

RUSTY CAGE PRESENTS...

# BLACKENED

ISSUE #1  
MAY '10

Hello...

Rusty Cage presents issue #1 of Blackened, a new monthly newsletter for the Manchester alternative scene. We love rock, we love metal and we especially love grunge, so you can expect loads of that and none of this new fangled emo shite. We like going to gigs and rock clubs, we like writing...we like a lot of stuff, including taking the piss out of Nickelback, so if you're a fan of the Chad, this might not be your cup of tea.

You may or may not remember Rusty Cage. It was a club night at the Phoenix, playing a lot of grunge, rock and alternative. We ran for a few months, but took a long break for various reasons. Well now we're back, but with a new agenda. We're not going to bring back a regular club night. What we \*are\* going to do is a series of rock-themed events across the next couple of years. It will include a couple of club nights, but there will be other stuff. Hell, if it goes really well, who knows. We are doing EVERY SINGLE THING for charity, specifically the Layne Staley Fund ([www.laynestaleyfund.com](http://www.laynestaleyfund.com)), with the intention of donating a shitload of money to them in 2012, the 10 year anniversary of Alice in Chains frontman Layne Staley's death. This kinda means we'll need a lot of collaboration, a lot of favours and a lot of support to get this all going.

All the content is written by the two members of Team Cage, unless otherwise specified. Want to write to us? Want to write \*for\* us? Want to help us with any events? Want to go for a beer? GET IN TOUCH. We are also looking to collaborate with local businesses, genre-relevant or otherwise, who would like to offer something to our readers in return for free advertising. You can also secure ad space with us by making a donation to the Layne Staley Fund. Just drop us an email and we can talk about it.

So, here's Blackened issue #1, by us, for you. Enjoy.

*Love, Team Cage x*

Goodbye...

It has been a sad couple of months for rock n' roll..

Not only did we lose the mighty Jilly's, Type O Negative frontman Pete Steele also tragically died of heart failure on the 14th April aged only 48. All this was followed by the death of legendary metal singer Ronnie James Dio on 16th May, who finally succumbed to stomach cancer having been diagnosed in 2009.

As rumours began to circulate of Steele's death, they were initially dismissed by many since similar rumours had permeated the scene in 2005, the source of which, a picture of a tombstone bearing Steele's name, had merely been created for the band's website to advertise their new signing with SPV records.

Sadly, this time the news was real.

The Rainbow/Sabbath/Dio singer's early reaction to treatment after his diagnosis was positive, but things quickly took a downturn. His wife, Wendy Galaxiola released this statement via his official website:

"Today my heart is broken, Ronnie passed away at 7:45am 16th May. Many, many friends and family were able to say their private good-byes before he peacefully passed away. Ronnie knew how much he was loved by all. We so appreciate the love and support that you have all given us. Please give us a few days of privacy to deal with this terrible loss. Please know he loved you all and his music will live on forever."

And so, the great gig in the sky has filched another couple of players from the scene closest to our hearts.

**Pete Steele (Petrus T Ratajczyk)**

**04/01/1962 - 14/04/2010**

**Ronnie James Dio (Ronald James Padavona)**

**10/07/1942 - 16/05/2010**

A newsletter for

rock / metal / alternative

music in Manchester

## Album review

### AC/DC – Iron Man 2

At the time of writing I haven't actually seen Iron Man 2, but I can't think of a more perfect band to complement a film about men in super-powered metal suits fighting noisily and tearing up cities as they go.

There is one thing to be clear on first of all – there is nothing new here for AC/DC fans. If you've got their albums you're probably not going to buy it, unless you're an especially hardcore fan or a 'DC completist.

But, on the opposite side of the spectrum, this album would serve as an excellent introduction to the band and would be an equally worthwhile purchase for the casual listener who didn't have anything already and just wanted to have a few classics in their library.

The mix of songs showcases the vocals of both Brian Johnson and the late Bon Scott in equal measure, and throws in some of the relatively lesser-known songs (Evil Walks, Cold Hearted Man) with the big hitters (Back in Black, Highway to Hell).

If you like AC/DC you can't really go wrong with the content – you know exactly what you're getting, and AC/DC always deliver exactly what you expect. But even with the lesser-known tracks making it stand out from another best-of compilation, a compilation it remains.

In closing, this one is probably best left for the newbies... and if your 'DC cherry hasn't yet been popped and you do intend to get hold of this, my envy of your impending experience cannot be conveyed in words, written or otherwise.

## The Long & Winding Road

Monthly column, by Jay Bardsley

At some point in our lives, in some part of our hearts, we have all wondered what it is to be that oft misunderstood creature – The Rock-Star! If not for the sex or the drugs, then for the sheer sphincter-tightening experience of standing in front of 100, 1000 or even 100,000 people chanting your name. No true music lover could find themselves in the dark at their favourite venue, the walls sweating and the crowd heaving without a tiny voice in your head wishing for two minutes you could be the one looking down upon the throngs of ecstatic faces. We also dream of that moment of seeing your hero, watching them perform and shaking their hand after and thanking them for...well... everything, but few people truly know what it takes to become a professional musician these days, the endless sacrifice of body, mind and soul (not to mention privacy) required to elevate the mundane to the ethereal, and to capture and live 'The Dream'.

A few months ago myself and others from these pages were lucky enough to meet, greet and chat with Alice In Chains. For myself, an avid (some would argue, obsessive) fan, this was THE moment I had been looking for! In spite of the show itself having finished several hours earlier, temperatures plunging into the shrieking-brass-monkey zone and myself having ingested enough market-stall-grade amphetamines to drop a small pony, we waited. And we waited. Temperatures fell further, numbers depleted, some shuffled home or lost consciousness, and still we waited. Then, finally, mercifully, Jerry stepped out. He looked tired, ill and it was with a sense of foreboding that we waited our turn. "No pictures guys, please, I'm really sick right now" he croaked, clearly having suppressed his ailment throughout the show for our sake. Signing a 12" of Dirt for a star-struck Glaswegian couple, no sooner had he said this than someone thrust a camera in his face. "Sh\*t man, I write the tunes, record the music, I do the shows, I sign the autographs, and you don't even f\*cking listen to me! Jesus man!" he mumbled sadly to himself whilst oblivious, the person kept on snapping away. Jerry looked broken, beat and genuinely upset, the frustration barely contained by his clenched jaws. Before anyone could say something, the happy-snapper was off. I've pondered that moment ever since. As a musician of over 20 years, I have woken every morning with the sole intention of earning enough money from a career in music to shrug the ugly toad "Work" from my back.

Now, as a member of "The So & So's" and our debut UK single in production, I'm closer than ever to this being a reality. The question is, do I have what it takes? Would you be willing to bankrupt yourself emotionally and financially, just for a sniff of the biscuit? And even if you get there, the effort required to sustain it beyond a blip on the cultural radar is staggering. Therefore forgive me, if you will, for feeling mixed emotions when I remember my hero tired and burnt out. I suppose the old adage of "be very careful what you wish for" has never rung so sad, or so true...

*Jay Bardsley has been teaching music privately in Manchester for the last 10 years and currently plays with "The So & So's" (<http://www.myspace.com/richardduttonmusic> for more).*



## Rusty Cage Recommends

*Tried, tested and loved by Team Cage*

### Flecky Bennett's Manchester Ghost Walk

Every Monday and Tuesday at 7pm, meet outside of the Town Hall visitor centre, £6/£5 concessions. On Flecky's ghost walk you'll get the opportunity to walk through Manchester's back streets and hear not only sinister tales of ghostly goings on, but some interesting historical facts about Manchester too. Fun, entertaining and educational.  
[www.manchesterghostwalk.co.uk](http://www.manchesterghostwalk.co.uk)

### RockIt! Belly dance classes

Every Tues & Thurs\* 6.30pm-7.45pm at The Dancehouse, Oxford rd. £5. The style of dance combines traditional belly dance moves with burlesque, African and street dance. The moves are large and loud, just like the music you'll dance to, so at the classes you'll learn a lot about dance, have a good work out and a lot of fun too! Includes dancing to bands such as: Whitesnake, Metallica, Red Hot Chilli Peppers, Def Leppard, Lacuna Coil, Foo Fighters, Muse, David Bowie, Rage Against the Machine, Tool, The Mission, Dio, Aerosmith, AC/DC, Kyuss, Poison, The Cult, Korn.  
\*Thursdays starting June 3rd  
[www.graceinflamm.com](http://www.graceinflamm.com)

### Reasons why we hate Nickelback

- Reason #1: Their music made my guinea pig scratch off its own ears in terror
- Reason #2: Chad conditions his luscious curly locks with the tears of African orphans
- Reason #3: They are shite

## Gig Review

### Hole

Academy, 07/05/10

I went to this gig with an open mind. There is no getting around the fact that this incarnation of Hole, well, ain't really Hole. It's Courtney and a pretty-boy backing band.

Still, I hadn't seen Hole before so was looking forward to rocking out to their greatest hits, and semi-rocking out to their new stuff.

What a bleedin' let down. The ratio of classic Hole to random WTF cover versions was severely askew. Courtney appeared to just be doing whatever she fancied rather than feeding us what we wanted- good ol' fashioned Hole!

Of course we heard classics such as Violet and Celebrity Skin, but I left feeling like I had been done out of £21.50.

### Venues pls kthx

Just a note to say we are looking for a venue to do a couple of Rusty Cage club nights, so if anyone has any ideas, please let us know! As we are non-profit though, it has to be cheap/free. Cheers!



## Club night picks

Stuff to do now Jilly's is no more...

**Midlife Crisis**/Retro Bar/final Friday of the month/90s alternative

**Rock Bottom**/Club coliseum/fortnightly Fridays/rock, metal

**Spitfire**/Satan's Hollow/every Saturday/Jilly's DJs

**Nyte Heet**/Retro Bar/monthly ad hoc, 10th July, 14th Aug/classic rock

**Dirty Deeds**/Phoenix/every 3rd Saturday/clubnight & karaoke/classic rock & party metal

**Ignite**/Phoenix/May 28th then every Fri from June 10th/alternative anthems

**Shock**/Phoenix/monthly, final Saturday/goth, industrial, EBM, 80s



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