

#CDWalk

Three characters - George with challenging questions, Simon more friendly, both radio presenters and Harry the Producer (retired presenter)

This could be voice only for podcast / social media or read in a radio studio / on stage.

George

I was definitely right about the end of FM. I don't think anyone is listening. We just do the show as a sort of ritual for something we remember.

Harry

Just to warn you I may be recording this. We have got to broadcast something. I get some new bits from the cafe and edit it together,

Simon

Yes I favour we stay in the cafe. It suits the guests better. And I should stay on FM. we don't want to upset the management anyway.

George

They are still talking about DAB, that's as close as they get to digital. They don't understand social media. At least they don't close me down. I keep on about it on Twitter but I don't think they notice.

Simon

You should do a few positive ones or just something friendly.

George

I have said some positive things about HMV, or at least the memory of how it used to be. Now it is all merchandise on the ground floor, the CDs are hidden up above. It will come to an end soon.

Harry

I thought we agreed to talk as if in the near future. Try to keep some sense of time so the audience is not confused. This is sci-fi sort of. HMV has closed the upstairs but have some short run production machines there. So they can print T shirts and also leaflets CD size. Even a CD if someone needed it.

Simon

I think the audience can cope with different times. I edit my old shows together now with some new bits. We have learnt a lot during the lockdown back in 2020. Not much changes. There is news but that could be in a different spot.

George

We have to keep on about student accommodation. This is just the same as ever. The shops shut down, the offices are empty still, but the building continues for new student blocks. This is worth checking out for what is new. I just do not understand why it will all be needed.

Simon

You don't have to go on about it. We just walk around the centre of town and observe what is happening. It is obvious the space for music retail is almost zero. Learning online will need about as much sometime soon.

Harry

We walk about and sit in a studio. Try to leave it vague. Sound quality matters some of the time but there has to be continuity.

Simon

The Zoom calls are good. We have the five backgrounds from different shops so the video should be possible. I know there are more but five is enough. Just in case we have to walk it.

George

There were twelve backgrounds originally. I think we just keep adding. As this is scifi assume teleportation. We just move from place to place, all in range of the FM signal and where you could get back to the studio during a show.

Harry

What happened to the Ruins idea? The one about the Fortress University? I thought you were going to get the Standup Philosopher to talk about this? We could do with some more guests.

George

It kind of drifted away. We found a good venue for video, a ruined castle in Kendal but the Durham scene has gone very quiet. Peter Horrocks did the lecture years ago about the Fortress university and nobody seems to notice. The MOOCs are doing ok and there is stress with some of the universities but the high end seems very stable. They can recruit as many students as they like.

The Standup Philosopher thought it had all shifted when the lockdown began. So his speech set in the ruins should have been about then. I don't know when we could get him back.

Simon

Can we stop for some food please. We have had three cups of coffee already. It cannot go on like this. You just rave on and drink coffee.

Harry

This may be why the campus continues. They don't need the library or the lectures. But the food is good. And the coffee I suppose also.

George

We could get that bloke from KC Records. He is very unreliable though. We set up a whole show around a phone call then the lead singer failed to phone in. Before that he said there would be a tour by this group from Texas. That never happened but we played their CD for weeks.

Simon

I think you are too hard on him. He means well. He would like things to happen, they just drift away somehow.

Harry

The real problem is that KC Records only deal in vinyl. We got rid of the turntables and used the cable connection for Bluetooth. But I cannot get any mp3 from KC.

George

I find it all very mysterious. Why do people want vinyl? A lot of it is punk as well. Why is the sound quality that important? Mp3 is good enough.

Simon

You just have to accept what people want. The artwork is very nice. I bought some vinyl online by mistake but I plan to keep it as an investment.

Harry

It is strange how things go round. Maybe we have it wrong about the campus. A lot of learning could move online but there will still be people who want a few weeks in classic mode. Lots of tradition behind it.

George

This will be just tiny. I watched a video about "Luxury Brands" on YouTube. It is not a massive scale, the mass market is another section. This student accommodation thing is a bubble, we just have to point it out.

Harry

You may be right but not about the timing. This thing about learning following sound online is all very well but how long is the time gap? I think you should do some research. Get some dates and write it down.

Simon

There is so much space in the empty shops I think we could get a studio together. Just enough to do some temp work. The proper studio is a long way off in time. It might work well to get interviews, people could just drop by.

George

I told you FM was coming to an end. There may be no need for a studio longterm but just at the moment I would like to be back.

Simon

You are not making much sense. You say the campus will vanish then you seem to welcome food just as much as i do. You just need a prompt to slow down. Education needs coffee and sandwiches as a minimum.

Harry

Maybe we should be talking to the people in education about a studio or something. If they are doing a mix of campus and online they must have some sort of production. Could we borrow it or mix up samples?

Simon

OK, have a look on the website

Harry

I have found a studio. "Digital Humanities" . What is that about?

To be continued.

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This version written by Will Pollard based on conversations with JD, Chris Norton and Jon Mahy.

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Too short to meet the deadline for a one hour play but maybe Down Stage Write will suggest later how to expand it.