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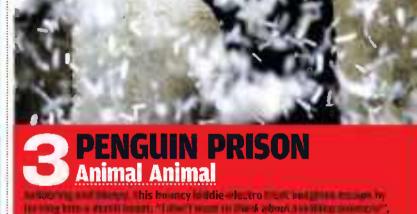
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stylised, we wanted to let the song



4 NME 31 October 2009





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On MySpace now

TO MY BOY Us And The Wind

Former Radar favourites To My Boy are back with more winning eccentricity. But this time, it's less oddball electropop, more sad-eyed folktronica. A demo taken from 'The Habitable Zone', a concept album due in 2010 about what happens when we suck the last bit of lifeblood out of Earth and have to go hunting the galaxy looking for a place to live, this is sweetly sombre and lovely. On MySpace now





RIHANNA Russian Roulette

first, have you seen that single sleeve? Christ. We love a girl who thinks barbed wire and an eyepatch is suitable winterwear. Anyway, the song itself is a weird, weird business. Opening with squalling hair-metal guitar that fades into a dark world fashioned by dubstep producers Chase & Status, pulsing and squelching like the giant robot heart pulsing under Gotham City, it's

suddenly illuminated by a lightning bolt of a pop chorus. Rather than just another pop metaphor for a broken heart, it seems Rihanna is actually facing down some unknown oppressor. "He says close your eyes sometimes it helps/And then I get a scary thought that he's here means he's never lost…". It's like she's Robert De Niro in The Deer Hunter, only with more bondage gear and a bigger forehead.

On YouTube now

7 SILVER COLUMNS

Brow Beaten

No-one knows who Silver Columns are! Or what they look like! They don't have a MySpace! Cripes, the enigma! All we have to base our love upon is this ridiculously hi-NRG falsetto romp, which sounds like the adrenaline whizzing through your body as someone batters you to death with a GameBoy loaded with Super Bronski Beat Brothers. On Pinglewood.com now

8 RAKIM Walk These Streets

If you read our Ian Brown and Jay-Z cover feature a few weeks back, you'll remember the awesome twosome getting all in a mutual flutter over the work of true hip hop legends Eric B & Rakim. Well, Rakim, who's been flying solo since a messy split from his DJ partner in the '90s, has a new album coming out (his first in 10 years). You can hear the influence he had on Jigga in this stone-cold classic hip-hop cut – that's why they call him 'the rapper's rapper'.

On MySpace now



9 LOVERMANCrypt Tonight

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The Control of the Co



... AND WHAT ISN'T

DATABOCK

The Pretender

Band uniforms, sounding like a rubbish version of The Rapture via The Hives... guys, it's not 2001. The only good bit of their recent live show was when they played '(I've Had) The Time Of My Life' over the PA.

BRAKES

Why Tell The Truth (When It's Easier

The rabid indie fan-boy love that this band seem to inspire in blogland never ceases to mystify. Boooring.

LADY GAGA

Bad Romance

We have a lot of time for any nutjob that starts a song "Raah Raah Ah-Ah-Ahh, Rama Ra-Mah Mah, GaGa, Ooh La La", but the rest of it is ol' Poker Face on so-superficial-it's-art-baby autopilot.

DEADMAU5

FML

This is now beyond a joke. Someone use poison to send this mouse to the great cheeseboard in the sky.

ALPHABEAT

The Spell

You might think this lot are an easy target, but that's only because they farm out sub-Ace Of Base mid'90s-aping pap like this. Agonising.



White Stripes film: the first glimpse

Jack and Meg's Canadian tour documentary, *Under Great White Northern Lights*, isn't hitting UK cinemas until 2010. But *NME*'s Leonie Cooper has had a sneak preview

ovely, but a little bleak. That's how the home of Arcade Fire, Crystal Castles and ice hockey appears in *Under Great White Northern Lights*. The film documents The White Stripes' 2007 attempts to inject some colour – well, three colours – into the sparse scenery of Canada, with a post-Ticky Thump' tour that traded arenas for shows in the most remote tours a possible.

With film-mal er Emmett Malloy on the tourbus, they visit places called things like Whitehorse and Yellowknife, somehow managing to not freeze to their instruments. The tour took place in summer, but it looks seriously cold – especially in the bare black-andwhite shots that constitute half the movie and make Malloy's film look so much like a Jim Jarmusch flick you half expect Tom Waits to pop up holding a whisky bottle. Arty but accessible, Malloy's film is a treat for any Stripes fan: a document of a global band visiting

the ends of the Earth to deliver their delicious clatter to their most out-of the-way followers.

As well as the official gigs, the film documents the band's 'sideshows': mini-gigs in a pool hall, flour mill, on a boat, a bus, in a café and, best of all, in a bowling

Tears roll down Meg's face as she sits next to Jack at a piano as he sings 'White Moon'

alley where, mid-set, Jack goes for a strike Suddenly Canada doesn't seem so bleak after all

Balancing ferocious live propups with meetings with Inuit elders and dreamlike strolls in graveyards, the most revealing moment of the film is not the wildly intense live music – no-one's forgotten how incendiary

these two are onstage – but when Jack makes the point that he doesn't hog band interviews on purpose, it's just that Meg hardly ever speaks. Here we finally get to see that it's not just in interviews that Meg's muteness takes hold, but in regular day-to-day life.

In fact, when Meg does say something, it's so quiet that subtitles are used to make sure that the audience can make out what she's on about. Despite Jack's constant-but-affable teasing about her limited way with words, Meg seems happily nonplussed. With a grin on her face for most of the film, it's not until the end that she seems less than content. In fact, sitting next to Jack at a piano as he sings 'White Moon' she actually looks traumatised Tears roll down her face and Jack offers a big cuddle to cheer her up – with no explanation as to what's making her weep. Maybe it's the fact that she's desperate to get on with the next White Stripes record? Here's hoping...

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7 DAYS IN MUSIC



The Rakes send final message

he Rakes have revealed that it was tour burn-out that led to them announcing last Thursday (October 22) that they were calling it a day. The London four-piece, who released three albums in their career after forming in 2004, cancelled their UK and US tour, with bassist Jamie Homsmith telling NME that the thought of having to play the dates was "hell".

"We split because we felt like we just couldn't give it 100 per cent any more," he explained. "We had this three-week American tour coming up and it was real hell. We were already like zombies from the European tour."

Hornsmith pointed to the band's gruelling gig schedule to explain the burn-out. "This summer we did 29 festivals," he said. "That's a hell of a lot of lying. When you become fazed by touring your heart's not in it. It's not fair on the fans."

The bassist claimed that the split had nothing to do with sales of their last album, 'Klang'. "Our tour sold well and we got offered a fourth album by our record label - we weren't dropped," he insisted. "We're all comfortable with the decision - every band has its lifespan, I wish more bands would split rather than milling it."

He added that the band were still mates ("We're going out drinking on Friday actually!") and said that despite all the gigging it was in fact their first big appearance in NME that stuck in his memory most. "My highlight in The Rakes?" he pondered? "It's got to be out first Radar feature! That was pretty exciting!"

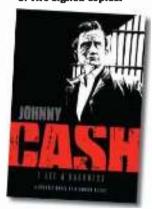
GUNNING FOR DEMOCRACY



WINNIPEG = Axl Rose has fuelled rumours that 2010 will see Guns N'Roses tour the world by announcing a run of 13 live dates set to take place in Canada throughout January 2010. The gigs - the band's first since 2007 - kick off in Winnipeg on January 13 and take in Calgary. Montreal, Toronto, Ottawa and Ouebec. On top of this, Asian dates, which would include shows in Taiwan, Seoul, Osaka and Tokyo, have been strongly rumoured. Rolling Stone magazine also reports that there is a strong hint of a possible full-on 'Chinese Democracy' world jaunt.

LONDON Well, sort of. The former winner of The X Factor's new album 'Echo' ~ out November 17 - features a version of the 2002 Oasis single 'Stop Crying Your Heart Out'. The Gallagher classic is given much the same makeover as Snow Patrol's 'Run' was, climaxing with a choir at the end. No Oasis members were available for comment.

FOLSOM - Johnny Cash has been reincarnated in a new form - as a graphic novel star. The late country legend appears in German comic artist Reinhard Kleist's book, Johnny Cash: I See A Darkness, in which his life story is told through Kleist's art. "I tried to find a clear style that fits to the era," Kleist told NME. See NME.COM/win to get your hands on one of two signed copies.



"The topic is not funny and it's NOT TRUE!"

AMBER ROSE RESPONDS TO FALSE TWITTER RUMOURS ABOUT YEEZY'S DEATH

LIL WAYNE : BIG TROUBLI **MEW YORK** Lii Wayne could be

facing a one-year prison sentence after pleading guilty to attempted weapon possession. He made the plea in New York City, where two years previously, on the night of his first ever headline show in the Big Apple, police



officers pulled over his tour bus, at which point a Louis Vuitton bag containing a firearm was allegedly thrown from the vehicle. Wayne is now free on bail and will be sentenced next February.

YEA – WE'RE BACK

BROOKLYN = Yeasayer, who recently showcased new material supporting Bat For Lashes in the UK, have announced that the follow-up to their debut album 'All Hour Cymbais' will be out next February. The album, 'Odd Blood', is set for release on February 9. Before that, the band will play a one-off show at New York's Guggenheim Museum, on October 30.

Run-DMC's Rev Run and DMC - the last surviving members of the hip-hop legends - are in talks to create a Broadway show



about the band. The pair are set to meet producer Paula Wagner about the new project.

Jarvis flexes up

SHOREDITCH

arvis Cocker is set to become an aerobics instructor of sorts in London. The ex-Pulp man will play live at classes at the Village Underground venue in Shoreditch on Nov 8-11. The free event will have Cocker inviting fans to bring along instruments to join in with his band.





Is Morrissey still ill?

orrissey, it was really nothing this time. Despite collapsing onstage at Swindon's Oasis Leisure Centre on Saturday (October 24) after just one song, doctors say it's unlikely Moz is seriously ill. However, with Monday's Bournemouth show postponed and question marks over future dates, medical experts say he needs a good check up. "That he left hospital on Sunday rules out a

major emergency such as a heart attack or acute appendicitis," explained GP and health writer Dr Carol Cooper, "but the circumstances do point to an underlying health problem."

While not ruling out exhaustion, the fact that

the former Smiths star also cancelled a tour due to a throat illness earlier this year means it's likely he will now be tested for a potential long term health issue, Dr Cooper added. The singer's vegetarian lifestyle should reduce the likelihood of high blood pressure or heart disease, but, as he's 50 years old neither can be ruled out.

"His adrenal glands would have been pumping stress hormones, and combined with a lack of sleep, this could leave him at risk of infections and illnesses," she said of the moment he took a tumble. "But my money would be on gut trouble

the expression on his face throughout his career has always suggested abdominal pain...' Get well soon, Moz.



JACK POPPING UP SHOP

LONDON - Jack White's Third Man record label is set to erect a 'pup-up' record shop in London this week. The details of the shop will be announced on NME Radio stay tuned on Thursday (October 29) for the information. Past Third Man temporary stores opened in New York and Los Angeles and have seen surprise performances from The Dead Weather.

"I'm breaking in. I'll be the guy wearing the 'Flashback' T shirt, setting fire to Ben Shephard's tie and hair"

CALVIN HARRIS REACTS
CALMLY TO GMTV REFUSING TO PLAY HIS NEW SINGLE

VULTURES SWOOP FOR ALBUM

Them Crooked Vultures have revealed when they're going to re ease their a burn. Dave Groh , Josh Homme and John Pau Jones will release their self titled effort on November 17. Turn to page 40 for more on TCV.



LONDON Flowered Up frontman Liam Maher died last Tuesday (October 20) a sed 41. The details of the death of the London baggy band's frontman were unclear as NME went to press. Former NME cover star Maher's biggest hit with the band was their Top 20 single 'Weekender'.

LOS ANGELES & Former bandmate Ax Rose might be gearing up for a Guns N'Roses tour, but guitarist S ash has been busy recording a so o a burn signing up Wo fmother wai er Andrew Stockda e as his atest guest singer. "Maybe because 've got that o d schoo de ivery it matches what he was trying to do," Stockda e said.

BANDMATES

MEMPHIS ■ Jay Reatard has signed up a new backing band after his ast one wa ked out on him mid tour. Bassist Anders Thode and drummer Jacob E ving from Danish punk band Co a Freaks have joined the US rocker to he p him comp ete touring commitments. His origina band eft, with Reatard branding them "boring rich kids".

Florence's pals

lorence And The Machine's Florence Welch is set to play an NME Calling collaboration gig at London's Tabernacle venue on November 27. The singer, billing the event as Florence And Friends, will then head to Club NME at KOKO for the aftershow. See NME.COM/calling for details of more NME Calling gigs and ticket details.





NME's Jamie Fullerton tags along as the five-piece take British indie to Africa

i, I'm Felix, I'm from London, I'm a musician." The Maccabees' singer/ quitarist Felix White tells the 30-strong group of Malawian women. Their giggling, raggedy-clothed kids are in tow in the dusty courtyard in Mangochi, 32-degree sun-rays beating down on White's locks. The women respond with whoops and claps, suddenly bursting into song and dance. "That was the most nervous I've been in my life," whispers the man whose band headlined the O2 Academy in rain-lashed Brixton, south London the week before.

The five Maccabees - Felix, frontman Orlando Weeks, guitarist Hugo White, bassist Rupert Jarvis and drummer Sam Doyle - are in the heart of Malawi, the only western band to be invited to play at the Lake Of Stars festival that takes place literally on the shore of Lake Malawi. The event (October 15-18) - featuring a reggae-heavy bill of African acts plus guest spots from fellow Brits rapper Sway and Hot Chip's Joe Goddard, who plays a DJ set - takes place in the plush Sunbird

Nkopola Lodge. However, the band are keen to get out and meet the locals in one of the poorest countries in the world, where the average annual wage of around £150 means the Mangochi townspeople can't really afford the £55 pass.

Orlando, usually a shy, nervy singer, seems rather inspired by the loud greeting the band received from

the locals. Kids swarm and dance around him, the frontman duly busting some moves himself while clapping as a bony-legged lad does the splits to impress him Unexpectedly, an older girl, Josephine, asks to swap numbers with Felix. "I'm

definitely going to text her from back home!" laughs the guitarist. "It was touching that they made an effort for us," Orlando admits after the dancing has died down. "They were all dressed up, singing their best harmonies.'

Started in 2004 as a DJ-led event, Lake Of Stars has expanded in size and musical range while forging partnerships with the local community and charity programmes which share the event's profits.

"We feel like fish out of water," says Felix after watching Malawi Rastafarian reggae band Black Missionaries on the beach stage overlooking the

hippopotamus and crocodile-"We transported people homing Lake Malawi. He admits he has no idea why the band were asked to play and that he knew practically nothing about to practically nothing about the country - the organisers simply dropped them a line and they said "yes" quicker

than a croc can snap its jaws shut. "We're the kind of band who should be nowhere near a festival like this," he laughs, as nearby his manager gets told off by a Malawian lifeguard for swimming into the "hippo

zone" in the lake.

FELIX WHITE

MANDO DIAO GIVE ME FIRE

THE NEW ALBUM OUT MONDAY









Rupert and Hugo debate the setlist with local kids



tropical beach. The next night it's showtime. Orlando, hardly a stallion of confidence any time, is nervous. He's got to follow reggae musician and local politician Lucius Banda, whose show features a female Malawian dancer grinding herself against a British bloke summoned played here twice, I'm a veteran!" from the crowd. The Maccabees needn't have worried. The atmosphere is one of eclectic acceptance rather

into the spirit of it so much that they invite four girls on stage to dance with them before recruiting another later on to add harmonica to 'Toothpaste Kisses'. "We were chatting to a guy who said for an hour we made him feel like he was out of Malawi," recalls Felix

compliment - we transported him to somewhere rainy

after a walk around the crowd. "He meant it as a

than genre snobbery, and the band prove as big a hit

as the reggae party-starters earlier. In fact they get

"Has Latchmere really got a wave machine then, boys?" for an hour." He seems baffled as to why the new fan would want to envisage the dreariness of rain-soaked

south London at this time of year, as opposed to the

The Malawi bands they shared the stage with, too, seem very impressed with what they see. "They rock!" exclaims Ernest Ikwanga, frontman of Afro-rock reggae band Mafilika, from Malawi's capital Lilongwe. "I've heard them before, on the internet. Soft rockvery good!" Lucius Banda is similarly enamoured. "They're great, serious stuff," he announces, posing for snaps with Felix. "This is a world-class festival – I've

The Maccabees say they see the gig as a celebration of their year. With second album 'Wall Of Arms' making a Jack Peñate and Horrors-esque leap in quality from middling 2007 debut 'Colour It In', the band have deftly swerved landfill indiedom by turning down support slots with the likes of Snow Patrol and now seem to be reaping the rewards.

The band spend their final day in Malawi on safari at Liwonde National Park, which induces cries of "that is siiitick" from the band as they gawp at elephants

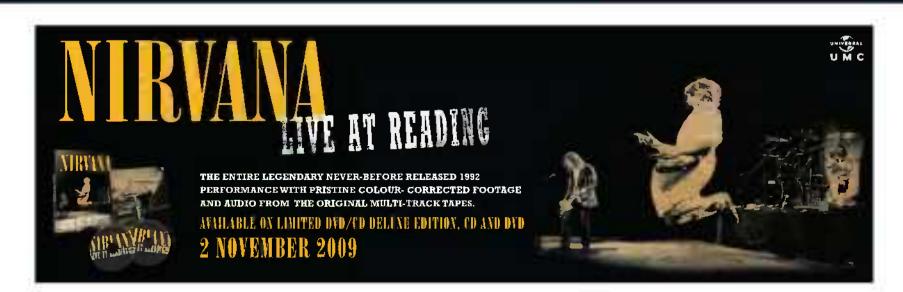
locking tusks, lurking crocodiles and baboons scuttling by.

"That reminds me of a monkey I saw back in the hotel," Orlando laughs from the safety of a jeep. "I went to grab my camera and it roared at me. It had a baby with it - it thought I was the kind of guy who would steal a baby."

A final DJ set on the beach ends the day and then The Maccabees are back on the dusty road, taking a rickety old bus back to Lilongwe airport. Although the band haven't quite been inspired by their visit to go down the Rastafarian reggae route for album number three, seeing the Malawi bands has clearly made a massive impression on them. "The standard they play - that percussion, it's just so far ahead technically of us as musicians," he admits "I'm kind of in awe."



For more pictures and blogs on The Maccabees' Malawian adventure, head to NME.COM





NME: So your Brixton gig and the ATP you're curating next year have sold out, is the reunion about getting a big pay day for you all?

Spiral Stairs (aka Scott Kannberg):

"No, it wasn't like we were getting offers, people knocking down the door saying, 'Please reform.' We just had this discussion with our agent and he said, You know, it's going to be 10 years [since Pavement split], it could be a really cool thing for everybody involved, you guys, your fans - if we plan it out right.' So once we started having those discussions, we just kind of went from there. I guess everybody was in the same headspace. I don't think two or three years ago I would've been able to do it - I would have wanted to, but it wouldn't have felt the same. I'm in a much better place than I was then."

Selling out four dates in New York a year in advance must have felt good, though?

"You always need your ego stroked a little bit. It's been so long since we've done anything, so we thought, 'OK, let's see how much people really love us!' I think if we'd put one show on sale and it had taken a while to sell tickets we would have been, 'OK, we'll still do it, but the demand's not really there, we'll just do a few shows,' but the response has been incredible."

So what have you actually got planned for the gigs?

"We'll figure that out when we start rehearsing! Luckily we have 10 years' worth of material to sort through, so it'll be fun to go through that! You know,

we're starting to arrange these shows before we've even practiced or figured out if we sound good. But everyone's been playing music

for the last 10 years, so we're all pretty well-connected to it, it's not like we're just picking up guitars again."

If you had to pick them now, what songs would you play?

"Any Pavement song would be a treat to play – 'Range Life' is a good one, I think we did that song really well, you know. Of course, I can't wait to sing my songs. Every Pavement song I love, they're a big part of my life."

And everyone's on board? What about original drummer Gary Young, who left the band back in 1993?

"We haven't talked to Gary yet, maybe at some point he'll be involved. We just have to figure out what would be the best way

to do it. We love Gary, he's an important part of Pavement."

So many bands reform these days - isn't it getting tired?

"I think every reunion always starts off really exciting. Every time I've seen a band play that hasn't been round in a while, it's been great."

Can we expect the obligatory greatest hits compilation?

"There's talk of doing a best of, with some really cool outtakes on that. The very first radio show that Pavement ever did has never been released. I don't think anyone's ever heard it, so we'll put that out there sometime." You've also just released a solo album, 'The Real Feel'; why's it been so long since the last one (2004's Preston School Of Industry album 'Monsoon')?

"I'd just gone through a divorce and I stayed up in Seattle and didn't do much. I have a house up there that I've been renovating, and I went through a few relationships that were not very positive and the next thing you know it's three or four years later. And then I finally met someone who got me back on track, and so, yeah, I'm in a much better place than I was at that time."

Finally, it's the 10-year anniversary of Pavement's split next month, so why aren't you playing the gigs then?

"I think those kind of dates are really important – but it's close enough!"



"We just thought, 'OK,

let's see how much

people really love us!"





Right now I'm loving...

'LOVERS' CARVINGS'



'He's on Warp, he's got an album called 'Ambivalence Avenue' and it's all great, I love it. This song kind of reminds me of Damon

[Gough, Badly Drawn Boy]'s first record, 'The Hour Of Bewilderbeast': really sunny. The rest of the record goes through quite folky wistful stuff to mashed-up, chopped up hip-hop It's a really great range, he does it really well I've not seen him live - I'd love to."

My karaoke song...

'MY PREROGATIVE' BOBBY BROWN



only ever did it once. I got the sheet, and I thought that'd be the one to most induce mirth in my bandmates I've got to

admit that I started breaking up at the end of my performance. But I did get some high fives off my table, though I don't know what anyone else thought of it. I think it was spectacular, but that's the end of it. I'm going to chalk that one up to experience."

I wish I'd written...

LORD FRANKLIN' MARTIN CARTHY



"Lord Franklin sailed through the Arctic with his crew in the 19th century and they didn't make it, they ended up lost at sea

This song is based on a poem by his wife, apparently. Many years later it became a folk standard, but Martin Carthy's version is just beautiful. Did you know that Bob Dylan was such a fan that he used to come up and hang out with people like Martin Carthy? Anyway, I just think this is beautiful it's a great song."

My first record...

'NO MORE HEROES' THE STRANGLERS



No More Horoes "I was about eight years old when I got it. There used to be a record shop in the precinct near my nana's house, and I was

never out of there really, on a Saturday. I just loved punk. I loved The Stranglers: I loved loads of punk stuff when I was a kid. My dad used to take me to loads of punk gigs from an early age; The Clash, the Ramones, Ian Dury, and The Stranglers when they had a stripper..."

To make me dance

BETTER CHANGE YOUR MIND' WILLIAM ON YEABOR



David Byrne label is really great for finding obscure old must-haves. They put out a compilation called 'The Funky, Fuzzy

Sound Of West Africa' about two years ago, maybe a bit longer. 'Better Change Your Mind' is just eight minutes of seriously funky West African - it's the stand-out track for me. It's from about 1974 or something. That compilation is amazing - I'd recommend it to anyone."

An emotional one...

'TO BE STILL' ALELA DIANE



"I heard it on Later .. With Jools Holland a couple of weeks ago, just her and her guitarist, she's just got an incredible voice. I bought

the album, really nice, but that's the stand-out track. I think someone's giving her the run-around, or has given her the run-around, and what I get from it, is she's kind of saving, 'When you've worked all this out of your system, I quess I'll still be here, but I'm not a doormat 'That's what I'm getting from the lyrics."

A new band I love...

KURT VILE & THE VIOLATORS



'Andy [W"lliams, Doves drummerl sent me a link the other day of a YouTube clip of them playing South By Southwest in

Austin, Texas, the track's called 'Freak Train'. It's wild, the guy's amazing. I think he's on his third or fourth record. I don't know where he's from, but it's really, really exciting. You just gotta hear it, it had me almost out of my seat. It's just really, really mesmerising. It's quite psychedelic."



My first gig...

HEICLASH MANCHESTER APOLLO 1977

"I was told we were going for a Chinese meal in town for my birthday, and then we rock up at the Apollo and you see the classic 'Tonight only: The Clash' in big letters, and I nearly wet myself. I had to get out of there when they did 'White Riot' - people at the Apollo used to rip the chairs out and they were flying everywhere so my dad grabbed me and took me home."







Wednesday (NME, October 17) and see the amazing Mr Jamie T smiling back at me. He's probably the only musician making the Top 10 these days who has such unbelieveable, raw and genuine talent and isn't performing just to please his record label. He didn't have to be discovered on The X Factor, and his music has that true grittiness about it. His 'bolshy' behaviour and his shed-turned-studio just add to his uniqueness, resulting in him making 'Kings & Queens' the coolest album I've heard in some time. Jamie T; a man with some slamming beats and a great head of hair. A winning combination, I'd say. More interviews with less-publicised musicians, please. I'm growing weary of staring at Matt Bellamy's pout, not to mention Liam Gallagher's unibrow. Ta.

Rebekah Rennick, Ireland

With this in mind, Rebekah, we're only putting artists on the cover with fine heads of hair from now on. Hear that, Ryan Jarman? You and your bowl-cut are shit out of luck – BP

MR HUDSON: A WARNING FROM HISTORY

Couldn't agree more with your assessment of the Brand New album (NME, October 17). Great band that's been overlooked for too long now. What I'm baffled by is why, if you think it's so good, all it gets is a few paras, whereas Mr Hudson – an album you've utterly trashed - gets a full half-page? Slating a Mr Hudson album is an activity akin to shooting fish in a barrel, and I'd be sceptical about how many people that read NME actually care about his polished pop pish? If his album is truly only worth 2/10 then treat it appropriately and make it a mere footnote. A bigger editorial push for the bands you're enjoying would get more people interested in them, and surely that's what you want, no? Stu, Musselburgh

You know when it snows and there's a really bad road accident and those

electronic signs flash up 'ICY ROADS, ACCIDENT AHEAD: SLOW DOWN' just so everyone knows to be really careful and avoid the dangerous bits, because if they don't they might die or maim themselves or some similarly horrible fate? No-one complains there are too many warnings for that, do they? That's exactly the same thinking behind why we gave 'Straight No Chaser' half a page: even one copy sold counts as an atrocity – BP

First of all, I would like to praise this magazine for its opinionated style. You aren't afraid to slate an artist and go directly against popular opinion (for example, saying Jay-Z was better than Coldplay). While this usually sets you apart from the other music mags and deserves £2.30 from my wallet, I disagree with some of your comments. For example, I don't share the same adoring sentiments you give Arctic Monkeys week in, week out, but hey that's just my opinion. But I'm allowed to straight-up disagree with you when you get your facts wrong (So that means I can pull you up on your grammar? Rad! -BP), which has been increasingly pissing me off, One, you dismissed Kid Cudi and MGMT's 'Pursuit Of Happiness', but the other week (NME, September 26) it was in your 10 Tracks To Check Out This Week, directly contradicting yourselves. Two, I agreed with your harsh treatment of Mr Hudson's album, but how dare you say 'Forever Young' is the worst track on 'The Blueprint 3', where did it chart? Higher than 'Death Of Auto-Tune'. Fact. Sort it out.

Daniel Long, Guernsey

One, NME isn't compiled by one person; it's a constantly shifting and nebulous beast, which means we all







"Here's a pic of me and Alex Turner, Meeting him was a dream fulfilled for me!"



"Met Ryan Jarman after The Cribs' recent gig at Leamington Spa. He was brilliant!"



"Here is a pic of me and Arctic Monkeys drummer Matt Helders. He was such a sweetheart!"

sit around arguing about everything. So it's a bunfight: you get different opinions in NME because they're written by different people, it's not a case of us contradicting ourselves. Two, you're using the general public's buying habits as 'facts' denoting unimpeachable quality? Try this: 10million people bought Celine Dion's howling abortion 'My Heart Will Go On'. Are you saying that makes it exactly - scientifically speaking twice as good as Survivor's 'Eye Of The Tiger', aka The Fourth Greatest Song Of All Time, which only sold 5million? You are? Make like a tree, and geddoudahere - BP

VAMPIRES SUCK

I have to say, I am very upset about the New Moon soundrack. I detest the Twilight series, and I am infuriated by the fact that wonderful artists such as Grizzly Bear, Thom Yorke and Muse have become a part of this ghastly franchise. I could not give two tosses about Paramore being used - Paramore fans and Twilight fans are very similar. However, the thought of horrible, teeny, scene children listening to my favourite band (Grizzly Bear) and other artists that I love (Thom Yorke/Radiohead/Muse) makes me miserable. I realise that I sound snobby and very harsh, and maybe I am, but I cannot bear the thought of hundreds of fangirls appearing at their gigs, which are normally serene, magical events, or going on about how much they love them when they have heard about two tracks by the band in question. It is too vile. Elsie Sorrell, Leeds

Ah, the whiff of elitism. I agree, Elsie, it's really bloody annoying when bands you love are savvy enough to make business decisions (perhaps because their 'fans' are nicking their music?) that ensure they get some cash so they can actually survive and keep making music. Personally, I'd prefer them to all chuck themselves off the Brooklyn Bridge in artistic hara-kiri as soon as they sold more than 10 records - BP

POLITICKING OVER

Old C U Next Tuesdays on the internet have been mouning how NME ain't as good as it used to be, but the last two issues have been pretty fucking good. Got the new one this morning - classic Jamie T interview, very strong, def going to buy the album as soon as I can afford it. Somebody else got the point about 'Sticks 'N' Stones' - I was right. And the piece on why people should actually care about the Conservatives getting in. Great to see a return of decent politics to the mag, really didn't need the mental image of Rupert Murdoch giving Gordon Brown a blowjob though, arrgh. Pass the brain bleach (serious lols at that). Also fantastic that you're pointing out just how similar Labour and Tory are and that the Green Party got suggested as an alternative, but shame John Robb wasn't a bit more intelligent: "try voting Green or something, find alternatives" - what, like the BNP? *facepalm* Jen. via email

I was 18 when that famous headline in The Sun came out pre-John Major's re-election: "If Labour get in, will the last person to leave Britain please turn the lights out". "How dare they?" I thought. My dad quoted to me once in my socialist youth (I would often accompany my best friend selling Socialist Worker in Guildford), "If you're 18 and not a socialist you have no heart. If you're 25 and still socialist you're a fool." I didn't agree then but I now think that – except

LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK AT:

for maybe Joe Strummer – there is no exception to this rule. If Labour get in, I will be leaving this country, as will a lot of much cleverer people than me (cue editor's comment). The Left is nannyish, perfidious and evil. It's time left-wing ideas are seen for the rubbish they truly are. And no, I'm not a banker. I'm an experimental engineer who believes in empirical evidence. There has never been a good left-wing government. PS Tim Burgess says Thatcher was as right wing as Hitler. No she wasn't, you twat!!

Robert Hooper, via email

Robert, don't confuse the self-serving narcissism of New Labour with the left-wing ideas of true socialism. If you're arguing that socialised healthcare free at the point of use, fair taxation, a functioning BBC and well-funded and maintained public transport are 'nannyish, perfidious and evil' then you're on another planet. Labour might have made a lot of mistakes, but they introduced the ever-rising minimum wage and civil partnerships, two social leaps the Tories would never have made. I'm 26 and a socialist depressed with modern politics and politicians, who have shown time and time again that they're willing to mortgage their beliefs to the highest bidder. Cameron's a lizard, and if it takes five years of Tory greed to kick the actual left into shape, then I'm sad to say: bring it on -BP

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Email: letters@nme.com Post: The Letters Page, NME, Blue Fin Building, 110 Southwark St, London, SE1 OSU Oh, and LOTW winners should email the same address to claim their prizes



AND ANOTHER THING...

In case you've still not made your point

CHILD ABUSE

I heard my 10-year-old brother listening to The Smiths on his iPod today. I just found that pretty cool.

JACK, VIA EMAIL

Ah, pubescent depression – BP

EAT THE RICH

I've gone to a new posh school and everyone hear has a shit taste in music. They listen to bollocks like Akon and it's absolute shit. Please can you tell them to buck up their ideas and how fucking dare they call The Cribs "that shit".

BEN, VIA EMAIL

It must be a really *great* posh school if you can't even spell 'here' correctly – BP

HA! FOOLED YOU ALL

I received my Beatles special issue in the post the other day. Mine was 'The White Album' cover. They were all 'White Album' covers, weren't they? You cheapskates.

PROSS, MONTREAL
Little-known rock fact: The

Little-known rock fact: The Beatles only ever released one album, It's called '1' – BP

HOODOO VOODOO

On the strength of the first two albums only, how come Suede are the forgotten boys of the '90s while Oasis and Blur are the nation's favourite Britpop heroes?

JEREMY, VIA EMAIL

Any band that lets Hamish
MacBain appear in their videos
is begging for obsolescence. Me
I was in a Lostprophets video.
They're still killing it.
Coincidence? NO – BP

GO AWAY

So, we've waited over a year for new Joe Lean stuff. I'm just not sure why they've built all this anticipation, to be honest. I don't even know what they're trying to be, or trying to do. It just sounds crap. Sorry but yeah. SEAN ATKINSON, VIA EMAIL. Don't apologise, Sean. If anyone should apologise here, it's Joe Lean. Not for taking so long, but for the whole 'being in a band and publicly making muste' thing—BP



e didn't need 10 years distance, but to clarify- 1999 was shit. What was happening in and around your ears then? NAM? Nu-metal? A solo Mel C? We squandered our millennial end, so thank fuck for today – and for Teengirl Fantasy, whose diva tears hold more bliss than '99's 365 days of millennium bugs and CFC cans

Teengirl "hear the 'gos" in the thwack of a gog drum machine. Their name was chosen because "it seemed like a good boyband name". Their impressionist club music that you can't really dance to is like a pillhead puking a watercolour while listening to a collage of breakdowns off 'Massive Dance Hits 'go'. With them, late-'gos bliss has finally arrived, albeit a decade late.

On university exchange in Amsterdam, Nick Weiss

and Logan Takahashi remember a youth spent with archaic web host Angelfire and New York's revered gay nightclub the Paradise Garage "Angelfire is a great place," says Weiss, whose fifth-grude tribute site to late-'90s girl band Blaque still haunts Angelfire. "Free, unpretentious, almost as welcoming as the Paradise Garage was." Except the Paradise Garage closed in 1987, before Logan and Nick were born.

Teengirl don't long for a fading past, they long for one that never existed 'til they found it on the 'net, but no matter; it's the longing that's important – if what they long for's the same. Also, with tracks like 'Portofino', they still long to dance in clubs they'll never visit. "At 16 there's an emotional honesty you lose as you grow up," explains Takahashi. "Music can bring that back." There's a price to pay for eternal youth of the mind

- toiling for hours, tangled in wires, audiences not knowing whether to dance or dream. Is theirs antisocial club music? Isn't that oxymoronic? "No! We started Teengirl to play a house party," laughs Logan. "In a club, with those other bodies, whether or not you know or care who's around you..." He trails off. "It's just about .. being alone and together," Weiss finishes, "at the same time." Kev Kharas

MILO SAY :

"Ace, slow-motion jams, that feel like watching a hypnosis VHS run backward, or a Polaroid melt in the sun. We're putting their debut album out in 2010 and it's going to soundtrack the new ice-age"



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MILO SAYS: "I think this is fuckin' A, reminds me of raves I used to go to withiRobbie [Furze. BP|frontman) when we were kids"

UNDERGROUND UPRISING

They say "industrial love songs". So do we

SWATHES

With a name like that, Swathes couldn't really be anything other than a stealthy noise merchant, peddling blankets of fuzz and enveloping eiderdowns of disorientating. disabling static. The man under the duvet is Wrexham's Matty Webber, who has struck out on his own presumably because north-east Wales isn't exactly awash with like-minded musicians. If you're into The Big Pink you'll get all tingly for Swathes, as they share a similar ambition to make "industrial love songs". Not that the "love" element is immediately detectable. Like My Bloody Valentine's eardrum-perforating noise holocaust, Matty aims for the point on the sensory spectrum where pleasure meets pain and you start finding it hard to tell the difference.

There's a decent tune somewhere in 'Distances', but it's gradually pummelled half to death by industrial machinery and suffocated with cellophane. The title of 'Matchday' suggests a certain nostalgic, Saturday-afternoon whimsy; instead it sounds like the voices inside Craig Bellamy's head when he's about to cripple an opponent. Thankfully, Matty himself seems relatively well-balanced. His modest ambition is to "keep going for a sensible length of time". But given that Swathes' songs seem to suck you into a temporal black hole, that could be anything from 10 minutes to 20 millennia. Sam Richards

NEED TO KNOW...

What: Nasty industrial din from Wales Download: 'Matchday'

BLOG BUZZ

Electronic west coast hymns to loneliness

ACTIVE CHILD

Active Child, or Pat Grossi if you prefer not to use the highly fashionable 'adjective/noun' moniker, composes soaring and sprawling 'lektro lullabies. What that boils down to in plain English: delicately crafted choral disco for seraphims with dirty faces and knees, and a fondness for New Order. Inspired by "the power of layered voice and the way it can wash over you," this ex-choirboy's bittersweet tales of confusing modern love and the sweaty morning after are dripping with understated rapture and honest words – detailing phonecalls left unanswered and the cold loneliness that is an empty house.

An ideal soundtrack to icy winter nights stumbling around messy warehouse parties, Grossi's new wave synths and dreamy vocals soar above lo-fi detailing to produce echoey pop anthems. Having already had releases on stupidly cool (and stupidly named) boutique tape labels Mirror Universe and Leftist Nautical Antiques, Grossi is preparing to take his blog-conquering hymns live and relishing the chance to progress in his songwriting. "Give me a three-part harmony, a harp, drum machine and crisp synth, and all is well in the world," he says. Harps and synths? You can't get closer to synth-geek heaven than that. Elizabeth Sankey

NEED TO KNOW...

What: y an pel who owns the entire Style
bec's catalogue on cassette
Download: 'She Was A Vision'

MILO SAYS:

"It's just so classy and emotional, with those spooky undertones of Bowle, circa "Station To Station". It's soul music more than anything"









started Merok with my business partner Sam after seeing Klaxons play at White Heat in December 2005. It was something I had been thinking about for around a year, but I was waiting for the right band. They encapsulated everything I was into and wanted the label to be; punk, with great literature reference points. I was obsessed with Burroughs, and so were they. I told them I wanted to release 'Atlantis To Interzone' and they just said 'yes'. It was fucking cool of them.

Literally every label in England wanted to sign them, I had zero experience, but we just all seemed to click. I guess that's the only real secret of how to run a label: click with the bands, and not even consider doing it for any reason other than you LOVE the music. I guess Merok is a pure taste label, my taste; if i like it, I'll put it out. I don't worry about selling it or making money. This label is like a charity, we don't make a lot of money, we



get by. We don't have marketing departments or assistants and crap like that. You'll find us in the Dalston post office Monday mornings doing mailorder and most likely it's gonna be my writing on the envelope. Running a label isn't easy, but fuck me it's fun! I've had the best time of my life. Going into our fifth year, I know it's gonna be our most exciting yet, with genuinely amazing releases from Teengiri Fantasy, Divorce and Blondes. Every so often a band comes along that changes everything, and Salem are that band. They are truly original, fractured and bleak in a totally refreshing and intoxicating way. Their album is gonna be devastating. Yet it's a release that should make everyone feel reassured about music's unknown. Be scared.

Milo, Merok

EMAIL RADAR: RADAR@NME.COM OR CHECK OUT THE RADAR BLOG NME.COM/NEWMUSIC/RADAR



hicago, where we grew up, isn't a pleasant place. It's too big and there's too many people in it. There's both a very high unemployment and crime rate and the weather's shitty too. All in all the place has just never given me a good feeling, and I guess it's the experiences we've shared there that give our music the intrinsic 'darkness' that people seem to note about us. Most of the big cities in the States will have their own signature hip-hop sub-genre and an

accompanying dance Chicago's is juke and its 'Footworking' moves. It's definitely been a massive influence on what we do.

Juke's like no other hip hop sound on the planet. People comment on how creepy and weird its moods are and how lo-fi the production is. It takes an influence from the

'chopped'n'screwed' culture of down south (the Codeine-driven template that involves pitching the tempo of the crunk track down, to warping effect) but takes it somewhere totally original and quintessentially Chicago-sounding. It involves a lot of unnerving synth drones, and warped vocal loops, usually with a really agitated and erratic sounding house-tempo beat from a Roland 808 drum machine. The 'footworking' dancing is absolutely crazy. It's literally the fastest, most skittish thing you've

> ever seen, taking the skip-centric foot maneuvers from traditional breakdancing and speeding it up about a thousand times. All across the city you'll see crowds of guys having footworking battles' outside community centres and schools Jack [fellow Salem member] actually took an evening class in it. A good introduction to juke would be Tha Pope's track

'Footworking'. If you search for it on YouTube it'll show you what both the music and the dancing are about. It's based around a chorus sample from 'The Lion Sleeps Tonight', which is abused; speeding up and slowing down, with this backdrop of minor-key clashing plastic tones. The result is actually really scary.

DJ Now is pretty amazing too, he's one of the key DJs in the local scene at the moment, he's just turned 18, I think. DJ Rasham is a bit of a juke legend too, he's been around since the early days, and is known as one of the best mixers in a scene that's totally centred around quick-fire cuts. You can hear juke's influence throughout a or of our favourite local music, like Love, who often use those messed-up pitch-bent samples. People should also check out mine and Jack's side project Youn for more juke bastardising. At a time when most commercial rap music sounds so plushly over-produced and generic, it's reassuring to hear a genre that's definitively rough round and intended to basically fuck with people's minds.



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"John Squire could join," Tom's off again. "Get Zak Starkey on drums, we're away. Serge can do something. Rope Noel in, a nice cinematic film project. There you go – we're away aren't we!" And what would these Boa Constrictors sound like?

"I dunno, I think we'd sound like a punk band. Really rapturous. It'll rupture your ears mate. A great band." Just think about it, you could be even better than The Dead Weather!

"Liam'll buzz off that won't he?" snorts Tom. "But that's a little fantasy for you, that's a joke."

Fantasy it may be, but in 2009, most things that have happened to Kasabian have been in a different realm entirely. With third album 'West Ryder Pauper Lunatic Asylum' having sold by the hangarload, they've earned proper grown-up respect from the Barclaycard Mercury Prize panel (as much as that matters) and have been, according to Serge, "around the world about 15 times". So Serge and Tom have joined *NME* ahead of their arena-busting arena tour—their largest ever—to contemplate how, this year, things went so spectacularly right.

"We've become the family favourite, haven't we?" beams Tom.

"It's hard to explain innit," reckons Serge. "To make the record we did which is the one that everyone kind of got is weird in some ways because, out of the three, it's the strangest. Maybe with not the most obvious singles on it, but that seemed to work in its favour. It seems that it needed to happen. An album like that needed to be made."

It's not quite as simple as just getting bigger, though. Kasabian have also expanded, no longer dismissed by the musos as lunk-headed lad-rock dweebs. The rich psychedelia of 'West Ryder...' has shed light on the girlish element that was always there in Kasabian's music. We wouldn't say anything as boring as 'they've grown up'. But people used to talk about Kasabian as successors to Oasis. Yet last time we spoke to Nicky Wire, he summed it up best: "I don't think they should try. I don't mean this in a derogatory way, but I think they're more interesting. Especially lyrically. Serge is really talented and undersells himself as a lyricist. I don't think the lad thing suits Kasabian – they're not like that really. And I think perhaps it went to their detriment, because I think they've got a really feminine side. Some of the music is really sexy."

"A lot of that was to do with the stuff we said in interviews," admits Tom, "and just being silly, having fun. And people did take it the wrong way. We were little ragamuffins, scamps. But it's done now, innit? I still think they're all hilarious.

"It's kind of nice to be underestimated. The myth surrounding it always made us laugh, we thought that was crazy."
What've you learned along the way?

"For me," says Serge, "it gets considerably easier when you stop taking life so seriously. When you stop and go nothing really matters – it's not that serious. It's pretty easy then, you can just go with it. Obviously, we take recording these tunes seriously, the work that goes behind it is really thought out. But at the same point you don't take it so seriously."

It would be remiss not to ask, in the year that we lost Oasis, if the band closest to them saw it coming.

"For them, it was always gonna end that way," reasons Serge. "When it happened I wasn't surprised. I was sad, but then you've kind of gotta look back

and go, 'Right, I'm fucking thankful for the tunes they made.' Liam said recently it was them that destroyed it, it was them that put an end to it and no-one else. Now it's all done. I'm buzzing to see what they're both gonna do next. Everyone's gonna be fucking fascinated by what Noel and Liam do next."

We've finally done it. So that's really, really exciting for us."

Of course, with this power comes great responsibility. And now they are the biggest band in Britain, their opinions on the burning issues of the day matter.

Do you love or hate *The X Factor?*Tom: "It's the same thing though, innit, every year. I don't get it. For some reason the British public are drawn into it, you know, like the fucking Riddler in *Batman Forever* when he gets sucked into the TV, mesmerised by it."

Serge: "Fuck knows, it ain't in my world, it's never on in my house. I don't give... it's just not part of my everyday world, I don't let it happen. What Tom said about The Riddler is right, but if you take the fucking thing off your head then it don't really matter."

After you're dead, would you object to somebody making a computer game sprite of you playing really shit music?

Tom: "Well, if I'm dead I can't do anything about it. Ha! Courtney was

shitting it, weren't she? Kurt singing "halfway there, living on a prayer" and that shit. Unbelievable, But I've got The Beatles: Rock Band. I've got McCartney's quitar and the drums and shit. If I'm really big I'll put it on, it's fucking amazing." Serge: "You rang me the other night didn't you?" "I just said, 'Serge,

"I just said, 'Serge, put Rock Band on. I can't do the guitars,



"YOU'VE STILL GOT YOUR HAIR IN A BAG? I'LL FUCKING BUY THAT OFF YOU!"

SERGE TO A NEWLY-SHORN TOM

coming from?

You must have an idea.

"I'm sure they'll both put albums out. It'll be a tragedy if they don't."

In any divorce there's a bitter period of dividing property, pets and friends. Has there been an element of 'Who gets Kasabian?'?

"Absolutely not. No chance," reckons Serge. "We've seen both Noel and Liam, and not one word was said about it. It's their business. Family business. There'll be no decisions like that".

"Family business," Tom says, "I like that one! Like a family bakers!"

And on the subject of them being some kind of successor...

"I don't think there can ever be that kind of mass hysteria, I can't see it happening," admits Serge. "But at the same time, we said this when we first came out, but now it's true! We are the biggest band in Britain now. We said it before we'd even released an album! I can't do the drums, I just do the vocals. I put it on hard too. Loud as fuck. Unbelievable mate. Really fucking loud." Where's the next amazing British band

Serge: "I suppose you just have to wait, somewhere in a small town in England a spark will happen, and you'll get the next thing coming through. I think a lot of it has to do with the idea of not giving a fuck. At the moment a lot of people do care about what's right and what's wrong and what you should or shouldn't do. You need someone to come along who doesn't give a fuck about any of it. Some people love them and some people hate them. You need someone

So with all that settled, it remains to ask what their newly tolerant, metrosexualised power crowd can expect from this week's victory lap of their massive UK megagigs.

that splits the office!"

"We play a lot from the new album," says Serge, "and, you know, favourites and then some odd little things that are gonna happen during the show. Quite subtle. We didn't really wanna go down the million screens road, it's more ideas. Little tiny sort of ideas, you know. It'll be a euphoric fucking rave as it always is. There'll be moments of fucking, you know, preposterous fucking rock star shit, of course..."

"I've got a walkway haven't I? Got a little bit of a walkway going on. It's not, like, a *Mick Jagger* walkway." Serge: "It's just, you know, more space for the tiger."

Have you planned your outfits?
Tom: "I'm gonna dress as Napoleon!
Serge: "There'll be a nod to 'West
Ryder...', certainly."

What there won't be, though, is their long-rehearsed cover of Black Sabbath's 'Iron Man', which much to the rest of the band's consternation, Tom had them abandon when he got rid of his Sabbath hair.

"I just got sick of it, I think. I just woke up one morning and I was sick of getting food in my hair. And I had to wash it every day as well and condition the fucker. I just woke up and called my mate Glen and I was like, 'Right, cut my fucking hair off, mate.' I feel a lot better. I feel like I've been reborn!"

To Tom, everyone is a 'basterd' today, since Tom's new 'do is riffing off Brad Pitt in *Inglounous Basterds*, although in actuality he looks more like a gay Tintin. Still, it might just be the most enterprising move Kasabian have ever made...

"I've still got my hair in a bag. It's somewhere in a cupboard or summat. I get it out and go, 'Oh, I miss you,' take it to bed with me, stroke it. There's loads of hair, you know."

You should give it away as some kind of competition prize.

"Yeah, you know what, I should take it to Japan with me, they'd go mental for my hair, wouldn't they?"

Even Serge, who deals with Tom on a daily basis and is used to it by now, is incredulous. "You've still got your hair in a bag? That is the best fucking thing I've ever heard! I'll fucking buy that off you!"

Serge, you could donate some toenail clippings. It could be like, 'Make Your Own Kasabian'.

Serge: "Grow the fuckers." Grow them!!!

Serge: "You can get DNA off hair, can't you? I'm sure you can."

It would certainly help you cover more territories

"One day, that's how it'll end up. That's what [Simon] Cowell's probably thinking about right now."

But you kind of know that Serge is contemplating, 'what if' he had the idea first? In the charmed third act of Kasabian, science should be no barrier to the grand fantasy.

TURN OVER FOR THEIR FAMILISM IMOURS(THO)

"I HAD THESE KNICKERS
THROWN WITH THIS
PICTURE OF MY FACE ON"

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Well, you did ask. And that's not the weirdest answer Tom and Serge have got to your questions. Not by a long way

s we discussed over the page,
Kasabian put on the most
life-affirming rock rave in the
world right now. But there are
still some secrets we want the
answers to. What does Tom want you
to throw onstage at him? What do they
do with the blow-up dolls on their rider?
Why does Serge want their dressing
room to be done out like the Titanic?

On the eve of Kasabian's biggest ever UK tour, we put out a shout on NME. COM and @nmemagazine's Twitter for your questions for the band. We put them to Tom and Serge and then sat back and watched the sparks fly...

What's the nicest thing you've ever had thrown at you onstage?

From Lo, via email

Tom: "I've had knickers thrown."

NME: Do you like knickers?
"Yeah, I love 'em!"

Serge: "What about the ones with your face on? They were pretty dark."

Tom: "I had these knickers thrown with this picture of my face on."

Serge: "There was an actual photograph on the fabric, in the triangle, with Tom's face. That's fucking well weird."

What's the worst thing?

Tom: "People throw CDs onstage and shit, don't they? People throw their demos on and shit I've had a cigarette flicked onstage, not lit, like. Oh, I tell you what, I found someone's credit card onstage I think someone was getting robbed and they got collared and they threw the credit card. The security guy collared him while he did it and the credit card got thrown onstage That's crimefighting, mate."

What's the best drinking game to play on the bus?

From @Rach179

Serge: "You know what, we don't play games like that Never have actually. I don't understand the mentality – just have a drink. I don't understand why you've got to do all that dicking about. If you want a shot of tequila just have one."

Have you ever been attacked by a stranger backstage?

From @hanioadio

Tom: "There was one guy, I think we'd a sandwich or son played the Astoria [in London], and after He was starving!"



the gig there was a guy who tried to get onto the bus. He made his way onto our tourbus and I think Brett, our tour manager, crushed him like a tin can and just pushed him through the door." Serge: "Our tour manager at the time was a huge fella, so everyone looked dead small when he picked them up." Tom: "He just tried to get on the tourbus, I don't think he went for anyone."

Serge: "I think he just wanted a sandwich or something like that. He was starving!"

Who were the crappest support band you've ever had?

From AHarryHarry

Serge: "The Duke Spirit (right), they were pretty shit."

What's the most romantic gig you've ever played?

From @bastienn

Serge: "Wow, I don't know what to make of that." Tom: "Probably in my living room, playing my new songs to Serge, when I'm out of my mind"

> We know you both like your Clothes, but have you ever looked at each other and thought, 'Are you seriously going to wear that?' Do you yeto each other's outfits?

From Mick Jeprey, via email Serge: "Nothing's been vetoed at this point. I can't recall anything, can you?" Tom: "No, I mean I've worn some odd shit onstage. I think it's more fun than anything, we're not too serious about it." What's been the most extreme?

Tom: "What have I worn that's been really big, Serge?"

I thought your Live Earth outfit was pretty special.

Tom: "The Union Jack thing I wore, that was wicked, the Union Jack Paul Smith shirt, that's pretty outrageous."

Serge: "The strawberry top was pretty outrageous, mate."

Tom: "The strawberry top, Steve Marriott's jacket was fucking well outrageous, that was pretty up there. And your gorilla jacket that was right up there." Serge: "It's RIGHT up there."

What was it like getting swine flu on the road this year?

From @katepetaburton Tom: "It wasn't

diagnosed, but it could've been I think. It weren't very nice. It got me somewhere between Japan and Australia and our manager got it. It was like normal fu. I ordered room service and they came to my door with rubber gloves and masks on. It was like surgery. The doctor said it could be swine flu or it could be normal flu. Serge: "He caught flu off the swine." Tom: "That fucking swine. It was fucking weird."

Is it true Noel's going to appear onstage with you at the end of the year?

From Sam Chung, via email

Serge: "No." Tom: "No."

What do you most commonly say to each other onstage?

From Scott McGleish, via email

Serge: "Wow."

Tom: "Wow, yeah. Yeah, 'Wow Serge,

wow.' Yeah.'

Serge: "Wow just says it all really."

Have you ever looked at the front row and just been appalled at what vou've seen?

From Ryan Jarvis, via email

Serge: "Anyone that queues up hours before anyone else and doesn't go to the toilet for seven hours to stand on the front row, you can't fuck with that." Even if they're pissing on each other? Serge: "I've never actually seen that, but you've gotta give them their fucking dues, man. That's commitment. Hats off to those boys. And girls. The front row's better looking these days than it ever has been. There's a lot more girls these days. That's been a welcome addition."

What's on your rider?

From Jamie Jones, via email

Tom: "A blow-up doll, Socks, Spirits."

Which spirits?

Serge: "The ones that scared the Happy Mondays on fucking Ghost Hunting! That's the best telly I've seen in fucking years. Yeah, we've got those spirits. We're gonna step the rider up on this tour. I want a snooker table this time and then, like, a bar, I actually want a bar and a barman that looks like he's

> on the Titanic, that kind of shit." Get David Warner

doing it. Serge: "Give it a nice little name so it becomes notorious among revellers that go back there, let's go to the bar and get a nice cocktail."

What's the crappest aftershow you've

ever been to?

From Luke Summerfield, via email

Tom: "Loads. They're all fucking crap. Everyone nicks all your fucking drink, everyone does all the gear and everyone tries to follow wou. They're all the same. It's

better when they're private. We've had some good ones with Oasis, ain't we?" Serge: "If it's an organised party to go to, no. But your own shit, what you do after the show, is phenomenal. Steer clear if anything is organised. You can't organise that shit, it's all spontaneous."

Who's the strangest person you've ever seen on the guestlist?

From @terriblesoup

Serge: "Steve Davis, the snooker player." Steve Davis?!

Serge: "God bless him though, he's into krautrock, he's a fucking krautrock nut. He's into Neu! and Tangerine Dream. I went to see Ronnie O'Sullivan play him on the snooker and I got talking to him. He goes, 'My missus loves your band, I'd like to come and see you.' I didn't think anything of it and then the tour manager: was like, 'Steve Davis is here!"

Did he come back and get big? Serge: "No, I think he just buzzed off the gig and did one."

What's been your most embarrassing moment onstage?

From Anna Kapennia, via email

Tom: "This one gig at the Royal Albert Hall, my mic lead was made of metal so I could fall on it at any time and hurt myself. I fell over and I made out I was doing some acrobatic shit." Serge: "He looked like a Russian gymnast, like some mad trapeze artist." Tom: "I fell over and put my legs in the air and made out like was doing this weird gymnastic move, but I fell over." Serge: "Lead singers, mate, they don't know what the fuck they're doing."

Stagedivers: crucial to the rock'n'roll experience or irritating dicks?

From Adam Chambers, via email

Tom: "I think they're wild. There's gotta be a moment. If your music invokes people to fucking do that, you're doing something right."

Nobody allows it any more.

Serge: "They'll never fucking stop it. though, it's stupid to fucking try. If you wanna fly over that barrier, then you fly over the barrier, mate."

You were great at Glastonbury this year, but do you still wish you could 'go native' like you used to?

From Kate Wood, via email

Serge: "We had a gig the next day didn't we, so we had be somewhere. There's no time off afterwards, you have to be straight on the bus off to the next thing. But yeah, I remember that first time was fucking insane. That was mental. I'm still suffering from that fucker, honestly." Tom: "Pretty big, that was. I just remember being up all night and counting down, we're on soon. We was in a Travelodge watching *Trusha*. because we couldn't sleep. I kept looking at me watch going, 'We're gonna be on soon', winding everyone up. Great days, amazing, Really good,"

Do you miss all that?

Serge: "No, I kind of look back and I'm glad we were there doing it, but to go back. It was the right moment then, but I never really look back."

Tom: "It was exciting, it was new. We were like children in the playground. It was all new, it was wonderful. It was really nice, really nice."



PROCESSED

You couldn't describe Kasabian's live show as 'reserved', yet that's exactly how it will seem come November, when the band stop playing gigs, and start putting on 'shows'. Or as Tom and co interpret them: "We've got a Number One album and loads of money, let's go insanel"

Just as Muse had their mindcontrolling satellites and David Bowie his 50-foot Spider From Mars,

Kasabian have West Ryder Pauper Lunatic Asylum'. Alive and ready to admit over 12,000 patients a night.

"If you're familiar with the album cover and the concept of the album," explains music video genius turned stage director WIZ (real name Andrew Whiston), "then we're bringing it to life in every way we can. We're going the make the

arena Kasabian's own." He's not kidding. So adamant are Kasabian to invent their own minireality that no detail, however small, is going unnoticed. Roadies will wear white asylum coats, wristbands will be identical to those patients have in hospital and even the arena's smell will be controlled. "Seductive smells," which, apparently, is exactly

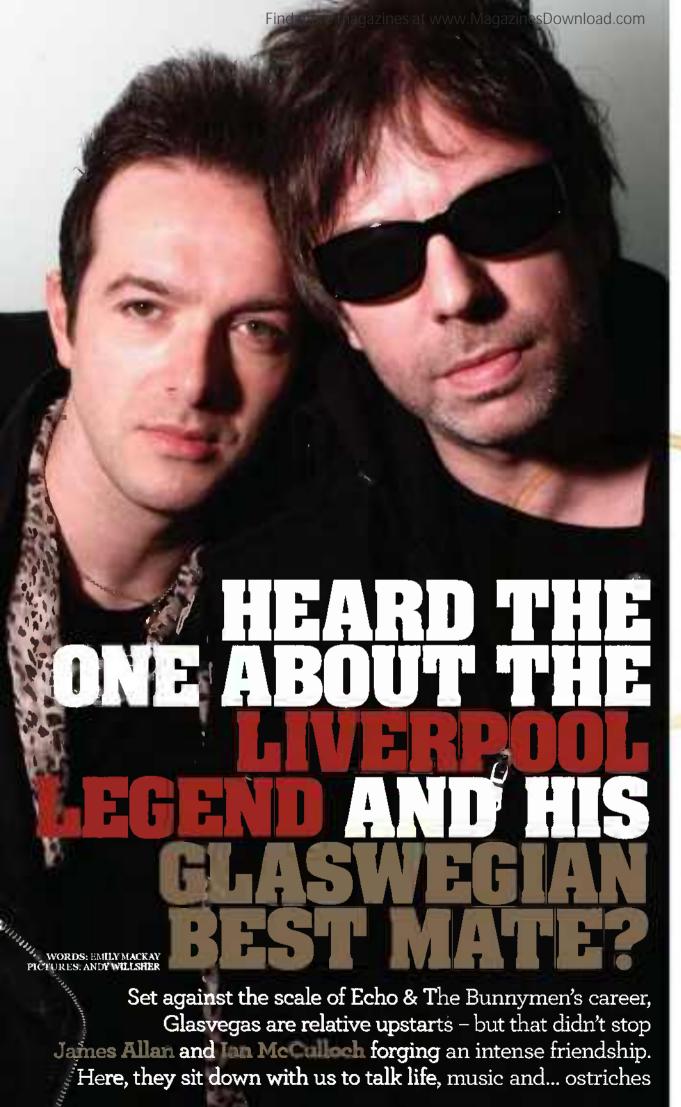
what mental institutions stink of. Although, of course the big details are more impressive. Divided into a three-act narrative and with the band wearing the same wardrobe as the '... Asylum' cover sleeve (above), the show will boast a 60 by 30-foot mirror (just like the one the band stare into on the album), massive three-dimensional props, a huge video screen and someone called the 'Commissioner Of Lunacy', who will introduce the band.

Vet - somehow - what will be on the stage somehow pails in comparison to who WIZ suggests might be on it. "Well, there are plans for Ivan The Impaler (played by Noel Fielding). That's all I can say right now. There's

also talk of another certain Noel as well, I can't say any more than that."

NME.COM

It's Kasabian week on NME.COM. Look out for video interviews. behind-the-scenes photoshoots, and a special mixtape from Serge



n the cellar bar of Glasgow's
Brunswick Hotel, Geraldine
Lennon, ex-social worker, has
spent the last hour lighting,
snuffing and relighting hundreds
of candles in a tense pas-de-deux
with the smoke alarm. "Looks a bit
feminine for two guys," she says
dubiously, strewing tables with rose
petals and sequin stars. And indeed,
the charmed den she's prepared
does look like someone's about to
get engaged.

All thic effort is for her friend, James Allan, and his idol Ian McCulloch, notorious lead singer of post-punk legends Echo & The Bunnymen. Allan has already breezed in, all quiet, I-know-something-you-don't-know charm and black leather, a few minutes before a rumbling, mumbling Scouse boom rolling down the stairwell announces the arrival of the chief Bunnyman "Fucking hell," he says, surveying the scene like a dissolute lord of the underworld. "Candleland, isn't it?"

He and Allan greet each other with a backslapping hug, before taking their seats at the lit table.

"You nervous?," says McCulloch dryly.
"Shitting it, mate," retorts Allan, drier
than dry. "Am I fuck... right. So, Mr
McCulloch, pleased to meet you."

"Pleased to meet you'?! I thought we were mates?"

And that, surprisingly, brilliantly, they are. McCulloch's first exposure to Glasvegas was on television. "I've got so used to watching people and you just go 'Fake... fake... fake... fake... I thought, there's a fella that's radiating something that he means, you know?"

Intrigued, he phoned James up for a chat ("and it was like, fucking, you know, 'Och aye the noo...") and went down to a Liverpool Barfly show.

"And it was like Casablanca," jokes

"Who was I? Humphrey?" asks Ian "Were you fuck Humphrey," comes the retort.

"Hang on, who's the other one in that film? Bergman, yeah, I'll be Bergman. With a strap-on"

Of all the venues in all the towns. Allan, newly converted to the Bunnymen's underappreciated back catalogue (prior to the recording of Glasvegas' Christmas album 'A Snowflake Fell (And It Felt Like A Kiss)', he went to New York, bought 30 grams of coke and a Christmas tree and listened to the Bunnymen song 'The Yo Yo Man' on repeat for a month), met up with McCulloch whenever Glasvegas' UK tours called through the Bunnyman's home city. Shortly after this interview, Allan joined his mate's band onstage in Glasgow for a rare version of their 1981 single 'A Promise', while last year, McCulloch personally asked Glasvegas to support the Bunnymen's run of special gigs to celebrate their gothically grandiose masterpiece 'Ocean Rain', ending at New York's illustrious Radio City Music Hall. Make no mistake, these guys are tight.

"Thirty years in for me, and it was my favourite night," says McCulloch.

"Was it?" says James, surprised.

"That was my favourite gig of all time, that," nods Ian.

James gives a tiny, happy chuckle. Sweet! Seeing as fate has brought these two kindred spirits – word-loving romantics, keepers of the rock'n'roll spirit, football fanatics and relentless pisstakers – together, NME thought it was only right to get them in a room and task them with hashing out the meaning of things. Or at least have a fucking laugh trying. Shall we let them get on with it? Julee Cruise (James' choice) is playing, and the candlelight is inviting.

IA: "So, what would you like to say to a band that's starting out now?"

IM: "I would say to them 999 times out of 1,000, don't... because at best, one of the thousand are good, one in a hundred thousand are great. One in a million are as good as the Bunnymen or Glasvegas. You have to write great songs, and look great, and have a great attitude about what you're trying to do, what you're trying to say and who you're trying to move."

Jā: "Do you feel you do move anybody?"
IM: "I threw someone into a prawn sandwich rack in Oslo. So he was moved."

JA: "Do you think it was a soulful experience for the man being thrown into the prawn sandwich?"

IM: "Soulful? Painful."

IA: "What was it like growing up in Liverpool trying to be an artist and a performer, word extraordinaire, visionary, the greatest white soul singer since Bobby Hatfield..."

IM: "I never really sang to anyone except meself in me bedroom. I was dead shy, but I'd sing along to Bowie records or Lou Reed, I grew up in Norris Green, It was always dead working class. When I was a teenager they had the highest car theft rate in Britain per kid."

JA: "How did you affect the average?"

IM: "I'd have brought it down. Only because I didn't want to drive because I assumed I'd have a chauffeur."

JA: "That was the reason you didn't steal any cars, because you wanted somebody to steal a car with you in the back of it?"

IM: "I had things to do that were more important. And I just dreamt a lot, you know, and tried to visualise meself somewhere else. I always thought the most mysterious way to listen to a Velvets album or a Lou Reed album or a Bowie album was in the complete dark, but seeing the trees lit by a street lamp. And seeing tree leaves dancing to the songs. With 'Crocodiles' and 'Heaven Up Here' I suppose I was trying to take some of that leafy dance stuff, the night time, 'Nocturnal Me'. It was like daydreams, because the dreams that you dream when you're awake at that age are so much better than any when you're asleep. So I was trying to convey that sense of mystery."

Ja: "What you said about being a



daydreamer... did you find that was a detriment to you in your youth? But that later on, that staring out the window – which others thought was a waste of time – was actually an advantage?"

1M: "Yeah, definitely."

NME: Is that something you feel is relevant to your own youth, James?

JA: "Aye, because there's nobody else I would really ask that apart from Mac. And that's probably something that I recognise sometimes if I look at him. I'm no comparing me to him or anything, but I remember being a kid staring out the school window..."

things like 'Daddy's Gone'. I felt too bad, 'cos I was hurting my dad's feelings. There's a lot of other sides to my dad that I admire and love, and to put that into a song was just one side of it, man. And other songs... it might seem like nothing to people, but it didn't to me at the time. And a lot of that for the past year I've been living with." Over time, James learned to keep his songs, so much drawn from his life, at arm's length and appreciate them as things with a life of their own, a process he says has brought "redemption".

Mac rejoins us on the pillared terrace, post-cigarette break, with a magisterial

"I think when James came out of the blocks," he explains, "he was frustrated, but still hopeful that by singing about something you can change it. But situations can never be affected by songs. The world's fucked and it won't be repaired, ever. No one wants utopia, not even for the football scores, because then what do you do on a Saturday?

– and what a quote, by the way – I like being a Scouse and romantic and a cynic, but you start to be cynical about your own dreams...."

It's touching that Mac, 20 years James' senior, is so concerned not to see Glasvegas' career limited by other's expectations or their singer's own guilt. That struggle between despair and hope, romanticism and cynicism, is the strongest link between their two bands, together with the quality that Mac identifies as 'realness': a determination reach the core of something, no matter if it's embarrassing, or difficult, or too much.

Whew. Heavy stuff, but only a small if revealing part of a night that rings with laughter (not least when Mac cracks out impersonations of Sir Alec Guinness, Sir Roger Moore, Sir Anthony Hopkins, and all five members of Take That). Though deep thoughts are never far below the surface of their banter. In the presence of these two, no one keeps a solemn, or straight, face for long. "Do you want a final quote?" says Ian.

on then. ere is no ostrich."

"Do I move anybody? I threw someone into a prawn sandwich rack in Oslo"

IAN MCCULLOCH

fter the cosy candlelit chat, itself something like a intense and bizarre daydream, has finally derailed in a riot of sambucca, soliloquies and casual brilliance, we decamp to a nearby bar to talk some more. NME asks James about the difference between Glasvegas' second album, which he's currently writing, and their 2008 debut.

"I was embarrassed by the moments that were making it recognisable and unique, the things that were giving it a life," he explains. "I thought I was hurting people's feelings, it was too real. I didn't actually want to release it. It was the band that were saying to release bellow of "GRECO-ROMAN FUCKING IONIC COLUMNS!" James, much as he tries, can't prevail upon Mac to stay the night (a Bunnymen tour beckons), but for a couple of hours we get a bit deeper. Mac's got some advice to dispense.

"One thing is," he says determinedly, "soon as we met each other, I thought, 'I'm worried about James.' He's carrying something on his shoulders."

He might joke about, but by hell, the man is perceptive.

"You need more of that thing that Liverpool and Glasgow share: laughter," Mac continues. "I just don't think you should be sucked in and sucked out and sucked on by the weight of someone else's fucking burden."

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Salivation is nigh.

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he old Britpop dogs that they are, Ash are back to teach us some new tricks. Responding to the demise of the album format by putting out singles instead, over the next year the band will release 26 of 'em, working their way through the alphabet - one every fortnight. They've even decided their next tour will follow the same alphabetical format. It seemed fitting, then, that we'd give you an A-Z of the band's wild, often interstellar career too...

is for albums

As in fuck 'em. Tim Wheeler (guitar/vocals): "Who has the time to sit through an entire 74-minute album any more? We were the first band to say we're pretty much giving up

B is for Brian Robertson

The former Thin Lizzy axe-man is one of Tim's all-time guitar heroes. "He came round to my house once with a big bag of weed."

on the album for now."

c is for cock tricks
Tim: "We seem to have come across a lot of people with strange penises. The drummer of 60ft Dolls had a botched circumcision, so he could insert things into what was left of his foreskin. Zac Foley [the now-deceased bassist of EMF] had the largest foreskin known to man. He was at a bar one night and he said to punters, 'Give me a pound coin and if I can make it disappear with my foreskin, I get to keep it.' He made about £30!"

A whole Lotty love

NU-CLEAR SOUNDS

is for Downpatrick The trio's Northern-Irish hometown and the site where St Patrick was buried.

is for Elastica
Tim. "I got given a load of homework to do on our first big tour with Elastica in 1994. After the first gig, I tried to do some but everyone else was partying so

I thought, 'Fuck this' and never looked at my books again."

is for 'Free All Angels'

Their majestic 2001 comeback album saved them from bankruptcy by hitting Number One.



Whatever you do, keep the Gordon's away from the bass player. Mark Hamilton: "There were a lot of things that happened to me on gin that wouldn't have happened otherwise... like waking up in bed next to our soundman."

is for Hatherley, Charlotte
The band's second guitarist

played in Ash from 1997-2006. Charlotte is now the guitarist in Bat For Lashes and releases her own solo albums.

is for Infectious

The label that released all of Ash's albums to date.

is for 'Jack Names The Planets'

Ash's barnstorming debut single, which still gets played at the vast majority of their shows.

is for Kurtaine, Dick
It's a little-known fact that, for a while at the end of the 1990s, Ash were a five-piece due to the addition of DJ Dick Kurtaine, who added scratches and samples when the band played live, well before the nu-metal explosion made it the norm.

is for Lennox, Annie

The veteran ex-Eurythmic recently ended her 14-year Top 40 drought by covering Ash's huge hit 'Shining Light'.

is for mentalist fans
Mark Hamilton: "There's this guy on MySpace who

believes he is the son of God and we are the three wise men!"

is for 'Nu-Clear Sounds'

The much-maligned 1998 album contains some of the band's best work - not least the mesmerizing opener 'Projects'.

is for Owen Morris

The maverick 'Definitely Maybe' producer worked on '1977,' 'Nu-Clear Sounds' and 'Free All Angels' and opened up Ash to some of the world's more forbidden delights. Tim: "He introduced us to drugs and used to make us do things like record in drag... which I think was actually just to give him a hard-on."

is for possession
Tim: "Mark got possessed after a ouija board session in LA when we were touring 'Meltdown'. After that, he spoke to a spirit medium who said he had been possessed by at least two different spirits and she exorcised them."

is for qualifications

During the summer of 1995 when Ash were just getting big, Tim

received his A-level results live on Radio 1. He got two Bs and a C.

is for rent boys
Ash's first manager marketed the band with these T-shirt slogans: 'Return Of The Rent Boys,' '3 Boy Hardcore Action' and 'Guaranteed Real Teenagers'.

S is for Slashed
To alleviate boredom while on tour with Coldplay in 2002, Ash scripted and filmed this slasher-flick with Chris Martin and the boys and managed to rope in the likes of Moby and Dave Grohl for cameos too. Sadly, the film was never released.



The start of '1977' features a screaming TIE fighter sampled from Star Wars. George Lucas didn't even charge them – he's a fan of the band.



is for U2 Rick McMurray (drums): "Bono called me a cunt once. I was congratulating him on reaching Number Two with one of their singles and he thought I was taking the piss, but I wasn't. I would've gladly swapped with him and had a Number Two single!"

V is for vomit
A six-minute collage of the band projectile vomiting called 'Sick Party' that is hidden at the end of '1977' remains a legendary moment in the Ash canon. Mark: "We get asked more about that than we do any one of our songs."

is for Westlife

Ash were involved in a feud with the boy band at the start of the decade, but it ended with a far more amicable exchange. Tim: "We ended up in the next dressing room to them on Top Of

The Pops once and we sent them a bit of hash and a Christmas card. They sent it back to us rolled up in a £20 note and it said. 'This is how we smoke it!' We had a lot more respect for them after that."

is for X-rated
The infamous video for the 1999 single 'Numbskull' featured Tim doing lines of cocaine, cutting himself and sucking on a dildo.

Y is for the Yes campaign
The Yes campaign encouraged people of Northern Ireland and the Republic to vote through the

Good Friday peace deal brokered in April 1998 and was helped in no small way by Ash and U2 playing a huge gig in Belfast

Ash were marketed

with names from

gay porn listings

supporting the campaign during the following month.

Z is for Zennor, Cornwall
Ash's current 26-date tour of the UK will call at a town beginning with every letter of the alphabet, with Zennor being one of the only choices for 'Z'. See you down the front...





BLY FEMININE, I HAVE DY PARTS, SO WHY SHOULDN'T TO SING ABOUT THEM?

pretty raw people. So, to me I don't really see it as being so crazy. I mean, I grew up listening to Lil' Kim and Foxy Brown, But I guess I just assume that everyone's like me. People in the mainstream say - you're so filthy, but I know some filthy fucking people and I pale in comparison to them."

As if the point about her potty mouth needed further illustration, in the video she made for Spank spin-off Bangers & Cash's 'Loose', Blank spends her time literally on-the-toilet, spouting witty obscenities as a parade of naked porn stars amble past. "Yeah, some of them did porn, some were strippers. One of the girls from the shoot showed up at my concert a few weeks later. She was like: I love you - I went home after the video and listened to all your music.' I was sooo happy!"

It's over a decade since the likes of Foxy Brown and Lil' Kim first began flipping the script for ladyrap - showing that girls could be as sexually assertive, as rivalrous, and, in the eyes of some, as coldly covetous as the gangsta bros who were simultaneously reaching their peak in the late '90s. Lil' Kim famously did a Prince Charles and told reporters that she didn't know what love was, but there was also a certain emancipatory value to her music - it opened a door through which Missy Elliott could 'Work It', and it allowed Eve to actively trade on her stripper origins.

But even way down the line, there's still a certain duplicity that takes hold when a girl comes on strong with the sort of thing that Blank does - which is ultimately silly, knowingly wry sex rhymes rather than authentic big pimping. Out on the blogs, Blank has attracted her fair share of detractors, who seem to think that ladyrap ought to set its eyes on a higher prize. If it's not the feministas saying that she's letting the side down, it's male rappers, scared, she says, by an outre sexuality that they can't contain. The second constituency she attacks out-and-out for their double standards. "Like, I heard a rapper - I'm not going to name him - say something recently about how he was disappointed about female rappers 'cos all they do is talk about sex. Well, it was a little frustrating because he has a song out which is really graphic, and all I could

think was 'Who the fuck are you to tell me what to rap about?' And how dare you pretend you're a better rapper you're rapping about the same bullshit. Fuck you - we're all women, and we're getting it in too. We're having sex too. He thinks his song's smart, but it's no smarter than anything we're doing, to me that's like: 'Little boy, sit down and shut the fuck up." And if that argument subsides, well, why not just attack the haters at a demographic level? "I've noticed that a lot of the people who don't like my music are men," she declaims, "Generally in their thirties, more often white, which is interesting."

For those who say that she's somehow anti-feminist, she points out that she's a girly-girl at heart, she doesn't understand girls who don't get on with other girls, she has - "like, 5,000 close gırlfriends". "I think you can still be assertively feminine. I think my album

for being seen, Blank has a social reach in Philadelphia far beyond her present musical punching-power. She sits at the centre of a nexus of extraordinary semi-underground talents. For a start, there's longtime pal Spank; Diplo, who produced half her album, she met from just hanging around Philly - she can't quite remember where. Switch - who produced a lot of the rest, she met in New York when she was hanging out with Santi. She thinks that Diplo would probably win in a fight with Switch. Santi she's known for years. They grew up in the same hood, their parents were friends from when they were about 20 years old ("We've got each other's backs"). MIA she hooked up with when Her Royal Madness came through to do some stuff with Diplo in Philly, shortly before 2007's 'Kala'. Plastic Little used to be her flatmates. "The thing that people

Like some Warhol acolyte who's known



this really funny mix." So little Mandy from the block grew up listening to everything across the urban dial, playing with both the hoodies and the bohos, lapping up the '90s radio-rap that was playing on the blocks, while simultaneously cultivating corners in her heart for The Smiths and New Order, starting to write raps not long after she left school. Spank Rock met her first – the pair of them used to make raps on idle Tuesdays "When I met Naeem [Spank Rock], it was more a way for us to have fun when we were hanging out. I don't think either of us ever really planned to get a record deal." And their on-off writing relationship burgeoned into touring together, which has culminated in her being offered her own deal, "Weird, because until a couple of years ago I was just writing raps for fun. Like, I really had no idea how to write an album." She got to tour with Santi. They painted each other's nails in their hotel rooms, and talked about how they were going to get up in the mornings and do yoga. They never did. Next month she's going out on the road with Peaches. Unfortunately, success has its flipside. As more casual fans have started coming to her shows, her microcostumed pouty hi-NRG stage act has attracted more nuisance. "I've had drunk guys try and grab me when I'm onstage. I'm just like, 'Get the fuck off me. Are you fucking for real? Keep your hands to yourself." She pauses, reloads, re-aims, blasts out one more load of verbal buckshot. "I'm not like a stripper - I'm not here to fucking strip down and give you a fucking lapdance. I'm not into

"WOMEN ARE THE STRONGER **SEX. WE ARE WAY MORE IN** TUNE WITH OUR BODIES"

AMANDA BLANK

is really very girly," Unlike the Kims and Foxys, she's not trying to beat the boys at their own game - that would be to miss the point. She's got her own game. "All I know is I definitely have working ladyparts. And why shouldn't I be allowed to sing about that?" Moreover, why shouldn't she be allowed to talk about how her "pussy's tastin' the best"? Or speculate that she "might like you better if we slept together"? She's just fighting for her right to naughty party. "Women are the stronger sex. We're way more in tune with our bodies. It's very rare that you meet a man with insane sexual prowess, but

how many girls

do you meet

like that?"

gravitate together. Everyone knows everyone." Germantown, her and Santi's childhood hood, is the opposite of an up-andcoming neighbourhood. It's down-and-going. When her parents - both artists moved there in the '70s, it was meant to be the new urban bohemia, but by the 80s, that same generation of upper-middle class hippies had packed up as it slowly went to seed. These days it's only dotted with the artsy types like her parents who wouldn't move out. "It was a

forget is that Philly's a really small

town. Creative people tend to

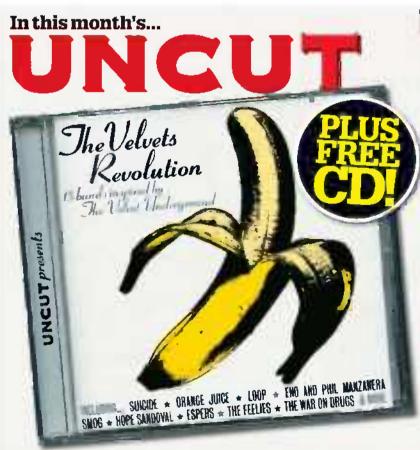
great place to grow up. Half-artists, then a half hood-ass people -

the meatheads that do shit like that."

Amanda Blank, then. Talkative.







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HASTAUGHT MELL

by TOM MORELLO

Rage Against The Machine's guitarist on protest songs, Obama and... dancing exotically!

WHEN YOU'RE SKINT, YOU'RE NOT ABOVE ANYTHING. "When

I graduated from Harvard and moved to Hollywood, I was unemployable. I was literally starving, so I had to work menial labour and, at one point, I even worked as an exotic dancer. 'Brick House' [by The Commodores] was my jam! I did bachelorette parties and I'd go down to my boxer shorts. Would I go further? (Stutters very suspiciously) I've talked myself into a cul-de-sac (laughs). All I can say is thank god it was in the time before YouTube! You could make decent money doing that job – people do what they have to do."

ROCK'N'ROLL SHOULD BE'AS

INCLUSIVE AS POSSIBLE. "Street Sweeper Social Club [Morello's new project] is more than a band - it's a social club. Everyone is invited and the bar for entry is very low. Merely rocking to our jams is a ticket for admittance. It was part of our mission statement - we wanted it to be revolutionary party jams. We wanted to make a record that you could shake your ass to while smashing the state. The artists that have best captured that vibe are the ones that have made little if any distinction between artist and audience - whether it be folk singers like Joe Hill or bands like The Clash. Throughout my work, I've tried to engender the idea of 'We're in this together' and these albums or concerts are not some kind of tutorial on globalisation, it's a wicked-awesome party that will be inspiring too."

IF YOU'RE GONNA DO SOMETHING ILLEGAL, HAVE AN ESCAPE ROUTE. "I've always looked

at my music as more of a mission than a career. Some days, my mission is to play 16 songs at a rock concert. Other days, it's to stand butt-ass naked with some electrical tape over my mouth at an anti-censorship protest. The day that Rage Against The Machine appeared naked at Lollapalooza [in 1993] to protest about the PMRC was one of the more harrowing things we did. The crowd were throwing quarters at us! We figured out that we had about 15 minutes until the police came. So I went to the

TVE ALWAYS LOOKED
AT MY MUSIC AS MORE
OF A MISSION THAN

one place where a running, naked black man wouldn't seem out of place – and that was the tourbus of [ska-punkers] Fishbone. I settled in and watched Star Wars while the police were outside."

PROTEST MUSIC SHOULDN'T BE JUST FOR TOUGH TIMES – IT SHOULD BE CONSTANT, "Bands

like Street Sweeper Social Club are more crucial than ever because it's important to not be lulled into a torpor by the optimism that comes from having a President that reads above a third grade level. I think the bar was set so horrifically low over the past eight years that there was this sigh of relief after Bush left office. But through that sigh of relief, we've seen what I think is the biggest financial crime in history by people who have broken the economy and then come for handouts to bail them out, We've also seen an expansion of the war in Afghanistan. For those who want a more just world, there's still reason for

optimism because we don't have this Attila The Hun-type character in the Oval Office. But change doesn't come from the top, it comes from people like readers of $\it NME$ who stand up for their rights where they live, work and go to school. That's why acts like my new band are even more necessary at junctures in history like this. When Rage Against The Machine were together, one of the questions I'd get asked is why we were the only protest band. We weren't the only band like that - but we were probably the only ones having hits. During Bush, you couldn't swing a cat without hitting a band singing a hit song about Iraq. It's very important to have people in the world of culture offering dissident voices at all times - it was true under Clinton, it was true under Bush, and it's certainly true under Obama."

IF I WASN'T A MUSICIAN,
I DEFINITELY WOULDN'T BE
A POLITICIAN, "I kind of stumbled
into working with Senator Alan
Cranaton in progressive Demogratic

Cranston [a progressive Democratic Senator in California during the '80s] and was his scheduling secretary for about two years. I never had any real desire to work in politics but if there was any ember burning in me, it was extinguished working in that job because of two things: one of them was the fact that 80 per cent of the time I spent with the Senator, he was on the phone asking rich people for money. It just made me understand that the whole business was dirty. He had to compromise his entire being every day. The other was the time a woman phoned up the office and wanted to complain that there were Mexicans moving into her neighbourhood. I said to her, 'Ma'am, you're a damn racist' and she was indignant. I thought I was representing our cause well, but I got yelled at for a week by everyone for saying that! I though to myself that if I'm in a job where I can't call a damn racist a damn racist, then it's not for me."

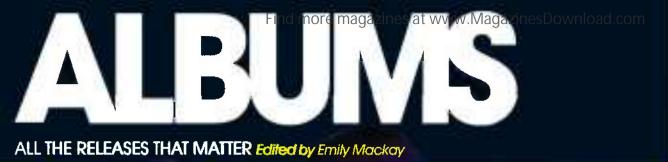
BOOTS RILEY IS THE BEST RAPPER THAT YOU'VE NEVER HEARD OF, "Very early on when we started this band, Boots [Riley, singer in SSSC and also frontman of agit-rappers

The Coup] called me up and asked me what direction he should take the lyrics of the 'Street Sweeper Social Club' album and I told him to just be himself. I think he's a brilliant lyricist; the venom and satire and subtlety of what he writes is pretty astounding. Part of

the conscious decision to bring this band to life was to rectify the fact that Boots doesn't have a big enough reputation as an artist or an activist. Plus, he's got some genre-defying dance moves and an amazing hair-do!"

DID YOU KNOW?

- One of Tom's pre-RATM bands was called Electric Sheep and featured Adam Jones of Tool in the line-up.
- Tom's great uncle Jomo Kenyatta was the first democratically elected Prime Minister of Kenya in 1963. After the country gained independence from the UK later in the year, he became the country's first President too.
- Tom spent a night in jail in 2006 after taking part in a protest march for immigrant hotel workers' rights.





Beauty is found amid the industrial chaos

n 1995, Genesis P-Orridge of cult noise terrorists Throbbing Gristle seriously injured himself while trying to escape a fire at the home of über-producer Rick Rubin. He sued Rubin for a six-figure sum and, legend has it, promptly spent the dough

COLD CAVE

(MATADOR)

LOVE COMES CLOSE

on sex-change surgery.

A few years ago, Cold Cave's Wes Eisold took out a case against boardroom pop-punkers Fall Out Boy, alleging theft of his lyrics. They settled out of court, and it'd be satisfying to think that some of the proceeds went into financing this transformational odd-pop masterpiece. The parallel would be fitting, for Cold Cave are curious pop descendents of P-Orridge's barbaric innovators. Their early EPs, collected this year on 'Cremations'. brought an exuberant spirit to that type of industrial grinding previously only heard on Throbbing Gristle live recordings, early Cabaret Voltaire and the work of cheery fascism-flirter and Tiki bar-owner Boyd Rice

Those pioneers created sonic mirrors of the bleak cities around them - all bombed-out buildings, monuments of industrial revolution decaying into junkyards and the ever-buzzing threat of ultraviolence, but here Cold Cave seek a personal touch in the heart of the alienating metropolis. We've grown accustomed to the dirt, these days cushioned by the bright lights of LCD

advertising and the palliative effects of 24-hour boozing. Where amid all this is there a place for love?

Cold Cave have the answers. With 'Love Comes Close', the Philadelphians have delivered an album perfectly timed for a waning year in a city that does not know seasons, where drizzle and four o'clock dusk are never leavened by the beauty of a browning forest or harvest moon. They embrace a brutalist form of music and wrestle romance and humanity from its core. It's no easy task and this is not, by any means, an album that gives itself up easily

The title track opens with stentorian pulses before guitars suddenly jangle in with melancholic echoes of early New Order and the lugubrious charm of Magnetic Fields. Aside from the motorik fizzpop of 'Life Magazine', it's the most easily digested piece here. Elsewhere, this is a tale of complications and frustrations, heavily processed vocals struggling for breath amid a chaos of drones reminiscent of Fad Gadget. At times in a bitter embrace with the lighter backing tones of Caralee McElroy, it's often hard to make sense of Eisold's lyrics. His fragmentary works are delivered in his anxious growl or, on 'The Trees Grew Emotions And Died', entirely unintelligibly. They're tools more of percussion than of communication, and they clash strikingly with synths that could almost be described as jaunty.

It is this unpredictability and contrast that makes 'Love Comes Close' so compelling, so mournfully romantic. 'Heaven Was Full' is as tense as your mind after a night of insomnia. 'The Laurels Of Erotomania' overlays cold pin-pricks of synth with funereal vocals. In less than two minutes, 'Hello Rats' unleashes a melodic infestation that defies extermination. 'Youth And Lust' conjures the rhythm of neon streetlights flashing past a misted car window.

Many of Cold Cave's peers attempt to paint a city viewed by eyes wide open for far, far too long But where Editors come off as callow mock goths, The Horrors can seem like a band struggling to paint more than a pastiche with their 'Primary Colours' and The Big Pink risk being mere drug-wrecked Verve imitators, Wes Eisold has fashioned a record that finds beauty in contradiction. Give thanks that there are still dour Robin Hoods out there in the underground, deploying the last of the major-label cash to deliciously nefarious ends. Luke Turner

DOWNLOAD: 1) 'Life Magazine' 2) 'Youth And Lust' 3) 'Love Comes Close'

DID YOU KNOW...

Wes Eisold is formerly of hardcore act Some Girls, while Caralee McElroy was once in Xiu Xiu

Watch the video of album track 'Love Comes Close' now at NME.COM/video GET BACK GUINOZZI CARPET MADNESS (CATCAT)





It's easy enough to hear that Eglantine Gouzy recently became a new mother, so baby-talk sweet are her French-

flecked vocals. The girlish giggles of 'Go Back To School' and the Yoko-esque climax of 'I Don't Want To Sleep Alone' are naively charming. Mystifyingly, though, she refers to her delivery as "English in a baboon style". Her musical playmate Fred Landini abets her monkey business by hopscotching through '60s tropicana and '80s new wave, chalked over post-punk slabs of The Raincoats and The Slits. Reggae gets the treatment in a breezy rendition of Junior Murvin's 'Police And Thieves', while the lo-fi title track steals the show and reveals voguish Ariel Pink overtones. Hazel Sheffield DOWNLOAD: 'I Don't Want To Sleep Alone'

HAR MAR SUPERSTAR DARK TOUCHES (DILETTANTE)



Thought Har Mar's spindly pubes bursting from the sides of his jock strap while doing his Ron Jeremy sex thang couldn't

get any fouler? Check out electro crotchthruster 'I Got Next', where he sings about tasting a girl's apple sauce. There's nothing inherently wrong with apple sauce, but when it's used to allude to Har Mar giving oral sex, the image conjured up will leave you gagging. Yeah, it's his shtick, and you could laugh with him if the music was in any way exciting. Unfortunately, however, 'Dark Touches" filth-funk fury is made impotent by sheer lack of hooks. A slew of weak spunk jokes is all that remains and you're left being assured of just one thing: Har Mar is a wanker. Alex Hoban DOWNLOAD: 'Tall Boy'

BRAKES ROCK IS DODELLIK (FATCAT)



You can understand Brakes' decision to release a live album, since their brief history has been a tale of patchy albums

and ace shows. Recorded at Brighton's Concorde 2 and Cologne's Luxor, this has 20 tracks of their unique brand of short, sharp oddball-punk, plus what sounds like six people clapping in-between. 'Pick Up The Phone' and 'Hi How Are You' are amusing bursts of irritation, but 'I Can't Stand To Stand Beside You' and 'What's In It For Me' stand out, lost classics that could have snuck on to The Who's 'Live At Leeds' (well, almost), For a true approximation of the Brakes live experience listen to this while staring at an egg in a tank top (an uncanny resemblance of frontman Eamon). Martin Robinson

DOWNLOAD: 'I Can't Stand To Stand Beside You'

Find more magazines at www.

THE HIDDEN CAMERAS

ORIGIN: ORPHAM (ARTS & CRAFTS)





This lot have been quietly putting on mindblowing and unique shows for years. From touting their flamboyant falsetto-

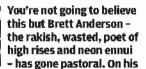
driven indie ditties in front of 100,000 football fans (now that takes guts) to setting up elaborate stage-pieces complete with 40-strong dance troupes in art galleries, porn theatres, churches and parks. The Hidden Cameras make for an utterly awesome live spectacle. But there was always just one teensy problem; their records weren't half as entertaining, Now, 'Origin: Orphan' has saved the day. The sixth studio offering from Joel Gibb and his merry cohorts marks a big fat notch on the masterpiece bedpost and exemplifies everything that is glorious and good about cleverly made pop music.

Bold and brassy from the start, it sweeps away any memories of stripped-down last effort 'Awoo' with a flurry of foreboding harmonies. dramatic strings and trotting drums. The opening note of six-minute epic 'Ratify The New' is sustained for what seems like aeons, heightening tension and, gulp, leaving NME frazzled, drymouthed and vet, oh so content by the time it has had its way with us. Things lighten up a from here-on in (they couldn't get much more intense) as recent single 'In The Na' ushers in an abundance of playful melodies which trip along sweetly, buoyed by blasts of horns and orchestra, colliding head-first into synths, flutes, growling riffs and the tip-tap rhythms of a typewriter. What fun!

'Origin: Orphan' is the sound of The Hidden Cameras finally proving they can make records as wham-bam powerful as their performances, with deliciously sumptuous results. About time too; confidence suits them. Camilla Pia DOWNLOAD: 'The Little Bit'

BRETT ANDERSON SLOW ATTACK (BA SONGS)





third solo album there's no mention of council estates and junkies, it's all about flowers and fields. Of course, Brett's replaced alienation in the city with alienation in the country ("The hills are like sorrow", he sings on the eerie 'Frozen Roads'), but working with folk impressario Leo Abrahams has allowed him to drop his usual persona and stretch himself. All the warm woodwind and strings balance out Brett's icy voice. and the resultant avant-folk works remarkably well; 'The Hunted' and 'Ashes Of Us' are easily his best solo work. The forgotten man of Britpop has found himself, but is anyone still listening? Martin Robinson DOWNLOAD: 'The Hunted'







Philosophically, you would struggle to justify this record's existence. Containing zero surprises, the Hot Chip man's solo

debut is a synthetic sun shower of analogue electronics that, in light of Alexis Taylor's 'Rubbed Out', merely confirms what you already know. Namely, that Hot Chip's creative dynamic relies on Taylor bringing the folk, rock and soul songcraft, and Goddard the bleeps. Nonetheless. 'Harvest Festival' is still pretty neat. Goddard's music pivots around key characteristics: playful melody, lower case melancholy and raw, bright. bruised synth sounds. Consequently, he may toy with everything from Detroit techno to dubstep, but 'Harvest Festival' hangs cohesive. Tony Naylor DOWNLOAD: 'Go Bananas'

TWINKRANES **SPEKTRUMTHEATRESNAKES** STRIDERS REEPERS)





Put this incredible album on and, from the first second of opener 'High **Tekk Train Wreck'** everyone - regardless of

musical persuasion - sits up and asks. "What the hell is that?" The answer is that it's a fantastically unhinged mix of speeded-up krautrock rhythms, dirty drones and wonky synthesizers, which is at once weird and danceable and very pop; as a case in point, 'The Charmer' sounds like Britney Spears' 'Womanizer' as played by New York experi-mental duo Silver Apples. All we know about Twinkranes is they come from Dublin, there are three of them called Blonde Fox, Rooster and Auburn Spinner. But with sounds like this, who needs biog and sensible names? Nathaniel Cramp DOWNLOAD: 'The Charmer'

DANIEL JOHNSTON IS AND ALWAYS WAS (FERRITONE)





The 2006 documentary The Devil And Daniel Johnston heartbreakingly captured the cult icon's battle with bi-polar

disorder. But the film - along with Kurt Cobain's accolade of 'greatest songwriter ever' and the famous googlyeyed frog T-shirt - has left Johnston's 30-year career in danger of being remembered more for its back story. 'Is And Always Was' is a departure from the introspective one-take records of his past. From the playground pop of 'Mind Movies' to the funk-driven 'Freedom', this doesn't sound distressed. Actually, it sounds like Steely Dan and Brian Wilson having a big hug. The optimism with which Johnston showcases his furious take on Americana suggests this is the time for his music to transcend his biography. Sam Wolfson DOWNLOAD: 'Freedom'

Pop goes the Weezer



(POLYDOR)

Rivers Cuomo polishes up with Lil Wayne and Lada Gaga, but it's hollow inside

ivers Cuomo is a deeply weird individual. After the spectacular success of Weezer's 1994 debut album - which pretty much invented emo's melodic wing - instead of embracing rock-star excess, the singer enrolled at Harvard, painted all his walls and windows black and set to work on a bafflingly opaque 'spaceopera'. In more recent years, his hobbies have included meditation and picking up "barely legal" (his words) cybergirlfriends on Weezer.com.

So it's a shock, in 2009, to find this awkward, crabby outsider hurling himself headlong into the world of blockbuster pop, penning songs for Katy Perry and covering Lady Gaga's 'Poker Face' live - a version of which appears on the deluxe edition of this, Weezer's seventh album. There's also a guest rap from Lil Wayne on the synth-boosted track 'Can't Stop Partying'. Meanwhile, tracks such as 'I'm Your Daddy' come slathered in the kind of sugary guitar distortion last heard sellotaping together Ashlee Simpson's record.

Is it convincing? Not quite. It works when Cuomo's skewering the hollowness of that world. 'Can't Stop Partying' does that job admirably, poking fun at ghetto fabulous stars who "gotta have the cars, gotta have the jewels". Mostly, though, he plays it straight: these are big, dumb, glossy pop songs, delineating a weirdly phony world of open freeways, jocks, mallrats and parties where hot girls put their hands in the air like they just don't care. You long for a riptide of geek rage to

undercut the slickness, but those moments are frustratingly rare.

Cuomo is not critiquing pop, he's immersing himself in it: doo wop pastiche 'I Don't Want To Let You Go finds him Xeroxing Diane Warren's dog-eared book of romantic clichés: "The pain is killing me, but I can't let it be". Is this his authentic voice, how he really feels? It's hard to believe.

The band are on more comfortable ground when they play to their traditional strengths. 'Put Me Back Together' is magnificent, a heartsore tale of nerd romance to rank alongside Buddy Holly'. This being Weezer, it also boasts a truly heroic chorus. And this album is full of them: colossal, gleaming hooks, buffed to a Botox sheen. But given what we know about Cuomo's eccentric inner world, it's hard not to find those dazzlingly perfect melodies kind of hollow. Luke Lewis

DOWNLOAD: 1) 'Put Me Back Together' 2) 'I'm Your Daddy' 3) 'Can't Stop Partying'

DID YOU KNOW...

'Put Me Back Together' was co-written by Tyson Ritter of pop-punk jocks the All-American Rejects.



Check out images of Weezer's recent video shoot at NME_COM/photos



00100 ARMONICO HEWA (THRILL JOCKEY)





Yoshimi P-We may well be best known as the titular pink robot-battling heroine of The Flaming Lips' most famous album.

but given how bizarre 'Armonico Hewa' is, this is a mighty shame. When she's not being an essential component of J-psych rhythm unit Boredoms or Free Kitten with Kim Gordon she is the driving force (drums, vocals, guitar, trumpet) of OOIOO and this, their sixth album, is equal in brilliance to anything they've done before. 'Honki Ponki' is a Japanese riposte to Tom Tom Club's 'Wordy Rappinghood', while 'Polacca' is a lurching punchdrunk romp through African funk. Bracing brilliance channelling the spirit of Yoko Ono. Le Tigre, Aphex Twin and Alice Coltrane. John Doran DOWNLOAD: 'Polocca'

ESPERS III IWICHTAL





If you go down to the woods today, you're sure of, well, not a big surprise, but at least a subversion of expectations. For while

Philadelphia's freak folkers continue to inhabit a midnight forest clearing between Fairport Convention and The Incredible String Band, the moon is now full and the oppressive atmospherics have been tempered with a little pastoral optimism. While that could suggest less depth, in fact on the swaying lilt of both 'Another Moon Song' and 'The Road Of Golden Dust' there is perhaps a little more soul and space than previously. If 'III' occasionally seems whimsical, that only enhances the bucolic beauty of an album that's a moon-dappled delight. Anthony Thornton DOWNLOAD: 'Caroline'



Engaging debut from the Clap Your Hands Say Yeah frontman

he ripples from Clap Your Hands Say Yeah's stonking 2005 self-titled debut album have long since lapped against the indie pool's edge, and it's fair to say the Brooklyn troupe are displaying the advanced stages of 'Spinto Band Syndrome'. You know: skinny college-goon types launch student union-slaving semibreakthrough album over the Atlantic then follow-up with a less spectacular effort. The previously confident strides stick in the gloop of mediocrity, sinking until eventually, when the nostrils finally plop under, there are barely enough people interested to hear their final exhalation of relevance.

But proverbially grasping a vine, attaching it to the back of a horse then giving Dobbin's buttock an almighty thwack is CYHSY frontman Alec Ounsworth with this debut solo album. It's a challenging, warm if understated effort destined to thunk into the indie solo album dartboard somewhere between Julian Casablancas and Duncan from Maximo Park.

Produced by Steve Berlin in New Orleans, 'Mo Beauty' sees Ounsworth build his own mini-orchestra, swooshing up piano jingles against Lambchop pedal-steel shimmers. As it is with CYHSY, the sticking point for most will be his divisive voice - to some a deft, note-diving Wainwright-esque wonder, to others the whine-moan of an alley cat that's just swallowed a fishbone too big for its throat. But really, with so much interesting clatter going on here it

rarely sounds overly intrusive. Especially in the second half, where 'South Philadelphia (Drug Days)' and 'What Fun' turning an interesting record into something truly stirring. In fact, tie some hideous Jerry Seinfeld trainers on his feet and we've almost got the new Sufjan Stevens. Jamie Fullerton

DOWNLOAD: 1) 'What Fun' 2) 'South Philadelphia (Drug Days)' 3) 'Bones In The Grave'



Watch Alec Ounsworth's video for 'That Is Not My Home (After Bruegel)' at NME.COM/video

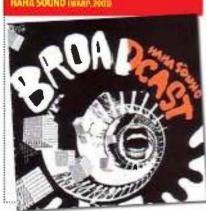
UNSPUN HEROES

DIGGING UP BURIED TREASURE FROM THE DEPTHS OF OUR COLLECTIONS

THIS WEEK...

Acting Deputy Editor Hamish MacBain tunes in to a forgotten transmission of synthetic pysch gorgeousness

BROADCAST SAHA SOUND (WARP, 2003)



even years after a spacious lullaby of a debut single entitled 'Accidentals' in 1996, three years after debut album 'The Noise Made By People' and into a world mostly waiting with bated breath for The Strokes' 'Room On Fire', this Birmingham trio's masterpiece was quietly birthed. Like its entrance, differences between this and what had come before are subtle - their synthetic sound refined rather than reinvented. In contrast to its title, their first album felt very much like the work of machines but on their second - honed in the bedroom of bass player James Cargill - some homemade, human rough edges sneak in and the true identity of this most special of British bands reveals itself.

The clatter of the drums in 'Before We

Begin' (recalling the finest '60s psychedelia) to some extent characterises the songs here, as of course do the woozy, dissonant keyboards that so defined Broadcast's first phase. But it's the shifting of Trish

It's that rarest of things: a record that sounds both otherworldly and oddly familiar

Keenan's cooed vocals into the foreground that makes these songs so special. Before, her beautiful melodies had almost been used as another instrument in a collage of sound: now the likes of 'Man Is Not A Bird' and 'Ominous Cloud' revealed a quite unique pop sensibility. For certain, 'Minim', 'Distorsion' and most of all the closing 'Hawk' exhibit the experimental tendencies you might expect of so-titled songs, but throughout 'Ha Ha Sound' there is an accessibility and immediacy

> that works quite beautifully in tandem with the musical adventure. It is that rarest of things: a record that sounds completely and utterly otherworldly, yet oddly familiar and comforting.

Many of the records revisited in this column by nature inhabit

their own little space, oblivious to anything else happening in the outside world, and Broadcast's second certainly fits this insular mould. Posterity be damned, though: music would be a duller place without such little-visited nooks and grottoes of colour.



otslay



THEM CROOKED VULTURES ROSELAND BALLROOM, NEW YORK

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15

Josh Homme and Dave Grohl's supergroup delivers a pulverising, rock-god triumvirate

et's face it: supergroups are almost always rubbish and over the last 10 vears, the evidence for this has been abundant, Zwan? A post-Pumpkins prog-fest for Billy Corgan and the only four people left in the music business who could stand him. Velvet Revolver? Tighttrousered tosspots still dining out on tales of gargantuan substance abuse. Even the recently formed Dead Weather took too much pride in sounding like they recorded their album in a shed instead of offering truly memorable songs. The reason for this constant failure is simple: pedigree is no substitute for chemistry. Having a bunch of minted fret-wankers get together and knock off some tunes between hairdresser and spa appointments is never, EVER gonna trump a band of hungry 22-year-olds who've grown up together and spent years honing their art while surviving on dog-ends and cold pizza.

With Them Crooked Vultures, though, the disparity between pedigree and chemistry isn't quite so vast. Josh Homme (guitar/ vocals) and Dave Grohl (drums) of course have been bessies for years. Grohl has also spent much of his life living out his John Bonham fantasies, so the addition of the remainder of the Led Zeppelin rhythm section, John Paul Jones (bass), locks in a line-up which suggests that the band should be tuned into each other's frequencies more closely than their mere three months of existence should warrant. And it takes all of five minutes of their first NYC

performance to prove that theory correct.

First song, 'Elephants', is a heaving riff-o-rama that shakes the crowd into paying attention before accelerating into a ferocious, double-speed ending. It feels like an eight-foot mugger cornering you in a darkened alley before he races off into the night with your wallet and dignity. Loud and sinister is how Them Crooked Vultures like to do it, and for much of their set, they

do it superbly. The rhythmic power fashioned by Grohl and Jones is staggering, but this is not a band concerned with just brute force. Homme's soul-boy falsetto also gives 'Scumbag Blues' a sophisticated touch.

With so much talent on display and upwards of 3,000 devout worshippers ogling the trio's every lick and trick, it's inevitable that Them Crooked Vultures are going to indulge themselves a bit. Grohl is his usual dynamic self but stops short of anything too flashy, whereas Homme and the band's live second quitarist Alain Johannes trade solos frequently throughout. But it's Jones that gets the chance to showboat the most, pulling out an electric mandolin on the galloping western soundtrack 'Highway One' before adding a pretty piano solo on the end of the neo-Zeppelin rawk of 'Daffodils'. The real weirdness comes when he straps on a fucking keytar for 'Interlude With Ludes' while Homme minces around the stage like a strung-out cabaret singer as the band play hotel lounge smoothness around him. Confusion reigns, and there's a strong suspicion that TCV are airing a private joke as Homme guiltily mutters "thanks for clapping" during the crowd's muted reaction.

It's a slip-up that is quickly compensated for with the epic finale 'Warsaw', which starts with a swinging stomp before settling into a psychedelic, Doors-esque middle section. More Homme/Johannes noodling ensues but there's not a hint of gratuitousness this time; it

purposefully builds the tension as a pulverising prog-rock groove emerges from the calm, getting noisier and noisier until it sounds like a 747 is being landed on the roof of the venue. It's a moment of musical telepathy that confirms Them Crooked Vultures to be a band born of fire as well as skill. As long as these two components continue to be balanced out, these three vultures could well end up breathing new life into the rock supergroup carcass. Hardeep Phull



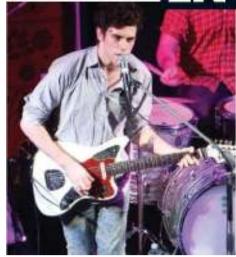
LONDON, 16/10/09

Expectations can suck. For their first headline tour after showing the Main Stage at Reading and Leeds what a party is, SB6 are back to the day-job: killing it. And with the razor-sharp 'A Bright Cold Day In April' and 'Piggy In The Middle' in their arsenal, it's surprising they remain on the brink of the hugeness they deserve, but it's clear no-one here cares for scene politics. And why should they? Tonight the Garage, as with every venue SB6 roll into, is a dripping bundle of energy and excitement and. yet again, it feels like a real privilege to watch this band at work. Ben Patashnik

THE AGITATOR

THE WINDMILL. LONDON, 15/10/09 Unleashing a great

howling guttersnarl, The Agitator, aka Derek Meins, launches into 'Get Ready,' spitting out his rallying cry of "We can't afford to hesitate/Now is the time to agitate". Stripped down and raw, backed by the big drumbeats provided by sole onstage collaborator Robert Dylan Thomas, Mein's passionate vocals fill in effortlessly for the rest of the rhythm section, getting the crowd dancing along with him. He howls and hollers. one minute a gospel preacher, then a rapper, the next hitting doo-wop high notes. Truly motivational. Tessa Harris



ENDER HE NIGHT



NOAH AND THE WHALE ORAN MOR. GLASGOW THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15

inematic' is the word that keeps springing to mind when you listen to Noah And The Whale, and not just because of how often '5 Years Time' has been used to sell you stuff in television ads. It's more the way that they're so lo-fi frontman Charlie Fink often has to ask the crowd to keep quiet during gigs, and the way their bleakly beautiful second album 'The First Days Of Spring' arcs from despair to desperation to eventual redemption, lending it a filmic grandeur. It may be more mumblecore than Michael Bay, but it's there all the same. Luckily for Fink, there's no need to shush anyone tonight. From the moment the first words of 'Blue Skies' leave his lips, there's rapt silence. A failed relationship is a lonely abyss to stare into, but when he sighs plaintively that "I'll do anything to be happy" he's giving a beleaguered, world-weary voice to something that everybody's gone through, and the crowd watch on in hushed reverence, erupting in applause once Fink's finished.

While laying yourself bare to a room full of strangers on the nakedly personal likes of 'Our Window' and 'Stranger' may be an odd sort of catharsis, it certainly makes for some achingly beautiful music. Indeed, it's only when the mood lightens that the spell is broken somewhat. The chirpy '2 Bodies 1 Heart' is harmless enough in spite of its PhD from the Phil Collins School Of Lyrical Metaphor, but '5 Years Time' sounds like the work of a different - and infinitely more irritating - band altogether (Dodgy, in this case).

Still, this is more of a celebratory experience than a sombre one. There are glimmers of life optimism in 'Love Of An Orchestra"s gospel-y gallop and in 'The First Days Of Spring"s whispering insistence that "there is hope in every new seed". And the band's own transformation from wooly hummus-eaters to authors of one of the year's finest albums suggests that it was all worth it in the end. As Fink and his bandmates shuffle offstage to whoops and cheers, you kinda hope for his sake he sees it that way too. Barry Nicolson



DIVORCE STEREO, GLASGOW 19/10/09

Ignore the solitary Y-chromosome their drummer is in possesion of, and Glasgow's caust nae wave noisemongers Divorce are like a Guns N'Roses for girls albeit girls whose ears are made of metal alloys. This disparately coollooking group of punks, misfits and prim art-school types - like frontwoman Sinead Youth, who sounds like butter wouldn't melt when she's asking for more bass in her monitor, but whose guttural roar on Juice Of Youth' makes her the most terrifying person here manage to tear Stereo a new one tonight. A dirt-rock cacophony of punk brutalism: you have to see this band. Barry Nicolson

SPECTRALS THE PLUG SHEFFIELD, 20/10/09

The 'Next Big Thing' tag rarely does any new act as much of a favour as being left alone to concertedly develop their craft. For 19-year-old Leodensian Louis Jones (aka Spectrals), the hype machine is just starting to churn its ominous gears, and guess what? It's all too early. Certainly. there are tunes to be had tonight - not to mention several takes on the infamous 'Be My Baby' beat - but his nostalgic doo-pop is currently as raw as a newborn. Leave the kid alone for a bit, music industry. and something great might yet

happen. Rob Webb



Why spend hours wandering Manchester's In The City showcase? We've rounded up the best

ay we present NME's guide to optimising Manchester's best new music showcase - In The City? Three simple steps: choose its - ahem - bestcurated party, at Manchester's best new music venue, with Manchester's best new musicians opening proceedings. If it goes wrong after that, frankly, you're on your own

But fear not as we side-step our way past the early-doors throng, it's clear that our method is flawless. Almost as flawless as the nonchalant cool of the four 17-year-old matted fringed urchins before us. A mere six months into their heel-scuffing existence, they've got damp-nylon-shirted A&R creatures crowing, 'I've seen the future, and it's Egyptian Hip Hop!' Rumours scatter through the crowd about their recent run of sublimely careless live outings. They're a dream technoband, live, we're told, nay, a noise-punk troupe, no way, a post-indie jam-band, for sure... The truth tonight is that behind the haze of shuffling velour hoodies and bowed mops is they're all and none of those things. EHH are

the first prime example of the potentially genre-free brilliance of a new generation utterly spoilt for choice by new media's relentless splurge. The lazy glow of antianthems like set-closer 'Rad Pitt' reluctantly tug a new creedless tribe's flag to the summit of all that's amazing. Murmuring melody bubbles to the surface of a rich stew of alternative-canon influences. Rather than being confused, though, their many-hued sound is instinctive. As to what their future might hold, they could end up artily almostthere coulda-been-contenders, or they could actually get off Spotify long enough to pen the first doss-pop Number One Who cares right now? Certainly not them.

Max McElligott, aka dandy-pop maestro Wolf Gang, has distinctly more steadfast goals and not so many early laurels to rest on. He's already feverishly composed his first three could-be smashes; joyous, whirling indie-pop concertos born from gene-pool puddles: two gloops David Byrne to one squirt Mozart. Tonight there's no denying that the likes of 'The King And All Of His Men' display

infinitely more widescreen rush than any of this year's conveyor-belt of dejected cheekboned cred-pop solo chaps, but the live show currently throws up as many question marks as exclamation points. Is he the frontman of the next wave of crossover guitar pin-ups? Is he a solo pop sensation earning his stripes on the underground circuit? Neither awkwardly spotlighted Max nor his backing group, who're kept shuffling in total darkness throughout, seem to have the answer just now.

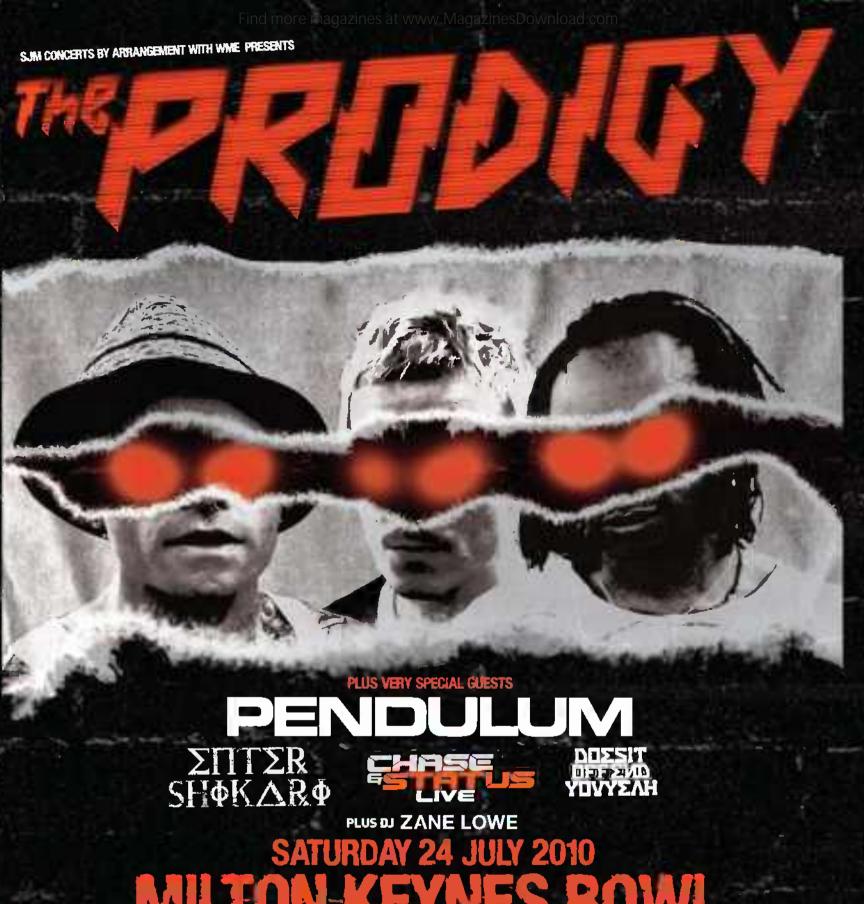
Wolf Gang: Amadeus Mozart just out of shot

Proving that the notorious Manc pride doesn't need meat-and-potatoes guitar rock to puff its chest, the venue refills to bursting point for local intelli-punk heroes Everything Everything. And like quantum physics professors running an after-school sex cult strictly for the babes in the class, their set is baffling, bizarre, beautiful and bawdy. Spindly math structures erect themselves from vaults of syncopated three-part harmonies, fiddling Rubik's cube choruses miraculously out of the ether. With Foals having proved that there's a whetted appetite out there for groovy complexity, EE's tactic of adding some actual tunes (ooh, controversial) and a bit of raunch to the mix makes them one heck of an exciting prospect.

Funny what a good old everyman rock'n'roll arena tour can do to you Straight off the road with Franz Ferdinand, LA's fantasy-disco freemasons Music Go Music have dropped members, props and progness for tonight's finale of crap-cutting, bruisingly aloof divaism Mark Ronson, arms aloft, is joined at either side by members of local Radar alumni Delphic and Hurts in the front row, all attempting that elusive beast, the manly shimmy. If you're thinking 'Dancing Queen', stop it right now. Anyone who feared a feckless boho underbelly to MGMT's glittering assault should take heed of tonight's performance. As exultant calling card 'Warm In The Shadows' snakes its way through the venue, its grace is equalled by its venom. Jeez, 2009's starting to

feel so last year. Jaimie Hodgson





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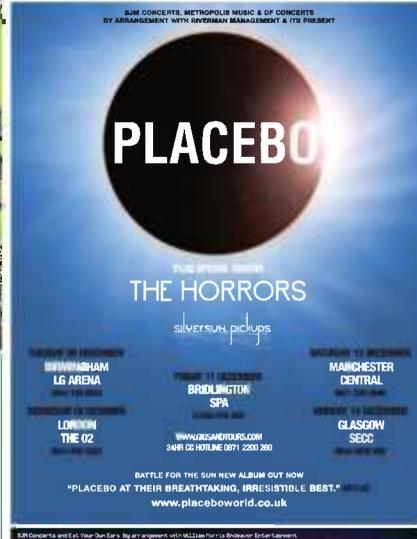
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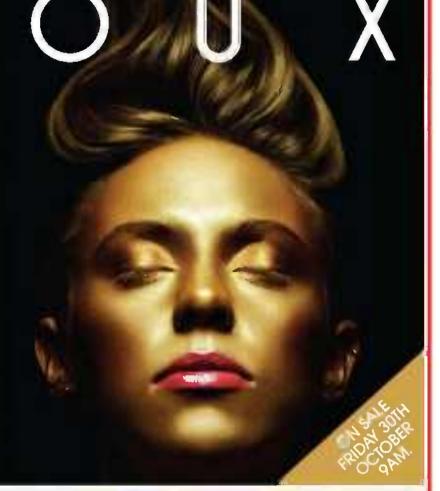
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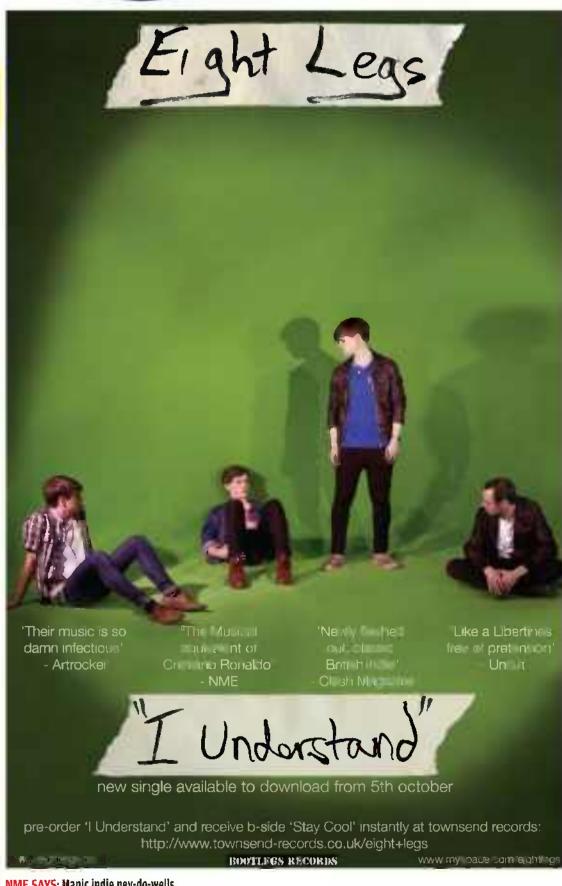
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WANT TO SOUND LIKE...



Martin Sheehan, 18, Ipswich: "I really want to know how I can get my guitar to sound like Ryan Jarman's does in The Cribs. Help!"

THE SOUND

On their latest album 'Ignore The Ignorant' the trio of Yorkshire brothers were Joined by genuine gultar hero Johnny Marr, resulting in new textures and subtle treats added to The Cribs' melodic vim and lyrical vitriol. Singer/guitarist Ryan Jarman is influenced by the power, punch and lo-fi beauty of '90s indie-rockers Beat Happening, while Marr has been inspired by everything from early house to folk legend Bert Jansch.

THE GEAR

While a Fender Mustang or a Glason ES-335 might come in handy, if you can only afford one guitar to 'do' The Cribs get a Fender Jaguar. They don't do classic rock very well, but that's the point, and they're easier than most guitars to play (especially for those with small hands). Get yourself a nice Orange AD3OTC and you've got two channels of power at your disposal. As for pedals, either an Ibanez Tube Screamer or a Fulltone OCD is essential.

IN THE STUDIO

Nick Launay (Arcade Fire, Yeah Yeah Yeahs) produced 'Ignore...' and he's a big supporter of working out parts and arrangements with the band before getting into the studio. Once there, Nick. a big advocate of analogue (rather than digital) gear, prefers the band to be able to see each other when playing to spark off each other.

THE TECHNIQUE

Rvan Jarman is a master of creating straightforward but fun riffs. Johnny Marr, on

NEXT WEEK: Laura Marling

Words by John Callaghan from...



the other hand, is known for never playing anything straightforward. So why not marry the two approaches? For example, learn some basic chords (A, F and D are good Cribs chords to start with) and then learn how to play them sharp and flat. Chances are you'll do that close up by the neck, but you can find them further down the neck too. Once you've done that, try moving the odd finger or two, either on to a different fret or off the fretboard. This gives your chord a new voicing and is much closer to making it all yours. Finally, don't forget to hit the guitar hard and with some spite.

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NME.COM/artists/cold-cave



PICK OF CLUB NME

ING REBEL SET

WHERE: DEL:BY ROCKHOUSE (MON)

Let's get riotous. Raw indie rock from Stockton-on-Tees by way of Young Rebel Set looks, um, set to rally the masses at Rockhouse, with reinforcements from Hoodlums and Mascot Fight.

NME.COM/clubnme



WHERE: LONDON CARGO (TUES)

Melbourne trio HTRK (pronounced "hate rock" to the uninitiated) take their expansive lo-fi, shoegaze indie rock to the dark underbelly of London's east end in support of The Drones. NME.COM/artists/HTRK

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NME.COM/artists/ellie-goulding



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OL41 204 5151 WA

My Passion Cathouse 0141 248 6606 Our Brother The Native Captain's Rest 0141 331 2722

Social Circle 13th Note Café 01415531638

Therapy? King Tut's Wah Wah Hut 0141 221 5279

LOS ANGELES

SOULICO + CECI BASTIDA + SPEECH DEBELLE SPACEL AND

001 323 6614380

The Young Republic Nice'n'Sleazy 0141 333 9637

Martin Harley Band Boileroom 01483 440022

Reverend & The Makers The Assembly 01926 313774

The Bowerbirds Brudenell Social

Club 0113 243 5866 Desolation Wilderness The Library

0113 2440794 **Hooray For Humans Packhorse** 0113 245 3980

Idlewild Cockpit 0113 244 3446 Kano Stylus 01132 431751 Lazybaby Hi Fi Club 0113 242 7353 Sheba Baby Sandinista¹ 0113 305 0372

Woltek Godzisz Rios 0844 414 2182

Eat A Peach O2 Academy 2 0870 771 2000 WA

Barringtone/Juncas Retreat Windmill 020 8671 0700

The Basics Monto Water Rats 020 7837 4412

Bobby Brown Indigo @ The O2 Arena 0870 701 4444

Calvin Harris Forum 020 7344 0044 +14

Darkstar Luminaire 020 7372 7123 Dirty North Arts Club 020 7460 4459

Femmepop/Dirty Modern Hero/ Will Lord Dublin Castle 020 7485 1773 Gala Epicus Underworld 020 7482 1932

The Gutter Brothers Borderline 020 7734 5547

Hatcham Social King's College 020 7836 7132

Jose Feliciano Jazz Cafe 020 7916 6060 Krish Bull & Gate 020 7485 5358

Les Quatre Etolles Cargo 0207 749 7840 Los Campesinos! Garage

020 7607 1818

Mafia Lights Bar Music Hall 020 7613 5051

Passion Pit KOKO 020 7388 3222 Phoenix O2 Brixton Academy 0870 771 2000 WA

Red Drapes/Penfold Gate 93 Feet East 020 7247 6095

The Rileys OZ Shepherds Bush Empire 0870 771 2000 WA

Room Of Katinas The Fly 0870 907 0999

Storm Of Light 02 Academy 2 Islington 0870 771 2000 WA Tamikas 100 Club 020 7636 0933

Ten Bears 12 Bar Club 020 7240 2622 This Town Needs Guns Hoxton Square Bar & Kitchen 020 7613 0709

Unicorn Kid Barfly 0870 907 0999 +14

Vendor Defender/Eat More Cake Good Ship 020 7372 2544 Vinvi Black Stilettos Underhelly

Yeti Lane/Le Volume Courbe Social 020 7636 4992

ZZ Top Wembley Arena 0870 060 0870

02076133105

Magnum Academy 3 0161 832 1111 Portugal The Man Roadhouse 0161 228 1789

Spandau Ballet Evening News Arena 0161 950 5000

Little Comets 02 Academy 2 0870 771 2000

Eagles Of Death Metal UEA 01603 505401 Nerina Pallot Waterfront

01603 632717 Rior Party Rock City 08713 100000

David Ford Rescue Rooms 0115 958 8484 +14

Charile Winston O2 Academy 2 0870 771 2000 WA

The Ressurrection Men Cellars 08712301094

Alphabeat 53 Degrees 01772 893 000

The Naturals Oakford Social Club 0116 255 3956

Bill Wyman's Rhythm Kings City Hall 0114 278 9789

The Oli Brown Band Boardwalk 0114 279 9090

You Love Her Coz She's Dead Joiners 023 8022 5612

Cancer Bats The Forum 087L2 777101

WAKEPIELD Loathe Snooty Fox 01924 374455 WINCHESTER

Glen Matlock Railway Inn 01962 867795

Amon Amarth Wulfrun Hall 01902 552121

Soft Toy Emergency Fibbers 01904 651 250 +14 The Unthanks The Duchess 01904 641 413

+16 = 14 AND ABOVE +16 = 16 AND ABOVE AA = ALL AGES WA = UNDER 14S WITH AN ADULT

THURSDAY OCTOBER 29

The Cheek Moles 01225 404445

Calvin Harris/Mr Hudson 02 Academy 0870 771 2000 WA Efterklang Asylum 0121 233 1109 Idlewild O2 Academy 2

0870 771 2000 WA

Eagles Of Death Metal 02 Academy 01202 399922 WA

Cornershop Digital 01273 202407 Devon Sproule Hanbury Ballroom 01273 605789

The Perils Coalition 01273726858 The Wave Pictures Freebutt 01273 603974

Alphabeat Thekla 08713 100000 Chase And Status Anson Rooms 0117 954 5810

Cold Cave Louisiana 0117 926 5978 Holy State Start The Bus

0117 930 4370 Roachford Fleece 0117 945 0996 Studio Arcade The Cooler 0117 945 0999

Tinariwen 02 Academy 0870 771 2000 WA

Little Boots/Eille Goulding Junction

Maps/It Hugs Back Portland Arms 01223 357268

Rowerhinds Clwb Ifor Rach 029 2023 2199

Blue Devil Duo The Pavilion 00 35321 427 6228 Hope Sandoval Cyprus Avenue 00 35321 427 6165

Jon Allen Flowerpot 01332 204955

Biffy Clyro Olympia 00 3531 679 3323 Indigo Girls Tripod 00 353 1 4780225 Tinchy Stryder Academy nn 3531 877 9999

Gary Moore Picture House 0844 847 1740

Camera Obscura Barrowlands 0141 552 4601 DJ Yorla Oran Mor 0141 552 9224

Haunted Cathouse 0141 248 6606 Stolen Order 13th Note Café 0141 553 1638

Twisted Wheel King Tut's Wah Wah Hut 0141 221 5279 Y&T/Nine Black Alps ABC2

0141 204 5151 WA 60 Persons Nice'n'Sleazy

0141 333 9637

Wilko Johnson Yardbirds Club 07771520374

Glen Matlock Boileroom 01483 440022 +16 This City Harpers 0871 230 1094

Kunk Square 01279 305000

Bill Wyman's Rhythm Kines City Hall 01482 226655

Beth Jeans Houghton The Swan 01473 252485

Fightstar Metropolitan University

David Essex Grand Theatre 0113 222 6222

The Holloways Cockpit 0113 244 3446

0113 283 2600

Jaga Jazzist Ti's 0871 230 1094 John Foxx College Of Music 0113 222 3400 Morrissey 02 Academy

The Kiara Elles Firebug 0116 255 1228

0870 771 2000

Aruba Red Dingwalls 020 7267 1577 Beat Bullyz Arts Club 020 7460 4459 The Bobby McGees Social 020 7636 4992

Bowling For Soup Roundhouse 020 7482 7318

Bryony Jackson Troubadour Club 020 7370 1434 BLK JK5 Hoxton Square Bar &

Kitchen 020 7613 0709 Cannibal Corpse KOKO 020 7388 3222

The Chanman Family Barfly 0870 907 0999 +14 Charlie Winston Q2 Islington Academy 0870 771 2000 WA

The Dead Weather O2 Brixton Academy 0870 771 2000 Does It Offend You. Yeah? Heaver 020 7930 2020

Frank Turner 02 Shepherds Bush Empire 0870 771 2000 WA Girlspit The Miller 020 7407 2690 The Honey Spiders Underbelly

0207 613 3105 lan Parker Borderline 020 7734 5547 In The Black Peter Parkers Rock N Roll Club 0871 230 1094

Ivan And The Wolves/Five Second Fuse 93 Feet East 020 7247 6095 Left Lane Cruiser/Mississippi Witch/Toe Hammer The Lexington

020 7837 5387 Masters In France/Sleening With Glants/Storey/Immierant 007 Dublin Castle 020 7485 1773 Mayer Hawthorne Queen Of Hoxton

020 7422 0958 Minnaars The Fly 0870 907 0999 Niteflights Buffalo Bar 020 7359 6191 Owen Tromans And The Elders Bull & Gate 020 7485 5358



Post War Years The Rest is Noise 020 7346 8521

0845 257 5727

The Rakes Forum 020 7344 0044 +14 Roy Rieck And The Medley Band Slaughtered Lamb 020 8682 4080 Sights & Sounds Underworld 020 7482 1932

Smerins Anti-Social Club Cargo 02077497840

The Smitten Ones/Rase/ GristleFridge Hope & Anchor 020 7354 1312

Stand Down Rhythm Factory 020 7247 9386 Stereo Total Luminaire

020 7372 7123 Sunlight Service Group Legion

Sweet Sweet Lies 12 Bar Club 020 7240 2622 The Twilight Sad Scala

020 7833 2022 The Volitains/Bear Pop Good Ship

020 7372 2544 We Vs Death Barden's Boudoir 0770 865 6633

8th Time Luckie Peel 020 8546 3516

Dananananaykroyd Academy 3 0161 832 1111

Eighth Wave Club Academy 0161 832 1111 Kanna Night And Day Cafe

0161 236 1822 NeonHain Satan's Hollow

0161 236 0666 Nowhere Again Roadhouse

0161 228 1789 Reverend & The Makers Academy 0161.832.1111

Puressence 02 Academy 2 0870 771 2000

Everything Everything Roadmender Centre 01604 604222

Funeral For A Friend UEA 01603 505401 The Kabeedles Waterfront 01603 632717

Delphic/Two Door Cinema Club Bodega Social Club 08713 100000 Steel Panther Rock City 08713 100000

Therapy? Rescue Rooms 0115 958 8484

Los Campesinos! 02 Academy 2 0870 771 2000 WA

Bare Your Scars Wedgewood Rooms

023 9286 3911 Curl Cellars 0871 230 1094 The Old Boys Network New Theatre

Royal 023 9264 9000 The Whip 53 Degrees 01772 893 000

All Forgotten Leadmill 0114 221 2828 Pama International Corporation

0114 276 0262 Tom Hingley Boardwalk 0114 279 9090

This Town Needs Guns/Tubelord Joiners 023 8022 5612

Vendor Defender Hobgoblin 01784 452012

Badweatherparty Katie Fitzgerald's 01384 374410 Stupidity/The Sideliners Horn

Eleventh Apparition Sin City

01727 853143

01792654226

Old School Tie The Vic 01793 535713 Thought Crimes 12 Bar 01793 535713

You Love Her Coz She's Dead The Forum 08712 777101

Blackjak Escobar 01924 332000 Filth Wizard Snooty Fox 01924 374455

Desolation Wilderness City Screen Basement Bar 01904 541144 White Beit Yellow Tag Fibbers 01904 651 250 +14

FRIDAY OCTOBER 30

Flux The Tunnels 01224 211121

Young Fathers Moles 01225 404445

Eliza Doolittle Esquires 01234 340120

Jim Brown Waterfront 028 9033 4455

Funeral For A Friend/Fightstar 02 Academy 0870 771 2000 WA

Four Tet Audio 01273 624343 The Twilight Sad Freebutt 01273 603974

Passion Pit Anson Rooms 0117 954 5810

Ten City Nation function 01223 511511

Sick Livers Clwb Ifor Bach 029 2023 2199

The Hoof The Twist 01206 562 453

Julie Feeney The Paytion 00 35321 427 6228

May68 The Box 01270 257 398

Ever The Optimist The Victoria Inn 01332 74 00 91

My Dackion The Royal 01332 36 77 20

The Reckless Ones Leopard 01302363054

Norman Blake/Euros Childs Balon Arts Centre 074 91 31840

Delorentos Whelan's 00 3531 475 9372 Rebecca Storm Vicar St 00 3531 889 4900

House 0844 847 1740

Bowerbirds Sneaky Pete's 0131 225 1757 Reverend & The Makers Picture

Mayer Hawthorne Roisin Dubh 00 35391 586540

Chris Bradley 13th Note Café

0141 553 1638 Paradise Lost King Tut's Wah Wah Hut 0141 221 5279

The Onlookers Boileroom

01483 440022

The Otters Club 85 01462 432767

Angelo Palladino The Owl 0113 256 5242

TOM OXLEY/IDDLS

Danananaykroyd Brudenell Social Club 0113 243 5866

Kurran And The Wolfnotes Cockpit Room 3 0113 2441573

Los Campesinos!/Copy Haho

Cockpft 0113 244 3446 The Soul Circle Gang Carpe Diem 0113 243 6264

The Unsung Heroes Primrose Ban 01132 621368

Youandewan Nation Of Shopkeepers

Cold Cave Korova (151 709 7097) The Popular Nobodies 02 Academy 2 0870 771 2000 WA

Acoustic Ladyland Barden's Boudoir 0770 865 6633

Anita Mai 229 Club 020 7631 8310 Anti-Nowhere League Underworld 020 7482 1932

Black Market Karma Barfly 0870 907 0999



CHELMSFORD

ROTATING LESLIE + ELECTRIC CHILDHOUSE + SHAKE ALLETI BARHOUSE

01245 356811 LONDON

DINOSAUR PILE-UP + INVASION 0207 388 3222

The Blues Band 100 Club 020 7636 0933

The Dead Weather Forum 020 7344 0044 +14

The Echoes/This Reautiful Thief Dublin Castle 020 7485 1773

Gollath Watershed 020 7792 8101 The Great Flood Monto Water Rats 020 7837 4412

Housse De Racket/Master & Servant The Lexington 020 7837 5387 Jon Boden & The Remnant Kings

Borderline 020 7734 5547 Jose Feliciano Jazz Café

020 7916 6060 JB Conspiracy 02 Academy 2

Islington 0870 771 2000 WA The Lovely Eggs/The School Buffalo Bar 020 7359 6191

Me And The Beast Hope & Anchor 020 7354 1312

Mirrors Cargo 0207 749 7840 Oceansize Peel 020 8546 3516

O Children Planet Nollywood 020 7326 0055

Radioproof/Roar Terror 93 Feet East 020 7247 6095 Shabba Ranks OZ Brixton Academy

0870 771 2000 Something Simple/Street Policy

Good Ship 020 7372 2544 Spring Break Luminaire

020 7372 7123 Tap Tap Windmill 020 8671 0700

Walter Trout OZ Shepherds Bush Empire 0870 771 2000 WA The Wave Pictures Garage

020 7607 1818 We Used To Make Things Underbelly 0207 613 3105

DJ Yoda Club Academy 0161 832 1111

Green Day Evening News Arena 0161 950 5000

The Jannocks Night And Day Cafe 01612361822

Maxwell Academy 0161 832 1111 Vile Imbeciles Deaf Institute 0161330.4019

The Young Republic Westgarth Social Club 01642 242164

Eighth Wave 02 Academy 2 0870 771 2000 WA

Y&T 02 Academy 0870 771 2000 WA

Danny Connors And The Ladders Roadmender Centre 01604 604222

Billy Talent LEA 01603 505401

NeonHalo Old Angel Inn 0115 947 6735 Sights & Sounds Rock City

08713 100000

Tinariwen O2 Academy 0870 771 2000 WA

Arthur Walker The Hignor 01752 223737

Glen Natiock Ce lars 0871 230 1094

Bloc Party Ricemeal CITS 901 5001 **BOTHERMAN**

Ruberdards The Vault 0871 230 1094

Tonight We Fire Lincoln Imp 01724 840891

Calvin Harris 02 Academy 0870 771 2000

Cannibal Corpse Corporation 0114 276 0262

Idlewild Leadmill 0114 221 2828 Morrissey City Hall 0114 278 9789 Playground Mafia Plug 0114 276 7093

All Forentten Joiners 023 8027 5612 Elmor Hobbit 023 8023 2591

Friends Of Ken Sugarmill

01782 214991

Flashguns Independent 01915658947

Ugly Duckling Sin City 01792654226

Shadow Law/The Dead Lay Waiting The Furnace 01793 534238 Zoidberg The Vic 01793 535713

Breaking The Day The Forum 08712 777101

Catfish Keith The Hop 0871 230 1094 Karma Slave Snooty Fox 01024 374455

Trace Escobar 01924 332000

Klla Arts Centre 00 35353 23764

Little Boots/Ellie Goulding Wolfron Hall 01902 552121

Manchester Orchestra The Duchess 01904 641 413

Serious Sam Barrett City Screen Basement Bar 01904 541144

SATURDAY

OCTOBER 31

Electro popper Esser joins NME Radio as we come live from Tooman in Oxford Street. London, from 11am, this morning



Everything Everything Moles 01225 404445

The Radiating Eves Esquires

01234 340120

General Flasco Lister Hall 028 9032 3900

NeonHalo Madhouse Bar 0121 233 1109

Viking Skull Soundhouse

The Count/Amanda Blank 02 Academy 0870 771 2000 WA Electric Eel Shock The Cooler 0117 945 0999

Little Boots/Ellie Goulding Anson Rooms 0117 954 5810 Portugal The Man Louisiana 0117 926 5978

Beardy Man Junction 2 01223 511511 Bill Wyman's Rhythm Kings Corn Exchange 01223 357851 Broken Family Band Portland Arms 01223 357268

Derwyddon Dr Gonzo Clwb Ifor Bach 029 2023 2199

Glen Matlock Barfly 029 2066 7658

Scuba Divers Cyprus Avenue 00 35321 427 6165

The Cheek The Royal 01332 36 77 20 Skies in Motion/Alista Skve The Victoria Inn 01332 74 00 91

Chipmunk Dome 01302 370999 Girispit Leopard 01302 363054

Hone Sandoval Vicar St 00 3531 889 4900 Kila The Purty Kitchen 00 3531 6770945

Bombskare Picture House 0844 847 1740 Cold Cave Sneaky Pete's 0131 225 1757

Cannibal Corpse ABC 0870 903 3444 WA Dead City Radio Nice'n'Sleazy 01413339637

Flesh Stereo 0141 576 5018 Los Campesinos! King Tut's Wah Wah Hut 0141 221 5279

Ben's Brother Guildhall Arts Centre 01452 503050

Your City is Forgotten Square 01279 305000

Postmortem Promises Club 85 01462 432767

Cities Between Us Cockpit Room 3 0113 2441573 The Eighties Matchbox B-Line

Disaster Cockpit 0113 244 3446 Fake Blood Stylus 01132 431751

Handsome Furs Brudenell Social Club 0113 243 5866

The Haunted Rios 0844 414 2182 The Providers New Roscoe 0113 246 0778

Soul Circus Carpe Diem 0113 243 6264

Street Legal The Owl 0113 256 5242 Tender Hooligans Primrose Bar 01132 621368

The Artion Sumo 0116 285 6536.

Soft Toy Emergency 02 Academy 2 0870 771 2000 WA

Cellar Ooor Vaudeville Last Days Of Decadence 07982 445657 Chthonic Garage 020 7607 1818 DJ Yoda Forum 020 7344 0044 +14 D.monic Bull & Gate 020 7485 5358 Eighth Wave 02 Academy 2 Islington

0870 771 2000 WA Emily Barker & The Red Clay Halo Luminaire 020 7372 7123 Fightstar O2 Shepherds Bush Empire

0870 771 2000 WA Fleetwood Mac Wembley Arena



The Flying Squad Monto Water Rats

020 7837 4412 Grizzly Bear Barbican Hall 020 7638 8891

The Hugs/Cinnamon Antics Good Ship 020 7372 2544 Jose Feliciano Jazz Café 020 7916 6060

Lightning Strikes The Empire State Dublin Castle 020 7485 1773 Man Like Me/My Tiger My Timing

93 Feet East 020 7247 6095 Maxwell Apollo 0870 606 3400 Model Horror/Swanton Bombs Proud Galleries 020 7482 3867 Monsters In The Attic Arts Club 020 7460 4459

Palm Springs & The Alex Lapinski Band Borderline 020 7734 5547 Project Pitchfork 02 Islangton Academy 0870 771 2000 WA The Ray Gelato Glant 100 Club 020 7636 0933

The Revolution Blues Band Troubadour Club 020 7370 1434 Steve Earle Fairfield Halls 020 8688 9291 Teeth Cargo 0207 749 7840

Vector Vendetta Linderhelly

0207 613 3105 Victoria & Jacob/Baxter Dury Barfly

Virginia Creepers Buffalo Bar 020 7359 6191

Viva Las Vegas 12 Bar Club 020 7240 2622 The Woolworths Hone & Anchor

Alphabeat Club Academy 0161 832 1111

020 7354 1312

Amon Amarth Academy 2 0161 832 1111 Efterklang Deaf Institute

0161 330 4019 The Fuel Girls Ruby Lounge

0161 834 1392 John Holt And The Temptations

Academy 0161 832 1111 Metromax Roadhouse 0161 228 1789 Street Dogs Academy 3 0161 832 1111

Reverend & The Makers 02 Academy 0870 771 2000 WA The Young Republic The Cumberland

New Cassettes Roadmender Centre 01604 604222

Arms 0191 265 6151

Maps/It Hugs Back Bodega Social Club 08713 100000 Pay No Respect Rock City 08713 100000

The Chapman Family Bullingdon Arms 01865 244516 The Halcyons Wheatsheaf 01865 721156 Therapy? 02 Academy 2

Black Moranis Cellars 0871 230 1094

Dizzee Rascal 53 Degrees 01772 893 000

0870 771 2000 WA

Century Kids Plug 0114 276 7093 **David Ford** Boardwalk 0114 279 9090 Yashin Corporation 0114 276 0262

Passion Pit University 023,8059,5000

A Stranger in Moscow Hobgoblin 01784 452012

Burnt Sugarmill 01782 214991

Scratch Perverts Sin City 01792654226

Fry The Rolleston 01793 534238 Vivaxi The Furnace 01793 534238

Zipperface The Forum 08712 777101 Leodis Snooty Fox 01924 374455 The Spills Escobar 01924 332000

gnum Wulfrun Hall 01902 552121

Exit Calm Junction 01904 639979 Insect Guide City Screen Basement Bar 01904 541144

With One Last Breath Fibbers

DO YOU WANT TO GET YOUR BASH INCLUDED IN THE BIGGEST AND BEST WEEKLY GIG GUIDE? GO TO NME.COM/GIGS AND SUBMIT YOUR LISTING FOR FREE. YOU MUST SUBMIT DETAILS AT LEAST THREE WEEKS BEFORE THE GIG DATE

NOVEMBER 1

We're live from Topman on Oxford Street. London from 11am, as James Theaker is joined by Ou Est Le Swimming Pool



BIRMINGHAM

Absent Elk O2 Academy 3 0870 771 2000 WA Adrian Edmondson & The Bad Shepherds Glee Club 0870 241 5093

Passion Pit 02 Academy 2 0870 771 2000 WA

BRIGHTON Daniel Johnston Concorde 2 01273 673311 Post War Years Freebuilt

01273 603974

Hope Remains Lost Louisiana 0117 3 5978

John Holt And The Temptations 02 Academy 0870 771 2000 WA The Young Republic Thekla

08713 100000

Team Brick Portland Arms 01223 357268

CARDIFE

Roachford Barfly 029 2066 7658 +16 DERBY

The Dead Lay Waiting/This is How We Dance/There Lies #istory/ If Looks Could Kill/Armed For A Crisis/She Screams Treason/Prom Night, Gunfight/And Now We Wait The Victoria Inn 01332 74 00 91

DUBLIN CKY Academy 00 3531 877 9999 Grizzly Bear Vicar St

00 3531 889 4900

EDUS URGH **Aynsley Lister The Caves** (1131 557 8089) Eagles Of Death Metal/Sweethead

Picture House 0844 847 1740 Kurran And The Wolfnotes

The Electric Circus 0131 226 4224 GLASGOW

Cold Cave Optimo

Dananananaykroyd Oran Mor 0141 552 9224 Grouper Stereo 0141 576 5018

Street Dogs King 0141 221 5279

HOLMFIRTH

The Fillers Picturedrome 01472 349222

LEEDS

Alphabeat Cockpit 0113 244 3446 Andrew Oxley Sandinista! 0113 305 0372

Wah Wah Hut

Efterklang Stylus 01132 431751 Luke Haines Brudenell Social Club 01132435866

Rodina Hi Fi Club 0113 242 7353

LEICESTER

Moriarty Musician 0116 251 0080

LONDON

All Forgotten O2 Academy 2 Islington 0870 771 2000 WA Amon Amarth KOKO 020 7388 3222

Billy Talent O2 Brixton Academy 0870 771 2000

Crafty Simian/The Hong Kong Blood Opera Dublin Castle 020 7485 1773

Europe Garage 125 /507 1818 Faith And The Muse Dingwalls 020 7267 1577

Gary Moore O2 Shepherds Bush Empire 0870 771 2000 WA Hollow 5in Bull & Gate 020 745 - 5358

Jose Feliciano Jazz Café 020 7916 6060

Karn8 Purple Turtle 020 7383 4976 Little Ghosts Monto Water Rats 020 7837 4412

Marc Almond Roundhouse 020 7482 7318

Nixa Alexandra Palace 020 8365 2121 The Roadhouse Dogs 100 Club 020 7636 0933

Scott Matthew Barden's Boudoir 0770 865 6633 The Wolfe Tones Luminaire

020 7372 7123 Your Distant Family Underbelly

0207 613 3105

Handsome Furs Ruby Lounge 0161 8341

The Haunted Club Academy 0161.832 1111 Pama International Deaf Institute

0161 330 4019

3 Daft Monkeys Academy 3 0161 832 1111

CHEWCASTLE Paradise Lost O2 Academy 2 0870 771 2000 WA

Clutch Waterfront 01603 632717 Maps Arts Centre 01603 660352

NOTTINGHAM

Absu/Pantheon | Rock City 08713 1000000

The Holloways Bodega Social Club 08713 100000

Thank You Chameleon 0115 9505097 OXEOR

Chthonic 02 Academy 2

0870 771 2000 WA PONTYPRIDO

Tiger Please Clwb Y Bont 01443 491424

Electric Eel Shock Wedgewood

Rooms 023 9286 3911 DEFSTON

Doublegone Johnson Dog And

Partridge 01772 252217 NeonHalo Face Bar 0118 956 8188

Idlewild Victoria Halls 01750 22339

SHEFFELD

Architects Compration

0114 276 0262 SOUTHAMPTO

The Cheek Joiners 023 8022 5612 SWINDON

Martha Tilston The Vic 01793 535713

David Ford The Duchess 01904 641 413



NI DAY **NOVEMBER 2**



Electric Eel Shock O2 Academy 3 0870 771 2000 WA The Haunted O2 Academy 2 0870 771 2000 WA

RRIDLINGT The Specials Spa Theatre

01262 678258 RIGHTON

The Drones The Albert 01273 730499 Nine Black Aips Freebutt 01273 603974

Reverend & The Makers Concorde 2 01273 6733 BRISTOL

Absent Elk O2 Academy 2 0870 771 2000 WA

Morlarty Louisiana 0117 926 5978 CAMBRIDGE

Brand New Heavies Junction 01223 511511 Youves Portland Arms 01223 357268

The Chapman Family Barfly 029 2066 7658 +16 30H!3 Clwb to: Bach 029 2023 2199

DERBY Kings Of The Night/Hayden Gallagher The Victoria Inn

01332 74 00 91 Young Rebel Set/Hoodlums/Mascot Fight Rockhouse 01332 209 236 DHINDER

Idlewild Fat Sam's 01382 228181 EDINBURG David Ford Cabaret Voltaire

0131 220 6176 GATESHEAD

Steve Earle Sage Arena 0870 703 4555 GLASGOV

Architects Arches 0141 221 4001 Grizzly Bear/St Vincent ABC 0870 903 3444 %

Kurran And The Wolfnotes King Tut's Wah Wah Hut 0141 221 5279 Thank You/Quack Quack 13th Note Café 0141 553 1638

GUILDFORD

Forever Never Boileroom 01483 440022

The Phantom Band Brudenell Social Club 0113 243 5866

xAF9x Underworld 020 7482 1932 Ben's Brother O2 Shepherds Bush Empire 0870 771 2000 WA The Beyonders/Novak Stare 93 Feet

East 020 7247 6095 Castanets/Artur Dyjecinski Windmill 0. 3p 10/00

Daniel Johnston Union Chapel 020 7226 lp#6 David Armold/Kaiser Chiefs/Gary

Barlow/Damien Rice/Speech Debelle 02 Brixton Academy 0870 771 10 H For A Minor Reflection/Her Name

is Calla The Lexington 020 7837 5387



DERBY

HOODLUMS + MASCOT FIGHT

01482 221113

For The Common Wealth Source Below 020 7434 9130 Handsome Furs Garage 020 7607 1818 Hooray For Humans/Asteroids

Broke My Stereo Dublin Castle 020 7485 1773 The Hours Hoxton Square Bar &

Kitchen 020 7 :13 0709 John Vanderslice Garage (Upstairs) 0871 230 1094 Killing With Style/All The Fires

Hope & Anchor 020 7354 1312

The La De Dahs Monto Water Rats 020 7837 4412 Mike Oignam/Gabrielle Apim Barfly

0870 907 0999 +14 Mo Molokwu The Old Queen's Head 0207 839 7261

Muneo Jerry Beck Theatre 020 8561 8371

The Nolans Apollo 0870 606 3400 The Onlookers Borderline 020 7734 5547

Portico Quartet/Sweet Bill Pligrim KOKO 020 7388 3222 Rahzel Jazz Café 020 7916 6060 The Young Republic Cargo

0207 749 7840 MANCHESTER

Clutch Academy 2 0161 832 1111 Gliss Night And Day Café 0161 236 1822 **Luke Haines Deaf Institute** 0161 330 4019

Paradise Lost Academy 3 0161 832 1111 ugly Duckling Ruby Lounge

0161 834 1392 MIDDLESBROUGH Kids in Glass Houses Empire

01642 253553 Scott Matthews Arts Centre

01603 660352 NOTTINGHAM

Cold Cave Bodega Social Club 08713 100000 PORTSMOUTH

Fightstar Pyramid 023 9235 8608 Michelle Shocked Wedgewood Rooms 073 9286 3911

SHEEFIELD

Street Dogs Corporation 0114 276 0262

SOUTHAMPTON Francesqa Joiners 023 8022 5612

STOKE ON THE Chthonic Sugarmill 01782 214991

Burden Escobar (1924 332000) YORK

WAKEE

Cancer Bats Fibbers 01904 651 250 +14

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 3

Kids In Glass Houses Warehouse 0844 847 2319 WA

Street Dogs O2 Academy 2 0870 771 2000 **WA**

Marc Almond O2 Academy 01202 399922 WA

Blurt Freebutt 01273 603974

Frankmusik Thekla 08713 100000 Jimmy Webb Colston Hall 0117 922 3683

Reverend & The Makers
O2 Academy 0870 771 2000 WA

Seth Lakeman Junction 01223 511511

Young Guns/Straight Lines Clwb Ifor Bach 029 2023 2199

Conquer The Masses/With Silent Eyes/Room For Abuse The Victoria Inn 01332 74 00 91

Tubelord/Switzerland/These Waves Rockhouse 01332 209 236

BLK JKS Academy 00 3531 877 9999

Gliss The Electric Circus 0131 226 4224

Seasick Steve Picture House 0844 847 1740

Biffy Clyro Barrowlands 0141 552 4601

The Soft Pack King Tut's Wah Wah Hut 0141 221 5279

Tyrannosaurus Alan I3th Note Café 0141 553 1638

Wounded Knees Nice'n'Sleazy 0141 333 9637

Atlum Schema Packhorse 0113 245 3980 Steve Earle Grand Theatre

0113 222 6222

Viatrophy Rios 0844 414 2182 **Wilco** 02 Academy 0870 771 2000

Absurdus Underworld 020 7482 1932 Annotations Of An Autopsy Barfly 0870 907 0999 +14

Camera Obscura 02 Shepherds Bush Empire 0870 771 2000 WA Chew Lins Catch 020 7729 6097

Clutch KOKO 020 7388 3222 Cold Cave/Club Royale Madame

Jojo's 020 7734 2473 Cosmo Jarvis Underbelly

0207 613 3105 Damien Jurado Borderline

020 7734 5547 **The Drones/HTRK** Cargo

0207 749 7840

Eileen Daly 12 Bar Club 020 7240 2622

Gotthard Garage 020 7607 1818 The Locarnos/James McKay/

The Afterhours Rhythm Factory 020 7247 9386

Matthew P/Jesse Quin The Lexington 020 7837 5387

The Miserable Rich Slaughtered Lamb 020 8682 4080

Morlarty Dingwalls 020 7267 1577 The Nolans Apollo 0870 606 3400 NowFire Comedy 020 7839 7261 Paradise Lost 02 Islington Academy

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Random Impulse/The Hugs/Brad

Treeby & The Simpliess/Chimich

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Dublin Castle 020 7485 1773
The Road Troubadour Club

020 7370 1434

The Tamborines/Phantom/Daniel Land And The Modern Painters Queen Of Hoxton 020 7422 0958 Tom Aliaione & The 78s 100 Club

020 7636 0933 **We Are Power/Jairus/LTK** Hope &

Anchor 020 7354 1312 **3 Daft Monkeys** Luminaire 020 7372 7123

LOUGHBOROUGH

Ash University 01509 263171

A-Ha Evening News Arena 0161 950 5000

The Cheek Night And Day Café 0161 236 1822

Daniel Johnston Town Hall 0161 234 5000

Never Say Die Academy 2 0161,832,1111

The Shaky Hands Ruby Lounge 0161 834 1392

Thank You Tiger Lounge 0161 236 6007

Backstreet Boys Metro Radio Arena 0870 707 8000

The Holloways 02 Academy 2 0870 771 2000 **WA**

Just Jack 02 Academy 0870 771 2000 WA

Barclay James Harvest Waterfront 01603 632717

Mabon Arts Centre 01603 660352

The Phantom Band Bodega Social Club 08713 100000

Swound! Rock City 08713100000

Y&T 02 Academy 2 0870 771 2000 WA

Nine Black Alps Wedgewood Rooms 023 9286 3911

Chthonic Corporation 0114 276 0262 **CKY** Leadmill 0114 221 2828

Pretty Visitors Joiners

Shogun Horn 01727 853143

Mew Wulfrun Hall 01902 552121

Broken Records The Duchess 01904 641 413

Euros Childs City Screen Basement Bar 01904 541144



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THE FLAMING LIPS

STARTS: LONDON TROXY, NOV 10

Wayne Coyne and co test the limits of experimentation, rip it up and start again with new album 'Embryonic'. NME.COM/artists/the-flaming-lips



MARIACHI EL BRONX

STARTS: MANCHESTER CLUB ACADEMY, NOV 19

Punkers The Bronx take their Spanish guitar-loving mariachi alter-ego out for a fiesta.

NME.COM/artists/mariachi-el-bronx



GALLOWS

STARTS: NOTTINGHAM ROADMENDER, NOV 26

Frank Carter and his hardcore mob Gallows hit the road. Expect insanity.

NME.COM/artists/gallows



HAR MAR SUPERSTAR

STARTS: OXFORD O2 ACADEMY, NOV 29

A man with something of the night about him. Har Mar tours his latest album 'Dark Touches'. NME.COM/artists/har-mar-superstar



PLACEBO

STARTS: BIRMINGHAM LG ARENA, DEC 8

Accept no sham imitators. Brian Molko's alternative rock ensemble are back.

NME.COM/artists/placebo



BABYSHAMBLES

STARTS: SHEFFIELD O2 ACADEMY, DEC 10

Manky cats and models aside, Peter Doherty puts his solo efforts on hold to tour with the old faithful.

NME.COM/artists/babyshambles



PARAMORE

STARTS: GLASGOW SECC, DEC 10

Amid Twilight fever Hayley Williams takes her screeching tones to the emo masses. NME.COM/artists/paramore



PUBLIC IMAGE LIMITED

STARTS: BIRMINGHAM 02 ACADEMY, DEC 15

Taking time out from promoting, er, butter, John Lydon reforms his seminal outfit PiL. NME.COM/artists/public-image-itd



THE XX

STARTS: BELFAST SPEAKEASY, DECEMBER 15

Minimalist indie dream pop doesn't come more lovely than this. The London quartet finally tour these shores. NME.COM/artists/the-xx

O₂ customers can get Priority Tickets to The O₂ and O₂ Academy venues up to 48 hours before general release. Just register at o2priority.co.uk





the name or word of your choice. Then you'll be able to wear it all year round, unlike that headless horseman of the apocalypse outfit you're considering. Ladyluckrulesok.com





NME EDITORIAL

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IPCHENITE Grecycle



Win tickets to HE BIG REU

o longer just a summer speciality, festivals are now an all-season affair. Next on the cards is the Big Reunion, three weekends of autumn/winter excitement in Butlins, Skegness. The first bash happens on November 20-21, with Calvin Harris, The Wombats and The Holloways all taking to the stage. We've got one double weekend pass, including accommodation, to give away as well as a meet and greet with The Holloways and some signed merch. To be in with a chance of winning, correctly answer this question:

What was the name of the north London pub in which The Holloways formed?

To enter the competition go to NME.COM/win*



THE NME CROSSWORD

WIN A BAG OF NME SWAG

1+8A That's brilliant! So tonight Editors will be playing? (2-4-5-3-2-4-7)

10+16D Aussie duo formed by Luke Steele, from The Sleepy Jackson, and Nick Littlemore (6-2-3-3)

11+24A Theresa Sewell reforms band who were 'Stuck in The Middle With You' (8-5) 13 Greeting The Beloved in 1990

14+18D Get pleasure out of a Depeche Mode number being

turned off (5-3-7) 17 (See 26 across)

19 Mockney punk band who got up people's noses in the '90s (5) 20 A hit for Jigsaw that went up like a rocket in 1975 (3-4)

21 (See 12 down)

22 Vicious-sounding punks who left 'No Survivors' in 1982 (1-1-1) 23 REM album with recycled music? (5)

24 (See 11 across)

25 Faith_____, widow of Notorious BIG, sang on tribute hit 'I'll Be Missing You' (5)

26+17A Creation label band of early '90s who were upset till I came (5-4)

27 Creation label band from mid to late '90s (5)

28 The longest possible time spent with rave pioneer (aka lan Loveday) who died this year (3) 29 Iron Maiden's folklore concept album 'Seventh __ Of A Seventh

1"Well the world turns/And a hungry little boy with a runny nose/Plays in the streets as the cold wind blows". Elvis Preslev

2 Pixies album that was to fool the world, at least in the eyes of the French (6-2-5)

3 They overcame 'Obstacle 1" with 'Slow Hands' (8) 4 Dial back to James (4)

5 The Ting Tings have a first-rate record player (5 1 1)

6 They include rap to become an Irish indie metal band (7) 7 "I'm not saying it's your fault, although you could have done more", 2006 (5)

9 A bit of gossip on US producer and founder of Masters Of Reality,

Chris ___ (4) 12+21A It didn't matter how prepared they were, The Fugees made Number One with this (5-2-3)

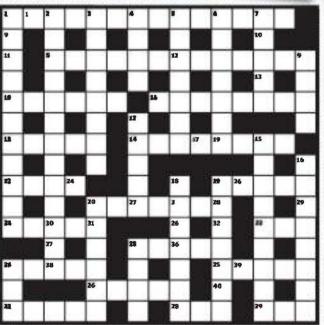
15 The sands of time trickled away for Squeeze with this song

16 (See 10 across) 18 (See 14 across)

19 "In the garden in the house of love, sitting lonely on a plastic chair", The House Of Love continue their brilliance (5-2) 20 'Oceans Will Rise' for these Canadians (6)

23 "Love is like a high prison wall, but you could leave me standing so tall", 1983 (4)

24 How change comes to an old rock band (3)



2 Loneliness, 3+14A Out Of Time, 5 Zero, 6 Royal Trux, 7 Groovejet, 8 Lol, 10 Trlo, 13 Ingeriue, 16 Tease Me, 24 Return, 27 Beck, 29 Fits, 31 Anka, 32 Ash.

1+ID+15A I'll Go Crazy If I Don't Go Crazy Tonight, 9 I'm Not Your Toy, 11 Orlando, 12 Only If, 17 Echo, 19+18D Urge Overkill, 20+33A Santa Cruz, 21 Vox,

22 CSS, 23 Sure, 25 Kele, 26+8A Rubber Lover, 28 Alf, 30 Mask, 32 Amen, 35+34A Paula Yates,

OCTOBER 3 ANSWERS

36+4D In A Room.

COMPILED BY Trevor Hungerford





PICK OF THE WEEK



KASABIAN WEEKEND

The boys spent the day with NME recently so tune in all weekend for a Kasabian orgy. On Friday (9pm) they'll take over the station for two hours and pick their fave tracks, then on Saturday (2pm) they go head-to-head with Oasis and Sunday (11pm) sees them run through their own top tunes. Friday-Sunday, various times

PLUS

WEDNESDAY HEAR THIS WEEK

With La Roux and more. October 28, 12pm



FLOORFILLERS

Bring the rave with MIA. October 29, 8pm



FRIDAY

The Cheek and The Drums are among the new faves. October 30, 7pm



SATURDAY

Have an armchair rave with Passion Pit and T'Big Pink. October 31, 10pm



SUNDAY VEEKEND ANTHEMS

Oasis, KOL and Passion Pit rock your Sunday. November 1, 12pm



MONDAY NME ROCK CHART

Raise a horned hand for Paramore and Biffy. November 2, 3pm



TUESDAY

Settle in for a night of Foo Fighters' highlights. November 3, 9pm



Full listings: NME.COM/NMETV





SWIMMING POOL DANCE THE WAY I FEEL

FRIENDLY FIRES KISS OF LIFE

THE CRIBS CHEAT ON ME

BIFFY CLYRO THAT GOLDEN RULE

FLORENCE AND THE MACHINE **DRUMMING SONG**

THE BIG PINK DOMINOS

IAN BROWN STELLIFY

JACK PENATE PULL MY HEART AWAY

THE TEMPER TRAP SWEET DISPOSITION

THE ENEMY

VOTE NOW! **NMETV** to have your say



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DON'T MISS



GALLOWS

NME Radio are hijacking Topman's flagship Oxford Street store in central London over the next month for the NME Radio Topman Takeover, Tune in to the first installment between 11am and 1pm to hear Watford's punk stormtroopers interviewed live about their forthcoming UK tour, which kicks off on November 26. Sunday, November 1, 11am

ALSO THIS WEEK.

■ TOPMAN TAKEOVER

The dazzling-bequiffed Esser joins NME Radio live from the jeans section as NME Radio's Tooman Takeover continues.

Saturday, October 31, 11am

It's not just a feast of new music and the latest gig news on Chris' show tonight; he's also got DVDs of vampire sex'n'gore fest True Blood up for grabs. Thursday, October 29, 7pm

ON THE PLAYLIST



WHITE BELT YELLOW TAG Remains

THE ASTEROIDS GALAXY TOUR **Around The Bend**

THE XX Islands

DEVENDRA BANHART

ECHO & THE BUNNYMEN Think I Need It Too

VAMPIRE WEEKEND Horchata



CHAPEL CLUB Surfacing

FENECH-SOLER

MIRRORS Into The Heart

PHOENIX

Fences (Friendly Fires mix)

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DANNY DYER

The TV and movie hardman loves a bit of Kasabian and is in touch with his spiritual side

ello, Danny. "Hello sanshine, how va doin'?" It's been a while since someone called me sunshine. It's strangely nice.

"I call everyone sanshine, I even call me nan sanshine. How fackin' weird's that? I even call me dad sanshine for fack's sake."

You're Danny Dyer, you can just call people sunshine. That's your job. Now, I'd like to talk to you about your TV show, Danny Dyer's Deadliest Men,

"I mean, the only reason I'm doing it is for the pound note. I'm not really obsessed with dangerous or deadly men. I couldn't give a fack to be honest with you. The irony is that I've made, like, nearly 20 films, and the most I've ever been paid out of all my jobs is for running around with people talking about chopping people's earholes off, y'know what I mean? But at the end of the day I'm an actor and that's what I love doing, so the presenting thing? Fackin' end of. No more of that shit for me man, no more,"

Why did you do it?

"Listen y'know, I met some good people on this show, it got me a house, it's got me a nice car, I've got my kid, we've moved to a nicer area. I'm out of Essex now, and I've got my kid in a better school So it really has helped me out financially. I was never really

driven by the dollar, but when you've got two fuckin' kids, you don't think twice. You can try and be as cool and cult as you fackin' want, but sitting in a deckchair in the house eating Pot Noodles: I can't do that shit. I got the readies in, I had a four-year period where I maybe had to sell my soul a little bit, but now I'm just concentrating on the acting side of things. That's the most important thing to me, man. I love acting, I always have, I just can't get enough of it."

It's sad that there will be no more Danny Dver's Deadliest Men.

"No mate, r o more presenting for me, but I've just been to sign off for this presenting thing I did earlier in the year for BBC3 called I Believe. It's basically about me on a mission to try and see a UFO. I've always been fascinated with them, ever since I was a kid. The thing about UFOs is that there's definitely shit going on out there. I went to America and I spoke to some guy who'd been abducted and I thought, 'What a load of bollocks!' Then he actually showed me footage of an alien."

UFO! IT PULSED AND

THEN IT FUCKED OFF"

idiot Some of the shit he showed me is

fucking ridiculous... (some time later)... and this little fucking head pops up and at first I thought that's probably a geezer in a fucking mask... (story continues)... and I know, it sounds fucking laughable, doesn't it? And then I went to this place where Robbie Williams went, and it's this hippie commune, right? So I fucking sat up with this geezer, and I fucking saw a UFO. And a UFO is an unidentified flying object, y'know? It pulsed and then it fucked off really quick."

"It pulsed and then it fucked off."

"It's me being on a spiritual one really, it's me trying to get away from the kicking in bollocks. So, right, I'm fackin' meditating with all these hippies, y'know what I mean? I've got to admit to you, I did feel like a bit of a prick doing it, but I thought, y'know what, gotta embrace it and all that. So I've opened myself up spiritually, y'know, and all of that bollocks"

Apart from spirituality and all that bollocks, you're also in a film with 50 Cent.

"Yeah, I've got a film called Dead Man Running coming out with 50 Cent and Brenda Blethyn."

Who's hardest out of Brenda and 50 Cent?

"Know what? 50 Cent, what a fackin' true gentleman As a businessman more than anything else. He was very professional. All his dialogue, he came in and he's fackin' done it, and he fucked off. And he was a real joy to have around, I've gotta say."

You mentioned a chap in America whose only hope was that the world didn't think he was 'a fucking idiot'. What are your rules for not being a fucking idiot?

"You've got to stay true to yourself. Which can be a tough thing to do when you're famous. It's so easy to try and be something you're not. Be true to yourself, be loyal to your fucking family, that's very important because they're all you've got."

Basically, be a nice person.

"Just be nice. Whatever's coming at you just start being nice, even if some cunt is attacking you, start it out nice. Try and fackin' diffuse the situation. It's better to start being nice and if it's still not working out you can fackin' hit the switch."

Well thanks for that, Danny. "My pleasure."

DANNY DYER'S WORLD OF POP

It's not all about lad-rock, y'know: Danny also likes a little La Roux...

O SI IIIII BEO Manager and Control of the Control CONTRACTOR OF STREET ..nd of and the second s NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE OWNER, TH SEE SHOP, MICH. BUT THE WHITE MERCHANISM SHAPE CORNER OF THE PARTY OF THE PARTY OF macrate opposite that some details. гот



"Well I couldn't get my head around it. My brain couldn't compute what I was seeing really. (Embarks on long-winded story)... so what he's done is he's set up surveillance in his house to catch some of it, to prove that he's not a fucking

66 MME 31 October 2009

NEXT WEEK IN NME

No On Sole Of Sole Of

One's in New York City...
the others aren't far from Rotherham...

Arctic Arctic Arctic Monkey States and Arctic Arctic Arctic Monkey States and Arctic A

as they work out how to take that "challenging" third album to an arena near you



{PLUS}

The Drums | Biffy Clyro | Green Day | Dizzee Rascal | 50 Cent King Khan | Jamie T | The Maccabees | Bombay Bicycle Club

