

ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON

Sergio Calvo del Valle S4° B



Robert Louis Stevenson was born in Edinburgh on 13th November 1850. When he was a child, he didn't go to school. When he was a teenager, he travelled with his father around the world. He went to the University of Edinburgh. He studied engineering, but he didn't like it. He became a lawyer and then a writer. In 1876, he met Fanny Osbourne and fell in love with her. In 1878, he wrote his first book. When he was thirty years old he married Fanny in 1880. After that, he wrote "The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde" and "Treasure Island". Three years later, they moved to New York. In New York, he met Mark Twain. He died of a brain attack on a Pacific South island on 3rd December 1894.

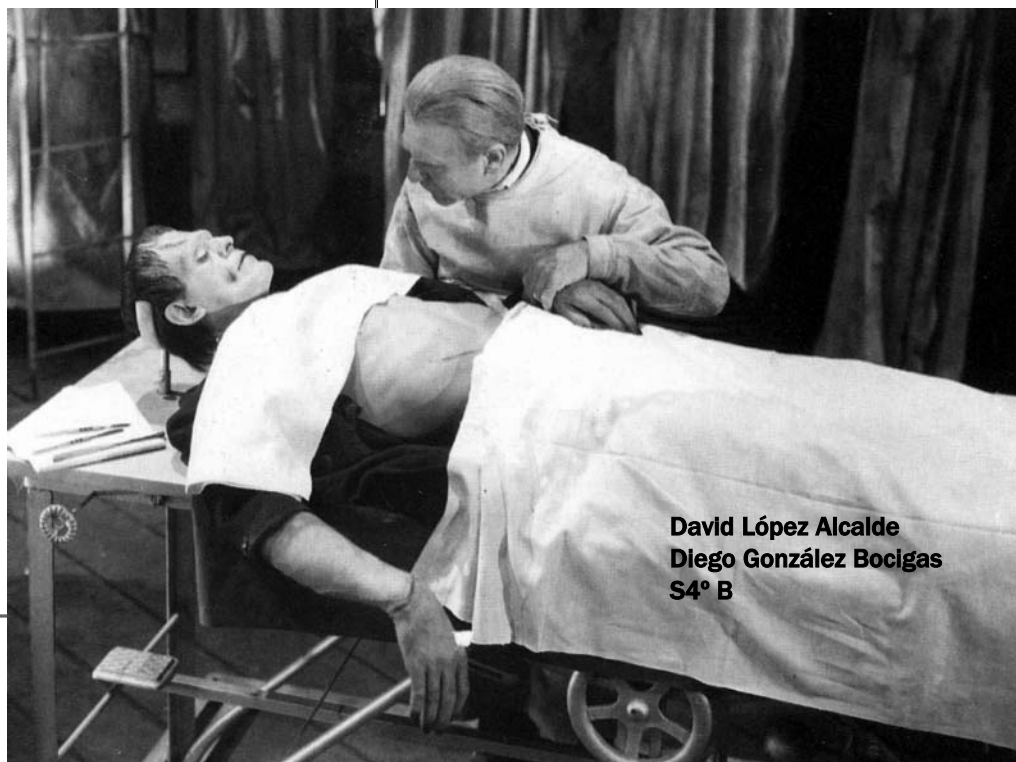


Mary Shelley

Mary Shelley was born in Edinburgh in 1797. She was the daughter of William Wollstonecraft, both writers and famous people of that time. When Mary was sixteen, she ran away to Europe with the famous poet, Percy Bysshe Shelley, and married him two years later. They lived in Italy until Shelley's death in 1822. Then, Mary returned to England with her son Percy.

She wrote many books during her life but today she is remembered only for her first novel, *Frankenstein*. The idea for this novel comes from Lord Byron, another well-known English poet, at his villa near Lake Geneva. One stormy night Byron suggested that everyone should write a ghost story. Mary did not have any ideas, but when she had a dream about a monster, *Frankenstein* was born.

We can see her worries about pregnancy and childbirth at this time. She was expecting a baby when she wrote a book and one of her children had already died young.



David López Alcalde
Diego González Bocigas
S4° B



Bram Stoker



His parents were Abraham Stoker and the feminist Charlotte Thornley, who had seven children: Rose, Jack, Yoaquen, Johan, Jason and Jumy. They were a hardworking, humble, bourgeois family and their only fortune was culture.

Bram spent his first seven years in bed because of his bad health, he suffered from different diseases and he studied at home with private teachers while his mum told him mystery and ghost stories that influenced Bram a lot. Later in 1864, he studied at the "Trinity College", and he got a degree in Maths and Sciences in 1870.

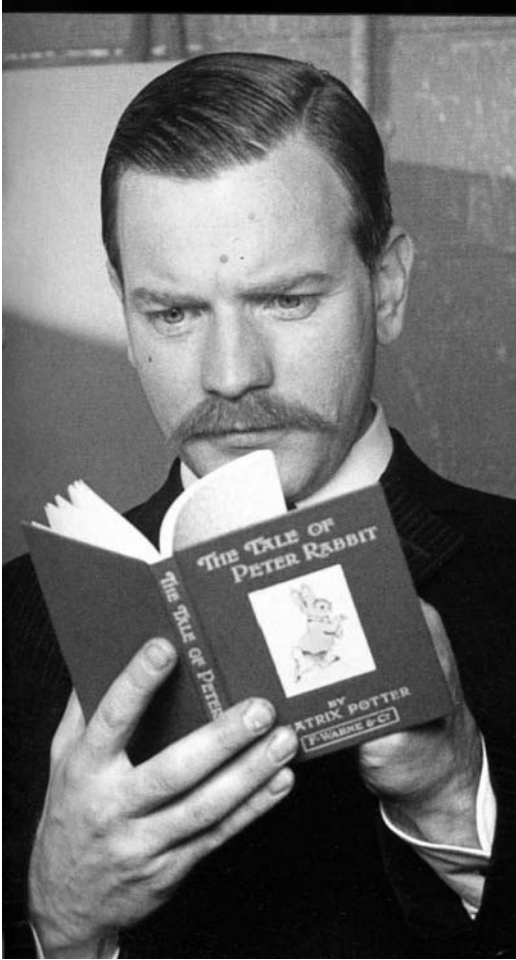
A few years later, he worked as a civil servant in "Dublin Castle" and as a theatre critic in the "Dublin Evening Mail", he also wrote several theatre plays published in many newspapers.

His first terror stories were published in the magazine "Shamrock" like "The Crystal Cup", in 1872. He used to write at night because he felt more inspired. In 1876 he left Ireland to go to London with the actor Henry Irving who had contracted him as his representative

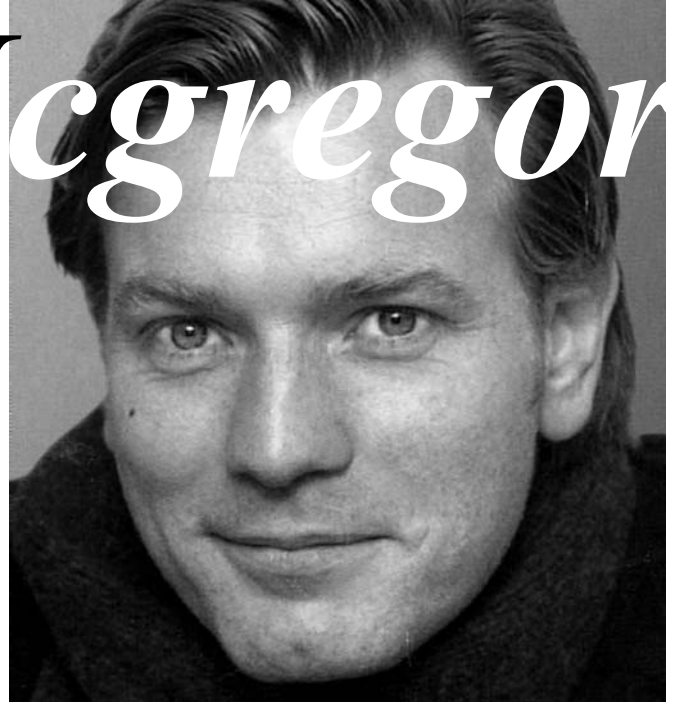
and secretary after he read Bram's critic about "Hamlet". They both directed the "Lyceum centre" but Stoker became Irving's slave and he did whatever he said until Irving died in 1905 without leaving anything of his huge fortune to Bram. In 1878 Stoker married Florence Balcome, an old girlfriend of his friend Oscar Wilde, and they had a son called Noel. In 1890, he published his first book "The Beauties of Clerks of Petty Sessions in Ireland" (1894) and others like "The Snake's Pass" (1890), "Crooked sands" (1894), "Miss Betty" (1898), "The Jewel of Seven Stars" (1903), "The Lady of the Shroud" (1909) or "The Lair of the White Worm" (1911). Bram Stoker died of syphilis on the 20th of April 1912 at the age of 64. he died in a humble and pestilent hostel in London and in his last minutes of life he couldn't stop pronouncing the word "Strigory" that means vampire in Romanian, the creature that he had investigated so much for his work "Dracula".



Inés García Arribas S4°B



Ian Mcgregor



He was born in Crieff, Perthshire (Scotland). His parents were both teachers. He has a two-year older brother who is a pilot for the Real Air Forces in the United Kingdom and who has three little daughters. He has always been attracted by the show business and he left school to join a Scottish theatre company to study theatre in Crieff and London. As soon as he left the Drama School, he began to work on TV series, and later, he started working in movies with "Being human" with Robin Williams. This provided him

the chance to work in Dany Boyle's new film "Shallow Grave", where he played the leading character.

In 1995, he married Eva Mavrakis and they have two children. He became famous in 1996, thanks to his role in "Trainspotting".

In the next years, he took part in many films but they weren't well known until he was chosen to perform the character Obi Wan Kenobi in "Star Wars" in 1998 with the title of "Star Wars: episode I -The phantom menace".

Since that moment, his films became better known and he

started to get better roles, like "Moulin Rouge" with Nicole Kidman and he got a Gold Globe nomination as Best actor in a musical, or "Black Hawk Down" that was shown for the first time the same year as the second part of "Star Wars: Attack of the clones".

But he didn't want to be always in the role of the Jedi so he took part in other kinds of films like "Down with love" and "Big fish" by Tim Burton.

Inés García Arribas
Belén de las Heras
S4°B

mar *k*nopfler

a great artist from Scotland

ERIKA URETA ÁLVAREZ
NURIA GONZALEZ
MARIA IGLESIAS
OMAR PECHARROMAN
S4° C



Mark Knopfler was born in August 12th, 1949, in Glasgow, a city of Scotland. He is a British guitarist, singer, songwriter, and sometimes film score composer. Knopfler was originally best-known as the lead guitarist and vocalist for the English rock band, Dire Straits, which he co-founded in 1977 with his brother. Following the dissolution of Dire Straits in 1995, Knopfler has continued recording and producing albums as a solo artist, under his own name. Occasionally, Knopfler has played in other groups, such as the Notting Hillbillies, and has guested on works by other artists, including Bob Dylan, Bryan Ferry, Eric Clapton, John Fogerty, and other famous singers. He has produced albums for artists such as Tina Turner, Randy Newman, Bob Dylan and Emmylou Harris. In addition, he has scored the music to several films.

He is one of the most respected fingerstyle guitarists of the modern rock era. Knopfler was ranked 27 on Rolling Stone magazine's list of "100 Greatest Guitarists of All Time".

The family first moved to Scotland, but then settled in Knopfler's mother's hometown of Newcastle Upon Tyne in the north-east of England when he was nine years old. There, he and his younger brother David (also a musician)

attended Gosford Grammar School, where he was inspired by his uncle Kingsley's harmonica and boogie-woogie piano playing. Later, in his teens, he wanted to buy an expensive flamingo-pink Fender Stratocaster just like Hank Marvin's. Like many other schoolboys of the 1960s, he served an early apprenticeship by forming and joining anonymous schoolboy bands and listening to singers like Elvis Presley and guitarists like Chet Atkins, Scotty Moore, Jimi Hendrix and James Burton. At sixteen he made a local TV appearance as half of a harmony duo along with a friend from school named Sue Hercombe.

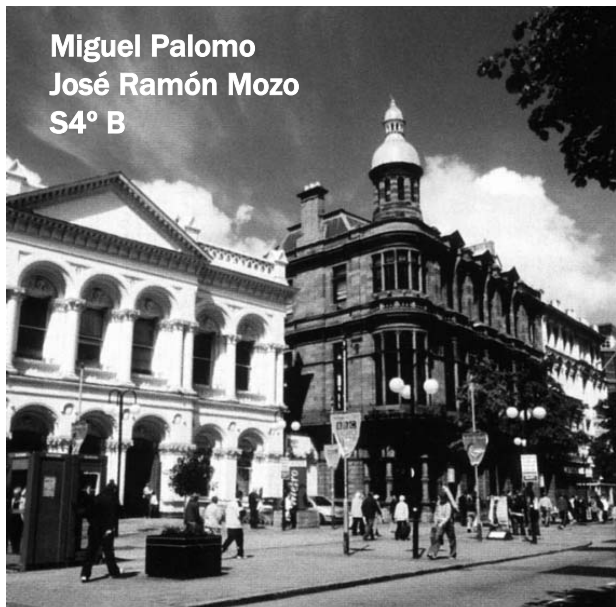
In 1967, having displayed a flair for English, Knopfler studied journalism for a year at Harlow Technical College. At the end of the course, he secured a job in Leeds as a junior reporter on the Yorkshire Evening Post. Two years later, he decided to further his studies and graduated with a degree in English at the University of Leeds. He worked as a lecturer at Loughton College during this period. It was while Knopfler was living in Leeds that he married Kathy White, his long-time girlfriend from school days, however, the marriage didn't last. After separating from his wife, he moved to London and joined a High Wycombe based band called Brewers Droop,

appearing on the album "The Booze Brothers". One night while spending some time with friends, the only guitar available was an old acoustic with a badly warped neck that had been strung with extra-light strings to make it playable. Even so, he found it impossible to play unless he finger-picked it. He said in a later interview, "That was where I found my 'voice' on guitar." Soon after he recorded a "demo" tape of an original song: "Summer's Coming My Way", in a London studio. Mark Knopfler's musical style is noted for being left-handed, but playing right-handed, and for fingerpicking (using a personal variant of the clawhammer style) instead of using a plectrum fingerpicking. He is usually associated with the acoustic guitar, but Knopfler usually (though not always) plays an electric guitar. Knopfler revealed during a French interview that he uses a pick for his rhythm work during recording sessions. Knopfler surprised the interviewer by pulling a pick out of his pocket and saying that he usually carries one. He has around 70 guitars.

Knopfler's audience has grown to reach six continents; he is known to his audiences for his affable manner, humorous banter and amiable audience interaction during performances.



BELFAST



Miguel Palomo
José Ramón Mozo
S4° B

Belfast is the capital of Northern Ireland. Belfast is situated on Ireland's eastern coast. It has 276.459 habitants (2001 census); Belfast is located on the western end of Belfast Lough and at the mouth of the river Lagan, in an ideal location for the shipbuilding industry. The site of Belfast has been occupied since the Bronze Age. Belfast remained a small settlement of little importance during the Middle Age. This city became an important settlement in the 17th century. Belfast has been the capital of Northern Ireland since its creation in 1920 by the Government of Ireland Act. At the end of the last century, Belfast suffered from terrorist attacks. These attacks were performed by the IRA.



INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT BELFAST
 The Titanic was built in Belfast in 1912
 The university of Belfast, Queen University, is the main university in the city
 Belfast has a Catholic area around Falls Road and a Protestant area around Shankill Rd. These areas are full of murals about the "troubles" that took place in this part of the United Kingdom in the past.



An *Irish* legend

Irish people often talk about the sad destiny of a young man called Borno. He was very handsome, and he was known as the favourite of the gods.

One day he was at the top of a mountain with his donkey and his cart full of jugs, which he had to fill with water. From there he could see the sea in the distance and nearby, there were some old trees, and a small lake surrounded by stones. Borno let the donkey drink and then took the vats down to the lake and began to fill them with water. He stopped a moment to rest, but before doing the work that they had ordered him, he sat near the lake enjoying the fresh air and listening to the cicadas sing.

Suddenly the lilies began to tremble and the water rippled and whispered when it crashed against the stones. Then, an infinitely beautiful and mysterious woman appeared amongst the water lilies. Her skin was whiter than snow, her eyes were green like the leaves of trees, and her dark hair was falling into the water.

She raised a hand, and Borno came near her. Suddenly he was unsteady and moved back.

-You aren't mortal- he said.

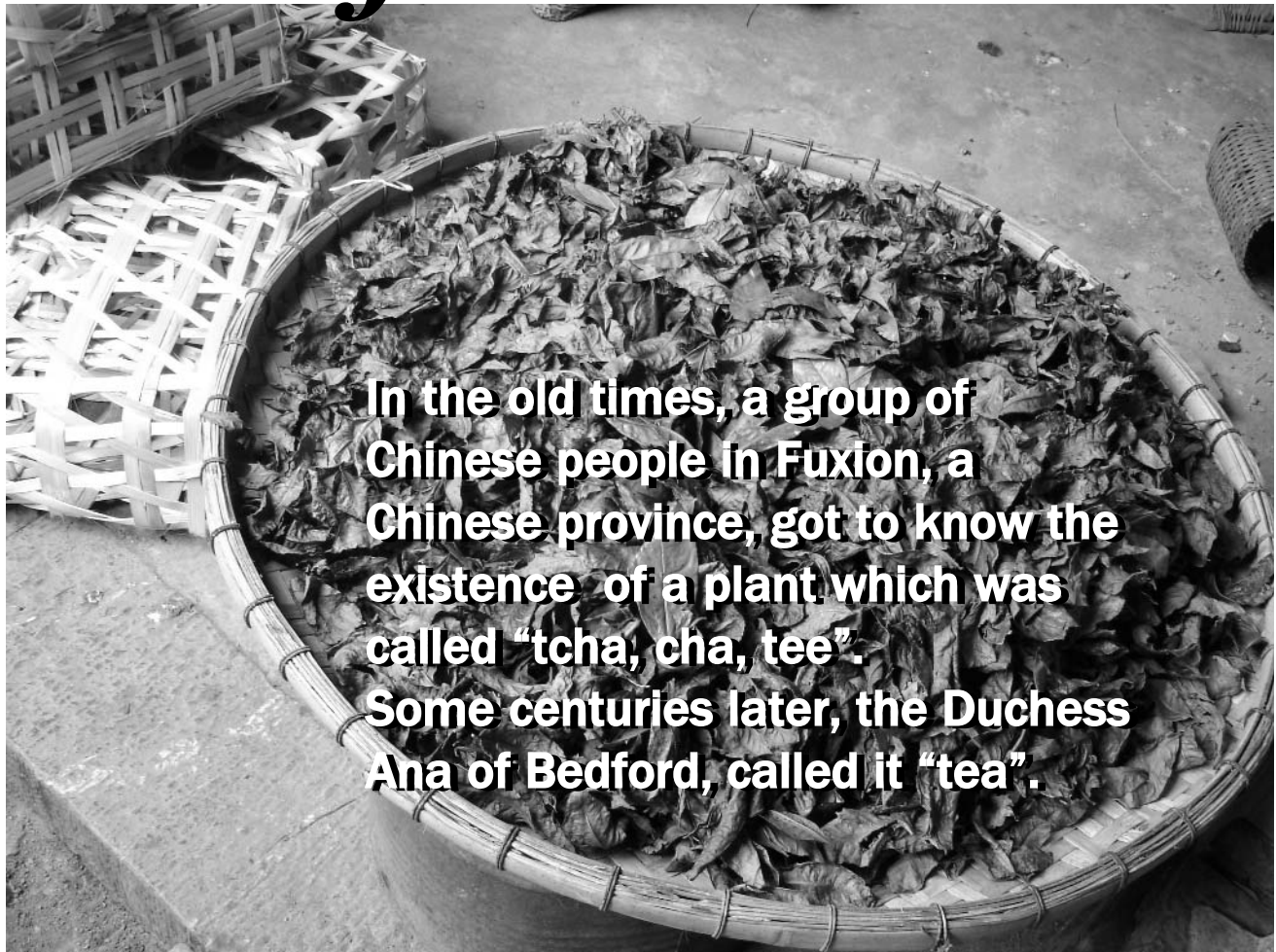
The girl smiled, and nodded, and then the boy bent over the lake. When he was taking some water, the woman held him very hard until finally he fell into the lake, where humans couldn't live, and where only aquatic creatures could survive.

The next day Borno's friends found the donkey in the fields, braying sadly. They went to the lake, and found the jugs empty on the ground. They looked for their friend, but he wasn't anywhere.

When they finished the search, they felt that there was some magic in the air near the water. A few months later some Irish people wrote a song that told the story of how Borno was kidnapped by the nymph of the lake, and people sang this song while they were getting their harvests in.

Virginia Rodríguez Ortega 3D E S O

The famous tea



In the old times, a group of Chinese people in Fuxian, a Chinese province, got to know the existence of a plant which was called “tcha, cha, tee”. Some centuries later, the Duchess Ana of Bedford, called it “tea”.

Myth or reality?

Nobody knows exactly the date when tea started being drunk in China. About the year 520 a Hindu monk cut his eyelids to be kept awake during his meditations and, a plant of tea grew on the piece of land in which they fell down.

Another story says that tea was known in China by the time of Three Kingdoms and the habit of drinking was spread to all the social classes in China.

**Lorena Herranz
Rocío Monzón,
1ºB Bach.**



Its expansion...

In a short time tea invaded English and French territory, the east of Europe and also Russia. However, Spain and Germany preferred drinking coffee.

England conquered the Indian territory and with it the trade of the herb at very low prices. Ladies used to meet to enjoy the new drink with cookies.

Duchess Ana of Bedford took up the habit of drinking a cup of tea at five because at this time she had "a strange sensation of collapse", and she needed a comforting cup of tea.

Nowadays...

Europeans value its medicinal properties very much and people from England haven't stopped drinking it since they tasted it. In The United States all existing varieties of tea are sold everywhere. In Mexico a new lounge of tea is opened every day.

How to make a cup of genuine English tea...

First, fill the kettle with water.

Then, boil the water.

Warm the teapot.

Put some tea into the teapot.

After that, fill the teapot with boiling water.

Leave it for a few minutes.

Pour the tea into the cup and put some cold milk into the cup.

Serve it with scones, jam and clotted cream. Enjoy it!



Scones, jam and clotted cream

Rock *in* Canada

Canadian rock bands may not be as well-known as bands from other countries, but in the last years their popularity has increased by leaps and bounds. Some of these bands are Simple Plan, Sum 41, Billy Talent, Nickelback, Silverstein and GOB.

Harold Giraldo Henao B1°B

Sum 41

Sum 41 is a Canadian punk-rock band from Ajax, Ontario. Its members are Deryck Whibley (singer, guitarrist), Cone McCaslin (bassist) and Steve Jocz (drummer). The band got this name because it was created 41 days after the summer of 1996 started. They have got five albums: "Half Hour of Power", "All Killer no Filler", "Does This Look Infected?", "Chuck" and "Underclass Hero".

"Half Hour of Power" was launched in June 2000. Their first single was "Makes no Difference", which is the best song on this CD.

"All Killer No Filler" was launched in May 2001. The first single was "Fat Lip", which instantly became a huge hit, reaching the first place in radio stations. The popularity of the band increased quickly. Other songs were "In Too Deep" and "Motivation", which are great songs.

In November 2003, Sum 41 released "Does This Look Infected?". Sum 41 altered their style slightly, it was a bit heavier, while keeping the smooth harmonies they had become known for. The first single released was "Still Waiting", the video of which was a parody of one of "The Strokes" videos. After the hit "Still Waiting", they followed up with "The Hell Song" and "Over my Head".

The next album was "Chuck". This album got the name from "Chuck"(Charles Pelletier). Sum 41 were in Democratic Republic of Congo recording a documentary about the war in Congo. A few days after their arrival, fighting broke out near the hotel the band was staying at. The band waited for the firing to die down, but it never did. A U.N. peacekeeper, Charles Pelletier, called for armored vehicles to take the hotel costumers out of the hot zone. After nearly six hours, the carriers

arrived, and the band and the forty other civilians were taken to safety. The band named their next album "Chuck" in honor of Pelletier for taking them to safety.

"Chuck" was released in October 2004. It was a heavy album in a more serious tone, without the humour of previous releases. The first single was "We're all to Blame" which says: "we're all to blame, we've gone from pride to shame, we're hopelessly blissful and bind and we always want it all with no sacrifice". In this song they compare our lives with other people's ones. They followed up with "Pieces", a relative soft song which reached the top of the charts in Canada. The next single was "Some say". My favourite songs of this album are the previous named songs, "Angels with Dirty Faces" and "Noots". The song "Moron" was composed for the album "Rock against Bush".

The recording of the band's fifth studio album, "Underclass Hero", began on November 8th, 2006 and was finished on March 14th, 2007. The first single is "Underclass Hero", The second one is "Walking Disaster" and the third is "With me". This album is very different from previous ones. They always try to create controversy, with shocking lyrics and noisy melodies. For example the song "March of the dogs" starts by saying: "The president of the United States of America... is DEAD". Criticizing politics, calling underclass for revolution are the main themes in this album. However it is, they are sure that we're running out of time and as they say in one of their songs " the end is closer than it's too far". I love this album because it's full of great songs, such as "Speak of the Devil", "Cont your last Blessing" and "March of the Dogs". This album has even a song in French. Sum 41 songs are unique. Most of them start talking in a whisper and then they become a loud melody. I recommend specially their last songs because they are better than the first ones. They are more mature musically but they are still rude as they were in their origin. Sum 41 has become an important punk band all over the world.





Simple PLAN

Any..." showed a dramatic change in Simple Plan's style as well. They still kept their style of downbeat lyrics matched to upbeat music, but managed to transcend from the standard pop-punk genre. The band continues in

the same line that in its debut with songs which are gripping and lyrics that talk about general frustrations. To get this, they use lyrics that talk about scepticism -Perfect World-, distrust -Thank You-, superficiality -Crazy- which are covered by a balm of punk-pop. The general slant of this album tends toward deeper and more mature lyrical themes, as well as a more mainstream sound that moves away from the pure pop-punk style of their last album.

Their third album "Simple Plan" was released in February 2008. This album is so different because it has hip hop rhythms and it even has a ballad. The result is an energetic combination of classic punk, rock and pop sounds that make Simple Plan a young and fresh band with an unmistakable own mark.

I recommend all their songs to everybody because they are the kings of the pop ditty, they have great melodies and grand lyrics, which make of them one of the best bands of Pop-Punk.

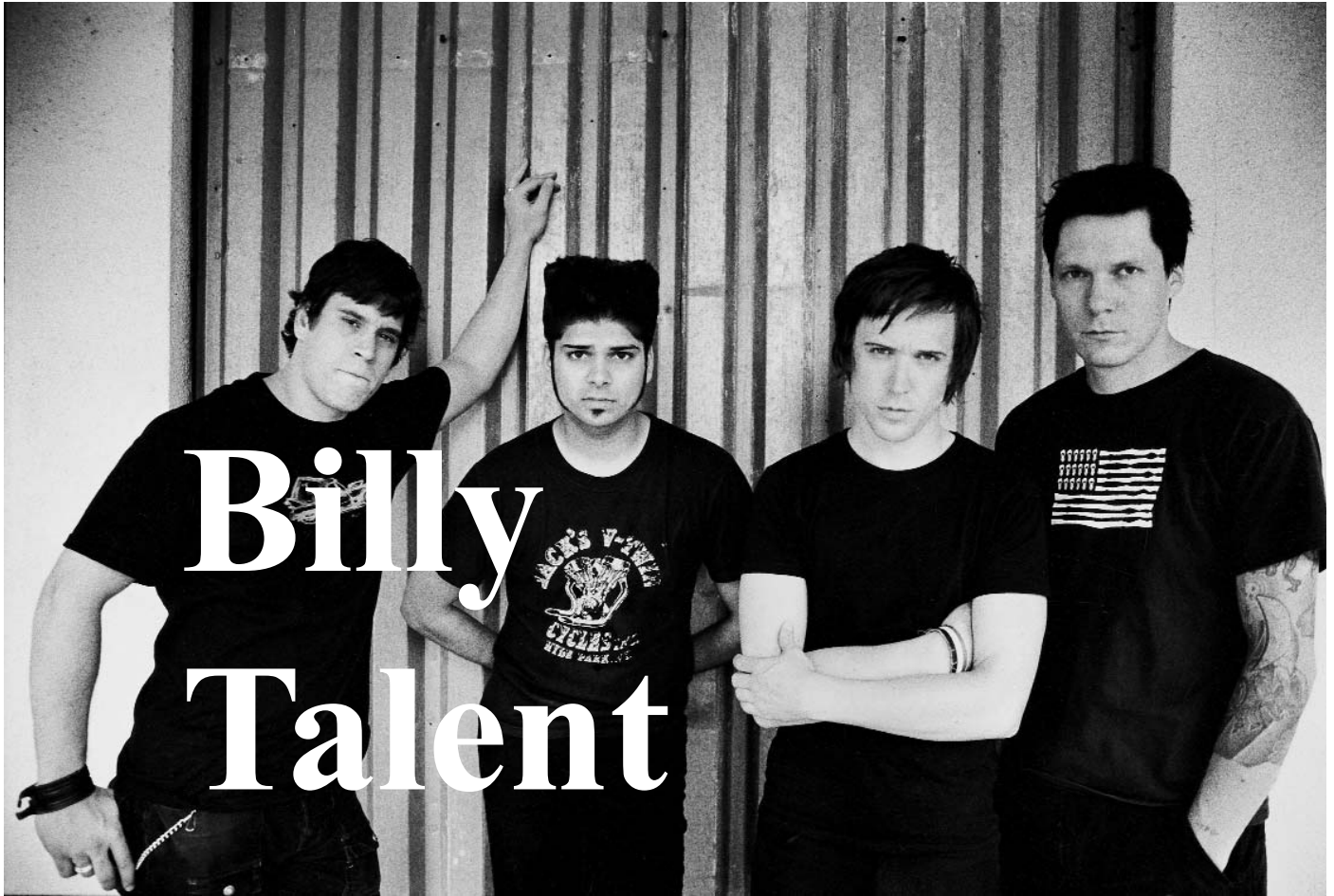
Simple Plan is a French Canadian pop punk band from Montreal, Quebec. Its members are: Pierre Bouvier (singer), David Desrosiers (bassist), Sébastien Lefebvre (guitarist), Jeff Stinco (guitarist) y Chuck Comeau (drummer). So far the band has released three albums: No Pads, No Helmets...Just Balls (2002), Still Not Getting Any...(2004), and Simple Plan (2008).

Simple Plan began in 1995 with the formation of a band named Reset by friends Pierre Bouvier, "Chuck" Comeau, Philippe Jolicoeur, and Adrian White. Reset toured around Canada with bands such as MxPx, Ten Foot Pole, and Face to Face, but they only gain modest popularity. The debut album, No Worries, was released in 1998, and Comeau left soon after to go to college. In 1999, Comeau and Bouvier reacquainted at a Sugar Ray concert and Bouvier left Reset soon after to join Comeau. The origin of the band name is obscure. Band members have given several answers on this point,

including a liking for the movie A Simple Plan. They said that the band was their simple plan to avoid getting a "real" job; and that the name was only intended to be temporary, but they never thought of anything better.

In 2002, Simple Plan released their first studio album, No Pads, No Helmets...Just Balls, whose singles were "I'm Just a Kid", "I'd Do Anything", "Addicted", and "Perfect". The name of the CD echoes the popular tag line for the sport of rugby, "No pads, no helmets, no pussies". This album is young, rowdy, and very funny. It's a collection of punk tracks on the same wavelength that Good Charlotte, Sum 41 or Blink 182: fast funny songs with catchy choruses, which talk about party, girls and more party.

In 2004, Simple Plan released their second studio album, "Still Not Getting Any..". whose singles were "Welcome to My Life", "Shut Up!", "Untitled" and "Crazy". This album is better, smarter and funnier than the first. "Still Not Getting



Billy Talent is a Canadian rock band from Mississauga, Ontario. It was formed in 1993. The band consists of Benjamin Kowalewicz (singer), Ian D'Sa (guitarist), Jonathan Gallant (bassist) and Aaron Solowoniuk (drummer). They have got three albums: "Watoosh!", "Billy Talent" and "Billy Talent II". Although they are often described as having punk rock roots, they did not "emulate popular bands at the time." The sound is original and unique, something different that they recognized when they started playing together. The members met and played in high school under the name Pezz. Pezz changed their band name in 1999, after an American band with the same name threatened to sue them. Billy Talent would become their new name, inspired by the guitarist "Billy Tallent" from Michael Turner's novel *Hard Core Logo*. In 1998, they released "Watoosh!"

Their first album. The music began to transform from a raw rap-rock songs into "catchy and angst-ridden pop punk anthems". In "Watoosh!" the band mixed multiple genres and making diverse songs on the same album, stretching from hip hop to indie and ska. Although they were popular in the indie scene in Toronto, it did not reach large mainstream sales levels.

In 2003, they released "Billy Talent". The album found considerable mass support and sales success. "Try Honesty" was the first single, and was followed by other singles "The Ex", "River Below", and "Nothing To Lose". The style of this album is a more collected sound, something that they've described as their defining sound. In 2006, they released "Billy Talent II". It was a successful album and reached at number 1 on the Canadian and German charts. As Jonathan said the general theme of

this record is trust, the lack thereof or breaking up. That seemed to fuel the record. Most of the songs dealt with real-life issues. On *Billy Talent II*, the band altered their sound again, based on emotional compositions, more calmed down and collected than their previous work. It was also based on a far less angst-ridden and aggressive production, something that was known factor behind their debut. While this change was apparent on many of the songs, they kept the hints of hard rock, but with less screaming and more singing by Ben. "Devil In A Midnight Mass" was the first single. "Red Flag" was released as the second single, the third single was "Fallen Leaves" and the fourth was "Surrender". I recommend especially "Billy Talent II" songs because they are more mature songs, yet they are energetic and amazing songs.



Lucia Velasco
Maria Sancho
S4° A



U2

U2 is a rock band from Dublin (Ireland). It was formed in 1976; U2 has been a very popular band in the world since the mid-1980s. The band has sold more than 170 million copies around the world. With six albums in the United States and nine in the United Kingdom, it's one of the groups with bigger success of all the times. They have been rewarded with 22 Grammy Awards. The band was formed when

Bono (vocalist and guitarist), The Edge (guitarist, keyboard and vocalist) and Adam Clayton (baser) answered to an advert by Larry Mullen Jr. (drummer). At that moment the members of the band were teenagers with limited knowledge of music. By the middle of the 1980s, however, they had become an international top group with four cd's released. They reached the fame with their famous first project The Joshua Tree. Since 2000, U2

have pursued a more traditional sound that retains the influence of their musical explorations. *Rolling Stone Magazine* listed U2 in their list of the 100 greatest artists of all time. Throughout their career, as a band and as individuals, they have campaigned for human rights and social justice causes, including Amnesty International, the ONE Campaign, and Bono's DATA (Debt, AIDS, Trade in Africa) campaign).

Henri *Salvateur*

Le décès d' Henri Salvateur tait la musique française

Le troubadour et la figure du rock et le jazz est mort aujourd'hui à Paris à 90 ans, victime d'un anévrisme. En 2006 il a sorti son dernier album, dont le titre « Révérence » était éloquent, et il a dit au revoir aux concerts décembre dernier avec un concert au Palais de Congrès de Paris. Salvateur avait une voix particulière et son mélange de rythmes des Caraïbes et brésiliens avec du rock et du jazz a été déterminant dans le paysage de la chanson populaire française . Cette figure de la musique française est née le 18 juillet 1917 en Cayenne (Guayenne française) et est décédée victime d'un anévrisme dans son domicile parisien. Fidèle exposant du français

de Bohème, Salvateur a porté le rock à Paris avec l'auteur surréaliste Boris Vian, aux temps où il jouait parfois de la guitare dans les bars de Montparnasse avec la figure du jazz Django Reinhardt. Il a été récompensé avec plusieurs prix «Victoires» de la musique française et avec la Légion d'Honneur. Il a reçu en 2005 une décoration brésilienne des mains du chanteur et ministre de Culture Gilberto Gil par sa contribution à la diffusion de la musique du Brésil, en particulier la bossa nova, avec «Dans mon Œ le». Salvateur, qui à 12 ans est arrivé avec sa famille en France métropolitaine et en 1941 est parvenu à s'enfuir de l'occupation allemande, il

s'est alors incorporé à l'orchestre de Ray Ventura, avec lequel il a parcouru le Brésil et d'autres pays de l'Amérique du Sud, en pleine II Guerre Mondiale. En 1949, il a connu celle qui serait sa femme et agent, Jacqueline, et il publie «Le Loup, La Biche et Le Chevalier », qui sera comme un classique de son répertoire avec le nom « de Chanson douce », dont beaucoup d'enfants ont pu en jouir. Dans les 80 et 90, Salvateur est retourné à la première scène de la main du nouveau enfant gâté de la chanson française, Benjamin Biolay, celui qui avec Kere Ann l'a composé plusieurs de ses chansons.

Natalia Abejón 2° Bach A

The *OF* Races Ascot



Royal Ascot is the most important racehorse in Europe. It begins on a Tuesday in the middle of June and it finishes four days later. Most members of high society attend there every year.

ROYAL PRESENCE

Ascot is a racetrack that has a lot to do with the British Crown. Its great popularity for the event is due to the support that the members of the royal family provide. They occupy a special zone closed to the public called “the Royal Place”.

First of all, participants have to ask the representative of the queen permission to take part in the race. They must get the approval of two members of the Royal Place. It lasts for seven years and only the best riders are chosen.

Royal Ascot has become popular, not only for the racehorses, but also for the hats. While men wear a variety of top hats, women love colourful models. Thursday is the Lady’s Day, so designers show their latest creations!

Laura Barrios S3°B



WONDERFUL PRIZES

The races (six every day) are held in four days. Tuesday, the first day, is considered the best. The first race is always “Queen Anne Stakes”, so named in honour of Queen Anne who started the Ascot races.

Later, also on the first day, St. James’s Palace Stakes takes part. It is known as Derby Ascot, horses which were not qualified for the Derby of Epsom can participate .

But without doubt the most important race which is held in Ascot takes place at the end of July, outside Royal Ascot. It is the Diamond Day, “King George VI” and “Queen Elizabeth Stakes” take place



on the same day. Both races have a distance of 2400 metres. There is a race only for ladies, which is called the Ladies Diamond Stakes. Princess Anna won this race in 1987. Best races include the word “Stakes”.

The SPANISH Armada



Enrique González Marcos S1° B

What did the “Armada” consist of, when was it used and who was in charge?

It was a fleet of warships which were created by Felipe II . It took place between 1585 and 1604. The two sides of this war were the Kingdoms of Spain and England.

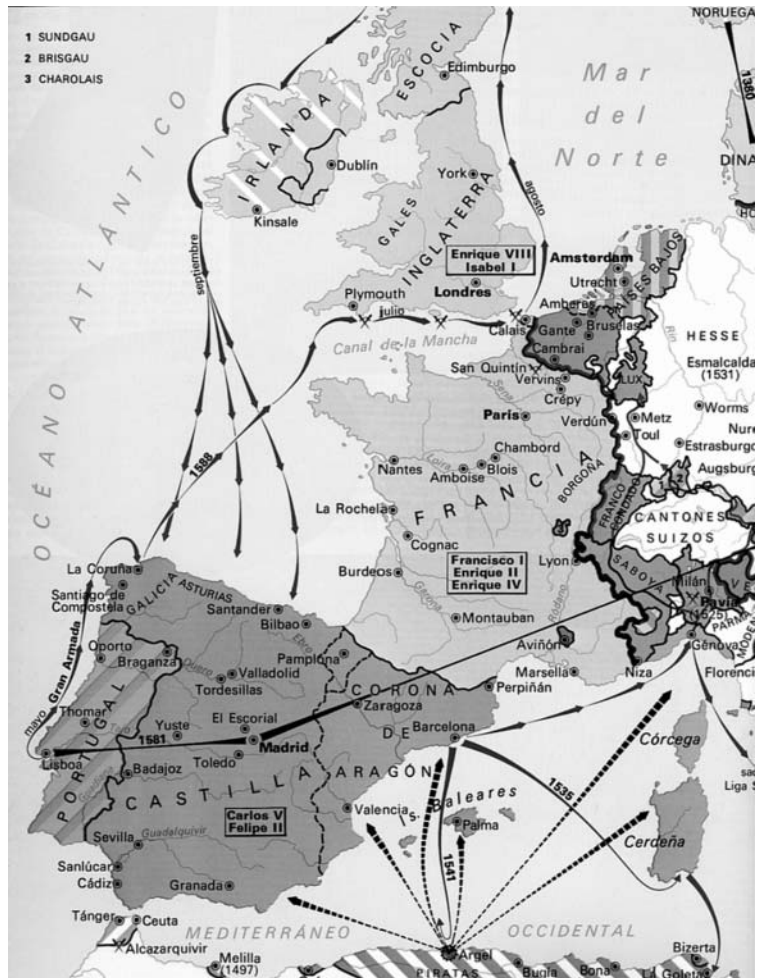
The fleet left Lisbon on the 19th February, 1588.

The Armada consisted of 137 ships . It was prepared by the Admiral of Castilla, Don Álvaro de Bazán, who died.

It is thought that he may have been poisoned by the English. Because of this, the Spaniards had to put in charge, somebody less experienced, although very loyal to the king: Don Alonso Pérez de Guzmán “El Bueno” y Zúñiga.

What was its purpose?

The Spanish military’s aim was to direct 30.000 Spanish soldiers to invade England, especially, the region of Kent. This army, which was to be commanded by Don Alejandro Farnesio, should cross the English Channel leaving from Flanders. This journey would be made by the “Gran Armada” in smaller ships. In this way, Felipe II wanted to invade England for 2 reasons: To avoid the English pirates attacking Spanish ships. Secondly to stop England helping those people from Flanders who were fighting against the Spanish king. However, this was not to happen.



How did the events then develop?

The Spanish fleet split up because of the terrible weather conditions at sea, in such a way that it didn’t arrive at the English coast until July, 5 months after its departure. Because of this, the English had already prepared their army well to defend England and there was no surprise factor.

The first conflicts with English ships were small battles which started on the 31st of July. The Spanish Armada lost 2 galleon ships in these initial battles (The San Salvador and the Nuestra Señora del Rosario).

The crews from these ship were taken prisoner and all of the provisions and abundant military equipment that the Spanish were transporting passed into English hands.

It wasn’t a huge loss but it was a significant development in the adversity that the Spanish military would later face.

The only important naval battle between the 2 fleets took place on the 2nd of August, near the Gravelinas islands. Sir Francis Drake led the English fleet. They didn’t manage to beat the Spanish despite having a greater number of boats available to them (226).

The English boats were smaller and more manoeuvrable than the Spanish ones but their weaponry was not to the same standard despite the fact that each side had the same number. In the battle of Gravelinas ,which took place in the middle of the English Channel, only 1 Spanish boat was sunk and there were 500 casualties, 300 of which were Spanish and 200 English. The English fleet felt incapable of fighting against the Spanish at that point, and Francis Drake withdrew.

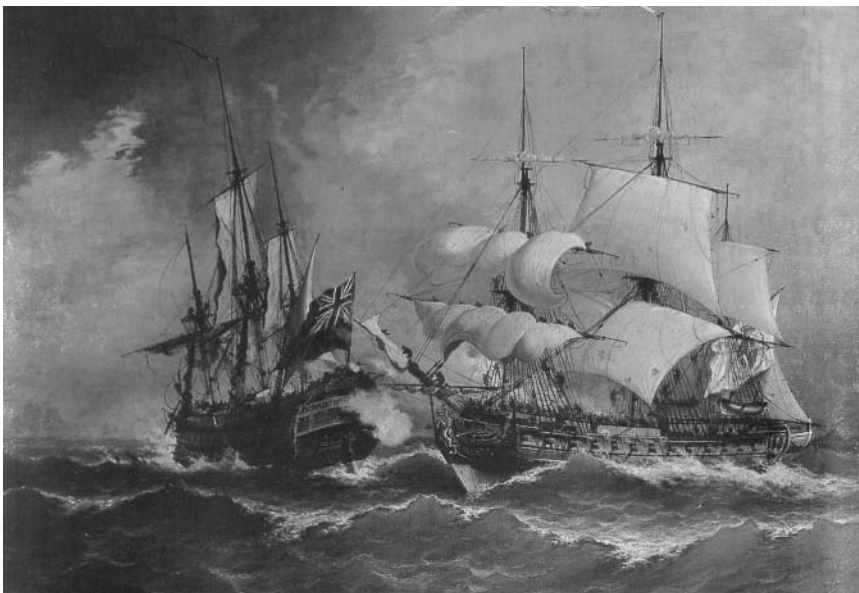
Nevertheless the situations at sea got worse, and the Spanish boats couldn’t take refuge in the ports at Flanders because they were controlled by rebels. Because of this many boats travelled to the North sea and the Irish sea, where many of them got shipwrecked and around 10.000 Spanish sailors died. Despite everything, more than half of the boats made it back home.

Why was it called “Invincible”?

The description invincible wasn't given by the Spanish, but was used by the English army, who always considered the Spanish fleet to be this way mainly due to the size and the deep draft of its boats. This term has remained throughout history as a sort of irony.

The disaster of the “Invincible Armada” produced consequences which were equally disastrous for the Spanish Empire as the benefits were enormous for the Kingdom of England.

The war finished with an armistice asked for by England and signed in London which was a treaty that ultimately proved to be in Spain's favour.



What was the main cause of its failure?

It was a military disaster due to the fact that as well as the enormous losses they didn't achieve what they set out to. However, the failure has to be put down to misfortune caused by the storms and poor weather conditions and not because of the superior skill and determination of the English fleet which, as has been previously mentioned, caused very little damage to the Spanish fleet.

The failure of the “Invincible Armada”

The “Invincible Armada” failure didn't prevent the Spanish supremacy being maintained for a hundred years more, until the 18th Century. Proof of this is that between 1590 and 1600 the Spanish out manoeuvred the English pirates (mainly John Hawkins) and in those 10 years they managed to transport more gold and silver from America than in all the previous decades.

The English couldn't celebrate the disaster of the Invincible Armada because amongst other things, there were 9000 deaths from typhus and dysentery in their own ships.

Despite England freeing 30.000 Spanish soldiers it didn't prove itself to be an impossible terrain to invade. For example in 1595 (7 years later) 400 soldiers in 4 Spanish ships sent by Don Carlos of Amésquita disembarked on the bay Mount in the Peninsula of Cornwall in the south west of England. Several thousand English soldiers frightened of the Spanish infantry, ran away from them. These 400 Spanish soldiers then pillaged and incinerated a large number of people.