

FONT BY LIFE OF A CRAPHEAD

LIFE OF A CRAPHEAD INTERVIEWS LIFE OF A CRAPHEAD

JON MCCURRY UH, I DON'T KNOW, MAYBE WE SHOULD TALK ABOUT THE PLAY AND WHAT WAS BAD WITH IT? OR IS THAT DUMB IN A MAGAZINE, WE SHOULD PROMOTE IT, SAY IT'S GREAT. MAYBE SOMETHING THAT I ALWAYS THINK ABOUT IS BEING CANADIAN. IF YOU SEE THE PLAY THAT'S ON THE COVER OF THE MAGAZINE RIGHT NOW, IT'S NOT CANADIAN.

ACDY BAM WHICH ONE?

J THE ONE ABOUT ICARUS. IT'S A RE-ENACTMENT OF THE STORY OF ICARUS. YOU AND I HAVE NO GOOD REASON TO RE-DO ICARUS. IT'S LIKE, I DON'T GIVE A SHIT ABOUT ICARUS. ICARUS CAN SHUT UP. ICARUS, WHY WOULD ANYBODY WANT TO DO ICARUS? WHEN YOU SEE THE PLAY ICARUS, IT'S NOT CANADIAN. BUT IT'S ICARUS. YOU KNOW? IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE REALLY GOOD. LET'S JUST GUESS WHY. IT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE THE GUY CAN ACT, AND IT'S WRITTEN IN A WAY THAT'S STURDY, AND IT'S NICE. IT'S KIND OF LIKE YOU WANT A SMART YOUNG SUITOR TO COME HOME WITH YOUR DAUGHTER, SHORT HAIR, NICE SHIRT, NOT UGLY... NO CUTS ON HIS FACE. IF A GUY SHOWS UP WITH CUTS ON HIS FACE AND SAYS "I GAVE MYSELF THESE CUTS BECAUSE I WANT TO BE... THIS IS THE NEW BEAUTIFUL..." YOU DON'T WANT THAT GUY TO DATE YOUR DAUGHTER.

A OK so describe us.

J WE'RE LIKE DRAWN ON CUTS ON THE FACE...

A AND IT'S CANADIAN.

J BECAUSE IT'S DEFINITELY NOT SCARY.

A IS IT CANADIAN BECAUSE IT'S FAKE SCARY?

J IT'S TRYING TO BE TOUGH BUT CAN'T GO THAT FAR. DID YOU KNOW, THE SINGER FROM GANG GANG DANCE USED TO BE A PERFORMANCE ARTIST, AND SHE SET HERSELF ON FIRE, AND SHE HAS HUGE SCARS UP HER BODY... SHE BURNED HER BODY TRYING TO RE-ENACT SOME PERFORMANCE ART. THAT SCARES THE SHIT OUT OF ME!

A BUT WHO CARES?

J LIKE, WHAT DOES IT MEAN? IT JUST MEANS SHE HAS CRAZY BRAIN. IT JUST MEANS SHE'S TOUGH. LIKE SHE CAN MAKE HERSELF FEEL THAT MUCH PAIN BY CHOICE.

A BUT WHO CARES?

J IT'S LIKE JUMPING IN FRONT OF A CAR TO BE TOUGH.

A YEAH. OR WHAT'S THE POINT IN RE-ENACTING SOME TOUGH PERFORMANCE ART?

J YEAH, I CAN SEE THAT. WELL I'M SURE THERE'S A POINT.

A BUT I THINK HAVING THE FAKE SCARS IS BETTER!

J IT'S WORTH IT BECAUSE RATHER THAN TALKING ABOUT WHAT'S SMART OR NOT, IT'S LIKE "YOUR BODY ON FIRE"... I'M PROBABLY GETTING THIS TOTALLY WRONG. SHE PROBABLY GOT SET ON FIRE BY MISTAKE. BUT ASSUMING SHE SET HERSELF ON FIRE. THE ACT OF GETTING HIT BY A CAR IS WORTH IT. IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT IT MEANS. IT'S JUST YOUR BODY HITTING THIS METAL THING AND MAKING IT BEND AND THEN BLOOD AND THEN TWISTING AROUND... THAT'S WORTH IT. AND THEN IF YOU THINK THAT WAY, IT'S LIKE THIS PERSON IS REALLY SCARY. THIS PERSON IS HALF PSYCHO...PATH. WE KNOW THAT'S A WASTE OF TIME, BECAUSE THEN YOU'RE IN THE HOSPITAL FOR A WEEK AND A HALF. AND IT'S NOT COMFORTABLE. YOU HAVE TO WEAR A WAIST CAST FOR A WEEK. THAT'S NOT COMFORTABLE. I'D MUCH RATHER JUST SLEEP IN THE HAMMOCK... OK, SO THEN WHAT DO WE DO ABOUT THAT? WE JUST SORTA... I DON'T KNOW. I HAVE NO IDEA... WEARING FAKE SCARS IS WAY FUNNIER...

A THIS IS LIKE, HOW ARE YOU GOING TO ENTERTAIN PEOPLE? THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CUTTING YOUR FACE AND LETTING IT BLEED, AND PRETENDING TO CUT YOUR FACE AND PRETEND BLOOD, IS... IT'S TRAGEDY OR IT'S COMEDY. YOU WANT YOUR AUDIENCE TO FEEL DIFFERENT THINGS.



J I HAVE A FRIEND AT WORK, AND SHE HAS STARS ON HER FACE, BUT THEY'RE SHARPIE. AND EVERY DAY SHE DRAWS SHARPIE STARS ON HER FACE. IT'S DIFFERENT THAN GETTING TATTOOS ON YOUR FACE.

A YEAH, 56...

J BUT WEIRDER TO DRAW IT EVERYDAY. RATHER THAN IN ONE ACTION "I'M GOING TO GET THESE TATTOOS ON MY FACE, I DON'T CARE WHATEVER." BUT IF YOU DECIDE TO DRAW IT EVERY DAY, YOU STILL LOOK LIKE YOU'RE GETTING STUFF ON YOUR FACE. BUT IT'S 365 TIMES MORE WORK A YEAR.

A AND THEREFORE MUCH BETTER...

J YEAH.

A YEAH. IT'S WAY MORE AMERICAN. BEING AMERICAN IS NOT JUST LIKE BREAKING YOUR BONES.

J YEAH, THAT'S WHAT THE BUTTHOLE SURFERS TALKED ABOUT.

A IT'S HAVING THAT SLIME ON YOUR FACE, AND LIKING IT...

J THEN MAYBE IT'S ABOUT SIGNS... SCIENTOLOGY.. WHAT'S THE STUDY OF SIGNS CALLED?

A SEMIOTICS? THE REASON WHY DRAWING ON YOUR FACE IS MORE INTERESTING IS BECAUSE THERE'S THAT ELEMENT OF "I'M NOT SURE IF THIS IS THE RIGHT THING." AND THERE'S SOMETHING SO MUCH MORE FUTILE IN IT. IT'S MORE CANADIAN.

J RIGHT... SO IT'S A TOTALLY DIFFERENT STATEMENT. BUT BOTH ARE HUMAN EMOTIONS... IF YOU SEE SOMEONE WITH A SWASTIKA TATTOOED ON THEIR FACE, IT'S MACHO, IT'S ONE EMOTION. BUT IF YOU DRAW IT ON WITH A PENCIL CRAYON... IT'S LIKE XXXXX.

A YOU DID IT, BUT YOU'RE NOT REALLY SURE OF IT...

J AND YOU'RE ASHAMED OF IT. AND THAT'S CANADIAN TOO. SO THEN IT JUST DEPENDS ON WHAT EMOTION YOU WANT TO CONVEY. AND MAYBE YOU AND I AREN'T SCARY PEOPLE. AND THAT'S WHY WE CAN'T BE SCARY.

A IT'S WAY MORE HOPELESS TO BE DRAWING THE STARS ON YOUR FACE. SO MUCH MORE HOPELESS.

J IT'S LIKE "ALL INK IS DISAPPEARING INK." RIGHT, SO IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU SET YOURSELF ON FIRE, OR IF YOU HAVE A PENCIL CRAYON SWASTIKA ON YOUR FACE... IT HAS TO MATTER IF YOU MEAN IT. RIGHT? RIGHT? IS THAT WHAT WE'RE SAYING?

A "YOU HAVE TO MEAN IT"...

J OH GOD... OH NO.



J IT'S EMBARRASSING TO TALK ABOUT BUT I DON'T THINK TOUGHNESS IS JUST OUR PROBLEM, IT'S LIKE MICHAEL JACKSON'S "BAD"...

A WHAT WERE HIS RECORDS BEFORE THAT?

J "OFF THE WALL" AND BEFORE THAT WAS "BEN." IT'S ALL LIKE "ABC"... IT'S ALL SOFT STUFF. HE'S GOT THE SWEETEST LITTLE VOICE... AND IT'S SO SWEET AND HE'S SO CUTE. "THE GIRL IS MINE." AND THEN LATER YOU CAN SEE HE'S STRUGGLING WITH BEING TOUGH, AND ON "DANGEROUS" HE'S JUST YELLING THE WHOLE TIME. AND HE'S MICHAEL JACKSON. WHO'S LIKE A FAIRY. WHO'S LIKE PETER PAN. SO... IN THE END IT DOESN'T MATTER, BECAUSE HE WAS BOTH CUTE AND TOUGH, AND IT'S ALL HITS. WHAT WE'RE DOING IS LIKE THE PROJECTION SCREEN FALLS ON OUR HEADS.

A IT ALL BELONGS TO ENTERTAINMENT.

J WHAT, GETTING HIT BY A CAR?

A YEAH, OR NOT GETTING HIT BY A CAR.

J RIGHT, MAYBE TO US. BUT TO OTHER PEOPLE, IT DEPENDS. I THINK INNATELY WHAT WE DO HAS SOME ELEMENT OF ENTERTAINMENT, BECAUSE THERE'S AN AUDIENCE, BUT IF THERE'S SOMEBODY IN THE WORLD WHO AT SOME POINT HIT THEMSELVES WITH A CAR, MAYBE THEY DIDN'T CARE ABOUT ENTERTAINMENT AS MUCH. I DON'T THINK IT'S THE SAME FOR EVERYBODY. THERE'S SOME PEOPLE WHO DO IT FOR DIFFERENT REASONS. LIKE, I DON'T KNOW.

A NO AUDIENCE REASONS?

J YEAH... OR THEY'RE SO HURT, OR SO ANGRY THAT THEY'LL DO SOMETHING. BUT THERE'S ALWAYS AN AUDIENCE, RIGHT? IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE SAYING?

A YEAH, BUT MAYBE I'M WRONG ABOUT THAT. MAYBE YOU CAN DO IT TOTALLY FOR YOURSELF. THEN NO ONE KILL... WELL, WHO KNOWS.

J LIKE, IN MONTREAL, I'VE BEEN Lining up ALL MY TOILETRIES. LIKE "I GUESS I'M A CRAZY PERSON" AND THEN "YEAH, I GUESS I AM" BUT THEN IT'S LIKE YOU HAVE THIS IDEA OF YOURSELF YOU PRESENT TO THE WORLD. LIKE "I'M CRAZY... HERE'S PROOF." NOTHING HAPPENS JUST FOR YOURSELF. EVEN IF IT'S I'M GOING TO EAT JELLYBEANS IN RICE... FOR MYSELF...

A WELL, IT ONLY DOESN'T MAKE SENSE BECAUSE IT DOES MAKE SENSE TO OTHER PEOPLE, OR IT DOES MAKE SENSE BECAUSE IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE TO OTHER PEOPLE, OR WHATEVER.

J YEAH. AND EVEN IF THERE IS NO AUDIENCE, EVEN IF IT'S NOT INTENDED FOR AN AUDIENCE, LIKE GREY GARDENS OR SOMETHING, IT STILL EXISTS IN 3-D SPACE. SO IF SOMEONE ELSE UNDERSTANDS IT, THEY'LL HAVE AN OPINION ON IT.



J ARE WE GOING TO DO A PHOTO SHOOT TODAY, WHERE I DRESS UP LIKE PARIS JACKSON? AMY, YOU THINK IT'S A BAD IDEA DON'T YOU.

A I JUST THINK ABOUT JOHN WATERS.

J OH YEAH, HE DID JFK.

A OR WHEN SOMEBODY DIES YOU DO SOMETHING MAKING FUN OF THAT DEATH BEFORE OR AS SOON IT HAPPENS. SO WHEN THE NEWSPAPER ARTICLES COME OUT ABOUT IT THE IDEAL SITUATION WOULD BE THAT THE ARTICLE EXPRESSING OUTRAGE ABOUT HOW YOU'VE MADE FUN OF IT COMES OUT AT THE SAME TIME.

J SO THE IDEA'S TOO LATE. DAMN IT!

A BIKE IF WE HAD DONE THAT THE MOMENT IT WAS SHOWN.

J IN THE FUTURE WHEN WE LIVE IN THE SAME CITY WE'LL BE ABLE TO DO IT. WE'LL BE LIKE "MICHAEL JACKSON'S FUNERAL IS TONIGHT. GET READY WE'RE GOING TO DO SOMETHING!" THAT'S SO SHITTY, I'M SO UPSET WE DIDN'T GET TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT MICHAEL JACKSON! BUT IT'S BETTER LATE THAN NEVER RIGHT?

A BUT THEN IT SHOULD BE REALLY LATE. IT SHOULD BE LIKE 6 YEARS LATER WE BRING IT UP. RIGHT? OR IS THAT TOO LATE? IS 3 WEEKS IS A BETTER TIME PERIOD.

J WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO GET UP REALLY EARLY TO DO THESE KINDS OF PROJECTS. WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO GET UP AT 5AM.

A TO READ ALL THE NEWS FROM JAPAN. THIS MAN DIED IN NAGAYAKA PREFECTURE...

J 30 SECONDS AGO! AMY, PUT ON YOUR FAKE SUIT... AMY, CALL SEITH, GET THE TRUCK! WE GOTTA DO THAT, WE GOTTA DRESS UP AS PARIS JACKSON. MAYBE WE SHOULD BOTH BE DRESSED UP AS PARIS JACKSON, CRYING. AS WE DO SOMETHING.

A As we do something that's upsetting to us personally.



J We should dress up like Paris Jackson and look at the woman hitting her head on the diving board. Can we do something where we're both Paris Jackson, side by side crying?

A Or it should be our parents' funeral. Where we're dressed like Paris Jackson.

J Oh my god. Wow. That's so mean. That's so funny.

A Best daddy.

J Now that's a great idea.

A&J Best daddy.



J Michael Jackson didn't molest those kids.



J I was thinking in the bathroom "What makes something interesting?" It's like, when the first person got hit by a car, it was expanding your brain to where ideas can go. "Oh you can do that." There's infinity places where it can go. Pretending to get hit by a car is another place. Or not getting hit by car.

A Or doing it again referencing the first person who did it...

J Is another thing. It's not the act of physical pain that makes it incredible. Pain is relative, one zit could mean more in the whole of my life than getting bit by a hippo in a performance. How new the idea is what's interesting. How much pain you can endure, or how long you can do it for... That's nothing. That's just dust in the candle of the wind. I don't mean like "Oh no we have to think of a new Hardon Collider idea right nooooo." It's more like "Some guy did yoda on the Hardon Collider, maybe we should be Hardon Collider deniers and never talk about how that guy did that"... Is that new?

A But do you mean "you can do this new thing now" in the realm of... Mordor?

J It's the attitude. It's like how fast you can play the guitar is inconsequential. It's not about like how well you can shred. It's when no one has ever shredded, I shred.

A But Mordor already includes getting hit by cars or changing your face so that it looks like you have 2 noses... It accepts everything, so where's the challenge in expanding it? What should our attitude be? Maybe it's more like "When no one has ever shredded I pretend to shred." Maybe it's not the new idea but how inappropriate the new idea is.

J It's "All ink is disappearing ink. Respect." It's "long hair short hair." It's like when "Bottle Rocket" came out, it was "Why is this person doing this, this isn't Lethal Weapon 4." And then it's kind of tough. Where now it's standard.

A Or it loses its confusingness or something.

J Or when Beat Happening came out, it's pencil drawings of cats, but they're playing shows with Black Flag. They're tough. Because they're so bold in how cute it is.

A But you can't disappear before the ink disappears. Right? You can't be 3 steps ahead of who you are.

J I guess "tough" seems like such a dumb thing to chase, or try to be... But it seems so worth it, because nothing's tough. Because everything's bullshit, or something.

A Nothing's tough? But that's because culture isn't tough.

J Because it's nothing.

A Yeah. Culture is nothing.

J Exactly. Because the only thing that's tough is right now. Like when we went that art show about Germany after the war. And there was the thing about the guy who rented the room and built a swastika into a wall... Remember? He rented a flat, told people to come check it out.

A And it had to do with Romanians or something, it was some flat that had been occupied by an ethnic minority that people didn't like.

J And at the time to so there was like, "This is very serious, I can't believe this guy did this," and sixty years later, it's like, "Duh OK." Because it's so long ago we can be like "OK whatever let's go find the Louis the 14ths in this bitch."