



COURTESY EDWARD FIELDING

known as the Sex Pistols manager, was also a provocateur and musical producer who was influential on '70s and '80s culture music, acting as a mentor for Ant, and Bow Wow Wow and the New York Dolls. McLaren died in 2010, just as Ant's new album was being recorded.

"Malcolm was a very important character in the history of music," Ant said. "He was a very cultural guy, a great historian in music that many people were not privy to know ... from Charlie Parker to Chopin."

McLaren and his partner at the time, fashion designer Vivienne Westwood, greatly influenced

Ant's dandy highwayman persona with their "pirate collection" of wool, satin, furnishing fabrics and gold braided jackets with metal buttons, evoking a golden age of buccaneers. Flamboyant fashion became a hallmark of Adam and the Ants.

In fact, Ant's style grabbed the attention of the King of Pop, Michael Jackson, who called Ant one morning to ask where Ant found the hussar jacket worn in 1981 for publicity photographs and in a promotional video for the hit single "Prince Charming."

Ant said he thought it was his drummer playing a joke — and he actually hung up on Jackson a few

times before receiving a call from producer Quincy Jones, who convinced Ant that Jackson would indeed like to talk to him.

Ant told me the hussar jacket is now on display in the Victoria and Albert Museum in London.

"Prince Charming," the third and final album released by Adam and the Ants, was the ninth-best-selling album in the U.K. in 1981, featuring hits "Stand and Deliver," "Prince Charming" and "Ant Rap."

We talked about a hidden track on this album, "Lost Hawaiians."

"I'm a great fan of the ukulele and have been for many years," he said. "I wanted to have a ukulele

bass as an outro to the song."

After that run of fantastically popular albums, Ant went on to a solo career, culminating with an eighth album, "Wonderful," in 1995.

IF ANT IS NOT writing music and playing it, he is getting involved. He recently reached out to raise awareness about mental illness for the Black Dog Campaign, launched by the U.K. mental health charity SANE.

Mental illness is a personal subject for Ant, 58, who has been open about the bipolar disorder he has battled since his youth.

Ant sometimes describes his illness as a "black dog." The black dog has been used as a metaphor for depression and dark thoughts for centuries; England's Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill famously used the term to describe his darker moods during World War II. Now, SANE's black dog sculptures have become a symbol for the organization's campaign in London and other cities.

Ant is among several celebrities backing the project. He helped design one of the dog's black coats, and a sculpture, Elvis, is named after one of his own pets.

Mental illness is often difficult to communicate because it is misunderstood, Ant said, adding he hopes the sculptures and their tactile quality will help open up communication.

"I think any awareness is important," he said. "It is not something to be ashamed of."

"I think a lot of people forget this. It is an illness, not a disease. It is curable, and I think one day, the more we research the interior of the brain, we will look back on this time and move on. Hopefully we will know how to deal with it."

*DJ Nocturna hosts "Feast of Friends," a dark, '80s-inspired radio show, 6-9 p.m. Saturdays on University of Hawaii at Manoa's radio station KTUH 90.3 FM. She's a co-producer of the "Miss Vamp Hawaii" reality show, 10:30 p.m. Saturdays on KFVE, and the Miss Vamp Hawaii Beauty Pageant, Oct. 10 at Hawaii Theatre. Find out more at [djnocturnaandlana.com](http://djnocturnaandlana.com).*

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#### Adam Ant

*The singer, who is open about his bipolar disorder, on backing the Black Dog Campaign awareness initiative*