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# NME

## Hello...

THE FIRST TIME ELLIE Rowsell from Wolf Alice appeared on the cover of NME was waaaay back in October 2013. It was a part of our Young Britannia feature, where we championed some of the finest up-and-coming British artists of the time, including Palma Violets, Childhood, Charli XCX, Joanna Gruesome, Daniel Avery and Fat White Family. Needless to say, some have had a lot more success than others... (Daniel Avery? Anyone? Anyone?)

It's testament to their true grit and talent that Wolf Alice haven't just survived the last four years but have actively thrived, evolving from a knockabout indie group into a highly politicised, deeply intelligent and hugely ambitious band. The new album isn't out until the end of September, but we've been lucky enough to have it in the office for a while and it's genuinely as brilliant as we all hoped it would be.

As ever, September is a huge month for new albums, with big ones on the way from Queens Of The Stone Age, Enter Shikari, The Horrors, LCD Soundsystem and The Killers. After a couple of weeks away it seems like I've picked a good time to get back into the action.

**MIKE WILLIAMS**  
Editor-in-Chief  
@itsmikelike

Step up, Caleb Kunle **p26**

### COVER STORY

**16**  
**Wolf Alice**

Ellie Rowsell, singer: "I do listen to our new album and feel like it's on the darker side of things. It's hard to write happy songs"

### FEATURES

**20**  
**Kurupt FM**

Grindah, MC (sort of): "Obviously, we're the inspiration to the nation, yeah? It's like a lyrical youth club"

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# NME

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# AGENDA

WHAT EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT THIS WEEK

## Hey, is that...

**Yeah, it is! David Cameron, on the wallop, at Wilderness Festival**

AS YOU MAY RECALL, 14 months ago we had a referendum to decide whether the UK should leave the EU or not, and ever since we voted 'yeah' it's felt like the walls are slowly but surely caving in on the life we used to know. It's important to remember that it was then-Prime Minister David Cameron who called this referendum, and that everything

catastrophic that's about to happen is all his fault. But, hey, everyone deserves a lovely time every now and then, and here he is at Wilderness Festival having an absolutely top laugh. The punters were delighted to see him, as it meant they could chant "ooooooh, Jeremy Corbyn" right in his face, ideally while wearing a jacket with a nice big Corbyn love heart on it, like this number being sported by festivalgoer Lucy Edwards. Excellent trolling, well done everyone.



# Powder players

The first trailer for the new series of Netflix drug drama *Narcos* dropped last Friday. Pablo Escobar's dead. The Cali Cartel are on the rise. But what else? This...

## THE CALI CARTEL ARE JUST AS RUTHLESS AS PABLO

"The day Pablo went down, the Cali Cartel became public enemy number one," says DEA agent Javier Peña (Pedro Pascal) in the trailer. It's spearheaded by brothers Gilberto and Miguel Rodriguez, who like to blow s\*\*t up and gun down anyone standing in their way – even if they're getting a haircut at the time.

## THEIR ARROGANCE COULD BE THEIR DOWNFALL

The Rodriguez brothers are seen showboating in clubs, hosting pool parties and getting a lift in some snazzy helicopters, but all that attention they crave might bite them in the backside. "People want to see the godfathers in handcuffs, and that's what they'll get," Peña declares to his team, so it looks like it could be a very public ticking off – if they get them, that is.



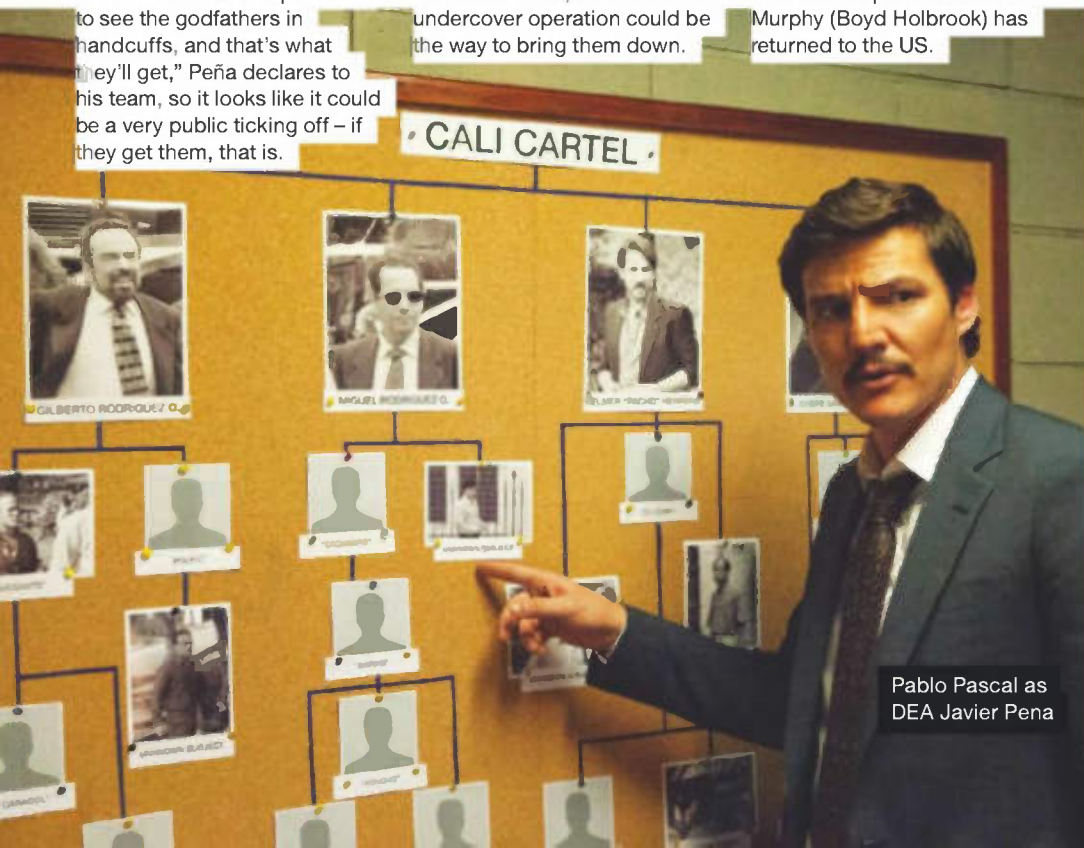
Cali bigwig Chepe Santacruz Londono (left) with apprentice

## PEÑA'S GOING AFTER THE CALI CARTEL 'DIFFERENTLY'

In Seasons 1 and 2, DEA agents went after Pablo Escobar directly, with often deadly consequences to their loved ones and teams – but that could be all about to change. "If you try to go after the Cali bosses all you'll get is more bodies," Peña is advised, so an undercover operation could be the way to bring them down.

## FORCES WILL HAVE TO WORK TOGETHER

The DEA and Colombian forces were at each other's throats in the first two seasons, allowing enemies to slip from their grip time and time again. "If we want to get the Cartel, we have to work together," an officer tells Peña, which rings even more true now that his partner Steve Murphy (Boyd Holbrook) has returned to the US.



Pablo Pascal as DEA Javier Pena



JAY-Z

Made a spoof all-black version of *Friends* that topped the original. Kanye wasn't in it.



SHERYL CROW

Wrote career-best song 'Dude, I'm Still Alive' in response to a tweet about her 'rolling in her grave'.



ROBERT PATTINSON

Caused a kerfuffle when he joked about refusing to perform a 'sex act' on a dog during a film shoot.



JAMES CORDEN

He's "a knobhead", says Liam Gallagher, explaining why he'll never appear on *Carpool Karaoke*.



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# ATOMIC BLONDE



**IN CINEMAS NOW**





# A brief guide to the best music in *Twin Peaks: The Return*

We're 13 episodes in, and music-loving director David Lynch has invited all of the following to get on stage and play the hits at the Bang Bang Bar



Kyle MacLachlan as Agent Dale Cooper

## CHROMATICS

These mysterious indie-rockers from Portland couldn't be more suited to the weirdest show on TV. Their 2015 single 'Shadow' is all synths and floaty vocals, perfect for the surrealism of the series opener. In episode 12 they played 'Saturday' from bandmember Johnny Jewel's new album 'Windswept'.



## TROUBLE

Lynch's son Riley is one of three members of these bluesy punks who feature in episode five's finale. The other two are Alex Zhang Hungtai, of new-age-y rockers Dirty Beaches/Last Lizard, and long-time Lynch sound engineer Dean Hurley. Their track 'Snake Eyes' features crunchy power chords set alongside squawking sax and, like *Twin Peaks*, is depraved and jazzy.



## SHARON VAN ETTEN

A long-standing friend of Lynch, Van Etten trod the boards at Bang Bang Bar as naturally as original singer-in-residence Julee Cruise did in the '90s. Unfortunately, her blissful turn probably means she won't now appear as a fully-fledged cast member further down the line.

## THE CACTUS BLOSSOMS

If all you want on a Saturday night is a few bourbons and some ol' fashioned US entertainment, The Cactus Blossoms are for you. The classic folk-Americana of the Minneapolis band's tune 'Mississippi' will transport you

## AU REVOIR SIMONE

The Brooklyn trio and David Lynch have history. They met at a bookshop event more than a decade ago, and the *Twin Peaks* creator remixed their track 'Just Like A Tree' back in 2014. In episode four of the show, the wavy synthpop of 'Lark' adds to the Bang Bang Bar's liquor-soaked romance with its intense rhythms and ominous organ drone. In episode nine, meanwhile, they perform the euphoric 'A Violent Yet Flammable World'. The performance was preceded by the unveiling of a brand-new character, Ella, who is played by none other than indie-pop hero Sky Ferreira.

## NINE INCH NAILS

Trent Reznor is a creepy bloke, and the Nine Inch Nails singer's snarling performance of 'She's Gone Away' would make even the bravest of the town's residents run a mile.



## HUDSON MOHAWKE

Bet you didn't see this one coming. Lynch's latest musical muse is Glaswegian electro-wizard Hudson Mohawke, who popped up in the Bang Bang Bar to debut his previously unreleased song 'Human' in episode nine, as new recruit Sky Ferreira sipped a beer in a nearby booth.



WORDS: ALEX FLOOD. PHOTOS: REX FEATURES, ALAMY, GETTY IMAGES



## Last W33K IN NUMBERS

£46

The price rapper Gucci Mane is asking for a pool float featuring his face on top of an ice-cream cone.

6

Number of hours a UK punk singer was detained for in the US for dressing up as Donald Trump.

9

Björk says her ninth album is her "Tinder record". Can't wait for the WhatsApp EP.

3

Simon Cowell reckons One Direction could reunite as a trio, without Harry (and Zayn, clearly).

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# ON THE RECORD

BIG OPINIONS. NO FILTER.



THIS WEEK

## The Tory festival sounds like the worst thing ever

IF YOU THOUGHT THE shambolic mud bath that was last month's Y Not Festival was bad, then just wait until you hear about the latest addition to the UK's festival calendar. Sinisterly preceded by a harrowing picture of David Cameron quaffing the blood of the poor and smoking their ground-up bones (OK, OK, maybe it was just wine and a Marlboro Light, but who *really* knows?) at Wilderness Festival over the weekend, news reaches us that the Conservative Party are setting up their very own bash.

Mid-Norfolk MP George Freeman is the man behind the plan, taking to Twitter to exclaim: "Why shld the left have all the fun at festivals?" Evidently he saw just how many LOLZ were to be had at Glastonbury and decided that he wanted to have cider-sozzled lads singing his name at the

tops of their voices while they waited for their Goan fish curry and henna tattoos of Jeremy Corbyn's face. Can't blame him, really.

Since putting his shout-out online, Freeman has raised over £25,000 to help put on the event, which he describes as a "cross between Hay-on-Wye and the Latitude festival". Except, we assume, much less fun than either. The only bright side to such an event would be the slim chance that Kate Bush – who was recently outed as right-wing – might show up and play a secret 2am set on the Margaret Thatcher stage, but aside from that it sounds like hell on Earth. Or at the very least, hell in the home counties.

Pitched as an 'ideas fest', we can only imagine what kind of darkness awaits punters as they slide their Hunter wellies over their red trousers and start off the day with some privately



Ah, Glastonbury: a proper festival

funded yoga, before a lunch of port and lobster and a panel discussion about the best ways to well and truly bury the welfare state. The evenings would be dedicated to downing giant fishbowl cocktails imported directly from Mahiki, while all your favourite Tory musicians – from Gary Barlow to er, Gary Barlow – play various permutations of 'God Save The

Queen'. Luckily, the inaugural event, set for later this year, is going to be limited to just a couple of hundred people, so there's little chance that you'll accidentally end up there after taking a wrong turn on the way to Bestival.

Even so, be wary about what tickets you end up booking for 2018. The Conservative Party already seem hellbent on having their wicked way with our health service and the education system – please don't let them have our festivals as well. @leoniemaycooper


**"We can only imagine what darkness awaits"**

PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

### SAM TAYLOR'S SLIME ZONE ROY LICHTENSTEIN WORM TAKEOVER



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Dagny

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Georgie

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**True Romance**  
Tom Grennan

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September\*  
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Little Cub

At the time of printing  
\* Rescheduled from previous date  
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# What's ON your Headphones?

THIS WEEK

## Cambridge

"I love the scenery – I should explore more"



**< YETI JOHNSON**

19, student

Listening to:  
**DJ KHALED FT. RIHANNA & BRYSON TILLER**  
*Wild Thoughts*  
"It really makes me want to dance."

**Wearing:** Primark top, H&M trousers, trainers from JD Sports.  
**Best thing about Cambridge:** "The scenery. I should explore more."

**KYLE KNOWLES >**

28, admissions officer

Listening to:  
**WHITNEY**  
*Golden Days*  
"It's very positive, happy and reminds me of summer road trips."

**Wearing:** Vintage shirt, H&M shorts.  
**Best thing about Cambridge:** "The beautiful architecture."

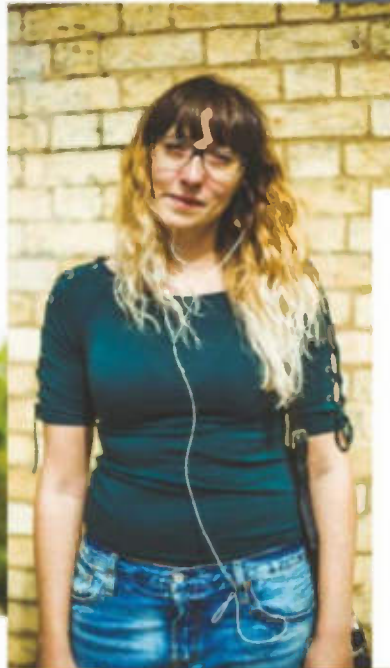


**< NATALIE ROBSON**

33, project manager

Listening to:  
**LINKIN PARK**  
*Numb*  
"I've been into them since the '90s."

**Wearing:** H&M top, Levi's jeans, Radley bag.  
**Best thing about Cambridge:** "It's amazing in the summer – punting, bars, the people."



**FINLAY CAMPBELL >**

24, environmental consultant

Listening to:  
**IMAGINE DRAGONS**  
*On Top Of The World*  
"It puts me in a good mood when I'm feeling down."

**Wearing:** John Lewis coat, H&M T-shirt and trousers.  
**Best thing about Cambridge:** "All of the secret little shops you discover by accident."



PHOTOS: EMMA VIOLA LILJA



# LEADERS OF THE PACK



(L-r:) Joff Oddie, Ellie Rowsell, Joel Amey and Theo Ellis

Wolf Alice are not just another indie band. After the runaway success of debut 'My Love Is Cool', the London four-piece used their platform to advocate for refugees and motivate their fans to vote. As they prepare to return with an angrier, catchier, just plain *greater* second album, singer Ellie Rowsell is starting to look suspiciously like a modern icon. Not that she'd admit it herself, as Barry Nicolson finds when he meets them in London



**T**here's a brief scene in *On The Road*, director Michael Winterbottom's upcoming docu-drama hybrid set against the backdrop of Wolf Alice's 2015 UK tour, in which a roadie jokingly asks one of Ellie Rowsell's friends if the frontwoman was more talkative when the pair were at school together. "She does talk," comes the whip-smart reply. "She just doesn't talk to you."

I'm reminded of that scene as I watch bassist Theo Ellis, guitarist Joff Oddie and drummer Joel Amey goofing off with props they've found strewn about the East London studio where their *NME* cover shoot is taking place, staging wacky races astride miniature fibreglass bikes, boats and sports cars while Rowsell sits off to one side, wordlessly scrolling through her iPhone. It's not that she's aloof or unfriendly so much as introverted and withdrawn; she spends much of our interview shifting around restlessly in her seat, her voice rarely registering above a whisper. By her own admission, she's prone to spending a lot of time lost in thought, "constantly musing about and mulling over things". It's a habit that gave Wolf Alice's new album 'Visions Of A Life', due for release on September 29, its name.

"Even as a kid," she says, "I would play pretend and wish I was an adult, and now that I'm an adult I sometimes wish I was someone else. That phrase just felt like a poetic way of expressing it. Then there's the album artwork, a picture of a girl in a frock dancing around a podium with a horse's head on it – she obviously had some vision of a life that she was playing out. It's my auntie in the picture, and she actually did become a dancer, so that vision came true. It really resonated with me because I spent my whole childhood not playing with toys but playing inside my head and acting it out. That's what our songs are, I suppose – visions and little bits of life that somehow get made into music."

Whatever visions Wolf Alice had of their lives prior to the release of their 2015 debut 'My Love Is Cool', the response to that record swiftly surpassed even the wildest, most out-there of them. The week of its release, when it entered the charts at Number Two, "was probably the most surreal experience of the whole cycle – how high-octane it was, how unbelievably happy everyone was feeling," says Ellis. "We had a gig in

New York, then a TV show in Los Angeles, then we came back to play Glastonbury and the record was out so we were reading everything people were writing about us, digesting all this stuff..."

"It felt like a whole year's worth of feelings and experiences condensed into seven days," adds Amey.

Stop us if you've heard this one before: a young band rocketed to sudden first-album success who spend the next 18 months travelling the world, winning awards, building a fiercely loyal fanbase and generally having a whale of a time until they have to step off the rollercoaster and write another one. It's the stuff 'difficult' second albums are made of – the discombobulating highs of success and the decompression period that follows when you finally come up for air.

"There was definitely a comedown," nods Ellis. "Coming off tour, especially after that long, when you're used to those highs every night – it was intense and

you don't quite know how to fit back into the world. You've been dipping in and out of your friends and family's lives for so long, you end up feeling a bit weird and isolated."

**R**ecorded in LA with Paramore and M83 producer Justin Meldal-Johnsen, 'Visions Of A Life' is the antithesis of the overthought, undercooked follow-up album – it's a big, bold expression of this band's immense potential, in which choruses (and emotions) are communicated in letters 40ft high. Yet it's also a product of the "weird time" Wolf Alice went through when their last album cycle ended. "I do listen to it and feel like it's on the sadder side, or the darker side, of things," admits Rowsell. "I think it's quite hard to write songs about being happy; it's easier to pour your misery into your lyrics."

Among its 12 tracks you'll encounter soaring, shoegazey odes to departed friends ('Heavenward'), searingly graphic depictions of sexual and emotional manipulation ('Formidable Cool') and, on 'Sky Musings', a panic attack at 40,000 feet, where an increasingly manic Rowsell finds herself, '*On top of the world, 23 years old and you're acting like it's over*'. That song, she explains, "is about how people have deeper thoughts and more tears to shed on long-haul flights – apparently it's to do with being neither here nor there and your life being totally in the hands of someone else. So every time I'd go on a long flight and watch a romcom with a glass of wine, I'd find myself having one of these mini meltdowns. It's quite a dark song, but it must've been quite funny for anyone who actually saw me sobbing at *Miss Congeniality*..."

Then there's lead single 'Yuk Foo', two minutes and 13 seconds of feral, fire-breathing rage described by Ellis as "the most abrasive, slap-you-in-the-face song on the record", and by Rowsell as "like a vomit of emotion. I was angry about a lot of things when I wrote that song, and it was meant as a 'f\*\*k you' to the expectations people place on you, whether that's as a friend, a lover or an artist." Nevertheless, she insists, "We weren't out to shock people by going, 'Look how heavy we sound now!' It wasn't anything like that. It was actually one of the funnest songs on the album to record. It's not meant to be taken completely seriously."

It's true, 'Visions Of A Life' is not all doom and gloom: there are moments of air-punching euphoria and self-affirmation, too. The trick was not being

## "I SOMETIMES WISH I WAS SOMEONE ELSE" ELLIE ROWSELL



afraid to lean into them. "The main thing we learned from making the first album is that you only regret the things you don't do," says Rowsell. "This time around, if we had an inkling of an idea, even if it seemed a bit silly, we'd try it out and see what happened."

That proved to be the case with the shimmering synthpop of second single 'Don't Delete The Kisses', a hopelessly romantic, roll-the-credits love song about what can happen when you throw caution to the wind. The result is not only the standout track of this album, but of Wolf Alice's entire career to date.

"I wanted to write a song that wasn't at all subtle – it's meant to be totally unashamed," says Rowsell. "At first the song was going to stay in that mindset of meekness and self-doubt, but I just found that too depressing – I wanted the happy Hollywood ending, so I was like, 'F\*\*k it, I'm going back and writing the ending that I want!' And I was superstitious about having that song end on a sad note. I felt like that would be a sign of something."

One ending Rowsell couldn't write, unfortunately, was the one that she (and about 13 million others) wanted for this summer's general election, though Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn's remarkable rise from media punchline to prime-minister-in-waiting has given them hope that meaningful change is more attainable than ever.

Ever since they put the Bands 4 Refugees project together in late 2016, Wolf Alice's interest and involvement in politics has grown. While their role in the general election campaign was lower-key than Corbyn's meme-wielding phalanx of grime MCs, the band actively and enthusiastically stumped for him and Rowsell also recorded a video for the Labour Party urging young people to register to vote. Nor were they the only ones to get involved: empowered by the reach of social media and the starkness of the choice on offer ("There's no grey areas any more; it's literally a choice between good and evil," declares Ellis) more bands of Wolf Alice's generation seem to be jumping into the political arena.

"The stakes have been higher over the last couple of years, and events like Trump and Brexit have made people realise that if you don't get involved, the wrong things can happen," says Oddie. "That's why if you do have a platform, it's so important to try to do something about it."

"After the referendum last year, I kept hearing friends of mine, and even journalists, talking about Brexit

## "THERE ARE NO GREY AREAS IN POLITICS ANY MORE, IT'S LITERALLY A CHOICE BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL" THEO ELLIS

in a much clearer, more informed way," agrees Rowsell. "The problem was that it all came way too late. Why weren't we having this conversation before? So when the snap election got called, it was like, 'OK, let's do everything we did after Brexit, but let's do it right now. There's this image of politics as posh white men in the Houses of Parliament talking in political jargon, but you don't need to be eloquent and hyper-intelligent to talk about this stuff."

Did you get to meet Corbyn during the campaign?

"No, we did go to a few events he was at, but we never got to meet him," she replies. "It seemed like anywhere he went he was absolutely mobbed and bombarded. He's like the biggest indie band in the world."

"It was nuts, like the second coming or something," confirms Ellis. "There was one event we went to in Dalston where he was there to galvanise musicians and artists who were campaigning for Labour, and every grime MC you've ever heard of had him surrounded, trying to get a photo with him. It was amazing for me to see a politician in that light. You never saw people clambering over each other to get a selfie with Gordon Brown. He really has galvanised a generation."

So too, in their own way, have Wolf Alice. Having spent their first three years as perennial next-big-things, 'My Love Is Cool' established them as one of those rare British bands who actually delivered

## Road movie

**Wolf Alice on *On The Road*, the tour doc/romantic drama being released on September 29**

"Michael [Winterbottom, director] spoke to our manager and had this idea for our tour being a backdrop to this narrative taking place between the two actors who came along with us," explains Ellis. "We hadn't seen anything like that before and we really liked the concept. Basically it's about two characters falling in love on tour, and our stupidity is the backdrop to it."

**Was it weird to have a camera crew lurking around every corner?**

"It's never nice to have cameras in your face," says Rowsell. "After a while, you forget how to even sit naturally. I thought the film was funny, but if I didn't know us, I'd be thinking, 'Is this actually interesting?' I liked how it showed the reality of touring, which is very unglamorous and un-rock 'n' roll, but I don't know if that's a premise for a movie. What would've been great is if Michael had made the film on our very first tour, where you jump in the van to play to no one, and when you're drunk all day, every day..."

on the hype, and to their young, enthusiastic fanbase, their music has become life-changing. With 'Visions Of A Life', that bond between the band and their fans looks set to intensify; even on their recent US tour, says Ellis, "we noticed these factions of kids on the east and west coasts who would follow us around from gig to gig – God knows where they got the money from or what their parents were up to, but they seemed to be at every show before we were."

Amey mentions a friend of his who works in a guitar shop, "who's noticed that whenever a young girl comes in to buy a guitar and he asks who she's influenced by, 90 per cent of the time they'll say Ellie's name. That's so cool. It makes you feel like something is happening." Rowsell listens to her bandmate telling this story and looks slightly mortified; she might talk earnestly about her desire for more girls to pick up guitars and the need for more female role models in rock music, but she has difficulty thinking of herself as one of those figures. By this point,

however, that lies beyond her control. Rowsell may have her own visions of a life, but you suspect she knows that the ones her band inspire in others are every bit as important.

**NME**



### Prowling Wolf catch the band on tour this autumn

**NOVEMBER** Wed 8 O2 Academy, Bristol **Thu 9 O2 Apollo, Manchester** Sat 11 Barrowlands, Glasgow **Sun 12 Barrowlands, Glasgow** **Mon 13 O2 Academy, Newcastle** **Wed 15 Rock City, Nottingham** **Thu 16 O2 Academy, Birmingham** **Fri 17 UEA, Norwich** **Sat 18 O2 Academy, Leeds** **Mon 20 Dome, Brighton** **Tue 21 O2 Guildhall, Southampton** **Fri 24 Alexandra Palace, London** **Mon 27 Ulster Hall, Belfast** **Tue 28 Olympia, Dublin**

# PEOPLE POWER

Beats, Grindah, Steves and Chabuddy G are back with a new series of the mockumentary *People Just Do Nothing* – and they're still totally deluded, finds Jordan Bassett



## The world according to Chabuddy G

Kurupt FM's incompetent manager shares his pearls of wisdom

### ON BEING A "DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH"

"I'm like one of those myths your mates tell you about. 'Oh, do you know about Chabuddy G? I heard he made a million, quit the game and lives in Barbados now.' The documentary is like Greek mythology."

### ON KURUPT FM'S RADIO 1 LIVE LOUNGE SESSION, WHICH SOME VIEWERS CALLED "THE WORST EVER"

"Remember that geezer Picasso? Everyone was like, 'It's the worst painting I've ever seen.' Genius isn't always in its time."

### ON HIS BID TO BECOME LONDON MAYOR

"My policies include making Freddos 10p again. Sadiq Khan is thinking, 'How long until Chabuddy G gets in?' I'm Farage's nightmare, mate. Forget Brexit. We'll have Sexit – we'll only let the fit ones in."

(L-r:) Chabuddy G, Fantasy, Grindah, Steves, Decoy and Beats

**S** TRAIGHT OUTTA west London, Kurupt FM is a crew of frankly inept pirate radio DJs and garage MCs with worse bars than their hometown of Brentford. Led by the overconfident Grindah (played by Allan Mustafa), the group consists of DJ Beats (Hugo Chegwin), MC Steves (Steve Stamp) and their unscrupulous manager Chabuddy G (Asim Chaudhry). *People Just Do Nothing* – a mockumentary that follows these fictional characters through their quest for world domination (think *The Office* but with more rapping) – is back for series four. Before it hits screens, we joined Beats, Grindah and Chabuddy G – in character, of course – to talk politics, performing live and the price of Freddos.



**Kurupt FM is a pirate station. Will it ever go legit?**

**Beats:** “No, conventional radio is just boring, innit? It’s just the same songs over and over again.”

**Grindah:** “It’s just for your little Johns out there. That’s not for us – we don’t wanna have to play a certain tune because some little Harry’s told us to. You wanna be able to play whatever you want, whenever you want. I mean, granted, we do play the same tunes every day...”

**Beats:** “We’ve had the same playlist for the past 12 years...”

**Grindah:** “But we can play ‘em in any order we want.”

**You did a Red Nose Day performance with Ed Sheeran. What would you say if he wanted to collaborate on a track?**

**Grindah:** “I’d tell him to f\*\*k off. Get out of my sight immediately. Unless he’s just chilling for a blaze, but even then it’d have to be his bud.”

**Beats:** “If not, face down on the floor – get out.”

**Grindah:** “If you look at him, he looks like an explosion out of a charity shop.”

**Beats:** “He looks like Steven Seagal...”

**Grindah:** “...Mixed with a clown. And I don’t think he should try and get into MCing. Stay in your lane. Otherwise you might find yourself on the motorway, 120 miles per hour, and you’re dead.”



**You’ve got your own club night, Champagne Steam Rooms. What do you make of UK nightlife at the moment?**

**Grindah:** “All the clubs are Prezzos now ain’t they? ‘Oh, let’s go and have a cocktail at Wagamama’s.’ We’re bringing the rave scene back, but we’ve also brought that style-y, classy element to the rave. Bring the Champagne, bring a nice shirt – but also bring your mate that drinks cider and wants to do 12 beans.”

**Beats:** “It’s a melting pot of young, creative people.”

**Grindah:** “Yeah, and they all stare at me in awe. I think that’s the most important thing to take away from those nights – how talented I am.”

**Grindah, when we left you at the end of series three, you’d just split up with your fiancée Mishe and weren’t in a great way. How are you doing now?**

**Grindah:** “To be honest, I went through a bit of a dark period, yeah? I was doing loads of gear – pills, K. It did open my third eye, my chakras. Man is a bit more woke now, spiritually. But at the same time, I p\*\*sed myself and didn’t change my trousers for three days. So it’s a catch-22.”

**Beats, you have a new baby now. How are you finding fatherhood?**

**Beats:** “Horrible. I think she’s got this face recognition where she sees my face and just starts screaming.”

**Grindah:** “She doesn’t like your face. Sorry, you’re a good dad and that, but she thinks you’re ugly.”

“If Ed Sheeran wanted to collaborate with us, I’d tell him to f\*\*k off”  
*Grindah*

**You’ve shared a stage with such established acts as Big Narstie and Stormzy. Were you not worried that they might overshadow you?**

**Grindah:** “How can they? Obviously, we’re the inspiration to the nation, yeah? We’re trying to bring these young brers through and show them the ropes. It’s like a lyrical youth club.”

**Beats:** “Also, it cuts into your set time and gives you a good 20 minutes to just chill.”

**Are you interested in politics?**

**Beats:** “Whoever’s legalising weed, I’ll for vote for them. But [politicians are] all the same, aren’t they? And we don’t pay tax anyway.”

**Grindah:** “Don’t put that in.”

**The grime community came out in support of Jeremy Corbyn during the general election. Are you into him?**

**Grindah:** “Who’s that?”

**Beats:** “Has he got a TV show?”

**Grindah:** “Does he do *Deal Or No Deal*?”

**No, that’s Noel Edmonds.**

**Grindah:** “Oh yeah. Nah, we’re not really into any of that b\*\*\*\*ks. Leave us out, d’you know what I mean? Politics don’t really affect us.”

**Beats:** “I do like *Deal Or No Deal*, though.”

**NME**

*People Just Do Nothing* is on BBC Three’s iPlayer Channel from August 15



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# RADAR

THIS WEEK'S ESSENTIAL NEW RELEASES



## Best NEW tracks And when to drop them

### BEST FOR A LIVING SPREE

**QUEENS OF THE STONE AGE**

*The Evil Has Landed*

Josh Homme wants you to "go on a living spree" with him. Ironically, hearing this rock 'n' roll banger is like dying and going to heaven.

### BEST FOR BREWING UP A STORM

**ESTHER JOY**

*Friendless Necessity*

She may be in chiptune enthusiast Charli XCX's band, but there's absolutely nothing breezy about this London musician's dark, electro-goth song, which swirls like a tornado.

### BEST FOR FLYING THE BEYHIVE

**KING HENRY**

**FT. RHYE**

*Moment*

He's produced Beyoncé; now the LA beatmaker has teamed up with Rhye to create R&B that's sweet as manuka honey.

### BEST FOR GETTING YOUR HEAD WET

**GOTTS STREET PARK**

**FT. GRAND PAX**

*Control*

The Leeds four-piece offers woozy neo-soul, all sleepy guitar chords and muted beats.

### BEST FOR CHA-CHA-CHA-ING

**CAMILA CABELLO**

**FT. YOUNG THUG**

*Havana*

She's quit her pop band Fifth Harmony and by the sounds of this slinky, trap-influenced R&B, moved to Cuba to neck rum with Young Thug.

### BEST FOR UNLEASHING YOUR INNER CHILD

**DAMA SCOUT**

*Suzie Wong*

This indie-pop banger reminisces on wild childhood creativity. Don't grow up!

### BEST FOR CONTINUING THE FAMILY TRADE

**TALIWHOAH**

*Details*

Her auntie was in legendary disco group Boney M and this new-wave R&B singer is equally talented.

### BEST FOR DOING LOVE-LIFE DIY

**ISAAC GRACIE**

*The Death Of You*

*And I*

The long-haired fellow lets rip with a bruising chorus that hammers the final nail in a relationship's coffin.

### BEST FOR LEAVING THE HOUSE

**ENTER SHIKARI**

*The Spark*

"I wanna live outside all of this" the rockers chant over pounding electro. Can't we stay inside?

### BEST FOR KEEPING THE WOLF FROM THE DOOR

**JAKE BUGG**

*How Soon The Dawn*

Bugg wears shades in bed for the video to his acoustic ballad. Moody.

FOR MORE NEW MUSIC,  
GO TO [NME.COM](http://NME.COM)



# MUSIC

## Ray of light

Californian pop hero Kesha returns with a defiant country and garage rock-tinged triumph

**KESHA**

*Rainbow*



POP BALLADS

THREE YEARS ago Kesha Rose Sebert found herself at the centre of one the biggest legal battles in recent pop history. The Californian singer-songwriter

alleged that Dr Luke, the producer who signed her at 18, had subjected her to “mental manipulation, emotional abuse and sexual assault”.

Fans protested to ‘Free Kesha’, calling for her to be freed from her contract so she could make music elsewhere. In turn, Dr Luke – not a real doctor – countersued for defamation. Last year, after a judge threw out her abuse claims against Dr Luke, Kesha dropped her case, but on ‘Rainbow’ – her first

album since 2012’s ‘Warrior’ – the effects of the highly publicised lawsuit ring loud.

“The reason I wanted to name this record ‘Rainbow’ is because I kind of associate healing with going back to my childlike mind, before I got all twisted and turned and beaten and heartbroken

and all those things,” she said in a recent interview. The cathartic nature of the album is clearest on the emotive piano and string-laden ballad ‘Praying’, a forceful Lady-Gaga-worthy

FOR FANS OF



HAIM



LADY GAGA

offering of defiance, as she hollers “‘Cos you brought the flames and you put me through hell / I had to learn how to fight for myself”. The record’s title track is equally therapeutic, but sounds more like Haim doing an epic Disney number, with Kesha singing “come and paint the world with me tonight”.

It’s not all butterflies and sunsets, though. Eagles Of Death Metal provide gritty full-throttle dive-bar guitar-band backing on ‘Boogie Feet’ and ‘Let ‘Em Talk’, both of which sit halfway between hair-metal and Katy Perry’s most bubblegum moments.

The country-lite vibe that runs throughout the album – see the yodelling ‘Hunt You Down’ – shines brightest on ‘Old Flames (Can’t Hold A Candle To You)’, not just because of the pedal steel guitar but thanks to a guest appearance from the real life Dolly Parton.

But bluegrass and gospel-inspired closer ‘Spaceship’ is perhaps the most powerful track here – a contemplative trad finger-picker that sees Kesha waiting to be rescued by a bloody great big UFO and taken somewhere far, far away. **Leonie Cooper**

## Youth and young manhood

An album, sings its creator, for the “young, dumb, living off Mum”

**RAT BOY**

*SCUM*



TEENAGERS DAYDREAMS



TEN YEARS AGO Jamie T released his debut album ‘Panic Prevention’ to a small cacophony of critical praise and disaffected youth fandom. Fast-forward to Rat Boy’s debut album ‘SCUM’. Across 25 tracks (and skits), 21-year-old Jordan Cardy from Essex draws on clanky guitars, breaks, dub reggae snares and G-funk basslines to rail against gentrification, Donald Trump and getting robbed by kids in North Face jackets, and sounds a lot like Jamie T while doing so.

There’s a meaty texture to the album, with rugged, hooky, gang-chant choruses deployed throughout. ‘REVOLUTION’ will bounce around your head for days after a single listen – it’s infectious to the point that the clunky rhymes and suburban-dad rap flows barely matter (“We’re not so far from World War III / I think most of the people here might be crazy” doesn’t make for much of a call to arms).

‘SCUM’, then, is more revolt than revolution. But there’s undoubtedly talent here – and there’s every chance Cardy, not T, will be the touchpoint 10 years from now. **Will Pritchard**

ALBUM OF THE WEEK



# Dead good

**Rooney Mara and Casey Affleck are ace in this sad and funny haunted house movie**

**A GHOST STORY**

**12A Rooney Mara, Casey Affleck**



**GHOSTS SPOOKY GRIEF**

together by a lazy parent. It stands silently in corners, doing mostly nothing. This is a film in which 'mostly nothing' is generally what's happening on-screen.

Yet within its many silences is a sad, funny, sometimes frightening look at life, death and the fear of being forgotten. Director David Lowery (*Ain't Them Bodies Saints*, *Pete's Dragon*), like his ghost, mostly just watches his characters. There are barely 10 minutes of dialogue, but he doesn't need words to convey the ghost's arrogant anger at the world moving on without him, or the sadness of a woman (Rooney Mara) struggling to fill her emptiness – in one memorable scene she tries to fill it with an entire pie, eaten in a single take.

A film so content to just let ideas stew rather than offer definite conclusions won't be for everyone, but it's worth giving it the chance to haunt you. **Olly Richards**

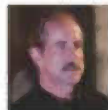
THERE'S A LOT IN A *GHOST Story* that would be easy to laugh at. As you'd expect, it's about a ghost, but not one that looks anything like the human it once was (a nameless man played by Casey Affleck), nor like any gauzy special effect. This ghost is a sheet with two eye-holes in it, like a trick-or-treating costume thrown



The ghost of Casey Affleck's character

# Who is Elizabeth Keen's father?

TV THRILLER *THE BLACKLIST* follows FBI Agent Elizabeth 'Liz' Keen (Megan Boone) and charismatic antihero Raymond 'Red' Reddington (James Spader) on their mission to catch wanted super-criminals. It's had us hooked with its killer dialogue (Red knows his way around a withering one-liner), and the central question: who is Liz's real father? Here are four potential candidates.



**MILOS KIRCHOFF**

He and Red are sworn nemeses, a mutual loathing that goes back to an incident during the Cold War. But could there be another motive to Kirchoff's return to Red's life?



**MR VARGAS**

One of the shadiest villains in *The Blacklist*, this slippery character – a criminal who can't stand the sight of blood – was one of Red's former employees.



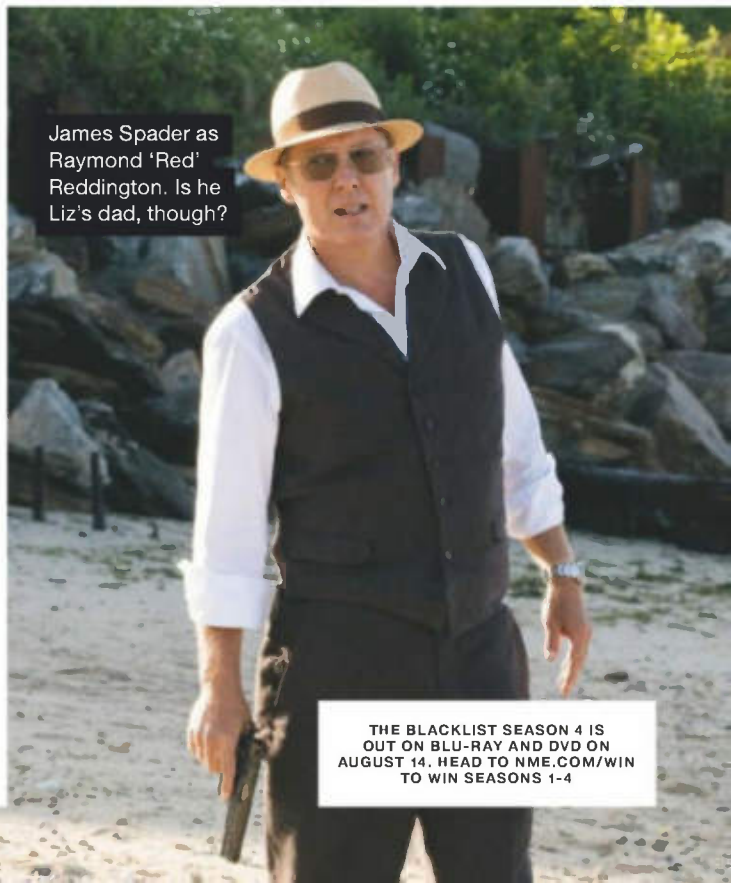
**RAYMOND 'RED' REDDINGTON**

Why would reformed criminal Red insist on working with rookie Liz to hunt the villains on his 'Blacklist' of most-wanted culprits? There could be one reason...



**ALEXANDER KIRK**

Intro'd at the end of season three, this suspicious oligarch cosies up to the White House for reasons unknown – and is threatened by Liz's closeness to Red.



James Spader as Raymond 'Red' Reddington. Is he Liz's dad, though?

THE BLACKLIST SEASON 4 IS OUT ON BLU-RAY AND DVD ON AUGUST 14. HEAD TO NME.COM/WIN TO WIN SEASONS 1-4

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# Under THE RADAR

YOU HEARD IT HERE FIRST

## Caleb Kunle

The first winner of the  
Thatchers Haze x NME  
Emerging Artists Project  
mixes his electropop with  
a delightful hint of R&B

PHOTOS: ANDY HUGHES  
GROOMING: JOHANNA DALEMO USING MAC COSMETICS  
STYLING: SHIRLEY AMARTEY



**A**CE IRISH ARTIST Caleb Kunle has been crowned the winner of Thatchers Haze x NME's Emerging Artists Project – a new initiative to provide a platform for the UK's best upcoming talent. We got the lowdown on the 25-year-old as he heads into the studio with producer Murkage Dave (Tonga, Mike Skinner collaborator) to record his debut EP 'Eden'.

**Did you expect to win the Emerging Artists Project when you entered?**

"In all honesty, I forgot about it. I just threw that song into the universe to see what would happen. Two or three weeks later I got the call and I was speechless. I'm not a big conspiracy-head, but I definitely thought there was a huge prank going on."

**You've just started recording your debut EP 'Eden' with Murkage Dave. How does that compare to where you've worked before?**

"I've been trying to write an EP for three years and I'd been doing that all on my own, so it's been hard. 'Another Life', the song that I won with, was written and recorded in a shed at the bottom of my mum's garden."

**What inspires you to start writing songs?**

"What stands out for me most is something I call 'the situation'. There's always lyrics and music floating around my head, but I just get this tingle when seeing something like my reflection in running water, or an overheard conversation, that really inspires me – then I know a song is coming on. That thing is rare and it's a spiritual moment."

**You're playing a gig at NME HQ on August 18. What can people expect from that?**

"I used to do a lot of open-mic nights so would strip things back, but I've also performed with my group [Blackfish Collective] and that has a much bigger sound with several people on the stage running around. It's a good juxtaposition between that honest sound and something a little more crazy."

**Thomas Smith**

**Caleb Kunle will play at NME HQ in London on August 18. Head to [NME.com/win](http://NME.com/win) to find out how you can be there for free**

**CALEB WEARS:**

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Boots, £229, Red Wing Shoes



FOR **FANS OF** *Best track* **STRANGE & TRUE**



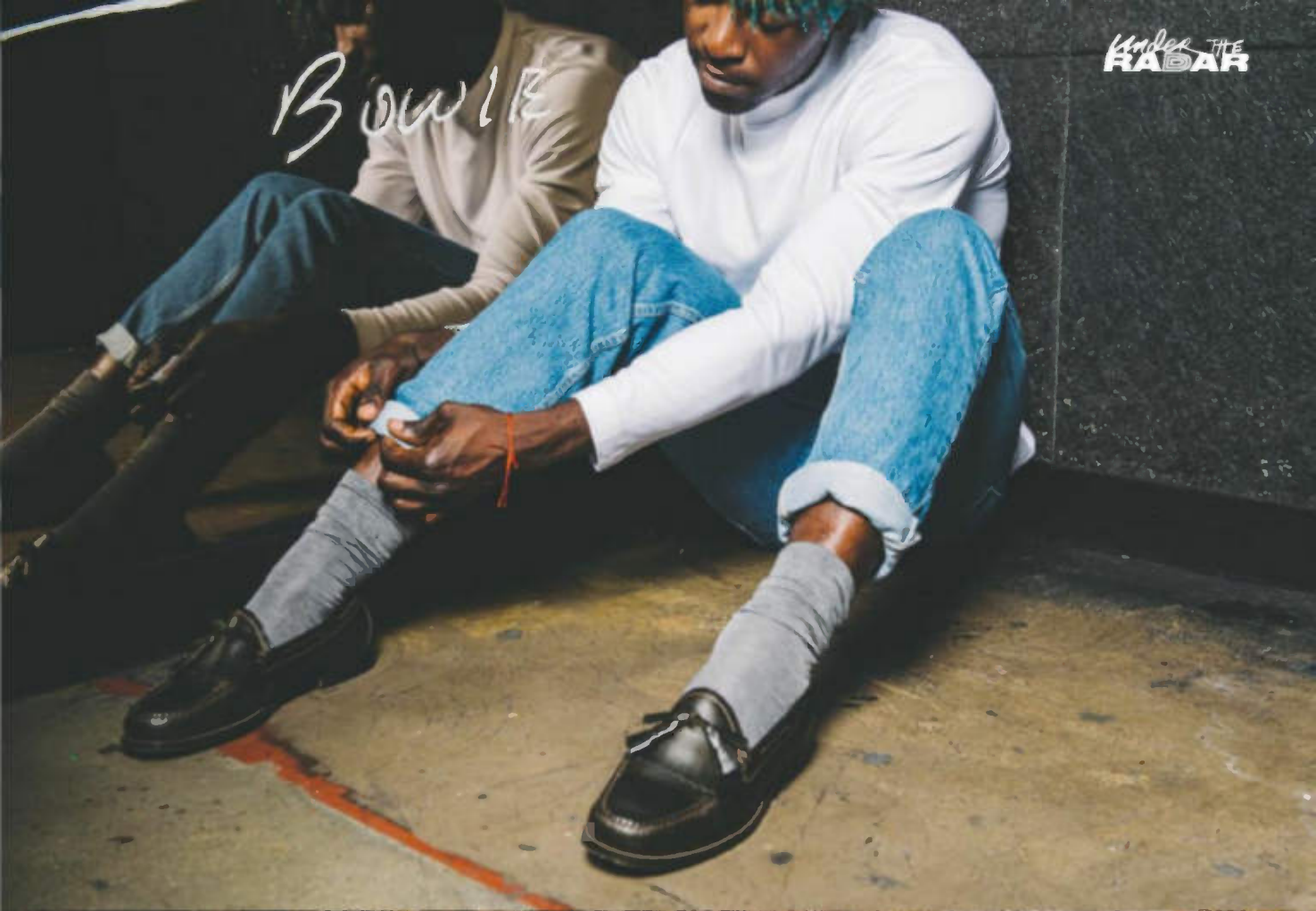
**ANOTHER LIFE**  
Caleb's winning track is a soaring and soulful beauty. Perfect for walking home at dusk.

By his own admission, Caleb didn't listen to much music as a child. So as a teenager his first real musical love was US hip-hop group The Black Eyed Peas.

**DETAILS**

**From:** Laois, Ireland  
**Social:** @calebkunlediary  
**Buy:** 'Another Life' is on Soundcloud now  
**Live:** Aug 18, NME HQ, London

BOWLE



**CALEB WEARS:**

**(Opposite)**

Top, £45, Weekday

**(Above)**

Top, £90, Sunspel

Jeans, £40, Topman

Loafers, £130, G.H. Bass & Co.

Socks, Caleb's own

**(Below)**

Jacket, £125, Carhartt WIP

Top, £69, Wood Wood

Jeans, £40, Topman

Boots, Caleb's own





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# live

THIS WEEK'S BEST TICKETS AND GIGS

## Pvris are burning

American alt-rock trio Pvris are taking their massive new album across the UK

PVRIS HAVE A FAIR BIT IN common with Chvrches. Not only have they both made a common word Google-able by replacing a vowel with 'v' – they also both marry crisp electrotinged rock with deep, dark lyrics, each winning themselves a legion of dedicated fans in the process.

Following Pvris's debut 'White Noise', the Massachusetts trio toured with Sheffield metalcore dudes Bring Me The Horizon

and earlier this year their audiences got even bigger when Muse brought them on tour across North America.

As they prepare to release their second album 'All We Know Of Heaven, All We Need Of Hell' later this month, the band are also gearing up for a main stage appearance at the Reading & Leeds Festival, followed by a UK tour in November. It's gonna be hvge.

**PVRIS**  
Emo US trio

ON SALE  
NOW

**NOVEMBER**

**Wed 22** O2 Academy, Bristol

**Thu 23** O2 Academy, Birmingham

**Sat 25** Queen's University Student Union, Belfast

**Mon 27** O2 Academy, Glasgow

**Tue 28** O2 Apollo, Manchester

**Thu 30** O2 Academy Brixton, London

**TICKETS:** £19.50-£26.60





# NME

AT THE FESTIVALS 2017

## BESTIVAL

SEPTEMBER 7-10

**WHERE:** Lulworth Estate, Dorset

**WHY:** Because Bestival's been completely overhauled this year, moving from the Isle of Wight to a swanky new mainland site.

**FUN FACT:** Bestival has an annual theme, and almost everyone conforms to its dress code. This year it's the rather lovely 'Increase the Peace' – meaning it's time to dig out your tie-dye flares.

**LINE-UP HIGHLIGHTS:** Headline slots on the main Castle stage will come from London gloss-goths The xx, legendary US rap squad A Tribe Called Quest and synth kings Pet Shop Boys, who took home the Godlike Genius gong at this year's VO5 NME Awards. Elsewhere, standouts include grime don Dizzee Rascal, Wimbledon bard Jamie T, and BBC's Sound of 2017 herself Ray BLK.

**TICKETS:** Weekend ticket £196



DIZZEE RASCAL



A TRIBE CALLED QUEST



RAY BLK



THE XX

ON SALE NOW

**THE MOONLANDINGZ**

Semi-fictional eccentrics

**NOVEMBER**

- Sat 18 SWG3, Glasgow
- Sun 19 Church, Leeds
- Tue 21 O2 Ritz, Manchester
- Wed 22 Electric Brixton, London
- Thu 23 Trinity, Bristol

**TELL ME MORE:** The brilliantly strange band fronted by Fat White Family's Lias Saoudi is going "back to fiction" after this tour. Catch them while you can.

**TICKETS:** £15.40-£17.30

**BETSY**

The heir to Cher

**NOVEMBER**

- Thu 23 National Waterfront Museum, Swansea
- Fri 24 Library, Kendal
- Sat 25 O2 Institute, Birmingham
- Mon 27 Thekla, Bristol
- Tue 28 Haunt, Brighton
- Wed 29 Gorilla, Manchester
- Thu 30 Scala, London

**TELL ME MORE:** Betsy grew up on a goose farm in rural Pembrokeshire and worked for Paris fashion house Balenciaga before becoming a huge-voiced pop star.

**TICKETS:** £8.80-£13.75

**BUGZY MALONE**

Grime MC

**OCTOBER**

- Sun 22 Limelight, Belfast
- Wed 25 O2 Academy, Newcastle
- Thu 26 Waterfront, Norwich
- Fri 27 Motion, Bristol
- Sat 28 O2 Institute, Birmingham

**NOVEMBER**

- Thu 2 O2 Forum, London
- Fri 3 O2 Apollo, Manchester
- Sun 5 O2 ABC, Glasgow

**TELL ME MORE:**

Bugzy references Oasis's 'Wonderwall' on his new banger 'Memory Lane'.

**TICKETS:** £16.50-£21.70



live

THE FLAMING LIPS

## THE WEEK'S BEST GIGS

### ALFA MIST

Tue 15 Ronnie Scott's, London

### CASSIA

Thu 17 Sunflower Lounge,  
Birmingham

### THE CRIBS (IN-STORE)

Fri 11 House of Vans, London  
Sat 12 HMV, Manchester  
Sun 13 Belgrave Music Hall,  
Leeds  
Mon 14 Rough Trade,  
Nottingham

### COUGH

Mon 14 Electrowerkz, London  
Tue 15 Brudenell Social Club,  
Leeds

### DEAD!

Fri 11 The Parish, Huddersfield  
Mon 14 The Forum,  
Tunbridge Wells  
Tue 15 The Horn, St Albans

### EMELI SANDÉ

Wed 16 Custom House  
Square, Belfast

### FACTORY FLOOR

Fri 11 XOYO, London

### FLAMING LIPS

Sat 12 The Rainbow Arena,  
Birmingham  
Sun 13 Colston Hall, London  
Tue 15 Barrowland, Glasgow  
Wed 16 Rock City, Nottingham

### FLOATING POINTS

Sat 12 Mangle E8, London

### FRANÇOIS AND THE ATLAS MOUNTAINS

Thu 17 Brudenell Social Club,  
Leeds

### JESS GLYNNE

Fri 11 Open Air Theatre,  
Scarborough  
Sat 12 Castle, Alnwick

### KNXWLEDGE

Thu 17 XOYO, London

### LAMBCHOP

Fri 11 Gorilla, Manchester  
Sat 12 The Assembly,  
Leamington Spa  
Sun 13 The Rescue Rooms,  
Nottingham  
Mon 14 Waterfront, Norwich  
Wed 16 Phoenix, Exeter  
Thu 17 Trinity, Bristol

### LAUCAN

Tue 15 Waiting Room, London

### LAURA GIBSON

Thu 17 Colston Hall, Bristol

### NADIA REID

Thu 17 Southbank, Bristol

### NIGHTMARES ON WAX

Fri 11 Komedia, Brighton

### NINA NESBITT

Tue 15 Camden Assembly,  
London

### NME X THATCHERS HAZE PRESENT CALEB KUNLE

Fri 18 NME HQ, 110 Southwark  
Street, London

### OMI

Sat 12 Indigo at the O2, London

### TEN FÉ/VESSELS/ BEN PEARCE

Thu 17 Ultralounge at  
Selfridges, London

### THE WHARVES

Fri 11 Shacklewell Arms, London

### WOLF EYES

Fri 11 Exchange, Bristol  
Sat 12 Brudenell Social Club,  
Leeds

### YXNG BANE

Thu 17 Bar Thirteen, Guildford

**WEAR  
JEANS  
CHANGE  
LIVES.  
FRI 22 SEPT**



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# SOUNDTRACK OF MY LIFE

## Jon Ronson

Broadcaster, *The Psychopath Test* author, guy we'd all like to hang out with



### THE FIRST SONG I CAN REMEMBER HEARING

**DAVID BOWIE**  
*Life On Mars?*

"My Auntie Mavis used to photograph people like The Rolling Stones. She'd send records from London and this one was probably the first I really remember."

### THE SONG THAT CHANGED MY LIFE

**TOM WAITS**  
*Underground*

"This came to me when I was first imagining a life outside of Cardiff, so I'd often get into things that offered me insights to things far away. I'd never heard anything like it."

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

**STORMZY**  
*Shut Up*

"My son gets me into a lot of music, but this just snaked into my head. I f\*\*king love it. Stormzy is a national treasure."



STORMZY

### THE FIRST GIG I WENT TO

**THE SPECIALS**  
*Cardiff, 1979*

"I pretended to faint so I could stand backstage and I got to watch them from the wings. I got lifted over the barrier, and [singer] Terry Hall asked if I was OK. I just asked if he was in The Specials!"

### THE SONG I CAN'T LISTEN TO ANYMORE

**SPANDAU BALLET**  
*True*

"When I reached 13, 14, new-romantic bands like Duran Duran, Spandau Ballet and ABC became all the rage, and I just hated it all. It was just lounge music to me. But the good thing is that it helped me discover Tom Waits, The Beatles – much better music."

### THE FIRST RECORD I EVER BOUGHT

**SQUEEZE**  
*Cool For Cats*

"I got really into punk when I was about 10, and I saved up my pocket money and went to Distiller Records in Cardiff and got this one on beautiful pink vinyl."

GO TO [NME.COM](http://NME.COM) FOR MORE SOUNDTRACKS

### THE SONG THAT I ALWAYS DO AT KARAOKE

**BOBBY DARIN**  
*Mack The Knife*

"I'm very good at that – it just happens to fit into my very narrow range – but I haven't done it in a while. I'm not that sociable."

### THE SONG THAT REMINDS ME OF HOME

**M.I.A.**  
*Galang*

"I live in New York now. For a while, when I was homesick I'd listen to Stormzy, M.I.A., The Specials or The Clash. All of those people that represent what's great about British culture."



RANDY NEWMAN

### THE SONG I WANT PLAYED AT MY FUNERAL

**RANDY NEWMAN**  
*Simon Smith And The Amazing Dancing Bear*

"I like to think I'm a bit like Simon Smith: desperate to please. I used to want 'Candle In The Wind', though now I think that might be a bit facetious."

Jon's new podcast *The Butterfly Effect* is available now on Audible



The wisdom of the NME archives

**THIS WEEK**  
**IAN CURTIS**  
*Joy Division*

August 11, 1979

"I don't like a lot of music, but the music I do like I get more from than from anything else in life."

