

# Black City RECORDS



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# RIPPING HEADACHES

Black City RECORDS



ANNIVERSARY ALLDAYER  
BRISTOL METAL QUARTER  
BCR x REBEL LANDS  
HOME OF METAL  
SPOTIFY

MINI ZINE ISSUE 5

£FREE

## INTHE SHOP

So, over a year in and it looks like we've finally settled down and found our Black City family. Of course, that's all of you obviously. However, we thought it would be nice to introduce properly to the team here on Trenchard Street as many of you have now seen their faces a few times.

First up is our lovely new Saturday staffer, Chloey.

Chloey first popped in the shop last year enquiring if we knew anywhere related to music where she may be able to do her work experience. After coming up with a few suggestions we added "...or here maybe." Anyway, she joined us in June to do this and we liked her so much she's now a permanent fixture to Black City Saturdays. Plus she has a penchant for The Cure and Siouxsie & The Banshees so that's a win in our book.



Secondly, if there's one man in Bristol who is solid, reliable, considered and will fight you over how good Richie Blackmore is (well, he might if he wasn't so laid back) it's Tom.

Tom is our main man staffing the shop when we're out and about at festivals working our stall, or when we're simply skiving. The musical wizard behind Dead Space Chamber Music, Tom has been a friend of ours since before we opened. When they used to call England goalkeeper David Seaman 'Safe Hands', they had obviously not met our Tom.



Both play guitar as well so we're hoping for a Heavy Metal version of The Proclaimers to be emerging from Bristol sometime soon.

## ADVENTURES IN RECORD COLLECTING

### TURNTABLES

You wouldn't stick £400 Pirelli tyres on a 1995 Skoda. Much in the same way you wouldn't stick a Salvador Dali original in a frame from Wilko. But so often than not we make similar decisions about what we decide to play our vinyl on.



There's a number of reasons people buy vinyl: the lavish in your face artwork, the huge lyric sheet, the tactile nature of owning it, amongst others. However, most people would agree that the main reason is for the truly analogue and warm sound that the grooves contain.

Like anything, to truly appreciate the sound of vinyl it will need to be (firstly, properly looked after) played on a turntable that is fit for purpose. Now, this is in no way elitist - but that £40 vinyl you bought is just not going to get the justice it deserves being piped through a £50 turntable.

We've all started somewhere, and generally a good place to start is with a brand such as Audio Technica or Pro-Ject with a good benchmark price point of between £150-200. There's a number of considerations to take into account: drive system, counter weighting, outputs, preamps etc and though this can seem like a minefield we're always on hand at Black City to offer a bit of advice and some recommendations. We want you to enjoy your vinyl to the upmost level... of course we do. A Crosley suitcase (or for that matter any other 'all-in-one') turntable will simply just not do that. Just do a quick Google search and you'll soon find the horror stories about people's cherished records literally being destroyed by the cheap brands making their way onto the market. Your vinyl deserves better. You deserve better.

Above: A Crosley Cruiser turntable. It's shit!

# HAILS

Hails metalhead!

It seems an eternity since we penned issue 4 of Ripping Headaches, so number 5 is well overdue. A lot has happened in that time.

We finally held our most epic night ever with our 1st anniversary alldayer held between the shop and The Gryphon, and we also undertook our first residency in Birmingham at Scruffy Murphys - more about those in this issue.

On top of that we're chuffed to welcome some new people to the Black City ranks and we'll introduce you to them too.

With festival season now coming to an end and the days becoming cooler we look forward to those dark evenings drawing in and the metal becoming darker with them.

Stay metal!

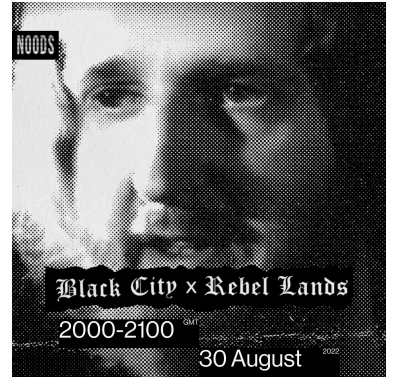
# BLACK CITY



Cover Image: Ol Drake of Evil repping Black City at Summer Breeze Festival

# ALL WE HEAR IS...

We were first approached by Bristol's largest independent radio station - Noods Radio - over a year ago to do a guest spot on their station under the banner of Black City. For one reason or another timings just never seemed to work.



Then in collaboration with our good friend, Seventhbell from the 'true metal' club night Rebel Lands, we managed to tie a date down to present Bristol with our 'Black City x Rebel Lands' radio show.

By the time you read this we will have aired the first show where we'll be playing old and new school alike - but keeping the vibe strictly pure metal.



Traditional, Speed, Thrash, Death and Black Metal are the orders of the day with a very Paul Baloff 'no wimps, no posers' vibe.

You can listen back on the show at [noodsradio.com](http://noodsradio.com). Hopefully they invite us back again. Also keep your eyes and ears peeled for a new wave of Rebel Lands club nights coming to Bristol soon.

# WHAT'S THAT FONT?

Here's a simple one for you. Name the band by the examples of font below. Be aware though... you'll need to be genned up on all your sub-genres.



# 1ST ANNIVERSARY GIG

Our first anniversary gig at The Gryphon in April was something of a special day. Curated by our good friend Dominus from Wulfhere Productions we saw some of our favourite UK Black Metal bands take to the stage for a whole evening of brutality, culminating with Nefarious Dusk (playing their first gig in the south) playing a Black Metal covers set with a host of guests from all the bands in attendance.



Andraccia, Devastator, Blasfeme, Burial and Nefarious Dusk all pulled off amazing sets to a sold out audience in a night that will be remembered for a long time to come.



Earlier in the day we held an acoustic mini-fest in the shop itself where we were joined by a group of friends to entertain us. Traditional folk from Flintlock, an acoustic rendition of collected interludes from Moord of Blasfeme and an acoustic set from Dead Space Chamber Music.



We had an amazing time and want to thank everyone who came along. If you missed out on getting a ticket, you really did miss something special. We are already planning next years event and have the Gryphon booked in for 21st and 22nd April, so make sure your diaries are clear.

# THE BERNARD BLACK COLUMN

We always said that running Black City was a cross between High Fidelity (if you've not watched this film, you simply must) and Black Books. So we've taken a bit of time in Ripping Headaches to pay homage to our retail spiritual master - Bernard Black. Basically, let's drink wine and have a whine.

## STREAMING AND INDEPENDENT ARTISTS/LABELS

Independent labels and unsigned artists are the lifeblood of any scene, especially any scene under the great counter culture umbrella - dance, punk, indie and indeed, metal.

There's a huge web of people that all work together, but often alone, to make the whole thing breathe and exist. Whether that's a band just starting out, an indie label operating from either an office or a bedroom, record shops that stock products, fanzine creators, independent publishers, distros, an indie radio station, visual artists, the list goes on.

The first thing of note here is all the above people do what they do as a labour of love and a passion for the music and scenes they love and little else. Nobody is getting rich in an independent led counter culture venture.

When you get to know people who put months (sometimes years) of work, time, dedication and commitment into creating a product of their music and to see it realised in its physical form is the best thing in the world. They end up leaving a living document in the scene forever. How fucking cool is that?

Most of the time the initial upfront cost of doing any of the ventures

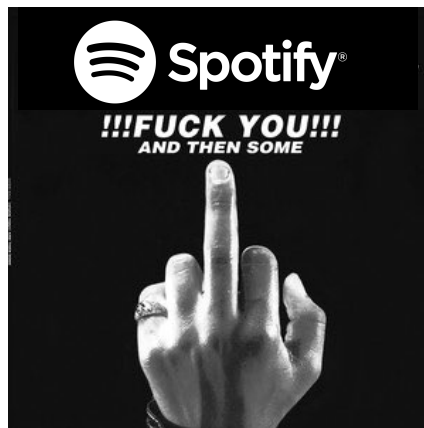


mentioned is sucked up by the band and/or label. And when we say label we're often not talking about 30-40 people operations, we're talking 1-3 people cottage industries run from homes and spare rooms.

Unsigned artists price their products as low as they can to cover their costs and wish for nothing more but exposure. They do not have the resources to get tapes, shirts and especially vinyl printed in such massive quantities that they can drive the price down to that of much larger labels (though some of the massive "independents" still don't pass this saving onto distributor, retailer or customer).

Please do not come into an "independent" record shop and discuss an "unsigned" artist's physical release concluding with "I really like it, but yeah, I'll just stick to my £9.99 Spotify subscription" and claim to be part of any "scene". It's really not nice and certainly not helpful for us all in that huge web to question why the fuck we are even bothering.

Every band was at some point unsigned. Without them, we're nothing. Have some respect and support "your" scene! Support unsigned bands!



NAME THAT FONT

A: Death, B: Black Sabbath, C:AC/DC, D: Dio, E: Megadeth, F: Cradle of Filth, G: Danzig, H: Helloween, I: Deicide, J: Judas Priest, K: KISS, L: Morbid Angel, M: Emperor, N: Napalm Death, O: Onslaught, P: Paradise Lost, Q: Quiet Riot, R: Iron Maiden, S: Suffocation, T: Anthrax, U: Motley Crue, V: Voivod, W: Windin', X: Exodus, Y: Slayer, Z: Ozzy Osbourne

# ALBUM SINCE THE LAST ISSUE

## SAVAGE MASTER - THOSE WHO HUNT AT NIGHT

Louisville, Kentucky's Savage Master have come back after three years with the follow-up to Myth, Magic and Steel in the shape of the quite brilliant 'Those Who Hunt At Night'.

If traditional 80s style metal fused with tinges of speed and power metal (read that as traditional power metal) are your thing then Savage Master will never disappoint.



Fronted by the aptly named Stacey Savage, TWHAN is a 9 nine song, 35 minute charge of pure riffing, twin guitar melodies, and fantastical lyrics that keep you engaged from the offset. Hell, even 'Rain of Tears' has some punkier elements with its singalong chorus.

Top tune for us has to be 'Spirit Of Death' with its galloping vibe reminiscent of mid-era Maiden. In a world where sub-genre over saturation can become a worry and finding jewels in the sand becomes increasingly hard, its nice to find an album (and band) that bring the original vibe and spirit of metal into the modern age with such ease and a refreshing twist.

Will Savage Master be at the forefront of a New Wave of Traditional Heavy Metal along with a flux of other bands making their mark on the world right now? We don't know... but we certainly hope so. Life affirming metal!



reaperagencyuk presents..

Jorvik: 'Bridge of Destiny'

SAT 28TH & SUN 29TH JANUARY, 2023

Black City RECORDS

full album set!

The Dead Birds Or Salmon Bones

full album set!

'Stain in the Spirit'



Rob Halford (Judas Priest)

## HOME OF METAL

Birmingham. Birmingham. Birmingham. What is there to say about the place that hasn't been written in the expansive history of Heavy Metal? We love the place! A lot!

In May we had our first residency at Scruffy Murphys in the city centre where we took over the downstairs gig room and set up shop for a week.

We took with us a stack of shirts, studs and spikes, books, coffee (as always) and around 600 or so records and CDs. Being a few hundred metres from the country's largest HMV didn't dissuade us. Having an offering curated by metalheads for metalheads and not by a sales manager in a head office somewhere obviously goes noted amongst you all (ooh... catty!)

We were taken aback by the support everyone showed us and the warm hosting from the pub. Many a record was played and a few beers consumed at the end of each day.

It was truly an incredible time where we made many new friends and were looked after by existing ones. A sincere thank you to the Midlands metal faithful!

We are back in Birmingham for more stints at Scruffys on the following dates:

Tuesday 13 September 11:00 - 19:00  
 Wednesday 14 September 11:00 - 19:00  
 Thursday 15 September 11:00 - 19:00  
 Friday 16 September 11:00 - 19:00  
 Saturday 17 September 11:00 - 17:00

Tuesday 6 December 11:00 - 19:00  
 Wednesday 7 December 11:00 - 19:00  
 Thursday 8 December 11:00 - 19:00  
 Friday 9 December 11:00 - 19:00  
 Saturday 10 December 11:00 - 17:00



### ISOLATION

A new age of Depressive Suicidal Black Metal from Ireland  
 Out now and available at Black City Records on CD limited to 100 copies



## BRISTOL METAL QUARTER

We thought it might be nice to introduce you to the Bristol Metal Quarter and tell you roughly what it is.

The concept came up on opening day between ourselves and Mr Ashby - everyone's favourite bearded, short wearing ale pusher at The Gryphon.

### LOCATION?

For those that know Bristol, (we envisage) the Quarter is roughly the top of Park Row taking in Colston Street and down to the Hatchet and the O2 Academy.

### WHO?

Initially ourselves and The Gryphon a few metal adjacent businesses and friends have supported the venture and fit in with what we are all about. Namely, How Odd curiosity shop on Park Row - for lovers of the weird, wonderful and macabre. Pierced Up tattoo also up on Park Row. Then there's Rebel Lands club night, which has its home at The Gryphon every now and then. On top of this there's a load of bands who are close to us all who identify with the concept. Let's start seeing that logo appear on records and CDs. Shout Bristol to the world.

### WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

Not a lot. It's just a spirit of Bristol metal and a sense of community that we have tried to build. Bristol Metal Quarter is an idea. Nobody owns it. In fact we all own it and should be proud of it.

### WHAT NEXT?

Who knows. Wouldn't it be great to see a Heavy Metal cafe open? Or a metal focussed instrument shop? Come and join us!