



MY RECORD COLLECTION

Moby

The tiny vegan who likes his music heavy on drunk MCs and hard rockers . . .

HAVING MOVED TO LA from his hometown New York City five years ago after quitting drinking ("New York is an amazing place to be drunk, but not so good to be sober"), Moby's 10,000-plus vinyl collection came with him - his 1000 or so CDs weren't so lucky. "They're in storage - the sad thing is I don't even have a CD player," he admits. "I mainly listen to MP3s, but being an old guy I still love the ritual of playing vinyl." Basking in the sun poolside, the 47-year-old lays out his eclectic tastes. . .

David Bowie

Heroes (1977)



"One of the most important records for me and one of the first ones I bought.

The first job I had was working as a caddy at a golf course, and I only worked long enough

so that I could buy two David Bowie albums. I bought it on cut-out cassette - they were like budget versions of the album imported from Mexico with a notch cut into the cover so you knew it was a slightly non-legit version. I played that cassette over and over and over again. I was a Bowie fan since eight or nine, and I thought then as I still think now that 'Heroes' is probably the best song ever written."

Suicide

Suicide (1977)



"This band was hugely influential for me. I got it when I was 14, and what I loved

was that I knew it was great but I didn't understand it. To my ears it was so strange because it was basically a drum machine, an organ and Alan Vega's vocals. There was an otherworldly weirdness to it. It made me feel uncomfortable, but in the best possible way. It evokes images of grungy basement nightclubs in lower Manhattan in the late Seventies, and that was part of the excitement for me."

Joy Division

Closer (1980)



"When I was in high school I was obsessed with Joy Division. My yearbook quote was from 'Love Will Tear Us Apart'. *Closer* is one of the most perfect albums ever. I went on tour with New Order about 10 years ago and on the last night of the tour I talked them into playing a Joy Division song with me. So I got to sing a Joy Division song with Joy Division. What was really disconcerting though is when we were rehearsing it, Barney [Bernard Sumner] said to me, 'You know the last time we played this, Ian was alive.' That really took me aback."

Bad Brains

Bad Brains (1982)



"When I was in high school I was in a hardcore punk band, so I spent a lot of time at hardcore shows with Rick Rubin and the Beastie Boys and Bad Brains were like gods to us. There seems to be a unanimous

agreement in the hardcore world that this is the best hardcore punk album ever made. It's flawless from start to finish."

Pantera

The Great Southern Trendkill (1996)



"Pantera are the best metal band of all time, which I know is a grand claim. A lot of fans don't like this album because it was when Phil Anselmo was in the depths of his heroin addiction, but it's got this strange darkness to it. I think 'War Nerve' is the meanest song ever written. Twelve years ago I was in Dallas and had a night out with [Dimebag] Darrell, Vinnie [Paul] and Tommy Lee. We got blind drunk and wound up in some skanky bar at 4 am, and we decided we were gonna start a band together. I still kinda regret we didn't. At the time, out of our minds, it seemed like the best idea any of us ever had."

Eric B. & Rakim

Paid in Full (1987)



"They ushered in a new era of hip-hop. Up until then it was more of a novelty and drum machine based, but when 'Eric B. is President' dropped, the music world changed. It was one of those moments that was like, 'OK, everything is different now.' Like when 'Smells Like Teen Spirit' was played on MTV or when 'God Save the Queen' was released or when Elvis was on *The Ed Sullivan Show*. I have arguments with friends over who the best MC of all time is, and I think it's Rakim, hands down. At the time I was DJ'ing in a hip-hop club and one night Rakim came in - it was as if God had arrived. People couldn't believe that not only was he real, but he had graced us with his presence. When MCs would get drunk, they'd wanna impress their dates and freestyle. So I wound up DJ'ing for Big Daddy Kane, Kool Keith, Run-D.M.C. . . . I accidentally wound up DJ'ing for all these legendary hip-hop guys at 3am when they were really drunk." JAMES JENNINGS