

nsead

NSEAD national conference 2020

Keith Brymer Jones brings us his special NSEAD Studio Social playlist!



<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/78QIT2aMkti9YvOecZ5oBH?si=yv9dicTETNGpXkPmIEcn0A>

Keith shares tunes that have been an influence in his life and tells us some of the tales behind the tracks...

Once in a lifetime – Talking Heads

This was one of the first videos that was truly different when it appeared on Top of The Pops in 1980. The aesthetic, and the way it was shot was for me was inspirational . It made me realise what you could do with this new form of art. Sure there had been videos before of sorts, as video was pretty new in 1980 certainly in terms of using it as a narrative within a song context . It was a perfect way of projecting the personality of the band/artist in terms of an art form , and being a very visually minded person this really resonated with me.

Cramp Stomp – The Cramps

Arrh the Cramps . This reminds me of a period of time in my life when I was involved in the Psychobilly scene . The Cramps seemed to take the whole genre, and make it edgier and somehow cooler (I hate that word) . They probably are one of the most seen bands by me. I was in a band at the time too ,and we were very much on the periphery of the Rockabilly/Psychobilly scene . A band we were very close to at the time was The Stingrays . The Stingrays went on tour with The Cramps and so I got to know them well . The Cramps were quite a niche market ,but really had Rock God status . Incredible in their simplicity of song writing .

Clay – Goldfrapp

GoldfrappMarj and I used to listed to Goldfrapp separately when we were apart in the early years of our relationship . I bought her (Seventh Sea) album when she was still living in Glasgow . It helped us keep the faith that one day we could be together .

Six O'clock Shuffle – The Wigs

This was a single from the band I used to be in in the Eighties . We had a modicum of success, Radio 1 sessions , NME , and Sounds reviews etc . We were together for about 8 years playing predominantly in London were we had a fairly large following playing at such venues as The Camden Palace, Dingwalls , The Astoria , and many, many other small clubs and pubs like The Bull and Gate in Kentish Town . Although I had studied dance from the age of 3 to 18 it was the first time I had put myself in an “entertainer” situation. I was a bit of a nut on stage and would often come home with self-inflicting cuts and bruises . Oh what one would do in the name of entertainment ehhey why not make a pot on TV .

Windmills of your Mind – Dusty Springfield

The original version was sung by Noel Harrison ,and was one of my Mothers favourite songs which I used to put on on a Sunday morning on the HiFi in the family lounge . I love the effortlessness of Dusty’ s voice and discovered that she had also produced a version of this song. It reminds me of my Mother before she was my Mother . Obviously I was not around then by definition ,but I can see her training as a teacher as she did in the early 60’s and

travelling to Paris . There is a great photo of me as a baby breast feeding from my Mother as she is having what seems to be quite an intense conversation with a kind of Beatnik kind of bloke at a party (and smoking I hasten to add) . I like it as it appears that I am completely inconsequential to the whole scene . I just happen to be there .

Heroes – David Bowie

You know how there are some artists that you seem to grow with over the years . David Bowie was one of them for me . Arguably one of the most influential performers, musicians, singers of the twentieth century.

He had that creative capacity to take his own influences and change/morph them into something completely new and original to him which is basically how most creativity is achieved. Who knew you could be influenced by Anthony Newley and re-jig it into something cool/fashionable. Not only fashionable by cutting edge.

For me Mr Bowie was never afraid of re-inventing himself, and as a creative person that is indeed one of the bravest things one can do. Creativity is a process that is the very process of “trial and error”. The fact that said Bowie had more successes than failures is testament to his bold search for self-analysis. A trait in human behaviour that is for me one of the most important things one can ascertain.