

# Derrick McLean

Race and Identity  
Presentation October 2021



# Film and Ethics

The background features a stylized illustration of a film camera in black and white, with a large yellow 'M' on its side. To the right, there are several horizontal strips of film in yellow, orange, and blue, each with small white sprocket holes. The overall aesthetic is graphic and modern.

- ❖ As children, we had community clubs and a great memory of mine is Saturday morning cinema for kids. This memory is something that I hold with me into adult life.
- ❖ Film is my preferred form of visual communication like an art gallery and art is for others.
- ❖ I particularly enjoy films that centre on morals, ethics and community. Film brings other peoples stories into my world.
- ❖ I enjoy facilitating film sessions to get a reaction!

# Food and Family

Food brings back memories of childhood when food supported our cultural celebrations

Food a strong part of my identity :

- Family
- Jamaica
- Sundays of coming together linking religion, food and music



# Food and Influence

Watching my mum cook and teach my six brothers and sisters to cook like her was a strong moment in my life. It is very special to me even today.

The women of my family were very influential to my identity and the connection I have to food and culture.

On return to the Uk after many years abroad, I saw a gap in the market and a need for more cultural food to be brought to the Cotswolds. Jamaica Inn Kitchen was born!



# Music and Me

## JAZZ

There is still so much to discover and find.

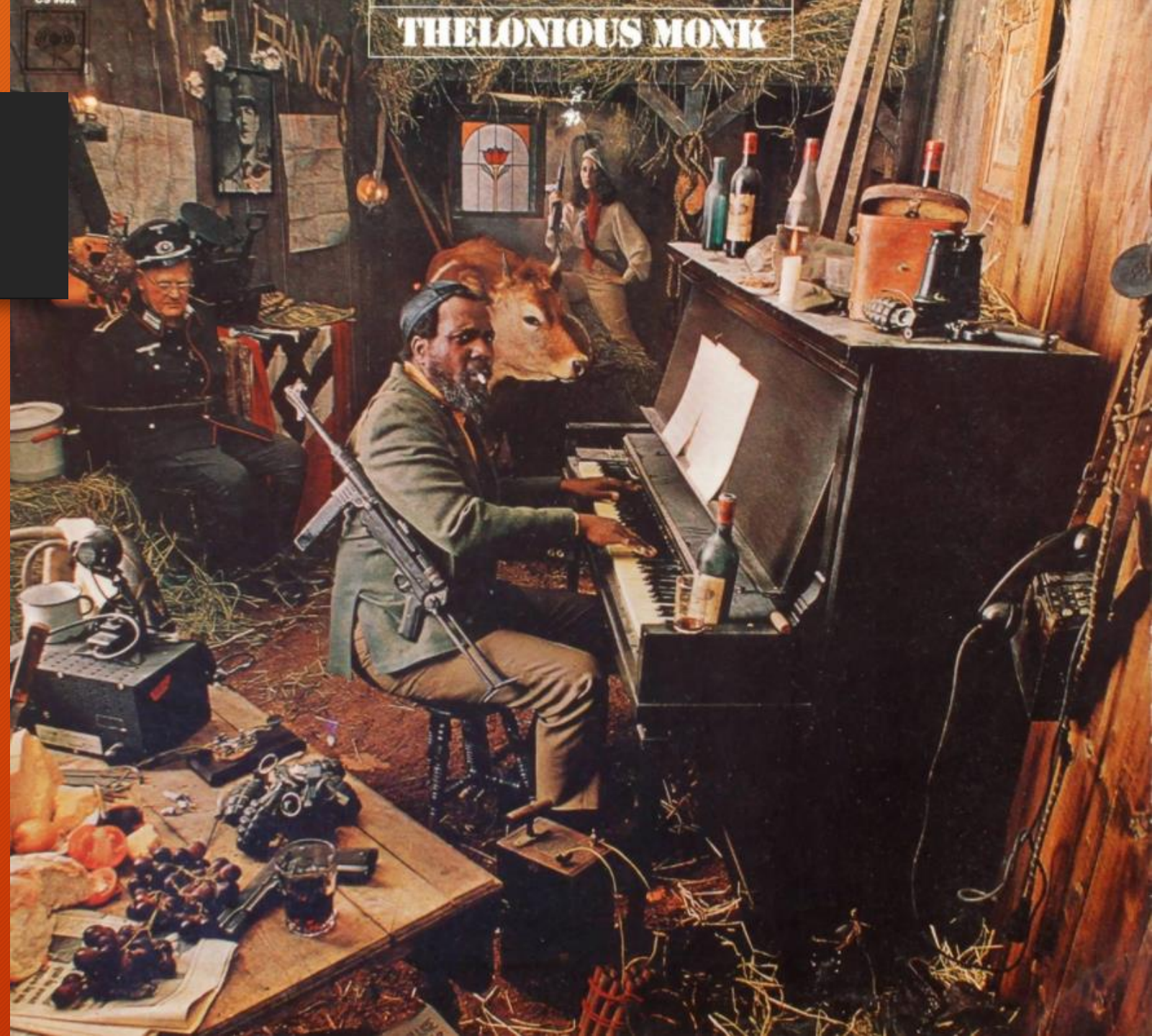
- Caribbean households tend to always have music on, especially at family parties with the stereo gram playing but we were not allowed to touch!
- Back then it was Calipso and Ska, I then moved onto R&B and Soul but found my real love at 17 with the genre they call Jazz or as Duke Ellington used to say “African Classical Music”
- This long journey of discovery to find the vibration that resonates so highly with me has made music even more important

# THELONIOUS MONK

“Talking about music is like dancing over architecture” - Thelonious Monk

Music is my mental therapy and healer. It touches my soul and brightens my heart.

Music keeps me young at heart and wise in time.



# Travel Ambassador of my Black Heritage

- I have always been interested in travel especially after my first trip to Europe at 18.
- Seeing how other cultures see people of colour especially the melanin rich changed me! This then took me to Asia, Africa and South America. This was the first time some people I met had seen a melanin rich person.
- I learnt wherever we are in the world, we are an oppressed race.

# A Cultural Responsibility

- In Eastern Europe in the late 70's I felt people had never seen black people before. They seemed hostile which led me to feel like an ambassador and instilled my determination to make my ancestors proud.
- Travel has made me realise I need to be more mindful in thinking before I speak and a need to portray positive representation of blackness. Especially due to my blackness and dreadlocks.
- This is a very heavy responsibility that I still carry with me today.

