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UY RITCHIE — DIRECTOR of stylish gangster films and husband of the most famous woman on the planet — ascends the grand staircase, turns at the Frida Kahlo painting and strolls into the lounge, where the massive windows overlook central London. Collapsing into the plump sofa, Ritchie, 34, is the lord of all he surveys.

"Yes, I am comfortable," he says. "But comfort leads to complacency, complacency leads to idleness and idleness leads to fuck-all. So I'd rather be somewhere that is at least fractionally uncomfortable. I don't like being in that fuck-all place."

The filmmaker, along with his wife and their two children, has lived in London in the months since he wrapped his new movie, *Swept Away*. "It was initially called *Love, Sex, Drugs and Money*," he says, "largely because I'm a fan of having alarming titles." After his first two high-octane thrillers —

Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels and *Snatch*, starring Brad Pitt — Ritchie's new movie is a love story, with Madonna in the lead role.

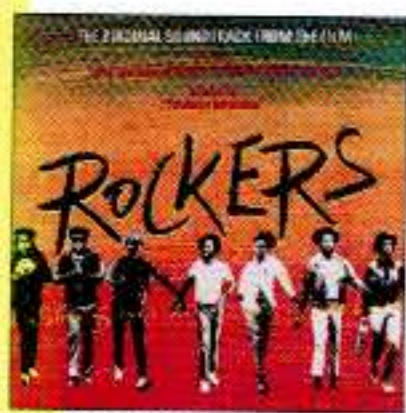
"It's the very antithesis of anything I've ever done," Ritchie says. "And working with the wife was nice. She's very diligent, a real pro."

Ritchie, whose wife has enjoyed a fairly successful recording career, is also passionate about music. As he picks up the first of his 10 favorite albums, a knock comes from the connecting kitchen. The door opens a crack, and an eye — the left one — peeks through. Ritchie looks up.

"Hello there, missus. . . . That's a nice eye."

The eye swivels and takes in the scene. "Oh — you're doing an interview," says Mrs. Ritchie. "Sorry, sorry. It can wait." And with that, the door closes, and Madonna's gone.

Ritchie smiles. "Now — where were we?"

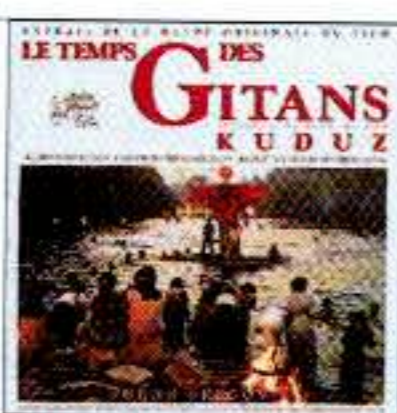


ROCKERS

ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK

ISLAND, 1979

"This Jamaican film is an update of the Robin Hood fable. It's one of the coolest films I've ever seen. I got into it when I was about 14, because I was into reggae and getting high. I wanted to be black for a long time. The music [Peter Tosh, Burning Spear, Bunny Wailer, et al.] is fantastic and full of peace vibes."



TIME OF THE GYPSIES

ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK

PHONOGRAM, 1989

"If I wasn't going to be a Rastafarian, then I was going to be a Gypsy. I find the whole Romany Gypsy culture very romantic and spiritual. The director [Emir Kusturica, from Yugoslavia] is a genius. And the soundtrack's fantastic: a bit Indian, a bit Arab, a bit Gypsy, raw and wild. I love it."

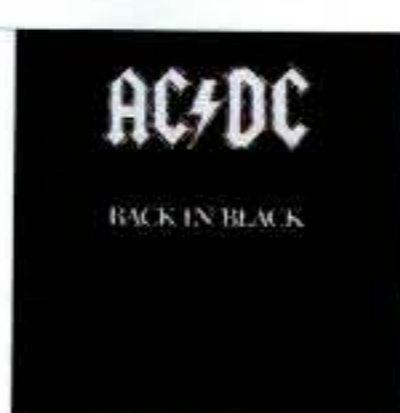


SEX PISTOLS

NEVER MIND THE BOLLOCKS

WARNER BROS., 1977

"I was a bit young for this, maybe, but I started early — I was eating mushrooms by the age of 9, son! I got into punk because of its attitude and message. I like people who struggle against society. This record holds up today. Look at the track listing! 'God Save the Queen,' 'Anarchy in the U.K.,' 'Holidays in the Sun!'"



AC/DC

BACK IN BLACK

ATLANTIC, 1980

"Before I was into reggae, I was a major heavy-metal fan: Zeppelin, Deep Purple, Motörhead and AC/DC. I think this would make my top 10 for the cover alone. But the music is fantastic. I've been learning the guitar for something like 20 fucking years now, and I'm still hopeless. But I stick this on, and I wish I was an ax hero."

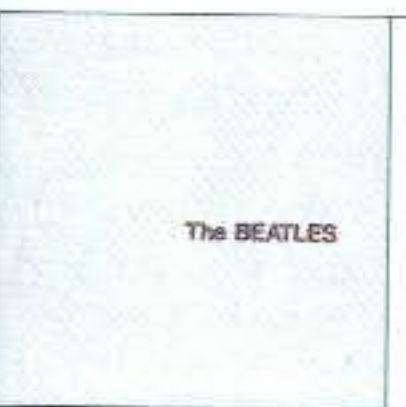


MADONNA

EROTICA

MAVERICK, 1992

"This was when I first started getting a crush on her. Her earlier stuff was too accessible for me, too girly, but *Erotica* had that edge. I didn't confess to anyone that I liked it, and I kept appropriating my then-girlfriend's copy and playing it really loud in the car. She gets better with age, the wife. The stuff she's working on now is absolute killer."



THE BEATLES

THE BEATLES

CAPITOL, 1968

"This came to me courtesy of my older sister, who had great taste in music. I'm hardly the quintessential Beatles man, but it's very obvious that genius was going on. It makes you wonder what the fuck they were on. And isn't 'Helter Skelter' just the dirtiest song you ever heard?"



SNATCH

ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK

TVT, 2000

"I chose the music — come on, brother, this is pure class. You've got [10cc's] 'Dreadlock Holiday,' [the Stranglers'] 'Golden Brown,' [Madonna's] 'Lucky Star.' And [the Specials'] 'Ghost Town,' which is a mega, mega track. If I do say so myself, I make a great soundtrack."

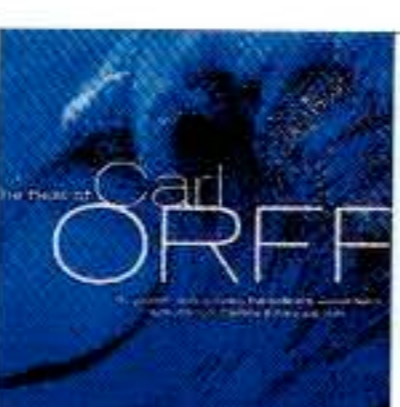


PINK FLOYD

DARK SIDE OF THE MOON

CAPITOL, 1973

"When Pink Floyd were at their peak, I was still big into my heavy-metal period. This was a whole other scene for me: very trippy, too weird. But when you're older and uglier, you're more accepting of different kinds of music. Listening to this is like seeing colors."

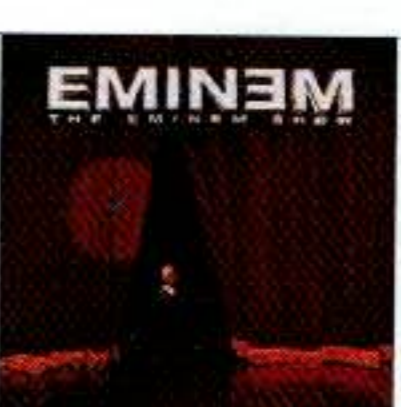


CARL ORFF

THE BEST OF CARL ORFF

BMG, 1999

"I've got an enormous classical collection, but most of it goes 10 feet above my head. I've had experts talk me through it, but it's a complete waste of time. Carl Orff is fantastic, though. I've been thinking of making a siege movie recently, so I've been playing a lot of this."



EMINEM

THE EMINEM SHOW

INTERSCOPE, 2002

"This album is even better than his last one. Eminem's lyrics are amazing. I gather he likes my movies. I'm always being asked to make one of his videos, and I'd be seriously tempted to do so. I'd direct Eminem because he's a talented man, and I've got a lot of time for talent."

AND THE REST...

AFRO-CUBAN ALL STARS A TODA CUBA LE GUSTA ALPHA COME FROM HEAVEN AMERICAN HISTORY X ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK APOLLO 440 GETTIN' HIGH ON YOUR OWN SUPPLY THE AVALANCHES SINCE I LEFT YOU ROY AYERS WEST COAST VIBES BACH BRANDENBURG CONCERTOS THE BAND THE BAND BECK MELLOW GOLD BECK ODELY BLUE VELVET ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK BILLY BRAGG AND THE BLOKES ENGLAND HALF ENGLISH BRAHMS PIANO CONCERTO R.L. BURNSIDE TOO BAD JIM BUSTA RHYMES WHEN DISASTER STRIKES CAFÉ DEL MAR FAR AWAY MARIA CALLAS MARIA CALLAS MANU CHAO CLANDESTINO THE CHARLATANS TELLIN' STORIES THE CHARLATANS THE CHARLATANS THE CLASH LONDON CALLING THE CLASH THE CLASH THE CLASH SANDINISTA THE CLASH COMBAT ROCK ROSEMARY CLOONEY BLUE ROSE JOE COCKER WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM MY FRIENDS COLDPLAY PARACHUTES CY COLEMAN IT STARTED WITH A DREAM JOHN COLTRANE BLUE TRAIN COMMON LIKE WATER FOR CHOCOLATE NOEL COWARD TOGETHER WITH MUSIC CYMANDE SECOND TIME AROUND DAF PUNK DISCOVERY DASHBOARD CONFSSIONAL THE PLACES YOU HAVE COME TO FEAR THE MOST DAVE MATTHEWS BAND LIVE IN CHICAGO DAY ONE ORDINARY MAN DEBUSSY LA MER DE - PHAZZ GODSDOG ONTEL LIFE IS FULL OF POSSIBILITIES NICK DRAKE FRUIT TREE DR. DRE THE CHRONIC BOB DYLAN NEW MORNING ELUSIVE PRESSURE DROP ART FARMER AND BENNY GOLSON MEET THE JAZZTET FILA BRAZILLIA BRAZILIFICATION GHOSTFACE KILLAH SUPREME CLIENTELE BEBEL GILBERTO TANTO TEMPO GOLDIE RING OF SATURN RUBEN GONZALEZ INTRODUCING... GORILLAZ GORILLAZ IL CASANOVA ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK THE JAM ALL MOD CONS THE JAM SOUND AFFECTS RONNY JORDAN THE QUIET REVOLUTION KINGS OF CONVENIENCE VERSUS KATIA LABEQUE LITTLE GIRL BLUE LAMB LAMB LED ZEPPELIN LED ZEPPELIN LED ZEPPELIN LED ZEPPELIN LED ZEPPELIN III LED ZEPPELIN LED ZEPPELIN IV LEFTFIELD LEFTISM LEFTFIELD RHYTHM AND STEALTH LOCK, STOCK AND TWO SMOKING BARRELS ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK JACQUES LOUSSIER YOU ONLY LOVE ONCE BOB MARLEY BURNIN' BOB MARLEY UPRISING BOB MARLEY EXODUS BOB MARLEY NATTY DREAD DEAN MARTIN THE BLIT OF BOX SET JOHN McLAUGHLIN EXTRAPOLATION MEAN MACHINE ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK JOHNNY MERCER JOHNNY MERCER SINGS! MOLOKO THINGS TO MAKE AND DO MORCHEEBA WHO CAN YOU TRUST? MOZART REQUIEM MASS IN D MINOR NOTORIOUS B.I.G. LIFE AFTER DEATH OASIS DEFINITELY MAYBE OASIS WHAT'S THE STORY (MORNING GLORY)? ORB U.F.O.R.B. PHARCYDE BIZARRE RIDE II LOUIS PRIMA DONT THE TWIST PRIMAL SCREAM SCREAMADELICA THE PRODIGY THE FAT OF THE LAND PROPELLERHEADS DECKS-ANDRUMSANDROCKANDROLL RADIOHEAD OK COMPUTER RAGE AGAINST THE MACHINE RAGE AGAINST THE MACHINE LOU REED TRANSFORMER NINO ROTA ROMA RUSHMORE ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK SAINT-GERMAIN DESPRES CAFÉ SIGUR ROS AGËTIS BYRJUN THE STRANGLERS NO MORE HEROES THE STRANGLERS LA FOLIE RICHARD STRAUSS FRIEDENSTAG (PEACE DAY) THE STOKES IS THIS? CHARLES STROUSE MUSICAL LIFE IN CONCERT SUPERGRASS SUPERGRASS TALKING HEADS STOP MAKING SENSE TALKING HEADS SPEAKING IN TONGUES TRAVIS THE MAN WHO TRAVIS THE INVISIBLE BAND TRICKY BLOWBACK VARIOUS ARTISTS AFRICAN-ESQUE VARIOUS ARTISTS CAVALERIA RUSTICANA VARIOUS ARTISTS CHILLED IBIZA VARIOUS ARTISTS DJ KICKS VARIOUS ARTISTS HOTEL COSTES VARIOUS ARTISTS LA COLECCION CUBANA VERDI BEST OF THE VERVE URBAN HYMNS VIVALDI LE QUATTROSTAGIONI KURT WEILL THE SONGS OF KURT WEILL CHUCK E. WEISS EXTREMELY COOL BARRY WHITE SHEET MUSIC ZERO 7 SIMPLE THINGS