Nine sleeves and nine songs compiled as a Coronavirus Lockdown playlist for Michael Clark Company during an @michaelclarkco Instagram takeover on 4 and 5 May 2020.

This collection of songs explores themes of lonliness, boredom, transience, life and death; each musing in its own way on the very nature of existence. And each of course was originally housed in a record sleeve designed by Malcolm Garrett.

**Love You More**

*Buzzcocks*  
7“, 1978

A classic Pete Shelley song of unrequited love, loneliness and ultimate despair. My design for the sleeve, with its depiction of empty rooms, only one of which is occupied, aims to capture a feeling of being alone at home, unable to reach out to the one you love. This was only the fifth sleeve I designed for Buzzcocks, all of which were produced before I graduated from Manchester Polytechnic in 1978. It was the start of a working relationship that continued until Pete sadly died in 2018.

**The Sound of the Suburbs***

*The Members*  
7“, 1979

Stuck at home? What better opportunity is there to annoy the neighbours with some ‘punk rock electric guitar’. Proof that boredom and suburban isolation can become an environment for creative inspiration. The lo-fi television illustration is cut out to reveal a completely transparent vinyl disc effectively becoming the blank empty screen through which the suburban subject matter of both the sleeve and the song are seen.

**A Song From Under the Floorboards**

*Magazine*  
The Correct Use of Soap, 1980

Taken from what many consider to be Magazine’s finest album, this Howard Devoto song is inspired by the psychological novels of Dostoevsky. My former flatmate, the guitarist John McGeoch, and bass player Barry Adamson (whose playing was once described as ‘the definitive business’) are both at their absolute best here. The album sleeve, screenprinted on the reverse of the board to achieve a crude cardboard finish, remains one of my favourites.

**The Chauffeur**

*Duran Duran*  
RIO, 1982

The final track on the album RIO which has what is by far my best known sleeve design. I’d already worked with Duran Duran for well over a year when this second album, packed with hits, was released. The track I’ve chosen captures the band at their most beguiling. The RIO sleeve features a specially commissioned illustration by American artist Patrick Nagel, which I displayed wrapping from front to back around the open edge of the sleeve. The record is literally accessed through the image by the very act of removing it from the sleeve. The photograph on the reverse is a segment of a photo of Simon Lebon which also featured in the magazine ‘New Sounds New Styles’, edited by my creative partner Kasper de Graaf.

**Heroes**

*David Bowie*  
Come, Been and Gone  
*Michael Clark Company*  
7“, 2009

Michael Clark Company’s 2009 performance of ‘Come, Been and Gone’ had a soundscape that included songs by three of Michael’s heroes, David Bowie, Lou Reed and Iggy Pop. The programme for the Barbican show was housed in a pastiche record sleeve, the front of which featured all three heroes’ photographed by Mick Rock. In the original photo another person could be seen behind the three figures, but I carefully retouched the image to hide him from view.

**Everything I Own**

*Boy George*  
SOLD, 1987

With styling by Judy Blame, the photograph features a defiant looking Boy George, caught at what would sadly transpire to be an unhealthy period in his life. He is wearing post-Vivienne Westwood bondage clothing from the shop BOY, customised with newspaper clippings and headlines. The typography on the sleeve, also cut and pasted from printed sources, is distressed using fax and photocopier in a similarly post-punk manner. The lettering for ‘SOLD’ on the sleeve for the single is directly modified from Jamie Reid’s infamous Sex Pistols logo

continues ...
The Malcolm Garrett Collection
Playlist #12
coming : being : going
Compiled May 2020
continued ...