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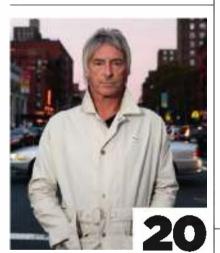
WEEK

27/11/2010



"WASTE, SUFFERING..."

PJ HARVEY'S NEW ALBUM SOUNDS LIKE A LAUGH



"I WON'T STOP 'TIL I DROP"

EVEN THEN, WE'RE NOT SURE PAUL WELLER WILL...



"I GOT RABIES IN ETHIOPIA, AND PLAYED A BROTHEL"

IT'S ALL GLAMOUR WHEN CARIBOU GOES ON TOUR



"To second guess her is foolish"
BUT TO THIRD GUESS MIA IS WISE. FOURTH - FOOLISH AGAIN



"Psychedelia lets you experience the world"

BO NINGEN GET COSMIC. THEN SMASH EVERYTHING TO BITS



"IT'S OUR FIRST TIME ON A TOUR BUS" LES SAVY FAV GIVE THEIR EXCUSE FOR THE 'SOLIDS'

PLUS

ON REPEAT

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BRAINCELLS



"TRON LEGACY"
BLASTS AWAY
ALL OTHER
SOUNDTRACKS"
FRENCH DANCE GENIUSES
DAFT PUNK HAVE MADE ONE
OF THE ALBUMS OF THE YEAR



ON REPEAT

THE SOUNDS RATTLING ROUND THE SKULLS
OF THE NME STAFF THIS WEEK





CHAPEL CLUB

Widows

Chapel Club's new EP, 'The Wintering', is a pretty massive progression for them production-wise – which is a mean feat considering they've not released much from which to progress. The EP is much dreamier than the spike of their singles, the pace slowed to a somnambulistic drift, guitars all a-shimmer, and Lewis Bowman's voice treated with distortion and echo. It's Chapel Club shedding the Joy Division-isms and moving

It's a stately, glittering eight-minute stroll with wind-tunnel guitars

purely into the heavy pop atmospherics of Echo And The Bunnymen. It's special. And not in that way. 'Widows' is the finest song on the EP; a stately, glittering eight-minute stroll that

never once drags, mostly because it dramatically bursts into a wind tunnel of guitars when it hits the chorus. It's got an outstandingly odd solo, like a jealous guitar trying to choke a cheating synth, but it's Bowman's voice that really does the business. Unlike on the rest of the EP, here it's left alone to richly beliow out and melt your bones. "Oh darling .. I want you to want me, again", he mourns with conviction. This guy is turning into an impressive frontman; having told NME earlier this year that "The tree of arrogance bears the finest fruit," it seems the cocky bugger may be right. Martin Robinson, Deputy Editor Stream exclusively on NME.COM for one week only



WILD FLAG

Racehorse

Dullard faux-Spectorite girlbands: pay attention to Wild Flag, the ferocious supergroup comprised of Sleater-Kinney's Carrie Brownstein and Janet Weiss along with Mary Timony and Rebecca Cole. "PONY UP" yells Carrie. We're already in the saddle.

Laura Snapes, Assistant Reviews Editor On twentyfourbit.com now

BANJO OR FREAKOUT

105

It's November, it's freezing, and there are only two ways to keep warm; a) Work up a sweat by fashioning daggers from your icy tears and attacking random strangers, b) Write a hazy summer feel good song and watch the world defrost with a smile on its face. Alessio Natalizia chose B.

Mike Williams, Features Editor
On pitchfork.com now

AUSTRA

The Beat And The Pulse
The wailing banshee on Fucked Up's
'Royal Swan', Katte Stefmanis launched
a solo career last year, but, like White
Hinterland or Zola Jesus, she needed to
lose her name to really find herself. As
Austra, she's a chill-hearted coldwave
goddess, listlessly eyeing your soul.
Emily Mackay, Reviews Editor
On saidthegramophone.com now

RICHARD HAWLEY

The River

Many songs have been born of whisky sessions, few of distillery day trips. But this elongated instrumental (bankrolled by an alcohol company) makes us wish a few more acts would visit booze factories if the results were as stunning as this.

Jamie Fullerton, News Editor
On guardian.co.uk/music now

BRAID\$

Lemonade

Fresh from dropping jaws at last month's CMJ, Montreal-based Braids step up yet another gear with 'Lemonade', the first taster from next January's debut album 'Native Speaker'. Like all their best stuff, it slips by in a mesmeric mesh of dreamy

pop vox and FX-gone-loopy brilliance. Matt Wilkinson, News Reporter On flemisheye.com now

THEOPHILUS LONDON FEATURING DEV HYNES AND SOLANGE KNOWLES

Flying Overseas

Music's other Theo re-releases his slow jam ode to Alan Whicker (well, that or Ryanair), a slice of mellow gold about buggering abroad that includes Beyonce's hil' sister tagging along.

Tim Chester, Assistant Editor, NME.COM On quardian.co.uk/music now

BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN & JIMMY FALLON

Whip My Hair Best thing about this duet on Late Night With Jimmy Fallon is not the fact the pair chose to cover a song by 10-year-old Willow Smith. Nope, it's The Boss' good-humoured impersonation of his own '70s self—jacket, beard and all. Luke Lewis, Deputy Editor, NME.COM On YouTube now

BODIES OF WATER

I Don't Believe In The Sun Swoonsome couple David and Meredith Metcalf bluster back to life in their original vocation as fantastical showtune shmindies, Bodies Of Water. As a taster, here's their decidedly less sardonic reworking of a Magnetic Fields standard. Jaimle Hodgson, New Music Editor On gorillavsbear.net now



FLORRIE

Give Me Your Love
Like cred-pop's very own Phil Collins,
Florrie was Xenomania's in-house
drummer – check out her boom-booms
on Girls Aloud's 'The Promise' – before
convincing the Kent pop factory to let
her in front of the mic. Now she's their
employee of the month thanks to her
way with classy club monsters like this.

Erical Murician Editor

Krissi Murison, Editor On florrie.com now







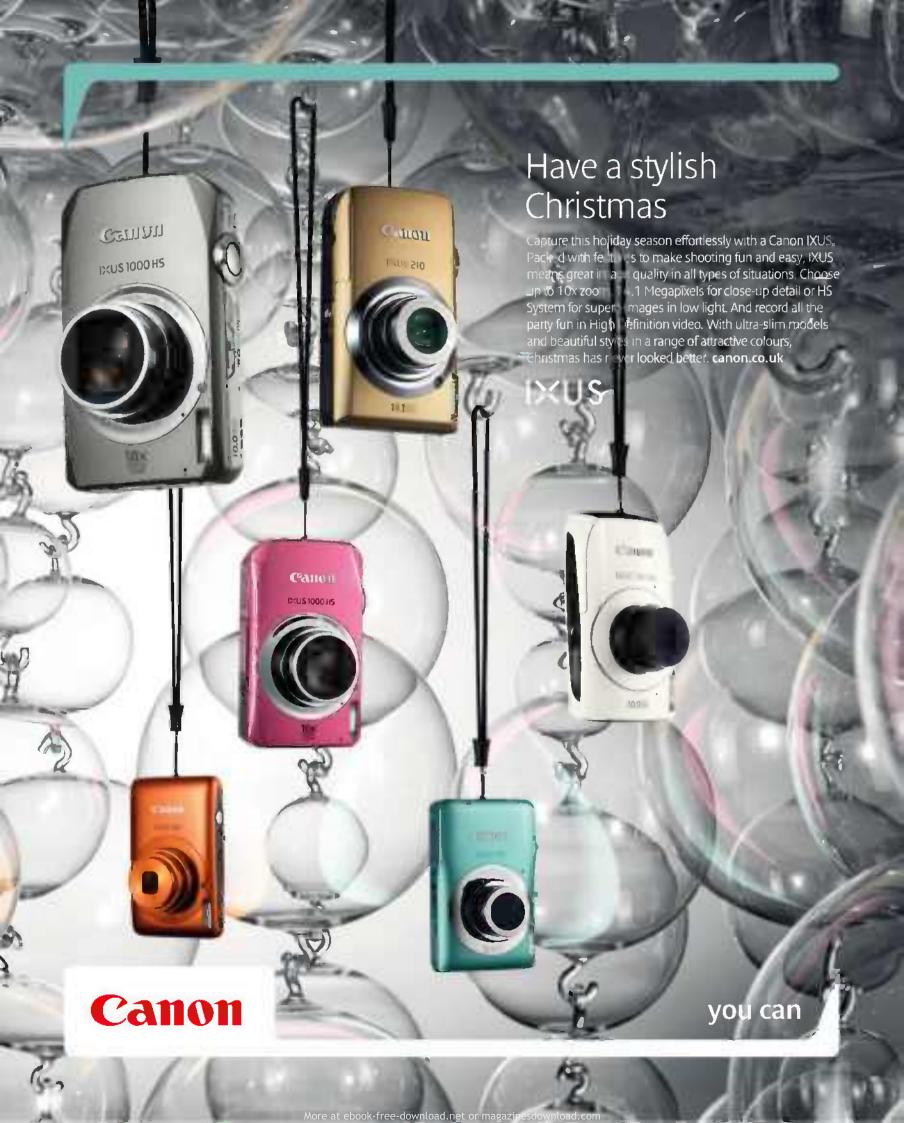


Jeans – UNCONDITIONAL Shirt – ASOS COLLECTION Baseball Jacket – ASOS COLLECTION

LOOK THAT'LL TURN HEADS, MODEL'S OWN.

www.asos.com/modelsown









One man down, Hurts still make it to church on time - smelling of white roses

FRONT ROW "He was moving a new piano into his house on Sunday night," says Theo Hutcheraft of Adam Anderson, the keyboard playing

half of Hurts who is tonight (November 17) absent. "His back just went. The chiropractor saw him, and just told him he couldn't move. We had to make a call on it this afternoon, and Adam just said, 'Do it without me – the cause is too important, we can't cancel."

The cause is Mencap; the event is Jo Whiley's Little Noise Sessions at London's Union Chapel, where bands strip down their sound to its barest bones. So the layered, grandiose songs on 'Happiness' become fragile piano violunminimal percussion affairs, and it suits them. "We purposely made it small," Theo notes of the performance, which lacked opera singer David but, quite fantastically, featured Annie Lennox's

daughter Tali at the front of the stage pulling petals off a bunch of white roses throughout. "It was seeing whether the songs could stand up alone, and it really felt like they did. A mazing crowd, wasn't it?" It was. But not, by the sound of things, as amazing as the crowds in Europe "Germany, paparazzi coming off the plane," smiles Theo. "At the Bambis –

"Adam said, 'Do it without methe cause is too important, we can't cancel" Theo Hutchcraft the German Oscars – we won a Bambi! And we were sat with Sarah Jessica Parker and Orlando Bloom. Greece, Russia, Spain – all crazy. We got an offer today to do *The Y Factor* on Christmas Day in the Ukraine. And Polish *Dancing On Ice.* We actually *did* 'Wonderful Lite' on the German *Y Lactor*. Which was amazing."

The rest of the year now involves a UK arena four supporting Scissor Sisters, then working out how to build on a great first year in existence. Theo: "We're at a point now where it's working out. Now we need to move forward creatively. We have a few little surprises in store, which I'm sure you'll find out about soon."

PJ HARVEY: 'I INHABIT ADIFFERENT WORLD'

Polly's first fully solo album since 2007 may contain lyrics about corpses "falling like lumps of meat", but she claims it's her most uplifting effort yet

THE

DETAILS

Title: 'Let

England Shake'

Released:

February 14

Recorded:

disused church,

Dorset

Produced by:

Flood (The Bad

Seeds. The Killers.

Depeche Mode)

Featuring: John

Parish, Mick

Harvey, Jean-

Marc Butty



The last time we saw PJ Harvey, she was debuting 'Let England Shake' from her forthcoming album — of the same name, NME can reveal—on The Andrew Marr Show. It

was the middle of the election campaign, and Gordon Brown was there, listening as Polly sang "England's dancing days are gone" while strumming a retuned autoharp.

As odd scenarios in which to debut your new material go, it's on a par with Trash Talk playing Loose Women. But then PJ Harvey's never been predictable, instead naturally inclined, as she says, "to jump into very different territory" as soon as one album's completed. And in every way 'Let Fingland Shake' is miles apart from the last record released under her own name, 2007's ghostly, introspective 'W hite Chalk'

"Lyrically, this album inhabits a very different world," she tells us on the phone from her Dorset home after a day of rehearsals for her forthcoming tour. "It's dealing with more universal theme of conflict, war, loss, loyalty, friendship and love – not just for one's brother, but for one's country. Waste suff ring – but much more outward looking than focusing on one's own inner world"

Written between late 2007 and 2008, John Parish (who she recorded 2009's collaboration effort 'A Woman A Man Walked By' with), former Bad Seed Mick Harvey, previous collaborator Jean-Marc Butty, producer Flood and Polly recorded the album over an intensive five-week period in "a remote, disused Dorset church in a beautiful situation on top a hill that looks out over the sea; very wild, very windblown"

Polly continues: "Recording in that church lent an ath osphere that has made the unique sound. Even though I've worked with these men for years, we worked in a very different way, which I encouraged. I spent a long time just singing the words before I touched instruments. We played most of the music live, and I didn't set down any rules. For some reason, we were all in a very good place, with a lot of energy, intensity and vitality in us at that time. It was a really enjoyable coperience, and I think the record's ended up full of energy and quite an uplifting experience because of it."

The instrumentation is a long way from the chilling piano that formed the spindly backbone of 'White Chalk',

featuring several creepily archaic vocal samples – though The Four Lads' 'Istanbul (Not Constantinople)' sample that backed 'Let England Shake' on Marr's show has gone. Polly. "I wrote about half the body of work on an autoharp – I had three all tuned in unusual chord sequences, so that I had more colour to the palette. And when you sing in unusual keys, it can also bring about very different melodies, so I wa trying to push myself with that The other half or the record was written on guitar, again using unusual runings."

And unlike the first person perspective of 'White Chalk' 'Let I ngland Shake' plots

distance between her "instructive reflections upon the world we're living in" and Polly herself.

"There are a whole range of different narratives on the record." she explains in her warm west country went. "I used first-person - but adopting different lives and inhabiting different characters and third person. I was trying to find different voices to make a record that can connect on many levels." So troops march across the fertile countryside while bugles parp 'Reveille', a hereaved mother wails piercingly and a detached onlooker sings of soldiers that "fall like lumps of meat" - much of it sung in a slightly chol ed rattle, her male collaborators chanting along.

Even though the Dorset countryside where they recorded is near to RAF Lyneham, where the UK's military dead return to home soil, Polly insists that it didn't influence her.

"I wasn't aware of that while we were recording there But, you know, this album's not solely about war. War is just part of the world we live in, and I think we live in quite extraordinary times."



UPFRONT





NME AWARDS **SHOWS 2011** ANNOUNCED

Warpaint, White Lies and Les Savy Fav among acts gigging for us in February

Next February's NME Awards Shows have been announced, with Warpamt, White Lies, Yuck, Edwyn Collins and Carl Barât among those confirmed to play London shows.

See right for the full line-ups. The gigs run throughout the month at various venues in the capital in the lead-up to the NME Awards ceremony on February 23.

Fresh from selling out their recent UK tour, Warpaint have vowed to return with a few surprises for their show at O2 Shepherds Bush Empire on February 21, which will see them supported by Radar favourites Twin Shadow. Bassist Jenny Lee Lindberg says the band will be jazzing things up for the gig.

"We always jam new stuff in soundcheck," she explained, adding that it's likely some new material will find its way into their set. "You never know what you're gonna get with us. It's fun, because it means we always have to be on our toes." After musing that the gig will be "the biggest show Warpaint have ever played", Jenny admitted: "We haven't really done bigger shows like this where people are actually there to see us!"

Meanwhile, Frankie & The Heartstrings singer Frankie Francis has staked a claim for why people should also be hot on his band's show at Heaven.

"You're going to get an energetic performance," the Sunderland-born singer proclaimed. "I guarantee we'll be giving it a million per cent."

We should think so too. Frankic.

NME AWARDS **SHOWS 2011**

Metronomy

(Heaven, February I) Los Campesinos!/Summer Camp (02 Shepherds Bush Empire, 2). The Duke Spirit (Heaven, 3) Mystery Jets (02 Shepherds Bush Empire, 9) White Lies/Crocodiles

(O2 Shepherds Bush Empire, 11) Isobel Campbell & Mark Lanegan/ Cherry Ghost

(O2 Shepherds Bush Empire, 15) The Naked And Famous (Heaven, 15) Edwyn Collins

(O2 Shepherds Bush Empire, 16) Noah And The Whale (KOKO, 17) Miles Kane

(Hoxton Square Bar & Kitchen, 17) Yuck/Cults (Bush Hall, 18) Carl Barát/The Hearthreaks/Foreign Office (02 Shepherds Bush Empire, 20) Alex Winston (New Players Theatre, 20)

Warpaint/Twin Shadow (02 Shepherds Bush Empire, 21) Frankie And The Heartstrings/ Veronica Falls (Heaven, 21) Mona/Neon Trees (Reiencless Garage, 21) Caribou/Factory Floor/Walls (02 Shepherds Bush Empire, 22) Les Savy Fav (Heaven, 22).

Tickets on sale at 9am on Wednesday. November 24 at NME.COM/tickets



FINAL STUDIO STROKE?

Looks like The Strokes are finally seeing the light at the end of their new album tunnel -Julian Casablancas has said they're now at the mixing stage and it'll be out in "a few months". Well in time for UK summer festivals...



YOU WHAT?

"Scars, pockmarked skin, physical abnormalities or deformities are welcomed!" Kings Of Leon plead for fans to star in their next music video. Likely to be as politically correct as 'Radioactive', then.



BEADY EYE TO MAKE LIVE DEBUT

Liam Gallagher's band will finally start gigging in March

Liam Gallagher's finally come good on his promise that Beady Eye will play live soon(-ish) - the band are set for their first live shows in March. NME can exclusively announce.

The band will play Glasgow Barrowland on March 3 and 4. O2 Apollo Manchester (6 and 7), then London's Troxy (9 and 10). Tickets go on sale at 10am on Friday (November 26). See NME.COM/artists/beady-eye for details.



KLAXON, CLOTHES OFF

Band get their arses out for 'arty' video

Klaxons have selflessly stripped off and taken part in a bums-and-boobs-out orgy scene for their new video. Jamie, Simon, James and Steffan's peach-soft rears and all manner of other writhing body parts, along with those of a selection of female models, make up the new promo for latest single 'Twin Flames', directed by Saam Farahmand (who's worked with These New Puritans and The xx previously). Jamie, heavily involved in a French-kissing moment with a model in the video, seemed particularly pleased, declaring the clip Saam's "finest work to date".

Watch the video at NME.COM/artists/klaxons

SPEED DIAL BOBBY GILLESPIE

Primal Scream are preparing to play 'Screamadelica' live in full - but their frontman insists this is no nostalgia trip

You're reissuing 'Screamadelica and playing it live – why lapse into nostalgia?

"It's not really reliving the old days, a lot of the songs we recorded in the studio and never played them live. 'I'm Comin' Down', 'Shine Like Stars' and 'Inner Flight', those are like new songs. It's not nostalgic at all, it sounds fresh.'

You got Kevin Shields in to work on the reissue - are you trying to create some kind of musical Large Hadron Collider to recreate the '90s noise pop Big Bang that never was?

"Nah, he's just really good with sound and frequencies, we thought it was a fun thing to do. Kevin, Andrew [Innes, Scream guitarist] and myself went down to the mastering room, Kevin's the one person in the world that all remastering engineers hate to see walking into the studio. When we walked in the guy nearly had a fucking heart attack!"

Some people wrote on NME.COM that 'Screamadelica' was really an Andrew Weatherall record...

"It's a great collaboration with Andyhe was the producer and the producer has to make suggestions, that's what producers do. In Britain people really want to pull you down and pull you apart. We've made a lot of great records since 'Screamadelica' so I think we've more than fucking proven ourselves. We went into the acid house dance world.



Now it doesn't really mean so much but back then bands never did that, they were stuck in the past. Independent rock music back then was really fucking dreary, it had no rhythm or sex and you couldn't dance to it. We used the dancefloor knowledge and rhythmic sensibilities of Andy Weatherall and The Orb, their sense of space, and we married that to our rock n'roll attitude and music and it created a new thing. It's similar to when we did 'XTRMNTR' and everyone went, 'Oh, Kevin Shields played guitar all over it and produced it', but someone like Andrew Innes is

playing guitar all over that record and it never gets mentioned. We know what we play, we know what we write, we know what we do. so it didn't bother us."

Will you be taking the same drugs as you did in '91 to recreate the era properly?

"I don't need anything else except the music. It's like me saying, 'Are you going to go and shag the same girl you were shagging 20 years ago?' Bad example, but we're somewhere else now."

With these shows selling out far quicker than your usual gigs, would you consider doing 'XTRMNTR' next time?

"Anything's possible, I can't think that far in the future. The band's sounding great and there's gospel singers coming in next week, it's a big full production."

When you see Blur, Suede, Pulp et al playing massive shows, do you think it would've been more profitable for the band

to have split up then reunited for a cash-in?

"What?! Primal Scream kept going and Primal Scream kept releasing albums every couple of years and Primal Scream kept touring. We never gave in. In a couple of years' time we'll have a brand new album. I've got a lot of respect for those guys, they've got to feed their families and Î'd never criticise any band that got back together again. We've stayed out there doing our thing come rain or shine, we'll never give up. We're a rock'n'roll band, that's what we do."

features: Four CDs and heavyweight gatefold double LP including 'Live in LA 1991' album. mix CD and remastered 'Dixie-Narco' EP, plus a 30-minute making of the album DVD

LOADED

WITH

EXTRAS

'Screamadelica'

reissue:

exclusive details

Release date:

March 7

Remastered by:

The band and My

Bloody Valentine's

Kevin Shields

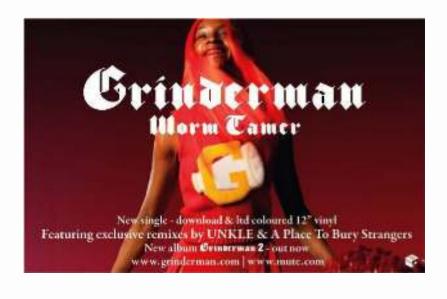
Collectors' edition

documentary

Finally, Beady Eye's first tune sounds very mid-'90s Primals - happy to be an influence?

"Oh, really? I haven't heard it. I don't know anything that's going on in modern music. I

love Liam and I love Noel and I wish them both the best of luck in their new musical explorations. I don't understand measuring people against what they did formerly. Either it rocks or it doesn't rock. I hope it's successful for Liam."





Pieces Of ME NATHAN WILLIAMS

The Wavves frontman is inspired by Looney Tunes, Afrofuturists, hardcore rap and middle-class Los Angeles suburbs

My first gig

"I saw Everclear and Third Eye Blind in San Diego. My mom wouldn't let me go into the moshpit. She came with me to chaperone, and my sister gave the tickets to me as a present. I think I cried, I was 10. I was really sobbing. In a good way though, I did enjoy it."

My favourite lyric 'SHOOK ONES PART IP BY MOBB DEEP

"'Ain't no such things as halfway crooks' that's my favourite lyric. It's just so deep. I just love all the thought that goes into Mobb Deep's lines."

My style icon

"Rappers dress cool. Ghostface Killah wears a shitload of gold, so that's pretty cool. But most of all I'd say Sun Ra dressed the coolest of all and he wasn't a rapper. Sun Ra is my answer. I don't model myself on him – that would be ridiculous. I just think he looks really cool."

Right now I'm loving ARIEL PINK

"Ariel Pink's not really a new band but I love the new record. It took a little while for it to catch on but I'm glad that he's getting the credit. We all like Smith Westerns too. They're a great band who we played with a little bit ago. They don't do anything revolutionary, they just write good songs. It's simple,"

My favourite film

"Or Looney Tunes: Back In Action is a good one too. It's a tough call. I'm looking at the DVDs on our bus. Moses Jones, that's got a really funny joke on the front - 'he's one sell of a guy'. And then there's Funky Monkey, which is apparently about a monkey that's funky, Bill Murray is in Space Jam, I'd forgotten about that."

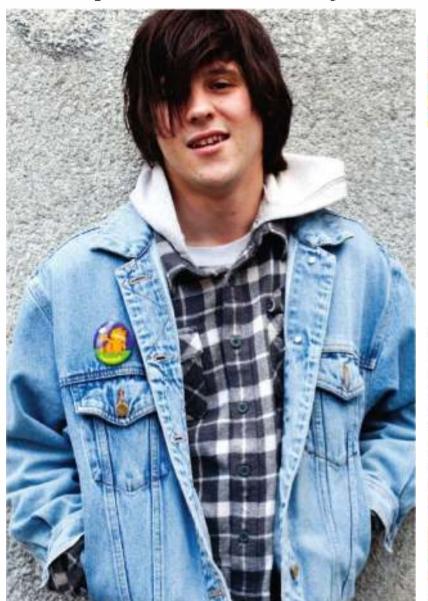
My favourite place

"Los Angeles, California. What's so great about LA? I can buy weed there, that's a good enough reason. My neighbourhoods out there are Eagle Rock and Echo Park and Silver Lake. But I think Eagle Rock is my favourite part of LA. It's just like a suburb. But a really cool super-hip one. No, don't put that in there."

My favourite fictional character

GARFIELD

"I think that Garfield is my favourite fictional character, and I like Bugs Bunny too, But



0







Garfield's a real cat and Bugs is a fake rabbit. Daffy's pretty good for a duck, I suppose. And Taz is pretty funny."

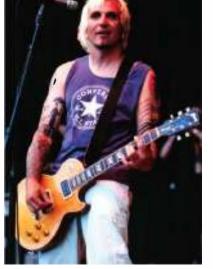
My favourite album artwork 'KING OF THE BEACH' BY WAVVES

"That Wavves record's got a pretty funny looking cat on it. That 'King of The Beach' guy, I've heard he's a pussy. And an asshole."

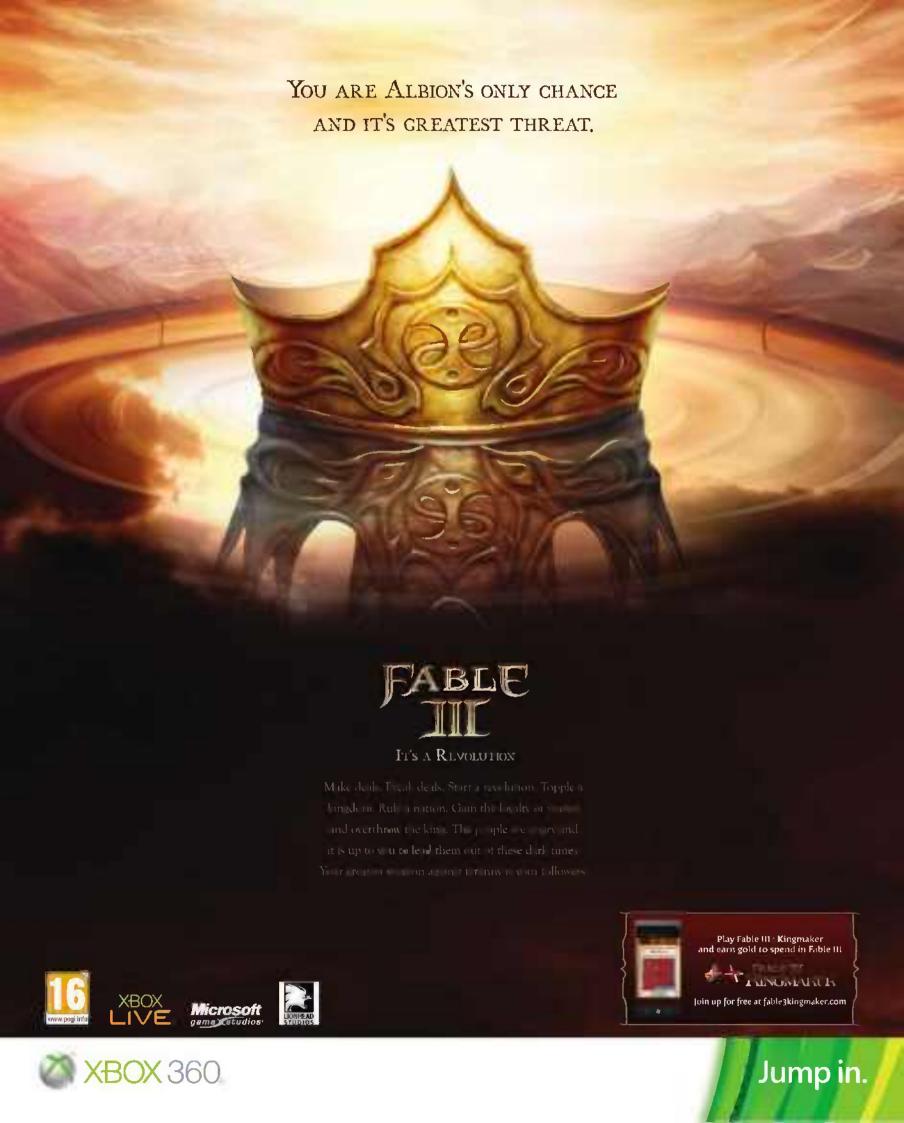








Clockwise from main: Mr Wavves himself; the cover of the band's 'Ming of The Beach' album; Mobb Deep; Eagle Rock in Los Angeles; Sun Ra; Everclear's Art Alexakis; Space Jam; Artel Pink's Haunted Graffitt; Garfield the cat



VERSUS

Peter Robinson Us **EXAMPLE**

The dance, electro, dubstep and drum'n'bass star wants you to eat his yoghurt



Do you think

Example will

receive a phonecall

from a yoghurt

manufacturer in the

next few days?

· We hope he does

· Perhaps to

celebrate the deal

he could go out and

get müllered

How are you? "I'm good, thanks. You've actually interrupted me in the middle of playing Call Of Duty."

And how much time have you pissed away on that so far this week?

"Three sessions, about four hours each. But I've worked hard as well. I've written loads of songs."

But are they all about Call Of Duty?

"[Laughs] No, that's the grime MCs, they chat about Call Of Duty and Xbox. I talk about falling in love. Although I have fallen in love with Call Of Duty. I need it to take my mind off things. It's the only escapism I've got."

Oh dear, is there something stressing you out? Can I help? Do you want to talk through it?

"Well, you know, I really don't like being recognised and I don't like loads of attention on me and, er, I don't like doing interviews [roars with laughter]."

Oh dear.

"I don't mind NME Versus. This is my favourite interview to do. But the 20 interviews all asking about how I got my name and that sort of stuff."

At least with the whole Elliot Gleave/eg/Example thing there is a good response.

"No, most people say, 'Oh, I thought it sounded good."

Are you having an existential pop star crisis?

"Well, it's not really a crisis, it's just that Call Of Duty has become my reality and being onstage has become a dream. When I'm in Chechnya fighting people on the battle front, that's become real life for me."

Do you think there would be mileage in some sort of fining system for musicians who repeatedly use phrases such as 'in the club' and 'on the floor' in an effort to sell music to people who have never actually been clubbing?

Will there be some tunes about The Club on your next album?

"No. I've done 12 songs for the record already. Do you want to know some song titles I've got for it so far? There's 'Shot Yourself In The Foot Again', 'Lying To Yourself', 'Swallowed Up By The Floor'..."



Is 'the floor' the sort of 'floor' on which you might find a 'shorty' in 'the club'?

"No, it's more like taking shitloads of ketamine. And there's one called 'Let Your Eyes Do The Talking' which is my big power ballad. Long after I've been Example I want to be a songwriter for the rest of my life. Or maybe do a children's book."

A children's book?

"Yes. All you have to do is take an inanimate object and give it a personality. Then all of a sudden it's cute. Like, er, Larry The Lampshade. I'm looking at Larry now and I can see he's smiling."

How can you tell he's smiling?

"Erm... Well, because I just gave him his personality. Also, I could launch a range of yoghurts. If I did a yoghurt it would probably do really well because everyone would be like, 'Fucking hell, Example's got a yoghurt."'

What sort of yoghurt would it be?

"It would be a smooth digestive one, to ensure easy bowel release. I mean, all yoghurts are the same really, aren't they, but if you put a picture of a fig on the front everyone feels a lot better about it."

Let me tell you what to steer clear of. Set yoghurt with that watery stuff on top of it that you have to mix in.

"Oh, I don't like that at all. Disgusting. If someone approached me now about a yoghurt I'd be bang up for it."

Would you move into fromage frais or would it be strictly yoghurt?

"Strictly yoghurt."



CEE LO GREEM FUCK YOU

MY CHEMICAL ROMANCE

FLORENCE + THE MACHINE

KANVE WEST FT PUSHA T

MARK RONSON & THE BUSINESS INTL'SOMEBODY TO LOVE ME'

PRHANNA FT EMIMEN
'LOYE THE WAY YOU LIE (PT 2)'

MARK RONSON & THE BUSINESS

INTL THE BIKE SONG

BRANDON FLOWERS ONLY THE YOURG'

Traderio registrar regis

KID CUDI FT KANYE WEST

MANIC STREET PREACHERS "IT'S NOT WAR (JUST THE ERD OF LOVE)"(1990)

KINGS OF LEGN 'RADIOACTIVE'

RUNAWAY

KINGS OF LEON

DAFT PUNK DEREZZED

PARAMORE

ARCADE FIRE

KANVE WEST 'POWER'

ERASE MI

PEAN B LOYE GOES DOWN

SLEIGH BELLS "INFINITY GUITARS"

20 17 FOALS

HURTS

Hear the chart rundown first every Monday at 7pm SKY CHANNEL OTRA

NME:COM/RADIO

Watch the latest Top 10 video chart countdown every weekday on NME TV SKV CHANNEL 382

and learn more about each artist online **TPIK EVERY MONDAY** AT WWW.NME.COM/ CHART



. SKY LARKIN "Vear Dot"

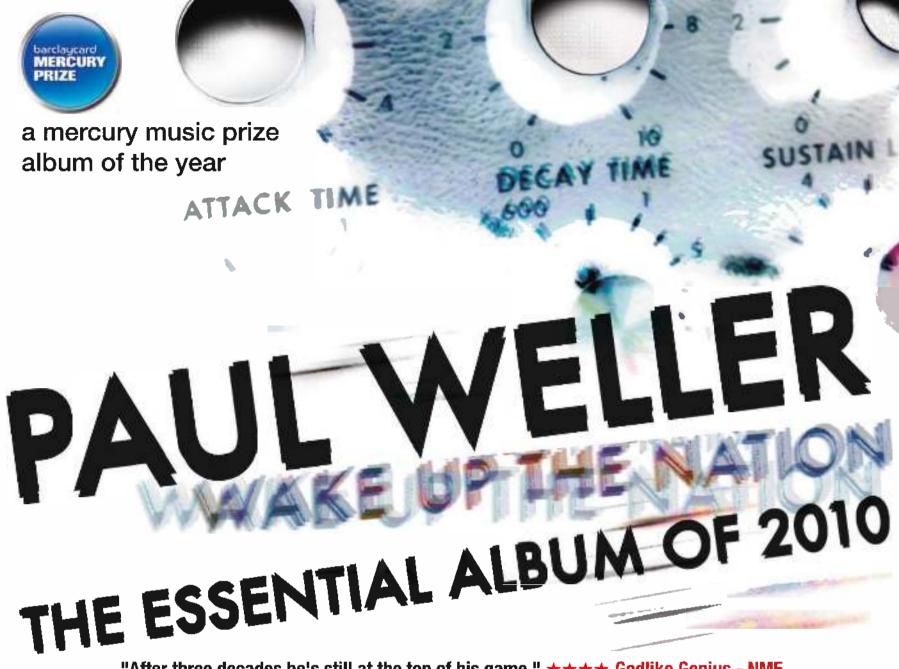
· FRANK TURNER

"Heartbreaker" FLASHGUNS

'Come And See The Lights'

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"After three decades he's still at the top of his game." *** Godlike Genius - NME
"Wake Up The Nation shows just how lucky we are to have Weller" NME

"His solo masterpiece" *****

O

"Another incredible offering, fast paced, floor filling rock n roll. Not only will it be on our playlist for ages, it will continue to sound fresh and that is the sign of a true legend" Clash

"The sound of a man making the most daringly magnificent music of his life" ★★★★★ The Times
"A force of nature, ever keen to seek out like minded rebel rousers" The Daily Mirror

"Back to his best" ★★★★★ Sunday Times

"A triumphant album" ★★★★★ The Sun

"Eclectic, hard-hitting brilliance at a breathless pace...he is now officially on a hot streak" ★★★★ Uncut "Dazzling....showing more invention and hunger than most newcomers" ★★★★ News of the World



paulweller.com



FUTURE STARS, BREAKING SCENES, NEW SOUNDS...

Edited by Jaimie Hodgson



British bump'n'grind is back, and this time it's personal

essie J adjusts her grey beanie, pokes a lock of hair behind her massive hooped gold earrings. "You know," she grins, "it's like Popjustice said: 'Jessie J – 500 years in the making..." The name on the tip of too many tongues for too long, Jessie's been waiting in the wings for so many years that she's watched whole pop civilisations rise and fall in the time it's taken her to get to the launch platform. 'Do It Like A Dude' will change all that. Real bump'n'grind R&B pop in the Rihanna/ Pink/Gaga mould, in it she's managed to synthesise all three of these totems into a writhing slab of raunch that sounds very big indeed. "I think people miss the wit in that song. It's meant to be funny too!" she laughs.

It's easy to see why record execs kept getting the wrong idea about Jessie J over the last five years, because The Voice is what hits you first. "Who is the best singer?" Justin Timberlake pondered. "Jessie J." So vocal was his vocals enthusiasm that he took her into the studio for a week ("A

sweetic. Gave me lots of great advice"). And in its power, the voice has an air of jazz hands to it. She was barred from the choir at the age of 11 for "singing too loud". Really, she makes Florence seem like Jack Steadman singing through a straw.

Now, after battles with those trying to tar her with the 'diva' brush, she's managed to find a way of transmitting her self-written real-me thing. There's a vulnerability, a proper confessional quality to a lot of her stuff that could appeal to a nation of self-examining teenage girls, in a soul Kate Nash way. "My song 'Who You Are'," she admits, "is like therapy for me. I can't sing it half the time because I start crying? Jessie J knows what she's got is special - that's why she's invested so much energy in incubating it for so long. She's

certainly not your manufactured toy.

Are there any big surprises on the record?

"Well. Uh, there are some bits where I rap."

Oh, kinda like that Cher Lloyd girl off of The X Factor?

"No," she frosts over, "not like that ... " The conversation peters out. Gavin Haynes

NEED TO KNOW

- · An ex-'topline' writer, Jessie co-wrote US Number One 'Party In The USA' for Miley Cyrus
- · She had a small stroke aged 18 as the consequence of a minor heart condition, and hence doesn't drink alcohol or caffeine, or stay up late
- · She enjoys games evenings especially ones involving Scattergories and Scrabble

The Buzz

The rundown of the music, videos and scenes setting the blogosphere on fire this week



THE RISE AND RISE OF OH LAND

Formerly a ballerina at the Danish Royal Academy, injury forced Nanna Øland Fabricius - aka Oh Land - to hang up her ballet shoes and try her hand at music. Her debut album 'Fauna' (only released in Denmark) sparkled, but it's her new self-titled EP that's getting some well-known people hot under their dapper collars. The syncopated vocal loops and dubstep womps of 'Sun Of A Gun' rocketed straight to the top of Hype Machine, tickling a certain Pharrell's fancy. On listening to the rest of the euphoric EP, he got her into his Miami studio for a session. John Legend also came knocking, and together they've written a track that Kanye's producing. Nanna's no producer puppet, though - she's written every song on her forthcoming album.



2 POMEGRANATES' '50S'

Pomegranates are the name on everyone's lips as heirs to Modest Mouse's shambolic indie throne. This first single from the Cincinnati band's masterful new album may not adequately cover the breadth of their sound, but its insistent groove is sure to silence the sceptics - assuming there are any left, that is.



3 MAZES

If Alan McGee-approved slacker squawkpunk featuring one of Graffiti Island excites you, say hello to Mazes. It's not just pedigree and accolades in the London band's favour songs like 'Go-Betweens' are FUCKING BRILLIANT enough to warrant excitement. The smart among you will buy the seveninch, out now on Suffering Jukebox.



4 STARLINGS' 'WEIGHT IN GOLD' REMIXES

Sorry Delphic, but it feels like ruddy ages since there was a fresh blast of breaking indie synth-pop coldness. So rejoicing is due on hearing the icicle toplines of London fourpiece Starlings' debut single. Remixes from Drums Of Death and Starkey should set the lyrically name-checked Hype Machine alight.



5 BOY & BEAR'S **DECEMBER TOUR**

B&B are essentially Mumford's Communion Club Aussie cousins. Two of them used to back-up Marling onstage, and they're the go-to support guys for Marcus' gang, or any other trendy visiting nu-folksters for that matter. Hopefully they'll bring a bit of December Sydney weather with them.





Christopher Owens, Girls

"I love Dominant Legs. It's actually the guitarist from Girls' [Rvan William Lynch] recording project. It sounds kind of weird but it's really good. Check out the 'Young At Love And Life' EP,"



This week's impenetrable muso slang decoded

ZEF Any of Die Antwoord's disciples will need no introduction to the meaning of zef. It's the term introduced by DA's Watkin Tudor Jones to coin their surreal South African rap-rave fusion. Coming from the SA term for chav/white-trash culture, other zef standard-bearers can be found in the likes of Jack Parow and Jitsvinger.



MONTO WATER RATS, LONDON

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11



Two songs in and NME spills a pint down itself in a spasm of surprise. Her recordings so far have suggested a radio-friendly pop

rock star, but Alice Gold live is a different proposition. In leather hot-pants and Robert Plant's haircut, she's an impressive blues-rock banshee belting out psychedelic heaviosity to the Water Rats' weeds.

Opening song 'How Long Can These Streets Be Empty?' sets the tone; basically, how are we supposed to get a handle on these tunes? OK, so

it's got a hooky melody and a big chorus, Alice's voice is kinda Joan Jett, kinda Tina Turner, but then it turns in on itself, disappears under the weight of furious guitars, and suddenly you're watching Kim Gordon in 'Goo'-era Sonic Youth. It's an excitingly unpredictable mix, and her band is outstanding in the way they switch between subtlety and claw hammering.

'Runaway Love' sounds like it could be the one to deliver her onto the telly, 'Conversations Of Love' the one you'll like better because it's got more of a sultry midnight swagger, and 'Kill The Lights' the one to nudge your mate to and go, "This sounds like the shitting Pixies now." The latter is particularly great, all searing noise with Alice chanting, "Kill kill kill" like the crappest serial killer ever (you've got to keep it quiet in that game, FYI).

Part Joan Jett, part Tina Turner, she's an excitingly unpredictable mix

She closes with recent single 'Orbiter', dance-funk with a soaring Raptureesque chorus. It'll be interesting to see who'll adopt Alice Gold as their own, but whether it's going to be a hipster, rock or mainstream thing, she's going to be dive-bombing into the music pool next year and many many more pints are going to be spilled onto crotches. Martin Robinson

CHIMPS WITH EVERYTHING

Simian Mobile Disco will have you dancing like a flea-bitten monkey



Hello, SMD here again with our roundup of what's happening in the world of techno. Let's start with a quiz: what do you get if you combine the pumping goodness of Psychatron, Paul Woolford, and the always-stellar Cocoon label? Probably just released by the time you read this, Thunder' is nine minutes of choppy

drumbreak oddness and Juno keyboard stabs. Let's hope that everyone doesn't start doing it though, as although this is ace, it's potentially a recipe for a return to graphic designer 'breaks' culture, and really, no-one wants to see or hear that.

'No Way' by Shed is, like most of his work, hard to describe. Certainly it's indebted to dubstep, but not the bullshit 'wobbly' stuff but the more adventurous and odder type of dubstep that you tend to find on labels like Hyperdub, but also it taps into Detroit techno and the sort of clicky soundscapes that you find on Raster-Noton.

Speaking of Detroit, 'Clash' by Detroit veteran Robert Hood shows that it's still an interesting scene, not just a reference for new acts. The simplicity of 'Clash' shows a confidence and understanding of techno that's rare. It's just a simple drum pattern over and over, but somehow manages to hold your

SMD'S TECHNO TOP 5

PSYCATRON & PAUL WOOLFORD 'Thunder'

> SHED 'No Way'

ROBERT HOOD 'Clash'

ONEOHTRIX POINT NEVER 'Computer Vision'

ART DEPARTMENT 'Without You'

attention perfectly. The total opposite, not in terms of attention-holding but instrumentation, is 'Computer Vision' by Oneohtrix Point Never. No drums at all, just synth sequences. If you like this, you should check out their album 'Returnal'.

To finish up this week, Art Department's 'Without You' is not the cheeriest of records but it's made us very happy. Apparently made by a pair of Canadian producers, Kenny Glasgow and Jonny White, it's actually the B-side to a 12-inch they put out earlier this year. As is often the case, the B-side is the best cut. That's it for this month... hope to see you at an upcoming Delicatessen party.

NEXT WEEK'S COLUMNIST: Trash Talk's Lee Spielman



This week's unmissable new music shows

JONOUIL/RHOSYN/ **PET MOON** CAMP Basement, London,

November 24

TWIN SISTER/THE **ABC CLUB** Brudenell Social Club, Leeds.

November 24

HYPE WILLIAMS/ HONG KONG IN **THE 60s**

Portland Arms, Cambridge November 24

JAMES BLAKE (pictured below) Buffalo Bar, Cardiff, November 25

> **GOLD TEETH** Deaf Institute, Manchester November 30







GET RICH OR TRY DYEING

Details of the new Smith Westerns album



As exciting a band as the Smith Westerns are, the Chicagoans' self-titled 2009 debut was so full of retrospective influence - Bowie.

Bolan, 'Nuggets', all that - we half-expected the three-piece to have constructed their forthcoming second outing, and their first on Fat Possum, using guitars strung with pig gut, with a drum set fashioned out of a penny farthing.

"No, no, that's not the case at all," says singer Cullen Omori, "our intention this time was definitely

to make a very modern-sounding record. We wanted it to sound like a record being released now, not a couple of decades ago. There are a lot

of very bad guitar bands around right now very consciously making records that sound old. We don't want to be pegged as one of those revival acts."

Thankfully, this doesn't mean that Smith Westerns have binned the raunchy glam pop that endeared them to us in the first place. Nor that they've started dressing like the cast of the new Daft Punk Tron soundtrack.

"Don't worry," says Cullen, giggling, "we haven't become a laptop band. We all think that if a group goes onstage with a MacBook, then things have probably gone a little bit too far. We just wanted to make a record that sounds like what a guitar

rock band's record should sound like if it's released in 2011."

To do this they recruited Chris Coady (TV On The Radio, Yeah Yeah Yeahs, Beach House) and decamped to the producer's New York base, where Coady fired the band's drummer Coldby just one day in. This wasn't. says Cullen, because the sticksman had a wacky nickname, but because "he couldn't really play well enough - there'd been infighting for a while".

Two session drummers were flown in to replace Coldby. The band bashed the songs out in 10 days. Then they flew to New Jersey for another 10 days to finish them. What they

It's modern-sounding, but they haven't binned their raunchy glam pop

ended up with is 'Dye It Blonde'. You can hear it for yourself on January 18, next year.

If you can't wait that long, allow Cullen to describe his favourite song on the record, closing tune 'Dye The World'; "It's like a song off a soundtrack. It's really powerful. It would sound great in arenas. The lyrics were written as if they were for a Michael Jackson song. It's pretty crazy - it's not garage-rock."

Wow. If it weren't enough that this interview was conducted on the telephone and not via two paper cups and string stretched over the ocean, we're pretty damn impressed, not to mention damn eager to hear it, now.

WOVEN

Our latest campaign
brings the untold
stories of the original "red Perry shirt
to life. Read our source and see how
you can submit your own.







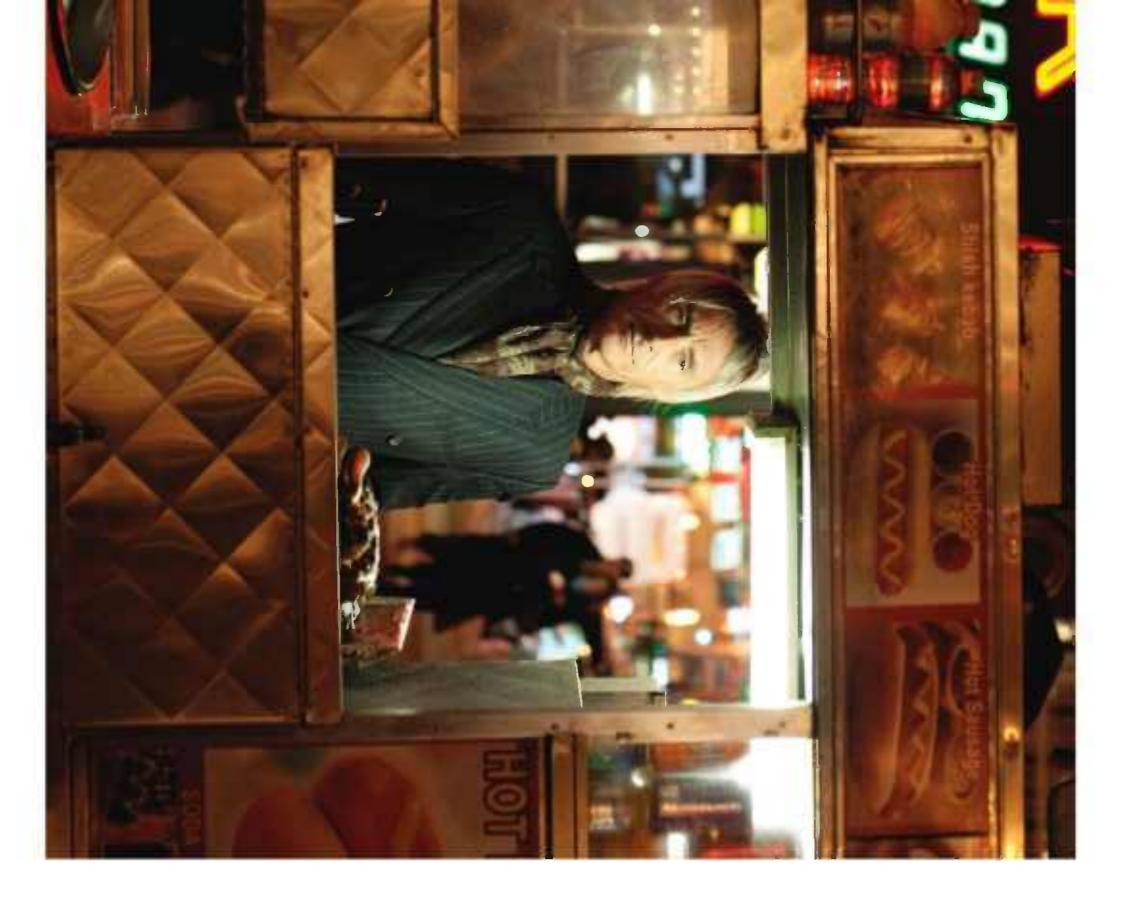
Street I, u

THE ORIGINAL FRED PERBY SHIRI



1952

Paul Weller has had a truly amazing year. Hamish MacBain joins NME's Godlike Genius 2010 in New York to talk creative rebirths, future plans and his attempts to wake up the American nation •



H-MI-GAWD! OH-MI-GAWD! OH MI GAWWW WD... 11'S HJM!" Maybe not everyone in the US of A knows Paul Weller's name. but Sarah from Boston certainly does. Having driven all the way

from her hometown (over four hours) to see "her God" at Harlem's legendary Apollo, she's stood waiting, with her kid, at 6.30pm when tonight's star attraction wanders right out front with his band for a photo undernea I the entrance's famous flashing lights.

"Last time he played in Boston," she says, looking down at the child next to her, "I was jumping around at the front so much I went into labour!"

We continue our walk around the streets of Harlem - alive with all kinds of amazing soul music and more American Wellerophiles make themselves known. There is Mike from Horida, who has flown in with his wife, and has made a T-shirt featuring Paul's face next to a sum rotting up how much it has cost him to be here (Total: "WGAF", as in "Who gives a fuck?"), and space for "his hero" to sign (which he does). There's Erzen, a local R&B DJ who has brought along his import vinyl copy of Weller's first solo album to get scribbled on. He tries to convince the band to come down to his night afterwards, saying it would be "his dream" to play music for them. As we approach the Apollo's stage door, there are more people. Many more than you might expect.

"Sometimes I get disheartened with doing the States," says Paul Weller, now back inside, making a very English tea (PG Tips are on the rider) for all his band, his wite of two months Hannah, and \ WI 'I do sometimes think, 'I can't keep doing this.' I mean, it's not like at my age I'm expecting to 'make it' over here. But then you come over and see that there's still a really devoted fanbase here, and that just keeps

"I THINK FACEBOOK IS THE NEW OPIUM OF THE MASSES. THERE'S JUST A LOT **OF TIME WASTED"**

seeming like a good enough reason to do it." Certainly, the reaction the set gets from a full, (supposedly) seated house is nothing less than rabid. Weller beforehand confesses he finds it difficult, as the records "don't really sell over here", to work out which songs people know, so what they get is the full spread. The first 10 songs are made up of four from 'Wake Up The Nation', his 19 year-old debut solo single ('Into Tomorrow'), one Jam ('Pretty Green'), one Style Council (Shout To The Top'), one each from '22 Dreams' and 'As Is Now', and one brand new song - a chugging, psychedelic thing called 'Paper Chase'. On this song, and also on 'Pieces Of A Dream', Steve Cradock plays a Theremin app on his iPhone 4 ("He just showed it me a bit back in the van on the way to a gig," Weller says, "and it sounded great, so we use it"). The clothes are, of course, immaculate (someone

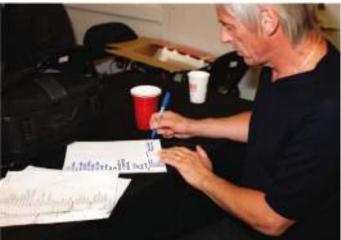
having been dispatched earlier to go and buy an iron, which Weller uses himself), but the band are sharper still They do a cover of Marvin Gaye's 'How Sweet It Is (To Be Loved By You)' in tribute to all the soul











HAT'S WELLER LISTENING TO?

CARNIVAL

'Erland & The Camival' Specially selected support on Weller's US tour, featuring Simon Tong of The Verve/Blur/ The Good, The Bad & The Queen' but centred around one Erland Cooper. Their self-titled debut album, recorded at Damon Albarn's Studio 13, is a weirdly beautiful record that takes several bits of existing poetry and folk songs and concocts their own bewitching psych-folk brew. KEY TRACK: 'The Derby Ram'

BROADCAST & THE FOCUS GROUP

'Broadcast & The Focus **Group Investigate** Witch Cults Of The Radio Age'

A perfect marriage: the sensual textures of Broadcast (best exhibited on their amazing second album, 2003's 'Haha Sound') meets the library music soundtracks of The Focus Group (project of designer Julian House who, as well as creating Broadcast's distinctive sleeves, did Oasis' 'Dig Out Your Soul', Primal Scream's 'XTRMNTR' and, er, Razorlight's 'Up All

Night'). As enjoyably out-there as you might well expect. KEY TRACK: 'The Be Colony

TAME IMPALA

'Innerspeaker' Australian psychedelic faves of everyone from Noel, Serge, The Horrors and a couple of Klaxons. Awash with phaser'd guitars, hippy grooves and echoing vocals. Sounds like it was recorded in a beach shack on a shitload of LSD (because it actually was). KEY TRACK: 'Desire Be, Desire Go'

greats that have trodden the same boards they're on now. They do 'Art School' from The Jam's '77 debut album, with keyboardist Andy Crofts coming forward to play guitar and sing on a song released in the year he was born. The set is cut short because of the strict 11pm curfew (other rules: no smoking, drinking or chewing gum onstage), but this just means they end with a sprawling version of 'Stanley Road's 'Porcelain Gods' rather than 'That's Entertainment'.

"I think we hit the right mood, really," Weller says afterwards. This is an understatement.

t hardly needs reiterating, but what a year 2010 has been for Paul Weller. Aside from the NME Godlike Genius award, the across-the-board glowing reviews for his 10th solo album, the Mercury nomination ("I thought I deserved to win, but it was just great for an old git like me to be nominated with all the young bands"), he's also got married ("We just nipped off and did it on the quiet. Capri, off the coast of Italy"), given up drinking ("Been clean for about four months. I just need to stop for a bit") and still has an enormous UK arena tour starting later this month. You'd think that might be enough, but no: Lord knows when he found time, but there are also the ro new songs that Paul Weller has finished recording (and which he has no hesitation in playing to us off a laptop), that demonstrate this much-discussed purple patch is far from over.

He starts with 'Starlight', an upbeat, electronic soul tune propelled by synthetic handclaps; followed by the frenetic krautrock of 'Around The Lake' (of which Paul is getting Neut's Michael Rother to do a remix); followed by the aforementioned 'Paper Chase' and the heavy, cyclical riff-driven 'Dangerous Age', which will make tomorrow night's set at the Best Buy Theatre in Times Square.

There are two brief, abstract instrumental soundscapes called 'Sleep Of The Serene' and the noisier 'Twilight' ("Horrible!" his wife says of the latter); a sweet, soft ukelele and mandolm lullaby called 'No Need To Be Alone'; the frenetic 'Kling I Klang' (featuring the fine "I can't undo what I don't know how"), the brilliant slow funk of 'When Your Garden's Overgrown' and the aggressive, waltz-like 'Drifters'. There is also a slow, spacious ballad called 'Be Happy Children', which features, on backing vocals, his daughter Leah and his five-year-old son, Mac, who as a photo Weller shows us demonstrates, has copied his dad's famous locks impeccably. "He did it [the singing]. with the headphones on and everything," the proud father smiles. "Then kept saying he weren't happy with the way his voice sounded and wanted to do it again. A little diva!"

These songs - incredibly disparate in style but continuing the sense of effortlessness that permeates his recent work - Weller hopes will come out next year. He may even just press up a limited single himself, noting, "I don't wanna wait a year. I'm fired up about it now." The theme of 'Wake Up The Nation' was "something urban and tough, and quite metallic sounding," but he's not yet sure what this next one's will be. "It seems to be taking its own character this time," he says. "Sonically it's still pushing things, but still with good melodies, and lyrically I'm trying to stretch myself. I've tried to make the words more... impressionistic, tried to write in different ways. As much as I'm trying to expand the music, I'm trying to change the way I write words as well. It's gonna be another move on from 'Wake Up The Nation'."

It's clear: this is not a man who even knows what



laurels are, let alone how to rest on them. He talks about how the krautrock thing came about because he read one of his reviews, saw the word and so went out and got the first three Neu! albums. He enthuses about Tame Impala, Broadcast, Erland & The Carnival (who have been handpicked to support on this US jaunt), has recently been listening to I ou Reed's 'Metal Machine Music' ("Played it in my car driving around town") and John Cage, and wants to know all the new bands he should be looking out for in 2011. Yes, minutes prior to the show in Times Square the next night, you'll still hear him backstage singing 'I Can't Explain' or The Beatles' 'Think For Yourself', but Paul Weller's

appetite for the new - or indeed, Neu! - is as voracious as it is for his more celebrated interests. "I'll never learn everything I need to know, probably. All the time I'm learning new things still, and I don't think that's a process that stops, as long as you don't want it to stop. I still get excited by finding new things, new music."

You wonder whether the 24 year old Paul Weller who split up The Jam because he wanted them to always stand for youth imagined he'd still be feeling this way nearly 30 years later. "No. Not at all. I didn't have any vision at all of getting older. When I was 17, I never had thoughts of making it to 52. I remember my 21st birthday, around the time of 'All Mod Cons', just

thinking, 'It's all over.' But it just goes so quickly." And what does he think the 17-year-old Paul Weller would make of the 2010 Paul Weller?

A pause

"Even if I thought I was an old git, I'd still be out buying 'Wake Up The Nation', definitely. Some of '22 Dreams' I wouldn't have got, but the new album I definitely would have got it. I mean, all the people I really loved as a kid – all me musical heroes, for want of a better expression - they kind of lost it into their 30s. I didn't understand Pete Townshend's rock operas, it didn't make any sense to me. There's been very few role models for me who've kept on doing what they

JANUARY

Releases compilation Lost & Found - Real R'n'8 And Soul' with Keb Darge. First details of 'Wake Up The Nation' revealed.

MARCH

Announces giant arena tour of the UK for November and December, culminating with a show at London's Wembley Arena.

MAY

Weller is reunited onstage with The Jam's Bruce Foxton at the Royal Albert Hall. The pair blast through 'Fast Car/ Slow Traffic' and 'Eton Rifles'.

JULY

Alongside efforts by The xx. Wild Beasts et al, 'Wake Up The Nation' is nominated for the Mercury Prize.

SEPTEMBER

Ties the knot with Hannah Andrews in an intimate ceremony on the island of Capri.

NOVEMBER

Plays shows in LA and New York, releases Live At The Royal Albert Hall DVD, begins massive UK arena tour.

2010 THE TRIUMPHANT EAR OF PAUL WELLER

FEBRUARY

Collects Godlike Genius Award at the NME Awards. playing at the ceremony, aided by Gem Archer of Oa... sorry, Beady Eye.

APRIL

'Wake Up The Nation' is released to rave reviews. Plays intimate launch gig at the Relentless Garage in Islington, north London.

JUNE

Puts out second single from 'Wake up The Nation', 'Find The Torch, Burn The Plans'. Returns to Woking to play a charity show.

AUGUST

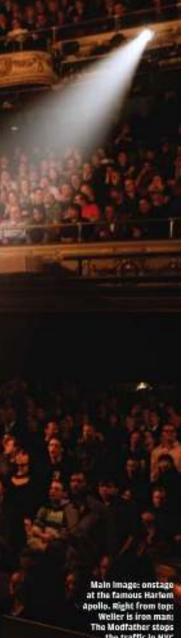
New single 'Fast Car/Slow Traffic' is announced, featuring a remix by Primal Scream.

OCTOBER

Makes Number Six on NME Cool List. Least cool thing he's ever done? "Fell over in my own sick. That's not very cool, is it?"

DECEMBER

Relaxes at home for Christmas, before plotting another triumphant year.







do into their middle ages, and kept on sounding fresh and exciting and different. Bowie, maybe. But I don't suppose there's any form to follow anyway, because everyone's just making this up as they go along. When I got into my late-30s/40s, I was a bit like, 'Fucking hell, should I still be doing this?' But I don't feel like that now. I just feel like the sky is the limit now, and that I can go anywhere and do anything. This is just what I do, and I still absolutely love it."

It is precisely this conviction that will ensure Paul Weller's continued relevance. Consider: 'Wake Up The Nation' is an album whose title track contains the line "Get your face out the Facebook" - a line that couldn't be more perfect ammo for those who still subscribe to the caricature view of Paul Weller as a living-in-the-past dadrock overlord - yet that song in particular has convinced rather than repulsed many previous doubters. In fact, it is sticking so vehemently to such

views that makes it so convincing.

"I do think that technology is good for certain things, but I do also think that the arse end of that is there's just a lot of time wasted, staring at a screen, talking to cyber-friends. And I don't get that, really. I think it's a way of distracting people from what's really happening, I do think there's an element of that. I think it's the new opium of the masses, personally. All the things that I don't like about that... I would have thought that would be enough for any new generation to kick against."

So it should, in his eyes, be a young band telling

"IT WAS GREAT FOR AN OLD GIT LIKE ME **TO BE NOMINATED** FOR THE MERCURY PRIZE THIS YEAR"

people to get their face out of Facebook? Yeah. I do think that. I don't know how that sounds in print to people, but I think that's fucking true. I'd like to see a young band saying 'Wake up the nation." Another line on the album, from '7&3 Is The Striker's Name': "Curse those fuckers in their castle/They're all bastards too". One more thing that dissatisfies Paul Weller about the young generation is their seeming reluctance to challenge the accepted order. He thinks NME's treatment of Tom Clarke from The Enemy around the time of their second album was unfair, that he was chastised for trying to say something. He thinks more bands should be trying to say something. So what kind of band does the world need right now? "I'd like to see a young band singing about their life and their times. I haven't heard any bands saying something about these times. Like, with The Enemy, they seemed to get stick for trying to say something-I think the byline or whatever in your magazine was 'Tom Clarke shouts his mouth off.' But isn't that good? That's what we want, isn't it? Isn't that what all the

resh from spending the day shopping with his kids who are in town to see him play Paul Weller arrives at the Best Buy Theatre in Times Square. Outside are all the same devotees from last night's performance, back for what will be their last dose for a long time.

great bands have done? Isn't that what it's all about?"

As we walk around Times Square, Weller happily

posing for more photos next to a hot dog stand, more disciples approach. A bunch of English sailors all on shore and coming to the show, ask for a shout out. As Weller tries to cross the road back to the venue, he's stopped by more American autograph-seekers.

The second NYC set, when it begins, is a vastly different animal to the one the previous night. Whereas there it was deemed appropriate to begin in a more laid-back, slinky fashion with 'Aim High' and 'Into Tomorrow', tonight the feeling is that it's time to tear the roof off. Thus the set is frontloaded with five in-yer-face firecrackers: 'Peacock Suit', followed by '7&3...', 'Moonshine', 'From The Floorboards Up' and 'Pretty Green'. There is barely a pause for breath. Newie 'Dangerous Age', having gone through numerous fine-tuning takes in soundcheck is aired, as is 'Stanley Road's 'Woodcutter's Son', which the band haven't played "for about a year", but sounds great when they warm up with it, so in it goes. It's the full set tonight, ending with 'That's Entertainment', which the previous night's audience were cruelly denied.

Two ridiculously high-energy sets in two nights; all those new songs - more of which should make the setlist on the UK arena tour next month - that show no sign of the vein of form ending; the fighting talk. How long can this all continue? Can Paul Weller see himself still doing all this when he is 70?

"If I can still stand up, I will be fucking doing it. Definitely. I don't think there is any end to it, until I drop dead."

Or lose your hair?

Or lose my hair, yeah. There is no end to it for me, until you physically can't do it any more. I can't think about the end. I used to when I was younger. But not any more. No way."

> For more on Weller, including quotes and video clips, head to NME.COM. Plus tune into NME Radio on Monday November 29, for a backstage interview and listen out for a Weller special over Christmas





rabies. "I got bitten by this dog on the way into this compound and ended up sitting in a hospital in the middle of the night with a suppurating wound on my leg and a doctor telling me, 'The best case scenario is you're going to be fine, the worst case scenario is you're going to die an extremely painful death."

Dan Snaith - aka Caribou, the most vital and adventurous Doctor Of Danceology this side of DFA - shakes his bespectacled, slightly balding, equationcrammed head.

He's forgotten about the brothel in Bogotá.

"We played in a brothel in Bogotá," he recalls as he and NME roam the streets of Munich searching for a gigantic red ring - eerily reminiscent of the hypnotic cover of Caribou's fifth album 'Swim', recently voted album of the year by legendary indie record store Rough Trade, and considered a new benchmark in electronica's human/machine interface - by which to photograph him. "It was an active brothel. It was called Las Vegas 2000 and we played on a stage with a stripper's pole down the middle. Our dressing room had a bed and a heart-shaped mirror on the ceiling. The staff informed us that if we wanted to use the bed they would charge us - if we met a groupie at the show we'd get a bill at the end of the night. There were some staff around that, on other nights, may have fulfilled other functions.

"A girl burst into our dressing room after the show and was thrusting her breasts around going, 'Dan, you have to sign my breasts!' This isn't my vibe at all, I'm a married man, I can't go signing breasts. I had to talk her down and signed her arm, but her way of convincing me was saying, 'But I'm 17!

He shakes his head again. "It used to be bearded guys with rucksacks and anoraks at our shows, but with this album that's all changed."

The calculations whirr in his head: 17+(xy)(a-c) where 'x' is a clubful of Colombian hookers, 'y' is a spontaneously combusting PA, 'a' is a fatal disease of the nervous system and 'c' is the KGB beating the crap out of a man at the wrong gig - equals a life far removed from that of the average PhD in mathematics. While the closest most Imperial College doctorate graduates of 2000 will have got to the above scenario is spelling 'BOOBS' when you turn the calculator upside down, the last decade of sonic exploration and relentless off-the-beaten-track touring has shown Dr Dan Snaith PhD a world of wildness and wonder. And all because, many have assumed, his mathematical training has made him electronica's own A Beautiful Mind, cramming his chalkboard studio walls with dense beat equations and 'seeing' music as an endless stream of calculations and algorithms.

And 'many' would be talking rubbish. "People get it





"I CAN'T GO AROUND SIGNING **BREASTS! THIS ISN'T MY VIBE** AT ALL - I'M A MARRIED MAN! I SIGNED HER ARM INSTEAD"

exactly wrong," Dan smiles. "They want me to say that I make my music using some sort of a formula. I just type in some numbers and out comes a pop song. Actually, the mathematics is more musical than people imagine. After a certain point mathematical research becomes about intuition and having to play around with ideas. People's conception of mathematics is high school mathematics, a dry engineering accountancy type of process, but it becomes more philosophical, more artistic at a certain point."

You were discovered by Kieran Hebden of Four Tet and you're mates with Hot Chip and Junior Boys - do you all sit around in some Boftronic Boutique club

having wild sudoku parties or drinking along with the Countdown numbers game?

Dan laughs, "No and no. Ha ha! I see those guys at clubs, or we end up somewhere else in the world playing at the same festivals."

We saunter past one of Munich's less salubrious casinos. Come on Dan, you must be a master of card-counting! You do that 21 thing and we'll walk out rich! Rich, I tells you!

"I wish I could go down the casino and rinse them," Dan shrugs. "But you're backing the wrong horse."

he Caribou story is a tale of two Londons. Born in the Canadian backwoods of London, Ontario, Dan was raised in frustrated isolation in the Toronto suburb of Dundas: "I was stuck out in the country knowing if I could get a ride to town I'd be in a band." He attended a school with somewhat "hippy" credentials: "Everyone was taking acid, smoking weed, doing hippy drugs rather than taking E. More kids listened to the Grateful Dead at our school than Nirvana."

The (now teetotal, non-drug-taking) son of a mathematician, Dan's natural aptitude for the subject meant that his maths studies developed hand-in-hand with the music he started producing at around 13. By the time he'd moved to London, UK, to study for his PhD at Imperial he had half a debut album under his hard drive, which caught the ear of Keiran Hebden when Dan ran into him at an electronic festival in Bristol's Fridge club while on a placement at a

> Hewlett Packard math lab. Cue his unique transformation from Frink to plink.

> "The last year of my PhD was more and more me disappearing to go on tour opening for Stereolab," he says, breathless at his own luck. "I thought, 'Fuck this, I'm not going to sit around

listening to these lectures."

Over four years, under the moniker Manitoba, Dan forged three albums of beat-based psychedelia heavy on the Four Tet and Spacemen 3 until, in 2004, Dictators frontman Richard 'Handsome Dick Manitoba threatened legal action. "It was frustrating because this improbable thing was happening, then it seemed like everything was going to get shut down by this stupid bureaucratic process. I thought I'd change my name and no-one will notice and that'll be the

Dan changed his name, and everybody noticed. His next album - 2007's '60s-tinged 'Andorra', pegged as an electronic homage to The Zombies' classic

MUSIC MATHS THE CARIBOU EQUATION





Four Tet minimalism Spiritualized space throbs



MIA eclecticity



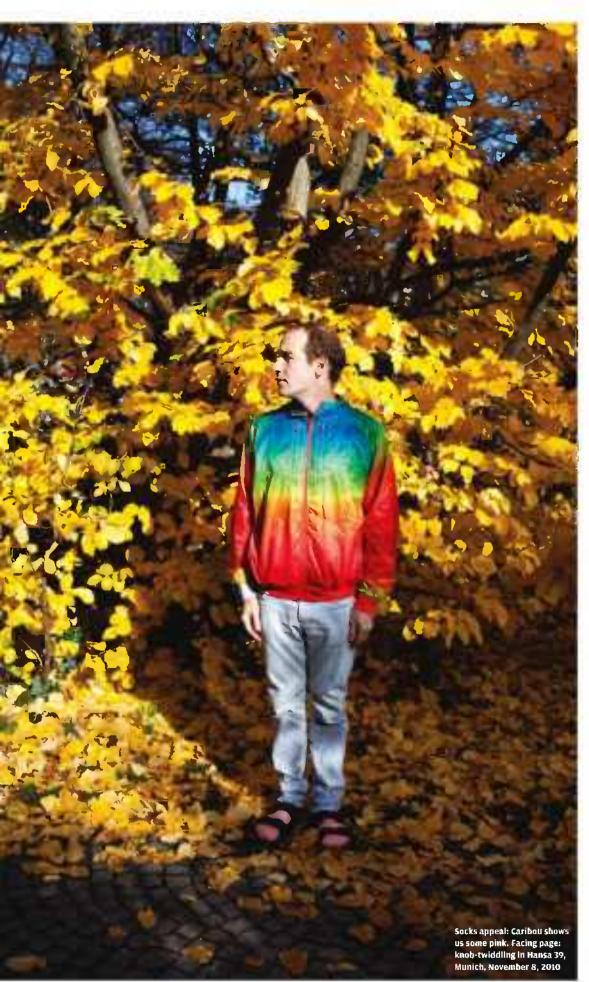
Postal Service fragility



Hot Chip pop knack



Caribou



'Odessey And Oracle' – won copious global plaudits as well as the Polaris Prize, Canada's equivalent of the Mercury.

"I'm 'a guy' in Canadian music now," he fathoms.
"That was a weird thing to take on board, because I never felt part of the Canadian music industry or community. I always feel I'm on the periphery I'm somehov itang, intially connected to dance music and I've got these friends who make indic music but I feel I'm in neither group. My favourite people have always been the people who don't fit in — a dance producer like Theo Parish or a band like Neutral Milk Hotel So always thinking of myself as the outsider and then ling in the middle of [the Polaris Prize storm], doing a press conference, it was amazing, genuinely heart-warming, but hard for me to absorb."

aribou's outsider tendency – coupled with a desire to stop recreating his favourite noises and have "every synthesizer sound built by me from the ground up" – sent him back to his roots for new album "Swim", Iuelled by a renewed excitement for the club scene. "I ive years ago it seemed like all the risks were being taken by live bands like Black Dice or Animal Collective or Lightning Bolt. Now the new bands don't have that thrill for me. It seems like all the people pushing things further are predominantly in dance music."

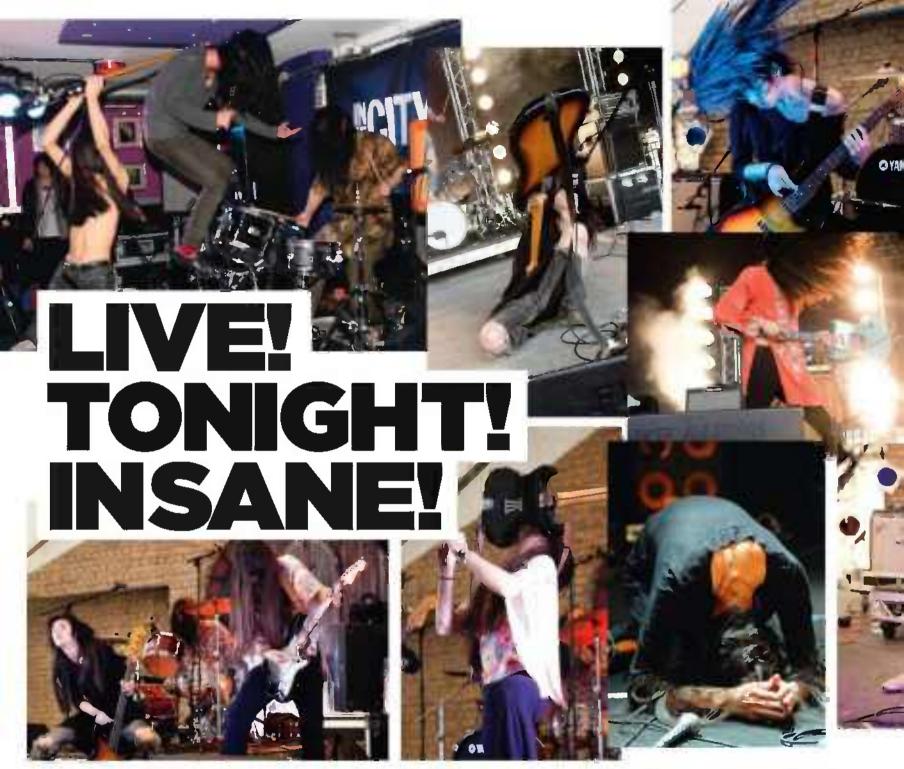
As Dan's self-indulgent attempt to make "music that makes people dance, but is also weird and eccentric and slips that strangeness in by the backdoor", 'Swim' crams all of his influences into one dense, personal conundrum, from the MIA worldtronica of 'Bowls' to the all-out rave choon 'Sun' and the filthy subterranean whoomps of 'Odessa'. All topped off with his ghost-in-the machine vocals spinning secrets, lies, infidelities, divorces and humanity's decay, both inside and out. "My grandparents passed away while I was making this record, so I was drawn to reflecting on illness and ageing and the people around me going through the clichés of adulthood. They are love songs but a lot of them are about people being out of love."

Why does he think it has been taken as such a boundary-pushing record?

"It's somehow timely," Dan argues. "The intersection of two strains of music that hadn't met in that particular way before, that captured people's imaginations. I like the contribution of total dance music like 'Sun' next to this more human, frail-sounding side. It's the album that encapsulates what I'm long."

Indeed, there's talk of Dan as dance music's newest visionary, a pioneer of the melodic rave revolution. Talk which Dan laughs off like string theory "People want to see me as knowing what I'm doing but I don't. After ten years of making music, that's the exciting thing about it. I'll sit down to make another record next year and think 'how the fuck do I do this again?"

If Munich's crazed reaction to Cardbou's dazzling fractals and shapeshifting psychtronica at club Hansa 39 is anything to go by, mind, Dan sure knows how to pull some elemental human strings. As 'Sun' sends München's most blissed and blessed out into the November chill with supernovas bursting in their bellies, he settles backstage regaling NME with a tour story involving the Franco Swiss border police, a large stack of Colombian pesos, a roadside trip search and Dan accidentally claiming in dodgy French that a plate of old cheese is somehow 'drugs'. Like Caribou, it has to be heard to be believed...



Porno-loving Japanese psych-metallers **Bo Ningen** are the wildest live act of 2010. **Gavin Haynes** heads down to their album launch to hear their five-point plan for brutal domination

limb down the rickety iron stairs round the back of CAMP, open the basement door, tread the Sambuca-sticky carpets, beat your way through the rabid circle pit comprised equally of hipsters and hardcore fans, and survey the stage. A Japanese man is hanging upside-down from the exposed plumbing, bashing the drumkit with as much righteous fury as he can leverage from his inverted position. Another Japanese man, also clad in some insane hair metal jumpsuit, is pushing his guitar into the rafters and banging the mic for sound And yes, another Japanese man, also wearing some seriously wiggy threads, also owner of a harrout that seemingly came free with Pete Burns' autobiography, is writhing, frothing and generally spazzing out on the floor. There's a fourth Japanese man here too. Nope.. can't see him right now. Hmm...

It takes a lot to outdo your support act when your support act is Invasion - a band famous for a singer whose party piece involves taking off her top while setting fire to the bass drum. But then again, it takes a lot to be Bo Ningen - the baddest live band of 20 10, a psychmetal ramrod and an east London secret for not so much longer.

The Horrors always close to the pulse, especially if that pulse is a motorik one were carly-adopters, and a whole tranche of bands have since cited them a their new favourite band. With their self-titled debut album launching tonight - nine tracks of gnashing, wailing, flailing guitar brutalism, summitting to the 15 minute Mars Voltalike symphonic sprawl of " - Bo Ningen are set to take their effeminately screamed gospel to the wider audience they deserve.

After the carnage of the gig, we pick through the husks of burnt-out guitars, the hollow, smoking skulls

ACTS INGEN

- Taigen's mother is a folk singer sometimes described as the 'Joan Baez of Japan' Three of the band. work at a Japanese restaurant on the Essex Road in north London
- · Mon-chan's family are aubergine

and cries of the mortally wounded that now dot the CAMP's emptying caverns, and encounter the band. Singer and bassist Taigen sports his trademark two-differenthaircuts simultaneously - a smart girlish bob and lank girly locks. Kohhei, with his beanpole posture and goofy grin, could've played Dee Dee in a Japanese Ramones tribute act. Yuki, more of a New York Dolls porcelain-pretty, has picked up a vaguely unsettling English accent - the sort of cockney dropping of his aitches they don't teach you in TEFL. Mon-chan, the slightly-bearded drummer, is the most stoically silent offstage, but the most energised on it. We ask them to talk us through their mission statement for rocking

out - the poka yoke of being live music's most brutally efficient practitioners. This is what they tell us:



POINT ONE LIVE IN THE PAST'S FUTURE

The question of what exactly Bo Ningen are is one that no-one has quite got sorted. It leads to all kinds of awful hyphenations. Psych-prog. Avant-mental. Japa-noise. Winky-wanky-woo. It's Can eating King Crimson. It's Neu! beating the bejesus out of MC5. It's Guns N' Roses if they had served an apprenticeship in Polysics. It's a thought experiment in what would've happened if the two radical elements of the early '70s era - motorik and proto-punk, had met and signed an entente cordiale. "I remember when someone told us that we sounded like 'what the early '70s would think that music would sound like in 2010'," Taigen contemplates. "I liked that. It's a sign that we take a lot from that era, but without being retro... I wouldn't call us a retro band at all.'

POINT TWO **EMBRACE GIG TRANSCENDENCE**

Sort of like listening to a machine assemble itself onstage, they jam around a theme, reworking their own songs in the order of the day. There's looseness

there, but also the piston tightness that comes from being powerfully gifted musicians working in lock-step with the moment, and whatever the moment demands. At their show at The Macbeth in Hoxton on September 2, Kohhei managed to knock his amplifier down the stage together with his beer, sending sparks flying. Mon-chan was found making a death-defying climb into the rafters at Offset. There's a regular line in Who-like guitar breakage. But crucially, this doesn't ever feel staged. Yuki: "What we're doing is not about the music. There's more something to it. It's like experience. People call us a psychedelic band, but we're not interested in psychedelia as a genre, so much as a way

of experiencing the world. There's this kind of transcendence when we play."

Taigen: "It's not one plus one plus one is three. Something incredible happens when we're together. Those are the kinds of moments when I think I'm really happy to do music as Bo Ningen."

POINT THREE EAST OR WEST, LONDON IS BEST

They are aliens - legal aliens; Japanese rockers living in Dalston. While they look made to order, the four only met three years ago, when they were hanging out in other East End bands, occasionally crossing paths, gradually being drawn into each other's orbits via shared interest in Black Sabbath and King Crimson. Taigen had been studying for a degree in musical improvisation. The others were studying visual art. None ever got round to leaving the city.

Taigen: "The thing about playing in London is that you're free to do your own thing. Back in Japan, the difference between the underground and the mainstream is very harsh. The underground is very underground. Gigs tend to finish very early. And there

isn't really a drinking culture - Japanese tend to drink at the izakaya, like a pub, but where you also have food. So people only go to gigs for special occasions. There is no culture of just dropping by a show every night.' Yuki: "In London, we can play as much or as little as we want. We're much more free to do what we want to." Taigen: "You get to meet a lot of creative people from all over the world here in a way that you don't in Japan. Tokyo's a creative city, but it's more structured than that."

They still cherish the age-old dream of being Big In Japan. Taigen: "Because the underground is so small in Japan, a lot of Japanese bands that are pretty big here - like Boris or Melt-Banana - don't have much of a following back home." Kohhei: "Ideally, we'd like to

build it up so that we can spend six months of the year in Japan and six months in Britain. Not a lot of bands get to do that. Because of the way that the music scene is set up, I think it is much easier to become widely known over here, and then become famous in our home country."

POINT FOUR

WRITE ABOUT LOVE. OR OTHER **MUCH WEIRDER STUFF**

"Write about love" sang Stuart Murdoch on Belle & Sebastian's popular ballad 'Write About Love'. "It can be in any tense, but it must make sense". To which Bo

Ningen might reply, "No. Write about what the bodies of train-jumpers look like as they lie on the tracks. Or about girls who just lie there while you're doing them... Or about a thirst for murder." Given that they express themselves solely in Japanese, it's hard to get a fix on the meaning of Taigen's bansheewail, except to intuit that it's probably pretty bad stuff. One song's title: 'Korositai Kimochi' means the feeling you want to kill. Another, 'Maguro', means tuna. "Or also when you have sex with a sex partner and the sex partner isn't moving much. Or when someone commits suicide by jumping in front of a train. We say that it looks like maguro."

'Bo Ningen' means 'stick men'. The words are as unfixed and transcendent as the rest, though... Taigen: "Recently, I was getting my friend to translate my lyrics into English - at least, to check that my grammar was all correct. And he suggested that much of it was about memories of the past. Which was interesting to me, because they come from a very unconscious place. I don't write my lyrics down, normally. It's all born in the moment. It was only because we were making our album that I had to."

POINT FIVE

HAVE A SHARED HOBBY, PREFERABLY ONE THAT INVOLVES PORNO

It is a truth universally acknowledged that the Japanese have got some way-out ideas when it comes to filming people having sex with trees, or beating off anonymous transvestites on packed bullet trains. Or intercoursing a loofah made of little girls' tears, or whatever the hell it is they're into this week. And Bo Ningen, it transpires, have turned this tradition into something of a team sport.

"We all collect pornography," Yuki states. What, in a sort of a swap-meet fashion?

Taigen: "In Japan, it's a part of life. It's like the difference between Japanese underground and overground music. You may also have strange fantasies, but Japanese people try and make those fantasies into something real."

Yukı smiles beatıfically. "For me, the passion with which Japanese people make pornography is really wonderful."

So there's a distinct social separation between the

private and the public - day-today life and the fantasy world that allows each to thrive? Yuki: "Yes. It's a really different culture but really effective. My friend was 18 years old when he first played in Japan. The people he was with brought him to those kinds of sex industry places on a night out - I think he was quite

freaked out by it..."

Maybe they've got a point. After all, creativity can't be turned on and off. The fact that they have the same all-in attitude to sexual voyeurism as the rest of life is fuelling their work, exhorting their weirdness to ever greater heights. Despite being soft-spoken offstage (prompting them for their albums of the year evokes a seven-minute deep-thought full, punctuated only by the occasional blurted titles of hopelessly obscure psych records), there's clearly something burning within, something fuelled by these raging libertine attitudes to express and explore. Bo Ningen are the free-est spirits you'll meet all year. Channel them.



"WE SOUND LIKE WHAT **PEOPLE FROM THE '70S** THOUGHT MUSIC WOULD **BE LIKE IN 2010..."**

TAIGEN

The perfect Christmas gift



NTIO HOMES







































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SEAIEM

NICKI MINAJ, TAKE THAT, TEETH OF THE SEA



TRON LEGACY SOUNDTRACK VIRGIN

The much-anticipated movie sequel is finally here. But it's the brilliant soundtrack that is proving really worth the wait



here are some pieces of casting so perfect that if you were to believe in destiny, you would say that somebody's life had been inexorably leading up to that moment and that moment alone. Johnny Depp as Captain Jack Sparrow. Barbara Windsor as Peggy Mitchell. Wagner as the UK's unlikely Saturday night folk hero. And now, midway through the insanely exciting Tron sequel, in a sequence inside the virtual End Of The Line nightclub, we find Thomas Bangalter and Guy-Manuel De Homem-Christo as two living MP3 sound files reimagined as robot DJs. This, of course, is the natural conclusion of everything that Daft Punk have ever been. And commissioning Daft Punk to do the soundtrack for Tron Legacy is perhaps the best idea that anyone within the Disney Corporation has had since

somebody thought that drawing those three circles in that order looked a bit like a mouse.

The sequel to 1982's seminal sci-fi computerscape tech-romp Tron has long been the stuff of fable. Visitors to San Diego's annual geek mecca Comic Con have been teased with short clips from the movie for the past three years now. And if Tron Legacy is among the most anticipated sequels in all of history, this score blasts away all previous frontiers of excitement for what a movie soundtrack can be, more than James Murphy's work on Greenberg, Kımya Dawson's on Juno and all of the Twilight movies combined. There hasn't been a more perfect thematic marriage in pop music since Oasis allied themselves with booze and fags.

But there's more to this than just boxticking. There comes a time in every robotic house duo's life when they will need to put

away childish things and elevate to a plane far grander than the humble disco. Through 'Homework', 'Discovery' and 'Human After All', Daft Punk have built an unimpeachable body of work, all the cannier for being so sparse. Like the greats of every genre, they

only do things when there are things that need to be done. For the past few years they've looked like an outfit planning to evolve into the next level of artistic purpose. The soundtrack format allows them to move into that separate sphere, and recording an avant-garde suite of Wagnerian [the other one - Composer Ed] rave with a 100-piece orchestra at London's Air Studios sounds like a rather genius way of doing it. The results, of course, sound exactly like you'd imagine Daft Punk going classical would do (which is no guarantee that what you expect is actually going to work). The brilliance here is how seamlessly they weave the dynamics of the dancefloor in with the blueprint theatrics of a soundtrack. You can hear it in 'Adagio For Tron', a moody and mournful set-piece that unfolds with the sound of Gatecrasher awakening beneath. Where this

could have sounded proggy, in practice it's impossibly sleek.

There are tracks that work better in isolation, like the boingy techno of 'Derezzed', but watch that track married to the visuals on the trailer that's doing the rounds online and you can see quite how nextlevel this shit actually is. Just as the movie promises to be a wet dream of retro futurism, Daft Punk have taken their French house trademark, one which in any other context might sound dated by now, and moved it somewhere timeless and placeless, something approaching the same tech-dreamscape as the one in the movie. There's enough evidence of that on the buzz track 'Tron Legacy (End Titles)', a formidable, heaving house behemoth that actually gleams with grace and regal stature. It's as groundbreaking as it is spleen-shaking.

Tron plays on a rich seam of nightmarish fantasies about the gap between humanity and technology, and the threat of digital sentience. But this is no Terminator-style wrecking ball. On the evidence of this stunning piece of music, we'd all do well to give a bit more of ourselves over to the machine. Dan Martin

DOWNLOAD: 'The Game Has Changed', 'Derezzed', 'Tron Legacy (End Titles)'

Watch a trailer for Tron Legacy that includes Daft Punk's track at NME.COM/movies

NICKI MINAJ

PINK FRIDAY ISLAND

Hip-hop's A-list guest but rap's new filthy-mouthed First Lady outshines them all



TER MINE PIRE FRE AV

"First things first, I'll eat your brains" deadpanned Nicki Mınaj earlier this year on Kanve West's 'Monster'. She continues with that same cannibalistic

orderliness on her debut, 'Pink Friday'. Within the first two minutes she's summarised her entire life so far in a robust, reasoned account of why she's the greatest in history, concluding, "I'm the bestest"

On the next track, she proves it, setting her alter-ego Roman Zolanski against Eminem's Shm Shady, Both Minaj and Marshall are on their worst behaviour, violently barking quick-witted and brutal attacks at one another before the song climaxes with Nicki screaming in a cockney accent.

It's at that moment you realise that you're listening to one of the most startling rap records in years. Minaj's volatility and quirks are reminiscent of heyday Lil Wayne, but while Weezy was never more than a bottle of Calpol away from his next blackout, Nicki's addiction is her pop sensibility, teetering

constantly on the brink of the mainstream while being far too insane to ever get there.

Following Minaj's appearances on some of the biggest tracks of the year, Emmem, Drake and Kanye bring their A game to the Minaj album, making the record a crucial crosssection of hip-hop's new decade. Her happy-clappy ballad with Rihanna seems misplaced, and the grating, Buggles-sampling single 'Check It Out' dances too close to the same MTV mannequins that elsewhere she's made to look cheap. For every dud, though, there are two skull smashers. 'Did It On 'Em' - a post-dubstep cry to defecate on her haters in which Nicki assures "If I had a dick I would pull it out and piss on them \tilde{n} - should keep her on the Teen Choice Awards blacklist.

Her style, with its demented ticks and knowing re-appropriation of "bitch", is already verging on the iconic. One hopes that with the confidence this record brings, she'll take a more permanent seat at hip-hop's high table. Because when she's at her best, she's the bestest there is. Sam Wolfson

DOWNLOAD: 'Roman's Revenge'. 'Did It On 'Em', 'Blazin"



Faces To Names... What the reviewers are doing this week



LUKE TURNER "This week has been spent attending new stern acid house night Zone, and then following up the hate dance with two unctious stews."



DAN MARTIN "I spent hours playing Sonic The Hedgehog 4. got a bit too overexcited about Def Jam Rapstar, stayed up all night listening to the 'Danger Days...' stream and belatedly got into Laura Marling."



SAM WOLFSON "This week I've had a Christmas sandwich everyday for lunch. Last night I listened to Destiny's Child's Christmas album. Cranberry sauce is literally running through my veins."

MUNCH MUNCH **DOUBLE VISIONS**

UPSET THE RHYTHM



Sleep is a cruel mistress. While it's off playing hooky with deeper snoozers. most of us whimper and contort under duvets. Not Bristolian thrash-pop

quartet Munch Munch, however, who wrote much of their batshit-crazy debut while mired in self-induced late-night lucubrations. Unsurprisingly, it's as odd as a dream, a left-brain noise freakout where Klaxons intone ritualistic curses 'pon your damned soul. Man Man's Honus Honus uses your teeth for organ keys and Islet-authored A Brief History Of Time. Their reluctance to commit to choruses or hooks wears a little, but there's promise in spades; no cause for further sleepless nights, anyway. Laura Snapes DOWNLOAD: 'Car Wash In The Street'

FOREST SWORDS DAGGER PATHS

NO PAIN IN POP



Had dub first emerged from the muted surrounds of Merseyside rather than the heat-blasted haze of Kingston, it might have sounded a

little like Forest Swords. On this reissue of his debut EP. Matt Barnes' techniques are as simple as they are effective: thin slivers of sound, all stacked up to create an illusion of vertigo-inducing depth. 'Hjurt' and 'Glory Gongs' are highlights, both electrified lullables that send shredded female vocals skating across backdrops of sultry, acid-fried guitar. A triumph of atmosphere, then, and a welcome second chance to get hold of one of 2010's finest underground records. Rory Gibb DOWNLOAD: 'Hjurt'

N-DUBZ LIVE LOVE LIFE

UNIVERSAL



What N-Dubz try to express as anthemic wisdom always seems to come out braggier and shoutier than they mean it to, especially when Dappy -

a self-righteous storm in a tea cosy - takes the mic. His intense need to be seen as a grown-up man's man pushes him to write macho tommyrot like 'Toot It And Boot It', but it leaves him too proud to call out for a soulmate ('Best Behaviour') without accidentally suggesting that this is because he can't cook ("I need some kind of lady that will feed me daily"). This is, of course, both crackers and compelling, like a philosophy lecture in a chimps' tea party. Fraser McAlpine DOWNLOAD: 'So Alive' (ft Skepta)

SIMIAN MOBILE DISCO **DELICACIES** DELICACIES



If last year's 'Temporary Pleasure' LP sounded suspiciously like James Shaw and James Ford phoning in gueststrewn rent-paying attempted chart

humpers, 'Delicacies' just about 'fesses up to the whole sorry mess. Binning commercial concerns to instead boot us headlong into a dark, dirty techno dive, the duo regain stride, collating eight choice bangers from the nosh-themed 12-inch series they've issued over the past year on their own imprint. Whipping up a surplus of creeping, insistent sophistication - climaxing with ping-ponging head-wrecker 'Aspic' - you can once again envisage techno overlords such as Sven Väth dropping SMD, rather than daytime radio DJs. David Westle DOWNLOAD: 'Aspic'

WBEEZA

VOID THIRD EAR

In a world awash with excess, where fascist animal puke porn is available on tap, it's tempting to write about the nobility, restraint and patience of

Wheeza's music as if such traits were a kicking against the pricks. Tracks like 'The World Is Yourz' and 'Southern Girl' sound surly and insubordinate enough, sure, but to write them off as grand gestures of negation would be to miss 'Void''s point. South London producer Wheeza's solemn, lonely take on house music flips traditional Chicago euphoria on its head. The modest high is a track called 'Hang On': nothing flashy, just yearning synths that circle their target and a loyal kick thud to leave subtle bruises on your vital organs. Kev Kharas

DOWNLOAD: 'Hang On'

McFLY
ABOVE THE NOISE ISLAND



How many bands who emerged in 2004 are still going strong, having "parted company" with a major label, put out an album independently, then

had the major beg them to come back? In fact, has any band ever actually done this? Also, how many bands whose sound is "impossible to pigeonhole" go from four-guys-in-a-room garage-rock to hi-gloss Prince-pop in the space of two albums, and show no signs of fading? People used to think McFly were a boyband, but 'Above The Noise' is not boyband turf. This is commendable stuff. I mean, the music is absolute shite – see 'Party Girl''s attempt to emulate 'Bad Romance' ~ but still... well done!

DOWNLOAD: 'End Of The World'

MIDDLE CLASS RUT NO NAME NO COLOUR BRIGHT ANTENNA



This Sacramento power-duo looked like exploding into something spectacular about two years ago, but life and bad luck got in the way

and so their album has only just been released now, Whatever has gone on, the experience has clearly given them some potent fuel for their spiteful brand of heavy-duty melodic rock. This sounds like Jane's Addiction stamping their feet extra hard and howling lovestruck torch songs into a massive quarry. Song-wise it doesn't quite get better than 'New Low', the power-pop blood curdler that first caught our attention, but this epic fusion of soul and heaviosity will still leave you with the best kind of shakes. Dan Martin

DOWNLOAD: 'New Low'

HER NAME IS CALLA THE QUIET LAMB DENOVALI



Written after songwriter Tom Morris' breakdown, Yorkshire post-rockers Her Name Is Calla's debut proper charts a psycho-geographical map where the

band's headspace scales the manic contours of the equally beautiful and punishing Dales. Though there's little here in hock to Mogwai or Godspeed, this is definitely massive, pastorally apocalyptic music, often creeping through negative space rather than sprawling guitar weft. It's occasionally a little subtle for its own good - especially considering its 80-minute length - but when they storm in, as on the final song trio, HNIC smash the compass that flickers between rage and timid frustration and become conquerors of all. Laura Snapes

DOWNLOAD: 'The Union'

FACES TO NAMES... What's the reviewers are doing this week



KEV KHARAS

"I've spent this week reading Richard Pryor's autobiography and The Ginger Man by JP Donleavy and realising how well they would have got on with each other."



LOUIS PATTISON

"This week I've interrogated Danger Mouse about his new 'Rome' project, eaten a roast pig's ear and listened to a lot of coldwave."



EMILY MACKAY

"I've been fighting the
Doomsday Cold and
enjoying Ancient Worlds
- Richard Miles looks
like a creepy young
Paddy Ashdown."



TAKE THAT

PROGRESS POLYDOR

Coxless, but this is a surprisingly ballsy album



Robbie Williams' once invincible solo career was held to ransom by little green men. The other four's lucrative tours were merely a kind of all-singing, clothes-on

Chippendales show. Take That's reunion, really, was as predictable as the monthly cycles of the majority of the 1.35 million who broke the internet buying tickets for next summer's whopping tour.

Yet since the five-piece dominated the early '90s, the pop landscape has shifted, claimed by Simon Cowell and the lurid artifice of Gaga. Musical tribalism, which in 1995 made Robbie Williams' Glasto hang-out with Oasis front page news, now feels like a quaint prejudice from a bygone age.

Take That have dealt with this curious situation by doing the unexpected and writing 'Progress', a deranged, triumphant and quite crudely *banging* stadium synth-pop record. Ballads? Forget it – this is all wallop, driven along by Stuart Price's production, paddled-

buttock wobblebeats and hard, expensive synths. 'Progress' was written as such a departure Take That even considered changing their name to The English.

Anyone heading to Wembley will be in for a shock. Opener 'The Flood' is as unrelenting as a biblical deluge, before the even more bizarre 'SOS', where a pile-up of about three choruses take on Muse in the bombast stakes.

You can hear the influence of Bowie on 'Progress' best track, 'Kıdz', that curiously nasal tone seeping into Mark Owen's voice over the sort of dystopian electronica OMD or Depeche Mode ought to be making. There is a tail-off in quality at the end, but every track still has a chorus that Swedish song factories would sell their grannies for and, most of all, there's a sense that Take That are genuinely challenging themselves here. While those groups who were once on the other side of the '90s indic vs pop divide are content to play their hits at festivals, it's Take That setting the pace. Progress?

Embrace it. Luke Turner

DOWNLOAD: 'SOS', 'Pretty Things', 'Kidz'



VARIOUS ARTISTS

TRADI-MODS VS ROCKERS: ALTERNATIVE TAKES ON CONGOTRONICS CRAMMED DISCS

Indie and dance's finest come together to pay inventive tribute to the Congo's vital electro scene



It is not uncommon to hear a band proclaim they are from 'the street'. But few can claim such with the honesty of the Congolese group Konono No r. This

musical troupe sprang from the Kinshasa gutter, armed with all manner of scrap metal drums and home-built speakers with debut album, 2004's 'Congotronics'. Konono quickly won fans from Björk to *Simpsons* creator Matt Groening, who booked them to play his ATP. But 'Tradr-Mods Vs Rockers' suggests that the influence of Congotronics—now a catch-all category for forward-thinking music from the war-tom Democratic Republic Of The Congo—stretches rather further.

In this 26-track compilation, a cross-section of smart indie bands (Animal Collective, Deerhoof, Oneida) and leftfield dance producers (Shackleton, Optimo, Bass Clef) set about a series of covers, reworks, and tracks 'inspired by' Konono and their peers' mix of trad African dance and junk invention. That it doesn't come across as patronising is down to the sheer amount of ideas on display. Deerhoof cover the Kasai Allstars' 'Travel Broadens The Mind', vocalist Satomi Matsuzaki candy-sweet amidst jerky funk rhythms. Animal Collective dismember the same band's 'Quick As White' and take it on a romp.

It's not perfect. Micachu And The Shapes' take on Konono No r's 'NO K' is a wonky chop-up that loses its way. But it does seem to confirm that the most successful tracks here are the ones that grip a rhythm and don't let go (see the murky chasms of bass drone on Shackleton's 'Mukuba Special' or the twirling, dervish patterns of EYE from Boredoms' 'Konono Wa Wa Wa'). Tasteful? No. Excellent? Indisputably. Louis Pattison

DOWNLOAD: Shackleton - 'Mukuba Special', Deerhoof - 'Travel Broadens The Mind', EYE - 'Konono Wa Wa Wa'

TEETH OF THE SEA YOUR MERCURY ROCKET



For London's Teeth Of The Sea specialists in hypnotic droning mayhem - success is overdue. Sure, debut LP 'Orphaned By The Ocean' garnered

underground kudos, but it's the task of this follow-up to make a lasting impact. Accordingly, the quartet take us on a turbo-charged romp through space, during which we're experimented upon with post-rock guitar onslaughts and propulsive whooshing - the stuff a *Doctor Who* composer might hear in their dreams. The astral sparks of Fuck Buttons are made to sound positively amateurish by the otherworldly 'Cemetery Magus' and 'ACRONYM'.

TOTS are making some of the most exciting sounds since the Big Bang. *Ash Dosanjh*DOWNLOAD: 'ACRONYM'

DUFFY

ENDLESSLY A&M



Pastiche, Too knowing and it's irritating, too slavish and it's flat, but beware the 'modern twist'. Witness the disco-tangopop of 'Keeping My Baby', a low point on

Duffy's mostly decent second album. Produced with ?uestlove of The Roots and Albert Hammond Sr (yes, the Stroke's dad), 'Endlessly' is best when it doesn't try so hard. The hip-hop tinged 'My Boy' and the muscular soul pop of 'Well, Well, Well' are perfectly pitched, if at odds with the likes of 'Too Hurt To Dance', which perpetuates the Little Eva-sings-Soul Dusty shtick perfected on 'Rockaway Beach'. That cat-in-a-swing-coat yowl will still be a divider for many, but it's a snag of human individuality in a smooth, if mixed package. *Duncan Gillespie*DOWNLOAD: 'Well, Well, Well'

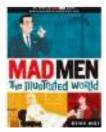
THE RIDER What we're begging Father Christmas for...



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the man himself. Except
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his most iconic lyrics, the
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treat for the eyes.

SINGLES ZOLA JESUS



PULLED APART BY HORSES

YEAH BUDDY TRANSGRESSIVE



What is this?! This sounds like every horrible rock trend from the last decade rolled into one song. As if the band was trying so badly to keep up with every

yellow journalist's wet buzzword they tried to do it all at once. Is it indie rock? Metal? Screamo? Is it BrokenCyde's cooler older brother? I don't even want to know, This is not going to work, Ever,

ROBYN

INDESTRUCTIBLE KONICHIWA/ISLAND



No-one can touch Robyn. She's been ripping hooks since '95 and time after time comes out with songs that become the soundtrack to so many people's

lives. 'Indestructible' is a testament to this. Massive synth arpeggios that would make Philip Glass turn techno with neu-disco strings and a chorus that is begging to be the next singalong in clubs all over.

SHAKIRA FEATURING DIZZEE RASCAL

LOCA FRIC



I thought 'She Wolf' was the best modern pop song ever, but Shakira has been in much better form than with these goofy Latin horns. She's always

been trying to find the balance between globally accessible pop star and Queen Latina, but that is often a thick line, and it is made the most apparent here. Trying to have the best of both worlds is a valiant effort but not always in the way it's executed.

BRANDON FLOWERS

ONLY THE YOUNG VERTIGO



The most interesting part of Brandon Flowers' newly formed solo career is the way it makes you realise just how vital he is when writing the biggest hits of

The Killers. Here, he strikes again with an immense ballad. Beautifully delicate verses contrasted by a triumphantly epic chorus that will get stuck in your head and make your heart hurt. This must be our generation's Elton John at work here.

TRICKY

GHETTO STARS DOMINO



I've been wondering how long it would take for trip-hop to come back. Finally it's re-emerged from the bowels of popular music thanks to its great

torchbearer Tricky. This is so smooth and syrupy, almost sludgy at its best moments. I only hope it's not a one-off resurgence for a genre that deserved a shelf-life so much longer than it was given.

DARK HORSES

ALONE SINGLES IN THE SUBURBS



Like a more palatable version of the pioneer of minimal synth pop, art rock, and post-punk. But at the same time, in some parts it's more effective than its

more groundbreaking predecessors. A driving drumbeat and oscillating synths with an outro that sounds more appropriate for a B-movie from the atomic age. Oh, but I thought this was going to have something to do with comics? No?

THE WAREHOUSE PROJECT, MANCHESTER SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13

For once, Maya puts the music and the fans before the mouthing off

usician, political activist, fashion designer: MIA's always made a proud point of her multiple personality, of being hard to pin down and even harder to anticipate. And for a while she was loved for it. With her colourful background and volatile views, she was a refreshing change from the monochrome.

As the Western economy grimly shows, though, investing too much into an erratic quantity means you're likely to get burned. MIA was outspoken about human rights, genocide, greed.

So when the New York Times 'outed' her as an aloof, truffle fry-eating primadonna on the release of '\\\\Y\\', the backlash was visceral. Greed and

hypocrisy? Look no further, they scorned. Insults were hurled at the new record like empty curses from a jilted lover, reactions to perceived deceit rather than music criticism Normally

resolute, even she seemed shaken, retreating to hurt schoolgirl mode by tweeting the phone number of the incriminating Times journalist.

Tonight she seems quietly relieved to no longer be the object of daily discussion. The Warehouse Project has a world-unto-itself aura and she is comfortable here, wandering among the masses before performing, and positively bounding on to 'Meds And Feds', its Sleigh Bells-sampling guitar

cutting through the crystalline night air. Tonight's set mostly comes from the recent album, and in this cavernous clubland dystopia its songs hit home far more convincingly than on

The most remarkable thing about MIA tonight is how unremarkable she is

record. 'Born Free' shakes the venue's archways to their core, while 'Teqkilla's tribalistic rhythms and scattered electronic pulses truly scramble already stretched senses.

The most remarkable thing about MIA tonight, though, is just how unremarkable she is; quiet between songs, content to tear into her back. catalogue rather than her detractors. She gleefully unleashes the likes of 'XR2' and 'Paper I'lanes' onto a throng who care little for her extra curricular activities, proving nothing other than her considerable live talent the end-of-set stage invasion

Gun Bamboo Banga XR2 Lovalot World Town Boyz

 Teqkilla Paper Planes

Story Be Told

wilbe to cinating; the aforementioned event, coupled with an album that, in truth, failed for many despite its audacity have undoubtedly shaken her ego. Then again, hers is a character that's ever shifting. To second guess her is foolish; greatness still lurks within MIA, and tonight's

making concrete the bond she shares with hir audience tonight When IIA goes from this year

just part of the rehabilitation process. Simon Jay Catling



HEAVEN, LONDON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11

One of those rare nights that you'll all be like, 'Yeah, I was there at that gig, honest'...

What the

punters thought

Glen McLeod,

London "Liars were great!

The new and old

material sit well

together. They seem

more comfortable

playing with the

extra live members

- but are at their

most powerful when

a three-piece.

You've got to love

stomping along with

Angus at a Liars gig."

It's strange to think that Liars and The Hives came to our attention at the same time, opening up a loophole in the space-time continuum for The Strokes to slip through in the process. While most bands born that weird year of 2001 now find themselves the wrong side of a good time, the LA group with the Australian singer have come miles since their debut album was lumped in with New York's early century

dance-punk revival scene. You'd think busman's holidays in Berlin and the forests of New Jersey would only add to the chaos of their identity but tonight something clicks, and it becomes clear that after a decade spent exploring it, Liars are now the best rock band in the world. Just how the fuck did this happen?

They tell Heaven tonight, ignoring latest album 'Sisterworld' for most of an opening 20 minutes they crown with a punch, 'Plaster Casts Of Everything removing hands from pockets, feet from floor. People are actually slamdancing, provoked by that moment in 'I Still Can See An Outside World' where the guitars come in and it sounds like all the volcanoes erupting at once, spunking

the world's earth into the air, so the ground turns to a slop beneath your feet and you die in a vortex of rubble

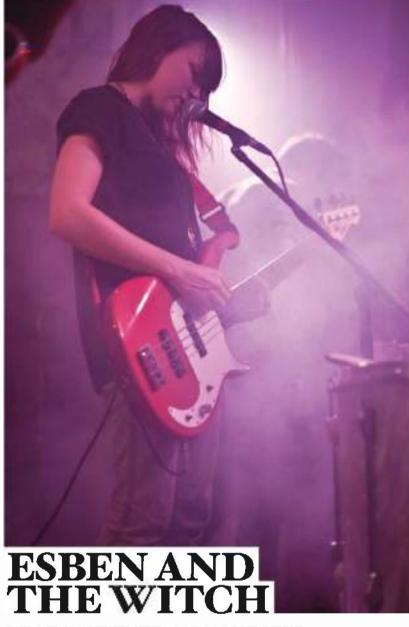
It's in states like these that Liars revel. If their taste for physical and artistic travel means they've been hard to pin 'til now, that questing taste has now become their defining trait. Tonight they'll haul out the sociopathic blasting of 'Scarecrows On A Killer Slant',

then play the beautiful 'Too Much, Too Much' before losing themselves in 'The Overachievers' happy goon stampede.

For the most part, they're a quintet tonight, only rock's rubble, enjoying their own din. Kev Kharas

and screaming.

slimming to a trio for their third encore. Frontman Angus Andrew first bids the crowd farewell 30 minutes in, but their set runs on for a subsequent 40, and at no point does it feel like a drag. As two drummers drum primally in primary lights, the impression of Liars is of a band aliens might think epitomise rock music if you merely described it to them. The volume, defiance and textures are all there, but they're oddly put together. There's nothing polite about Liars. They are scrabblers in



DEAF INSTITUTE, MANCHESTER THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11

The enchanting Brighton trio preside over a dark and ravishing ritual

Standing behind a battered-looking floor tom, Esben And The Witch's frontlady Rachel Davies needs to finish having a moment before any sort of singing can commence. Side on, she's rocking back and forth, her long, brunette locks swaying under an extreme amount of dry ice as if starring in some other-worldly shampoo ad. She could be a catatonic Native American, contacting a spirit from beyond the smoke in a ceremonial bollocking. The words to 'Argyria' bellow from her tiny frame, summoning our attention as though she's been doing so for centuries. Pounding, transient blasts on pulped drum skins entwine through a maze of sounds akin to Florence Welch fronting an operatic Indian Jewellery during an '80s goth-pop explosion. Guitarists Tom Fisher and Dan Copeman build the strongest of

platforms for Davies during 'Battlecry' which, in all its post-stoned intelligence, is quite ravishing.

"Be quiet!" our seducer Davies demands on set finale 'Eumenides'. Ever commanding, she herself gets louder and louder until this spookiest of fairytale endings becomes an edge-of-seat, semi-acoustic techno trance. There's body convulsions, making their silhouettes look like this is some kind of ritual occurring. A stage set of glowing skulls and street lanterns wrestle with our imagination against a rapidly increasing joy wrought from doomy sounds.

The Brighton trio may not be the easiest listen for mainstream audiences, but with this radical amount of stage presence and an all-knowing artistic accuracy, they're certainly welcome to break a tom or two around us. Kelly Murray



LCD SOUNDSYSTEM/ HOT CHIP

ALEXANDRA PALACE, LONDON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10

If timing scuppers Hot Chip's chance for transcendence, there are no such problems for LCD

ike two la er beams conjoining to form a wall melting deathray of gav k-dance euphoria, fewer musical combinations make more sense than LCD Soundsystem and Hot C hip's decision to team up for a joint headline tour. And for more than just musical reasons, too.

James Murphy is a shuddering bag of nerves before every show, let alone when he's on last in a cavern the size of Ally Pally. So beyond the pleasure of having one of his favourite bands playing before him and available for tourbus poler sessions afterwards, it must be a comfort to know he's touring with pretty much the only man as remotely close to being an unlikely a frontman as he is.

Not that puppy-voiced crooner Alexis Taylor lacks confidence. Hot Chip, four albums in, are close to precision tooled They're masters of pacing, segueing and generally timing their shows like a skin-pricklingly ambient chem-trip Though yet to make their own 'Sound Of Silver'



album masterpiece, their setlist is a demonstration of how many times they have touched greatness. 'And I Was A Boy From School', 'One Life Stand' and 'Over And Over' all straddle the blade dividing lobe rush dance sensibilities and massive pop—the latter now with new guitar riff-tweaks spiking through

rt, keeping a song that could sound overexposed flower-fresh

Impressive stuff, but coming onstage at 7.50pm, Alexis' introduction to the sold-out crowd acknowledges a problem – he thanks people for leaving work early to make the show. It really does need to be past two pint-o'-clock for this kind of

thing; the band's impeccable momentum is only hindered by the lack of late-night crowd surges required to properly fuel it

That's not a problem for LCD Soundsystem - the opening twangs of 'Dance Yrself Clean' instantly put everyone in a dark, 3am headspace. James, hunched and not knowing quite where to look when holding his mic has his usual endearingly clumsy onstage presence, shot through with vulnerability and a sharp sense of truth that underlines the songs And what songs - pumped to life by his deliriously tight and powerful band, hainessed by Pat Mahoney's wall-shatter drum thumps, the likes of 'I Can Change' and set-closer 'Home', played in front of light bursts resembling Manhattan skyscrapers, fly us to James' New York as thrillingly as Jay-Z did with 'I mpire State Of Mind' on the same stage last November. Although his merch was slightly better. Jamie Fullerton

Watch video interviews with both bands at NME.COM/video

On THE ROAD WITH WICHITEN TOUR

Never mind the bumps – Les Savy Fav, Sky Larkin and Cloud Nothings give Wichita a jolly good birthday thrashing

GLASGOW ORAN MOR, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13

If you're Wichita Recordings, how do you celebrate your 10th birthday? By sending three of your favourite charges around the UK on a rather plush coach, of course. We join the tour (dubbed 'Wichiten') on its first night in Scotland and, like several Głaswegian locals, can't help but be impressed by this somewhat imposing means of transportation. It's a luxury you'd probably expect to be new for Cloud Nothings (songwriter Dylan is 19, this is their first time in the UK) and Leeds trio Sky Larkin, but Les Savy Fav? They're a super-huge rock band, right?

"It's actually our first time on a bus," admits singer Tim Harrington as we join the bands at tonight's venue. "We usually use vans. I've got to admit, I'm a little bit embarrassed about it! We did the math though, and this actually works out cheaper."

Everyone seems to be making themselves at home, and despite the bands having met only hours earlier, the mood is relaxed. Cloud Nothings watch Vin Diesel 'classic' XXX in the 'lounge area' to amuse themselves,

while the multi-purpose Oran Mor venue hosts their popular 'A Play, A Pie And A Pint' daytime event, which does exactly what it says on the tin. "We had to load all our gear in really quickly this morning," says Tim, "so they could do this theatre-in-the-round thing. I really wanted to stay and check it out, but they wouldn't let us because we didn't have tickets!"

When the main event kicks off at 7.30pm, Cloud Nothings find themselves playing to an audience that comprises NME, LSF and a couple of extremely early birds - but they impress regardless, playing everything twice as fast as on record and twice as loud, which is just what you'd want from a band who sound like the Ramones covering early Green Day. Tim certainly digs it, his clenched fist remaining semipermanently in the air.



Things get busier for Sky Larkin who, with two albums under their belt to draw from now, are a much fuller and more rounded live proposition, though it's a slightly reworked take on an early

track – 'Somersault' (recently covered by Pulled Apart By Horses, who get a shout-out) – that offers the set's standout moment.

Denied their theatre fix earlier, Les Savy Fav still prove plenty capable of bringing their own drama: audience members are made to sing lines, one eats a banana from Tim's crotch, he gets semi-naked, frenchies another, dons a rhino mask... and that's just the first half of the set. But behind all this, the oft-unsung musical axis of Seth Jabour and Andrew Reuland (guitars), plus Syd Butler and Harrison Haynes (bass and drums), crank out some of the loudest and most thrilling art-core punk-rock you'll ever ĥear, with 'Patty Lee' from 2007's 'Let's Stay Friends' particularly shining courtesy of Jabour's razor-sharp fretwork. "By

the time we get to London,"

says Syd afterwards, "we'll be a well-oiled machine, a locomotive."

"Some bands get more bored the more they play. Les Savy Fav gets more excited," concludes Tim. Afterwards, the bands arrange to hook up with some old pais; Sky Larkin head over to Melissa Auf Der Maur's show at The Garage; singer Katie Harkin joins her to cover Patti Smith classic 'Because The Night', while Les Savy Fav arrive to meet us at Nice'n'Sleazy with Local Natives in tow. Cloud Nothings, meanwhile, settle for eating and Skype-ing their friend back home in Cleveland. Bless.

LEEDS UNIVERSITY, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14

After a five-hour drive on some unexpectedly snow-covered motorways, the Wichita Three play the inaugural Constellations Festival at Leeds University - each in different rooms, but all to healthy crowds. In front of their hometown audience, Sky Larkin look assured in their early slot while Cloud Nothings race through their set of gloriously snotty-nosed pop-punk even quicker than they did in Glasgow, with a pause only for TJ to lament a snapped bass string ("I've only got one spare left now. If that breaks, I'll have to leave the band!"). Les Savy Fav amuse themselves pre-show by watching their Wichita

brethren, as well as kindred spirits Liars – we spot Tim at the side of the Stylus stage going absolutely nuts. Then, it's showtime.

Now, there's nothing odd whatsoever about seeing a crowd go berserk to the Tay but tonight's set is packed with probably the most incidents we've ever seen at a show - theirs or anyone else's. Comparatively, Glasgow's was a sedate affair and the band's own assessment ("A good warm-up") suddenly seems apt. Tonight, they're not only more raucous than ever, but a couple of belt-notches tighter to boot. It's wild, so much so that we fear the plug getting pulled. There are moments when things get completely out of hand - the University's security look ready to kill. One overenthusiastic punter seems to spend as much time onstage as Tim does, continually clambering up over the throng before hurling himself back in. It's a bit like watching a sexed-up Spider-Man, particularly when he tangles four mic cables into a makeshift swing, hangs it from the lighting rig, and proceeds to suspend himself over the front few rows.

All this madness comes at a price, however: Tim's T-shirt, long since torn from his body and discarded onstage, goes missing – it was a garment he'd customised with his four-year-old son, and an appeal from the band for its safe return, as the set judders to a halt, is ignored. The band troupe off looking unsurprisingly dejected, but equilibrium is restored as the drummer bounds on to the bus, Tim's T-shirt in hand. You've never seen a smile so wide.

Tim's love for Leeds restored, we head out to watch the festival reach its conclusion with headliners Broken Social Scene - joined onstage by Johnny Marr, for one night only. That Tim can't stand in that crowd for longer than about 10 seconds without someone turning round and wanting to shake his hand, kiss him, congratulate him, or all three, says a lot. One idiot aside, there's a lot of love for Les Savy Fav here and it's easy to see why: night after night, they're going to play in your venue and they're going to tear it apart, with smiles on their faces as they do. But more than that, they're an intelligent, hardworking and enduring rock band on a label that rewards such qualities with love, support... and a rather swanky bus. Happy birthday, Wichita! Rob Webb

FROM THE CREW



Pete Flinton, sound engineer

"I love this job! It keeps me on my toes - no two shows will ever he the same. Who knows what Tim's going to do next?! It means you have to be very observant, and in the heat of the moment it can get pretty stressful, but it's worth it. Les Savy Fav were a band who I'd always wanted to work with - I feel privileged."

TOWINARTIN



The best way to beat the queue for the bogs

Tim prepares for another night in the luggage compartment



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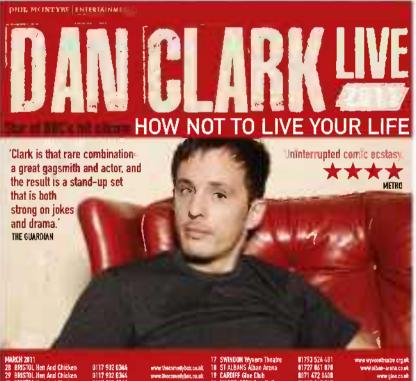






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BAND AID

No dilemma is too big or small for NME's Resident Cognitive Disputational Resolutionist (aka Agony Uncle) Pete Cashmore



HE'S BLEEDING SILLY

Our singer insists on cutting himself onstage, dla Iggy Pop, and although a's very arresting, we are missing too many gigs while he recuperates. What to do? Cutting Remarks, Whitstable

We live, Cutting, in an age of technological miracles where everything is possible—for example, if I make a spelling mistake when typing this in, there's a button I can press that removes it, allowing me to type in the correct word! You've probably twigged that what I am suggesting is cloning. Get three made of your singer so you can rotate them and keep one healthy at all times while the others recover. Should set you back a pony at most. *Uncle Pete*

WEAR AND TEAR

We have everything – image, songs, choruses, fanbase ever growing. But our T-shirts are shite. Are they the kind of thing that could hold a band down? **Dodgy Clobber, Richmond**

Many bands have benefited from the power of the T-shirt
- without their flower logo, for example, James would just
be a rubbish U2-in-cheesecloth with foghorn choruses and
a twat for a singer. A crap T-shirt, however, won't ruin a
band, but you WILL be reduced to loaning unsold items to
hungover sexual partners while they use the toilet in the
morning. And do you want your image to be associated
with a urinating semi-stranger? I think not. Uncle Pete

ENCORES: WTF?

What do you think of encores? Our manager reasons that we should do them, but we think: if you've created a work of art, you don't go back to add a few bonus brush-strokes.

No More No More, London

I have developed what I call the NME - the Non Musical Encore [Note to legal: Can I appropriate this name?] [No-Legal Ed.] Instead of playing them a song, why not cook them a quick fish supper or weave them a straw dollie? Or show them your genitals? For sure, they'll never forget you in all their days. Uncle Pete

Fancy having your band problems solved once and for all? Just send your musical quandaries to bandaid@nme.com, and Uncle Pete will endeavour to assist

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Photo: Richie Vernon, The Infadels taken by Nic Serpell Rand





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MISS

GIG GUIDE

THE UK'S BIGGEST GUIDE TO THE WEEK AHEAD Edited by Laura Snapes

BOOKING NOW



STARTS: Isle Of Wight Festival, June 11

It feels as though every band at

back into the hazy mid-'90s

Commander Jarvis and his

are one of the most

quintessentially British bands

outcast, those who stuttered and

started when a girl spoke to them.

Siphoning through the grumbles,

the joy that's greeted their reunion has proven what we knew all

along; that geeks would inherit

the Earth. Welcome back.

NME.COM/artists/pulp

ever, their music was for the

anyway, so thank goodness for

original band of merry arch wits

us right back to the heyday of it all. People may moan about them jumping on Blur's coat-tails, but this is different. Admittedly, Blur's reformation was amazing, but their songs are as part of the national fabric as red, white and blue cotton. And although Pulp

grabbing the controls and steering

the moment is trying to get a boat



THE CONCRETES STARTS: London Lexington, Dec 1 The Swedish eight-piece match their warm-hearted disco with that of support act Chad Valley. NME.COM/artists/ the-concretes



IDIOT GLEE THE PAINS OF **BEING PURE AT HEART** Drop, Dec 3 James Friley will be STARTS: London 229, Dec 2 'Tis the season for twee folly. NME.COM/artists/ the-pains-of-being-pure-NME.COM/artists/ at-heart



STARTS: London The deploying his handsome brogue on some festive covers at this Xmas show. idiot-glee



ARCHIE BRONSON

OUTFIT STARTS: London XOYO, Dec 16 The Wiltshire three-piece headline End Of The Road festival's Chrimbletide gig. NME.COM/artists/ archie-bronson-outfit



COLDPLAY STARTS: Liverpool secret location, Dec 19 Kanye West says they're "better than the Beatles". Still humble, though -Coldplay play tiny shows in aid of homelessness charity, Crisis. NME.COM/artists/coldplay



ROLO TOMASSI STARTS: London Bloomsbury Ballroom, Dec 19 The Sheffield noiseniks

scream their hearts out for a special show to be filmed for a DVD documentary. NME.COM/artists/ rolo-tomassi



DRAKE STARTS: O2 Academy Glasgow, Jan 5 Drake's debut, 'Thank

Me Later', was released in June this year. Prostrate your gratitude for the seven-month wait on this short UK tour. NME.COM/artists/drake



CARL BARAT STARTS: Norwich UEA. Feb 18 The beautiful Basingstoke

bard finally takes that solo album on the road. No Libs dates for the foreseeable future, then, NME.COM/artists/ carl-barat



BEN FOLDS STARTS: Dublin Vicar Street, Feb 18

The always-reliable piano player tinkles some British ivories on this tour for new album, 'Lonely Avenue'. NME.COM/artists/ ben-folds



THE STREETS STARTS: Edinburgh Picture House, Feb 18

Apparently 'Computers And Blues' will be Skinner's last album as The Streets. Witness the end here. NME.COM/artists/ the-streets



ELBOW STARTS: Glasgow SECC. Mar 15

Garvey et al join the burgeoning roster of indie stars capable of filling whopping arenas, including London's 02. NME.COM/artists/elbow



CHROMEO STARTS: O2 Academy Brixton, April 29 Their latest single is a collaboration with La Roux's Elly Jackson. Watch out for guest stars. NME.COM/artists/ chromeo

O₂ customers can get Priority Tickets up to 48 hours before general release. Text PRIORITY to 2020 to register.

What to see this week? Let us help



THE NATIONAL

STARTS: O2 Academy Bristol, Nov 24

PICK

There are certain bands you don't see live, you experience them. The National arc one of those. In every convulsion, throat-shredding plea and perfectly timed guitar swathe, Matt, Aaron, Bryce, Scott and Bryan draw you into the psychogeography of what it means to find yourself awkwardly filling adult shoes whilst fraught with romance and anxieties in a modern city. Over the course of five albums, their priorities may have changed from crapulent bachelordom to more grown-up concerns, but the recent 'High Violet' is more affecting than their first. Though they're in a category of a scant few when it comes to elegant summations of complex emotions, it's only now they're getting the admiration they deserve. Join them on this victory lap.

NME.COM/artists/the-national



Everyone's Talking About SALEM

STARTS: London St Leonard's Church.

It really wouldn't do to have Salem - the witch house. drag, rapegaze (dear god, no) Chicago trio - embarking on a tour of grubby toilet venues. Instead, they're making their UK live debut in a Shoreditch church, the perfect location for their biblically terrifying sound. Just don't drink the holy water after... NME.COM /artists/salem



Don't Miss **NINA NASTASIA** STARTS: Cardiff Glee

Club, Nov 29

It's not hard to see why Nina was one of John Peel's favourites. From her first album, 2000's 'Dogs', there was a senescence of voice and unease of playing that beguiled. With the release of 'Outlaster', her sixth album. earlier this year, she pushed that to its limit, imagining the possibilities and wonder of living forever. A special lady. NME.COM /artists/ nina-nastasia



Radar Stars NAIL THE CROSS

STARTS: London Bussey Buildings, Nov 27

You've probably seen that T-shirt that says, 'I like bands that don't even exist yet.' And here's the perfect occasion to wear it. If you've heard of all the bands on the line-up for Nail The Cross then you probably spend far too much time on the internet. Of the less recondite. Seams. Bullion and Chad Valley are safe bets for grand sets. NME.COM/newmusic

GIG GUIDE KEY:

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Athlete/Alice Gold 02 Academy 0870 771 2000

Paul Smith tericho 01865 798794 SHEFFIELD

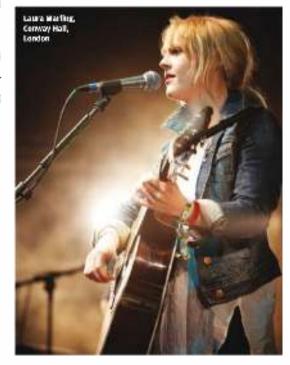
Titus Andronicus Harley

0114 275 2288

SOUTHAMPTON **Sonic Syndicate** Joiners 023 8022 5612

WOLVERHAMPTON

Motorhead/Michael Monroe Civic Hall 01902 552121



THURSDAY

November 25

Autumn in Disguise/Make Out Kids Cafe Drummond 01224 624642 Biffy Clyro/The Futureheads/Holy State AECC 0870 169 0100 BATH

Steve Hackett Komedia 0845 293 8480

RELEACT

Rell X1 Empire 028 9024 9276 BIRMINGHAM

Cast 02 Academy 0870 771 2000 Kindred The Family Soul HMV Institute 0844 248 5037 Kojak/Khaliq O2 Academy 3 0870 771 2000

Marcuszodlac69/Jane Powell Wagon & Horses 0121 772 1403 Straight Lines/For Eyes Flapper 0121 236 2421

Torche Hare & Hounds 0121 444 2081

BOURNEMOUTH

Athlete/Alice Gold O2 Academy 01202 399922

BRIGHTON

Beach House Concorde 2 01273 673311 Chelsea/Flat Pies Prince Albert

01273 730499 Jojo & The Go Cats Latest Music Bar

01273 687 171 Liam Bailey The Hope 01273 723 568 Soweto Kinch Dome 01273 709709

30 Seconds To Mars/Enter Shikari Centre 0870 900 9100

BRHSTOL

Anika FAG Studios 0844 412 4642 Aye Aye/in Your Honour/Island Audio Mr Wolf's 0117 927 3221

Blitzen Trapper/Pearly Gate Music Thekla 08713100000

John E Vistic/Beth Rowley/Scarlet Rascal & The Train Wreck The Tunnels 0117 929 9008

Nova Robotics/The Fauns/Flights Band/The Lost Levels/Bearsuit/ Pony Fleece 0117 945 0996

Ono Palindromes/The Naturals/ Camera Culture/Archimedes/

Guiltless Adam The Cooler 0117 945 0999

Ready Set Low/Fine Young Firecrackers 02 Academy 2 0870 771 2000

Sarah Joy/The Undercover Hippy/ Benlamin Josif Croft 0117 987 4144 The Skatalites Fiddlers 0117 987 3403

Sophia May/Sadia/Frenzee Metropolis 0117 909 6655 Starsmith Thekia Social (Clubnight)

0117 929 3301 This is The Kit/Jane Taylor/The Pines Louisiana 0117 926 5978

Vince Lee/Ulysses Thunderbolt Waitrapas/Heather Rose No 51

07786 534666

Wolf People/Necro Deathmort/ Patrick James Pearson Start The Bus 0117 930 4370

CAMBRIDGE

Bellowhead Junction 01223 511511 The Rifles Haymakers 01223 367417 CARDIFF

A-Ha International Arena 029 2022 4488

James Blake Buffalo Bar 02920 310312

Dagan Wanderer Lu/Stokes William/The Violas Gwdthw Cafe Bar

029 2039 7933 Spiridion/Bone Mud Clwb Ifor Bach

(Upstairs) 029 2023 2199 Tek One/The Daywalkers Clwb Ifor

Bach 029 2023 2199 EDINBURGM

Jake & Elwood Playhouse 0131 557 2590



Ruarri Joseph Phoenix 01392 667080 Sonic Syndicate Cavern Club 01392 495370

GATESHEAD Marc Almond Sage Arena 0870 703 4555

GLASGOW

The Bluetones Oran Mor 01415579224 Booka Shade The Arches

01415651000 Dylan LeBlanc Classic Grand

0141 847 0820 Haight-Ashbury King Tut's Wah Wah

Hut 0141 221 5279 Matt Berry Stereo 0141 576 5018 Spokes Captain's Rest 0141 331 2722 We Are Scientists 02 ABC

OR70 903 3444

0113 246 0778

LEEDS Hype Williams/Astral Social Club

Nation Of Shopkeepers 0113 203 1831 Jehst HiFi Club 0113 242 7353 Motorhead/Michael Monroe 02 Academy 0870 771 2000 Steve Forbert New Roscoe

The Tailest Man on Earth Brudenell Social Club 0113 243 5866 LIVERPOOL

And So I Watch You From Afar

Kazımıer 0871 230 1094

Leftfield University 0151 256 5555 LONDON

Alex Cornish Bush Hail 020 8222 6955

Arrows Of Love/Islington Boys Club CAMP Resement 0871 230 1094 **Broken Links** The Gaff 020 7609 3063

Cerebral Ballzy XOYO 020 7729 5959 The Drums HMV Forum 020 7344 0044

The Dualers Monto Water Rats 020 7837 4412

Ergo Phizmiz Whitechapel Art Gallery 020 7522 7888

General Elektriks Jazz Cafe 020 7916 6060

Ian Siegal/Ben Prestage Dingwalfs 020 7267 1577 InMe Garage 020 7607 1818

Jamie Woon XOYO 020 7729 5959 The Joel Plaskett Emergency

Luminaire 020 7372 7123 Kill It Kid/The Beautiful Game/ Amy Beskin & The Way Home Punk

0871 971 5418 Laetitla Sadier Bloomsbury Bowling

Lanes 020 7691 2610 Marnie Stern/Micarbo/Traller

Trash Tracevs Hoxton Square Bar &

Kitchen 020 7613 0709 Matt Whip Enterprise 020 7485 2659

MidiMidis/The Meat/The Beautifully Simple The Rest Is Noise

020 7346 8521 Minuscule Hey/Zeus Queen Of Hoxton 020 7422 0958

Mollusc/Rook & The Ravens Dublin Castle 020 7485 1773

Mother's Ruin/Neverify Hope & Anchor 020 7354 1312

Momeansno/The Pack AD Underworld 020 7482 1932 The Parlotones/Ben Montague

O2 Shepherds Bush Empire 0870 771 2000

Passion Ate Dave Barfly 0870 907 0999

Penguin Prison Arts Club 020 7460 4459

Philip Jeays Milfords 020 72401441 Plain White T's Borderline 020 7734 6647

The Stow 02 Academy 2 Islington 0870 771 2000 Titus Andronicus Scala

020 7833 2022

Turbowolf/Chickenhawk Bull & Gate 020 7485 5358 Twin Sister/Still Corners/Kotki

DWA The Lexington 020 7837 5387 The Wave Pictures/Idlot Glee Old Queen's Head 020 7354 9993 **QBach/The Mountain Firework**

Company Cecil Sharo House 020 7485 2206

MANCHESTER

Heaven 17 Rrtz 0161 236 4355 Kingfishers Catch Fire Fuel Café 0161 448 9702

Monster Magnet Moho Live 0161 834 8180

Nick Kelfy Academy 3 0161 832 1111 Ringo Deathstarr Night And Day Cafe 0161 236 1822

To The Bones Ruby Lounge 0161 834 1392

Underworld Academy 0161 832 1111 We Have Band/Trophy Wife Deaf Institute 0161 330 4019

65daysofstatic/Kong Academy 2 0161 832 1111

NEWCASTLE

Bad Manners Riverside 01912614386 Emily Maguire Cluny 2 0191 230 4474 Interpol/Surfer Blood 02 Academy 0870 771 2000

Kiss Your Commander Trillians 0191 232 1619

The Raging Sickness/Semper Fire Head Of Steam 0191 232 4379 Simon McBride Cluny 0191 230 4474 Squeeze/Lightning Seeds City Hall

01912612606 NORWICH

As I Lay Dying/Heaven Will Burn Waterfront 01603 632717 Skunk Anansie UFA 01603 505401 Young Guns/The Swellers/Japanese Voyeurs Arts Centre 01603 660352

NOTTINGHAM Frightened Rabbit/Sky Larkin

Rescue Rooms 0115 958 8484 Good Shoes Bodega Social Club 08713 100000

Necro Rock City 08713 100000

OXFORD Joe Brooks 02 Academy 2

0870 771 2000 Phil Peskett Wheatsheaf 01865 721156

POOLE

Esoterica Mr Kyps 01202 748945 SHEFFIELD

Brigade/Verses/Hitomi Corporation 0114 276 0262 Jack Rabbit/Superfox University 0114 222 8777

SOUTHAMPTON

Engineers Joiners 023 8022 5612 Jedward Guildhall 023 8063 2601 Palge Unit 02380 225612 WOLVERHAMPTON

Arch Enemy Wulfrun Hall 0870 320 7000

FRIDAY

November 26

Hedgehog Ple Lemon Tree 01224 642230

REI EAST

Volbeat/The Black Spiders Spring & Airbrake 028 9032 5968

BIRMINGHAM Cult Club HMV Institute

0844 248 5037 Faderhead Eddie's Rock Club @ BUSK 0121 643 2093

Interpol/Surfer Blood 02 Academy 0870 771 2000

Magazine Gap 02 Academy 3 0870 771 2000

Paul Carrack Town Hall 0121 605 6666 Talons Flapper 0121 236 2421

Tame Impala 02 Academy 2 0870 771 2000

BOUDMENOUTH

Aled Jones Pavilion 01202 456456 Leftfield O2 Academy 01202 399922

BRIGHTON Bull See Red Cobbiers Thumb 01273 605 636

Dark Dark Dark Latest Music Bar 01273 687 171

Don Vito The Hydrant 01273 608313 General Elektriks/Transformers Coalition 01273726858

John Crampton Neptune Inn 01273 736390 Torche Prince Albert 01273 730499

BRISTOL Angel Up Front Full Moon

0117 924 5170 Athlete/Alice Gold 02 Academy 0870 771 2000

The Cedar/Ed Williams Grain Barge 0117 929 9347 The Coronettes/Heg Doughty No 51

07786 534666 The Drums/Violens Anson Rooms

0117 954 5810 Haggis Horns Metropolis

0117 909 6655 Jedward Coiston Hall 0117 922 3683 Muff Said/Big Colours Mr Wolf's 0117 977 3771

Only Joe The Lanes 0117 325 1979 Sarah Biasko Louisiana 0117 926 5978 Shooglenifty Folk House 0117 926 2987

Street Lit Prom 0117 942 7319 Terrakota Erddlers 0117 987 3403 CARDIFF

30 Seconds To Mars/Enter Shikari International Arena 029 2022 4488

EDINBURGH Fake Blood/The Count & Sinden/ **Utah Saints Cabaret Voltaire** 0131 220 6176

She Said/United Fruit Sneaky Pete's 0131 225 1757

EXETER

Frightened Rabbit/Sky Larkin Phoenix (11392-667080) Martyn Joseph Barnfield Theatre

01392 270891 FALMOUTH

Avnsley Lister Princess Pavilion 01326 211222

GLASSOW

And So I Watch You From Afar King Tut's Wah Wah Hut 0141 221 5279 Autumn in Disguise/Make Out Kids Cathouse 0141 248 6606 Biffy Clyro/The Futureheads SECC

0141 248 3000 The Fire & I/Someone's Sons 02

ABC2 0141 204 5151 The National/Phosphorescent 02 Academy 0870 771 2000 The Skatalites The Arches

0141 565 1000 **Underworld** Barrowlands 0141 552 4601

The Vibrators Ivory Blacks 0141 221 7871 We Have Band Captain's Rest

0141 331 2722 LEEDS

Kassius/Fraved Knot Cockpit 0113 244 3446

Nomeansno Brudenell Social Club 0113 243 5866

Philip Jeays/Apogee/Al Baker & The Dole Queue Packhorse 0113 245 3980 Squeeze/Lightning Seeds 02 Academy 0870 771 2000

LIVERPOOL

The Acom Majo 0844 549 9090 Gogol Bordello O2 Academy 0870 771 2000



LONDON

STARSMITH/ICE BLACK BIRDS/FLASH FIKTION коко 0844 847 2258

NOTTINGHAM

OHNNY FOREIGNER/ FAGECDACH/THE NEAT GATECRASHER 0115 910 1101

John Smith St George's Hall 01922 615754

Sven Vath/Booka Shade Nation 0151 709 9172 Titus Andronicus University

0151 256 5555 Jon Gomm/Mark Wilson View Two 0151 236 9555

LONDON Akala/Lowkey/Doc Brown British Library 0870 444 1500

As I Lay Dying KOKO 020 7388 3222 Blowhole/The Underclass/The Bracelettes Luminaire 020 7372 7123 Drawings/Scholars/The Darlingtons

Dogstar 020 7733 7515 Famous Class/Double & O2 Academy 2 Islington 0870 771 2000 **Gruff Rhys** Toynbee Hall

020 7247 5681 Horowitz/Moustace Of Insanity Wilmington Arms 020 7837 1384

I Dream in Colour Barfly

0870 907 0999 John Lees' Barclay James Harvest 02 Academy Islington 0870 771 2000 Jools Holland/Ruby Turner/Louise Marshall/Allson Moyet/Rumer Royal Albert Hall 020 7589 8212

Jónsi HMV Hammersmith Apollo 0870 606 3400 Leafcutter John/Clang Sayne Cafe Oto 0871 230 1094

Loop Collective Vortex 020 7439 7250 Mama Africa Tabernacie 020 7243 4343

Marnie Stern Rough Trade East 0207 392 7788 Marnie Stern/Munch Munch The Lexington 020 7837 5387

Monster Magnet Flectric Ballmom 020 7485 9006 Outerblue/Cloud Chamber Arch 635 020 7720 7343

Primal Scream Olympia Exhibition Centre 0870 903 9033

Quilla Constance Hope & Anchor 020 7354 1312

The Saw Doctors 02 Shepherds Bush Empire 0870 771 2000 Simon McBride/Kinkade Underworld

020 7482 1932 Skunk Anansie/The Virginmarys 02 Academy Brixton 0870 771 2000 Slim Chance/The Bottle Brunettes

100 Club 020 7636 0933 Starsmith/ice Black Birds/ Flash Flittion Club NME @ Koko

0870 4325527 Steve Harley Union Chapel 020 7226 1686

MANCHESTER The Bluetones FAC 251 0161 27 27 251 Cast Academy 0161 832 1111

The Dogs Night And Day Cafe 0161 236 1822 Kranius/Erazer Academy 2

0161 832 1111 Loco Dice/Marco Carola/Gutl Warehouse Project 0161 835 3500

Louis Barabhas & The Bedlam Six Ruby Lounge 0161 834 1392 Salem Islington Mill 0871 230 1094 Sham 69/The Logicals/The Kayas

Moho Live 0161 834 8180 Well Wisher Fuel Café 0161 448 9702 MEWCASTLE

Discord/Ambershift Dog & Parrot 0191 261 6998 Harlot/Bone Idle Pumphreys Cellar

Jenny & Johnny OZ Academy 2 0870 771 2000 Little Stevie & The Business Star Inn

0191 222 3111 The Skywalkers The Robin Hood 0191.257.0265 We Are Scientists/Goldheart

Assembly 02 Academy 0870 771 2000 MORWICH Babyhead Arts Centre 01603 660352

Laura Mariing Waterfront 01603 632717 Red Shadow Quartet King Of Hearts

Centre 01603 766129

Bar 0191 2603312

NOTTINGHAM Joe Brooks Rock City 08713 100000 Johnny Foreigner/Stagecoach/ The Neat Club NME @ Gatecrasher 0115 9101 101

Paul Smith Bodega Social Club 08713100000 Pesky Alligators Lion 0115 970 3506 Standard Fare/The Felt Tips

OXFORD

Dry The River Jericho Tavern 01865 311775

Chameleon 0115 9505097

The View 02 Academy 0870 771 2000 **SALEODN**

The Tallest Man on Earth St Philip's Church 0161 834 2041

SHEFFIELD All At Stake/Hero Of The Day/ One Night Stand With Fate Plug 0114 276 7093

Jackson Cased O2 Academy 2 0870 771 2000 Mahogany Newt New Barrack Tavem

0114 234 9148 Straight Lines/The Rookie League

Corporation 0114 276 0262 SOUTHAMPTON

The Others Junk Club 023 8033 5445 Tek One Unit 02380 225612 TRURO

Reef Hall For Cornwall 01872 262466 WOLVERHAMPTON

Heresy Slade Room 0870 320 7000 Vampire Weekend/Ratatat Civic Hall

SATURDAY

November 27

Haight-Ashbury Café Drummond 01224 624642

RELEAST

Mot Squares Queens University 028 9097 3106

BIRKENHEAD

Steve Hackett Pacific Road Arts Centre 0151 666 5023

RIDMINGHAM

Allbright/Ten Four Out 02 Academy 3 0870 771 2000

Dark Horses Flapper 0121 236 2421 The Drums/Violens HMV Institute 0844 248 5037

Gypsy Hill Hare & Hounds 0121 444 2081

Jedward Symphony Hall 0121 212 3333

BOURNEMOUTH Chase & Status OZ Academy

01202 399922

RRIGHTON

Death Pedals/Plague Sermon Cowley Club 01273 696 104

Femi Kuti And The Positive Force Concorde 2 01273 673311

Frightened Rabbit/Sky Larkin Komedia 01273 647100

London Commands You Cobblers Thumb 01273 605 636 Money Tree/The Muel The Hope

01273 723 568 Omerashi/Standard Lamps Prince

Albert 01273 730499 **UK Subs** The Hydrant 01273 608313

BRISTOL

An Axe/Deaf Horse Louisiana 0117 926 5978

Blackfire Reckless Engineer 0117 929 0425

The Bones Prom 0117 942 7319 Chris Woods Colston Hall

Demon Cabbage/Taz Buckfaster Black Swan 0117 939 9469 The Moles/Scarlet Rascal & The

Train Wreck Fleece 0117 945 0996 That Fucking Tank/The Hysterical Injury Croft 0117 987 4144 Zoo For You/The Boot Lagoon Mr

Wolf's 0117 927 3221 CAMBRIDGE

The Rifles Haymakers 01223 367417 CARDIFF

0117 922 3683

John Cooper Clarke The Globe 07738 983947

Paul Weller/The Bees International Arena 029 2022 4488

TM Juke/Omega 66 Gwdihw Café Bar 029 2039 7933

EDINBLINGH

The Draymin/The Dead Sea Souls Liquid Room 0131 225 2564 Interpol/Surfer Blood Corn Exchange 0131 443 0404

Nuala Kennedy Bongo Club 0131 558 7604

Penguin Prison Sneaky Pete's 0131 225 1757 The Skatalites HMV Picture House

0844 847 1740 Ski Bunny Voodoo Rooms 0131 556 7060

EXETER

The Pines Phoenix 01392 667080 FALMQUTH

Steve Harley Princess Pavilion 01326 211222

GATESHEAD The Mother Truckers Azure Blue

0191 478 4326



Biffy Clyro/The Futureheads SECC

0141 248 3000 DC Fontana/Berry Tweed & The

Chasers 02 ABC2 0141 204 5151 Fuck Off Machete King Tut's Wah Wah Hut 0141 221 5279

Jenny & Johnny Oran Mor 0141 552 9224

Madness/Paul Heaton 02 Academy 0870 771 2000

No Means No The Arches

0141 565 1000 Panico Captain's Rest

0141 331 2722 The Saw Doctors Barrowlands

0141 552 4601 Spear Of Destiny Ivory Blacks

0141 221 7871 LEEDS

Athlete/Alice Gold OZ Academy 0870 771 2000 Blitz Kids Cockplt 0113 244 3446

Gogol Bordello University 0113 244 4600 Paul Smith Brudenell Social Club 0113 243 5866

Salem/The Horn The Hunt Nation Of Shopkeepers 0113 203 1831 We Have Band/Mirrors Faversham 0113 245 8817

LIVERPOOL

Arthur Brown/El Toro Static Gallery 01517078090

Laura Mariing University 0151 256 5555

LONDON

Nail The Cross Actress/Walls/ Darkstar/Mosca/Becoming Real/ Vondelpark/Echo Lake/Bullion/ Ghost Hunter/Seams/D/R/U/G/S/ Jam City/Patten/Porcelain Raft/ Stopmakingme/Casper C/Chad Valley/C Powers/Bad Autoosy

Vanous venues 0871 230 1094 Arch Enemy HMV Forum

020 7344 0044 Beta Rays/Sci-Fi Circus Enterprise

020 7485 2659 Bobby Conn/VIV Albertine/ Barringtone Windmill 020 8671 0700

Carousei Cartei/Ruberiaris Dublin Castle 020 7485 1773

Chie Mukai/Michel Henritzi Cafe Oto 0871 230 1094 Chris Brokaw/Geoff Farina

Luminaire 020 7372 7123 Clock Opera/Citadels/ The Waylayers 93 Feet East

070 7247 60**9**5 Doreen Doreen Fiddlers 020 8347 6516

James Blake/Pariah/Space Dimension Controller/The Chain/ Blawan/Buillon XOYO 020 7729 5959 John Legend/The Roots HMV

Hammersmith Apollo 0870 606 3400 Jools Holland/Ruby Turner/Louise Marshall/Alison Moyet/Rumer Royal Albert Hall 020 7589 8212

Kensingtons/Horowitz Betsey Trotwood 020 7336 7326 Les Shelleys/Tom Eno Social

020 7636 4992 Meg Lee Chin/A Body Of People Hope & Anchor 020 7354 1312

Mick Green 100 Club 020 7636 0933 Mike Dignam Garage 020 7607 1818 Motortread/Michael Monroe 02 Academy Brixton 0870 771 2000

Newtown Neurotics The Gaff 020 7609 3063 Primal Scream Olympia Exhibition

Centre 0870 903 9033

The Strawbs Borderline 020 7734 5547

Voodoo Hussy/Shabby Garage (Upstairs) 0871 230 1094

Wah Wah/The Unabombers Scala 020 7833 7022

Wildbirds & Peacedrums/Voices Union Chapel 020 7226 1686 13 Riots/Room 300 Barfly

0870 907 0999

0161 832 1111

MANCHESTED Adam Lambert Academy 2

Alden Roadhouse 0161 228 1789 John Lees' Barclay James Harvest Academy 3 0161 832 1111 MIAM | Sound Control 0161 236 0340

The National/Phosphorescent Academy 0161 832 1111

Ratatat Deaf Institute 0161 330 4019 Squeeze/Lightning Seeds 02 Apollo 0870 401 8000

Vitalic/Brodinski/Matt Walsh Warehouse Project 0161 835 3500 NEWCASTLE

Insert/Warning Head Of Steam 0191 232 4379 The Kicks Star Inn 0191 222 3111

Riff X/Diablo 66 Pumphreys Cellar Bar 0191 2603312

Young Guns O2 Academy 2 0870 771 2000

30 Seconds To Mars/Enter Shikari Metro Radio Arena 0870 707 8000

NOTTINGHAM Matt Berry/Intraverse Rescue

Rooms 0115 958 8484 Mumdance/Starsmith Stealth 08713 100000

We Are Scientists/Goldheart Assembly Rock City 08713 100000 OXFORD

Charty Coombes & The New Breed

Cellar 01865 244761 Picturehouse Wheatsheaf 01865 721156

SHEFFIELD

Bad Manners Corporation 0114 276 0262 Greenmac New Barrack Tavern

0114 234 9148 Pulled Apart By Horses/Young Legionnaire/Gay For Johnny Depo

Leadmill 0114 221 2828 SOUTHAMPTON

Spunge Joiners 023 8022 5612 WOLVERHAMPTON

As I Lay Dying Wulfrun Hall 0870 320 7000

SUNDAY

November 28

BELFAST

Eille Goulding Uister Hall

028 9032 3900

The Wedding Present Stiff Kitten 028 90238700

Marc Almond Alexandra Theatre

0121 643 1231 Pama International Sound Bar

01212362220

0870 241 5093 Sonic Syndicate 02 Academy 2

0870 771 2000

BOURNEMOUTH Gallows/Dead Swans Champions

01202 757 000 Paul Weller/The Bees International

Centre 0870 111 3000

BRIGHTON

Geoff Farina & Chris Brokaw Freebutt 01273 603974

Gogol Bordello Dome 01273 709709

Fair Weather Friends/Tigers That

Talked Louisiana 0117 926 5978 John Cooper Clarke Thekla

0870 771 2000 The Rifles The Cooler 0117 945 0999 Show Of Hands/Miranda Sykes

Spear Of Destiny/The Cheaterslicks

Voodoo Hussy Croft 0117 987 4144 CARDIFF

Halght-Ashbury The Electric Circus

0131 226 4224 Laura Marling Liquid Room 0131 225 2564

Vampire Weekend/Ratatat Corn

Exchange 0131 443 0404

EXETER **Spunge C**avern Club 01392 495370 Villagers/Dark Dark Dark Phoenix

01392 667080

GATESHEAD Steve Hackett Sage Arena

0870 703 4555

CI ACCOM

Adam Lambert 02 ABC

0870 903 3444

Age Of Consent Captain's Rest

0141 331 2722 All That Remains/Sollwork Garage

0141 332 1120

Cast Barrowlands 0141 552 4601 Hype Williams Nice'n'Sleazy

0141 333 9637 Semper Fire OZ ABC2 0141 204 5151

Shrinebuilder Oran Mor 0141 552 9224 Straight Lines Stereo 0141 576 5018

Voodoo SIX King Tut's Wah Wah Hut. 0141 221 5279

LEEDS Johnny Foreigner/Bobby Conn Brudenell Social Club 0113 243 5866 Ringo Deathstart Cardigan Arms 0113 274 2000

Gay For Johnny Depp Shipping Forecast 0871 230 1094 Kano 02 Academy 0870 771 2000

LONDON

Abadden The Gaff 020 7609 3063 Blackhole/Hopeless Heroic Barfly 0870 907 0999

FCKF/Nexus Six/Rhode Island Red Dublin Castle 020 7485 1773 Heaven 17 HMV Forum 020 7344 0044

Juliet Kelly Royal Albert Hall 020 7589 8212

Wirecks/This is Colour Underworld

Prefuse 73 Queen Of Hoxton

020 7422 0958

As I Lay Dying Academy 2

0161236 0666

Engineers Deaf Institute 0161 330 4019

Filthy Angels/The Return Academy 3 0161 832 1111

Marseille/Exit State Hard Rock Cafe

0161 831 6700

The Poor Boys Tyne Bar 0191 265 2550 The Saw Doctors Tyne Theatre

0191 222 3111

Steve Forbert Cluny (191 230 4474

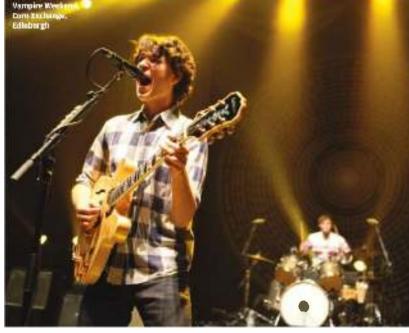
Alden/Francesqa Rescue Rooms 0115 958 8484

Missing Andy Trent University

SHEFFIELD Lau Boardwalk 0114 279 9090 Volbeat/The Black Spiders

SOUTHAMPTON Allbright Joiners 023 8022 5612

The Bluetones Stade Room 0870 320 7000



Nomeansno Auntie Annie's

028 9050 1660

BIRMINGHAM

Paul Smith/Gravenhurst Glee Club

Matt Berry Coalition 01273726858 Motorhead/Michael Monroe Centre กรรก อกก ฉากก BRISTOL

08713 100000 The Pariotones 02 Academy 2

Colston Hall 0117 922 3683 Fleece 0117 945 0996

The Strawbs The Globe 07738 983947 EDINBURGH

Lotte Anker/Ikue Mori/Steve Noble Café Oto 087L230 1094 Martyn Joseph Bush Hall 020 8222 6955

November Coming Fire/Nervous

020 7482 1932

Wallis Bird Cargo 0207 749 7840 MANCHESTER

0161 832 1111 Brigade Satan's Hollow

Joe Brooks Boardhouse 0161 228 1780

NEWCASTLE

Madness 02 Academy 0870 771 2000 Mr Scruff Digital 01912 619755

0191 265 2550 The Smokin' Barrels Star Inn

NOTTINGHAM

Dark Horses Bodega Social Club 08713 100000

POOLE Wille & The Bandits Mr Kyps 01202 748945

0115 848 6200

Corporation 0114 276 0262

Broken Links Brook 023 8055 5366 WOLVERHAMPTON



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MONDAY

November 29

ARERDEEN

JLS AECC 0870 169 0100 Laura Marling Lemon Tree 01224 642230

RIDMINGHAM

Engineers O2 Academy 2 0870 771 2000

The Skatalites HMV Institute

0844 248 5037

Voodoo Hussy Flapper 0121 236 2421

BOURNEMOUTH

Steve Harley 02 Academy 01202 399922

BRIGHTON

Born To Lose Prince Albert 01273 730499

Grasscut Dome 01273 709709 30 Seconds To Mars/Enter Shikari

Centre 0870 900 9100 BRISTOL

Dark Dark Dark Louisiana 0117 926 5978

Jim Reynolds Prom 0117 942 7319 Michael Bolton/Mica Paris Colston

Mouthwash/Dirty Revolution/ Gecko Croft 0117 987 4144 Nick Parker/Samuel Dowell Mr

Wolf's 0117 927 3221 Paul Smith Thekla 08713 100000

To The Bones/These Black Shores/First & Last Men Fleece 0117945 0996

CARDIFF

Meat Loaf International Arena 029 2022 4488

Nina Nastasia/Sons Of Noel & Adrian Glee Club 0870 241 5093

ENWINDSH

The Energy Cabaret Voltaire 0131 220 6176

Straight Lines/Atlas Sneaky Pete's 0131 225 1757

EXETER

The Fall Phoenix 01392 667080 The View Cavern Club 01392 495370 GLASGOW

Alden King Tut's Wah Wah Hut

0141 221 5279 As I Lay Dying/Heaven Will Burn

Garage 0141 332 1120

Bobby Conn/Thomas Truax The

Arches 0141 565 1000 Dark Horses Captain's Rest

0141 331 2722

The Drams/Violens/Two Wounded Birds 02 ABC 0870 903 3444 Ringo Deathstarr 13th Note Café

LEEDS

Frightened Rabbit/Sky Larkin Cockpit 0113 244 3446

Gabrielle Aplin Cockpit Room 2 0113 244 3446

Scout Niblett/Laura J Martin

Brudenell Social Club 0113 243 5866 LIVEDDOOL

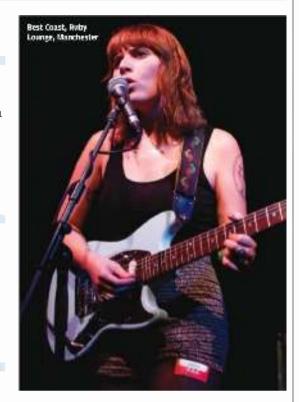
Cast OZ Academy 0870 771 2000 Squeeze/Lightning Seeds Philharmonic Hall 0871 230 1094

Empire 0870 771 2000 Aled Jones Cadogan Hall

020 7730 4500 Allbright Monto Water Rats

020 7837 4412 Arther/Finger Pistols Hope & Anchor

Brooke Fraser Scala 020 7833 2022 Cat Matador Social 020 7636 4992



Chris Brokaw/Geoff Farina Windmill 020 8471 **0700**

Chris Woods Slaughtered Lamb 020 8682 4080

Erland & The Camival X0YO 020 7729 5959

Get Well 500n Garage (Upstairs) 0871 230 1094

LAm One Project/John Mctvor 93 Feet East 020 7247 6095

Lulu/Heather 5mall/Anastacia HMV Hammersmith Apollo 0870 606 3400 The Magic Numbers George Tavem 020 7790 1763

Matt Berry Kings College 020 7834 4740

Miracle Fortress CAMP Basement 0871 230 1094

The National/Menomena 02 Academy Boxton 0870 771 2000 Phosphorescent Hoxton Square Bar & Krtchen 020 7613 0709

Sertab Erener/Demir Demirkan 02 Academy 2 Islington 0870 771 2000 Sleepy Sun Borderline 020 7734 5547

Small Black/Pictureplane/Idlot Glee The Lexington 020 7837 5387

The Stow Cargo 0207749 7840 The Subterraneans/Kevin Hewick 12 Bar Club 020 7240 2622

The Thing Vortex 020 7439 7250 Tiamat/Stoneman/Lord Of The Lost Gentleman's Dub Club/Janice Graham Rand FAC 251 0161 27 27 251

Hannah Peel/Blue Roses Trof Northern Quarter 0161 833 3197

Villagers Academy 0161 832 1111 Voodoo Six Moho Live

01618348180

NEWCASTLE Joe Brooks O2 Academy 2 0870 771 2000

Wolves in The Throne Room/ Wodensthrone Cluny 0191 230 4474 NORWICH

The Human League UEA 01603 505401

NOTTINGHAM

Salem Bodega Social Club 08713100000

Volbeat/The Black Spiders Rescue Rooms 0115 958 8484

OXFORD Heaven 17 O2 Academy 0870 771 2000

SALFORD

Dutch Uncles St Philip's Church

0161 834 2041 SHEFFIELD

Athlete/Alice Gold O2 Academy 2 0870 771 2000

Luio Reinhardt Boardwalk 0114 279 9090

Missing Andy University D114 222 8777

TUESDAY

November 30

BATH

The Fall Komedia 0845 293 8480 BELFAST

The Drums/Violens Queens University 028 9097 3106

Marissa Nadler Oneens University 028 9097 3106

We Are Scientists Spring & Airbrake 028 9032 5968

DEDUNCHAN Best Coast/Spectrals Glee Club

0870 241 5093 Leftfield Custard Factory 0121 604 7777

Squeeze/Lightning Seeds Symphony Hall 0121 212 3333

To The Bones Flanner 0121 236 2421 We Have Band/Mirrors 02 Academy 3 0870 771 2000

BOURNEMOL Faithless/Example International Centre 0870 111 3000

BRIGHTON Heaven 17 Dome 01273 709709 You Say Party We Say Die! The Hope

01273 723 568 BRISTOL

Die So Fluid/Killine For Company

The Tunnels 0117 929 9008 Fucked Up Fleece 0117 945 0996 Kelley Stolz/Chuck Prophet St Bonaventure 0117 929 9008 Salem/Becoming Real Thekla

08713100000 Small Black/Pictureplane The Cooler

0117 945 0999 CAMBRIDGE

Acoustic Ladyland Haymakers 01223 367417

The Saw Doctors Junction 01223 511511

CARDIFF

Bobby Conn/The Burglers Clwb Ifor Bach 029 2023 2199

Marseille/Exit State The Globe 07738 983947

Napalm Death Millennium Centre

FOINBLIBGH

Jenny & Johnny Cabaret Voltaire 0131 220 6176

The Wedding Present/Ringo Deathstarr Liquid Room 0131 225 2564

EXETER Dead Swans Cavern Club

01392 495370

GATESHEAD

Victory Mansion Three Tuns 0191 487 0666

GLASGOW

Athlete/Alice Gold 02 ARC

0870 903 3444 The Energy King Tut's Wah Wah Hut

0141 221 5279 JLS Braehead Arena 0141 886 8300 Wolves in The Throne Room/Rose Kemp Classic Grand 0141 847 0820 Young Guns/The Swellers Garage

0141 332 1120 LEEDS

Aiden Cockpit Room 2 0113 244 3446 Colorama/Maggie 8 Oporto D113 245 4444

Femi Kuti And The Positive Force/ Quantic University 0113 244 4600 Straight Lines The Well 0113 2440474 LIVERDOOL

Cast 02 Academy 0870 771 2000 LONDON

All That Remains Electric Ballroom 020 7485 9006

Blitz Kids Barfly 0870 907 0999 The Bluetones Heaven

020 7030 2020 Brigade Bull & Gate 020 7485 5358 Chris Woods Slaughtered Lamb

020 8682 4080 Dark Dark Dark The Lexington 020 7837 5387

Eat Off Your Arms Dublin Eastle 020 7485 1773 Gabrielle Aplin Monto Water Rats

020 7837 4412 Grand Pocket Orchestra/Bilindness 93 Feet East 020 7247 6095

The Herballser Jazz Café 020 7916 6060 The Horn The Hunt Drop

020 7241 5511 The Last Dinosaur/Bright Spark

Destroyer/Troubadour Rose Social 020 7636 4992 Leon Jackson Queen Of Hoxton

020 7422 0958 Lulu/Anastacia/Heather Small HMV Hammersmith Apollo 0870 606 3400

LA Guns/Pretty Boy Floyd Underworld 020 7482 1932 Marble Fairy Enterprise

020 7485 2659

Menomena XOYO 020 7729 5959 The National/Phosphorescent O2 Academy Brixton 0870 771 2000

New Young Porry Club 100 Club 020 7636 0933

Nina Nastasia/Sons Of Noel &

Adrian Scala 020 7833 2022 The Sadles Garage 020 7607 1818 Scout Niblett Cafe Oto

08712301094 Shugo Tokumaru Nest

020 7354 9993

Steve Hackett 02 Shepherds Bush Empire 0870 771 2000

Tamaryn Hoxton Square Bar & Kitchen 020 7613 0709

Temp & The Tycoon Buffalo Bar 020 7359 6191

Tinle Tempah KOKO 020 7388 3222 Tom Fizzins/Abi-May Hope & Anchor 020 7354 1312

The Vaccines/Colours Madame Jojo's 020 7734 2473

MANCHECTED Aled Jones Bridgewater Hall

01619079000 Gold Teeth Deaf Institute 01613304019

Madness 02 Apollo 0870 401 8000 Sleepy Sun Band On The Wall

Voodoo Six Moho Live 0161 834 8180

0161 832 6625

NEWCASTLE The Saturdays Metro Radio Arena

0870 707 8000 Sonic Syndicate O2 Academy 2

0870 771 2000 NOTTINGHAM

Biffy Clyro Frent FM Arena 08444124624

Engineers/The Spotlight Kid Stealth 08713 100000

Gallows Rock City 08713 100000 The Rifles Bodega Social Club

08713 100000 Villagers Rescue Rooms

0115 958 8484 SHEFFIELD

As I Lay Dying/Suicide Silence/ Heaven Will Burn Corporation

Paul Weller/The Bees Motorpoint

0114 276 0262 Johnny Foreigner Harley 0114 275 2288

Arena 01142 565656 WOLVERHAMPTON

Bad Manners Robin 2 01902 497860 Frightened Rabbit/Sky Larkin Slade Room 0870 320 7000





FANMAIL

YOU GET IN TOUCH, WE RESPOND, THINGS GET OUT OF HAND

Edited by Luke Lewis





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CHEMICAL WARFARE

From: Nathalie To: NME

After having read your article on My Chemical Romance, I am sincerely and sorely disappointed in the lack of respect you seem to have for these musicians, their fans and their message. I was disgusted by your portrayal of the band in this article (NME, 13 November). Ray Toro is an incredibly talented musician, and I am sickened by the fact that you could not recognise this due to his "love handles". It is totally unacceptable and irrelevant. Furthermore, claiming that Gerard Way and Frank lero's appearances make you "want to stretch a bin liner over their heads" is a repulsive use of language and totally unnecessary for the given situation. All in all, I am horrified that you consider your magazine to be a professional music publication and hope you rethink the employment of the journalist, as he lacks the ability to write a complete report on a band's music. I have no idea how you considered you could get away with being so rude and you should honestly be ashamed of the trash you have published.

NME's response ...

To: Nathalie

So you're disgusted by my portrayal of the band? Come on, look at the feature most of it was full of breathless praise for the

album. I called it "thrilling". things so literally in the

future. In the wake of my MCR feature I've had fans fire to me, "eat my soul". That's all a bit much, don't you think? Loving a band passionately doesn't mean the finiest perceived slight -11:

Get in touch at the above addresses. Winners should

NME AWAKENS THE MCRMY

From: Pissed Off Luci To: NME

How DARE you criticise Ray Toro by saying he has "love handles"? Have you SEEN the man? It's not exactly the most intelligent thing to do, talking about body image in such a negative way in a magazine that teenagers are going to read. If you're going to do an article on one of the most hotly anticipated bands of the year, then please do the boys justice. You should have realised by now that MCR fans do not sit back and let people talk shit about them.

From: NME To: Pissed Off Luci

OK, pointing out Ray's weight was a mildly twattish thing to do, but it was relevant to the piece in so much as Gerard Way had just told us he wanted the band to look "starving and on-the-run". The fact one of them's actually a bit tubby am I not allowed to point that out? As for the suggestion that calling a pop-punk guitarist "doughy" might encourage anorexía among teenagers... I really doubt my words have that much power - LL

From: Jake Fox To: NME

I was just writing in to check whether NME was still a magazine about music? You seem to make comments on the appearance of artists in an appalling and hateful manner. I would appreciate it if you continued to do what your cover promises, which is write about the music and the music only. You are in no position to comment on a person's appearance like that, and vou certainly have no right

to insult a genius like Ray Toro. All that's really left to say is, go shove your judgmental brains through your arse and get back to me on this once your vision is clear again.

From: NME

To: Jake Fox

So image is irrelevant to My Chemical Romance? That's crazy: they clearly give an enormous amount of thought to how they look. They even invented alteregos and costumes for the new album, 'Danger Days: The True Lives Of The Fabulous Killjoys'. That's no bad thing, though, that instinct for the visual aspect is one of the things that makes them an interesting band - LL

From: Christina Ellis To: NME

I find myself appalled by the article that was recently published in your magazine. Surely someone should have flagged up this disgrace before you print it? I believe that the least we can expect from Mr Luke Lewis is an apology to Ray Toro and the rest of the band for clearly wasting their time. He may see this as a joke to provoke a group of fans, but we are dedicated to the bands we support and are ready to speak out against any offence. The image of Mv Chemical Romance fans may be of a 'suicide cult' but that is a fallacy. Making personal attacks should never be ignored. I feel the need to speak up on the behalf of the fans who have been offended, and to attempt to ensure that Mr Lewis is disciplined accordingly.

From: NME To: Christina Ellis Oh, I was punished all right, Christina - my editor had me

From: NME

"immersive", the "the most full-throttle album released this year". As for the bin liner thing - that was a joke, not a threat. Try not to take

threatening to shoot me, set

you have to go berserk over

email letters@nme.com

hurled into a dungeon and forced me to daub the words "Ray Toro is not doughy" 8,000 times on the wall in my own blood. Hope this helps – LL

AND ONE NOT THAT ANNOYED AFTER ALL

From: Djuna To: *NME*

I'm probably going to regret this when an army of screaming teenage girls break into my house and use me as a sacrifice to their god (Gerard Way), but I just don't get the whole My Chemical Romance thing. I can see how their songs make hormonal teenagers feel better about themselves and I guess that's a good thing. But I don't think this is justification for them being on the front cover of NME. And, to be honest, which do you think MCR fans are more interested in, the band's music or Gerard Way's hair? If you could reply to my message with some witty (probably insulting) comment that would be great.

From: *NME* To: Djuna

Seriously, you don't want to enrage the MCRmy. Those mascara pencils can be awfully sharp. Believe me, I know, I've been on the receiving end – LL

KEEP BEADIN'

From: Joshua Howells To: NME

Can everyone not just give Beady Eve a break? We have heard one track from them ('Bring The Light') and people are already starting to rip them and saying it's not as good as Oasis. Liam Gallagher can't win either way because he would be criticised if it was typical Oasis, and criticised if it was different. I like the track and hope people will give the album a chance. Liam has proven yet again that he can write a good song and I think people should just get off the bandwagon and judge the music.

From: NME
To: Joshua Howells
We had almost as many
comments on NME.COM
slagging off the Beady Eye
track as we did threatening



STALKER

From: Lauren To: *NME*

"Here I am with Justin from The Vaccines after their gig at Unit in Southampton. Best gig of the year."

to kill me. I'm with you on this. I think 'Bring The Light' is as fine a tune as anything Noel has churned out in the past five years – LL

HEAVEN VS SELL

From: David Hay To: *NME*

Could you please explain to me the meaning of the phrase 'sell-out'? It seems to be synonymous with Kings Of Leon these days and I don't know why. I don't think that the pretentious teenagers who claim Kings Of Leon are sell-outs understand that more album sales = more fans = bigger venues and if they hate them so much they should just stop attending their concerts.

From: *NME*To: David Hay

I suspect the reason people have gone off King Of Leon is less to do with the fact they've sold out, and more to do with their new album being soul-witheringly tedious - LL

CALLING ALL COMMON PEOPLE...

From: Neil Renton To: NME

Hurrah! Pulp are back! But wait, it's only for a couple of festival shows that they're probably getting paid a shitload of money to do. And what's that you say? Jarvis Cocker doesn't play any Pulp songs on his solo tours, does he? So why are the gang all back together now? Ah, so they can have one last big night out at their spiritual home, Sheffield? No. London. Roll on 2012 when Oasis play the opening ceremony of the Olympics. Y'know, proper Oasis, doing it for the kids. Liam. Noel.

Web Slinging The highlight of this week's NME.COM blogs WEIGHT OF THE WORLD

Why did I mention Ray Toro's weight? I don't know, why mention a musician's hair, or clothes, or watch? When writing a feature you seek out any human detail that will stop the whole thing reading like a press release. And I was concerned about that, because the piece had otherwise been eye-bulging in its praise for the band. That's the thing about internet hate campaigns - after something's been retweeted a few times, it becomes unbuckled from reality and spirals off into an alternate, hate-filled dimension where everyone's a bell-end. This is a problem. because right now we could do with a bit of moderation. In a world where a man can be prosecuted for telling a joke on Twitter, perhaps it's time the internet took a deep breath, counted to 10, and asked themselves: is it really worth getting worked up about? Read Luke Lewis's blog in full at NME.COM/blogs now



Being a terrager myself and seeing what it's like, I can see how your comment about the love handles could cause anorexia. Your little over-exaggeration could end up causing people to do some serious damage to themselves. It's people like you who killed Karen Carpenter! Seriously, this is insane. I read your original piece and found it to be a good read, and, if anything, actually full of praise for My Chemical Romance. This is all getting rather silly. The Hungry Emo Kid Number one rule ALL
journalists should know and
follow: NEVER say anything
that can be taken
offensively by ANYONE.
No-one should be put in this
awkward position. So Luke,
sorry man, but you screwed
up. Big time.
Stelle



the curly-haired drummer, even Bonehead...

From: NME
To: Neil Renton

It does seem a shame that Pulp's big comeback won't be in their home city.. But watch this space – there will be more dates announced soon... – LL

A WEEKENDER TO REMEMBER

From: Greg Watkins To: NME

I was at the NME Weekender and I would just like to say a massive thank you to all involved for creating such an epic, hassle-free and intimate weekend with some serious talent! Pete Doherty was sensational and set the bar high for the following day but all expectations were out-done! The setting, although random, was just perfect. Our party consisted of three lads and all three of us left wanting to stay and do it again! We met some

fabulous people and will defo be back next year!

From: *NME*To: Greg Watkins

Glad you had a good time. Given it was the first festival we've ever put on, there were bound to be a few teething problems. But people seemed to enjoy it. And the icing on the cake? Babyshambles actually turned up. Amazing – LL



STALKER

From: Siân To: *NME*

"I met Yannis from Foals after their Leeds gig. He was lovely and happy to chat."



DOES ROCK'N'ROLL KILL BRAINCELLS?

TESTING MUSICIANS' MEMORIES AFTER A LIFETIME OF ABUSE

This Week

QUESTION 1

How did Kinks guitarist Dave Davies create the novel distortion effect on 'You Really Got Me'?

"We stuck knitting needles in the speakers, or in Dave's case, he slit the speakers with a razor blade. In those days we played records on a radiogram so loudly that they all sounded fuzzy. We thought, 'That's a great sound,' without realising the speakers were buggered. Everyone else was using really clean guitar sounds, so for 'You Really Got Me' we hooked a little speaker up to a clean amp and came up with thunderous, unaffected, pure power."

Correct



QUESTION 2

Which Kinks song did Cornershop cover on The Culture Show in 2007? "Situation Vacant"?

Wrong, 'Waterloo Sunset'

"I did that with Damon Albarn on *The White*Room [short-lived mid-'90s Channel 4 live
music programme hosted by Mark Radcliffe
- TV Ed] a while before, I didn't know
Cornershop did it too."

QUESTION 3

Which Kinks song is also the name of an area at the Glastonbury festival? "I don't know."

Wrong, 'Shangri-La'

"You're kidding me. Well, they obviously named it after the song and not the book. [Shangri-La is a fictional valley from British author James Hilton's 1933 novel, Lost Horizon - Literary Ed].

QUESTION 4

Why did Coca-Cola indirectly force you to take a 6,000-mile round trip in 1970? "Because when 'Lola' came out, I sang 'Tastes like Coca-Cola' so it would have not been played on the BBC. I was on tour in Chicago and I got the message that they

RAY DAVIES



were going to put the record out that week. So I flew back to England, sang 'cherry cola' and flew back to do my date."

Correct

QUESTION 5

What links you to Bruce Forsyth?
"Come Dancing'? I did a song and a musical
called 'Come Dancing'. And he's on a
programme called Strictly Come Dancing."
Correct



QUESTION 6

Who got to Number 11 with Waterloo Sunset' in 1997?

Wrong, Cathy Dennis. What's your favourite Kinks cover version? Was it Cathy's?

"Probably Van Halen doing "You Really Got Me". It was a big hit for them and put them on a career of excess and sent them on the road. So I enjoyed that one."

QUESTION 7

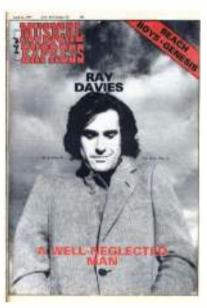
What brand of lager were you swigging during your headline slot in the Acoustic Tent at Glastonbury in 2009? "Stella. It's one of those event beers. I enjoyed Glasto this summer to be able to pay tribute [Kinks' bassist Pete Quaife had died days before], but the tent gig in 2009 was amazing. I was really pissed off - I was sitting grumpily in my tent not wanting to go on and they said, "You're on!" I didn't even put my wellington boots on. I walked on and suddenly it was a great show. It was one of my fondest memories of Glastonbury." Correct

QUESTION 8

How much did NME cost when you were on the front cover of the issue dated April 16, 1977?
"750?"

Wrong, 15p

"Wow! I feel inflated."



QUESTION 9

Which BBC weatherman features in your 1985 hour-long musical film Return To Waterloo? "Oh gawd... he's got a moustache, glasses. I can't think of his name." Wrong, Michael Fish

"Of course. He wore a special weather sweater with a map of England and a weather chart."

QUESTION 10

Name the 14 artists you collaborate with on new album 'See My Friends'... "OK. Bruce Springsteen. Bon Jovi. Metallica. Paloma Faith. Um... Black Francis or Frank Black. Mumford & Sons. Snow Patrol Gary. Amy Macdonald. Lucinda Williams. Jackson Browne. Alex Chilton. Spoon. The 88. And can I phone a friend? No, wait! Smashing Pumpkins Billy."

Correct



"Not bad! I think my memory's not bad. Remembering what I did yesterday is not such a problem, it's last week that bothers me."

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