

Subj: **its getting closer**
Date: 13/07/00 09:44:29 GMT Daylight Time
From: lanwh
To: JWestdcoop

Dennis,

hi, hope you're well - thanks for your last mail - encouragement...

We're now in the thick of it. No additional items i dont think to add to the list of component parts that i sent you before. But have advanced on the music front.

To answer your question yes there will be music but played more quietly than your average.

The musical structure involves:

taking a line out from the duke box on the ground floor of the pub, putting it through a delay unit and replaying it in the basement club area - which is where the telephone booth will be.

section which use the soundtrack to a film we shot of the empty pub - we went in before it opened so it's the distorted noises of the staff setting up and cleaning etc - but turned into ghost town weirdness. This'll be played simultaneously with other stuff downstairs in the club part.

Two DJ sections which will play exclusively cover versions. I'm playing a set which will be 2 cover versions played simultaneously with each other. You end up with bizarrely pretty (uncharacteristically enough) twilight zone zombie sounds - and when the balance is right you sense that the records you're hearing have been slowed down by about 2 and a half times. They play on your might due to the familiarity, and become increasingly disturbing despite first appearances.

We've record a spokenword based 'radio jingle' which is about looking into the past and seeing the future. James' work. It's fantastic and can't be described, just heard (which you will do afterwards I promise).

Also, we're goin there tonite to record small Q&A with regular customers of the pub - personal questions - not too heavy - from which the voice of the questioner will be removed. So you'll end up with bizarre gaps i.e.

oh about 10 years

yes

yes

what d'you mean?

no never

i might have done why?

etc etc.

hopefully a bit more interesting than this though.

They'll be played over stuff too.

Then of course there are the telephone conversations which will be played live as they happen - possibly with some background music, but we'll have to see what happens with the soundcheck on that one. We've found this brilliant company who will provide a box of tricks to professionally play all the calls live - it was of course a more complicated task than the simplicity of the idea suggested at first. However, we think we've cracked it.

So that's what will be heard.

To be seen upstairs:

all the photographs in the pub (about 40) will be covered with pics of the empty pub that I've shot, plus turned into mirrors etc. on the video screen will be the empty pub, with an extremely intermittent soundtrack of the interview voices with the regular punters as described above.

also there will be electronic door chimes - i've got ten - they're pretty loud and sound like doorbells and are light-activated. These will be placed to effectively 'map' the space - on doorways, at the entrance, down the staircase etc. We're re-wiring some of them so that their electronic bleeping sounds become distorted and reduced and fucked. The idea being you'll faintly hear others going off all over the pub as people move around the space. A random symphony map.

The telephone booth will be pitch black - like a monolith - in the middle of the dancefloor. Very little light inside (it will be soundproofed) so that you'll get the sense of being in darkest space. Only enough light to see the phone connection.

Also we've made a commemorative cd as Mangina - our concept band that's about to take tangible form. It features two tracks. We're going to give it away free - well 50 of them anyway, as well as copies of the accompanying video.

That's it. Possibly some late additions as we start actually putting things into place - i.e. monday and tuesday.

I am slightly feeling the pressure now. Duckie organisers are giving me abuse because they can't cope with the fact that we've pulled all this stuff together and they don't want to let us get on with things. Which is miserable. But I'm fighting on, as ever. I feel really confident that what we've got is going to be unlike anything else, and is so conceptually thorough that it'll work just fine.

Simon who runs Duckie is abusing me on a daily basis with regard to whether you're going to actually answer the phone or not. I've told him that you will, and that our friendship and working relationship is solid - his adjective that he asked me to affirm for him!

The plan will be that we'll have to do a soundcheck at about 3pm our time on Monday. The phone line is set up to immediately dial your number.

I know it's going to be real early in the morning for you but I'm wondering if it will be possible for you to be there and to pick up the phone so we can check sound levels?

It's going to be crucial that the conversations will be heard over the pA system and we can only do this by checking it with you. We can't do it any later than 3pm because the basement bar is open from then onwards and we'll have to vacate until Tuesday morning.

Actual times for the telephone conversations on the night will be 8.15-9.15 pm our time and then again at 10pm-10.45pm. Can you write me back confirming that you'll be home and will pick up the phone? it'll pacify Simon at Duckie and allow us to continue with the work in hand without the stress of his abuse.

We should certainly try and have a conversation over the weekend, but write me and confirm you're home on Tuesday next (18th!) to do this. It'd make my life a hell of a lot easier for these next few days.

Lots of love to you - sorry if this is a demanding mail but needs must. It's turning into a masterpiece <g> (said not without a sense of wry humour).

Write me today when you get this and we'll speak either later today or tomorrow or Saturday?

Love to you again
lanx