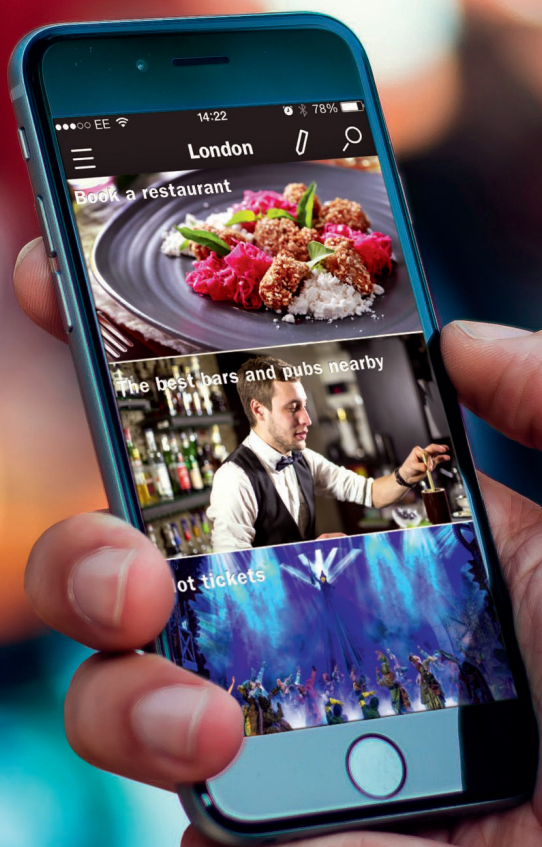


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FIVE THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT *Killing Joke*



After almost four decades, post-punk rockers Killing Joke are as fiery as ever, as new album 'Pylon' shows. Their snarling, smart industrial rock has influenced everyone from Metallica to My Bloody Valentine to LCD Soundsystem.

There are enough bizarre stories about this wild band to fill the British Library, but as frontman Jaz Coleman explains to **Tristan Parker**, 'the truth of Killing Joke is usually weirder than the fictitious notions.'

1 Their 'weirdest gig' story trumps everyone's.

'We played in Reading in 1985 and the place was going crazy. Everything suddenly went into slow motion and silence, like it was underwater. Then it crashed back into reality. The whole band experienced it – basically, we were on a magnetic field. I've studied it with people like Uri Geller and Jimmy Page, who had similar experiences.'

2 The band reportedly moved to Iceland in the '80s to escape the apocalypse.

'That was the official story. The truth was I wanted to put brakes on the band. I did what [psychologist] Carl Jung called "individuation", where you lock yourself away and encounter your

dark side, so you know who you are. The apocalypse thing was a cover to keep people off our fucking backs!'

3 The apocalypse story may have been fake, but surveillance culture made Coleman leave the UK

'It's shocking and unbelievable. For there to be bulk metadata, where individuals' secrets are recorded, is disgusting. I'm a citizen of New Zealand now – I love the UK people, but I can't stand the weather or the politics.'

4 The band's interests spread far wider than music...

'In the band, we have a grand master, an ordained priest, a druid, and an art restorer. I'm a dowser and a student of Rosicrucian history. Self-education and the punk ethos – no fear of failure – helped us pursue anything we want.'

5 And their musical interests spread far wider than punk...

'I compose and conduct. I'm forming the United Nations Chamber Orchestra. The first time I conducted it was in front of a president. I was fucking terrified!'

Killing Joke play the Roundhouse on Nov 6. 'Pylon' is released this week.

TOMIE BARNES