**Richard Dawson**

**Announces new album *The Ruby Cord*, due November 18th**

**Pop video for album’s 40-minute opening track “The Hermit” to be premiered in cinemas across UK –** [**watch trailer**](https://richarddawson.ffm.to/thehermit-yt)



Photo credit: Kuba Ryniewicz

Pop in your earpiece, close your eyes and embrace the wonders (and horrors) of augmented reality and prepare to travel 500 years into the future as **Richard Dawson** returns with his new album ***The Ruby Cord***.

Due on **November 18th** via **Weird World**, the new album is the final part of a trilogy that started with the pre-medieval world of *Peasant*, was brought back to the present day with *2020* and - possibly - concludes in the future with Dawson’s seventh studio album. After recent collaborations with Finnish metal innovators Circle and his work with Hen Ogledd, this is a return to Dawson’s own world with seven tracks that plunge us into an unreal, fantastical and at times sinister future where social mores have mutated, ethical and physical boundaries have evaporated… a place where you no longer need to engage with anyone but yourself and your own imagination.

While *2020* dealt in social realism with explorations of testy football matches, the fallacy of work-life balance and therapeutic forms of repetitive exercise, *The Ruby Cord* shakes off the limitations of so-called real life and delves headlong into a (sort of) sci-fi world where human society has collapsed and morphed into something distinctly less solid. *“So many of us are moving into these fantasy worlds,”* says Dawson. *“Whether it's actual constructed virtual realities, computer worlds, or retreating into even more fantastical realms…. conspiracy theories, nationalism, amateur football punditry. People construct their own world because this one is so flawed.”*

Despite its futuristic setting, Dawson is still tackling contemporary issues - in this near-future, the fantasy world that some people live in looks incredibly like Old England or mythic Albion. But what happens if there’s a glitch in this virtual world that turns a pastoral scene into one of dread? Dawson explains further whilst indicating some of the inspirations behind the album: *“Like when you play video games, sometimes something glitches and it makes something happen that’s really bizarre and disturbing.”*

Opening track **“The Hermit”** is Dawson’s most ambitious work thus far, taking the epic storytelling of 2014’s “The Vile Stuff” and stretching the limits even further into a sprawling 40-minute mood piece that acts as the gateway to the rest of *The Ruby Cord*. An accompanying **40-minute pop video** has been made for “The Hermit” by director **James Hankins**. Telling the story of a loner living in a bucolic dreamworld, the short film will be premiered at several cinemas and art spaces across the UK with Q&A sessions after each screening. These screening events offer the **first opportunity** to hear music from *The Ruby Cord*, with details of live dates in 2023 to follow soon.

[**Watch the trailer for *The Hermit* here**](https://richarddawson.ffm.to/thehermit-yt)**.**

As with *Peasant* and *2020*, *The Ruby Cord* was recorded with Pigs x7’s Sam Grant at Blank Studios in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and the mantra that emerged with The Hermit was *“what happens if we push on a bit further?*”. Joined by regular collaborators Rhodri Davies, Angharad Davies, and drummer Andrew Cheetham the answer to the question is: possibly Dawson’s best songwriting yet.

Album artwork:



Tracklisting:

1. The Hermit

2. Thicker Than Water

3. The Fool

4. Museum

5. The Tip of an Arrow

6. No-one

7. Horse and Rider

**Cinema screenings**

**12th November – Rio, London (4pm) ^
13th November – Belgrave Music Hall, Leeds**

**14th November – The Cube, Bristol ^**

**15th November – Chapeltown Picture House, Manchester**

**16th November - FACT, Liverpool**

**17th November – Star & Shadow, Newcastle ^**

**18th November – CCA, Glasgow**

^ = in person Q&A

[Tickets](https://richarddawson.ffm.to/thehermit-cinemas)

*The Ruby Cord* will be available to preorder on Dom Mart-exclusive double red vinyl with print, indies-exclusive double blue vinyl with print, standard double vinyl, CD and digitally. Preorder: [Dom Mart](https://richarddawson.ffm.to/therubycord-lp) | [Digital](https://richarddawson.ffm.to/therubycord)

**Richard Dawson Online**

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