

CULTURE VULTURE



Cub - Wunderhorse

This week's creative suggestion comes from one of our senior students, and is an album that he has listened to multiple times since its release on 7 October 2022. Jacob Slater - who has adopted the stage name Wunderhorse for his debut solo album - initially joined the scene as part of the post-punk trio Dead Pretties. In almost a mirror image of the Sex Pistols stage presence in the height of their fame, Dead Pretties adopted a chaotic persona, fighting, swearing, and avoiding conformity at many of their gigs. Coincidentally, Slater actually played a younger version of drummer Paul Cook in FX's recent biopic *Pistols*. Unfortunately, Dead Pretties broke-up in 2017 to focus on their solo careers, and 5 years later, Slater's album *Cub*, holds true to that promise. Much like Sam Fender's acclaimed *Seventeen Going Under*, Slater's album uses youthful memories for the basis of the songs, although he is rarely the narrative focus of his lyrics. Upon listening, the album can be best summed up as "a mix of Radiohead, Led Zeppelin, Nirvana and Queens of the Stone Age", and this is immediately apparent from the opening refrain of 'Butterflies', with the solo electric guitar motif working between major and minor open chords to create a sense of melancholy, much like a Radiohead song. The album proves to be perfectly-rounded listening, working through heartbreak anthems, and more punk-reminiscent sounds. It is available on all listening platforms.

This week's Wit &
Wisdom:

**Life is a lot like
jazz... it's best
when you
improvise.**

GEORGE GERSHWIN

The Sixth Form Team Suggest:



This England - Sky Original

A really interesting insight
into how Covid-19 was handled
by our Government- Mrs
Brooks and Mrs Holwell.



Slow Horses- AppleTV+

Slow Horses follows a bunch of
misfits who failed their MI5 spy
craft in some way. Great cast and
based on a series of Mick Heron
novels that are worth the read -
Mrs Ramsay



Fauda-Netflix

Gripping, nail biting drama set
on the front-line of the Israel-
Palestine conflict. Great
characters, utterly unbelievable
and completely free of
sentimentality - Mr Heysham

The Rise of the Prequel

Recently, the TV and film industries have been making their money out of work that is already guaranteed to do well. How? By making prequels. In 2022 alone, we have seen Andor (Star Wars), The Rings of Power (Lord of the Rings), and House of Dragon (Game of Thrones) grace our streaming sites, as some of the biggest fantasy franchises carry on their storytelling – not by expanding into the future, but by turning back to the past. This isn't a fleeting trend either, with The Hunger Games releasing The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes in November 2023 as a prequel following Coriolanus Snow, and The Lord of The Rings Trilogy already having released The Hobbit Trilogy of films to follow the earlier journey of Bilbo Baggins.

So why is it that fantasy is turning to the past rather than carving the way for something new? For Game of Thrones and Lord of The Rings, this is almost certainly linked with the vivid worlds George R.R Martin and J.R.R Tolkien imagined in the books which started the cult-like addiction. Both Martin and Tolkien's fantasy novels were not only the basis for the ground-breaking screen adaptations, but also the prequels that are now being released. Tolkien's in-depth timelines at the end of novel The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King maps out the history and future of Middle Earth, and Martin's involvement in the making of House of Dragon has meant his influence is still firmly in place over Westeros. The return to prequels could say more about the lack of new voices to take over the fantasy genre. The worlds of Westeros, Middle Earth, Collins' Districts, and that Galaxy far far away are so vivid and intricate, that a new voice in the genre would have to present an initial idea as a finalised, complex world, and then hope that we as consumers enjoy it as much as the legends have come before.

So, whilst that author tries not to baulk at the pressure of the momentous challenge ahead, we will happily continue to live in our favourite worlds, and learn how the stories we love so much came to pass.

THE LORD OF THE RINGS
THE RINGS OF POWER

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

As the weeks progress, we are hoping Culture Vulture will become jam-packed with student articles, recommendations and reviews. If you would like to make your own creative suggestion, or have a piece of work that you would like to see in the next magazine, scan the QR code.



Alternatively, if you would like to contribute an article, film, album, book or podcast review, or have an itching to write a features piece about a current cultural affair, email either theysham@gordanoschool.org.uk or pramsay@gordanoschool.org.uk with your idea and they can point you in the right direction. Who knows - you may see your name in print!

Make sure to encourage your tutors and friends to get involved, and let's make creativity central to the Gordano Sixth Form experience!

