

'MY BIG MOUTH'

The way to a man's heart is through his stomach...allegedly. The way to my heart is the glorious sound of a band called Oasis. Put these together, and what have you got...The Oasis theme cafe!

Based in the Coliseum, a shopping arcade in the heart of Manchester, this is surely the ultimate combination. While everyone else was out forming tribute bands (OK, we've got enough now, you've had your fun), Neil Thompson was 'half the world away' on holiday in America, dreaming up his own unique tribute. Surrounded by Hard Rock theme cafes, the idea hit him like a Gallagher upper-cut. Recovering nicely, Lasagne! caught up with him in the kitchen (where else!)

I'll have a justification of your job, and a roll with it, please...

Well, I'm an Oasis fan. A massive Oasis fan. I thought this would be somewhere where fans as enthusiastic as me could go and hang out. This is proving to be the case, especially at the weekends.

Being based in Manchester, do you feel a 'home pride' in Oasis?

Yeah, being based in Manchester, people do generally believe it's all part of the scene. If there was an Oasis cafe anywhere, this is the place where it should be.

What's the interior like?

The last cafe had a lot of memorabilia which was lost in the bomb last year - signed photos, framed pictures, etc. We've actually been appealing for any memorabilia from people. If anyone has any autographed pictures, or anything, get it

photocopied and send it to us. Its all going up.

At the moment there's loads of Oasis posters, and at weekends we have Oasis videos playing. Come in nine times out of ten and you'll hear Oasis, or other Oasis-related bands, like the Stone Roses. There are special framed pictures with plaques saying what everything is and where its from. We've got a themed menu. Within a month's time, if you came in the cafe, it'll look like similar to how a Hard Rock Cafe would be.

So what's on the menu?

Morning Glory
Specials, Digsy's Dinners
Favourites, Supersonic lunches.
There's sandwiches like the 'Wonderwall', 'Liam's Choice', 'Noel's Choice', 'My Big Mouth', 'Headshrinker Salads', 'Guigys's Delight', Soup of the Day - you get a roll with it, of course.

What sort of people come in then?

There are a lot of Oasis fans coming in. When No Way Sis played in Manchester they all came down and hung out. Bonehead's been in. Noel knew about our original cafe. I'm sure they can't disagree with the cafe. Its more of a tribute than trying to cash in on Oasis. Its purely through being fans ourselves. We're together...What shall we call it?...Right, we'll have a theme cafe and call it the Oasis cafe.

You mentioned an original cafe. What was that like?

...It was in the Corn Exchange in Manchester city centre, and it only opened four months before the Manchester bomb. We were just down the road from it and were left with nothing. We'd put all our money into it, so we've had to start off again from scratch. I lost a lot of personal stuff as well as the cafe.

Anything else to declare?

There's a record shop in the basement as well, which we are involved with. It sort of runs in conjunction, and we do specialise a lot in Oasis stuff, like imports and collectable posters.

So why not make a day of it kids! Eat Oasis...Drink Oasis... and hear Oasis all under one roof. Alternatively, you could go to 'Iceland Freezer Stores', get some of those chocolate coconut bars, some of that Fruit flavoured drink that's not even fizzy and wait for Wonderwall to come on the in store radio. Which would you rather do?!... See you in Manchester!

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