

MUSICOLOGY COVER

Magazine Spread On Arctic Monkeys

This magazine spread was designed based on my personal music interests. This was designed in hopes to promote their latest album.



Final Design



WHAT DOES THEIR NEW ALBUM MEANS?

What was it inspired from?

In July 1969, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin became the first humans to set foot on the moon. The journey had started four days earlier in Florida, and culminated with the two astronauts landing at a prearranged site Armstrong named 'Tranquility Base'.

You know the rest: they planted a flag, bounced around a little and Armstrong gave that quote about a making a 'giant leap for mankind'. Arctic Monkeys' sixth album, whose name is inspired by that landing spot, is not quite as towering an achievement as putting a man on the moon – but consider this the band's boldest step yet. 'Giant leap'? Fuck, we can barely see them from here. The band whom have wilfully pivoted through each era, from scrappy upstarts on their early records, to desert dudes on 'Humbug', through to rock gods on 'AM' in 2013.

What is their new album like?

But this is the Arctic Monkeys like you've never heard them before. If you're here looking for banging festival-sized anthems, you'll be sorely let down. But if you want the goss on what is undoubtedly the band's most intriguing record to date, step right this way.

Who composed the album?

Composed initially on a piano by Turner in his LA pad, these songs were given the go-ahead by guitarist Jamie Cook, who felt they were appropriate enough for the band to record. 'Tranquility Base Hotel & Casino', however, is as close as we've ever been to hearing an Alex Turner solo record, outside of his solo soundtrack for 2010 film Submarine. There's a noticeable lack of workable choruses, several of the songs feature a leisurely pace that's a far cry from most of the Monkeys' material, and most of the 40-minute record is occupied by Turner's crooning. From the opening drawl of 'I just wanted to

be one of the Strokes/now look at the mess you made me make', it's evident that he's not just the architect of this lavish establishment – he's the concierge, towel boy, bartender and everything in between. That's not to discredit the performances from the rest of the band.

The album has a sci-fi theme, what movies inspired you?

They've turned what might have resembled a spiritual sequel to Father John Misty's moody 2016 album 'Pure Comedy' into a fleshed-out, Bowie-esque statement of excess and grandeur. Lavish strings populate 'One Point Perspective', and album closer 'The Ultracheese' is one of the band's finest collective achievements to date – like 'Que Sera, Sera', but with a gorgeous guitar solo.

What about the other two?

Drummer Matt Helders, whose skills are a tad underused on this record, has found a place by experimenting on synths for several tracks, while bassist Nick O'Malley turns in another steady effort with fantastic harmony work and irresistible basslines.

“this is the Arctic Monkeys like you've never heard them before.”

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Softwares used

