“The Resurrection of Grunge”

By Paula Calvo

After his very unexpected resurrection, on April 5th 2019, exactly on the 25th anniversary of his death, Kurt Cobain called the BBC. He said who he was, and asked for an interview to share with the world what had happened to him. We waited at the door of the “The Underground” concert hall, where grunge music was born and where the legendary band Nirvana was giving their first concert since the false death of the vocalist Kurt Cobain. In the interview mentioned above, Cobain had promised to give this concert.

Among the impatient and nervous crowd, we have found a fifteen-year-old girl called Paula that has accepted to answer some questions for us:

**I: - Well, first of all I have to say that you seem very young to listen to this kind of music, because if I do the math, you weren’t even born when grunge died. Why do you listen to this genre?**

**P:** - This music is part of my childhood. Since I remember my mom always played Pearl Jam or Soundgarden in the car on our way to school or to wherever we had to go, because we lived in a village near the city, so we had to be all the in the car. And also, in my mom’s family, most of her brothers listen to this music too. So I got into grunge music because of my family.

**I: - And what do you know about grunge? Not just the historical part, but the cultural and ideological side.**

**P:** - Well, what I can say are the things that my mom and uncles have told me about how they lived grunge. In all the ways: ideological, artistic, etc. Directly from their point of view, as I have said. From what I know, grunge wasn’t just a few bands that liked distorted guitars, guttural vocal melodies or strong batteries. Grunge was a way of thinking, of living, that had a meaning for an entire generation of young people. It generated a great mass movement for young people, who adopted the position of being against a consumerist society. They didn’t have an interest in their personal image their interest was more imposed by the thought and the ideologies that reject and ignore the physical aspect that broke with the daily life of the society. My mom says that most of the people her age were conformist and rebellious, that they rejected their daily routine, and in general they showed disdain and lack of interest in society, basically that is what grunge is based on. Grunge created a whole generation of anticapitalistic and anticonsumerist adolescents.

**I: - And about the grunge look?**

**P:** - From what my uncles have told me, everyone their age – basically young people – started to wear ripped jeans, XXL plaid shirts, disheveled hair …they basically looked like a mess, just as Kurt usually dresses.

**I: - Now that you mention it… Why do you think that Kurt, or Nirvana, became so important for that generation?**

**P:** - Cobain became the spokesperson of that generation. He founded a movement that would give free rein to the anger and frustration of an entire lost generation. Maybe, until then, they had been ignored, and they had been in the dark looking for someone who could talk to them about their most hidden emotions; or at least, this is how the people of that generation felt it.

**I: - In your opinion, why did grunge disappear?**

**P:** - The main leaders of the grunge movement were addicted to heroin, to drugs in general; and started to disappear, but with the supposed death of Kurt in 1994, everything decayed. As he said in his interview with the BBC, he had to disappear because the society that made him famous was the one he was against to. The movement that he created was against the consumerist society that made him famous, and that was consuming him. Luckily he’s back and I can’t wait to see him perform! Oh my god I’m really nervous!

**I: - Yeah it shows, I can tell. Has it been very hard for you to get here?**

**P:** - Yes, to be honest. I’ve spent my life’s savings on this ticket, and a kidney too hahaha; but I don’t regret it. I am sure that it is going to be one of the best experiences of my life, for real. Oh look, they are starting to enter the concert hall! God, I’ve never been this excited in my whole life! It’s been great talking with but I have to go! Bye!

**I: - The same to you! Thank you and have fun!**

Even though it’s been 25 years since grunge disappeared, I am glad to see that there are still young people interested in this kind of music, and now, with the reappearance of the vocalist and guitarist Kurt Cobain, maybe grunge will also be resurrected.