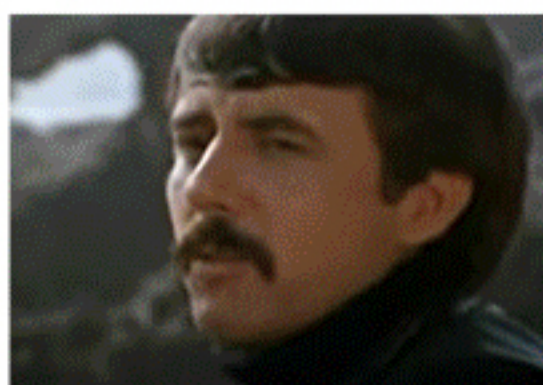




JOSIE COTTON

Josie Cotton asked "Johnny, Are You Queer" in 1981. Decades later, we asked her to name her five favorite music videos.



SOME VELVET MORNING Lee Hazeldwood and Nancy Sinatra

I like any video that looks like a feminine hygiene commercial, which this video does in spades. Nancy's weird white pantsuit and Lee's odd vocal stylings aside, the truth is I am mesmerized by the poetry of his songwriting.. minimal and unexpected. I might not understand it but I'm pretty sure he was banging Nancy Sinatra...or should have.

IN THE LONG RUN The Carrie Nations

Ok I cheated. These are actresses lip synching, drum synching and guitar synching in a fake video. BUT they were coached by Russ Meyer to be the very best at it...and this "video" appeared in his epic movie *Beyond The Valley Of The Dolls* which you owe yourself to see if you haven't. The reason I picked it is because something magic happens here..and as magic disappears from the world I think you have to hold on to it wherever you find it. Even in a fake video with a fake band.



THE MESSAGE Grandmaster Flash and the Furious Five

I remember hearing this for the first time and being riveted by it. There was no anger but you could feel the intensity, and you knew in your gut he was right. Considering everything going on right now in this country, we are right at that edge, and it's been a long time coming. This song is important and the video seminal -- a living window to the streets and faces and rawness. And here we are....

WHIP IT Devo

When I can't understand something I like to call it postmodern. This is like that. Like an S&M session in Pee Wee's Playhouse. I like this video because when I met [DEVO co-founder] Mark Mothersbaugh at a party in Hollywood and told him how inspiring I thought the song was, he looked at me like I was insane. I suppose that's postmodern too.



NASTY Janet Jackson

Janet nails it to the wall in this video. She's the baddest of the bad and her performance is untouchable as well as the other dancers. But her asides, the look on her face, her attitudinal fierceness made me proud. Respect, Ms. Jackson!

» Keep up with Josie at <https://josiecotton.com/>