



man in baggy trousers, who by his own admission "can't sing, can't dance, can't read music and can't play an instrument", upstages all of the bands to be the biggest rock star at Glastonbury, one of two things has happened. Either the music was rubbish, or the old fella is something special.

Given that this was a vintage Glasto where Lorde, Dizzee Rascal, Foo Fighters and more powered out the kind of shows that will live with you forever, and that it was Jeremy Corbyn standing on the Pyramid Stage in front of 150,000 people hanging on his every passionate, emotional, angry and empowering word, then it's definitely the latter. It all makes sense. The chi is balanced. I've definitely spent too long near the ley lines...

Glastonbury 2017 will go down as one of the greatest in history. Grime got top billing, a young Brit owned the main stage with just a guitar and a box of peddles, the afterhours areas got weirder and trippier than ever, and the overwhelming sense of positivity pointed to better times to come for the UK. Which makes it even more of shame that 2018 is a fallow year. If any readers have got 1,000 acres of land and they fancy a load of bands and space cadets running round it next year, drop us an email...

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down with Grohl and drummer Taylor Hawkins at The Savoy hotel. Spookily enough, it's where I last interviewed the band about headlining Glastonbury - about a week before Grohl broke his leg onstage and was forced to cancel their set. Back in 2015, the band were excited about playing the festival but couldn't quite understand why interviewers kept insisting it would be the pinnacle of their career. "I'm still trying to process how Glastonbury is a bigger deal than Wembley," Hawkins told me that day. "They're both just big, giant gigs for people in England."

"When we spoke to you two years ago, we didn't realise the immensity of headlining this festival," explains Grohl today. "We just didn't. And now I can't wait to walk out on that stage because I can actually walk out on that stage, y'know?"

fter breaking his leg - and soldiering on through that show before going to hospital - Grohl's initial instinct was to come to Worthy Farm anyway and play the gig sitting down. "I thought, 'OK, I just finished that show sitting down, so maybe we just keep going.'" His surgeon soon disabused him of that notion, however, "I thought maybe I'd just broken my ankle, or splintered a bone; I didn't realise that I'd completely split a bone, pulled my ankle out and torn all the ligaments. We played 53 more shows on that tour and they were great f\*\*king shows, but I was bummed about missing Glastonbury and Wembley. I was actually looking forward to doing them with a broken leg. After 20 years of being in a band, anything to switch it up a little bit..."

Forty-eight hours before they arrive onstage at Worthy Farm, the band are at London's Metropolis studios to unveil their next LP, 'Concrete And Gold', which is due in September. Free booze and finger-food aside, it's not the kind of thing most artists would bother turning up for, but Foo Fighters - who are, after all, in town on a little business - actually do. All six band members - including newly promoted keyboardist Rami Jaffee - are present, and Grohl even introduces the album with a characteristically jocular pep talk about its recording, teasing the identities of the guests who supposedly feature on it - including one he'll only call "the biggest pop star in the world" - and joking that he's going to hold them back to boost record sales. Finally, he instructs the engineer to play the album "a little louder than you think it should be", an order that's followed to the letter.

Grohl has likened 'Concrete And Gold' to "Motörhead's version of



the band have ever recorded (rest assured there's plenty more where new single 'Run' came from), but it's still recognisably Foo Fighters - just

the biggest, loudest. most Wagnerian version of them you can imagine. "I thought of Pat Smear's guitar on 'Pet Sounds'," Grohl tells us, "and I thought, 'God, if that could actually happen, we'd be in heaven..."

As it turns out, he didn't need God; Greg Kurstin could handle this one for him. The Foos' new producer first bleeped onto Grohl's radar through his own band, The Bird And The Bee, after he became entranced by their 2007 single 'Again & Again'.

and he's the most unassuming, reserved guy you've ever met," says Grohl. "You'd be like, 'F\*\*k, you wrote that Adele song? You played all the instruments on that? Get the f\*\*k outta here!""

It's been speculated that Adele might be on 'Concrete And Gold' in some form, and at the playback, Grohl also jokes about hanging out with Lady Gaga and Justin Timberlake. He won't confirm or deny anything just yet, but he does say that on any given day at LA's EastWest Studios, "You might have Shania Twain having a record-release party, or the guy from Deep Purple hanging out with Jason Bonham, or Justin Timberlake would be in for a couple of weeks, or Lady Gaga working with these other cats from Nashville. And every so often we'd be like, 'Hey, wanna come sing some backing vocals?' and they'd just f\*\*king do it. It was

#### LOOK FOOS TALKING

Dave Grohl's best Pyramid Stage banter

"I see a naked guy. This one's for him. It's called 'Mv Hero'.'

"This is an old song we don't play very often. because no one likes it. It's called 'Wheels'.

"I feel loose. I feel good. This is the big one, and

"When I got here today, I came to the side of the stage and looked out at the crowd. I thought, I'm gonna light that motherf\*\*ker up tonight."



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loose and random: everyone was hanging out, drinking whiskey, having a good time. I never went to college, but it's what I imagine a dormitory's like."

It's a far cry from Grohl's original plan, which he hinted at during our chat in 2015. "I kept this secret for a long time, but I'll tell you," he says, leaning in conspiratorially. "What I wanted to do was write the songs, do some pre-production on a soundstage, then build a recording studio onstage at the Hollywood Bowl, bring 20,000 people down there and stream it live so the whole world could watch us record. No pressure!"

He abandoned the plan when he saw that PJ Harvey had done something similar with last year's 'Hope Six Demolition Project'. But why all the secrecy and subterfuge surrounding 'Concrete And Gold'? "Well, you know, you read headlines like 'Foo Fighters Hate Each Other', or 'Taylor's Going Solo' or I'm going solo, WHAT THEY PLAYED

The full Foos at Glastonbury setlist

'Times Like These'
'All My Life'
'Learn To Fly'
'Something From
Nothing'
'The Pretender'
'Cat Scratch Fever'
'Another One Bites
The Dust'
'Blitzkrieg Bop'
'Cold Day In The Sun
'Congregation'
'Walk'
'These Days'
'My Hero'
'Wheels'
'Run'
'This Is A Call'
'Arlandria'
'Monkey Wrench'
'Best Of You'
'Skin And Bones'
'Under Pressure'
'Everlong'

and we love to f\*\*k with people," he grins. But there's more to it than that: by the end of the 'Sonic Highways' tour - following Grohl's broken leg, and the Bataclan terrorist attack that caused them to cancel the final European dates - Foo Fighters really were in need of a break and really did mean to take one. Grohl just found it harder to walk away from the band than he thought it would be.

"At this point," he insists, "I cannot imagine life without this band. You can talk about taking

breaks or stopping or getting away from it, but I just don't know what else I'd do. These guys are my closest friends and this is, I think, the reason why I'm here. So I thought, maybe this is the perfect time to rebuild everything and do it in private, outside of everyone's microscope. The minute you tell people you're making a record, you're giving yourself a deadline and we didn't need or want that. We were

eager to get back to work and make something we were proud of – but who knew how long that would take?"

ack on Worthy Farm, we watch side of stage as the crowd chant for "Ten more songs!" Grohl hardly needs more encouragement: he's already been behind the drumkit to play Bowie to Hawkins' Freddie Mercury on an endearingly rough-and-ready cover of 'Under Pressure', broken Adele's record for most watershed-defving 'f\*\*ks' in a headline set and overrun his allotted time by 15 minutes. It's one of those nights where everything just falls into place. "I'll tell you what," he beams to the crowd at one point, "this is exactly what I f\*\*king hoped would happen."

Post-gig, NME is ushered into the band's backstage compound. Johnny Depp has been chewing Grohl's ear off. Metallica's Lars Ulrich prowls the perimeter. Yet here comes Grohl, bounding into the room like there's no one else onsite he'd rather hang out with. "I hug people," he warns, before moving in for a big one. It probably wasn't like this after Radiohead.

"You know my favourite moment of the whole night?" he says. "Five minutes before we go onstage, Liam f\*\*kin' Gallagher wanders in. He goes straight over to Taylor and says, 'That f\*\*kin' song – 'Range Rover B\*\*\*h'!' Then he starts singing a song from Taylor's solo record. Then he turns round to me and goes, 'And your s\*\*t's alright, too!' Taylor had nerves about tonight because everyone made such a big deal about this show, but he walked onstage with the biggest f\*\*king smile..."

And how does he feel, after the long and winding road he's taken to get here? Does Dave Grohl finally 'get' Glastonbury?

"You know what I feel like? It feels like I'm at my mother's Christmas party back in Virginia. When we first had it, we never sent invitations; our friends just came. So first there were 10 people, then 15, then 20, then eventually the police had to come and shut us down. That's how I feel tonight. You know, we came here almost 20 years ago, then I came back with Queens Of The Stone Age and that was cool, but tonight just felt like it meant so much f\*\*king more."

Foo Fighters, he assures me, "never play just any other show." No doubt their next one won't be just any other show, nor the one after that. But none of them will ever beat Saturday night at Glastonbury. If Dave Grohl didn't know it before, you can bet he does now.

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# Pyramid songs

**RADIOHEAD AT** 

**GLASTONBURY: A** 

**POTTED HISTORY** 

What happened: 'OK

Computer' was just out

and this was the moment

they became massive.

2003 What happened: It was

possibly the wettest

Glastonbury on record.

People were broken.

Radiohead spoke to them.

What happened: A

self-indulgent set on the Park Stage. Not their most

alorious moment.

What happened: The

setlist fans dreamed of. And they played 'Creep'

Arguably the definitive Glasto headliners, Radiohead made fans' dreams come true

FORGET ALL THOSE YEARS they refused to perform 'Creep' - Radiohead brought the hits to Glastonbury 2017. Twenty years on from their first headline spot on the Pyramid Stage, which Michael Eavis has declared his favourite Glastonbury performance of all time, Thom Yorke and co favour nostalgia over introspection.

Back in 1997, they opened with 'Lucky', a highlight of the then brand new 'OK Computer'. Technical problems plagued

their set and Yorke almost stormed offstage. It's a smoother ride this time, and 'Lucky' forms part of a run of tracks from that album: 'Airbag', 'Let Down', 'Paranoid Android' and 'No Surprises' all make an appearance, and a closing 'Karma Police' lives on in crowd chants long after the band have left the stage. 'OK Computer' has been near the top of Greatest Albums Of

All Time rundowns since its

But this is Radiohead, and it was never going to be all about looking back. 'Daydreaming' and 'Ful Stop' represent 2016 album 'A Moon Shaped Pool', while fan favourite, post-2000 sonas include shufflina 'In Rainbows opener '15 Step and the hyperactive 'Bloom'. Radiohead's distrust of just about everything became a defining theme of their music. and politics is a theme of Yorke's stage chatter. He shouts Theresa May's "strong and stable" catchphrase midway through 'Myxomatosis', before

> shut the door on the way out."

> > Radiohead's greatest skill is in how they translate this informationage misery into something oddly true in 1997 and 2003: it proves true again tonight. "What a f\*\*king Yorke says. "Ain't nothing else like it

**Jamie Milton** 

release, and this performance shows whv.

saying: "See you later. Theresa. Just

euphoric. It proved great place this is." on Earth."

# Sheer brilliance

Ed Sheeran travels light, but he and his tiny guitar dazzled on the Pyramid Stage

FOR ABOUT 15 MINUTES. it seems like Ed Sheeran's Pyramid Stage closing show might be the cuddliest Glastonbury headline set ever. Before he plays, fluffy white clouds hang in a pink sky. When, after opening track 'Castle On The Hill', he admits to the crowd that's he's "very nervous and excited", thousands of people say, "Aww," all at the same time.

His grandad is in the crowd. You expect at least a dozen people got engaged during 'Thinking Out Loud'. But don't be fooled: Ed's bia

he's got fire in his belly, barbs in his bars and a rare type of confidence. Not since Kanye West has someone stood there unaccompanied on that massive stage and done it all alone, in their own way, without compromise.

moment proves

Bar a brief appearance from Celtic band Beoga, that means it's just Sheeran, his checked shirt, his loop pedals and his tiny acoustic guitar, which he beats like a drum and plays so vigorously that strings ping off.

Sheeran's skill is probably most on display in 'Take It Back', which he blends into Stevie Wonder's 'Superstition' and Bill Withers' 'Ain't No Sunshine' before, well, taking it back. At one point he explains that he first played the festival six years ago at the Croissant Neuf stage, when 'The A-Team' - tonight sung along to in sweetly gentle tones by the swooning crowd - was the only one the 500 people present knew.

Now his songs are

ubiquitous, and his rapid ascent to headliner has raised surprisingly few eyebrows. Don't be fooled by the moment when he asks evervone in the crowd to light their phone torches so he can see how many there are. He knew we'd all be there.

Dan Stubbs

#### LIKES POP

Ed's fizzy Glastonbury rider (according to *The Daily Star*, at least)

- A bottle of Robinsons SquashSix-pack of
- Six-pack of Fanta
- Orange
   Six-pack of Sprite
   Jar of manuka



# ORIH ORIGINALS Just some of the stars of Glasto 2017



Royal Blood
Blood
Hard rocking dudes

Emily Eavis told us that she reckons you guys could headline one day. How does that feel? Mike Kerr: "I think we're still getting used to the idea that

ROYAL BLOOD
The pair celebrated their recent No 1 album with a heavy Pyramid Stage set

people come to our shows and that people have nice stuff to say about us. We just have fun in our own little world. Even when we're playing on the Pyramid Stage, it's about me and Ben having our own little party up there." You guys are supporting
Queens Of The Stone Age
in the US – that's probably
going to be quite a party?
Mike Kerr: "It's nuts. When
everything started kicking off,
the first ambition we had was,
'If we can go on the road with
Queens Of The Stone Age, that
would be a huge achievement
for us.' It's going to be a
masterclass in rock 'n' roll for
us too. That's going to be like
working under Gordon Ramsay."

THE NATIONAL
A life-affirming set proved they're worthy future

The National Epic indie giants

You're playing a pretty huge slot just before Foo Fighters on the Pyramid Stage!

Bryce Dessner: "Dave Grohl just came backstage and gave us all bear hugs and said, 'You're on in 45 minutes!' It was a pep talk or to psych us out, I think. He's rooting for us."

The Glasto bosses said you deserve to headline...

Matt Berninger: "I can't disagree. We turned into d\*\*\*s, like, six months ago for the first

time. It feels good. That would be amazing. I feel like we're auditioning for that tonight."

'Sleep Well Beast' is coming soon. Where does it take your sound from the last album?

Aaron Dessner: "There's a lot more experimentation. You'll recognise certain elements but there's other things going on. It took four years to make it, so it's wild in that sense. Sonically, it's more diverse."



A party-starting Other Stage set with rad dancing and irresistible pop bangers

SLAVES Who needs a stage when there's a mosh pit?

# THE US SMASH HIT SENSATION

THE UNTOLD STORY OF TUPAC SHAKUR

LEGENDS NEVER DIE

Renee Bargh, Extra

Owen Gleiberman, Variety



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#### You played the John Peel Stage earlier. How was it?

"It was amazing. A highlight of my career so far. I was really nervous and a little bit terrified. but I've never felt so free on stage, and the crowd were amazing. I couldn't believe there were so many people outside of the tent. It was the best feeling in the world."

like: 'Let's do it!' It's so cool to get to perform with them.

#### Radiohead are headlining tonight - sad you won't get to watch them?

"I'm a fan and it'd be such an experience to see Thom Yorke live. It's always really interesting to watch headliners at Glastonbury and see what they bring to the table."

#### OK, so you're Brad Pitt...

Glasto 2017 was starrier than Bieber's birthday party









Grenfell" during his powerful set





Spotted: On the Pvramid Stage What he did: Pretended to be a rock star while filming

a scene for the new version of A Star Is Born. Points for getting a selfie with him: 77

#### JOHNNY DEPP

**Spotted:** Curating a night at new drive-in movie theatre Cineramageddon What he did: Joked about killing Trump. played guitar with

Kris Kristofferson. Points for getting a selfie with him: 99

Spotted: Pilton Palais cinema

What they did: Premiered Okia, in which

Tilda stars and Brad was executive producer.

Points for getting a selfie with them: 45

Spotted: The Park What they did: Partied hard, wore rainbow wigs and neon shades and confirmed BFF status. Points for getting a selfie with them: 77

Spotted: Hanging out side of stage

What they did: Watched Liam Gallagher and Foo Fighters from the best seats in the house. Points for getting a selfie with them: 86





HE BIGGEST GLASTO crowd in living memory doesn't assemble for Radiohead or Ed Sheeran but a 68-year-old from Islington. Jeremy Corbyn's Saturday afternoon set on the Pvramid Stage is the stuff of legend. Taking place after a trip to the Workers Beer Company tent to serve up some socialist pints, his 15 minutes will go down in Glastonbury history.

Following an introduction from none other than Glasto don Michael Eavis. Corbvn delivers a powerfully emotional speech, touching on everything from the

Grenfell Tower tragedy to racism to the importance of art. It cuts through even the harshest festival hangover to make you realise that a different, more compassionate way is possible.

Corbvn looks every inch a leader as he thanks the UK's young people for their support. "Let's look to build a world of peace, human rights, justice and democracy," he says, as thousands yell in agreement. There can't be many politicians who've had their name chanted at a festival, but then Jeremy Corbyn isn't most politicians. He finishes up with a quote

from poet Shelley, and there's not a dry eve in the field. "Rise like lions after slumber / In your chains to earth like dew / Which in sleep had fallen on you / Ye are many - they are few". The weekend's most powerful set. Number 10: he sees you.

unvanquishable number / Shake

#### **JEREMY** CORBYN

#### How do you think the world has changed since the general election was called?

"I think we're in a very different place. The experts predicted a walkover for the Tories. Theresa May fought the election as her versus the world, and [Labour] fought the election on the basis of the people deserve a hearing and something better."

#### Evervone's been chanting your name all weekend at the festival - have vou ioined in with them? "Not at all. I love being

here and I love the atmosphere of it. I love the mix of music, food, people camping, talking, environment, politics, all kinds of issues being discussed. I wish it could be even bigger."

#### You must have driven past some wheat fields on the way down - any temptation to run through them?

"I'm far too responsible a citizen to do that. I grew up in the countryside and I was taught from a very, very early age you walk round the edge of a cropped field. You don't walk through. I'm totally shocked that anyone would run through a wheat field and damage wheat. It's a terrible thing to do."

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"David

Bowie's

my festival hair icon"

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# What's ON your Head phones? THIS WEEK Glastonbury

#### SOLOMON BOWRA >

28. festival performer

Listening to:

#### **EARTHBOOGIE**

Silken Horse

"Funky, African-inspired tunes guaranteed to get any party vibin'."

Wearing: Vintage cape, cap and sunglasses, Mr Motivator shorts, Gypsy East necklace.

Best thing about

Glastonbury: "The Rabbit Hole, by far."

Best festival hairstyle:

"It's always best to leave it unwashed. Keep the oils flowing. Keep it natural."



21. poet

Listening to:

LATIR

Juvenile Youth "Neo-soul with a touch

of hip-hop."

Wearing: Bear-Foot two-piece, Adidas trainers, Primark bag.

Best thing about

Glastonbury: "Shangri-La is such a surreal

experience."

Best festival hairstyle:

"Solange had lovely flowing hair that came all the way down with a middle parting."



23, marketing operative

Listening to:

#### **FOO FIGHTERS**

Everlong

"I love the classic noughties rock bands. I haven't grown up!"

Wearing: Primark jacket, Topshop T-shirt and boots. ASOS shorts.

Best thing about Glastonbury: "The

people. At other festivals it's a bit rowdy but everyone's friendly here."

Best festival hairstyle:

"Definitely David Bowie. He was so iconic."

#### JOY TOKOSI >

20. student

Listening to:

#### **ED SHEERAN**

Save Myself

"It's really deep and has such meaning."

Wearing: Brandy Melville shirt, Sandro top, Calvin Klein shorts, Dr Martens.

Best thing about

Glastonbury: "The inter-charity yurt has loads of comfy beanbags to chill out on."

Best festival hairstyle:

"High buns always look chic."







#### **SALLY**ROULSTON

Listening to:

#### **NOTHING BUT**

"His voice complements the guitar so perfectly."

Wearing: Gap top, H&M shorts.

Best thing about Glastonbury: "That

everything stays open

Best festival hairstyle:

"Anything glittery and funky is awesome."

#### PREYE CROOKS >

23, public relations

Listenina to:

#### J HUS

Did You See

"It's pioneering as a sound. The lyrics are good too."

Wearing: Amour top, Adidas tracksuit bottoms, Nike trainers.

Best thing about

Glastonbury: "The Sonic stage. It's always full and the music is brilliant."

Best festival hairstyle:

"Topknot with the sides shaved."

# **⟨JAKE**BENNETT

22, student

Listening to:

#### **LORDE**

Writer In The Dark

"The new album's great. I can't wait to see her."

Wearing: Ralph Lauren shirt, Adidas shorts, Champion socks, Dr Martens boots.

Best thing about Glastonbury: "The atmosphere's amazing."

Best festival hairstyle: "Ziggy Stardust all the way."

#### ALEX INGRAM >

29, event producer

#### Listenina to: **ELLI INGRAM**

Poetic Justice

"She's signed to Island Records and has an album coming out in August."

Wearing: Disco bra from eBay, Rosa Bloom sequinned shorts, vintage sunglasses. Best thing about

Glastonbury: "The Green Fields - it's so calm there."

Best festival hairstyle: "I met such a lovely girl with the most perfectly circular, dense Afro. It was so dainty."



"I love a

sides

topknot

with the

shaved"



SUPPORTED BY ZIG-ZAG.

# Roll up, roll up!

Nab free tickets to CineJam – NME and BFI's rooftop music and film festival – thanks to Zig-Zag

CINEJAM IS AS SWEET AS its name suggests: at this series of summer evenings in balmy south London you get to hear emerging artists and then watch top-class cinema curated by Bastille's very own music 'n' film buff Dan Smith.

Like a sommelier pairing fine wines with great food, Dan's linked ace new artists such as Reading's Sundara Karma and Norway's Dagny with classic films such as the Coen brothers' *The Big Lebowski* and Danny Boyle's *Trainspotting* for your listening and viewing pleasure. Did we mention it's on the rooftop of Peckham's supercool Bussey Building?

During July and August there are 10 of these nights of arty cross-pollination and you – yes, you – could be lucky enough to win a pair of free VIP tickets thanks to our buds at Zig-Zag. See the box, right, for all the info you need to be in with a chance of bagging passes to this dreamy rooftop experience.



(L-r:) *The Big Lebowski*; Sundara Karma

# CineJam essentials

Where is CineJam? Rooftop Film Club, Bussey Building, Peckham

When is it?

July 5-August 30, 2017 What are the highlights?

The Big Lebowski with Sundara Karma (July 12), Trainspotting with Dagny (July 30), Pulp Fiction with Artificial Pleasure (Aug 16) How can I win tickets?

Artificial Pleasure (Aug 16)
How can I win tickets?
We'll be giving away pairs
of tickets every Friday
until August 25. To enter,
visit zig-zag.live/win and
answer the question!
Follow @ZigZag\_Live for
extra last-minute ticket
giveaways. Entrants must
be over 18.









THIS WEEK'S ESSENTIAL NEW RELEASES

#### BEST FOR CAMPFIRE SINGALONGS ISAAC GRACIE

All In My Mind

The West London singer-songwriter shines on this sentimental ballad, especially during its powerful a cappella opening.

#### BEST FOR PACING THROUGH FESTIVAL FIELDS

#### SUPERORGANISM

**Nobody Cares** 

Psychedelic computerpop, as the band establish a trippy state of euphoria with help from singer Orono's unique voice.

#### BEST FOR BEING SASSY SÄLEN

So Rude

This acerbic new track says it how it is, with the addition of a catchy synth accompaniment It'd be rude not to.

#### BEST FOR AIR GUITARING

#### FILTHY FRIENDS

The Arrival

The Sleater-Kinney/REM supergroup rock out with a bold, catchy take on the melodic punk model.

# BEST FOR GETTING EMOTIONAL

#### **JAGARA**

Real Love

Dan from Bastille's fave new band, London sister group Jagara are pitched somewhere between Enya and Haim. Bliss.

# Best NEW tracks And when to drop them

# BEST FOR DOOMY THOUGHTS

UNKLE

Looking For The Rain Mark Lanegan and Eska add their idiosyncratic vocals to this moody – but banging – missive from James Lavelle's godlike project.

# BEST FOR GETTING PUMPED

**EVERYTHING EVERYTHING** 

Can't Do

Featuring experimental weirdness and an agitated beat, this track makes you want to *move*.

# BEST FOR SUMMER GROOVING

HAIM

Little Of Your Love

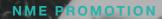
The sisters bring back their soul with sky-high confidence for a sun-drenched retro party tune.

#### BEST FOR THE CLUB STEVE AOKI

FEAT. MIGOS AND LIL YACHTY

Night Call
Superstar DJ Aoki
brings in a who's who of
hip-hop in 2017 for this
big, beefy tune.





# Haze × NME

# THE EMERGING ARTISTS PROJECT

Thatchers Haze and NME have teamed up to give artists the opportunity to have their music professionally recorded exactly as they intended, and the proper platform for it to get heard. Because some things deserve to be done properly, whether that's making music or making cider. Reckon you have the musical expertise of James Blake? Haim's raw sound? The lyrical skills of Skepta? Then get involved now.

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#### STUDIO TIME WORTH £10K

Your four-track EP will be produced with Murkage Dave (collaborator of Mike Skinner/TONGA/Nekfeu) and a team of industry experts in a London studio.

#### **EP RELEASE PARTIES**

We'll throw you not one, but two parties to launch your EP: one here at NME HQ London, streamed on Facebook, and one in Birmingham.

#### NME COVERAGE

In print, online at NME.com and across NME social media. We'll review your EP and feature your track on one of our carefully curated NME Apple Music playlists.

#### DISTRIBUTION

We'll get your EP distributed on Apple Music and Spotify. You'll keep 100% of your rights and royalties.

ENTER AT THATCHERSHAZE.NME.COM



# **Totally Likeable** Comeback

A tragic death in 2002 cut their career short - now TLC are chasing unfinished business

TLC R&B NOSTALGIA SOME POP comebacks seem unnecessary, but

TLC's first album in 15 years arrives with a genuine sense

of defving a career unfulfilled.

After supplying some of the 1990s' defining R&B thrills with 'Waterfalls', 'No Scrubs' and 'Unpretty', the US girl group were floored when a car crash claimed the life of band member Lisa 'Left Eve' Lopes in 2002. A cobbled-together album called '3D' appeared later that year but failed to top the charts.

This album also feels more purposeful than the average reunion effort because it was crowdfunded by fans. Perhaps partly in deference to their generosity, remaining band members Tionne 'T-Boz' Watkins and Rozonda 'Chilli' Thomas don't try anything too radical. The Earth, Wind & Fire-sampling 'It's Sunny' is too cheesy, and 'Aye Muthaf\*\*\*a' slips in some Rihanna-style dancehall beats, but elsewhere 'TLC' offers a familiar mix of

breezy R&B tunes and folky self-acceptance iams. "Either vou're too voung to matter or you're way too old / Public opinion is so hot and cold." they sing poignantly on standout 'Haters'.

Yet this doesn't mean the girls have surrendered

> their edge. They always specialised in not-too-subtle sex iams. and although 'Scandalous' is less specific than '90s classic 'Red

Light Special' - which referenced cunnilingus - it's just as sultry and self-assured. Another spiky late-album cut suggests T-Boz and Chilli don't refer to douchev dudes as "scrubs" any more - they're now "muthaf\*\*\*as".

Naturally, 'TLC' suffers from a lack of Left Eye, whose explosive raps cut through the group's more sensual moments. She appears in a mid-album interlude with an interview excerpt and samples of her ad-libs. It's an unexpectedly touching moment on an album that's filled with them. When TLC sing, "Thank you for being by my side / Hope you all enjoy the ride," on 'Joy Ride', a song aimed at fans, it's hard not to feel a little emotional. Nick Levine

# **Dancefloor**

His glitziest album boasts big names and big tunes, but average filler weighs it down

**DJ KHALED** Grateful

A-LIST POSITIVITY LONG

ENTREPRENEUR. Snapchat king. possessor of life's "major kevs" - there are so many strings to DJ Khaled's bow that you might be

forgiven for overlooking the fact that he also makes hit records.

But making hit records is what the super-producer has done since 2006, and Khaled certainly hasn't skimped on length with his latest opus: 23 tracks can be found over 90 minutes on an album which. rather bizarrely, was executive produced by his eight-monthold son Asahd.

It may be an honorary title. but Asahd's birth date (October 23) is the sole reason behind 'Grateful''s massive tracklist. which reads like a who's who of rap, hip-hop and R&B. There's an uplifting Beyoncé vocal on 'Shining', a Justin Bieber chorus on the perfect-for-theMinaj verse on 'Nobody' - to name but a few.

Khaled recently told NME "there's no songs on the album. just anthems", but there's an

> obvious issue here regarding quantity over quality. While the likes of the Drake-inflected 'To The Max' and the Rihanna and Bryson Tiller-featuring

'Wild Thoughts' are certified dancefloor bangers, there's also plenty of filler, from the dreary 'That Range Rover Came With The Steps' to 'On Everything"s unimaginative Auto-Tune overdose.

Aside from hollering his name or catchphrases -"Another one!", "Bless up!", "We The Best Music!" - there's no doubt Khaled's formidable connections were the driving force behind 'Grateful'. But, even with a dream team like this assembled. Khaled hasn't located the 'major kev' to the masterpiece he desired. Sam Moore





# Top gear

An all-thrills chase flick with a killer soundtrack, *Baby Driver* has everything



CALLING ANY NEW FILM a "future cult classic" feels a bit off. After all, that kind of fanbase is meant to grow organically as movie buffs pore over key scenes and turn dialogue into memes. But this dazzling action flick from director Edgar Wright (Simon Pegg's Hot Fuzz and Shaun Of The Dead collaborator) is destined to be obsessed over



long after it's left cinemas.

Wright's film is steered by an antihero called Baby (The Fault In Our Stars' Ansel Elgort), a diffident young guy from Atlanta who's been blackmailed into working as a getaway driver for slick career criminal Doc (Kevin Spacey). Baby dreams of driving away for good with sweet local waitress Debora (Downton Abbey's Lily James), but because he's such a genius behind the wheel. Doc forces him to take on job after job. This means having to share drive time with a motlev crew of armed robbers including a thrill-seeking former Wall Street trader (Jon Hamm) and a manic, trigger-happy

wacko (Jamie Foxx).

Blank-faced yet strangely charismatic, Baby is an unusual hero: after being involved in a car crash as a kid, he's plagued by unbearable tinnitus, which he drowns out with a constant rock and soul din from his iPod. This clever conceit allows Wright to place the movie's superb soundtrack

centre stage: classic bangers like Martha And The Vandellas' 'Nowhere To Run' and Queen's 'Brighton Rock' heighten the film's swaggering style.

Wright's film also has some cracking black comedy and a surprisingly tender heart. A few surprises, too – Sky Ferreira briefly appears as Baby's mum in some dreamy flashbacks. But its finest moments are the genuinely exhilarating car chases. Not only do they feel so much more realistic than anything Vin Diesel tried in the last Fast & Furious film, they're also way more memorable.

Baby Driver is slightly diminished by its strung-out ending, but this hardly spoils the fun. Movie buffs will love playing spot the influence here – Wright has said the film actually evolved from an old Mint Royale music video he directed starring Noel Fielding. But everyone else can simply kick back and enjoy a very wild ride.

Nick Levine

#### **EDGAR** WRIGHT

Baby Driver director

### Where did the very first idea for the film come from?

'Twenty-two years ago I was in a flat in Wood - I was signing on and figuring out what to do next. I was listening a lot to 'Orange' by The Jon Spencer Blues Explosion. quite possibly after having read a great review in the NME. When I listened to the first track 'Bellbottoms' I just imagined a car chase scene. The idea of bringing action and music together has been in my brain ever since."

## What informed the songs you chose for the soundtrack?

"I wanted the soundtrack to be relatively timeless. It's stuff that I like – a mixture of rock, funk and soul, jazz and hip-hop. There's a bit of everything in there."

# There's also a very brief Noel Fielding appearance...

"That's a clip from the 2002 video for 'Blue Song' by Mint Royale, which I directed after Spaced and before Shaun Of The Dead, – it was basically a dry run for this movie. It's somewhat similar to the opening scene of Baby Driver. I thought it'd be fun to include a tiny clip of it on a TV."

(L-r:) Jamie Foxx and Kevin Spacey Despicably good

This cute bubblegum animation almost grows stale, but continues to deliver

#### DESPICABLE ME 3 U Steve Carell, Trey Parker, Kristen Wiig

CUTE SILLY FRANCHISE

GRU, THE REFORMED super-villain at the heart of the Despicable Me series, has long been overshadowed by his own support cast. The Minions, that indistinguishable rubble of bad guys who look like giant yellow Tic Tacs and talk with all the sense of a wino after dental surgery, have adorably stolen both of Gru's previous films and had their own (far more successful) spin-off. Despicable





Me 3 gives Gru a chance to take back his own spotlight by doubling his number.

Gru now has a twin, Dru, previously kept a secret by their horrible mother. He's everything Gru isn't: extrovert, wealthy, optimis in possession of a full head

everything Gru Ish't:
extrovert, wealthy, optimistic,
in possession of a full head
of hair. He looks like a fat
Barry Manilow and lives on
an island mostly inhabited by
pigs, dreaming of continuing
his late father's criminal
legacy; but he's rubbish
at being bad. Dru has the
financial resources; Gru has
the scheming brain. Together
they hatch a plan to steal the

world's largest diamond from another super-villain, the '80s-themed Balthazar Bratt, thus fulfilling both Dru's lust for stealing stuff and Gru's moral yearn to foil other villains.

It's rather muddy as plots go and there are many times Despicable Me 3 feels disjointed, like a load of ideas shouted out at an initial brainstorm and not properly refined - but the ideas are fun ones. Bratt. the true villain. doesn't get enough screen time but every minute he has is a blast. He's a former child star whose crime-themed TV show was cancelled when he hit puberty and became aesthetically unpleasing. He's still stuck in the 1980s, conjuring bubblegum or a dance-off to Madonna. He's such a terrific idea that he deserves more than being background to the Gru-Dru plot.

The Minions are still in there, because they're why half the audience shows up, but given less prominence than previously. They're a welcome extra, not the main event. With an ending that teases a fourth film, it seems *Despicable Me* will be around for a while, and if it continues to be as scrappy but cheerful as this, it's welcome to stay.

Olly Richards





This brutal comedy from Netflix dramatises the bizarre 1980s TV phenomenon Gorgeous Ladies Of Wrestling

#### **GLOW** Netflix, June 23 Alison Brie, Kate Nash, Betty Gilpin, Marc Maron WRESTLING RETRO BARNETS

CAREFULLY BALANCING THE exploitative beginnings of its real-life inspiration (1985-1990's Gorgeous Ladies Of Wrestling) and the conversely empowering message it provided at the time, GLOW fictionalises the story of a group of aspiring actors and models who turned to wrestling for a shot at fame. The cast - among them Kate Nash, Mad Men's Alison Brie and Nurse Jackie's Betty Gilpin - tell us about it.

#### 1 COMPETITION FOR PARTS WAS FIERCE

Alison Brie: "When I was told that they didn't think I was right to play [the main character] Ruth. I was even more fired up to prove them wrong. They made me jump through a lot of hoops to see if I was willing to. I was like: 'Whatever you want! I'll come in again, I'll do a weird rap, I'll fly to Toronto to read with Betty Gilpin, we'll do a full

fight scene for you guys...' It was a very satisfying job to book - we essentially got to play two different characters: the nuance of these characters' lives outside of the ring and then the larger-than-life superhero qualities they possess in the ring."

#### 2 THE REAL-LIFE **GLOW** IS **PRIME INSPO**

Betty Gilpin: "It was absolutely insane and ridiculous, a sort-of pornographic, sort-of not explosion of 1985. It was amazing. But once I got the script I stopped watching the original show because I didn't want to inadvertently steal from anybody."

#### 3 GLOW WAS INSPIRING THEN **AND IT IS NOW**

Alison Brie: "When GLOW first aired it really inspired a lot of young girls and made them think that women could do anything men could do - maybe even better. I hope our show will be similarly inspiring."

Kate Nash: "It's been the most inspiring experience of my life because I've done things now with my body that I never thought I could ever

do. It was amazing to have this new relationship with my body. like: 'This is how you take a front bump. This is how you fall. This is how you run the ropes and throw each other around.' I can't wait for young girls to watch it and suddenly be like: 'Oh. I could have this other thing with my body that isn't about being perfect."

#### 4 THE WRESTLING IS TOTALLY LEGIT

Betty Gilpin: "We trained for four and a half weeks before we started shooting. It was incredible: we started with little moves and eventually progressed to body slams and suplexes and jumping off the ropes."

Kate Nash: "We were taught by Chavo Guerrero Jr. He's a legend in the wrestling community and his uncle actually taught the original GLOW girls in the '80s."



#### 5 IT MIGHT SECRETLY TEACH DONALD TRUMP SOMETHING

Ruth in

the ring

Betty Gilpin: "Donald Trump crafted his character in the wrestling world - he's the ultimate heel [bad guy] figure. He was really involved in the WWE and would make appearances all the time - there's footage. I'm hoping he'll see the trailer, see boobs and butts and be like 'I'm gonna watch that.' Our boobs and butts could

be a Trojan horse to get into the minds of people like Donald Trump: and all of a sudden the Trojan horse opens and it's a show about Planned Parenthood and issues facing women. With plenty of boobs and butts on the side." **Larry Bartleet** 



YOU HEARD IT HERE FIRST

# **Khalid**

#### Globe-trotting R&B star about to tour with Lorde

IN JULY 2016, KHALID Robinson was celebrating his high school graduation – unaware that Kylie Jenner was playing his single 'Location' to over 30 million followers. The song became a US Top 20 hit and he'll join Lorde on tour in the UK later this year. With his debut album 'American Teen' out now, Khalid explains how he got here.

You grew up all over the world as your parents were in the military. What was that like? "It definitely created this sense of loneliness, but it's something you learn to accept. If I hadn't moved around, I wouldn't have written my first song 'Saved', so I wouldn't have written 'Location'. You have to be uncomfortable sometimes to be inspired."

### The album is all about your youth. Was it scary putting yourself out there at 19?

"Vulnerability was intimidating to me at the time because I'm putting all of my emotions into one album and I'm throwing it out there to the world. I feel like the album was a time capsule. I'm presenting all the emotions I felt when I was 16 to 18 to the entire world."

Kylie Jenner boosted your song 'Location'.

out of love for the song. It fast-forwarded things for me."

Now you're pals with Lorde. Has she given you advice about being a teenage icon?

"What I picked up from her was to never be afraid to take risks. She's out there being herself and she's not afraid to break out into dance if she wants to dance. That's how I want to be." Thomas Smith

# FOR FANS OF



# Besttack

'LOCATION'

Khalid's breakout moment is a technology-baiting anthem for the millennial generation.



#### Anteros & The Age Of L.U.N.A

Two of the hottest new bands in London join forces for an exclusive Under The Radar gig supported by Starling Bank

TEENAGE FUTURE RAP newcomers Age Of L.U.N.A and London "bitter dreampop" four-piece Anteros are to play an intimate Under The Radar supported by Starling Bank gig at London's Omeara on July 12. The show follows the release of The Age Of L.U.N.A's acclaimed new EP 'Coco', and Anteros's sozzled pop noir latest single 'Drunk', bringing together two of the fastest rising acts in the capital for an unmissable night of new music. Beer 'n' grub included.

#### **EVENT DETAILS**

The line-up: Anteros (8-8.30pm); The Age Of L.U.N.A (9.30-10pm) and NME DJ (10pm-close) at Omeara, London, with doors open from 6.30pm-12 midnight. A ticket gives you entry to an intimate gig with UTR artists, complimentary food (Cantina Carnitas) and drink (two each) and exclusive access to the venue.

FOR MORE NEW MUSIC, GO TO NME.COM













The long-awaited return of 28th century art-rock glamourpuss St Vincent was announced via an eye-scorching video clip

THE LIVE PERFORMANCES of St Vincent – AKA Annie Clark, alumnus of cult-like vocal group The Polyphonic Spree and Sufjan Stevens' band – have been described as a choreographed apocalypse. Her robotic martial arts moves, evil-scientist expressions and cubist stagecraft made her Digital Witness tour of 2014 and 2015 a striking live spectacle – particularly the part where she faked her own death. Her surreal stage chatter was carefully and intentionally scripted, and her abrasive guitar squalls bridged the previously unbridgeable gap

between Black Sabbath and cutting-edge digital funk-pop. She is, in short, a mind-blower. So keep your expectations skyhigh for Clark's Fear The Future tour, announced with a video of her in a green sci-fi outfit coughing her guts up in front of a neon pink podium. There's no new album announced just yet, but don't fear that particular part of the future...

Otherworldly futurepop art queen

#### **OCTOBER**

Tues 17 O2 Academy Brixton, London Weds 18 O2 Apollo, Manchester

TICKETS: £25













#### **IBEYI**

French-Cuban alt-R&B sisters

#### **OCTOBER**

Wed 18 Thekla, Bristol Thu 19 Shoreditch Town Hall. London Fri 20 Band On The Wall, Manchester

#### TELL ME MORE:

Following the release of Ibevi's self-titled 2015 debut, they appeared on Beyoncé's visual album 'Lemonade'. TICKETS: £16.50-£19.25

#### **RUN THE** JEWELS

Righteous US rap duo

#### **NOVEMBER** Thu 9 Victoria Warehouse.

Manchester Sat 11 O2 Academy Brixton, London Tue 14 O2 Academy, Birmingham Thu 16 O2 Academy, Glasgow Sat 11 & Sun 12 O2 Academy Brixton, London Wed 15 O2 Academy, Leeds

TELL ME MORE: Jeremy Corbyn introduced Killer Mike and El-P to the stage at Glastonbury.

TICKETS: £33.50-£42.50



# **AXWELL & INGROSSO**

Fri 30 Ormeau Park, Belfast

#### **BLACK PEAKS**

Tue 4 La Belle Angele. Edinburgh Wed 5 The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent

#### **BLEACHERS**

Wed 5 Bush Hall. London

#### **BONOBO**

Tue 4 Cathedral. Manchester

#### **CARL BARÂT &** THE JACKALS

Thu 6 The Venue, Derby

#### **CASSIA**

BEST GIGS

Mon 3 Exchange, Bristol Tue 4 The Moon, Cardiff

#### CLEAN BANDIT

Sun 2 Thetford Forest. Brandon

#### **ELBOW**

Fri 30 Delamere Forest. Northwich Thu 6 Priory & Castle, Tvnemouth

#### **GNARWOLVES**

Thu 6 The Marrs Bar. Worcester

#### **GREEN DAY**

Mon 3 Arena, Sheffield Tue 4 Bellahouston Park, Glasgow

#### **HOOKWORMS**

Sun 2 Pavilion Theatre. Manchester

#### **JAMES**

Wed 5 O2 Academy, Leicester

#### JUSTIN BIEBER

Fri 30 Principality Stadium, Cardiff

#### **KAMASI** WASHINGTON

Fri 30 O2 Academy, Liverpool Sat 1 O2 Academy & Underground, Leeds

#### **KELE**

Wed 5 Proud Camden, London

#### **LINKIN PARK**

Mon 3 The O2. London Tue 4 O2 Academy Brixton, London Thu 6 Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham

#### LITTLE MIX

Fri 30 Roval Highland Centre, Edinburgh Sat 1 Donington Park. Derby

Thu 6 Open Air Theatre, Scarborough

#### THE **MACCABEES**

Fri 30 & Sat 1 Alexandra Palace

#### **MACY GRAY**

Tue 4 O2 Shepherds Bush Empire, London

#### NICS

Sat 1 The Garage, London

#### PACE

Thu 6 Hoxton Square Bar & Kitchen, London

#### **POPCAAN**

Fri 30 O2 Institute, Birmingham Sat 1 Eventim Apollo, London Sun 2 O2 Ritz. Manchester

#### SERMANNI

Sat 1 Arts Centre. Paisley

#### **RICHARD ASHCROFT**

Sat 1 O2 Academy Brixton, London

#### **SAMPHA**

Wed 5 Albert Hall. Manchester

#### **SISTERAY**

Thu 6 The Half Moon Putney, London

#### SPOON

Fri 30 O2 Forum, London

#### THE VRYLL SOCIETY

Sat 1 Brudenell Social Club, Leeds

#### WILLY MASON

Mon 3 The Green Door Store, Brighton

#### YELLOW DAYS

Thu 6 Corsica Studios, London



# BIGGER AND BETTER THAN EVER



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**Laverne Cox** 

**Actress and activist** 

#### THE FIRST SONG I REMEMBER HEARING

Blessed Assurance "It's a hymn from the African Methodist Episcopal Church, I must have been about six. The church was such a huge part of my life growing up - I grew up in Mobile, Alabama, and going every single Sunday was mandatory. This was just one of those hymns that we sang every day. I haven't been to church in a while because I don't subscribe to organised religion anymore, but I still believe in God."

#### THE FIRST ALBUM I BOUGHT

CULTURE CLUB
Kissing To Be Clever

"Boy George was gender non-conforming – he identified as a drag queen. He used male pronouns but he wore make-up and was very flamboyant and feminine. I was assigned male at birth and was very feminine. I saw myself in him. And his songs were catchy and clever."





#### THE SONG THAT I CAN NO LONGER LISTEN TO

MADONNA Like A Virgin

"It's one of those things that, when it came out, was like, 'Yeah!' and now it's just like, sigh. It just doesn't work for me anymore. I like a lot of old Madonna songs but I just can't listen to 'Like A Virgin'. I still love 'Material Girl' though."

#### THE SONG I CAN'T GET OUT OF MY HEAD

GAETANO DONIZETTI
The 'Mad Scene'

coda in Lucia
Di Lammermoor

"I've been studying opera again lately so when I wake up in the morning I usually start singing this coda. That section of music is so catchy and it's just in my head. It's really weird – I feel like a little bit of a freak."

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# THE SONG I DO AT KARAOKE

Titanium

"I'm not really a pop singer - I'm a classical singer, so it always comes out classically. But I love the vocal range of this and I love the message: 'You shoot me down, but I won't fall, I am titanium.' I give myself permission to sing badly when I do karaoke. Karaoke was a cathartic space for me to have a creative outlet that wasn't about work, that didn't have to be perfect."



#### THE FIRST GIG I WENT TO

**MICHAEL JACKSON** 

"I was really young – it was one of those things where my mom took me just to go and see Michael Jackson. I only vaguely remember it. I remember being at the concert and he was up there doing his thing, and it was fantastic."

#### THE SONG THAT MAKES ME DANCE BEYONCÉ

Yoncé

"They don't really ever play it in the clubs, but I will literally put it on in the morning when I'm getting ready. It makes me feel sexy. Dancing and sexuality is so linked for me, and Beyoncé epitomises that. When she became Sasha Fierce it was almost like that was the internal sex goddess that I've always imagined I was. That song just gives me permission to be my sexiest self."

Orange Is The New Black is on Netflix now

The wisdom of the *NME* archives

THIS WEEK
KEITH FLINT

The Prodigy June 28, 1997

"I think I was more scary when I had long hair a few years ago – when I see pictures of me, I scare myself! I really do look like Ditch Monster!"

