

**the // skyway \\
*the replacements mailing list***

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I'LL BUY

People think that when you move to a Mediterranean island, it means hanging out in the blazing sunshine by the sparkling sea, drinking vino or ouzo, and working only 160 days a year because the rest of the time everybody is either on strike or some other national holiday from your country's 2500 years of history. Alright, that is what is like to be on VACATION on a Mediterranean island. Living here is about the same, except the customer service is hilarious or tragic, depending on your sense of humor. If there is one drawback to living on a sun-baked stone on the edge of Europe, it is that the only rock here is the island itself. So even though I live in a heaven of sorts, thank the heavens for YouTube, internet banking, and SPF50.

Really though, some days I wish I was somewhere else – specifically, at one of these showings of this Replacements documentary that is getting such rave reviews. I doubt it's coming to Malta, so I'd love to hear from anybody else who has seen it.

Speaking of rock music/the internet, I recently did a radio show for Scott Hudson's radio show, The Ledge. He just asks you earnest questions and you play your favorite songs. It's like a musical version of "This Is Your Life." Of course, there's a Replacements song – and bands playing guitars from every hemisphere.

<http://www.mevio.com/episode/271449/the-ledge-episode-63-matthew-tomich>

While I can sincerely recommend every episode, you should also check out longtime Skyway subscriber and Replacements fan Jason Loeb and *Color Me Obsessed* director Gorman Bechard.

<http://www.mevio.com/episode/272347/the-ledge-episode-64-jason-loeb>

<http://www.mevio.com/episode/274187/the-ledge-episode-66-director-gorman-bechard>

I think the top requirement for being a high school teacher is how well can you answer questions like, "Mr. Tomich, what do you need to start an on-line betting site?" and "Mr. Tomich, what would happen if the earth started spinning the other direction?" ("Well for one, the ocean currents would reverse and many of the oxygen-generating plankton would die and the food chain would collapse and so the human race probably wouldn't survive." And then you have to deal with the response: "How do you know it didn't happen, just now, but somebody had built a time machine and stopped it from happening?") I bet the presidential press secretary doesn't have anything that competes with this.

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COLOR ME IMPRESSED

Probably the most significant news in the world of the Replacements so far this year doesn't encompass a single note of a Replacements song. Gorman Bechard, the author of *The Second Greatest Story Ever Told* (a book about the second coming of Christ, who is a teen girl, who loves The Replacements – yes, it's great) has released the first feature-length movie about the Replacements.

The only thing is, the movie doesn't have a single member of the Replacements - or a single song. It's solely a movie of people talking about how the band has affected their life. It's every day people (like some people here on the Skyway) to other day kind of people (like Tom Arnold, Dave Foley, George Wendt, and members of Superchunk, Archers of Loaf, Buffalo Tom, The Hold Steady, and Greg Norton of Hüsker Dü) saying what some sounds made 30 years ago still means to them.

<http://www.whatwerewethinkingfilms.com/colormeobsessed/>

- How did it turn out? *Rolling Stone* called it one of the seven best music documentaries of the year.

<http://www.rollingstone.com/music/photos/the-seven-best-new-music-documentaries-of-the-year-20110311/color-me-obsessed-a-film-about-the-replacements-72aa249>

"It's not just about the Replacements," Bechard says. "It's about how any band affects you and becomes almost part of your family."

- The reviews from screenings from Florida to Minnesota to Boston to Michigan to Canada are effusive – with a forthcoming showing in Toronto at the NXNE on June 17th (and apparently more to come!)

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1546381/usercomments>

"Every fan's dream: the chance to be told that you were right, the band you loved really was the most important band ever."

- The best coverage I've seen has been from local Minneapolis TV and the *New York Times*:

<http://www.myfoxtwincities.com/dpp/entertainment/music/replacements-fans-revel-in-documentary-may-4-2011>

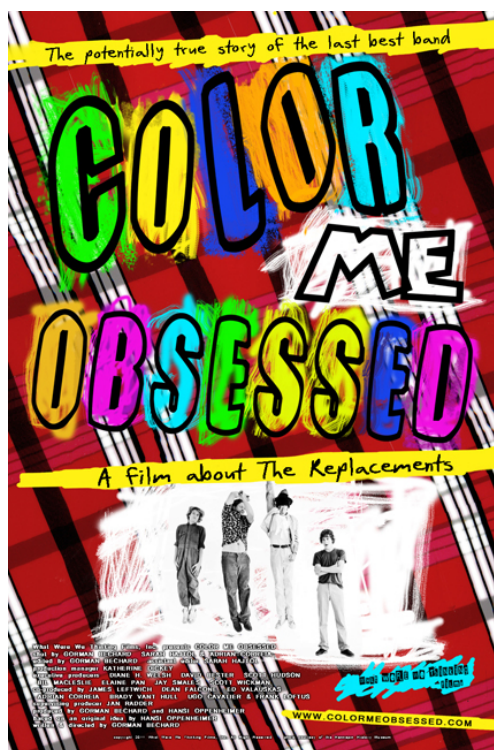
<http://6thfloor.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/03/24/the-replacements-approach-to-the-replacements/>

"A colleague (and huge 'Mats fan) objected, 'If I want to hear a bunch of guys talk about how great the Replacements were, I'll go hang out in a record store!' He paused as the realization sunk in: there are no more record stores. *Color Me Obsessed* will have to do."

COLOR ME OBSESSED SCREENER

If you absolutely cannot wait to see this, and don't live near a place that has a film festival (or an airport that can get you one), then maybe you're lucky enough to have the US (or Canadian or Royal) Post Service.

In that case, Gorman Bechard (director of *Color Me Obsessed*) has offered subscribers of the Skyway a special offer that through midnight June 15th. **You can now order the screener DVD of Color Me Obsessed for \$42.** Or, if you have extra room on your wall, you can get the **CMO screener DVD and a full size movie poster (like below) for \$70.**



Or, if you're in need of some new threads (or maybe the proud parent of somebody in the movie), **you can get a black T-shirt (like below), the poster, and the DVD for \$135.**



To order, pay via PayPal to onenightstandmovie@gmail.com.

(Mention "Skyway special" when ordering.

Shipments will be mailed from What Were We Thinking Films at the beginning of July 2011.)

THE REPLACEMENTS

- If there is one interview with the Replacements that sums up the juxtaposition of genius and chaos (aside from , it is probably their unexpurgated **interview with *Creem* magazine from September 1986**. *Colormeimpressed.com* has put up a text version, and I would be tempted to copy the whole thing here, but I think it would get this message blocked for anybody who receives this thing through their work email. I won't spoil it for you, but if you ever had to explain the Replacements to someone, this is possibly the text counterpart to their January 1986 SNL performance.

http://colormeimpressed.com/articles/86creem_interview.html

Westerberg: "If it's a small crowd, it helps sometimes because you see double—and then you can fill the joint."

- Another great one that must have given the publicity guys at Sire a heart attack is from the **September 1987 issue of *Creem* magazine**, over at The Foshay Tower:

http://www.22designs.com/foshaytower2/articles/Creem%209_87.doc

DJ: "When are you playing in town?"

PAUL: "Maybe tomorrow night."

DJ: "Where?"

PAUL: "I don't know."

- Jacob London wrote in his blog how **The Replacements may have been the premier purveyor of the "ironic cover aesthetic"** – but the truth is that they probably weren't completely joking when they played "Black Diamond".

<http://www.jawjawjaw.com/2010/05/27/sucking-in-the-seventies-paul-westerberg-the-replacements-and-the-onset-of-the-ironic-cover-aesthetic-in-rock-and-roll-its-only-rock-and-roll-but-i-like-it/>

- *Flowering Toilet* (no proof/photo provided) is written by Pete Bilderback and about bands you may have overlooked. When he wrote about Rhino's Replacements reissues, he regaled the world with his story of **missing a Bob Stinson-era Replacements show** because, tragically, he got carded.

<http://floweringtoilet.blogspot.com/2008/04/replacements-reissued.html>

(He also does an interesting **spectral analysis of the Rhino Replacements reissues**. He shows that *Pleased to Meet Me* is artificially too loud, but *Tim* sounds closer to the original vinyl than ever before:)

<http://floweringtoilet.blogspot.com/2008/09/children-by-millions-can-hear-alex.html>

<http://floweringtoilet.blogspot.com/2008/10/tim-remastered.html>

- One of the best things about the reissues is it finally officially releases what is probably one of the Replacements' best songs, "Nowhere Is My Home".
<http://www.everybodytaste.com/2009/10/replacements-nowhere-is-my-home.html>
- Speaking of the best Replacements songs, **here's what VH1 (the one that actually plays music) thinks** they are.
<http://www.vh1.com/news/editorial/?page=1&contentId=1585403>
- **KDHX 88.1 FM** in St. Louis has their own opinion:
<http://kdhx.org/music/music-news/in-memory-of-bob-stinson-the-top-10-replacements-songs>
- And you know you've made it when someone releases a CD of all your songs **done on a ukulele** (thanks Richard Daniel of the 'Answering Machine postcard from Westerberg' fame!):
http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B004FA0P9M/ref=as_li_qf_sp_asin_il_tl?ie=UTF8&tag=thesky0e-20&linkCode=as2&camp=1789&creative=9325&creativeASIN=B004FA0P9M

PAUL WESTERBERG

- In 1993, Paul Westerberg claimed that his solo song "Runaway Wind" was originally written to be sung by Robin Zander of Cheap Trick.

Scott Laval, of the long time raucious Tampa band *The Tim Version*, let us know that **Westerberg eventually did co-write a song with Robin Zander** in 1993 called "What's Her Name".

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bprl2etZyXg>

- Speaking of Paul Westerberg, the un-missable guitarist from the 14 Songs tour was **Dave Minnehan** of Boston band the Neighborhoods. If you're wondering what he's up to, he now has his own recording studio, Woolly Mammoth, and is still a firm believer in the rock:
<http://www.woollymammothsound.net/>

THE STINSONS

- Tommy Stinson has been busy touring in preparation of his **next solo album** (now tentatively due in August) and played **three warm-up shows** in May in the upper

Midwest with a full band that included Mike Gent from The Figgs, Jon Phillip from Limbeck, and drummer Tim Schweiger.

- You can read a **review of his May 20th hometown show at First Avenue**, where Dave Pirner of Soul Asylum showed up to smash some guitars:
http://blogs.citypages.com/gimmenoise/2011/05/tommy_stinson_first_avenue.php
- The bossman of the Facebook group “We want a Replacements reunion and we want it NOW!!!” took a **load of photos at the Minneapolis show**, including a great mid-80’s shot they have of Tommy Stinson hanging up backstage at First Avenue:
<http://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10150250514421318.361210.342871731317>
- According to tommystinson.com, Tommy is **helping finish another Soul Asylum record** and touring with them as far away as South America, followed by **Guns n’ Roses dates in the Southern Hemisphere** as well. (If you took this news on a time machine back 20 years to 1991, it’d be surreal as hell, and not just because of the time machine.) You can also read about Tommy’s “rootsy” new album and why the parts Paul Westerberg wrote won’t be on it:
<http://www.startribune.com/entertainment/blogs/121805899.html>
- You can also see an **interview with Tommy** done by Matt Cord from February 2011. Aside from his own music, he talks about what he says whenever people ask about a Replacements reunion and what Paul is up to:
<http://www.wmmr.com/shows/matt-cord/blogentry.aspx?BlogEntryID=10206681>
- Tommy did an **in-studio performance at KEXP 90.3** in Seattle in August 2004, which is available in full on their website. Make sure you click on “full performance” to hear the whole thing. (Just looking through the rest of the site will prevent you from going to sleep for a week.)
<http://kexp.org/live/liveperformance.aspx?rID=14249>
- And Tommy made the *Wall Street Journal* in an article about how he confusingly shares the same name as an economist, also from Minnesota.
<http://blogs.wsj.com/economics/2011/03/03/when-economists-rock-stars-intersect/>
- Brad, a writer from Davis, CA, wrote an entry as a tribute to “Smokin’ and Drinkin’” Bob Stinson:
<http://runtime1965.blogspot.com/2011/02/my-tribute-to-bob-stinson.html>

NOTHING TO DÜ

Fans of the Replacements also adore their Twin Cities contemporaries Hüsker Dü. Even though the 'Mats beat Hüsker Dü to signing to a major label, **Hüsker Dü** beat the Replacements by having a **full length book** published about them first.

Andrew Earles' *Husker Du: The Story of the Noise-Pop Pioneers Who Launched Modern Rock* isn't going to be the final word about the indie rock band that played on Joan Rivers and the *Today* show, despite numerous interviews with Grant Hart and Greg Norton. (That will likely be from Bob Mould's forthcoming autobiography, edited by *Our Band Could Be Your Life* author Michael Azerrad.) Andrew Earles' book, however, is written from the love of a fan, and avoids the soap opera topics of drugs and homosexuality and instead focuses on the important things that have come across on their timeless records: the band, the songs, and their perennial influence. The book comes with a bumper sticker, "What Would Hüsker Dü?", that probably looks even better on somebody *else's* car. (I did not suggest that.)

http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/0760335044/ref=as_li_qf_sp_asin_il_tl?ie=UTF8&tag=thesky0e-20&linkCode=as2&camp=1789&creative=9325&creativeASIN=0760335044

fin.

"Success is like reaching an important birthday and finding you're exactly the same."
- Audrey Hepburn