

**the // skyway **
the replacements mailing list

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The Replacements at the wrap party for Pleased to Meet Me (1987)

RUN IT

Since the last Skyway, the adoration Gorman Bechard's fan documentary *Color Me Obsessed* has received from fans and bands of all eras has been unimaginable. Maybe it's because The Replacements never wore out their welcome, or maybe because they never seemed to reach whatever commercial peak people assumed they were both capable and incapable of climbing. Or maybe it's because [*subjective opinion warning*] even though each of their albums had a couple of what were probably intended to be throwaway songs, the band never made anything less than a great album that perfectly summarized whatever point they were at.

What's odd is the Replacements' albums were released at the same time as acts that now pass for 'nostalgia'. But the Replacements' songs, as well or poorly documented as they were, sound like they could have been recorded at any time. Tape hiss never goes out of style, but that is only part of the reason for their longevity: until the human race has figured out a way to perpetually feel satisfied, guitars that echo your own same longing cannot be replaced as a way for somehow making everything seem better. And so while so much music being generated that is disposable and not meant to be marketed or listened to outside of the period of a 60 day promotional push, something that four high school drop outs from Minnesota did because they had no other options still rings true three decades later.

And last month, I calculated how many years I've been occasionally putting together these issues and couldn't believe it. Half my life, *tempus fugit*. But I made a mix for someone last week and "Nowhere Is My Home" was song 9 and I couldn't think of anything else that would fit.

As for myself, I spent the last summer teaching scuba diving on Malta, the Mediterranean island where I now call home and whose top 10 radio in the last week consists of music that is not made by bands or who people who play guitar. There's apparently sort of antithesis between guitars and palm trees. I think it's the cultural division between wine country and beer land, which relates to how you express your anguish over the difference between expectations and reality. The title of this part of this issue comes from the driving lessons I'm taking, because when you drive on a rock that used to be a British colony (so they drive on the left, with roundabouts, through 400 year old alleys, without turn signals, with only a manual transmission), it's like learning to drive all over again (or in Boston.) Don't get me wrong, I'm glad I live on a Mediterranean island. I am glad I was born in a Midwestern city with nothing to do but play in a band in your basement. I'm skipping Italian lessons to write this. *Mi dispiace*. Nobody else on this island microstate of 412,000 has probably heard of this band, but they're still my favorite. Can't you relate?

m@.

mattaki@gmail.com

COLOR ME IMPRESSED

If you haven't seen it yet, **Color Me Obsessed** is a movie by Gorman Bechard about the Replacements - but without a single interview or song by the band. Instead, it's stories from their fans about the band and what it means to them. If you want to see if it's playing anywhere near you, check this out:

<http://www.whatwerewethinkingfilms.com/colormeobsessed/>

Since its release, it has received great reviews and had sold out screenings at film festivals and events across the United States and internationally. In NYC and Omaha, the movie has been followed by shows where bands like **Ted Leo and Craig Finn from the Hold Steady cover their favorite Replacements songs**.

If you want to see what that looks like:

- **Ted Leo** covering "Left of the Dial":
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FWnm1yLeyzQ>
- **Craig and Tad from The Hold Steady** covering "Within Your Reach" and "Color Me Impressed":
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?&v=Gy51jmXIWNM#>
- The encore of "Bastards of Young":
http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=bktKMnDk7jA
- A great interview with **Craig Finn** talking about what he loves about the Replacements:
http://blogs.villagevoice.com/music/2011/11/craig_finn_hold_steady_replacements_color_me_obsessed.php
- The **Village Voice's write-up** of the movie is one of the best.
<http://www.villagevoice.com/2011-11-16/film/a-replacements-doc-with-no-replacements-music-color-me-obsessed/>

A turning point for the band—and in the film—is the firing of genius/wack job guitarist Bob Stinson, who died too young in 1995. Former *Voice* music critic Robert Christgau says: "Fuck art. You would have kicked Bob Stinson out of your band, too!" He is challenged by writer Jim DeRogatis, who counters, "If you're in a band with Iggy Pop, you realize, yeah, this is hell to live with, but this is brilliant, and it's not gonna be brilliant without Iggy Pop." With so many voices, *Color Me* becomes a rock version of *Rashomon* and what the film lacks in music and live footage, it more than makes up for with obsessive detail and heated debate. Who's right? Everyone.

- You can see the **latest trailer** here:
<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=2485040978406&set=vb.169733786810&type=2&theater>

- And some of the **outtakes** from the movie and an **interview with Gorman** at:
<http://country-fried-rock.blogspot.com/p/pressepk.html>
- One of the most insightful interviews with Gorman about the movie is with Vancouver's *Snipe News*:
<http://www.thesnipenews.com/features/homepage-features/replacements-documentary/>

SC: How come you couldn't get **Pat Sajak** [reportedly a huge Replacements fan]?

GB: We tried, but we were not anywhere near the same place, and we couldn't afford to fly to Vegas. That would've been funny, just him being on-screen.

- If you want to keep up with **the latest showings and news from the movie**:
Twitter: <http://twitter.com/#!/CMOMovie>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ColorMeObsessedMOVIE>

- And if you want a **t-shirt and to help out with the movie**:
<http://www.kickstarter.com/projects/1542689813/color-me-obsessed-a-film-about-the-replacements-ph-1>

Gorman himself has made a **special offer for people reading the Skyway**:

"If anyone wants a shirt AND a DVD, pledge on Kickstarter for the shirt of your choice, then add \$25 to total cost (i.e. if shirt is \$50, pledge \$75) and you'll get a DVD as well.."
(Be sure to put "Skyway DVD offer" when sending your address.)

- (Gorman's next movie is a concert film from an August 2011 performance of the Archers of Loaf in their hometown of Chapel Hill, NC called "What Did You Expect"!)

THE REPLACEMENTS

- **Alex Dangelmajer:** "My favorite 'Mats song is Answering Machine, the last track on *Let It Be*. I like it so much because I understand what Paul is saying about the awful feeling that you get when you're confronted with an answering machine, especially when you want to say something meaningful and important. It's like you want the person on the other end of the line to hear the earnestness in your voice and be able to respond, but you're left with no audience. It takes away the gravity of what you're trying to say. I love the line about saying I miss you to an answering machine. It just hurts. It's an awful feeling, and the 'Mats really seem to get it."

- **Christopher McNeely:** “Like too many things in my life, I found the Replacements too late. I was a junior in high school and it was the video to 'Merry Go Round' on 120 Minutes one late night: those descending chords, the black and white film, how cool they looked while cracking wise, Paul's throaty, phlegmy voice ('you wake to another day and find...'). I was all in. I bought everything they recorded and lived in those albums. And then they broke up. They've been my favorite band ever since and Paul Westerberg remains my favorite songwriter, now that I'm in my thirties with a family of my own. He was a great companion in high school, college, and is in a strange way more important now that I'm 'grown up' than he was then.”

- Jonathan Bernstein (<http://thepretender.tumblr.com/>) sent in a **short station ID made by Tommy Stinson and the Replacements for Macalester's college radio station** (WMCN 91.7) in St. Paul. I put some rare photos from the era on it and uploaded it to youtube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9np7PMh6Pk8>

- With the closing of the R.E.M. music factory, there have been a lot of retrospective interviews with the band. **Michael Stipe admits that the Replacements were an influence** in his lyric writing, particularly in the 1998 song “At My Most Beautiful”.

<http://www.pitchfork.com/features/interviews/8712-rem/>

Michael Stipe: “And I can say it now: I took [the first verse about phone messages] from the Replacements' “Answering Machine”. Thank you, Paul. But nowadays, my outgoing voice message just says, “Text me, I'm not going to listen to this.”

- The blog **Flash Tightpocket** has some remarkable pictures of the Replacements playing in Manchester on their final 1991 U.K. tour. Even more remarkable is to see close club shots of the band at this point when they were playing large halls in the U.S.

<http://flashtightpocket.blogspot.com/2011/03/replacements.html>

- *The fRINGE* interviewed **Peter Jesperson on his old label Twin/Tone**, and inevitably he talks a lot about the Replacements as well as their Twin Cities contemporaries.

http://www.fringeunderground.com/peter_jesperson_1.html

PJ: ...Yeah! To be honest, yes. If ever a magic moment occurred to me in my life of doing A & R, it was that moment of listening to the Replacements' demo for the first time. I just couldn't believe how good it was. I couldn't believe I had the opportunity to make records with them. It was shocking to me.

HJ: You got to play Brian Epstein!

PJ: It was a funny situation, because I was getting a lot of tapes from a lot of bands for different reasons. Some were Twin/Tone submissions and some were bands auditioning to

play the Longhorn, a club that I was helping to coordinate bookings. When Paul Westerberg brought me that tape that blew me away, it only had four songs on it. So I called him up and asked him, "Were you thinking of a single or an album?" And he said, quote unquote, if I remember correctly, "You mean you think this shit is worth recording?" I said, yeah. He said, "I was just trying to get a gig opening for someone at the Longhorn."

- There is a Facebook group that is worth looking through: **The Replacements Live Archive Project**. Full of scans of posters, ticket stubs, and other memorabilia from Replacements concerts from the days before rock concerts cost more than an oil change (or a TV, if you're going to see the Eagles or something.)

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Replacements-Live-Archive-Project/129292827160400>

- *Slicing Up Eyeballs* has a **streaming broadcast of the Replacements' final concert on July 4, 1991** in Grant Park, Chicago. Like many shows on the tour, it was heavy on songs from their last two records, but the version of "Within Your Reach" is particularly world weary considering the band knew it'd be their finale.

<http://www.slicingupeyeballs.com/2011/07/04/replacements-final-concert-chicago-july-4-1991-stream/>

- Last August, *Rolling Stone* posted an article that The Replacements considered reuniting, While the possibility of that seems unlikely, the story does hint that **Paul Westerberg might be working on some sort of box set of his own unreleased material**:

While a reunion may be unlikely in the near future, Westerberg has spent a lot of time recently combing through his past for a planned box set. "On a whim I got to dig through some old tapes," he says. "I found one song I never put on anything for people to hear. Then I dug deeper and found the original 'Good Day' [from his 1996 solo LP *Eventually*]. That pretty much stunned me. I have to close this box set pretty soon because this could take the rest of my life just going through all these things and going, 'God, why was that there.'"

<http://www.rollingstone.com/music/news/paul-westerberg-tommy-stinson-consider-replacements-reunion-20110822>

- In what looks like has become an annual event, First Avenue put on a concert on November 25 where local Minneapolis bands covered songs from *Sorry Ma ... Forgot to Take Out The Trash*.

<http://first-avenue.com/event/2011/11/replacements-sorryma>

- paulwesterberg.com pointed out that amazon.ca has posted preliminary information on **Bob Mehr's Replacements biography**, *Trouble Boys: The True Story of the Replacements, the Last Rock 'n' Roll*

Band. Apparently this is the biography you have been waiting for, one which the members of the band were willingly interviewed for. While amazon's release dates aren't always accurate, they say we'll have to wait until August 13, 2013 to read 304 pages of Replacements history.

http://www.amazon.ca/Trouble-Boys-True-Story-Replacements/dp/0306818795/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1322720666&sr=8-1

- captainsdead.com has **two Replacements shows from 1984-5** on their site that you can play while you're hiding from your family during the holidays.
<http://captainsdead.com/the-replacements-live-at-cbgb.html>
<http://captainsdead.com/the-replacements-live-in-dekalb-il-4.5.85.html>
- Every so often, **Yo La Tengo** gets together and plays a live, on-air benefit for the Jersey City-area radio station WFMU where people call, make a pledge, and then request the band to take a stab at any song live and on the air. They released an album of the best/worst of their attempts called *Yo La Tengo is Murdering the Classics* where among things they **cover "Favorite Thing"**. You can hear a sample of it or get the MP3 from amazon.com, iTunes, eMusic, or if you happen to go on an archeological exploration and happen to find a real live "record" store.
http://www.amazon.com/dp/B0068QVIUQ/ref=as_li_tf_til?tag=thesky0e-20&camp=0&creative=0&linkCode=as1&creativeASIN=B0068QVIUQ&adid=0SNWWZKRNGY4QRZ5GME8
- Here is a **clever Christmas present for any Replacements fan** who doesn't hold anything against American Apparel brand t-shirts.
<http://skreened.com/bands/the-replacements>

PAUL WESTERBERG

- It's not just your imagination because you don't live in Minneapolis: Paul Westerberg has been quiet lately. Even his hometown newspaper, the Star-Tribune, has written an article asking, **"Where in the world is Paul Westerberg?"**

"He's still just hanging out in Edina," his manager, Darren Hill, confirmed with a laugh.

<http://www.startribune.com/entertainment/music/134121588.html?page=1&c=y>

- Paul can be seen in the latest video for **Glen Campbell's cover of the Westerberg song "Ghost on a Canvas"**, where Paul shows up at the beginning emulating the Replacements' first video. The song is even more poignant, given Glen's battle with Alzheimer's and it is the title track of the album which is likely his final musical contribution to the world – all from the man who played guitar on Pet Sounds and wrote "Rhinestone Cowboy": <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A7kw5zXVFVQ>

The original Westerberg version is on amazon.com's digital 2009 PW & The Ghost Gloves Cat Wing Joy Boys EP. You can hear a sample here at this huge link:

<http://www.amazon.com/dp/B000000000>

Westerberg contributed another song on Glen Campbell's album called "Any Trouble". Glen had also recorded a cover touching of "Sadly Beautiful" on his previous album *Meet Glen Campbell*. There's an interview with Westerberg in the Village Voice where he talks about it all:

"I'm always writing and I have plenty of songs, but I think the Glen Campbell record is a bit of a test to see if people still buy records. Or go for my stuff. I'd like to go on record and say something concrete, but I can't. So, we shall see."

http://blogs.villagevoice.com/music/2011/08/paul_westerberg_interview_glen_campbell_replacements.php

- Even in 2002, people were asking where Westerberg was, as this great article from **Magnet** when *Stereo/Mono* came out. He gives some insight into **why Alex Chilton produced the demos for Tim but not the final album** and why it sounds the way it does, and **how they chose Slim Dunlap**:

"It didn't go well with Al," says Westerberg. "We needed the opposite kind of guy. We had the crazy-man thing down pat—we needed somebody stable. He was encouraging the chaos, and it was chaos to the point where it didn't sound good."

For their major-label debut, 1985's *Tim*, the Mats chose former Ramones drummer Tommy Erdelyi to produce. Unbeknownst to the band, Erdelyi was going deaf, and *Tim* kind of sounds like it. . . "I did all the guitar playing (on *Tim*), and one of the speakers on my amp was blown, and I think that was the one that the microphone was on," says Westerberg. "By this point, Bob had pretty much lost interest, and we didn't really do much to encourage his participation."

Slim Dunlap, a fixture on the Minneapolis bar scene, was chosen to replace Stinson. "He always had a kind word for everyone, he played pretty good guitar and, not the least of all, he had a driver's license," says Westerberg.

<http://www.magnetmagazine.com/2002/08/16/paul-westerberg-the-man-who-wasnt-there/>

- Before that, the last Westerberg album was 1999's *Suicaine Gratification*, which following the lack of touring or support from the label, was released to a dearth of interviews. This is **one of the few interviews from that era** and helps explain how the album came about:

http://www.dailymotion.com/video/xen7bb_paul-westerberg-interview-1999-part_music

http://www.dailymotion.com/video/xen7m0_paul-westerberg-interview-1999-part-2_music

- Crazy enough, this is almost 20 years ago: **Paul Westerberg playing “Things” on British television in 1993** with his backing band that includes his future manager, bass player Darren Hill. (Apparently it’s from a German broadcast, but the song is in English!)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iFBH4pLUhjs&feature=related>

- And here was his return to **Saturday Night Live in 1993**, where once again he changed clothes inbetween songs:

http://www.dailymotion.com/video/xenq68_paul-westerberg-knockin-on-mine-and_music

TOMMY STINSON

- Tommy Stinson spoke to *Alternative Press* about his (very good!) new solo album, ***One Man Mutiny***. He went through the album song-by-song. One of the best stories is behind the title track:

This song spawned from an inner-bus dispute on the Guns ‘N’ Roses tour in Europe. Somebody tried to drag me into it, and I said, “Keep me out of your mess. I’ve got my own problems—I’m a one-man mutiny.” I wrote it in one sitting and recorded it in the restaurant of the Conrad Hotel in Brussels . . . mainly because they had a really nice piano in there.

http://www.altpress.com/features/entry/track_by_track_tommy_stinson

- Somebody with some heart for the rock still works at *Rolling Stone*. Tommy Stinson’s new album got a **write-up and a free track download** for “It’s a Drag”.

<http://www.rollingstone.com/music/news/exclusive-premiere-download-tommy-stinsons-its-a-drag-20110816>

- In an interview with Spinner Canada, Tommy Stinson talks about his **new album and what a Replacements reunion would be like**.

“I think if Paul and I get together and have fun with it and not have to be bogged down with bulls--- or being the Replacements, we could have fun with it and actually do it and that could be something, but I think that there's probably, more so for Paul than me probably, there's just too much baggage.”

<http://www.spinner.ca/2011/10/28/tommy-stinson-replacements-reunion/>

- In an interview with *The Onion*, Tommy talks about what it was like **to record with the Replacements** and how they could never “phony up” (!) like R.E.M.

AVC: People always refer to The Replacements as kind of alternative rock pioneers. Do you think you guys ever really got your due?

TS: I don't know. I'm not sure if we ever really got our due, or if we did ourselves in. Or, I'm not sure if we got our due, or if we were just done. [Laughs.] I think in some ways we got gypped, and in a lot of other ways, we gypped ourselves.

AVC: How did you cheat yourselves?

TS: It wasn't anything we could have controlled. There was an element of playing the game that we never got involved with, and couldn't really comprehend. And that worked to our disadvantage a lot. There was a lot of game playing that we knew other people were doing, like R.E.M. and all these guys. It just seemed phony. It was cool that those guys could "phony up" and do their thing, and put on airs, and hide the fact that they were doing drugs and drinking expensive champagne and shit like that. We just couldn't really hide that crap.

<http://www.avclub.com/twincities/articles/tommy-stinson,56282>

- Tommy did an interview with Spin for the release of his album where he gives **his favorite Replacements prank ever:**

"One night we were in L.A., staying at the Hyatt on Sunset Boulevard. As a dare, we told this cab driver we'd give him a hundred bucks to drive us backwards all the way to Small's, which was a bar on Gower and Melrose. He actually did it! He went down Sunset, crossed down Fountain, the entire way in reverse. I don't know how we didn't get pulled over by the cops, but it was funny as shit."

<http://www.spin.com/articles/tough-questions-tommy-stinson>

- Tommy was the **guest editor for Magnet magazine** on November 27, 2011. If you scroll down to the date, you can read about how he ended up in Soul Asylum, his nostalgia for twentieth century plane travel, home recording, cooking, slot car racing, why being in Guns n' Roses doesn't suck, and his newfound love for basketball.

<http://www.magnetmagazine.com/category/guest-editor/>

- Magnet also sat down for a Q&A with him, which reveals he's living inbetween Philadelphia and a new house in upstate New York. He is straight up about **what he's been up to and relations with his ex-bandmates.**

MAGNET: I always thought Chris Mars was an underrated drummer.

Tommy: Really? Well, you never played with him. [Laughs] All of us had our shortcomings. When you single out the instruments, none of us were great players. My brother was a great player, but he was trying to play something that wasn't happening with the other three of us. Sometimes, it worked. We played off of each other in a healthy kind of way.

There wasn't a lot of method to the madness. When we had to move on from Bob, Chris and I had gotten better, and we were keeping up with Paul.

<http://www.magnetmagazine.com/2011/11/21/qa-with-tommy-stinson/>

- Some of the people in Tommy's backing band, Timothy Schweiger and Jon Phillip, have another band called The Obsoletes, who cover the *Pleased To Meet Me* outtake, "P.O. Box".

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KMxQBPHm64Y>

NOTHING TO DÜ

- Tangential to the Replacements, Bob Mould of Hüsker Dü played a show with backing bands consisting of Replacements-fan and Superchunk drummer (as well as hilarious comedian) Jon Wurster, Britt Daniels of Spoon, Dave Grohl of Nirvana/Foo Fighters, Craig Finn, and Ryan Adams. **"See a Little Light: A Celebration of the Music and Legacy of Bob Mould"** took place on the 21st of November 2011 in Los Angeles at the Walt Disney Concert Hall, which is about the most un-rock name of a concert hall ever (along with those metropolitan arenas named after banks and department stores). Still, watch all these guys fulfilling their bedroom mirror rock dreams between 1984 and 1992.

<http://www.pitchfork.com/news/44714-watch-spoons-britt-daniel-ryan-adams-dave-grohl-pay-tribute-to-bob-mould/>

- Jonathan Bernstein (<http://thepretender.tumblr.com/>) also sent in a short station ID made by all three members of Hüsker Dü for Macalester's college radio station (WMCN 91.7) in St. Paul.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9np7PMh6Pk8>

fin.

"Ohio gets pretty after Winter, but then Winter comes again."

- My friend Sarah Sargent's little sister