

Danger Mouse: 'Working with Mark Linkous wasn't easy, but it was worth it'

Let the man behind The Grey Album talk (and play) you through Dark Night of the Soul, the record he made with David Lynch and the late Mark Linkous of Sparklehorse

I first met Mark Linkous after I released The Grey Album in 2004. His manager played him my album and told him that I was a [Sparklehorse](#) fan, so he took an interest. We began working on Dark Night of the Soul in 2005. It became obvious that both Mark and I wanted to write songs that were melodically out of our range, or at least just not within the realms of what we could bring as performers, so we thought about who would be right for each song. The first one we worked on together was Just War, which Gruff Rhys performs, because Mark didn't think his own singing could do it justice.

I like that the album starts with Revenge, it's a really dark, grand song. It's a good example of how working with different people can be unpredictable. We had a cool idea for what we wanted the song to be, something more humble and laidback, and when Wayne (Coyne, of the Flaming Lips) came on board he took it somewhere bigger and darker than we had imagined. It's a good introduction to the album; there's a heaviness about the whole thing, but at the same time the melodies are really pretty.

Working with Mark wasn't always easy. To be honest, it's difficult for me to talk about. We're both producers with completely different styles – this album was a much longer process than I'm used to, but for him it was much shorter. I think we both knew that making a record we were happy with would be difficult, but no matter how hard it was we were always friends who could just hang out with each other. And the outcome was absolutely worth it.

[David Lynch](#)'s input was largely visual, but he joked about singing on the record and we decided to take him up on it. I'd seen him singing on his last film, Inland Empire, and he has a good voice, so we got him to sing Stars Eyes (I Can't Catch It) and the last song, Dark Night of the Soul.

Danger Mouse was speaking to Rosie Swash. Dark Night of the Soul is released on Monday 12 July