
\ "Prince is shit"

Posted by Hieronymus of Hesselink - 04-07-2008 20:36

I am on the late shift tonight, and I have just had a (good-natured) argument with a woman in the office who reckons that Prince is shit.

She genuinely believes he is utter crap. It's not that he's just not her thing, musically; but that she thinks his music is piss-poor, low quality, badly done.

The same woman's favourite act in the entire world is Paul Weller.

I mean, where do I start?

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Re:\ "Prince is shit"

Posted by evilC - 04-07-2008 20:38

Skin colour?

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Re:\ "Prince is shit"

Posted by Auntie Beryl - 04-07-2008 20:51

Solo Paul Weller?

How old is she? Prince's output has been at best patchy for 17 years - not unlike Weller, of course, but we might be talking about poor exposure here.

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Re:\ "Prince is shit"

Posted by hobbess - 04-07-2008 21:04

I mean, where do I start?

With a hammer. It'd be for her own good.

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Re:\ "Prince is shit"

Posted by Ant van Oviedo - 04-07-2008 21:06

I've never liked Prince, but the difference between what I dislike and what is shit may be a large one. I doubt it, though.

Paul Weller is miles better, and always has been, by virtue of being in the Jam.

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Re:\ "Prince is shit"

Posted by Hieronymus of Hesselink - 04-07-2008 21:33

She's about 35 and a bright individual in most other ways. And yes, solo Weller, and the Jam (but not the Style Council, presumably they were too synthy and effete for her).

I can understand someone simply not wanting to listen to Prince's music, for reasons of individual taste, but it blows my mind that someone would barefacedly claim that he's shit at what he does.

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Re:"Prince is shit"

Posted by Alderman Barnes - 04-07-2008 22:10

Prince is one of my trinity of acts that are loved by people on OTF and elsewhere whose musical knowledge and taste I respect, but who I can't for the life of me be getting started with (the others being New Order and the Pet Shop Boys). They've all had their moments, mind, but overall I honestly can't see what the fuss is all about. I believe the term the young people use these days is "meh". It's like tomatoes - I know I ought to like them, and I've tried, but it just doesn't work.

Paul Weller has probably provided me with more enjoyment than the three of them put together, but that was a very long time ago, and pretty much everything I've heard by him in the last ten years has indeed been "utter crap", and that's not something you could level at Prince, like him or not.

Still, it takes all sorts, eh?

=====

Re:"Prince is shit"

Posted by Taylor - 04-07-2008 22:39

If your understanding of music is totally identified with melody, old-fashioned self-expression, "meaningful" lyrics, harmonic variation and a certain symmetry, and you really don't respond to things like rhythm, dynamics, tension, poise, momentum, strange textures and the sensuality of sound, I suppose it could seem self-evident that Prince is shit and Paul Weller is better. After all, most of Prince's songs don't even have a middle eight, so how can they be any good?

The question is, why would even a person with this common but lamentable wiring think that Paul Weller is not just better than Prince, but better than anyone? Even Paul Weller doesn't think that.

=====

Re:"Prince is shit"

Posted by SamLKelly - 04-07-2008 23:55

Oh, that's nothing. My best mate is doing a music degree (jazz drumming) at Trinity College of Music in Greenwich. Him and I have sort-of similar musical tastes in many ways, having introduced one another to plenty of acts down the years (he gave me jazz, I gave him funk and soul). He likes James Brown, Curtis, all that shit. Prince isn't his cup of tea but he recognises that he's still good, likewise with Stevie Wonder. I can dig all that.

But every time, and I mean every fucking time I mention a particular artist to him, he gives me a pitying look and says something like 'really? him? Why?' and goes on to tell me that that man, and his band, are crap. In spite of the fact that he's listened to one of this man's albums, once.

That, you would think, is bad enough on its own. But wait until you read who the artist in question is.

Sitting down?

Sly fucking Stone.

I mean, there are times when I wish you could divorce friends, or something.

=====

Re:"Prince is shit"

Posted by And I am the Life - 04-07-2008 23:58

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She genuinely believes he is utter crap. It's not that he's just not her thing, musically; but that she thinks his music is piss-poor, low quality, badly done.

The same woman's favourite act in the entire world is Paul Weller.

I mean, where do I start?

Well, I think traditionally you ask her out for a drink first. You two are just meant to be.

=====
Re:"Prince is shit"

Posted by TonTon - 05-07-2008 08:13

I think Taylor just described me, there. Is out "not liking singers who put on annoying stupid voices" covered by the whole "sensuality of sound" thing, then?

Take "Kiss", for example. I mean, it's not that bad a song. But Prince sings it so badly, it's unbearable. Get a decent singer in, like Tom Jones, and it gets a whole lot better.

=====
Re:"Prince is shit"

Posted by G.Man as Trotaconventos - 05-07-2008 10:24

Of all the songs you could have chosen, Ton Ton, you chose "Kiss" to make your point?

As for Hierony's chum, I forgive her not enjoying the oeuvre of Mr Rodgers, even thinking that Paul Weller is great. But thinking Weller is great and NIT liking the Style Council? Bring back public floggings!

=====
Re:

Posted by Spearmint Rhino - 05-07-2008 10:27

G.Man as Trotaconventos wrote:

Of all the songs you could have chosen, Ton Ton, you chose "Kiss" to make your point?

As for Hierony's chum, I forgive her not enjoying the oeuvre of Mr Rodgers, even thinking that Paul Weller is great. But thinking Weller is great and NIT liking the Style Council? Bring back public floggings!

There are times, G-Man, when one can really 'hear' your accent.

=====
Re:"Prince is shit"

Posted by G.Man as Trotaconventos - 05-07-2008 10:51

Ha, keeping it real, or something.

Actually, I don't think I have a South African accent at all. Still German, I've been told. I'll have to train myself to mistype the word "not" nott.

=====
Re:

Posted by Cat Simon - 06-07-2008 11:02

Taylor wrote:

The question is, why would even a person with this common but lamentable wiring think that Paul Weller is not just better than Prince, but better than anyone? Even Paul Weller doesn't think that.

I'm a big Weller fan - since "Going Underground" and I've found in the last year there has been a massive change in his attitude - defenently for the better - and probably for two reasons. His 50th birthday and that Paolo Hewiit book which seemed to rip him to shreds a bit. And maybe not before time to be honest.

=====

Re:

Posted by hobbess - 06-07-2008 12:19

I quite like Paul Weller. The Jam ere great, I liked Style Council I even don't mind some of his more recent stuff. But comparing him with Prince for quality? It's nuts. Prince is like Mozart or something. In 100 years I'll wager only one of them is remembered. And I don't think it's be the one from Woking.

=====

Re:\ "Prince is shit\"

Posted by Carcass - 06-07-2008 13:44

Putting on "stupid voices":

Ian Curtis
Maria Callas
Leonard Cohen
Bob Dylan
David Bowie
Diamanda Gallas
Louis Armstrong
Edith Piaf
John Lydon
Jimmy Cliff
Siouxsie Sioux
Prince
Sly Stone
Robert Smith
Morrissey
Bryan Ferry
Brian Eno

Not putting on stupid voices:

David Gedge
Ian Broudie
David Grey

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Re:\ "Prince is shit\"

Posted by evilC - 06-07-2008 14:06

Ian Broudie really sounds like that?

The poor fucker!

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Re:"Prince is shit"

Posted by evilC - 06-07-2008 14:08

Furthermore, it always sounds to me like Weller is suffering from a really bad cold and that someone is throttling him while he tries to have a particularly hard shit.

I just hate nasal voices, I suppose.

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Re:"Prince is shit"

Posted by G.Man as Trotaconventos - 06-07-2008 15:07

Oh, a bit hard on Ian Broudie there, carcass.

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Re:

Posted by Taylor - 06-07-2008 15:36

Cat Simon wrote:
that Paolo Hewiit book which seemed to rip him to shreds a bit.

I didn't hear about that. What was it? Sounds like "that John The Baptist book which seemed to rip Jesus to shreds a bit."

=====

Re:"Prince is shit"

Posted by The Horse - 06-07-2008 15:42

I saw Ian Broudie in Hammersmith Broadway shopping centre the other week. Walking down the slight incline outside WHSmith, he lost his footing, regained it, then lost and regained it again a second later.

Having lived through a period when The Lightning Seeds were unjustifiably popular, I must confess I was willing him to fall.

=====

Re:"Prince is shit"

Posted by Carcass - 06-07-2008 16:05

I quite like them, despite knowing in my heart of hearts that they're obviously shit.

The song 'Oh Lucky You' especially.

He should be shot for working with that pair of oxygen thieves though.

=====

Re:"Prince is shit"

Posted by G.Man as Trotaconventos - 06-07-2008 16:37

"Song For No One" was my earworm a few weeks back. I like it. But I think that was Broudie solo.

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Re:

Posted by Nico Rijnders - 06-07-2008 17:11

Taylor wrote:
Cat Simon wrote:
that Paolo Hewitt book which seemed to rip him to shreds a bit.

I didn't hear about that. What was it? Sounds like "that John The Baptist book which seemed to rip Jesus to shreds a bit."

They had an unspecified falling out, which was evidently serious enough for Hewitt to decide that the game was up to the extent that he'd write a biography to cash in on what he'd learned about his mate over the years. I haven't read it, but apparently he describes a series of anecdotes and incidents that reveal Weller to be - and you might find it hard to believe this bit - a grumpy, arrogant and sometimes spiteful chap, as well as being a bit of a magpie in plagiarism terms.

Again, I haven't read it myself, but given how much Hewitt must owe to Weller for his own career and as one of the things revealed in the book is that Weller actually gifted Hewitt a whole year's salary when the latter went freelance and had no financial security, the whole thing seems more than a little thankless and can only say as much for Hewitt's character as it might about Weller's.

But then again, as I may have mentioned, I haven't actually read it.

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Re:
Posted by The Prodigal - 08-07-2008 19:15

Hewitt's journalistic career was actually started by the Guardian's current chief sportswriter, and was helped along by the Observer's resident astrologer. I think that says even more than the Weller connection.

=====
Re:"Prince is shit"
Posted by Lucia Lanigan - 08-07-2008 22:14

Bizarrely, he turned up on a DVD about David Bowie's Berlin albums which I watched last year (alongside esteemed contributors such as David Toop and our own wingco).

Cruelly billed as "Paolo Hewitt - Style Guru", he wore bright orange shorts, disastrous hair, and what appeared to be Bob Mills' face with invisible hands pulling bits in different directions, looking like a sort of day-glo Just William. And all he could talk about was Young Americans and the wedge haircut. Very strange.

I've never read anything by him. Did he do anything good, or did he just go on about Wilson Pickett, mods in the old days, and how house went wrong when people started to join in?

=====
Re:"Prince is shit"
Posted by The_Liquidator - 08-07-2008 22:34

Take "Kiss", for example. I mean, it's not that bad a song. But Prince sings it so badly, it's unbearable. Get a decent singer in, like Tom Jones, and it gets a whole lot better.

HAHAHAHAHA

Anyway, The Jam and The Style Council are fucking top and it's hardly a surprise that Weller has become shit in his middle age - most pop stars do.

Prince however, is someone I've never been able to get to grips with. I love funk and soul and hip-hop, and weird sounds and all of that, but I just don't get Prince. Sure, he's done some corking pop tunes in his time, but I can't see what his influence is or what there is there for me to get my teeth into.

Still, I like Purple Rain. As power ballads go it's right up there.

=====
Re: "Prince is shit"

Posted by Yoss - 08-07-2008 23:27

I wouldn't say Prince was shit, he's someone I can respect for being good at what they do and stuff. It's just not my thing and does nothing for me.

And when he does produce stuff that's shit (which like anyone else, he does from time to time) people refuse to admit it.

Re:

Posted by Hieronymus of Hesselink - 09-07-2008 00:29

Yoss wrote:

And when he does produce stuff that's shit (which like anyone else, he does from time to time) people refuse to admit it.

I'm with you there -- Prince's last enjoyable album was Diamonds And Pearls, which is now 16 years old.

But most people haven't heard his lame 1990s/2000s output, because, with the exception of the occasional great one-off single like 'The Most Beautiful Girl In The World', it never gets played on the radio. And the woman with whom I had the discussion at work was very much basing her opinion of Prince on the stuff that everybody knows, the big hits, '1999', 'When Doves Cry', 'Let's Go Crazy' etc.

Like I said, insane in the membrane.

Re:

Posted by Auntie Beryl - 09-07-2008 06:40

Yoss wrote:

And when he does produce stuff that's shit (which like anyone else, he does from time to time) people refuse to admit it.

I'm not sure you'll find many outside the hardcore fansite fraternity willing to give post-92 Prince a great deal of houseroom.

Perhaps the O2 gigs last year, when Prince went back and played to his strengths and received overwhelmingly positive coverage as a result, have skewed your view a bit.

Re:

Posted by pengedragon - 09-07-2008 07:30

Auntie Beryl wrote:

I'm not sure you'll find many outside the hardcore fansite fraternity willing to give post-92 Prince a great deal of houseroom.

plenty inside it feel the same way

although every single album has at least one gem

