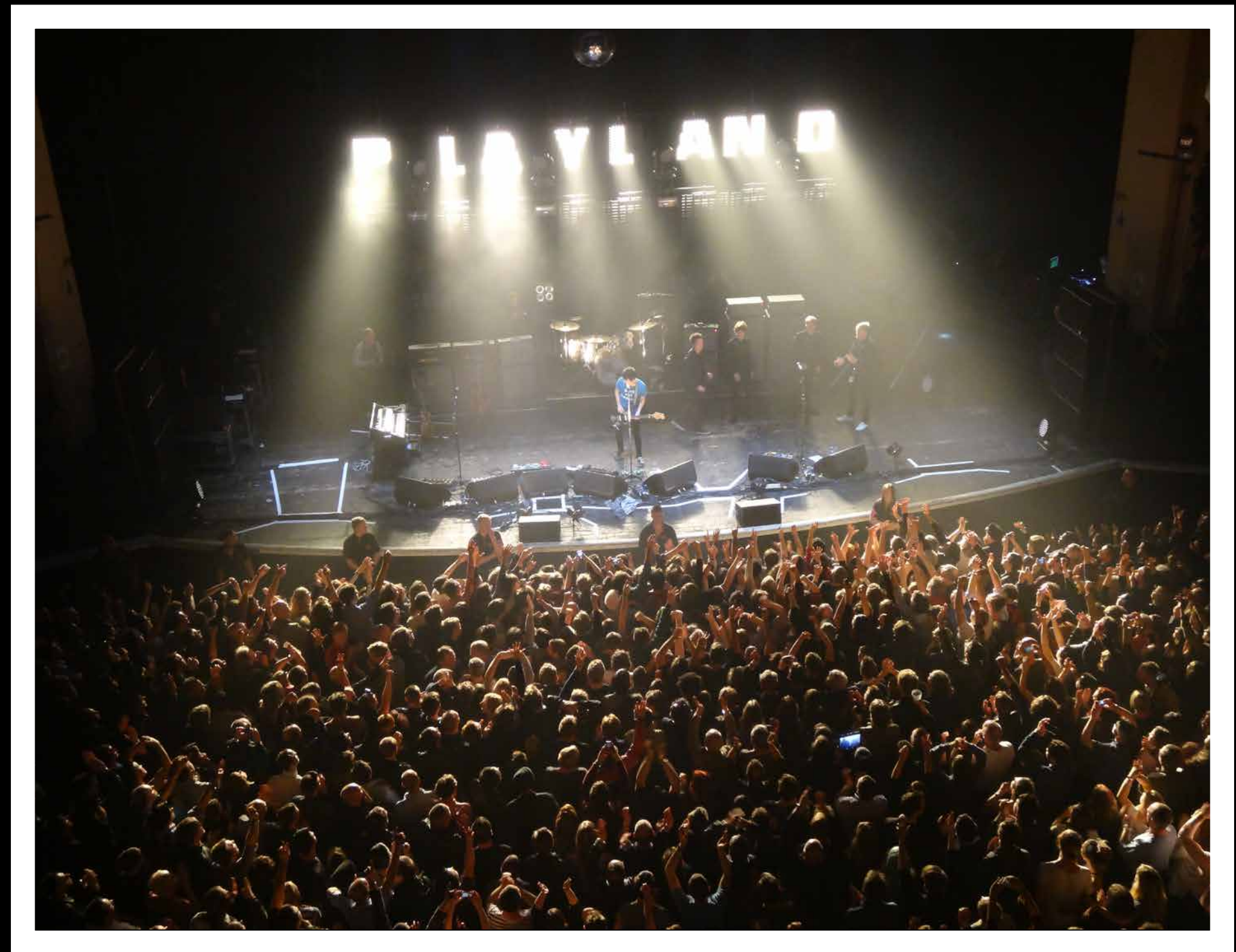


PHOTO BY SAWAKO HUNTER
MANCHESTER, UK | 2014

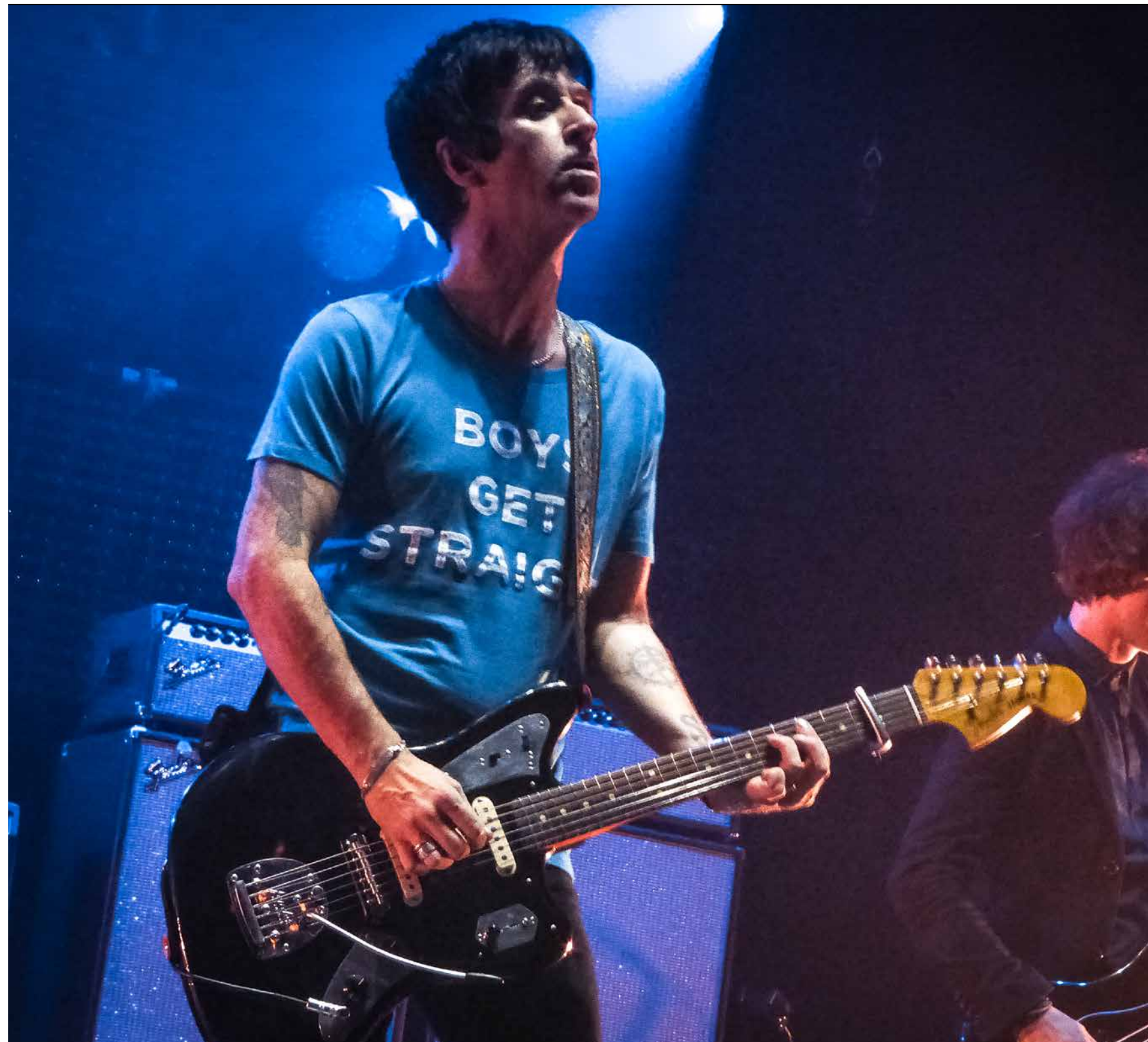


PHOTO BY NIKKI COURTENAGE
MANCHESTER, UK | 2014

“Marr’s guitar taught me that pop music is an art-form, a life-changer, not just, among a lot of other aspects, perpetual entertainment. The altruistic ethos of his music and persona have given me a lot; *an outlet, a literary and musical knowledge, and an individualistic desire to do my own thing.*”

L.M.
TOUCH OUT | 2015

The fab Childhood have been a pleasure and privilege to see opening for Johnny throughout the UK tour. In Leeds, on the last night of the UK tour - Johnny came out for the encore wearing a Childhood t-shirt instead of his usual 'Boys Get Straight' t-shirt - such a touching gesture!



It was an exciting moment when Noel Gallagher joined Johnny and the band onstage in Brixton.



Getting 'Baked' (Goods) in Amsterdam...



“You’re like a female Ryan Jarman...or he’s a male YOU!”

Me and my siblings, Charlotte and Aaron, met Johnny after his gig at our local Stoke venue, The Sugar Mill, in March. After another small group of fans left to go home, Johnny turned and joked, “Who’s the next victim?!” so we laughed and stepped towards him. He recognised my brother and me from a previous meeting and, upon catching sight of my dark, fringed hairstyle, the ex-Smiths/Cribs member announced,

“You’re like a female Ryan Jarman...or he’s a male YOU!”, much to our combined amusement/amazement, as we’re mad Cribs fans too! We all got some great photographs with Johnny and talked with him about our various interests. Just before we left him, I mentioned my Dynamic fanzine entries, ‘Marrchitecture’, which I created with lovely fellow fans, Aly & Ory, and a painted portrait of him as the messiah with a guitar string crown upon his head. His face beamed at me, approvingly.



Handmade Marr-Bars. Smooth, Sweet, a little bit nutty. And so is the chocolate!

- Melissa Roden



PHOTO BY SIOBHAN O'DRISCOLL
BEXHILL-ON-SEA, UK | 2014

“Johnny has been the mentor to many current musicians and stars. But he still cares about the “bedroom guitarist”, playing at home, alone. Replying to guitar players’ questions on Twitter, *he wants to encourage us, regardless of age or expertise. He doesn’t care if we are going to form a band, or whether we are just playing for the fun of it. His zeal for guitars and guitar culture is almost evangelical.*”

SNIGDHA NAG

TOUCH OUT | 2015



*Looking sharp,
backstage in Liverpool*



Say cheese, Doviak!



Liverpool, 25th March 2015.

I lost my job on that day. Everything suddenly felt uncertain and blurry, like walking through a thick fog. And yet, at 11PM, I was dancing in the street with my friend Sara, blissful.

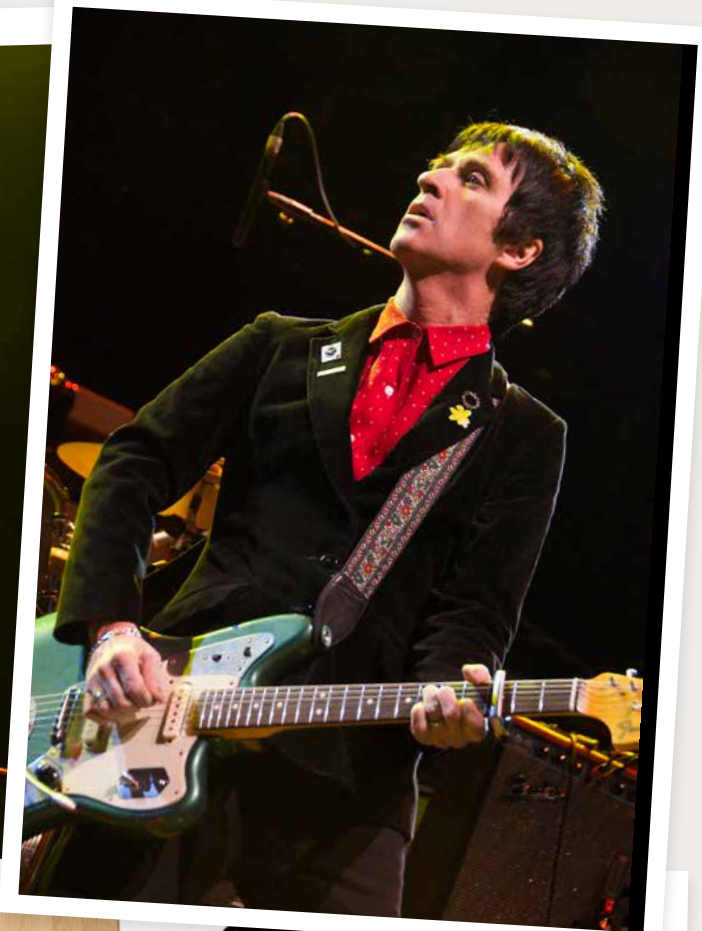
We had just seen Johnny Marr at the Arts Club, and I had such a wonderful time I had forgotten all about the terrible news from the morning. Johnny was even better than the first time I saw him; he was simply mind-blowing. One of those shows when you don't know where you are and who you are when you leave the venue. His music is like witchcraft, my amulet against the curses life puts in my way."

- Laure Privat



Various postcards of a cartoon Johnny Marr were spotted in all sorts of (often bizarre) places, during the Playland tour.

Who on earth would do such a thing?!



Seeing Johnny perform in aid of such a wonderful cause at the beautiful Royal Albert Hall was an incredibly moving experience. There would be so few people in this world whose lives haven't been touched by cancer in one way or another, and being able to combine the wonderful-as-always experience of a Johnny Marr show with supporting The Teenage Cancer Trust made for a very special night.



- Aly Stevenson

The JohnnyMarrvellous network's limited edition charity postcards, sold in early 2015 to raise money for the Teenage Cancer Trust, in the lead-up to Johnny's performance at the Royal Albert Hall.

OPPOSITE PHOTO: MARC MCGARRAGHY | YELLOW MUSTANG PHOTOGRAPHY (LONDON, UK, 2015)





Johnny & Mara

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



*Marr + Marr-supial,
Australia 2015*



After the soccer match between Chile vs Bolivia in Copa America finished, Johnny Marr jumped on to the stage with his band at Teatro la Cupula, to bring us a wonderful show and a solid set list.

The people were very happy for the match result and Johnny knew it. During the encore Johnny wore "la roja" (Chilean soccer team t-shirt) and the crowd was ecstatic.

4 hours before the show, Johnny went out of the hotel for greeting the fans and signing some albums of The Smiths, Electronic and solo career.

Johnny is a great artist, and a kind and friendly person.

- Marcelo Reyes



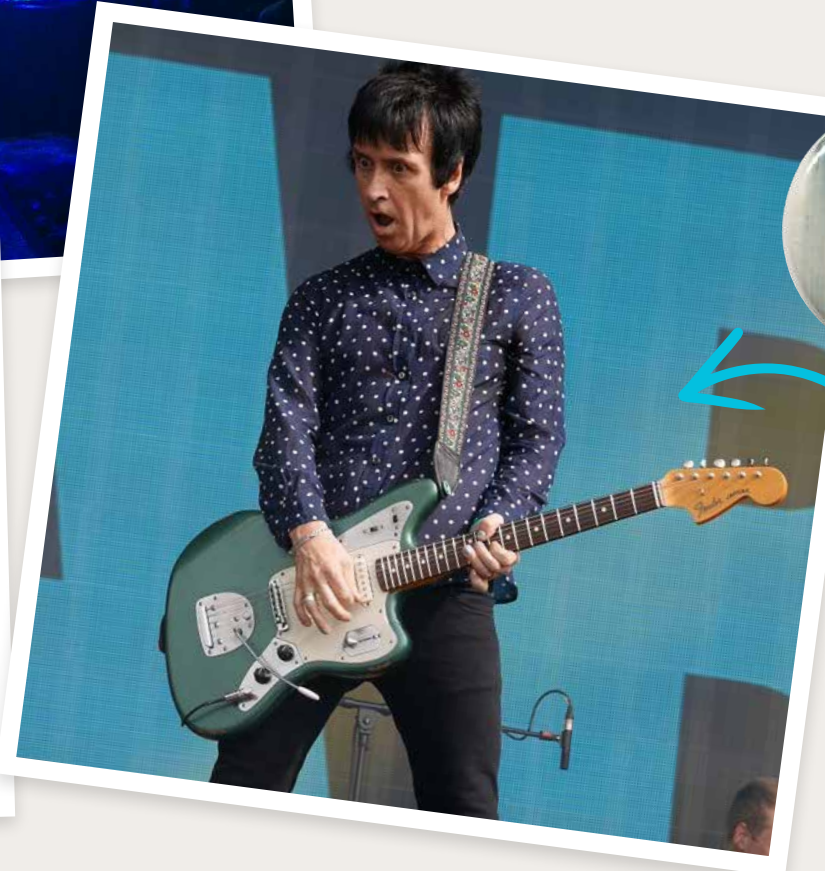
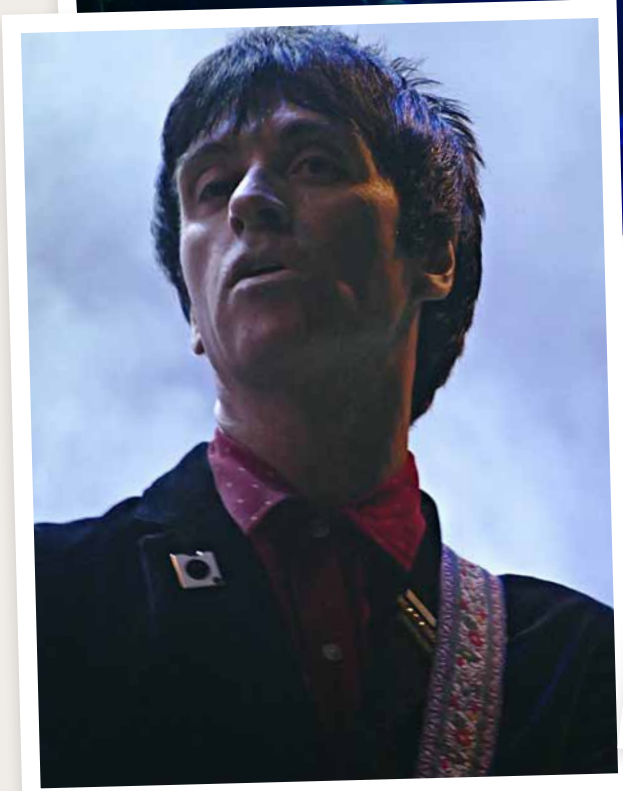
SOUTHSEA SEAFRONT, PORTSMOUTH, UK
VICTORIOUS FESTIVAL, 30TH AUGUST 2015

The Victorious Festival crowd grew exponentially in anticipation of Johnny's performance, extending throughout the Castle Stage area and onto the hill overlooking the sea. The crowd exploded with euphoric cheers as Johnny and the band took to the stage with "The Right Thing Right." Many were in perpetual motion, jumping up and down. Most sang along with Johnny's every word. All were transfixed in this beautiful moment. It was Johnny's crowd for the taking. My children [Emma and Eamon] were ecstatic, and although I did not think it possible, became even bigger JM fans at their very first concert. Thank you Johnny, Doviak, Iwan, and Jack for a truly incredible evening that will not be forgotten.

- Jeanne Abicht

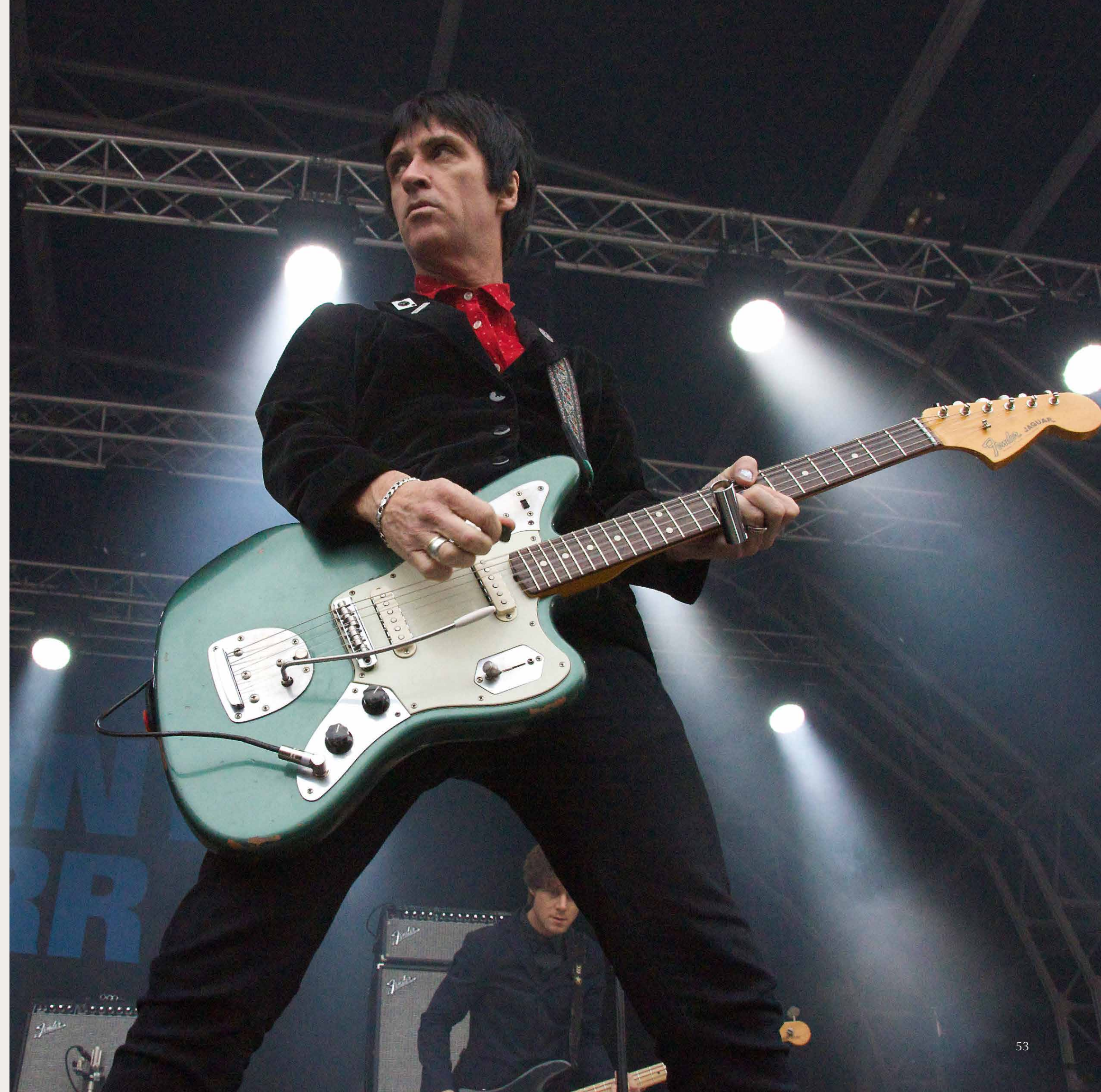


Johnny Marrvellous youth ambassadors Emma & Eamon.



The mindblow is mutual in Hyde Park

OPPOSITE PHOTO: MARC MCGARRAGHY | YELLOW MUSTANG PHOTOGRAPHY (CASTLEFIELD, UK, 2015)



SPECIAL MISSION: THE FELT DOLLS



Fátima & Johnny

I had the chance to go to three Johnny Marr gigs: two in Brazil — Lollapalooza (2014) and Cultura Inglesa Festival (2015) — and one in Southampton, UK (2015) at the Engine Rooms, while I was on a European trip with some friends.

I also had a special mission in the latter: give the personalized felt dolls my sister Amélia handcrafted to Johnny and the band! It's very tense for you have a mission like this, because you never know how to do it, how to reach the band or where you're gonna meet them. Or even if you're gonna meet them! Amélia was talking to Jack and Iwan through social media. So they knew in advance they had a special gift to receive.

I arrived at the venue at the end of the afternoon.... At some point, I realized the band was on the second floor of the venue, and from time to time, I could see one of them at the window...I could even see Johnny ironing his shirt. Whenever one of them were close to the window, I waved the doll on their direction. Tense, excited, anxious... and also a bit foolish... so many emotions I was feeling at that moment. Then, Iwan saw me, waved at me and turned to the others to tell I was there! What a relief! They knew I was there! A few other fans were there, not more than 10. Few

minutes later, the band came down... Jack, Iwan, Doviak...I remember that Jack was the first to appear and they came directly to my direction. I was very, very excited, they were really, really kind to me. Johnny came to the door as well. And I accomplished my mission: I gave all of them their presents: their own personalized felt dolls! They seemed to have enjoyed it. We talked for a while, took photos and talked a bit more. Of course, I was nervous, but thankfully I don't freeze in situations like these. Johnny asked me what did I do for a living, and considering that working in a bank as a social and environmental risk analyst is not that common, Johnny remembered we've met before, few months earlier, in Brazil at the airport with my sister Amélia. It's nice to know Johnny not only is very considerate to his fans but he also has a good memory.

Well... all the trip was worth it... I couldn't stop smiling. But there was more: we were invited to watch the soundcheck! Just amazing!!! And the show hadn't even started! Well, I don't need to say how wonderful was the concert. I enjoyed every song, every second they were on stage. I just love small venues because it makes you feel so close to the band. I know how much my sister wanted to be there. I'm sure she'll have another opportunity to meet them again.

- Fátima Kubota



Amelia Kubota, the artist behind the felt dolls

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



Iwan, Jack, Doviak and Fátima pose happily with their 'Mini-Me's'

“One thing that I am personally afraid of is becoming one of those people who aren’t driven by love, and only do what they do because they have to do it. *What I’ve learned from Johnny is that it’s important to keep yourself driven by the things you love, follow your dreams and to avoid too much cynicism.*”

EMMA PALOR
TOUCH OUT | 2015

OPPOSITE PHOTO: JULIETA BRIOLA (BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA, 2015)





// 2015

ADRENALIN BABY

OPPOSITE PHOTO: COLIN ROSS



PHOTO BY ROBERTO TAVAZZANI
MANCHESTER UK | 2015

ADRENALIN (IN BUCKET LOADS) BABY

Trying to summarise what characterised the Adrenalin Baby Tour of 2015 (good grief, is it really eight years ago?) is, quite frankly, impossible. But, a few highlights for me were that:

It marked the cementing of so many of the connections and friendships that Johnny had, unwittingly, facilitated. It was a brilliant opportunity for so many of the band of merry marvellous fandom members to get to share the utter joy and exuberance of the gigs together.

It was at the Belfast gig that I met Adi Harrold in person for the first time — he's become a firm and dear friend, a friend I would never have made under any other circumstances.

It provided a timely opportunity for Johnny to open the doors at Albert Hall, Manchester, to give the Prime Minister (who was in the City for the party conference) an eloquent tongue lashing that had the audience spell bound and united in support — how can anyone possibly disagree with criticism of a system that creates vulnerability and facilitates unfairness?

It's not every musician who can be supported by a band that includes their gifted son — Man Made were well worth turning up early for, and then to see Nile join his dad to play together during the set was a real high point (and very touching to witness too).

I was fortunate enough to be at the Albert Hall show in Manchester and then to fly over to Northern Ireland to experience the Limelight Bar gig — and hold these crazily wonderful evenings amongst my best gig memories.

On a very personal basis, 16 October 2015 was the very first time I had the utter delight of coming face to face with Johnny on the street and finding myself star-struck and almost lost for words. Johnny was, witty, kind and engaging — traits that endear him to me and to so many others. He's a charming man with a common touch.

The Adrenalin Baby Tour was oozing with so many highs and “once in a lifetime” moments for the Marr-my and for which Johnny is rightly afforded such affection and gratitude for.

Alison Moore

“I think Johnny has this wonderful impact on his fans because he reaches out to them.

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

BEATHANY MERCER
MAD BELIEVERS | 2016

“Johnny talked to me for so long, asking questions - while seeming genuinely interested (in spite of my clumsy replies), being super nice. He didn’t even laugh at my awkward Israeli accent!”

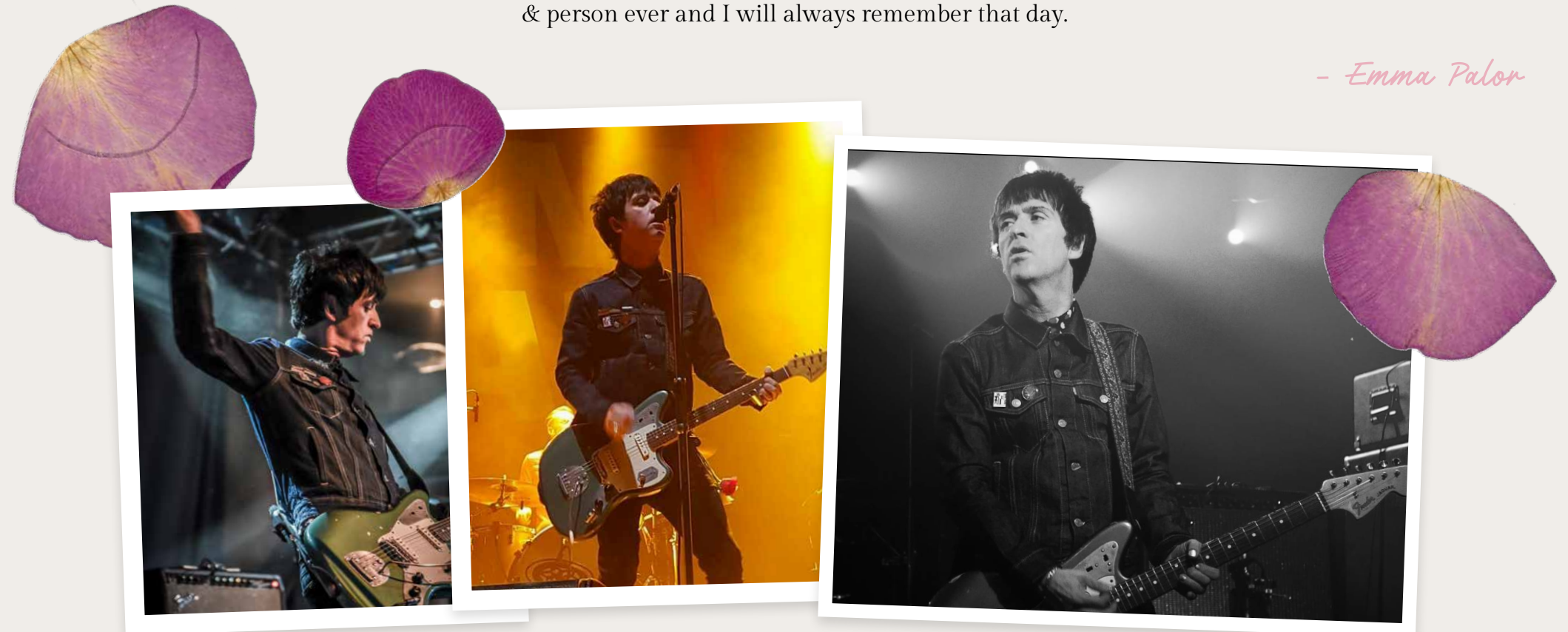
Meeting Johnny at the Manchester gig of the Adrenalin Baby tour was an amazing experience and a dream come true.

Johnny talked to me for so long, asking questions about me, my interests and such - while seeming genuinely interested (in spite of my clumsy replies), being super nice (he didn’t even laugh at my awkward Israeli accent!), and happily posing for pictures (he even brought his beautiful green genie for a picture too!).

At the amazing gig following, Johnny dedicated ‘New Town Velocity’ to me. I mentioned to him earlier that it’s my favourite song ever, and that my school has just started on the day of the gig (I left school for poetry & guitar riffs...), but I never even imagined that he would remember that and actually dedicate it to me! This song means a lot to me and I love it so much - I’m really thankful to Johnny for that!

I’m so happy that I got to see Johnny live, meet him and talk to him - he’s my favourite musician & person ever and I will always remember that day.

- Emma Palor



MANCHESTER, UK

THE ALBERT HALL, 7-8TH OCTOBER 2015

It had been a long wait but by time Johnny and the boys took to the stage, I was ready and adrenalised. Watching Johnny play is always like watching him for the first time. The buzz is always fresh and you never quite know what's gonna happen between songs. I always look forward to hearing what anecdotes, one liners or quips Johnny will come out with at the end of a number...

“You could feel the unity in the room and everyone cheered as Johnny delivered his message to the Prime Minister.

“That’s not how we do things up here, Mr Cameron.” - brilliant!”

This first night in the Albert Hall coincided with the Tory Party Conference a few doors up in the Midland Hotel and Johnny had a message for them, telling security to open the doors so that Cameron could hear what ‘Johnny Boy’ had to say. You could feel the unity in the room and everyone cheered as Johnny delivered his message to the Prime Minister. “That’s not how we do things up here, Mr Cameron.” - brilliant!

The surprises didn’t end there either. During the encore, Nile came on to play a cover of the Primitives 80s hit ‘Crash’, which was aptly dedicated to David Cameron. Watching father and son up there together was a special moment. Master and apprentice. Like he was showing him the ropes. Not that Nile needs any training - he has proved that he can hold his own with his own band Man Made, who were the support band for the tour. Good to see Nile has inherited his father’s guitar genius and penchant for silver nail varnish!

This night was, (for a whole host of reasons, including meeting the Dynamic Duo, Aly and Ory, in the flesh) the best Johnny gig to date, despite going alone and getting half crushed when a few inebriated fans surged towards the stage (one of the Marr-mates pulled me to safety).

I waited around after the gig with a few others in hope of meeting my idol, but it wasn’t to be. Maybe next time.. which hopefully won’t be too far away. Until then, there’s always Adrenalin Baby.

- Chris Beattie

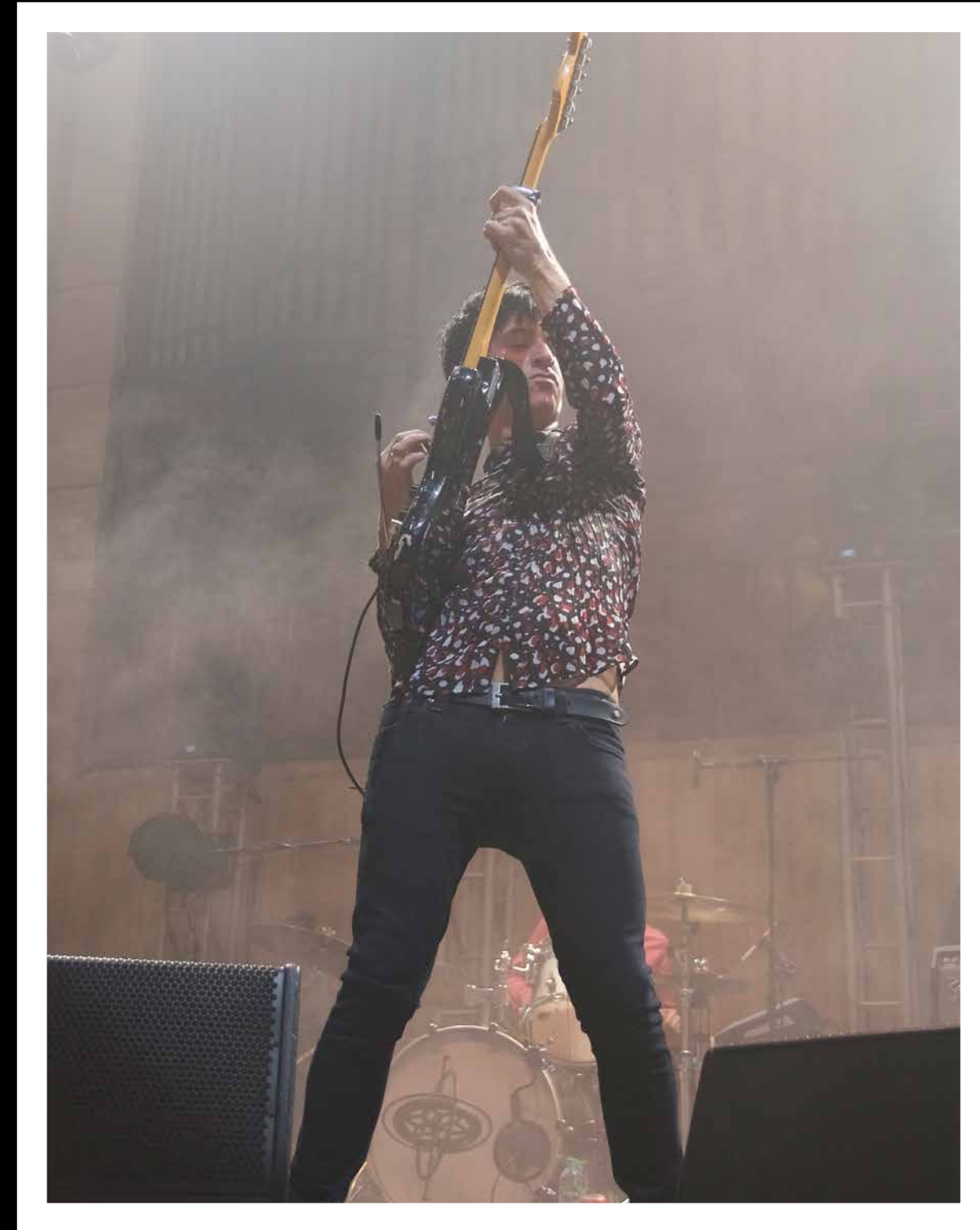
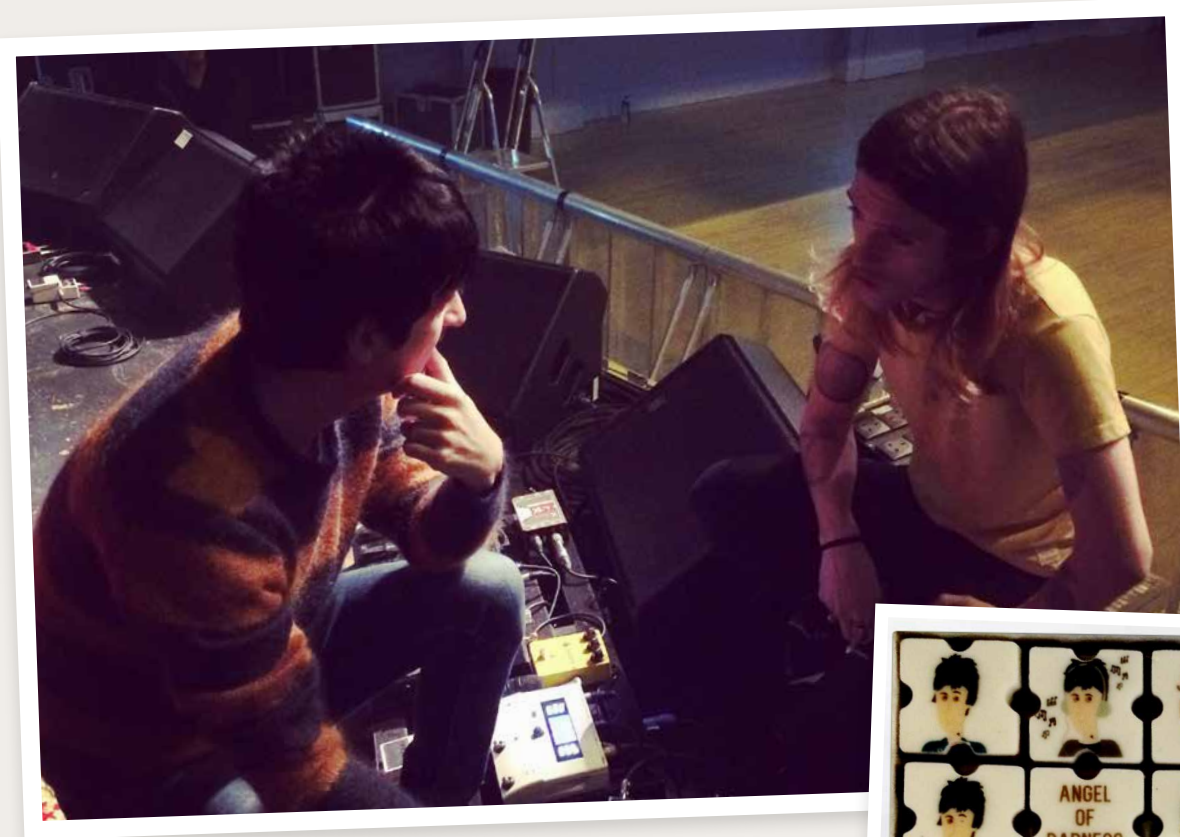
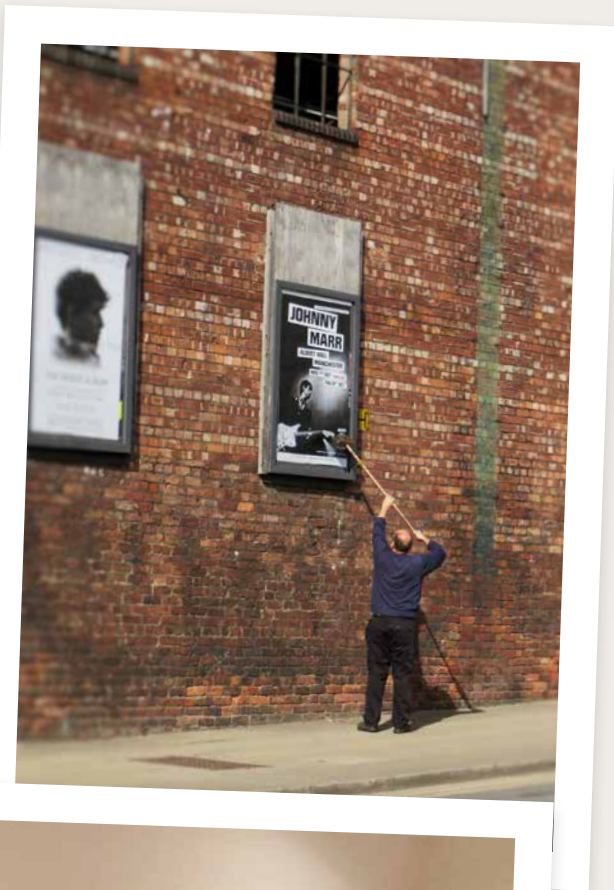


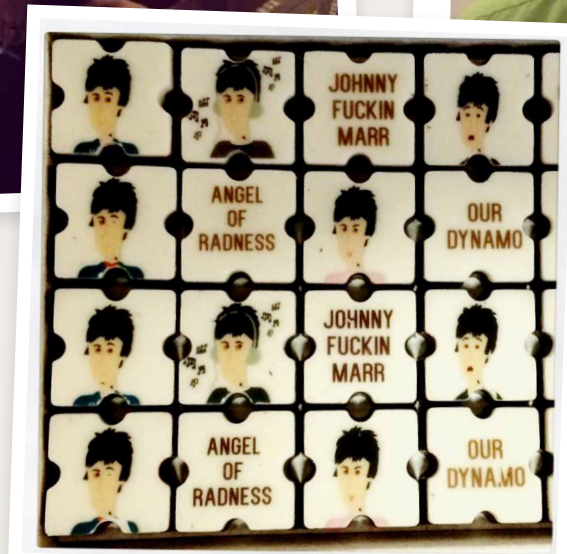
PHOTO BY MARC MCGARRAGHY (YELLOW MUSTANG PHOTOGRAPHY)
MANCHESTER, UK | 2015

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



Father & Son pre-gig chat



A Chocolate a day keeps the doctor away!



“His own stylishness aside, it was Johnny’s spirit and positivity that pushed me in the right direction. Maybe it’s his faith in us youngsters, or just his altruistic attitude.”

My heart was racing under my new Fred Perry Harrington jacket as I watched Johnny and the boys rocking out onstage in Edinburgh. I bought it with this particular gig in mind, saving up 5 or 10 quid at a time, in a wooden box alongside my gig ticket. I figured the big man himself would probably outdo me in a sartorial sense (and he did, damn it - rocking a Levi's jacket and floral shirt beneath), but at least I'd be nice and warm as I froze half to death in the queue before doors. To tell the truth, Johnny has rekindled my interest in fashion. After a few good years of umming and aching, I've decided to take the plunge and pursue my dream of studying fashion design. His own stylishness aside, it was Johnny's spirit and positivity that pushed me in the right direction. Maybe it's his faith in us youngsters, or just his altruistic attitude. It was a phenomenal gig that led straight into a white night of sketching ideas for my future collection. I felt utterly inspired. Thank you, Johnny!

- Jamie Fitzgerald

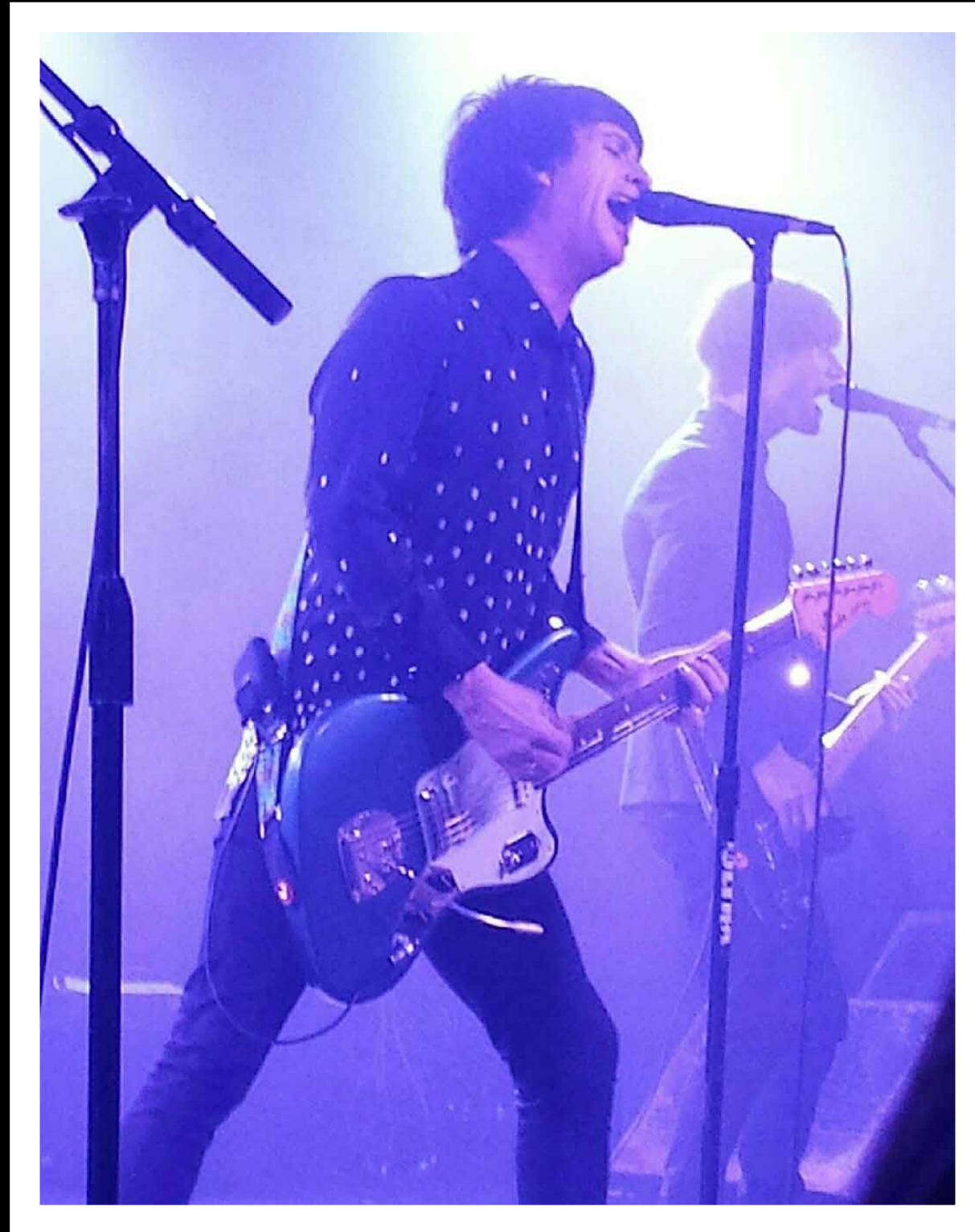


PHOTO BY ALAN STRICKLAND
POMONA, USA | 2016

“I think Johnny is comparable to a modern day Les Paul in what he has done with the redesign of the Fender Jaguar. And to quote Johnny himself, “I think it’s perfection”. *Not only is he a one of a kind guitar player, he’s an innovator and the JM Jag is truly something special.*”

CHRIS BEATTIE
TOUCH OUT | 2015



Flying over to Belfast in order to watch Johnny Marr confirmed to friends and family that I'm totally in awe of the Godlike Genius, and that my husband is probably the most patient man in the world. Would it be worth the journey, the time off work and a fitting way to celebrate my wedding anniversary: oh yes indeed.

“The icing on my Belfast cake though was meeting Johnny himself — he was so charming and engaging and every bit as lovely as other fans who’ve met him have described”.

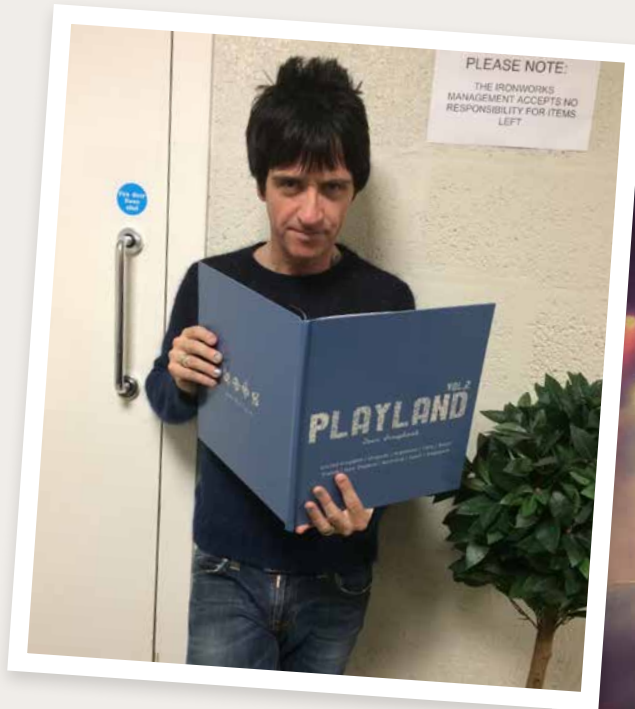
It was the sixth time I'd seen Johnny in the space of twelve months and as an experience it has to be the best yet. Not only did I get down the front to have a fantastic view of Johnny, I blagged a set list, met the endearing and incredibly talented members of Man Made and shared the crazy shenanigans with the irrepressible Adrian Harrold (who I met for the first time in the bar before the gig) and he's become a friend for life.

The icing on my Belfast cake though was meeting Johnny himself — he was so charming and engaging and every bit as lovely as other fans who've met him have described. I'm rarely lost for words, but I can hardly find the right ones to cover how brilliant Belfast was: a highlight of my life.

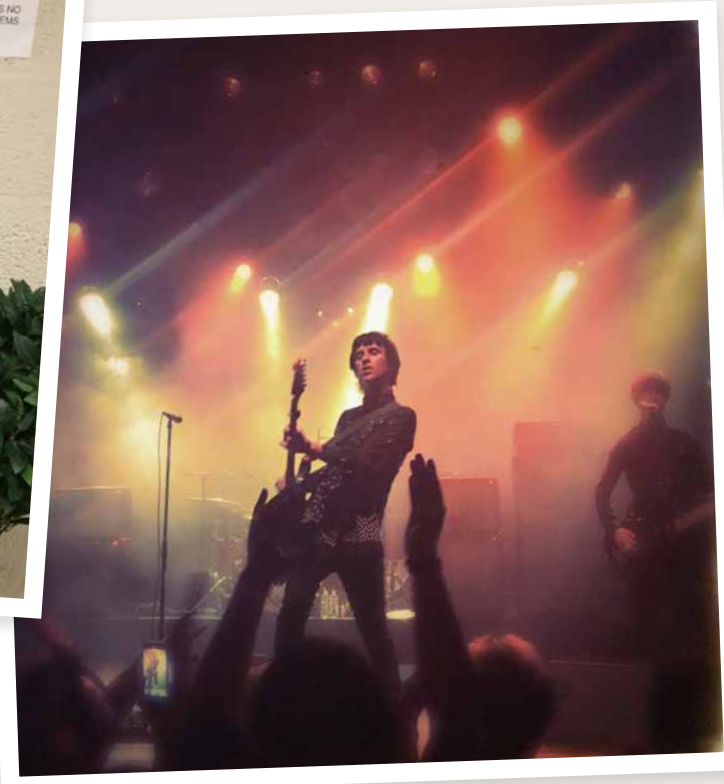
- Alison Moore



PHOTO BY COLIN ROSS
EDINBURGH, UK | 2015



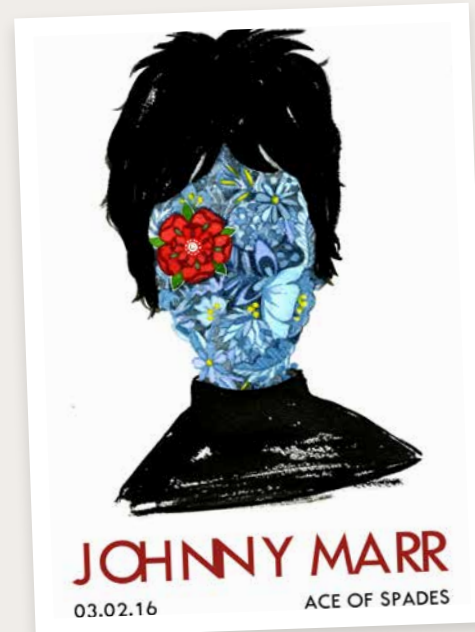
Backstage Bookworm



The energy Johnny and the band put forward was surreal. I remember almost being moved to tears when Johnny played the riff to "The Headmaster Ritual". I've heard his renditions many times on Youtube but it really is a different feeling to see and hear it live. I sadly didn't meet him after the show, but I was buzzing on the way home. I've been a massive fan of him since 2014, and seeing him live had been a life goal for me since then. That is what makes this show so special to me.

- Erik Gutierrez

Unfortunately I never got a chance to personally meet Johnny Marr, but one of my best friends Roger Carpio (a promoter from Sacramento), made sure to meet him at the gig and get a copy of a poster signed for me, which was incredibly sweet!



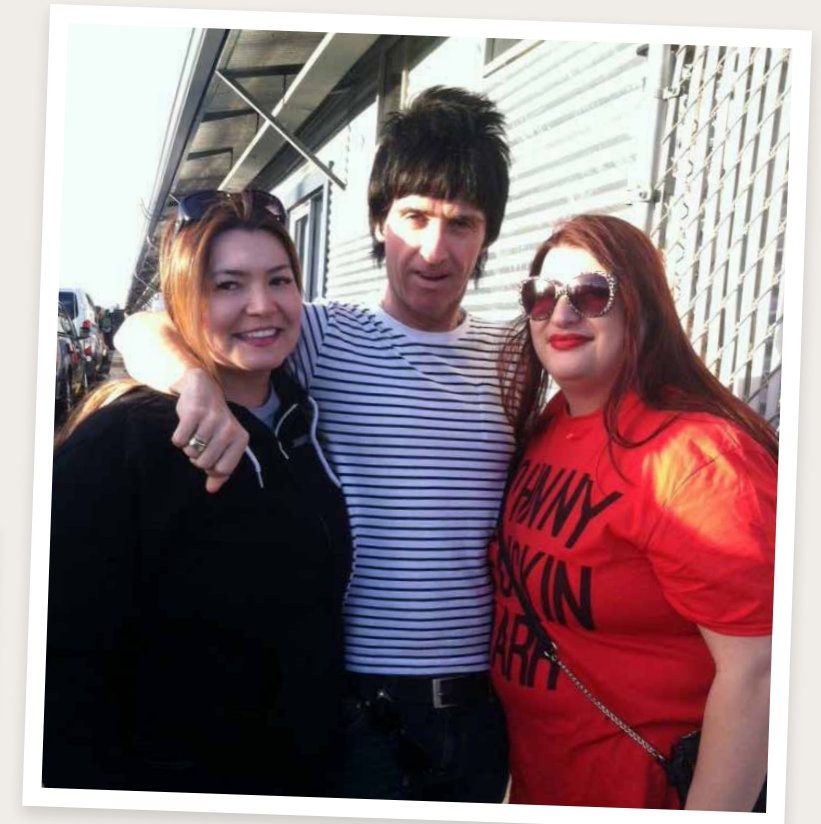
We were supposed to attend this show in Sacramento, but sadly due to the tour changes we only were able to attend San Francisco show, which was incredible! Roger, in fact, gave me the opportunity to create this poster for the Sacramento show. He said that Johnny really liked the poster, which was the best reward for me as an artist! The pressure to create a perfect poster was high, but then our good friend from Liverpool advised me to go North for inspiration, so after a few hours of brainstorming the image was finally there!

- Galine Tumasova

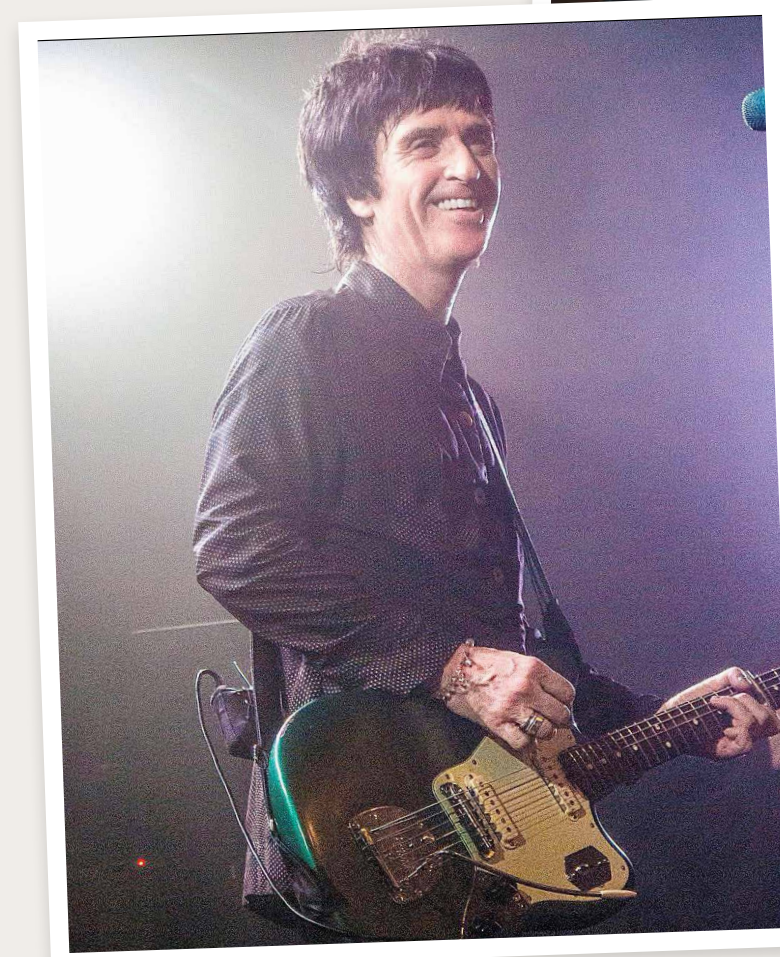


The audience was enraptured by Johnny's charm and the band's vivacity. Overall, it was a wonderful night. Johnny, Doviak, Iwan, and Jack always deliver a marvelous performance. Thank you Johnny, after all these years, actually decades you still rock my world!

- Marissa Rivera



Marissa and sister Lisette together with Johnny at Solana Beach



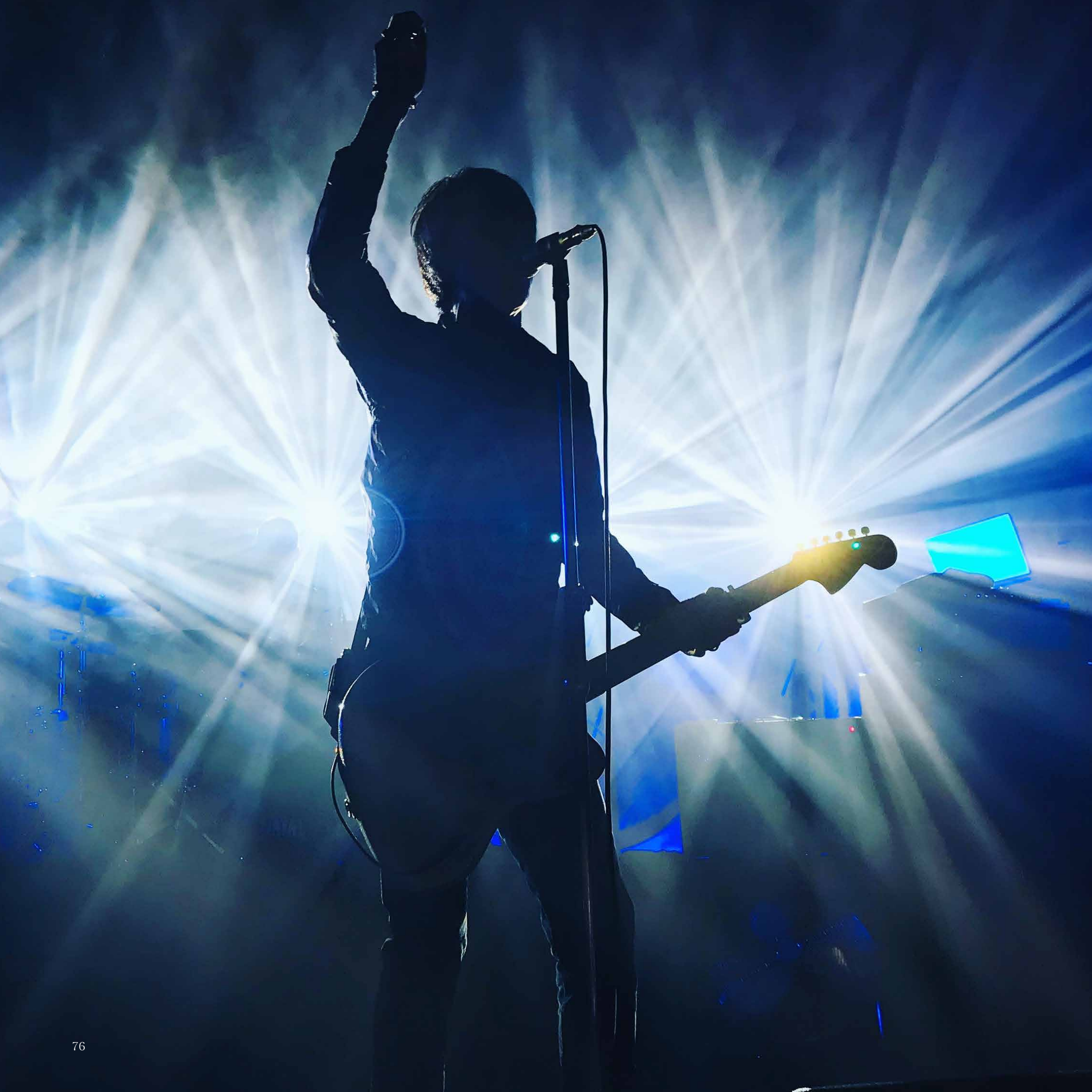
After the show, Johnny came out to greet fans. I remember waiting patiently, with my heart nervously beating out of my chest, for my chance to talk to him. When it was finally my turn, I was so moved by how genuine and kind he was. I talked to him about my dream of starting my own band and my reservations, and he told me to "go for it" and follow my passion. He will never fully know what his words meant to me. He spent so much time with all of his fans that night, taking photos and signing autographs, recalling stories from the road, and just making us feel like the luckiest people ever. As I gave Johnny a hug goodbye, I told him that I hoped he would play in Sacramento again, and he assured me he would. On behalf of all the Sacramento fans, I want to thank Johnny Marr for the kindness he showed us that night, and for an amazing show we will never forget.

- Kathy Norton

“When you’re
in the audience singing along to
‘There Is A Light That Never Goes
Out’, arms stretching towards the
stage, *and smiling for what sometimes
seems like the first time in weeks, it really
can feel like you’re being healed by some
divine force.*”

ISOBEL WYETH

ADRENALIN BABY TOUR BOOK | 2015



// 2018
// 2019

CALL THE COMET

OPPOSITE PHOTO: ILZE FREY



Johnny already had “solo” success under his belt with the albums and tours of “The Messenger”, “Playland” and “Adrenaline Baby”. However, when people heard the “Call the Comet” album for the first time, many felt that there was a shift, a sense of him taking things up a notch.

Had Johnny hit the creative jackpot during the writing process, or was he growing entirely and comfortably into his role of solo artist and frontman? Whatever it was, “Call the Comet” shone with brilliance and confidence. Despite the majority of us having a favourite track, most agreed that there wasn’t a bad song on the album, and to this day it has been considered a masterpiece by fans and the media alike.

Personally, “Call the Comet” became a turning point also for me. I’d been a lifelong fan of Johnny, but until that point had never seen him in concert. When the launch shows were announced I made the decision to fly to Berlin to see Johnny live for the first time. It set the ball rolling for what turned out to be a frenzy of travelling around Europe to attend his gigs. During that period I met him on a number of occasions, and I formed lasting friendships with lovely fans from around the world. I don’t think I’ve ever felt so alive and part of something so full of incredible energy and joy.

The magic of Johnny’s music, and the rapture and euphoria of sharing the experience of his live concerts with like-minded people, is something I still find hard to express. Even now, when I listen to “Call the Comet”, the memories of that wonderful time bring a real warmth to my heart. Special moments that will remain with me until my dying day.

Linda Poulnot

DUBLIN, IRELAND

THE BUTTON FACTORY, 12TH MAY 2018

As soon as I finished work the sky opened and we drove to Dublin in a fucking monsoon.

I was lucky enough to get tickets in the draw. I wasn't expecting it; I deserved it no more than you. But mine they were.

“Instantly it's
a great gig.
People I've never
met exchange
addresses and
stories. *The new
songs, when they
come, slap you in the
face and are met with
feverish abandon.*”

Dirty Irish, grey clouds parted in Temple Bar. Usually I'd hate the place. Stag and hen parties; vomit on the cobbles and memories of shopping for Levi's in 92!.. buying a Smiths bootleg in a shop that is now a shitty pub. I'd never really been to Temple Bar in 25 years. And yet here we were, my fiancée leading me blindly though laughing locals and pissed up, giggling tourists, pointing the way to the Button Factory. She found it.

Remember your school hall? Did you ever go back and think 'shit! This place is tiny!?' Well, that's the Button Factory...only smaller. With a bar. And the headmaster is Johnny Marr.

Instantly it's a great gig. People I've never met exchange addresses and stories. The new songs, when they come, slap you in the face and are met with feverish abandon. Old favourites are pushed to breaking point and land on the unsuspecting crowd, who respond with heartfelt glee. But this place is hot, and I don't think the audience, band or Johnny were ready for the actual sweat and adrenaline that poured and flew from wall, guitar and fan alike.

Songs build and hurtle by. The heat is almost unbearable. I regret wearing a jacket. Johnny looks right in my eye and smiles. Fuck it. I bought it because he wore one similar. I laugh because I am 43 and feel 14. He is 54. I make a mental note to read his autobiography again, quit the fags and start running; no fucker can look that alive!

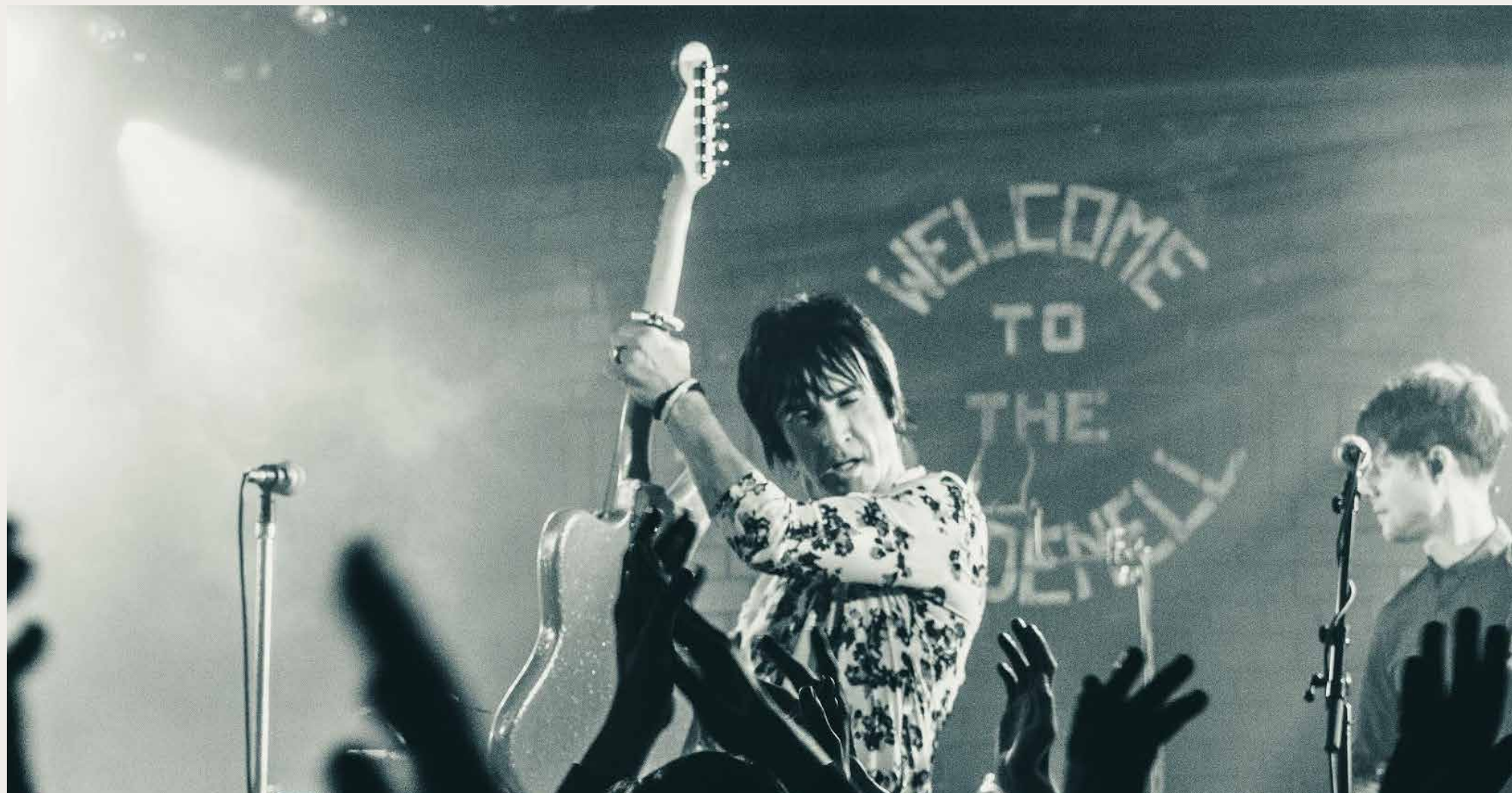
I catch sight of Aly and Ory, and wave, reasonably thinking everyone here knows each other. We do. So, what the hell, I may as well reach out and touch his guitar. It's mine too. Johnny grins, shakes his head and strikes a pose. Shit! Get a photo! I grab my fiancée, who is covered in sweat; some of it his, some mine and some yours and I'm unsure what to capture. No photograph can do justice to this.

Walking out onto the same cobbled streets of Temple Bar took an age. I had met more friends. It took me two days to stop laughing and four days to shower.

– Steve Greenaway



PHOTO BY LOTTA RYDBERG
(COPENHAGEN, DENMARK, 2018)



Ordering a sausage roll and a shandy at The Brudenell Social Club in Leeds then looking between a crack in the door behind the bar to see Johnny Marr walk onstage to soundcheck will go down as one of the most surreal moments of my life! ...and the gig itself was easily one of the greatest gigs of my life too!

He walked onstage with the quiet and charming confidence only someone with his talents and back catalogue could - and we the crowd loved it. Opening with The Tracers, instantly the room was abuzz with the knowledge this was going to be special. And of course, it was. To be able to sing back the chorus to There Is A Light That Never Goes Out and instantly want to listen again to the new songs so we could sing those choruses back was just special. They're that good. When How Soon Is Now took a demonic turn when Johnny really began to get into his guitar...well, my face literally melted off. Though that may have been from the heat in the room.

The one thing I really enjoyed from this gig was how much Johnny himself seemed to be enjoying it - he walked from one end of the stage to the other all night, trying to give as many fans as possible as many guitar god poses he could. Nobody was or possibly could have been disappointed from this gig. The sausage roll was alright too.

- Anthony Harrison



Staying out of treble with the Prince of Surf, Iwan Gronow.

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
MAD BELIEVERS | 2016

BERLIN, GERMANY

FESTSAAL KREUZBERG, 21ST MAY 2018

Call The Comet was the name of Johnny Marr's new album and I really wanted to get a presale code for a preview show. I submitted 2 locations, Leeds and Berlin, but I thought the latter was wishful thinking. 2 days later, fan/friend, Jackie, reminded me to check my inbox. I opened my emails and my jaw dropped. I got a presale code for BERLIN! The next day I used the code to book my ticket. I was ecstatic!!! I had always dreamed of visiting the German capital - the culture was fascinating.

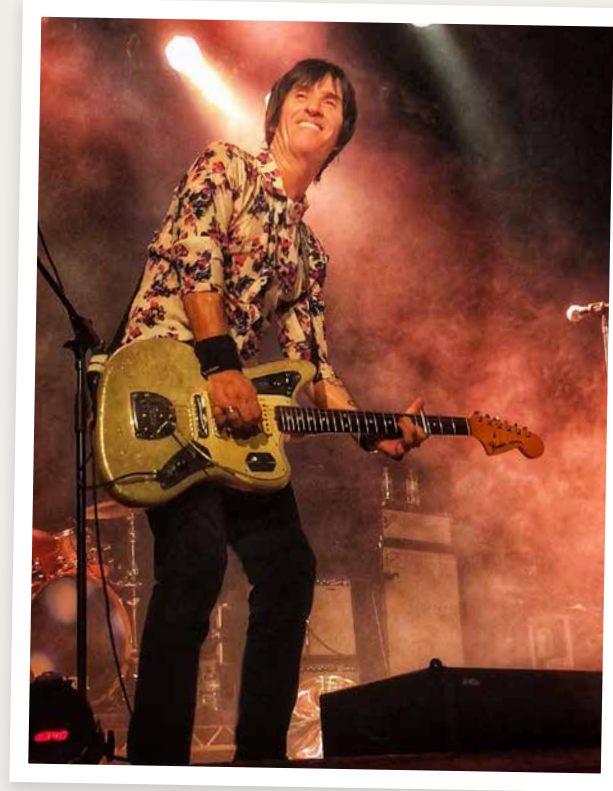
“The 60s
psychedelic
sonics caught
me in a cosmic
trance. I
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flying.”

I hadn't got on a plane in several years and knew I would have to fly out alone, but I put all the plans in place. This was a dream come true. I was going to see JOHNNY MARR in BERLIN!!!

The day before my morning flight, I took my suitcase on the train from Stoke to Manchester, then went to find my Airbnb in Wythenshawe, a.k.a Johnny Marr's old childhood estate, which was once the largest council estate in Europe. I barely slept that night (too excited) and, when I left for the airport in the morning, the bus station was deserted. (Heroes in an empty station?) On the plane, I listened to David Bowie's Low album- perfect flight music. When I landed in Berlin, I couldn't wait to see it all. I spent 3 days exploring the sights: the Berlin wall, the Reichstag, Brandenburg Gate etc... I also found the legendary Hansa studios, plus David Bowie and Iggy Pop's old apartment in Schöneberg.

Johnny Marr night finally arrived and I took the U-bahn round to Festsaal Kreuzberg. I had no idea what to expect from the new album, apart from the songs I had heard. Once I got inside the venue, I took a place at the left of the stage. I felt so lucky to be in a tiny venue in the German capital, ready to watch one of my favourite musicians. I really couldn't wait to hear the new stuff. Some fans near me tried to look at the setlist, but not me - I like surprises!

Eventually, the lights descended. I clapped and cheered as the band strolled on stage. I was so happy to see Jack, Iwan and Doviak looking smart, as always. Johnny sprung onto stage in a charming floral shirt, with a flash of blond in his raven black hair and ripped into lead track The Tracers; the 60s psychedelic sonics caught me in a cosmic trance. I didn't need hallucinogenics to get high. I was flying. Then, Bigmouth Strikes Again blasted into action, so naturally, I went ballistic. A few songs in, a fast drum machine beat got my pulse going



through New Dominions. This new material was really something. The slower, heartfelt, Hi Hello, was beautiful and bittersweet. 2 weeks before, Johnny had posted Instagram photos at Heaton Park, near to my Prestwich residence, but unexpected events had forced me back to my old house, and away from my beloved Manchester. This song helped me to deal with my difficult transition. A slow piano held the room still, beginning a gorgeously guitar-picked piece, Walk Into The Sea. I nearly got a little teary, but Electronic's Getting Away With It instantly got me dancing again. I was also overjoyed to witness the poignant drama of Last Night I Dreamt That Somebody Loved Me, a song that speaks volumes to me as a single, free spirited woman.

It was a pleasure to hear Playland tracks again, and the legendary How Soon Is Now? before the band left the stage. But it wasn't over just yet, and besides, I needed more. Johnny and his band thankfully returned to give us a gothic wall of sound, Actor Attractor. The Bunnymen-like solo blew me away. The atmosphere eased into Please Please Please Let Me Get What I Want, and it really was Good times for a change. I felt like the luckiest girl alive. As I blissfully danced and sang with Berliners to There Is A Light That Never Goes Out, the chords from Johnny's Fender jaguar chimed out from the speakers, I wanted those moments to last forever.

Several hours later, I was back in England, but it felt like I had fell down to earth.

- Melissa Roden

The spreading news of Johnny Marr playing Berlin to his honest fans was somewhat groundbreaking. Not a 'best of' show, but presenting his new album.

Hardly anyone had heard more than two of his new tunes. The air was buzzing. Everyone in the room was full of thankfulness and expectations. Johnny Marr and his band served them all in the best of possible ways. To big cheers new and well known tracks were saluted by Johnny's followers. The show left me and everybody else's mouths wide open and happy. We made new friends on that occasion. What more? Meeting the legend himself the other morning was the topping of the cake.

Thank you, Johnny, thank you.

Viele Grüße,
- Peter Schröter



When I was 16 I attended the only gig The Smiths have ever played in Italy and I have been waiting for almost 30 years to hear live again the guitarist I love the most. Johnny Marr's solo career for me is perfect and his voice is perfect too. Since The Messenger came out, I realized I don't want to listen to anything else.

- Chiara Busico

Bringing out the
signature smile in Mexico,
2018



Master Doviak
doing his thing in Berlin



Me and my husband came to Berlin to see Johnny's gig, which was one of the best I've ever attended, and we even met Aly & Ory there.

The best part however was that we managed to meet Johnny after the show. There were loads of fans waiting, but he was so kind and spoke to everyone.

"I dared to ask
him: May I hug
you? "Well, I think
you *MUST* hug me",
was his answer."

We all were allowed to take a picture with him so I dared to ask him: May I hug you? "Well, I think you *MUST* hug me", was his answer. So I did — and will never forget that night.

Thank you Johnny!

- Sabine Kaczynski



I was very glad to see Johnny Marr in Stockholm for the first time (although I've seen him in concert before). It was so kind of him to choose Sweden as one of the countries to promote his new album in.

So exciting to hear new music from "Call The Comet", but also a pleasure to watch him perform his old fantastic hits, songs from the very first albums, and famous The Smiths songs. The club Nalen in Stockholm itself was a perfect choice for an intimate and small gig. I made a few totes and tees with "Call The Comet" reflex letters as a gratitude gesture for his and the bands' great performance. You're always welcome back to Sweden!

- Olga Zaitseva



My husband Guy and I attended the 4 Texas shows, along with the VIP meet and greets. We can not express how incredible it was to meet Johnny. It was such a pleasure to talk to him, he has such a gentle way you immediately feel at ease in his company.

At the last show in Houston we brought our son Liam. It warms my heart to recall how amazing Johnny was with Liam. Johnny's kindness and thoughtfulness will never be forgotten and his actions truly meant the world to us. We wish only the very best for him and hope it won't be to long till the next time! Day in day out, coming this time around and hit the heart of me...

- Johanne & Guy Brader



Jack, Johnny & Liam
Detroit 19'

Hi Hello, Detroit! 2019

The Detroit show on May 11th 2019 at the St. Andrew's Hall was really special to me because I had my first plane ride to get to the show and I went to the Motown Museum and saw Johnny there.

He was wearing a cool black hat so when my Mom said I could pick something out at the Motown Museum gift shop I found a black beanie hat that sort of looked like Johnny's. I wore it the whole day and never took it off. I even wore it to the show. I'm pretty sure I looked good in it. Later at the show Johnny gave me a shout out and that was cool.

- Liam Brader



“He talked at length about hair styles, art, guitar, hair colors, and shoes. He exclaimed, “are those purple Weavers?”, when he saw my Clarks shoes.”

My wife and I went to see Johnny Marr for our 3rd Wedding Anniversary in San Antonio, Texas at the Paper Tiger on Monday October 8, 2018. We were luckily able to get tickets to the meet and greet before the show.

My wife Rebecca is a hair dresser, and we found out Johnny has a love and respect for hair dressers. We talked about the beehive he wore in the 80s and why he styled his hair that way. A love of 60s girl groups! He talked at length about hair styles, art, guitar, hair colors, and shoes. He exclaimed, “are those purple Weavers?”, when he saw my Clarks shoes. He gave us a signed poster and a guitar pick and was genuinely interested in all of the fans that he met.



Stephen, Rebecca & Johnny

The rest of the show was a fantastic blur, with Johnny playing his signature Jaguar at volume! Everyone was feeling the love!

- Stephen Mattix

“The thing about experiencing a Johnny Marr show is that it spoils you for seeing anything else. Especially in a club show like the House of Blues where you can get up close. *Every other band I’ve seen since then has not quite measured up to that show.*”

JANE FUJIMOTO

MISSION VELOCITY | 2020





Johnny showing off a fantastic pyrographic portrait of himself by fan and artist Jason Oliver in Stockholm, 2018.

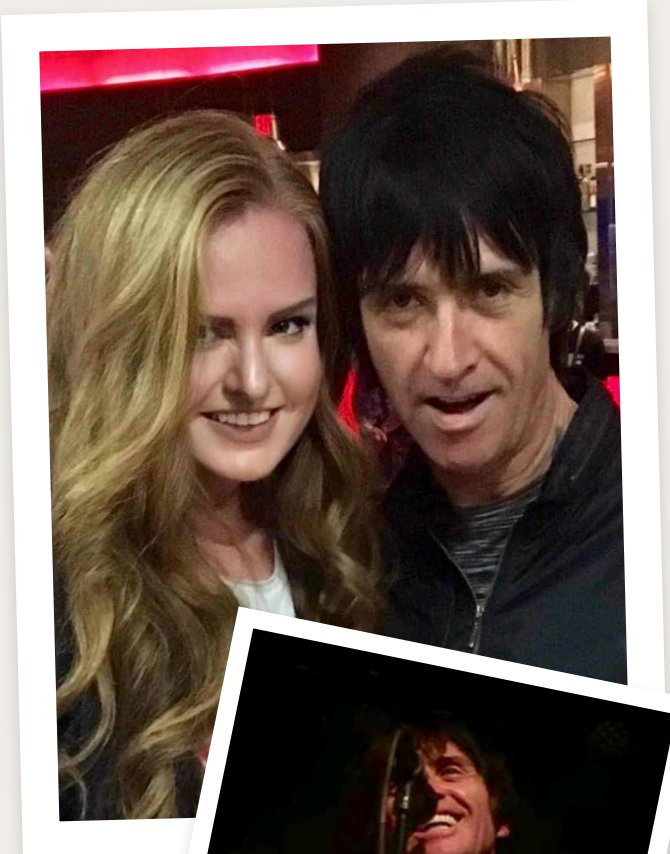
It has been said that it is never a good idea to meet one's idol, but the person who penned that phrase never met Johnny Marr. I first heard the genius riffs of Mr. Marr as a high school girl, living in a tiny Idaho farming community. Much to their dismay, British exchange students hoping for an "American experience" had landed at our little school. Late

"At 46, I met my guitar hero, my fashion icon, my idol. He was charming, gorgeous and in three minutes made me feel like I was the only person on the planet."

one night we were riding in a car with about ten kids shoved in, a guy from Birmingham played a "Louder Than Bombs" cassette, my mind was blown. I have listened to that album, and the others, every day of life since that night in 1987. Electronic, the The, the Cribs, Modest Mouse, are all a huge part of my life.

At 46, I met my guitar hero, my fashion icon, my idol. He was charming, gorgeous and in three minutes made me feel like I was the only person on the planet. I received three hugs and Mr. Marr said twice that I smelled great and asked what I was wearing. Prada Candy. I will never wear another fragrance again. His show at the Tempe Marquee was major, meeting Johnny Marr, SUBLIME.

- Christine Daniels



Spirits were high in Austin, Texas

ATHENS, GA, USA

40 WATT CLUB, 13TH OCTOBER 2018

I've seen JM many times in concert but this was my first chance to do the VIP experience and meet him.

I flew from Toronto to Georgia for the Athens show in mid October at the legendary 40 Watt Club. I was going with some friends who live outside of Atlanta who'd never seen him live before, so we were all really excited. It was also my first time seeing a show at the 40 Watt Club so there was this extra energy in the air — knowing the legendary status of that venue and the bands that started out there.

“Just as JM wrote in his essay in the Guardian, playing guitar means everything to me — and that moment was inspiring and energizing.”

The event begins and we are hanging out by the bar waiting in line and taking in all the amazing photos on the wall. My two friends and I then get called in and we meet and chat with JM. The guy is so charming and engaging. I'd seen him in Toronto at a tiny venue earlier in the year during the Call The Comet album launch tour. We chatted about the Velvet Underground and it's crazy low ceilings.

Casual and cool. It was a blast.

This is the part I'll never ever forget.

I'm a guitarist and musician — and meeting JM was a thrill of a lifetime. I've carried a JM guitar pick in my wallet for years and had one with me from his Playland tour. It's a red Johnny Fuckin' Marr pick and it has a chip out of it — having gotten pressed into service at a late night jam session a few years ago, it helped power an amazing night of music and playing.

I told JM this story and asked if he'd initial it for me. He says, “Here mate, I can do better than that. Have one of mine.” He reaches into a pocket and pulls out one of his and hands it to me. Fucking hell.

Just as JM wrote in his essay in the Guardian, playing guitar means everything to me — and that moment was inspiring and energizing.

When I got back to Toronto, I framed the signed VIP poster along with both picks (my old red one and the one JM gave me). The picture is in my studio and on those days when I'm fumbling around for inspiration it never fails to energize me.

Johnny Fuckin Marr. Just a perfect night. Oh, and the show at the 40 Watt was bloody spectacular. My friends were blown away. Thanks JM - you're the best.

- Dave Hall



PHOTOS BY DAVE KAPLE
ONTARIO, CANADA | 2018

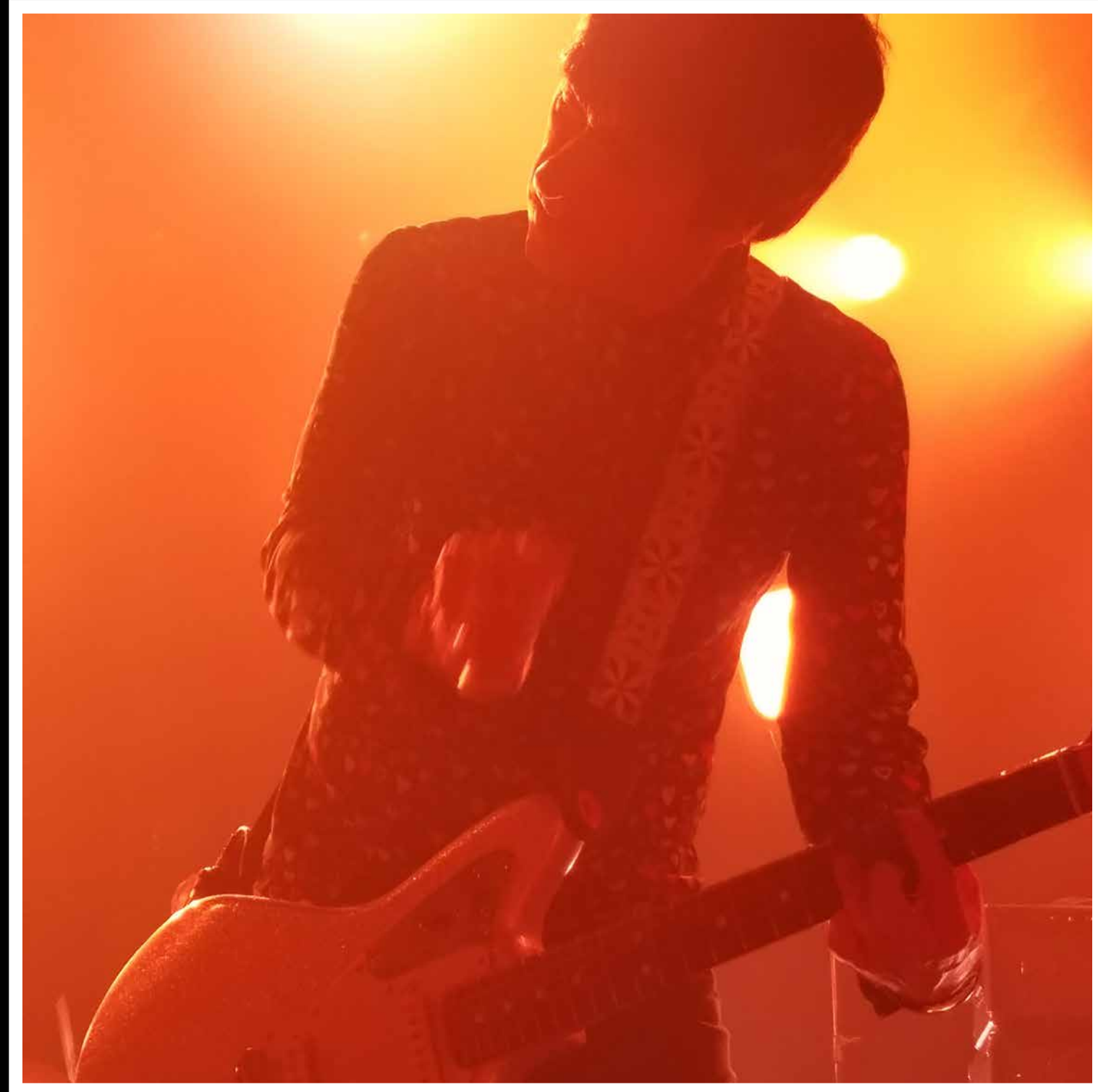


PHOTO BY DENISE DENEZZA
NEW YORK, USA | 2018

A new sense of confidence, swagger and charisma exuded from Johnny and just increased as the concerts progressed and gained steam on both nights. Not that he didn't possess those traits before; *they just seemed to be markedly amplified and much more prevalent during these performances.*

GABE ECHABAZAL
LOS ANGELES GIG REVIEWS FOR *DYNAMIC* | 2018

NEW YORK, NY, USA

IRVING PLAZA, 15TH OCTOBER 2018

The Inner Child

I used to despise rainy nights. Walking in the pouring rain at night, especially without an umbrella, would always dampen my spirits ever since I was a kid. However, the night of October 15th, 2018, after Johnny's show at IRVING PLAZA in Manhattan, transformed that sentiment. It was that month that - echoing Lennon's words- my life has changed in all so many ways. After 25 years of marriage, my wife and I chose to part ways and divorce.

“The concert was like a dose of oxygen. It was like a redemption ceremony for my wounded soul, guided and channelled by my true idol ever since I was 16.”

But wait. A pivotal flashback to 1986 is essential here. 1986 was the year my love affair with The Smiths began, and also it was the year I moved with my family from the small country of Israel to the Big Apple NYC. I was 16 back then and pretty lonely, and music was my sanctuary and comfort. The Smiths songs in particular.

I guess it was the guitar riff of “*This Charming Man*” that hooked me on Johnny's trademark unique guitar playing (and back then it was the coolest thing I heard), and I can still remember the excitement of hearing for the first time his intensive high energy strumming in “*Bigmouth Strikes Again*” and the addictive hypnotizing effect he used on “*How Soon is Now*”. I immediately became a fan and every time someone mentioned the Smiths in a conversation and raved about Morrissey, I was the one that always shined a spotlight on Marr's genius as a composer and guitar player. Being an artist myself, I was inspired (to this day) by his artistic persona.

We lived in Bleecker street, Greenwich village, just a five minute walk from Tower Records. That place became my haven. The euphoria of the release of “*The Queen is Dead*” that same year remains unforgettable, with me among the passionate fans lining up. 1986 was indeed a defining chapter in the black box of my personality, but a year later, our family headed back to Israel.

Fast forward to October 2018, I'm 47 and I find myself in Manhattan, anticipating Johnny's performance at Irving Plaza near Union Square. Tucked in my backpack is his freshly-purchased biography I just got a few hours ago. It was the first time I was going to see him live and man, I needed that show as therapy and balm to my aching heart from the whole divorce procedure I was going through.

OPPOSITE PHOTO: DENISE DENEZZA (NEW YORK CITY, USA, 2018)



The concert was like a dose of oxygen. It was like a redemption ceremony for my wounded soul, guided and channelled by my true idol ever since I was 16. I loved the mix of The Smiths and solo songs and I was so happy he played “*New Town Velocity*” (my fav). It starts with the line “*left home, a mystery*”: and even though it's a song about a young man leaving home to pursue his dreams in another city (that's my take on it) it felt associated with my life that moment. When he reached the chorus he sang - “*it turned out like I said it would be, can I get the world round here*” and those lyrics were like a boost of inspiration for me. When he sang “*good times for a change*” (from “Please Please Please Let Me Get What I Want”, my favorite Smiths ballad), tears started running down my cheeks. I mean heavy thick drops of tears. Man, I was yearning for those good times already. Divorce is such a grown-up move, but in my heart I felt the vulnerabilities and wonder of that lonely teenager that lived in NY 30 years ago and played that song on repeat.

After the show as I exited the venue, rain began to fall heavily. I mean heavy thick drops of rain. Despite the lack of an umbrella, I just walked through the pouring rain, just a five minute walk from Bleecker Street where I used to live back in 1986, just a ten minute walk from Tower Records (RIP). I JUST FELT REBORN.

As I walked soaking wet, I smiled to myself thinking about the profound title Johnny chose for his book: “*Set the Boy Free*”. What a wonderful feeling it was to feel free at last.

Happy 60th, Johnny. Continue to inspire, create, and awaken our inner child.

- *Edan Atterman*

SILVER SPRING, MD, USA

THE FILLMORE, 17TH OCTOBER 2018

“Yeah, it’s epic.” Johnny Marr says to me when I mention “Walk Into the Sea” is my favorite song. Coming from anyone else it would smack with a hint of hubris, but coming from Johnny, there is no way to disagree with him; it is exactly as he said, epic. As epic as meeting him on your birthday.

Johnny is an immensely likeable fellow. There’s a genuine friendly and welcoming feeling about him that puts you instantly at ease in his company as if you’re greeting a friend instead of a man you’ve venerated for 30 years. My first contact with him isn’t through words or a handshake; I walk over and hug him. It may have been a bold move on my part but I’m

rewarded with a warm embrace by a man who has no idea who I am, or so I thought. As I introduce myself, I’m greeted by “I know who you are. I recognize you. We have the same initials, yours are just backwards.”

“On a personal level, that little piece of plastic is the most valuable thing I’ve ever held, and I clench my fist around it like it’s the Hope Diamond.”

I hand Johnny the inserts from his three solo CDs and the manual from my JM Jag, and we chat as he signs them. When I tell him it’s my birthday and he’s my gift, he places his arm around me in a playful manner and we pose for a couple of photos before he reaches into his pocket and presses a coveted black pick into my hand. On a personal level, that little piece of plastic is the most valuable thing I’ve ever held, and I clench my fist around it like it’s the Hope Diamond. When I tell him, I’m going to Manchester to see him on his home turf, he appears genuinely pleased. We chat for a bit before I’m given another warm hug and a kiss on my head, I look at him one more time before leaving because I can’t quite convince myself that what just happened wasn’t some fangirl fantasy I made up in my head.

“Happy Birthday. See you in Manchester,” he says.

As I stand by the front of the stage waiting for the show, my boyfriend disappears, returning a few minutes later with a Call the Comet t-shirt he purchased at the merch table.

“Happy Birthday,” he says, handing me the shirt.

I slip it over my head, grinning at him as I reply, “it’s been epic.”



- MJ Zander



PHOTO BY GREGORY J KING
DALLAS, USA | 2018

Johnny Marr has always been a staple in my mixtapes. From The Smiths through Electronic, The The and Modest Mouse, Johnny's irreplaceable sound has been with me through it all. Falling in love, heartbreak, and the best road trips of my life. It is an absolute privilege to witness him live. The way he conducts himself on stage and off, often engaging with his fans with true sincerity is inspiring. *Here's to a guy who never forgot what it's like to be a true music fan.*

WILL HAMILTON
CALL THE COMET TOUR BOOK | 2018

“He wanted to get to know me in 2 minutes. Like the best speed date ever.”

I met Johnny on October 17th before his gig in Silver Spring, Maryland, USA. He was the sweetest guy and was happy to see a 21 year old being the first in line at a VIP meet and greet. He changed my life forever and I thanked him for being an inspiration both in music and in fashion.

He wanted to get to know me in 2 minutes. Like the best speed date ever. He actually recognized my Instagram as I posted a video of me doing a guitar cover of “You Just Haven’t Earned It Yet Baby”.

He said, “hey man! You’re great. Keep it up.”

I can’t wait to see him again and to hopefully see him on the road as a fellow musician, as I just started a band thanks to him.



- Andrew Koh



I’m a fairly recent but fast fan of Johnny’s, having discovered his music, read his autobiography, and seen the preview show for Call the Comet all this year. I was excited to purchase the VIP pass to meet him in Brooklyn, but also a bit nervous.

I’m a teacher, and teaching and education are such huge passions of mine and a big part of my identity. Having read his autobiography, I knew that he didn’t have the best experience at school. So, knowing I was meeting someone who writes about leaving school for poetry and giving up education as a bad mistake, I had this serious trepidation that he would associate me with “hideous ghouls” and maybe not think much of what I did. But he was really sweet and encouraging, and he reiterated the story from his autobiography about the teacher who had told him he should be an artist and told me what a big impact that small moment had on his life. I walked away feeling really positive and inspired. The concert itself was so full of energy and joy; it was absolute perfection. Thank you, Johnny, for an amazing experience!

- Sarah Michaelson

TORONTO, ON, CANADA

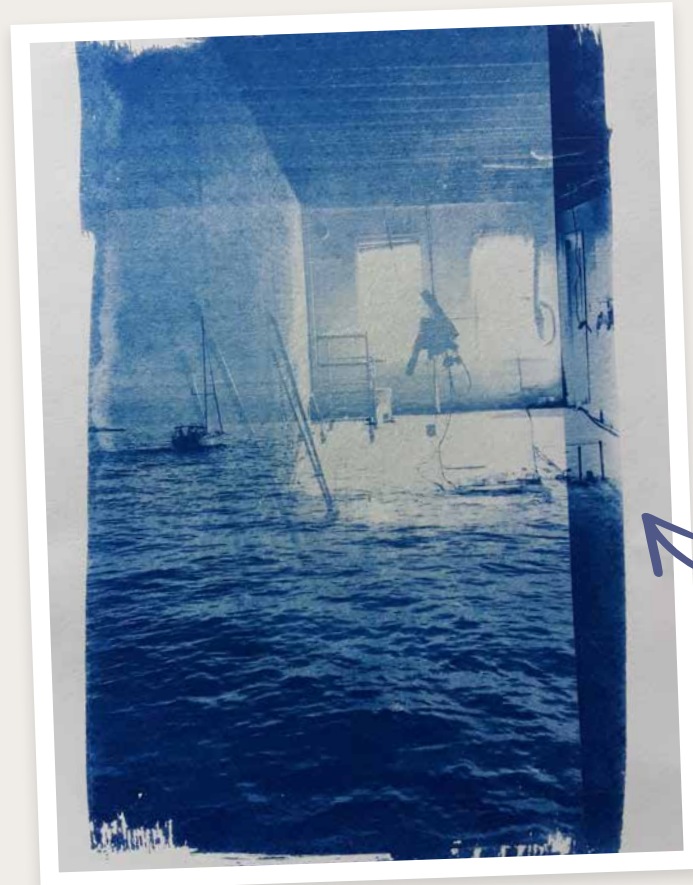
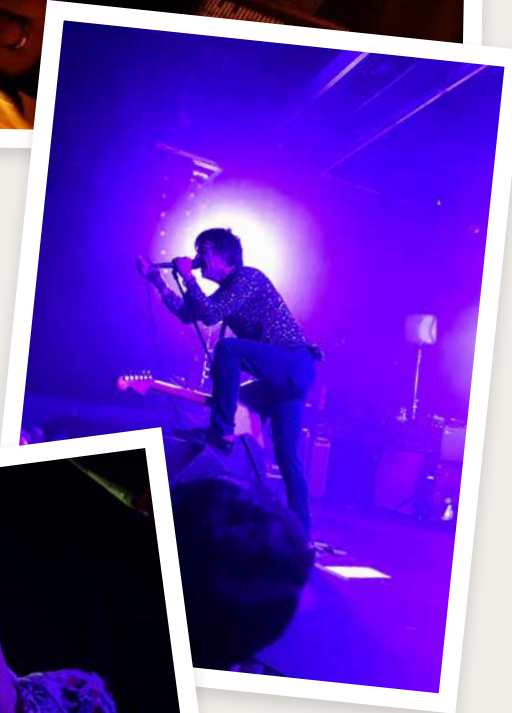
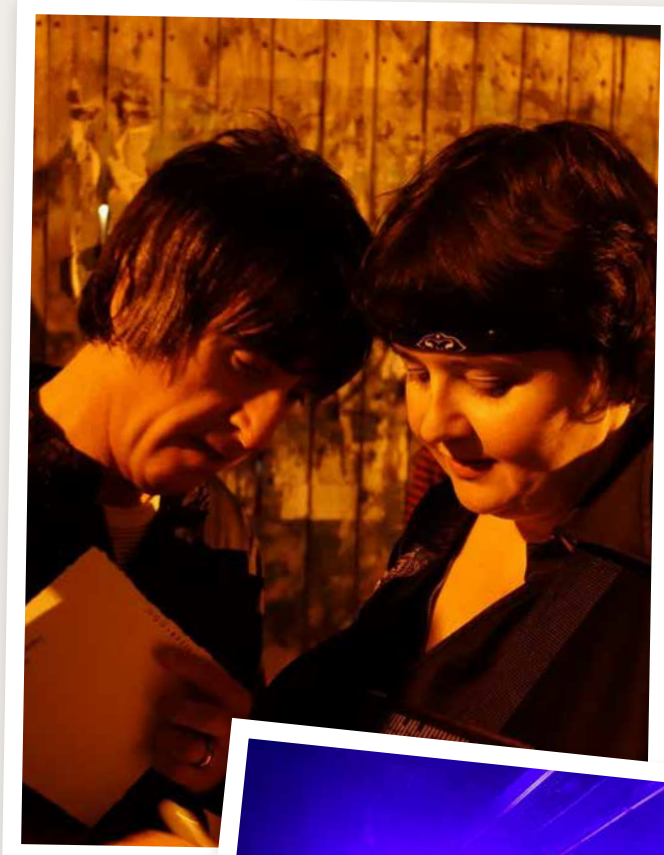
THE PHOENIX CONCERT THEATRE, 19TH OCTOBER 2018

All the time prior to the show I spent in great internal debates — “am I going to meet Johnny? If yes, should I bring the book for him to sign? Should I make him something as art-exchange? ...Am I really going to meet Johnny?” At first I felt stupid bringing a book to a concert, until my friend showed up with her copy of the book, and then, suddenly, there is

like a book club standing in line for the doors to open! I did end up meeting Johnny, and I was able to give him one of my tiny artworks as he signed the book. I felt very connected to the universe at that moment. As we parted, he stretched out his hand for a handshake, but I stepped in closer for an embrace. With a smile he said in the end, “Oh, I’m not worthy”, and I just smiled back, overwhelmed with all kinds of emotions. I kept the smile on all through my bike ride home, and it kept me warm.

— Natalia Tcherniak

“I felt very connected to the universe at that moment.”



Natalia's gorgeous cyanotype print, inspired by Walk into the Sea



“With Call the Comet, Johnny did something he hasn’t done before — he musically reflected his emotions about the world. It shows in his music and in his more poetic, sometimes enigmatic lyrics — *they leave you to fill in the blanks instead of feeding you all the answers.*”

MARIA MELI
TORONTO GIG REVIEW FOR DYNAMIC | 2018

VANCOUVER, BC, CANADA

VOUGE THEATRE, 20TH SEPTEMBER 2018

Vancouver time was an experience that surpassed my wildest fangirl dreams. My sister and I (both Smiths fans since around 1985, when I was 13) got the VIP package, and we went to the venue early to check in. After we got our lanyards, we were standing on the street outside deciding how to pass the hour till the meet and greet was meant to start. I was facing the venue, and as we were talking I saw Johnny through the glass doors, just walking around in the lobby. I couldn't even believe my eyes, and I said to my sister, "He's right there." She went, "What?"

I pointed toward the door and said again, "Johnny. He's RIGHT THERE." As I was pointing, he then looked up, saw us, gave a big wave and then, big smile on his face, that gesture where people put their hand up to their face, thumb on nose and palm open, and waggled his fingers, all silly-like. We both started to kind of lose it a bit because HE SAW AND ACKNOWLEDGED US and with a funny face and all, and then as though that weren't already enough, he walked over to the door, stuck his head out and said,

"Hey girls."

It was like this crazy dream--Johnny Marr voluntarily coming out to the street just to talk to us! I had my hand on my heart, heart pounding and just shaking in total awe and humility, with him a few feet away. He looked straight at me and smiled a big smile--I was a deer in the headlights, like I was looking at god himself. He then stepped right out and came over and stood and chatted with us for quite a while about all kinds of things--at least 5 min, maybe longer, hard to tell because I was in an altered state. We had no phones out, and it felt just right that way, so no photos from this (esp since we were going to the meet and greet so I figured photos could come later). He stood up close with us, a little tight circle of 3 on the

street, and asked us a bunch of questions, wanted to make sure we had tickets for the show (<3), asked if we'd traveled far to see him, etc. He was so kind and genuine, and seemed truly interested in what we were up to. "Why are you here so early?" he asked, and I told him honestly, "I'd have come at 8 am if it were up to me!" He seemed to like that answer. :) When he went back in, he said, "I'd invite you in but I have to sign a bunch of stuff." As he was saying this and saying goodbye, he had his left hand on my right elbow and all I could think was that the hand that wrote How Soon is Now was holding my elbow and I don't know how I didn't just melt into a complete puddle right then and there.

So then my sister and I tried to be normal people for an hour until the formal meet and greet, but we were completely gobsmacked and just felt so grateful to him for caring about his fans enough to voluntarily come out and chat. No one else would have done that, I don't think.

The M&G in Vancouver was small--only about a dozen of us (!). Johnny came in and spent a good hour with us all, giving everyone individual time as well as chatting in small groups. He remembered our names from outside and made a little joke about how nice it was to see us again after so long. :) He asked us about our jobs, and I literally couldn't even remember what I do--after 5 false starts at explaining, he told me,

"It's ok. You can just tell me to mind my own business." I said, "No, it's fine--it's just that I've completely lost my grip on the English language right now." Big smile from him--he seems to really understand how it feels to meet your idol, to appreciate that, and knows how to help you through!

I surprised myself by then asking a coherent question (unplanned!) about Hi Hello--I thought I'd read that it was for Sonny, and listening to it this past week when my own 21-year old daughter had just moved from Canada to London, it makes me cry every time. He said (and this part I remember vividly), "I don't usually explain my lyrics, BUT. This one--yeah. It was the tune. The tune came out of me and it was so beautiful. I don't usually write songs about myself, but the tune came out and I felt it needed to be personal so I wrote it for my daughter. Also in London." We talked about the lyrics. There was a moment where he wanted to refer to specific lyrics, but couldn't remember them off the top of his head out of context. He started to play air guitar, looked up at the ceiling and half-sung the song till he got to the part he wanted to reference. OMG. "And I'll find you when the lights are blinding and you can't get home... Talking to her on Skype and all." And I was all, "Yes! And the heart beat part!" He nodded enthusiastically, "Yeah!" "I just cry and cry listening to this." He said, "Try not to cry tonight! Then I'll start crying, and Doviak, he's a cryer, he'll start crying, we'll all be crying...and then I'll play How Soon is Now." "We'll all be finished," I agreed. "I'll try not to cry." Then I said, "But it is breaking my heart." And then I said something else about the song, and he said, "It's yours. Have it." And when he signed my poster he signed it Hi Hello. <3 He gave us tons of hugs (dear lord)--not just man tap-tap hugs, but real hugs, lol. I can still feel it, even the feeling of the fabric of his bomber jacket against the floral shirt underneath. I don't know how I kept breathing through it, except to say that he is just so amazing about putting you at ease--it's like he knows this is intense for us, and he just takes all the responsibility for the conversation and for keeping the whole thing on track.



And the shows themselves...stunning. He just so clearly loves to play. His guitar is an extension of his body. When he plays solo you can see him drift away--his head goes up, face to the sky, eyes close, and he gets this blissed-out, dream look. Captivating. His smile when he hears the crowd singing along...how can you look at that and not melt? Constant energy and movement, 100% commitment to what he's doing.

With all that he has contributed, you'd think he'd have a big ego, but he is the most down to earth, sweetest, humblest person. I feel so lucky to have had some time in his presence, a little connection over a song, a few minutes being touched by the hands that wrote all those songs and have played those guitars... It will be a long time before I can fully express what it meant to me to meet him and to hear him live again. (I'd seen him live once before, in 2013.) Maybe I'll never be able to express it. I'm just so grateful that he's here and that he's doing what he does; to say his songs have saved my life is an understatement.

- Alisa Harrison



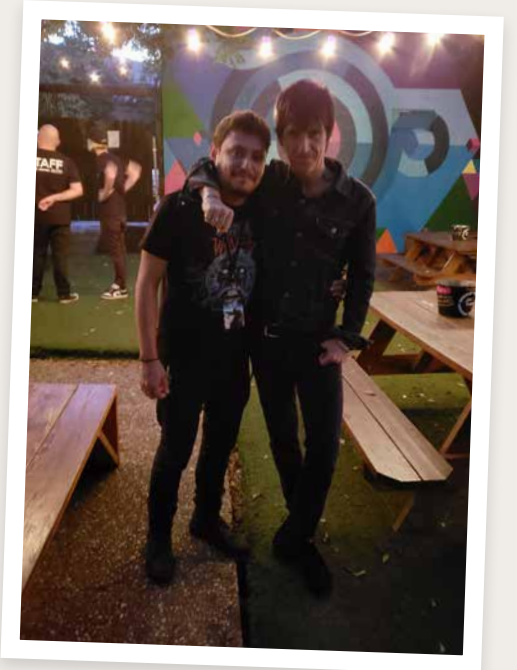
I had listened to Call the Comet, which in my opinion is Johnny's best yet, religiously for months and was super excited to hear the tracks live. And to add to that, I had bought passes for Johnny's Meet and Greet, so I was bursting at the seams in anticipation. Even though I was stuck in traffic for almost 2 hours and was the next to last to arrive for the Meet and Greet, it was a brilliant evening. My husband and I made new friends while waiting in line and when it got to our turn, we were graciously greeted by Johnny. After some photo ops, we engaged in fun conversation and exchanged a lot of laughs. But most importantly, I got to tell Johnny how much his music meant to me and it was a priceless moment as Johnny looked genuinely touched. The evening finished off with another phenomenal sounding show featuring a brilliant set list including a unique performance of New Dominions and some beloved classics like Last Night I Dreamt that Somebody Loved Me and You Just Haven't Earned It Yet Baby. Being close to the front row, I was in awe of Johnny's guitar wizardry and how effortless he makes it all look.

- Anhtu Lu

It was already panning out to be an amazing day, my wife and I had VIP tickets for Johnny Marr's Austin show (10/10/2018) and we got the Meet and Greet package. For months I thought about what I'd say

“I look down at his guitar, and then he quite literally teaches me how to play *There is a Light that Never Goes Out*, giving the final piece of a puzzle I had been struggling with for over a decade.”

to him, my favorite guitarist of all time, about how much I respect him and his artistry, how much I love his music, what his songs mean to me... I didn't quite think about what he, Johnny Marr, would say or do, and if I had done, I could have never guessed it. During the meet and greet, I mentioned how I could never quite nail the ending of “There is a Light...”, he laughed it off and said it was a tricky one, that maybe I was doing my own thing, “You'll get there, mate”. Fast forward to the show nearly ending, he's playing that song, the song we put on our wedding invitations and my wife has a tattoo of... It is about to end when Johnny Fucking Marr walks from the other side of the stage, plants himself in front of me, looks me straight in the eye, smiles his wicked smile and nods... in pure disbelief, I look down at his guitar, and then he quite literally teaches me how to play *There is a Light that Never Goes Out*, giving the final piece of a puzzle I had been struggling with for over a decade and, in a matter of seconds, one of the best days of my life... And, yes, I can completely play it now. As the man himself says, it is all in the right hand.

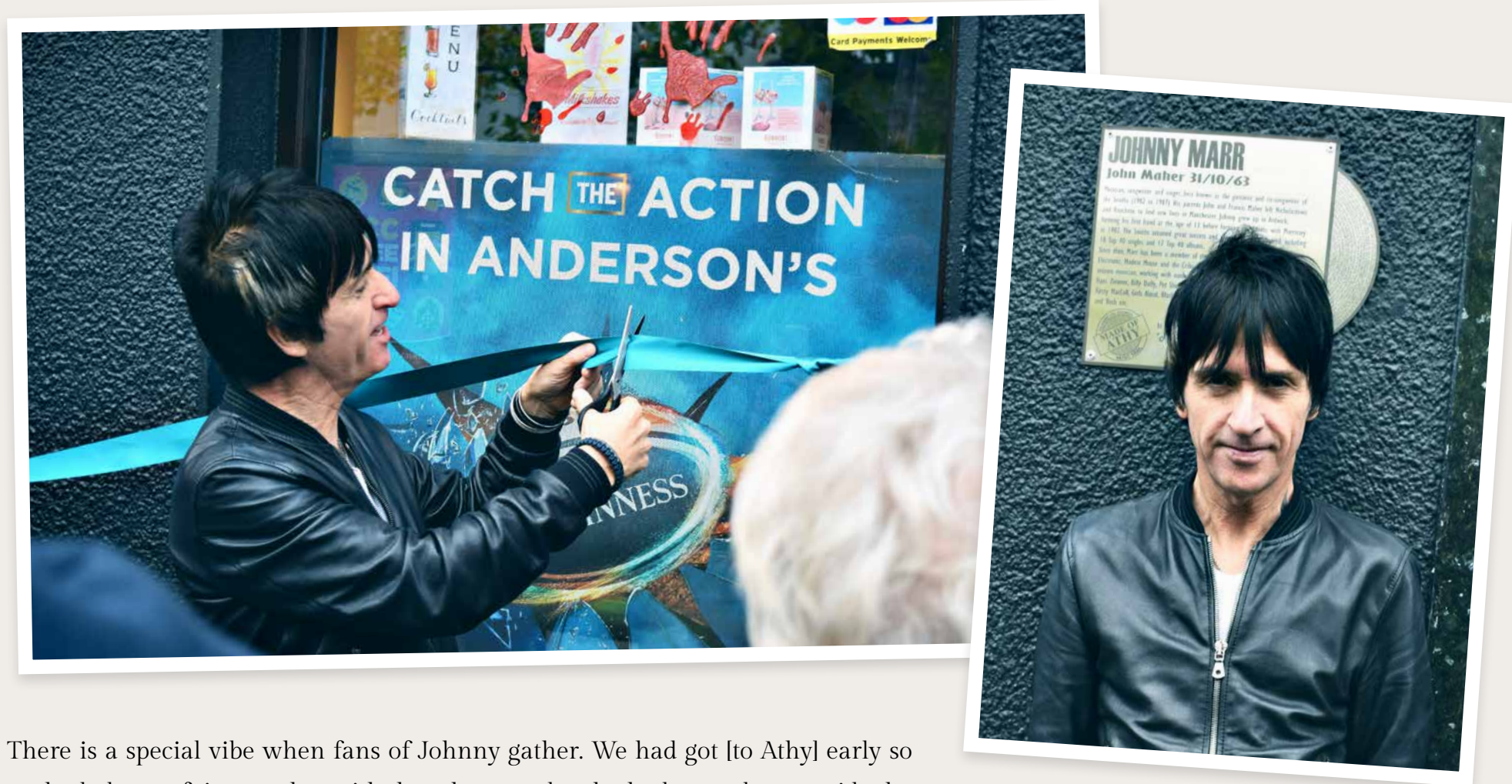


- Andrew Martinez

OPPOSITE PHOTO: DAVE KAPLE (LONDON, ON, CANADA, 2018)

ATHY, IRELAND

JOHNNY MARR 'MADE IN ATHY' PLAQUE UNVEILING, 2ND NOVEMBER 2018



There is a special vibe when fans of Johnny gather. We had got [to Athy] early so we had plenty of time to chat with the other people who had turned up outside the local pub. It was an unusual mix of edgy, cool people, dressed up for Johnny, local Athy people who would have known Johnny's parents before they emigrated, and ordinary jeans and T-Shirt fans, like me. We all chatted away, all there to see the boy come home. Being a member of the Johnny Marrvelous Facebook page, I recognised Aly and Ory, who had made the trip down from the Belfast concert that morning and they gave me a gift of a Johnny Marr button.

I got to see first-hand how patient, how accommodating and how personable he is. Every single person there came away with a story of what a lovely man Johnny Marr is, what a credit he is to his parents. He accommodated everyone. I followed him through the event, using my phone to video his aunt introducing him to second cousins, her neighbours, a band from Dublin giving him their CD, giving advice to small cousins on playing the guitar, an old boy on the side of the street who happened to be walking past and who came up to say hello. He gave every single one of us his time.

- Gail Tangney

OPPOSITE PHOTO: ILZE FREY (CARDIFF, UK, 2018)



GLASGOW, SCOTLAND

BARROWLAND BALLROOM, 15TH NOVEMBER 2018

As someone who initially struggled with the premiss of being able to “buy an experience”, I wanted to show the upswing of the VIP process, as without it this couldn’t have happened... Barrowlands Glasgow, 15/11/18 and I was able accompany my daughter to meet Johnny, I was able to get permission from the American company responsible for the offer, who understood I needed to help my kid as she has a complex set of additional support needs (she hates the “D” word - her preference at home is to call her unique). Aged 17, she tips the tape measure at 4’7”, with associated, learning, emotional and processing complications. Despite knowing everything is harder for each day of her 17 years, the world seems keen to remind her of her difference and what she can’t do each and every day and often. However from the

“Johnny stands back weighs up what he sees and replies *“You know it’s a fact...us little ones are definitely coolest.”*”

moment we entered the room Johnny filled her with confidence, from shadow boxing to telling her to pose like they were in a band together, it was indeed Marrvellous. First line: “Hey my friend what’s your name...and how old are you?” She replies and says “I am 17”. Johnny stands back weighs up what he sees and replies “you know it’s a fact...us little ones are definitely coolest.”

They then went on to chat about guitars being cooler than drums, and an interaction when she told Johnny he stuck his tongue out at her at a previous show, and of course football (Johnny playing along that he now supports Raith Rovers). It’s not only in the moment that we find joy, since the meet I have seen a little burst of confidence, a bit more questioning, a bit of attitude that wasn’t there and a bit more feisty, all welcome additions.

Fast forward to the (inevitable) next “episode” of being singled out, ridiculed or questioned at school or in the community, and she has rehearsed that I’m not going to need to rescue her, as “next time” her tears wont be there. I asked her why not...“Well, Johnny Marr thinks I am cool”.

Over a 10 year period volunteering to do the media interviews for my local football team, I have interviewed 100 plus football players, managers, musicians, singers, authors, actors and politicians including a prime minister. I just don’t do nerves meeting people, however I was star struck, meeting someone whose music has echoed through my life for so many years meant that much. It’s tough being a parent who has to always champion, explain and at times restrain my inner “Jim Watt” from being more direct when people chose to forget this unique kid



that they think is fair game to single out is everything to us. My own lasting memory will be getting told told “you’re doing great, look after her”. Thanks Johnny; it meant as much as any melody, riff or solo.

A wee funny offshoot is that 2 days later we had to head to the guitar shop before the Rovers match to buy light gauge strings and a capo, as Johnny said they will be easier to play on the guitar that hasn’t been touched for 10 years. It wasn’t touched as she “would never be able to play it, you know because of my issues...” but since that night in Glasgow she has been trying most nights, and that is all I ever ask of her. In the midst of her love of trashy pop and my connection to what kids thinks of as “weird garage punk”, we have a common musical language, a little oasis populated by the songs and artists we mutually connect to, share and enjoy. That oasis has some music that will have permanent residence, and after our “experience” we headed to hear a show that showcased many of these songs.

Thank you Johnny Marr, just thank you. Thanks also to Aly and Ory too for badges and their company, you two widen our connection to the music. It’s not just a consumable for some of us, it’s an emotive, soaring entity that lifts us out of troublesome times and adds colour to the many good times.

- David & Molli Hancock

“You know why people gravitate to Johnny? Because he brings out the best in everyone. *My ultimate antidepressant, my favourite happy pill.*”

ILZE FREY
MISSION VELOCITY | 2020



PHOTO BY ILZE FREY
LONDON UK | 2019

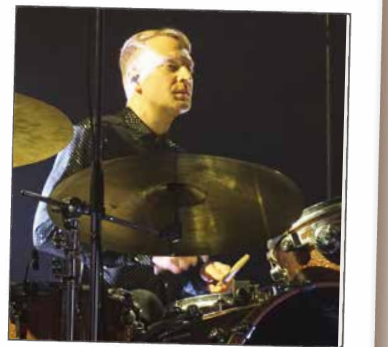
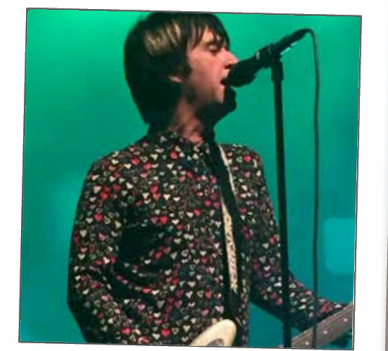
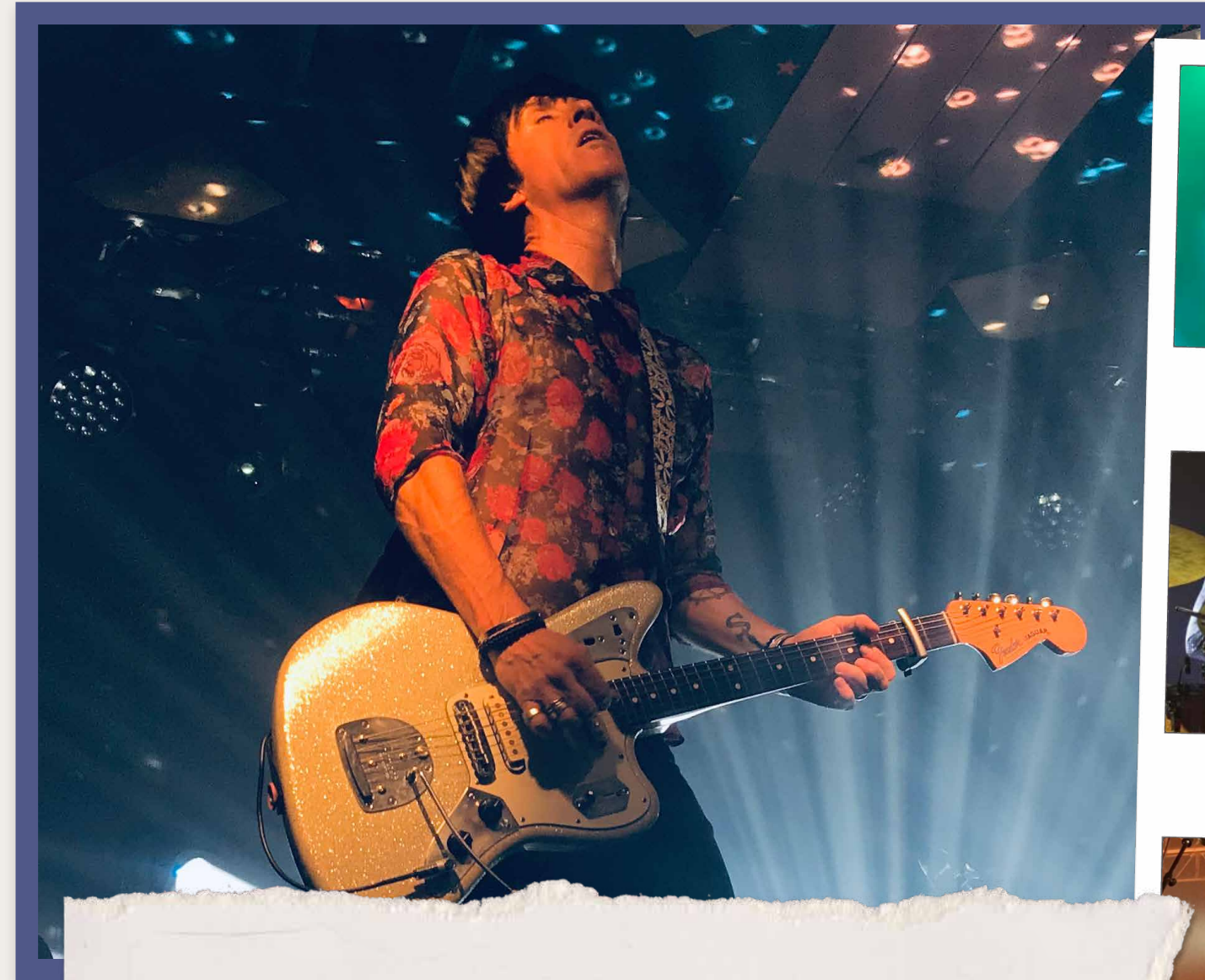
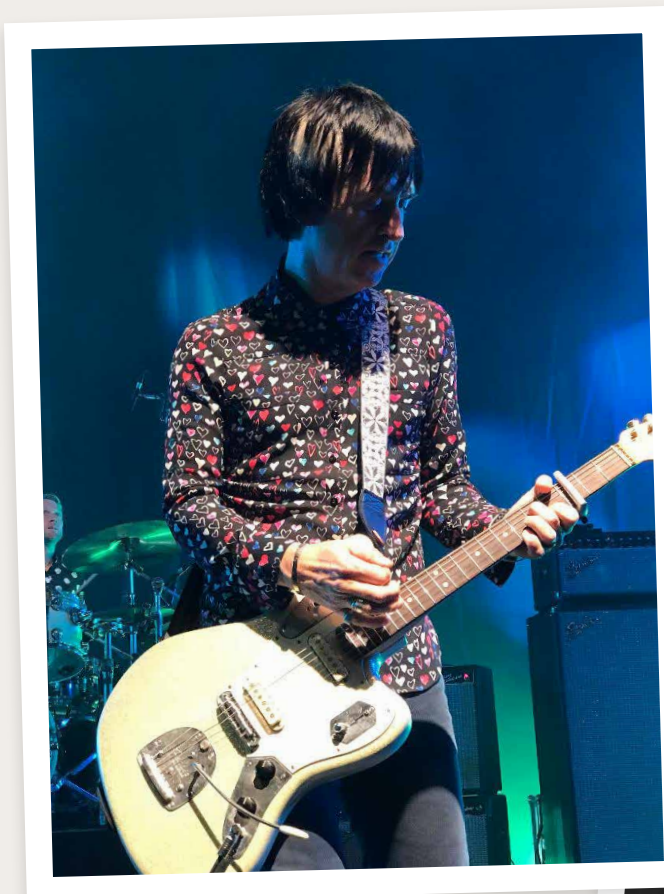
Chilling with the family is always a great way to spend a Saturday evening — but why stay at home when you can head into Liverpool to see Johnny Marr? It's a no-brainer!

First time for all three of us to experience the crazy atmosphere and the incredible vibe together: and absolutely nothing to complain about. Down the front, at the barrier and utterly mesmerised. Yep, like mother like daughter!

Did he recognise us, did he shoot Grace a smile? I like to think so ... and she's totally convinced he did.

He bowled her over, he lived up to my hype — so at the end of the evening it was a case of until the next time, because there will definitely be a next time.

- Alison Moore



No matter how brilliant a record is, the energy and visceral thrill of experiencing your favourite music live cannot be substituted. The two way, symbiotic exchange where the band enthuses the crowd and the crowd give that energy back ten-fold was so obvious that night.

- Jonny Hughes



I was particularly entranced on the recent tour by the track 'Walk Into The Sea' and just love watching Johnny's energetic playing live on stage with Doviak, Iwan and Jack. He has a great loyal following worldwide and I've befriended some wonderful people - Marmates - when going to his gigs.

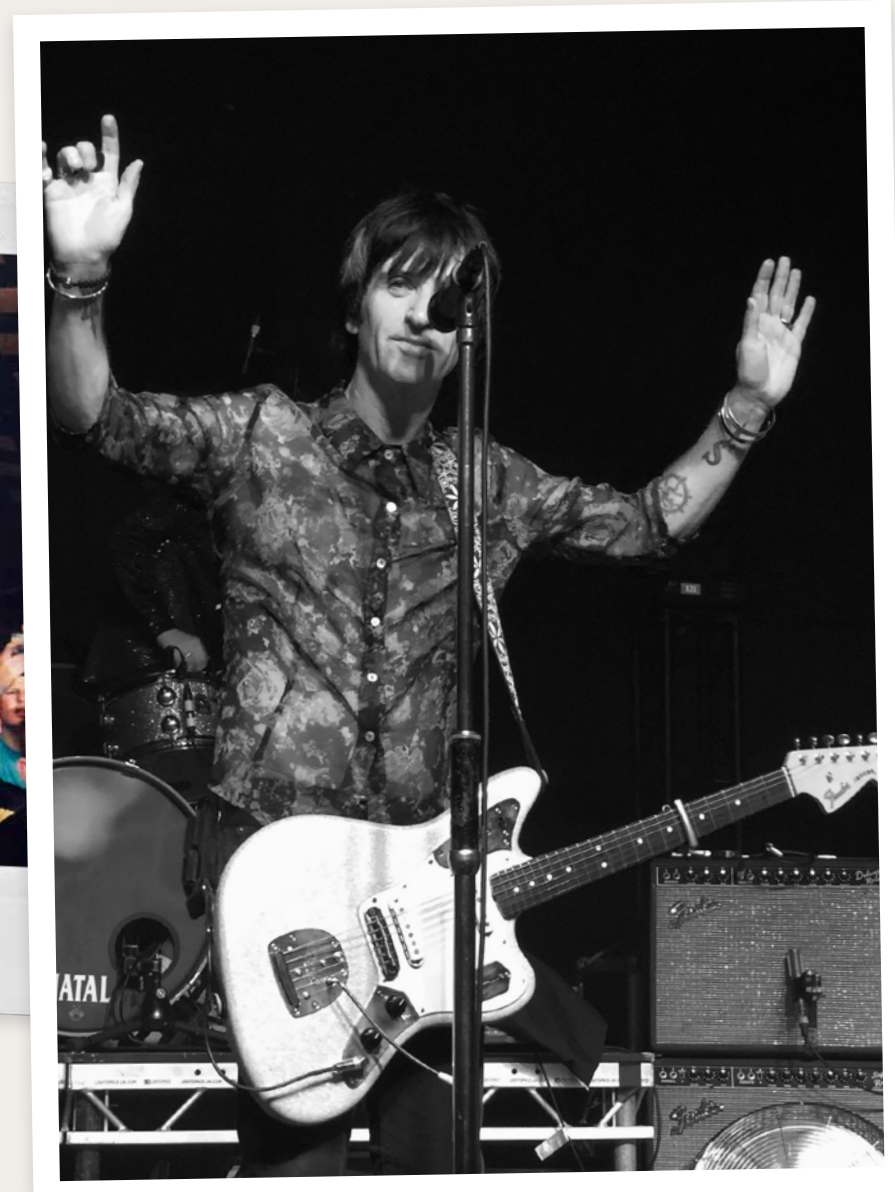
- Sue Ferro



Checking out one of original Call the Comet tour books, during downtime in Bath.



Glasgow Shook!



"Trial size" packages of Marrphine were distributed by a shady duo towards the end of the Call the Comet tour.



Presented with a custom Brazilian flag by Érica, and Fernanda, who travelled all the way from Sao Paolo for Johnny's Manchester show



A wonderful moment between Johnny & Érica



OPPOSITE PHOTO: ILZE FREY (LONDON, UK, 2019)

The show kind of changed my life. There was something so magical about having him right in front of me and how easy he made it look playing the guitar. It made me want to become a better version of myself and try to learn how to play the guitar again. I gave up alcohol during the week and have messed around with a friend's guitar a couple of times, and want to get my own now.

The atmosphere was great. The people were lovely and we all enjoyed it a lot. I left with a huge smile on my face and like I said, it has done something to me.

Can't wait for the next European tour and will definitely do a few shows then!

- *Jasmine Pirker*
MUNICH, 2018



Johnny Marr's show in Vienna was a celebration of old and new. From the ecstatic riffs of 'Bigmouth' to the shimmering soundscape of 'Walk into the sea'. Watching Johnny play and perform, leaves you with a huge smile on your face. Perhaps it's adrenaline (baby!), perhaps it's infectious from the big guy himself. I'm completely hooked!

- *Pieter Graf*



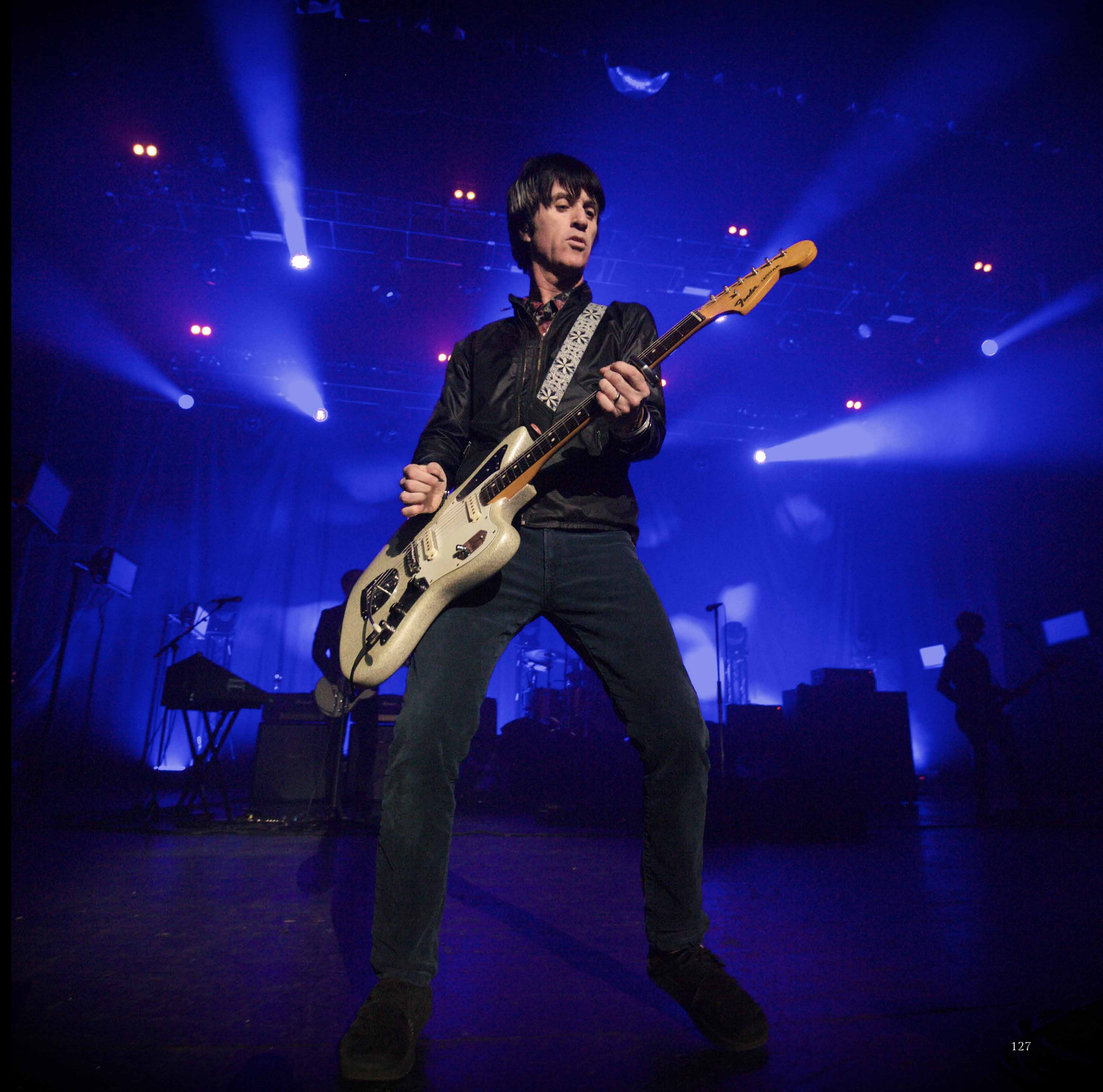
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“Here is a man at ease with himself. A man who can look his legacy square in the eye and feel neither overwhelmed or embarrassed. His recent work is never anything other than the equal of the things he is more widely renowned for. Which means he can relax and have fun with it all. *I found that a joyous thing to behold.*”

SEÁN FLEMING
DYNAMIC SPECIAL EDITION | 2018

OPPOSITE PHOTO: MARC MCGARRAGHY (MANCHESTER, UK, 2018)



CESENA, ITALY

ROCCA MALATESTIANA, 18TH JUNE 2019

It's not very often that Johnny sets foot on the Italian peninsula.

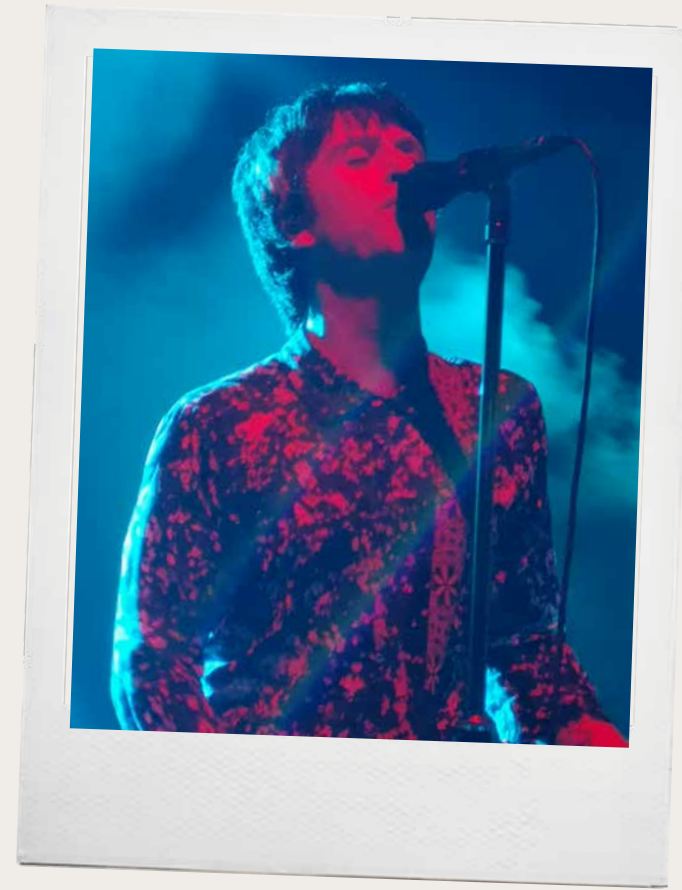
Therefore, when 2 concerts, only a day apart, were announced, I jumped at the opportunity. I disregarded the fact that the venues were going to be exceptionally difficult to reach on public transport from my home here in Southern Italy. However, as the saying goes, "Where there's a will, there's a way", and Johnny is always worth the effort and cost. Within a short time I had bought my tickets, organised trains and buses and booked hotels.

"The place was truly buzzing, and nobody wanted it to end. For many of the fans it was the first time they had seen them live, and they were left pretty speechless by the experience."

After a laborious journey, I arrived alone in Cesena, a picturesque little town in the pretty countryside of Emilia Romagna. The venue was spectacular. The concert was being held in the grounds of an ancient hilltop fortress. Prior to my arrival, I'd been contacted by some of Johnny's Italian fans who'd arranged to meet me there late afternoon. When I reached the place, Johnny and the band were halfway through their soundcheck, and were easily visible to the handful of folk who had gathered in the scorching Italian sunshine. It was so lovely to share the experience with my Facebook friends, some of whom I'd finally met in person for the first time.

As soon as the check was over, Iwan walked over to where I was standing, to fetch some water. I took the chance to say hello. Surprised to hear my Glaswegian accent, thousands of kilometres from Scotland, he struck up a conversation with me. During our chat, I was aware of someone standing nearby. I looked up to see Johnny beaming a big smile over at me. Straight away, he said, "Hey Linda. How are you doing?". We'd already met several times before, so we weren't strangers.

I was delighted to have another opportunity to talk to him face to face. I commented that I'd had a difficult journey to get there and that I was embarking on an adventure, the following day, to get to the next gig at Lake Garda. He joked "I'd better be good tonight then, eh? Otherwise, you'll be off back home!". Whilst chatting, he mentioned that he'd seen a comment I'd written on his Twitter page, requesting that he play "I feel you". It's one of my favourite covers and I'd never heard him perform it live. Incredibly, he'd taken note, and was including it in his set that evening. In fact, he played it again, 2 nights later, at the Gardone Riviera gig. Needless to say,



*Johnny & Linda
enjoying the sun in Cesena*

it sounded immense on both occasions and was better than I had ever imagined it would be. I was so grateful that he had remembered. Our conversation lasted about 5 minutes, after which Johnny excused himself as he had to get changed and ready for the event ahead.

As the sun set, the location took on an amazing and intimate atmosphere. The fortress glowed a golden red, as the sky behind the stage turned into a deep cobalt blue backdrop. The grassy area quickly filled up with excited fans who had come from far and wide. Many of us recognised each other from the "Johnny Marrvellous" group. It was just like meeting up at the barrier with old friends, and it made the moment even more special and memorable.

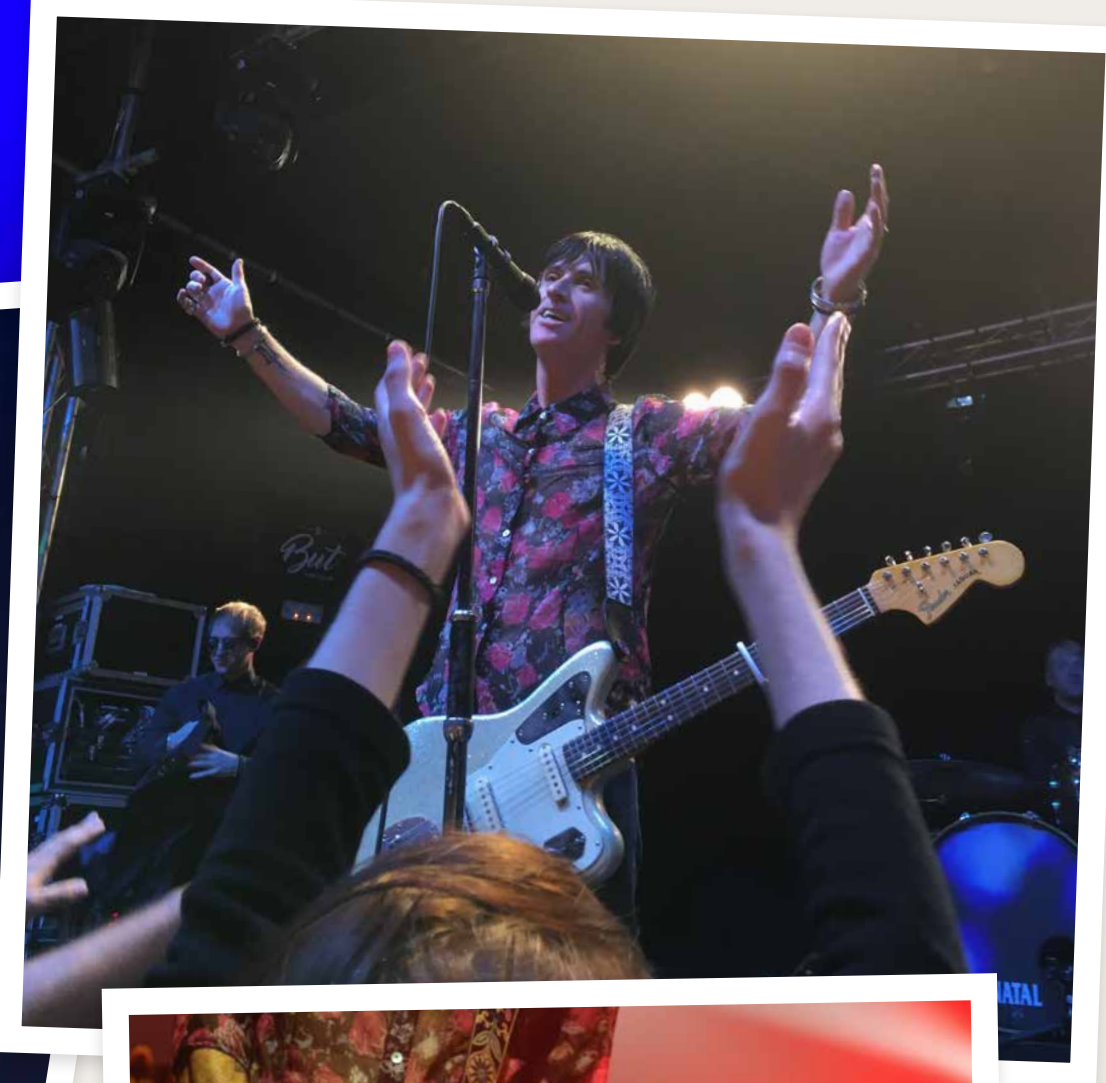
Not before long, the lights dimmed as Johnny and the lads burst onto the stage and straight into "The Tracers". As usual they put on an amazingly energetic performance. The place was truly buzzing, and nobody wanted it to end. For many of the fans it was the first time they had seen them live, and they were left pretty speechless by the experience.

At the end of the evening, my friends and I had quite a long conversation with Doviak. While we were talking, we heard a gasp from the crowd who were stunned to see a huge shooting star streaming across the night sky. Someone called out "Guardate, è la cometa di Johnny!" "Look it's Johnny's comet!"...Who knows?...Maybe it was. :-)

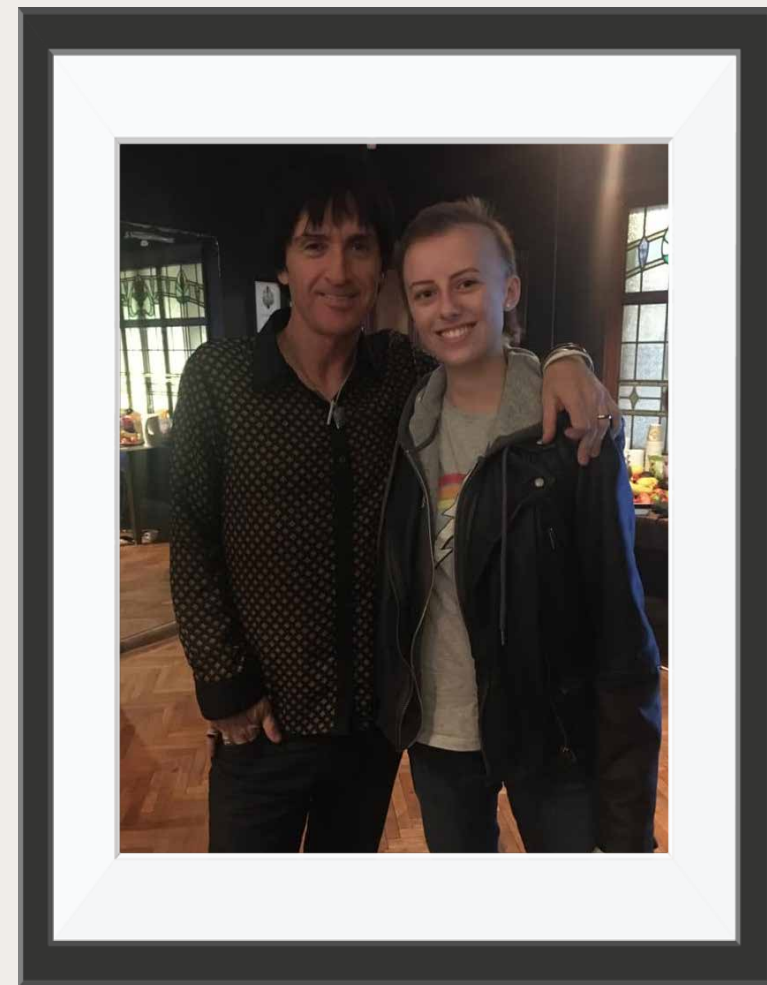
- Linda Poulcott



Joined onstage in London by long-time friend Billy Duffy of The Cult



OPPOSITE PHOTO: NEMANJA DORDEVIC (ZAGREB, CROATIA, 2018)



MANCHESTER, UK
ALBERT HALL, 4TH SEPTEMBER 2019

My daughter Laura was diagnosed with terminal brain cancer in 2018 and she was still struggling with monthly chemo and the brutal after effects of radiotherapy.

We first saw Johnny live in Portugal at the NOS Alive festival in Lisbon in July, having been long time fans. It was a fantastic, spine tinglingly wonderful show on a hot summer night, Laura was smitten and absolutely determined that we should do everything we could to catch the hometown show in September.

With the help of Aly and Ory we were able to get tickets, and what a memorable night it was. Despite the fact that he was only a couple of hours away from going on stage, Johnny spent almost an hour chatting to Laura, Mark and I in his dressing room. He was so gracious and kind and really interested in Laura's story (and her bass playing!) It was just the most phenomenal experience, spending time chatting with our musical hero.

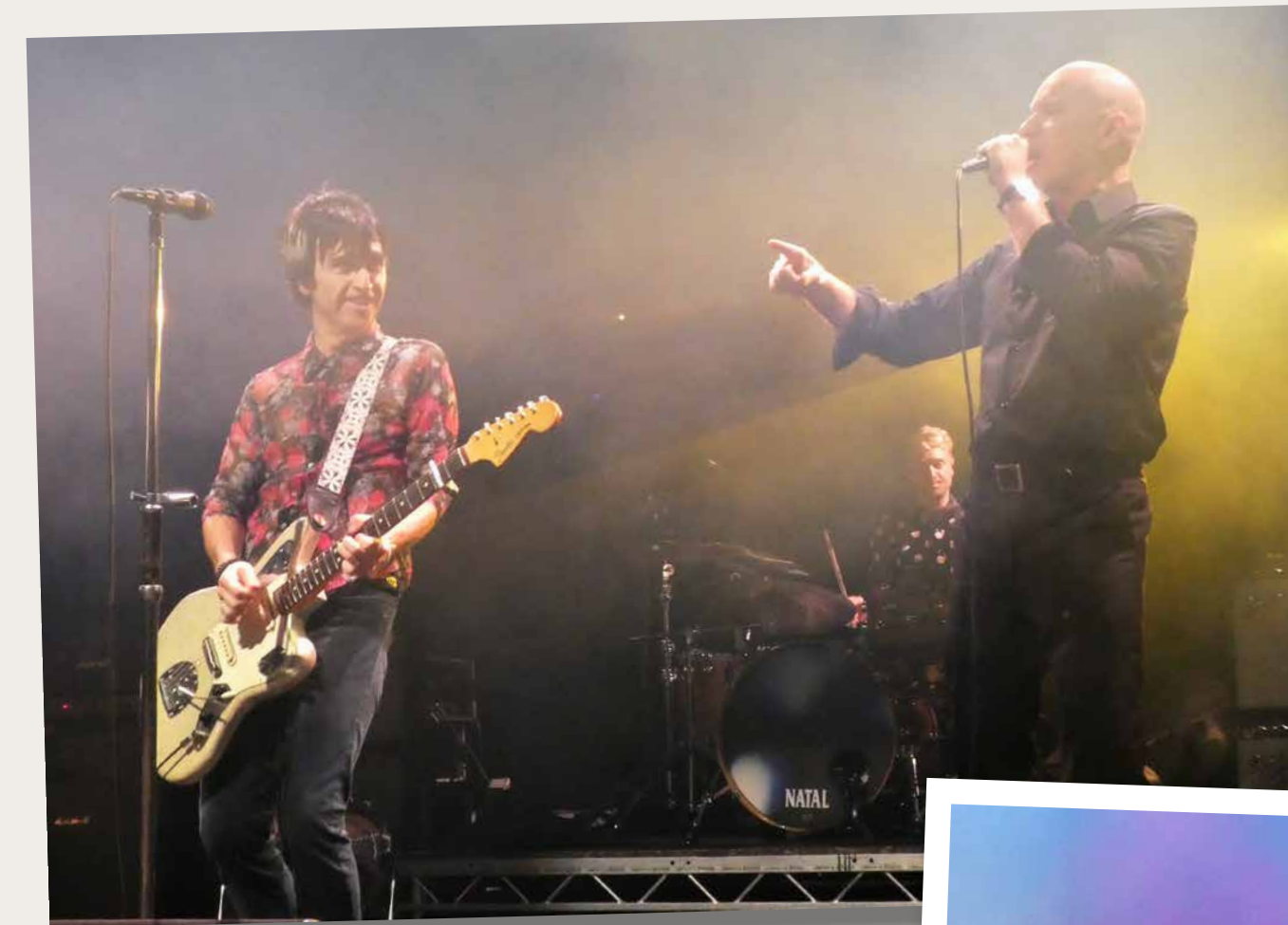
It was the show of a lifetime, the kind of night you never forget.

And then as the gig drew to a close, Johnny announced that he was dedicating the last song to his new mate, Laura. The song was 'There is a Light that Never Goes Out'.

I immediately burst into floods of tears, it was the most beautiful gesture and Laura was beyond thrilled, we have always loved that song and it meant the world to us that Johnny dedicated to Laura. I will never forget the sound of 2,000 people singing every single word.

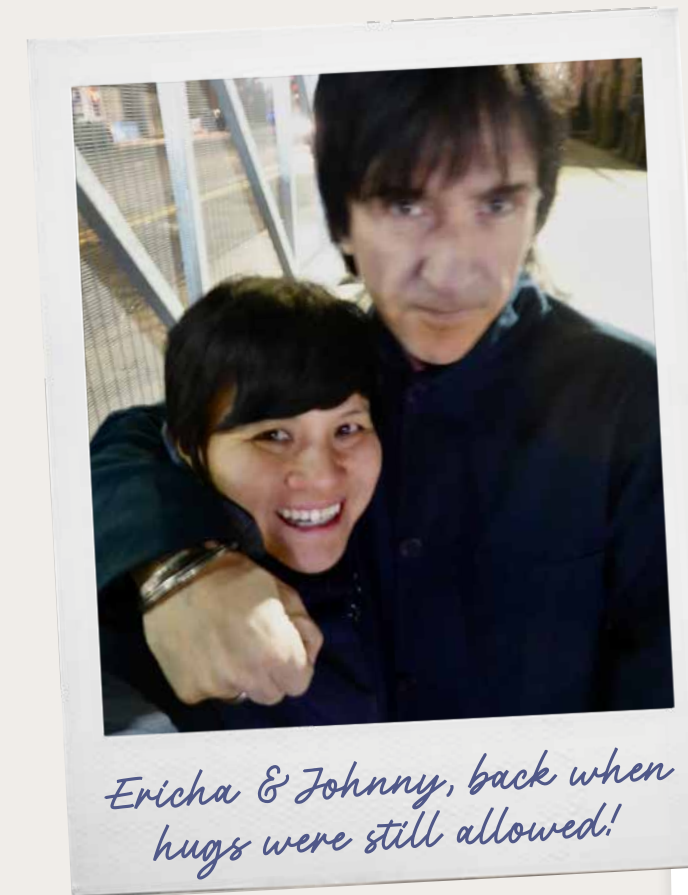
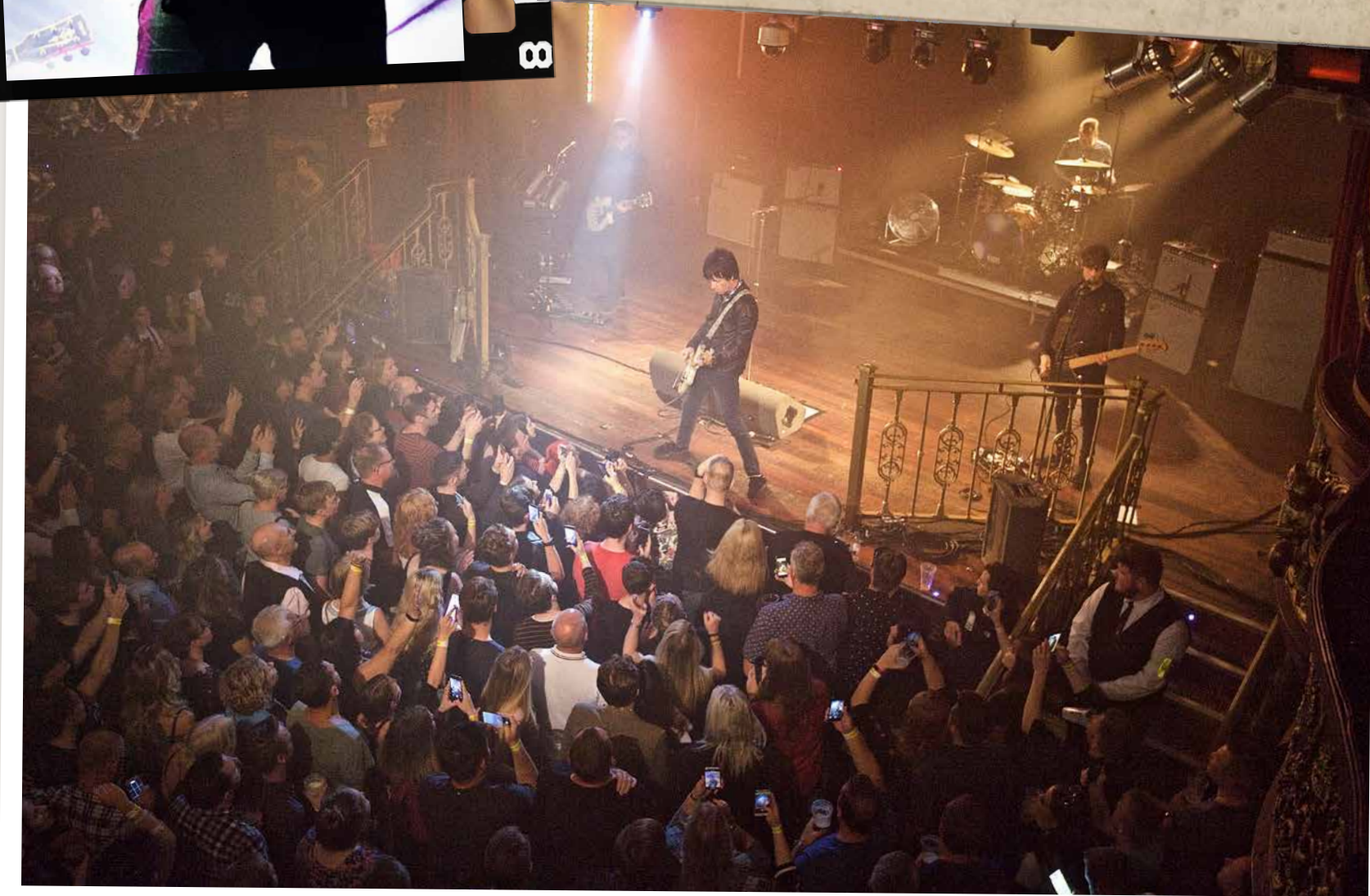
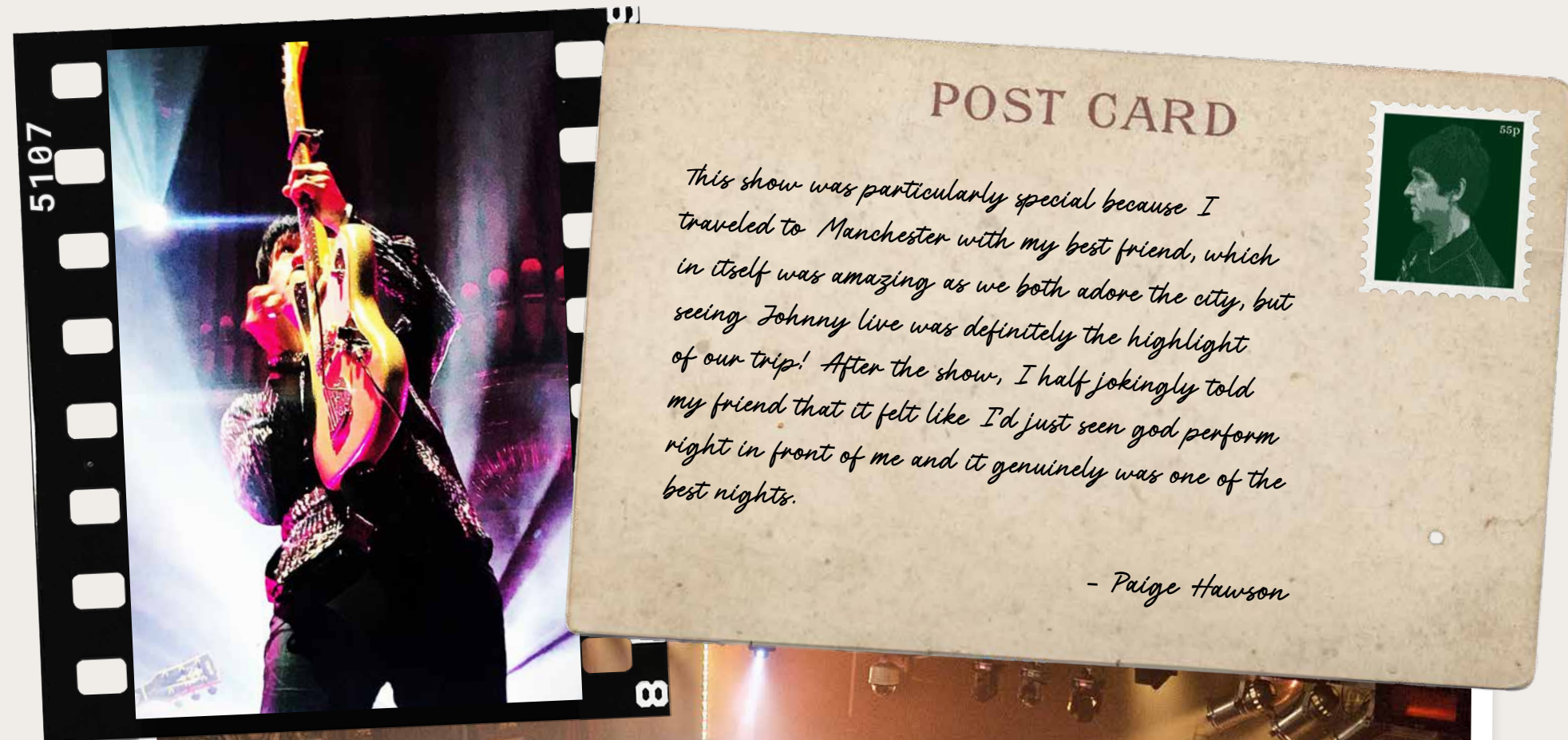
We have reminisced about that night so many times, it's a memory that we will treasure forever.

- Nicola Nuttall



*The The reunion!
The brilliant Matt
Johnson was a special
surprise guest at The
Roundhouse in London*



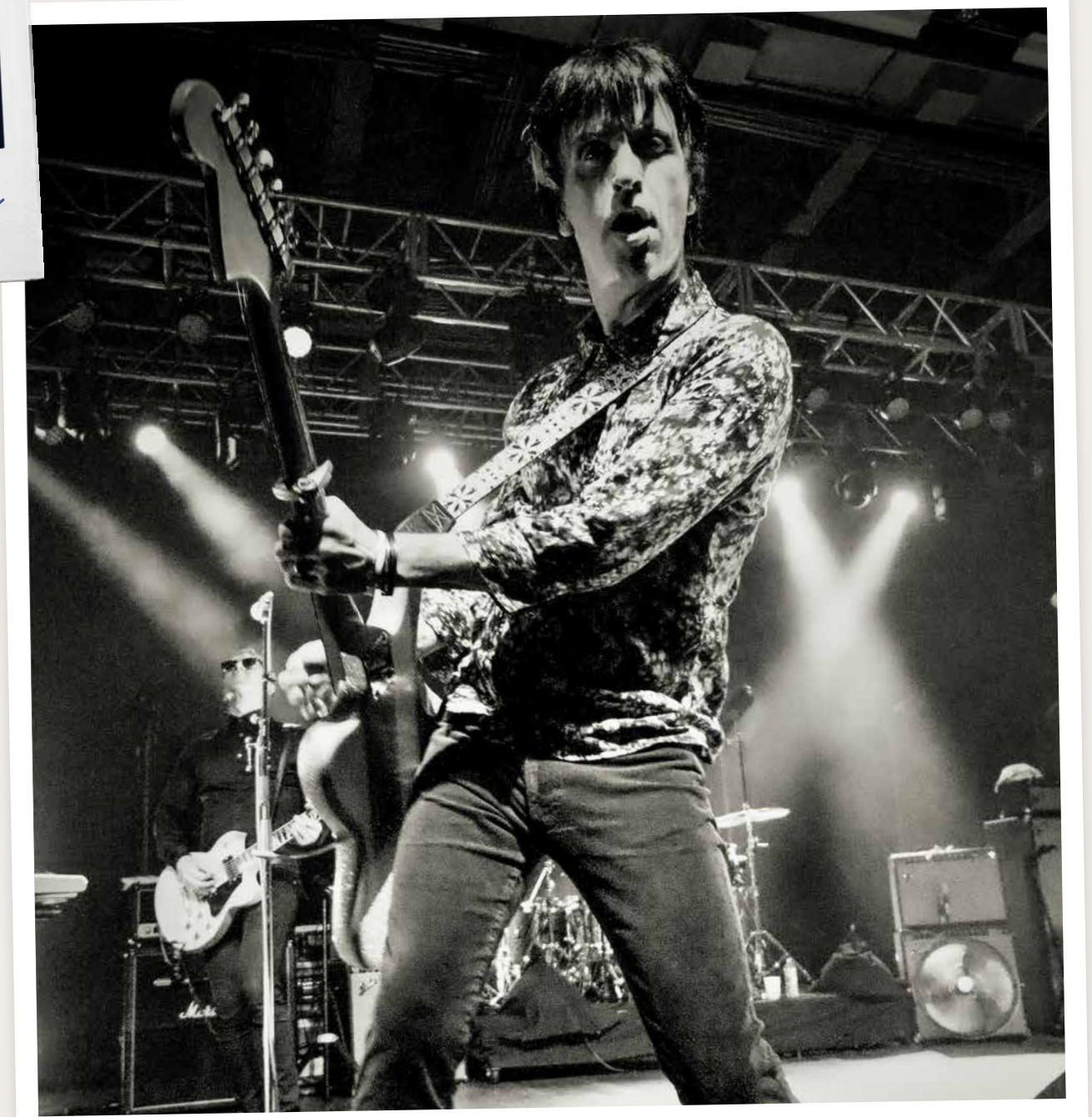


I remember thinking of the Johnny Marr Marvellous group of wonderful people, my family, my friends, and having so much gratitude while watching them perform - little did I know things in the world would take a different turn. I am grateful to have seen this performance - the last gig I attended before COVID sheltering in place - and to thank him after the show for such a fabulous gig.

- Ericha Fabay

What is not to love about Johnny? Besides being one of the best guitar players in the industry, he is a genuinely nice guy and real class act. There is a reason everything he touches turns into gold and it is NOT luck. I have attended several hundred concerts during the course of my lifetime and this was definitely one of the best concert experiences for me, not only for 2019, but of all-time! Thank you so much Johnny for the wonderful memories and making this one special.

- Tony Smith





I'm not a woman of eloquent words, but when trying to put down Johnny Marr's music and performance to anything slightly coherent, the most prominent word that comes to mind is ELECTRIC.

From the shoes on his feet to the sparkly guitar, this gentleman oozes coolness. He knows what he's doing and he loves it.

His band, accompanying him since The Messenger tour (and beyond that), is on top form and tight as ever. You can tell they're having just as much fun as Johnny and the crowd do. I'm pretty sure I saw the magnificent Doviak crack a smile!

Thank you for coming to Zagreb, Johnny! This beautiful night will stay with me forever.

Some lights will never go out. x

- Katya Pavic



FEVER DREAMS

// 2022
// 2023

OPPOSITE PHOTO: ILZE FREY



When Johnny started releasing *Fever Dreams* in 2021, we were living through a disorienting time, dealing with the simultaneous instability of a world caught by a mutating virus, and the routine sameness of quarantine living. In the midst of this, Johnny showed up with a steady stream of magic, dropping one disc at a time until we had all parts, one to four.

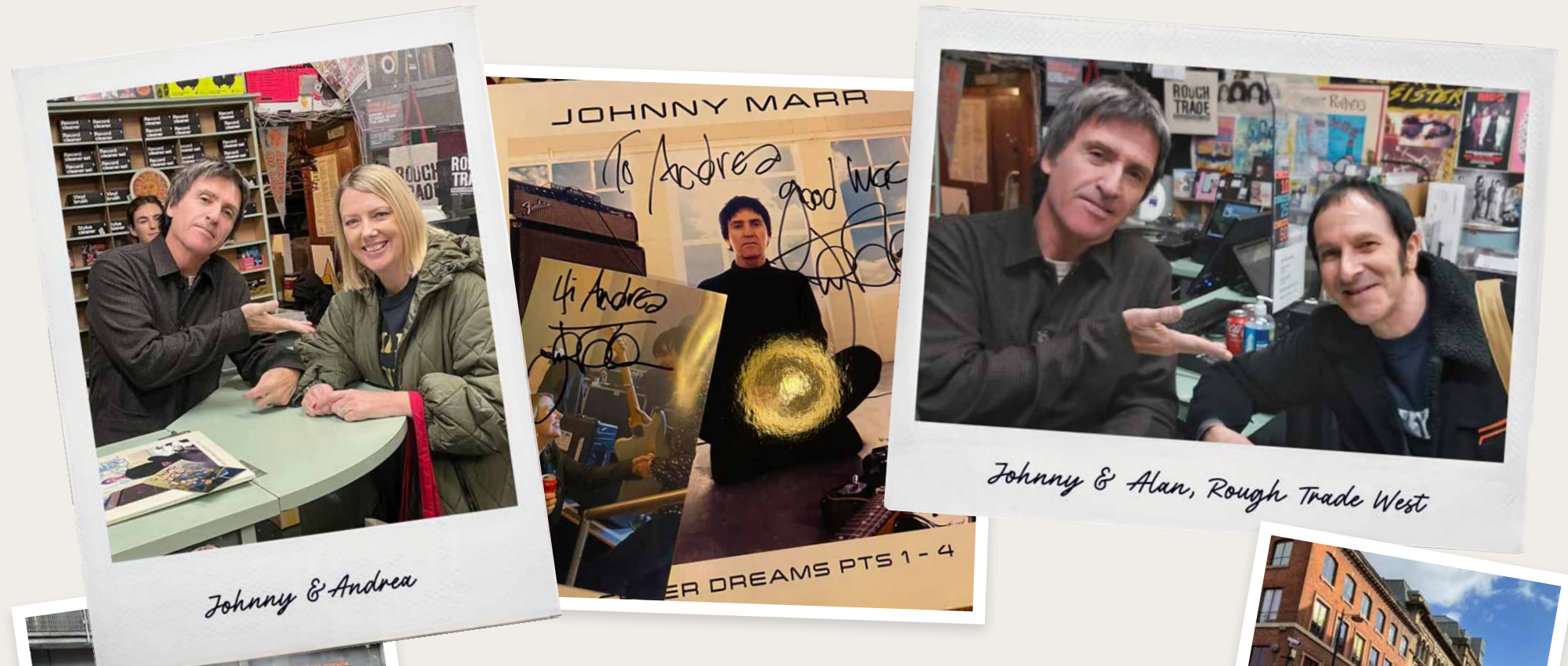
It's always joyful to be part of Johnny's fandom, and it was especially joyful at a time marked by so much isolation to experience the collective excitement of months spent discovering his newest sounds together. Fans connected as we welcomed song after song together, and I felt like I could breathe again as I let the restorative "Lightning People," "Spirit, Power and Soul," and "God's Gift" wash over me on repeat.

And then the gigs. The livestream from the Crazy Face Factory. The UK dates that even far-away fans enjoyed vicariously through photos and videos. The North American tour, where Johnny seemed to be having the time of his life playing his stellar opening sets and collaborating with The Killers on their hits and Smiths classics. When Johnny joined them onstage at the tour's kick-off in Vancouver, Brandon Flowers welcomed him with a reverent drop to one knee, a genuine fan like the rest of us. At each show, in person, livestreamed, or in video clips, we watched Brandon bask in Johnny's presence and radiate that feeling of wonder that any fan who has met Johnny knows so well, astonished to have somehow landed in such an incredibly lucky place and time.

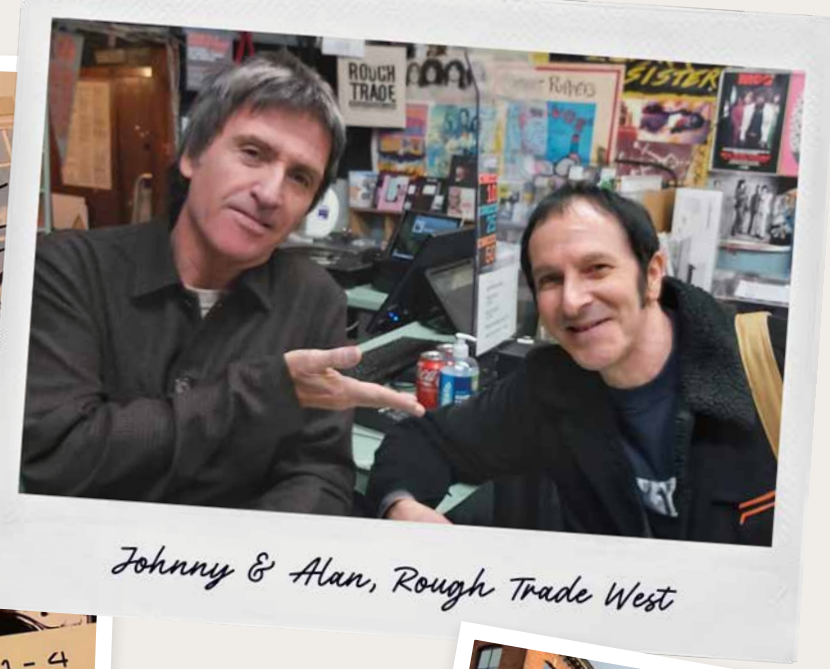
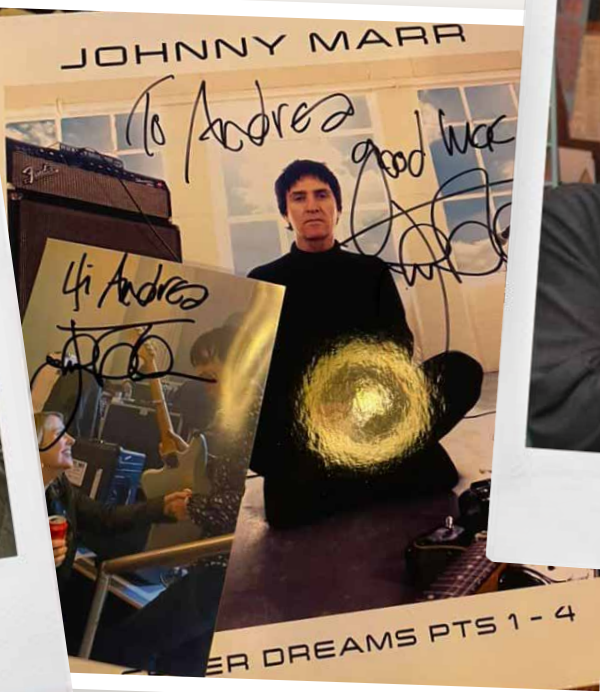
When you witness Johnny play, you're feeling shared magic. Johnny's music is a full-body experience. Whether he's playing something you've never heard before or a classic you've been savoring for 40 years, it moves from his core to yours in a way that both challenges you to listen differently and reminds you that this sound is always already part of you, whatever you need and wherever you go.

The *Fever Dreams* album and live shows were another remarkable moment in a legendary career, stoking Johnny's deep connection with his fans and our connections with each other. I'm not sure there's ever been a time when we needed connection more, and with *Fever Dreams*, Johnny brought us together with his unmatched generosity, passion, and grace.

Alisa Harrison



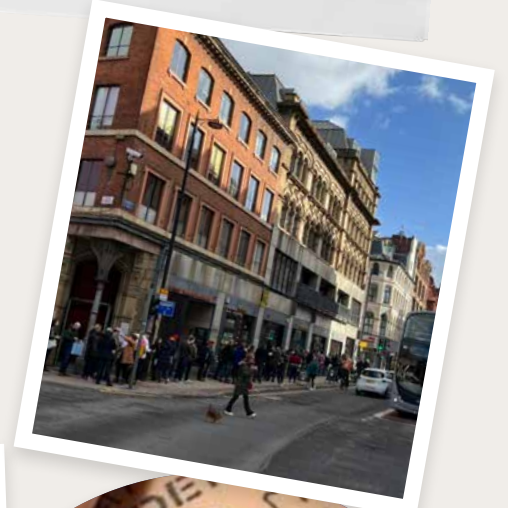
Johnny & Andrea



Johnny & Alan, Rough Trade West

Now time has come!

Fever Dreams Pts. 1-4 Album Signings



Craig lends a shoulder



Admiring Paul's pain tolerance with a fab rib tattoo



I am a local musician from Nottingham and made a CD especially for Johnny of original music I had written, which was all inspired by him.

Johnny is my biggest musical inspiration so I wanted to give him something back to show him how much he's inspired me and how much I appreciate him.

- Matt McCarthy



Johnny & Mark



Johnny, Dylan & Mark



Johnny & Billy



Johnny & Marshall



Johnny, Eve & Oliver

I've been a Smiths fan since I was 7, when my parents would play their 'The Sound of the Smiths' CDs in the car while we were on holiday.

Later on in my early teens I started to discover their music more, and I started listening to Johnny's solo music in 2018. It brought me closer to my dad and we started seeing him live in 2019 - we've been all over the country to watch his shows, at both huge festivals and intimate venues. Johnny is very kind and down-to-earth (although I'm sure he knows that already).

Thank you Johnny for all the good memories, the great music and the fashion inspiration. We love you!

- Eve Whitehead

“One of Johnny Marr’s key gifts is his versatility. Another is his musical modesty: he’s never been afraid to be one of a band; it’s not been important to him to always be in the spotlight. *Which makes it doubly impressive how good he is at that role.*”

DAVE MEDLEY

DYNAMIC | 2014

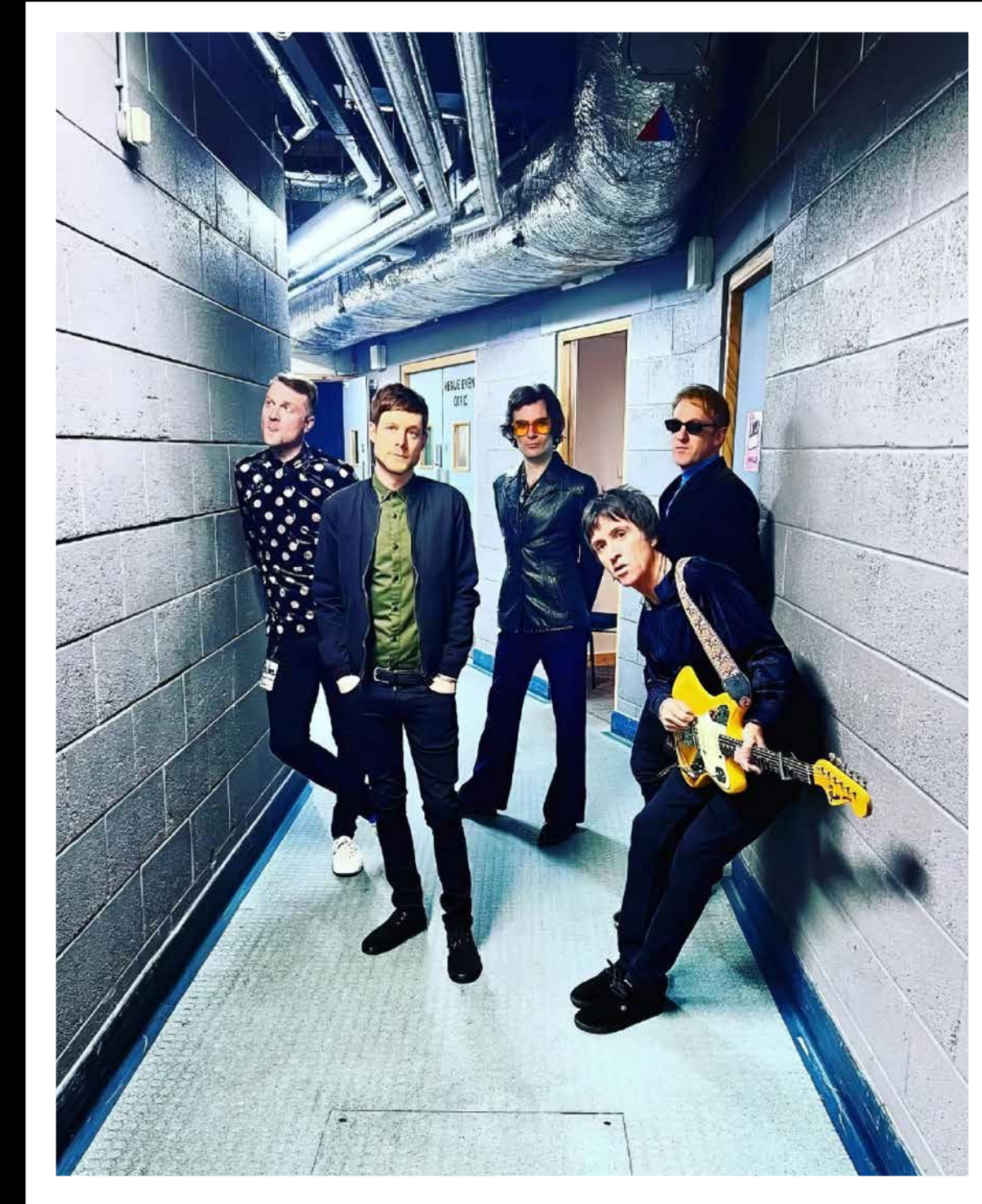


PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHNNY MARR
2022

MIDDLESBOROUGH, UK
THE EMPIRE, 25TH AUGUST 2023

What kind of crazed fan arrives at a music venue four hours before the doors open for a chance to meet the artist? Me, that's who!

After chatting with some of my equally dedicated fellow fans who were also waiting outside the entrance, I was informed Johnny had passed by not long ago, but should soon be on his way back for soundcheck. Not long after, I spotted a tall figure in shades making his way across the road...

As I nervously approached him, he smiled and held out his hand to introduce himself. After asking my name and where I was from, he pointed out the Debbie Harry badge on my jacket, having worked with the legendary front woman of Blondie in the past. He then handed me a plectrum with his name on it from his pocket, and after I accepted this valuable token, he gently informed my obviously anxious self: "Don't be nervous... I'm nice!"

I then got one of my fellow fans to take a photo of us together, in which he struck a hilarious pose as if intending to beat me up! Afterwards, I asked him to sign the back of my jacket. Whilst he carefully drew his signature, he asked me what it is that I do. I told him my passion was writing about music, which he seemed enthused to hear, asking if I had heard of famous music writer Jon Savage.

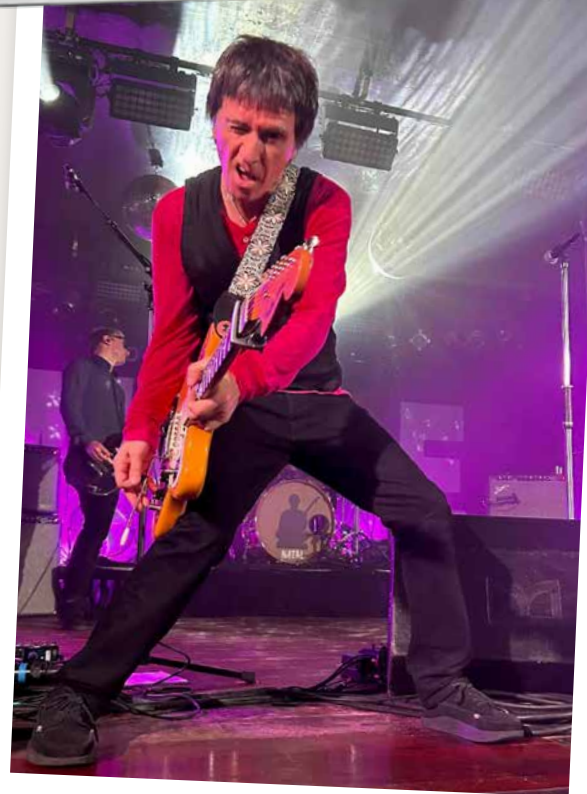
I knew it was then time to let him go, but before we parted, I gave him a set of key rings I had made with him and his band member's names on it, as well as one for his son Nile who was working as a roadie on this tour. To my surprise, he seemed very impressed with my amateur beading project!

After he left, I made my way back to the entrance to the venue, well and truly starstruck. But the night had only just begun!

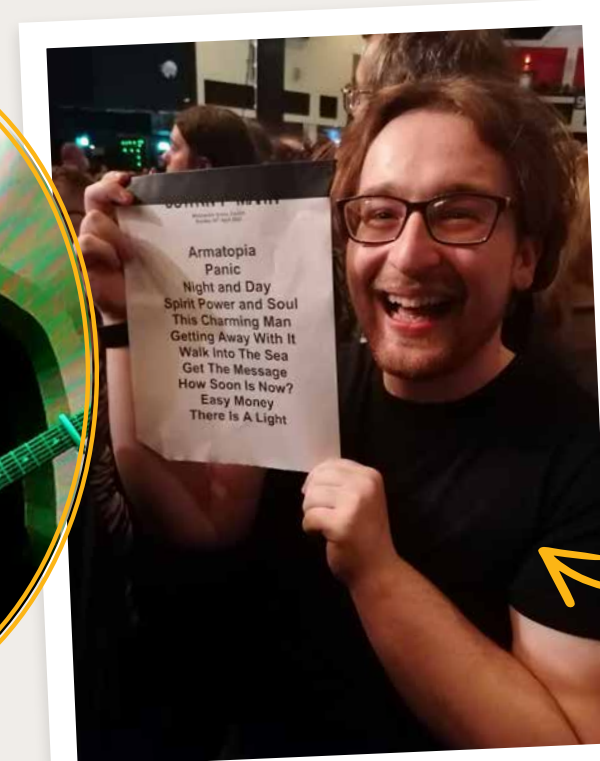
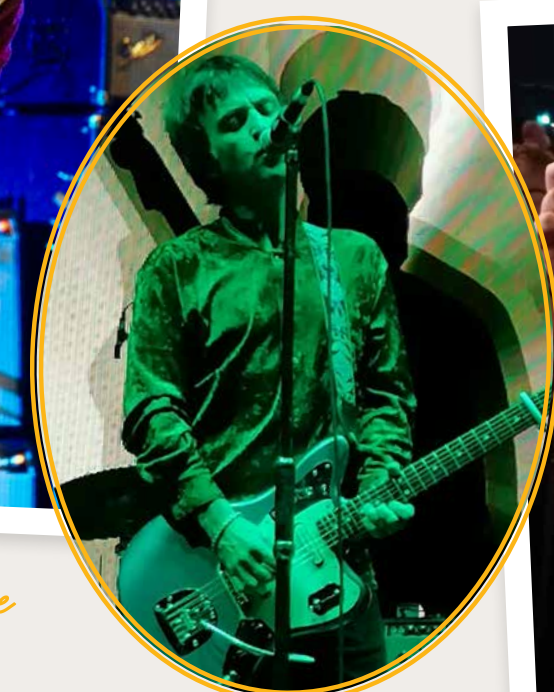
- Emily Stark



Johnny and Emily, who travelled all the way from Australia for the Middlesborough show



Striking a pose for Ilze at the soundcheck



A smile of true happiness: Lucky fan Ewan with a prized set list.

Johnny Marr swaggers on to the Cardiff stage clutching his trusty Fender Jaguar, looking resplendent as ever. It's quite striking how easily he's made the transition from stage left to centre; he constantly gees up the crowd by walking towards them or even with a simple arm gesture. He also knows which anthemic buttons to press, such as the life-affirming 'Human' or the jangling 'Night and Day'.

The newer material stands shoulder to shoulder with the older work, while the opening riff of 'This Charming Man' is nearly drowned out by the cries of acknowledgement from the crowd. Marr's talent continues to reign supreme but he never does more than is necessary. Every move is devastatingly effective.

Arguably the most moving moment of the whole weekend arrives at the end of the main set as he dedicates 'There Is A Light That Never Goes Out' to the "Foos family": "We miss you, Taylor. We won't forget you", which doesn't require extra tenderness but gets it anyway. A bravura performance from an artist at the top of his game.

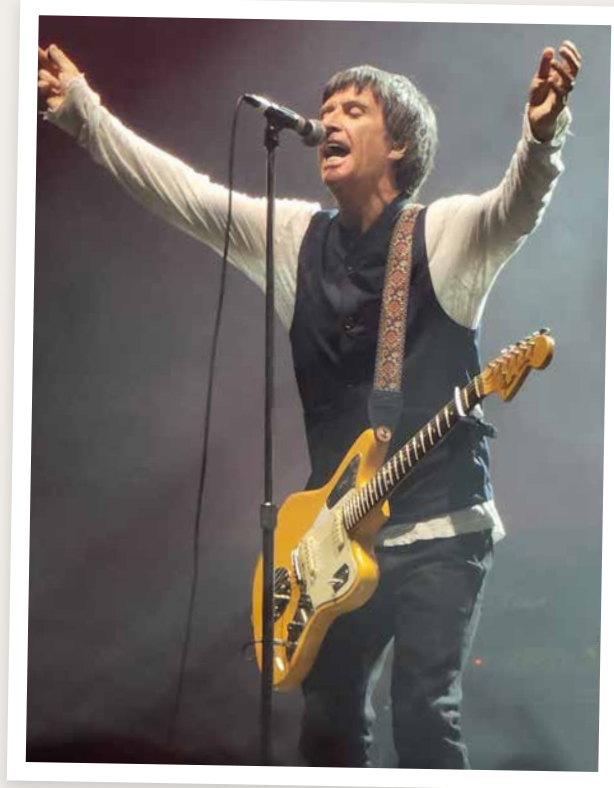
- Richard Bowes

When I bought my tickets for Johnny's North American tour dates, in the era of repeated postponements and cancelations, I couldn't let myself believe that it would ever actually happen. Was it possible we'd ever be in an arena again, with 20,000 other people, jumping, dancing, and breathing each other's air? Even as we were let into the venue on opening night in Vancouver, I couldn't accept it was real until Johnny was onstage playing guitar in front of my face.

But the first notes of "Armatopia" brought a rush of adrenaline, and my heart burst open when the band followed with the opening riff to "Panic." I disappeared into the rhythm of "Spirit, Power and Soul," the blissful guitar solo in "Getting Away with It," the next-level hotness of "I Feel You," and the otherworldly "How Soon is Now," where he somehow took perfection and made it even better. Shout-singing along with Johnny about dancing to the

sound of our time running out and whether life could ever be sane again, I was brought to tears by the most intense gratitude: through everything that had happened, that was still happening, he came to be here, powerful and vulnerable and honest and real, electric and gentle, utterly humble and fully owning being badass Johnny Fuckin Marr. After all this time, in a world of impermanence, Johnny was still playing guitar, still sharing himself with us, even when we had to be physically separate, still wrapping us in his hugs of sound.

I got to be in Johnny's presence again a week later for two more shows in Las Vegas and Los Angeles, baking in the heat of the queues to secure a spot at the front and then losing myself with full-on delirious joy, determined to feel every second of those performances as hard as I could. Johnny may have been slightly concerned by my total lack of chill at the show in L.A., pointing at me and asking from the stage, "You alright, yeah?" If there was any chance I'd been alright before he asked, I certainly wasn't after! I think it was clear to everyone with eyes just how very, very far from alright I was, in all the best possible ways. Swept up in the extraordinary collective experience of live music, transported to that dreamy plane where Johnny's guitar is the whole world, and then noticed in the crowd by my hero (even if it was because he thought I was crazy...), I will always be entirely overwhelmed by the pleasure and privilege that got to be mine.



“Shout-singing along with Johnny about dancing to the sound of our time running out and whether life could ever be sane again, I was brought to tears by the most intense gratitude.”

— Alisa Harrison

OPPOSITE PHOTO: ALISON MOORE (MANCHESTER, UK, 2022)



“After all this time, in a world of impermanence, Johnny was still playing guitar, still sharing himself with us, even when we had to be physically separate, *still wrapping us in his hugs of sound.*”

ALISA HARRISON



Finally being able to go to a Johnny Marr gig again after the long and challenging hiatus brought on by the pandemic felt like a reunion with not just music, but life itself. The collective energy of the crowd, a blend of devoted fans and new faces, created an atmosphere of unity and shared joy. In that moment, the worries and isolation of the past months melted away, replaced by a sense of connection and euphoria that only Johnny's music can provide. From new Fever Dreams masterpieces like 'Ariel' and 'Sensory Street', to favourites from his solo back catalogue and classics from his Smiths days... it was a poignant reminder that even in the darkest of times, the beauty of music has the power to heal and unite.

- Luca Pelides



Big welcome to the stylish Scott Docherty, where every note carries the promise of musical magic!



Witnessing Johnny Marr and Andy Rourke sharing the stage at Madison Square Garden was a moment I feel genuinely privileged to have been there for. The joyousness of their reunion was palpable to the entire audience, I'm sure: a testament to their life-long friendship, and the enduring power of their musical partnership.

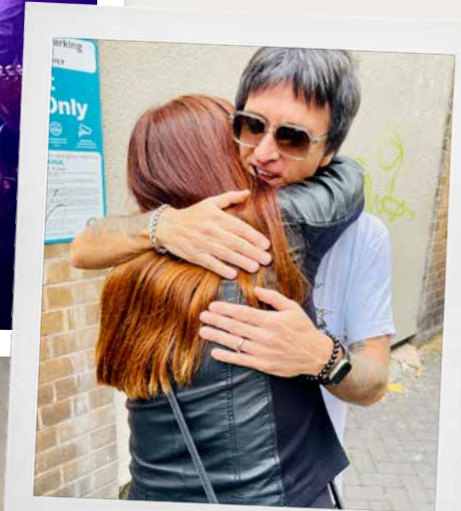
When I heard of Andy's passing not long after, I couldn't help but feel how appropriate it was for Johnny to have been by his side for his last ever live performance. Their musical history was so intertwined - they fostered each other's musical talents, and even decades later still brought out the best in each other as musicians. The memories created on that stage will live on forever, as tribute to a friendship and musical partnership that left an indelible mark on the world.

- Theo Wright



What can I say about our 10 year journey with Johnny Marr? Amazing, isn't enough. Incredible, barely touches it. Phenomenal, is getting closer. There isn't enough words or time to talk about all the Johnny goodness we have had along the way. Johnny is loved by this whole family, he's been a stand in member helping us along our way with life style changes, giving us courage and most importantly just being there with a caring word. He is a beautiful soul whose kindness we will always treasure and will never take for granted.

- Johanne Brader



A big Texas hug!



Johnny & Guy



Johnny & Johanne

Life has a strange way of putting special people in your path and we are so thankful Johnny crossed ours!



Route 60

Howl
Of
Jaguar
Static
Feedback
Keeping
Us
Awake
Through
Digital
Candidate
Slack

The
Marrvelous
People
Reflecting
On
Messenger
Playland
Comet
Delight
They
Excite
Generate
Spiral cities
Where
Fever
Dreams
Shine
Bright
Friendship
Memories
Spent
With
New
Town
Friends
And
Poetry

- Craig Spence



Make your way to the edge of the world

A MAP OF INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL UNDERTAKEN BY FANS FOR JOHNNY MARR SHOWS

I've been to his gigs before, but when this tour [Call The Comet] was announced I couldn't resist booking as many dates as I could - in a way as a thank you and also as an opportunity to take in as much of that life-affirming energy as possible. Johnny has this wonderful ability to bring out the best in people, and I genuinely feel like a significantly improved version of myself, thanks to him.

- Ilze Frey, UK



Johnny seems to be very happy and comfortable in his position as frontman. He is entrancing to watch and listen to. Hence the reason I keep travelling long distances to see him play...Mr Marr, you have become my expensive habit!

- Linda Poulcott, Italy

When you see his playing live, you can't stop from going to the gigs because you are not satisfied with it once. ...It's like his music and I are the only ones left in the world. He makes me forget sadness and gives me hope. He literally saves me. That's why I keep going to see his concerts.

- Ha Young Hwang, South Korea



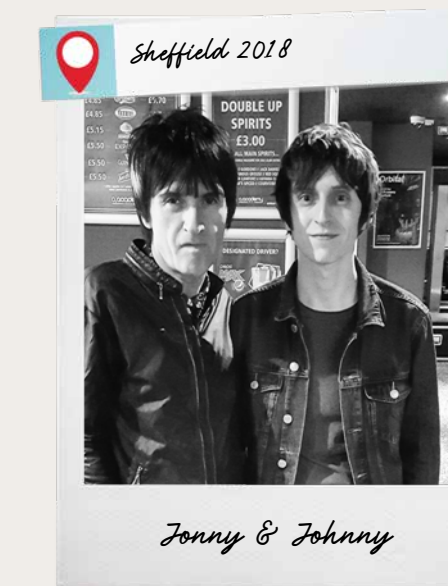
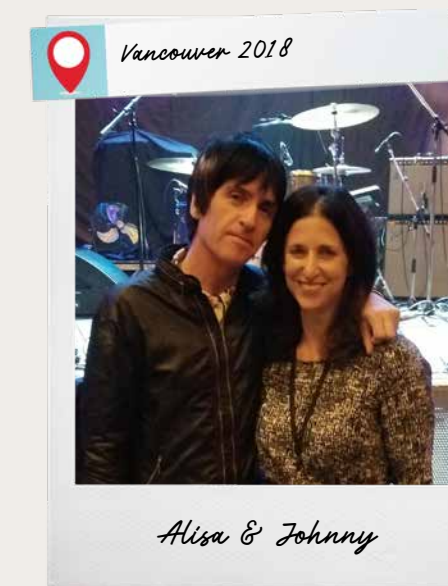
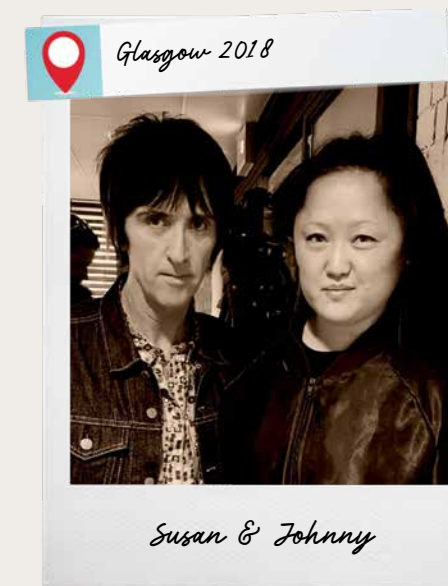
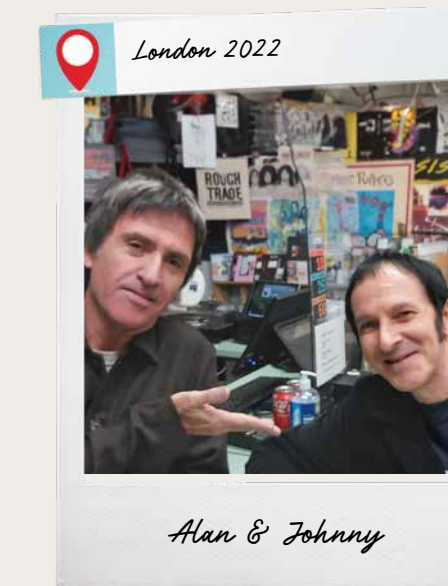
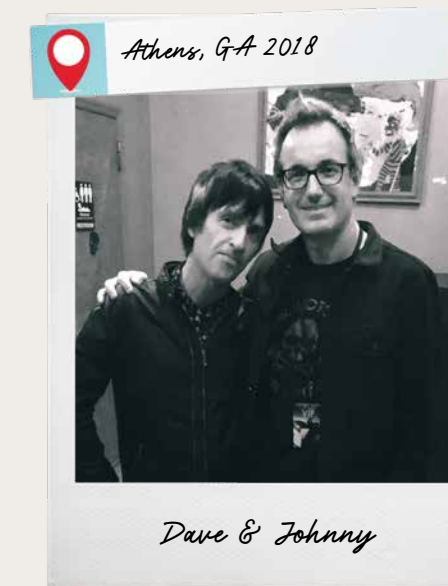
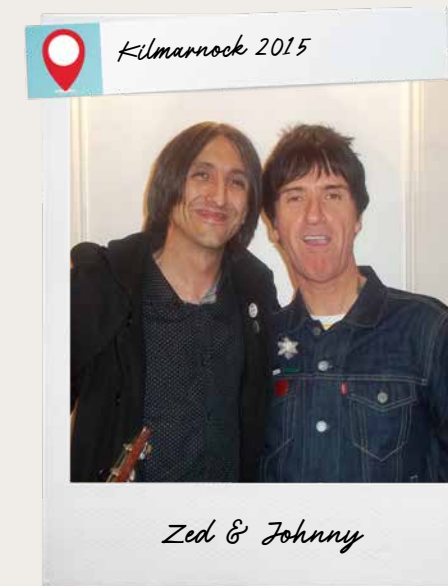
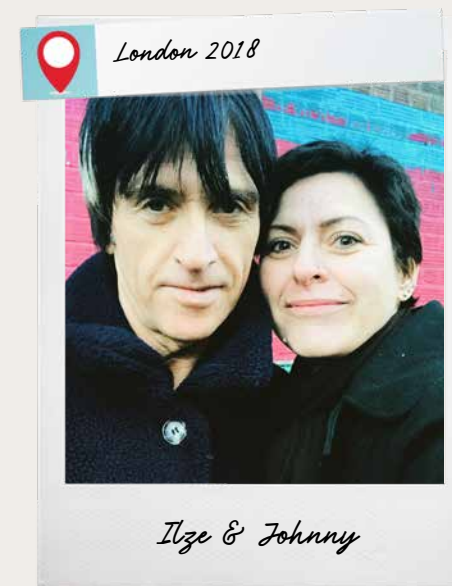
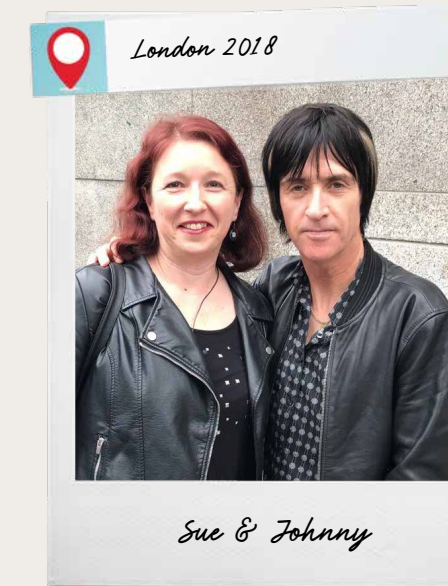
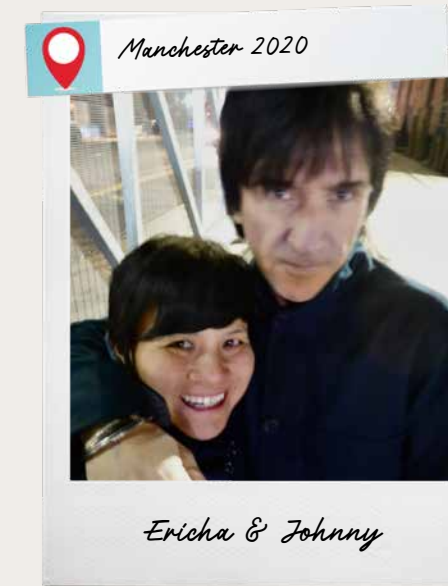
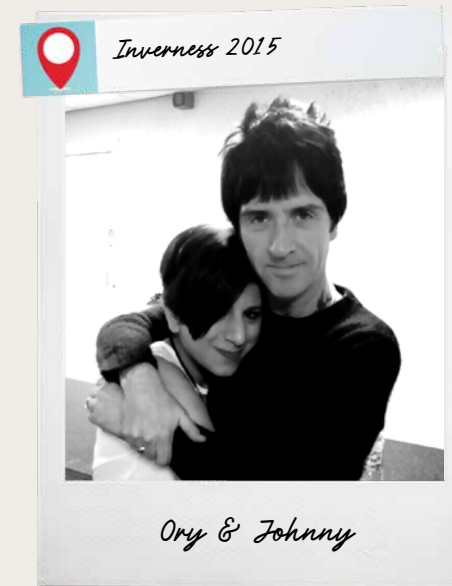
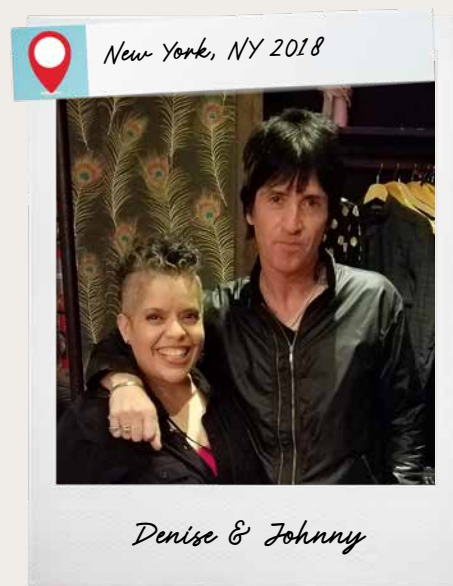
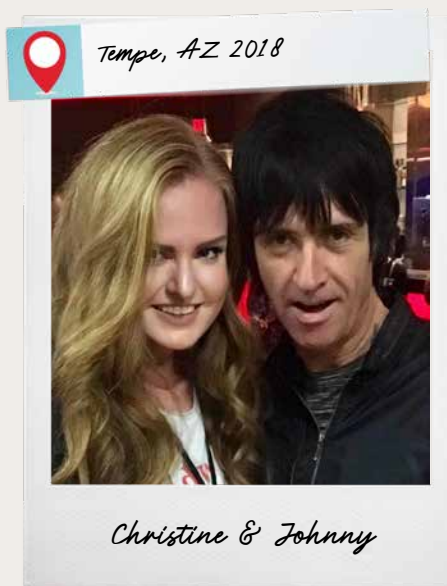
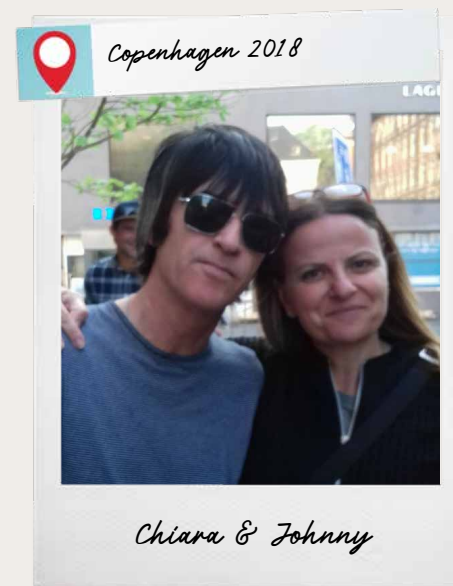
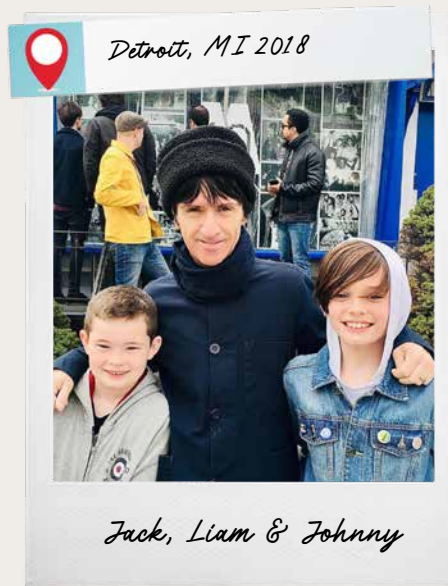
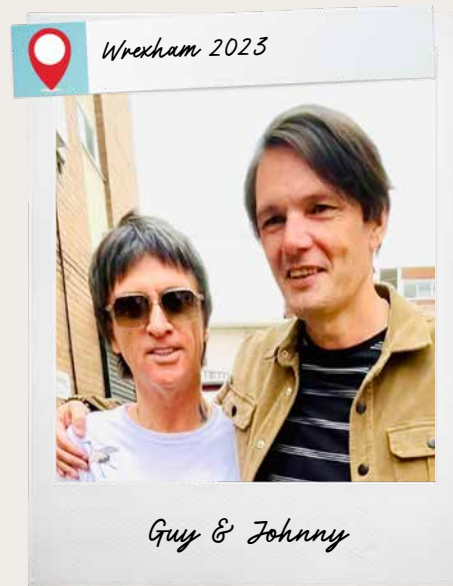
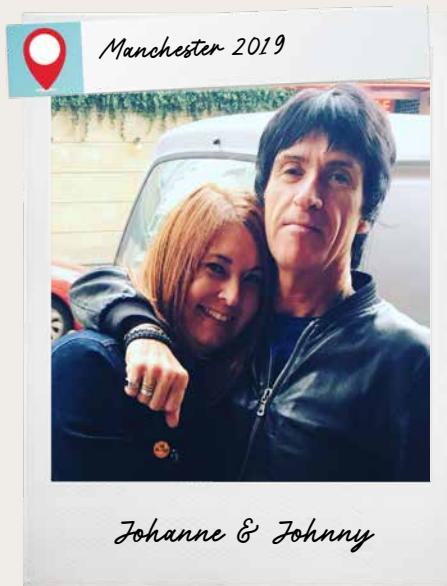
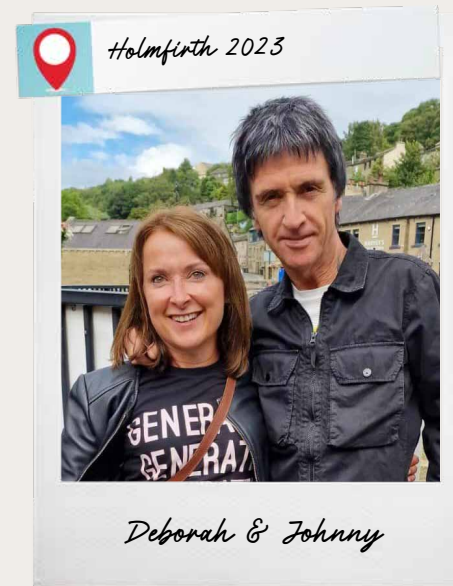
His music has therapeutic effects on me. Seeing him always gives me positive energy and joy welling up my heart.

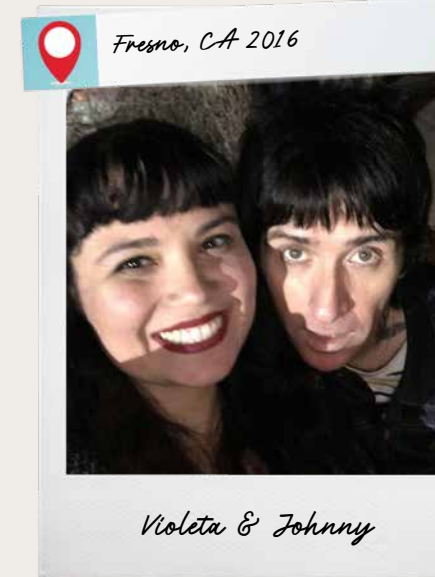
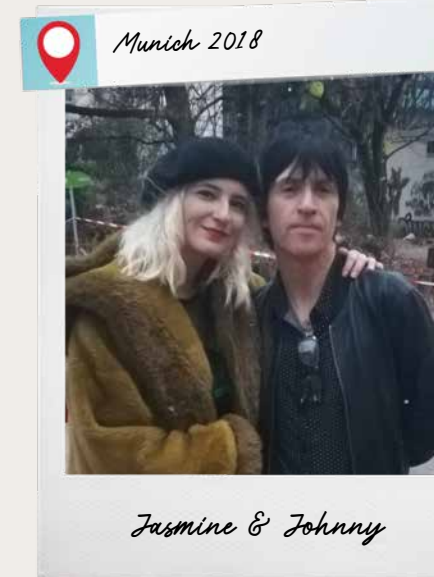
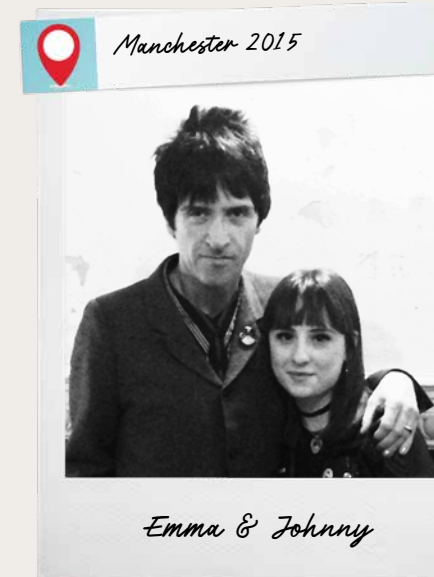
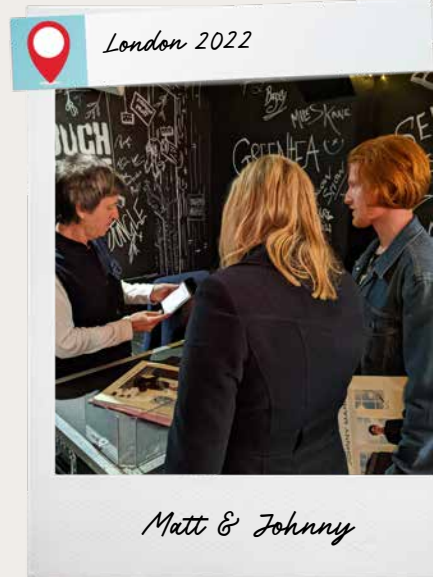
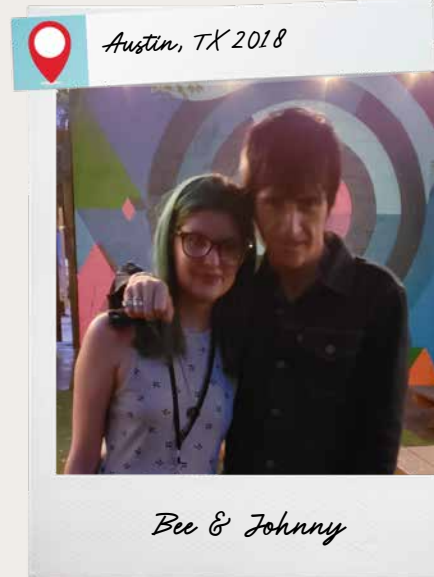
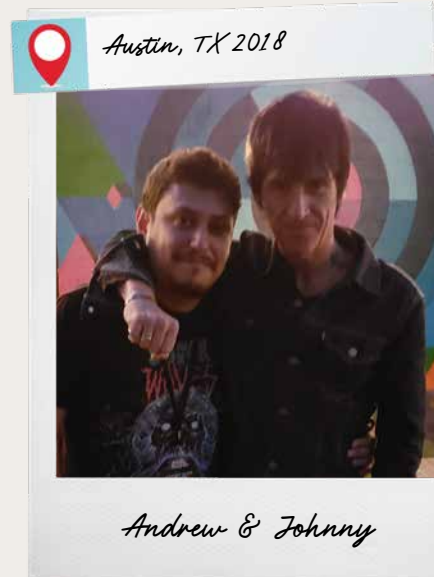
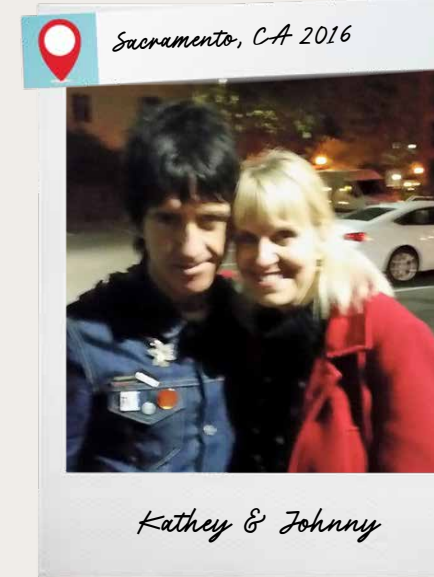
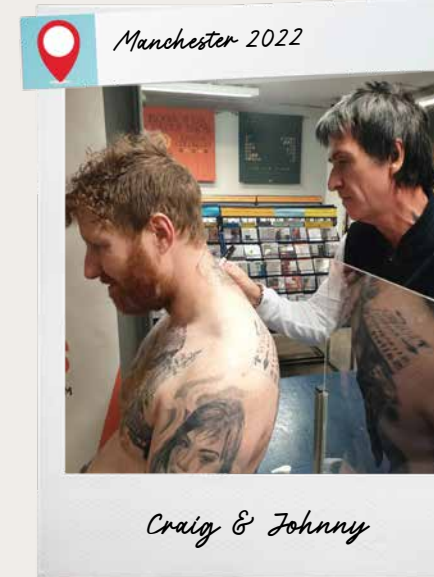
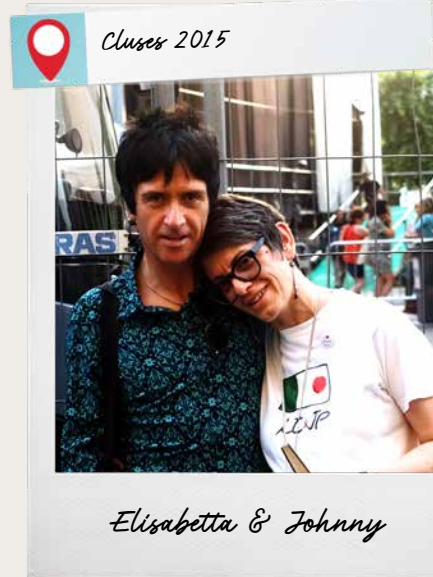
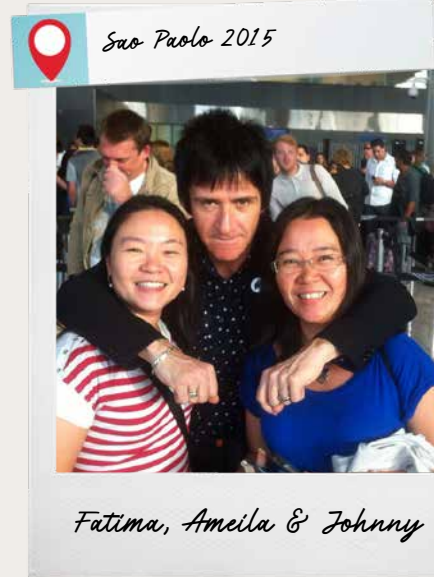
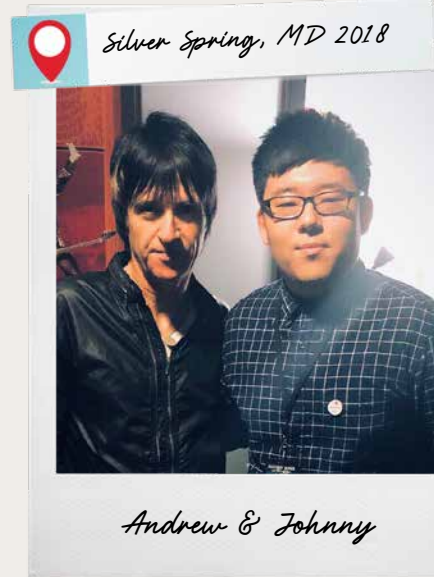
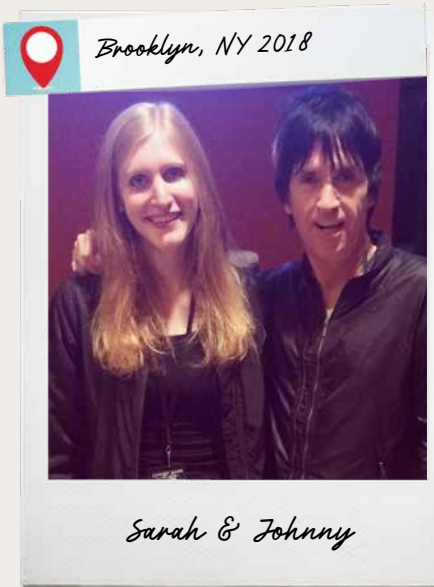
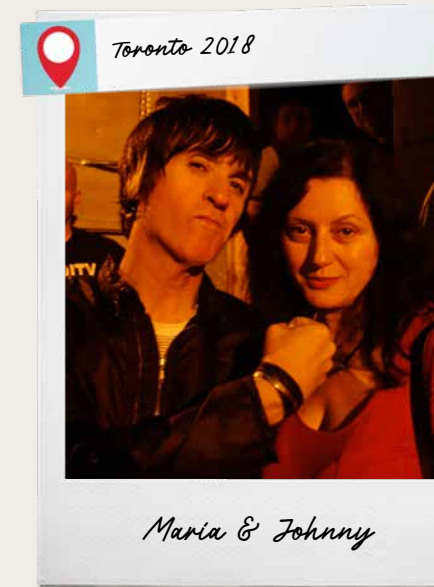
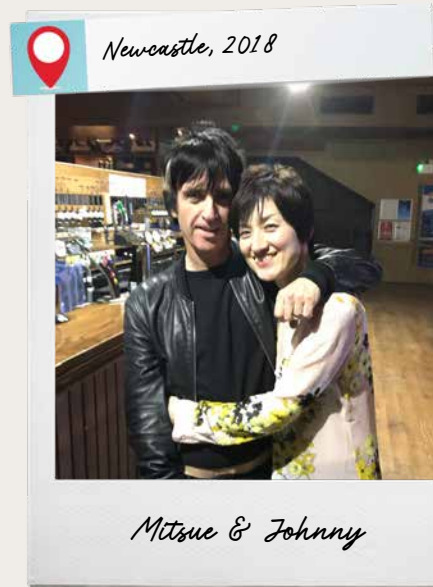
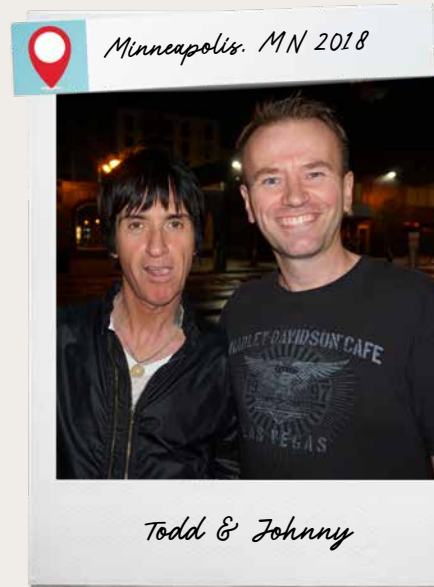
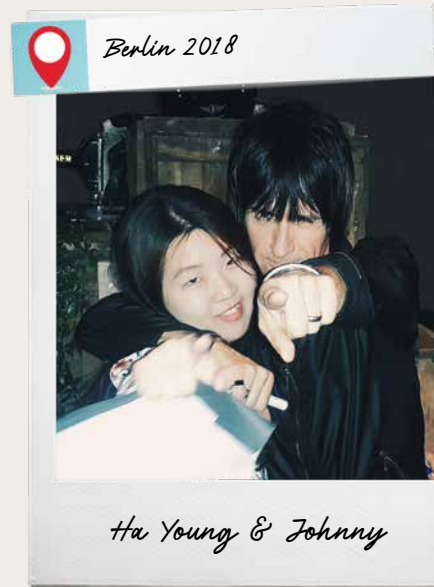
- Mitsue Kakuta, Japan

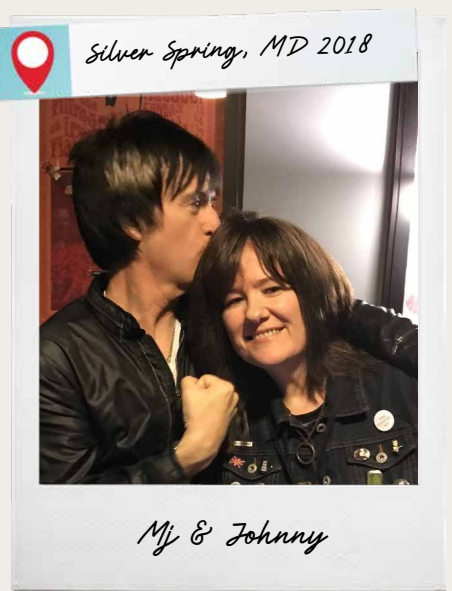
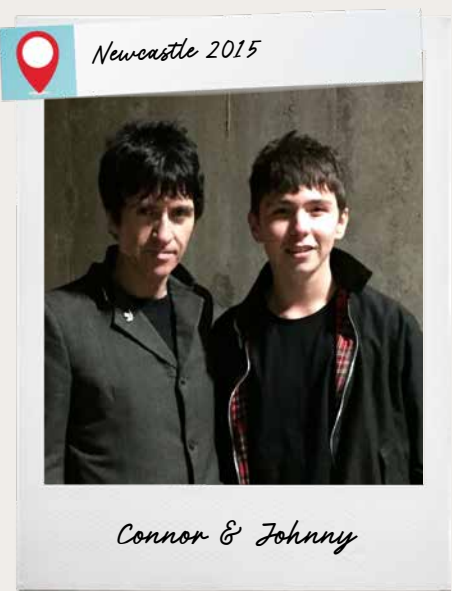
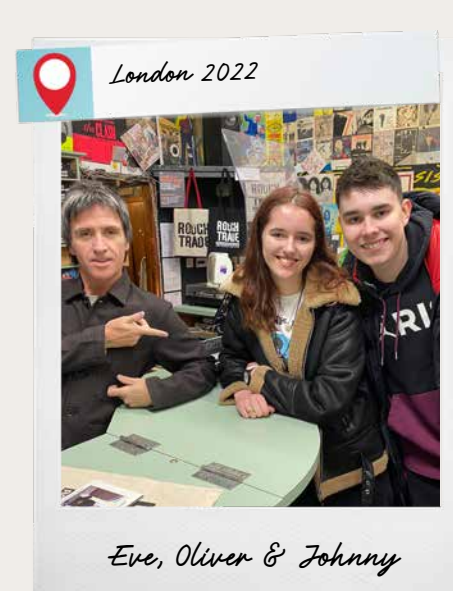
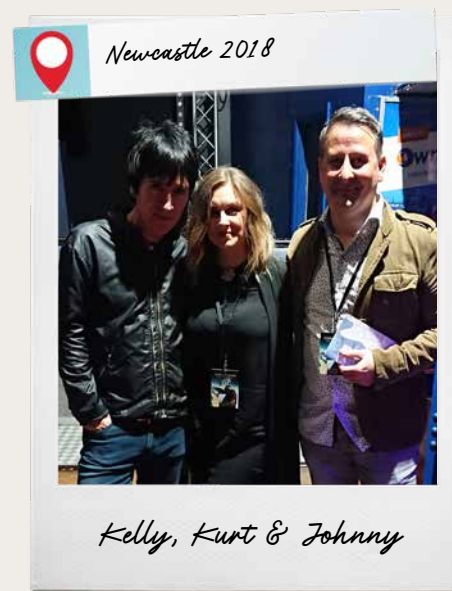
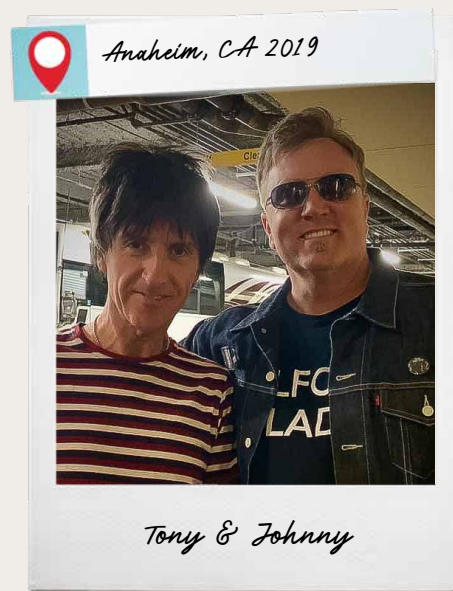
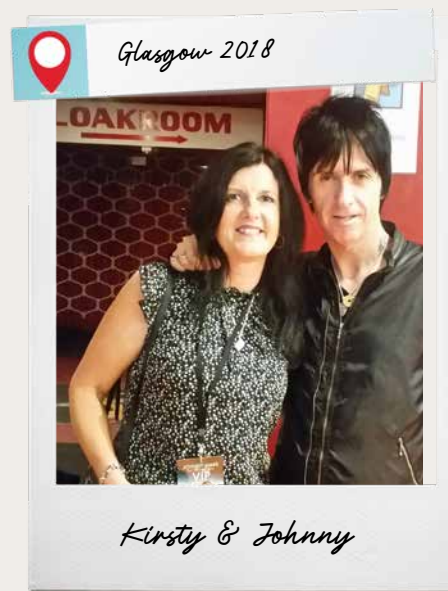
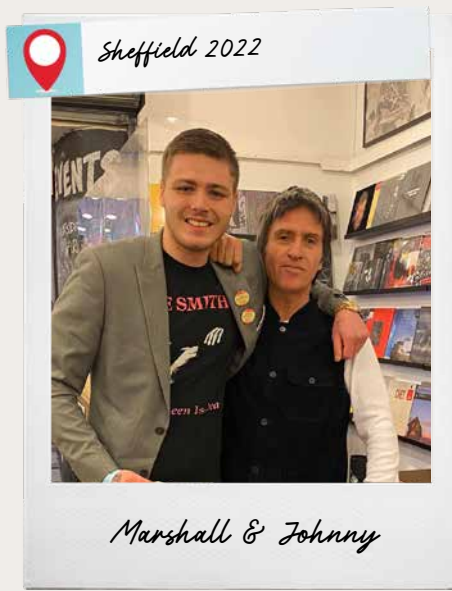
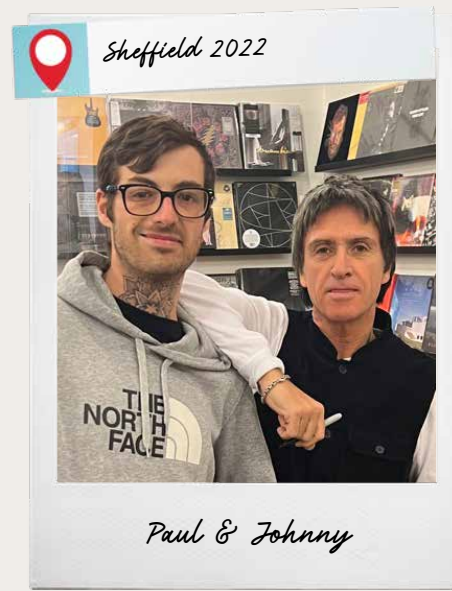
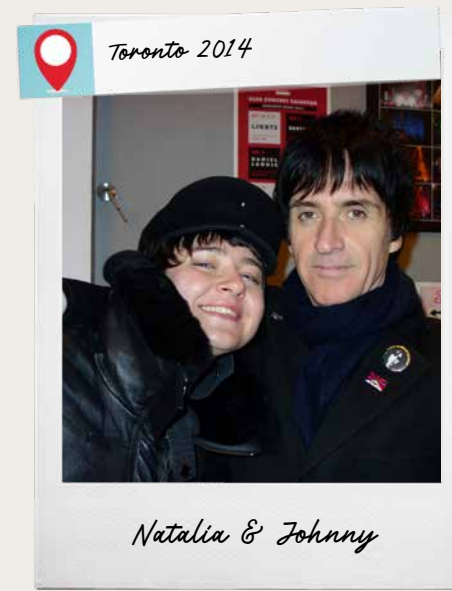
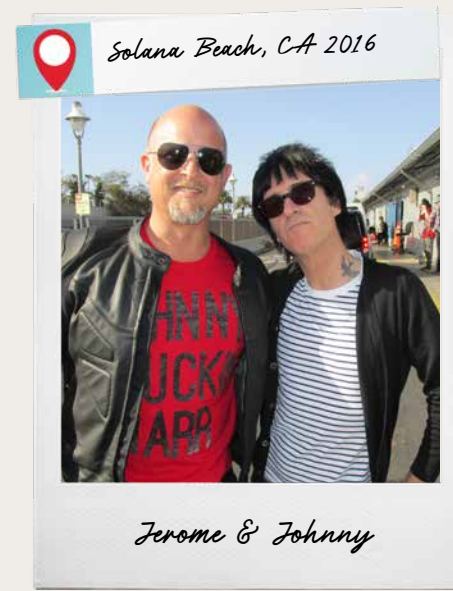
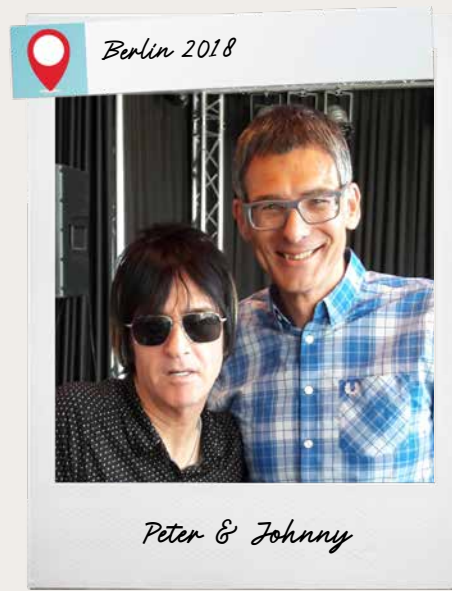
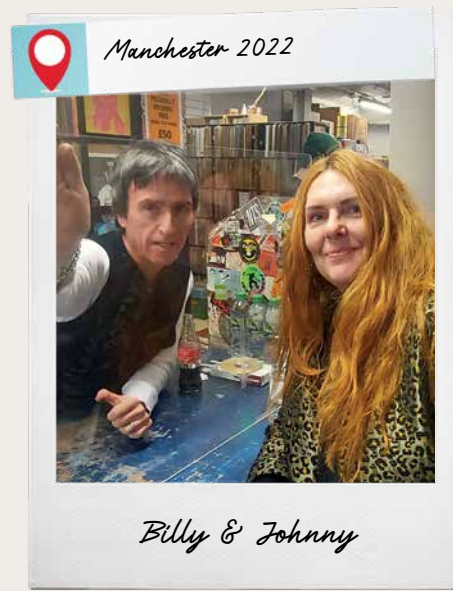
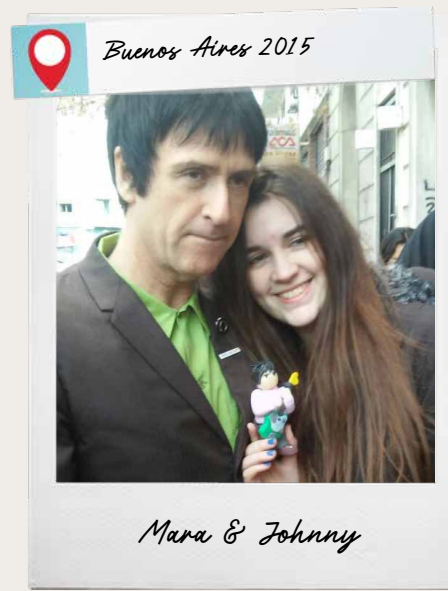
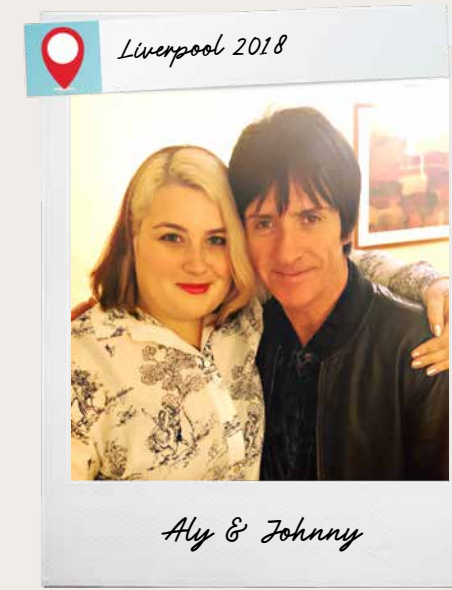
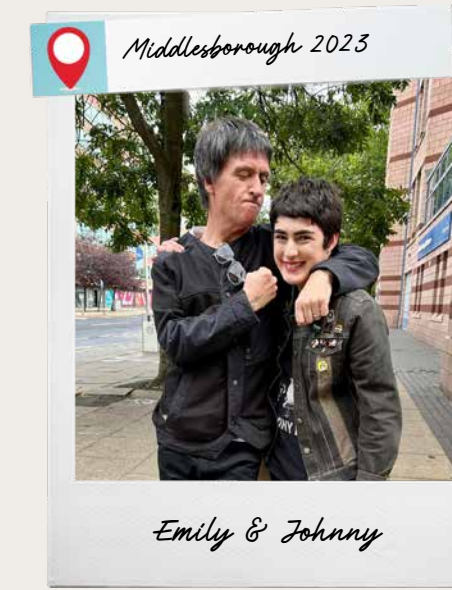
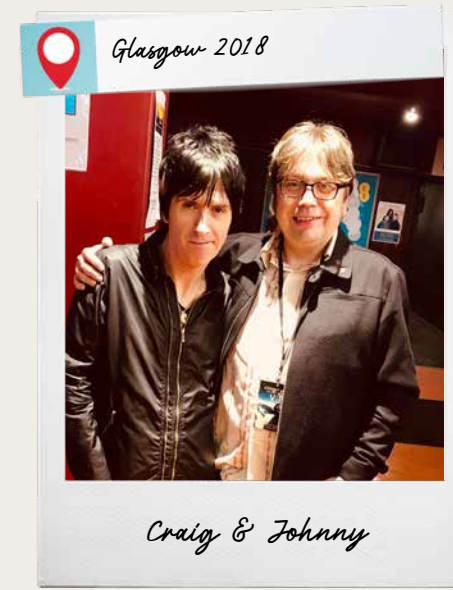
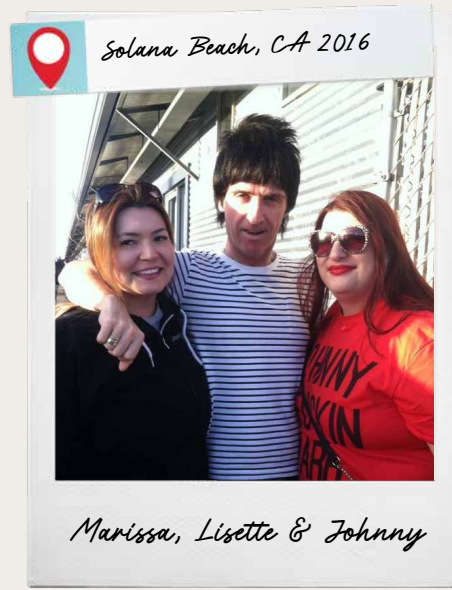
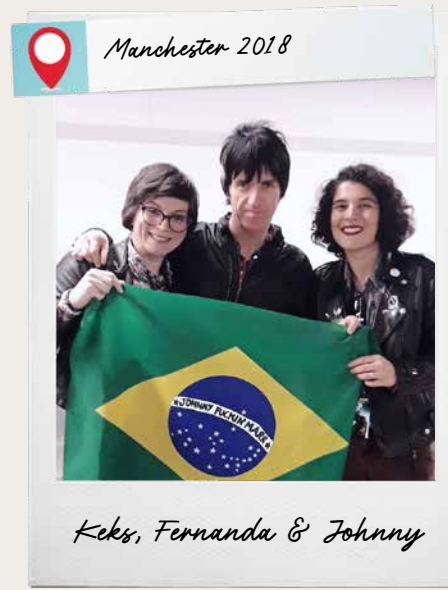


Reach out to someone you love...

Through the years, Johnny has nurtured a genuine connection with his fans that goes far beyond the stage. He takes time to listen, to engage, and to understand the stories and emotions that his music ignites in his fans. Johnny makes each fan feel seen and heard. His willingness to share stories, offer advice, and engage in genuine conversations at shows or through social media is a testament to his deep appreciation for the people who have supported him throughout his career. It's an authentic connection that makes Johnny a beacon of inspiration for those of us who have been touched by his music.







THIS MARRVELLOUS MAN

I won't pretend to know everything about Johnny, but "Marrvellous", that much I'm sure of. I do not need the intricate minutiae. Instead, I will focus on how he and his music make us feel. I know I'm not alone in that.

Johnny's path was not so evenly paved. Navigating potholes takes more than talent and hard work. It also requires determination and strength of character. He falls short of none. I'm confident he'd tell you it doesn't feel like work when you love what you do. Years later, he still loves it and loves his community too. It shows. We feel it.

Thus far, it's been a fascinating journey. We've devoured every bit of news, hung on to every word, and eagerly and anxiously anticipated the next brilliant creation as we pray it brings another magnificent tour. We get excited to see his beaming smile and that glint in his eye. Oh, and the hugs! Patience is not something we do well. Ha ha.

Johnny's sonic soundscapes have woven this tight-knit band of characters together. A lovely, welcoming community, each a talent in their own right. Marr-o-philes? Hush. We refuse the dismissal placed upon us by quaint, little labels. Still, there is no question we revere him. There is much pride in setting up in his camp. We draw strength from his music. It inspires us. It is part of our joy and comfort in our defeats. Love, respect, and admiration run deep. JFM gets what he gives. Take note he has and continues to give so very much of himself. That's why honouring him on any given day is effortless. The man makes it easy.

Now, here we are, the big 60. Cliche? No. An enormous milestone. One that anyone who has endured what he has would be grateful to achieve.

Wrought with nerves, I thought, how do I formulate words meaningful enough to describe our sentiments for Johnny? The emotions he evokes personally and musically are the answer. Soon ideas spilled upon the page. My only hope is that I've placed them in some semblance of order that they do him justice.

We Love You, JFM. Though you may know, we hope you feel it too! Wherever this journey leads, WE LOVE YOU are the words we wish you to carry forever and always.

Happy Birthday from all of us, Johnny, and may you be blessed with many more! Xoxo

Denise DeNezza



Contributors

Thank you to our contributors for bringing our vision to life with your incredible words and captivating photography. Your contributions, both in words and through your lenses, have breathed life and depth into this humble tribute, and we are immensely grateful to you.

Thank you, as always, to Johnny himself for his ongoing support and immeasurable positivity.

Jeanne Abicht
Edan Alterman
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Steve Barnes
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Andrea Bertocchi
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Liam & Jack Brader
Johanne & Guy Brader
Julieta Briola
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Kathey Norton
Laura Nunez
Nicola & Laura Nuttal
Siobhan O'Driscoll
Fiona O'Neill
Jason Oliver
Emma Palor

Kate Park
Liv Parker
Katya Pavic
Chris Pavlich
Luca Pelides
Tom Phillips
Glyn Phillips
Jasmine Pirker
Linda Poulcott
Violeta Preciado
Tim Price
Laure Privat
Érica Pucci
Marcelo Reyes
Marissa Rivera
Lisette Rivera
Adam Roberts
Melissa Roden
Mara Romanessi
Colin Ross
Billy Rutter-Placke
Lotta Rydberg
Christine Schmidt
Jack Schofield
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Mark Sharpley
Tony Smith
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Kirsty Smith
Craig Spence
Emily Stark
Andrea Stewart
Jerome Stockham
Alan Strickland

Gail Tangney
Roberto Tavazzani
Natalia Tcherniak
Marshall Towner
Paul Towner
Ewan Lee Trehearne
Galine Tumasova
Isabel Velez
Ethan Vincent
Karen A. Volin
Eve & Oliver Whitehead
Connor Whyte
Theo Wright
Isobel Wyeth
Olga Zaitseva
Mj Zander
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Eve & Oliver Whitehead
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Theo Wright
Isobel Wyeth
Olga Zaitseva
Mj Zander

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Being a Johnny Marr fan between 2013 and 2023 has been a journey of sonic evolution and filled with timeless appreciation.

Over this decade, Marr continued to captivate us with his signature guitar work and poetic songwriting, both as a solo artist and in collaborations with other musical luminaries.

His live performances remained electrifying, drawing worldwide fans from all generations into a collective embrace of his enduring talent.

Being a fan during this time has meant embracing an artist who not only shaped the past but also continues to shape the future of music.

A JOHNNY MARRVELLOUS PUBLICATION

2023
