

To start, I am supporting Indie Rock rather than the screaming of Goth and Metal music. So why should you listen to rock? Well for starters, Rock has inspired the biggest artists in the world ever! The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, Sex pistols, Queen... the list is endless. Rock has inspired musicians throughout the 20th century, as you can see by the fact that Indie bands top the album charts in this country more regularly than other types of music, and so they should.

My second reason: the alternatives. You have Pop, the less said about which the better, and dance, which leaves a lot to be desired. In addition you have the American's favourite - hip-hop and R'n'B. This music scene is rather lacking in originality, containing the likes of Jay-Z, Ice-T, P Diddy, Xzibit, and the late Big L. This alphabet soup of artists, is of course headed by such groups as G-unit, and have their videos directed by people like "Lil X". It is a member of "G-unit" that I shall target first, because he is a joke. This is of course 50 cent. Many say that Hip-Hop turns people into crazed killers, which is of course wrong. I own two Eminem albums and have not the slightest urge to stab anyone (apart from possibly SUV drivers and George Bush). However, it's undeniable that artists like 50 cent glorify gun violence. If you look at the lyrics from 50 cent's latest album "Get Rich or

Die Tryin'" (I think we would have preferred the latter) it contains more munitions inferences than an IRA newsletter. I've looked at the whole album, and over 80% of the songs contain gun references. With gun crime as one of the fastest rising crimes in the UK, perhaps it's true what they say: guns don't kill people, rappers do!

Well, now that we have established that some Hip-Hop artists encourage more violence than "Guns Weekly" let's move on to rock and indie. The rock world relies on talent; whether you sing, play an instrument, or write the songs, you can't possibly get anywhere in the world of Rock without talent and skill. This surely proves that rock is Darwinism in practise; the talented artists will live on to make great music, whereas the obsolete urban artists will eventually die off.

Looking at a recent poll; the top three of the greatest songs of all time are all either rock, rock and roll, or well... by John Lennon, whereas there are hardly any Urban songs on the whole list! Hopefully all of you agree but are slightly puzzled as to where such greats as Marvin Gaye and Aretha Franklyn fit into all of this. Well, I am a great fan of real Rhythm and Blues music; the thing is that at the moment current R'n'B isn't real Rhythm and Blues; it is simply pop with base. Modern artists have stood on the shoulders of giants, and kicked

them in the head.

The progression a rock song can make is enormous e.g. (Citizen erased from Muse). Rock can also involve so many tempos, keys, and style changes within one song (e.g. Bohemian Rhapsody). It varies; it is ever changing and is always full of new talent. Not only that, but rock is universal across the world and simply travels better across the globe than any other style.

Well now we look at sex. Yes, in the end, we have to analyse the fact that Rock doesn't rely on sex, whereas urban music does. Where would Beyoncé be? Despite the fact that half of Beyoncé's marketing strategy is rooted in her sexuality, she denies the fact. In an interview she stated "I like my music to sell itself, rather than use my sexuality". Beyoncé, who are you kidding? Do you watch your own videos? The fact is that she, like the rest of the urban scene, uses sex to sell her music. The fact is that sex helps to sell urban, whereas Indie sells itself. All you need to do is compare videos from the two styles, the difference is marked.

All I can say is this: if you're not a fan of Indie, go out and buy an album anyway (Bloc party possibly) and listen to it just twice. If you don't like it, **END** don't ever have to listen to it again, but at least give it a chance. Doesn't its reputation and pedigree mean that it deserves

ROCK

OPINIONATED AS EVER, TOM WHITEHEAD-CLARKE EXPLAINS WHY FOR HIM ROCK WINS HANDS DOWN OVER ALL OTHER TYPES OF MUSIC. NEXT ISSUE ARGUMENTS FOR HIPHOP AND RNB

The Rock scene in this country is thriving with many great bands. Well known groups as Franz Ferdinand, The Darkness and Kasabian are only the tip of the iceberg as far as the Rock scene is concerned. At the moment there is a rock revolution happening right on our doorstep, with great new talent everywhere. Such bands as Nine black alps, The Subways, and Babyshambles are relatively unknown, whereas others such as Razorlight, Kasabian and the Libertines have broken through that barrier, and are now widely recognised. Such

great organisations as Xfm and NME magazine help these bands to break through, so if interested, go to them first.

Despite this great depth of rock and Indie talent, I always hear on the radio about how there is a huge amount of urban talent in the urban scene, and yet because of the non-commercial nature of the rock/ Indie scene, the great bands out there aren't given the same coverage. I would argue that we should try and find out about these bands, and raise their profile as much as we can.

The rock rival going on is unlike any that we have seen since the

early nineties with the Indie days of oasis etc. However amongst this new wave of groups, a lot of influence has come from 60's groups such as the Kinks and the Rolling Stones. These were the bands that made Britain the biggest music nation on the planet, and hopefully the new wave of bands will do the same thing. The fact is, that Britain has a far better rock pedigree than any other country in the world, and we are still producing these great bands now.

My advice to all of you out there, would be to go and find out about these groups, and buy their

albums. If you don't like them then fine, but I guarantee that you will all find at least one band who's music you love. The good thing about a lot of the bands around is that they are British, and so when you buy their stuff, the money is staying in the country, rather than out to the Americans. Here are the release dates, of some albums I'm going to buy, and I would advise that you do the same:

Babyshambles: June, The departure: May 5th, The subways, Maximo park

P.S. My tip for the year: Bloc Party! Watch this space, an **END** ep this magazine until next Year's Brit