

# Documentary Nods to Radiohead's Legendary 'Computer'

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Because most of our students grew up in the '90s it may seem strange to think that music has changed within only a decade but its true: the bands of our youth are no longer topping the charts. The '90s brought us Oasis, No Doubt and Nirvana, the grungy, pre-Britney Spears rock-pop that constituted the first of our CD collections. While Oasis and Blur led the Britpop explosion that made its way over to the United States during the '90s, Radiohead soon followed and attracted a cult like following that has lasted to this day.

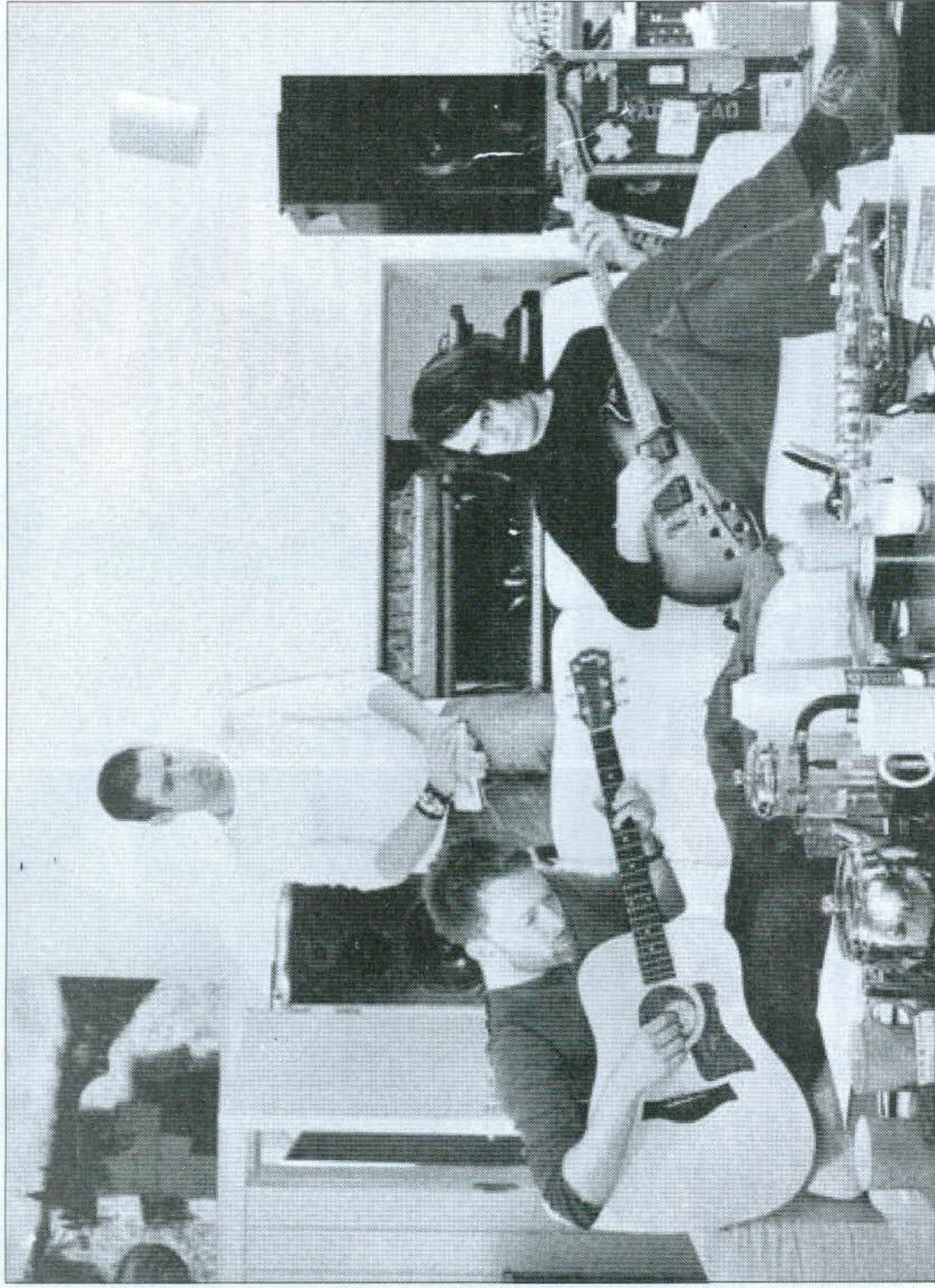
In a new rock-umentary entitled *OK Computer: A Classic Album Under Review*, journalists, authors and Radiohead fanatics take apart and analyze the band's success, putting special focus on their fourth album, *OK Computer*.

True fans of Radiohead appreciate the fact that each of their albums are very different. *Pablo Honey* was more grunge, while *The Bends* was more folk, and *Kid A* just defies definition. Over the last 15 or so years, Radiohead has been able to produce hits while still maintaining its reputation for unique and progressive music.

*OK Computer* stands out from the rest of Radiohead's albums in several ways, starting with how it was recorded. The band was given complete control of their own studio for the first time with *OK Computer*, which was recorded in a 15th century secluded mansion in Bath. The setting provided a unique atmosphere (and not to mention the cavernous acoustics) of an old castle that affected their music in new ways.

The names of Radiohead's Albums have always been a topic of discussion, and *OK Computer* is no different. Music journalist Mark Paytress, a commentator on the DVD, pointed out, "Computers can't really be 'okay.'" They work on yes and no, so the name is a bit of an oxymoron." The name, in context to the time in which the album was created, most likely references the importance computers were beginning to take in all of our lives.

The DVD includes live footage of Radiohead's many concerts, as well as music videos and artwork, all discussed by sev-



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eral British Radiohead "experts." While there is something about British accents that just make people sound intelligent, a lot of what is said in the commentary is spot on (if a bit wordy). Alex Ogg, a self-proclaimed "expert," described *OK Computer* as "Sullen, bitter, misanthropic and [having] an orchestral presence."

*OK Computer's* tracks are all different, giving the album a variety that is hard to match. From the first song, "Airbag," which illustrated Radiohead's electronic influences, to the

gloomy "Exit Song" which was used in the 1996 film *Romeo and Juliet*, to "Electioneering" which criticized British Prime Minister Tony Blair; each song is inherently different and deserving of attention.

Radiohead will no doubt remain in the heart of any '90s kid who had even slightly decent taste in music. While many will try to be a "Thom Yorke nouveau" in the future, Radiohead is rooted enough in American culture to be around for a while.