



As a young punk in 1977, Andoh loved bands like the Sex Pistols

What music were you into as a kid?

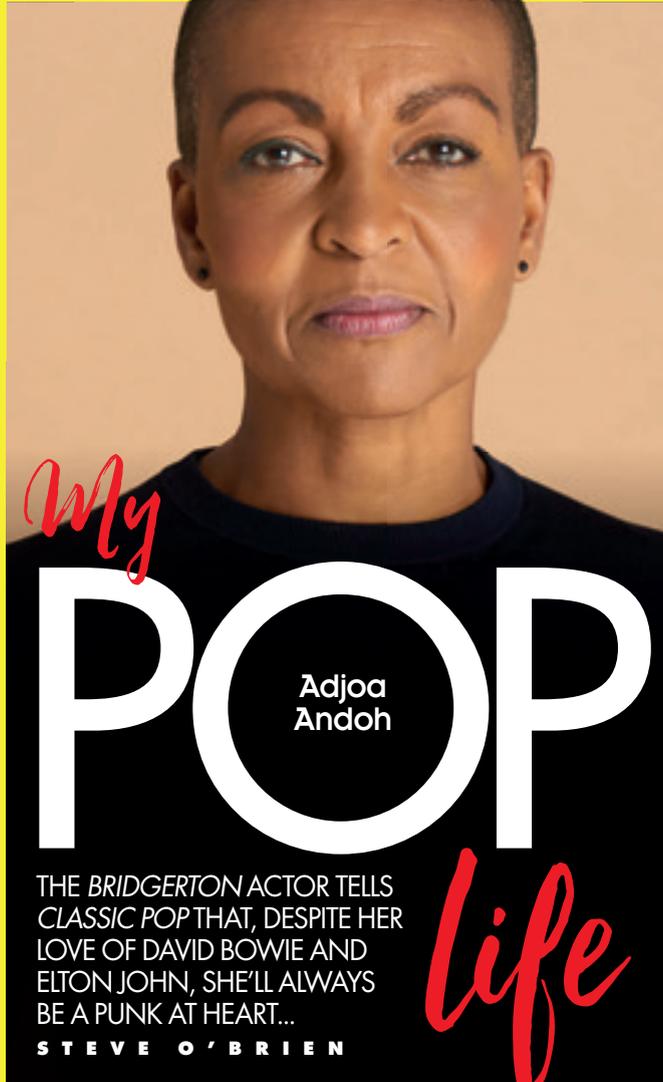
When I turned 14 in 1977, I became a punk and loved bands such as The Slits, 999 and the Sex Pistols. We didn't really like The Jam – we were very sniffy about them because they were latecomers and weren't really proper punks. They didn't have the right aesthetic for us. I also sneered at Elvis Costello. I mean, these are people who I now consider to be the most stunning, but at the time, you had your tribes. I'd say, in my heart, I'm still a punk. All I ever really wanted to be was a bass player in a punk band. That would have been my ideal job.

Have you ever met any of your punk heroes?

I haven't, no, but my taste is eclectic. In 2024, I did a thing for the Labour Party – it was an investment day with lots of bankers – but the evening entertainment was Sir Elton of John. When I was at school, we'd go up the road to my friend's house. She was called Jane, but we called her Elton Jane because she loved him so much, and we'd just sit on her bed playing his albums. I got to meet and chat with Elton and also hear him perform. He only played three numbers, starting with *Your Song*, then *Tiny Dancer* and *Rocket Man*. I thought I died. But he didn't just do them, he did eight-minute versions of them. It was absolutely stunning – one for the ages for me.

What's the best gig you've ever been to?

I went to see The Clash at the Bristol Exhibition Centre when I was 14, which was our nearest metropolis, and they were supported by Richard Hell And The Voidoids. That was a transformative gig. I also remember going to see Magazine in the late 70s, and going backstage. That's what we used to do back then, go to a gig and hang out with



THE BRIDGERTON ACTOR TELLS CLASSIC POP THAT, DESPITE HER LOVE OF DAVID BOWIE AND ELTON JOHN, SHE'LL ALWAYS BE A PUNK AT HEART...

STEVE O'BRIEN

the band. It was fantastic to meet Howard Devoto. I'd also say seeing Stevie Wonder on the Hotter Than July Tour at Wembley was an amazing gig. I took my dad for his birthday and he fell asleep, so I left him kipping and went down the front. I just love sitting in the middle of noise. And it can be any noise you like, really. My taste is a bit unboxable.



Andoh watched Gary Numan make his Glastonbury debut on the Park Stage last summer



Andoh got to meet and chat with Elton John at an event in 2024

Who have you seen recently that you loved?

About 40 years ago, I went to see Gary Numan with my best friend, but we never told anybody. It was our filthy secret that we'd been to see him, because he was absolutely not what we should have been listening to. I went to Glastonbury last summer and watched him play again and he was fantastic. His guitar playing was off the chart, and his voice was brilliant, so that was a surprise. I also saw Raye at Glastonbury – oh my god. I didn't really know who she was beforehand but I absolutely do now. She was stunning! Her voice is somewhere between Ella Fitzgerald and Amy Winehouse. Then after her, I saw Neil Young, who's been an absolute hero of mine for forever.

Which artist are you the most completist over?

David Bowie. The first album I made my eight-year-old brother buy was *Aladdin Sane* [pictured] and me and my two best friends used to dance to *Hunky Dory* in the gym on a Friday lunchtime. I saw him on the Thin White Duke Tour. That was when you had to send coupons off, and they sent you the ticket in the post. That was an incredible show. I have an awful lot of Bowie, if I'm honest – I've got David Bowie in German and I've got him in English. I've got singles and all his LPs right the way through to *Blackstar*.

How do you listen to music? On vinyl, CD or through Spotify?

I don't like Spotify. I just feel like it's taking money out of the mouths of musicians, so I try to buy the music so that the money goes back to the people that make it. I still have all my vinyl. I still have my first single, *Ben* by Michael Jackson. I just love analogue, I love the vibration, the cover art, the gatefold, and I love reading the lyrics. ■