

# NEW MUSIC SPECIAL

# NEW MUSICAL EXPRESS 100

AVELINO



DREAM WIFE



MS BANKS



YONAKA



YUNGBLUD



PALE WAVES



NILÜFER YANYA



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# NEW NME EXPRESS

Yungblud p21

## Hello...

THERE'S ALWAYS something highly exciting about a brand-new year. New possibilities, a new slate and – most importantly for Team *NME* – loads of banging new tunes. We've decided to celebrate the arrival of 2018 by bringing together 100 of the new artists who we truly believe are going to be making serious waves this year. Last week we invited a bunch of them into the *NME* office to pose for our legendary super snapper Dean Chalkley and talk about their plans for the next 12 months. Spoiler alert: it's going to be a huge year for amazing new music. Most days at *NME* Towers are eventful one way or another, but this one was extra-special, with the likes of Pale Waves, Shame – who've made our first five-star album of the year – Mahalia, Dream Wife, Avelino, Ms Banks, Matt Maltese, Tom Grennan, Nüfër Yanya and loads more gracing us with their burgeoning presence. Dry January? Nah mate...

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

COVER STORY

## 20 The NME 100

New year, new tunes, new beats, new riffs, new lyrics, new vibes, new heroes

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# AGENDA

WHAT EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT THIS WEEK

L-r: Matt Helders,  
Alex Turner,  
Nick O'Malley,  
Jamie Cook

## Unfinished monkey business

Arctic Monkeys have announced their first tour date of the year, at Firefly Festival this June. We've got some questions about the comeback of one of the best bands on earth

AFTER ARCTIC Monkeys' headline sets at Reading & Leeds in 2014, frontman Alex Turner said it was "the perfect place to leave things for a while". Over three years later, we're still bereft of new music, but news is coming soon. Here are some answers to the questions rattling around your brain

### WHEN'S THE NEW ARCTIC MONKEYS ALBUM OUT?

No release date yet, but with a gig planned for June it must be coming. In December 2017, fan Twitter account @ArcticMonkeysUS reported that the album was finished, and that we might hear a taste this January.

### WHAT'S IT GONNA SOUND LIKE?

Alex Turner has been getting some things out of his system via the Scott Walker-y stuff he's been performing as one half of The Last Shadow Puppets. On the other hand, drummer Matt Helders worked with QOTSA's Josh Homme and Dean Fertita on Iggy Pop's latest album, 'Post Pop Depression'. Could this give the Monkeys' recordings a rawer edge?

### WHO'S PRODUCING IT?

Rumours have been circulating for months, with many, including the aforementioned @ArcticMonkeysUS, suggesting the band are once again working with James Ford. He's produced all of the band's albums except 2009's 'Humbug', which was co-produced by Homme, and their 2006 debut 'Whatever People Say I Am, That's What I'm Not', which was produced by Jim Abbiss and Alan Smyth.

### ANY SPECIAL GUESTS?

QOTSA's Josh Homme has been involved with every AM album since 'Humbug', so maybe him. Then there's Alexandra Savior, whose track 'Shades' was a collaboration with Turner. Or even Iggy, since he and Helders are such good pals.

### WILL THEY TOUR?

On January 11, a video circulated on social media with co-ordinates for what appeared to be an Arctic Monkeys tour, with dates such as Mad Cool Festival in Madrid and Barcelona's Primavera Sound on the cards. This was later called a hoax by the Monkeys' team, but the rumour mill is churning.





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## ARCTIC MONKEYS

Announced their first show of 2018. A new album must be imminent, right?



## THE PEOPLE OF THE UK

Donald Trump has cancelled his February trip to the UK. Lucky us.



## GAME OF THRONES FANS

HBO has said there will never be a revival, reboot or spin-off of everyone's fave fantasy show.



## LANA DEL REY

Says Radiohead are suing her. They deny it. What the hell is going on?!



# Cheeky blinder

Joe Cole on his role in the sweetest episode of *Black Mirror*, and his brutal death in *Peaky Blinders*

**What stood out about working on *Black Mirror* with Charlie Brooker?**

"It was a constant laugh. I can't really say more – all I can say is we did have a hoot, and that does come across on screen. We knew we were making something good."

**How do you feel about the match-finding tech in the episode 'Hang The DJ'?**

"For me, it's just a modern-day love story. Potentially it gives hope to a generation that's having to find love on dating apps. We search high and low but then actually we keep coming back to the same person. So for me it did give a bit of hope and clarity to the whole confusing dating age in which we live."

**Do you imagine the characters stay together after we leave them?**

"I'd like to think so, when you've been through that! It compares to real life in the sense that you might be with somebody, and then you might go off and be with other people, and they might do the same, but they're always in the back of your mind. I think a lot of people can relate to that. I certainly can."

**You recently left *Peaky Blinders*. Any thoughts about what might happen in season five?**

"Myself and Paul Anderson [Arthur Shelby] speculate every year. We never get it right. I'm sure there'll be some big new gangster on the scene, but then I'll say that and it'll be the complete opposite – that's the thing about Steve's [Knight, creator and writer] writing. I have no doubt it'll be the best one yet and they'll continue to astound people."

**How did you feel when you were told about being killed off *Peaky Blinders*?**

"It was actually something that I initiated after season three. My schedule was becoming too difficult to fit it in and I wanted the opportunity to explore new roles and new projects. For me it's not wanting to be boxed into one role, and having a bit of variety in my career. Luckily Steven Knight and others responded and they gave me a good exit. They could have sent me to live on a farm, but thankfully I went down fighting."

With Georgina Campbell in *Black Mirror*

As John Shelby in *Peaky Blinders*

**Was that the first time you've died on screen?**

"It's about the seventh! I've died a few times."

**What's it like watching yourself die on screen?**

"I mean... I know all the inner workings, I know everything that's going on behind the cameras. But it was mixed feelings, because as much as we'd agreed that I'd leave the show and it was something that I wanted to do, it's also sad because you remember all the fantastic memories you've had. I've really enjoyed making it, so you kind of reminisce – but I'm onto pastures new now."

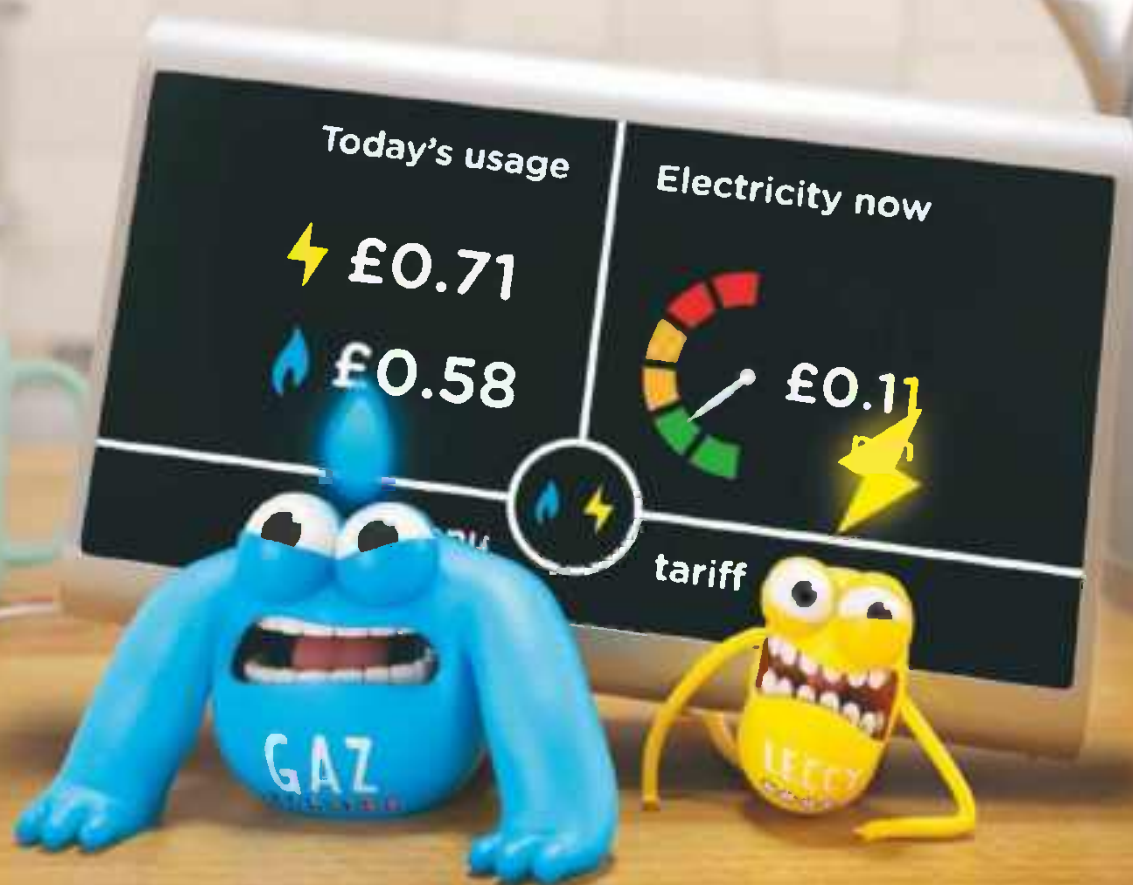
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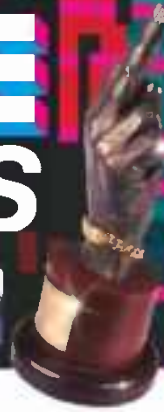
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# NME AWARDS 2018



## And the nominations are...

You voted in your thousands in round one and here are your shortlists. Who you gonna vote for now?

### BEST BRITISH BAND

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**Zig-Zag.**

Alt-J  
Kasabian  
Wolf Alice  
The 1975  
The xx  
Bastille

### BEST INTERNATIONAL BAND

SUPPORTED BY

**19 Crimes.**

Haim  
The National  
Foo Fighters  
The Killers  
Paramore  
Migos

### BEST BRITISH SOLO ARTIST

SUPPORTED BY



Dua Lipa  
Liam Gallagher  
Ed Sheeran  
Stormzy  
Loyle Carner  
Charli XCX

### BEST FILM

SUPPORTED BY



T2 Trainspotting  
Blade Runner 2049  
Baby Driver  
The Disaster Artist  
Star Wars: The Last Jedi  
It

### BEST INTERNATIONAL SOLO ARTIST

Kendrick Lamar  
Taylor Swift  
Lorde  
Lana Del Rey  
St Vincent  
Father John Misty

### BEST NEW ARTIST

Stefflon Don  
J Hus  
The Magic Gang  
Sigrid  
SZA  
Shame

### BEST ALBUM

SUPPORTED BY



Lorde 'Melodrama'  
J Hus  
'Common Sense'  
Wolf Alice  
'Visions Of A Life'  
Gorillaz 'Humanz'  
Loyle Carner  
'Yesterday's Gone'  
The National  
'Sleep Well Beast'

### BEST TRACK

SUPPORTED BY



Kasabian  
'Bless This Acid House'  
Kendrick Lamar  
'HUMBLE.'  
Lorde 'Green Light'  
The Horrors  
'Something To Remember Me By'  
Dua Lipa  
'New Rules'  
Charli XCX 'Boys'

### BEST LIVE ARTIST

Kasabian  
Stormzy  
Lorde  
Royal Blood  
LCD Soundsystem  
Liam Gallagher

### BEST FESTIVAL

SUPPORTED BY



Glastonbury  
Reading & Leeds  
Download  
Parklife  
TRNSMT  
Bestival

### BEST COLLABORATION

SUPPORTED BY



Craig David & Bastille 'I Know You'  
Stefflon Don & Skepta  
'Ding-A-Ling'  
Courtney Barnett & Kurt Vile  
'Continental Breakfast'  
Gorillaz & Jehnnny Beth  
'We Got The Power'  
Lily Allen & Giggs  
'Trigger Bang'  
Yungen & Yxng Bane 'Bestie'

### BEST MIXTAPE

Charli XCX 'Pop 2'  
Drake 'More Life'  
Krept & Konan  
'7 Nights / 7 Days'  
Rex Orange County  
'Apricot Princess'  
Dave 'Game Over'  
Avelino 'No Bullshit'

### BEST VIDEO

The Big Moon  
'Sucker'  
Charli XCX  
'Boys'  
St Vincent  
'Los Ageless'  
Taylor Swift  
'Look What You Made Me Do'  
Dua Lipa  
'New Rules'  
Pale Waves  
'Television Romance'

### BEST TV SHOW

Stranger Things 2  
Game Of Thrones  
Westworld  
Rick And Morty  
GLOW  
Peaky Blinders

### MUSIC MOMENT OF THE YEAR

One Love Manchester  
The Killers play surprise set at Glastonbury  
Grime4Corbyn  
Noel Gallagher plays 'Don't Look Back In Anger' at Manchester Arena  
Lady Gaga at the Super Bowl  
Linkin Park's Chester Bennington tribute concert

### BEST FESTIVAL HEADLINER

Muse  
Boy Better Know  
Ed Sheeran  
Noel Gallagher  
Foo Fighters  
The 1975

### BEST SMALL FESTIVAL

Festival No.6  
Boardmasters  
Wilderness  
Field Day  
End Of The Road  
Kendal Calling

### VILLAIN OF THE YEAR

Donald Trump  
Theresa May  
Katie Hopkins  
Piers Morgan  
Kim Jong-un  
Jeremy Hunt

### HERO OF THE YEAR

Ariana Grande  
Rose McGowan  
Jeremy Corbyn  
Ellie Rowsell  
Big Shaq  
David Attenborough

### REISSUE OF THE YEAR

Radiohead  
'OKNOTOK'  
Prince 'Purple Rain'  
The Beatles  
'Sgt. Pepper's...'  
REM 'Automatic For The People'  
The Smiths 'The Queen Is Dead'  
Super Furry Animals  
'Radiator'

**VOTE NOW:**  
**NME.COM/ AWARDS**

### BEST MUSIC BOOK

Wiley *Eskiboy*  
Action Bronson  
*F\*ck, That's Delicious*  
Dylan Jones  
*David Bowie: A Life*  
Allan Jones  
*Can't Stand Up For Falling Down*  
Lizzy Goodman  
*Meet Me In The Bathroom*  
The KLF  
*2023: A Trilogy*

### BEST MUSIC FILM

Gaga: Five Foot Two  
L7: Pretend  
*We're Dead*  
*Bunch Of Kunst*  
*George Michael: Freedom*  
*England Is Mine*  
*Whitney: Can I Be Me*

The VO5 NME Awards 2018 is at London's O2 Academy Brixton on February 14. For more info, visit [NME.com/awards](http://NME.com/awards)

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MINI  
INTERVIEW



**LIAM NEESON**  
Action hero

**Last year it was reported that you were retiring from action films – is that true?**  
“Nah! That was just a room full of journalists who said, ‘When are you doing another action movie?’ and I said – leaving out the swearwords – ‘Come on guys, I’m 65!’ But it was a flippant remark. I didn’t really mean it.”

**Did you ever think you’d end up being an action hero?**

“Are you joking? No, no, no – never at all. We shot the first *Taken* film 11 years ago – I can’t believe where the years have gone. And they’re still sending me several action scripts. Not as many as five years ago, but there’s still a few [that] come in.”

**Manspreading is a commuting no-no. Have you ever been a manspreader?**

“I was. I was on jury duty two years ago in New York and I took the Underground down to the courthouse and I was sitting like that, as you do, and a couple of times some girls came up [and nudged my] legs and I was like, ‘Sorry, I get it.’”

**The Commuter is in cinemas now**

Clockwise from top:  
Joey (Matt LeBlanc), Ross (David Schwimmer), Rachel (Jennifer Aniston), Phoebe (Lisa Kudrow), Monica (Courteney Cox), Chandler (Matthew Perry)



# The one with all the theories

**For Christmas, Netflix UK bought itself every single episode of *Friends*. Mull over these four compelling theories while re-watching the biggest sitcom ever**

## PHOEBE IS A GENIUS

Phoebe grew up on the streets after the suicide of her mother. Despite her lack of formal education, she still managed to pick up a couple of foreign languages – Italian and French. One Reddit theory suggests this proves that Phoebe is actually a genius, saying she has “zero ambition” and instead uses her intellect to play her friends off against one another “for her own amusement”. A perfect example of this is when she spends a couple of days toying with and ultimately checkmating Ross – a university lecturer – in an argument about evolutionary theory. Immediately after this she casually says, “That was fun – who’s hungry?”

## THE WHOLE OF FRIENDS IS PHOEBE’S METH-ADDLED FANTASY

At the opposite end of the *Phoebeverse* is this bleak re-imagining of the show by Twitter user @strnks, who suggested that throughout the 10 seasons a homeless Phoebe was “projecting herself into the lives of the other five” and that “all she ever wanted was... friends”, using every “kooky aside” as evidence that she didn’t belong in the group. *Friends* co-creator Marta Kauffman later responded, “That’s the saddest theory I’ve ever heard.”

## ROSS LOST CUSTODY OF BEN ‘COS HE WAS A BAD DAD

In 2015, a blogger listed all the s\*\*\*ty things Ross has done. In one episode he asks a self-defence instructor to help him scare women he’s planning to attack. In another he tries to kiss his first cousin.

He sleeps with his university students. He’s homophobic towards Carol and Susan. He has anger issues – remember ‘The One With Ross’ Sandwich’? Perhaps, this theorist says, we shouldn’t be surprised that his son Ben disappears after season eight: maybe Carol couldn’t bear Ross any more and cut him out of their lives.



## JOEY AND PHOEBE WERE SHAGGING THE WHOLE TIME

Here’s one of Matt LeBlanc’s (Joey) own theories. In 2015 he told *People*, “Towards the end we actually pitched the idea that Joey and Phoebe had been having casual sex the entire time. We’d go back and shoot all the historical scenes and just before a moment that everyone recognises, there’s Joey and Phoebe coming out of a broom closet together.”

**All 10 seasons of *Friends* are available on Netflix**

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## NME AWARDS SHOWS 2018

### Support slots announced!

WE'RE ALSO TAKING over London with a series of VO5 NME Awards Shows 2018. Here's who's playing:

#### JANUARY

##### PRETTY VIOCIOS

with support from  
**Sophie And The Giants**  
Wed 24 The Shacklewell Arms

##### SHE DREW THE GUN

with support from **Big Joanie**  
Fri 26 Omeara

#### FEBRUARY

##### THE SHERLOCKS

with support from  
**Neon Waltz + Oddity Road**  
Fri 9 Electric Ballroom

##### SUPERFOOD

with support from **TBC**  
Mon 12 Scala

##### PEACE

with support from **TBC**  
Tue 13 Omeara

##### PUBLIC ACCESS TV

with support from  
**Fehm + Whenyoung**  
Thu 22 Oslo

##### FRANZ FERDINAND

+ special guest  
**Albert Hammond Jr**  
Sat 24 O2 Academy Brixton

##### PARK HOTEL

with support from  
**Modern Strangers**  
+ **Ryder The Eagle**  
Tues 27 Moth Club

##### YONAKA

with support from **Findlay**  
Wed 28 The Garage

#### MARCH

**A2** with support from **TBC**  
Thu 1 Koko

For ticket details for the  
**VO5 NME Awards Road Trip**  
with Propaganda, and the  
**VO5 NME Awards Shows**  
2018, go to **NME.com**

## VO5 NME AWARDS ROAD TRIP WITH PROPAGANDA

# Our touring indie disco is go

Come and dance yourself clean to some indie bangers

THIS WEEK, RADIO 1 HERO Huw Stephens kicked off the VO5 NME Awards Road Trip with Propaganda at Clwb Ifor Bach in Cardiff. They came, they danced, they kept asking us when the next one is. Well, it's on Friday, January 19 at Mama Roux's & Spotlight in Birmingham and The Vaccines are DJing. Here's the full line-up...

#### JANUARY

##### THE VACCINES

Fri 19 Propaganda Birmingham, Mama Roux's & Spotlight

##### THE VACCINES

Sat 20 Propaganda London, Electric Ballroom

##### THE AMAZONS

Thu 25 Propaganda Cheltenham, MooMoo

##### THE AMAZONS

Fri 26 Propaganda Cambridge, Fez Club

##### THE AMAZONS

Sat 27 Propaganda Lincoln, The Engine Shed

#### FEBRUARY

##### FRANK TURNER

Fri 2 Propaganda Glasgow, O2 ABC

##### IDLES

Sat 3 Propaganda Bristol, The Fleece

##### THE VACCINES

Sat 3 Propaganda Leeds, The Warehouse

##### WOODY FROM BASTILLE

Sat 10 Propaganda London, Electric Ballroom



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OF  
ART**

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LESS  
THAN...**

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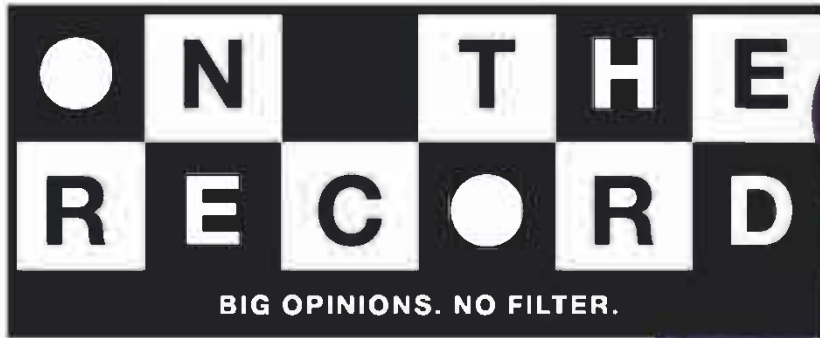
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## THIS WEEK

# The mighty *Paddington 2* deserves to win all the BAFTAs

I EXPERIENCED A FAIR few moments of sheer joy in 2017. Most were festival and food-related, but none quite matched the feeling of giddy, emotional euphoria that washed over me during the hours I sat in a Leicester Square cinema on a windy December night watching a kids' movie sequel. I hadn't even seen the first *Paddington* film and was slightly concerned that the narrative might be a touch difficult to follow, but hearing rave reviews from pals and the internet alike, I headed to the cinema, my belly full of special fried rice from Chinatown and my head full of expectation. Anyway, I needn't have worried – it turns out that films made for a primary school audience are pretty easy to pick up when you're an actual adult. That's not to say *Paddington 2* is a simple film, though. Oh no. Part physical comedy that

references the silver screen greats – Buster Keaton, Charlie Chaplin, Jacques Tati – part heart-string tugging family melodrama, part Michael Bay action thriller, part *Monty Python* odd-com and as deeply English as the runaway bathtub from *Last Of The Summer Wine*, *Paddington 2* is a multilayered delight of a movie. So what if it's ostensibly for six-year-olds?

It seems I'm not the only grown-up to have fallen head over heels in love with the movie. Following up on its unprecedented 100 per cent score on *Rotten Tomatoes* – a rare feat given slagging off stuff seems to provide the internet's core power – comes a raft of

***"Paddington 2 is a multilayered delight. So what if it's for kids?"***



All of the lads – and Padz

BAFTA nominations for the film. Though some outlets have described its three nods as a 'surprise', we're just shocked it didn't get more. Up for Outstanding British Film (against the rather more serious likes of *Darkest Hour* and *God's Own Country*), Best Adapted Screenplay and Supporting Actor for Hugh Grant's magnificent turn as a bear-baiting baddie, the film's noms have garnered plenty of love on Twitter but a certain amount of bafflement too. "A kids' film

nominated for a trio of BAFTAs?! Whatever next – *Blue Peter* presenters in the cabinet reshuffle? Frubes on the menu at Le Gavroche? Peppa Pig to succeed Cressida Dick as the chief of the Metropolitan Police?" I can only assume that these naysayers have yet to actually watch *Paddington 2*. I'm certain that when they do they'll fall just as madly in love as me. Now the only question left to ask is: what the hell will Paddington wear on the red carpet? @leoniemaycooper

PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

## Last W33K IN NUMBERS

£6

Price of a lamb doner from Kentish Delight, the north London kebab shop Taylor Swift filmed the 'End Game' video in.

22

Consecutive hours it took to film Dua Lipa's vibey new video 'IDGAF'. Endurance.

100

Camila Cabello's debut album has gone to the top of the iTunes charts in 80 countries. She's Havana-it.

3

Numbers of directors who've quit *X-Men* spin-off *Gambit*. Sounds like box-office gold.



V05



#BEATHAIRBOREDOM



## THINGS WE LIKE

### THIS WEEK'S OBJECTS OF DESIRE



**God save the Queen**  
Pay homage to 'Bohemian Rhapsody' with this vintage-style Queen tee.  
£15.95 [nmemerch.com](http://nmemerch.com)



**Bottle shop**  
Karma Cola's ginger ale, lemonade and cola are all Fairtrade, organic – and yumz.  
£1.59 [ocado.com](http://ocado.com)



**Voodoo vodka**  
There are only 666 bottles of this sinister – but delicious – small-batch vodka.  
£39.95 [evilspirits.co](http://evilspirits.co)



**Top hat**  
River Island's latest awesome Design Forum collab is with Blood Brother.  
£15 [riverisland.com](http://riverisland.com)



**Dearly departed**  
Hip mortician Caitlin Doughty's *From Here To Eternity* looks at death rituals all over the world.  
£10.49 [amazon.co.uk](http://amazon.co.uk)



**Spelling competition**  
NME Lifehacks winner Kelly's witchy prints and pins are ace.  
£8 [etsy.com/uk/shop/KellyMarieRoberts](http://etsy.com/uk/shop/KellyMarieRoberts)



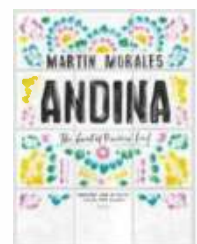
**Stranger vinyl**  
The *Stranger Things 2* soundtrack comes on purple and white crystal vinyl. Swoon.  
£26.99 [invada.co.uk](http://invada.co.uk)



**Time for heroes**  
This Libertines shirt supports the Yellow Bird Project, helping young adults with cancer.  
£22 [yellowbirdproject.com](http://yellowbirdproject.com)



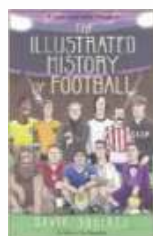
**Wolf pack**  
Wolf Rock's red ale-IPA fusion makes for delish drinking.  
12 for £29  
[sharpsbrewery.co.uk](http://sharpsbrewery.co.uk)



**Handy Andes**  
The *Andina* cookbook is your Peruvian food bible. It has a matching soundtrack CD, too.  
£8.99 [amazon.co.uk](http://amazon.co.uk)



**Cult classic**  
Get one of these special cans of Guinness featuring the booze brand's iconic artwork.  
£5 for four [guinness.com](http://guinness.com)



**Pitch perfect**  
*The Illustrated History Of Football* takes a fresh look at the beautiful game.  
£10.99 [amazon.co.uk](http://amazon.co.uk)



**Tea here now**  
Get all zen with this warming, caffeine-free Oriental Chai & Liquorice tea.  
£2.49 [heathandheather.co.uk](http://heathandheather.co.uk)



**Going for gold**  
The new Tove Lo x Leontine jewellery collection features this swish ring.  
£43.50 [shop.tove-lo.com](http://shop.tove-lo.com)



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*By Ashdown Engineering*

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NME PROMOTION

# What's ON your Headphones?

THIS WEEK

## Peckham

"Mr Bao is my favourite restaurant – amazing steamed buns"

### < JAMES COCHRAN

32, head chef

Favourite song to listen to on headphones:

**CHIP**

*Settings*

"I'm feeling the new album at the moment."

**Wearing:** Jacket from a charity shop, ASOS hoodie, Soulstar jeans, Nike trainers, H&M hat.

**Best thing about Peckham:** "Mr Bao is my favourite restaurant – amazing steamed buns."

### JESSICA PARTRIDGE >

34, wedding photographer

Favourite song to listen to on headphones:

**PARAMORE**

*Hard Times*

"I'm going to see them at The O2 in London. I want to know every word so I can sing along."

**Wearing:** Zara jacket, Adidas jumper, Topshop jeans, Vans trainers, Topshop scarf.

**Best thing about Peckham:** "Everyone's loving Coal Rooms at the moment. Really tasty food."

### < DANIELLE DUGGLEBY

34, interior designer

Favourite song to listen to on headphones:

**THE NATIONAL**

*Slow Show*

"I don't want anyone to interrupt me while I'm listening!"

**Wearing:** YMC jacket, Folk shirt and trousers, Cos hat and scarf.

**Best thing about Peckham:** "There's lots of hidden culture and architecture."

### RICHARD PARKER >

34, communications

Favourite song to listen to on headphones:

**QUEENS OF THE STONE AGE**

*A Song For The Dead*

"Loud. Amazing drums. Yeah!"

**Wearing:** YMC coat, Lee jeans, Clarks shoes.

**Best thing about Peckham:** "You can get any sort of food you want and it's always amazing."

**METERS**  
By Andrew Eccles

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PHOTOS: ANDY HUGHES



# NEW MUSICAL EXPRESS

# 100

These are, without doubt, the 100 new artists rock-solid guaranteed to make 2018 a magnificent year for your ears

PHOTOGRAPHED BY DEAN CHALKLEY



## MS BANKS

**From:** London

**Sounds like:** Brazen British rap with dexterous bars and brilliant metaphors.

**For fans of:** Cardi B, Lady Leshurr

**Need to know:** Nicki Minaj is a huge fan. In fact, last year she tweeted out Ms Banks' verse in 'Yu Zimme (Remix)'. Not a bad first endorsement, then.

**Essential track:** 'Bangs'

## PATAWAWA

**From:** Derbyshire

**Sounds like:** Outrageously fun disco tailor-made for your next pre-drinks sesh.

**For fans of:** !!!, Chic

**Need to know:** The trio have been dropping vibrant disco tunes since 2015 – but with a dead-exciting EP imminent, this year will see their glitter ball shine brighter than ever before.

**Essential track:** 'What You Want'

## IAMDDB

**From:** Manchester

**Sounds like:** The sound of now: funk, rap and grime entering brave new territory.

**For fans of:** Loyle Carner, Little Simz

**Need to know:** Diana DeBrito released 'Hoodrich Volume 3' to high acclaim last year, putting her in the picture as one of the nation's most complex and unique new artists.

**Essential track:** 'Shade'

## MIKE

**From:** New York City, USA

**Sounds like:** Murky hip-hop that could be played in hotel lobbies.

**For fans of:** Tyler, The Creator, J Dilla

**Need to know:** The 18-year-old's debut EP 'By The Water' clocks in at a brisk 11 minutes but is all the better for it. Laid-back beats clash with jazzy sax riffs, making for a conflicting mix that will captivate listeners for its duration.

**Essential track:** 'God's With Me'

## YUNGBLUD

**From:** Sheffield

**Sounds like:** Early Jamie T with more swagger and even more attitude.

**For fans of:** Jamie T, Rat Boy

**Need to know:** At his shows, you'll usually see 19-year-old Dominic Harrison stomping around the stage with his hood up, wielding a luminous megaphone. The crowds, obviously, go completely bonkers.

**Essential track:** 'I Love You, Will You Marry Me'

## YONAKA

**From:** Brighton

**Sounds like:** Momentous rock anthems that pack both bark and bite.

**For fans of:** No Doubt, Queens Of The Stone Age

**Need to know:** When they signed their record deal, the band got so pissed that their gig later that day was a bit of a disaster. Debut EP 'Heavy' is a pure headbanging triumph though, so it's all good.

**Essential track:** 'Bubblegum'

NEW  
MUSICAL  
EXPRESS  
100



L-r: George Edwards, Alex Crosby, Theresa Jarvis, Robert Mason



L-r: Charlie Steen, Sean Coyle-Smith, Josh Finerty, Eddie Green, Charlie Forbes

## SHAME

**From:** London

**Sounds like:** Visceral post-punk with serious heart.

**For fans of:**

The Fall, Wire

**Need to know:** The band's stunning debut 'Songs Of Praise' was recorded in a mere 10 days in 2017. The frantic 'Donk' is proof of the album's speedy completion.

**Essential track:** 'Concrete'

## KOJO FUNDS

**From:** London

**Sounds like:** Glitzy Afrobeats and Funds' sleek rhymes make for an arresting concoction.

**For fans of:** Yungen, Dizzee Rascal

**Need to know:** Funds has been sharing singles for a couple of years now and already worked with Wretch 32 and Mabel. Recent single 'Calling' sees him team up with Chip and showcases an artist whose path into the mainstream couldn't be more blatant.

**Essential track:** 'Calling'

## LAYFULLSTOP

**From:** Manchester

**Sounds like:** Laid-back soul beats dominated by an unstoppable lyrical flow.

**For fans of:** Loyle Carner, Erykah Badu

**Need to know:** Each of LayFullStop's released songs sound wildly different, from the soulful 'YinYang' to the '90s R&B-tinged 'Aura'. You're best off investing fully into her world to catch the stellar flow in action.

**Essential track:** 'Aura'



## MAHALIA

**From:** Leicester

**Sounds like:** Confessional, soul-soothing R&B.

**For fans of:** Rihanna, Lauryn Hill

**Need to know:** Mahalia was signed to Atlantic at just 13. A folk-tinged mixtape followed, but it's her new R&B flavour that's piqued everyone's interest.

**Essential track:** 'Sober'

## A2

**From:** London

**Sounds like:** Trippy rap made for long, late-night drives.

**For fans of:** Drake, Wretch 32

**Need to know:** A2 has deliberately kept a low profile since his inception, spurning social media and interviews to let his music do the talking. Murky debut EP 'Blue' did just that, revelling in smoky beats and his ever-changing vocal delivery.

**Essential track:** 'Southern Comfort'

## DAVE

**From:** London

**Sounds like:** Of-the-moment hip-hop, rap and grime from the nation's most exciting new MC.

**For fans of:** Drake, Kano

**Need to know:** The 19-year-old first snuck into the mainstream when Drake remixed his track 'Wanna Know' in 2016, but his latest EP 'Game Over' proved that the MC can do politics as well as playful bangers.

**Essential track:** 'Question Time'

## REX ORANGE COUNTY

**From:** Surrey

**Sounds like:** Joyful love songs that'll make up your next Valentine's Day mixtape.

**For fans of:** Frank Ocean, Damon Albarn

**Need to know:** Teenager Alex O'Connor has already collaborated with Tyler, The Creator and Skepta, as well as releasing the utterly gorgeous 2017 mixtape 'Apricot Princess'.

**Essential track:** 'Loving Is Easy'

## JARAMI

**From:** Sweden

**Sounds like:** Funky, psychedelic house.

**For fans of:** Daft Punk, Justice

**Need to know:** Aside from their astounding string of singles last year, the pair of producers also worked with Frank Ocean on his recent singles 'Lens', 'Biking' and 'Chanel'. Not a bad track record, then.

**Essential track:** 'Hear This'

## JULIA MICHAELS

**From:** California, USA

**Sounds like:** Smart, provocative pop that veers between whispers and whoops.

**For fans of:** Zara Larsson, Justin Bieber

**Need to know:** Before releasing her debut EP 'Nervous System' – containing the hugely popular single 'Issues' – in 2017, Michaels had written songs for Justin Bieber, Selena Gomez, Demi Lovato, Shakira and Ed Sheeran. She's since got a cosign from Clean Bandit.

**Essential track:** 'Pink'

## THE BRITANYS

**From:** New York City, USA

**Sound like:** Scuzzy indie-rock with gigantic choruses aplenty.

**Need to know:** The band worked with Parquet Courts producer Jonathan Schenke on debut EP 'Five A Side', sharing the garage-rockers' DIY ethos on every track.

**Essential track:** 'In Yer Time'



L-r: Rebeca Marcos-Rosa, Tim Abbey

## PARK HOTEL

**From:** London

**Sounds like:** Gorgeous grooves and hypnotic riffs collide for an oh-so funky cocktail.

**For fans of:** LCD Soundsystem, Hot Chip

**Need to know:** The duo's two initial offerings – 'Gone As A Friend' and 'Going West' – hint at a pair who know their way around an intoxicating rhythm or two.

**Essential track:** 'Going West'



## RAYE

**From:** London

**Sounds like:** Properly massive pop bangers serving lashings of sass.

**For fans of:** Little Mix, Destiny's Child

**Need to know:** Aside from her own tunes, Raye's co-written songs for Little Mix and Charli XCX. Don't worry, she's saved some gems for herself – such as the club-ready pop bouncer 'The Line'.

**Essential track:** 'Decline'

## MABEL

**From:** London

**Sounds like:** Slinky '90s-influenced pop with a modern twist.

**For fans of:** Dua Lipa, Lauryn Hill

**Need to know:** Music is in this rising star's blood: her parents are none other than '90s star Neneh Cherry and Massive Attack producer Cameron McVey. Recent R&B mixtape 'Ivy To Roses' sits closer to her mum's style than her dad's, mind.

**Essential track:**

'Finders Keepers'

## MALLRAT

**From:** Brisbane, Australia

**Sounds like:** A DIY version of 1990s powerpop. A bit like the sonic equivalent of eating a marshmallow Flump.

**For fans of:** Charli XCX, Wolf Alice

**Need to know:** Eighteen-year-old rapper/singer Grace Shaw has been releasing music since her mid-teens; it's witty, it's pretty and it's definitely not s\*\*tty. Expect a debut album this year from the self-proclaimed "Hannah Montana of the rap game".

**Essential track:** 'Better'

## GAFFA TAPE SANDY

**From:** Bury St Edmunds

**Sounds like:** Bring Me The Horizon doing Busted covers.

**For fans of:** Ty Segall, Paramore

**Need to know:** The punk band say they have "an undying love for music that makes you want to move around and punch your best friend in the head". We're in!

**Essential track:** 'Beehive'

## BILLIE EILISH

**From:** Los Angeles, USA

**Sounds like:** Carefully created pop that finds inspiration in hip-hop's thundering beats and uncensored attitude.

**For fans of:** Lana Del Rey, Banks

**Need to know:** She may only be 16 years old, but she's already released a staggeringly consistent run of singles over the last three years, appeared on the *13 Reasons Why* soundtrack and collaborated with the mighty Vince Staples on recent track '&burn'. Making us all look bad, really.

**Essential track:** 'Bellyache'

## SIGRID

**From:** Ålesund, Norway

**Sounds like:** Fiery pop that'll have you in ass-kicking mode in no time.

**For fans of:** Lorde, Robyn

**Need to know:** After dominating the summer with her globe-conquering call to arms 'Don't Kill My Vibe', she recorded a version of it in nonsense language Simlish for *The Sims 4*. Yes, it's *that* good.

**Essential track:** 'Don't Kill My Vibe'

## YAEJI

**From:** New York City, USA

**Sounds like:** Korean-American electropop with minimalist, house-flavoured beats.

**For fans of:** Jessie Lanza, Arca

**Need to know:** In a recent *Pitchfork* interview, the 24-year-old revealed she first chose to sing in Korean because she "didn't want people to understand what she was talking about".

**Essential track:** 'raingurl'

# NEW MUSIC EXPRESS 100

## TOM GRENNAN

**From:** Bedford

**Sounds like:**

Sky-reaching but streetwise soul-pop from an artist wise beyond his 22 years.

**For fans of:** Jamie T, Rag'n'Bone Man

**Need to know:** You may recognise him from his guest spot on Chase & Status' 'All Goes Wrong', or Charli XCX's already iconic 'Boys' video. Now we get to have Tom Grennan on his own terms. You'll be hearing a lot from him in 2018.

**Essential track:** 'Found What I've Been Looking For'

# NEW MUSICAL EXPRESS 100

L-r: Murray (on shoulders), Olly, Jordan, Lewis, Sam



## EASY LIFE

**From:** Leicester  
**Sounds like:** The middle ground of hip-hop, indie and slacker-rock.  
**For fans of:** Jamie T, Beastie Boys  
**Need to know:** They described debut song 'Pockets' as a "93 bpm head-nodder born out of the need to give a middle finger to those people who don't believe in simplicity, and are only concerned with material wealth". Bosh.  
**Essential track:** 'Pockets'



## AVELINO

**From:** London  
**Sounds like:** A little bit dancehall, a little bit grime but all totally brilliant.  
**For fans of:** Skepta, Drake  
**Need to know:** The Tottenham rapper bagged two bona fide stars for his finest work to date: Skepta and Stormzy both jumped on 'Energy' to provide rabble-rousing verses.  
**Essential track:** 'Energy'

## JESSIE REYEZ

**From:** Toronto, Canada  
**Sounds like:** Brutally honest R&B imbued with soul, sadness and sass.  
**For fans of:** Halsey, Kehlani  
**Need to know:** Much of the world first heard of Jessie when she featured on the track 'Hard To Love' from Calvin Harris' 'Funk Wav Bounces Vol. 1' last year, but 2018 is the year she steps out from under Calvin's shadow. Her EP 'Kiddo' was full of emotionally raw offerings that'll have you sobbing/nodding along.  
**Essential track:** 'Figures'

## CONFIDENCE MAN

**From:** Brisbane, Australia  
**Sounds like:** Party-ready dance-punk for the Snapchat generation.  
**For fans of:** LCD Soundsystem, Basement Jaxx  
**Need to know:** The Aussie four-piece use pseudonyms to hide their true identities – meet Reggie Goodchild, Clarence McGuffie, Janet Planet and Sugar Bones.  
**Essential track:** 'Better Sit Down Boy'

## JORJA SMITH

**From:** Walsall  
**Sounds like:** Velvet smooth R&B from the Midlands.  
**For fans of:** Amy Winehouse, Sampha  
**Need to know:** Drake is such a fan, he handpicked the 20-year-old to guest on two different tracks from his 2017 playlist 'More Life'. She repaid the favour by taking the Canadian producer to her local Co-op when he visited Walsall with her.  
**Essential track:** 'Beautiful Little Fools'

## OCTAVIAN

**From:** London  
**Sounds like:** Genre-splicing British rap, complete with tropical production.  
**For fans of:** Krept & Konan, J Hus  
**Need to know:** The music video for the grime and Afrobeat hit 'Party Here' was made by Octavian and his pals for a thrifty £50. What a bloody bargain.  
**Essential track:** 'Party Here'

## JEVON

**From:** Coventry  
**Sounds like:** Piledriving garage beats with a liquid flow.  
**For fans of:** DJ EZ, Brockhampton  
**Need to know:** Jevon provided vocals for the New Gen's old-school 'Man Of The Hour' last year.  
**Essential track:** 'Do The Road'

## PARCELS

**From:** Byron Bay, Australia  
**Sounds like:** Euphoric disco-funk from Down Under by way of Berlin.  
**For fans of:** Daft Punk, Soulwax  
**Need to know:** Robot legends Daft Punk swung by their show in Paris last year. Afterwards, they offered to produce the band's new music, starting with single 'Overnight' – and it's obvious, in a good way.  
**Essential track:** 'Overnight'



## MINA ROSE

**From:** London  
**Sounds like:** Dubby, urban pop with reggae and ska roots. A future soundsystem queen.  
**For fans of:** Jessie Ware, Massive Attack  
**Need to know:** 2017's 'Lemons And Limes' and 'Kingdom' were the perfect soundtrack to sunny strolls. She also collaborated with Tricky last year – but expect even bigger things in 2018.  
**Essential track:** 'Lemons And Limes'





## KWAYE

**From:** London

**Sounds like:** Super-slick R&B with an infusion of funk.

**For fans of:** Blood Orange, Solange

**Need to know:** The Zimbabwean-born prodigy was first discovered in an Uber driven by a former music industry exec. Now, Kwaye is on a journey of self-discovery with his joyous and colourful videos and music.

**Essential track:** 'Sweetest Life'



L-r: Hugo Silvani, Ciara Doran, Heather Baron-Gracie, Charlie Wood

## PALE WAVES

**From:** Manchester

**Sounds like:** Shimmering indie-pop bangers made for young lovers.

**For fans of:** The 1975, The Cure

**Need to know:** Initially produced by The 1975 frontman Matty Healy, the four-piece take influence from '80s pop, grunge and beyond on their debut EP, which'll no doubt be filling up indie nights across the nation pretty sharpish.

**Essential track:** 'There's A Honey'



L-r: Alice Go, Raket Mjöll, Bella Padpadec

## DREAM WIFE

**From:** Brighton,

London and Reykjavik

**Sounds like:** The spirit of riot grrrl, but with a pop perfection destined for the dancefloor.

**For fans of:** Savages, Le Tigre

**Need to know:** They formed after creating a fake band for an art exhibition. Luckily, they were too good to not be true and their raucous debut album is very soon.

**Essential track:** 'Somebody'

## MATT MALTESE

**From:** Reading

**Sounds like:** He calls it 'Brexit pop'; we call it dramatic Cave-Cohen majesty.

**For fans of:** Father John Misty, Nick Cave & The Bad Seeds

**Need to know:** The youngest crooner in the game, Matt's only just out of his teens but he's already singing huge, symphonic ballads about doom, disaster and despair. Glorious.

**Essential track:** 'As The World Caves In'





L-r: Lincoln Barrett, Asha Lorenz, Campbell Baum, Louis O'Bryen

## SORRY

**From:** London

**Sounds like:** Hazy indie that revels in the grunge and the gunk.

**For fans of:** Pixies, Pavement

**Need to know:** The band celebrated their signing to cult label Domino (home to Arctic Monkeys and Franz Ferdinand) by releasing a free 28-minute mixtape that flitted from heavy rock to sickly-sweet pop.

**Essential track:** 'Wished'



L-r: Dan Hole, Millie Duthie, Danny Southwell, Mitch Duce

## THYLA

**From:** Brighton

**Sounds like:** Glossy but dramatic new wave post-punk for the 21st century. A sweet plate of classic flavours with a modern aftertaste.

**For fans of:** Warpaint, The Cure

**Need to know:** They formed their sound from a shared love of Bloc Party, Bombay Bicycle Club, Warpaint and a 'general distaste for the stale state of the industry'. Heads up: Thyla are here to ruffle some feathers.

**Essential track:** 'Pristine Dream'

## YXNG BANE

**From:** London

**Sounds like:** Dancehall-infused R&B with impossibly catchy choruses.

**For fans of:** J Hus, Popcaan

**Need to know:** Bane draws influence from everywhere. His name was inspired by the villain in *The Dark Knight Rises*, and his breakout single was named after one of the world's biggest pop stars: 'Rihanna'.

**Essential track:** 'Rihanna'

## MADISON BEER

**From:** New York, USA

**Sounds like:** Catchy pop made for giving your s\*\*tty ex the middle finger.

**For fans of:** SZA, Bryson Tiller

**Need to know:** Aged just 13, Beer was given her big break after Justin Bieber highlighted one of her Etta James covers to his Twitter followers in 2012. Six years on, her own material has come on leaps and bounds – with 'Say It To My Face' proving Beer won't back down for anyone.

**Essential track:** 'Say It To My Face'

## SUPERORGANISM

**From:** All over

**Sounds like:** Freaky synthpop that balances OTT samples with blasé vocals.

**For fans of:** Gorillaz, Animal Collective

**Need to know:** After her London-based bandmates sent her the track for 'Something For Your M.I.N.D.' in Maine, 17-year-old Orono wrote and recorded her vocals within an hour and sent it back.

"Well," she says, "I am a bored teenager." Thus, the international troupe were born.

**Essential track:** 'Something For Your M.I.N.D.'

## NOT3S

**From:** London

**Sounds like:** Lilting Afro Bashment with club-ready choruses.

**For fans of:** J Hus, Sneakbo

**Need to know:** After the vibey single 'Addison Lee' went viral last year, the 19-year-old was invited to perform at the taxi firm's Christmas party. Safe to say, Not3s is going places.

**Essential track:** 'My Lover'





## NILÜFER YANYA

**From:** London  
**Sounds like:** Blissful indie stuffed with melodic hooks.  
**For fans of:** Florence + The Machine, The Big Moon  
**Need to know:** Yanya runs a zine that helps fund creative initiatives in refugee camps. Similar heart has been poured into her gorgeous output.  
**Essential track:** 'Baby Luv'

## BIG SHAG

**From:** London  
**Sounds like:** Raw grime project with a global appeal.  
**For fans of:** Goldie Lookin' Chain, Doc Brown  
**Need to know:** The bumbling rapper is the brainchild of gifted comedian Michael Dapaah. If you haven't heard 'Man's Not Hot' yet, it must actually be very hot where you are, because you must live on Mars.  
**Essential track:** 'Man's Not Hot'

## COSMO PYKE

**From:** London  
**Sounds like:** Sunshine-filled pop guaranteed to put a spring in your step.  
**For fans of:** Frank Ocean, King Krule  
**Need to know:** In 2016, Pyke appeared in Frank Ocean's 'Nikes' video without even knowing of the star – but there's reason to believe the skater/model/artist has the chops to make it to that level.  
**Essential track:** 'Chronic Sunshine'

## REJJIE SNOW

**From:** Dublin, Ireland  
**Sounds like:** Laid-back and creative hip-hop with a '90s twist.  
**For fans of:** Kendrick Lamar, A Tribe Called Quest  
**Need to know:** The 24-year-old has already released material under several monikers, but his West Coast-influenced beats and rave reviews assure that this latest one will stick.  
**Essential track:** 'D.R.U.G.S'

## ALMA

**From:** Kuopio, Finland  
**Sounds like:** Sparkling, radio-ready pop.  
**For fans of:** Tove Lo, Katy Perry  
**Need to know:** At 17, Alma finished fifth in *Idols* (Finland's version of *Pop Idol*). No sweat. Her recent string of singles, including 'Chasing Highs' and 'Phases', show a luminous personality ready to conquer pop music.  
**Essential track:** 'Phases'



## YELLOW DAYS

**From:** Surrey  
**Sounds like:** Sweet, soothing indie-R&B.  
**For fans of:** Mac DeMarco, King Krule  
**Need to know:** Latest album 'Is Everything Okay In Your World?' was recorded in his parents' shed. He says his neighbours gave him "a lot of leeway" with the sound restrictions.  
**Essential track:** 'Lately I' (feat. Rejjie Snow)

## SHADY NASTY

Sydney rockers who sound like a brawl down your local fight club.

## THE PALE WHITE

Newcastle's next great band, where blues meets stoner rock.

## DRAHLA

Lo-fi new wave meets unrelenting post-punk from Leeds.

## KEEP DANCING INC.

If New Order started in 2018, they'd sound like this Parisian bunch.

## JERKCURB

Pensive psychedelia that'd sound at home in a seedy speakeasy.

## SASSY 009

Bedroom electro-pop with a Nordic twist.

## VERA

Chilled-out pop from Danish producer and MO collaborator.

## DAMA SCOUT

Fizzing indie-pop from London that'll brighten up your world.

## GOTTS STREET PARK

Sprawling Leeds collective who favour jazz, soul and R&B.

## SMERZ

Bassy Denmark-based pop duo who reject their classical training.

## COLSTRANE

Drake-influenced hip-hop with a trippy London twist.

## ARLIE

Sugary pop laced with killer choruses, straight out of Nashville.

## DOUNIA

A rich blend of R&B and pop by way of NYC and Morocco.

## STARCRAWLER

Stomping sparkle-rock delivered by a gang of LA thrift-store angels.

## THUNDER JACKSON

Your bedroom pop Globetrotting duo who make retro soul with a side of '80s house.

## A HOUSE IN THE TREES

Woody dream-pop collective from London.

## HAK BAKER

Brutally honest R&B tales of London life.

## JOAN

Swooning synthpop duo from Arkansas. Neither is called Joan.

## CALEB KUNLE

Ethereal R&B from Dublin with a folk twist.

## STANDING ON THE CORNER

This NYC group combines jazz and hip-hop influences with bonkers results.

## BLUSHES

Straight-up indie bangers from Aylesbury that'll have your heart racing.

## MELLAH

South London-based artist who makes strung-out indie.

## BOY AZOOGA

Vibrant psych-pop from Cardiff with legs to break into the mainstream.

## MOANING

Thrilling post-punk from LA that's as moody as their name suggests.

## SNAIL MAIL

Gorgeous lo-fi garage pop daring to dream of life out of Maryland.

## AMBER MARK

New York R&B that'll act as your own self-help guide.

## ECCA VANDAL

A one-woman Beastie Girl, the Australian fuses punk and pop.

## QTY

Guitar-pop duo who sound oh-so very much like where they're from: New York City.

## KALI UCHIS

Colombian whose Latin-flavoured pop refuses to conform.

## MILK DISCO

South London art-rock troupe of whom three have played live with Frank Ocean.

## SOCCER MOMMY

Your bedroom pop project, if you were *much* more talented.

## PROMISELAND

Industrial house from the Aussie to Julian Casablancas' label.

## TASH SULTANA

Sprawling pop-rock from Melbourne with subtle reggae rhythms.

## TOM MISCH

Jazz-inflected ballads from the Loyle Carner collaborator.

## BROOKE BENTHAM

Warming and hearty folk-rock from South Shields youngster.

## ALASKALASKA

Londoners who populate the meeting point between icy art-pop and warm jazz.

## TOM TRIPP

Funky British soul with skittering production, signed to NAO's label.

## DARCIÉ

Litling barbecue pop from Manchester, with lashings of soul.

## PHOEBE BRIDGERS

Los Angeles folkster whose debut album is a wonderful thing indeed.

## SEA GIRL

Rousing indie-rock from Leicester, primed for festival shenanigans.

## RINA SAWAYAMA

Production-perfect pop that'll take you back to the early '00s.

## POM POKO

A curious car crash of angular post-punk and visceral math-rock from Norway.

## WHENYOUNG

Limerick-based group excelling where grunge meets shoegaze.

## TOVE STYRKE

Flawless Swedish electropop that makes summer last all year.

## MAGGIE ROGERS

Aching, crystal-cut pop from Maryland with an arresting alt edge.

## BELLY SQUAD

London troupe who make untouchable Afrobeat bangers.

## BÛLOW

Super-smart Dutch pop with exactly the right amount of frills.

## SUDAN ARCHIVES

R&B given a classical makeover by LA violinist and singer.

## REDFACES

Thrilling garage-indie anthems from Sheffield.

## THE BLAZE

French house with subterranean vocals.

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# RADAR

THIS WEEK'S ESSENTIAL NEW RELEASES

THE VACCINES

## Best NEW tracks

And when to drop them

### BEST FOR TEARING UP THE INDIE DISCO

**THE VACCINES**

*I Can't Quit*

The Vacs are back and sounding more urgent than ever. Their first single from 'Combat Sports' chugs like a mother.

### BEST FOR GYM PLAYLISTS

**LIAM PAYNE AND RITA ORA**

*For You*

Taken from the *Fifty Shades Freed* soundtrack, this surprisingly decent collaboration comes on like a '90s house banger with heart.

### BEST FOR BIG COMEBACKS

**JACK WHITE**

*Connected By Love*

The major-domo of modern rock'n'roll brings in a gospel groove to his hefty sound.

### BEST FOR CRYING OVER YOUR EX

**CHARLIE PUTH**

*If You Leave Me Now*

Soul legends Boys II Men join wonder lad Charlie on this soppy a cappella offering.

### BEST FOR GETTING SOULFUL

**NATHANIEL RATELIFF & THE NIGHT SWEATS**

*You Worry Me*

Big, ballsy vocals ride over bluesy beats in this seriously good shuffling slice of soul straight outta Denver.

### BEST FOR BEING A SUPERHERO

**KENDRICK LAMAR AND SZA**

*All The Stars*

Two of the very best team up for the *Black Panther* soundtrack. Untouchable.

### BEST FOR MOOCHING AROUND LA

**BØRNS FEAT. LANA DEL REY**

*God Save Our Young Blood*

BØRNS and Lana's breathy vocals bounce off each other in this dreamy, atmospheric doom-pop anthem.

### BEST FOR DANCING IN YOUR BEDROOM

**CAR SEAT HEADREST**

*Nervous Young*

*Inhumans*

Jaunty, propulsive guitar-driven alt-rock of the very best kind.

### BEST FOR GETTING ALL RELAXED

**MGMT**

*Hand It Over*

Float away down the stream of your own subconscious with this sonic trip to the mind spa. Lush.

### BEST FOR BEING COOL AF

**THE LIMIÑANAS**

*Istanbul Is Sleepy*

This French psych duo come on like Tame Impala and the Jesus And Mary Chain's groovy cousins from Perpignan. Swoony, swirly and slick.

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

# MUSIC

## Biblical

Loveably sarky, sordid work from the fantastic south London band

### SHAME

*Songs Of Praise*



LOUCHE SOUTH LONDON PUNK

ALBUM  
OF THE  
WEEK

SHAME ONCE received a letter that read, "You can't even compare yourself to a crusty piece of s\*\*t hanging from Mark E Smith's slender arse. Some would suggest that it's time to call it a day. Give over."

Well, the five-piece is audibly indebted to Smith's post-punk group The Fall – louche vocals, atonal guitar and barbed lyrics all present and correct – but debut album 'Songs Of Praise' courses with venom that is all their own. The band belongs to



a fertile south London scene that lays waste to the myth that guitar music is no longer a place for innovation,

excitement and lyrics that splat in your earholes like lumps of hot, rotten fruit.

Take 'Gold Hole', which sees frontman Charlie Steen smarm his way through a sordid tale of seduction: "Sweat stains the wrinkles / Tongue touches the hole / His wife's at work and his kids are at school". You'll crave a long

shower after hearing it.

Elsewhere, on 'Tasteless', Steen rails against those "distorted by distance" in a desperate, hoarse bark. If all this sounds a bit heavy, it doesn't account

L-r: Eddie Green, Sean Coyle-Smith, Charlie Steen, Josh Finnerty, Charlie Forbes

for the sense of dark fun that laces the record. On 'Friction', with its insistent refrain, you can almost hear Steen wink through the lines, "Do you ever need the needy? Do they ever tug on your heart?" He's deadly serious, and at the same time sending himself up, the sarky s\*\*t.

This is a band with a real sense of showmanship, as those who have witnessed Shame's sweat-slicked live shows will know. It's this that makes 'Songs Of Praise' utterly invigorating. **Jordan Bassett**

### STRANGE & TRUE

'The Lick' features a line that shouts out NME: "Download the next greatest track to your MP3 device / So sincerely recommended to you by the New Musical Express". Thanks, lads.

## Flying solo

The ex-Fifth Harmony member absolutely nails it

### CAMILA CABELLO

*Camila*



POP ACOUSTIC LATIN

WHEN CAMILA Cabello announced her debut solo album, she named it 'The Hurting. The Healing. The Loving'. Cabello, who quit US girlband Fifth Harmony in 2016, said the record would tell "the story of my journey from darkness into light". But then she released a "promotional



single" that became an unexpected smash: 'Havana' spent five weeks at Number One. Perhaps in response to its success, her album now arrives later than planned, with a less melodramatic title: 'Camila'.

Though there's no obvious darkness-into-light storyline, 'Camila' definitely has its edgier moments. "You're good at making me feel small," she sings on 'Something's Gotta Give', while piano ballad 'Consequences' feels even more candid: she tells an ex that "loving you was

dumb and dark and cheap," and says she "lost a little weight because I wasn't eating". It's a long way from Fifth Harmony's biggest hit, 'Work From Home', which was basically about bunking off early to get laid.

It must have been tempting to emulate 'Havana', but Cabello and her producers use trendy Latin and Caribbean sounds sparingly: 'She Loves Control' has Spanish guitars and sleek reggaeton beats, while 'Inside Out' features steel drums and a mention of "the south side of Miami". Elsewhere, Cabello tries everything from Ed Sheeran-style acoustic pop on 'All These Years' to bombastic electro on 'Never Be The Same'.

In fact, Cabello only fails to pull off 'In The Dark', a bland Kesha-Lana Del Rey hybrid. But it's not enough to spoil a strong and surprisingly confident first impression. **Nick Levine**



PHOTOS: REX FEATURES



# This film will make you cry

**Funny, tragic, beautiful, devastating**

## THREE BILLBOARDS OUTSIDE EBBING, MISSOURI

Frances McDormand, Woody Harrelson, Sam Rockwell



COMEDY-DRAMA PASS THE TISSUES

FOR FANS OF



YOU'RE LIKELY TO COME out of *Three Billboards* feeling very emotionally confused. There almost certainly won't be many films funnier than this in 2018, but it's equally unlikely that another film will leave you as devastated. It's a comedy-drama in total balance. You'll be crying for all sorts of reasons.

This is the perfect marriage of writer-director and star. Martin McDonagh, who made the fabulous *In Bruges*, wrote the role of Mildred Hayes for Frances McDormand (*Fargo*), and it's unimaginable that anybody else could play her.

Mildred is the mother of a girl who was raped and killed in the small town of Ebbing. After seven months there has been no progress on the investigation. Furious, Mildred puts up three billboards asking the local sheriff (Woody Harrelson), "Raped while dying. And still no arrests? How come, Chief Willoughby?" The act brings the murder back into the town's conversation, but it's mixed between those who support Willoughby and those siding with Mildred.

The main players here are so blinded by their own

misfortunes that they can't see those of others. What the film does, rather beautifully, is reveal its characters' private agony, to us and the other characters, so that a healing understanding develops. McDormand plays Mildred as a woman who won't let the world have her pain. She jokes, teases, insults and attacks to get what she needs. McDormand can make her hugely funny without cracking a smile. That hidden pain, though, has to push through and McDormand lets out only as much as is necessary. There is a moment in which she simply says the name of her living son – "Robbie" – but packs it with so much fear and desperation that it stops your breath. Harrelson and Sam Rockwell, as a deputy of confident uselessness, provide top-drawer support.

Getting comedy from horrible situations has always been McDonagh's strength, but here he's found a story that gives him more than just set-ups – it gives him a throbbing heart. This is his masterpiece. **Olly Richards**



Frances McDormand as Mildred

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# live

THIS WEEK'S BEST TICKETS AND GIGS

Yonaka



## London calling

10 headliners, 10 venues, 10 ways to take your mind off how cold it is

THE VO5 NME AWARDS 2018 are coming, and as we get closer to the most rock'n'roll night of the year (Feb 14 – go to [NME.com/win](http://NME.com/win) for the chance to nab some tickets), VO5 and NME are partnering to host a swathe of celebratory shows. Following the release of their

debut EP 'Heavy', rock newcomers Yonaka, pictured, are taking over Islington's storied Garage venue. Peace – helmed by Harry Koisser – are kicking off their 2018 with a show at London Bridge's intimate Omeara. Over at Hackney's Oslo, we've got

New York City's latest, greatest indie band, Public Access TV. Then, down in south London, Glasgow's revenant indie titans Franz Ferdinand will jump-start what they're calling "the start of a whole new era" at O2 Academy Brixton. And that's just the beginning...

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#### JANUARY

Wed 24 **Pretty Vicious**,  
The Shacklewell Arms.  
Fri 26 **She Drew The  
Gun**, Omeara.

#### FEBRUARY

Fri 9 **The Sherlocks**,  
Electric Ballroom. Mon 12  
**Superfood**, Scala. Tue 13  
**Peace**, Omeara. Thu 22  
**Public Access TV**, Oslo.  
Sat 24 **Franz Ferdinand**,  
O2 Academy Brixton.  
Tue 27 **Park Hotel**, Moth  
Club. Wed 28 **Yonaka**,  
The Garage.

#### MARCH

Thu 1 **A2**, KOKO.

**TICKETS:** £8.30-£34.45

**Head to [NME.com](http://NME.com) for  
more info and to see  
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**THU JAN 25**

**THE AMAZONS (DJ SET)**  
**CHELTENHAM: MOOMOO**

**FRI JAN 26**

**THE AMAZONS (DJ SET)**  
**CAMBRIDGE: FEZ CLUB**

**SAT JAN 27**

**THE AMAZONS (DJ SET)**  
**LINCOLN: THE ENGINE SHED**

**FRI FEB 2**

**FRANK TURNER (DJ SET)**  
**GLASGOW: O2 ABC**

**SAT FEB 3**

**IDLES (DJ SET)**  
**BRISTOL: THE FLEECE**

**SAT FEB 10**

**MARMOZETS (DJ SET)**  
**LEEDS: THE WAREHOUSE**

**SAT FEB 10**

**BASTILLE**  
**(WOODY DJ SET)**  
**LONDON: ELECTRIC BALLROOM**

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**SHE DREW  
THE GUN**

PLUS BIG JOANIE

**FRIDAY 26 JAN**  
**OMEARA**  
LONDON

**The  
Sherlocks**

PLUS NEON WALTZ AND ODDITY ROAD

**FRIDAY 9 FEB**  
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**MONDAY 12 FEB**  
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**PEACE**  
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PLUS SUPPORT TBC

**TUESDAY 13 FEB**  
**OMEARA**  
LONDON

**PUBLIC  
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**THURSDAY 22 FEB**  
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**WEDNESDAY 28 FEB**  
**THE GARAGE**  
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## GOAT GIRL

Sinister indie quartet

### MARCH

Sat 31 Deaf Institute, Manchester.

### APRIL

Mon 9 Cluny 2, Newcastle. Tue 10 Sneaky Pete's, Edinburgh. Thu 12 Magnet, Liverpool. Sat 14 Picture House, Sheffield. Mon 16 Hare & Hounds, Birmingham. Tue 17 Garage, London. Thu 19 Cookie, Leicester. Fri 20 Brudenell Social Club, Leeds. Sat 21 Haunt, Brighton.

**TELL ME MORE:** The Rough Trade-signed crew are from the same prolific south London hotspot as Shame, Sorry and HMLTD. **TICKETS:** £8.80-£13.50

## SUSANNE SUNDFØR

Norwegian pop maverick

### MARCH

Sun 11 Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh. Tue 13 Colston Hall, Bristol. Wed 14 Glee Club, Birmingham. Thu 15 Stoller Hall, Manchester.

### MAY

Mon 21 Barbican Centre, London.

**TELL ME MORE:** With 2015's 'Ten Love Songs', Björk's former backing singer became a genre-defying shapeshifter. **TICKETS:** £15-£20.35

## BIG THIEF

Brooklyn folk-rock four-piece

### APRIL

Mon 2 La Belle Angele, Edinburgh. Tue 3 Rescue Rooms, Nottingham. Wed 4 Gorilla, Manchester. Thu 5 Koko, London.

**TELL ME MORE:** On their second album, 2017's 'Capacity', Big Thief showcased a mixture of moody rock ('Shark Smile') and gossamer-light balladry ('Mary'). **TICKETS:** £12.10-£16.50

# THE WEEK'S BEST GIGS

### THE 2 BEARS

Sat 20 XOYO, London.

### ALESSI'S ARK

Wed 24 Hug & Pint, Glasgow.

### ANDERSON EAST

Wed 24 Omeara, London.

### ARLISSA

Thu 25 Omeara, London.

### CASEY LOWRY

Tue 23 Komedia, Brighton. Thu 25 The Cookie, Leicester.

### THE CRIBS

Fri 19 Guild Hall, Preston. Sat 20 Foundry, Sheffield. Mon 22 The Queen's Hall, Edinburgh. Tue 23 Club Tropicana & Vogue, Dundee. Thu 25 Empire, Middlesbrough.

### CULTS

Wed 24 Deaf Institute, Manchester. Thu 25 The Garage, London.

### D DOUBLE E

Sat 20 Lakota, Bristol.

### DJANGO DJANGO

Thu 25 Hippodrome, Kingston Upon Thames.

### DONAE'O

Thu 25 Islington Assembly Hall, London.

### FANGCLUB

Thu 25 The Garage, Glasgow.

### GREAT NEWS

Thu 25 Shacklwell Arms, London.

### GWENNO

Sat 20 Canolfan Ucheldre Centre, Holyhead.

### HALFNOISE

Thu 25 Borderline, London.

### HARDY CAPRIO

Wed 24 Academy, Manchester. Thu 25 O2 Institute, Birmingham.

### KARIMA FRANCIS

Tue 23 Finborough Arms, London.

### THE LONE BELLOW

Fri 19 Band on the Wall, Manchester. Sat 20 O2 ABC, Glasgow. Sun 21 Brudenell Social Club, Leeds.

### MILK DISCO

Thu 25 Camden Assembly, London.

### THE NIGHT CAFÉ

Tue 23 Church, Leeds. Wed 24 Bodega, Nottingham. Thu 25 Bullingdon, Oxford.

### PARAMORE

Fri 19 Arena, David University, Carmarthen. Sat 20 SSE Hydro, Glasgow.

### PUBLIC SERVICE BROADCASTING

Thu 25 Limelight, Belfast.

### SHAUN RYDER

Thu 25 Guildhall, Gloucester.

### SKREAM

Fri 19 Fabric, London.

### SNAPPED ANKLES

Wed 24 Moth Club, London.

### SONGHOY BLUES

Thu 25 O2 Forum, London.

### SPRING KING

Wed 24 South Street Arts Centre, Reading. Thu 25 Craufurd Arms, Milton Keynes.

### STARCRAWLER

Sat 20 Thekla, Bristol.

### THIS IS THE KIT

Fri 19 O2 ABC, Glasgow. Sat 20 Pleasance Theatre, Edinburgh. Sun 21 Music Library, Lancaster. Tue 23 Sage, Gateshead. Wed 24 Glee Club, Birmingham. Thu 25 Shepherd's Bush Empire, London.

### TIGERCUB

Fri 19 Concorde 2, Brighton.

### TINCHY STRYDER

Sun 21 Trinity Saint David University, Carmarthen.

### THE TWANG

Sat 20 O2 Academy, Liverpool.

### WITT LOWRY

Tue 23 O2 ABC, Glasgow. Thu 25 Academy, Manchester.

# SOUNDTRACK OF MY LIFE

## Daisy Lowe

Model and podcaster

### THE FIRST SONG I REMEMBER HEARING

KATE BUSH

*Wuthering Heights*

"I remember my mum [Britpop singer and designer Pearl Lowe] teaching me how to do the window motion with my hands. I've just spoken about it on my podcast with her – we were talking about how I used to run around flapping my arms."

### THE FIRST SONG I FELL IN LOVE WITH

THE SPICE GIRLS

*Say You'll Be There*

"I saw them live twice. I was always Sporty Spice because I liked tracksuit bottoms and climbing trees. I got to interview her – it was just insane, absolutely mental. She was very proud that I was a Sporty Spice and that's why she accepted coming onto the podcast."

### THE SONG I SING AT KARAOKE

FRANK SINATRA

*The Way You Look Tonight*

"I love singing [this] because it reminds me of my grandpa and my voice is so low that I can reach it – my voice really carries! I really love doing Eminem's 'The Real Slim Shady' as well."

### THE FIRST GIG I WENT TO

ASSORTED BRITPOP BANDS

"My mum took me to so much as a kid. I went to a lot of Supergrass, Pulp and Blur. I saw all the Britpop bands. I also remember my mum teaching me how to mosh to 'Smells Like Teen Spirit' by Nirvana. I must have been about three or four."

### THE SONG I CAN NO LONGER LISTEN TO

NAT 'KING' COLE

*Unforgettable*

"It was one of my grandpa's favourite songs of all time. He passed around my first day of *Strictly Come Dancing* and then for my first dance they asked if I wanted to do a tribute to him and they knew that he loved Nat 'King' Cole. It was beautiful and I did it on tour for 30 shows which was incredible but it sort of breaks my heart now."

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

PEGGY LEE

*Fever*

"I love it so much it's my alarm in the morning. Sometimes I change it to Al Green's 'Love And Happiness' – they're happy, morning songs."

### THE SONG THAT MAKES ME DANCE

PRINCE

*Gett Off*

"Nick Grimshaw always says that it's my call to the dancefloor. He knows that if we're out and I'm not dancing any more, he'll play 'Gett Off' and I will always make it back to the dancefloor. I have always loved Prince but weirdly I only discovered 'Gett Off' the day I went to see him at the Roundhouse. It is hands down the naughtiest song in the whole world ever."

### THE SONG THAT REMINDS ME OF HOME

DAVID BOWIE

*Starman*

"It was actually the song that made me fall in love with my stepdad [Danny Goffey from Supergrass] as my father figure. He used to teach me a lot about music. I remember him telling me about The Beatles and me being like, 'What, are they like ladybugs?' The thing that really struck a chord in my heart was when he played me 'Starman'. I was really sad because I was like, 'No, tell the Starman that he can come!' I saw [Bowie] in the flesh once at the MET Ball – he was beautiful. He just looked like a quiet storm."

### THE SONG I WANT PLAYED AT MY FUNERAL

FRANK SINATRA

*Fly Me To The Moon*

"I love the idea of when I die, going, 'Yeah see you, I'm going to play amongst the stars and see what spring is like on Jupiter or Mars – that's where I'm going'. It's about love and love of life, isn't it. It sounds happy and you don't want to make everyone any sadder than they already are."

Daisy's podcast *Femme* is online now. More info @daisylowe

GO TO NME.COM FOR MORE SOUNDTRACKS



The wisdom of the NME archives

THIS WEEK  
COURTNEY LOVE  
*Hole*

January 23, 1999

"I have a place to go when I'm lost and that place is Michael Stipe."



INTERVIEW: LEONIE COOPER. PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES





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— TODD MCCARTHY, THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

"DOWNSIZING IS PERFECT"

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— THE GUARDIAN



— DAILY TELEGRAPH



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DOWNSIZING

15 STRONG LANGUAGE, DRUG  
SMOKING, SEX REFERENCES

"A VISIONARY MASTERPIECE"

— PETER TRAVERS, ROLLING STONE

IN CINEMAS WEDNESDAY JANUARY 24

WRITTEN BY ALEXANDER PAYNE & JIM TAYLOR DIRECTED BY ALEXANDER PAYNE

[DownsizingCinema.co.uk](http://DownsizingCinema.co.uk)

FILM BY ALEXANDER PAYNE

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