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Intermediate Composition 2089

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Oasis Annotated Bibliography

Whitecross, Mat, director. *Oasis: Supersonic*. Lorton Entertainment, 2017.

A two-hour long documentary covering the first three years of Oasis. From the very beginning all the way up till their Knebworth 1996 concert. This documentary has everything, from archival footage to interviews it really does a good job of showing how Oasis rose to fame and the struggles they had with that fame. Of course, this wouldn't be a true Oasis documentary if it didn't go over the rivalry between the two brothers of the band, Liam and Noel Gallagher. The combination of archival footage and interviews does a great job of showing the tension between the two brothers and why they didn't always get along.

I think it was perfect for the film to end at the Knebworth concert. That Knebworth concert was one of the biggest concerts of all time in the UK. Oasis did back to back gigs with 145,000 and 135,000 in attendance. It was reported that around 2.6 million people applied for tickets to the show. At the time that would've equated to roughly 5% of the British population.

It's also interesting because watching the archival footage and interviews, you can tell Liam and Noel knew this was their peak. Like this was the pinnacle of their careers as musicians. And in a way it was. Their next album they released didn't do so well and after that slowly faded into obscurity.

Halfon, Simon. *Supersonic: The Complete, Authorised and Uncut Interviews*. Headline, 2021.

This is a written version of the *Oasis: Supersonic* documentary. It has a lot of interviews that weren't included in the documentary. I did notice there was a lot more dialogue included from members of the band not named Liam or Noel. The documentary kind of glanced over them for the most part. I plan on reading it front to back and highlighting any parts that I find interesting or worth mentioning.

Mundy, Chris. "Ruling Asses: Oasis Have Conquered America, and They Won't Shut up about It." *Rolling Stone*, Rolling Stone, 25 June 2018, <https://www.rollingstone.com/music/music-news/oasis-ruling-asses-243843/>.

The title of this article "Oasis have conquered America, and they won't shut up about" is interesting in that the author is already claiming that Oasis is big in America. The author's only reasoning for this is that Oasis had just won a bunch of awards from the Brit Awards. I think the author was a little too optimistic in that looking back it doesn't really seem that Oasis ever got that big outside of the UK.

It's a little hard to summarize this article, it briefly goes over the history of Oasis and then quotes both Liam and Noel saying a bunch of stupid shit. This paragraph right here from the article does a good job of explaining who Oasis is:

"Oasis' attitude seems to be, if it sounds like the Beatles, record it; when in doubt, defer to Noel; and whenever possible, draw attention to yourself. Unlike many American bands that crave success without public scrutiny, Oasis are nostalgic for earlier times, when rock stars were congratulated for doing lines of cocaine off groupies' stomachs before throwing TV sets through hotel windows. Rather than anonymity, Oasis long for constant adulation."

Daly, Andrew. "Music That Defined an Era: Analyzing the Rise and Fall of Oasis." -, 17 Nov.

2021, <https://vwmusicrocks.com/music-that-defined-an-era-analyzing-the-rise-and-fall-of-oasis/>.

This article goes over why exactly Oasis never really became as big in the States as they did in the UK. The author starts by explaining that Oasis relied heavily on B-sides which was a strategy the Beatles did back in the 60s. The reason to release songs as a B-side was to save them from the album release and release them as singles instead. Back in the 60s this worked really well for the Beatles, but this was the late 90s and people didn't consume music like they once did. The decision to hold back hit-worthy songs led to Oasis getting less airtime and less time on the charts. Not only was Oasis getting less airtime, but also there was a lot more competition in America as well. The author goes on to explain that this combination led to Oasis never making it big in the US.

"Living Forever: Why the World Still Seems Obsessed by Oasis." *The Guardian*, Guardian

News and Media, 24 Apr. 2015,

<https://www.theguardian.com/music/musicblog/2015/apr/24/living-forever-why-the-world-still-seems-obsessed-by-oasis-20-years>.

This article does a great job of explaining why the UK is always obsessed with Oasis. Long story short it is because of Liam and Noel's stupid antics. Here's a great example they used in the article: "Enter the tabloid press, bearing daily stores on Liam and/or Noel for at least the next two years. In August 1997, a picture of Noel Gallagher mooning in Ibiza was the lead story on a Daily Record front page. The second lead was the death of Princess Diana."

It also admits that Oasis is just the Gallagher brothers and the rest of the band are pretty much treated as extras. “In April 2015, pictures of Liam getting pissed would be unlikely to trump the arrival of Kate Middleton’s baby, but the regularity with which reliably spurious Oasis stories are deemed of greater interest to readers of a national newspaper than, say, the general election is testament to a continuing, insatiable public appetite for all things Gallagher.”

Hsu, Hua, et al. “Oasis and the Fading Dream of the Nineties.” *The New Yorker*, 30 Nov. 2016, <https://www.newyorker.com/culture/cultural-comment/oasis-and-the-fading-dream-of-the-nineties>.

This is a review of the Oasis: Supersonic documentary. Contrary to other articles praising it, this one criticizes it. The author goes on saying that the documentary didn’t really have a strong ending. And it didn’t even mention the band Blur, Oasis’ main rival at the time. It also doesn’t go over the drugs that would consume the band and lead to their not-so-great third album. The author states that the story is one of nostalgia and that this was rock’s last moment of dominance before a myriad of other genres became popular and took over.

Golsen, Tyler. “Why Did Oasis Split up?” *Far Out Magazine*, 21 Dec. 2021, <https://faroutmagazine.co.uk/why-did-oasis-split-up/>.

A great summary on how and why Oasis broke up. From the very beginning there was drama with Oasis. Even their founding was filled with drama. Noel had just come back from a 5 year journey, traveling all over the world as a roadie for a band he was working for. When he finally returned home, he was met with Liam as the singer to a new band called The Rain. Noel saw this and decided to convince the band he should take over and write all the songs and be the

lead guitarist. His selling point being he had a bunch of connections being a roadie for five years and that he'd lead the band to greatness.

Having Noel write the songs and Liam sing them wasn't the greatest idea. Both brothers slowly resented each other. Noel, jealous of Liam getting all the credit for just singing the songs that he wrote. (Liam didn't even play guitar or anything, just sang.) And Liam, jealous of Noel for being able to write such amazing songs that he knew he'd never be able to write himself.

The article then goes on to list a bunch of examples of Liam pissing off Noel. One of them being Liam refusing to sing for their MTV performance. This led to Noel singing instead, and it was at that moment that Noel realized that he didn't actually need Liam anymore. About a decade would pass before Noel actually quit Oasis. That day would come in 2009 when Liam allegedly threw a chair/guitar or something at Noel backstage right before a concert. Noel instantly fled the stage and then later announced that he had quit Oasis for good.

Nash, Liz. "Masters of Destruction and Sultans of Shit Talking, Here's 7 Times Oasis Took

Rowdiness to the next Level." *Happy Mag*, 9 Mar. 2017, <https://happymag.tv/masters-of-destruction-and-sultans-of-shittalking-heres-7-times-oasis-took-rowdiness-to-the-next-level/>.

A list of times Oasis did stupid shit. Some examples include: getting shitfaced on a ferry headed to Amsterdam and starting a fight and getting arrested. (Had to cancel their concert because of the incident.) Confusing crystal meth for coke and getting too fucked up to perform and deciding to cancel their entire American tour. Liam refusing to sing on MTV's Unplugged, stating his throat hurt. Noel took over singing duties while Liam shouted insults from the back of the stage with his "sore throat."

“Blur vs Oasis: The True Story behind the Battle of Britpop.” *Dig!*, 10 Feb. 2022,

[https://www.thisisdig.com/feature/blur-vs-oasis-battle-of-](https://www.thisisdig.com/feature/blur-vs-oasis-battle-of-britpop/#:~:text=In%20the%20end%2C%20Blur%20triumphed,a%20pyrrhic%20victory%20for%20some.)

[britpop/#:~:text=In%20the%20end%2C%20Blur%20triumphed,a%20pyrrhic%20victory%20for%20some.](https://www.thisisdig.com/feature/blur-vs-oasis-battle-of-britpop/#:~:text=In%20the%20end%2C%20Blur%20triumphed,a%20pyrrhic%20victory%20for%20some.)

A summary of the Britpop battle, Oasis vs Blur. The competition started when during a party Liam went up to Damon Albarn (frontman of Blur) and starting taunting him “We’re number one, you’re not, you’re not!” Damon decided to take up on the challenge and prove him wrong. The media eventually got a hold of this and blew the whole thing out of proportion. Making the whole challenge even bigger than what it was originally. The winner of the challenge was whoever could sell the most copies of their single within a week. Oasis released “Roll With It” while Blur released “Country House.” Both songs were pretty mediocre compared to the rest of their discographies. In the end, Blur took the victory with 270,000 copies sold to the 220,000 copies Oasis sold. Oasis would later on claim that faulty bar codes were the reason they lost.

Plitt, Amy. “Liam Gallagher vs. Noel Gallagher: Oasis Brothers' Beef History.” *Rolling Stone*,

Rolling Stone, 25 June 2018, <https://www.rollingstone.com/music/music-news/liam-gallagher-vs-noel-gallagher-oasis-brothers-beef-history-explained-206050/>.

A brief history of the beef between brothers Liam and Noel Gallagher. Some events that haven’t been mentioned previously:

Noel quits during the 2000 world tour. The brothers got into an argument and Liam eventually decided to question the legitimacy of Noel’s daughter. Noel would quit the tour right away, but of course they would get back together again.

Noel claims that Liam is “frightened to death” of him. Noel states: “I’ve kind of learnt that instead of arguing stuff out with him and ending up in a fight, I work on his psychology and he’s completely freaked out by me now. I can read him and I can fucking play him like a slightly disused arcade game.” It is also revealed later in the interview that Noel used to mess with Liam, who is deathly afraid of ghosts, by moving furniture around making him think spirits did it.

Liam discovers twitter and uses it to insult Noel at least once a week. One of Liam’s lowest moments was when after performing at the One Love Manchester benefit concert (Charity event for the terrorist attack on the Ariana Grande concert) he tweeted: “You sad fuck” to Noel for not showing up to the event. The One Love organizers defended Noel saying he was never scheduled to perform with them in the first place.

Liam roasts Noel on a Reddit AMA. One Reddit user asks: “Would you sing a song Noel wrote you if he offered it to you for your solo album?” Liam replies with: “I think he needs all the songs he can get himself these days.” Liam pretty much takes any opportunity to roast Noel.

“Liam Gallagher Admits He Doesn't Know the Meaning behind ‘Half’ of Oasis' Songs.” *NME*, 26 Oct. 2017, <https://www.nme.com/news/music/liam-gallagher-doesnt-know-oasis-song-meanings-2153793>.

Oasis is known for having horrible lyrics that make absolutely no sense at all. Here’s Liam admitting he doesn’t know the meaning to any of his songs. He is quoted with saying “I like things that don’t mean anything.” “To be honest for you, every song I’ve ever sang has some sort of meaning. It all means something to me, even if I don’t know what.” Liam really tries his best here to not make any sense.

Some examples of lyrics that make absolutely no sense:

“Slowly walkin’ down the hall

Faster than a cannonball”

And

“Some day you will find me caught beneath the landslide

In a champagne supernova in the sky.”

4:07 am, Nov 07. “In Defense of Oasis.” *Yale Daily News*, 7 Nov. 2014,

<https://yaledailynews.com/blog/2014/11/07/in-defense-of-oasis/>.

An article defending listening to Oasis in 2014. The author here compares Oasis lyrics to quotes from previous UK Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher. Mentioning how Thatcher was pessimistic compared to the lyrics of Oasis. “She [Margaret Thatcher] destroyed the unions; she privatized the railroads; she made modern Britain, whether you like it nor. So the Iron Lady necessarily exerts an indirect but immense influence on Oasis’ first two albums.” The author then goes onto explain that Thatcher’s reforms aided the south of England at the expense of the North. The North is considered working class, while the southern area surrounding London is considered middle class. Oasis was originally from up North, considering themselves a working class band. The lyrics to Oasis’ songs were focused on individualism which is contrast to what Thatcher was saying at the time. The author ends the article mentioning how even though the lyrics are mediocre we should listen to some Oasis songs for what they are. Songs that bring brightness and color to the world.

“A Brief History of Liam Gallagher Calling Noel Gallagher a ‘Potato.’” *VICE*, 29 June 2016, <https://www.vice.com/en/article/rq47dd/a-brief-history-of-liam-gallagher-calling-noel-gallagher-a-potato>.

Liam calling Noel a potato on Twitter. This article is a timeline of events highlighting the times Liam called Noel a potato. The author first writes about the history of the brother’s feud. It also contains one great quote from Noel about Liam sad back in 2009 just right after their breakup. “Liam is rude, arrogant, intimidating, and lazy. He’s the angriest man you’ll ever meet. He’s like a man with a fork in a world full of soup.” And after mentioning that quote the author then goes on to list the times Liam has called Noel a potato. The first mention of potato was on May 24, 2016. It was simply a tweet with a picture of Noel zoomed in on his and the caption “Potato.” Later, on June 29, 2016, Liam would again call Noel a potato. The tweet once again included a zoomed in picture of Noel’s face and the caption: “Pouting Potato.” This tweet has garnered over 10 thousand likes. Now, why does Liam call Noel a potato? Well, his face kind of looks like one, it’s like shaped like a potato in a way. Also, Liam doesn’t exactly like Noel either. But the potato history doesn’t stop there, on November 8th 2017 someone decided to smuggle in a potato and potato peeler to one of Noel’s performances. Liam would later go on to thank that person in a tweet: “To the peeler who peeled his little heart out last night you my friend are truly out there psychedelic even as you were King Park Monkey.” Not the most coherent sentence but the fact that he publicly thanked him is hilarious and just shows the pettiness Liam has for his brother Noel.

“No Regrets as Oasis Admit They Stole Tunes.” *The Independent*, Independent Digital News and Media, 30 Nov. 1997, <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/no-regrets-as-oasis-admit-they-stole-tunes-1297147.html>.

This article goes over how Oasis shamelessly plagiarized their music from other artists. Noel admits that he used Bowie's song "All the Young Dudes" for both "Don't Look Back in Anger" and "Stand by Me." Not only that but Oasis was sued by Coca-Cola themselves for copying the tune of "Teach The World To Sing" and using it in their song "Shakermaker."

Wiederhorn, Jon. "(What's The Story) Morning Glory?" *Rolling Stone*, Rolling Stone, 25 June 2018, <https://www.rollingstone.com/music/music-album-reviews/whats-the-story-morning-glory-90193/>.

A review of Oasis' sophomore album "(What's The Story) Morning Glory?" The author gives the album a ton of praise. The author gives his opinion saying that this album is much more feminine than Oasis' debut album, *Definitely Maybe*. This has to do with the more emotional lyrics and less aggressive song titles compared to their last album. Some examples from their debut album include: "Rock N Roll Star, Cigarettes and Alcohol, and Supersonic." It's also interesting that the author states that *Definitely Maybe* didn't live up to the hype. "The music mixed Stones swagger with soaring melodies, and titles like "Rock 'n' Roll Star," "Supersonic" and "Live Forever" conveyed the band's desire to transcend the mundane. But for all the supercilious sneering, the disc — as good as it was — didn't quite live up to the hype." Overall the author gives the album a positive review. It also gives us a comment that doesn't age too well: "If Oasis can avoid falling prey to the kind of brotherly shove that eventually destroyed the Kinks artistically, the future looks bright indeed." To say they fell prey to a brotherly shove would be an understatement.

"Flattened by the Cocaine Panzers' – the Toxic Legacy of Oasis's *Be Here Now*." *The Guardian*, Guardian News and Media, 6 Oct. 2016,

<https://www.theguardian.com/music/2016/oct/06/flattened-by-the-cocaine-panzers-the-toxic-legacy-of-oasis-be-here-now>.

This article is on Oasis' third album "Be Here Now" and how it was a cocaine fueled nightmare. At release it did very well. Selling over 696,000 copies and getting many 5-star reviews. But as the author writes "No album in history has experienced such a swift and dramatic reversal of fortune. Be Here Now was reframed first as a disappointment and then as a disaster. It burned out quickly, falling well short of the sales achieved by 1995's (What's the Story) Morning Glory, with many copies ended up in secondhand racks." Noel would later state the album as "The sound of five men in the studio, on coke, not giving a fuck."

The author also states how strange it was that many critics were blindly giving the album a five star review even though that clearly wasn't deserving at all. He then investigates why these critics gave it such gleaming reviews when the album wasn't anything close to what Oasis' first two albums were. He comes to the conclusion that at the time Oasis was more than a band, they were woven into Britain's culture fabric. It was like they were too big to do no wrong. Oasis had convinced themselves and the rest of the world that they were the best.

One of the studio engineers described the album as: "The quality was flattened in the studio by the cocaine panzers, as songs were elongated and smothered in up to 30 layers of guitars. Massive amounts of drugs. Big fights. Bad vibes. Shit recordings." One of the producers, Owen Morris said: "A Bludgeoning, airless wall of noise, an utter disgrace."

This is probably one of the best articles on Oasis as it talks about not only the massive failure Oasis put out, but also the massive failure of the press. The discourse at the time was to

praise Oasis no matter what. People loved Oasis and your article wouldn't sell well if you criticized them. This entire paragraph from the author sums this up very well:

“Any resentment, however, was outweighed by the desire of publications to keep their most bankable cover stars on side. Parkes remembers his originally ambivalent review being shorn of its most negative lines by his editor. ““The pressure on critics was unprecedented. Prior to that, the music press could be honest because the industry had nowhere else to go, but now it had lots of other places to go. The music press was required to hold its nerve and it didn't. It was embarrassing. It is not the job of the reviewer to pick out the records that are going to sell the most copies and praise them.””

Overall, this article goes on to give many more examples of why both Oasis and the press failed.