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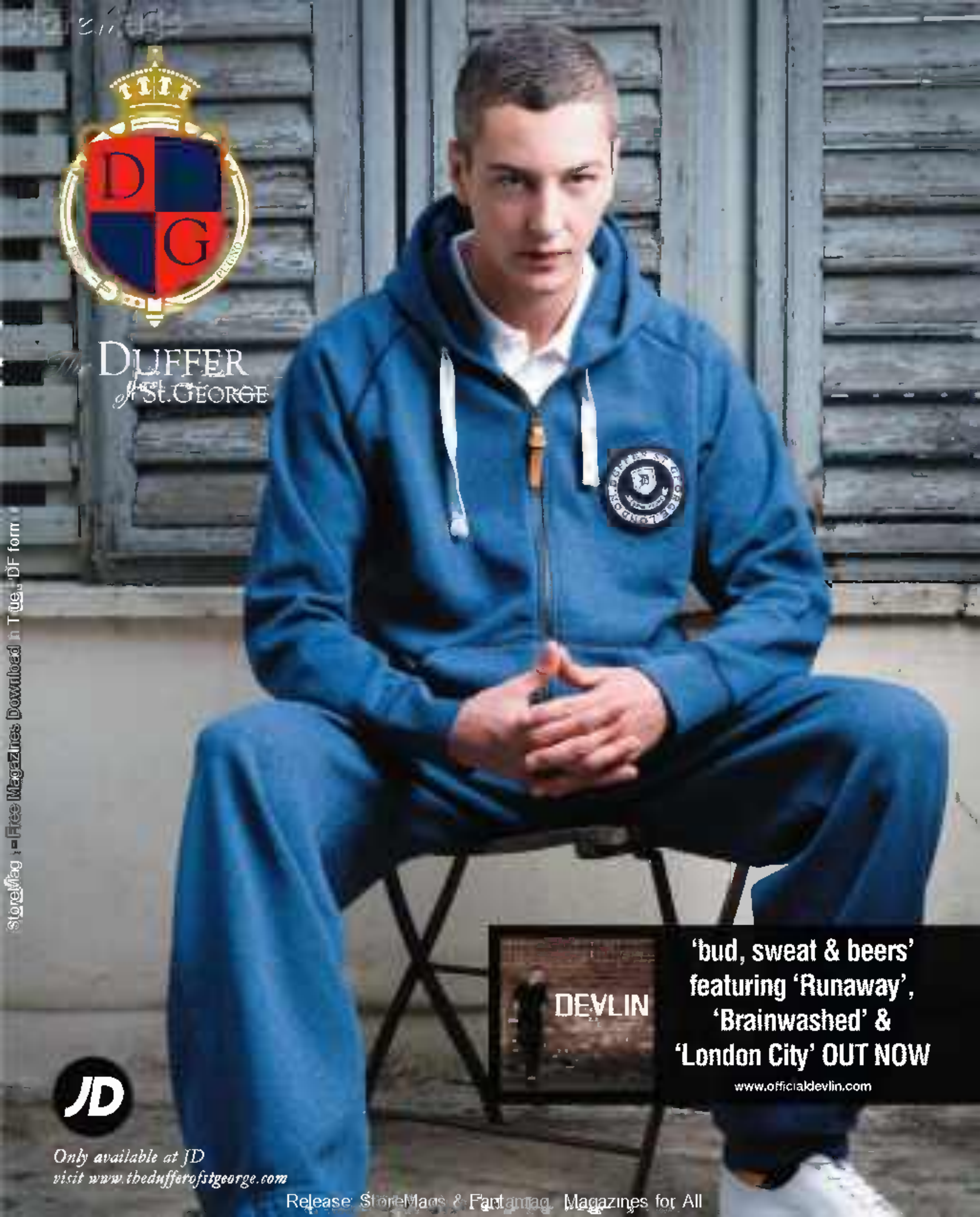
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18/25 December 2010



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WELCOME TO OUR BUMPER FESTIVE EDITION, PACKED WITH STARS, STUFFED WITH STORIES AND PLIED WITH BOOZE. ENJOY, OH AND...

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CARL BARAT, AKA TINY TIM

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"Nick Clegg sold people out"

RYAN JARMAN OUT-SHOUTS THE PANEL ON OUR NEWS REVIEW OF 2010

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THE SLEIGHLIST

DO YOU HEAR WHAT WE HEAR? THE SOUNDS REPEATING IN NME STAFFERS' EARS LIKE FIVE-DAY OLD TURKEY



TRACK OF THE WEEK

LOS CAMPESINOS!

Kindle A Flame In Her Heart

Gareth Campesinos! is the kind of chap who celebrates misery and bitterness like those loons who adorn their houses with luminous Santas all year round. He delights in a tasty bit of spite like your gran does a nice crystal cut glass of sherry. But, despite all his embittered bravado, you get the impression he wouldn't half like a nice snog under the mistletoe to make him feel all warm inside, which is what this, Los Camp's unsurprisingly melancholy ode to the festive season, is all about.

Come the start of December, you inevitably hear the same thing bleated: "Do you feel Christmassy yet?" Everyone's after this intangible festivity that evaporates along with the myth of Santa Claus. What LC! understand is that only proper punch-drunk love can replace that ineffable childhood feeling, and that the cold hard truth is that it'll elude most of us this season, as they describe through a series of astute, dismal Christmas references, the image of an eight-year-old Gareth dressed up as a pessimistic Angel Gabriel, or receiving a lump of coal from Saint Nick instead of the perfect Christmas pash that'll make it all better. But with a Chrimbletide song this delightful, there'll surely be no lack of woolly-jumpered boys and girls queuing beneath the *viscum album* to offer sloppy-snogged thanks.

Despite his bravado, Gareth just wants a snog under the mistletoe

Laura Snapes, Assistant Reviews Editor
On loscampesinos.com now



HURTS

All I Want For Christmas Is New Year's Day

If anyone's going to get curmudgeonly this Christmas it might as well be 2010's archest pop practitioners. This grinchy ode to wishing it all away sees them playing spoilsport in the most joyous way possible, inadvertently adding another Chumbo classic to the canon.

Tim Chester, Assistant Editor, NME.COM
On informationhurts.com now

POLY STYRENE

Black Christmas (Kahn Remix)

Poly, DayGlo heroine of playfully serious punk and icon to Beth Ditto among many others, has made an unexpected festive return with this twisted true tale of a serial killer dressed as Santa Claus. And here, Bristolian Sureskank collective member Kahn bludgeons the reggae pop original into a glitchy, 8 bit spangled whomper.

Emily Mackay, Reviews Editor
Exclusively on NME.COM now

THE WALKMEN

Holiday Road

Extra points for one of them wearing a Santa hat in the video. More still for choosing a Fleetwood Mac related song to cover (it's a Lindsey Buckingham song from 1981). And usual high marks for Hamilton Leithauser's soaring vocals. An absolute must-hear.

Hamish MacBain, Assistant Editor
On thefader.com now

THE KILLERS

Boots

Befitting the law of indie which states that fun and joy comes but once a year – and that's at Glastonbury – The Killers have reunited to record a world-weary Xmas song. Plaintively Brandon Flowers cries, "*Do you hear my voice, do you know my name?*" What's wrong, Santa didn't reply to your letter?

Alibhe Malone, writer
On YouTube.com now

THE FUTUREHEADS

Christmas Was Better In The '80s

Christmas is a time for peace, love, booze and forgiveness. The perfect time, then, to drop this turkey. Better in the '80s? Fucking hell. Does the sight of a sweaty Mike Smith (*Who? – Youth Of Today Ed*) in a tinsel covered helicopter not haunt you? Nope? OK then. Merry Christmas, we forgive you!

Mike Williams, Features Editor
On thefutureheads.com now

BEST COAST & WAVVES

Got Something For You

If you're so misanthropic that the slightest prospect of Christmas cheer turns your stomach like a rancid mince pie, then beware this yuletide love in. Sunny harmonies, slushy lyrics and sleigh bells? Pah! Stick to crap telly and booze-fuelled fighting ..

Ben Hewitt, writer
On target.com now

IDIOT GLEE FT LULU AND THE LAMPSHADES

Baby It's Cold Outside (BBC session)

Rather than becoming slacker indie's Tom Jones and Cerys Matthews, Idiot Glee and co get kudos for sounding *exactly* like The Moldy Peaches with their quirky boy-girl harmonies. Better still, there's none of that "you're old enough to be her *father*." weirdness of the Welsh duo's cover.

Paul Stokes, Associate Editor
Exclusively on NME.COM now

THE CROOKES

It's Just Not Christmas Without You

A likeable enough doo-wop Christmas song by new Sheffield tykes The Crookes, which sounds quite a lot like Joe Lean & The Jing Jang Jong and as such is touched with melancholy. Here's praying Joe Lean's alright this season and not wandering the streets eating kippers in a dirty Santa suit like Dan Aykroyd in *Trading Places*.

Martin Robinson, Deputy Editor
Exclusively on NME.COM now



SUMMER CAMP

Christmas Wrapping

Fears that Summer Camp would perish in these winter winds are frozen over with this – a crisp cover of The Waitresses' sassy ode to being too busy for Xmas. More chillaxed than last minute stressed, Elizabeth Sankey's dreamy coos are bolstered with sparkling organ and sprinkles of Christmas cheer.

Chris Mandle, writer
On pitchfork.com now

DANNY NORTH

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Storelegs

UPFRONT

WHAT'S HAPPENED AND WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MUSIC THIS WEEK

Edited by Jam[illegible] Fulle[illegible]ton



GLASVEGAS: "I DON'T KNOW THAT WE'VE GOT A COMEBACK PLAN"

Glasvegas are on the comeback trail with a tour and their second album released soon after. James Allan reveals all about their new line-up, dress code and run-ins with monsters

SPEED DIAL SPECIAL

Welcome back, James! Your new year's resolution is... a new tour?
James: "That's right. The plan for the tour is... I don't know if we've got a plan. (*Shouts*) Rab, have we got a plan for the tour?"

Rab Allan, guitarist, taking over the phone: "I'm having a great time right now. That's going to continue when we start touring. Last time when we toured I had a girlfriend so it was quite hard. So there's going to be lots of sex."

Is that why you've chosen remote Scottish places to tour?
Rab: "There's lots of girls there. We're basically just making ourselves available to them. And if they choose to take it up they can. We'll probably play a few new songs. The only song James has asked to play is a B-side from the 'Daddy's Gone' [special edition vinyl] called 'A Little Thing Called Fear'."

James, taking back the phone: "I'm curious about how the new album's going to sit with the first, and still be quite familiar. Or if they'll be strangers to each other, I'm not sure. Hopefully they'll be quite familiar, and they'll get to know each other quite quick."

Why did you want to play off the beaten track in Scotland?
"Probably to re-familiarise ourselves with our country. No matter if it's Salt Lake City or if it's somewhere in the Highlands in Scotland .. not a lot of bands or showbiz things pass through these places. There's a sweet, innocent, wide-eyed, naïve, ecstatic electricity that's in those places when you play them. I remember going to Salt Lake City on a Tuesday night, the place didn't even have alcohol, just a vending machine with Fanta and Coca-Cola. But the crowd were amazing and the gig was totally amazing. If I thought they can't have a good time without a beer then that says more about me than it does about them."

And a full UK tour in spring?
"Yeah, not too sure about the dates – I'm quite involved in the album.

Somebody was saying, 'What's your problem with the album?' I said the problem is that it sounds like a band. They said, 'What's your problem with that? What do you want it to sound like?' I said 'A dream'. I think we're nearly there and I know what the answer is. There's a few things I need to turn up."

Did you do the whole second album in Los Angeles?
"We got the songs together there, then worked with producer Flood in London. He came in almost like... he's not the size of Yoda but he's like Yoda. Everybody looks like an animal, you know? Flood looks like a deer. When he's talking to you his eyes widen."

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GLASVEGAS: THE COMEBACK

New album: Due in March or April 2011. Recorded in Los Angeles then with producer Flood (U2, Depeche Mode) in London. First song to be released in January

New tour: Scottish tour kicking off January 4, plus as-yet unannounced full UK tour set for spring

James' Christmas plans: "I'm going to be spending it with my mother. She's my priority. Cooking? I've no interest in that to be honest. My mother, she'll be cooking."

How did you hook up with him?
"He asked to work with the band. Rab liked what he had done, I didn't know much about him really. I met him in London, he wanted to see if I was a nutcase or not. Am I? You'd have to ask him. I thought, 'He's worked with Depeche Mode, and on the U2 albums.' I thought I had to have some profound tales of wisdom for him to make me stand out among them. I walked in and the first thing that happened was the heel fell off my shoe. I left the heel where it was, not looking back."

How has the Glasvegas sound changed?
"I'd like to say since the last record I'm a lot more handsome and I'm a lot more patient and kind and witty. But I don't really know if that's the truth. That's up to whoever listens to it. Any changes are in the ears of the beholder."

Your plan was to do the drums with Rick Rubin – did that happen?
"No. But I went to Rick Rubin's house, it was quite a psychedelic night. I'd had a strange day at Universal Studios. Maybe I was a bit tipsy, I wasn't actually sure if it was Beetlejuice next to me. Frankenstein's monster got me in a headlock, which wasn't funny. You go on a boat ride and have people fucking jumping in your face and things. I thought I'd lost my sunglasses over the edge. That's my biggest fear, that and sharks. Anyway, later we got to Rick's, he asked me if I wanted to play a song. He gave me a tape recorder and said, 'Let me see who was on this before you.' He pressed play and it was Crosby, Stills & Nash – he must have had them there the night before. There wasn't any pressure because I don't like their music. I must have recorded over it – I played C major on the guitar. I don't really like doing that [with a small audience] – the hardest gig I ever played was for my mum and my mum's sister."

Speaking of drums – why did Caroline McKay leave the band?
"It was probably a mixture of me saying, 'Hit this drum, hit that drum'. Doing a demo, getting gigs, doing a demo, doing another demo, then a record in New York, then it's playing at Wembley with U2, Glastonbury.. she never asked for any of that. Everybody's cool with each other. I guess we could kind of see it coming a wee bit, just the pressure and she was uncomfortable with certain things. I've always said that if I wake up and I'd rather not be in a band I would just leave. Caroline could have stayed and taken the money but she left."

Who's hitting the skins now?
"Jonna Löfgren (pictured). She's Swedish. Rab said, 'I want a drummer, I want a woman, I want her Swedish.' Two days later this girl turns up – the label in Sweden knew about her. I went from being embarrassed about Rab to, 'What a fucking genius'."

We heard Victoria Smith, who used to be in Ipso Facto, could have been your new drummer?
"Yeah, she's a really sweet girl, really funny. I guess there was no great plan to how things were going to work out. There were quite a few people other than her thrown the way of the band. All of them were really sweet girls."

Only girls?
"Haha, they were all girls. There were some guys trying but they had no chance."

Finally, we can't help but notice you've changed the dress code a little...
"I've been wearing white for a couple of months. I don't actually notice anymore, it's other people who go, 'Fucking hell man, you look a bit bright.' Then I think to myself, 'Oh, aye'. Some days I'll probably feel like Jesus, the other days I'll feel like a tampon."



FEE WANT WAR

Despite massive protests, a £9,000 tuition fee cap has been passed. Gavin Haynes looks at the consequences for the next generation of students

Only two months after the Browne Review first floated the idea, barely one month after the attack on Tory HQ that began the weekly waves of student protests, the new £9,000 cap on tuition fees became law at around 6pm, December 9, 2010.

Nick Clegg and David Cameron had spent the past fortnight telling the press pack that 'if only people would look at the detail of these proposals, they'd see the fairness within them'. But the nuance that those earning £25,000 a year would only be paying back £30 a month under the new system seldom got a look-in during such a violently polarised row.

Generation Skins are now looking like Generation Skimmed Alive

Many on the streets were there on principle. It was, after all, as John Denham, Labour's Education Spokesman said, "a policy that represents the most profound change in university funding since the 1920s".

While the House Of Commons spent the afternoon in a debate furnished equally with eloquent argument and crocodile reared sophistry, outside, Westminster was a fog of chaos. The numbers of anarchists and touristic thugs was up. But so was the number of concerned students. Both got the same kettling treatment from the London Met – this time, many were detained in an area so small it was near-impossible to sit down, for up to seven hours.

The bill will shape a generation. Secretly, most university vice-chancellors love the idea – it means that years of growth in the number of university places without commensurate funding can be reversed. British universities can get the cash injection they need to excel. The poorest will have more scholarships as a deal-sweetener. Part-time students finally get to apply for loans. But with direct funding, many worthy yet unprofitable areas of university study may now shrink to nothingness. In 10 years' time students looking to get on the property ladder will first have to plough their disposable income into repaying their debts. What few have considered is that it may ultimately leech Britain's intellectual capital rather than build it – a brain-drain, a '70s style 'sod-this, I'm off' approach to the clobbering tax levels it will impose upon Generation Skins, who are now looking increasingly like Generation Skimmed Alive.

TOMMY GA-KEN WAN, PHOTOSHOT

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BEHIND THE SCENES

A VERY MERRY XXMAS

Londoners The xx round off their incredible year by turning on the Christmas lights in their native Putney – NME tags along for some Yuletide cheer and mulled wine

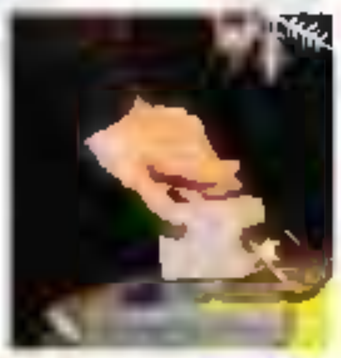


◀ December 3, 2010: The band take to the stage to do their bit, introduced as "local heroes" by the campers. Oliver Sim keeps their speech short and sweet: "I just want to say thank you to Putney for giving us this surreal opportunity, and to wish everyone a Happy Christmas. Have a good one!"



▲ The long walk from the pub to St Mary's Church – scene of the festivities. "Parts of *The Other* were recorded here," Oliver tells us. Tonight, though, the parish is just populated by well-wishers eager to toast The xx's success and get into the Christmas spirit. The band all hail from this part of London and formed at local comprehensive Elliott School.

▼ Oliver takes a final sip of mulled wine to calm his nerves before taking to the stage. In the audience are various band relatives and schoolfriends. "When we got the offer we were just laughing about it," bandmate Romy Madley Croft explains. "You know, if you get the offer it's something you're not going to turn down!"

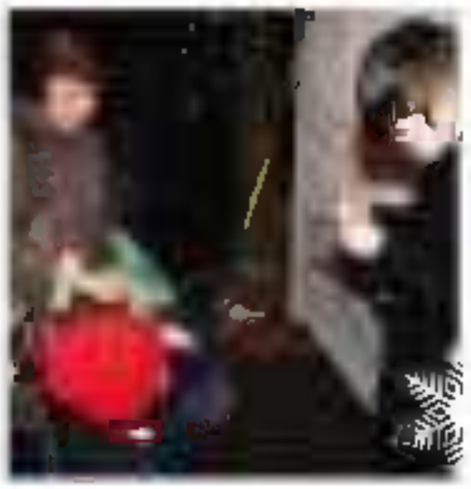


▶ "The guy just explained it to us," says Oliver. "We basically press the button onstage and turn on the massive Christmas tree next to us, and then the whole of Putney High Street and the bridge get lit up."





◀ Light duties over, the band get a guided tour of St Mary's. Oliver admits he's pretty lazy when it comes to Christmas. "I haven't even started thinking about it yet! I'm not one of these people who does it all three months in advance. I'm more of a Christmas Eve kind of person!"



▲ Is this the youngest xx fan ever? He's got good taste, whoever he is. "Whenever you think of these things you think of Rihanna, the Spice Girls or whatever," laughs Romy. "Not us! But this is really nice, it's quaint and really villagey."

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PETER ROBINSON VS ALESHA DIXON

The singer and dance judge guffaws about positivity and the merits of the c word



FYI

- We didn't ask Alesha about Christmas because we did the interview at the end of November and it hadn't even snowed by that point. Apols.
- She's probably "spending it with family and friends" though. We can check if you like and report back in the new year.
- The 'badness' of this 'chick' is yet to be officially recorded, but early reports suggest a fairly low level of badness in general.

Hello, Alesha. What are you plugging today?
"Well I've just been doing an acoustic session on the radio which was pretty good. We've been performing Cee Lo's 'Forget You' and my song 'Radio'."

Don't you think the Cee Lo track is a bit 'Ooh, swearing! LOL'?
"Do you think so? Do you think it's the swearing that makes people like it?"

A little. Perhaps you should start swearing more.
"Oh, I don't think so. I did actually swear on one of my album tracks but I took it out because it wasn't appropriate. I said the f word (*laughs*)."

Are you a fan of The Minaj?
"I love her, she's colourful and exciting and it's good to see a female MC."

Well, she could do with doing some collaborations just to get her name around a bit.
"(*Cackle of biblical proportions*) Yes! I don't think she's been given enough exposure (*hearty laugh*)."

What happened just there is what will be described in print as a 'hearty laugh'.
"Well, what you said was very funny."

To be fair, it was. She swears on her album, you know.
"I'm sure she does."

One choice line, "*I'm a cunt*".
"You're joking!"

That's pop music, Alesha!
"That's unnecessary. Is she actually going to try and make that word cool? I'm not a fan of that word."

Sometimes only that word will do.
"(*Lengthy pause*) So anyway, how are you?"

We can talk about your music now a bit if you like.
"The single 'Radio' is about what a lot of people experience on a daily basis – wanting to escape from heartbreak, but hearing it all the time on the radio."

So you, with your song, are making it worse, obviously.
"Why?"

Well, hearing 'Radio' on the radio will upset people.
"Don't be silly. The idea of the song is to have empathy with what someone's going through."



But is it?
"It's actually a positive song."

People like negativity though.
"Negativity sells, yes. But we don't live in a perfect world. And you need music for a positive outlook. It's not all doom and gloom. I've been there, I've got the T-shirt!"

What is the positive message in your pop tune 'Baddest Chick'?
"That's more of a statement record, it's about being strong, being a woman carrying yourself in a certain way, not taking crap off anyone. I want people to be empowered when they listen to the record!"

I'm wondering if you stay in character when you're at home, whether you really are a 'bad chick' when, for example, you're putting the bins out.
"(*Chortling*) I am a strong person and I'll only get stronger the older I get!"

As someone who MCs a bit and warbles a bit, what do you think about Cher from *The X Factor*?
"Actually, I met her a couple of months ago and I said to her, 'Go home and check out some YouTube videos of Jessie J.' Jessie's where Cher could be in a few years. Yes, I think she's great. I'm very excited about her as an artist. I don't usually get like this about artists."

Do you need any pointers for your album?
"I love my album from start to finish, I'm quite happy with it. In fact I'm not 'quite' happy – I'm happy! I love it all. So I don't need any advice, thank you."

THIS WEEK'S TOP 20

THE NME CHART

1	1	CEE LO GREEN	'FUCK YOU'
2	2	JAMES BLAKE	'LIMIT TO YOUR LOVE'
3	9	PLAIN WHITE T'S	'RHYTHM OF LOVE'
4	3	MARK RONSON & THE BUSINESS INTL	'SOMEBODY TO LOVE ME'
5	NEW	THE NAKED AND FAMOUS	'PUNCHING IN A DREAM'
6	18	DAFT PUNK	'DERezzed'
7	7	MY CHEMICAL ROMANCE	'NA NA NA...'
8	4	GORILLAZ FT DALEY	'DONCAMATIC'
9	8	KANYE WEST FT PUSHA T	'RUNAWAY'
10	10	FLORENCE + THE MACHINE	'HEAVY IN YOUR ARMS'
11	14	HURTS	'STAY'
12	12	MY CHEMICAL ROMANCE	'SING'
13	11	BRANDON FLOWERS	'ONLY THE YOUNG'
14	19	BIFFY CLYRO	'BOOOOOM, BLAST & BUSH'
15	17	[illegible]	'INHALER'
16	15	30 SECONDS TO MARS	'HURRICANE 2.0'
17	26	ARCADE FIRE	'THE SUBURBS'
18	23	WOLF GANG	'LIONS IN CAGES'
19	23	GRUFF RHYS	'SHARK RIDDEN WATERS'
20	22	THE VIEW	'SUNDAY'

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NEW TO NME RADIO PLAYLIST

'Post Brea[illegible] Sex'

'Living Is So Easy'

'Photoshop Handsome'

'Austere'

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THE BIG ANN



Question Time's got nothing on us: our esteemed panel (l-r) Ryan Jarman, Jonathan Higgs, Hayden Thorpe, Ritzy Bryan

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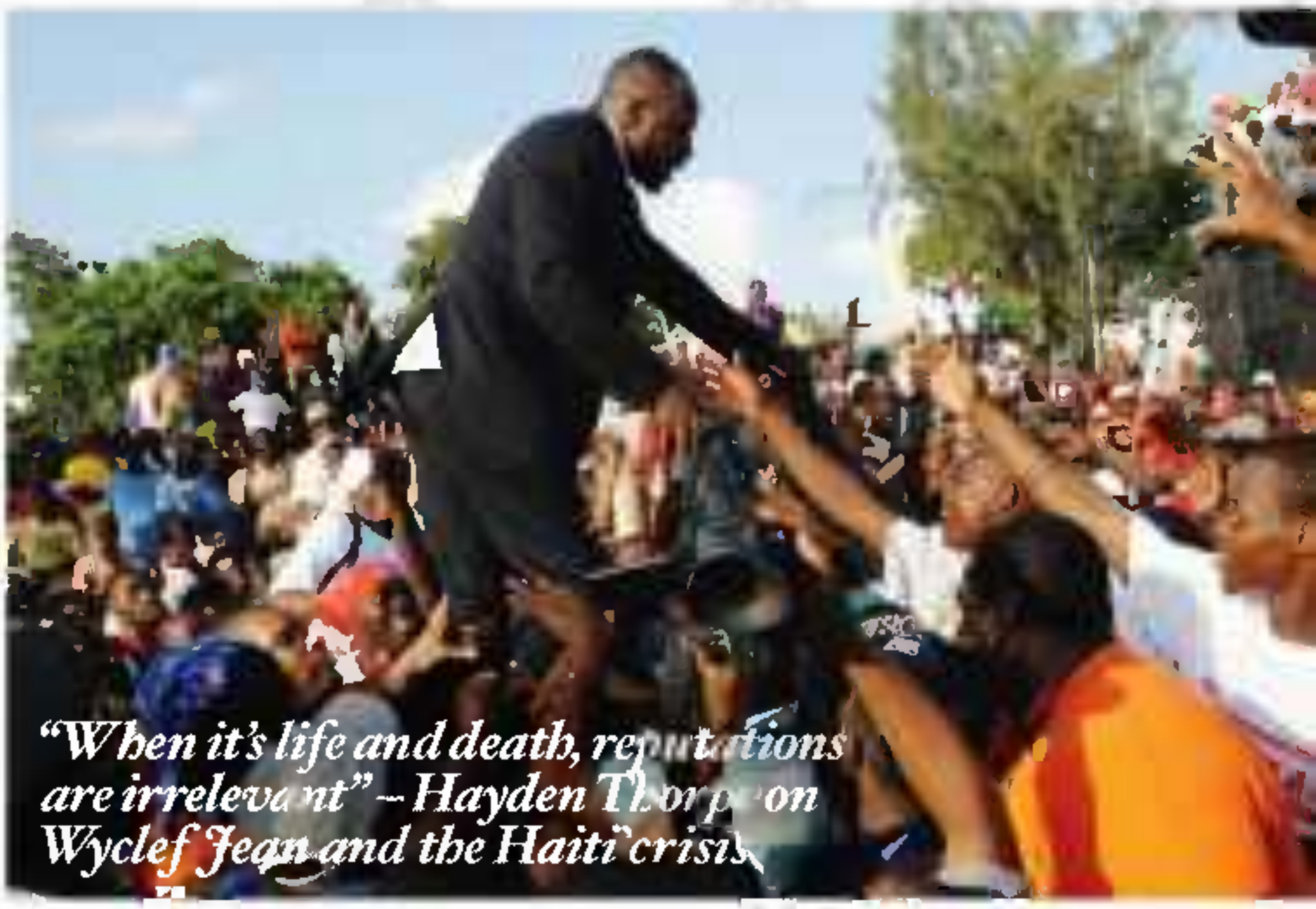
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US REVIEW

IT'S BEEN A YEAR OF TRIUMPHS, DISASTERS, BUST-UPS AND REUNIONS. WITH A PANEL OF INDIE'S KEENEST COMMENTATORS, MARK BEAUMONT LOOKS BACK AT 12 MENTAL MONTHS

Earthquakes devastated countries. Oil spills blighted huge expanses of coastline. Volcanic ash clouds wreaked havoc in the skies. Furious mobs rioted in the streets. High-profile celebrities paraded on red carpets in dresses made of flesh. Most portentously, Guns N' Roses came on an hour late at Reading, and lo, Axl Rose was surely a dick.

If 2010 wasn't actually the end of days, it tried its darndest to look like it. And after such a monumental 12 months, *NME* was duty-bound to gather together the finest minds of our age to rake over the issues thrown up by this maelstrom of tragedy and titillation. Unfortunately the finest minds of our age had already been booked for *Chris Moyles' Xmas Quiz Night*, so instead we called 'Grizzy' Ritzy Bryan hard rockin' glamourpuss of the mighty Joy Formidable, nature's cuddliest Wild Beast Hayden Thorpe, Everything Everything's Libs-illiterate Jonathan Higgs and The Cribs' Ryan Jarman, who turns out to be something of an indie Andrew Marr. Our mission? To lay 2010 to rest with the solemnity it deserves. And have a dozen or so digs at Nick Clegg, the lying turncoat bastard.



"When it's life and death, reputations are irrelevant" – Hayden Thorpe on Wyclef Jean and the Haiti crisis

JANUARY

In a month when a campaign was started to make heavy metal an official religion and Vampire Weekend hit Number One both sides of the sea, all frivolity was eclipsed when Haiti was struck by a magnitude 7.0 MW earthquake, killing 200,000 and leaving two million people homeless. Wyclef Jean leapt to the rescue.

Ritzy: "The earthquake was terribly tragic and it's still ongoing, that's the saddest thing. A lot of people aren't rehoused, they're still living in camps."

Hayden: "And Wyclef Jean was trying to be the President."

Is a hip-hop star the right man to rescue a crippled country?

Hayden: "When it's a life-and-death situation, people's personal politics and reputations are irrelevant. It's like, if a cage wrestler could run the country and generate money to save people's lives, people don't care he's a cage wrestler."

FEBRUARY

Apple unveiled the iPad, finally solving the problems of those who feel they don't get mugged enough for books, and Carl Barât went down a storm in his West End acting debut (if the storm in question was Hurricane Katrina). But it was the announcement of The Strokes' comeback that was on people's lips..

Ryan: "They played Dingwalls in June, and I went because I was interested to hear if they'd got any new songs. But the fact that they didn't and were still treated so reverentially is testament to the goodwill they have around them."

Hayden: "They earned the right to disappear. I saw them at Alexandra Palace when I was 16 and they were the best gigs I've seen."



February: The Strokes return

MARCH

As BBC 6Music faced the axe and we lost Sparklehorse's Mark Linkous to suicide, the first rumblings of the US invasion were heard in the distance. The Drums, The Drums!

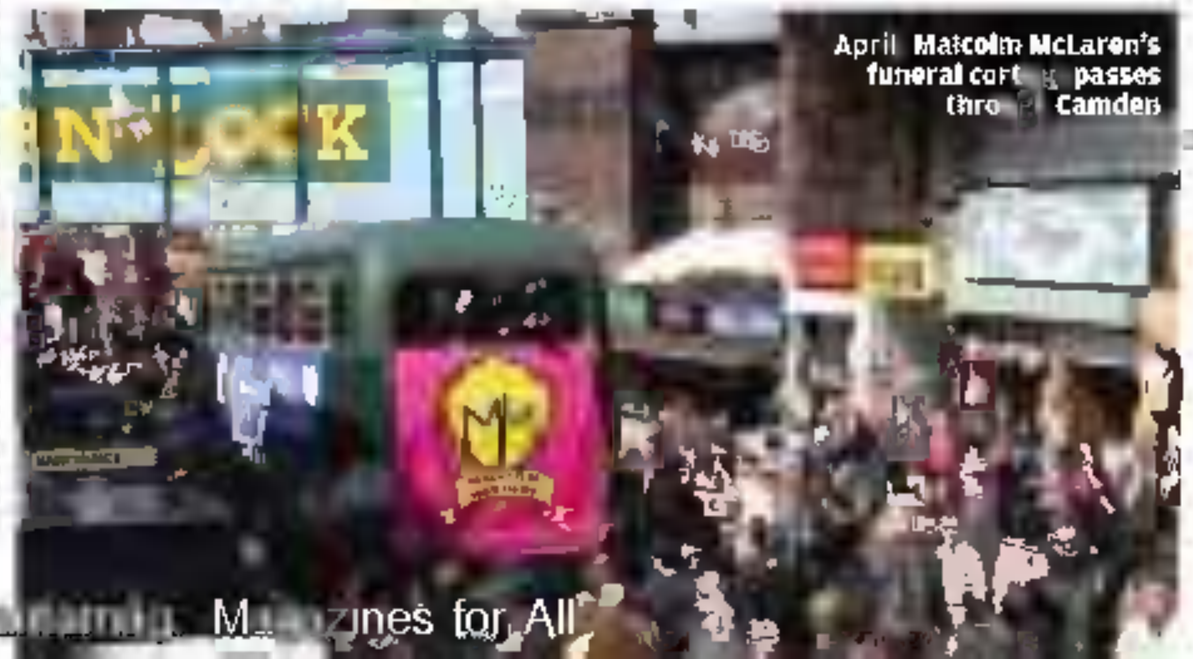
Ryan: "A lot of people were sick of the stereotypical UK guitar band, which was seen as brash and boorish. I don't think all music needs a polemic but I definitely prefer the aesthetic to what a lot of the more mainstream UK bands were selling at the time."

Ritzy: "Sometimes we focus too much on where UK bands fit into a scene rather than enjoying them for creating good albums. Whereas a lot of the bands that have been cited from the US, they're doing different things."

APRIL

The apocalypse descended in earnest in April, as the ash cloud from Iceland grounded all flights and the BP oil spill caused the world's worst ever man made ecological disaster. Closer to home, however, the godfather of punk Malcolm McLaren died, aged 64.

Hayden: "I hadn't realised how significa[nt] his input had been until he died. He was a huge influence. The



April: Malcolm McLaren's funeral cort[ège] passes thro[ugh] Camden

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"People are pissed off, and they're blaming the Lib Dems" –Jonathan Higgs on the student riots

illusion that punk gave was that it was all so spontaneous and aggressive, but he was the brains behind that."

Ryan: "He orchestrated the most significant popular cultural event of the last century. Punk had so much political impact, the people that were into it were about a new way of thinking."

MAY

Obviously the biggest news of May was Kele's first solo gig, but venture into the newsbites and apparently the general election returned a hung Parliament, resulting in a Lib/Con coalition and cuts which saw vehement *Question Time* debates over how to pronounce '*swingeing*'.



Ryan: "The most interesting thing is the position of the Liberal Democrats. Nick Clegg had so much goodwill going into the election after his performance in the televised debates. Out of everyone he was the one who painted Cameron in a bad light. So to see how quickly he sold people out was really surprising. If they'd have turned down the coalition then come the next election they would've been genuine contenders for showing integrity. Now they can't ever hope to emulate that success again."

Hayden: "There was a style of anti-politics. All of a sudden no-one dared stand for anything and everything they did stand for would change overnight."

Jonathan: "It was reconciling two opposite ends of the spectrum into one party. It's such a ridiculous idea."

And November's student riots? How do we feel about these?

Hayden: "It's all scarily predictable."

Jonathan: "It's the Lib Dems who are losing out most over the riots, they're being blamed. The people who voted for them are the most pissed off because they absolutely promised they wouldn't do this."

Ryan: "It was like throwing petrol on the fire."

JUNE

With Gorillaz failing to fill U2's stack heels at Glastonbury's 40th anniversary, the Gig Of The Month went to Rage Against The Machine's free show in Finsbury Park, celebrating their Christmas Number One victory over the dark legions of Sauron Cowell

Ryan: "I liked that it proved people didn't want this *X Factor* manufactured stuff, but it's a bit of a cartoonified ending to RATM's career. This infallible career of records that everyone loves, very strong politically, brought to light a lot of issues, then they got back together for the money and had this tacked on the end."

Ritzy: "A bit of anarchy is a good thing."

JULY

Did a football competition end this month? Passed us by. And Wayne Rooney too, it seems, who appeared to have phoned in his performances from a Manc knocking shop. Far more exciting were The Libertines' warm-up shows, announced in July.

Ryan: "There was a lot of genuine excitement around The Libertines that was forgotten about with the tabloid stuff that came afterwards, people forgot it was a band that meant a lot to people. With those festival gigs being purely about the music I think they should just leave it like that with a line drawn under it. The songs stand up and that's a nice epitaph to their career."

Jonathan: "Weren't they paid a million quid or something? I saw it but I don't really know anything about them. I didn't know any songs. I didn't think they deserved the hype. I was watching the crowd more than the band."

Ryan: "It was completely wild out there."

With Pulp, Suede, Cast, Ultrasound and others also making comebacks, are we risking reunion fatigue?

Hayden: "I welcomed the Pulp one. They occupy a really warm space in a lot of people's hearts. It's hard to begrudge them anything.



July: and these two blokes started talking again

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AUGUST

Talking of self-importance, August was swimming in it. 50 Cent went tweet postal on everyone from Paris Hilton to Floyd Mayweather's ex, while Axl Rose kept Reading waiting an hour while he went, 'Hmm, I'm due onstage about now. Ooh look, *Mad Men*!'

Jonathan: "That was amazing, so fucking funny. It was my favourite gig of the year for comedy value. In 'Live And Let Die' they did the fireworks and they were completely out of time, these massive rockets much louder than the band. It looked so pompous and ridiculous. I loved it – it was so shit."

Ryan: "It's the latest in a long career of Axl Rose being a dick. He's made a career out of it. I always hated Guns N' Roses, what they were selling in the '80s and '90s was this tired, old chauvinistic stuff that gives rock'n'roll a bad name."



SEPTEMBER

A lot of noise was made in September over Morrissey's Chinese democracy comments, the closure of the 100 Club in London and a certain mawkish Kings Of Leon video. Very little noise was made by The xx at the Mercurys, however, but they still won. Sorry, Hayden...

Hayden: "For us, it made it really easy because we felt it was deserved. They made their album when they were 17 or 18 by themselves, that helps everyone that you can get to that level with your own vision."

Were you not pissed off on the night?

Hayden: "No, but it was like publicly not getting a job. You've got this sucking feeling where everyone gives you consoling looks and you just want to go to the hotel and get chocolate and crisps. But when they won it felt like going on Oblivion at Alton Towers where you're staring down this huge void and then you get yanked back and you saw them fall into it. I saw them five days later at a festival and they'd aged five years and were still drunk."

Talking of 'five years aged', what did we think of Lady Gaga wearing a meat dress in September?

Ritzy: "They should get a cow to wear a Lady Gaga dress."

Hayden: "That'd be awesome. Ideally a head-piece. True story, we were in New York and went out for pizza and Lady Gaga came to the same restaurant. The tragic thing was she came for a pizza as Lady Gaga, in corset and knickers. She could've thrown on a hoodie but no, she had to go out with the circus surrounding her. People in the restaurant lost their shit, a guy took his top off and started swinging it around."

Ryan: "Who cares? It's that awful late-'90s style of electronic music. I think it sucks."

OCTOBER

Laura Marling was voted the first ever be-cardiganned Number One in the NME Cool List and, after two months underground, the Chilean miners were finally rescued.

Hayden: "It was an amazing example of propaganda, wasn't it? The Chilean flag there."

Jonathan: "It took ages! And there were a load of copycats, people trying to get stuck. There really was. They just died or it didn't work."

Ryan: "There's a mine in Wakefield and every year at Christmas there used to be a Santa underground. One year there was so much snow he got snowed in for two weeks. When they got him out he was completely pissed up, still in the Santa suit. He was off his head."

NOVEMBER

As student rioters tore Tory HQ a new lie-hole, Apple took advantage of a busy news week to quietly slip The Beatles' music onto iTunes, under the radar, like.

Jonathan: "I bet it was massive, billions changing hands. But everyone's already got it anyway."

Ryan: "I think it was for the people who had The Beatles on vinyl but weren't that bothered about getting the CDs. They've made a huge big deal out of it and the real reason is they were withheld for such a long time."

Hayden: "Apple made it out to be a big deal because it was a big deal for them. It meant they were legitimate. Their version of The Bible didn't have Jesus in it until The Beatles went 'OK'."

DECEMBER

The Manics on *Strictly*? These New Puritans *NME* Album Of The Year?

Ha! Nice one! You'll be telling us **Johnny Marr has 'banned' David Cameron from liking The Smiths via Twitter next...**

Ryan: "It was a typical Johnny, Smiths-y withering put-down. It was funny. You don't really want to be associated with Cameron, but I'm sure it was all off-hand, a typical Smiths kind of quote. There is a certain degree of power that he holds over the Prime Minister. 'This guy looks up to me and I'm gonna tell you right here, right now that I'd rather you didn't'."

Ritzy: "He'll be weeping to 'This Charming Man' now. He'll have 'I Know It's Over' on loop."



August: Axl finally made it to Reading and could only just fit his massive ego on the screen

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"WE'RE NOT OASIS – WE JUST LOOK LIKE THEM"

AFTER THE FIGHTS, THE FASHION AND A YEAR OF IFS AND MAYBES, NOW IT'S DOWN TO THE MUSIC. IN A WORLD EXCLUSIVE, BARRY NICOLSON MEETS BEADY EYE. MERRY FOOKIN' CHRISTMAS

WORDS BY DEAN CHALKLEY



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"Shall I go for the Rod Stewart?" Liam Gallagher wonders aloud to himself, picking out an audacious leopard-print tuxedo from the rack and giving it a quizzical once-over.

It's the sort of jacket that only a proper, down-to-the-DNA rock'n'roll star can pull off; a piece of clothing so outlandish and extroverted the only thing it can possibly be co-ordinated with is the personality of the man inside it. It's a look that demands the attention of everyone whose field of vision it enters, but also demands that you know what to do with that attention once you've got it. To avoid the appearance of an utter charlatan, the wearer basically needs to be part Keith Richards, part Tony Montana. Naturally – inevitably – Liam Gallagher concludes that he's up to the task, and slips it on.

The setting is a north London photo studio on a bitterly cold winter afternoon and the occasion is the unveiling of Beady Eye, Gallagher's post-Oasis musical endeavour and quite possibly the rock'n'roll event of 2011.

It's a little more than a year since his old band imploded in an acrimonious fit of smashed guitars and screaming matches at a Parisian festival, but while Noel has kept a relatively low profile, Liam has been more visible than ever, stirring up controversy at the Brits, plugging his hugely-successful Pretty Green clothing range and declaring, with characteristic swagger and at every available opportunity, that Beady Eye will be "bigger than Oasis".

On February 28, the band will release their debut album 'Different Gear, Still Speeding' – yesterday, *NME* became one of only a handful of people on the planet to have heard it – and that statement will be put to the test. For the time being, however, all the world knows of Beady Eye is one frenzied free download called 'Bring The Light', a glorious cacophony of jack-hammering Jerry Lee Lewis piano, primal, caveman rhythms and Liam's rasping threat/promise of "*I'm going out, I'm taking you drinking*". By the standards of any new band, it was an electrifying introduction. By the standards of *Liam Gallagher's* new band, however, it felt just a little bit special.

"It got everybody up off the sofa and jumping around like a bunch of fucking monkeys," is how Liam will later describe the song. "And that's what we're after, man. It wasn't my idea to give it away for fucking nothing, though. I'll tell you right now, I wasn't having that."

Naturally, we've got questions. Lots of them. But they'll have to wait until the band are finished having their pictures taken. By the time *NME* arrives, everyone but Gem Archer is already there, smoking cigarettes by the studio door. There's no entourage, no phalanx of stylists and lackeys adjusting every last strand of hair; each member has arrived on their own, fuss-free, in the back of a black cab.

Watching them glower into the camera, we're reminded of Andy Bell's first words to us upon being introduced: "I've got the quote for your piece: 'We're not Oasis – we just look really like them.'"

He's got a point. Beady Eye are four-fifths of the final Oasis line-up – Liam, Gem, Andy and drummer Chris Sharrock – and though the two bands work in different ways, Beady Eye are no radical reinvention. Noel's absence has not given his old bandmates licence to explore their hitherto non-existent love of chillwave, the standard of shoes on show is still impeccable and Liam's glacier-blue eyes still pierce right through you.

Later, when we retire to the studio's oak-panelled private bar for our chat however, it becomes clear that some things really are different. In a last minute change of plans, the band have decided to conduct their first interview as a foursome rather than split into separate groups, as Oasis did for many years. Liam will always be the celestial mass around which his bandmates orbit, but the emphasis here is on unity and democracy – think of Beady Eye as the constitutional monarchy to Oasis' benevolent dictatorship.

Talk soon turns to the musical state of the nation, and what kind of role Beady Eye see themselves as playing over the next 12 months. Andy Bell is the first to extend the diplomatic olive branch to their fellow class of 2011 up-and-comers.

"In the spirit of this being a new band I think we should probably declare an amnesty on everyone that Liam has dissed in the past," he says. "Let's put it all under the table and start from scratch with a clean slate."

Right you are, then. Take it away, Liam...

"The world is crying out for a great rock'n'roll band. It has been for ages, man. That's why the time is right for Beady Eye. The time is right now. Even in the last 10 years there's been nothing, you know what I mean? And it's not just that there hasn't been one fucking good band. I'm sick of that attitude. There should be loads of fucking good bands out there, looking smart, making great music, fucking doing it. It's not about one band, there should be a load of them, but where are they?"

"It's a wasteland out there," agrees Gem. "Take that Tame Impala album that everyone's getting their knickers in a twist about... it's not a complete album. There's a couple of tunes, that's it. We got into Endless Boogie for about 40 minutes, but it was the same thing again. The Vaccines, too."

BEADY EYE ON...

CHRISTMAS PLANS...

Gem: "I'll be standing in the queue at Argos, taking things back."

Andy: "Christmas is always the same for me every year; kids, dogs, presents, films, TV, booze... it's a *Royle Family* sort of scene. I'm just sat on a sofa with a can of lager in my hand, shouting at people."

Liam: "I'll just be getting up to the usual at Christmas. I'll be sitting there all day, getting wankered. Probably eating loads of fucking food an' all. Same as ever. What are the kids after this year? What do you think? Loads of fucking toys."

STUDENT RIOTS...

Liam: "I loved it, man. Fucking loved it. I'm into the violent side of it, I thought it made for fucking great TV. I still think they should get a fucking job, though. But that's just my personal opinion, you know what I mean? I'd have liked to have gone to fucking college when I was that age, but we couldn't afford it, you know. Some of us had to go down and dig holes on the site with fucking Murphy and Mick. But I'm into people showing their true emotions and getting fucking wound up about things. It's better than being fucking dead, innit?"

THE ROYAL WEDDING...

Gem: "It could be fucking worse. We're all gonna be sick of it by next year, but the way everyone sees it is that they're gonna get two days off work that week. And in that sense, it's class."

Liam: "We don't observe bank holidays in this band. It's all one big bank holiday, one big fucking day off. But I say good luck to them, man. Fair play to the pair of them."



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"They just get fucking found out," growls Liam. "That's the bottom line. It's like, 'Yeah, I've got my eye on you... but I'm gonna train it somewhere else now because you're fucking boring me.'"

Have you heard of Brother, we ask? Four Britpop obsessives from Slough, talk the talk, reckon they're the future of music...

"Are you having a fucking laugh, mate?" snorts Liam incredulously. "Them little fucking wankers? Yeah, I've heard about them. What is it they call themselves, 'gritpop'? They're just little fucking posh lads with tattoos, man."

"There's nothing wrong with being posh," counters Andy.

"Alright, fair point, but there is if you've got fucking tattoos and you're trying to make a bit of a fucking thug out of yourself. Nah, I'm not having them. I'm not having any new bands at the moment, to be fucking honest with you."

As Gem points out, though, Beady Eye are a new band themselves, and "it's hard for a bunch of guys who have been in Oasis for 10 years to then try and make music with that kind of baggage". Let's be frank about it: nobody who hated their old band is going to feel differently about Beady Eye. For the true believers, however, their debut album more than lives up to expectations.

The record is both comfortingly familiar and yet frequently surprising. The production on it is far rawer and sparser than Oasis, mainly due to the fact that much of it was recorded live in just seven weeks.

"I THINK THE TUNES ARE JUST AS GOOD AS 'DEFINITELY MAYBE', IF NOT BETTER" LIAM

Some of the songs were originally destined for a future Oasis album, sure, but others are far more recent. Many of the old touchstones remain, like, for example, the Lennon-esque piano hook (not to mention subtle melodic steals from 'All You Need Is Love' and 'Nobody Told Me') that nailed-on single 'The Roller' is built around, or the fondness for big anthems like 'Kill For A Dream' and 'The Beat Goes On'. But those moments are tempered with the stack-heeled glam-metal of 'Standing On The Edge Of The Noise' (imagine Kiss playing through a PA comprised entirely of bullhorns), the lean 12-bar blues of 'Beatles And Stones', and the six-minute psychedelic lucid dream of 'Wigwam', whose opiated wooziness and wistful *"sha-la-la-la-la"* chorus amounts to possibly the finest song Liam has ever written.

"I think it's up there, mate," says Liam bullishly when we ask how he thinks Beady Eye compares to his other debut album. "The musicians are better, without a doubt. I'm singing as well as I ever have. And I think the tunes are just as good as 'Definitely Maybe' if not better. It's up there, no question. It's a top fucking debut album, regardless of Oasis."

Can Beady Eye really be bigger than Oasis, or is that just bravado?

"That's the whole reason that I'm doing it, man. It might have been bravado, yeah, but that was just how I felt when I woke up that morning. I think we're gonna be fucking big, man. There's no point in saying, 'Oh, we might be kind of big,' otherwise what's the point? Because I know how good we are and I know how good we're gonna be. We're gonna be fucking massive. Come back to us in a couple of years if I'm wrong and then fair play to you, but..."

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Haven't we seen you somewhere before? Liam's three wise men (l-r) Andy, Gem and Chris

Deep within the medial temporal lobes of the human brain are a pair of small neutron clusters known as the amygdala. Each one is roughly the size and shape of an almond, and they play a key role in processing emotional reactions to certain situations. They are the part of the brain that, when the body is in a state of heightened fear or aggression, dictate whether fight or flight is the best option. To put it in lay man's terms: the amygdala are the neurological root of doubt, and Liam Gallagher's are faulty.

No surprise there, but with the end of Oasis, Liam found himself in what normal humans might call a position of perilous uncertainty. The band he had been in since his late teens was over and relations with his brother, the man with whom he had become synonymous in the minds of millions, were severed with curt finality. Together, they had a volatile chemistry, an unquantifiable kind of magic that kept us captivated for almost 20 years. Apart... well, who knew?

'Different Gear, Still Speeding' is the first album Liam has made without Noel. It is emphatically not a solo album, but it's probably going to be judged as such, at least initially. And of course, the Oasis comparisons are so inevitable that even pointing them out seems like a waste of breath. In light of all that, we wonder, did he ever doubt that he...

"What?" he snaps. "Would be able to do it without Noel? Never. Not at all. I can actually do more without him. It does feel different to Oasis, yeah. It feels like we can do things now that we couldn't have in Oasis. I don't know what, exactly, I couldn't point them out to you, but I definitely feel a lot freer and that. Oasis was so fucking set in stone, man. I was gutted at the time when we split up, but that's life, innit? Shit happens, you move on."

As if to illustrate his point, he tells us the story of how long he waited after Oasis split up to start putting a new band together.

"It was that night," he says, matter-of-factly. "We all went back to the hotel, got on the piss and it was like, 'Alright, let's fucking do this.' I might have apologised to the lads, I might not have. I can't remember."

"It was a long night," sighs Gem. "But I'd gotten to the point where I couldn't even think about playing with anyone else anyway. It wasn't so much about carrying on, we just drew a line and started something new. It took about a day."

"It just felt like we had unfinished business," nods Andy. "On every level."

"We just got on with it," adds Liam. "We just went, 'We have to fucking carry on, man.' Because we knew, right away, that was definitely it, you know? We knew there would be no making up. not after that. We knew it was done."

What was the fight in Paris about?

Liam: "It was just another argument that me and our kid had about the usual, just fucking... him being him and me being me. End of. It wasn't a big fucking deal.



"HAS NOEL HEARD THE BEADY EYE LP YET? DON'T KNOW, DON'T CARE"
LIAM

we'd had a lot worse. But I think it was just time, man. I don't think his heart was in it any more anyway. He wasn't with us no more. So he started an argument, and that was it – I bit. Perfect. I played right into his fucking hands. So there you go."

What's your relationship like these days?

Liam: "I haven't got one with him."

Gem: "I'll see him every now and again. I mean, he's a mate, and I was close with him for 10 years. But at the minute, it's mostly just texts and things like that. Every now and again we'll have a little meet-up. But we're busy boys these days. And Noel's busy too."

Has he heard the album yet?

Liam: "Don't know. Don't care."

(At this point, Gem, Chris and Andy look around at each other as if to say, 'Well, has he?' They conclude that, no, he hasn't.)

Was there a worry among the rest of the band when Beady Eye was coming together that you'd be seen to be choosing sides, that you favoured one over the other?

Gem: "No, not at all."

Liam: "Listen, there was none of this nonsense about choosing sides. Noel left Oasis, you know what I mean? He decided, he made his decision, he fucking walked and that was the end of it. There was no choosing sides. He walked out on our tour, and he didn't go, 'Eyare, d'you wanna fucking come with me?' He just went and done his fucking thing, so we went and did our thing. End of story."

Everyone is keen to draw a line under Oasis, careful not to say anything that might spark unwarranted talk of reunion. For Gem "it was the best 10 years of my life... so far." Andy states, unequivocally, that "that part of our lives is over now". And while Liam teases us by claiming that "me and our kid planned all this", from where we're sitting it really does look like End Of Story. Shit happens, you move on.

One thing puzzles us, however. That name. Whose idea was it to call the band Beady Eye?

"That was me," says Liam, grinning and raising his hand sheepishly. "We'd come up with loads of names, but that was the one that rang true for me. But it's not about the name anyway, is it? It's about how good your music is. You could be called fucking Veiny Love Stick, but if your music's shit then it's shit. At the end of the day, a name's a name. It's what you put into it that matters, innit?"

Much like that leopard-print tuxedo, in fact. On 'The Morning Son', the album's sun-dappled, saucer-eyed closing track, Liam sings that, *"I'm here to show, I'll help you out/It takes a lifetime, I've worked it out"*.

If anybody has it worked out, it's Liam Gallagher. After all, this is rock'n'roll. Not just anybody can do this shit, you know.

Check NME.COM over Christmas for exclusive Beady Eye video news and Liam's best quotes and pictures

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Have a very BIFFY CHRISTMAS

2010 WAS THE YEAR OF **BIFFY CLYRO**. WITH SO MUCH TO CELEBRATE, WHO BETTER TO GUIDE US IN THE WAYS OF FESTIVE FUN TIMES? **DAN MARTIN** ENTERS THE ROCK GROTTO...

"I think I've always wanted to be Santa Claus," laughs Biffy Clyro frontman Simon Neil. "I think that's why I bleached my hair and beard the summer. Who doesn't love dressing up as Santa? [Bassist] James got to do it last time we did a Biffy Clyro Christmas card, and thankfully the boys stepped aside and let me take my seat."

And as our big hairy Scottish friend welcomes us into his grotto and onto his knee, it strikes us that the Santa parallels don't end there. After years spent as some kind of alt.rock fable, a band whose brilliance appeared the stuff of cult and myth, people have come to realise that the world is far better if you believe in him than if you don't. And this year, for Simon and Rhythm Twins James and Ben Johnston, that crowd of followers became an army of believers. This was the year that their fifth album 'Only Revolutions' went platinum. This was the year when Courtney Love accosted them at the Shockwaves *NME* Awards and squawked "my daughter loves your band!" causing them to beam round O2 Brixton Academy claiming their lives had just been made forever. This was the year they headlined Wembley. This year, finally, was theirs.

"We can't believe the year we've had," says Simon, genuinely bowled over. "But every year seems to get better than the year before, and it's one of those where we keep expecting it to go wrong. We didn't really think we'd be playing arenas on this record. We were always scared of the prospect of being an arena rock band but no, we're embracing it and enjoying it!"

If none of this feels normal to them, nothing in the Biffyverse is particularly normal by any standard. It's a surreal, slightly twisted cornucopia, one with its own rules and customs. So as Simon surveys his empire of elves, he explained to us how to have a Very Biffy Christmas.

WHAT TO DRINK

"People should drink mulled wine. Mulled wine is mega. You can sit outside, it doesn't matter what you're wearing, you'll feel toasty and comfortable. And it's good to add a wee splash of vodka to it, to give it an extra kick. Yeah, I love mulled wine, that's the quintessential Christmas drink. And some shots of tequila. We drink a lot of tequila, so make sure you have some Patrón on the side as a chaser."

Is a Biffy Christmas a very boozy one?

"Definitely. I remember a couple of years ago I got so drunk that I got ill and couldn't get up for Christmas dinner. I was not forgiven by my family for that one. Christmas Day is not a time when you want to be spewing everywhere. You feel like you're infecting a family get-together with your total debauchery. It's like putting Rambo in the middle of Bambi, it just doesn't work."

WHAT TO EAT

"The thing with me is that I could eat pints and pints of stuffing. I love stuffing so much. Any kind of stuffing too, as long as that's the main thing on my plate, and then a bit of cranberry sauce on the side. The only reason I really like turkey is its relationship to stuffing. You've just got to fill your plate up with stuffing. That's my message to the world."

Have you got a favourite stuffing?

"I like a bit of sage & onion stuffing, but to honest that's the beauty of Christmas, everyone has a different stuffing, and you don't have to restrict yourself to one type at all. I like to go round as many peoples' houses as possible in the days after Christmas and try their stuffing that they hopefully have left. Plus, everyone always makes too much food for Christmas so if you play your cards right you can be eating different kinds of stuffing right up to the tenth of February."

"FILL YOUR PLATE WITH STUFFING! THAT'S MY MESSAGE TO THE WORLD"

WHAT GIFTS TO GIVE

"I think I'm going to give my dad a Rangers football strip – his favourite football team – because I've got a lovely signed strip. I think I'll frame that for him. But he'll probably read this so that'll ruin the surprise. My brother loves anything to do with Apple Macs, iPods, iPads so I'll just give him something with the Apple sign on and he'll love it. It might just be a towel with the Apple on it! My wife's a bit tricky to buy for, I'm still racking my brains."

What about you? What do you want?

"I'm really looking forward to having more than two nights in my house. It sounds pretty basic but we've been travelling so much and you never get to fall asleep where you wake up, so I'm really looking forward to having some home comforts. Having said that, there's this really tasty guitar I've been playing today made by this guy called Hugh Manson, so I might treat myself to that for Christmas. It *is* my job."

WHAT TO LISTEN TO

What's your favourite Christmas song?

"The Low 'Christmas EP' is one of my favourites. I used to work in a bar in the west end of Glasgow and they always used to put on these terrible records and the only one I was allowed to play was the Low 'Christmas' album, 'cos it was really inoffensive. The first song on it, 'Just Like Christmas' is one of my favourite songs ever, it just takes me back to being 19 and working in a bar, in the snow, and the smell of mulled wine."

WHAT TO WATCH

The Christmas Movies

"One of my favourite Christmas movies of all time is *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation*. That will be on at some point, probably about 10am in the morning on Channel 5, so you need to watch that."

Top Of The Pops

"Now that it's not on the rest of the year it makes Christmas all the more special, and hopefully it's not too full of pop shit. Sometimes they have some really good bands on and sometime they just don't. Actually, why the fuck aren't we on it?"

Dappy's Alternative Christmas Message

"I'm not a huge fan of the Queen, I don't really care what she has to say about the year. She's always had a good year. Dappy's doing the alternative one. I would watch that. Brrrrap!"

EastEnders

"I was raised more on *Coronation Street*, but I really enjoy the misery and depression of *EastEnders* because it really cheers you up. To be honest, Christmas Day is not Christmas Day without someone shedding a tear. Whether it's through arguments or drinking too much or *EastEnders*, somebody needs to be crying."

Doctor Who

"I'm not a huge *Doctor Who* fan, but I've got so many friends that are, it's like a way of life for them. I'll probably watch it on Christmas Day. I quite like the look of the new guy. He's also got Marfan Syndrome, which is where your face looks all skeletal like Abraham Lincoln. Any Doctor Who with Marfan Syndrome is fine by me. Robert Pattison's got it too."

THE BIFFY CHRISTMAS WILDCARD

"I have a naked Christmas! No one does that enough. There's nothing like getting to know friends and family when everyone's dongs are swinging."

Why not try that when you tour Australia with Muse?

"We probably will. And then a bit of Black Metal. On a day when Christ is so adored, it's always good to balance that with listening to a bit of Norwegian Black Metal like Mayhem or Darkthrone. A bit of Shakin' Stevens and a bit of Darkthrone. Balance is very important at Christmas."

Head to NME.COM/artists/biffy-clyro for video footage of Biffy Clyro throughout 2010

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CHRISTMAS Rapping

FESTIVE Q&AS WITH THE STARS OF 2010 (PART ONE)

CARL BARAT

Hello, Carl. How are you going to spend Christmas?
"Well, I'm having a baby so I don't **know. Maybe we'll end up spending it** in a manger. Or a maternity ward. She's due around Christmas Day. I'll probably be in a maternity ward, although there's all kinds of Christmas metaphors you can make."
A little Christmas miracle, then. Have you recruited three wise men just in case?
"Oh, I've got a plethora of wise men right here on standby."
Who would be the three?
"Well, wise man number one is Kieron Leonard, my dear friend. Wise man number two would probably be Oliver Reed. Wise man number three is Charlie Chaplin."
What do you want for Christmas?
"A bit of peace, I think. Or should I say world peace. That would be better."
What's the best present you've ever been given?
"Well, the best and worst present I've ever been given was about age 10, from Santa Claus. He got my sister a harp to learn on and I got a bottle of Smirnoff Mule. I don't really know why. Not to implicate my father but it was confusing."
When did you find out there was no Santa Claus?
"Probably when he got my sister a harp and me a Smirnoff Mule."
Were you gutted?
"No, I was drunk."
What are you going to get Pete?
"The thing with Pete is that whatever you get him he'll always lose it in a bar anyway. So maybe I just won't get him anything. I don't know, maybe I'll get him a banjo. Maybe I'll tell him I got him a banjo. There's not much point. Pete takes the lyrics *'imagine no possessions'* to a whole new level."
And what do you think he'll get you?
"I'm imagining no possessions."
Wonderful. Who would be your fantasy Christmas dinner guests?
"Er, Charlie Chaplin, Harpo Marx. And Peter Cook."
Do you like The Queen's speech?
"I used to. But not really, no. Not if James Bond's on the other side."
If you had to address the nation on Christmas Day what would you say?
"I'd tell them to turn it off and get on with it."
What is the true meaning of Christmas?
"I'd say family. Or making a family out of whatever you've got."
What has been your personal highlight of the year?
"Well, I guess my baby. Apart from that, The Libertines reunion. But my baby comes first."
Talk us through your second highlight...
"All these years of doubts and potentially falling through the many vortexes and pitfalls of speculation and conjecture regarding The Libertines, their mythology and their actuality, I think it was withdrawn from any negatives and I felt so happy to be at the centre of something so many people were using as a catalyst for such joy."
What world event has made you the happiest this year?
"The students rallying has given me a renewed faith in our nation."
What's pissed you off the most?
"Well, the coalition..."
Who has been the hero of 2010?
"Obviously not David Cameron. Peter Sellers."
And the biggest dickhead?
"Nick Clegg."



"WHATEVER YOU BUY PETE, HE'LL ALWAYS LOSE IT IN THE PUB"

ANGUS ANDREW

LIARS

What was the best Christmas present you ever gave?
"It was pretty impressive, actually. I met this girl, and we started to have a relationship over email for close on to a year because we were always in a separate part of the world. And then I figured out how you could take all the email correspondence and bind it up in a book, and I gave her that for Christmas. And it sealed the deal!"



CARIBOU

What's your favourite Christmas TV?
"I never watch TV on Christmas Day, but *Watership Down* was on and I hadn't seen it. It's not a Christmas story, but it struck a chord. Poisoned rabbits."
Who's your most cringy family member?
"My dad, once he starts drinking he calls people out on things. And I take after him in many ways, maybe I just need more brandy."



WILLOW SMITH

What's the best Christmas present you ever got?
"The best present I ever got was a house made out of yarn. This year I'm going to give my family a thousand bucks each. Just kidding. No, I'm going to give them each hugs and kisses."



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SINGLES *all the way*

IT'S HERE! OUR ANNUAL CELEB-STUDDED ROUNDTABLE REVIEW OF THE BIGGEST TRACKS OF THE YEAR...



Don't be fooled by the badges. It's (l-r) Terema, Prof, JR, Theo, Alex, Brett and Krissi

Your Panel

TEREMA WAINWRIGHT & ALEX WARREN
AKA those Welsh dudes from the Jay-Z 'Empire State Of Mind' parody

BUSY YEAR? No, took an afternoon to film
DISTINGUISHABLE MARKS: Welsh accents (apart from Alex)
TARDINESS: On time

PROFESSOR GREEN
AKA Stephen Manderson

BUSY YEAR? Three hit singles, a tour and an album
DISTINGUISHABLE MARKS: Large scar and tattoo of the word 'Lucky' on his neck
TARDINESS: Leaves promptly to be on *Never Mind The Buzzcocks*

JONATHAN ROSS (OBE)
AKA Mr BBC 2001-2010

BUSY YEAR? Had BBC chat, film and radio shows until July. Then not so busy
DISTINGUISHABLE MARKS: Strange semi-parts of a beard
TARDINESS: Half an hour late, but arrives in style in an old sports car

THEO HUTCHCRAFT
AKA the bloke from Hurts

BUSY YEAR? Three singles, a tour and an album
DISTINGUISHABLE MARKS: Extremely snappy dresser
TARDINESS: Leaves promptly to be a guest on *The Alan Titchmarsh Show*. Yes, really

BRETT ANDERSON
AKA Suede frontman

BUSY YEAR? "I'll never reform Suede," Brett told *NME* in February. Suede reformed in March
DISTINGUISHABLE MARKS: So thin you could use him to rake the garden
TARDINESS: Cashes in on Ross' lateness

KRISSI MURISON
AKA *NME*'s editor, dummy!

BUSY YEAR? Edits *NME* every week
DISTINGUISHABLE MARKS: Nice hair
TARDINESS: Perfectly on time



BANG BANG BANG
MARK RONSON

Theo: "I love this. It's a great comeback record. He straddles the US and European sound very well."
Jonathan: "He played my show and I didn't like the live version. It sounds good now. I like the structure."
Krissi: "I hated the Mark Ronson 'Version' album, it was so loungy and cheesy. But this song is really interesting. It's a take on a French nursery rhyme."
Alex: "I didn't like the covers album either so I haven't given him a chance subsequently."
Brett: "I like the retro '70s futuristic video. It is a grower. The rap is cool."
Theo: "I like the clever use of synths. They're all analogue but he still makes them sound fresh."
Professor Green: "I love the way he's reinvented himself as a retro synth-man extraordinaire. I performed this with him at T4 *Stars Of 2010* and the reaction was crazy."
Jonathan: "He looks so much like a pop star, half the work is done already."



ON MELANCHOLY HILL
GORILLAZ

Jonathan: "I love the way it's so subtle. It's very confident to do something so low-key all the way through."
Professor Green: "It's so simple yet infectiously catchy. Damon Albarn has the Midas touch and he is someone I would love to work with."
Terema: "I love the cartoons!"
Jonathan: "I like that sound. People take Game Boys apart and make music on the soundcard. I like J-Pop; Japanese-y, manufactured pop music."
Brett: "I like the weird distorted keyboard sounds. Jamie Hewlett lives in my street so I'd better be nice about this for the next time I need to borrow a lawnmower off him."
Jonathan: "It's not something you'd reach for but it's nice when it comes on. Like a palate cleanser on a long drive."
Alex: "I can imagine listening to it on a train journey."
Brett: "It's got a sense of motion about it."
Theo: "This is a little bit too dreamy and meandering for me. They were a letdown at Glastonbury. Too much noodling for my liking."



WONDERFUL LIFE
HURTS

Terema: "I love the bit where they jump in the pool in the video. It looked freezing!"
Theo: "We got Ibiza on a bad day."
Jonathan: "Is it for an Ibiza crowd?"
Theo: "It's about Bristol. I'd never been, but the [river] Severn and Temple Meads seemed like nice things to sing about. We've played it around the world and I've said, 'This is about Bristol, Greece!' And they go... *(shrugs)*. But in Bristol they went mental. They were like, 'Why do you love Bristol so much?' I was like, 'Er, this is my first time.'"
Brett: "It's a great pop song. The more you hear it the hookier it gets. Except, erm, you can't really give a considered

WORDS: RICH PELLEY PHOTOS: ED MILES

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opinion about someone when you're sitting next to them"
Professor Green: "Kanye West would"
Krissi: "I didn't really get Hurts until I saw you live. You're quite a Marmite band because you're pop and flamboyant but you have an indie background and that confuses people."
Theo: "We trade upon that... what people hate about it is exactly the same as what people love about us. They say we're over the top. But it's pop music. Why wouldn't it be?"
Krissi: "And people think, 'Do you wear those clothes to go and get the milk in the morning?'"
Jonathan: "You look like you've just got out of bed to me."



BRING THE LIGHT
BEADY EYE

Jonathan: "I like it, but it's not a classic. It's got a nice, stompy sound, and it's very 1970s. It sounds a bit like ELO with a little Dave Edmunds thrown in. It's going to sound much better live than on the radio."
Brett: "I think it's very commendable that Liam's had the bravery to go it alone. It's far better to test yourself and fail than it is to plod on like so many bands seem content to do. The whole point is to inspire and if that means challenging yourself with solo records and forming new bands, so be it. Good luck to him, I say."
Theo: "Oasis used to be a band with so much foresight and ambition. They needed to split up to challenge themselves. Liam's voice has immeasurable power, but I've always been a Noel man."
Krissi: "I'm actually really pleased it doesn't sound too much like Oasis. I'd love to know what Noel thinks of it."
Professor Green: "Any Gallagher brother solo project was always going to be overly scrutinised. They're British institutions and exceptionally talented. I've always liked what they have done and this is no exception. This is great British rock'n'roll."
Terema: "Good for Liam for trying new things, I say."



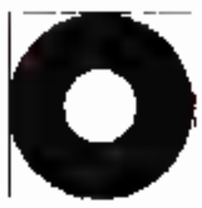
I NEED YOU TONIGHT
PROFESSOR GREEN

Jonathan: "I like it. When I hear a sample, I find it hard to decide whether I'm just happy to hear the original again. In a way, it's cheating."
Professor Green: "I'm not as cool as Michael Hutchence so I wrote a self deprecating version."
Theo: "I think it's great. Sampling is a tradition of hip-hop and this year has been a great year for British hip hop."
Jonathan: "Is this hip-hop or is it grime or one of the many other new terms I've encountered?"
Professor Green: "I come from a rap background, so it's rap."
Brett: "I love the disinterested female voice. The original is so overtly sexual and po-faced and you've turned it on its head and written a rap about rejection and failure. It's very British."
Terema: "You remind me a bit of a British Eminem."
Professor Green: "Except my balls haven't dropped!"
Jonathan: (*Noticing*) "Is that 'fuck' or 'luck' on your neck?"
Professor Green: "'Lucky'. I got it two weeks before I got stabbed. Some muppet did it in a club with a broken bottle. He was mouthing off right in my face. Normally I'm really passive but I nutted him and the next thing he came at me so I put my hand up and I got stabbed in the neck. It missed my carotid artery by millimetres. Any higher and I could have lost the use of my arms or the whole left side of my face could have fallen."
Terema: "Did they get him?"
Professor Green: "I was rolling around on the floor with him outside the club so they arrested him on the spot. The Crown prosecuted him. I've heard that he's going to get seven to 10 years."
Jonathan: "Well, this is a lovely Christmas story... We just need a bit of Coldplay or Radiohead and this could be a fantastic *X Factor* backstory."



SHE SAID
PLAN B

Alex: "I think this is a lovely record.'
Theo: "I loved him for his first record, but I love the fact he had dreams and ambition to move him forward."
Brett: 'That's the thing you expect him to be this brutal rapper and he's got this golden, angelic voice. You don't expect that voice to come out of that body."



NEWPORT (YMERODRAETH STATE OF MIND)
MJ DELANEY/LEO SLOLEY/TOM WILLIAMS/ALEX WARREN/TEREMA WAINWRIGHT

Jonathan: "What does 'Ymerodraeth' mean?"
Terema: "It means 'Empire' in Welsh."
Jonathan: "I never know how to judge music with jokes alongside stuff that is saying something about the grand sense of human condition."
Alex: "It's probably best not to. I feel like a complete charlatan. I'm an actor. I've never rapped before in my life. I'm not even Welsh!'
Terema: "Well, his dad is from Abergavenny. I'm an actor too. I'm from a village called Pencarreg in Carmarthenshire. It was written by the director MJ Delaney and her boyfriend, a comedy writer. We were just hired to star in it."
Brett: "The words are really clever. It's a beautiful, elegant song, juxtaposed with something very prosaic. The wordplay is really funny. '*Josie D'Arby's from Newport/ No we didn't know either/Thank you Wikipedia*' It's brilliant."

Professor Green: "To go from 'What Needs Actions When You Got Words' to 'The Defamation Of Strickland Banks' was phenomenal. The whole concept of the album is great."
Jonathan: "He can really sing. I'd rather listen to a bad singer sing a song that they wrote rather than a brilliant singer with a song that was written for them by three blokes in a shed."
Brett: "I tend to switch off with really good singers. It's like when someone has had too much plastic surgery – they're too perfect. It's the flaws, the personality that makes people interesting."
Krissi: "It's the *X Factor* thing. Anyone with any quirks gets ironed out. In that world, all that's important is being able to sing note-for-note perfect."
Theo: "It's great that he's managed to break Europe with a sound so inherently British. He's what Britain needs, someone so unique. Long live Plan B!"

"OASIS HAD AMBITION – THEY NEEDED TO SPLIT UP TO CHALLENGE THEMSELVES"
THEO HUTCHCRAFT



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Jonathan: "The piano has such an epic chord change on that track, it doesn't matter what you're singing about. I happen to have a lyrical blindness where – much to the joy of my family, I can never sing along with the words of songs."

Theo: "I'm the same with comedy songs... But rap makes sense completely."

Professor Green: "That's because of the battle background. You have to be insulting but spontaneous and funny."

Krissi: "What's amazing is that Jay-Z must have heard it."

Theo: "You can imagine Beyoncé going, 'Who's Shirley Bassey?'"

Alex: "Island Records approached us to release it as a charity single. Alicia Keys said yes, the two ghostwriters said yes, but Jay-Z said no. Snoop Dogg would have said yes."

Jonathan: "Diddy would have said yes!"



ANIMAL NITRATE
SUEDE

Brett: "I don't want to sit through this with a load of people! I wasn't expecting to go though this humiliation!"

Jonathan: "I remember you on the front cover of *NME* with Bowie."

Brett: "Why is this even here?"

Krissi: "Suede have reformed and are playing shows and it's such a big deal! That still sounds as exciting as it did when you first came out."

Theo: "I think it's still relevant because it says something about the time when Britain was aside from Europe and America. The whole country was excited about Britpop. Now, pop music is dominated by American music."

Brett: "One thing you can say about Britpop is that it did celebrate its own talent. I think there is incredible talent in this country and we should look for it."

Professor Green: "I think that's why urban music has started doing so well. For a long time there was a lot of Americanism in music, but now we've really let go of that."

Brett: "Whenever I'm asked for advice about songwriting, I say, 'Put detail into your work'. It gives it a ring of authenticity. That's what I did in the early '90s, I sang about the world around me."

"I'M GOING TO GO ON RECORD AND SAY I LOVE SONGS WITH WHISTLING" JONATHAN ROSS



LET'S GO SURFING
THE DRUMS

Jonathan: "I had them on my show and they were terrible."

Krissi: "I don't think many of them could play before they formed the band."

Jonathan: "I'm going to go on record and say I love songs with whistling."

Brett: "All songs with whistling?"

Jonathan: "A high percentage of whistle-based music I enjoy."

Krissi: "This was the song that broke them over here but then they stopped playing it live."

Brett: "Maybe it's because you can't whistle loud enough at a festival? I really like some of the lyrics. They're very Morrissey-esque."

Theo: "I like the brooding darkness of



SPANISH SAHARA
FOALS

Brett: "Can we talk about Foals please? We seem to have reviewed a lot of pop records but we're in the *NME* offices and *NME* have always championed things towards the leftfield. I think Foals' album is fantastic and it's a beautiful record."

Theo: "It's almost anti-pop, so it's very hard to compare. But I love this. It's full of beauty and emotion."

Krissi: "'Spanish Sahara' was voted Track Of The Year by our writers. It's a great record."

Professor Green: "I really like this. It's melodic and haunting with a fantastic build. It manages to be great indie without a jangly guitar in sight."



FUCK YOU
CEE LO GREEN

Theo: "This was dismissed by a lot of people for being gimmicky, but I don't see it."

Brett: "This is half comedy when you see it in the context of the video. But I think it's absolute genius."

Professor Green: "It's so refreshing to hear something uplifting and fun without it being saccharine sweet."

Jonathan: "There's been a few 'Fuck You' records recently. I think Lily Allen had one."

Krissi: "Eamon had 'Fuck It (I Don't Want You Back)'."

Jonathan: "Someone should bring out 'Now That's What I Call Fuck You'."

Krissi: "I'm disappointed that they changed it to 'Forget You' instead of just bleeping it."

Jonathan: "We can still love this version. I love the way his voice goes so high that he almost loses it. When you hit perfect notes all of the time it just gets boring."

Theo: "It's such a great pop song, with real heart and soul."

Professor Green: "Cee Lo has a serious voice and this is bang on the money."

Jonathan: "It's my single of the year for sure. And Professor Green. And Plan B. Can I have three?"



NME.COM Head to *NME.COM* for behind-the-scenes footage of Jonathan Ross arriving late and grumpy, Brett Anderson eating biscuits, Theo from Hurts fondling tinsel and lots more festive record-reviewing fun

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CHRISTMAS Lapping

FESTIVE Q&AS WITH THE STARS OF 2010 (PART TWO)

EZRA KOENIG
VAMPIRE WEEKEND

Hello Ezra, how are you planning to spend Christmas?
"I think I'm probably gonna be in New York this year. I don't have a routine really. Last year I went to a Knicks game, I thought that was a pretty cool thing to do on Christmas Day. They had these uniforms that were green and orange instead of blue and orange. There was a nice holiday atmosphere at Madison Square Garden."



What's the best present you've ever been given?
"Probably an N64. My favourite game was far and away *GoldenEye*. You could just play it with three or four of your bros and go to town. It was a great thing to do."
Who would be your dream Christmas dinner guests?
"Probably The Pope to make it kind of official. And also he could help to put the Christ back in Christmas. I want it to be really classy."
Are you a fan of partridge?
"I've definitely had quail, guinea hen... various types of foul. But I don't know about partridge. It's something for the list."
When did you find out there was no Santa?
"Erm, I think I always knew. From an early age I've always tried to pick through myths and stuff. I had my feet on the ground."
What is the true meaning of Christmas?
"To honour the power of nature and recognising the fact that the world is created and it gets really cold and snowy and you need to respect the power of the winter."
What's been your highlight of 2010?
"There have been so many. We played a run of three shows at Radio City Music Hall in New York – that was pretty cool. Those are our big hometown shows, and three years after we first started touring to come home and play these really big shows and have our friends and family there in this historic venue was exciting."
Hero of the year?
"I'll say Kenny Powers from *Eastbound And Down*. Do you guys have that show in England? He's such an amazing character – that show has brought me so much joy this year."
What about this year's villain?
"That guy Glenn Beck on the TV scaring all the old people into buying gold and shit. He seems like a pretty crazy dude."

YANNIS PHILIPPAKIS
FOALS

Hey Yannis! Will Foals be doing Christmassy stuff together as a band this year?
"Well, we all still live together, so we'll obviously hang out. We usually go to a pub in Oxford called The King's Arms when it gets near Christmas – it has quite a festive atmosphere. Will we be buying each other presents? Er, no."
You're not seeing family then?
"My family lives in Greece, but I try not to go there in winter. Often my dad comes over here instead. He has some odd Christmas customs – he once brought a goat over in a suitcase. I'm pretty sure that's illegal, but we ate it anyway. It tasted OK, actually."
What's the Philippakis family Christmas like then?
"Well, obviously we're not super-British so we don't eat Christmas pudding or



any of the traditional stuff like that. I used to get excited about all the films that are on TV, but not so much these days. My favourite Christmas tipple? I like a drop of Drambuie."
How was your year?
"Mindblowing. The highlight was releasing a second record that we were happy with, though Glastonbury was special too..."
What's your New Year's resolution?
"To try and stop smoking. Next year I really need to look after my health."
What was your album of the year?
"Ariel Pink's Haunted Graffiti – 'Before Today'. It's a bizarre album in some ways but it has massive hooks, unashamed pop hooks."
And your track of the year?
"Caribou – 'Leave House'. It's just really well put together and sounds fresh."

THERESA WAYMAN
WARPAINT

Yo Theresa, what do you really want for Christmas?
"I told my mom I wanted to have anything music-related. I'm obsessing over guitar pedals lately, that's what I want for Christmas. Pedals, anything related to music. I'm interested in finding old drum machines and stuff like that."
What's the best present you've ever been given?
"When I was eight I got a BMX bike. It was my first two-wheeler and I felt really cool on that bike. I remember I woke up really early, it was still dark outside and I went over by the tree and there was a bike all set up under it. My sister got a bike too, it was one of those Christmasses where it's like, 'Woah!' you have these massive presents under the tree."
Who would be your dream Christmas dinner guest?
"Santa Claus."
What's the weirdest thing you've ever eaten at Christmas?
"I actually ate some pretty weird meats other day. I went to this really strange restaurant in Los Angeles called Animal, and they serve high-end gourmet meats, things like Rocky Mountain oysters and pig's ears and bone marrow. I tried many of the different dishes but I didn't like them that much. Bone marrow has a really extreme flavour."
What's the most drunk you've ever been on Christmas day?
"Not very drunk. I think I might this year. On Thanksgiving this year I was drinking the most. I ended up not eating very much but cooking a lot."
Who is the biggest dickhead of the year?
"Satan."



TOM ORELY, VICTOR FRANKOWSKI, BEN RAYNER, AARON FARLEY

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DARWIN DEEZ

Howdy Darwin! How will you be spending Christmas?
"I'm gonna be in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, where I grew up, with my parents and my sister. My parents are still married, and my sister's not married yet so no complications yet, still classic Christmastimes."
What do you want for Christmas?
"I don't know, I think maybe, like, some new socks, and some new in-ear monitors."
Those are very useful gifts...
"Yeah, I always prefer useful things. Every year my mum suggests like a month before Christmas that maybe we don't buy each other presents this year... we always do. My parents are really hard to get presents for because they have really high standards. The present has to cost a significant amount of money, but not too much, and it has to be really thoughtful... like it has to be really personal, otherwise bad things can happen."
Do you look at Christmas from a different perspective what with all your spiritualism?
"I'm, aside from the gift anxiety it's actually pretty standard. My parents were both born into Christian families so we celebrate the Christmas tradition. We even go to church, even though my parents aren't normal Christians in the way that other people are. It's boring, though, because every time we go there it's Christmas Eve so we always hear the same sermon."
What do you think is the true meaning of Christmas?
"I think the true meaning of Christmas is that... there's a wealth greater than material wealth."
Who would be your dream Christmas dinner guests?
"Probably Meher Baba, 'cos it would be a good time. He dropped body in 1969. And I bet Steve Jobs would have some cool things to tell us about on Christmas. Maybe Mark Ruffalo would be good too."
Do you have a New Year's resolution?
Yeah, I do, I'm working on freestyling better and improving my time management. I'm extremely lacking in time management. I'm one of those people where it just takes me a long while to get in the groove – and once I get in the groove I can work for hours and hours – but that really doesn't help me have the most balanced day, it doesn't help me being productive."

"MY FAMILY GO TO CHURCH EVERY CHRISTMAS – IT'S BORING, THOUGH"



BETHANY COSENTINO

BETH COAST

Hi Bethany! What's the best present you've ever been given?
"My dad bought my first guitar for Christmas when I was 13. It was a Fender Squier Strat which is probably the most inexpensive guitar you can buy, but it did the job, it taught me how to play what I know how to play now!"
Who would be your dream Christmas dinner guests?
"Kanye West, Stevie Nicks, Nicki Minaj and I guess Santa Claus."
What do you think you would all talk about together then?
"I think we would talk about witchcraft. I think Stevie Nicks would lead the conversation and we would all talk about witches and crystal healing and stuff."
Are you an expert in crystal healing?
"No, I like crystals but I don't really know that much about them. My mum is kind of a new age hippy, that kind of introduced to me all that stuff but I don't know that much about Wicca or crystals, hopefully I'll learn more."
Have you ever eaten a reindeer?
"Eaten a reindeer? No, I'm a vegetarian I would never eat a reindeer, that sounds horrible."
What do you think is the true meaning of Christmas?
"I think it's just about hanging out with family and having fun and celebrating. To me Christmas really signifies the end of the year. Obviously there's New Year, but its kind of a time to be with your friends and family and reflect on the year and eat loads of good food and get drunk. That's what I think is the meaning of Christmas."
Who's been your hero of 2010?
"Probably Kanye, I think he has, as I've become more accustomed to the lifestyle that I lead now, you know, interviews and travelling all the time – obviously I'm on an entirely different scale than Kanye West, but I relate to some of the things he says sometimes and I respect his honesty. People often take him the wrong way and think he's an asshole, but I think he's just being honest and I really respect that about him. I want Kanye to respond to one of my tweets to him."
Who's been your villain of the year?
"I don't think I have one, I'm trying to make peace with everyone and put any hate aside."

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THEY SPEAK BEC

AND SOMETIMES IT'S A LOAD OF OLD BOLLOCKS. HERE ARE THE QUOTES OF 2010



THE EGO HAS LANDED

"I try to compete against the past. Michelangelo, Picasso, the Pyramids" KANYE WEST

"I THINK MY GREATEST ASSET IS MY EMOTIVE SOUNDING VOICE" KELE

"THERE'S ONLY ROOM FOR ONE EGO IN THIS BAND, AND THAT'S MINE" TAHITA BULMER, NEW YOUNG PONY CLUB

"I'M RICH ENOUGH NOW TO HAVE YOU KILLED" MIA

"I'M NOBODY'S FUCKING BOSS. I DON'T HAVE A FUCKING BOSS SO I WOULDN'T WANT TO BE ONE OF THEM... EVERYONE CAN KISS MY FUCKING ASS. I USED TO HAVE A BOSS... YOU KNOW WHAT THAT GUY DOES NOW? HE FIXES THE FENCE ON MY FARM" CALEB FOLLOWILL, KINGS OF LEON

...AND YOU ARE?



"There was a fella taking paparazzi shots in Liverpool the other day and we said, 'Don't' and he went, 'Yeah, alright then, who's gonna give a shit anyway?' He was very easily persuaded" JAMES SKELLY, THE CORAL

FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD

"I COULD LAUNCH A RANGE OF YOGHURTS. IF I DID A YOGHURT IT WOULD PROABLY DO REALLY WELL BECAUSE EVERY-ONE WOULD BE LIKE, 'FUCKING HELL, EXAMPLE'S GOT A YOGHURT'" EXAMPLE

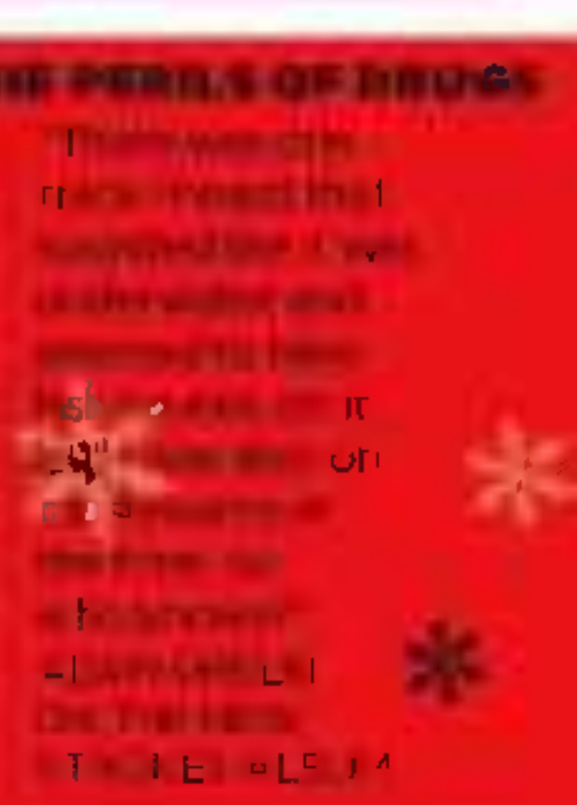
"I find mythical animals nothing but frustrating, because they're impossible to eat" CHRIS CAIN, WE ARE SCIENTISTS

"I used to work in a meat factory, putting the fillings into pies. If you saw what went in them... you'd never eat meat again" HARRY JOHNS, DINOSAUR PILE-UP



"I'VE GOT A SCAB ON MY STOMACH WHICH I'VE BEEN PICKING BITS OFF AND EATING OCCASIONALLY" YANNIS PHILIPPAKIS, FOALS

THE PERILS OF DRUGS



"THE LAST GIG WE PLAYED BEFORE COMING TO EUROPE WAS CRAZY. IN ONE CORNER SOME DUDE WAS SHOOTING UP, IN THE OTHER THIS CHICK WAS GETTING EATEN OUT AND IN THE MIDDLE PEOPLE WERE FIGHTING WITH A SWING" MASON ORFALEA, CEREBRAL BALLZY

"PETE DOHERTY SAID TO ME, 'GOD YOU'RE REALLY FUCKED. YOU NEED TO GO TO BED.' THAT WAS SOBERING"

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CAUSE THEY CAN

ANIMAL ATTRACTION

"I'm not saying, 'Let's go and kill all the polar bears and the freaking Bengal tigers.' What I'm saying is that they're freaking minks which are, at the end of the day, rodents, and there are tons of them" KELIS



"My bearded dragon is not a sexy pet. It's got salmonella in its shit... He's cool though, he's very punk" PLAN B

MEANWHILE, IN ANOTHER DIMENSION

"I REALLY HOPE I CAN CONNECT WITH PEOPLE IN THE NME WORLD"
DIANA VICKERS

"I know they still have a great career ahead"
LOUIS WALSH ON JEDWARD

"MY NEW MUSIC SOUNDS LIKE LADY GAGA MEETS THE PRODIGY"
VANILLA ICE

"I saw a winged lizard ascending a spiral staircase. At the top of which was a glowing white orb... the orb was God"
JAMIE REYNOLDS, KLAXONS

"I HAD THIS DREAM ONCE, BUT MY CAT WOKE ME UP BEFORE I FUCKED KURT COBAIN"
AKIKO MATSUURA, COMANECHI/ THE BIG PINK

FIGHT! FIGHT! FIGHT!

"I'M NOT A FAN OF ANY BANK. TO ME, THEY'RE ALL CUNTS!"
– LIAM FRAY, THE COURTEENERS

"Thanks to Rick Rubin for teaching us how not to produce"
MATT BELLAMY, MUSE

"THE PROBLEM WITH TOURING WITH MUSE WAS THAT ALL THEIR FANS WERE REALLY UGLY"
ROBBIE FURZE, THE BIG PINK



"I fucking loathe bands for just existing because they like what they do. Go fuck yourself! That's not a good enough reason to exist"
JAMES MURPHY, LCD SOUNDSYSTEM

"The Tories? I'd just set fire to the fuckers. I mean, they're just horrible, aren't they?! I would actually set fire to them. Every single one of them, one by one"
TOM MEIGHAN, KASABIAN

"When I see bands like The Drums being fawned over, it makes me feel ill. There is literally no soul in that band"
NICKY WIRE, MANICS

PILLOW TALK

"CAN I GET SUPER-PASSIONATE, CAN I GET A BONER FOR THEM, CAN I GET AN ORGASM LISTENING TO THEM? NO"
BRET EASTON ELLIS ON COLDPLAY

"This record is not coming-of-age, it's just cumming... it's got a lot of cock in it"
WILL REES, MYSTERY JETS

"I WAS AT A CLUB, AND THINKING WHICH SLAG WOULD BE THE RIGHT ONE FOR ME TO TAKE HOME. DON'T WRITE 'SLAGS'. PUT 'HOTTIES" GIGGS

"If you look down and your pubic hair's grey you don't really think,'Great!'"
WAYNE COYNE, THE FLAM NG LIPS

"I had the one good threesome ever with Billy Corgan and a stylist in '97"
COURTNEY LOVE

"A few weeks ago I went up to my in-laws' house. The whole time I smoked weed, did shots of tequila and walked around nude"



AND FINALLY...



"I never read *NME* in a world where *Nuts* and *Zoo* exist, a magazine full of boring words and photos of miserable long-haired dickhead bands who think they're cool 'cos one of them wears a tie and the other one can play a violin is not going to sell. You need to have a word with Lucy Pinder or that blonde one from *Big Brother*, and organise a full-on 'les-be friends' shoot for the cover"
JAY, THE INBETWEENERS

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Little DRUMMER Boys

THEY BEGAN THE YEAR AS INDIE'S BRIGHT HOPES, AND ENDED IT A MAN DOWN. SO WILL THE DRUMS' CHRISTMAS WISHES COME TRUE? MARK BEAUMONT FINDS OUT...

Do you think there's such a thing as a festive happy ending? Really? Take the cautionary tale of The Drums a band who've had a fairytale 2010 full of magazine covers, album of the year plaudits, headline gigs and an entire US invasion amassing behind them. Yet – fittingly for a band whose flamboyant onstage personas, cheery whistle solos and collywobbling surf pop disguise songs of heartbreak, death, insecurity and spite – they end 2010 a man down (guitarist Adam Kessler unexpectedly quit the band in September) and feeling far from happily-ever-after.

"It was as beneficial as it was detrimental to our well-being," says drummer Connor Hanwick, settled into the bar of a traditionally grotty Camden hotel with the sweet smell of mulled wine (or possibly the bins) wafting in the scent of a truly British Christmas.

'There are definitely mixed emotions there," adds a narrow lipped Jonathan Pierce. "It was such a rush, and continues being a rush even now. We've been on the road for two years and there hasn't been a moment where we can even reflect on what's happening. We've never had that moment that you see in movies where a band gets a song on the radio and we all jump up and down and scream. We never had parties."

Let's take a 'moment' to relive The Drums' rollercoaster of a year. Last Christmas, they gave us the effervescent (if unseasonal) 'Let's Go Surfing' and pretty much the very next day we gave them our Best New Bands Of 2010 cover. Which, for a bunch of New York Pastels fans who've been making electro-pop and noise rock in various incarnations for a decade, must've felt a bit like Ann Widdecombe being nominated for Young Ballerina Of The Year.

"It was very strange," Jonathan nods. "This is the first band that we've put the analogue synths away and tried to make a guitar record, having not known how to play guitar. Then this happens. That's the best part, this idea that maybe, as delusional as it probably is, you're part of some sort of change in the musical climate."

Such January jaw-waggling thrust The Drums onto UK and European tours which finally allowed them to be immersed in a world they'd only dreamed of as Euro obsessed indie kids. In Glasgow, for instance – "another Graceland" to The Drums – they were adopted like lost vank cousins, singing with Scot-pop heroes Camera Obscura, The Wake and Clare Grogan, running into Stephen Pastel in his Monorail record shop and being talked into playing an impromptu stripped-down set in a small bar across the road.

"It was a really cool feeling to be in this city you've always idealised, playing a tiny show in a basement," guitarist Jacob Graham enthuses. "You feel like you're getting the full effect."

"You dream about a place like that," Jonathan agrees, "and to be embraced by those very people.. I mean, The Wake made us want to start this band."

The flipside of their hype, however, was just as quick to the surface. "We'd heard there was this excitement about The Drums," Jonathan recalls, "so we flew over here and opened for this band White Lies and..."

Jacob "..their audience hated us."

Jonathan "Not even courtesy clapping, nothing. Then we came to understand why they wouldn't like us. It actually made us feel triumphant, 'if this crowd loves White Lies and hates us maybe we're doing something right'."

Perhaps it was down to the incongruity of these jittery, desperate pop songs being performed by a man doing comedy surfing mimes. Les Dawson boob tickles and acting like a cross between Morrissey and a Chuckle Brother. You are a *little bit* ridiculous..

"We had this idea of bringing back show manship,"

> **"IF 2011 GOES SMOOTHLY, WE'LL STILL FUCK IT UP" JONATHAN PIERCE**

Jonathan explains, entirely unoffended. "The era of the frontman seems to have gone away and that's why me being any more animated than simply standing still and singing, people compare me to a frontman of old. We'd rather people question what we're doing or be offended than say 'That was a nice show'."

Jacob "People thought it was a joke at first."

Jonathan "Manic Street Preachers don't like us very much. They said we don't have souls."

As the year wore on, the Manics looked increasingly in the minority. In London Heaven and then a brace of Forum gigs sold out. Both the "Summertime!" EP and The Drums' self titled debut album received breathless receptions. But as the relentless touring ratcheted, the cracks started to show. Whether it was personality clashes or good old 'nervous exhaustion' – "we never really got a clear reason from him" – guitarist Adam Kessler became increasingly dislocated from the band, eventually leaving in September. Did the situation worsen over the entire year?

"It did," says Jonathan, 'to the point where when he left it wasn't the craziest thing we could have imagined. But still it was like, 'I can't believe he did that'."

"Maybe when you're so insulated in this world it's easy to delude yourself about the situation" says Connor cryptically. "By that I mean taking things for granted or letting little things build into resentments without having the overall picture."

Jonathan shrugs 'Or he just missed his mother."

Did it feel like, just as the big time was within your grasp, everything was falling apart?

Jacob shakes his head. "Adam wasn't terribly involved with creative decisions, and before he left he was on a different page from the rest of us. So when he did leave, these barriers were broken with us three and we were able to flesh out ideas that maybe we were holding back because of that. It felt like we were stronger."

So The Drums face their first Christmas as a three-piece broken, bloodied but unbowed. Are you hoping for a smoother 2011, boys?

"If it starts to go smoothly, one of us will do something to fuck it all up, for sure," Jonathan grins. "It's an uncomfortable feeling when it seems fine."

Jacob 'We're gonna try hard to fade into obscurity. Next year will either be the most happy, joyous time in my life or the opposite. There won't be an in-between."

He pauses, as if struck by a premonition.

"I bet one of us is going to die next year."

You think the New Year's gonna be happy? Well, merry fucking Christmas.

Relive The Drums' 2010 with exclusive video footage at NME.COM/artists/the-drums

THE DRUMS' PREDICTIONS FOR 2011



Who's the most famous person you'll meet?
Connor: "Liz Taylor. I'm going to go knock on her door."
Jonathan: "I'd leave it in your dreams."
Which movie roles will you be offered?
Jon: "Connor will play Liz Taylor. He's actually a pretty old woman he puts lipstick on. You wouldn't think so, but he scrubs up nice."
Who'll be the next to leave?
C: "Good question. It's got to be Jacob."
Jon: "No."
C: "You think it's me?"
Jon: "I didn't say that."
C: "You think it's you?"
Jon: "Maybe."
C: "Either way it's still cool. If you quit, me and Jacob would keep making music without you but it'd turn into the dumbest, stupidest shit ever."
What's the biggest venue you'll play?
C: "I'd like to play Shea Stadium. It's up to you guys though, I'm not forcing you into it. Actually the idea of playing a stadium is one of the most depressing things I can imagine taking place in my life."
Jacob: "I think we should play smaller venues next year. Dumpsters in Manhattan."
Which A-list actresses will you start dating?
C: "Liz Taylor."
Jon: "All the actresses that we'd be interested in are probably married or lesbians."
C: "Ian Eliot, Julianne Moore."
Jon: "She's fine but I wouldn't want to marry her. I have met her, I used to work in a shoe shop and she came in."

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THE NME PUB Challenge

IT'S BACK! IT'S DOWNRIGHT IMMORAL AND IT'S A BRILLIANT WAY TO GET A LOAD OF POP STARS TRASHED WITHOUT BEING HIT BY A WRIT THE FOLLOWING MORNING! COME JOIN US...





Yup, the *NME* Christmas booze up returns triumphantly to the feral streets of Camden, where we've decided to bring together a random group of musical caners and watch gleefully as drunken hellfire ensues. The rules are, of course, dead simple: a pub crawl featuring as many drinking games as possible, fuelled by £600 worth of booze, with points being awarded accordingly for drinking booze (five points for downing a drink, four if you do it in two, three in three etc), winning games (a point for a correct answer/catching something in your gob), and general rock'n'roll behaviour (decided at *NME*'s discretion). Of course, points are also deducted for anything particularly lame that happens. And thankfully there's a lot of lameness on show tonight.

AND THEY'RE OFF!

British Sea Power's Noble is the first of our gang to turn up to opening boozer The Camden Head pretty much arriving *before NME*. Like a true hero, he's come all the way from Brighton without actually bothering to organise anywhere to stay for the night, simply reasoning that he'll "just sleep next to the train station" if push comes to shove. We admire his ethic and buy him a pint. Rose Elinor Dougall's next, puffing on a fag outside while Lee Newell and Frank Colucci from Brother slink past her – looking only as tattooed yoofs from Slough who describe their music as 'gritpop' can (ie, a bit shifty). Renowned caner and Mystery Jets guitarist Will Rees is more *au fait* with these surroundings, seeing as he's spent the best part of his 'working' life crawling around floors in bars just like this, while Kate Nash – actually notorious in the biz for her wicked way with the bottle (*Could we just add 'allegedly'? – Legal Ed*) – stands at the bar necking Kronenbourg and proclaiming that she's "definitely" got it in her to win. We'll see, Nasher, we'll see. It's Akiko from The Big Pink who stands out, though. Firstly, because she's come dressed as a reindeer, and second because she spends a full 10 minutes standing *outside* the pub in the freezing cold before realising everyone else is inside. In the warm. Drinking.

Anyway, on with the game. The opening round may only be something of a pace-setter, but it seems the simple act of downing your first drink still manages to completely floor Lee, who gets just one third of the way through his Guinness before pussying out because it's apparently "too heavy". And you thought Brother were the new Oasis, huh? Minus two points, straight away. No such problems for anyone else, with both

Runners & Riders



WILL REES
Tipple: Amaretto and Coke
He says: "On tour I drink loads, but I'm a little guy – I'm delicate. But I will win tonight."



MARTIN NOBLE
Tipple: Guinness
He says: "I was about eight when I first got drunk. It was at Christmas. My family thought I'd eaten something."



ROSE ELINOR DOUGALL
Tipple: Red wine
She says: "I suppose I do drink a lot, but usually in the privacy of my own flat. It usually ends up with me crying."



AKIKO MATSUURA
Big Pink
Tipple: No idea
She says: "Am I excited about tonight? No. I thought we'd just be chatting about Christmas."



KATE NASH
Tipple: Brandy and lemonade
She says: "I'm so excited. I get free beer. I have Irish blood so I can definitely drink. On tour I drink – a lot. And this is work, technically!"

WORDS: MATT WILKINSON PHOTOS: ISABELLE MASTRAS

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Clockwise from left: the team sober and standing... well, most of them; Kate Nash's early Christmas wish comes true; Akiko performs an incredible feat of balancing; only early doors, but Lee Brother is feeling a touch queasy



Noble and Kate awarded five points apiece and then some for helping finish the pint of Ireland's finest. A frankly disastrous game of 'Who Am I?' follows, where Akiko fails to guess – let alone have the faintest idea who they are when she's actually told – either of her assignees ('Keith Chegwin' and 'Rambo', incidentally). Noble, meanwhile, applies about three metres of Sellotape (plus the obligatory Post-it note) to his forehead before giving up completely and necking his shot along with anyone else's within reach in an admittedly praiseworthy bid to speed things along.

His hard work pays off and puts him out in front with 12, while Kate's in second with eight. Akiko, Rose, Will and Frank are all on six, and Lee brings up the rear with a quite frankly embarrassing two.

SMASHED!

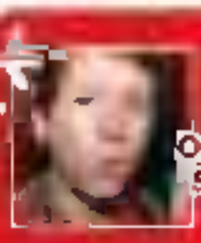
A short walk to The Earl Of Camden then, where the bar staff immediately eye us with suspicion as we roll out the Twister mat and cop another load of drinks to down. Kate and Frank come up trumps this time, while Lee redeems himself slightly by polishing off a G&T in a few Gallagher-esque swigs. At this point, Will mysteriously vanishes, apparently to make a phone call to his "gran", which is obviously complete bollocks. He misses the entire game and is penalised a maximum five points for being a complete arse. Never mind, because Twister is at least *something* of a success, and made all the more endearing when the now-tipsy Noble sends a glass flying, with shards ending up all over the spotted canvas. Luckily, none of our players value their hands whatsoever (who needs hands in the music business anyway?), so it's decided that Kate, Lee and Rose get extra points for continuing the game in the shadow of an act of such utter foolishness.

"I THOUGHT YOU SAID THE 'THROWING PENISES IN YOUR MOUTH' CHALLENGE" AKIKO MATSUURA

Unfortunately, these are instantly taken away again after we bump into the pub manager, who point-blank refuses to serve us any more drinks and effectively boots us out. A quickfire bonus round is drawn up, and Akiko successfully swoops back in and nicks two full bowls of chips, bounding straight back into the Camden night with them (quite a feat considering one wasn't even ours to steal anyway). Points-wise, Chipgate sees Akiko draw level with Kate on 16, Rose and Frank are on 13, Noble and Lee on 10, with Will, thanks to *that* phone call, sliding back to a pathetic one point.

BOMBED!

Venue three. As our by now well-oiled party barges through the doors of The Grand Union a ripple of excitement greets us. The bar staff instantly recognise Kate – thus gaining her an extra point – and endeavour to make our stay at the pub as pleasant as possible. This is a major advantage of being a pop star, it turns out. Whether or not the boozer's management know it, it essentially means we



LEE NEWELL

Tipple: Guinness
He says, "I took it too far last Friday. We started drinking around 6pm, and we didn't get in until 6pm on Saturday. I definitely think we could win this if we wanted to."



FRANK COLUCCI

Tipple: Gin and tonic
He says, "Are Brother big drinkers? Yeah, we are. We're Guinness drinkers usually, but I think for this I'm gonna change tactics and switch to G&T."

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Clockwise from above: we're not sure what religion Lee is practising here but it looks good; Akiko, queen of the peanut catch; the team (plus some drunken tramp in a green parka) hail the mighty Nash; that cup could double as a vom bowl

get plied with as many readies as we want, PLUS a mammoth 17-glass-long Jägerbomb-strip stretching right across the bar, which Kate completely takes control of (cannily trying to gain more points by force-feeding *NME* four of the buggers... we're not that much of a pushover, Nash).

Table football follows, and it's literally a game of two halves as neither Kate, Akiko nor Rose have the faintest idea what they're doing, while Frank, Lee and Noble seem to think they're pundits on *Match Of The Day*. When things inevitably don't go their way, they resort to an age-old trick – rocking the table through sheer drunken aggro-frustration. It backfires and gifts Rose a crucial, match-turning goal. Annoyingly, she celebrates by throwing her drink all over *NME*'s BlackBerry, thus meaning we lose our score card and have to rely on muscle-memory. All of which roughly translates as... Kate's in the lead with 25, Akiko's on 22, Rose 19, Frank 17, Noble and Lee level on 16 and Will trailing with 13. Come on!

THE FINAL FURLONG!

Next up, it's The Monarch, home to the world-renowned 'throwing-a-peanut-into-your-gob' challenge and yet more shots (tequila, sambuca and vodka)... and a bombshell from Akiko, who suddenly remembers she's promised to meet Milo and Robbie from The Big Pink in 20 minutes at some swanky Shoreditch party. "I've chosen love over *NME*," she slurs before buggering off. To make matters worse, she's misheard the instructions for the ensuing game. "I thought you said the 'throwing penises in your mouth challenge'" she says. "I'm really good at that." Oh dear. Amazingly, despite this *faux pas* she catches four out of five peanuts in about 15 seconds – as many as everyone apart from Lee and Frank – and still manages to practically leap out of the door.

Nevertheless, we're forced to disqualify her completely for wimping out before making it to our final venue – The Hawley Arms. Here, one last downing competition – where Kate valiantly finishes off a stray Guinness, Frank bags a G&T and Rose, Will and Lee all fail miserably – and a quickfire round of '10s'. This is the game where those involved have to pick a subject and name 10 relevant things from it in under a minute. Which is piss easy when sober, about as difficult as having herpes when drunk. Kate's first up and somehow manages 10 cartoon characters with surprising ease considering the amount she's swaying (sample conversation to Noble: "Are you in British Sea Power? My dad's a *really* big fan of your band... like, a *reeeeaaaallly* big fan"). Will completely messes up naming 10 capital cities and instead commits to helping Noble and Rose think of 10 acts who played Glastonbury this year, including Mystery Jets, as it turns out. Although, as the guitarist puts it: "The fuckers only booked us on a tiny stage in the middle of nowhere..." In any case, it takes Brother's Lee to bring proceedings to a halt once and for all, when, for no real reason, he decides to sit on the table, knocks over a load of drinks and incurs the wrath of the Hawley's manager...



"WHAT THE FUCK? I AM NOT DRUNK, I CAN KEEP GOING, YOU DOUCHE!" KATE NASH

All of which seems like the right kind of time to remind the group that, actually, there's a mightily serious contest going on here – with the all-important final results ready to be announced. In reverse order, of course. So here goes: last place goes to Akiko – disqualified, naturally. Then there's Will – nine, Rose – 11, Noble – 16, Lee – 20, Frank – 26, and – by a country mile, no less – Kate wins with an impressively worrying 39.

"I am not drunk," slurs Kate drunkenly, before grabbing *NME*'s arm and literally wrestling the 'special' (read: mouldy) trophy we found lying around the offices earlier on from our grasp. "Look – I *can* keep going, you douche!" And with that, into the silverware goes a Guinness, a stray vodka and lime and all manor of sticky, half-finished shots. Got a hand it to her, she's won in style. Though not everyone's happy. "This is a farce!" a voice wails from the melee. It's Lee goading Kate just as she's on her victory lap. "I'm upset that I didn't won," he continues grammar out the window. "What the fuck?" Queen Nash retorts loudly, before getting cut off again. "Silver and bronze," Lee says, turning to *NME* with a look of quasi-spiritualism in his bloodshot eyes, "...equals *platinum*. And you can quote me on that. Gold is *toilet*."

And with that, we all head to nearby Bar-Tok to continue arguing IN THE NAME OF ALL THINGS CHRISTMASSY AND HOLY AND RIGHTEOUS. Aha, it's nice to have brought a bit of festive cheer to the world...

Head to NME.COM/blogs for boozy video footage from the night. It's like being drunk yourself...

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CHRISTMAS Rapping

FESTIVE Q&AS WITH THE STARS OF 2010 (PART THREE)



TINIE TEMPAH

Hey Tinie! What are you getting for Christmas?

"What would I like? So far the best Christmas present is hearing the album's gone platinum. I heard that yesterday and I know that it's not Christmas yet but that was incredible for me. Other than that to get some time off with my family, that would be an awesome Christmas present. To get someone to handknit me a sweater would be incredible."

Do you want to put that out there to the readers?

"Yeah, put it out there. *NME* readers, I know handknitting is probably not your kind of thing, but if you're feeling up for it, man, knit me a sweater, a nice colourful one with loads of patterns, I'd love that."

Do you have any design requests?

"Make it Christmassy, so use a lot of reds and greens, put a couple of reindeers on it. Go wild."

What's the best present you've ever been given?

"Maybe when I was younger, getting things like PlayStations and games and stuff like that. Obviously being around all of my brothers and sisters and my mum and dad, I don't get to do that much any more. I'm going to be very sentimental and say having family time and having loads of family and friends around on Christmas Day. That's the best present ever."

When did you find out there was no Father Christmas?

"Wow, I was probably about five or six. I'm the oldest, so obviously I have quite a close relationship with my mum but I figured it out – why is she wrapping presents? I thought it was cool 'cos there's gonna be more on Christmas Day 'cos there'll be the ones from Santa as well. But staying awake on Christmas Eve the whole night out of sheer excitement and I didn't see Santa. It hit me and I had to break it down to all my siblings that there was no Santa!"

Were you gutted?

"Yeah, I was kind of gutted because you watch the Coca-Cola advert with the bells ringing and the sleighs and I used to honestly think that was him and he was on his way. After a while I realised it was just a marketing campaign to get us all to buy Coca-Cola. I was very disappointed."

Are you a fan of the Queen's speech on Christmas Day?

"Not really, you know. On Christmas Day it's nice to be able to hear a nice message from a public figure. I've nothing against the Queen, but I prefer the sentiment of watching an elder in my family make a speech, it's more personal. So I don't really tend to watch the Queen's speech."

Your mate Dappy is doing the Channel 4 one this year...

"Yeah, I'm quite excited about that. I might tune in to that just to see what outrageous stuff he's going to tell me to do."

Who do you think is a more suitable role model to young people, Dappy or the Queen?

"I dunno, man, Dappy's a close friend of mine, so probably Dappy!"

Which news story made you smile?

"My favourite news story is probably that William and Kate are getting married, because news lately seems to be so negative, there's always something that people are moaning about, and it's nice to hear a little bit of a love story that everybody can relate to and go 'Aaaahhh' about."

Will you have a street party to celebrate?

"Ha, ha, ha! I'm not sure about that."

Maybe you can perform at the wedding?

"Oh mate, who knows? If I do get the opportunity, you guys will be the first to know!"

Whose cracker would you like to pull this Christmas?

"I would probably like to pull Jameela Jamil's cracker. She's a very lovely lady."

"I WANT THE NME'S READERS TO KNIT ME A CHRISTMAS SWEATER"

LEWIS BOWMAN
CHAPEL CLUB

What are you doing over Christmas?

"I'm planning on staying with my nan. I'm going to get a dictaphone out and try and interview her about her entire life. She's about 84 years old now and I've started to realise what an amazing storyteller she is."

PLAN B

Are you a fan of Christmas songs?

"Oh no. I fucking hate Christmas songs. I just think they're always so badly written. I'm not being a grinch or a grooge. I can just about tolerate them at this time of year – it just wouldn't be Christmas without Christmas songs. But if fucking carol singers came to my door, I would definitely throw snowballs at all of them."

LA ROUX

What are you eating for Christmas dinner?

"I hate Christmas dinner, so I've decided this year to make burgers instead. I'm going round to my parents' house and I'm going to make a normal Christmas dinner for everyone else, and burgers for me and my sister. My mum thought it was weird when she found out. But she can have some too if she wants."

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Fuck YULE

NOT ON CEE LO GREEN'S WATCH. EMILY MACKAY MEETS THE BUDDHA OF BADASS – AND HE'S A BIG FESTIVE SOFTY AT HEART

You could be forgiven for being a little intimidated by Cee Lo Green. A forbiddingly solid, Easter-Island statue-like presence, he perches, hidden behind dark glasses, on the edge of a table in a London studio, crossed forearms like tattooed dead seal cubs.

This is the man who spent the latter part of this year roundly telling the world to fuck off. A man who, despite his new-found status as everyone's favourite smoothly suited soul singer (and formerly, the costumed crusader of the darkly wacky, with Gnarls Barkley), was once, with the Goodie Mob, one of the innovators of the 'Dirty South' style, a wild child with a troubled past who could just as easily have ended up a hitman as a singer.

Don't be afraid, though – Cee Lo is exuding goodwill from his every pore. A family-fixated fan of the festive period, while he says the best present he's ever received was a car from his ex-wife (a BMW 745Li. It was black. Black on black, baby...), the best he's ever given was less traditionally blinging – he adopted his stepdaughters on Christmas Day. Yes, we've got that warm feeling in our chests too.

But the gift that Mr Green is most focused on giving everyone this year is his new album. 'The Lady Killer', released back in November, is the smoothest and sweetest thing he's ever done, and after the phenomenal success of 'Fuck You!', likely to introduce him to a whole new audience. It's an album about the joy of good music and just getting the hell on with it and having a laugh. As such, he's been embraced by the mainstream more than ever before, with Gwyneth Paltrow and William Shatner both covering 'Fuck You!'.

"There's been a lot of great moments, of course," he acknowledges. "William Shatner covering the song, someone who I grew up with as Captain Kirk on *Star Trek*. For him to cover my words, and then reach out to me via Twitter and commend me and the song directly, is awesome. He's an iconic image, an idol. And then Gwyneth Paltrow covering it [the actress performed it on *Glee*]... these all sound like politically correct answers, but truthfully they're historic. It's pretty awesome that everyone has kind of gotten involved and made this song theirs."

Massive props from Captain Kirk and Mrs Chris Martin? For Cee Lo, they're the best gift he could have hoped for. Apart from 20 Bensons maybe, though he insists, "I want to cut down on smoking completely. In 2011 I'm gonna make good health a habit." For those of us lacking in his single-mindedness and his it's-all-gravy equanimity, worry not, this unassailable Buddha of baddass will always be there when we just want to tell the world to fuck off. Especially on Christmas Day.



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CEE LO'S CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

So did Cee Lo Green much a Cee Lo Green Christmas present would you buy these celebrities?

ROBBIE WILLIAMS AND GARY BARLOW?
"I'd get them a Christmas card saying 'No hard feelings' ['Fuck You' kept Rob'n Gaz's 'Shame' from the Number One spot in October] I don't think I need to cheer them up. They're very wealthy and famous And legendary. And I don't think it hurt the song I thought it was awesome. I'm very familiar with their history. I saw the video, and I was like, 'Oooooo' (*Intake of breath*). Like what are they getting at? Tongue-in cheek, pretty funny. It was dangerous, I liked it."

DANGER MOUSE
"Maybe I could find him some rare piece of wax that he's yet to discover himself. I'm not sure there's any album that he doesn't own, or know about at least. But if I could surprise him with some relic of an album that maybe he could sample something from or just be inspired by. I'd probably go out in the field and find it rather than eBay, because that's what would make it more charming, I guess. I'd probably have to go through a lot of shops. I'd probably have to leave town."

ROBERT PATTINSON
"I don't even know who that is... oh, the guy from the *Twilight* films who plays the vampire? He's got all the girls, I don't think he needs anything. And he can live forever, so... what more could he ask for? He gets nothing! Give me something, Robert!"

BEN BRIDWELL, BAND OF HORSES
"I'd take him out to eat at Bodeay's That's barbecue food Band Of Horses are country boys like myself, so I'm pretty sure they like barbecue."

FATHER CHRISTMAS
"A nice tie I've never seen him dressed up. I guess I might have to get him a suit as well."

LADY GAGA
"I'd write her a song She's quite an enigma, I think she could do just about anything that she wanted I'm a fan of her style It turns me on."

THE WOMAN IN THE 'FUCK YOU!' LYRICS
"One of those big foam hands with the big 'fuck you' finger. Or I'd send her a Christmas card with some Anthrax in it. I'm just kidding. You have to put 'just kidding' these days..."

PUSSYCAT DOLLS
"Christmas vouchers for Victoria's Secret."

BARACK OBAMA
"I'd probably get him a nice tie too."

KANYE WEST
"I'd get him a painting or some kind of sculpture. Something artful, anyway. I'd have to go out and about and say, 'I'm looking for something for Kanye West.' And that would be just my task for that day. Maybe something from the Louvre. . (*Sings*) *'Oh yeeeeeeeahhh... oh yeaahhh!'"*

Watch a video interview with Mr Green at NME.COM/video

PHOTO BY TOM OXLEY

HAIR AND MAKE-UP: NATALYA HAIR AND MAKE-UP FOR MACKIE

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CHRISTMAS Lapping

FESTIVE Q&AS WITH THE STARS OF 2010 (PART FOUR)



NICKY WIRE
MANIC STREET PREACHERS

Hello, Nicky. What do you want for Christmas?
"Apart from the obvious world peace? I'm pretty satisfied, to be honest. The Orange Juice box set? A Scalextric? Oh, and for my *Doctor Who* script to be accepted. Oh, and for the coalition government to collapse. That would be a great present. Fingers crossed."

Who would be your fantasy Christmas dinner guests?
"Apart from James and Sean? Paul Weller. Nicholas Carr – the guy who wrote the book called *The Shallows* which is really interesting, about re-wiring your brain with the internet and all that. Sa[illegible] Taylor-Wood. Billy Childish. And Captain Beefheart. Maybe dive in the desert? And Shirley Bassey maybe for the entertainment value. There must be some good stories in her."

This table is getting pretty big now..
"And I don't even know how to cook!"

What would you talk about?
"Art."

What news story has entertained you the most?
"The coalition government. Having the election and then nothing but politics on the TV for a week, that's my idea of entertainment. You knew it was going to turn [illegible] to a fudged disaster, but I couldn't turn it off."

"FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO COLLAPSE: THAT WOULD BE A GREAT PRESENT"

So this was also your disaster of the year?
"Yeah. Watching political parties utterly rip up their manifestos and then use the excuse of, 'Oh, it's a coalition government, we have to change our manifesto'. What is the point of even having one in the first place? And the continuing bail-out of the financial institutions across Europe I find increasingly perverse."

Now for the serious stuff. How the hell did the Manics end up on *Strictly Come Dancing*?
"I remember saying if we ever ended up getting on *Strictly*, that's what this album was designed for. Even then I never thought it would ever come true. But it would never be a thing we'd be ashamed of doing. I heard some people say, 'Oh, what would Richey think?' and I'm like, 'That's what we were like when we started!' We never turned down any TV, even when Richey was in the band. Me and Richey once did an interview with a glove puppet! And these people who seem to think they know what Richey would have thought? It's just unimaginable! We wanted to get on *Top Of The Pops*! The cover of *NME* and *Top Of The Pops* is why we formed this band!"



JAMES MURPHY
LCD SOUNDSYSTEM

What's the best Christmas present you've ever been given?
"A record vacuum. It cleans records. It was the ideal present because it was something I wanted, but I would never have bought for myself."

Who's coming round for Christmas dinner this year?
"Nobody, I'm going to Japan. I've been there a couple of times at Christmas so hopefully it'll just be some Japanese food."

When did you find out that there was no Father Christmas?
"I think I just reasoned that it wasn't likely at about four. I'm the youngest of a lot of kids so by the time I rolled around nobody was trying in earnest to pretend there was a Santa Claus coming down the chimney."

What's the most drunk you've ever been on Christmas Day?
"I've never been drunk on Christmas Day. Christmas Eve, sure, but not Christmas Day. In 2002 I hung out in New York with Nick from LCD. We got wasted and ate Chinese take-out."

What has been your personal highlight of the year?
"I hand-made dumplings the other day for some friends in New York. We drank wine and made dumplings by hand."

Which big news story has entertained you the most?
"Big news stories don't usually entertain me because they're usually about thousands dead or the Irish economy being in the toilet. Kanye has a new record, that's probably the most entertaining story I can think of."

Who do you think is the biggest dickhead of the year?
"My landlord. He sucks. He listens to TV so loud every day and he knocked on *my* door and told *me* to keep it down."

Who's the biggest hero of the year?
"Tyler Pope, just for coming back and playing in our band again."

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ROBYN

Hello, Robyn. What do you want for Christmas?
"I don't know if it's going to sound really funny in English, but I want a salad tosser. It's this bucket that you put your salad in when it's wet, and you kind of turn this handle and the salad gets centrifuged so the water is, like, thrown off the salad. You know that problem when you put your salad underwater? That's what I want!"
That's not asking for much.
"It sounds like an unnecessary thing but then once you've tried it you can't live without it."
What's the best present you've ever been given?
"I think it must have been either the bike I got when I was seven – I was totally excited that I actually got a bike – or a Barbie doll that I got from my uncle when I was four. I'm ashamed to say that, but I was so excited."
Why are you ashamed? Is it because you're a rampant feminist now?
"Exactly! Can you believe it? That's why I'm ashamed to admit. I think it was because I didn't really get to play with many Barbie dolls when I was a kid."
Did you keep her?
"No! But I remember she had a great red dress."
Where will you be this Christmas?
"I'm gonna be in Sweden with my family. Sweden is a great place to be. We're pretty old school, I guess, in my family. But it's relaxed – it's more about the food."
Who would be your dream Christmas dinner guests?
"Santa Claus. And the guy from the WikiLeaks [Julian Assange]. That would be cool."
What would you talk to Assange about?
"I would ask him everything, of course. Why is he doing it [releasing confidential documents onto the internet]? It's interesting. I want to hear the full story of why he's doing it."
When did you find out there was no Santa Claus?
"I think I figured it out pretty early. My mom is an actor so I've been around people in costumes all my life."
What is the true meaning of Christmas?
"In Sweden it's fucking cold and it's dark so the meaning of Christmas for me is being cosy in my house with the heater up and lots of pretty lights. My grandfather was a priest so we always had that Christian tradition but my parents were never hardcore preachers to us of Christianity. He was not that kind of a priest, he was more of a philosophical priest."
Do you have a New Year's resolution?
"I don't know if I'm going to do it, but I'd like to stop smoking cigarettes."



LEE SPIELMAN

TRASH TALK

Yo, Lee! Do you know what you're going to be doing at Christmas?
"We're gonna be home, we're super excited. Last time, we were in the UK until Christmas Day and flew back on the actual day. It'll be good to have a nice break and just enjoy the festivities with the family."
What do you want for Christmas?
"Fuck, I dunno, a new LP?"
Have you ever eaten reindeer?
"I actually have eaten reindeer. When we toured Alaska, we played three shows in, like, the middle of November and it was snowing crazy and we went to this breakfast bar and they had reindeer sausage omelettes."
Wowzers!
"Yeah, it was super fucked up, though, because, like, it's Alaska so, like, deer, polar bears. Eskimos, it's, like, a big thing up there. In the middle of the city centre they have a reindeer inside of a cage and you can, like, look at it, y'know? But then, like, 10 feet away from it, there are reindeer hot dogs for sale. Pretty fucked up, like, a reindeer in a cage, and then they're selling reindeer hot dogs right next to it."
Was it nice? Did it taste good?
"No, it was horrible. It was just, like, chewy. The moose was better. We had moose and reindeer. The moose was awesome. It was crazy in Alaska. It was, like, all these kids trying to show us their town, so we were eating, like, reindeer, fresh fish out of the sea and, like, bear and stuff. It was crazy."
You ate bear?
"I've eaten bear, yeah. I'll try anything once, you know?"



BEN LOVETT

Hey, Ben! Who's coming round for Christmas dinner this year?
"Mariah Carey. She comes every year. We take turns to go to each other's houses for Christmas. Hers is a classically white Christmas."
Who would be your dream Christmas dinner guests?
"Anyone but Mariah. I'm bored of seeing her."
What's the most drunk you've been on Christmas Day?
"Christmas Eve in 2006 I ended up cleaning my local. There was a lock-in and someone gave me a bottle of champagne. I got so drunk I ended up hoovering up along with all the staff. I think it was the spirit of the season that made me want to help out!"
What has been your personal highlight of the year?
"Glastonbury. We'd been in Europe and to come home and play to a crowd that size, that's hard to beat."
Which big news story has entertained you most?
"There was a great story about a guy making piggy banks. Out of real pigs. He'd wait for baby pigs to die, then stuff them, cut slits in their backs and sell them. People thought he was breeding pigs with slots in their backs!"
What's the plan for Communion, your label and club night, in 2011?
"To take over the world, one night at a time."



PHOTOS: OMAR CHILLEEN, TOM OGLE, PIETER M VANHAVEREN, DANNY NORTH, STORE MAGS, MATT WILKINSON, MARK MILLMOW, TIM CREEPER, MIKE LEWIS, LAURA HAMPES, MATT WILKINSON, MARK MILLMOW

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Who's afraid of the BIG BAD

THEY MAY HAVE BEARDS TO RIVAL SAINT NICK, BUT FOR GRINDERMAN 'TIS THE SEASO

You're unlikely to find Nick Cave scouring the streets of his Brighton hometown in search of last-minute stocking fillers for his bandmates. For the Grinderman frontman, Christmas is mainly about receiving, not giving. "We have this system in the band where everyone else buys me Christmas presents... and I... well, I just don't," he admits with a hint of embarrassment as Grinderman's grizzly foursome discuss their yuletide plans with *NME* in an Atlanta dressing room during their end-of-year US tour.

"No, you gave me a teapot when I got married," recalls man-mountain drummer Jim Sclavunos. Cave: "Did I? Oh, I probably just got that for my birthday and didn't want it."

This deadpan quip sends guffaws around the room. *NME* suggests that perhaps Nick could cook a slap-up Christmas dinner for the band.

"Nah, I think we'd probably go to some kind of diabolical restaurant," reckons bassist Martyn Casey. "We've had a few diabolical meals on this tour where we've gone to restaurants and, because they're fans, the chefs have taken it upon themselves to cook something extra special," insists Sclavunos. "In Luxembourg, we had meat and jellybeans brought to us in test tubes. We also had monkfish liver ice cream in Norway."

"That's nothing," adds Cave. "I've been picking bits of Warren Ellis' beard out of my soup for years."

"EVERYONE BUYS ME PRESENTS AND I... JUST DON'T" NICK CAVE

They might not be on the same page when it comes to buying each other Christmas presents, but in almost every other respect, the four members of Grinderman are about as close as any group of men in their 40s and 50s have any right to be. They share the same shorthand language, they have the same wickedly funny and often un-PC sense of humour and, as the core members of Nick Cave & The Bad Seeds since the mid-1990s, as well as the visceral and libidinal Grinderman, they're firmly locked into each others' wavelengths as musicians.

It's that closeness which made 'Grinderman 2' (the straziest rock album of the year by a distance of several erections) possible in the first place. It started with the band once again barricading themselves into a studio for five long days, playing almost constantly in an attempt to build on the feral blueprint of their 2007 self-titled debut. The method was not without its mental and physical strains. "That kind of intensity does bring about a kind of near-hysteria in the studio," admits Cave. "You tend to go to very different, very strange places.' Picking out the best moments from the

PHOTO AND SET DESIGN BY JO MCCAUGHEY

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Stormage

SANTAS?

ON TO BE SLEAZY. HARDEEP PHULL GETS FESTIVE WITH THE FOUR WISE MEN OF FILTH



noise and confusion and shaping it into the album was no picnic either, but the heavenly intervention of a wandering J Spaceman of Spiritualized helped keep Grinderman on the road to hell.

"We were concerned that the songs were getting a little... conservative," says guitarist/violinist Warren Ellis, stroking the aforementioned beard. "Jason Pierce is an old friend, so we invited him to have a listen and he convinced us that it was a lot wilder than we'd thought. It was the perspective we needed."

The record emerged in September, and the subsequent tour has seen 'Grinderman 2' evolve from its monstrous studio form to satanic live incarnation. "Live the songs have been developed and expanded on," says Ellis. "'Kitchenette', for example, is a much heavier and nastier thing, it almost seems to indicate a way forward for a third record. We lose ourselves when we play. In fact, Nick lost himself a bit too much a couple of times. He slammed a guitar on his toe during one show and it ballooned up to the size of black pudding."

Cave whips out his iPhone to show a gallery of his big piggy, bruised and engorged with oozing nastiness. "Look, this one's got a little face in it!"

Ellis: "He also accidentally kneed a woman in the nose during another show."

Cave: "(*Sheepishly*) Yeah, it made a bit of a mess."

During the night's gig at Atlanta's Variety Playhouse, Cave is on rare form, thrusting his snake hips and delivering his sinful preacher routine on a one-to-one basis to the front row, many of whom don't appear to have been glints in their parents' eyes when The Bad Seeds were being sowed back in 1983. "I've definitely noticed a different audience recently," he agrees. "It's a weird collection of very young people who really like Grinderman and the older Bad Seeds fans who've been with us a while. It's as though Grinderman gigs are becoming a great place for old men to pick up young girls!"

So you're not worried about your reputation as salty old dogs or sexual deviants then?

Cave: "I'm not worried about that. I mean, we're country boys. You don't even start off with human beings when you grow up in all that fresh air..."

Somewhere, there's a turkey breathing a massive sigh of relief that these four sick bastards won't be reconvening for Christmas.

But what about beyond then? What's lined up for 2011? A Bad Seeds reunion? "I'm thinking about that," says Cave. "After the experience of Grinderman, it feels as though there's limitless potential for the next Bad Seeds album."

Not that the possibilities of Grinderman are close to exhaustion, as Nick explains. "The songs keep developing and each gig feels better than the last. I still don't know how good it could get."

Lock up your poultry. Once the season of peace and goodwill is over, Grinderman will be out pillaging harder than ever.

For a Grinderman interview head to NME.CO... video

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NME XMAS QUIZ 2010

HAD ENOUGH OF ARGUING OVER TRIVIAL PURSUIT AND QUALITY STREET? THEN BURY YOUR HEAD IN THESE ROCK HARD QUESTIONS AND WIN A £50 ZAVVI VOUCHER

Round One
TRUE OR FALSE

Foals' record 'Total Life Forever' is named after the point at which nanotechnology, genetics and robotics combine.

Rivers Cuomo was aided in his performances at Reading And Leeds by a trampoline on which he bounced throughout 'Undone (The Sweater Song)'.

Manic Street Preachers used their appearance on *Strictly Come Dancing* to ask Bruce Forsyth if *The Generation Game* was Marxist propaganda.

Katy Perry had her appearance on *Sesame Street* (right) cut after giving an interview where she declared herself an atheist.

Liam Gallagher has announced that the Beady Eye album will be called with no hint of irony, 'Top Gear'.

The Drums' Adam Kessler quit the band because he had become romantically involved with a fan he met on the internet.

In 2010, movie director ***David Lynch*** released an electro-trance record called 'Good Day Today'.

Throughout November, ***Marina Diamandis*** (left) blogged all of her daily outfit choices for *Vogue*.



Klaxons sourced spiritual inspiration for album number two from a South American drug that traditionally involves being forced to face up to and resolve a series of issues, and then vomiting to cleanse yourself and overcome these problems.

The original collaborator for ***Crystal Castles'*** 'Not In Love' was meant to be not Robert Smith but Mark E Smith – until the duo dropped him for missing two consecutive studio dates.



Round Two
WHAT LINKS...



11 *T.I.* **+** *Lil Wayne*



12 *Karen O* **+** *Theophilus London*



13 *Katy B* **+** *Jessie J*



14 *Laura Marling* **+** *Conan O'Brien*



15 *Cee Lo Green* **+** *James Mercer*

COMPILED BY: DAVID HAYMES. PHOTOS: PIETER M VAN HATTEM, ED MILES, GETTY, ABBY WILLSHER, TOM ORLEY, OSCAR CRADLEY, DAN DENNISON, EMILIE BAILEY

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Round Three

PIGEON SHIT

KING'S OF LEON COVER RED IN IT. BUT WHO'S UNDER THE CACK HERE?



Round Four

GUESS THE LYRICS

CAN YOU NAME THE ARTIST AND THE SONG FROM THE WORDS

repeat as the boundaries start to swirl/Keep to the call that is twice now liminal"

"*Never trust a millionaire/Quoting the sermon on the mount*"

"*I sent this bitch a picture of my dick/I don't know what it is with females/But I'm not too good at that shit*"

"*Hop up out the bed. turn my swag on/Pay no attention to them haters 'coz we whip em off*"

"*Send out a sound for the wood between the worlds/Gently*"

"*Je regrette, je regrette – I haven't had you yet*"

LYRICLINES

26 "We are the _____"
NME, DECEMBER 11

27 "There's no plan to do a _____ _____"
NME, SEPTEMBER 18

28 "Anyone who says all I can do is cover songs with horns – well, _____ _____ _____



THE 10 BEST WAYS TO SEE IN 2011

THE GIGS, PARTIES AND PLACES TO BE THIS NEW YEAR'S EVE

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2 MAGNETIC MAN

@ Metropolis & Wax: On, University Union, Leeds

OK, so technically it's only Skream and Benga but, Lordy, after the year these guys have had, that'll more than do. The pair have got a two-hour set planned for when the clock strikes 12, and this will, of course, be filled with basslines that make your rock your chest cavity to its very foundations. Plus, the older Artwork is the calming influence within Magnetic Man, and he ain't gonna be there, which means the show could easily sprawl on, drunkenly, until the venue boots people out at 6am. And then some.

seetickets.com

3 SONIC YOUTH

@ ATP Presents Strange Days, HMV Hammersmith Apollo, London

Picture the scene: it's two minutes to midnight, and your ears, earlier pummelled by a legend-trifectorate of Shellac, The Pop Group and Factory Floor, are filled with a maelstrom of squalling feedback. The clock strikes 12 and everyone cheers, except you can't hear them because your ears are still being pulverised by ugly/beautiful noise of the type made by only one band. Then five minutes into 2011, an instantly recognisible intro starts up, meaning that the first song you hear this year is going to be 'Teenage Riot'. A thought pops in your head that it is – probably – all downhill from here, and then you remember: it's only four-and-a-bit months until Animal Collective curate ATP and bring more noise. Yay!

atpfestival.com

4 MARK RONSON

@ Gatecrasher, Birmingham/ The Warehouse Project, Manchester

Dear old Marky R spent the whole of 2010 making and touring an album on which he expressed that he "wanted to be in your record collection". Mission accomplished. Now, on New Year's Eve, it's time for you to hear his. As anyone who has ever seen him spinning will attest, a Mark Ronson DJ set is an eclectic, exciting mix of brilliant tunes for dancing and loving to, and in true superstar DJ fashion – DJing being, lest we forget, how he made his name in the first place – he'll be spinning sets at Gatecrasher in Birmingham, The Warehouse Project in Manchester and Together in London (see more on this later). In one night.

gatecrasher.com
thewarehouseproject.com

5 PENDULUM DJs

@ The Arches, Glasgow

Love them or loathe them, there ain't no denying that Pendulum deal in EXACTLY the kind of dance music

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1 BRITISH SEA POWER
@ Club NME NYE Ball, KOKO, Londo

"Oh, what a surprise," you may say, on seeing our own bash right at the top of this list. To which the riposte is simple: are you having a New Year's Eve party? And if so, are you going around saying, "Yeah, it'll be pretty good, but if I were you I'd go to Kelvin's down the road." Well, exactly. The reason this night is Number One is because it has been tailored, by us, to be the most amazing NYE of all time, for us and, by extension, you. Hence booking now-national institutions British Sea Power who, in 'Valhalla Dancehall', have made one of the earliest contenders for album of 2011. We've heard it. You haven't, so this is your chance to literally ring out the old and bring in the new. Also featured will be the usual plethora of hands-in-the-air indie dancefloor anthems, surprises and support slots from Joe & Will Ask? and Friction, both of whom are also set to put their stamp on 2011. We'll all be there, too. And if you're buying, the bar's pretty reasonable...
koko.uk.com



Sonic Youth, HMV Hammersmith Apollo, London

one wants to hear of a New Year's Eve. Their DJ sets are as famed as their live show, and contain little in the way of 'challenging' or 'interesting', instead choosing to tread a path of stomp-stomp-stomp-STOMP/*"ARE YOU REAAAAADY?!"* And even if you've spent the whole year staying in and listening to Salem, on New Year's Eve this is just what you want. Stupid, sweaty, inhibition-smashing, limb-flailing lunacy for a small section of the family.
thearches.co.uk

6 FOALS
@ Flowerpot at HMV Forum, London

Alas The Flowerpot, north London-based scene of so many 'buzz' gigs – The Vaccines being the most recent – has been closed down. The owners have vowed to find a new place for us all to elbow each other out of the way, sweating, in the hope of catching a glimpse of rock's future. For now, though, they are concentrating on their New Year's Eve spectacular up the road at the Forum. They've assembled a quite awesome line-up, topped off by Foals who, you will remember, just won *NME*'s Track Of The Year for 'Spanish Sahara'. A betting man would guess it might sound pretty good augmented by the euphoria of a whole new year ahead.
flowerpotlondon.com

7 BIFFY CLYRO
@ Hogmanay, Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh

Um, do we really need to explain this one to you? It's Biffy Clyro, off the back of their most successful year ever (they did Wembley Arena earlier this month!), in Scotland, on New Year's Eve, with a free bar. OK, so it's not a free bar, but that is literally the only way that could make this more of a 100 per cent guaranteed legendary night out. Anyone who has seen them play over the last 12 months – and that, given the ludicrous amount of gigs they've done, is *everyone* – will not disagree. All together now: *"I AM A MOUNTAIN. I AM THE SEA!"*
edinburghshogmanay.com

8 FRIENDLY FIRES
@ Bugged Out!, XOYO, London

After a botched opening party and a month of hipsters sheepishly asking each other how the hell you pronounce it, XOYO has swiftly established itself as one of Old Street's finest niteries. In it, on New Year's Eve, are Bugged Out!, who have in turn chosen as headliners the most recent mixers in their excellent 'Suck My Deck' compilation series, Friendly Fires. We had a sneak preview of FF's forthcoming second album the other night, and it was, as they say around XOYO parts, "banging". One imagines that their heads will be in a similar sort of place for this do, which means all kinds of brilliant fun.
xoyo.co.uk

9 NORMAN JAY
@ Good Times, Relentless Garage, London

If you've never heard of Norman Jay, you should have done. He is as much of a musical institution as there is in the UK. For starters, he is a bleedin' MBE. Now, we of course oppose the monarchy and all that, but this immediately puts him in a field of one amongst people spinning tunes on New Year's Eve, as does the fact that he's one of the highlights of the Notting Hill Carnival. His sets there, and at the Big Chill, and his series of 'Good Times' compilation CDs spell only one word: sunshine. Which, given the weather outside, is going to be very welcome indeed.
meanfiddler.com

10 KATY B
@ Together, O2 Academy Brixton, London

Also featuring a fleeting visit from Mark Ronson (see left), Together is without doubt the most... how to put this... *not for-the-faint hearted* event on this list. Going on until six in the morning, for this event the organisers are pulling out all the stops for what doubles up as a celebration of their 10 years of making London Town move its feet. And the jewel in their crown, amidst a ridiculously good line up of DJs, is a live set by dubstep's premier – read only – singer songwriter, and the voice behind 'Perfect Stranger'. She's on at midnight. This will be amazing.
o2academybrixton.co.uk



Foals, HMV Forum, London

WORDS: HAMISH MACBAIN PHOTOS: FILM MAGIC, GETTY, SONIA MERLOT

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ARCADE FIRE

THE O2, LONDON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1

Conquering the huge arenas and our hearts with just their enthusiasm and stunning songs

A really perfect moment can be a confusing thing. All life's strong emotions, huge occurrences or major spectacles (grief, childbirth, volcanic eruptions) can leave you oddly cold and disquieted as you try and figure out what to feel.

Oh! Arcade Fire are not going to let you do that. About three-quarters of the way through the opening night of their two-date run at The O2, after a resplendently gothic 'Intervention', Win Butler, po-faced and pouty like a blond Elvis who's been locked in a basement too long, raises his chin. He offers the crowd a deft bait-and-switch. first, the humble gratitude...

"So here we are at the O2 Arena... and we've never had a hit record, so thank you all for coming." He pauses, surveys the crowd. "We're gonna try a little experiment with this song – everyone on this side stand up. Don't worry, it's like a thought experiment."

He pauses again, then deadpans, "Everyone just pretend for a minute that we're at a fucking rock show."

And so what should have been a test for the band a multiple-choice box-ticking entrance exam to the league of stadium rockers, becomes a test for the audience: do you get it? Do you really get how good this band are? Are you feeling it *right now*?

Every moment that tonight threatens to sink into an averagely fulfilling supergig, they drag it up by the throat, slap it round the face and kiss it. It's a fitting crown to a year that Arcade Fire have owned on their own terms.

For all Win's needling, though, it's clear from the moment they career into the chiming urgency of 'Ready To Start' with the words "All rise for the national anthem", that everyone in this cavern – old, young, hip, square – are Arcade Fire's loyal and willing subjects. Little in the way of stadium sized tricks are wheeled out tonight and rarely have backdrops and visuals seemed so beside the point: as ever, the band and their hunger to get this thing off the ground and make it fly command the attention with grit and graft rather than flash and bang. 'Keep The Car Running' keeps the seemingly insupportable momentum ticking along, combining a grandeur few bands are capable of with a homemade, intimate feel. Win, as beside himself with excitement as this bizarrely impassive frontman gets, clambers onto a monitor, Régine Chassagne all sequins and hurdy-gurdy by his side. '...(Laika)', too, is electric all shivery and sinister, Richard Reed Parry and Will Butler putting two drums end-to-end, pounding the gig into furious life.

As a band they're nothing if not demonstrative determined to knock



It's easy to forget just how jubilant and transportative the band are live

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Clockwise from above: Arcade Fire's Will Butler and Richard Reed Parry drum up some support; Will and Régine Chassagne during an "electric" '...(Laika)'; Blimey, looks like the O2's onstage gardener has gone on strike

The Setlist

- Ready To Start
- Keep The Car Running
- Neighborhood # 2 (Laika)
- No Cars Go
- Haiti
- Sprawl II (Mountains Beyond Mountains)
- Rococo
- My Body Is A Cage
- The Suburbs/The Suburbs Continued
- Crown Of Love
- Intervention
- Neighborhood #3 (Power Out)
- Rebellion (Lies)
- Month Of May
- Neighborhood #1 (Tunnels)
- We Used To Wait
- Wake Up

the apathy out of you, and it seems fitting when Win pauses to say "Nice job on the student rallies. I wasn't really too crazy about it when we got stuck in traffic but once we got going I was like, alright, nice work."

If they could hardly be the soundtrack to the fiery scenes that unfolded in Parliament Square the following week, Arcade Fire do stir something up in people, and it's easy to forget from their serious press shots and interviews just how jubilant and transportative that something is live. 'Sprawl II...' is ghostly and glittering, sounding like a lost radio transmission that's wandered in space since the 70s. Win's on top of the piano, while Regine cracks out her ribbon gymnast skills and whirls across the stage in curlicues of joy.

The Spike Jonze-directed video plays in the background as the eery simplicity of 'The Suburbs'' two-part title track gets underway. "This is a song I wrote about growing up in Houston, Texas but it may as well as have been London, England," says Win, but for all that Arcade Fire are one of the most unifying rock outfits around, it's the tension between that empathic skill and their idiosyncracies, specifics, the small strange details that really hit the perfect balance, as in the awkwardly ambiguous emotions of a line like, *"All of the time we had I would love to waste it again and again and again and again ... Sometimes I can't believe it/I'm moving past the feeling"*

For all the subtle graces of 'The Suburbs', though, it's still that glorious duo from 'Funeral' that thrill the hardest, the stage dissolving into a maelstrom of red and white lights and nervous energy between the surge of '...(Power Out)' and the cathartic yells of 'Rebellion (Lies)', as Will Butler circles the stage with his drum like the town crier of Pandæmonium. Finally, a jaw-slackening encore double of 'We Used To Wait' (a song that explicitly denies the path of least resistance while still connecting like a fist to the guts) and 'Wake Up', the band are satisfied. We've done our jobs. It's a fucking rock show.

"We love you forever," says Win. "What are you doing tomorrow?" Tomorrow? Hell, what are you guys doing for the rest of our lives?

Emily Mackay

To watch video interviews with the band head over to NME.COM/video



Backstage With
Win Butler and Jeremy Gara



NME: There's been a lot of talk about this album being a step up for you - headlining Reading And Leeds Festivals, playing at The O2 - did you have any trepidation about that?
Win Butler: "Well, I feel like there's a lot bigger bands than we are. And I feel like the level that we're at has been a result of people connecting to the band live and connecting to the records. There was a period where that changed really fast, when we were touring 'Funeral' and all of a sudden there were a lot more people who wanted to see us than we knew how to play for. And it really feels like on this record we're a lot more comfortable in our own skin, where we're kind of accepting of where we're at as a band because it's reality. So I think that .. we still don't want to do just a straight-up arena tour, to do the kind of out-of-the-box way of doing things. But at the same time we've had some of our best shows in venues where they're not sold out, where it's not just like crazy fans, it's just people who like music."

Did you hear about the shooting star that came down over the stage at Leeds Festival during '...(Power Out)'?
Win: 'No! Was it big? I guess it must have been big for a lot of people to see it."
Jeremy Gara: "Like the Moon fell?!"
Win: 'It's just part of our stage show..."
Jeremy: "It doesn't seem like much of a light set-up, but believe me, we've spent a lot."
Win: "We have a space station, outside the orbit of the Earth..."
Jeremy: "It spits out a huge rock every night just at the right time."
Win: "But at least the rocks are cheap'

They did feel like really triumphant sets, though.
Jeremy: "Leeds was the first one? That was a tough one, I remember."
Win: 'We kind of accept that at these shows, whether we're here, whether we're doing *Friday Night With Jonathan Ross*, it just feels like the first time that we started touring and we're like, 'We're here, we're the opening band, I dunno if people are gonna like us, so..."
Jeremy: "Just do it loud!"
Win: 'We gotta just go for it, and I feel like we have that mentality for a lot of those bigger shows too. It's like, I don't know how we got here, but let's go play our asses off'"

What's been the high point of the year for you?
Win: "One of the great ones was, we'd finished the record and we were rehearsing and getting ready to play. We decided we wanted to do a free show. So we were like y'know, we'll just do a really low-key 500-person show, but we wanted to do something that kind of fit with the theme of the record. So we did it in a carpark of the crappiest mall in the suburbs of Montreal which is really near where Régine grew up. Someone from the local paper went to a town council meeting, because they had to approve the permit to be able to do a stage, and they totally scooped us. They saw the name Arcade Fire on the permit, and no one who worked there knew who the band was, and so from there within 24 hours it got out there, and it went from a 500-person show to like 10,000 people turning up. I was just cracking up. You couldn't be mad, it was just too funny."
Jeremy: "Free parking for all! I think the best bit was that the mall was closed and didn't actually get any business."

Do you feel hopeful about the current state of music?
Win: "The only thing that's difficult is that increasingly I think the idea of doing rock music or being in a pop band as a kind of viable career path exists a lot more certainly than it was in the '60s. As a result you have 'You wanna be a doctor or a rock star?' as a kind of way of thinking. Which isn't really that conducive to making art. It's that old thing – you shouldn't be an artist unless you have to be. But to me, there's never been a better time to make music. Because maybe what a lot of people who don't make music don't understand is that inherently, you hear something and it gives you tools to be able to make something yourself. I mean Bob Marley heard Curtis Mayfield or whatever, on the radio in Jamaica and what he made out of it was totally different, but there's something in Curtis Mayfield that is a tool. If you only hear pop garbage, that's not much of a tool. But people find good music in a way that they never could before because things are archived that would have been lost. You find this one song on an old rockabilly record or this one song on an old Jamaican record or whatever and people will find it if it's really good."

What are your hopes and plans for next year?
Jeremy: 'We're going to try and take a break from touring for the early part of the year. Which is new for us. Just clear our heads and just play music together in a really not-scheduled way. I think that will be really exciting creatively."
Win: "The most amazing feeling in the world is coming up with a new song. So I guess most of our ambition as a band has always been to try and write a better song. I guess it'd just be like to play something for the first time and have that feeling of like, 'Yeah, this is really good!'"

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On The Road With
THE NATIONAL

Fighting blizzards and making their own live mockumentary, it looks like the Ohio five-piece are enjoying their ascent to stardom



O2 ACADEMY GLASGOW, FRIDAY NOVEMBER 26

With red nose and woolly hat still pulled firmly over his ears after a foray into the ice-stricken city, Aaron Dessner displays a photo of Glasgow's dismal looking Euro Hostel on his phone. "Hey Matt, remember this?" he asks, perched outside the production office. "Oh gahd," The National's blond, thatch-chinned frontman replies, grinning. "The first time we played here, that's where we stayed. After the gig, we went back there and for some reason, there were both people inside and outside of the hostel who were threatening to beat me up. There was nowhere to go!"

"Things have changed a bit since then," Aaron concludes.

Too right they have. We're three nights into the New York quintet's first proper UK tour in years, which sold out in under a day. Two nights at Brixton Academy (5000 capacity) weren't enough – a third was added in order to satisfy demand. 'High Violet', their fifth album, has shifted over half a million copies worldwide since May (it took their previous effort, 'Boxer', over two years to sell a still-very-respectable 350,000 units). They've been invited to open rallies for Obama, and, as Matt Berninger explains in the soporific warmth of their dressing room (where Bryan and Scott Devendorf, drummer and bassist, respectively, are studiously piecing together their DJ set for later tonight), to some seriously odd dinner parties.

"Apparently the cast of *Lost* are fans of ours," he says. "One night, we went to a dinner with some of them and Werner Herzog, the film director." Crikey. What the heck did you talk about? "Luckily, we didn't have to think of anything," chimes in Scott, looking bemused. "He sat down and started talking about the history of American serial killers, with no prompts from anyone."

After a freezing soundcheck ("It's so fucking cold, I can barely feel my fingers," Aaron winces in between shots at rarely-played 'High Violet' outtake 'Wake Up Your Saints'), the roster for tonight's dinner isn't quite as surreal as the aforementioned, featuring the band, their session players and *NME*. Matt jokingly raises a glass of red to "the highest highs and the lowest lows," before explaining the mockumentary they're making. "My brother, Tom, has been on tour with us, filming us playing very exaggerated versions of ourselves. Aaron's the evil string-puller..." ". And Matt's the artiste," the wicked puppeteer weighs in, "who talks about very important things that no-one else cares about."

A few minutes before stagetime, Aaron mock-brags, "It's going to be transcendent!" Matt has switched from casual button-down jersey to his stately black suit. They might still be togged up in their smarts, but they're now miles from the collared worries that used to nag them, and not afraid to break the expectations of uniform. On stage, rather than roaring in, they open with a delicately rich rendition of 'Runaway', where horns sigh with resigned contentment. "Here's our international pop hit," says Matt by way of introduction to 'Sorrow' in between swigs of wine. "This is our answer to Kanye." He's kidding, but there's a certain truth there – just as Yeezy conjures his ludicrous persona, here sorrow is personified into a tangible omen that looms about the stage. Despite only having played 'Wake Up Your Saints' live once before, it's flawless, as is 'Vanderlyle Crybaby Geeks', where they extinguish the amplification, set down all instruments apart from two acoustic guitars and a plaintive trumpet, and sing out into a crowd that echo every word straight back.

Straight after the show, the acoustic singing's not done yet – it's Matt's brother Tom's birthday, and after the serenade, everyone's off to the Flying Duck for Bryan and Scott's DJ set. That is, until we set foot outside into an almost cartoon-intense blizzard, and the three-fifths of the band not DJing sensibly retire to the bus. *NME* slips off to the bar with trombonist Ben, and Justin, the artist responsible for the backdrop video projections, to dance the night away to the Devendorf brothers' extensive collection of New Order...

View From The Crew



Brandon Reid, Tour Manager

How much of a heart attack do you have when Matt jumps into the crowd – which he always seems to do?

"It's nerve-wracking from a security perspective, watching him get manhandled. I wonder how many people have pockets full of his hair, they're always rubbing his head!"

MANCHESTER ACADEMY, SATURDAY NOVEMBER 27

Mid Saturday afternoon, and the band are all holed up in different rooms, intently practising parts for another rarely played song. "They're still struggling to figure out how to do 'Lemonworld' live," explains Brandon Reid, in between his many duties as tour manager, head of production and front of house. "It's a fucking great song, but it doesn't have the same big dramatic explosion as most of the other songs in the set."

Elsewhere in the set, though, explosions come thick and fast. Matt's voice splinters with frustration on 'Squalor Victoria', the Dessner brothers' arms tremor like hummingbird wings on the thick, garagey fuzz of 'Lit Up', and the brass section on 'Wake Up Your Saints' ribbits like a frog chorus in mating season. There's no need to worry about 'Lemonworld' either – Matt's lyrics and Aaron's high backing vocals are spellbinding enough to carry its lack of propulsion, and it's a gorgeous prelude to the political 'Mr November'. In the six years since it was written, it's gathered enough emotional lint from ideologically cheated hearts on both sides of the continent to become a genuine anthem. Watching from the balcony as Matt leaps into the crowd, it's palpable as everyone surges towards him like hurricane pressure lines on a weather map, everyone desperate to shake hands and, erm, grab his bum.

Ambling into the backstage area afterwards, *NME* spots Elbow's Guy Garvey rhapsodising about the show. Justin and Bryce show *NME* the footage they shot for the mockumentary on Thursday night in Coventry, where they persuaded some dancers performing in another room of the venue to improvise while Bryce spouts pompous French aphorisms whilst playing the piano. With Matt back on the bus resting up for a visit from his family the following day, everyone takes off for the bar next door, the night dissolving into a chronic case of hiccups for one band member. As the staff eventually kick us out around 3am and Aaron, Bryce, Scott and Bryan return to their toasty bus, it's safe to say that things have definitely changed, and absolutely, deservedly so. *Laura S*

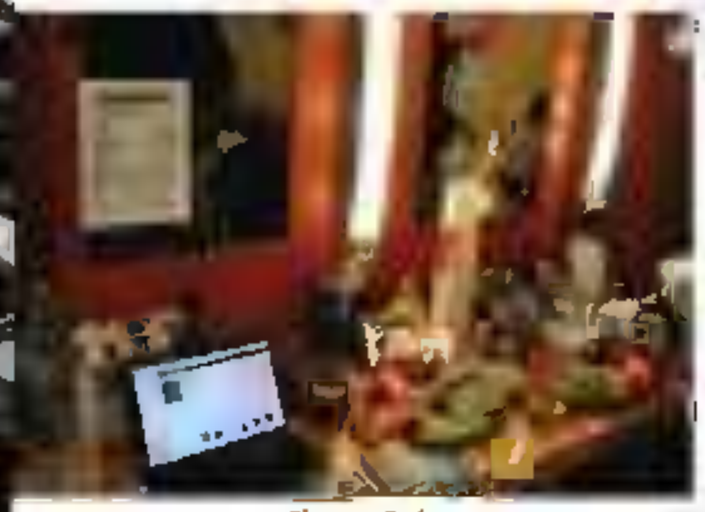
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Glasgow, Friday
Matt limbers up while Scott searches for more New Order



Glasgow, Friday
Scarves onstage at a chilly soundcheck



Glasgow, Friday
The rider – enough vitamins to feed a small army



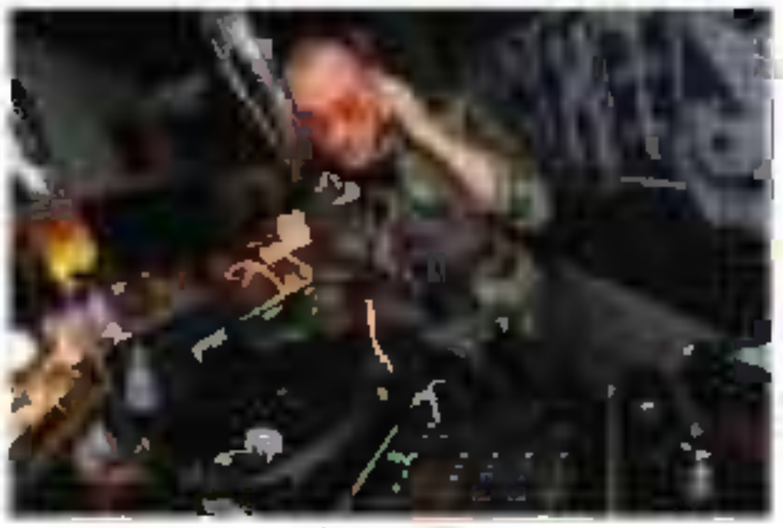
Glasgow, Friday
The front of the O2 Academy Glasgow, pre-blizzard



Glasgow, Friday
Matt spots something under his shoe



Manchester, Saturday
Bryce backstage looking studious



Glasgow, Friday
At the Flying Duck: "What's that? You want some New Order?"



Manchester, Saturday
Aaron adopts menacing axe-hero pose



Manchester, Saturday
Truly the "new blue blood" of 'Mr November'



Glasgow, Friday
Matt shows WWE rough footage from the mockumentary

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TUE	22	BIRMINGHAM O2 ACADEMY2	0844 477 2000
WED	23	LONDON KOKO	0844 871 8803

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Tuesday 01 February
BOURNEMOUTH OLD FIRE STATION
0844 477 2000
Wednesday 02 February
BRISTOL THEKLA
0871 [illegible]
Thursday 03 February
BIRMINGHAM O2 ACADEMY2
0844 477 2000
Friday 04 February
MANCHESTER CLUB ACADEMY
0161 832 1111
[illegible]
GLASGOW [illegible]
[illegible]
Monday 07 February
EDINBURGH ELECTRIC CIRCUS
[illegible]
Tuesday 08 February
NEWCASTLE O2 ACADEMY2
0844 477 2000
Wednesday 09 February
LEEDS COCKPIT
0113 245 4650
Friday 11 February
SHEFFIELD PLUG
0114 [illegible]
Saturday 12 February
CAMBRIDGE ST. PAULS
01223 [illegible]
Sunday 13 February
LEICESTER O2 ACADEMY2
0844 477 2000
Monday 14 February
LONDON KOKO
0844 871 [illegible]

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'in SEARCH of ELUSIVE LITTLE COMETS'



JANUARY

FRI	28	LIVERPOOL SHIPPING FORECAST	08444 477 1000
SAT	29	GLASGOW KING TUTS	08444 999 990
SUN	30	HULL FRUIT	08444 771 000
MON	31	MANCHESTER ACADEMY 3	0161 832 1111

FEBRUARY

WED	02	LEEDS COCKPIT	0113 245 4650
THU	03	NOTTINGHAM BODEGA	0845 413 4444
SAT	05	CAMBRIDGE HAYMAKERS	01223 511 511
SUN	06	BIRMINGHAM O2 ACADEMY3	0844 477 2000
TUE	08	EXETER CAVERN	01392 495 370
WED	09	BRIGHTON AUDIO	01273 709 709
THU	10	BRISTOL START THE BUS	FREE ENTRY
FRI	11	CARDIFF ARTS INSTITUTE	WEGOTTICKETS.COM
MON	14	SOUTHAMPTON JOINERS	02380 632 601
TUE	15	LONDON XOYO	0844 871 8803
WED	16	OXFORD JERICHO	0845 413 4444
THU	17	NORWICH ARTS CENTRE	01603 660 352
FRI	18	EDINBURGH CABARET VOLTAIRE	08444 77 1000
SAT	26	NEWCASTLE NORTHUMBRIA UNIVERSITY	0191 227 4757

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FLATS

MARCH 2011

02	GLASGOW KING TUTS	08444 999 990
03	MANCHESTER RUBY LOUNGE	0161 832 1111
04	LEEDS COCKPIT	0113 2454 650
05	HULL FRUIT	0870 264 3333
06	BIRMINGHAM HMV INSTITUTE	0844 248 5037
07	OXFORD JERICHO TAVERN	0845 4[illegible] 4444
08	TUNBRIDGE WELLS FORUM	0870 264 3333
09	LONDON BULL AND GATE	0844 8[illegible] 8803
10	BRIGHTON [illegible]	0844 [illegible] 4642
11	NOTTINGHAM BODEGA	[illegible] 4444
12	BRISTOL [illegible] COOLER	[illegible] 4444

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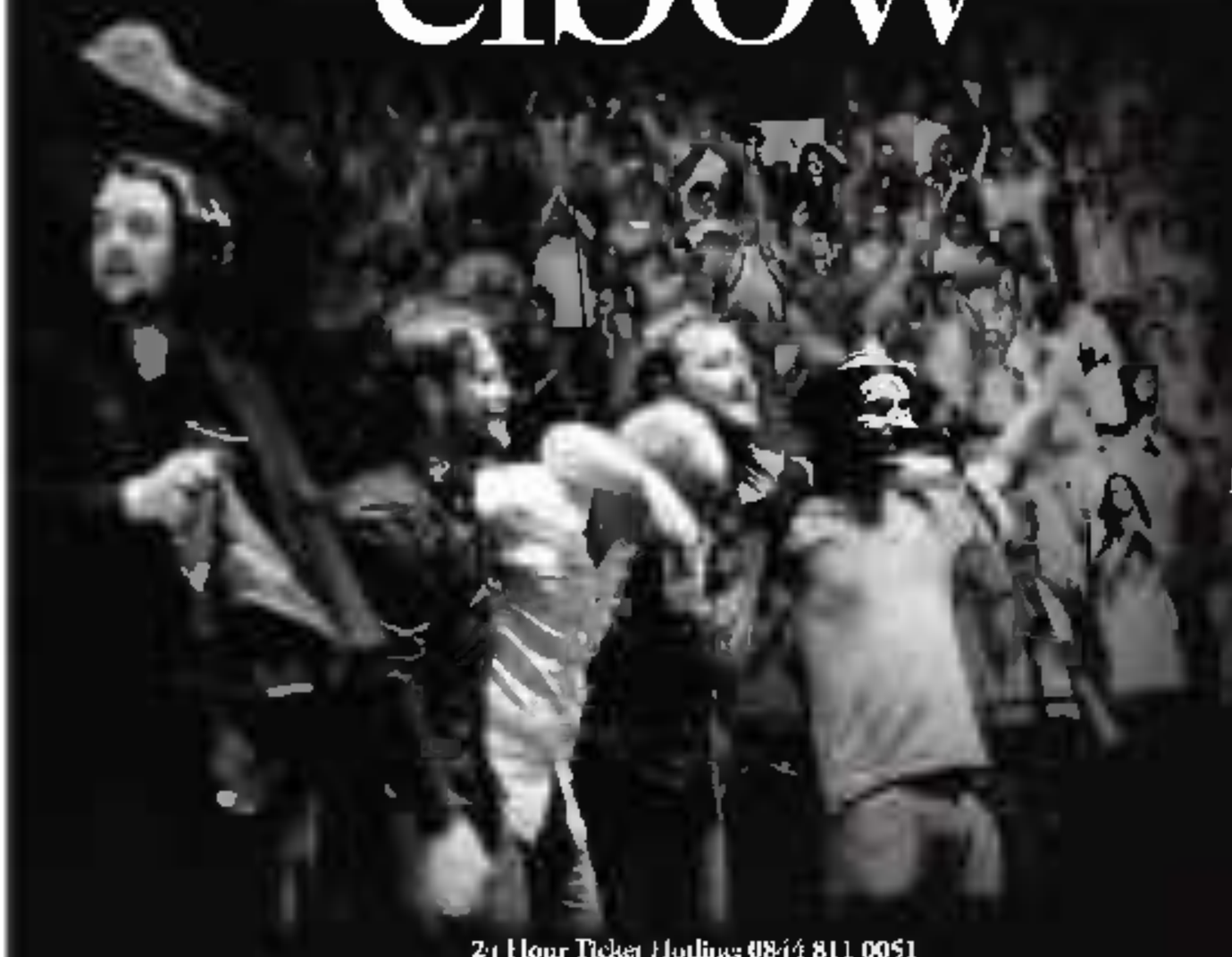
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Wednesday 16 March
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Thursday 17 March
NOTTINGHAM TRENT FM ARENA
[illegible]

Saturday 19 March
SHEFFIELD MOTORPOINT ARENA
0114 256 [illegible]56

Sunday 20 March
LIVERPOOL ECHO ARENA
0844 [illegible]800 100

Tuesday 22 March
BIRMINGHAM NATIONAL INDOOR ARENA
0844 338 6000

Wednesday 23 March
CARDIFF INTERNATIONAL ARENA
[illegible]

Friday 25 March
MANCHESTER EVENING NEWS ARENA
0844 847 [illegible]000

Sunday 27 March
BRIGHTON CENTRE
[illegible]844 847 1515

Monday 28 March
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Tuesday 29 March
LONDON THE O2
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2011 TOUR

MONDAY 7 FEBRUARY
LIVERPOOL O2 ACADEMY
0844 477 2000

TUESDAY 8 FEBRUARY
LEEDS O2 ACADEMY
0844 477 2000

THURSDAY 10 FEBRUARY
DUNDEE FAT SAMS
0844 999 999

FRIDAY 11 FEBRUARY
MIDDLESBROUGH EMPIRE
01642 253 553

SUNDAY 13 FEBRUARY
MANCHESTER ACADEMY
0161 832 1111

MONDAY 14 FEBRUARY
NOTTINGHAM ROCK CITY
0844 477 4321

WEDNESDAY 16 FEBRUARY
CAMBRIDGE JUNCTION
01223 511 511

THURSDAY 17 FEBRUARY
~~SOLD OUT~~
LEAMINGTON ASSEMBLY ROOMS

SATURDAY 19 FEBRUARY
PORTSMOUTH PYRAMIDS CENTRE
02392 824 355

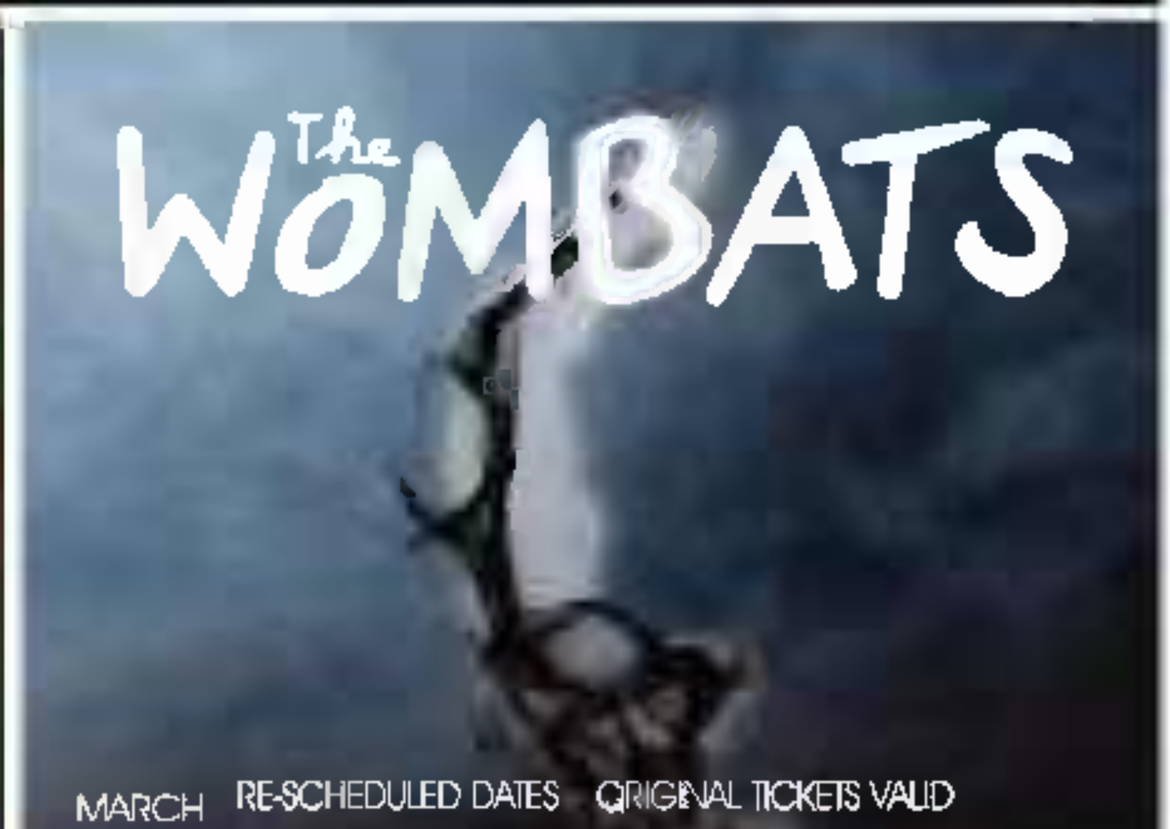
SUNDAY 20 FEBRUARY
LONDON ROUNDHOUSE
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MARCH		RE-SCHEDULED DATES	ORIGINAL TICKETS VALID
FRI	04	MANCHESTER ACADEMY	
SAT	05	NEWCASTLE O2 ACADEMY	
SUN	06	DUNDEE FAT SAMS LIVE	0844 999 999
MON	07	EDINBURGH HMV PICTURE HOUSE	0844 999 99
WED	09	LEEDS METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY	0113 244 46
THU	10	BIRMINGHAM HMV INSTITUTE	
FRI	11	SHEFFIELD LEADMILL	
SUN	13	NORWICH UEA	
MON	14	LONDON HMV HAMMERSMITH APOLLO	0844 844 4748
THU	17	CARDIFF SOLUS	02920 78 458
FRI	18	BRISTOL O2 ACADEMY	

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11	WOLVERHAMPTON CIVIC HALL	0870 320 7001	24	CHELTENHAM RACECOURSE	0844 811 0051
12	WOLVERHAMPTON CIVIC HALL	0870 320 7001	25	BRIGHTON CENTRE	0844 847 1515
14	MANCHESTER APOLLO	SOLD OUT	27	BOURNEMOUTH BIC	0844 576 3000
	EXTRA DATE ADDED		28	CARDIFF CIA	02920 22 44 66
15	MANCHESTER APOLLO	08444 777 677	29	COVENTRY RICOH ARENA	0844 811 0051
16	HULL ARENA	0844 811 0051	NOVEMBER		
18	GLASGOW SECC	08444 999 999	03	LONDON ALEXANDRA PALACE	0844 811 0051
21	NOTTINGHAM TRENT FM ARENA	08444 124 624			

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Thu	10	Manchester Academy	0161 832 1111
Fri	11	Leeds O_2 Academy	0844 477 2000
Sat	12	Bexhill De La Warr Pavilion	0142 422 9111
Wed	16	London HMV Hammersmith Apollo	0844 844 4748

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JAMIE WOON

SAT	19	0845 413
SUN	20	0117 929 9009
TUE	22	01273 709709
WED	23	0844 0 0000
THU	24	020 7403 3331
FRI	25	0161 705 0601
SAT	26	0161 832 1111
MON	28	0844 477 1000
TUE	01	0844 493
THU	03	0113 245 4650
FRI	04	0845 413 4444

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FEBRUARY 2011

Mon	07	Cardiff Clwb Ifor Bach	029 2022 2198
Tue	08	Bristol Thekla	0870 834 4400
Wed	09	Birmingham Library @ HMV Institute	0844 248 5037
Thu	10	Nottingham Rescue Rooms	0848 473 4444
Sat	12	Leeds Met University	0113 244 4600
Sun	13	Glasgow Arches	0844 499 9990
Mon	14	Newcastle Tyne Theatre	0844 4829 888
Tue	15	Manchester Ritz	0161 832 1111
Sat	19	Liverpool Stanley Theatre	0844 477 2000
Sun	20	Cambridge Junction	01223 511 511
Mon	21	Norwich The Waterfront	01603 508 600
Wed	23	Brighton Komedia	01273 647 100
Fri	25	Portsmouth Edgewood Rooms	023 9282 1201
Sun	27	London HMV Forum	0844 847 2400



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FRIDAY 04 MARCH LIVERPOOL O_2 ACADEMY	0844 477 2000
SATURDAY 05 MARCH CAMBRIDGE CORN EXCHANGE	01223 357 851
[illegible] ENGINE SHED	0844 [illegible] 8765
TUESDAY 08 MARCH BOURNEMOUTH O_2 ACADEMY	0844 477 2000
WEDNESDAY 09 MARCH BRISTOL O_2 ACADEMY	SOLD OUT
THURSDAY 10 MARCH LEEDS O_2 ACADEMY	0844 477 2000
FRIDAY 11 MARCH GLASGOW BARROWLANDS	0844 499 9990
SATURDAY 12 MARCH NOTTINGHAM ROCK CITY	SOLD OUT
SUNDAY 13 MARCH NEWCASTLE O_2 ACADEMY	0844 477 2000
TUESDAY 15 MARCH SOUTHAMPTON GUILDHALL	023 8063 2601
WEDNESDAY 16 MARCH NORWICH UEA	01603 508 650
THURSDAY 17 MARCH BIRMINGHAM O_2 ACADEMY	0844 477 2000
FRIDAY 18 MARCH MANCHESTER ACADEMY	SOLD OUT
SATURDAY 19 MARCH O_2 BRIXTON ACADEMY	0844 477 2000

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JANUARY			
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THU	27	GLASGOW O_2 ACADEMY	0844 499 9990
FRI	28	BIRMINGHAM O_2 ACADEMY	0844 477 2000
SUN	30	BRISTOL O_2 ACADEMY	SOLD OUT
MON	31	LEEDS O_2 ACADEMY	0844 477 200
FEBRUARY			
TUE	01	MANCHESTER ACADEMY	0161 832 1111
WED	02	LONDON BRIXTON O_2 ACADEMY	0844 477 2000
FRI	04	BEXHILL DE LA WARR PAVILION	01424 229 111

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JANUARY

FRI	21	LEEDS BRUDENELL	0113 245 4650
SAT	22	LONDON BARFLY WITH XPOSURE	0844 847 2424
FEBRUARY			
THU	1	NEWCASTLE CLUNY	0191 230 4474
FRI	1	SUNDERLAND 7EVEN	0191 566 8899
SAT	1	GLASGOW KING TUTS	0844 499 999
MON	14	NOTTINGHAM BODEGA	0845 413 4444
[illegible]	1	BRISTOL FLEECE	0117 9299 008
THU	17	LONDON HOXTON BAR & KITCHEN *	020 7403 3331
FRI	11	WREXHAM CENTRAL STATION	0870 444 5556
SAT	1	BIRMINGHAM O_2 ACADEMY3	0844 477 2000
MON	21	CREWE SQUAREONE	01270 509 310
TUE	22	LEICESTER MUSICIAN	0116 2510 080
THU	24	MANCHESTER DEAF INSTITUTE	0161 832 1111
FRI	25	LIVERPOOL KAZIMIER	0844 477
SAT	26	SHEFFIELD LEADMILL	0844 477 1000



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THU	10	CAMBRIDGE CORN EXCHANGE	01223 357 851
FRI	11	LONDON ROUNDHOUSE	0844 482 8008
SAT	12	YEOVIL WESTLANDS	0844 811 0051
SUN	13	NOTTINGHAM ROCK CITY	0845 413 4444
TUE	15	BRISTOL O2 ACADEMY	0844 477 2000
THU	17	GLASGOW ABC	0844 4899 990
FRI	18	LEEDS O2 ACADEMY	0844 477 2000
SAT	19	MANCHESTER ACADEMY	0161 832 1111

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Fri	08	MANCHESTER MEN ARENA
Tue	12	NEWCASTLE METRO RADIO ARENA
Wed	13	NOTTINGHAM TRENT FM ARENA
Fri	15	BIRMINGHAM LG ARENA
Sat	16	CARDIFF INTERNATIONAL ARENA
Mon	18	LONDON THE O2 ARENA
Tue	19	LONDON THE O2 ARENA

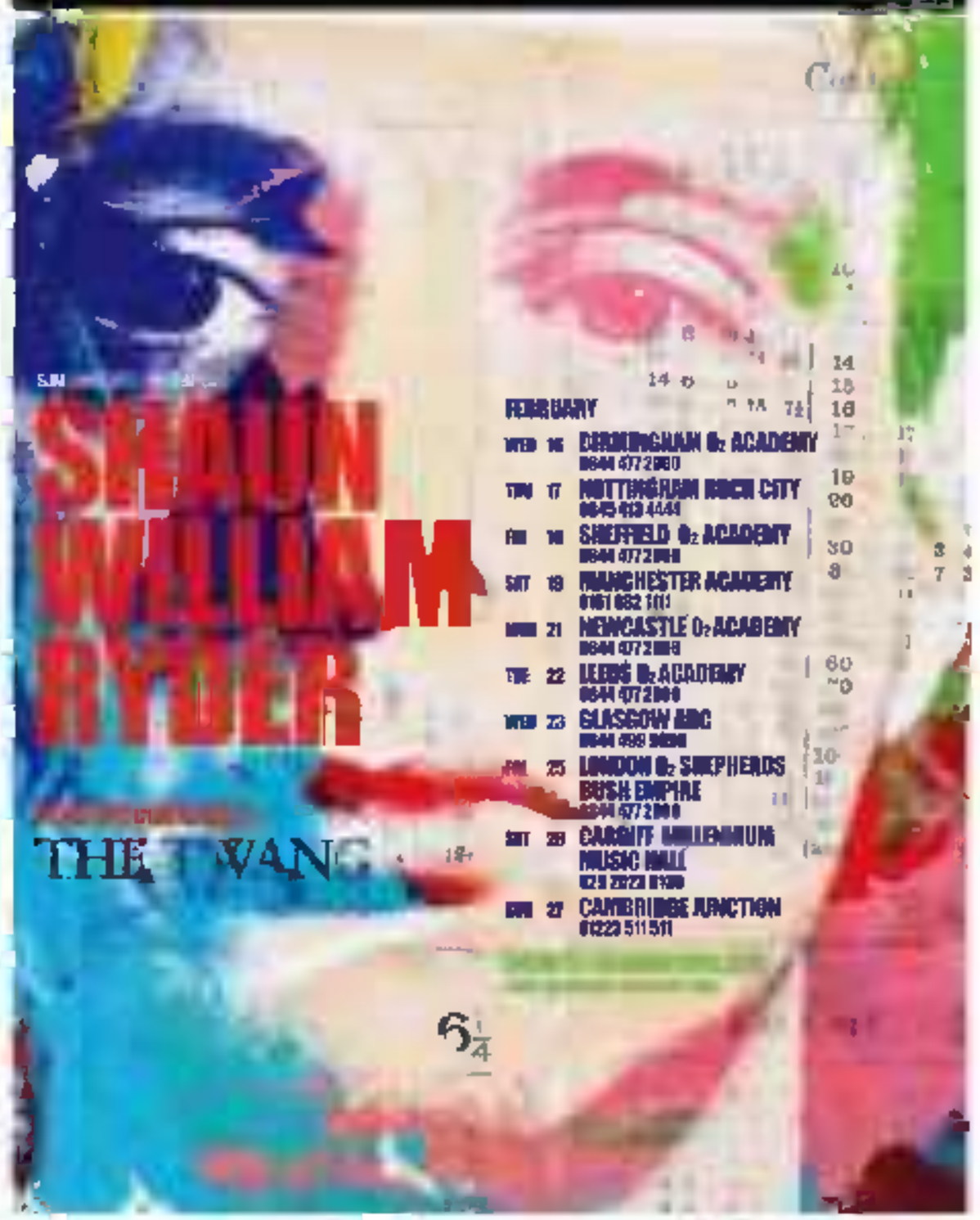
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SJM

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WED	16	BIRMINGHAM O2 ACADEMY 0844 477 2000
THU	17	NOTTINGHAM ROCK CITY 0845 413 4444
FRI	18	SHEFFIELD O2 ACADEMY 0844 477 2000
SAT	19	MANCHESTER ACADEMY 0161 832 1111
MON	21	NEWCASTLE O2 ACADEMY 0844 477 2000
TUE	22	LEEDS O2 ACADEMY 0844 477 2000
WED	23	GLASGOW ABC 0844 499 3000
FRI	25	LONDON O2 SHEPHERDS BUSH EMPIRE 0844 477 2000
SAT	26	CARDIFF MILLENNIUM MUSIC HALL 029 2023 0130
SUN	27	CAMBRIDGE JUNCTION 01223 511 511

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DECEMBER
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8 BIRMINGHAM [illegible] INSTITUTE
9 OXFORD O2 [illegible]
10 BOURNEMOUTH [illegible] ACADEMY
12 LONDON [illegible] THEATRE
13 NOTTINGHAM [illegible]
15 [illegible] ASTLE O2 ACADEMY
16 GLASGOW GARAGE
[illegible] ARGYLE PLAZA
18 LEEDS O2 [illegible]
19 [illegible] THEATRE
20 LONDON INDIGO AT THE O2

EXTRA DATES ADDED 2011

FEBRUARY
16 SOUTHEND PALACE THEATRE
17 LEICESTER O2 ACADEMY
18 IPSWICH CORN EXCHANGE
19 SHEFFIELD OLTAGON
20 EDINBURGH QUEENS HALL
24 LINCOLN ENGINE SHED
25 COVENTRY WARWICK ARTS CENTRE
26 LIVERPOOL MOUNTFORD HALL
27 PRESTON CHARTER THEATRE
28 [illegible] ON DERNGATE

MARCH
2 PETERBOROUGH CRESSET
3 [illegible]
4 NOTT[illegible]
5 BRIGHTON CORN EXCHANGE
6 PLYMOUTH THEATRE ROYAL
7 EXETER CORN EXCHANGE
9 WOLVERH[illegible]
WOLVERH[illegible]
10 YORK [illegible]

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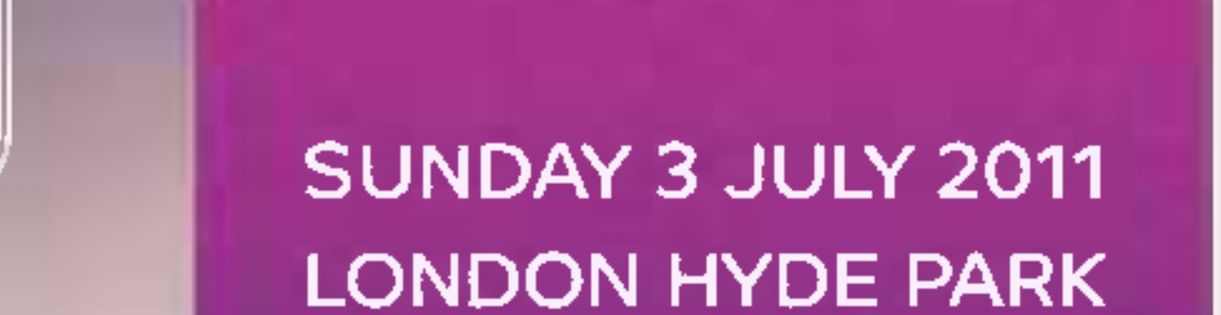


LYKKE LI

April 2011

12	Bristol Trinity	0845 413 4444
14	London O2 Shepherds Bush Empire	0844 477 2000
15	Leeds Cockpit	0113 245 4650
18	Glasgow Arches	0844 499 9990
19	Manchester Academy 2	0161 832 1111

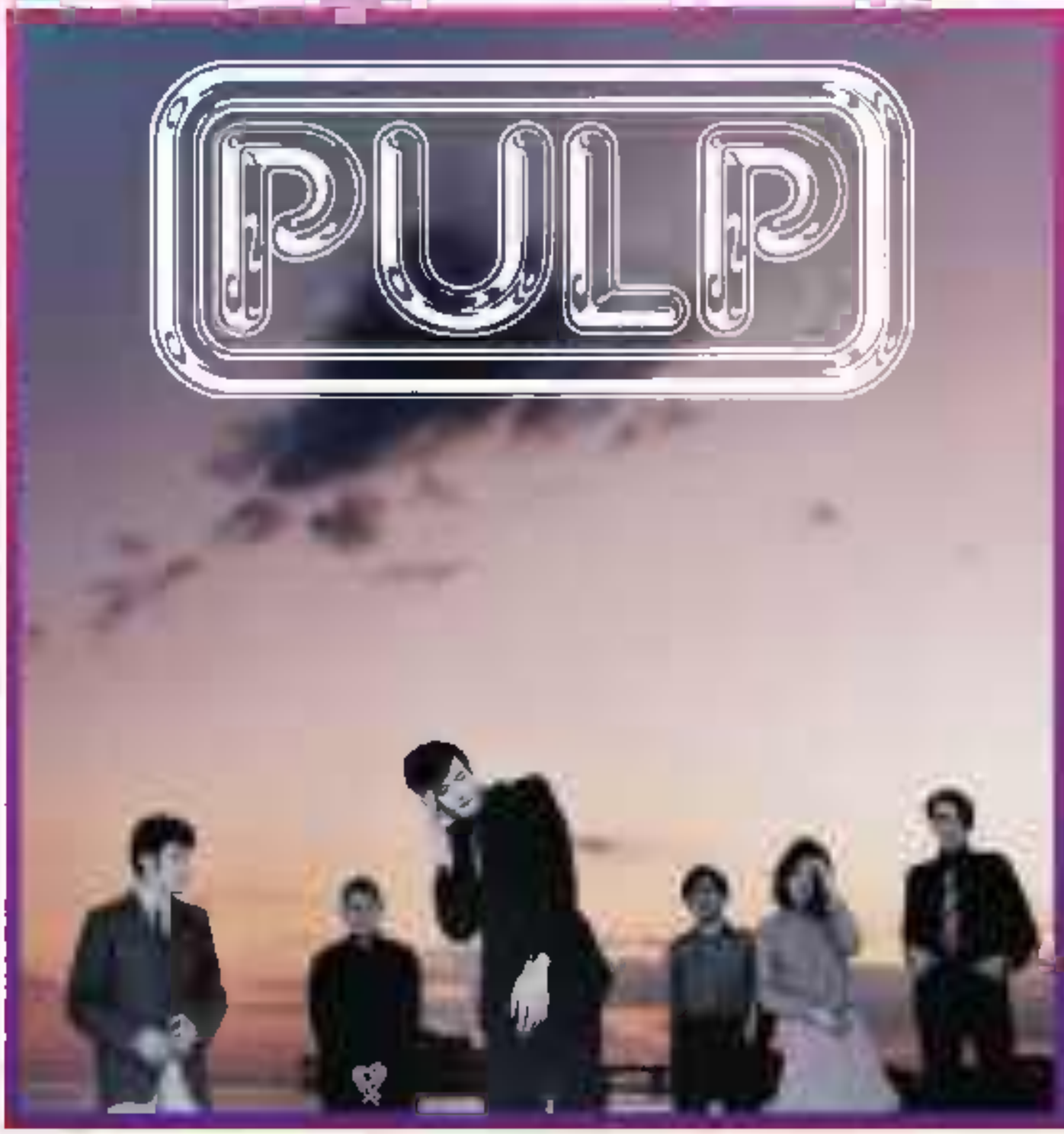
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APRIL

29	Oxford O2 Academy	0844 477 2000
30	Bristol Thekla	0871 310 0000

MAY

01	Cardiff Millenium Music Hall	0870 264 3333
04	Manchester Academy 3	0161 832 1111
05	Glasgow King Tuts	0844 477 2000
06	Newcastle O2 Academy 2	0844 477 2000
07	Leeds Cockpit	0113 244 1573
09	Nottingham Rescue Rooms	0871 310 0000
10	Birmingham O2 Academy 3	0844 477 2000
11	Norwich Arts Centre	0160 366 0352
12	London KOKO	0844 847 2258

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SURFER BLOOD

Plus Special Guests YOUNG PRISMS and NO JOY

MARCH

2	MANCHESTER ACADEMY 3	0161 832 1111
3	BIRMINGHAM O2 ACADEMY2	0844 477 2000
5	GLASGOW KING TUTS	0870 169 0100
6	NEWCASTLE O2 ACADEMY2	0844 477 2000
8	BRIGHTON DIGITAL	0127 364 7100
9	LONDON SCALA	0844 477 1000

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WIRE



FEBRUARY

1	BRIGHTON KOMEDIA	0127 364 7100
2	LONDON SCALA	0844 477 1000
3	NOTTINGHAM RESCUE ROOMS	0871 310 0000
4	MANCHESTER ROADHOUSE	0844 477 1000
8	EDINBURGH CABARET VOLTAIRE	0844 499 9990
9	GLASGOW KING TUTS	0844 499 9990
10	BRISTOL FLEECE	0844 477 1000

Buy online at Livenation.co.uk
New Album 'Red Barked Tree' Released 10th January
A Live Nation presentation in association with The Agency Group
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metropolis music present



FEBRUARY

THU 03 BRISTOL THEKLA
(0117 [illegible]9

FRI 04 LIVERPOOL O2 ACADEMY2
[illegible]

SAT 05 SHEFFIELD LEADMILL
0844 [illegible]

MON 07 LEEDS COCKPIT
0113 245 [illegible]

TUE 08 NOTTINGHAM BODEGA
0845 [illegible] 4444

THU 10 GLASGOW KING TUTS
08444 999 990

FRI 11 DUNDEE DOGHOUSE
0844 477 1000

SAT 12 NEWCASTLE CLUNY
0191 [illegible] 4474

SUN 13 BIRMINGHAM HARE & HOUNDS
0871 230 0010

TUE 15 SOUTHAMPTON TALKING HEADS
02380 632 601

WED 16 LONDON HEAVEN
0844 847 2351

24 HOUR TICKET HOTLINE 0844 811 0051 | SEETICKETS.COM

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BY ARRANGEMENT WITH 13 ARTISTS

NEW SINGLE 'SURFAC NG'
OUT 31 JANUARY FROM THE ALBUM 'PALACE'

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PLUS [illegible]

MARCH
MON 26 GLASGOW O2 ABC [illegible]
TUE 27 NEWCASTLE O2 ACADEMY [illegible]
WED 28 MANCHESTER ACADEMY 2 0161 832 1111
APRIL
FRI 01 LEEDS UNIVERSITY 0113 245 4650
SAT 02 WOLVERHAMPTON WULFRUN HALL [illegible]
SUN 03 LEAMINGTON ASSEMBLY 01926 833 801
TUE 05 PORTSMOUTH PYRAMIDS CENTRE [illegible]
WED 06 NORWICH UEA [illegible]
FRI 08 BRISTOL O2 ACADEMY 0844 477 2000
SAT 09 LONDON O2 SHEPHERDS BUSH EMPIRE 0844 477 2000
TUE 12 BOURNEMOUTH O2 ACADEMY 0844 477 2000

24 HOUR TICKET HOTLINE 0844 811 0051 GIGSANDTOURS.COM



PLUS GUESTS
CLOUD NOTHINGS*
THOSE DANCING DAYS [illegible]
VERONICA FALLS [illegible]

FEBRUARY
11 DURHAM THE LOUNGE [illegible]
12 MIDDLESBROUGH THE EMPIRE [illegible]
15 NEWCASTLE THE CLUNY* [illegible]
[illegible] LEEDS COCKPIT* [illegible]
MANCHESTER ACADEMY 3* [illegible]
YORK [illegible] BERS* [illegible]
LIVERPOOL O2 ACADEMY2* [illegible]
LON[illegible]VEN[illegible] [illegible]
OXFORD THE CELLAR* [illegible]
KINGSTO[illegible] NEW SLANG [illegible]
25 CARLIFF [illegible]
26 BIRMINGHAM O2 ACADEMY2* [illegible]
27 BRISTOL THE FLEECE [illegible]
28 LOU[illegible] [illegible]

Smoke Fairies

Plus guests *sea of bees*



JANUARY
16 TUNBRIDGE WELLS FORUM 0871 [illegible]
17 BRIGHTON [illegible]AM [illegible]
18 PORT[illegible]MOUTH
WEL[illegible]ODD BOOMS [illegible]
19 BIRM[illegible]HAM GLEE CLUB [illegible]
20 NOT[illegible]TINGHAM GLEE CLUB [illegible]
21 LAN[illegible] [illegible]
23 GATT[illegible] [illegible]
24 GLASGO[illegible] [illegible]
26 MANCHESTER RUBY LOUNGE [illegible]
27 LEEDS BRUDENELL [illegible]
28 SHEFFIELD PLUG [illegible]
29 NORWICH ARTS CENTRE [illegible]
31 EXETER PHOENIX [illegible]
FEBRUARY
02 BRISTOL FLEECE [illegible]
03 LONDON SCALA [illegible]

24 Hr CC Hotline 0870 811 0051 | www.gigsandtours.com
Debut Album 'Through Low Light and Shade' out now
www.smokefairies.com
[illegible]



METROPOLIS MUS[illegible] BY ARRANGEMENT W[illegible]R[illegible]ALENT PRESENT

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WITH SPECIAL GUESTS

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METRONOMY
PLUS GUESTS
Tuesday 01 February
0844 847 2351

GANGOFFOUR
PLUS GUESTS
Wednesday 02 February
0844 847 2351

Los Campesinos!
SUMMER CAMP + GROUP LOVE
Wednesday 02 February
LONDON [illegible] BUSH EMPIRE
0844 477 2000

SPIRIT
PLUS GUESTS
Thursday 03 February
0844 847 2351

MYSTERY JETS
TRIBES
Wednesday 09 February
LONDON O2 [illegible] BUSH EMPIRE
0844 477 2000

WHITE LIES
CROCODILES
Friday 11 February
LONDO [illegible] EMPIRE
0844 477 2000

SLEIGH BELLS
TEETH + MEN
Monday 14 February
0844 847 2351

THE JETS
PLUS GUESTS
Monday 14 February
LONDO [illegible]
020 7403 3331

THE NAKED + FAMOUS
WOLF GANG
Tuesday 15 February
[illegible]
0844 847 2351

ISOBEL CAMPBELL AND MARK LANEGAN
CHERRY GHOST
Tuesday 15 February
[illegible]
0844 477 2000

edwyn collins
PLUS GUESTS
Wednesday 16 February
LO [illegible] EMPIRE
0844 477 2000

NOAH AND THE WHALE
CLOUD CONTROL PLANET EARTH
Thursday 17 February
[illegible]
0844 847 2258

MILES KANE
YOUNG BUFFALO
Thursday 17 February
LO [illegible]
020 7403 3331

NEW SHOW
FRANK TURNER
PLUS GUESTS
Friday 18 February
LONDO [illegible]
0844 847 2465

YUCK
CULTS + GUARDS
Friday 18 February
LONDO [illegible] HALL
020 7403 3331

CARL BARÂT
THE HEARTBREAKS + FOREIGN OFFICE
Sunday 20 February
LONDO [illegible] EMPIRE
0844 477 2000

ALEX WINSTON
PLUS GUESTS
Monday 21 February
LONDON [illegible] THEATRE
020 7403 3331

MONA
NEON TREES
Monday 21 February
LONDO [illegible] GARAGE
0844 847 1678

FRANKIE & THE HEARTSTRINGS
THOSE DANCING DAYS + VERONICA FALLS
Monday 21 February
LONDO [illegible]
0844 847 2351

WARPAINT
TWIN SHADOW + THE NEAT
Monday 21 February
LO [illegible] EMPIRE
0844 477 2000

CARIBOU
FACTORY FLOOR + WALLS
Tuesday 22 February
[illegible]
0844 477 2000

LES SAVY FAV
PULLED APART BY HORSES + YOUNG LEGIONNAIRE
Tuesday 22 February
[illegible]
0844 847 2351

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24 [illegible] inc 0844 811 0051 | 0844 826 2826

*Tickets on general sale from 9am Friday 17th December

A Metropolis Music presentation

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MARCH 2011
13 NOTTINGHAM TRENT STUDENTS' UNION
14 LOUGHBOROUGH STUDENTS' UNION
15 LONDON XOYO
17 GLAMORGAN SU PONTYPRIDD
18 SWANSEA SIN CITY
21 HIGH WYCOMBE BUCKS STUDENTS' UNION
22 GUILDFORD SURREY STUDENTS' UNION
24 DERBY STUDENTS' UNION
25 SHEFFIELD STUDENTS' UNION
27 GLASGOW STRATHCLYDE STUDENTS' UNION
28 PRESTON 53 DEGREES
29 LEEDS UNIVERSITY UNION
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EUROS CHILDS &
NORMAN BLAKE

FEBRUARY 2011
03 BRIGHTON BALLROOM
04 CAMBRIDGE THE DAYMAKERS
05 READING PLAY
07 BRISTOL COOLER
08 CARDIFF CLWB IFOR BACH
10 NOTTINGHAM BODEGA
11 LIVERPOOL MOJO
12 SHEFFIELD THE HARLEY
14 MANCHESTER DEAF INSTITUTE
15 BIRMINGHAM GLEE CLUB
16 YORK THE BASEMENT
18 MIDDLESBROUGH WESTGARTH SC
19 GLASGOW PLATFORM
20 NEWCASTLE CLUNY
21 SUNDERLAND [illegible]

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ASIAN DUB FOUNDATION

A HISTORY OF NOW 20:12

THURSDAY 03 FEBRUARY
LONDON ULU
1 MALET STREET, WC1E 7HY

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM
WWW.KILILIVE.COM
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0844 871 8803 & USUAL OUTLETS

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MARCH 2011
31 NOTTINGHAM ROCK CITY
APRIL 2011
01 WOLVERHAMPTON WULFRUN HALL
02 LONDON HMV FORUM
LONDON HMV FORUM
GLASGOW O2 ABC
MANCHESTER ACADEMY
BRISTOL O2 ACADEMY

LIKE TRAINS

with special guest
NAPOLEON HIRD

FEB
02 Brighton The Hope
03 Bath Moles
05 Norwich Arts Centre
06 Oxford Jericho
07 Nottingham Bodega
09 Sheffield Fusion
10 Liverpool Shipping Forecast
11 York The Duchess

MAR
10 London Barfly

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MAN LIKE ME

THE NEW SINGLE
'YOU'LL ALWAYS FIND ME IN THE KITCHEN AT PARTIES'
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JANUARY
26 LONDON XOYO
27 CANTERBURY CHANTRY CLUB
28 LEEDS NATION OF SHOPKEEPERS

FEBRUARY
01 BIRMINGHAM HMV INSTITUTE
03 SHEFFIELD BUNGALOWS & BEARS
04 BRISTOL COOLER
05 SOUTHAMPTON UNIT
09 BRIGHTON JAM
10 KINGSTON NEW SLANG
11 GUILDFORD BOILEROOM
12 NOTTINGHAM STEALTH

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YOAV

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Ben Grant

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SEA OF BEES

MOJO ***** Album Of The Year Q **** THE GUARDIAN ****

MARCH

22 [redacted]
0191 443 4861

23 [redacted] ROOMS
0844 847 2487

24 [redacted] COLLEGE OF [redacted]
0161 832 1111

25 [redacted] Y
0113 245 4850

27 [redacted] EMPIRE
0844 477 2000

28 [redacted] ES
0845 413 4444

29 [redacted]
0139 266 7080

30 [redacted] A
0845 293 8480

DEBUT ALBUM [redacted] OUT NOW
A LIVE NATION PRESENTATION

WHITE LIES

PLUS SPECIAL GUESTS crocodiles PLUS ACTIVE CHILD + MIRRORS
(ALL SHOWS EXCEPT 11 FEB) (11 FEB ONLY)

FEBRUARY

4	CAMBRIDGE JUNCTION	SOLD OUT
6	NORWICH UEA	0160 350 8050
7	BRIGHTON CORN EXCHANGE	0127 370 9709
9	BRISTOL O2 ACADEMY	0844 477 2000
10	LONDON O2 SHEPHERDS BUSH EMPIRE	SOLD OUT
11	LONDON O2 SHEPHERDS BUSH EMPIRE	0844 477 2000
13	LEEDS O2 ACADEMY	0844 477 2000
14	BIRMINGHAM HMV INSTITUTE	0844 248 5037
16	GLASGOW BARROWLANDS	0844 499 9990
17	NEWCASTLE O2 ACADEMY	0844 477 2000
18	MANCHESTER ACADEMY	SOLD OUT

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FLASHGUNS



JANUARY

25	BRISTOL FLEECE	0844 477 1000
26	OXFORD O2 ACADEMY2	0844 477 2000
27	MANCHESTER ACADEMY 3	0161 832 1111
28	GLASGOW KING TUTS	0844 499 9990
29	ABERDEEN TUNNELS	0844 499 9990

FEBRUARY

3	NEWCASTLE THE CLUNY	0191 230 4474
4	LEEDS COCKPIT	0113 244 4600
5	NOTTINGHAM BODEGA	0871 310 0000
6	NORWICH ARTS CENTRE	0160 366 0352
8	BIRMINGHAM O2 ACADEMY3	0844 477 2000
10	LONDON CARGO	0844 477 1000
12	BRIGHTON AUDIO	0844 477 1000

New Single 'Rivals' Out 17th January
Debut Album 'The Golden Age Of Knowhere' Out 24th January

[redacted] by [redacted] in association with GIA www.myspace.com/funeralparty

darwin deez

www.darwindeez.com

plus support [redacted]



February 2011
24.02.11 - Academy 2, Manchester 14+
www.gigsandtours.com
25.02.11 - Liquid Rooms, Edinburgh 14+
0844 499 9990 / www.gigsinscotland.com
26.02.11 - Garage, Glasgow 14+
0844 499 9990 / www.gigsinscotland.com
27.02.11 - Met. University, [redacted]
01132 454650 / www.[redacted]

March 2011
01.03.11 - Waterfront, Norwich 14+
www.ueaticketbookings.co.uk
02.03.11 - HMV Institute, Birmingham 14+
0844 248 5037 / www.ticketweb.co.uk
03.03.11 - Koko, London 16+
www.livenation.co.uk
04.03.11 - Anson Rooms, Bristol
0845 413 4444 / www.alt-tickets.com
05.03.11 - Concorde 2, Brighton 14+
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Doll & the Kicks

UK TOUR 2011

08 FEB - HULL, THE LAMP
09 FEB - LEEDS, THE WELL
10 FEB - EDINBURGH, CABARET VOLTAIRE
13 FEB - GLASGOW, KING TUTS WAH WAH HUT
15 FEB - LIVERPOOL, THE SHIPPING FORECAST
16 FEB - YORK, STEREO
18 FEB - CREWE, THE BOX
19 FEB - BIRMINGHAM, HMV INSTITUTE
20 FEB - COVENTRY, THE KASBAH
23 FEB - LONDON, THE BORDERLINE
25 FEB - BRISTOL, THE LOUISIANA
26 FEB - CARDIFF, BUFFALO BAR

Purchase [illegible] 0844 [illegible] 0081 | [illegible] | seetickets.com | ticketmaster.co.uk |
[illegible].com | [illegible] | [illegible]
A Metropolis [illegible] OF [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] arrangement with Select Booking Agency.
facebook/[illegible] and [illegible] dollandthekicks

ROYAL REPUBLIC



Plus guests VERSES

MARCH
07 LONDON BARFLY
0844 847 2434 TICKETWEB.CO.UK
08 BIRMINGHAM ACADEMY 3
0844 477 2000 / TICKETWEB.CO.UK
09 MANCHESTER DEAF INSTITUTE
0844 [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]WEB.CO.UK
10 GLASGOW KING TUTS
0844 [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]WEB.CO.UK
11 BRISTOL THE FLEECE
0117 929 9008 BRISTOLTICKETSHOP.CO.UK
12 NOTTINGHAM ROCK CITY
0871 2100 000 ALLTICKETS.CO.UK

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www.weareroyal.com

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plus guests TROPHY WIFE

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A METROPOLIS MUSIC PRESENTATION
BY ARRANGEMENT WITH [illegible] ARTISTS

JANUARY
31 BRISTOL LOUSIANA 0117 929 9008
FEBRUARY
01 BRIGHTON PAVILLION THEATRE 01273 709 [illegible]09
03 NEWCASTLE OTHER ROOMS 0844 477 [illegible]000
04 EDINBURGH SNEAKY PETES 0844 847[illegible]37
05 NOTTINGHAM RESCUE ROOMS 0845 413 4444
07 SHEFFIELD HARLEY 0114 275 2288
08 BIRMINGHAM HARE & HOUNDS 0871 230 [illegible]010
09 LONDON XOYO 0870 264 [illegible]744

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TOM BOM GIRLS



APRIL
02 MANCHESTER DEAF INSTITUTE
0161 [illegible]
03 GLASGOW STEREO
0844 477 [illegible]
04 LEEDS BRUDENELL SOCIAL CLUB
[illegible]
05 LONDON DINGWALLS
[illegible]
06 BRIGHTON KOMEDIA
01273 647[illegible]

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plus special guest WINTERSLEEP

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SUNDAY 06 FEBRUARY
BIRMINGHAM O2 ACADEMY2
TUESDAY 08 FEBRUARY
NEWCASTLE O2 ACADEMY
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ALBUM 'HEAVEN IS WHENEVER' OUT NOW
WWW.THEHOLDSTEADY.COM
An Academy [illegible]

MOGWAI

THURSDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2011
BOURNEMOUTH
O2 ACADEMY
SUNDAY 20 FEBRUARY 2011
LEEDS O2 ACADEMY
TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM:
0844 477 2000 | TICKETWEB.CO.UK
WWW.MOGWAI.CO.UK

THE GO! TEAM



THE JOY FORMIDABLE

TUESDAY 01 FEBRUARY
BOURNEMOUTH OLD FIRE STATION
THURSDAY 03 FEBRUARY
BIRMINGHAM O2 ACADEMY2
TUESDAY 08 FEBRUARY
NEWCASTLE O2 ACADEMY2
SUNDAY 13 FEBRUARY
LEICESTER O2 ACADEMY2
TICK[illegible]
[illegible]

Academy Events by [illegible] arrangement with CAA [illegible]

THE WALKMEN

Saturday 22 January
Oxford O2 Academy2
0844 477 2000 | ticketweb.co.uk
New album [illegible] available now on Bella Union
[illegible]

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SENSES FAIL



FEBRUARY 2011
16 FOLKESTONE QUARTERHOUSE
01303 [illegible]
17 LONDON O2 ACADEMY ISLINGTON
18 SOUTHAMPTON JOINERS
02380 [illegible]
20 BRISTOL O2 ACADEMY2
22 GLASGOW O2 ABC2
23 SHEFFIELD O2 ACADEMY2
24 BIRMINGHAM O2 ACADEMY2
25 NORWICH WATERFRONT
1603 [illegible]
28 LIVERPOOL O2 ACADEMY2

O2 VENUES. BOX OFFICE: 0844 477 2000 | TICKETWEB.CO.UK

www.academy-events.co.uk / www.[illegible]

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Tue 22 Bristol Cooler
Wed 23 Nottingham Bodega
Thu 24 Manchester Night and Day
Sat 26 Glasgow King Tuts
Sun 27 Lancaster Loud in Libraries
Mon 28 Leeds Cockpit

MARCH
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Fri 4 Southampton Joiners

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LONDON, CARGO
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MANCHESTER, THE DEAF INSTITUTE
LEEDS, A NATION OF SHOPKEEPERS
SHEFFIELD, HARLEY
GLASGOW, CAPTAIN'S REST

www.wolfpeople.co.uk
www.alt-tickets.co.uk www.gigantic.com
www.seetickets.com www.ticketweb.co.uk

MAPS & ATLASES

Jan 28th
Nottingham The Bodega
0845 [illegible] www.alt-tickets.co.uk

Jan 29th
Newcastle The Other Rooms
0113 245 6570 / www.dontickets.co.uk

Jan 30th
Edinburgh Sneaky Pete's
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Feb 1st
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Feb 2nd
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23RD FEB	READING	OAKFORD SOCIAL	0118 959 4267
24TH FEB	OXFORD	JERICHO TAVERN	0870 264 3333
25TH FEB	LONDON	THE EMPOWERING CHURCH	0870 264 3333
27TH FEB	BIRMINGHAM	HMV INSTITUTE	0844 248 5937
28TH FEB	NOTTINGHAM	BODEGA	0870 264 3333
1ST MAR	MIDDLESBROUGH	UNCLE ALBERTS	0 642 230 472
2ND MAR	SHEFFIELD	BUNGALOWS AND BEARS	0114 279 2001
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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



NO NEED TO BE AFRAID

Our band are playing their first ever offical Christmas gig this year. Can you think of any good, non-cheesy Christmas things we can do to make it memorable?
Festive Frolics, London

Being as I am the most jolly man at the *NME* (I have Seasonally Affected Disorder of the Desperately Overjoyed, or SADDO for short), I would, once, have suggested that you hand out mulled wine to your audience. But that's not enough now. Before the gig you should find an office party nearby, each take a good quality photofacsimile of your naked behind and give them out, signed, to the audience. What a wry Christmas treat for them all. *Uncle Pete*

LET IN LIGHT

As this column's called *Band Aid*, and Band Aid did a classic Christmas single, do you think we might improve our profile somewhat by releasing a festive charity single?
Giving Something Back, Edinburgh

I'm all for charity, especially after my spell working in a charity shop doing community service for trying to assault someone after the 2005 *NME* Christmas party. Can one be said to be more worthy? No. Which is why you must release the single, then keep the cash to yourselves and spend it on a whopping great turkey and parsnips, safe in the knowledge you are nearly good. *Uncle Pete*

AT CHRISTMAS TIME, IT'S HARD

To get some column inches, we were thinking of burning a nativity scene during all of the gigs we play over Christmas and New Year. What do you reckon?
Burn Baby Burn, Cardiff

In this age, the burning of a scene depicting the birth of our baby Lord Jesus no longer has the power to shock – you'd get more column inches out of pretending to shag one of the attendant sheep. But no, I'm not suggesting you do that. I'm actually suggesting you pretend to shag the baby Jesus. After all, it got Pixie Lott noticed at stage school. *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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BOOKING NOW



I'LL BE YOUR MIRROR

STARTS: London Alexandra Palace, July 23

DON'T MISS

'I'll Be Your Mirror' might've been the B-side to The Velvet Underground's 'All Tomorrow's Parties' single, but there's nothing inferior about ATP's new sister festival the UK leg of which kicks off at Ally Pally next year. Having curated the noise-ridden Nightmare Before Christmas ATP in 2007, Portishead (who will headline both days of the event) have "once again been given the horrendous task of choosing a dream list of bands" they'd like to play with. Those announced so far include Grinderman, the reunited Swans DOOM, Anika, Company Flow, The Books, Geoff Barrow's other band Beak>, noise-mongers Liars and Factory Floor, along with Beach House and The Passion Of Joan Of Arc. We've got a foggy notion that there's plenty more to be added to that list too..

NME.COM/festivals



GLASVEGAS

STARTS Orkney Kirkwall Fusion, Jan 6

James Allan and co debut material from their second album on this tiny tour of their Scottish motherland.

NME.COM/artists/glasvegas



TWIN SHADOW

STARTS Manchester Deaf Institute, Jan 26

Get twirling that 'tache now: NYC's George Lewis Jr brings his '80s bass and facial hair to the UK.

NME.COM/artists/twin-shadow



BRITISH SEA POWER

STARTS Cardiff Clwb Ifor Bach, Feb 7

BSP turn venues across the land into their very own 'Valhalla Dancehall'...

NME.COM/artists/british-sea-power



MY CHEMICAL ROMANCE

STARTS London Wembley Arena, Feb 12

We told you they would. MCR hit arenas on their biggest UK tour to date.

NME.COM/artists/my-chemical-romance



COLD WAR KIDS

STARTS Manchester Academy 2, Feb 20

The California four follow up the release of new album 'Mine Is Yours' with a short trip to Manchester, Glasgow and Birmingham.

NME.COM/artists/cold-war-kids



EXAMPLE

STARTS Norwich UEA, Feb 22

His forthcoming third album is about "taking shitloads of ketamine", as that gurning mug surely proves. Remember, kids, say no to drugs.

NME.COM/artists/example



LES SAVY FAV

STARTS London Heaven, Feb 22

Kicking off their tour with a Shockwaves NME Awards Show, Tim Harrington, the Fav and their ever-sweaty frolics tour Blighty.

NME.COM/artists/les-savy-fav



SURFER BLOOD

STARTS: Manchester Academy 3, Mar 2

From the 'Astro Coast' to greying Brit shores; the West Palm Beach quintet tour the UK. Hope they've packed their woollies.

NME.COM/artists/surfer-blood



BLOC

STARTS Minehead Butlins, Mar 11

The dance spangle-fest gets even better: Aphex Twin makes a rare appearance and Magnetic Man join Moderat, Four Tet et al.

NME.COM/festivals



RIVAL SCHOOLS

STARTS London Electric Ballroom, April 15

Co-headline tour with ... And You Will Know Us By The Trail Of Dead.

NME.COM/artists/rival-schools



MERCURY REV

STARTS: Manchester Bridgewater Hall, May 20

The latest in ATP's Don't Look Back series: 'Deserter's Songs' in full.

NME.COM/artists/mercury-rev



BRIGHT EYES

STARTS: London Royal Albert Hall, June 23

Oberst returns to the fold for the release of the band's seventh album, 'The People's Key'. Exciting!

NME.COM/artists/bright-eyes

GETTY GUY EPPEL JAMES QUINTON, PIETER M VAN HATTEM STRAATLEBEN

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Negative Pegasus Prince Albert 01273 730499

Beak>/Anika Croft 0117 967 4444
Electric Six 02 Academy 0870 771 2000
Paul Garry No 51 07786 534666
Port Erin/Holy Stain Louisiana 0117 926 5978
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Dry The River Nest 020 7354 9993
Everything Everything/Blue Flowers Union Chapel 020 7226 1686
Freyia 93 Feet East 020 7247 6095
Goat Leaf The Gaff 020 7609 3061
Godspeed You' Black Emperor Troxy 020 7734 3922
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Kings Of Leon NIA 0121 780 4133
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Skin/Toby Jepson O2 Academy 2 0870 771 2000

Boy Cried Wolf/Beans On Toast/The Agitators The Hope 01273 723 568
Field Music/The Chap/The Electric Soft Parade/The Pure Conjecture/ British Sea Power Concorde 2 01273 673311
Laura Nixon Latest Music Bar 01273 687 171

Belle & Sebastian Colston Hall 0117 922 3683
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UK Subs Croft 0117 987 4144

Missing Andy Junction 01223 511511

Alt Whitman Buffalo Bar 02920 310312
Goldie Lookin' Chain Clwb Ifor Bach 029 2023 2199
Jimi Alexander/The Ash & The Oak The Globe 07738 983947
JJ Snead/Kitty Cowell 10 Feet Tall 02920 228883
Poppy & Friends/My Name Is Ian Pot Caf 02920 251 246

Carly Connor/Mike Nisbet Electric Circus 0131 226 4224
The Xcerts Sneaky Pete's 0131 225 1757

Come On Gang King Tut's Wah Wah Hut 0141 221 5279
Fear Factory/High On Fire Queen Margaret Union 0141 339 9784
The Imagineers/Strawberry Ocean Sea 02 ABC2 0141 204 5151
Laibach Classic Grand 0141 847 0820
Meat Loaf SECC 0141 248 3000
Orange Goblin Ivory Blacks 0141 221 7871
Saint Etienne 02 ABC 0870 903 3444

Crazy Arm Santiago 0113 244 4472
Dead Swans/Mother Of Mercy/ Brutality Will Prevail Cockpit 0113 244 3446
Pixie Lott/SoundGirl O2 Academy 0870 771 2000

The Vibrators The Well 0113 2440474
The Yummy Fur Brudenell Social Club 0113 243 5866

Credit Crunchers The Donkey 0116 270 5042
Roger Wilson Musician 0116 251 0080

Jacobi/The Cocabellas/Post War Wage Slaves O2 Academy 2 0870 771 2000

Anna Calvi Barfly 0870 907 0999
Archie Bronson Outfit/The Singing Adams/Cate Le Bon XOYO 020 7729 5959
The Barker Band/Troubadour Windmill 020 8671 0700
Billy Bragg Troxy 020 7734 3922
Black Mesa/Onlyjoe/Rags Rudi Rhythm Factory 020 7247 9386
The Branco Heist O2 Academy 2 Islington 0870 771 2000
Common Sounds Underworld 020 7482 1932
The Crookes Bull & Gate 020 7485 5358
Dan Michaelson & The Coastguards Cafe Oto 0871 230 1094
Devotchka HMV Forum 020 7344 0044
Electric Six O2 Academy Islington 0870 771 2000
Emma's Imagination Borderline 020 7734 5547
Fred Garage (Upstairs) 0871 230 1094
Hatebreed Garage 020 7607 1818
The Highliners The Gaff 020 7609 3063
Lady Gaga The O2 Arena 0870 701 4444
Lanterns On The Lake /Alessi's Ark/ Peter Broderick/Philip Selway Union Chapel 020 7226 1686
March Of The Raptors 93 Feet East 020 7247 6095
Martha Reeves & The Vandellas Jazz Cafe 020 7916 6060
Matthew & The Atlas/Pete Roe/Sam Brookes Lumenaire 020 7372 7123
New Riot Monto Water Rats 020 7837 4412
New York Anxiety Attack/The Tantrics Dublin Castle 020 7485 1773
Oscillating Inwards Others 020 7241 0733
The Pretty Reckless O2 Shepherds Bush Empire 0870 771 2000
The Red Zoids Last Days Of Decadence 07982 445657
Richard Earnshaw Hoxton Square Bar & Kitchen 020 7613 0709
The Skinnies Counter Culture
Sky Montigue Gingerbread 020 8749 2310
Soulwax/2ManyDJs/Zombie Nation/Busy Pictionary/Goose O2 Academy Brixton 0870 771 2000

Tape/Robyn Sherwell/The Cold Sweat Hope & Anchor 020 7354 131[illegible]
Tigertailz Scala 020 7833 2022
You Me At Six/The Blackout/Set Your Goals HMV Hammersmith Apollo 0870 606 3400

[illegible]
Fine Young Firecrackers/Above The Underground Academy 2 0161 832 1111
The Good Intentions/The Pleasu[illegible] Cell Fuel Cafe 0161 448 9702
Helmet/Fighting With Wire/Lafaro Academy 3 0161 832 1111
JLS Evening News Arena 0161 950 5000
Martyn Joseph Waterside Arts Centre 0161 912 5616
The Meat FAC 251 0161 27 27 251

[illegible]
Asking Alexandria/The Amity Affliction O2 Academy 2 0870 771 2000
Jemtun & Urban Geisha/The Turing Test Clury 2 0191 230 4474
Lack Of Lifebeats Pumphreys Cellar Bar 0191 2603312
My Other Life/2 Wise Guys/Black Goose Head Of Steam 0191 232 4379
Nine Below Zero Clury 0191 230 4474
Skream O2 Academy 0870 771 2000

Bad Manners/Max Splodge Waterfront 01603 632717
David Celia Olives 01603 230500
Helen Ivory/Les Folies/The Fenries Arts Centre 01603 660352
The Oli Brown Band Waterfront 01603 632717

[illegible]
Ian Brown/Detroit Social Club Rock City 08713 100000

[illegible]
Hawkwind O2 Academy 0870 771 2000
Room 94 O2 Academy 3 0870 771 2000

[illegible]
The Bees Wedgewood Rooms 023 9286 3911

[illegible]
Captain Sensible/The Glitter Band Corporation 0114 276 0262
Robin Hoare Band Boardwalk 0114 279 9090
Simply Red/Macy Gray Motorpoint Arena 01142 565656

[illegible]
Jaliumy 2 Bad/We Steal Flyers Robin 2 01902 497860

[illegible]
Acoustic Ladyland The Duchess 01904 641 413
Lynda Hardcastle Black Swan Inn 01904 686 911
Middleman Stereo 01904 612237



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Flipsnack

FRIDAY
December 17

The Animals & Friends/Spencer Davis Group Lemon Tree 01224 642230
Fake Blood Snafu 01224 596 111
Status Quo/Joe Brown AECC 0870 169 0100

Alcohol Licks/Punkwreck Wagon & Horses 0121 772 1403
Cult Club HMV Institute 0844 248 5037
Dopamine/The Broadcast O2 Academy 3 0870 771 2000
Kings Of Leon NIA 0121 780 4133
Martha Reeves & The Vandellas HMV Institute 0844 248 5037

Doll & The Kicks Prince Albert 01273 730499
Kimsa The Hope 01273 723 568
Rabbit In The Headlights Three And Ten 01273 609777
Rubyluxx Concorde 2 01273 673311
Trevor Moss & Hannah Lou The Basement 01273 699733

Doreen Doreen Fiddlers 0117 987 3403
The Experimental Pop Band/Pop Parker Thunderbolt 07791 319 614
The Hats Ur Wolf's 0117 927 3221
Room 94/Forever Living Dead O2 Academy 2 0870 771 2000
Stackridge Fleece 0117 945 0996

Damon & Naomi Haymakers 01223 367417
Lissie Junction 01223 511511

Among Brothers Clwb Ifor Bach 029 2023 2199
Gentleman's Dub Club Arts Institute 0871 230 1094

Andy Wilson HMV Picture House 0844 847 1740
Broken Records/Meursault/Jesus H Foxx Pilrig St Paul's 0131 553 1676

The Hamsters Princess Pavilion 01326 211222

Thea Gilmore Sage Arena 0870 703 4555

Deadmau5/Calvin Harris/Magnetic Man Braehead Arena 0141 886 8300
The Glitter Band/Captain Sensible Classic Grand 0141 847 0820
Helmet Cathouse 0141 248 6606
Iain Morrison Captain's Rest 0141 331 2722
James/The Pigeon Detectives SECC 0141 248 3000
The Quireboys Garage 0141 332 1120
The Runners/Gimmy Stumps/David Shrigley SWG3 0141 357 7246
The Saw Doctors Barrowlands 0141 552 4601

Ultimator Cockpit 0113 244 3446

Thai New Band The Donkey 0116 270 5042

Deaf Havana Masque 0151 707 6171
Jollyboat View Two 0151 236 9555
Pete Wylie Zanzibar 0151 707 15[illegible]
The Real People University 0151 256 5555

Rialto Burns O2 Academy 2 0870 771 2000

Adelaide Purple Turtle 020 7383 4976
The Apocryphaltes Cable Street Studios 020 77901309
Beauty Heart Barfly 0870 907 0999
The Bees KOKO 020 7388 3222
Crazy Arm El Paso 020 7739 4202
Damselle Junior/Ed Sheeran Cargo 0207 749 7840
Dr Vampire/The Actionettes/Pussycat & The Dirty Johnsons Prince Albert 020 8894 3963
The Filaments The Gaff 020 7609 3063
The Filthy Six St Giles' Church 020 7638 5403
Gallows Electric Ballroom 020 7485 9006



Hawkwind HMV Forum 020 7344 0044
The House Band/Oldwick Windmill 020 8671 0700
James Hunter/The Arlenes Core 020 7514 1714
Jive Tree/Guns To Caviar Arch 635 020 7720 7343
Lady Gaga The O2 Arena 0870 701 4444
The Lambrettas Underworld 020 7482 1932
Left With Pictures Slaughtered Lamb 020 8662 4080
Lucy Rose Electrowerkz 020 7837 6419
Madness/The Jolly Boys/Paul Heaton Earls Court 020 7385 1200
Male Bonding Artch
Municipal Waste/Saviours/Running Speed O2 Academy Islington 0870 771 2000
The Pretty Things 100 Club 020 7636 0933
The Priscillas 12 Bar Club 020 7240 2622
Runner O2 Shepherds Bush Empire 0870 771 2000
Rustie XOYO 020 7729 5959
Scuba/James Blake Plan B 08701 165421
Soulwax/2ManyDJs/Boyz Noize/Zongamin/Mixhell/Paul Chambers O2 Academy Brixton 0870 771 2000

Stonegarth/The Pale Fires/Thee Plastcions Rhythm Factory 020 7247 9386
The Surfin' Gorillas Bloomsbury Bowling Lanes 020 7691 2610
Warehouse Republic Good Ship 020 7377 2544
We Sunk Atlantis/Post Me To The Stars Borderline 020 7734 5547
Yngwe & The Innocent Garage 020 7607 1818
Young Rebel Set Club MIE @ Koko 0870 4325527
The Yummy Fur/No Cars The Lexington 020 7837 5387

The Correspondents Ruby Lounge 0161 834 1392
Erol Alkan Sankey's 0161 661 9668
Ian Brown Warehouse Project 0161 835 3500
Jacinta Whyte/Matt Little Bridgewater Hall 0161 907 9000
Kamiwool Academy 3 0161 832 1111
The Murmurs Of Tension/Michael Wilson Fuel Cafe 0161 448 9702
The Pogues O2 Apollo 0870 401 8000
Saint Etienne Ritz 0161 236 4355
Sophie Ellis Bextor Academy 0161 832 1111
Tilors Insignia Academy 2 0161 832 1111

Drum Eyes Star And Shadow Cinema 0191 2610066
Fish/L3 Stars Cluny 0191 230 4474
Gladstone The Station 0871 230 1094
Heartrock/Kiss Your Commander/Harlot O2 Academy 2 0870 771 2000
The Langtails/Casino Dog & Parrot 0191 261 6998
Maiden England Trillians 0191 232 1619
Mother Firefly/Sonner Pumphreys Cellar Bar 0191 2603312
Pixie Lott/SoundGirl City Hall 0191 261 2606
Young Liar/Over The Wall/Baited Bear Cluny 2 0191 230 4474

Joe Carnall & The Book Club Marquee 01603 478374
The Kabeedies/The Gaslights Arts Centre 01603 660352

Henry Cluney The Central 0115 963 3413
Illuminatus Maze 0115 947 5650
Mona/Flashguns Bodega Social Club 08713 100000
Navajo Youth/The Black Fuzz Club NME @ Gatecrasher 0115 9101 101

Skin/Toby Jepson O2 Academy 2 0870 771 2000
Spring Offensive Wheatsheaf 01865 721156

The Visitors Cellars 0871 230 1094

Frank White New Barrack Tavern 0114 234 9148
JLS Motorpoint Arena 01142 565656
Panic Cell Corporation 0114 276 0262
While She Sleeps/Bury Tomorrow Plug 0114 276 7093

The Fallen The Duchess 01904 641 413
The Shadracks/Paper Tigers Fibbers 01904 651 250

SATURDAY
December 18

Acoustic Lady [illegible] Drummond 01224 624642

Black Market Empire HMV Institute 0844 248 5037
China Shop Bull/Disco Dirtbox/Eastfield Wagon & Horses 0121 772 1403
The Pogues O2 Academy 0870 771 2000
Sophie Ellis Bextor O2 Academy 2 0870 771 2000
Subkicks/Blue Nation/Give Chase Actress & B shop 0121 236 7426

Bad Manners Concorde 2 01273 673311
Mona/Flashguns Audio 01273 624349
Ok Pilot/Pacer/The Dead Beat Club Cowley Club 01273 696 104
Random Hand The Hydrant 01273 608313
Red Diesel Cobblers Thumb 01273 605 636
What's The Sp/Rocker Switch Prince Albert 01273 730499

The Cabaret Of Curiosities Cube Cinema 0117 907 4190
Cars On Fire/Zero Pilot Louis and 0117 926 3978
Doreen Doreen Fleece 0117 945 0996
The Johnsons Old Fox 0117 940 1145
John E Vistic/The Dirty Roger No 51 07786 534666
Lonely Tourist Seven Stars 0117 [illegible]763970
Million Way/The Wheel Of Four Tunes Mr Wo f's 0117 927 3271
Zun Zun Egui/Nedry/Chairfight/I Know I Have No Cellar Croft 0117 987 4144

People In Planes/We Are Animal/The Undivided Clwb Ifor Bach 029 2023 2199
Tiger Please Mi enn um Ce ntre 029 2040 2000

Laura Marling/The Magic Numbers/Dry The River Barge 023 8061 2544

Fred/Beaal Junction/Fiction Faction Sneaky Pete's 0131 275 1757
Hold The Suspect/Donnie Willow/These Fading Polaroids Electric Circus 0131 226 4224
Huggy/Gareth Sommerville Cabaret Voltaire 0131 220 6176
Joris Voorn/Edwin Oosterwal Liquid Room 0131 225 2564
Martha Reeves & The Vandellas HMV Picture House 0844 847 1740
Martin Stephenson Voodoo Rooms 0131 556 7060

Led-Free-Cream Azure Blue 0191 478 4326
Maddy Prior & The Carnival Band Sage Arena 0870 703 4555

Jenny Lyons O2 ABC2 0141 204 5151
Kamiwool King Tut's Wah Wah Hut 0141 221 5279
Rumrig Barrowlands 0141 552 4601
Status Quo/Joe Brown SECC 0141 248 3000
We Were Promised Jetpacks Queen Margaret Union 0141 339 9784

Zombie Nation/Burns/Unicorn Kid The Arches 0141 565 1000

Exoterik/Nya/Further From The Truth Cockpit 0113 244 3446
The Guilty Hands! The Wh[illegible] 0113 2440474
Mike Dawes & Amy Turk Grove [illegible] 0113 243 9254

The Human League De Montfort Hall 0116 233 3111
The Screening Y Theatre 0116 255 6507
Simon Nicking & The DTs Mus clan 0116 251 0080

Error 404/Charva/Protect Precinct University 0151 256 5555
Ian McCulloch Cathedra 0151 709 6271
Ian McNabb O2 Academy 0870 771 2000
Steve Hogarth St Br de's Church 07966 777 035

[illegible]/Kosmo Kings Dub n Cast e 2007485 1773
Bananirvana/Band Of Pricks [illegible]dmill 020 8671 0700
The Beat Half Moon 020 7274 2733
Bish & The Black Cat Bones Last Days Of Decadence 07982 445657
Camille O'Sullivan Roya Festival Hal 020 7960 4242
The Clientele/Damon & Naomi Bo [illegible]ne 020 7734 5547
Deadmau5/Magnetic Man/Stanton Warriors Earls Court 020 7385 1200
The Eden House Lu m naire 2007372 7123
The Fisherman's Friends Union [illegible]el 020 7226 1686
Giles Peterson/Mesca XOYO 020 7729 5959
Guilty Bingo Garage (Upsta rs) 0871 230 1094
Hello Mexico 229 Club 020 7631 8310
[illegible]Colossus Victoria 020 7607 1952
Maggot (Goldie Lookin Chain) [illegible]nderworld 020 7482 1932
Mayhem/Anaal Nathrakh/Dragged Into Sunlight O2 Academy Islington 08[illegible]771 2000
Morton Valence Wilmington Arms 020 7837 1384
Quilla Constance Cobden C l b 020 8960 42[illegible]2
Rainbows/Alice Moving Under Skies Electrowerkz 020 7837 6419
Saint Etienne HMV Forum 2007344 0044
The Saw Doctors O2 Shep herds Bush Empire 0870 771 2000
Simply Red The O2 Arena 2007 701 4444
Skream/Roller Express KOKO 2007388 3222
Skrunner/FSI Hope & Anchor 2007354 1312
Soulwax/2ManyDJs/Erol Alkan/Zongamin O2 Academy Brixto [illegible] 2007 771 2000
Servarip The Gaff 020 7609 3063
Subs/Menace Garage 2007607 1818

Dead Swans/Brutality Will Prevail Moho Live 0161 834 8180
Diaspora Mall & Phred's 0161 273 5200

Fear Factory/High On Fire Academy 0161 832 1111
Float Riverer Fuse Cafe 0161 448 9702
Frode Viola Deaf Institute 0161 330 4019
From The Jam: Bruce Foxton & Rick Buckler Academy 2 0161 832 1111
Negative Roadhouse 0161 228 1789
The Glitter Band/Captain Sensible Academy 3 0161 832 1111
Gok FAC 251 0161 27 27 251
James/The Pigeon Detectives Evening News Arena 0161 950 5000
Krafty Kuts/Meat Katie Sound Control 0161 236 0340
Pixie Lott/SoundGirl O2 Apollo 2071 401 8000
Slint & Damon Bad Night And Day Gorilla 0161 236 1822

The Bandits Black Bull 0191 414 2846
The Din/Ambershitt Cluny 2 [illegible]91 230 4474
Pyreon/Mercinary Pumphreys Cellar Bar 0191 2603312
SJS Metro Radio Arena 0870 707 8000

Spennymoor Arts Centre [illegible]660352

Rock$tar The Central 0115 963 3413
Skin/Toby Jepson Rock City 08713 100000
Space Ritual Old Angel 0115 950 2303
Zan Arcade Stealth 08713 100000

Chasing Shadows Bu Bigdon Arms 01865 244516
Dial F For Frankenstein Wheatsheaf 01865 721156
Electric Six O2 Academy 0870 771 2000
Osprey O2 Academy 3 0870 771 2000

The Targets Cellars 0871 230 1094

Dos[illegible]ch New Barrack Tavern 0114 [illegible]34 9148
Ginger Corporation 0114 276 0262
Jon Windle/Rubberlaris/The Gentlemen Plug 0114 276 7093
Lissie Leadmill 0114 221 2828
Peter Andre Motorpoint Arena 0114 [illegible]56565[illegible]
The Real Reflective O2 Academy 0870 771 2000
Screaming Maldini/Cats:For:Peru Library Theatre 0114 278 9789

The South Robin 2 01902 497860

The Federals/Cardboard Radio The Duchess 01904 641 413
RSJ Stereo 01904 612237



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SUN-TUES
December 19-21

SUNDAY DEC 19

ABERDEEN
The Xcerts Lemon Tree 01224 642230
BATH
The Golden Eggs Bell 01225 460426
BIRMINGHAM
Karnivool O2 Academy 3 0870 771 2000
BRIGHTON
Audio Bullys Digital 01273 202407
Linkin Concorde 2 01273 673311
The Sussex Pistols Dome 01273 709709
BRISTOL
Phantom Limb/Jenny Lindfors Thekla 08713 000000
Vena Cava/True Valiance Croft 0117 987 4144
EDINBURGH
Acoustic Ladyland Electric Circus 0131 226 4224
The Barrel Sessions Bongo Club 0131 558 7604
Trapped In Kansas Sneaky Pete's 0131 225 1757
GLASGOW
Belle & Sebastian Barrowlands 0141 552 4601
The Black Hand Gang/The Statler Project Admiral 0141 221 7705
Panic Cell Ivory Blacks 0141 221 7871
Shakira SECC 0141 248 3000
St Deluxe King Tut's Wah Wah Hut 0141 221 5279
LEEDS
Dopamine Cockpit 0113 244 3446
The Solicitors New Roscoe 0113 246 0778
LEICESTER
Maybeshewill Firebug 0116 255 1228
Nine Below Zero Musician 0116 251 0080
Richard Everitt The Donkey 0116 270 5042
LONDON
Aberfeldy/Ahab Luminaire 020 7372 7123
Dave McPherson Purple Turtle 020 7383 4976
Dead Swans/Mother Of Mercy O2 Academy Islington 0870 771 2000
Fear Factory HMV Forum 020 7344 0044
The Glitter Band Dingwalls 020 7267 1577
John Cooper Clarke Scala 020 7833 2022
Lee Mead Coliseum 020 7379 1264
The Masonics/The Nuns The Lexington 020 7837 5387
The Moons 100 Club 020 7636 0933
Morado/Gyptian/Gappy Ranks O2 Academy Brixton 0870 771 2000
North Pole Dancer Dublin Castle 020 7485 1773
Ray Davies Royal Festival Hall 020 7960 4242
Swallow The Sun/Solstafir/Mar De Grises Underworld 020 7482 1932
Voodoo Hussy Borderline 020 7734 5547
MANCHESTER
Ginger Moho Live 0161 834 8180
Jon Windle Ruby Lounge 0161 834 1392
Peter Andre Evening News Arena 0161 950 5000
NEWCASTLE
David McAlmont Cluny 0191 230 4474
The Quireboys O2 Academy 2 0870 771 2000
Tubesnake Star Inn 0191 222 3111
NORWICH
The Oh Brown Band Waterfront 01603 632717
NOTTINGHAM
Kate Rusby Playhouse 0115 941 9419
OXFORD
Sophie Ellis Bextor O2 Academy 0870 771 2000
PORTSMOUTH
Chris Ricketts & Mark Wiltshire Cellars 0871 230 1094
SHEFFIELD
The Black Flowers/Jubby Taylor Library Theatre 0114 278 9789
Connie Lush Boardwalk 0114 279 9090
Kings Of Leon Motorpoint Arena 01142 565656
WOLVERHAMPTON
Steve Harley Robin 2 01902 497860
YORK
Young Guns/The Swellers/Japanese Voyeurs Fibbers 01904 651 250

MONDAY DEC 20

BATH
The Hats Bell 01225 460426
BIRMINGHAM
Fugative O2 Academy 3 0870 771 2000
The Twang HMV Institute 0844 248 5037
BRISTOL
The Colour Of The Sun/Bandikiil Louisiana 0117 926 5978
Daedalus Right Eye/A Tale Of Two Cities Croft 0117 987 4144
Fear Factory/High On Fire O2 Academy 0870 771 2000
Stress Echoes/Hidden Image Mr Wolf's 0117 927 3221
CARDIFF
Paper Factory/We Are The Afterglow Buffalo Bar 02920 310312
Tom Hingley 10 Feet Tall 02920 228883
GLASGOW
Belle & Sebastian Barrowlands 0141 552 4601
Ginger Garage 0141 332 1120
Glen Matlock & The Philistines King Tut's Wah Wah Hut 0141 221 5279
LIVERPOOL
Nine Elves O2 Academy 2 0870 771 2000
LONDON
Chrystina Tomlin Hope & Anchor 020 7354 1312
Drum Eyes Corsica 020 7288 1495
The Enid Union Chapel 020 7226 1686
Foy Vance Garage 020 7607 1818
James Yorkston Luminaire 020 7372 7123
The Pogues O2 Academy Brixton 0870 771 2000
Shakira The O2 Arena 0870 701 4444
MANCHESTER
JLS Evening News Arena 0161 950 5000
NEWCASTLE
Detroit Social Club Cluny 0191 230 4474
OXFORD
Roadhouse/Debbie Bond Bullingdon Arms 01865 244516
PORTSMOUTH
Bear Cavalry/Forest Floors/Under The Laurels Cellars 0871 230 1094
Karnivool Wedgewood Rooms 023 9286 3911
SHEFFIELD
Retrospectives Leadmill 0114 221 2828

TUESDAY DEC 21

BRIGHTON
Alice Prince Albert 01273 730499
BRISTOL
Barry Walsh/Bashema Colston Hall 0117 922 3683
Hollow Divide/Your Last Breath/Everest Never Falls Croft 0117 987 4144
Know Buses Louisiana 0117 926 5978
CARDIFF
The Grannery Riffs Buffalo Bar 02920 310312
EDINBURGH
Aberfeldy Liquid Room 0131 225 2564
The Girlobabies Ocean Terminal 0870 220 1116
GATESHEAD
We Are The Fantasy/Ricky & The Porters Three Tuns 0191 487 0666
GLASGOW
Belle & Sebastian Barrowlands 0141 552 4601
The Sunshine Delay/John Hinchelwood Band Stale Bar 0141 332 2159
Tom Hingley King Tut's Wah Wah Hut 0141 221 5279
LEEDS
Sylosis/While She Sleeps Cockpit 0113 244 3446
LEICESTER
Kristyna Myles Musician 0116 251 0080
LIVERPOOL
Anathema Cavern Club 0151 236 1964
LONDON
Adelaide/Sons & Lovers Garage 020 7607 1818
David Celia North London Tavern 020 7625 6634
David Devant & His Spirit Wife 100 Club 020 7636 0933
Glen Matlock Monto Water Rats 020 7837 4412
Kings Of Leon The O2 Arena 0870 701 4444
Modestep Barfly 0870 907 0999
The Pogues O2 Academy Brixton 0870 771 2000
SJ Esau/The Laurel Collective Old Queen's Head 020 7354 9993
The Wagon Tales Slaughtered Lamb 020 8682 4080
Young Lust/What's Left Of Eden Dublin Castle 020 7485 1773
MANCHESTER
The Enid Band On The Wall 0161 832 6625
Gold Teeth Deaf Institute 0161 330 4019
Kirsty Almeida Matt & Phred's 0161 273 5200
Missing Andy/ICE Band Moho Live 0161 834 8180
The Twang Sound Control 0161 236 0340
NEWCASTLE
Detroit Social Club Cluny 0191 230 4474
Ginger Legends 0191 232 0430
Young Guns O2 Academy 2 0870 771 2000
NORWICH
Fever Fever/Transept Arts Centre 01603 660352
WOLVERHAMPTON
Mike Sanchez Robin 2 01902 497860

WEDS-TUES
December 22-28

WEDNESDAY DEC 22

BATH
Yes Sir Boss Bell 01225 460426
BIRMINGHAM
Deluka Hare & Hounds 0121 444 2081
Trevor Burton Band Actress & Bishop 0121 236 7426
BRISTOL
The Atomic Rays Horseshoe 0117 956 0471
Julie Daska No 51 07786 534666
Kill Cassidy Louisiana 0117 926 5978
Maps & Legends/Dr Nut Croft 0117 987 4144
CARDIFF
The Blender Buffalo Bar 02920 310312
Dopamine Clwb Ifor Bach 029 2023 2199
GLASGOW
Attic Lights/Woods Captain's Rest 0141 331 2722
Roddy Hart Stereo 0141 576 5018
LEICESTER
Echolocation Musician 0116 251 0080
LONDON
A Spoonful Of Poison The Lion 0208 977 3199
Coco's Lovers Old Queen's Head 020 7354 9993
Fugative O2 Academy Islington 0870 771 2000
La Roisia Fans 93 Feet East 020 7247 6095
Nina/Miss Davina Lee Monarch 0871 230 1094
The Operators Barfly 0870 907 0999
The Resolution Does Cargo 0207 749 7840
Slow Club/The Wave Pictures/Sweet Baboo Union Chapel 020 7226 1686
The Telescopes Nambucca 020 7272 7366
Tin Hearts/Chase Fielding Dublin Castle 020 7485 1773
The Twang Garage 020 7607 1818
MANCHESTER
Paul Farr Trio Matt & Phred's 0161 273 5200
NEWCASTLE
Martin Stephenson & The Daintees Cluny 0191 230 4474
NORWICH
Ed Sheeran/The Loyal Few Waterfront 01603 632717
PORTSMOUTH
Missing Andy Cellars 0871 230 1094
WOLVERHAMPTON
Ginger Wulfrun Hall 0870 320 7000
Quill Robin 2 01902 497860

THURSDAY DEC 23

BIRMINGHAM
Jake & Elwood NIA 0121 780 4133
Kinn/False Pretence O2 Academy 3 0870 771 2000
BRIGHTON
Laura Nixon Latest Music Bar 01273 687 171
The Mess Around/Love Park/Prince Harry Prince Albert 01273 730499
BRISTOL
Cold Soup No 51 07786 534666
Figment Mr Wolf's 0117 927 3221
The Goodnes Louisiana 0117 926 5978



The Termites Thunderbolt 07791 319 614
CARDIFF
Boom In The Diamond Industry/Save Your Breath/Town Clwb Ifor Bach 029 2023 2199
Kids In Glass Houses Clwb Ifor Bach (Upstairs) 029 2023 2199
Rap Happenings Buffalo Bar 02920 310312
GLASGOW
Dots/Pure Dead Brilliant Ivory Blacks 0141 221 7871
Lou Hickey King Tut's Wah Wah Hut 0141 221 5279
LEEDS
Little Chief/The Wang Dang Doodles New Roscoe 0113 246 0778
LEICESTER
Bandjaked Musician 0116 251 0080
Credit Crunchers The Donkey 0116 270 5042
LONDON
Bad Manners/Max Splodge O2 Academy Islington 0870 771 2000
Blood Stains Juliet Barfly 0870 907 0999
Godsticks Hope & Anchor 020 7354 1312
The Guilty Handz Silver Bullet 020 7619 3639
They Say Jump Dublin Castle 020 7485 1773
The Zeds/Oswld Sinclair Yrla The Lexington 020 7837 5387
MANCHESTER
The Mad Professor Band On The Wall 0161 832 6625
Skunnel Matt & Phred's 0161 273 5200
NEWCASTLE
Martin Stephenson & The Daintees Cluny 0191 230 4474
NORWICH
English Dogs/Poundaflesh King Edward VII 0844 414 5188
The Enid Arts Centre 01603 660352
PORTSMOUTH
Night Of Treason/The Curst Sons/The Caezars Wedgewood Rooms 023 9286 3911
YORK
Heights Stereo 01904 612237

DEC 24-26

IT'S CHRISTMAS!

DRUNK ON THE SOFA

MONDAY DEC 27

BIRMINGHAM
Bad Manners/Max Splodge HMV Institute 0844 248 5037
GATESHEAD
Jaz Lowe Sage Arena 0870 703 4555
GLASGOW
Eddie Halliwell/John O'Callaghan The Arches 0141 565 1000
LONDON
Jumping Jack Frost Scala 020 7833 2022
PORTSMOUTH
County Line Cellars 0871 230 1094
YORK
Engine Room Stereo 01904 612237

TUESDAY DEC 28

BIRMINGHAM
LIP HMV Institute 0844 248 5037
BRIGHTON
White Star Liners Prince Albert 01273 730499
CARDIFF
Ge-X Clwb Ifor Bach 029 2023 2199
EDINBURGH
The Lost Soul Band Liquid Room 0131 225 2564
GATESHEAD
In Transit/Karlee Three Tuns 0191 487 0666
GLASGOW
AB/CD Cathouse 0141 248 6606
My Latest Novel King Tut's Wah Wah Hut 0141 221 5279
LEICESTER
El Pussycats Musician 0116 251 0060
LONDON
Honey Fits 100 Club 020 7636 0933
Lowellen Barfly 0870 907 0999
Neurotic/Minutes Dublin Castle 020 7485 1773
PORTSMOUTH
Mark Morriss Cellars 0871 230 1094

EMMA BUNTY, RICHARD JOHNSON, CLIVE PENN

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ON NME THIS CHRISTMAS...

Here's some of the highlights we'll be bringing you throughout the festive period.
Head to NME.COM for full schedules

NME TV

December 16 6pm
MILES KANE TAKEOVER



With the former Rascal and Shadow Puppet striking out on his own, we're giving Miles Kane complete control of the station for an hour. Tune in as he guides us through his video selections and chats about his new single 'Inhaler'.

December 18 10am
ROCK 'N' GROHL

Dave Grohl has come to define rock'n'roll so much that we've given up and named the genre after him. Check out a career-spanning selection of videos from the former Nirvana drummer turned Foo Fighters frontman.

December 19 7pm
TO THE STAGE: GORILLAZ

With Damon Albarn and Jamie Hewlett's cartoon creations coming to life like never before on their arena tour, we pay tribute to Murdoc, 2D and co with a look at some of their cutting-edge clips



December 23 9pm
TO THE STAGE: EMINEM

Make yours a Slim Shady Christmas with a rundown of the rapper's greatest moments. Is there anything more festive then a chainsaw and a hockey mask?

December 27 1pm
THE BEST AND WORST VIDEOS OF 2010

With just days left of the year, we'll be running down the best videos and the biggest stinkers from 2010. Tune in for the two-part show to find out whether your favourite act has made it into video heaven or hell!

NME TV AVAILABLE ON SKY CHANNEL 382

NME .COM

December 15
RADAR BANDS OF 2011

The countdown for the best new music of next year kicks off early. Each day throughout Christmas we'll be introducing a new act each day which looks set to stir things up in 2011. Head to NME.COM/blogs for your daily update.

December 25
THE GHOST OF NME CHRISTMAS PAST

Before (or after) you stuff yourself with turkey, check out our special picture gallery, featuring some of the best NME Christmas cover shoots over the last few years. The Strokes (left) in gorilla suits? Arctic Monkeys as evil elves? It's all here.

December 27
NME'S BEST PICTURES OF 2010

Head to the picture galleries to review the most beautiful pictures of the year. Featuring snaps from the world's greatest rock'n'roll photographers, there's no better way to relive the year in music.



December 29
GAMES, BOOKS AND FILMS OF THE YEAR

While the debate over the albums and tracks of 2010 rumbles on, check out our favourite movies, books and video games of the last 12 months. Then have your say on what have been your highlights at NME.COM/blogs.

January 2
50 REASONS TO LOOK FORWARD TO 2011

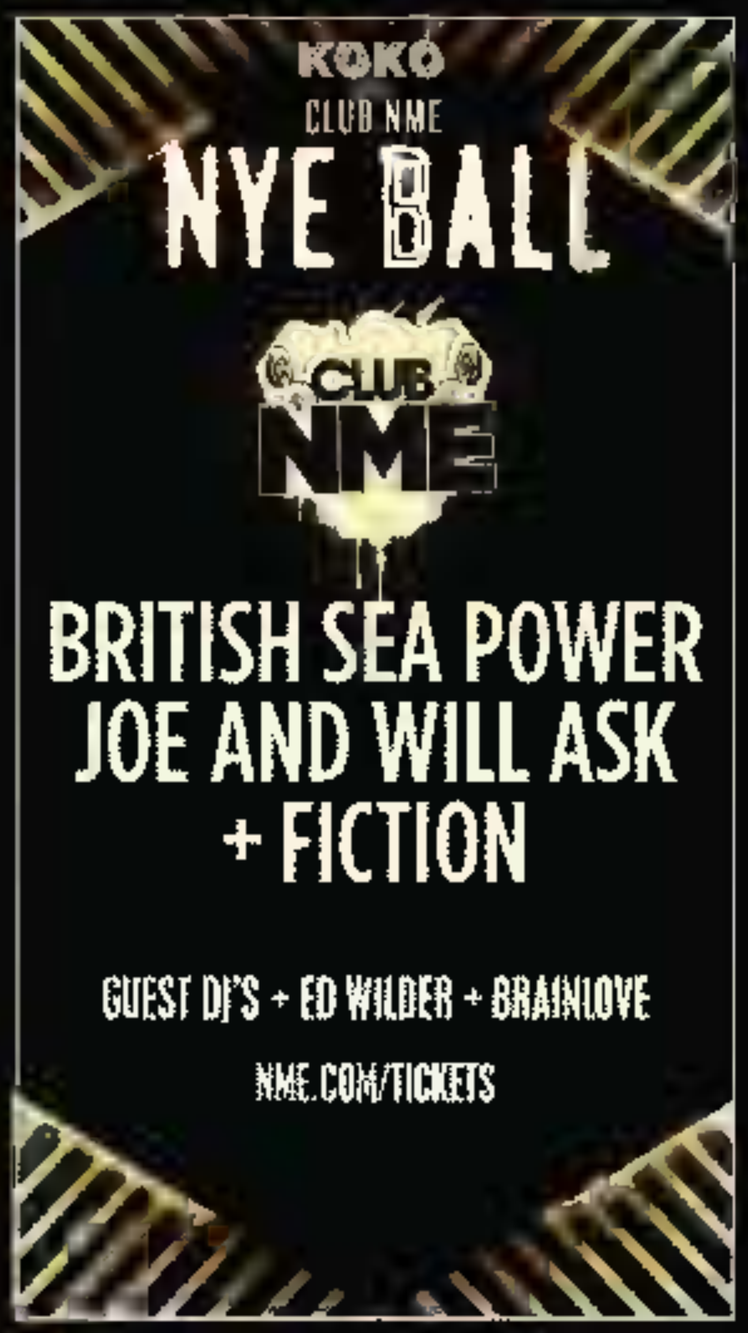
If the end of the festive period is leaving you blue, check out our special rundown of why next year will be a corker, with all the best bands, gigs, festivals, albums and more that will be coming up over the next 12 months.

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NME RADIO

While the rest of the world gets Christmas off, NME Radio will be on air 24 hours a day throughout the break, playing your favourite music of 2010, the tips for 2011 plus the best tunes from the '60s, '70s, '80s, '90s and '00s, along with exclusive interviews and session tracks. Plus you can now get NME Radio on Freesat – tune in on Channel 727 or head to Sky Channel 0184. NME.COM/radio or download the iPhone/ iPad app now.





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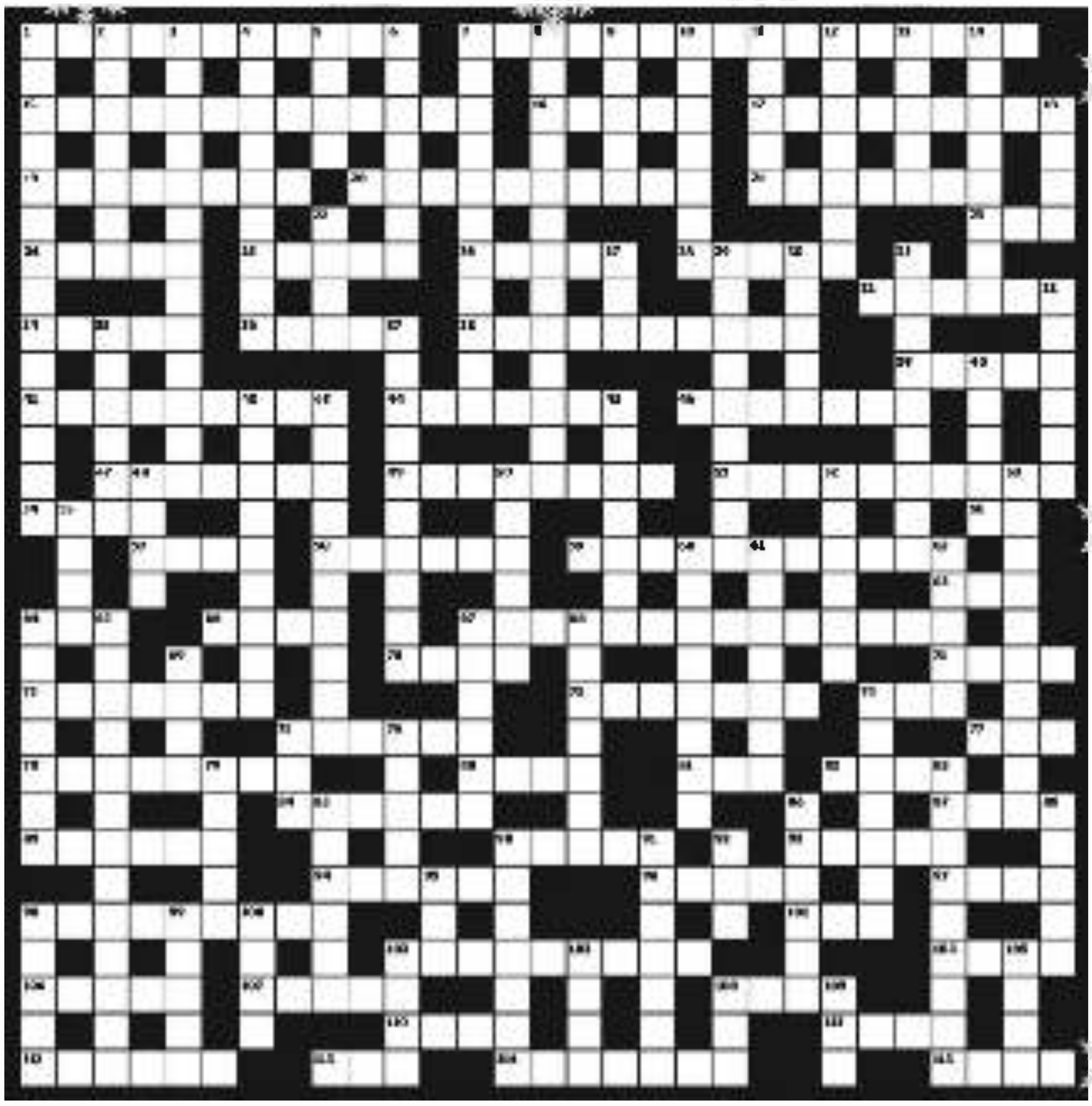
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THE X-WORD FACTOR

PUT DOWN THAT 27TH MINCE PIE AND FILL THIS OUT INSTEAD.
YOU COULD WIN AN NME BAG OF SWAG

Compiled by Xmas Tree-vor Hungerford





CLUES ACROSS

1 The sound of 'Infinity Guitars' ringing out for one night only in December (6 5)
7+47A *"There's not a line that goes here that rhymes with anything/I had a dream last night but I forget what it was"* 1985 (4-3 9-7)
15 Iggy Pop was once a truly excited kid (4-4 5)
16 *"Did you see the stylish kids in the riot/We were shovelled up like muck/Set the____ on fire"*, from The Libertines' 'Time For Heroes' (5)
17 Crystal Castles perform without any passion (3 2 4)
19 By which song punk band X Ray Spex were easily recognised (8)
20 Guitarist with The Smiths who now has Jetlag (4-6)
21 The brilliance of Jet continued with this album (5 2)
23+88D Details of when to finish with this Eels album (3-5)
24+25A US rock band whose guitarist Ty Longley and 100 fans died in a fire at a Rhode Island gig in 2003 (5-5)
26+64D *"Shut the bedroom window_____/Go to the shop, make plans to be leaving"*, The Coral (2 3-7)
28 Brummies who can do it 'Either Way' (5)
32 Album trotted out by Patti Smith in 1975 (6)
34+84A Creation band formed in 1986 by Guy Chadwick (5-2-4)
36 Her singles include 'Hang With Me' and 'With Every Heartbeat' (5)
38+72A *"Men are coming to take me away/I don't know why but I know I can't stay"*, Arcade Fire (4 3-3 7)
39 Duo formed by Theo Hutchcraft and Adam Anderson (5)
41 Seal strangely taken in by The Vines to form band on Sub Pop label (9)
44 (See 37 down)
46+86D Not the pub shut? That's terrible. Get me something from The Chemical Brothers (4 3-6)
47 (See 7 across)
49 (See 54 across)
51 ZZ Top did a turn in their tracks and went in the opposite direction for this number (10)
54+49A Kept in the dark about a Ladyhawke release (4 4-4)
56+63A American band doing 'Everything In Between' are not aimed at the young or old (2 3)
57+73A Terry in a big commotion with Gallows (4-7)
58 *"I think I'm sophisticated 'cos I'm living my life like a good homosapien"*, The Kinks (6)
59 Ruth meets me to get remix of Wilco album (11)
63 (See 56 across)
64 The 2001 Number One 'Lady Marmalade' featured Christine Aguilera, Lil' Kim, Pink and this singer (3)
66+107A As Sean Coombs was known in late '90s (4 5)
67 *"There's a million little lights when the sky turns black tonight"*, 2010 (14)
70 Trevor ___, record producer who has also been a member of Buggles, Yes and Art Of Noise (4)
71 Billy ___, invited to a 'White Wedding' (4)
72 (See 38 across)
73 (See 57 across)
74 Album from punk band The Slits that got the chop (3)
75+81A Gary Dewar is not the right man for My Chemical Romance (6-3)
77+14D Those going under following Suede's debut single (3-8)
78 A subtle reference made regarding a Queen Number One single (8)
80 *"I've waited for a thousand years for you to come and blow me out my mind"* 2005 (4)
81 (See 75 across)
82 Difficult to see how they survived on Food (4)
84 (See 34 across)
87 Squeeze album ___ Side Story' (4)
89 1978 movie whose main characters are Danny Zuko and Sandra Dee (6)
90 Band that demonstrated their 'Strength In Numbers' (5)
93 Elton John and Leon Russell have just got it together on album 'The ___' (5)
94 No personal difficulty in getting Faith No More to record this (2-4)
96 Meant to change bassist for Pearl Jam (5)
97 He comes out of the scheme leaving confusion over BT album (1-1-1-1)
98 (See 6 down)
101 Paul McCartney album '__ Of War' (3)
102 (See 37 down)
104 '___ Aloft' by Joe Strummer or 'Heavy In Your___' by Florence And The Machine (4)
106 Teenage Fanclub album as greeted by those from around Texas (5)
107 (See 66 across)
108 (See 103 down)
110 'Shotgun Wedding' hitmaker spotted in a Rolls-Royce (3 1)
111 *'I can see them laugh at me and I hear them say – hey, you've got to hide your___ away"*, The Beatles (4)
112 Many ways to include this 1970 album from rock band Family (6)
113 Mildred in the end gets a Guillemots album (3)
114 Electropop band who made a 'One Life Stand' this year (3 4)
115 A half-pleasing effort from My Chemical Romance (4)

CLUES DOWN

1 Five dour nights became terrible with Klaxons playing (7 3-4)
2 My very own deletion of a Kid Cudi number (5 2)
3 For the current 'It's a Queens Of The Stone Age number (2 4-3 4)
4 Tell Rob we reformed '90s New York band (9)
5 *"But the absolute___ is 'love is in our hearts"*, fortunately there's a word that fits into The Jam's 'Absolute Beginners' (4)
6+98A Academic subject studied on the quiet by Richard Ashcroft (7-2-7)
7 Dick retyped new version of Arctic Monkeys number (5-6)
8 *'Trailers for sale or rent, rooms to let, 50 cents/No phone, no pool, no pets, I ain't got no cigarettes'*, 1965 and 1990 (4-2 3-4)
9 Late '90s band, fronted by Dan Laidler, whose singles included 'My Puppet Pal' (5)
10 Cure music part of the town centre attraction (7)
11 (See 29 down)
12 New NERD album comes to nought (7)
13 *"___ was only 52, he didn't wanna die/And now he's gone to make deliveries in that milk round in the sky"* 1971 (5)
14 (See 77 across)
15 Hip-hop act formed by Erick Sermon and Parrish Smith (1 1 1)
22 Brotherly name from The Bee Gees (4)
27+31D Drumsticks devoured by Blondie in recording of this album (3 2 3-4)
29+11D Wicked Blue song rewritten for a Gene hit (2-5 2-5)
30 Direction taken musically by Darkstar (5)
31 (See 27 down)
33 Well, well, well. That doesn't sound like Ne Yo (2-4)
35 British punks who busk in return for getting into US (2-4)
37+44A+102A *'You better stop look around/Here it comes, here it comes, here it comes here it comes, here comes your_____ ___ _____"* 1966 (10-7 9)
40 Terrible anger of woman from All About Eve (5)
42 Ugly one in new look to be a singer/songwriter (4-5)
43 How to perhaps make singer fail with Snow Patrol (6-4)
45 After all the cuts had been made, here were the leftovers for The Killers' album (7)
48 It's alright to make a move for US Grammy Award winning band (2-2)
50+74B *"___ ____ to the zombies of death/Quit holding out and draw another breath"*, 1979 (6-7)
52 Was once that certain thing The Cardigans had (4 2)
53 (See 62 down)
55 *"Poor twisted child, so___ so _ /The poor twisted child oh hug me oh hug me"*, from Morrissey's 'November Spawned A Monster' (4)
60 Flour power band The _____ Brothers went all 'Slinky' on album (8)
61 In truth, this was an album by David Bowie (7)
62+53D *"Original pirate material' yer listening to The Streets"*, 2001 (3-2-4-2-4)
64 (See 26 across)
65 Black Rebel Motorcycle Club do everything in a difficult manner (4-2-4-3)
67 Real CD version of Joy Formidable single (6)
68 Their line-up is Billy Lunn, Charlotte Cooper and Josh Morgan (7)
69 Razorsharp song that's gripping and wicked (4)
74 (See 50 down)
75 Sonic Youth album of substance 'If rather lacky (3)
76 This Smashing Pumpkins effort was just a bit of bravado really (5)
79 Even I get confused over one of Elvis Costello's musicians (5)
83 Needs gear change to go with Rage Against The Machine (9)
85 There's been a Grizzly Bear release, mate (6)
86 (See 46 across)
88 (See 23 across)
90 *"If you ever step on ___, I'll bring you down"*, a very territorial Jim Noir (2-5)
91 *"You might not ever get rich but let me tell ya it's better than diggin' a ditch"*, 1976 1988, 1998 (3-4)
92+105D No women turn up for Elliott Smith album recording (3-4)
95 *"The sense in the _ on a warm day, generation of hope that sees the better days"*, from Dirty Pretty Things' 'Tired Of England' (3)
98 *"You feel that itch in your petticoat 'your pretty, pretty petticoat"*, 2006 (3-2)
99 Rock classic that begins *"What if you do when you get lonely, and nobody's wanting by your side?"*, (5)
100 This was barely a hit for Radiohead (4)
102 Gary ___, took 'The Crown' with this early rap recording in 1983 (4)
103+108A French act who have provided the film score to movie 'Iron Legacy' (4-4)
106 (See 92 down)
108 U2 album has music with general appeal (3)
109 They asked 'What Time is Love' and then caught the 'Last Train To Trancentral' (1-1-1)

NOVEMBER 6 ANSWERS
ACROSS 1 Every Step's A Yes, 9 Margins, 11+104 The Recluse, 12+24D Canned Heat 14+20D Free Bird 15 More 16 New Day 19 Bubblegum, 21 Cliffs, 22 Deaf 24+25A Hit Parade 27 Nylon 29+7D All Work And You Play, 31 Monkey 32 Gas, 33+6D Stay Sick
DOWN 2 Velvet 3 Diamonds, 4 Siouxsie's, 5+50 Steve Earle 9 Matinee 11D Mob, 14+23D Friendly Fires, 17 Wild Thing, 18 Luna 19 Blur, 25 Press, 26 Enemy 28 Like 30 SOS

Simply cut out the crossword and send it, along with your name and address, marking the envelope with the issue date, before Tuesday December 28, 2010, to the following address: Crossword NME, 4th Floor, Blue Fin Building, 110 Southwark Street, London SE1 0SU. First correct one out of the hat wins!

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festive FANMAIL

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

Edited by Santa Claus

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The Big Issue

Keeping us locked in email battle this week...



WE FOUR KINGS

From: Jared, Kings Of Leon
To: Santa
Goddarnit, why won't them *NME* fellas quit their bitchin' at us here Followill brothers? We try and do the right thing in hangin' out with some kindly black folk in our video so we can show we're good honest men deep down, and that all the rootin' and druggin' and moonshinin' is all in the past now, God-willing. And what do Satanic *NME* do? Ridicule us. Well, a storm's a-coming their way... hold on .. no wait, it's a cloud of pigeons. . SHEEE-IITT, run for the barn!.. Oh Lordy, they're CRAPPIN'. . not on the hair, ye blasted varmints, not on the HAIR

NME's response...

From: Santa
To: Jared, Kings Of Leon
Jared, firstly, I'm going to get you a wide-brimmed hat for Christmas to stop your pigeon problems. And secondly, don't you listen to the haters at *NME*, they're just jealous.

From Jared, Kings Of Leon
To: Santa
I ain't wearin' no hat over my head, Santa. The females wanna see ma hair. Can't you get me a new blunderbuss for me to shoot them damn pigeons to the ground? Maybe I can use it to shoot the pants of them folk at the *NME* too...

From: Santa
To: Jared, Kings Of Leon
Now, I'm not having you brothers fighting over guns again this Christmas. Remember that year when you fought over who shot the barn door with a Smith & Wesson first. How did that end? Yup, your grandpappy got shot in the behind.

Get in touch at the above addresses. Winners should email letters@nme.com

MERRY SMACKMAS

From: Salem
To: Santa
Hi Santa, Salem here. Obviously we think you're a fucking corporate sell-out asshole but nevertheless, we do have some present wishes. We've got two lists, and I'd be grateful if you could get us the stuff we want on one of them, but tell the folks at *Vice* that we were given the stuff on the other one. Cheers, fuck-face: LIST OF STUFF WE ACTUALLY WANT: Body Shop 'Big Box Of Joy' Gift Pack, sheepskin gloves, a nice rabbit (white pref), foot spa, extra fluffy towels, *Singstar: Rock Ballads*, *My Booky Wook 2*, and a surprise. LIST OF STUFF TO TELL PEOPLE WE GOT: heroin, needles, a squat, crack, cold sores, trash-can, knuckle-duster, spit, homeless mates, amyl, ball-gag, spew, turds and a beating in the gutter. Cheers.

From: Santa
To: Salem
You are silly billies, Salem, but that's no problem. And, hey, remember that although this year hipsters will drop their interest in you like a ton of bricks, Santa will be your friend forever. Bless.

A MUMFORD CAROL

From: Marcus Mumford
To: Santa
Dearest Santa, I was happily strolling along the promenade the other fine morning and I did observe a fellow whose smile was turned upside down. Intrigued, I approached the lad with a jaunty whistle and strummed him a ballad of my own creation entitled 'Breeches? Aye! Braces? Aye!'. Imagine my surprise upon concluding my musical tale, the fellow's smile still eluded him. "Prithee, lad... Wherefore were art schooled?" I boldly demanded. You will never guess what his gutteral utterance eventually revealed: he was an attendee of a comprehensive school. I know, I know! I've heard of such things, a modern update of the workhouse I believe, and in sympathy I sang him an ode to his plight entitled, 'Pity The Poor For They Know Not Their Own Plight'.. and the bounder bashed me in the hooter! I josh not, sir! Thankfully, my carriage driver was on hand and gave the young oik the thrashing of a lifetime. I just feel moved to warn you Santa not to fraternise with the Great Unwashed. It is a path fraught with peril indeed. Pip pip.

From: Santa
To: Marcus Mumford
Oh Marcus, you should never have been allowed out of the cloistered world of the landed gentry, yet now Mumford & Sons are in the popular domain you will encounter more of people of the lower classes. It's going to be hard for you, but you must learn their ways. For Christmas, I shall give you tickets for the recording of *The Jeremy Kyle Show*, which will be alarming to you, but invaluable. And never fear, I'll provide you with a scented handkerchief to hide behind.

XMASDELICA

From: Bobby Gillespie
To: Santa
Alright, Santa you fucking cocksucking cog in the capitalist machine. Listen, right, here's the total fucking high energy rock'n'roll I want this year,

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right. OK, c'mon, shake your pants, baby. Right, one fuckin' copy of 'Raw Power' by Iggy & The Stooges. One copy of Jerry Lee Lewis' 'Live At The Star Club', which is just, y'know, total rock'n'roll. One copy of 'Kick Out The Jams' by the MC5 – just a beautiful album, y'know? Alright, shake it, baby, c'mon, yeah.

From: Santa
To: Bobby Gillespie
Jesus Christ, Bobby, the same bloody records again? Don't bother writing next year, just take it as read that you're going to get them. Mental.

WALLOP AND THE IVY

From: Paul Weller
To: Santa
Awoit? Yeah, got a message for all them young facking kids: get off the FaceSpace, fuck your wittering, stop your internet facking dating. Awoit? And that's not all, burn PlayStations, televisions, digital watches, video cassette players, vending machines, the combustion engine, modern medicine, the Lever Arch file, the aqueduct and all them fackin' poncin' new-fangled tools that we really don't need. Let's be proper real, awoit?
PS Santa, you need to sort out your fackin' threads, yeah? You look like a right nancy nonce of a ponce, awoit?

From: Santa
To: Paul Weller
Mr Weller, or can I call you 'Wallop'? How about I just get you a time machine and send you back to the beginning of the Bronze Age so you can put a stop to their discovery of tool making. Incidentally, are you turning into Michael Barrymore?

LIB AND LET DIE

From: Peter Doherty
To: Santa
Hello there Santa, I have a right pain in the gulliveer about my dear old droog, brother. Carl, Bilo and Biggles were once partners in getting shagged and fagged and fashed, but now dear Santa, I viddy a gaping gap between us. Briefly reunited, now he's set off on his one-man boat, and the good ship Albion has run



STALKER

From: Macca
To: Santa
"Kasabian and I bumped into Hamish MacBain, so how could we resist re-enacting this Wings cover?"

adrift again. I have tossed him bottled poems of woe into the sea, but oh my brother, no reply, and I have become all gloopy once more.

From: Santa
To: Peter Doherty
Cc: Carl Barât
Jesus, what's wrong with you two? Can't you just text each other or something? I've CC'ed-in Carl. Carl, will you just talk to Pete and arrange a pint to discuss the band?

From: Carl Barât
To: Santa; Peter Doherty
Oh my brothers, 'tis verily a fine thing when one's kin, Peter, tries to contact yours truly. I hear angel trumpets and devil trombones! But, oh Bilo, the path to Arcadia is rife with slooshied trouble – the choppy waters of rehearsals, getting out of bedways in the morn for eggiwegs... How can we have the rassoodocks when and where our paths shall cross again?

From: Santa
To: Carl Barât; Peter Doherty
For fuck's sake...

SONGS OF MALAISE

From: MGMT, Klaxons
To: Santa
Dear Santa, we're both writing to you because there's one thing we both would really like as a present at Christmas: some tunes. That's it. Bit of an embarrassing one, but they've been a little hard to come by of late, so we could do with stocking up. In restrospect both of our bands shouldn't have asked you for quite so many drugs last year, then we might not be in this position.

From: Santa
To: MGMT, Klaxons
You wouldn't believe how many little boys and girls ask for tunes for Christmas. I'm afraid it's just something you have to figure out for yourselves. If Santa helped you, he'd have to help everyone, and that'd mean a comeback for The Pigeon Detectives, which nobody wants now, do they?

SILENT NIGHT

From: The xx
To: Santa
-

From: Santa
To: The xx
Hello? The xx is it? What would you like, your email was just blank. HELLOOOO?

From: The xx
To: Santa
.

From: Santa
To: The xx
Ah, I get it. Love you guys. I think.

CAN'T PULL A CRACKER

From: Jenny Warpaint
To: Santa
I noticed one of *NME*'s journalists dribbling and gibbering throughout our recent set in London, and when I caught his eye he burst into tears. I'm a bit worried about him. He threw his pants onstage and they had his name sewed into the lining. Matt Wilkinson it was. Is he alright do you know?

From: Santa
To: Jenny Warpaint
Yes, yes, he's alright, he's just got a little crush on you that's all nothing a bit of a cry and a cuddle in the office can't solve.

HAPPY PRICKMAS

From: Bono
To: Santa
This year, can I have an end to world poverty, the halting of climate change and peace in the Middle East?

From: Santa
To: Bono
Seeing as it's you asking, Bono, no. Fuck off



STALKER

From: Snoop
To: Santa
"Here I am rolling with my man Jaimizzle Hodgsizzle in tha Glasto hood. Yo snizzle."

THAT'S CHRISTMAS SORTED, THEN!

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SHOCKWAVES NME AWARDS 2011

Vote now

Voting is now open for the Shockwaves NME Awards 2011. Go to *NME.COM/awards* to register your votes. In the meantime, here's Frankie & The Heartstrings with their selections:



BEST BRITISH BAND:
THE CRIBS
BEST INTERNATIONAL BAND:
GIRLS
BEST SOLO ARTIST:
GOLD PANDA
BEST NEW BAND:
US!
BEST LIVE BAND:
US!
BEST ALBUM:
BEST COAST – CRAZY FOR YOU'
BEST TRACK:
FOALS – SPANISH SAHARA'
BEST VIDEO:
DEAN HESLOP – 'SAY YOU'RE SORRY'
BEST FESTIVAL:
GLASTO!!
BEST DANCEFLOOR FILLER:
THE FUTUREHEADS – 'HEARTBEAT SONG'
BEST TV SHOW:
COAST
BEST FILM:
KICK-ASS
BEST DVD:
HOME ALONE FESTIVE BOX SET

The ceremony takes p ace at O2 Academy Brixton in February after the Shockwaves NME Awards Tour has finished up (featuring Crystal Castles, Magnetic Man, Everything Everything and The Vaccines – see NME.COM/tickets)

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DOES CHRISTMAS KILL BRAINCELLS?

TESTING MUSICIANS' MEMORIES AFTER TOO MANY MINCE PIES

This Year

ALED JONES



QUESTION 1

You didn't actually sing 'Walking In The Air' in Channel 4's The Snowman *in 1982. Who did?*

"Peter Auty, a chorboy at St Paul's. Everyone thinks 'Walking In The Air' was one of the first things I did as a kid but it was one of the last. I'd had 10 albums and a Number Two album when Bruce Springsteen was Number One with 'Born In The USA'. That was the highlight of my life! Toys R Us were launching in the UK [in 1985] and they wanted to use *The Snowman*, but Peter's voice had broken. So they used me."

Correct



QUESTION 2

What colour pyjamas is the boy wearing in the Toys R Us advert?

"Blue and white-striped."

Wrong. Red and white-striped

"Are you sure you're not thinking of the Irn-Bru advert where the snowman flies over Scotland and drops the kid out of the sky?"

QUESTION 3

You recently picked Queen's 'Greatest Hits', Deacon Blue's 'Raintown', Polyphony's 'Lauridsen· Nocturnes', Tom Baxter's 'Skybound' and Beth Nielsen Chapman's 'Back To Love' in The Daily Express *as your favourite albums of all time. Name any three albums in* NME's *albums of the year 2010.*

"Is Duffy in there?"

Er, no

"I'm not playing this game then. She's Welsh, so she should be."

Wrong

QUESTION 4

You're a co-presenter on Cash In The Attic. *To the nearest thousand, how much money has* Celebrity Cash In The Attic *raised for charity?*

"God, I wouldn't have a clue. £26,000?"

Wrong. £92,000. What's the best item you've found in regular 'Attic'?

"Oh, they're all rubbish. Apart from a stamp collection that went for £5,000."

QUESTION 5

Which heavy metal band played an alternate version of 'Walking In The Air' called 'Walking On Glass' on their '86/'87 tour?

"I know there's a dance version called 'Flotation' by The Gnd."

Wrong. Iron Maiden

QUESTION 6

You were a contestant on Strictly Come Dancing *in 2004. Spell your Russian dancing partner's name in full*

"L-I-L-I-A K-O-P-I-L-O-V-A."

Wrong. Lilia Kopylova

"I wouldn't want to get her name right. The first time we met she called me Five Bellies and Shrek. I looked like a sausage in my Lycra. By week three I was going, 'More pink, a bit tighter, more diamonds!' By the end I was thinner than the professionals. So take that!"

QUESTION 7

In which direction was your hair parted when you performed 'Walking In The Air' on Top Of The Pops *in December 1985?*

"It was parted to the right. I had the worst haircut in the world, courtesy of my mum. I came to London with my usual bow tie looking a bit of a dork, so the guys at EMI went, 'We need to sex Aled up for *Top Of The Pops*.' Two of the funkiest girls went to Topman and bought me these trainers that were cheap as chips. They used loads of dry ice and at the end my trainers had sealed the stage. Someone had to come and chisel me off."

Correct



QUESTION 8

You starred as wacky inventor Caractacus Potts in Chitty Chitty Bang Bang *at the Millennium Centre in Cardiff in 2008. Complete the following lyric* "Oh you pretty, Chitty Bang Bang/Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, we love you/And our pretty, Chitty Bang Bang/Chitty Chitty Bang Bang loves us too ."

[Sings] *"High, low, anywhere we go/On Chitty Chitty we depend/Bang Bang Chitty Chitty Bang Bang/Our fine four-fendered friend".*

Correct

QUESTION 9

What was last year's Christmas UK Number One single?

"It wasn't *The X Factor*. So it wasn't Joe McElderry. It wasn't me and Terry Wogan, although it should have been. ['Silver Bells' got to Number 27 – Charity Single Ed]. It was... Rage Against The Machine."

Correct. How do you feel about the The X Factor *dominating the Christmas charts?*

"I think it's rubbish. It's all about competition. If it isn't about competition, what's the point?"



QUESTION 10

Who will be delivering this year's Alternative Christmas Message *on Channel 4?*

"No idea."

Wrong. Dappy from N-Dubz

Total Score

4/10

"I think I've drunk too much red wine after my gigs. From now on I think I'll stick to water!"

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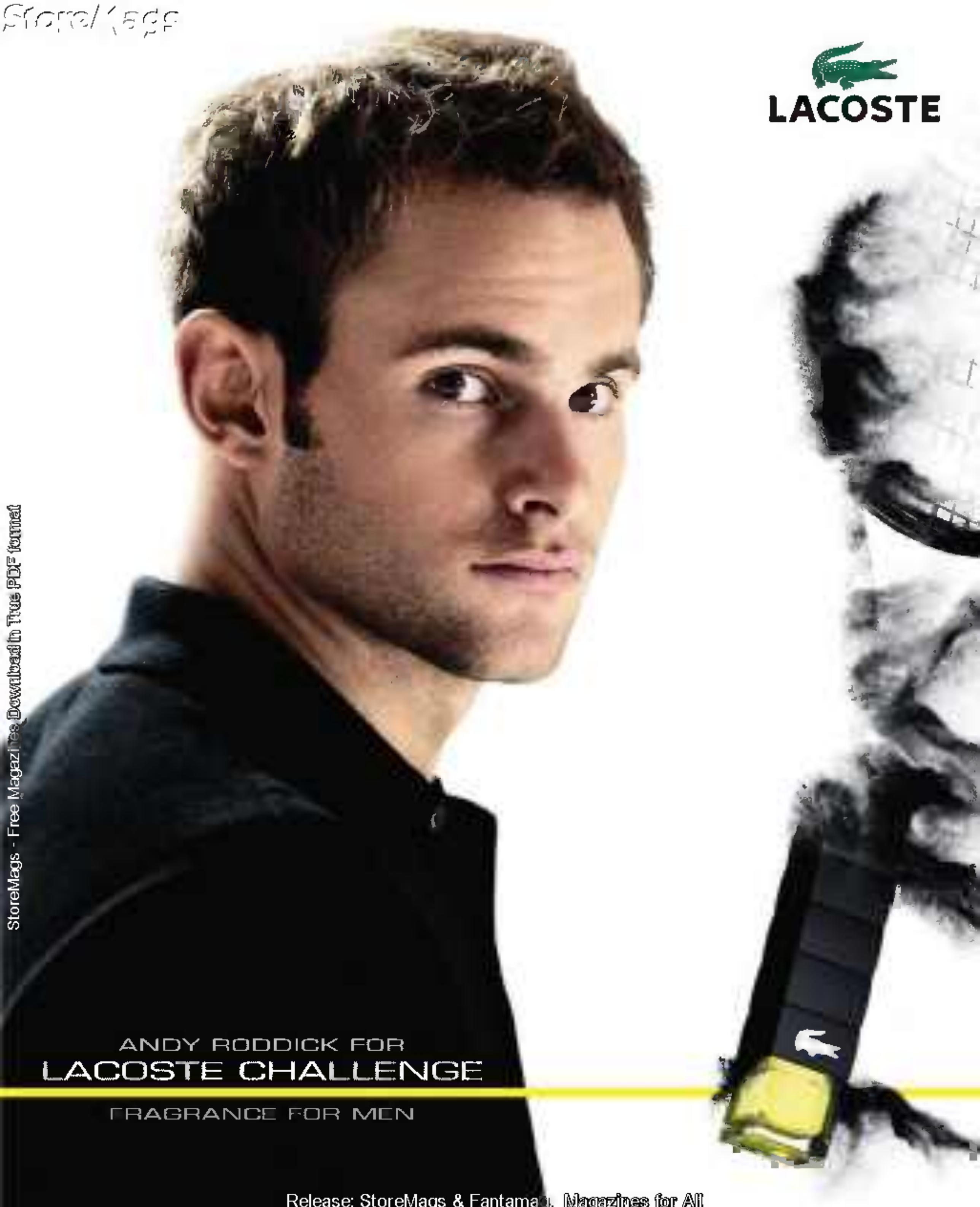
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