

Subject: Tapes, Glorious tapes

Date: Mon, 2 Dec 2013 15:38:41 +0000

Hi Jules.

This is all mental. I hope this summary of my knowledge of the tapes is of use to you.

Thousands of tapes spanning nearly 20+ years were stored in Strawberry because either the label/artist never paid for them or didn't wish to store them themselves.

Tapes were charged extra to the studio time and hardly anybody ever took them away unless they were major label acts or they were being remixed elsewhere.

Robin Eva and Nick had me sort through all the tapes, catalogue them and then call the record company/artist and try to either recoup any outstanding costs of the physical tapes or try to get them out of the studio during the 1st floor revamp in 1991 as they took up so much space.

There was thousands of tapes placed all over the studio. Most were BBC radio 2 orchestra or 1/4" & 1/2" mixes but there were some proper gems in there too.

Factory bought and removed the Mondays Bummed masters and later passed them onto London Records & Ian Brown bought the Master for the unreleased album the Stone Roses did with Martin (for a lot of money as there was also an outstanding studio bill associated with it).

Apart from a couple of other purchases or collection and removal, all other tapes stayed in the studio as property of the studio as nobody else ever took ownership of them.

It used to drive Robin Eva mad as he considered it a free storage service that used up a huge chunk of space in the building.

There was literally hundreds of old Hannek/Factory material from Slaughter & the dogs, Pshycedelic furs (yellow 2), ACR, Yargo, Nico, Joy Division, JCC, Duritti Column/Vinny Riley, etc but none of it belonged to either Factory or Martin as far as I know.

Factory and Hannek tapes were all stored alphabetically under the artists name as was the case with all the other tapes. There was no special 'collection' for Martin's productions.

Apart from some occasional passing interest the JD tapes were pretty much anonymous and were not stored with any special consideration or care. The JD tapes were well labelled and anybody could have walked out with them at any time if they so desired. Factory & Martin knew where they were, they just were not that important to them (or anybody for that matter) to actually buy or remove them.

I wasn't working for the studio when it closed but always wondered what happened to all the tapes. If I knew they were being thrown in a skip, I would have fought you to get at them first. The loss to music history is massive.

I don't fully understand what the current problem you have is all about, but if you hadn't rescued those tapes they would be gone forever.

The only real 'owner' of those tapes in my opinion was Strawberry Studio's as nobody else paid any consideration to them .

The contents of the tapes are a different matter which is where I think your legal issues lie. I wish you luck with that ;-)

Please let me know if you need anything else.

Ta