



**Hip-hop's high rollers**





Flo & Joan

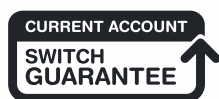


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# NME



## Hello...

THERE ARE JUST FIVE days to go until the VO5 NME Awards 2018, which means I write this in a week filled with frantic phone calls, last-minute firefighting and not much sleep. But it's worth it – this year's event could well be the best one yet. Yep, we're all looking forward to Liam Gallagher being crowned Godlike Genius, but this week we've announced two more special awards to be handed out on the big night. The mighty Boy Better Know will be getting the NME Innovation Award, and ultimate badass and Garbage lead singer Shirley Manson will be getting an NME Icon trophy. In their own ways, BBK and Shirley are fearless, thrilling artists who've shaped the music scene as we know it, and these awards are the rightful recognition of their impact and influence. If you didn't manage to get hold of tickets to the ceremony, don't worry. From 7pm on NME.com and Facebook you can catch the whole thing live. It all happens on February 14. What better way to spend Valentine's than with the ones you love?

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

The NME review  
of Ezra Furman's  
'Transangelic  
Exodus' **p27**

### COVER STORY

18

**Migos**

"It's the king of clout. It's the realest s\*\*\* that never was wrote. The greatest piece of art ever witnessed in this era today."

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**Ezra Furman**

"There is a condition called transangelicism. It involves growing wings and turning into an angel."

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# NME

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# AGENDA

WHAT EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT THIS WEEK

## Hat's off

James Bay is back with a brand-new track, and he's got his hair out. What the hell is going on

### WHAT DOES THE NEW STUFF SOUND LIKE?

"It's a departure from what I've done. If I'm not moving forward I'm standing still and standing still is pretty boring. The first album for me was everything from Ryan Adams to Bruce Springsteen and Kings Of Leon, but I loved Prince and Michael Jackson and LCD Soundsystem but it wasn't as relevant to that music. So coming out of touring 'Chaos And The Calm', one of the most exciting things for me was being able to really dive head first into those influences and more. I know I'm late to this party but Frank Ocean's 'Channel Orange' is an incredible album, that did loads for me."

### WHY DOES HE LOOK DIFFERENT?

"When you make a certain sound and look your thing, it makes it all the more impactful to drop that and start with a new thing. So I cut my hair off and lost the hat. It felt only natural to me to tear that canvas down and put a new one up. That's where so many of my favourite artists, from Bowie to Michael Jackson, they were chameleons and liked to reinvent themselves."

### WHEN'S THE NEW ALBUM OUT THEN?

"The album's coming out spring time. And festivals are the plan, and more headline stuff – gigging for sure in 2018, absolute touring, as soon as all this music starts to come out!"

### WHO'S ELSE HAS WORKED ON IT?

"It still feels mad to say it but the esteemed Paul Epworth (Adele, Florence + The Machine) heard this music and he called me up and he said, 'I really love it!' He came in and really helped sprinkle the last bit of fairy dust across the music."

**James Bay's new tune, 'Wild Love', is out now. He plays Brixton Electric on March 14. Tickets are on sale now**



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**NME AWARDS 2018**

# Stefflon Don and Skepta will play live...

**They'll do 'Ding-A-Ling', and it'll be amazing**

ON FEBRUARY 14, Stefflon Don will join Skepta on stage at the O2 Academy Brixton, and the pair will perform their hugely sick 2017 collaboration 'Ding-A-Ling'.

The track is nominated in the Best Collaboration category, supported by VO5, alongside Craig David and Bastille (for

'I Know You'), Courtney Barnett and Kurt Vile ('Continental Breakfast'), Gorillaz and Jehnnny Beth ('We Got The Power'), Lily Allen and Giggs ('Trigger Bang') and Yungen and Yxng Bane ('Bestie').

Also performing will be arena-fillers Alt-J, massively buzzy new band Pale Waves and this year's Godlike Genius, Liam Gallagher, who will play five tunes to end the night.



**You can livestream the whole ceremony on February 14, including red-carpet arrivals and performances from Stefflon Don and Skepta, Alt-J, Pale Waves and Godlike Genius Award winner Liam Gallagher, here: [facebook.com/nmemagazine](https://www.facebook.com/nmemagazine)**



**...and Shirley Manson will receive this year's Icon Award**

**Bow down to the Garbage singer's majesty**

SINGER, ACTOR AND activist Shirley Manson will be honoured for her inspirational contribution to music and beyond. "I am shocked but delighted to be recognised with this award," she says. "I read *NME* religiously as a young teen and into adulthood. I will always be grateful for their support in being one of the first British publications to help break Garbage back in 1995. So yeah... I'm chuffed."

Alongside her life in music, activism remains an integral focus of Shirley's career. From teaming up with animal rights organisation PETA to create a series of campaigns against the use of fur in fashion to working with MAC make-up to create a Viva Glam line in honour of international AIDS research funding and working with various LGBTQ charities, Shirley is a maverick who has used her fame to help others. She's also worked with children's cancer charity Pablove and Girls Rock – an international initiative that encourages girls from all socio-economic backgrounds to get involved in music.



## The Big Moon's big year

They're nominated for Best Music Video at the VO5 NME Awards 2018, for 'Sucker' – the perfect finale to their greatest ever year. Here are the standout moments

### STEALING PIZZA AT THE VO5 NME AWARDS

February 2017

**Fern:** "It's kind of a sad story really."

**Juliette:** "We kind of talked our way into it and stood at the back and kept trying to get into the bit where the tables were but we couldn't get in because we weren't VIPs. At the end of the night we got into it, and just ate everyone else's pizza that was left over."

**Fern:** "There were whole boxes of pizza – Domino's – just, like, full. And to be fair it didn't even look tampered with."

**Juliette:** "Oh, it was delicious. And then we mineswept and took a bottle of tequila or something."

The Big Moon (top to bottom):  
Soph Nathan, Juliette Jackson, Fern Ford, Celia Archer

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## DRINKING BIG MOONSHINE AT GLASTONBURY

June 2017

**Juliette:** "It's a lot like crunk juice, if you've had that before. It's like Fernet-Branca mixed with bleach. We drank a lot of Fernet-Branca at Glastonbury."

**Fern:** "I didn't drink any of that."

**Juliette:** "You drank one shot of it and were like, 'What is this, I think this is poison, I think this is a cleaning product'."

**Fern:** "Why did you drink it?"

**Juliette:** "Because it was free."

**Fern:** "Juliette also wore a colander on her head."

**Juliette:** "Oh yeah. I wanted to dress like an astronaut. I don't why. I couldn't get hold of a helmet, and I couldn't think how to make one that didn't look s\*\*t, so I was like, 'I could do the pasta thing'. And yes, I brought my own colander. Actually was one of my housemates'. I didn't tell him and I *did* bring it home."

## EXAMINATIONS AT THE MERCURY AWARDS

September 2017

**Juliette:** "Being nominated was amazing; playing at the ceremony on TV was really terrifying. I feel really proud of us for doing that and not falling to pieces."

**Fern:** "There were so many moments where I was just like, 'Just play the notes and don't f\*\*k it up'. When I looked out into the crowd all I saw was people at tables either trying to look like they were paying attention, or people having a really nice time, and it felt like they were all kind of examiners. That was in my head the entire time."

**Juliette:** "It was great. It was a great party."

**Fern:** "My mother came. And my godmother."

**Juliette:** "We weren't gutted not to win..."

**Fern:** "...because there are far more losers than winners."

**Juliette:** "I felt like we won just being nominated, really."

**Fern:** "We got a thing as well."

**Juliette:** "A trophy. It's heavy, really heavy. I've got it."

**Fern:** "I saw it on Sunday and there's some weird s\*\*t on it. You've probably given it a polish."

**Juliette:** "It is a bit dirty. I'm so sorry. I will look after it better."

The Big Moon's debut album, 'Love In The 4th Dimension', is out now

GOOD WEEK



### SPICE GIRLS

They've announced a proper reunion! Where did we put our Buffalo boots?



### RIHANNA

Asked Theresa May to fund education in poor countries. TM is yet to tweet back. FFS Theresa.



BAD WEEK



Delivering Awesome



# new music



**nils frahm**  
all melody  
out now

**album of the month**



**first aid kit**  
ruins  
out now



**franz ferdinand**  
always ascending  
out now



**django django**  
marble skies  
out now



**field music**  
open here  
out now



**black rebel motorcycle club**  
wrong creatures  
out now



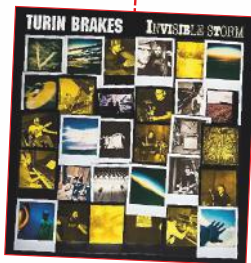
**tune-yards**  
i can feel you creep  
into my private life  
out now



**nightmares on wax**  
shape the future  
out now



**turin brakes**  
invisible storm  
out now



**calexico**  
the thread that  
keeps us  
out now



**they might  
be giants**  
i like fun  
out now



**joan as police  
woman**  
damned devotion  
out now

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NME PROMOTION



# To Croatia with love

**While Glastonbury's away, here are five reasons you should head to Zagreb's dreamy INmusic festival to play**

**1 IT'S AS GOOD AS GLASTO**  
Now in its 13th year, INmusic traditionally takes place on the penultimate weekend of June, but this year it's been moved back a week while Glastonbury has its fallow year. Don't feel blue about the lack of Glasto good times: this is the perfect opportunity to try one of the best European festivals out there.

**2 THE HEADLINERS ARE AMAZING**  
The top billing at this year's INmusic festival will satisfy any fan of guitar music. Over in the gothic rock corner, headliners Nick Cave & The Bad Seeds will be strutting their stuff following a huge stadium tour during 2017. Frank Carter & The Rattlesnakes are repping punk-rock, while Alison Mosshart and Jamie Hince's The Kills have indie-rock covered. On top of that, witness living rock gods Queens Of The Stone Age, art-rock queen St Vincent, 'Feel It Still' hitmakers Portugal. The Man, grunge legends Alice In Chains, and Talking Heads' David Byrne, who's on the cusp of releasing yet another incredible album, 'American Utopia'.

**3 IT WON'T BREAK THE BANK**  
Not only is a three-day festival ticket for INmusic just €53 (£46.50) until March 30, prices for food and drink are absurdly low. You can get a pint for just £2, while an average stir-fry meal will cost just £3-4. A steal.

**4 IT'S NOT JUST A MUSIC FESTIVAL**  
If you fancy a longer holiday, a seven-day camping pass will set you back just £30, during which time you can head out on awesome excursions. Activities such as kayaking and city tours cost between €40-€60 (£35-£53) and take advantage of the festival's breathtaking Croatian surroundings.

**5 IT'S BALMY AF**  
There are many reasons INmusic appeals more than British festivals, but perhaps the best is that you're virtually guaranteed sunshine, warmth and amazing views here. Croatia's largest open-air festival is held on three islands in Zagreb's Lake Jarun, meaning festivalgoers are treated to daytime temperatures of 25°C, exclusive beaches all around the festival site and a stunning walk from the campsite to stages over an Insta-ready 100ft pontoon bridge. Get in.

## INMUSIC FESTIVAL

Lake Jarun,  
Zagreb, Croatia  
June 25-27

**LINE-UP HIGHLIGHTS:**  
Queens Of The Stone Age, Nick Cave & The Bad Seeds, The Kills, David Byrne, Frank Carter & The Rattlesnakes, Alice In Chains, St Vincent, Portugal. The Man  
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# ON THE RECORD

BIG OPINIONS. NO FILTER.



## THIS WEEK

# I s\*\*t you not: Laura Marling is Britain's most important songwriter

IT WAS A DECADE AGO this month that one of the most mind-blowing artists of this generation released her astonishing debut album and, frankly, I'm still not over it. Laura Marling's sublime 'Alas, I Cannot Swim' came out just three days after the songwriter turned 18, and it announced the arrival of a very singular talent. Though already known as a sometime member of Noah And The Whale, a collaborator with The Rakes, a woman with Mumford & Sons as a backing band and an artist who wasn't allowed into her own gigs because she was too young, Marling and her record eclipsed all that had come before. It wasn't just her age and precociousness that made people take notice; it was the moody experimentalism that

she brought to the classic sound of British folk music. In the wake of the ultra-laddish second wave of Britpop, with The Kooks, Kaiser Chiefs and Babyshambles leading the tight-jeaned charge, Laura Marling's music offered a more intimate kind of emotional catharsis. Songs such as 'My Manic And I', 'Ghosts' and 'Night Terror' channelled the raw but delicate power of Joni Mitchell and popped it into the mind of a well-to-do teenager from Hampshire. But despite her clipped, Head Girl vocals, these weren't comfortable, *nice*

**"She rewrote the rulebook when it came to British women in pop"**

There she is



acoustic songs. Sure, they were beautiful, but they were also unsettling and eerie. Marling wasn't making sweet, mollifying music but challenging the expectations of young female singer-songwriters. Standing shoulder to shoulder with Kate Nash, Lily Allen and Amy Winehouse, she was rewriting the rulebook when it came to what British women in pop music were supposed to be.

Six albums and 10 years later, and Marling has more than lived up to the promise laid down by that first record. Last year's 'Semper Femina' is a bold record but one that's every

bit as left-of-centre as her debut, picking apart the way women see other women with sharp intelligence and a burning fire. Like all the best artists, there's so much more to her than the music, too. We get bright flashes of her character in her excellent *Reversal Of The Muse* podcast, which sees her in conversation with a collection of excellent women including Haim, Dolly Parton and producer Catherine Marks, discussing the role of femininity in creativity. Pop an episode on now and bask in the glory of Laura Marling and her brilliant mind. @leoniemaycooper

## Last W33K IN NUMBERS

10

Tour dates Lady Gaga has cancelled – including London and Manchester – due to "severe pain". Get well soon, Gaga.

17

Percentage score for *The Cloverfield Paradox* on *Rotten Tomatoes*. In other words, it's utter dogs\*\*t.

1

Fab drag queen Courtney Act beat Ann Widdecombe to come first in *Celebrity Big Brother*. #queen

11

After 11 years Field Day is moving to south London and Erykah Badu is headlining. Huge.



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#### Smooth operators

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£225 [lush.com](http://lush.com)



#### Petal power

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YOUR TOWN. YOUR MUSIC. YOUR STYLE

# What's ON your Headphones?

THIS WEEK

## Durham



"Scarlet Ribbons Vintage & Retro is nice and cheap"

### < ALEX LOWTHIN >

18, busker

Listening to:  
**JIMI HENDRIX EXPERIENCE**  
*Purple Haze*  
"It's such a sick song. Amazing guitar player."

**Wearing:** Vintage top and trousers, Dr. Martens boots.  
**Best thing about Durham:** "Scarlet Ribbons Vintage & Retro is nice and cheap."

### CHARLIE SCUTTS >

20, student

Listening to:  
**DE LA SOUL**  
*Afro Connections At A Hi 5 (In The Eyes Of The Hoodlum)*  
"I love their early stuff. It was a more counter-cultural style of hip-hop that I can relate to."

**Wearing:** Vintage Harrington jacket, Carhartt jumper, Topshop jeans, Adidas trainers.  
**Best thing about Durham:** "The river is beautiful."



### < JOHN-JOSEPH WHITE >

19, student

Listening to:  
**MUMFORD & SONS**  
*Believe*  
"They were the first band I got into properly. I've been stuck on them for ages."

**Wearing:** Primark hat, Topman coat, jumper and jeans.  
**Best thing about Durham:** "The cathedral usually has a great market outside."

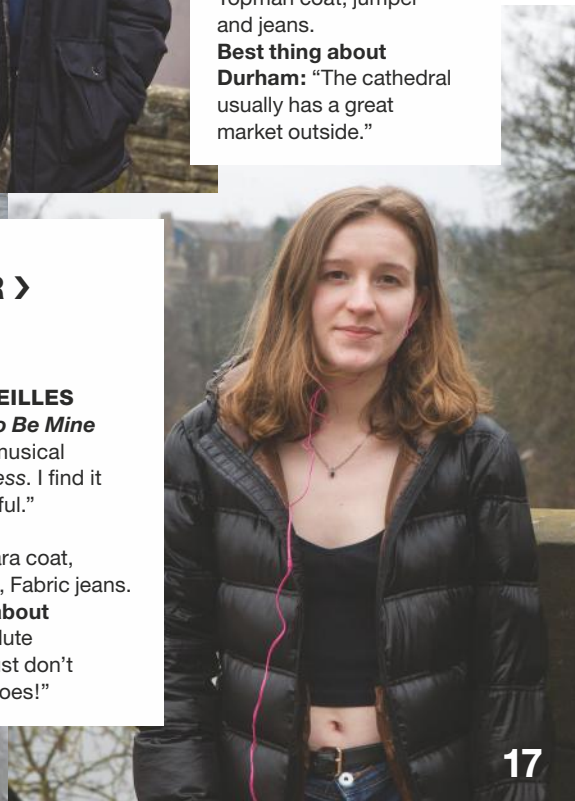
PHOTOS: DAVID WALA

### CLARA SENIOR >

19, student

Listening to:  
**SARA BAREILLES**  
*She Used To Be Mine*  
"It's from a musical called *Waitress*. I find it really powerful."

**Wearing:** Zara coat, Topshop top, Fabric jeans.  
**Best thing about Durham:** "Klute nightclub. Just don't wear nice shoes!"





Migos (l-r): Quavo,  
Takeoff, Offset





# THE THREE MIGOS

PHOTOS BY MATT SALACUSE

**Quavo, Takeoff and Offset are the biggest thing in hip-hop right now, and they've brought \$50,000 to their *NME* interview. Leonie Cooper gets high on their own supply of success – and their weed**

I'VE GOT SOME SERIOUS DRY mouth and a severe case of the munchies. It can only mean one thing: I am really quite high. This is the unsurprising side effect of sitting at close quarters with three of America's most prestigious weed smokers and about 10 of their mates, all of whom seem equally enthusiastic about the benefits of a Tuesday afternoon dose of THC.

We're in a swanky New York studio with world-dominating trap trio Migos, but you'd be forgiven for thinking we're at a warehouse party. Giant blunts are being passed around like candy as the snake-hipped Quavo, Offset and Takeoff pick outfits for *NME*'s cover shoot. They've brought a couple of Louis Vuitton cases filled with diamond-encrusted jewellery, including a silver chain with a huge sparkly \$75,000 Yoda face dangling from it. Oh, and there are also stacks of \$100 bills knocking around, which add up to \$50,000 in total – spare change for Migos, who buy brand-new Bentleys as casually as you or I might buy Digestive biscuits.

"Can we get some tunes on?" asks Quavo as he peruses a table covered with Valentino trainers that average £505 a pair. The sonic innovators' de facto leader and production whizz, he's also taken to co-directing the group's videos. If you're looking for Migos' mastermind, he's your guy. "This *great* album came out just the other day," he suggests. He is, of course, talking about 'Culture II', Migos' 24-track, 106-minute epic. Critics have said the new release is a "data dump", but its stone-cold bangers have seen it rocket to the top of the US Billboard album chart. Whatever you think of it, its hugeness can't be denied – in length and cultural impact. Drake, Cardi B – who is engaged to Offset – Gucci Mane and Nicki Minaj all make guest appearances, and there are production cameos from Kanye West and Pharrell Williams. As opening track 'Higher We Go' booms out of the meaty PA system that's been ushered into the studio for Migos' arrival, the group nod in approval.





Quavo

**M**igos are the biggest thing in hip-hop right now, so it's no shock that getting an audience with them has been hard work. We eventually meet the family – Offset is Quavo's cousin and Quavo is Takeoff's uncle – after a month of cancelled plans. First we're supposed to join them in their hometown of Atlanta, but that doesn't happen. Then the interview is shifted to Los Angeles as they add the finishing touches to 'Culture II'. That doesn't happen either. Next, it's moved to New York ahead of the Grammy Awards. And yep, you guessed it: that's scuppered too. We finally get our chance two days after the Grammys, where the trio were nominated for Best Rap Album for 2017's 'Culture' and Best Rap Performance for the song that catapulted them to superstardom a year and a half ago and which defines their flashy, laid-back flow – the irrepressible 'Bad And Boujee', which is currently hovering around 614 million YouTube views.

So sure, they might be five hours late, but they're actually *here*. It's a miracle. But like herding particularly baked cats, much wrangling has to take place in order to get them onto a sofa to talk. First they have to eat some pizza. Then some chicken from Nas's very own chain has to be delivered. And of course, those blunts won't roll themselves. Once sat down, their responses are an unpredictable selection of shouted-out bars from their own songs, inspirational quotes, deafening silence, computer game noises, immediate shutdowns, passionate eloquence and – in one of many moments of utter madness – a sound not unlike a private jet taking off. In a world full of media-trained, people-pleasing artists, their erratic nature is refreshing, if somewhat maddening. They are a meme come to life, three guys living the absolute dream and giving not one single f\*\*k.

When I ask why the new album's quite so long, Takeoff casually starts beatboxing as Quavo half-raps, "It's

the king of clout. It's the realest s\*\*t that never was wrote. The Hot Mamba 24. The greatest piece of art that you ever witnessed in this era todaaay." Which, y'know, doesn't technically answer the question, but certainly gives you a sense of the scope of their ambitions and easy confidence. If hip-hop is all about braggadocio, then Migos are Rocky, Bruce Lee and Kanye West rolled into one. Another thing they're certain of is that 'Culture II' should not be judged against its predecessor, 'Culture'. "We don't compare our beautiful, monumental two pieces together," explains Quavo. "Like, I can't compare this ring to this ring," he adds, flashing yet more expensive jewellery in *NME*'s direction.

Despite their faith in 'Culture' and 'Bad And Boujee', neither won at the Grammys, losing out to Kendrick Lamar's 'DAMN.' and 'HUMBLE.' "They cheated us," says Offset as I ask if they had a good time at the ceremony. "There was nothing bigger than the f\*\*king 'Culture' album this whole last year!" adds a disgruntled Quavo. "They're scared to handle the three-headed monster... Ooh! [But] we'll be back next year." His mumble then becomes a yell: "WE'LL BE F\*\*KING BACK NEXT YEAR."

Formed in the Atlanta suburb of Lawrenceville, Migos released their first mixtape in 2011 but it was with 2013's 'Versace', a fabulously flashy ode to designer fashion and conspicuous consumption, that the world started to take notice, not least because of a Drake co-sign and remix. Bigger, bolder tunes such as 'Fight Night' followed – all typified by what has come to be known as 'the Migos flow', copied by everyone from Chance The Rapper on 'All We Got' to Kendrick Lamar on 'DNA' – as did controversy.

In 2015 – the same year they released their debut album 'Yung Rich Nation' – all three were arrested on drugs and firearms charges, with Offset spending eight months in custody. Then there are the numerous accusations of homophobia, most recently after Offset rapped, "*I cannot vibe with queers*" on fellow Atlanta artist YFN Lucci's track 'Boss Life'. A half-arsed apology followed, with Offset stating, "To me that 'queer'

I don't mean someone who's gay. I mean lame people who film you, post it and stalk you. Lingo that means strange or odd." Hmm. Any chance to hold him to account for his comment, though, is nixed by Migos' label, who tell

## The songs that made Migos

### THE BREAK-THROUGH HIT

**Versace** (2013)  
This tune, praising designer fashion, is so influential that the Migos sound is sometimes called the 'Versace flow'.

### THE UTTERLY MASSIVE ONE

**Bad And Boujee** (2016)  
Songs rarely go as stratospheric as this languid track about coming "*from nothin*".

### THE MEGA COLLAB

**Katy Perry Bon Appetit** (2017)  
Katy hitched a ride on the Migos train by bringing their distinctive flow in for this innuendo-laden club track.

### THE BIGASS BANGER

**Stir Fry** (2017)  
Migos' first out-and-out pop song, this crossover hit sees them doing what they do best: showing off. It also namedrops Five Guys, burger fans.



us the group will refuse to answer questions about homophobic comments or run-ins with the law. I chance my arm and ask instead about their drug-related lyrics. Has the death of Lil Peep, who overdosed on fentanyl and Xanax in November 2017, made them reassess their own lyrics about prescription drugs? Surely a group who have a track called 'Designer Drugs', which sees Quavo repeating the word "drugs" 16 times in the intro before admitting "I fell in love with the drugs / I think I'm an addict / Percocet, molly and Xanax", a group who named themselves after a slang word for a house where drugs are made and sold, a group who are literally smoking a massive blunt in front of me, will be open to discussing the topic. No such luck. Offset immediately shuts me down. "We don't talk about drugs. No comment. It shouldn't be in the article at all." As we take in another lungful of secondhand weed smoke, I start thinking about the box of doughnuts the photographer's bought with him to use in the shoot.

What they are willing to discuss is culture, and why they've named their past two albums in its honour. "Culture defines a new generation, a new sound of music, new change, a diversity of fans, all in one party, one event and

they all share good-ass music," says Quavo. "Culture is one colour and it's everybody's colour." Can we, then, expect a 'Culture III'? "The culture goes forever and we will never RIP the culture. You're trying to figure out if the culture will live on through one, two, three, four, five, six – that we don't know, we will make you WAIT ON IT. But the culture will not die, the culture will live forever."

In their music as in the interviews, Migos are not about doing things by the book. On last year's 'Get Right Witcha' they simply stated their manifesto: "Middle finger up, f\*\*k the system". Offset breaks down the Migos approach to life. "You can do it your own way," he says. Quavo agrees. "It's about expressing yourself. F\*\*k the programme. F\*\*k the script. F\*\*k the way it's supposed to be done. Do it your creative way." Bending and rewriting the rules – the next step in their haywire approach to world domination – is already in place.

"I look at us as a business," says Takeoff. So where will Migos be branching out to next? "You can branch out, but you want to beat them out," says Quavo, before revealing that film is where Migos have their hearts set. "Real theatre movies, with real top A-list actors and s\*\*t like that," says Takeoff. Is something already in the pipeline? "Shh, you about to spill the beans right out of the can," he says, pouring an imaginary tin of Heinz's finest all over the floor. "No spilling."

Before we see *Migos: The Movie*, they're likely to be back in the UK, after hectic scenes greeted their one-off London show in April last year. "We love London, shout out to London," says Quavo. "I like the rough part too – shout out to Brixton. We pulled up to the club over there. S\*\*t get crazy up in there!" How crazy? "Super-lit. Everybody mobbed." Do you mind getting mobbed? "I love that!" "Love that," echoes Takeoff. Something else they love is hearing their signature sound replicated by other artists such as Drake and Kanye. Rather than getting pissed, the boys are all for the omnipresence of the Migos flow. "I love it, it makes me happy inside, because I know we're influencing and they're inspired by us," says Takeoff. "The greatest!" chips in Quavo.

Yet for all the bravado and posturing, Migos aren't just about fast cars and expensive necklaces – they're also about giving back to their community. Last year Quavo and Takeoff filled a truck with 700 turkeys

## Need to know

### WHO:

Quavo 26  
Quavious Keyate Marshall  
Offset 26  
Kiari Kendrell Cephus  
Takeoff 23  
Kirshnik Khari Ball

### FROM:

Atlanta, Georgia

### LIKES:

Rolls-Royces, Bentleys, mass turkey giveaways, dabbing, Cardi B, Kendrick Lamar, Patek Philippe watches, looking good, feeling fine, Gucci Mane, weed

### DISLIKES:

Not winning a Grammy Award

# GOS

and gave them away for free in the parking lot of an Atlanta supermarket and children's daycare centre. "You gotta give back – it's only right to give back to the people who need it and are less fortunate," explains Takeoff. "You gotta bless others so you can get blessed. Keep it real." An enthusiastic Quavo adds, "Turkey giveaway, we're giving them turkey! Brrr! Yeahhh!" They've also launched a campaign to raise half a million dollars for the American Cancer Society. "We hands on," says Quavo. Sure, they might be high as f\*\*k, but in some ways their feet are still firmly on the ground.

**NME**

## "F\*\*k the programme. F\*\*k the script" Quavo



Offset



Takeoff

# ROCK'N'ROLL NEEDS EZRA FURMAN

Chicagoan rocker Ezra Furman is passionate, deeply talented and unafraid to speak out. The 31-year-old talks to Alex Flood about Nazis, human beings who grow wings and trying to create “the greatest record ever made”

**E**ZRA FURMAN IS A gender-fluid rocker from Chicago with a knack for writing bratty pop-punk tunes that sound a bit like the Ramones. Born to strict Jewish parents in the '80s, he struggled with his identity for years before discovering music as an outlet. Now 31, he's flourishing in his own skin. His sexually subversive appearance – think silk dresses and bright lipstick – evokes images of a bygone era. There's more than a hint of the New York Dolls about him, and he has the gentle charisma of a young David Bowie. His music blends diverse genres like rockabilly and glam into new and exciting combinations, and his raw lyrics give the songs an honest feel that's hard to come by. This week, he releases his eighth album, 'Transangelic Exodus'. But despite enjoying a decade-long career already, he feels like he's on the edge of a breakthrough.

**You described your last EP as “the end of a chapter musically”.**

**What makes these new songs so different?**

“Ezra Furman And The Boy-Friends was a band with a specific mission – to be a really good rock'n'roll band. And we achieved it. We were really f\*\*king good at it. There were moments of bleary-eyed transcendence, pure enthusiasm, manic energy and rage. That's what rock'n'roll means to me.”

**Chuck Berry was one of your heroes. How did you react when he died last year?**

“Chuck Berry invented rock'n'roll. He was one of the best songwriters of the 20th century. But, as with a lot of heroes, you gotta reckon with their disastrous ethical violations too. Chuck had his fair share of those. It sort of makes you want to stop praising him so much. But the fact is he's dead, and the people whose shows I will pay to get into are hopefully not gonna be sexual predators.”

**You're referring to his 1960 sexual assault conviction.**

**Do you think the music industry does enough to combat things like that?**

“Probably not. Sometimes you see a good response to it and sometimes not. I'm glad that people are talking about sexual assault though. It is a scourge on humanity. Some people think, ‘Well, it happens, it's not the best but what can you do?’ I'll tell you what you can do – you can replace all of those people, just get them out! Stop going to their movies and stop buying their records.”

**As a gender-fluid musician in America, has it been harder since Trump took power?**

“So far, he hasn't enacted any significant legislation, thank goodness. Only the fear has really touched my actual life. The most significant thing is the way he's influenced the conversation about immigrants.”

**In the video for your recent track ‘Driving Down To LA’, you're in a car chase with some Nazis and your guardian angel. How was that to shoot?**

“It was a really weird experience. The day before I flew out to Virginia to film it, the Charlottesville ‘Unite The Right’ rally turned deadly violent. The set was only a few towns away and anyone who drove by us was like, ‘You're not from around here, are ya?’ We thought, ‘Are they gonna kill us?’ We were there filming what was supposed to be a paranoid fantasy but it felt so real. It was such a strange coincidence of timing.”

## The evolution of Ezra

### EZRA FURMAN AND THE HARPOONS 2006-2011

**Albums: four**  
Furman formed his first band while at Tufts University, Massachusetts. Their debut was recorded in various dorm rooms and was followed by three more records of frantic indie-punk before Furman went solo.

### EZRA FURMAN 2012

**Albums: one**  
With no band, no money and no label, things looked bleak. But thanks to Kickstarter, Ezra was able to crowdfund ‘The Year Of No Returning’ – an emotional batch of tunes that earned him a deal with New Jersey outfit Bar/None Records.

### EZRA FURMAN & THE BOY-FRIENDS 2012-2017

**Albums: two**  
Furman's most successful period to date. ‘Day Of The Dog’ drew critical acclaim in 2013, before 2015's ‘Perpetual Motion People’ went Top 25. *NME* called it “a constantly surprising and relentlessly melodic pleasure.”

### EZRA FURMAN & THE VISIONS 2017-present

**Albums: one**  
In September last year, it was revealed that The Boy-Friends were no more. The line-up would remain the same, but the group were rebranded as The Visions. ‘Transangelic Exodus’ was announced for February 2018.



**At Coachella 2017, you ended your set by yelling, "F\*\*k AEG". Why did you do that?**

"AEG is the Anschutz Exploration Group, which owns Goldenvoice, which puts on Coachella. By going to Coachella you're helping to line the pockets of billionaires like AEG owner Philip Anschutz [who has funded various anti-LGBTQ organisations]. You have a say in whether that person stays rich. I would never pay to go to that event and I don't think that people should."

**You took the money though?**

"I did take the money. I got paid. Where does that leave me? It leaves me able to pay the rent and keep playing music."

**What do you hope to achieve with new album 'Transangelic Exodus'?**

"I want to make the greatest record ever made. It's the only thing I can think about."

**Have you managed it?**

"No. I'm on to something though. This record feels alive to me, more alive than anything I've made in the past."

**What does the title mean?**

"Well, there is a condition, as I'm sure you've heard, called transangelicism. It involves a human being growing wings and turning into an angel. Naturally these people are distrusted. It's thought to be a disease or some kind of threat to the integrity of the human race. People want to quarantine them, even though it's not a contagious thing. It's actually not a threat to anyone."

**Can you relate to that?**

"People get stigmatised for their bodies and for their differences. Then those people become very vulnerable. I sometimes feel caught in the middle – between two warring factions that I'm not on either side of."

**NME**

**'Transangelic Exodus' is out now.  
Read the *NME* review on page 27**

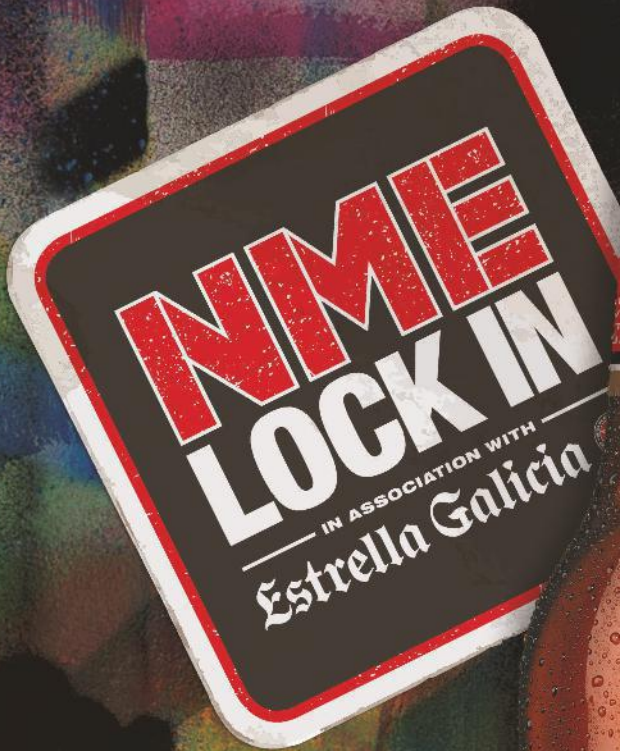
PHOTO: JASON SIMMONS

**"Pure enthusiasm, manic energy and rage: that's what rock'n'roll means to me"**





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**NME**  
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Estrella Galicia  recommends responsible drinking



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# RADAR

THIS WEEK'S ESSENTIAL NEW RELEASES

## Best NEW tracks

And when to drop them

### BEST FOR GETTING COSY

KOJO FUNDS  
FEAT. RAYE

*Check*

Afro swing up-and-comer Kojo gets steamy with Raye on this late-night Latin groover.

### BEST FOR V DAY DINS

JAMES BAY

*Wild Love*

JB turns on the charm and brings in influences from Frank Ocean and James Blake on the dreamy first track from his second album.

### BEST FOR LINE DANCING

JOSHUA HEDLEY

*Mr Jukebox*

Signed to Jack White's Third Man, Hedley's classic country tune is straight outta 1954.

### BEST FOR PUNCHING THE AIR

NOAH CYRUS

FEAT. MØ

*We Are F\*\*ked*

Noah follows in big sister Miley's footsteps with a Taylor Swift-worthy pop belter but with waaay more swearing.

### BEST FOR DUMPING SOMEONE

CHVRCHES

*Get Out*

Need a good soundtrack to ditching your lover? Then blast this at full volume.

### BEST FOR GETTING OUT OF YOUR TREE

JONATHAN WILSON

*Loving You*

Father John Misty's bestie's eight-minute journey into the psychedelic wilderness is an epic delight.

### BEST FOR POGOING

KATE NASH

*Drink About You*

Kate Nash's turbopop is as wild as replacing all the blood in your body with Jägerbombs.

### BEST FOR LOSING YOUR S\*\*T

MS BANKS

*Come Thru*

One of the NME 100's top tips for 2018, Ms Banks slays the competition and proves UK hip-hop is in a brilliant place right now.

### BEST FOR HEARTACHE

IGGY AZALEA  
FEAT. QUAVO

*Savior*

Azalea brings the pace down – and Migos' Quavo shows up – for an intimate dancehall ode to unrequited love. Or possibly to Jesus. It's a banger, either way.

### BEST FOR GETTING EMO

THE WONDER YEARS  
*Sister Cities*

Punk doesn't come much more personal than The Wonder Years' emotive, heart-on-their-sleeve riffing.

FOR MORE NEW MUSIC,  
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MGMT (l-r):  
Ben Goldwasser,  
Andrew VanWyngarden



## Call it a comeback

The psychedelic indie heroes make a surprise return to pop with their fun-filled fourth album

### MGMT

*Little Dark Age*



PSYCHEDELIC POP TRUMP

MGMT



IT'S OVER 10 YEARS SINCE MGMT released 'Oracular Spectacular', a pop-tastic glitterball of an album that spawned hit singles 'Time To Pretend' and 'Kids'. Three years later, Andrew VanWyngarden and Ben Goldwasser baffled fair-weather fans with the acid-jazz soup that was 2010's 'Congratulations'. And the odyssey continued: 2013's 'MGMT' was an inaccessible curio, implying the band had long disappeared down the rabbit hole.

In some ways, 'Little Dark Age' is the biggest curveball of the Connecticut pair's consistently unpredictable career. If there were a time

for an about-return, it was that third record. They'd enjoyed their foray into experimentation, and a self-titled album often indicates a band that's come back into focus. Here, though, we're treated to an overdue loop back to pop hookiness. Lead single 'Little Dark Age' starts with doomy synth and moody, throbbing bass before blooming into its whirling, Technicolor chorus, while the tinkling, '80s-influenced 'Me And Michael' is a smash that's waiting to happen.

After more than a decade of insularity, MGMT have thrown open the doors and welcomed you back into their world. In doing so, they've

had to engage with our messy, unpalatable reality. The record was partly written in the wake of Donald Trump's shock election and so concludes with the elegiac 'Hand It Over'. VanWyngarden recently explained the track "envisions an end to all of this". MGMT's return to pop is a much more welcome surprise.  
**Jordan Bassett**

## STRANGE & TRUE

MGMT once performed on the US children's show *Yo Gabba Gabba!* with a track called 'Art Is Everywhere'.



ALBUM  
OF THE  
WEEK

# Heaven sent

Finally, an album  
for people born  
knowing that they  
are really angels

**EZRA FURMAN**
*Transangelic Exodus*


LO-FI POP CELESTIAL

IT'S SURELY long overdue that the transangelic community – people born knowing they're angels and transitioning with an operation to release their wings – should have their struggle documented in a leftfield alt-pop “queer outlaw saga” concept album. And, at long last, here it is. Chicago art-pop provocateur Ezra Furman's eighth album (with various backing bands) tells the “half-true memoir” of Furman falling for a transangel and having to go on the run while shadowy government agencies and Nazi gangs hunt the lovers down. Which toilet they use along the way is unspecified.

This romantic metaphor for the social and political oppression of the trans, non-binary and generally-not-slotting-into-your-Old-World-rules-granddad community is every bit as

confrontational musically as it is thematically. If the crunchy, lo-fi Springsteen vibe of opener ‘Suck The Blood From My Wound’ could be renamed ‘Gabriel, We Were Born To Run’, that's about as conventional as ‘Transangelic Exodus’ would get. Glitch rhumba road-trip tune ‘Driving Down To LA’ starts sounding like the bombastic showstopper from the world's first AI musical. A rabid, percussive slab of buzzing blues called ‘No Place’

resembles Jack White being sacrificed at one of Goat's voodoo ceremonies. Sci-fi Beatles, Gallic Portishead, underwater

Velvets, hallucinogenic Wailers and speed-freaking ELO – all are present and wonderfully incorrect. There's a sense of emancipation both sonic and personal; it's with impish glee that this Jewish cross-dresser sings of avoiding synagogue in his ‘Maraschino-Red Dress \$8.99 At Goodwill’, or that “*I lost my innocence to a boy named Vincent*”. All round, a heavenly journey. **Mark Beaumont**



## FOR FANS OF



KEVIN MORBY



HMLTD



# hmv loves

**MARVEL** STUDIOS

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in cinemas Tuesday 13 February



Black Panther: The Album  
on CD feat. Kendrick Lamar



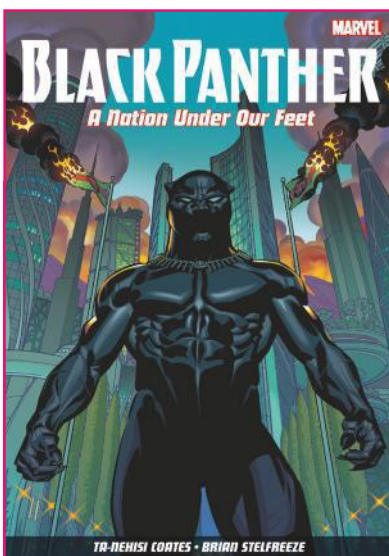
Black Panther  
POP! Vinyl



Black Panther  
3D mug



The Definitive Black Panther  
graphic novel



A Nation Under Our Feet  
graphic novel



Captain America: Civil War  
on DVD & Blu-ray



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# FILM

# Caught in the crossfire

**A hard, unhappy watch**

## LOVELESS

*Maryana Spivak, Aleksey Rozin, Matvey Novikov*



**DIVORCE REJECTION SAVAGE**

ZHENYA (MARYANA SPIVAK) and Boris (Aleksey Rozin), a Russian couple in Moscow, are going through a bitter divorce. Both are already seeing other people and as far as they're concerned their life together is already over. Only two things are keeping them in contact: the

flat they share and need to sell, and their pre-teen son, Alexey (Matvey Novikov). Alexey's feelings about the split are an afterthought, if indeed they're a thought at all. Zhenya and Boris fight not about who will get custody of Alexey, but who will be lumbered with him as part of their new life. One evening, shortly after his parents have a huge fight, Alexey doesn't come home. As days pass with no sign of him, his warring parents are forced together to find the child they very recently wanted rid of.

As you may imagine, Andrey Zvyagintsev's film

– nominated for the Best Foreign Film Oscar – is a hard, unhappy watch, but it's a riveting, unforgettable one too. It's a film in which the only person you care about is almost entirely absent from the screen, but watching his parents transform from selfish ghouls into people who are at least aware of their failings is profoundly moving. It's a cold movie, set under a permanently grey sky and with long, chilled silences, but still

full of often unspoken feeling. It punches you with huge emotional moments – none more so than Alexey hysterically weeping as he hears his parents effectively say he is unwanted – and then lets them reverberate long after.

The Russian setting is vital, because this is not just a crime thriller but an account of what it's like to live in modern-day Russia, a country that has incompatible values of a staunch traditionalism (Boris works for a company so conservative that he will likely be fired if they find out he's divorcing) and a grasping, selfish need for everything that's new and modern – better homes, better clothes, better sex, better than everyone else. It's a place where it's almost impossible to be happy, because what you have is not supposed to be enough. It's a devastating drama about losing something you didn't appreciate until you lost it, possibly forever.

**Olly Richards**

## FOR FANS OF



**THE KILLING OF A SACRED DEER**



**PRISONERS**

Alexey (Matvey Novikov)



# Under THE RADAR

YOU HEARD IT HERE FIRST

## Blushes

Indie-rock meets swooping  
shoegaze, in Buckinghamshire

PHOTOS: ZOE MCCONNELL  
MAKE-UP: LOU BOX  
STYLING: KOULLA SERGI  
HAIR BY VOS AMBASSADOR PAUL DONOVAN





BUCKINGHAMSHIRE-BASED indie-rockers Blushes make an eclectic first impression. Their debut EP, last year's 'Private Viewing', was a scatterbrained introduction, hopping from soaring psychedelic passages to twinkly guitar-pop in seconds, proving that this Aylesbury four-piece have the songwriting nous to tackle any genre they fancy. It's new single 'Honey' that cements their potential, though. Fusing electropop melodies to the jagged, British indie sensibility

of bands like The Smiths and Foals, it's a concoction that slips down like a fruity cocktail on a summer's day.

Songwriter and frontman Bradley Ayres teamed up with co-vocalist and keyboardist Tiffany Evans, guitarist Sonny Ford and drummer Jacob Price with the aim of expanding his vision and "stepping away from trying to be Ed Sheeran," he says. It worked: Evans' love of "strong female singers" such as Christina Aguilera and Britney found a home among Price's

heavy metal-inspired drumming, before Ford began adding his noodling guitar lines atop it all, creating a sound that never settles.

"There's a meeting point, but musically we're all very different people," Ayres says. "'Honey' is almost, like, hip-hop-influenced."

Despite hammering out shows across the south of England over the last year, it took a bit of time for the band to truly find their groove. "It properly takes some guts to be able to own the stage,

I think," says Evans. But there's no sign of hesitation when Blushes hit the stage. Ayres and Evans exchange vocal duties like a tennis rally, while the fusion of Price's powerhouse drumming and Ford's laser-guided guitar work makes for a captivating sight. With numerous sold-out shows under their belt, Blushes' confident indie bangers are perfectly primed for those fast-approaching, sun-kissed festival fields. Miss them at your peril.

**Tom Connick**



**BLUSHES WEAR (OPPOSITE PAGE, L-R):**

**JACOB:** Jacket, £40, Topman. Top, £22, Native Youth. Trousers, £150, Double Rainbow. Shoes, £70, Reebok at Schuh. VO5 Rework Texture Foam Mousse 150ml, £4.39. **TIFFANY:** Jacket, £90, dress, £26, and top, £32, Topshop. Shoes, £27.99, New Look. VO5 Volume Foam Mousse 150ml, £4.39. **BRADLEY:** Shirt, £325, Second/Layer at Harvey Nichols. Trousers, £270, Solid Homme at Harvey Nichols. Shoes, £60, Vans at Schuh. VO5 Styling Wax 75ml, £3.29. **SONNY:** Jacket, £417, McQ at Harvey Nichols. Top, £60, Fred Perry. Trousers, £185, Maison Kitsuné. Shoes, £120, Dr. Martens at Schuh. VO5 Matt Styling Paste 100ml, £4.39.

**TIFFANY WEARS (THIS PAGE):**

Top, £32, and trousers, £39, Topshop. Shoes, £35, PrettyLittleThing. VO5 Volume Foam Mousse 150ml, £4.39.



under THE  
RADAR



**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:**

**SONNY WEARS:** Coat, £200, Fred Perry. Shirt, £28, Topman. Jeans, £55, BDG at Urban Outfitters. Shoes, £120, Dr. Martens at Schuh. VO5 Matt Styling Paste 100ml, £4.39.\* **JACOB WEARS:** Jacket, £65, Topshop. Top, £49.99, Wood Wood. Trousers, £150, Double Rainbouu. Shoes, £70, Reebok at Schuh. VO5 Rework Texture Foam Mousse 150ml, £4.39.\* **BRADLEY WEARS:** Shirt, from £140, and trousers, from £167, Soulland. VO5 Styling Wax 75ml, £3.29.\*



\*RSPS ARE AT THE SOLE DISCRETION OF THE RETAILER



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

**BASED:** Aylesbury

**SOCIAL:**

@dontmakemeblushes

**BUY:** New single 'Honey' is available to buy and stream now

**LIVE:** The Waiting Room, London (Feb 21)

**'HONEY'**

Body-popping R&B synths meld with bouncy indie-rock to create an early summer playlist contender.



FOALS



BOMBAY BICYCLE CLUB

'Honey' was written "really strangely", the band admit – they exchanged ideas back and forth live on FaceTime, taking it in turns to combat the delay brought about by their dodgy internet connections.



## BLUSHES WEAR (L-R):

**JACOB:** Jacket, from £218, and T-shirt, from £57; Double Rainbouu. Trousers, £80, Wood Wood. Shoes, £70, Reebok at Schuh. VO5 Rework Texture Foam Mousse 150ml, £4.39. **TIFFANY:** Jacket, £69, and jeans, £125, Topshop. Top, £160, Wood Wood. Boots, £27.99, New Look. VO5 Volume Foam Mousse 150ml, £4.39. **SONNY:** Jacket, £45, Topman. Shirt, £110, YMC. Trousers, £55, BDG at Urban Outfitters. Shoes, £120, Dr. Martens at Schuh. VO5 Matt Styling Paste 100ml, £4.39. **BRADLEY:** Jacket, £38, shirt, £38, and trousers, £35, Topman. Shoes, £80, Fila at Schuh. VO5 Styling Wax 75ml, £3.29.



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Thu	Nov	15	Bristol	SWX
Fri	Nov	16	Portsmouth	Pyramids
Sat	Nov	17	Leicester	O <sub>2</sub> Academy
Sun	Nov	18	Sheffield	Leadmill
Tue	Nov	20	Leeds	LUU Stylus
Thu	Nov	22	Manchester	O <sub>2</sub> Ritz
Fri	Nov	23	Newcastle	Newcastle University
Sat	Nov	24	Glasgow	O <sub>2</sub> ABC
Mon	Nov	26	Norwich	Waterfront
Tue	Nov	27	Oxford	O <sub>2</sub> Academy
Wed	Nov	28	Birmingham	O <sub>2</sub> Institute
Fri	Nov	30	London	O <sub>2</sub> Forum Kentish Town

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# Live

## Peace & love

Fun-loving indie crew Peace are taking charge at this year's Live At Leeds Festival

FEW ONE-DAY CITY festivals are better put together than Live At Leeds. For less than £40 you get a full day of music at venues all over the Yorkshire city, and this year's line-up is packed with great (and primarily new) artists. Clashes will be inevitable, but at the very least aim to check out headliners Peace, north London enchanter Suzi Wu, Australia's no-bulls\*\*t songwriter Stella Donnelly and Sorry, the newest band on Arctic Monkeys' label Domino.

THIS WEEK'S BEST TICKETS AND GIGS

### NME AWARDS SHOWS 2018

Get yourself down to one of these

#### THE SHERLOCKS

Fri 9 Electric Ballroom, London.

#### SUPERFOOD

Mon 12 Scala, London.

#### PEACE

Tue 13 Omeara, London.



### REJJIE SNOW

Irish rapper

#### MARCH

Fri 9 Motion, Bristol. Sat 10 The Lemon Grove, Exeter. Wed 14 Roundhouse, London.

#### APRIL

Fri 20 O2 Academy, Oxford. Sat 21 Junction, Cambridge. Sun 22 O2 Institute, Birmingham. Tue 24 Waterfront, Norwich. Thu 26 University Union, Leeds. Fri 27 Academy, Manchester. Sat 28 Sage, Gateshead.

**TELL ME MORE:** Snow's debut album is out this month, but he's already supported star names such as Madonna and Kendrick Lamar.

**TICKETS:** £22-£24.75

### FESTIVAL

## LIVE AT LEEDS FESTIVAL

Various venues, Leeds

#### MAY 5

**LINE-UP HIGHLIGHTS:** Peace, Suzi Wu, Alaskalaska, Sorry, Stella Donnelly, Hatchie, Ash, Boy Azooga, Caro, Circa Waves, Grace Lightman, Pale Waves, The Horrors, Touts, Yungblud, The Magic Gang

**TICKETS:** £39.50 general admission, £55 VIP admission (both including booking fee)

ON SALE NOW

ON SALE NOW

## THE WEEK'S BEST GIGS

#### THE AMAZONS

Fri 9 Pyramid Centre, Portsmouth. Sat 10 Hexagon, Reading. **ANNIE MAC, MELLA DEE, WILLIAM DJOKO** Sat 10 KOKO, London. **BARBAGALLO** Mon 12 The Borderline, London. Tue 13 Fac251: The Factory, Manchester. Wed

14 Hyde Park Book Club, Leeds. Thu 15 The Cluny, Newcastle. **BETH ORTON** Sat 10 Roundhouse, London. **BILLIE EILISH** Wed 14 Heaven, London. **CASSELLS** Fri 9 O2 Academy, Oxford. **CHIP** Fri 9 Roundhouse, London. **COLSTRANE**

Tue 15 Hare & Hounds, Birmingham.

#### EZRA FURMAN

Sat 10 Quarterhouse, Folkestone. **FRANZ FERDINAND** Tue 13 Albert Hall, Manchester. Wed 14 Rock City, Nottingham. **GIRAFFAGE** Fri 9 Belgrave Music Hall, Leeds. **THE GO! TEAM** Fri 9 QMU, Glasgow. Sat 10 The Wardrobe, Leeds. Sun 11 Concorde 2, Brighton. Thu 15 Electric Ballroom,

London.

#### HER'S

Sat 10 Night & Day Café, Manchester. **HMLTD** Tue 13 The Haunt, Brighton. Wed 14 The White Hotel, Salford. **INHEAVEN** Sat 10 North of England Institute of Mining and Mechanical Engineering, Newcastle. Mon 12 The Deaf Institute, Manchester. Tue 13 Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton. **KENDRICK LAMAR** Fri 9 Genting

Arena, Birmingham. Sat 10 Arena, Manchester. Sun 11 SSE Hydro, Glasgow. Mon 12 & Tue 13 The O2, London. **KHALID** Wed 14 & Thu 15 Eventim Apollo, Brighton. **KHRUANGBIN** Fri 9 The Haunt, Brighton. **LUST FOR YOUTH** Fri 9 Moth Club, London. **MARMOZETS** Fri 9 Riverside, Newcastle. Sat 10 The Warehouse, Leeds. Sun 11 Leadmill, Sheffield.

Mon 12 Liquid Rooms, Edinburgh. **MSSINGNO** Fri 9 Birthdays, London. **NICK HAKIM** Mon 12 Hare & Hounds, Birmingham. Wed 14 KOKO, London. Thu 15 Brudenell Social Club, Leeds. **PEACH PIT** Fri 9 Gullivers, Manchester. Sat 10 Sneaky Pete's, Edinburgh. Sun 11 Broadcast, Glasgow. Mon 12 Headrow House, Leeds. **PETIT BISCUIT** Sat 10 O2 Forum, London.

**PLASTICIAN** Fri 9 Camden Assembly, London. **PUBLIC ACCESS TV** Wed 14 Broadcast, Glasgow. Thu 15 Think Tank?, Underground, Newcastle. **RAT BOY** Fri 9 Academy, Manchester. Sat 10 O2 Academy, Brixton, London. **SEA GIRLS** Fri 9 Brudenell Social Club, Leeds. Sat 10 King Tut's, Glasgow. **SPRING KING** Fri 9 The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent. Sat 10 The Harley,

Sheffield. Sun 11 Brudenell Social Club, Leeds. Tue 13 Crescent WMC, York. Wed 14 Sneaky Pete's, Edinburgh. Thu 15 Think Tank?, Newcastle. **SUPERFOOD** Sun 11 Heebie Jeebies, Liverpool. **SUPER-ORGANISM, BILLIE EILISH, DREAM WIFE** Thu 15 The Jazz Café, London. **WILKINSON** Wed 14 O2 Academy, Newcastle. Thu 15 Rock City, Nottingham.



# SOUNDTRACK OF MY LIFE

## Aisling Bea

Panel show queen, actor and comedian

### THE FIRST SONG I REMEMBER HEARING

**Happy Birthday To You**

"Happy Birthday To You" (the 'you' was me). It is the one song my mother can sing in tune."

### THE FIRST SONG I FELL IN LOVE WITH

**CHESNEY HAWKES**

**The One And Only**  
"I'm not sure if I was more in love with the song or his mole, but it does not matter. Your first love is your first love, it cannot be analysed, explained, nor forgotten. If you read *NME*, Chesney, call me. There's still nobody I'd rather be than your one and only."

### THE FIRST GIG I WENT TO

**DESTINY'S CHILD**

**Point Depot, Dublin**  
"My friends and I hired a minibus, drank vodka and Red Bull from an old 7 Up bottle and had the time of our puking lives."

### THE SONG I DO AT KARAOKE

**NICKELBACK**

**How You Remind Me**  
"Unfortunately 'How You Remind Me' is the song most perfectly suited to my voice. In karaoke, you don't choose the song, the song chooses you."

### THE FIRST ALBUM I EVER BOUGHT

**SPICE GIRLS**

**Spice**  
"It's still an absolute belter. Mel C came on an episode of *8 Out Of 10 Cats* with us and I lost my mind. She is one of those celebs who lives up to who you think she is going to be – fun, warm, proud of her achievements, sporty, obvs, and used to putting up with crazed women behaving in front of her like they are eight years of age."

### THE SONG I CAN NO LONGER LISTEN TO

**REDNEX**

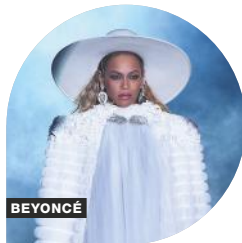
**Cotton Eye Joe (Dance Mix)**  
"It reminds me of feeling drunk and bloated at weddings or Christmas parties. We filmed *The Fall* in Belfast during Christmas party season and I have a memory of trying to learn my lines for this serious murder drama with 'Cotton Eye Joe' pounding through the floors."



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

**The Wheels On The Bus**

"An absolute tune to be fair. Big shout-out to all the bus drivers out there keeping them wheels a-turning."



### THE SONG THAT MAKES ME WANT TO DANCE

**BEYONCÉ**

**Formation**  
"I was in LA watching the Super Bowl when she performed. It reminds me of all these meaty sports fans not leaving the TV at half time and instead staying glued to the TV, watching her perform and her dancers moving their hips."

### THE SONG THAT REMINDS ME OF HOME

**IEFFEL 65**

**Blue (Da Ba Dee)**  
"Songs with simple lyrics really take off in Irish nightclubs."

GO TO NME.COM FOR MORE SOUNDTRACKS



The wisdom of the *NME* archives

**THIS WEEK**  
**JUSTINE FRISCHMANN**  
*Elastica*  
February 11, 1995

"We've made a record that you can put on as you're going out, going to sleep or having sex. And that's a hell of a feat."



### THE SONG THAT CHANGED MY LIFE

**CANDI STATON**

**You Got The Love**  
"It is me and my sister's song. We didn't write it, just love it."

### THE SONG I WANT PLAYED AT MY FUNERAL

**RIGHT SAID FRED**

**I'm Too Sexy**  
"I would like something hideously inappropriate. I would like to imagine my seven adopted children carrying my coffin up the aisle to 'I'm too sexy for my shirt / Too sexy for my shirt / So sexy it hurts'."

**Hard Sun** series one is available on BBC iPlayer now