

Welcome to Week 4

- Overview of Paper 1
 - Resources (ebooks, scanned books)
make sure you're logged into UCSD VPN when you try to access resources.
- Test 1 : you'll have one week to take it (60-minute time limit when you take it)
- YouTube restrictions by country.
Log in to UCSD VPN.

Philly Soul

- The idea of genre can be difficult to figure out, it's often in the eye of the beholder.
- Is R&B considered rock? At first they were the same genre, but eventually they split into "black" R&B and "white" rock .

- Pop music for black ppl was called "race record". This term fell out of favor, replaced by "R&B" around 1948.

Black pop music = R&B

- Soul music was R&B music that came out of civil rights movement, themes had to do with liberation

- Funk was subgenre of soul. Invented by James Brown. Driving rhythms, aggressive.
- Funk music in Philly included ① bright, positive sounds with more sophisticated musical forms and ② personal instead liberation topics (affairs, romantic paranoia). Precursor to disco.

O'Jays

"Putting
the bow
tie on funk",
- Fred Wesley

- In late 1970s, "disco" also came to represent "black and gay pop music" for white, straight ppl in USA. Pejorative term.
- Bowie became obsessed w/ Philly soul music. Rock music fans insulted Bowie by saying he "went disco".

Corporate Rock

- Arena rock = corporate rock
- In 1969 :
 - ① Rock concerts w/ massive crowds
 - ② Financial disasters

- Big corps. see opportunity to make \$\$, they buy up radio stations, send them all the same playlists
- Stations were all over USA.
- By mid-70s, ~80% of all music industry revenue funnelled up through just six companies.
- Few really big shows were more profitable than many smaller shows. This led to "arena rock".
- Shows were expensive, needed many ppl to put them together.

- People felt like rock had died because so much \$\$ was involved, creativity was stifled.
- In England, they reacted to this with "pub" rock (Pub rock → punk → new wave. Everything was good until MTV came along).
- Bowie came onto scene right before corps got involved so he still had funding
- Music of late 70s all kind of sounds the same (Boston, Journey, Eagles, etc.)

- Bowie retained artistic panache,
not part of corp. structure,
savior of rock

Diamond Dogs / Philly Dogs Tour

- June 1974, **expensive** tour
- Stayed in **North America**
- Discovers **cocaine** while in New York shortly before tour
- Gets into **Philly soul music** early in tour, connects w/ **paranoia themes**, does R&B covers in shows
- After tour, records in Philly

- Wanted to get more of a handle on the finances of his music, discovers that others are getting rich but he's not.
- In August 1975, Bowie is broke, in debt, addicted to drugs, and bored of rock music.
- Lives in NYC w/ girlfriend from Harlem.
- Girlfriend gives Bowie her father's white baggy suit, pants need suspenders. Bowie loves suit.

- Bowie scraps tour set
(plays in front of white background), brings on new musicians from Philly and NYC for LA shows, wears white suit.
- Bowie's manager doesn't care about the changes.
- Bowie loves LA, feels like he fits in w/ movie stars
- Bowie and band really enjoy playing in the shows
- Some fans criticize Bowie for not contributing as much as band, others claim Bowie betrayed them by abandoning rock for "disco"

Cracked Actor

- English film maker gets funding from BBC to film 1-hour special on Bowie
- Filmed in LA in Sept 1974, aired later in the fall of same year
- Bowie uses cut-up technique on his old songs
- (1-hour special is part of required watching material for the course)

Young Americans

- In fall of 1974, fans perceived that Bowie was **true artist** (always surprising ppl).
- Recorded in Nov 1974 in NYC
- Group of ppl that played w/ Bowie stuck around for 20 yrs.
- Listens to soul music w/ **John Lennon** in NYC while doing drugs, hears Lennon singing about "fame", gets idea for song, also realizes he hates being famous.

- Record is huge hit as is first single "Fame".
- Has "Philly soul" themes (personal) and heavy on the funk (James Brown)
- Bowie is criticized for :
 - ① Abandoning rock roots
 - ② Profiting off of labor from Philly soul musicians (charge of racism)
- Others say Bowie actually did record out of love for Philly soul music .

Los Angeles

- Moved to LA in March '75
- Wanted to cut ties w/ biz ppl & manager who were ripping him off, left NYC w/o telling anyone
- Lived in Hollywood Hills w/ friend Glen Hughes.
- Bowie did lots of crazy things, sunk further into drug addiction and heavy paranoia set in.
- Inspired by horror movie "Rosemary's Baby", Bowie thinks witches are trying to steal his sperm

to make evil babies, only
way prevent it is to
use Alister Crowley's
"magick".

- His fascination w/ Crowley
leads him into Nazism
and notion of superior
Aryan race
- Starts hanging out w/
Eggy Pop in LA after
he gets him out of
mental institution.

The Man Who Fell to Earth

- British movie director hires Bowie to star in film about alien who lands in New Mexico in search for water to save his planet.
- Needs to rebuild ship, sells alien tech to make \$\$ to rebuild it.
- Bowie just played himself
- Bowie earned lots of \$\$
- People came to perceive Bowie as character in film

- Film earned critical success
- Film gave Bowie confidence at time when he was really low / depressed

Station To Station

- Doesn't remember recording album S.T.S.
- Flew band from NYC to LA to record it.
- Some might think of S.T.S. as "cut-up" of previous Bowie albums

- Although on surface level songs seem disjunct, they're conjunct on deeper level

Un Chien Andalou

- Tour of S.T.S. started in early 1976
- Bowie uses clips from film "Un Chien Andalou" in shows.
- Didn't have props, big set
- As show went on, it got more dark and depressing

- Bowie's obsession w/ Nazism gets worse, makes terrible comments that caused real furor in Europe
- Some view his actions as unethical, drug-inspired opportunism instead of racism and anti-semitism.
- Bowie and Iggy become best friends.
- Bowie realizes cocaine addiction is bad, chooses not to go back to LA, stays in Paris, records albums w/ Iggy then cleans up and moves to Berlin.

- Bowie lived in Turkish neighborhood, lives in relative **anonymity**.

This Week's Reading

- Ch. 13 of book "David Bowie: Critical Perspectives"