“PEOPLE FELL IN LOVE WITH US AGAIN”

MANIC STREET PREACHERS
RICHLEY, RECOVERY AND THE LEGACY OF ‘EVERYTHING MUST GO’

MERCURY REV
“SUCCESS SURPRISED US”

THE SMITHS
‘THE QUEEN IS DEAD’ TURNS 30

LET’S EAT GRANDMA
“WE’VE NEVER FITTED IN”

PJ HARVEY
SWANS
NOTHING
PURSON

BOGSHED
BIVOUAC
MULL HISTORICAL SOCIETY
When did you first pick up an instrument?

Andy: "I picked up the guitar at seven or eight. I always used to get a musical instrument either for Christmas or my birthday so I went through plastic trumpets, saxophones, keyboard. I tried a bit of everything. I played a bit of cello later on. I made that up as I went along because it was wanted on a TV show we did. We bought a drum set once and I just bought one, tuned it up like a bass and put it from there. Back to the guitar, I used to be in school playing through bands to pass the time and I didn’t have to speak to anybody. Coincidentally, Johnny Marr was doing the same thing and that’s how we met together. We eventually ended up in the same class together when we were both twelve or thirteen and became firm friends. Then we started bands together and went to release in the school hall and we went from there. We were very close. The bass player we had was Kevin Kennedy. He was in ‘Concert Street’. He could only play a couple of thin Lizzy numbers which got screamed after a while so he got put onto rhythm guitar and I got moved to bass. I was a little bit put out at first thinking I’d been demoted. I didn’t like it at first but then didn’t make me try to get my teeth into it and start enjoying it."

You and Johnny Marr had a band called Freaky Party, what did you sound like?

Andy: "I don’t think anything was very worked. There’s probably a couple of recordings on cassette somewhere. That was with Simon Wildenstof who used to do drum with The Fall. We were just a three-piece who could never find a singer. It wasn’t till later when Johnny (Marr) joined a choir for a year and that was when we stuck it together with Martyn. I just got this telephone call one day saying ‘I’ve got this new singer, do you want to play bass?’ And that was that.”

What was your pinnacle moment in The Smiths? - The best part?

Andy: "I remember the last time we went down to America. We had a couple of good shows and this was one of the last shows and that was the last time I saw him as he was leaving. It was the last time I saw him live, he was in a bloody massive arena and I remember thinking ‘This is it’. I actually had a few tears in my eyes. We had a great time together and it was a great band."