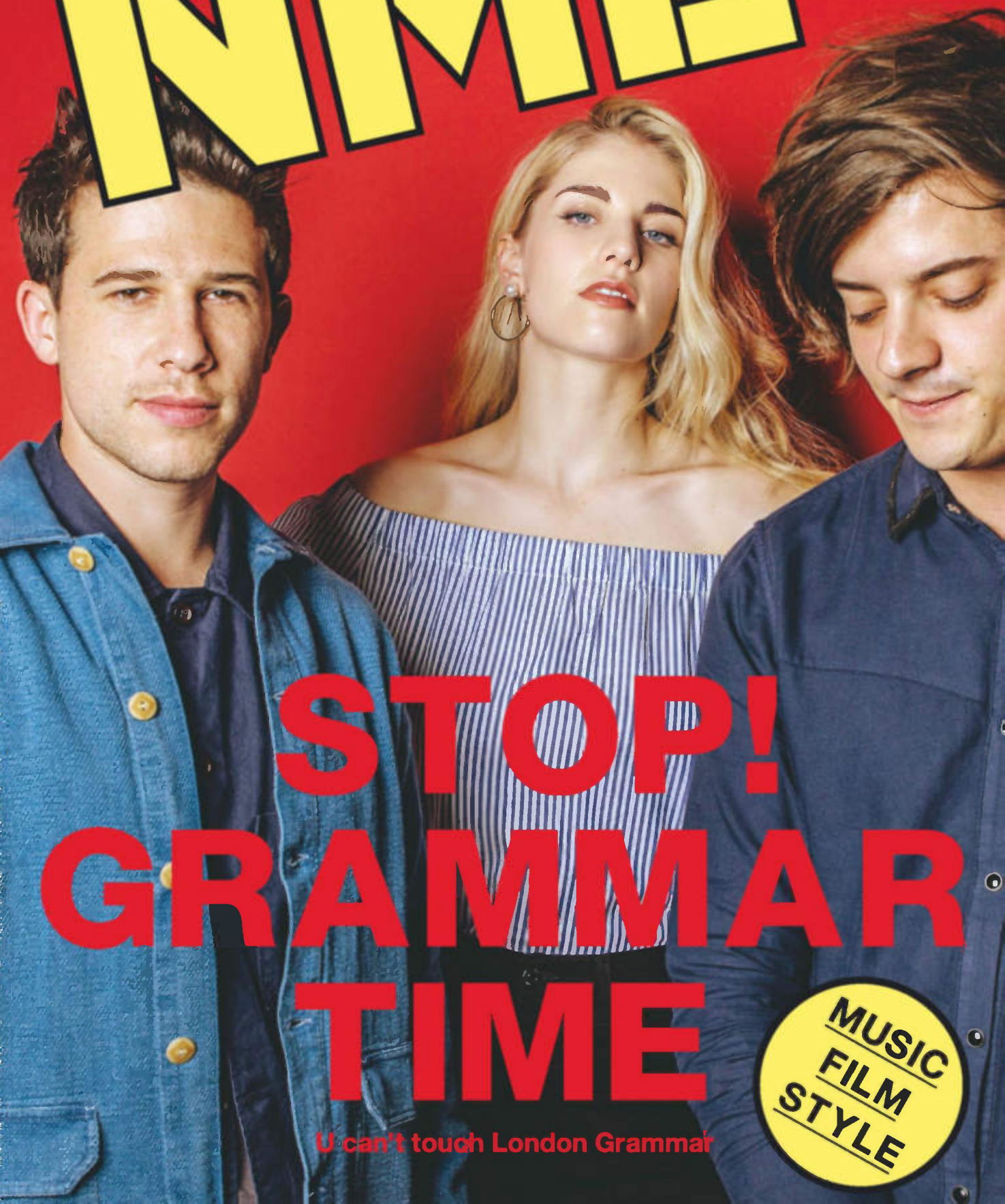


18 AUGUST 2017 / FREE EVERY FRIDAY

NMME



STOP! GRAMMAR TIME

U can't touch London Grammar



“FUNNY, FRANTIC AND FULLY-LOADED”

IT'S NOT THE SIZE THAT MATTERS... IT'S HOW YOU USE IT.

RYAN REYNOLDS SAMUEL L. JACKSON GARY OLDMAN AND SALMA HAYEK

THE HITMAN'S BODYGUARD

**“HUGELY
ENTERTAINING”**

BY PAULINE, ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY

**“DOWNRIGHT
HILARIOUS”**

BY BENJAMIN SVETKEY

IN CINEMAS EVERYWHERE NOW

LIONSGATE

NME

Hello...

AMERICA WAS WARNED. In a speech in Nevada almost exactly a year ago this week, Hillary Clinton told the world precisely who Donald Trump is. "He's taking hate groups mainstream," she said, going on to accuse Trump of "reinforcing harmful stereotypes and offering a dog whistle to his most hateful supporters." As the events in Charlottesville and Trump's response highlight, Clinton was depressingly right here.

This part of the speech is the most powerful, a stark reminder that while we've been inspired by US music for decades, let us not be inspired by the hate and the division of Trump: "A man with a long history of racial discrimination, who traffics in dark conspiracy theories drawn from the pages of supermarket tabloids and the far reaches of the internet, should never run our government..."

"Now, I know some people still want to give Trump the benefit of the doubt. They hope that he will eventually reinvent himself – that there's a kinder, gentler, more responsible Donald Trump waiting in the wings... But the hard truth is, there's no other Donald Trump. This is it."

MIKE WILLIAMS
Editor-in-Chief
@itsmikelike

Kesha p20

COVER STORY

14

London Grammar

Beyoncé, Corbyn, killer bees, philosophy. Good interview.

FEATURES

20

Kesha

Every badass thing she's done in the last five years. Features UFOs and Jerry Seinfeld.

26

Off Bloom

"Music is a form of therapy for us," say the trio. "Some people do yoga, we do music."

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AGENDA

WHAT EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT THIS WEEK

Swift justice

This week, Taylor Swift won a court case against pervy radio DJ David Mueller who groped her at a meet-and-greet four years ago. Throughout the trial, she was totally in control. Here are seven times she schooled Mueller's lawyer

MUELLER'S LAWYER GABE MCFARLAND SAYS THERE IS NO SIGN OF SWIFT'S SKIRT BEING LIFTED IN THE MEET-AND-GREET PHOTO.

Swift: "Because my ass is located in the back of my body."

MCFARLAND SAYS NO ONE SAW CONTACT BETWEEN MUELLER'S HAND AND SWIFT'S REAR.

Swift: "The only person who would have a direct eye line is someone laying underneath my skirt, and we didn't have anyone positioned there."

A court sketch of Swift's trial



MCFARLAND SAYS SWIFT COULD HAVE STOPPED THE MEET-AND-GREET IF SHE WAS UPSET BY MUELLER'S ACTIONS.

Swift: "Your client could have taken a normal photo with me."

MCFARLAND ASKS IF MUELLER GOT WHAT HE DESERVED.

Swift: "I don't feel anything about Mr Mueller. I don't know him."

MCFARLAND ASKS IF SWIFT THINKS IT COULD HAVE BEEN SOMEONE OTHER THAN MUELLER WHO TOUCHED HER.

Swift: "He had a handful of my ass. I know it was him."

MCFARLAND ASKS IF SWIFT IS CRITICAL OF HER BODYGUARD FOR NOT INTERVENING WHEN THE INCIDENT OCCURRED.

Swift: "I'm critical of your client sticking his hand under my skirt and grabbing my ass."

MCFARLAND ASKS IF SWIFT HAS ANY FEELINGS ABOUT MUELLER LOSING HIS JOB BECAUSE OF THE INCIDENT.

Swift: "I'm not going to let you or your client make me feel in any way that this is my fault. Here we are years later, and I'm being blamed for the unfortunate events of his life that are the product of his decisions – not mine."

Al Gore told us how to save the world

The ex-vice president of the USA, and current eco-warrior, is back with a new film about climate change doom. Here's how to help prevent everything from melting

GIVE MONEY TO GOOD PEOPLE

"Knowledge is power. It can give you the confidence to win the conversations about climate change. Go to the movie. Get the book. One hundred per cent of the profits from both go to The Climate Reality Project, which trains more activists around the world."

DON'T VOTE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE DENIERS

"Use your rights as a citizen to exert influence on the candidates who ask for your vote. Show them that you are deadly serious, and if they're on the right side you'll support them. But if they're on the wrong side, you won't rest until you defeat them."

TALK TO YOUR PALS

"Winning the conversation is important because the history of all great social movements teaches that when the conversation is won in civil society, that's when the laws begin to change. Normalising the fact that we have to make a collective decision to solve this crisis is truly important. We have a duty to convince our friends, too. If you care about the future of this planet, then show you are seriously committed. And do it with passion."

BUY GREEN STUFF

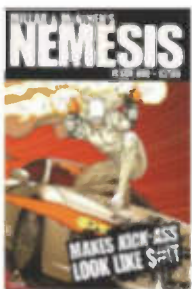
"When you go into the store, ask for the climate-friendly alternatives. This sends a signal to businesses that the market for these alternative products is growing. We're already seeing many businesses advertising that they're greener than the competition. Help the others reach the tipping point."

Alex Flood

An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth To Power is in cinemas now

Three Mark Millar comics that would make amazing TV shows

Netflix have bought the rights to the *Kick-Ass* writer's publishing house, Millarworld. Expect to see one or all of these on a screen near you, soon



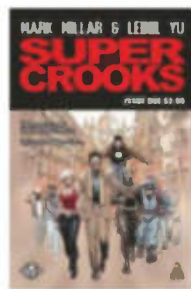
NEMESIS 2010

Not one of Millar's best, but a left-field take on the superhero genre. Thought Batman could be a bit of an a**ehole? Nemesis makes him look like Mother Teresa. He's gritty, bloody, doesn't give a s**t and is the definition of 'love to hate'.



HIT-GIRL 2012-13

A brutal teen drama. Mindy McCready, AKA Hit-Girl, is the best thing about the *Kick-Ass* films and comics, and Chloë Grace Moretz is so synonymous with the diminutive badass it's hard to imagine anyone replacing her.



SUPER CROOKS 2013

A fast-paced story that follows a group of villains as they embark on one last heist. Imagine *Lock, Stock And Two Smoking Barrels* spliced with (a better) *Suicide Squad*, all rolled into an hour-long TV format. Ace. **Claire Lim**



CHANCE THE RAPPER

Was personally thanked by Barack Obama during his free surprise show in their shared hometown of Chicago. Big.



DEADMAU5

Had a wedding. Used loads of flame-throwers. The very opposite of low-key.



\$AP ROCKY

Was accidentally called WhatsApp Ricky by Liam Gallagher. LOL.



LOVEFILM

Will cease trading in October. Sad news for Royal Mail film fans.



Danielle
Sales Advisor



Samuel
Sales Advisor



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Superheroes united

Actors Charlie Cox (Daredevil) and Finn Jones (Iron Fist), plus showrunner Marco Ramirez, reveal all on Marvel/Netflix's *The Defenders*

THE DEFENDERS JOINS the heroes of Hell's Kitchen – blind brawler Daredevil, billionaire martial artist Iron Fist, bulletproof Luke Cage and hard-drinking private eye Jessica Jones – for a battle royale...

IT WORKS AS A STANDALONE SERIES...

Charlie: "We wanted a show that appealed to everybody, so someone new doesn't find themselves with no idea what's going on, while we don't bore the hell out of fans. *The Defenders* feels more tongue in cheek. How do you put Daredevil in a room with Jessica Jones without her making a joke about his costume? We embrace that natural humour."

...WHILE PAYING HOMAGE TO EACH INDIVIDUAL SHOW

Marco: "There's the brutal, bloody fight scenes of Daredevil, but also the Wu-Tang needle drops of Luke Cage."

Finn: "When you have a scene that's just Jessica Jones or Luke Cage, for example, the tone references their world."

SCI-FI LEGEND SIGOURNEY WEAVER PLAYS THE ENIGMATIC ALEXANDRA – THE BIG BADDIE

Finn: "She upped the game. Not because her character is very foreboding, but because she carries herself like an icon. She elevates the scenes."

THEY TAKE HALF A SEASON TO ASSEMBLE

Marco: "None of the characters would be anyone's sidekick."

After four years of anticipation, we couldn't have them starting out sitting round a table. They had to get there organically."

Finn: "The first four episodes, we're coming together. But then events shake up the world. S**t happens! All four Defenders are changed by the end."

IT'S SHORTER THAN NETFLIX'S USUAL MARVEL MINI-SERIES

Finn: "It's eight episodes of the superheroes taking on a threat bigger than us all."

Charlie: "After episode four, it heats up. Finn and I were reading the script for episode six. He was ahead and like, 'Oh s**t, dude, we fight!' I was like, 'What?' Then he goes, 'I win!'"

THERE ARE MORE FIGHTS THAN A GALLAGHER FAMILY REUNION

Charlie: "Two months before, I'm in the gym every day. Daredevil's a street brawler, so action scenes are easier for me than Finn's."

Finn: "Krysten [Ritter, who plays Jessica Jones] is the most hardcore in real life. She would knock any one of us out."

IF THE AVENGERS ARE THE BEATLES, THE DEFENDERS ARE THE RAMONES

Charlie: "Sometimes superheroes seem God-like. These shows make it feel you could walk past them in the street and have no idea."

The Defenders starts August 18 on Netflix



IRON FIST

Played by: Finn Jones
Key skills: Kung fu prowess, money, fist glows in the dark.

LUKE CAGE

Played by: Mike Colter
Key skills: Righteous ex-con with ultra-clout and impermeable skin.

JESSICA JONES

Played by: Krysten Ritter
Key skills: Super-strength, sarcasm, alcohol intake of a Wetherspoon's urinal.

DAREDEVIL

Played by: Charlie Cox
Key skills: Blind lawyer by day, vigilante by night, heightened senses, Catholic guilt.



2

Bare breasts – belonging to actress Anna Paquin – accidentally broadcast on BBC primetime news.



\$1 million

Donated by the lovely Bruno Mars to those affected by the water crisis in Flint, Michigan.



5

Hours some people had to queue for London's Sunfall Festival. We'd have f**ked off to the pub.



1

Fruits banned from Reading & Leeds. The mighty pineapple, of course. What a waste.

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ON THE RECORD

BIG OPINIONS. NO FILTER.



THIS WEEK

All you fascists bound to lose

IN THE 1940s, LEGENDARY American folk singer and political activist Woody Guthrie wrote the lyrics to a song called 'All You Fascists Bound To Lose'. Offering words of resistance and unity, it was a response to not just the horrors of Hitler and Nazi Germany but events much closer to home, namely the racist Ku Klux Klan, who lynched black men and women across the Southern states up until the 1960s.

As a man who played a guitar scrawled with the words 'this machine kills fascists', Guthrie fought for social justice through music and education. So when he died in the midst of the Civil Rights Movement, he must have believed that his country and the rest of the world were fighting their way to a better future. Little did he know that his words would need to be called upon again in 2017.

Last weekend, in Charlottesville, Virginia, one of the most sinister parts of America's history repeated itself, with a white supremacist

rally held in protest against the removal of a statue depicting Confederate general and big-time racist Robert E Lee. By now you will have all seen pictures from the 'Unite The Right' march – men (why is it always men?) brandishing torches and storming through the University of Virginia campus, chanting Nazi slogans and waving swastikas.

Their actions were called a "cowardly parade of hatred, bigotry, racism and intolerance" by the mayor of Charlottesville and clashes between counter-protesters the following day led to the tragic death of anti-fascist demonstrator Heather Heyer. She was killed when a right-wing extremist deliberately drove his car through the crowds, also injuring 19 others.

The actions of the fascist demonstrators have been

"We are many and they are few"



Anti-fascist protesters in Charlottesville

widely condemned, though Donald Trump's initial comment on the situation was sketchy, not specifically marking out the white supremacists as the bad guys. Even when – after two days – he finally called them "repugnant", he failed to reject their support. Something you think'd be kind of key, especially after former KKK boss David Duke pledged his allegiance to him and his policies. Some have taken Trump's seeming apathy even further, with singer John Legend tweeting, "We have Nazi sympathizers and white nationalists in the White House. Condemn them too."

But what does this all mean for us in the UK? The answer is *everything*. 'Unite The Right' has shown us that there are some truly horrible people out there, but the counter-protests show that we are many and

they are few. The UK is a country that should be proud of its history of resistance against racism, from the Battle of Cable Street in 1936, where 20,000 demonstrators fought the British Union of Fascists on the streets of east London, to the Rock Against Racism movement of the 1970s, to viral hero Saffiyah Khan, who stepped to the defence of a woman wearing a headscarf at an English Defence League rally earlier this year. We stand by the counter-protesters in America, because all you fascists are bound to lose. [@leoniemaycooper](https://twitter.com/leoniemaycooper)

PHOTO: PRESS ASSOCIATION

SAM TAYLOR'S SLIME ZONE ART CLUB: KEITH HARING



THINGS WE LIKE

THIS WEEK'S OBJECTS OF DESIRE



Model man
James Bay's been working with Topman on his own awesome clothing line.
£65 topman.com



Shiny happy people
Hip hair salon Bleach are now making cosmetics, including this Illuminati highlighter.
£6 bleachlondon.co.uk



Top hat
New Era worked with Tempa T, D Double E and Novelist on some especially grime-y caps.
£30 neweracap.co.uk



Any old Iron
The *Infamous Iron Man Vol 1* graphic novel is a must for Marvel fans.
£13.99 *in-store at hmv*



Loved up
Lazy Oaf and Dr Martens' dream collab produced these heart-tastic shoes.
£104 lazyoaf.com



Style icon
As seen on hip-hoppers Rae Sremmurd, this slick shirt won't break the bank.
£16 boohooman.com



Raw power
Fans of weirdo horror films need to see *Raw* – on DVD now.
£9.99 amazon.co.uk



Occult classic
A packed monthly box of ace witch-y goodness, including spells, incense and crystals.
£24 witchcasket.co.uk



Earl of sandwich
Street food heroes Sub Cult's new lip-smacking sarnie is the Salt Beef Chief.
£6.95 sub-cult.co.uk



Art club
Weekday just opened their first London store – so wear your art close to your chest.
£12 weekday.com



Sweat it
Claim you were there in 1981 with this Iron Maiden tour sweatshirt.
£24.95 nmemerch.com



Pot head
This shiny hanging planter is an indoor Instagram gardener's dream.
£18 urbandoutfitters.com



Duck off
Deadpool The Duck is a quackingly good superhero comic book.
£13.99 *in-store at hmv*



Slogan's run
Say it with your shirt – this soft, cosy number tells everyone just what you think.
£35 desertmoon.co.uk

YOUR TOWN. YOUR MUSIC. YOUR STYLE

What's ON your Headphones?

THIS WEEK

Eastbourne



"I love to go running by the sea"

< VERONIKA AZEMLYANIKINA

27, photographer

Listening to:
LED ZEPPELIN
Out On The Tiles
"It's my summer song and always cheers me up."

Wearing: H&M hoodie, top and sunglasses, Urban Outfitters shorts, Vans trainers.
Best thing about Eastbourne: "I love to go running by the sea."

TEREZIEL HLUSTIKOVA >

18, student

Listening to:
ED SHEERAN
Shape Of You
"It's about love and life. I can really relate to the lyrics."

Wearing: Hoodboyz jacket, New Look T-shirt, H&M jeans, Vans trainers.
Best thing about Eastbourne: "Everyone is so friendly."



< HOWARD MOLE

25, retail worker

Listening to:
TENACIOUS D
Tribute
"They just create so much havoc."

Wearing: Yes T-shirt, vintage jeans.
Best thing about Eastbourne: "The beach is lovely."



TIAGO VIDAL >

19, student

Listening to:
TWO DOOR CINEMA CLUB
Lavender
"It's indie and you can dance to it. Perfect."

Wearing: Pull&Bear jacket and jeans, Primark T-shirt, Eastpak bag.
Best thing about Eastbourne: "Princes Park is calm and relaxing."



PHOTOS: CHESKA LOTHERINGTON



L-r: Hannah Reid,
Dot Major,
Dan Rothman



Though they now have a No. 1 album to their name, **London Grammar** are the emoti-pop megastars nobody seems to know much about. **Jamie Milton** tries to crack them

PHDTS: EMMA VIDLA LILJA

LONDON GRAMMAR are armchair philosophers. Between writing songs, they'll pass the time in a studio discussing the meaning of life. The trio collectively cite fellow big thinker and entrepreneur Elon Musk as one of their heroes. He once claimed there is a "one in billions" chance we're not living in some kind of computer simulation, *The Matrix*-style. "He gets really annoyed about it. He's like, 'Of course, obviously it's a simulation!'" says singer Hannah Reid, when explaining their fandom.

Super-dark sci-fi series *Black Mirror* is another one of their shared loves, although Reid saw one about virtual reality and was too freaked out to watch the rest. Multi-instrumentalist Dot Major says a great deal of life is "so killer bees", citing the Charlie Brooker-directed episode where drone-like insects take a turn and start randomly, savagely murdering people.

You wouldn't glean these obsessions when listening to the trio's chart-topping second album 'Truth Is A Beautiful Thing'. There are no references to quantum physics, songs named after Stephen Hawking theories, or



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realisations we're all being controlled by a higher species. Instead, they apply their big-thinking hats to topics everyone frets over – falling in and out of love, getting older but none the wiser, the early-onset mid-life crises twentysomethings tend to experience. They have an uncanny ability to make intimate subjects feel universal, like inner dilemmas are tormenting all of us – which is probably why they're selling tons of records when most bands struggle to shift a handful.

NME finds the trio bunched together in an east London studio, necking down Chinese takeaways before having their photo taken. In between mouthfuls of fried rice, they're discussing politics and Beyoncé. The three met and formed at Nottingham University, and despite graduating years back and being on the road ever since, you can picture them back in student halls. If this was Freshers' Week, guitarist Dan Rothman would be the instantly likeable one gathering the troops to go to the pub, scruffy-haired Major would be the elusive muso blasting Pixies records from his room, while Reid would be in charge of the communal stereo.

London Grammar have often been accused of being polite, or boring. Behind the scenes, they're far from guarded about their personal lives and interests, but when put on the spot next to a dictaphone, they tend to give diplomatic, catch-all answers. Their second album's title "applies to whatever the listener wants it to apply to," says Reid in the interview. What did they do when they found out they'd scored a Number One album? "Nothing too crazy." Their recent Glastonbury set was "amazing", they say, adding how it's an "iconic place to play and we had so much fun doing the set". Sometimes, their answers come across as fence-sitting and reluctance to offend. But maybe there's only so much you can say

about being one of the country's biggest-selling bands, beyond just how overwhelming that must feel. And all three members are forthcoming about one topic: touring, and how it almost broke the band.

"Sometimes when you're in a band you go a bit mad," Major readily admits. "Everything is exactly the same – waking up, hotels," he explains. He's not giving some cry-me-a-river, touring-is-bad anecdote – he's just stressing how on the road, the days can blur into one. "It's the same simulation, but a recurring one," Rothman adds. "You have 12 déjà vus in a row and you do go a bit mad."

2013 debut album 'If You Wait' saw this somewhat shy trio thrown under the spotlight. Their strung-out singles, such as 'Hey Now', became radio mainstays. They even won an Ivor Novello award.

They emerged at the same time as synth-huggers Chvrches, future rock titans Royal Blood and stadium-conquerors The 1975, and pressure was heaped on them to become a bigger band in an instant. In June 2014, they cancelled an appearance at Scotland's T in the Park. The following month, they pulled an Australian tour. "The wheels were coming off a bit," Rothman explains. He doesn't go into specific detail, but back in March 2017, he told *NME* the band had "lost our minds a bit". Reid has always suffered from stage fright, but nerves began to take over around this time. They'd been touring non-stop for a year and a half, jetting between different time zones and revisiting countries because

the demand kept getting higher.

There was no realistic full stop.

"Touring is this amazingly extreme experience, and in theory you should be connecting to loads of people every single night," Reid says. "But actually, standing in front of a huge crowd with everyone there to see you, it isn't a normal human connection... You can actually end up feeling more and more lonely as it goes on." Reid hasn't fully conquered her stage fright. She had hypnotherapy that "didn't work" and she's since simply tried to "understand why" she can experience such huge nerves, even though most shows go off without a hitch. "The more exhausted you get from touring, then if you do have stage fright, the less your body can cope with the adrenaline. But if we do things sensibly, it's fine."

Rothman also experienced the pitfalls of being overworked. He remembers playing three radio sessions on the same day of a gig, just to fill commitments. "The more exhausted you are, the more fractured your relationship becomes. We all ended up sharing a room for a while when we began, and it did get a bit moody," he says, specifically

'Truth...' on tour

Catch London Grammar touring the UK and Ireland this autumn:

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Tues 17

O2 Apollo, Manchester

Weds 18

O2 Academy, Leeds

Fri 20

O2 Apollo, Manchester

Sat 21

Eventim Apollo, London

Mon 23

O2 Academy, Birmingham

Tues 24

Usher Hall, Edinburgh

Thurs 26

Rock City, Nottingham

Fri 27

Colston Hall, Bristol

Sun 29 City Hall,

Newcastle upon Tyne

Mon 30

O2 Academy Brixton,

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- 25 NOVEMBER - BELFAST - MANDELA HALL
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looking at Major. "I'd wake up in the morning at 7am, and he'd be on his BBC news app with his headphones in so couldn't hear his own sniffing. There'd be irrational anger!"

Collectively, they decided to honour some previously postponed tour dates in early 2015 before taking a proper, deserved break. "We left the airport and were like, 'BYE, GUYS!' and then after two days were like, 'What are you doing? I'm bored...'" Reid jokes. Getting back into the swing of things wasn't as simple as Reid suggests. After suffering burnout and then spending time apart, they didn't immediately rekindle the magic of the debut when returning to the studio in 2015. "That was the most upsetting thing," Rothman admits. "To lose that itch to get back into the studio. It wasn't quite as strong as it could've been. It just took a couple of months." The touring life can "give you everything," Dot says, except your close friends. "The thing that's missing is the people."

The trio needed time to readjust to life back home and rewire. Reid caught up with her best mates – "my girlfriends", as she often calls them – to "talk about our feelings". "I'm such a girl's girl," she admits. "I used to live with several other girls at uni and I miss that a bit on the road. Not that we don't talk about our feelings, but it's not the same. It's missing those friendships when you've known people since you were 11, and those people know you so well – you build your lives around

each other. When you never see them, it can take a toll."

On the surface at least, Reid's default mode as a songwriter is to explore relationships. 'Rooting For You' relates the feeling of "missing someone", and could easily have been written when she was thousands of miles from home, away from her best mates. But these direct, not-exactly-revolutionary tales of love could also shadow as political cries. Again, not something you'd expect from London Grammar. But sticking to their student roots, they manage to relate the anxiety of growing up into an increasingly uncertain world.

The album title, 'Truth Is A Beautiful Thing', could be perceived as a retort to the era of fake news, but that's something they deny. "It's funny how it's coinciding, people keep asking about that!" Rothman

laughs. "I don't think it was purposeful, [but] it's funny how art, music or literature can reflect the time without even necessarily intending to do so." Back into diplomatic mode, Reid makes it clear the trio aren't a "political band", saying, "I don't know enough to be able to preach about anything."

Still, between being interviewed and having their photo taken, they keep chatting about UK politics, their love of Jeremy Corbyn, and fears for the future. After all, it's hard not to pick up a front page these days without getting slightly anxious about tyrannical leaders or nuclear Armageddon. Final studio sessions for the album took place when Donald Trump was being inaugurated – "Cheery times," as Rothman jokes. Even subconsciously, a sense of fear rubs off on the record. There's so much more going on than emotive break-up bangers.

The reason why London Grammar can never be pigeonholed: there's always something else bubbling under the surface. And it's easy to misunderstand what they're about. They're in the pop sphere, but they don't write wall-to-wall hits. They're signed to dance label Ministry of Sound, but they don't soundtrack Ibiza club nights. "We're in the middle," vocalist Reid astutely admits. The in-between is often a risky space to work in, and it's why many are still trying to figure out this band. Reid looks at their place in the world – not pop, not dance, just somewhere in-between – and calls it "the hardest game of chess ever".

The trio are more than happy to fill their own niche, but staying there is the tough part. The challenge with 'Truth Is A Beautiful Thing' was twofold – to keep their heads and not get turned by success, and to stay in their own unique lane while finding out who they really are. It's a test they've passed with flying colours, so far. If Elon Musk is right and the world really is a simulation, here's hoping a game-changing next chapter is already written in the sand.

NME

"WE GOT A BIT MOODY ON TOUR"



Five completely essential facts about London Grammar

1 THEY'RE GAMERS
When they got signed to Ministry of Sound, Reid celebrated by buying iPhone game *Clash Of Clans*, parting with £2.99 of her hard-earned cash.

2 DAVID CAMERON IS A FAN. SADLY.
The former PM called the trio "brilliant" in 2014, which amazingly wasn't the kiss of death for their career.

3 THEY HATE BEING COMPARED TO THE XX
Don't even think about saying they sound the same. "It's the fact that there's three of us, as two girls and a boy – it's just lazy," Dan Rothman says.

4 PEOPLE DON'T RECOGNISE THEM
So Hannah Reid claimed in 2014, telling *NME*: "We're not a band in the spotlight. I'm glad of that."

5 THEY'RE NOT IN THE ILLUMINATI
Reid had to quash rumours they'd joined the secret organisation in 2014, after they posed in front of an eerie-looking pyramid at Lollapalooza.

EVERY BADASS THING KESHA DID IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS

The US singer has been unable to release music since 2012 due to a traumatic legal battle with producer Dr Luke. That hasn't stopped her being awesome, though, says Jordan Bassett



BECAME AN ORDAINED MINISTER (FOR REAL!) 2012

WHAT HAPPENED: She's long been a champion of LGBT+ rights, but Kesha proved her commitment to the cause when she became an ordained minister so she could officiate her friends' same-sex wedding in 2012. She helped a second gay couple to tie the knot in 2015.

WHAT SHE SAID: "It was such an amazing experience to help two beautiful women cement their commitment to each other through marriage... I saw how much it meant to them, and I can't understand why any person or any law would stand in between that kind of love."

WORKED ON AN ALBUM WITH THE FLAMING LIPS 2013

WHAT HAPPENED: Magic, that's what. One track, the clatteringly weird 'You Must Be Upgraded', appeared on The Flaming Lips' 2012 album *The Flaming Lips And Heady Fwends*. An entire collaborative album, billed under the name Lip\$ha, was announced in 2013 but – heartbreakingly – Kesha's legal dispute meant the record was indefinitely canned. Flaming Lips frontman Wayne Coyne has offered to leak the music. "It'll be great [even] if it takes five years to come out," he said.

WHAT SHE SAID: "[Wayne and I] are two weirdos that get together and make noise... it's just an experimental musical adventure every time we get together."

GOT LOUCHE WITH NASHVILLE BAND YEAST INFECTION DECEMBER 2015

WHAT HAPPENED: You cannot keep Kesha down. If she couldn't make new music, she was determined to hit the stage instead. She did just that in Nashville with a local band called – yes, that's right – Yeast Infection. Their raffish set included an utterly fabulous lounge version of her own 'Timber', and without Pitbull to yap over the track, it sounded the way it was always meant to: like a joyful hoedown, the aural equivalent of dancing at the end of the world, tequila in hand, smile intact.

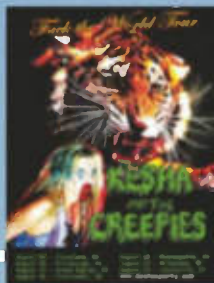
WHAT SHE SAID: "I am Kesha! And we are... Yeast Infection!"



CAMPED IT UP WITH KESHA AND THE CREEPIES 2016-2017

WHAT HAPPENED: Although often positioned as an EDM-influenced pop star, Kesha's always been more at home as a sassy country rock gal. Take her short US tour around toilet venues in Las Vegas and beyond, as she performed with a scuzzy covers band called Kesha And The Creepies. It was dubbed the F**k The World tour, the flyers carried campy, '60s garage rock-style imagery (her mouth dripping blood, a tiger roaring the background) and the setlist included a rendition of Britney Spears' 'Til The World's End', which she co-wrote. Highlight: Kesha belting out 'Your Love Is My Drug' while a dude waved a rainbow flag.

WHAT SHE SAID: "We have come here to impregnate you with the sweet glory of rock'n'roll... Anything outside of these four walls, it has no business here tonight... Homework? F**k it for tonight!"



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SPOTTED UFOS AT THE JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK 2017

WHAT HAPPENED: Kesha was kicking it on a rock in the Californian desert when, lo and behold, she noticed the sky was dancing with extraterrestrial aircraft. There were “five to seven” of the things, she claimed in an interview, and they hovered above her. The spaceships then disappeared, only to reappear in a different formation. She was unable to take a snap of the UFOs, but the experience influenced the new track ‘Spaceship’, on which she croons, *“I’m waiting for my spaceship to come back to me... I been living in a lonesome galaxy but in my dreams I see them come and rescue me”*.

WHAT SHE SAID: “I think people would be like, ‘She was on acid’, or something. I wasn’t. I was on nothing. I was a totally sober Sally, just a lady in the desert.”



TAUGHT JERRY SEINFELD HOW TO HUG JUNE 2017

WHAT HAPPENED: She approached the comedian at a swanky Hollywood event and asked for a hug. Seinfeld’s response was as deadpan as his ‘90s sitcom: “No thanks!” The debacle was caught on camera and became a meme, even inspiring a mural on a Melbourne wall. He later explained, “I don’t hug a total stranger.” Now, though, he’s embraced the joy of the cuddle and tweeted a snap in which he embraces his manager with the mural in the background. Like so many good things in life, it wouldn’t have happened without Kesha.

WHAT SHE SAID: “Oh, f**k me, somehow I ended up in my very own mini episode of Seinfeld, for, like, five seconds... He’s not a huggy guy; that’s fine... I like hugging. Hugging is magical, hugging is beautiful, it’s this exchange of wonderful soul energy.”

RECORDED HER BRILLIANT, DEFIANT NEW ALBUM 2012-2017

WHAT HAPPENED: Kesha Rose Sebert went through a bitter court battle (now dropped) in which she accused her former producer Dr Luke of “mental manipulation, emotional abuse and sexual assault”. As he owned the rights to her contract, she was prevented from releasing music, but now – finally – we have her defiant third record ‘Rainbow’. Created in “a tiny little studio”, the collection draws on her country lineage and opens with the gee-whiz acoustic guitar of ‘Bastard’, on which she tells us, *“Don’t let the bastards take you down”*.

WHAT SHE SAID: “I would pour my f**king guts out [in the studio]... that is how I made it through the past four years. That, and with the support of my fans... The s**tstorm’s over. This is the beginning of the good stuff.”



“THE S**TSTORM’S OVER. THIS IS THE BEGINNING OF THE GOOD STUFF”

NME

Kesha’s new album ‘Rainbow’ is out now

RADAR

THIS WEEK'S ESSENTIAL NEW RELEASES

BEST FOR FLYING TO LOVE ISLAND

MARCEL SOMERVILLE
Someone

The Blazin' Squaddie celebrates his refund fame with this summery Balearic house smash.

BEST FOR AIR GUITAR

KADAVAR
Die Baby Die

German retro rockers Kadavar have beards as epic as their riffs. Black Sabbath fans, look this way.

BEST FOR GETTING WEIRD

ALICE GLASS
Without Love

The former Crystal Castles noise warrior single-handedly invents the industrial bubblegum genre on her first official solo track.

Best NEW tracks

And when to drop them

BEST FOR SING-ALONGS

LIAM GALLAGHER
For What It's Worth

Liam goes full Oasis ballad on this emotive powerhouse of a tune. One for festival fields and arenas.

BEST FOR KEEPING IT REAL

JESSIE J
Real Deal

Hyper hip-pop courtesy of the lippy Londoner, this comes with a distinctly old-school, soulful attitude.

BEST FOR GETTING MELLOW

PETER OREN
Anthropocene

Young folky Peter Oren is one hell of a crooner. This lush, orchestral tune will have you in raptures.

BEST FOR DANCING THROUGH THE PAIN

STEFFLON DON
Hurtin' Me

The UK rap queen goes full dancehall diva as she ponders an ex's new lover on this track, featuring French Montana.

BEST FOR HIP-SHAKING

WILD FRONT
Physics

The sassy Wild Front come on like The 1975 listening to their dad's funk records on the super-catchy 'Physics'.

BEST FOR PICKING UP SOME MERLOT

THE NATIONAL
Carin At The Liquor Store

Gloom dons The National maintain their deep moodiness on this elegant slow burner.

BEST FOR CAUSING TROUBLE

ECCA VANDAL
Broke Days, Party Nights

Beastie Girl Ecce Vandal is here to f**k s**t up. This propulsive, messy racket is addictive stuff.

PHOTO: DEAN CHALKLEY

FOR MORE NEW MUSIC,
GO TO NME.COM

Living the nightmare

Manchester's art-pop clever clogs are thrillingly world-weary on album four

EVERYTHING EVERYTHING

A Fever Dream



PROG POP DOOM

their diagnosis of the west's ills on new album 'A Fever Dream' with the track 'Night Of The Long Knives', named after Adolf Hitler's 1934 purge of people he thought were holding back his Nazi regime.

As the album progresses, their furious gaze falls on tangible sources of dread – Brexit, President Trump, the communities that spawned them – forming a bleak picture about the world as we know it going almost irreversibly to s**t. "Is it the darkest night," they hazard at the album's optimistic peak, "or is that dawn in your eyes?" Of their four albums to date, 'A Fever Dream' is by far the most focused, making good on frontman Jonathan Higgs' recent claim to *NME* that the songs "need each other". Each one skewers a symptom of

2017's sickness, blasting instant-grat culture ('Desire'), Trump vs facts ('Big Game', 'Run The Numbers'), community divisions ('Put Me Together', 'A Fever Dream'), slacktivism and trolling ('Ivory Tower') – and, possibly worst of all, defeatism ('New Deep', 'White Whale').

Fortunately they've couched each depressing mess in some of their most bombastic and beautiful melodies to date, under the supervision of producer James Ford (Foals, Arctic Monkeys). 'Desire' stomps about like Muse's 'Uprising'; the pensive 'New Deep' recalls the beloved Italian composer Einaudi; 'Ivory Tower' illustrates the internet's oversaturation of opinions via a mad math-rock outro; and resolute closer 'White Whale' reaches a moment of musical transcendence that Radiohead would be proud to call their own.

They're at their best on 'Big

Game', though, which marries lyrical bite and pounding melodies in its artful takedown of Trump. Bassist Jeremy Pritchard lashes out at the Prez melodically, using a stuttering, vacillating, but still totally banging bassline to paint him as some enormous, semi-tranquilised mammal. Meanwhile, an impish Jon Higgs croons hilarious jabs, such as "Even little children see through you", "witless and rank as a fat-filled hole" – and the kicker, "ever so small but you think it's big". Slack-jawed darkness may lie around every corner, but as Everything Everything remind us, wit can still shine through.

Larry Bartleet

LIKE THIS? TRY THIS!



RADIOHEAD

Hail To The Thief

Orwellian maths and diseased rabbits dominate

this nightmarish sketchbook from the early '00s.

EVERYTHING EVERYTHING have been pushing society's death around their plate since their hyperactive 2010 debut 'Man Alive'. Back then, art-rock's premier doomsayers were picturing the archaeologists of 20,000 AD trying to comprehend our world via computer keyboards they'd dug up. Now they're far more straightforward about the end of days, opening

PHOTOS: ANDREW WHITTON



L-r: Michael Spearman, Jonathan Higgs, Alex Robertshaw, Jeremy Pritchard



NME AND **BFI** PRESENT

CINE JAM

SUPPORTED BY **ZIG-ZAG**



There's still time to visit **Cinejam** - a pairing of phenomenal new music and cult classic movies, curated by Bastille and supported by Zig-Zag.

NME and BFI have put together 10 nights at the **Rooftop Film Club's** flagship Bussey Building, pairing Dan Smith's two passions: Music and film. A sunny rooftop in Peckham, a beer, an uber intimate performance from a new band, all washed down with some of the best movies in cinematic history. You'd be hard pushed to find a more laid-back way to spend an evening in the capital.

The first few nights have been a blinding success: **Jagara** took to the stage in the South London sunshine before a screening of the Coens' ode to Homer's *Odyssey*: **O Brother, Where Art Thou?** for the opening event.

We then had half of **Sundara Karma** playing the most stripped back performance possible, a perfect pairing with His Dudeness, **The Big Lebowski**.

There are still tickets available to a few Cinejam events which run until 6th September or you can go to zig-zag.live/NME to win yourself exclusive VIP tickets for the remaining events!

Photo credit: Jordan Curtis Hughes

10 CULT FILMS
10 INTIMATE SETS
10 NIGHTS

- | | |
|--|--|
| Wednesday 8 th July
O Brother, Where Art Thou?
Jagara | Wednesday 12 th July
The Big Lebowski
Sundara Karma |
| Sunday 29 th July
Whiplash
The Indien | Wednesday 30 th July
High Fidelity
Willow |
| Sunday 30 th July
Trainspotting
Dagny | Wednesday 31 st August
Drive
Georgie |
| Wednesday 10 th August
Paup Fiction
Artificial Pleasure | Sunday 27 th August
Goodfellas
Lao Ra |
| Wednesday 30 th August
SOLD OUT
True Romance
Tom Grennan | Wednesday 6 th September
This Is Spinal Tap
Little Cub |

* At the time of printing
* Rescheduled from previous date

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FILM



Samuel L. Jackson as hitman Kincaid, Ryan Reynolds as his bodyguard Bryce

A killer couple

A fun but silly buddy movie that squeezes in some philosophy and romance too

THE HITMAN'S BODYGUARD

15 Samuel L. Jackson, Salma Hayek, Ryan Reynolds, Gary Oldman



KAPOW! BIFF!

THE HITMAN'S BODYGUARD sounds like it ought to sit alongside *Snakes On A Plane* and *Cleaner* in Samuel L. Jackson's enormous CV. In fact, this film's offbeat humour elevates it to the action-comedy corner, somewhere between *Kingsman* and *The Incredibles*.

We first meet Ryan Reynolds' deadpan bodyguard, Michael

Bryce, as his career is shot down along with a high-powered client. He's at his lowest ebb when an ex in the Secret Service forces him to escort Samuel L. Jackson's inked-up assassin, Darius Kincaid, to Holland so he can testify in a war criminal's trial and attain a pardon for his wrongly imprisoned wife, Sonia (Salma Hayek). If Bryce does his job right, he has a shot at regaining his 'triple A' protection status: everybody wins.

Although predictable, the clashes between Jackson's gung-ho killer and Reynolds' cautious protector create sparks. During their manic road trip to Amsterdam, they take jabs at each other with

aggressively bad singing, and have wildly different experiences hitchhiking in a bus full of nuns.

The film even finds itself navigating moments of moral philosophy with Jackson's assassin: "Who is more evil?" he asks Bryce. "He who kills evil mother**kers, or he who protects them?" Adding a romantic edge is Kincaid's obsession with relationships, allowing for some memorably kick-ass scenes by Kincaid and Bryce's respective flames. Buried in the mix is a masterful Amsterdam chase sequence crammed with beautiful tracking shots and surreal humour.

The Hitman's Bodyguard is not a complicated film, but it remains constantly surprising thanks to its consistent refusal to obey generic rules. **Larry Bartleet**

RABBIT

MINI INTERVIEW



Salma Hayek & Samuel L. Jackson

Stars of *The Hitman's Bodyguard*

Your first meeting in the film is pretty violent...

Salma: "It was love at first sight. I [as Sonia] am a waitress in a bar in Latin America, and Darius is there. Somebody decides to get a little cheeky on me and I kick their ass. He just sits there and watches me."
Samuel: "And that's the most beautiful violence Darius has ever seen in his life."

What attracted you to the film?

Samuel: "In the middle of this action movie, there's all this great dialogue about relationships: the most dangerous person in the world having this super-soft spot and relationship knowledge in the midst of all these giant set-pieces with bullets flying everywhere."
Salma: "I thought it was so clever and unique. These men are so different from each other – they really hate each other – but they complement each other in a fantastic way."

Do you see a sequel in the works?

Salma: "I do. I'm gonna be bold. I was disappointed when the movie was over – I wanted to see more of them."

Idris Elba as Roland

The f**king s**t tower, more like

A terrible adaptation of Stephen King books

THE DARK TOWER

12A Idris Elba, Matthew McConaughey, Tom Taylor



AWFUL RUSHED

STEPHEN KING'S *DARK Tower* series has long been considered 'unfilmable'. With eight books, totalling 4,250 pages, it's an enormous work of dense mythology and meta callbacks to the rest of King's books. It can still be considered unfilmable, because this awful adaptation will likely baffle fans and newcomers alike.

Four screenwriters and director Nikolaj Arcel have approached the problem of explaining the books' complex plot by opting to explain nothing. We're told that in the centre of the universe stands a tower protecting us from outside

forces. An evil man (Matthew McConaughey with *Zoolander* hair and cheque-cashing eyes) is kidnapping children to power a tower-toppling weapon.

His search hones in on a troubled boy (Tom Taylor) who crosses over to the evil man's world and teams up with a gunslinger (Idris Elba) to stop him. We're given none of the connective tissue to make sense of these elements. Instead, it rushes through scenes as if eager to be over as quickly as possible. Thankfully it is, within 95 minutes. **Olly Richards**

Under THE RADAR

YOU HEARD IT HERE FIRST

PHOTOS: ZOE MCCONNELL
MAKE-UP: CHARLOTTE GASKELL
STYLING: KOULLA SERGI
HAIR BY VO5 HAIR AMBASSADOR, PAUL DONOVAN

Off Bloom

Fiery electropop from an ambitious Danish trio

THIS WILDLY EXCITING Danish electropop trio aren't called Off Bloom just because it sounds cool and nods to Nirvana's 'In Bloom'. For bandmates Mette Mortensen (vocals, production), Alex Flockhart (production) and Mads Christensen (production), Off Bloom is a mantra. "Instead of trying to be hip or deliberately interesting, we want to make music we actually like," Mads explains. "If you think about what's 'in bloom' at the moment, we want to be off it. Because we just want to be us."

So far, this policy is paying off. Their sleek-yet-skewed 2016 breakthrough banger 'Love To Hate It' has racked up over 2 million Spotify plays, and new single 'Shut Up And Let Me Walk' is even more irresistible. Driven by dancehall-style synth sounds, it's a sun-soaked break-up song with a 'f**k you' attitude. "Don't try to fix it, it's horses**t, bye-bye now," Mette sings with a nonchalant snarl.

As demonstrated by their fervent following, they're more than just a band now. In fact, since Off Bloom formed three years ago, they've barely spent a day apart. "It goes beyond even friendship. It's like a family thing," Mette says. "We're super-close, but we can get super-f**king annoyed with each other. But then, a few hours later, we're super-happy and getting drunk together." It's intense, but they wouldn't have it any other way. "Music is a form of therapy for us. Some people do yoga, we do music," Mads says.

After smashing it on tour this spring with the UK's hottest new pop star, Dua Lipa, and with huge festival slots on the horizon, the trio are now aiming sky-high. "Of course we want to be the biggest band in the world," Mads says. Judging by their stellar output thus far, it looks like Off Bloom may well be flowering into something truly special. **Nick Levine**

Off Bloom (l-r): Alex Flockhart,
Mette Mortensen
and Mads Christensen



OFF BLOOM WEAR (OPPOSITE PAGE AND THIS PAGE):

ALEX: Jacket, £673, Facetasm at Harvey Nichols. Top, £210, Etudes at Harvey Nichols. Jeans, £200, Levi's at Harvey Nichols. Shoes, £60, Reebok at Schuh. VO5 Matt Rework Paste, £4.39.

METTE: Jacket, £150, Topshop. Crop top, £26, Topshop. Trousers, £35, Topshop. Shoes, £85, Puma at Schuh. Sunglasses, £515, Linda Farrow. Choker, £220, Misho Designs. VO5 Express Primer Spray, £4.39.

MADS: Jacket, £55, Reclaimed Vintage at ASOS. Top, £60, John Elliott at Harvey Nichols. Trousers, £220, Maharishi at Harvey Nichols. Shoes, £60, Reebok at Schuh. VO5 Surfstyle Paste, £4.39.



Best track STRANGE & TRUE FOR FANS OF

'SHUT UP AND LET ME WALK'

If you had a summer fling that didn't work out, this will be your anthem.

Off Bloom originally formed for a one-off performance on a Danish TV show, where they covered Brandy's R&B classic 'Afrodisiac'.

DETAILS

From: Copenhagen, Denmark

Social: @OffBloom

Buy: Single 'Shut Up And Let Me Walk' is out now

Live: Reading Festival (Aug 25), Leeds Festival (Aug 26)



MO

CHVRCHES



ADDITIONAL PHOTOS: FRYD
FRYDENDAHN, DANNY CLINCH

OFF BLOOM WEAR (OPPOSITE PAGE):

ALEX: Top, £205, Yeezy at Harvey Nichols. Trousers, £30, ASOS. Sunglasses, £220, Markus Lupfer x Linda Farrow. VO5 Matt Rework Paste, £4.39.

METTE: Dress, £65, Reclaimed Vintage at ASOS. Sunglasses, £220, Markus Lupfer x Linda Farrow. VO5 Express Primer Spray, £4.39.

MADS: Jumper, £700, Vetements. Top, £75, Ami. Trousers, £55, Shore Leave at Urban Outfitters. Shoes, £60, Reebok at Schuh. Sunglasses, £220, Markus Lupfer x Linda Farrow. VO5 Surfstyle Paste, £4.39.

(THIS PAGE):

MADS: Hoodie, £450, Yeezy at Harvey Nichols. Top, £60, John Elliott at Harvey Nichols. Jeans, £200, Levi's at Harvey Nichols. VO5 Surfstyle Paste, £4.39.

METTE: Jacket, £39.99, New Look. Trousers, £55, Topshop. Sunglasses, £240, Dries Van Noten x Linda Farrow. Choker, £220, Misho Designs. Necklace, £150, Joomi Lim. VO5 Express Primer Spray, £4.39.

ALEX: Hoodie, £48, Reclaimed Vintage at ASOS. Top, £18, ASOS. Trousers, £55, Shore Leave at Urban Outfitters. VO5 Matt Rework Paste, £4.39.

WHAT CLOUDY CIDER'S

SUPPOSED TO TASTE LIKE



Line

THIS WEEK'S BEST TICKETS AND GIGS

Can't go wrong

Wiley is among the ace headliners at Norwich's banging Sundown Festival this September

THINK FESTIVAL SEASON is starting to wind down for the year? Wrong. Sundown Festival is holding up the fort in East Anglia, bringing a ton of stars to Norwich for the first weekend of September. Chief among them is 'Godfather of Grime' Wiley, who'll be playing a set of bangers, old and new, from

'Wearing My Rolex' to 'Can't Go Wrong'. Also headlining is Craig David, UK garage's most beloved star, who will be turning up the good times with a similarly career-spanning set.

The line-up is full of grime stars – Sundown's crowd will be seeing Drake's mate Giggs, west London star AJ Tracey and even *People Just Do Nothing's* semi-fictional Kurupt FM. Chasing at their heels will be some of 2017's greatest success stories, from Raye and Tom Grennan to Stefflon Don and Rag'n'Bone Man. Plus, a brand new woodland 'Mystree Area' has been added for festivalgoers to explore. What a treat.

 **NME**
AT THE **FESTIVALS** 2017

SUNDOWN FESTIVAL

Norfolk Showground,
Norwich

SEPTEMBER 1-3

LINE-UP HIGHLIGHTS:

Wiley, Pendulum, Craig David, Rag'n'Bone Man, Giggs, Kurupt FM, AJ Tracey, Raye, Stefflon Don, Tom Grennan, Skream, Hannah Wants, P Money

TICKETS: Weekend £82; weekend with camping £115; day tickets £43.50

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3 DATES LEFT

1 SOLD OUT

NME AND **BFI** PRESENT

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**VIP TICKETS
TO BE WON**

DON'T MISS OUT



~~Wednesday 5th July~~
~~**O Brother, Where Art Thou?**~~
~~Jagara~~

~~Wednesday 12th July~~
~~**The Big Lebowski**~~
~~Sundara Karma~~

~~Sunday 23rd July~~
~~**Whiplash**~~
~~The Indian~~

~~Wednesday 26th July~~
~~**High Fidelity**~~
~~Willow~~

~~Sunday 30th July~~
~~**Trainspotting**~~
~~Dagny~~

~~Wednesday 08th August~~
~~**Drive**~~
~~Georgie~~

~~Wednesday 10th August~~
~~**Pulp Fiction**~~
~~Artificial Pleasure~~

~~Sunday 27th August~~
~~**Goodfellas**~~
~~Lao Ra~~

~~Wednesday 30th August~~
~~**SOLD OUT**~~
~~**True Romance**~~
~~Tom Grennan~~

~~Wednesday 6th September*~~
~~**This Is Spinal Tap**~~
~~Little Cub~~

* At the time of printing
* Rescheduled from previous date
Photo credit: Jordan Curtis Hughes / Andy Hughes

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**ON SALE
NOW**

DIET CIG

New York pop punks

OCTOBER

Sat 14 Library, Lancaster
Mon 16 Soup Kitchen,
Manchester **Tue 17**
Sneaky Pete's, Edinburgh
Wed 18 Broadcast,
Glasgow **Thu 19** Headrow
House, Leeds **Mon 23**
Portland Arms, Cambridge
Tue 24 & Wed 25 Moth
Club, London **Thu 26**
Hope & Ruin, Brighton

TELL ME MORE: The duo released their crunchy debut 'Swear I'm Good At This' earlier this year.

TICKETS: £8.25-£9.35

AJ TRACEY

Grime MC, Corbyn fan

OCTOBER

Wed 18 Academy
2, Leicester **Thu 19**
Tramshed, Cardiff **Sat 21**
Liquid Rooms, Edinburgh
Sun 22 SWG3, Glasgow
Wed 25 Motion, Bristol
Thu 26 Stylus, Leeds
Fri 27 Waterfront,
Norwich **Sat 28** O2
Academy, Sheffield
Sun 29 Academy,
Manchester **Tue 31**
Concorde 2, Brighton

NOVEMBER

Thu 2 O2 Institute,
Birmingham **Sun 5**
O2 Forum, London

TELL ME MORE: In May, Notting Hill's Boom Burger named one of its burgers after him. It's called the AJ Tracey Boom: double cheese, no onions.

TICKETS: £16.50-£17.50

JAKE BUGG

Nottingham indie lad

NOVEMBER

Sat 4 Moles, Bath **Sun 5**
St David's Hall, Cardiff
Mon 6 De Montfort Hall,
Leicester **Tue 7** City Hall,
Hull **Mon 13** Queen's Hall,
Edinburgh **Tue 14** Loft,
Forres **Thu 16** Pavilion,
Strathpeffer **Fri 17** Inchyra
Arts Club, Perth **Sun 19**
Victoria Hall, Stoke
Wed 22 De La Warr
Pavilion, Bexhill-on-Sea
Fri 24 Hexagon, Reading
Sat 25 Philharmonic
Hall, Liverpool

TELL ME MORE: For his forthcoming fourth album, the 'Lightning Bolt' singer has collaborated with The Black Keys' Dan Auerbach.

TICKETS: TBC

RAE MORRIS

Pal of Bombay
Bicycle Club

SEPTEMBER

Sun 24 Arts Centre,
Nottingham **Mon 25**
Contemporary Space,
Nottingham **Tue 26** Arts
Centre, Salisbury **Wed 27**
Belgrave Music Hall,
Leeds **Thu 28** Islington
Assembly Hall, London

TELL ME MORE: This Blackpool pop star has teased her second album with an ace song called 'Reborn'.

TICKETS: £9.90-£14.30

live

THE WEEK'S BEST GIGS

ASH

Sat 19 Sin City, Swansea
Sun 20 O2 Academy,
Leicester
Mon 21 Chinnerys,
Southend-on-Sea
Wed 23 Concorde
2, Brighton
Thu 24 Cheese And
Grain, Frome

BARNS COURTNEY

Wed 23 Camden
Assembly, London

CASSIA

Fri 18 The Bodega,
Nottingham

CATHOLIC ACTION

Fri 18 Café
INDIEpendent,
Scunthorpe

CONOR OBERST

Fri 18 O2 Shepherd's
Bush Empire, London
Mon 21 O2 Academy,
Liverpool
Tue 22 O2 ABC,
Glasgow

D.D DUMBO

Tue 22 & Wed 23
Omeara, London

DEAD!

Sat 19 The Craufurd
Arms, Milton Keynes

DEAP VALLY

Thu 24 The Haunt,
Brighton

EMINEM

Thu 24 Bellahouston
Park, Glasgow

FRANK TURNER

Thu 24 O2 Ritz,
Manchester

GROUPLOVE

Wed 23 Scala, London

HOLY F**K

Sun 20 Think Tank?,
Newcastle
Wed 23 Patterns,
Brighton

KASABIAN

Tue 22 Custom House
Square, Belfast

KING NO-ONE

Sat 19 Fibbers, York

LAMBCHOP

Fri 18 De La Warr
Pavilion, Bexhill-on-Sea
Sun 20 Islington
Assembly Hall, London

LANA DEL REY

Tue 22 Echo Arena,
Liverpool
Wed 23 SSE Hydro,
Glasgow

LAURA GIBSON

Wed 23 Gullivers,
Manchester
Thu 24 The Portland
Arms, Cambridge

THE MAGIC GANG

Wed 23 The Boilerroom,
Guildford

MONDO COZMO

Mon 21 Soup Kitchen,
Manchester
Wed 23 Hoxton Bar
& Grill, London

MULLALLY /JOY CROOKES /CALLUM PITT /CAMERON BLOOMFIELD

Wed 23 Ultralounge
@ Selfridges, London

MUSE

Sat 19 O2 Shepherd's
Bush Empire, London

OLIVER HELDENS

Sun 20 Custom House
Square, Belfast

THE SHINS

Tue 22 Academy,
Manchester
Wed 23 Rock City,
Nottingham

SHURA / PIXX

Thu 24 Ultralounge
@ Selfridges, London

SUSANNE SUNDFØR

Tue 22 Courtyard
Theatre, London

TIMBER TIMBRE

Mon 21 Thekla, Bristol

TRICOT

Mon 21 Broadcast,
Glasgow
Tue 22 The Firebug,
Leicester

VANT

Wed 23 Waterfront,
Norwich

WOLF ALICE

Fri 18 Club Tropicana
& Vogue, Dundee
Sat 19 The Garage,
Aberdeen
Mon 21 Muni Arts
Centre, Pontypridd
Tue 22 The Wharf,
Tavistock
Wed 23 The Forum,
Tunbridge Wells

PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES, ALAMY, JORDAN CURTIS HUGHES

SHURA

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SOUNDTRACK OF MY LIFE

Mr Motivator

Daytime TV don who does fitness routines at a festival near you

THE FIRST SONG I REMEMBER HEARING

SIMON & GARFUNKEL
Bridge Over Troubled Water

"When you've had the life I've had, where you're given away at three months of age, you're on the lookout for someone who can help you. Finding that someone is critical; they become your bridge over troubled water. I did find that person 30 years ago – it's our wedding anniversary this week."

THE SONG I DO AT KARAOKE

MCFADDEN & WHITEHEAD
Ain't No Stopping Us Now

"I'm such a good singer, I don't need to do karaoke. You've got to be a bad singer to do karaoke properly. But let's assume for a moment that I can't sing. This is such an uplifting song that even if you're singing it badly, people know all the words so they'll help you. It's something you can dance to as well. The words are optimistic: they tell you that if you keep working away, you'll come out the other end better for it. It's only in the dictionary that success comes before hard work."

THE SONG THAT MAKES ME WANT TO DANCE

TODD TERRY FEAT. JOCELYN BROWN & MARTHA WASH
Something Going On

"Aww man, it just jams along! The words are great and the beat is fabulous. I played it at Truck Festival recently. I always tend to put it on when I do the festivals because it really gets everybody going."

THE SONG THAT GETS ME MOTIVATED

MIGHTY SPARROW
Jean & Dinah

"Mighty Sparrow is the king of calypso. You can't beat it for getting the body going – whether you've got good rhythm or not, soca just touches your soul. You're automatically transported to a different world. It puts you in Jamaica, it puts you in the Caribbean. You're on the beach, you've got your rum punch in your hand and you're letting your body go. You're there already, aren't you?"



THE SONG I CAN'T GET OUT OF MY HEAD

QUEEN
I Want To Break Free

"Love it, love it, love it! There are a lot of people out there who either have different personalities or there's another person trying to break out. For example, guys who would love to be a lady, or a lady who would love to be a guy. It could really be applied to anyone who's going through something where they want break free and get out of that zone they're in, to be the person they want to be."

THE SONG I WANT PLAYED AT MY FUNERAL

THE ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA AND LOUIS CLARK
Hooked On Bach

"I'm living to 114. People say, 'I'm going to live until I'm 70'. Well, I'm 64 and the years have been kind to me because I'm so positive. I'm living to 114 and don't you dare throw cold water on it. When you have a funeral – especially in Jamaica – loads of people just want free food out of it. So I want my ashes mixed up with fish paste and made into sandwiches and given to all the people I don't like."

THE FIRST GIG I WENT TO

HOUSE PARTIES

"You're going way back. In our day – in the mid-'70s – we didn't call them gigs, mate. They were house parties, mainly in south London, and reggae was a real focal point. You'd call your best mate on a Friday and say, 'What's happening tonight?' The word would spread like wildfire and there would be people flooding out onto the street. You didn't have to ask a girl to dance – if you were lucky, she'd walk over to you."

Mr Motivator will be appearing at Rewind Festival, Henley-on-Thames (August 18-20). His autobiography *The Warm Up* is out now

GO TO NME.COM FOR MORE SOUNDTRACKS



The wisdom of the NME archives

THIS WEEK
BOB DYLAN

Legend
August 15, 1981

"I don't know if I ever will paint my masterpiece, I've given up thinking about it though."

