



The Glastonbury Vibe

A festival of contemporary
performing art



“You need to milk a lot of cows to get a little cream” Henri Cartier-Bresson

Preface

There are few things more exciting than the emotion that pours from a Glastonbury crowd as a great band walks on stage. It is a big moment for everyone. As I look back over four festivals I remember the great bands who have done something that has connected with my soul. I remember Hot Chip in 2009 as the sun was setting behind the Other Stage, flags fluttering gently in the breeze. Their mellow electronic beat moved me deeply. I treasure the moment when a blind man, Stevie Wonder, walked onto the Pyramid Stage and thrilled a hundred thousand people with his powerful music. And of course the seminal U2 and Rolling Stones sets. We were privileged to be there.

It is uplifting how people take the time to speak to one another. To help one another and befriend one another, irrespective of who they are. United by music and the remarkable atmosphere that pervades the festival.

I recall our neighbour, confiding in me that there were some very strange people here. Given how I felt he was, I began to wonder if I was one of the strange people? At Glasto, strange is often the norm. As is high fashion and beautiful costumes. People make the effort to look good and in the heat wave of 2010 they could do. In the mud of 2011 they looked good from the wellies up!!!





Glastonbury is special for everyone – Keith Richards “Finally destined to play Glastonbury. A culmination of our British heritage. It had to be done”



Foreword

Glastonbury is the largest cultural event in the UK calendar. It is one of the largest music festivals in the world, commanding a deep respect amongst music lovers. People come from around the globe to the Glastonbury temporary city of 180,000 people. It is a true cross-section of British society.

This book is perhaps like no other. It is a historical record of four Glastonbury festivals and will mean something to those that were there. For those that have not been to Glastonbury, it will give you a deeper understanding of one of the main cultural phenomena of our times.

“The Vibe” is a personal view of the 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2013 festivals. Maybe you need to go to Glasto three times to feel at home and understand what it means. The first time is almost overpowering, such is the diversity and scope. The second to see it all, and finally once more to dive deeply into it. By 2013 the festival felt like an old friend.

It has been a family event where father and son have gone to see some of the most important musicians in the world. “The Vibe” attempts to capture the atmosphere of the festival. It has peoplescapes and bands and portraits. Some of which are of the moment – like when Michael Jackson died on the Friday of 2009. Great moments like Bono and U2 performing their opening number in 2011 or the Stones opening with Jumpin Jack Flash. Finally Beyonce lighting up the sky with fireworks and dazzling lights and strutting here stuff, was unforgettable. And it has quieter, reflective moments, when I invite you to come and people watch with me.





[BB King](#)

Living it up at the Beat Hotel

Dedication

This book is dedicated to Alasdair for sharing the excitement and images of Glastonbury.



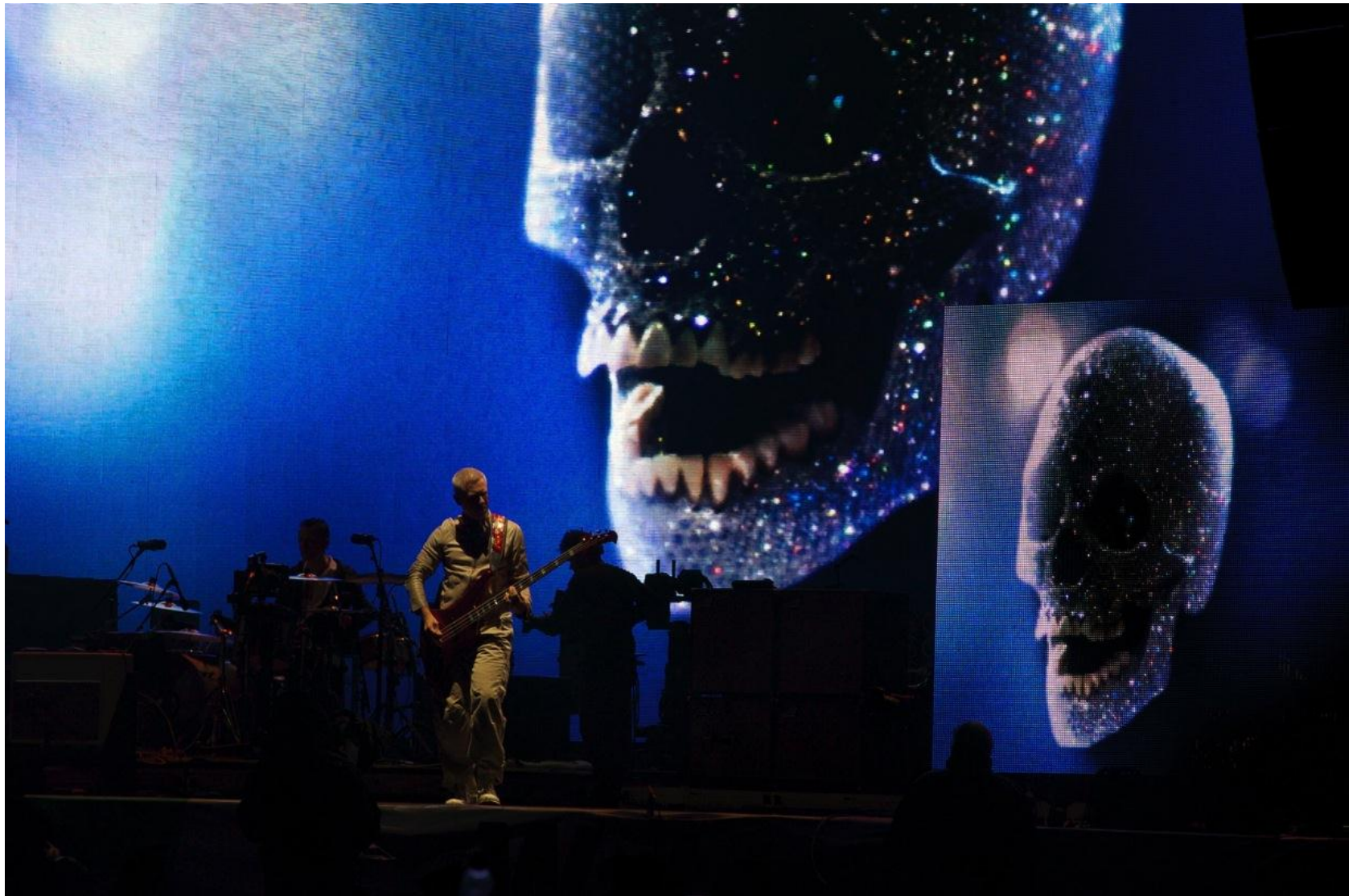
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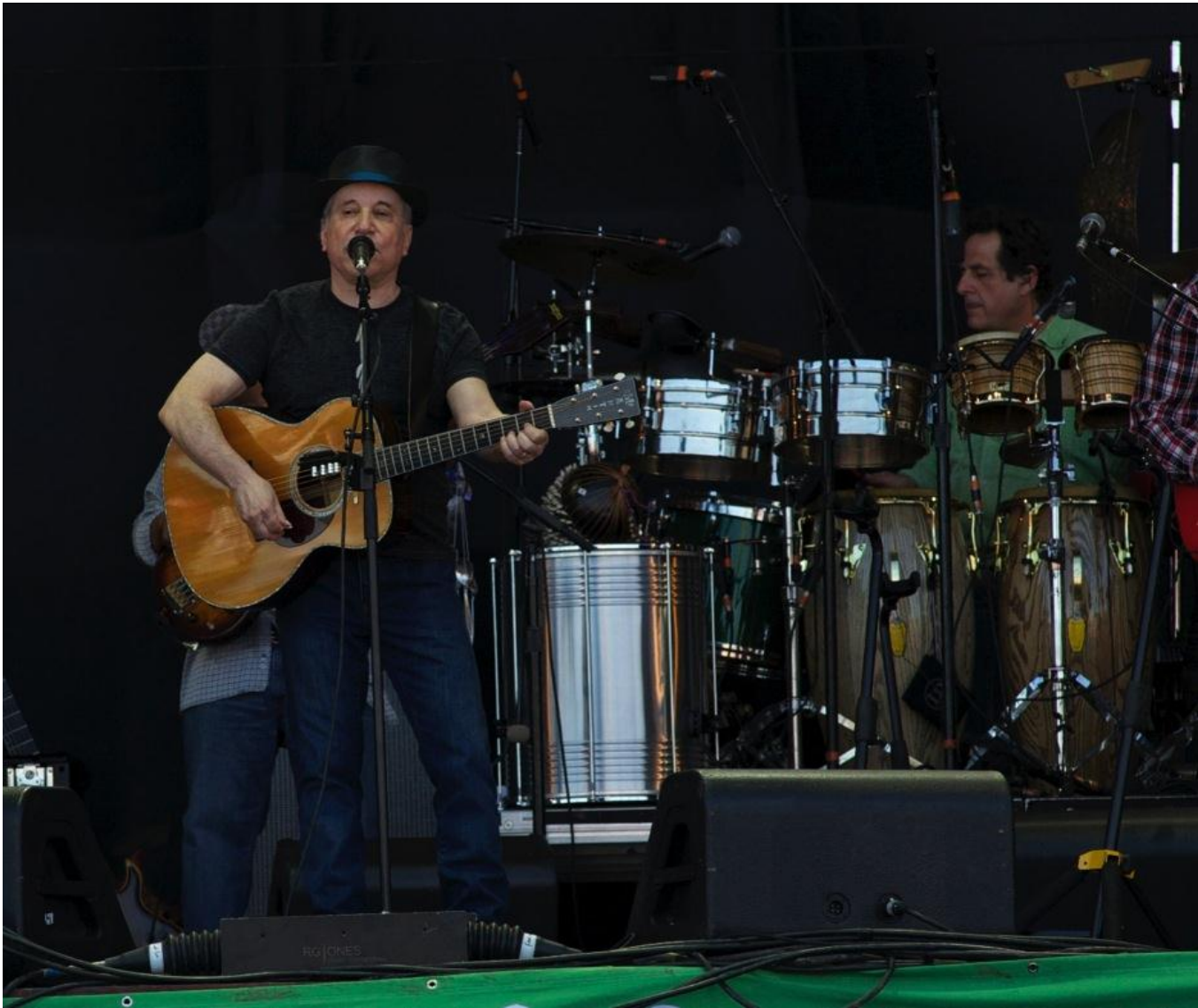
©2013 Rare Earth Publications ISBN: 9780956935724 Authors: Alex and Alasdair Milne



U2 singing in the rain



U2 and Damien Hirst



Paul Simon – So Beautiful or So What

My all time favourite Glastonbury performance. Music from another planet.



After a few days - scratch



The Mandela Bar – A pint of Pyramid

Chapter 1 Michael Eavis

Michael Eavis. His legacy to UK culture is underestimated and for the most part unappreciated. Prince Charles visited when Glastonbury celebrated the festival's 40th birthday, which is when this image was taken. Michael chatted to on looking families with tremendous warmth and appreciation. He is a wonderful ambassador for the festival.



[Michael Eavis - You've missed a lot.](#)



A tribute to Michael Jackson



2009 the year of fluorescent dresses and sun glasses



Cool dude with his gal at the Beat Hotel





War is Over



Sunny opening day at Glasto



Arrival



Drop the Debt Bus – A Glasto regular



Benny Hill Look alike



On the way to a party



The Glade Garden Art



Copyright portable plastic drinks dispenser which can be TOO useful a dispenser



Peace but not tranquility in the Beat Hotel

Chapter 2 The Green Fields

The Green Fields and beyond is where I go on Thursday before the music starts. To chill and meet some interesting people. People that believe passionately in saving the planet.

[The Arctic Monkeys](#)





Pushing barriers



A snowy day in the world



Hybrid Lab





Poetry slam



Mother and daughter share the festival





The Boiler Suits



Wellies and macs in the rain



Meeting Prince Charles

Chapter 3 Left Field

The Left Field home of the Glastonbury conscience. Quite why anyone would want to sit and listen to Tony Benn while some of the world's leading acts are on stage is lost on me. Nevertheless, there is a fervour in there. "Who is going to take the struggle to the Tory Government" "Will we take to the street" etc etc.

[Vampire Weekend](#)





If the unions will not take the struggle to the Tory Government then we will have to!!



Dear you are being photographed



We are the 1%

Chapter 4 The Queens Head

The Queens Head was, but is no longer, where the festival kicked off on Thursday afternoon.

[Laura Marling](#)

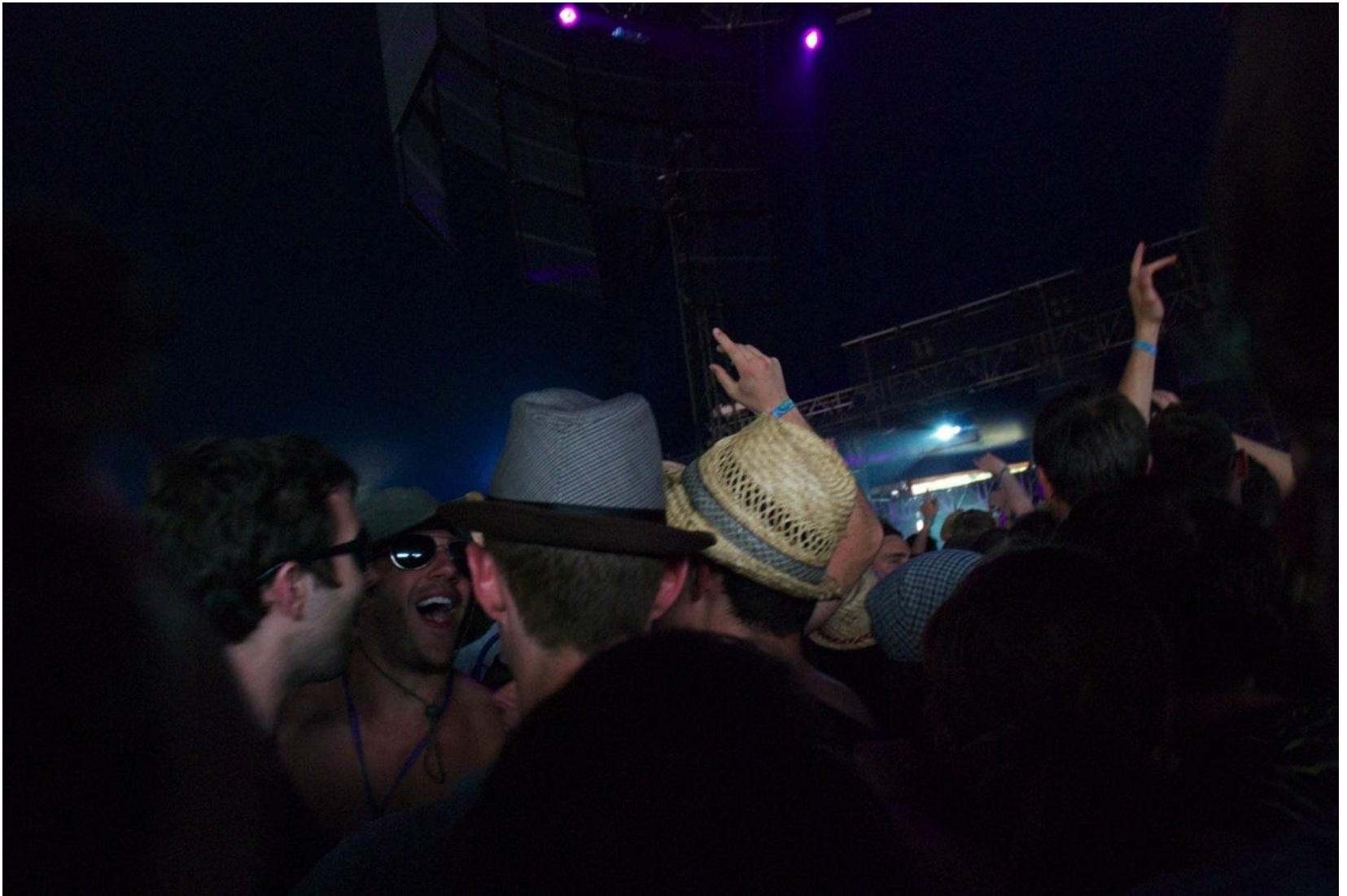




The Queens Head



The Maximo Park Opening Glasto set in the Queens Head 2009



The Maximo Park Opening Glasto set in the Queens Head 2009 2





Gabriella Cilmi in Dirty Boots







Blue and the banana







Getting to know the neighbours



Chapter 5 BBC Introducing Stage

A young and talented Laura Marling on the BBC introducing stage.

[Nora Jones](#)





The Sundowners

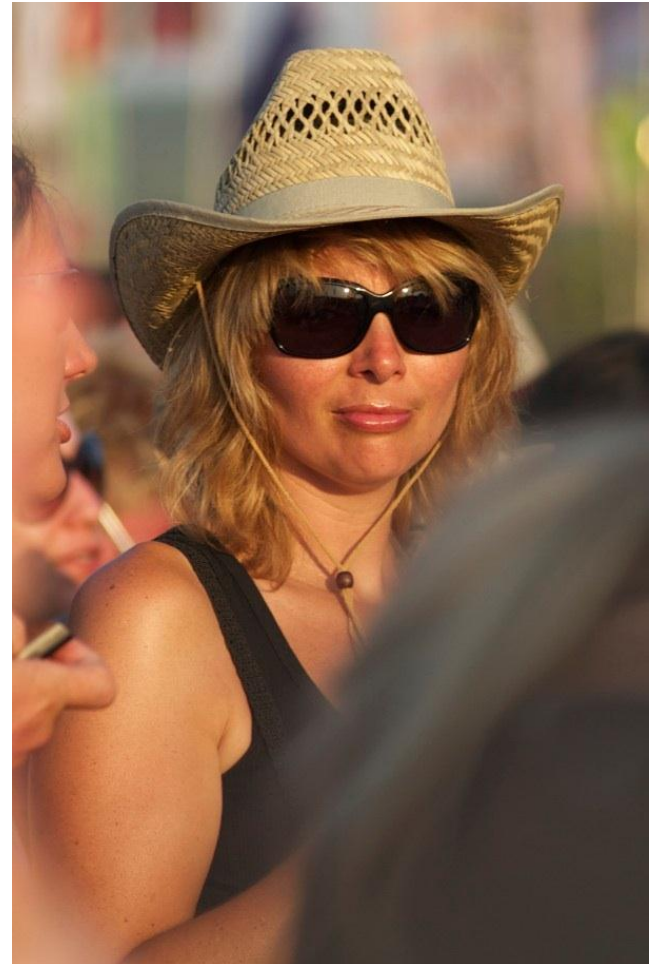


The Rizzle Kicks – Mama Do the Hump

Chapter 6 Tripod Stage

To visit the Tripod Stage you either have to know of it's existence in a wooded glade, or you happen open it by chance. It was hidden away in a far flung corner of the festival site and was the guardian spirit of the old Glastonbury. Sadly it has now gone.

[Pete Doherty](#)





Say it with Flowers



Capitalism Rest in Peace. A stage powered with solar energy



Chapter 7 John Peel

The John Peel stage is where my Glastonbury vibe begins. At the opening of each Glasto Jim Fox, with his long flowing blonde hair, sometimes Dumbledore like or elven, and a little older each year, and as enthused by the excitement of the new and up and coming bands, steps out from behind the speakers. Many of the bands are nervous, some are unprepared and a few are absolutely brilliant. I covet the great ones, the special moments like the Wild Beasts in 2010 or Ladyhawke lifting the roof off the tent.

[War Paint](#)





Laid Back to the Horizontal



Ladyhawke lifting the roof off the JP tent



We are Let's Buy Happiness and we are from Newcastle



The Critics Section





The Green Green Grass of Glastonbury



A quiet Sunday morning in the John Peel tent



Deap Vally California - Lindsey Troy



Robin Dancing on my Own



The Perennial Goldfish



Frightened Rabbit



Marina Diamandis





When it Rains – Inside the John Peel Tent



Blue Eyes – John Peel tent



Another Glastonbury is over – 2009. The crowds disperse and the litter remains

Chapter 8 Other Stage

The Other Stage is waiting for another great event in the annals of British culture in order to be named. For now it is the Other Stage. But there is nothing ordinary about the Other Stage. It is home to huge crowds and great great performances. Whether in the chilled out heat or rain of the day or in the evening. My memories of the Other Stage include seeing Pete Doherty stagger onto the stage and hit the mike with his head. There was a collective gasp from his waiting fans. Of the Ting Tings playing to a rapturous ovation. Of Hot Chip grooving as the sun went down.

[Florence and the Machine – You've got the love](#)

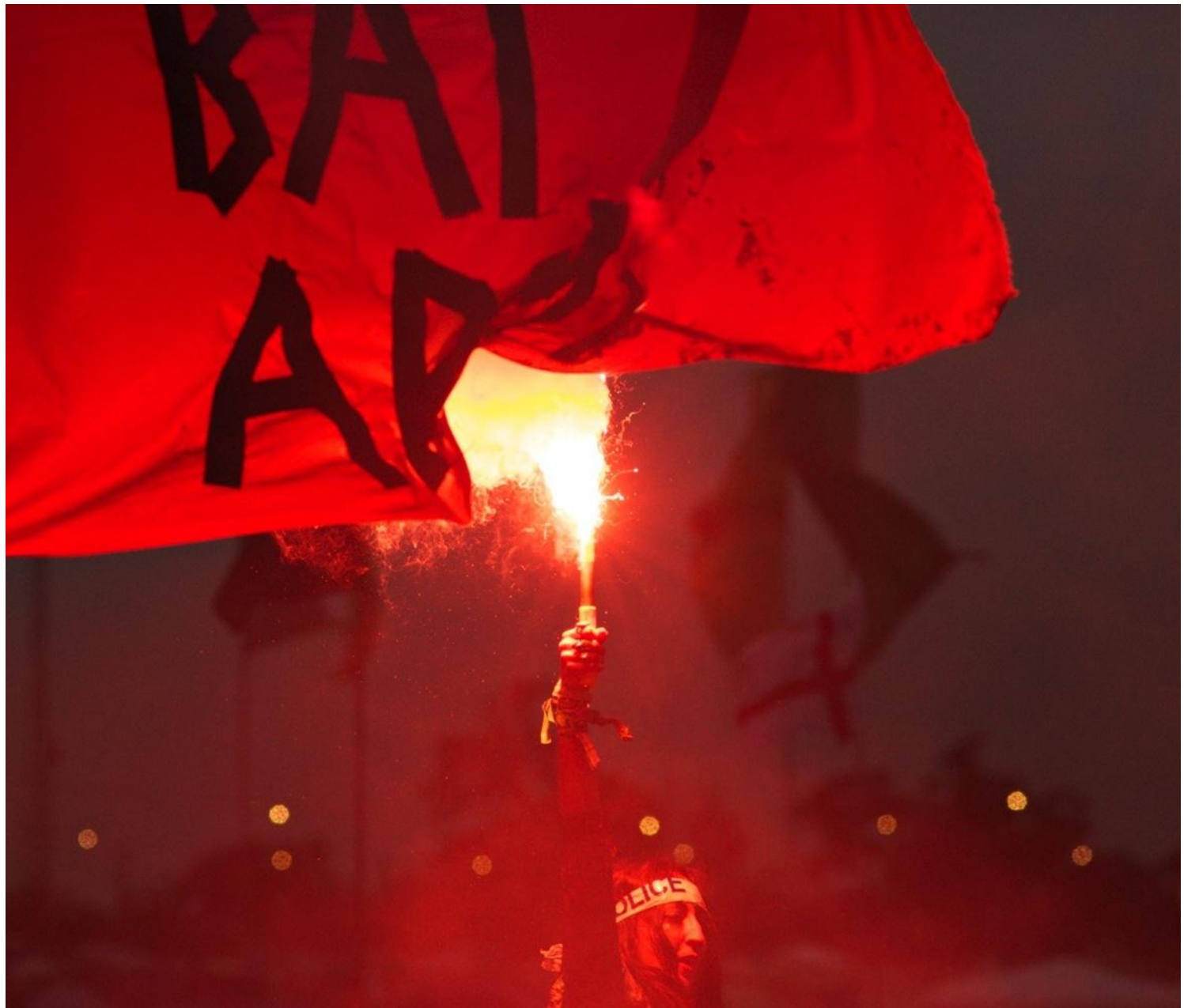




The Ting Tings – That's Not My Name









Foals Mayhem



Flowers in our hair

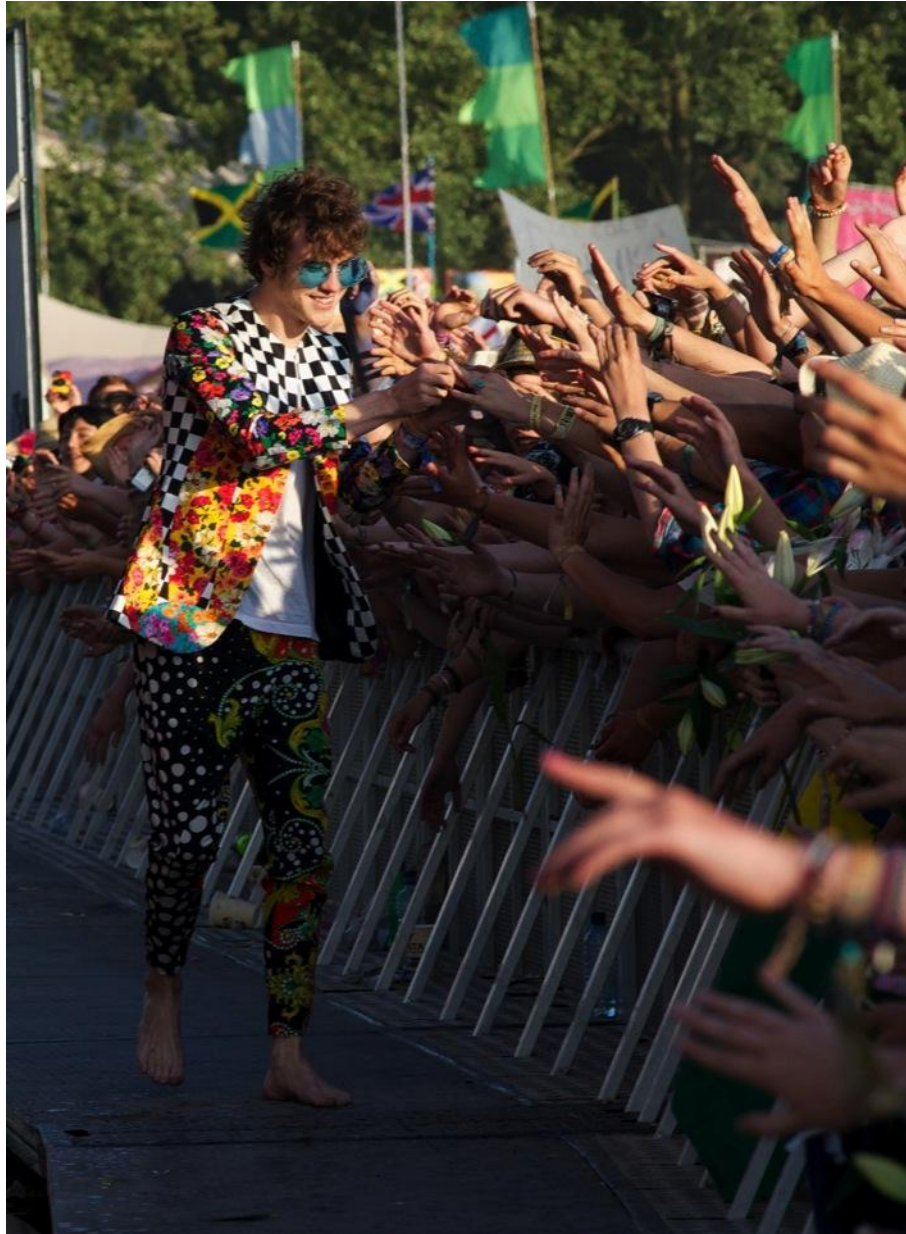




Ice Man with Maverick and Goose



Kate Macguire





JamieXX



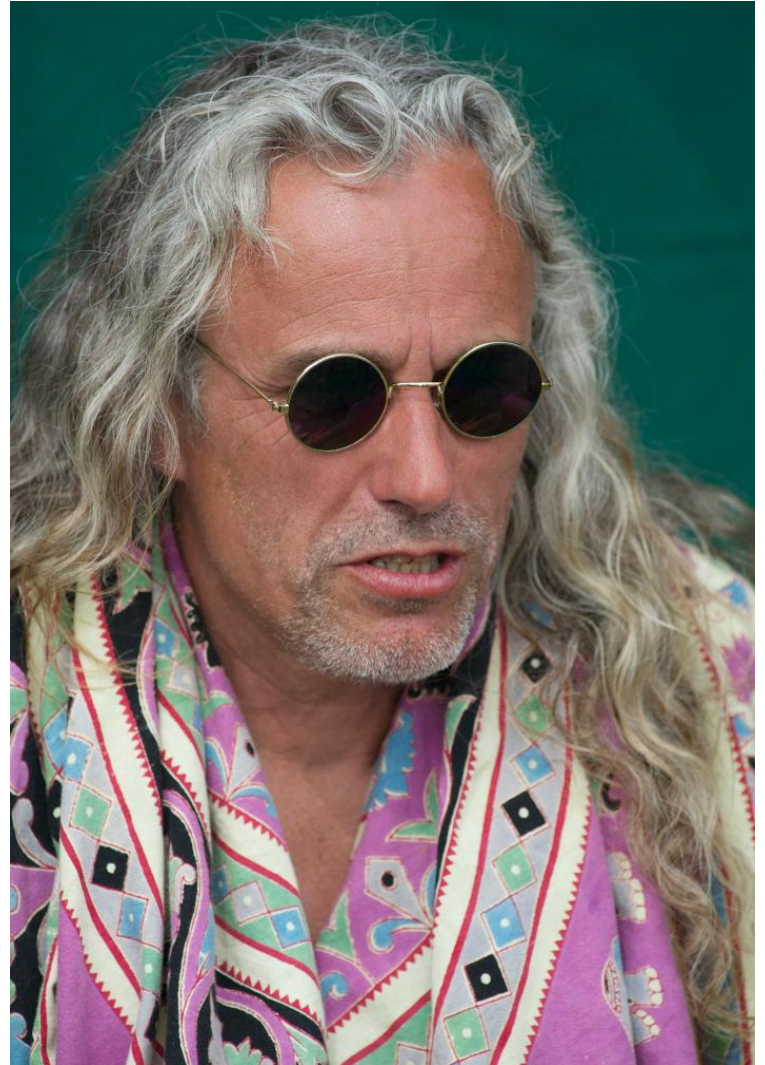
Romy Madley Croft and Oliver Sim The XX. One of the great performances of recent years to close the Other Stage 2013

Chapter 9 Dance Village

The dance village is different and it's clientele are very different. During the day it meanders and bops. After dark and after the headliners, into the early hours of the morning, it explodes in a vision of intense light and racy electronica.

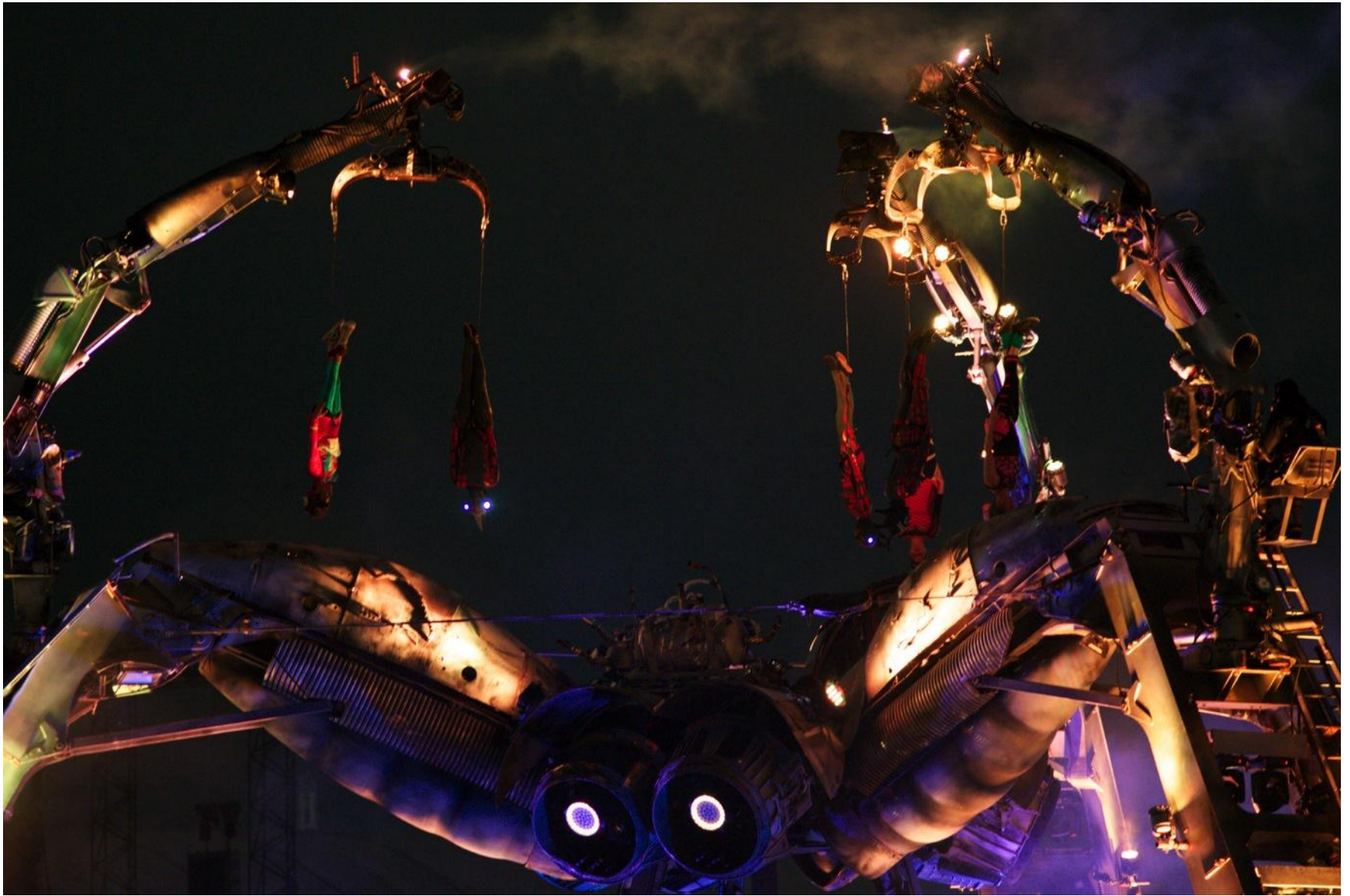
[The Dance Village - Documentary](#)

[Steve Hillage – The Dance Stage and the deeper aspects](#)





Old Punks never die



Upsides Down - Arcadia



Flying Arcadia



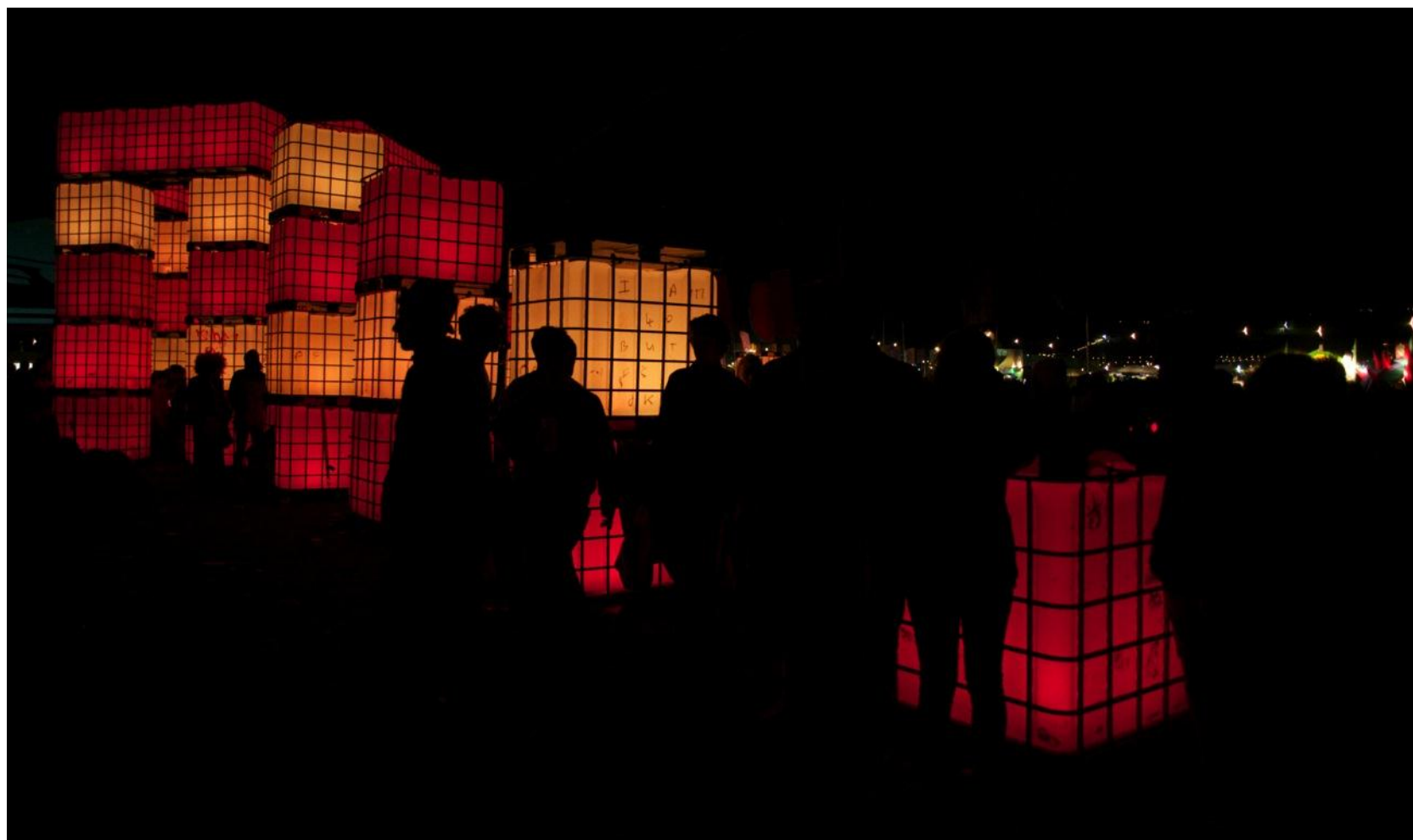
This is England



David Byrne in the Glade



Sonic Stage - A club with an open door



Chapter 10 Circus Field

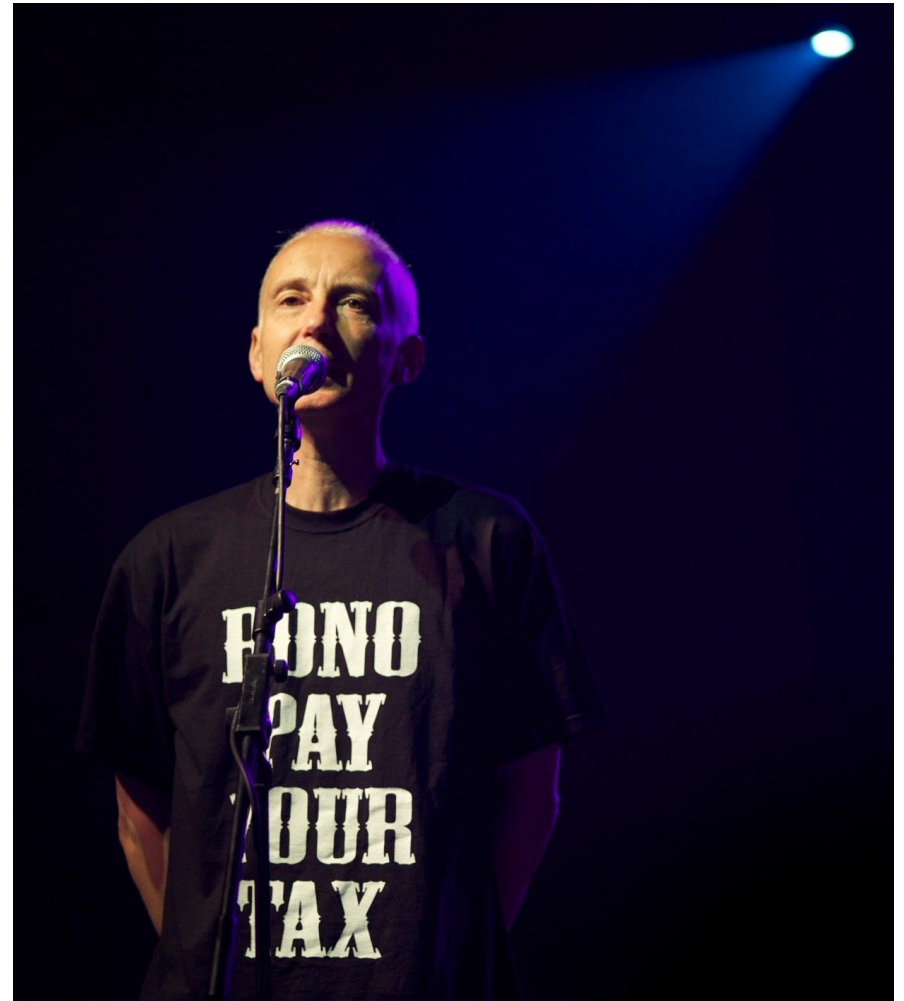
The Circus Field reminds you that Glasto is a multi-dimensional event. Each year it seems to get more bizarre and complex. There is time to meander around before the stage go live and thereafter there is little time for circus life.



Chapter 11 Avalon

The Avalon Field is home to a lot of fine folk acts and “mature” artists. There is an older set around in this area and the atmosphere is “fun”.

[The Ting Tings](#)







Chumbawamba – their last Glasto set before they retired exhorting Bono to pay his taxes.

Chapter 12 The Park

I will always remember the Park Stage for the debut appearance of the XX in 2010, just after midnight. I nipped around the front to see what was behind the smoke and something very special and memorable emerged.

[The XX](#)





The Park at midnight waiting for the XX.

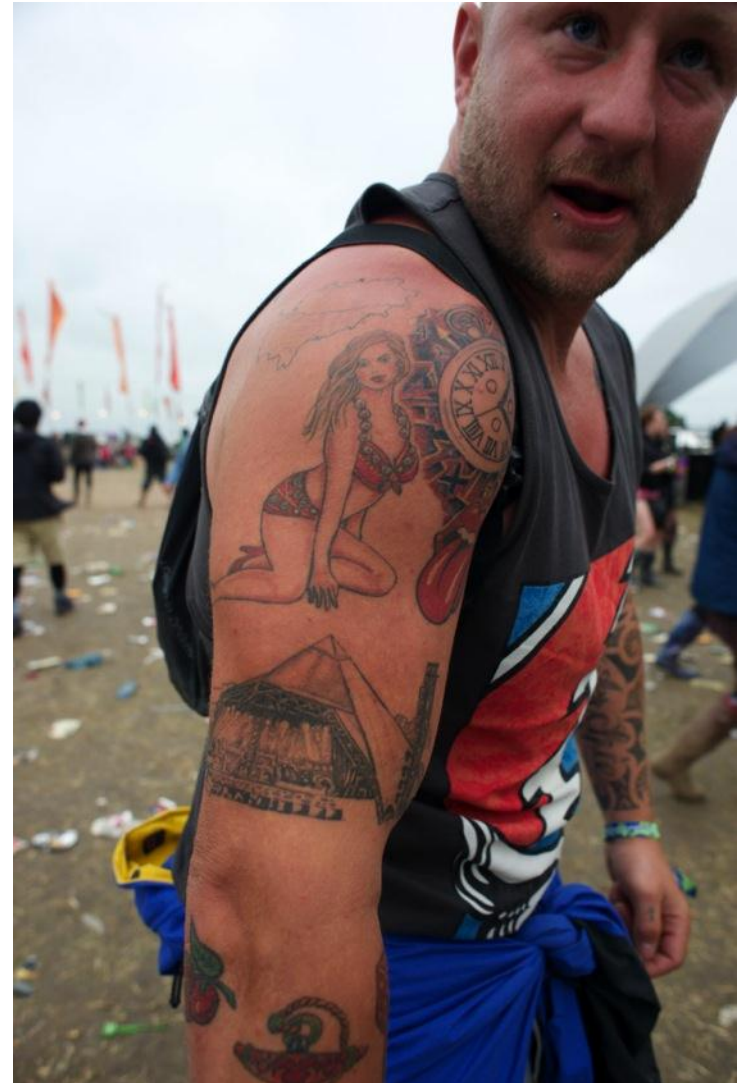


The XX Glastonbury debut

Chapter 13 Pyramid

The Pyramid Stage is where the big acts appear. It is a stage that develops and builds during the day. Reaching a climax as the sun sets and the headliner walks on.

[Paul Simon - So Beautiful or What?](#)





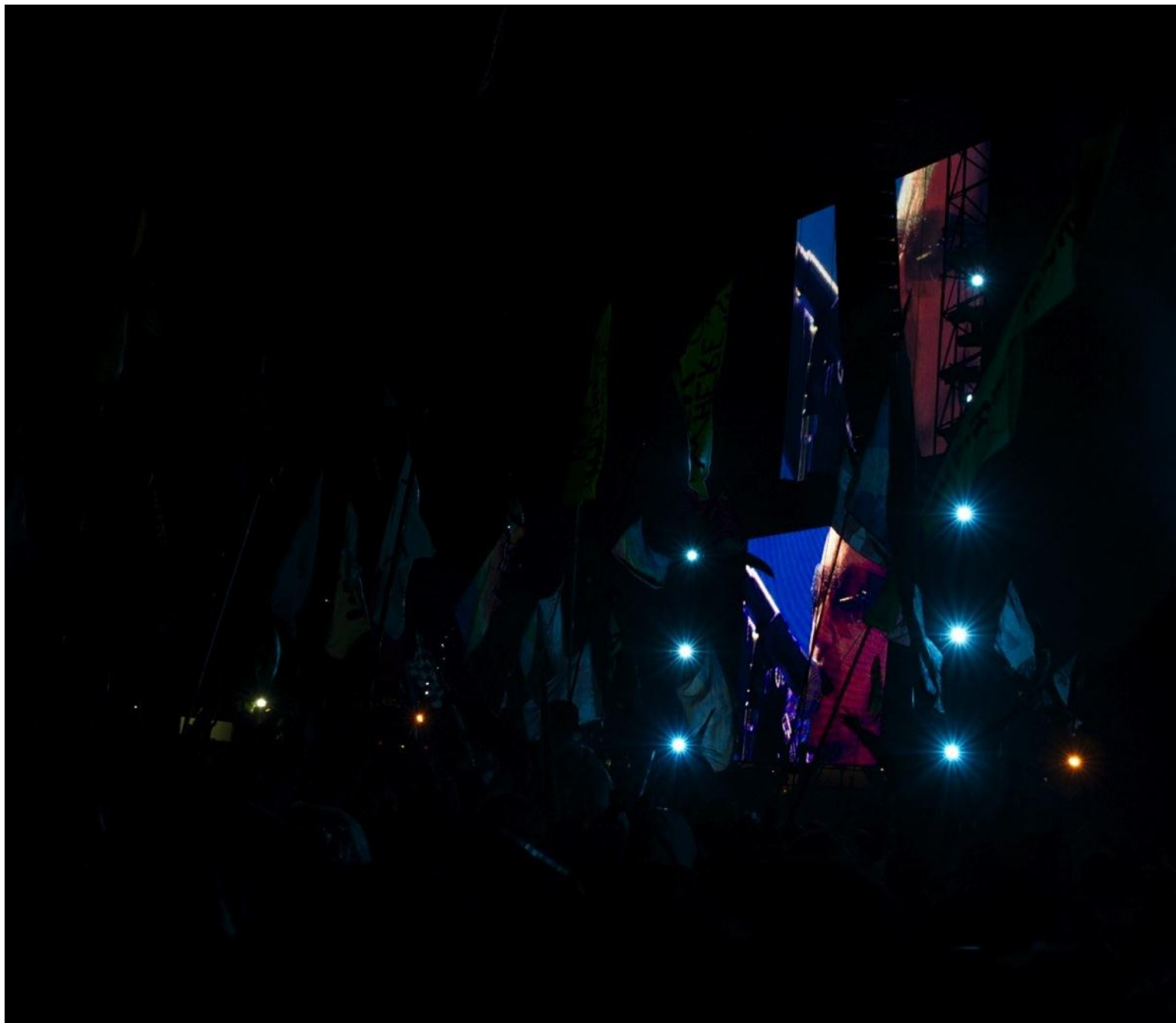
Glastonbury is a family festival



Morrissey – hugely popular and as always, miserable



The Edge, Bono and Adam – U2





U2 - No one noticed the rain



Free Burma



The trough



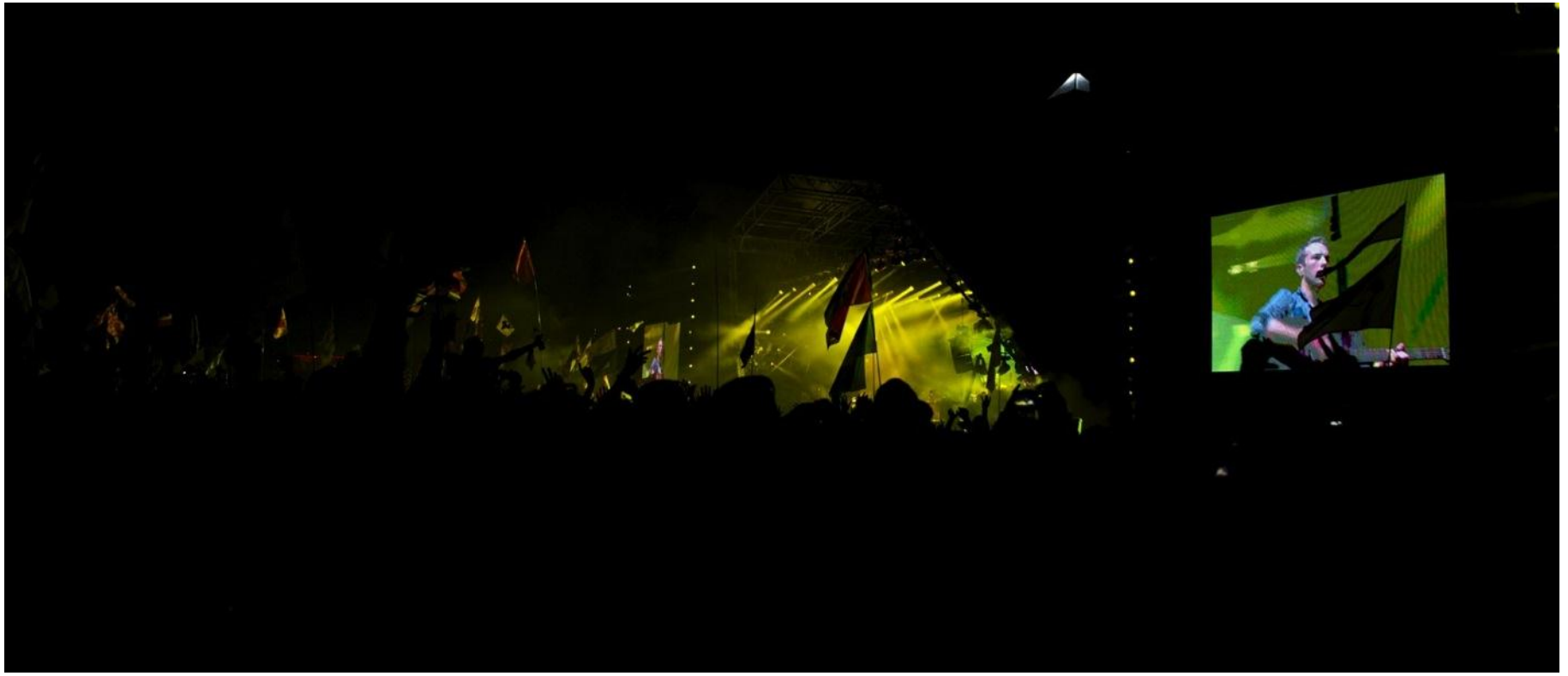
The view from the Mandela bar – full moon



Muse Laser Lights



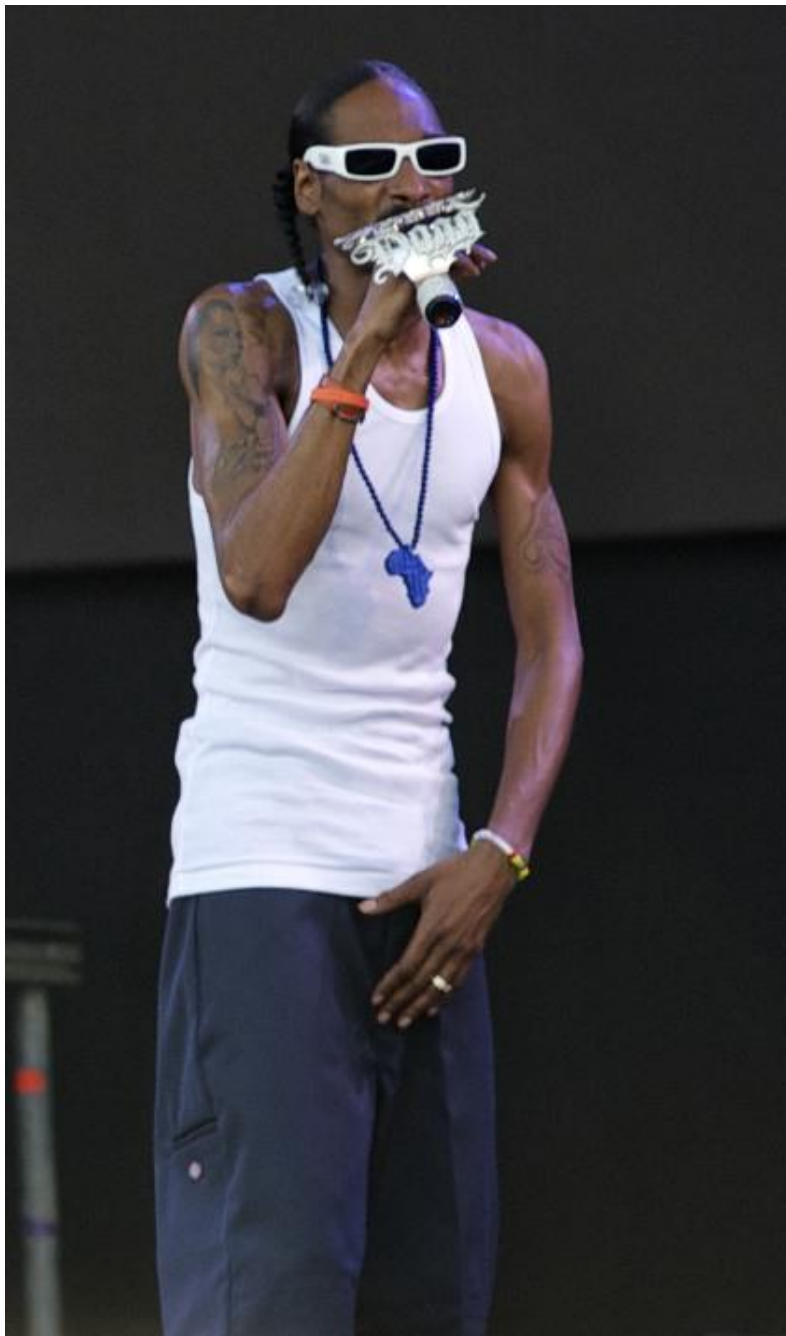
Rolf Harris Waltzing Matilda



Cold Play - Yellow



Nora Jones – Ravi Shanker's mega star daughter - a sunny afternoon on the Pyramid stage



Snoop Dog













Waiting Stevie Wonder



Stevie Wonder widely considered as one of the finest ever Glastonbury sets.



Alex Turner



The 82 year old and incomparable BB King



Primal Scream with Haim



Jumping Jack Flash – they walked on and the arena exploded



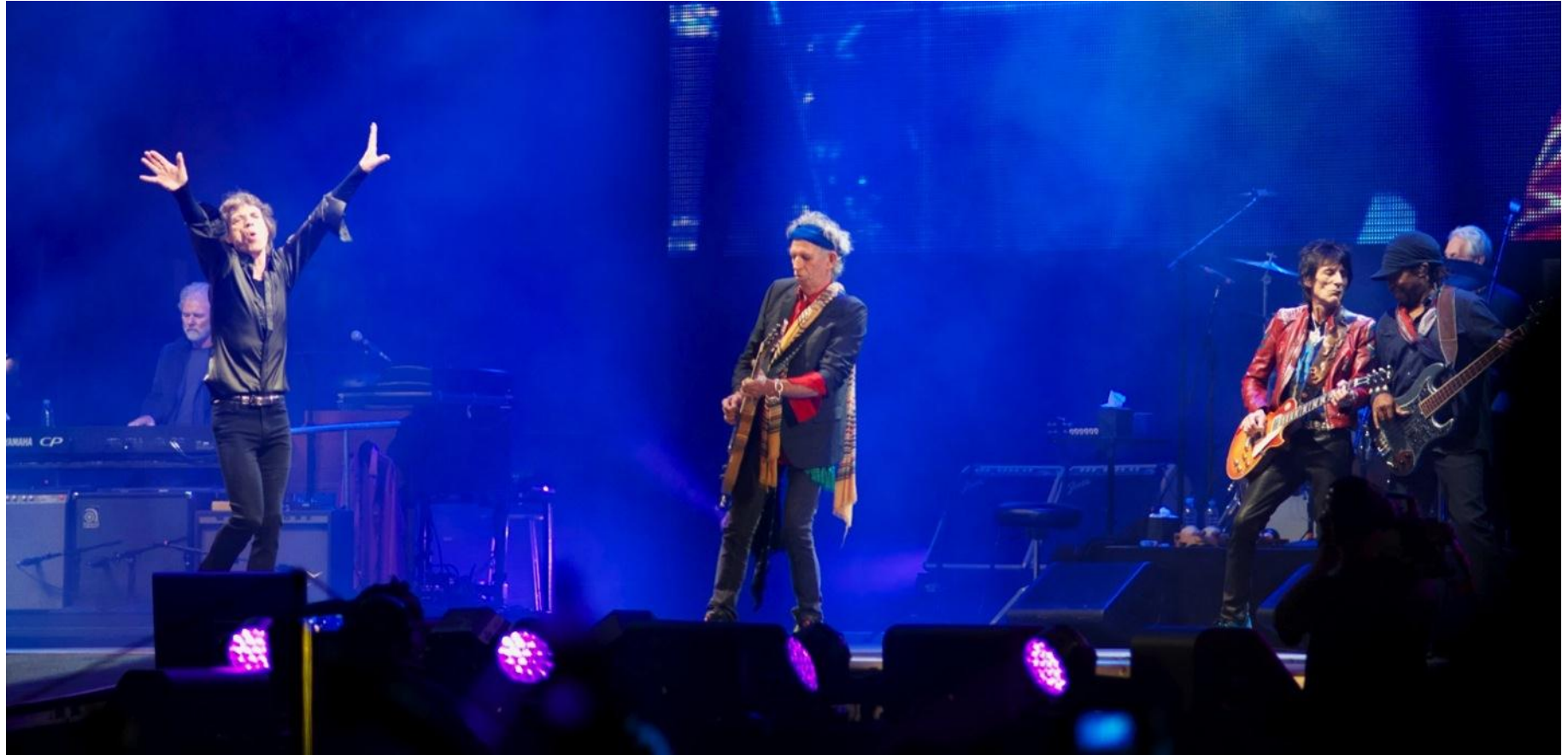
Lisa Fischer Gimme Shelter





It's Just a shot away







You Got the Silver



Jagger jogs 12 miles



Paper petals



After the Stones – Yes they lived up to their billing, they did not disappoint.





A banana salts his chips after the Stones.



Beyoncé the first woman to headline the Pyramid stage in 20 years.



Beyonce girl power

Chapter 14 Tent City

It is one of many remarkable aspects of the Glastonbury Festival that over 140,000 people turn up and 99% of those bring their own accommodation: their tent. Sure if it is very wet, then it is more challenging. But everyone, almost irrespective of who they are is under canvas. It adds to the atmosphere. You get to know the neighbours and share the great moments of the festival. Most, but not all, will have been to Glastonbury before. Those that go tend to be serial attenders. Inevitably the discussion comes around to who are the great performers and what are this years must sees. In 2009 having just returned from the Bruce Springsteen set this voice from a tent across the way said, did you now that Michael Jackson has died? It was a poignant and surreal moment.







When we retire, we'll pack our plastic bags and go to Glastonbury



Early morning smoke in my jammies



The water queue in 2009, consigned to history – now there are more taps



Barrows for beer or for children



Glastonbury harmony



A tent with a view





140,000 people in tents. On Sundays it swells to 180,000.

Chapter 15 Trash City and Shangri-La

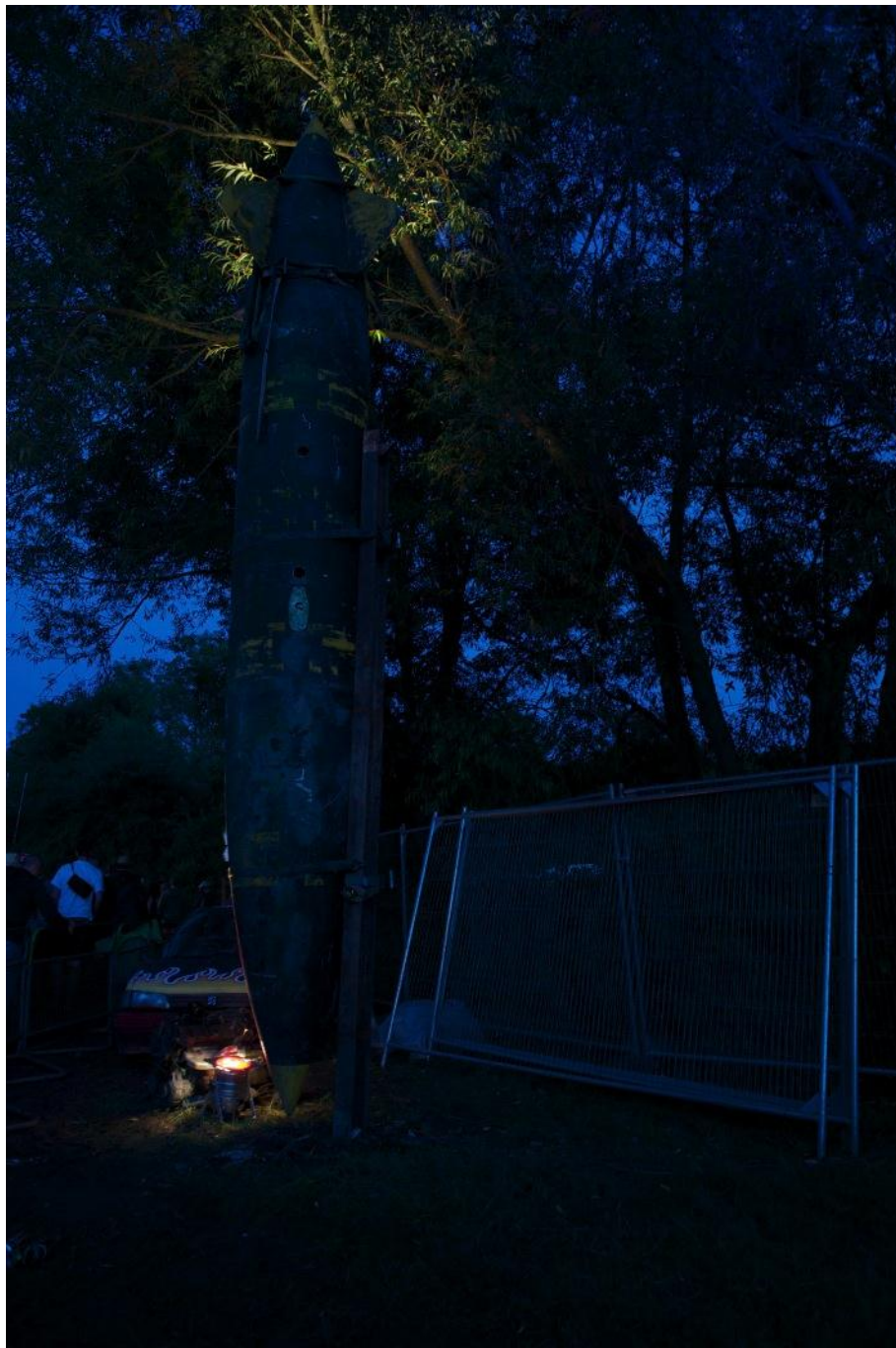
A visit to Trash City is a visit deep into the dark side of Glastonbury. It is surreal and challenging and exciting. Each year it gets more so. Months are spent preparing it and even then it fails to open until late on Thursday evening and immediately it attracts some of the most “interesting” people at the festival.

[The Cure](#)



The Devil at Glasto





Bomb







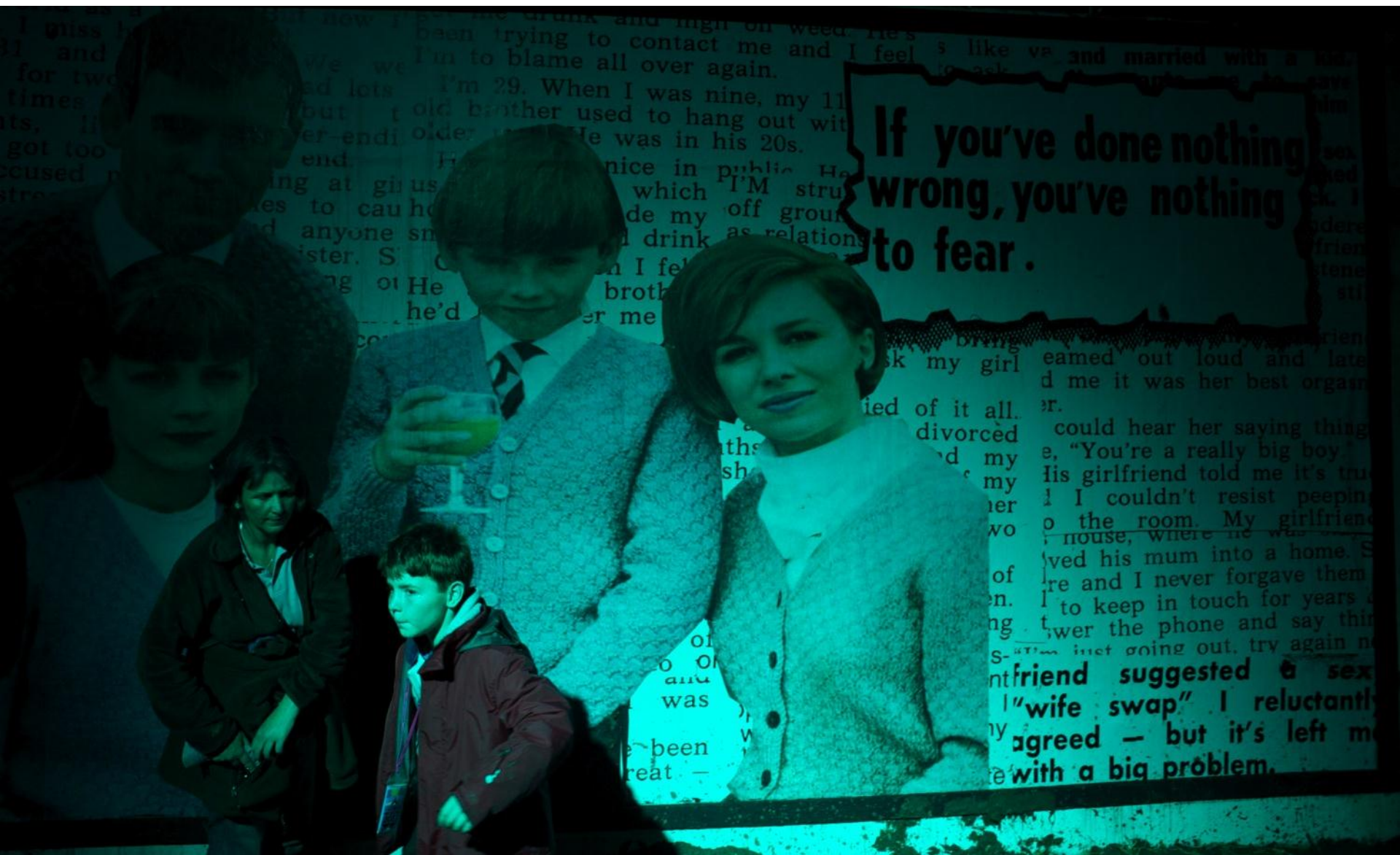
The Dispensary



The conversation



Deepest darkest corner of Glastonbury



**If you've done nothing
wrong, you've nothing
to fear.**



Living art exhibit – Shangri-La

Chapter 16 Hare Krishna

When it all gets too
overpowering there is always
that haven of peace and
reverential tranquility. The
Hare Krishna tent.

[The Specials](#)

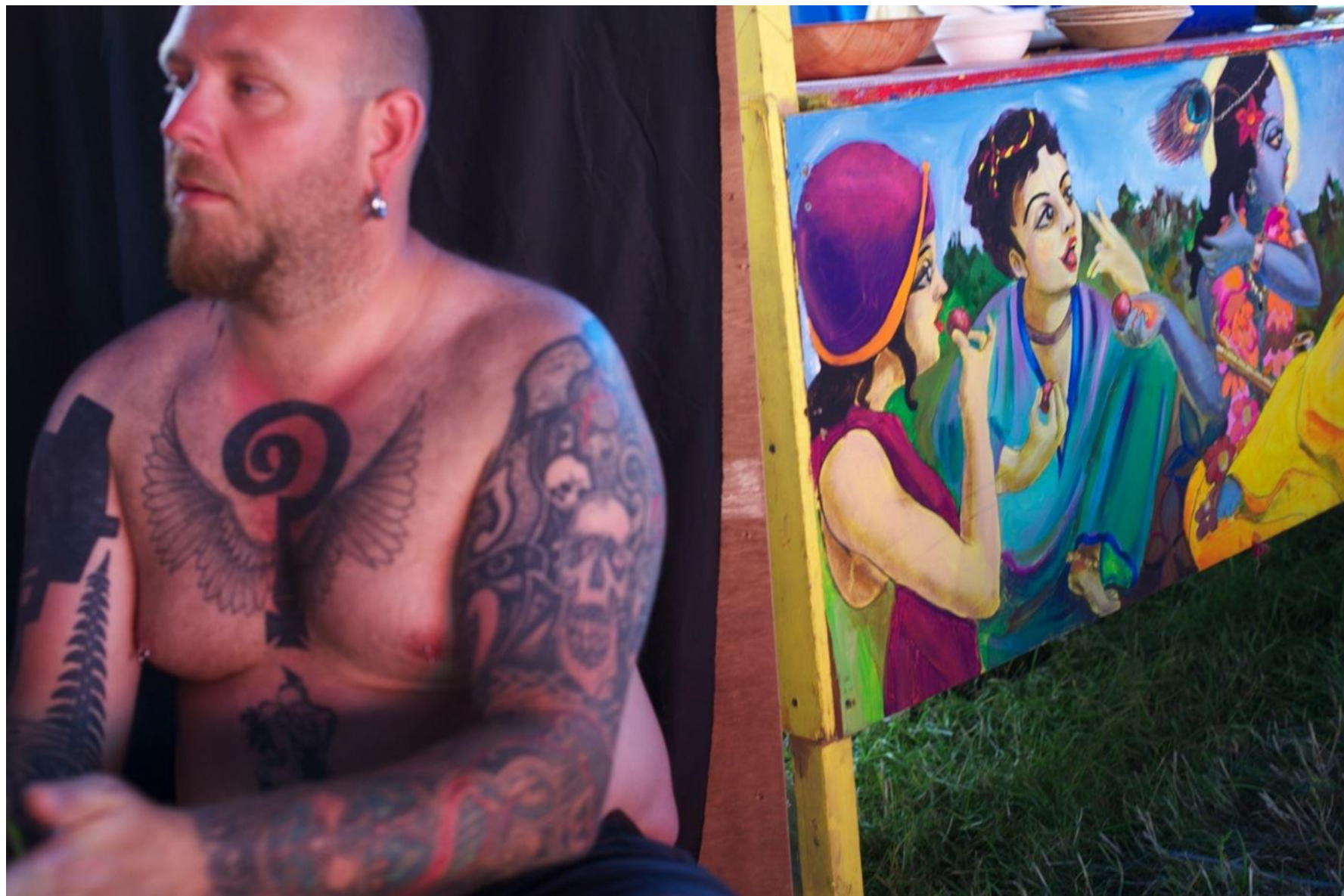




Krishna Hare Krishna



The Peace and the tranquility

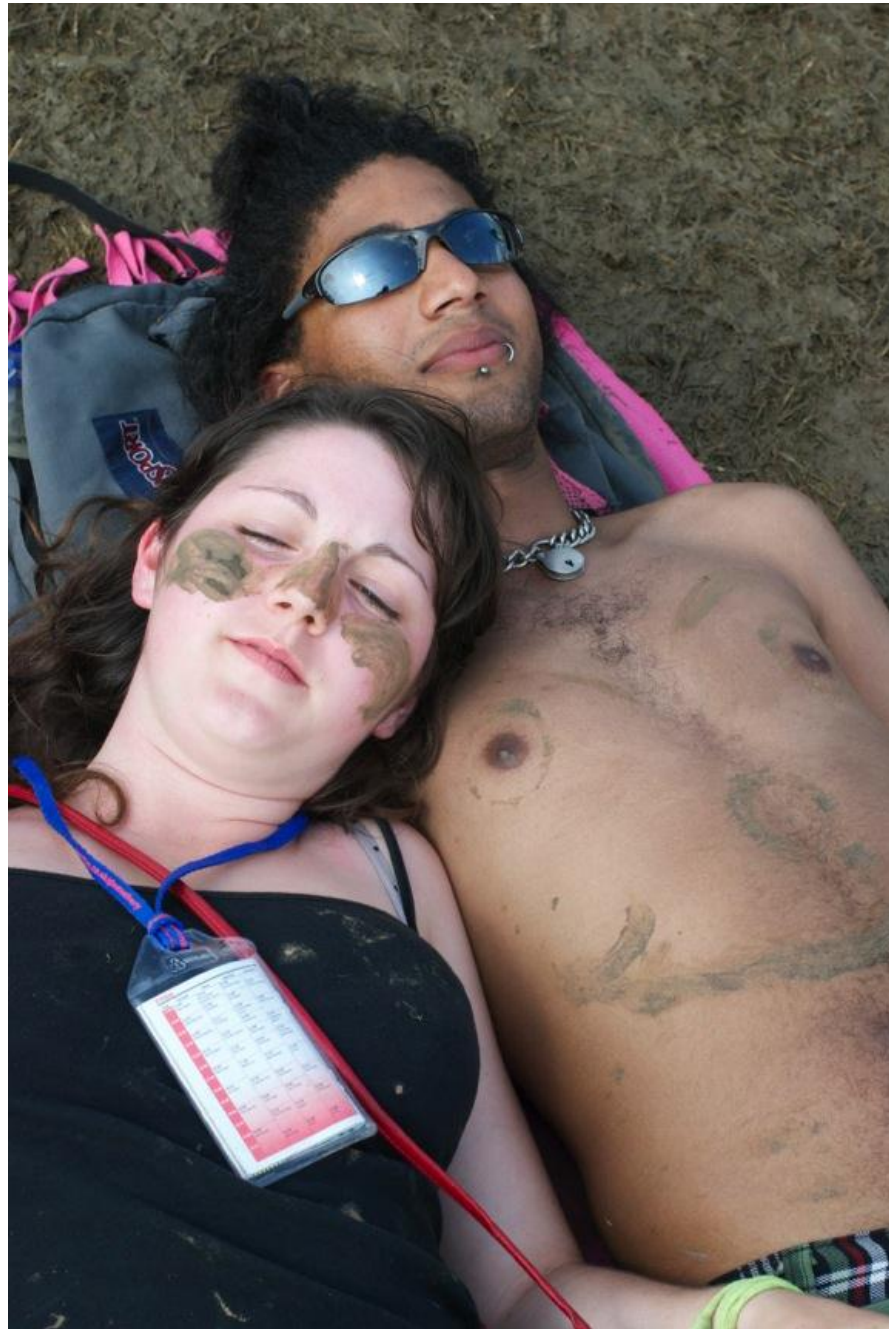


Chapter 17 Stone Circle

The stone circle is a place of folklore that disappoints yet intrigues. It has wonderful views of the site. There are a lot of happy people there.

[Lady Gaga](#)







The Stone Circle



Chapter 18 The Surreal

After dark the festival takes on a whole new persona. It is a festival of sound and light and movement. Fireworks. People and the constant humming beat.

[Muse](#)





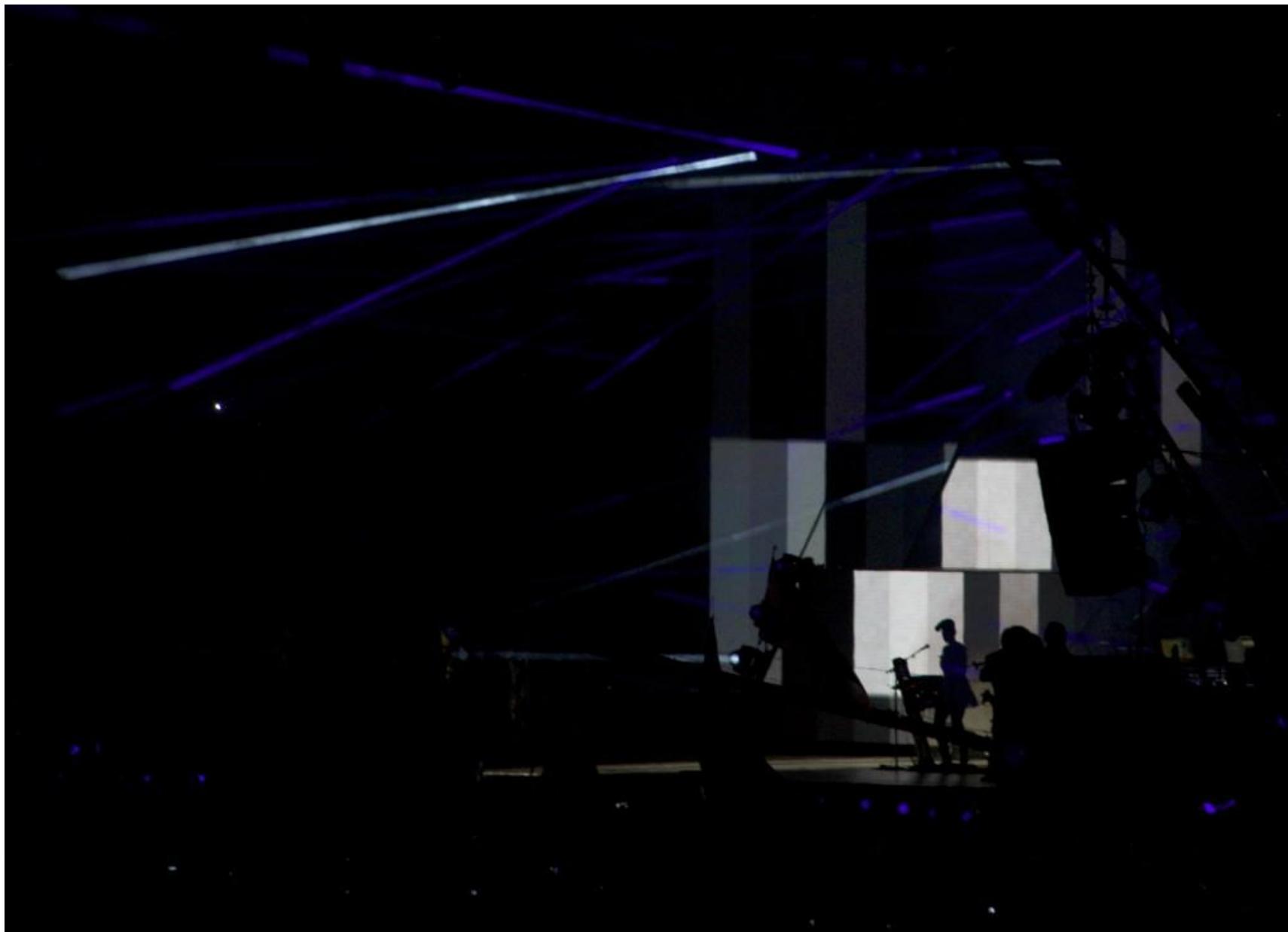
40 years of Glastonbury



Mumford and Sons, waiting for Bowie



The Mandela Bar in the corner, Beyonce on the Pyramid Stage







The floating piano of Muse

Chapter 19 The Classic Sets

[Pulp 1995 One of the all time greats](#)

[Oasis2004](#)

[Paul McCartney 2004](#)

[The Who 2007](#)

[The Verve 2008](#)

[Neil Young 2009](#)

[Bruce Springsteen 2009](#)

[Stevie Wonder 2010](#)

[U2 2011](#)

[Coldplay 2011](#)

[The Rolling Stones 2013](#)







Glastonbury City



Young amputee



Vodka Jellies



Fireworks for Beyonce



Beyonce Turns the Pyramid red

Chapter 20 Technical

In 2009 I shot with a Nikon D80. Thereafter with a full frame Nikon D700. By 2013 I had a D800 which was the best of the bunch. But more challenging to get the best out of it. Particularly as it was my first serious “shoot” with this camera. Getting the exposure right in the dark or in a dark tent when there is some many flashing lights is not easy and requires a mixture of suck it and see and serendipity.

I shoot with 24mm, 50mm and 180mm fixed focal lenses. The D800 is my tool of choice for its low light capabilities which are world class in the Glastonbury evenings or in a dark tent.





Chapter 21 Addendum

