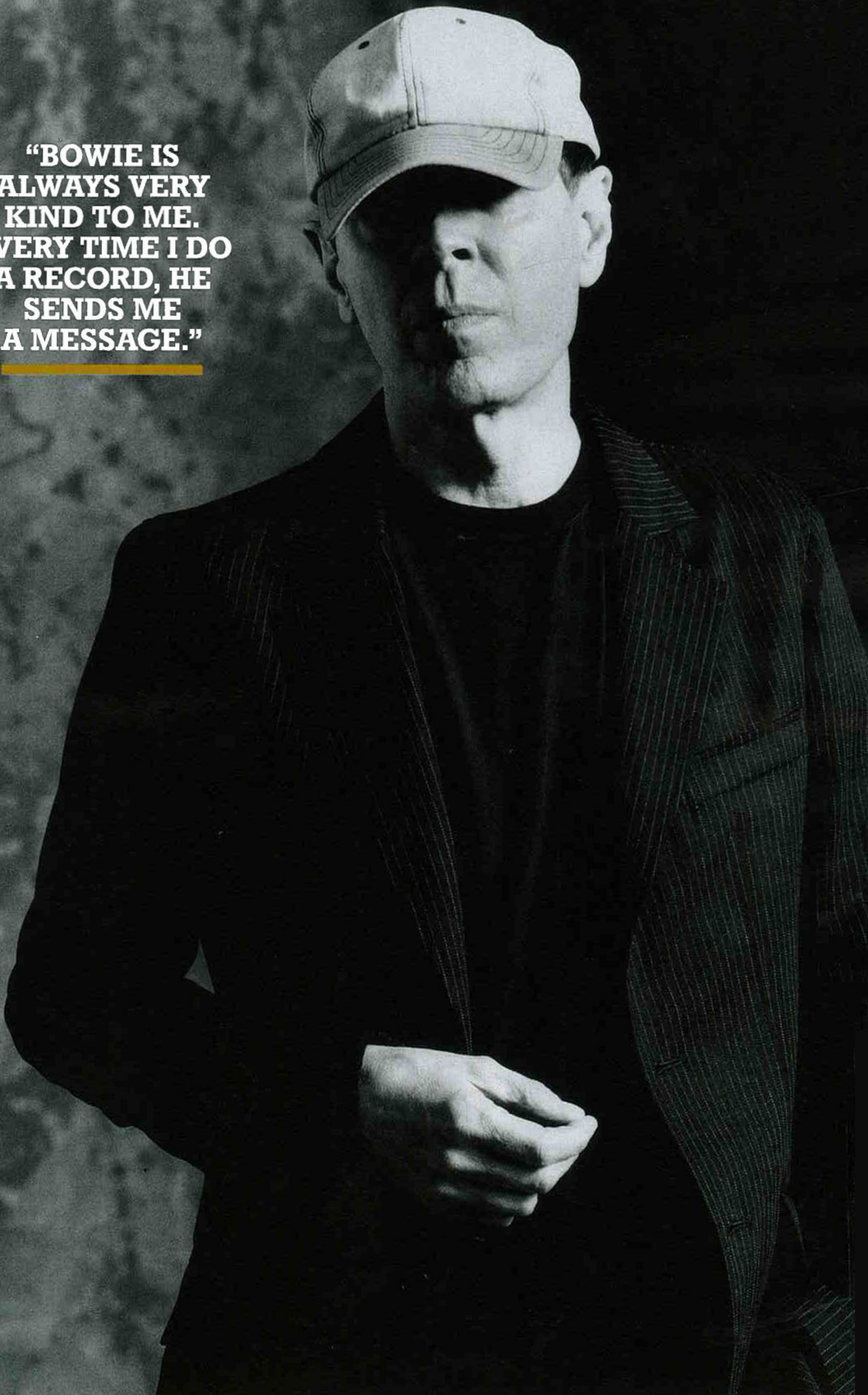


**“BOWIE IS
ALWAYS VERY
KIND TO ME.
EVERY TIME I DO
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SENDS ME
A MESSAGE.”**



THE MOJO ICON AWARD

Scott Walker

VOTED BY MOJO READERS &
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"I'M NOT very good at this," says Scott Walker, nervously accepting his MOJO Icon Award to a standing ovation. Unfussily attired in black jacket and blue jeans, his sprightly demeanour belying his 63 years, Walker's appearance tonight is the result of a military-styled effort involving his late arrival and escort through a series of secret passageways to allow him to collect himself. This, after all, is Scott Walker – the man who shunned '60s stardom with The Walker Brothers to follow his own bold, idiosyncratic career path. Tonight, following the presentation of the award, Walker relaxes in the company of Richard Hawley, while the rest of the assembled throng look on in rapt and respectful awe. *Mark Paytress*



A taciturn titan speaks...

A lot of us are surprised to see you here. Are you?
A little bit, yeah. I'm trying. It's not the most comfortable thing for me... it takes a lot of effort. But I'm trying to re-engage a little bit, simply because it's so difficult to get anybody to listen to my records.

Is your difficulty with public events a reaction to the fan hysteria you experienced in the mid-'60s?
There was a lot of pressure. A lot of people are fine with that but I just think it's creepy. I had to get out of there. But I'm not trying to be perverse. I don't make music for that reason; it's not a rebellion against that.

What does receiving the Icon Award mean to you?
I don't know! I'm amazed anybody remembers me.

Who would you most like to give a MOJO Award to?
Dead or alive? Alive it's difficult... Just for changing things so radically, and hanging in there, you'd probably have to give it to David B. And he makes it pay, which I don't!

You had the chance to work with him...
I don't remember that. We had a couple of conversations... But he's always very kind to me, always tells people, "You gotta hear this guy." And every time I do a record, he always sends me a great message.

What are your greatest achievements?
Recording here with the Brothers, the first couple of [solo] albums, discovering Jacques Brel, *Ti't*, the new one [*The Drift*].

Any mistakes?
Oh, yeah! The reunion and that whole period before that, the late Philips era and the CBS years. I became a creature for other people's ideas. I got so despondent doing that stuff.

The Drift is your first record in 11 years. What is next for you?
I'm starting work on another one... right away, though who knows how long it'll take. It can't take another 11 years because I'll be dead! Maybe three or four years...



Those idiosyncratic Buzzcocks (from left) Pete Shelley, Tony Barber, Steve Diggle and Danny Farrant.

THE MOJO INSPIRATION AWARD

Buzzcocks

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RESPLENDENT IN a pillar-box red Mod jacket, Buzzcocks guitarist **Steve Diggle** cradles a glass of wine in one hand and his band's MOJO Inspiration Award in the other, as he good naturedly attempts to shake off fellow Manc hedonist, Mani, in order to reflect on their triumph. "Buzzcocks songs are individual," says Diggle. "Our idiosyncratic personalities gave us a different approach. I used to read James Joyce and Proust. As Chekhov once said, Simplicity is everything. We managed to simplify that existentialist vibe. We also put the provinces on the map. There was this glamorous punk scene in London, but in Manchester you had to do it all yourself." Since their live debut opening for the Sex

"As Chekhov once said, simplicity is everything..."

wishers surrounding Diggle's long-term partner-in-punk **Pete Shelley**.

"We've been doing this 30 years and we still get kids coming to see us," the heroically sozzled frontman notes. "Our music is for everyone. It's not nostalgia." *Manish Agarwal*

Pistols at the Manchester Lesser Free Trade Hall in July 1976, Buzzcocks' blend of punky energy, lovelorn lyrics and evergreen melodies has influenced several generations of musicians – from Nirvana and Green Day to contemporary chart-toppers the Arctic Monkeys – making them popular winners of this statue, which was presented by Manic Street Preacher and avowed fan James Dean Bradfield. So popular, in fact, that MOJO has trouble getting through the throng of well-

THERE HAVE been many highlights on the night but few sights beat that of **Prince Buster** joyously skanking his way to the stage to collect his MOJO Hero Award from musician, DJ and filmmaker **Don Letts**. "This is a great day," beams Prince, still a surprisingly youthful figure at 68, "as James Brown said, 'At last!'"

As the man who invented ska, Jamaica's first indigenous electric music, Prince Buster' influence on popular culture was reflected by the many stars who big-up the man, while Sir Elton John recalls his time spent working in a record shop. "I used to sell Prince Buster records!" he enthuses while collecting his Hall Of Fame Award; later, he insists on having his photo taken with the Jamaican legend. While collecting his award, Buster gives thanks to Blue Beat founder Emil Shalit, who, he says, turned him from "a rude boy into someone who could be recognised," before

THE MOJO HERO AWARD

Prince Buster

VOTED BY MOJO STAFF & WRITERS

summoning his agent, Delroy Williams, to jointly pay tribute to the recently departed Desmond Dekker. *David Katz*



Prince Buster (left) and Don Letts: "This is a great day!"