



MUSIC
FILM
STYLE

IN YER FACE

SHAME

SOXCOCKS

MEAN
GIRLS

MARCH 2018 / FREE EVERY FRIDAY

"THE BEST **FUN** I'VE HAD IN **AGES**"



THE SUN

"9/10
EXTREMELY FUNNY"

IGN

"CLEVER...
AND VERY FUNNY"

DIGITAL SPY

"**LAUGH OUT LOUD FUNNY**"

TOTAL FILM

"**KNOWING, CLEVER, FUNNY**"

ALI PLUMB RADIO 1

"**HILARIOUS**"

HEYUGUYS

"**RIOTOUS KNOCKABOUT FUN**"



DAILY MIRROR



JASON BATEMAN RACHEL MCADAMS

GAME NIGHT

NEW LINE CINEMA PRESENTS A DAVIS ENTERTAINMENT/AGGREGATE FILMS PRODUCTION "GAME NIGHT" JASON BATEMAN RACHEL MCADAMS
BILLY MAGNUSSEN SHARON HORGAN LAMORNE MORRIS KYLIE BUNBURY JESSE PLEMONS WITH MICHAEL C. HALL AND KYLE CHANDLER CASTING BY RICH DELIA, CSA
MUSIC SUPERVISORS MANISH RAVAL AND TOM WOLFE MUSIC BY CLIFF MARTINEZ EDITOR JAMIE GROSS GREGORY PLOTKIN DAVID EGAN PRODUCTION DESIGNER MICHAEL COHENBLATT
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY BARRY PETERSON EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS TOBY EMMERICH RICHARD BREWER MICHAEL DISCO DAVE NEUSTADTER MARC S. FISCHER WRITTEN BY MARK PEREZ
PRODUCED BY JOHN DAVIS, p.g.a. JASON BATEMAN, p.g.a. JOHN FOX JAMES GARAVANTE DIRECTED BY JOHN FRANCIS DALEY & JONATHAN GOLDSTEIN



#GameNight

IN CINEMAS NOW

Sundmark
Photo Art

WATERLOO
KIDS

WARNER
BROS.

NME



Hello...

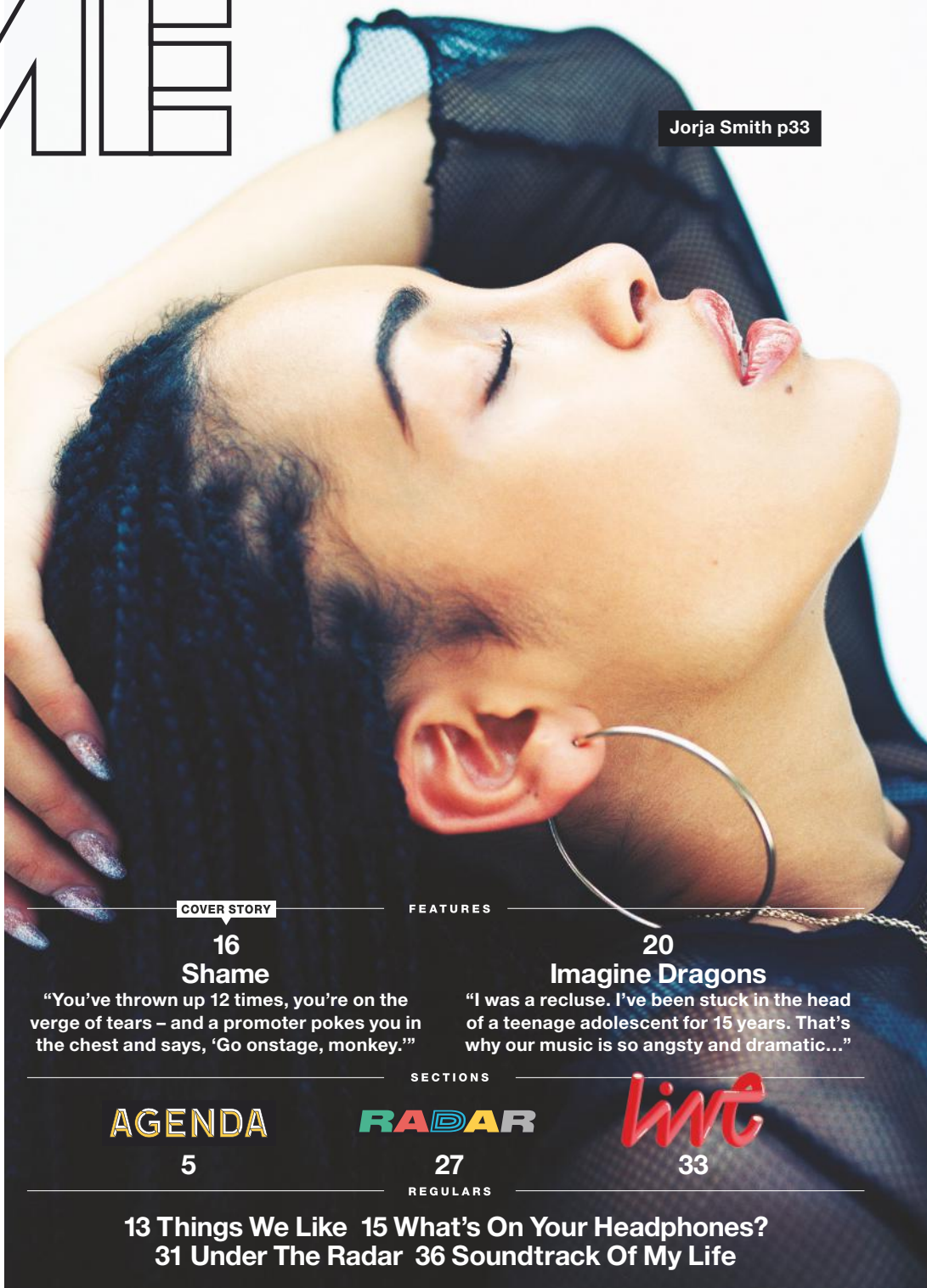
TWO WEEKS AGO AT THE VO5 NME Awards I said this: "The most important people are the *NME* audience. There are more of you now than at any point in *NME*'s history. And you don't just have impeccable music taste – you care more about what's going on in the world than many of the generations that have come before you.

Last year I challenged the artists in the room to use their influence to inspire some positive change. And that's been *NME*'s challenge too. For the past year we've been challenging the people in power, standing up for the things that affect our readers every day. But it's not about what we've done. The challenge is to keep on doing it. We have to give a voice to the young people who this government have no interest in listening to. Whenever we see an opportunity to stand up for them, we have to take it. But so do all of you. And if we stand together, maybe together we can make some good things happen."

I left *NME* this week. It's been an honour and a privilege and I'm proud of everything we've achieved. Keep fighting and keep discovering x

MIKE WILLIAMS
Editor-in-Chief
@itsmikelike

Jorja Smith p33



COVER STORY

16

Shame

"You've thrown up 12 times, you're on the verge of tears – and a promoter pokes you in the chest and says, 'Go onstage, monkey.'"

FEATURES

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Imagine Dragons

"I was a recluse. I've been stuck in the head of a teenage adolescent for 15 years. That's why our music is so angsty and dramatic..."

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REGULARS

**13 Things We Like 15 What's On Your Headphones?
31 Under The Radar 36 Soundtrack Of My Life**

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AGE DA

WHAT EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT THIS WEEK

Mick Jagger performing at Madison Square Garden, New York, in 1975

Keep on rolling

The Rolling Stones have announced new dates for their No Filter tour this summer, and tickets are on sale now. Let these 10 no-filter facts entice you

1 Incredibly, the Stones have only had eight UK Number One singles; Westlife had 14.

2 Billionaire George Lucas, creator of *Star Wars* and *Indiana Jones*, was one of the cameramen on the 1970 Rolling Stones documentary *Gimme Shelter*.

3 For a long time Keith Richards was rumoured to have had a full blood transfusion to kick his heroin addiction; in 2010 he admitted he'd invented the rumour himself.

4 Charlie Watts has an enormous vintage car collection but can't drive. He reputedly enjoys sitting in the back and listening to the sound of the engines.

5 Keith Richards thinks The Beatles' classic 'Sgt. Pepper's...' and The Stones' own 'Their Satanic Majesties Request' are both terrible. "I think it's a mishmash of rubbish," he said of 'Sgt. Pepper's...' in 2015, "kind of like 'Satanic Majesties'." He went on, "Oh, if you can make a load of s**t, so can we."

6 The Stones' 1964 eponymous debut album contains only one original song – 'Tell Me (You're Coming Back)', which was supposedly written when Jagger and Richards were locked in a kitchen by then-manager Andrew Oldham and forced to write.

7 Many of the lyrics for 1972's 'Exile On Main St.' were crafted using William S Burroughs' 'cut-up' technique – taking an existing text, cutting it up and rearranging the words.

8 Keith Richards' mother bought him his first guitar, a Rosetti acoustic, for £7.

9 In 1973 The Stones fired their legendary saxophonist Bobby Keys when, late for rehearsals, he was found smoking a cigar in a bathtub full of champagne.

10 The band have sold more than 250 million albums; Adele is currently around the 100m mark.

The dates

MAY

Tue 22 Stadium, London

JUNE

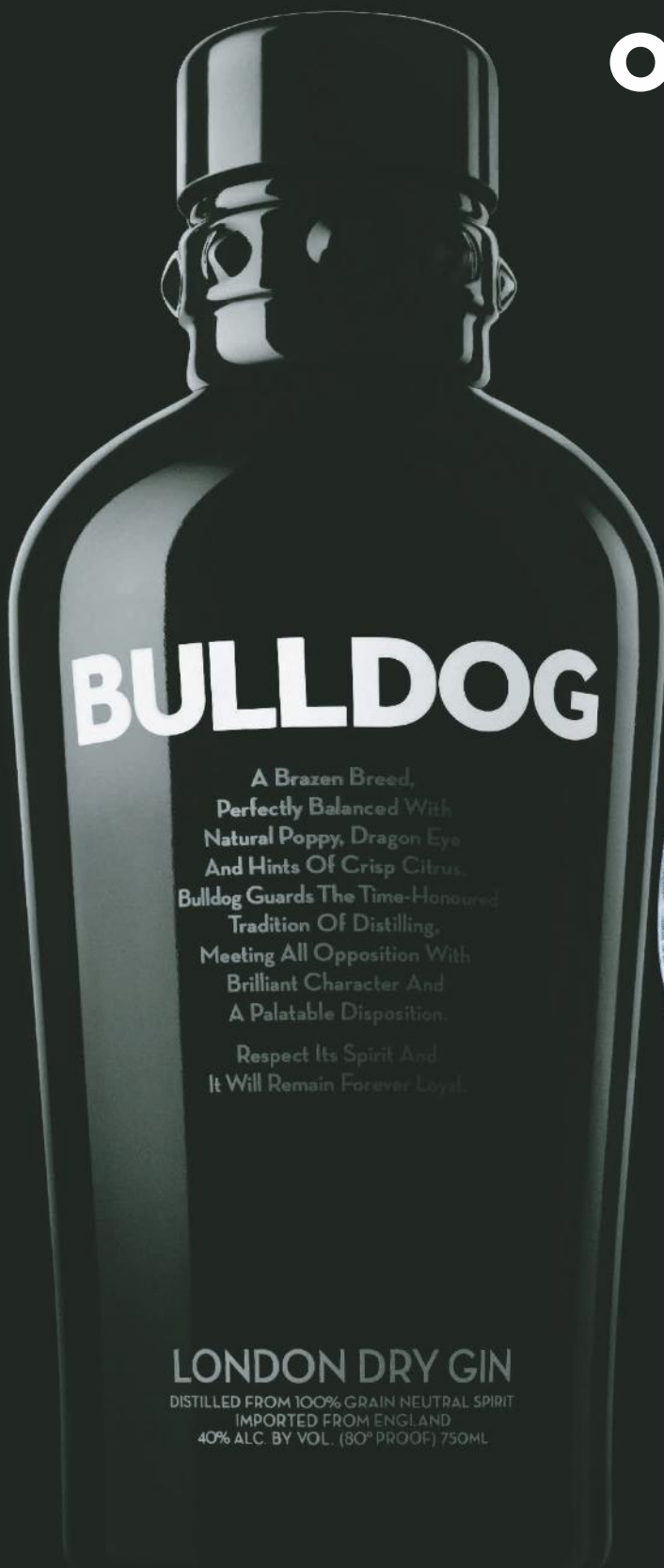
Tue 5 Old Trafford, Manchester

Sat 9 BT Murrayfield Stadium, Edinburgh

Fri 15 Principality Stadium, Cardiff

Tue 19 Stadium, Twickenham

SMOOTHER ON THE INSIDE



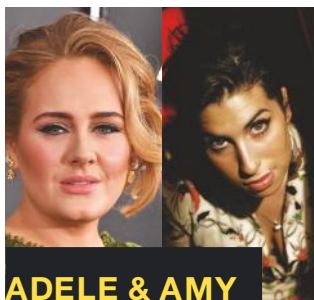
Who would you like to pay tribute to on International Women's Day?

These wonderful people



LAVERNE COX

"Seeing a trans woman be so prolific is really inspirational. She's on the cover of magazines all the time and she's truly living her best life and it's incredible to see. I would say the women of the #MeToo movement or the woman who's working three jobs to support her family. There's countless women around the world who are doing incredible things for the people around them, so selflessly. I take my hat off to them." **Troye Sivan**, singer, songwriter, actor, YouTuber



ADELE & AMY WINEHOUSE

"They do something to me, something powerful. Their music's unbelievable. Adele is humble and very real, and Amy was just my queen. Her music's always touched me and resonated with me. I'd s**t myself if I met Adele." **Tom Grennan**, rising singer-songwriter



ELLIE ROWSELL

"She inspires me every day. That's the truthful answer." **Joel Amey**, drummer in Wolf Alice



PJ HARVEY

"As I grew up she was really important to me and she became someone who helped me, and listened to me, being a friend. So she's been an inspiration all through my life, from when I was a teenager, and has become someone I can go to for advice." **Jehnnny Beth**, singer in Savages



RIHANNA

"She's a great role model and a genius. I think she's the ultimate feminist because she's totally embracing her sexuality at the same time as being a musical genius and inspiration." **Grace Chatto**, singer and instrumentalist in Clean Bandit



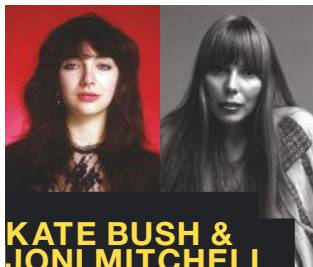
CÉLINE DION

"I saw her perform recently at the O2. She was just amazing. She's been performing and singing for years and years and her voice is still the best voice ever. She sings every high note, night after night. After all the stuff that she's been through, getting out there and performing... She's very inspiring." **Pixie Lott**, pop star



ALISON GOLDFRAPP

"From the very beginning she's been a huge inspiration on the music we write. She was also the first person I ever saw live." **Mike Kerr**, singer and guitarist in Royal Blood



KATE BUSH & JONI MITCHELL

"They're the best. Easy." **Danielle Haim**, singer and guitarist in Haim



MAYA ANGELOU

"She's a very inspiring woman. I read her books, it got me through a lot. That changed my life in a way." **Little Simz**, awesome rapper



SADE

"She's a queen, woo! And she has new music coming out." **Julie Adenuga**, Beats 1 DJ



DUA LIPA

"She's done ridiculously well this year, and it's ridiculous to see someone from Britain do that and go to the States and kill it. For British music to have her is an amazing thing." **Dot Major**, percussion and keys in London Grammar

International Women's Day is on Thursday, March 8

An apology to Mo The Comedian and Marcel Somerville

IN THE FEBRUARY 23 issue of *NME*, in a six-page picture feature about the VO5 NME Awards 2018, we published a picture of Clara Amfo and Marcel Somerville with the incorrect caption 'Clara

Amfo and Mo The Comedian'. We would like to apologise unreservedly to both Marcel and Mo for this embarrassing mistake. Both Marcel and Mo were invited to the awards because they are people who

NME readers like and admire, and we are devastated to have made such a big error. We apologise for any offence or upset caused, and look forward to working with both Marcel and Mo in the future.

NME PROMOTION



The Closing Party was held at London's O2 Arena, which is within stumbling distance of the NME office. If you see us down there, ours is a pint, yeah?

THE BIG PICTURE

Some ace shots from the VO5 NME Awards 2018 Closing Party at Omeara on February 26, because why not

VO5 NME AWARDS 2018

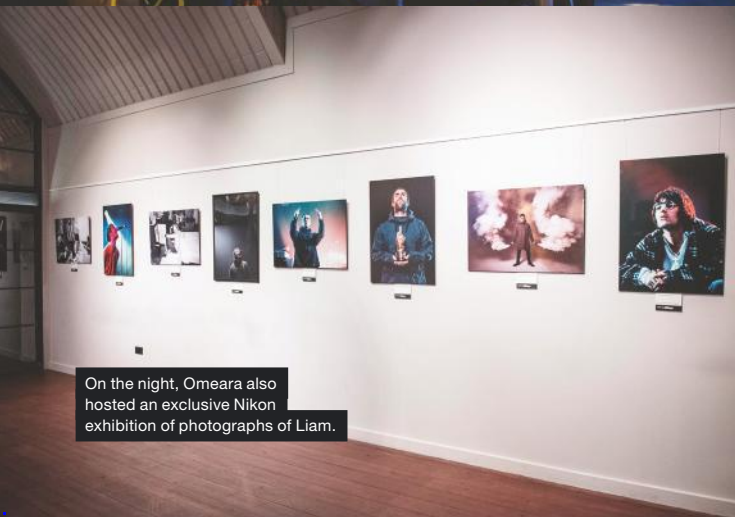
SHOT ON **Nikon**



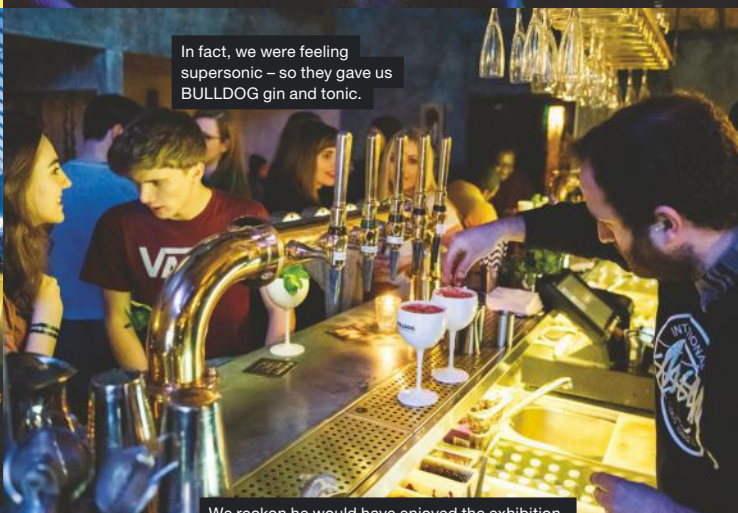
As the show approached, we were all excited and thirsty. Mainly thirsty.



Alt-J unveiled fan favourite 'In Cold Blood', which they followed up with the equally well-loved 'Tessellate' – all shimmering synths and slinky, suggestive lyrics.



On the night, Omeara also hosted an exclusive Nikon exhibition of photographs of Liam.



In fact, we were feeling supersonic – so they gave us BULLDOG gin and tonic.

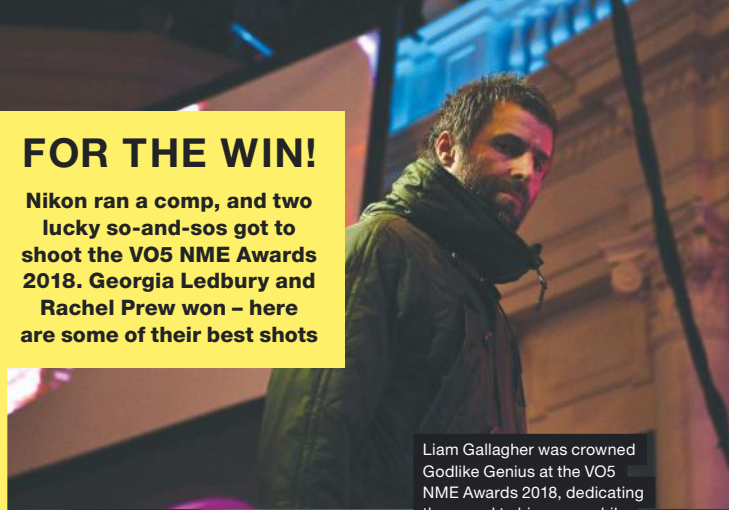


We reckon he would have enjoyed the exhibition, since it was packed with snaps of him looking untouchably cool. As you were, Liam (literally – he's quite young in some of those photos).



FOR THE WIN!

Nikon ran a comp, and two lucky so-and-sos got to shoot the VO5 NME Awards 2018. Georgia Ledbury and Rachel Prew won – here are some of their best shots

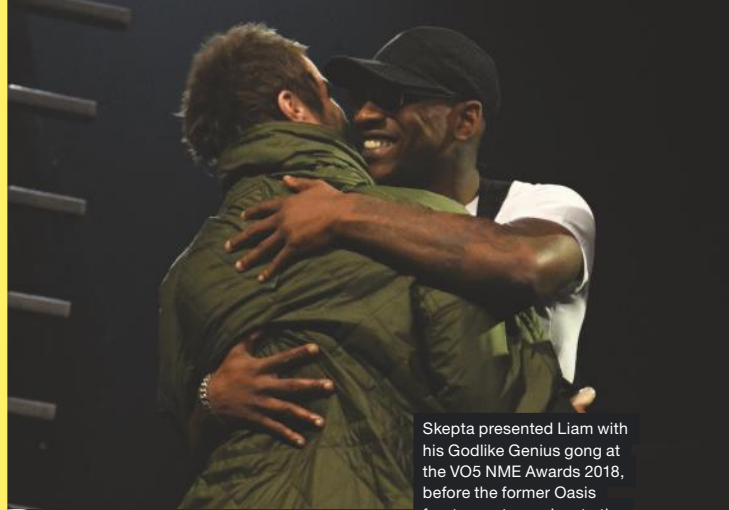


Liam Gallagher was crowned Godlike Genius at the VO5 NME Awards 2018, dedicating the award to his mum, while fellow Mancunians Pale Waves delivered a shimmering rendition of their dream-pop banger 'There's A Honey'.



The audience chanted along with 'Breezeblocks', belting, "Please don't go / I love you so". We're not crying, you're crying.

PHOTOS: ANDY HUGHES



Skepta presented Liam with his Godlike Genius gong at the VO5 NME Awards 2018, before the former Oasis frontman stepped up to the mic for an unstoppable set that included the classic 'Rock N' Roll Star'.



Rounding off the night, singer Joe Newman called out, "Thanks to NME for having us. It's a great magazine; long may it last." Aw, shucks, Joe – we like you too!



It's time to play the music

This summer, the Muppets will perform in the UK for first time. To celebrate, here's a chat with Kermit and Miss Piggy

So we're backstage at The O2 at the moment. Have you picked your dressing room yet, Miss Piggy?

Miss Piggy: "No, I haven't gotten to take a look around, but it's a big place. I bet they've got some *really* big dressing rooms."

I believe you two aren't together at the moment; does that make work –

Kermit: *(Interrupting)* We're together right now."

I mean, you know, romantically together.

Miss Piggy: "It's not a matter of *believing* or not, OK? The truth is the truth, and we are no longer a couple."

Is working together like this quite awkward?

Kermit: "Actually, it makes it pretty great."

Miss Piggy: "Yeah!"

Kermit: "Yeah, it's great. We have our work life, which is kinda what we're doing here, and then we have our personal life which is over there – don't we?"

Kermit, you've said you're going to be doing a little song and dance at the shows.

One of my favourites is 'It's Not Easy Bein' Green'. A lot's changed since that song came out. Is it easier being green now, do you think?

Kermit: "Oh, well I think, I think, as long as you believe in yourself, yeah, yeah I think it is."

Miss Piggy: "I don't really understand that song – can you explain it to me?"

Kermit: "It's not actually about being the colour green."

Miss Piggy: "Well, you are green."

Kermit: "I – I know, yes."

Miss Piggy: "So why would you say it if it's not about being green? It's in the title of the song."

Kermit: "It is in the title, it's more kind of a metaphor, kind of, uh..."

Miss Piggy: "I don't understand. You... you are green."

Kermit: "Yes."

Miss Piggy: "So it's very easy for you."

I believe you'll be getting guests involved in the show.

Who would you like to feature? Do you have a favourite rapper?

Kermit: "I hear Stormzy is quite good, right?"

Miss Piggy: "Oh yeah!"

Oh, you like grime music, Kermit?

Kermit: "Well, I heard he won big, right?"

At the BRITs, yeah. Did you bump into him on the way in?

Kermit: "No I didn't, but you know, I did see a bit of his act and it looked like there was a little leak coming from the ceiling."

Miss Piggy: "Oh yeah, I saw that too. First I thought he was just sweating a lot."

Kermit: "No no, it wasn't sweating."

Miss Piggy: "There was a leak. That wasn't here, was it?"

Kermit: "Yeah, it was here, yeah."

Miss Piggy: "Really? I hope they fix the ceiling before our show."

Kermit: *(Shouts into the distance)* Can we get someone to look into that? *(Turns back)* OK, they're going to look into it."

The Muppets play The O2 Arena on Friday, July 13 and Saturday, July 14. Tickets are on sale now

Miss Piggy (left) and Kermit outside The O2



THE BOOTLEG BEATLES

Made headlines because they're auditioning for a new John Lennon. Must have "basic rhythm guitar skills".



LANA DEL REY

Went into the studio with Jack Antonoff. Did not record a Radiohead cover.



FERGIE

Sang the American national anthem at an NBA All-Star basketball game in an ill-advisedly saucy fashion.



KFC

Many UK branches closed due to a chicken shortage. The Colonel's bucket runneth over with tears.



ON THE RECORD

BIG OPINIONS. NO FILTER.



THIS WEEK

Don't be fooled – Hollywood still hates women

CRACK OPEN THE FIZZ and squeeze yourself into a t*t-crushing sample-size gown because Hollywood's favourite night of earnest backslapping is here again! There's a harsh irony in the fact that, since the Academy Awards' inception in 1929, it's leading ladies who have dominated the headlines in the days following the event – be they a weeping Gwyneth Paltrow, Björk wearing the lifeless corpse of a swan or Hattie McDaniel, the first African-American to win an award for her role in *Gone With The Wind* – and yet it's women who remain grasping the s**tty end of the film industry stick. And don't get us started on the fact that this is a pattern repeated across the globe in far less glamorous, less well-paid sectors without any tit-crushing frocks at all.

This year will doubtless be no different. The Time's Up campaign might be readying its biggest moment in the global spotlight so far but women are still vastly, ludicrously

underrepresented in film. "But what about the glorious likes of *Wonder Woman*, *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri* and Greta Gerwig's low-key masterpiece, *Lady Bird*?", I hear you cry. "What about Emma Watson's box office-smashing *Beauty And The Beast*?" "What about the film where Paddington's mum shags a fish?" The Oscars will be definitely be dishing out prizes to a number of these female-focused movies, but according to a new report from the Centre for the Study of Women in Television and Film, the number of women in leading roles in mainstream movies in 2017 was a paltry 24 per cent

– five per cent lower than in the previous year. If that weren't enough, their research also found that last year only 32 per cent of films had 10 or more female characters with speaking roles (compared to 79 per cent boasting 10 or more men who were graciously allowed to talk). And while the number of black female characters increased by two per cent, it was still only at 16 per cent, with Asian and Latina female characters at

seven per cent.

These figures make for grim reading, especially when so much has been made of late about it finally being women's time to shine both behind and in front of the camera. As always, it seems like the best way to distract people from a problem is to make a huge song and dance about the exceptions that prove the rule. Well, guess what: we've seen through it and we're far from happy about it. Your move, Hollywood.

@leoniemaycooper

Greta Gerwig directing her low-key masterpiece, *Lady Bird*



"It's women who remain grasping the stty end of the film industry stick"**

Last W33K IN NUMBERS

Five

Pop stars – Dua Lipa, Charli XCX, ALMA, Zara Larsson and MØ – who *slayed* the Radio 1 Live Lounge with 'IDGAF'.

45

Festivals have pledged to achieve a 50:50 gender divide in their line-up by 2022. About bloody time.

\$1m

Amount someone potentially made by streaming their own Spotify playlist millions of times. A great rock'n'roll swindle.

\$90k

Amount Jay-Z spent on his own champagne in New York, tipping \$11,000 (that's not even 15 per cent)!



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THINGS WE LIKE

THIS WEEK'S OBJECTS OF DESIRE



No sweat
Burton's new SMART line includes some decidedly decent basics.
£35 burton.co.uk



Sleeve notes
Make a statement with this stripy, swishy and rather excellent top.
£18 nobodyschild.com



Sporty number
Go full 1990s with Diadora's classy old-school gold trainers.
£75 diadora.com



Mellow yellow
Be a right Champion with the sportswear label's mega sweater.
£55 urbanoutfitters.com



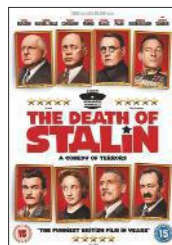
Claws out
The greatest Marvel movie of all time? Show your *Black Panther* love with this tee.
£15.95 nme.com/merch



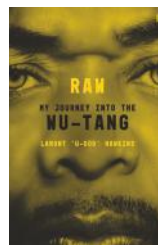
Boom time
The WONDERBOOM Bluetooth speaker sounds as good as it looks.
£89.99 ultimateears.com



Go Jerry
Limited edition Sailor Jerry spiced rum comes in a lavish tattoo bottle.
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Commie relief
Looking for political laughs? Then pick up *The Death Of Stalin* on DVD.
£9.99 amazon.co.uk



Wu hoo
Raw: My Journey Into The Wu-Tang is U-God's hip-hop memoir.
£14.99 foyles.co.uk



Slick Rick
Rick And Morty's Rise Of The Phoenix Person tee is an hmv exclusive.
2 for £20 in store and hmv.com



Morty-fying
The *Rick And Morty* Bird Person tee is exclusive to hmv.
2 for £20
in store and hmv.com



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Prep yourself for festival season with an all-weather waxed Barbour jacket.
£199.99 barbour.com



Cult classics
Reebok Classics meets P.E Nation for these highly covetable kicks.
£85 pe-nation.com



Spray it
Spritz VO5's Damage Protect Primer Spray all over to keep locks lush.
£4.39 boots.com

ORANGETM

AMPLIFICATION



**"THE AD30 WAS THE FIRST THING I BOUGHT WHEN WE GOT A RECORD DEAL.
I LOVE THE SOUND OF IT! IT'S BEEN MY ONLY LIVE AMP SINCE."**

Ryan Jarman - The Cribs

YOUR TOWN. YOUR MUSIC. YOUR STYLE

What's ON your Headphones?

THIS WEEK

Dorchester



DIL JONES > 29, builder

Listening to:
**GORGON CITY
FEAT. VAULTS**
All Four Walls
"It keeps me motivated.
I need a dance every now
and then!"

Wearing: Bucks Couture
jacket, SIKSILK jeans.
**Best thing about
Dorchester:** "The
Electric Palace has loads
of great live music
to offer."



< TYLER WINCHCOMBE 24, site manager

Listening to:
PENDULUM
Hold Your Colour
"I've seen them live
three times."

Wearing: Superdry jacket,
Jack Wills T-shirt, Topman
jeans, Blue Inc trainers.
**Best thing about
Dorchester:** "Go to
the Dinosaur Museum
and check out
some pterodactyls."



< IMOGEN WILSON 22, designer

Listening to:
RACHEL PLATTEN
Fight Song
"She creates happy music
that always puts me in
a good mood."

Wearing: H&M jacket,
self-designed top, New
Look jeans, River Island
boots, Radley bag.
**Best thing about
Dorchester:** "Dorchester
Arts Festival is really cool."

"The Electric
Palace has
loads of great
live music"

SOPHIE SKIPPER > 21, receptionist

Listening to:
BRITNEY SPEARS
Work Bitch
"She came back from her
horrible breakdown and
that's amazing."

Wearing: Primark shirt,
Britney Spears T-shirt from
Las Vegas, New Look
jeggings, Reebok trainers.
**Best thing about
Dorchester:** "Plaza
cinema is a cute little place
to watch films."





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

GAME

Shame may well be the best band in the UK. Though they despise rock clichés, the acclaimed group is leading a vital, emerging UK guitar scene. “We are part of a completely new generation,” they tell Jordan Bassett

THE GALLAGHERS swagger into the clammy submarine of a venue that is London’s iconic 100 Club. Squint and it could be 1994, with a joyous racket tumbling from the hyped guitar band onstage.

Come back into focus and you’ll see that it is in fact Liam’s sons Gene and Lennon. The band is Shame, the London post-punk five-piece whose debut, ‘Songs Of Praise’, was the first album this year to receive *NME*’s five-star treatment.

Appearing to have stepped from the panels of *Viz*, frontman Charlie Steen snarls, “Come on, enjoy yourselves, London – *smile*,” while Shame churn out their thunderous concoction of Fall-style riffs and hoarse backing vocals. If everyone in the audience looks like they’re in a band, it’s because most of them are: HMLTD, Sorry and The Big Moon have all turned out to see their pals. Steen concludes the show with the nagging refrain, “Shame, Shame, Shame – that’s the name,” proving he’s no stranger to iconoclasm and drama.

PHOTOS BY DEAN CHALKLEY



When *NME* meets Steen, drummer Charlie Forbes, guitarists Sean Coyle-Smith and Eddie Green and bassist Josh Finerty at a London café the following day, the stereo is pumping out – appropriately enough – Oasis’ ‘Some Might Say’.

Did they realise that there were a couple of Gallagher brothers in the audience? “Yeah,” laughs Coyle-Smith. “My mum was like, ‘Did you see that Liam Gallagher from Oasis is here?’ I was like, ‘Mum, Liam Gallagher’s not 19 – that’s his son.’”

More important, of course, are the bands Shame have forged something of a south London scene with. Brixton dive bar the Windmill serves as the groups’ shared stomping ground, and Steen describes last night’s mass migration to central London as “like a reunion”. Asked if he’s bothered about the 100 Club’s place in punk legend, Coyle-Smith replies, “Back when the Sex Pistols were playing it [in 1976], it was just a s**t club. It’s a bit different now, going to this place with all this grandiose [reputation].”

Shame formed in a similarly scuzzy Brixton pub – The Queen’s Head, formerly home to Fat White Family. They met through school and college, but credit the boozier – a spit-and-sawdust carnival of hedonism where the then 17-year-olds could rehearse – with enabling them to become Shame. As might be expected, given their history, their conversation is jokey, breathless and overlapping, and never more so than when they’re recalling their salad days at The Queen’s Head.

There was the memorable drag night. “It was four in the morning and

the place was rammed,” Coyle-Smith recalls. “The landlord was dancing on the bar and went like that (*mimes lifting his dress*) and was wearing no underwear.” For clarity, he adds: “He got out his c**k and his balls.”

There was the day that one of the Fat Whites’ beds caught fire and another when a man banged a big bag of asbestos on the bar. “One thing you’re not supposed to do with asbestos is disturb it,” Coyle-Smith notes sagely. “It releases the poisons and s**t and you die.”

Shame lived to tell the tale, though The Queen’s Head became a gastropub in 2015. “[In its heyday] it was like you were always walking into the middle of something when you walked in there,” Steen says. “When it closed down, everyone was left stranded.” Forbes adds, “It felt like we were back to square one. It was like, ‘Where do we go and what do we do now?’”

The answer, of course, is the Windmill. Shame agree the scene is at least tangentially politicised in the sense that it’s a youth movement emerging as a reaction to the mainstream. “It does go hand in hand with [the fact that] in the last election there was a much larger youth turnout,” says Finerty. “I think that’s because of people getting more involved with politics and people speaking their opinions. A lot of young artists did speak out for Jeremy Corbyn. We’re all f**ked right now, and that’s definitely a catalyst for being more outspoken and political.”

Shame broadly support the Labour leader and admire the #grime4corbyn movement. “A youthful voice is becoming more prominent,” Steen proclaims. “Bands have a lot more to

say. We’re living in a very exciting time for music and might just not realise the importance of it at the moment.”

Coyle-Smith believes that the Queen’s Head “gave us an old-school mindset”. Perhaps that’s why Shame sometimes feel like a political band from the Thatcher era (they once sold posters that read, “If you vote Tory you’re a c**t”, and in 2017 recorded the non-album track ‘Visa Vulture’, a protest against Theresa May’s record as Home Secretary). For all this, though, ‘Songs Of Praise’ is as playful, lyrically, as the album’s authors are in person (not least when the track ‘The Lick’ lightly pokes fun at *NME*). Shame gigged relentlessly last year – another example of their old-school mentality – and days after their *NME* interview will launch their upcoming Australian tour, followed by American shows and, eventually, UK dates in April. It’s perhaps this pressure that causes the

afternoon’s sole moment of tension.

Steen is saying he wants to slow down a little when it comes to touring, as 2017’s relentless schedule caused him to end the year with a series of panic attacks, a fact he’s brought up in previous interviews. Looking at the table, Coyle-Smith says, “Don’t talk about that,” which leads Steen to flare up, “What do you mean, stop talking about that?”

Coyle-Smith: “I just mean... In every interview.”

Steen: “In every interview? Talking about something that happened to me last month? Like my mental health that meant for us to cancel that tour and come back and you’re saying –”

Coyle-Smith: “I know; the same thing happened to me.”

Steen: “I know, but then talk about it.”

It’s natural Coyle-Smith and Steen should have the occasional bust-up; they’ve been close since primary school, after all. What’s clear, though, is that Steen sometimes veers into more heavyweight

Shame on...

...THAT TIME JOSH HOMME KICKED A PHOTOGRAPHER IN THE HEAD

“F**k Josh Homme,” Steen says. “That should be punishable. I think we as a band disagree with everything that Josh Homme is symbolic of.”

...THERESA MAY’S RECORD AS HOME SECRETARY

Steen was 17 when he wrote the lyrics to ‘Visa Vulture’, appalled at “how many people she was deporting for reasons that weren’t backed up with much evidence.” Green adds, “I think that’s why she seems so nervous now.”

...GROPING AT GIGS

“It’s amazing to see organisations like Girls Against have so much power in a time like this,” Steen says, “but it’s deeply saddening that this is even happening in the first place.”

conversation before he's drawn back into the rest of Shame's japes. He often looks at the Dictaphone when he speaks, as though it's inhaling his words like that thing in *Ghostbusters* that collects ghosts. When the interview wraps up, Steen quietly approaches *NME* to arrange a separate follow-up chat. "Can you call me tomorrow? Or maybe we can meet up?" Perhaps he has a few things to exorcise.

An enormous, bear-like German Shepherd called Lucky lopes up and down the roof of the building as *NME* approaches the Windmill, the venue for the rendezvous. Daylight is unkind to the club's interior, which appears to be adorned with a thin layer of ectoplasm.

A blackboard reveals that, sure enough, south London faves Hotel Lux, Sorry and Goat Girl will continue to champion the scene that gave us Shame. When Steen shuffles in, followed closely by bandmate Green, he mutters with a sly grin, "Eddie's come to babysit me. He's come to make sure I don't say anything stupid."

Green and Steen chat with a grizzled promoter called Tim, who fishes out two contraband cans of lager he confiscated from teenagers the other night. Shame have played countless gigs at the Windmill, most of which concluded with Steen shirtless, which he attributes to self-consciousness about his body image. "The first time I got onstage was the first time I felt freed from any criticism," he explains. "I could dismiss any thoughts of humiliation and was able to find empowerment in that. There's just one fragment of time in your day where you're untouchable. That builds your confidence as a person."

Steen is more considered than he was in the group interview. He's aware that some onlookers might mislabel Shame as lunkhead lads – and is determined to prove otherwise. "That experience of liberation from critique is the environment we try to create in our live performance," he says. "That's why the energy from the crowd is so important at our gigs – it's not just about us when we're onstage."

There was a punch-up at an early Shame show and Steen now says firmly, "Anyone who's bringing such aggression and harassment to one of our shows isn't welcome. It's supposed to be a safe space, an environment where everyone that wants to be involved can get involved. Anyone who wants to disturb that is completely unjust. That is never something we've

wanted or condoned – I don't want anyone to fall or be hurt or harassed in the crowd. That's everything we want to avoid and it's disgraceful that it happened in the first place. We want to do everything we can to prevent that from happening again."

He then voices support for Girls Against, the activists dedicated to eradicating sexual harassment at shows. "We are part of a completely new generation addressing issues that should have been addressed at the beginning of pop culture and should never have arisen in the first place," he says. "I think that [at punk shows in general] there may be some intimidation that comes from male aggression and that's something that we want to dissolve so everyone can be involved."

And what of his own wellbeing?

Steen gently downplays his previous remark about anxiety, though uses the opportunity to make a point about mental health stigma in society at large. "Any band that has to endure the mental strain of sleep deprivation and constant moving will experience that,"

he says. "We gigged and gigged until it broke us – and it eventually broke my mind. This must be one of the only professions in the world where you'll be shivering in the corner, you've thrown up 12 times in one day and you're basically on the verge of tears – and then a promoter pokes you in the chest and says, "Go onstage, monkey, go onstage." He continues, "One in four people that you meet have anxiety. It's a prominent issue, and a situation that needs to be addressed."

In illustrating the issue, Steen mentions a scene in the Oasis documentary *Supersonic* where Noel Gallagher snorts dismissively of bassist Paul McGuigan's anxiety, "Nervous exhaustion? What's that – being in a band?" Things were different in the '90s, a truth emphasised when 20-year-old Steen speaks thoughtfully on a range of social issues. In many ways, Shame are an average bunch of lads, but Steen's desire to publicly explore social concerns indicates a sensitivity that sets them apart. He

sometimes runs out of steam when talking about the heavy stuff – perhaps that's why he drafted Eddie in as support – but, as he points out, "We're only 20 years old so we're still learning a lot about ourselves."

As that 100 Club show proved, Shame retain the energy of each youth guitar movement before them – Britpop via punk via post-punk – and bring it into focus for 2018. Perhaps in 20 years, Steen's kids will swan into the Windmill to hear whichever new band is making a similarly joyous racket.

NME

"We gigged until it broke us"

New gen

Meet Shame's pals in the south London scene



SORRY

Combining brittle hip-hop with lilting grunge melodies.

Essential track: 'Drag King'



HMLTD

Droog-like dudes who make music-hall punk, dressed like vaudevillian gang members.

Essential track: 'To The Door'



HOTEL LUX

Nick Cave-esque psychobilly wrong 'uns.

Essential track: 'The Last Hangman'



UNLEASH THE DRAGONS

As Imagine Dragons' UK tour wraps up, Dan Reynolds takes Mark Beaumont inside the band's tortured soul

DAN REYNOLDS IS THE singer and emotional wellspring of Imagine Dragons, the 12 million-selling phenomenon who merge pop, R&B, EDM and country into their monumentally popular, vacuum-sealed, training-bra rock tunes. But you don't have to dig too deep into Reynolds' lyrics to uncover torment. If second album 'Smoke + Mirrors' "was written during the worst place in my life – I was dealing with suicidality," then their Top Five third 'Evolve' "is exactly that – I've been evolving". It might mark a breakthrough, but it delves into the darkness beneath Imagine Dragons' colourful scales...

L-r: Wayne Sermon, Daniel Platzman, Dan Reynolds, Ben McKee

THE TORTURED TEEN ANGST

KEY LYRIC: "Kids were laughing in my classes / While I was scheming for the masses / 'Who do you think you are?' / Dreaming 'bout being a big star'" *'Thunder'*

"When I was in middle school, I had one friend," Dan says. "I was not good at making friends. I had a really hard adolescence. Really bad acne, an expander in my mouth so all my teeth were half an inch away from each other, I didn't fit into any group. I went home every day and I'd make music on the computer, that was my refuge. It was my secret – that's how Imagine Dragons began. I hate the word 'outcast' because it's such a cliché, but I was a bit of a

recluse. I feel like I've been stuck in the head of a teenage adolescent for 15 years. That's why Imagine Dragons' music is always so angsty, over the top, dramatic, almost like a school boy complaining..."

His musical ambitions weren't taken too seriously at home either. Brought up in a Mormon family in Las Vegas surrounded by brothers who were doctors and attorneys, Dan's music was considered a hobby, right up until he dropped out of college to perform full-time. "It's taken a while to really let myself believe that art is just as important and that music, as stupid as it sounds, also saves lives," he says. "It saved my life – it's been my real religion."

THE REBELLIOUS STREAK

KEY LYRIC: "Just a young gun with a quick fuse... / Not a yes sir, not a follower" *'Thunder'*

Dan clashed with his family over religion from an early age. His first songs concerned his loss of faith, "things that I couldn't say to my mom and dad but I could hide it in the music, very metaphorically," and the strict rules of Mormonism didn't exactly gel with his natural human instincts. Aged 18, he was kicked out of the Mormon-owned Brigham Young University in Utah when he confessed he'd slept with his girlfriend of four years out of wedlock.

"That was a shaming experience for me," he says. "My entire community – or so I felt – looked at me as if I was dirty, which was

devastating and humiliating. I also felt like God looked at me as dirty, even though my heart said, 'This is fine, you're OK'. I stayed home for a year and all my friends went off to college. It first triggered depression in my life. My whole world just felt like it crumbled. I dealt with that for 10-plus years."

God should have had more faith in Dan – it's not like he's become the Mormon Nikki Sixx. "Even if I wasn't married, I don't identify with that part of rock'n'roll," Dan says. "As far as drugs and stuff, I understand that appeal big time and I have to be careful because I easily succumb to substance abuse... I'm a very all-or-nothing person. I've stopped myself from chasing down some rabbit holes that I've found to be very dangerous."

The Imagine Dragons story in four key tunes

'IT'S TIME' (2011)

The Dragons' soul-scouring, Celt-rock major-label debut made them a global phenomenon after it was featured in a hard-hitting skipping scene in *Glee*.

'RADIOACTIVE' (2012)

Laced with apocalyptic imagery, one of the darker, dubsteppier moments on debut album 'Night Visions' became the Dragons' biggest hit so far and among the bestselling digital singles ever.

'DEMONS' (2012)

A bombast-pop dissection of Reynolds' "dark inside", the fifth single from 'Night Visions' stayed on the Billboard Top 100 for over a year and became the eighth most downloaded rock song.

'I BET MY LIFE' (2014)

Imbued with gospel, Celtic, Afrobeat and road-ravaged rock elements as a result of touring the world, Reynolds' tribute to his 'difficult' relationship with his parents introduced their million-selling second album 'Smoke + Mirrors'.

THE TRIALS OF FAME

KEY LYRIC: "Most days I'm keeping to myself / Living in my little bubble" *'Dancing In The Dark'*

It's not all revving off into the sunset of success, however. 'Evolve' hints at the loneliness of the road and the strains fame puts on relationships. And then there are us dratted critics.

"[Fame is] a beautiful thing," Dan says. "I don't know if I'd be here today if it wasn't for art and having these people listen. But it comes with shaking the devil's hand: 'Yes I'll open my heart for the whole world to see and let some people take a s---t on it'. And if you're a sensitive person, there's gonna be times where you wanna hide in a hole and take it all back, but you can't... Imagine Dragons has been like opening my chest so everyone can see my heart and saying, 'Damn it's really broken, this sucks'. So to have someone laugh and say it was a joke or overdramatic..."

Some might consider Imagine Dragons as a prime symbol of rock being swallowed whole by pop. What would Kurt Cobain make of Imagine Dragons?

Dan grins. "What a loaded question. Part of the reason I love Nirvana was I felt [Cobain's] heart in everything he was saying and I felt it breaking. That honesty was what I identified with. I would hope that he would identify with someone who's trying to be honest."

NME

THE RELIGIOUS GUILT

KEY LYRICS: "I wanna live a life like that / Live the life of the faithful one" *'Mouth Of The River'*

"I'm broken in the prime of my life / So embrace it" *'Rise Up'*

Like many that wander from the narrow religious path of their upbringing for a crafty toke with Beelzebub and all his saucy imps, Dan is obsessed with spiritual guilt. "When you tell a 12-year-old boy to sit in meetings with an ecclesiastical leader and confess things about sexuality that make a kid feel guilt and remorse, you're damaging them immediately from the age of 12," he argues. "When I should've been thinking about school and girls, I was obsessed with, 'Am I [spiritually] clean?' I think that's super-damaging and it's taken me 'til this age to look back and have full understanding of that."

Hence Dan's recent documentary *Believer*,

tackling Mormonism's practice of shaming its LGBTQ youngsters. "They're told that their most innate sense of being, which is unchangeable, is flawed and they have to live with that every day," he says. "I had a few friends growing up who were gay and Mormon. I watched the conflict that they dealt with and the suicide that came alongside it."

Dan still claims Mormonism, although "there's days that I really don't believe in anything" and it's taken him several years to come to terms with losing (most of) his religion.

"Like, 'Wait, so maybe we die and the lights go out?'" he muses. "That's a devastating thing to learn, it broke me. Then on top of going through a faith crisis, to have this band that blows up and the whole world has an opinion about it - great things, terrible things. This is the first year in my life where I can truly say I don't give a damn."

RED CARPET STYLE GUIDE

Last month, the best dressed people in the entire world came to the VO5 NME Awards 2018. Here they are, looking fabulous



ANNE-MARIE

26, singer-songwriter

Describe your 'do:

"Straight, blonde and shiny. To be honest, I washed it for the first time in two weeks today, so it feels really good."

Discuss your duds: "A lot of leather, so I'm sweating out! I always wear trousers because that's what I'm most comfortable in."

Top fashion tip: "Don't be scared not to show off your body. Honestly, sometimes it's just about being comfortable."

JAMES BAY

27, singer-songwriter

Describe your 'do:

"Shorter! I'd had long hair for more than 10 years so it felt great when I got it cut."

Discuss your duds: "It's all Yves Saint Laurent. I'm a big fan of a lot of what they've done recently."

Top fashion tip: "Find what suits you, but don't be afraid to mix it up a bit."



ELLA EYRE

23, singer-songwriter

Describe your 'do: "My hair takes a lot of work, so my poor stylist! It's really hard to maintain the frizziness so I always use a lot of products."

Discuss your duds: "Today, I'm all about being comfortable. I just got off tour so I'm keeping it chill."

Top fashion tip: "If you don't feel comfortable in what you're wearing, you won't feel sexy either."



ENIOLA ALUKO

31, Chelsea and England footballer

Describe your 'do:

"These are called faux locs. I buy them from a friend of mine and it takes about three hours to have them done."

Discuss your duds: "My jacket's from Zara and I bought my skirt in America – I won't see anyone else wearing it tonight."

Top fashion tip:

"Whatever you wear, own it – in all senses of the word!"

BRIX SMITH START

55, The Fall guitarist

Describe your 'do: "I think it looks like a honey badger that's slept on the beach."

Discuss your duds: "I'm wearing a faux fur coat and a Rick Owens dress, plus one-off Nicholas Kirkwood combat boots that he made for me. They're worth thousands!"

Top fashion tip:

"Honestly, as long as you feel comfortable, you can rock anything."



MS BANKS

23, rapper and MC

Describe your 'do:

"Proper pink! I'm really feeling this colour."

Discuss your duds: "This dress is by House of CB – like always for me. My stylist gave me a few options but my heart was set on this one."

Top fashion tip: "If you want to look slim, wear black. It's old advice but it really works."



CRAIG DAVID

36, pop legend

Describe your 'do:

"Shiny. I get it cut twice a month to keep it sharp."

Discuss your duds:

"I have absolutely no idea! My stylist put together a nice little outfit for me, and I just ran with it."

Top fashion tip:

"Be comfortable in the clothes you're wearing. I wouldn't wear something just because my stylist says it's by a cool designer; it's got to feel right for me."

TOM GRENNAN

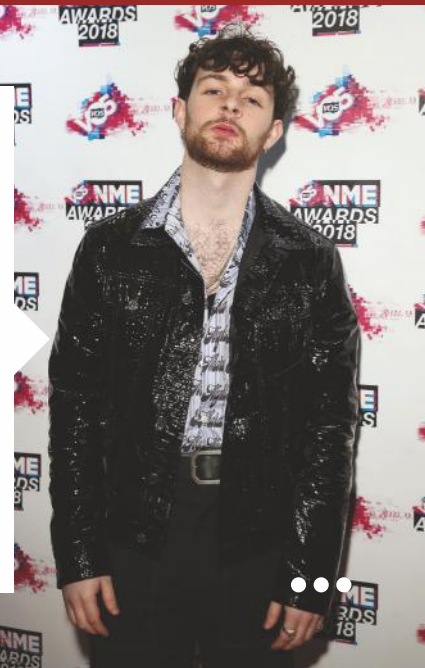
22, singer-songwriter

Describe your 'do:

"Elegantly bird's-nesty. It needs a wash to be honest with you."

Discuss your duds: "My jacket's by Blood Brother, my shirt's by a new brand called Soulland and my shoes are the standard Doc Marten tassel."

Top fashion tip: "Just do you. Don't be afraid of mixing it up. If you wanna wear a tutu, do it."



GABBY ALLEN

26, *Love Island* star

Describe your 'do: "It's meant to be a straight bob, but the rain hasn't done me any favours!"

Discuss your duds: "This dress is by Kim West and it's latex, so I feel like I have no clothes on! And my shoes are Christian Louboutin."

Top fashion tip: "If you're going to wear it, wear it with confidence. There's nothing worse than seeing someone whose clothes are wearing them rather than the other way round."



MARCEL SOMERVILLE

32, *Love Island* star

Describe your 'do: "An old-school hi-top. I like to keep it looking fresh."

Discuss your duds: "My jacket's by Udda – they make really cool stuff inspired by superheroes."

Top fashion tip: "I like to wear all black, but then add a little something to it, like a pop of colour."



ASHLEY JAMES

30, *Celebrity Big Brother* star

Describe your 'do: "It's rose gold. It's a new colour for me and I love it."

Discuss your duds: "This suit's by an Italian brand called Hebe Studio. I'm a big fan of suits – they're powerful but still sexy."

Top fashion tip: "Wear what you like, not what you think you should. I think confidence is key when picking an outfit."

ROMAN KEMP

25, presenter

Describe your 'do: "Like a croissant – someone shouted that at me in the street once!"

Discuss your duds: "Relaxed and classic. It's so nice being able to wear trainers tonight."

Top fashion tip: "Express yourself. Not enough people do that these days. Hair and clothes are a great way to show off your own personality."



Blossoms (l-r): Tom Ogden, Josh Dewhurst, Charlie Salt, Myles Kellock, Joe Donovan

TOM OGDEN

24, *Blossoms* frontman

Describe you 'do: "Well, it's shorter than it was!"

Discuss your duds: "This red jacket is vintage Gucci, the jeans are vintage Levi's and the T-shirt is celebrating Strawberry Studios in Stockport, where we're from."

Top fashion tip: "Steal from your heroes."



HEATHER BARON-GRACIE AND CIARA DORAN

Pale Waves members

Describe your 'do: "Big and curly. As always."

Discuss your duds: "Futuristic vampire. The outfits came from a video shoot. We didn't actually wear them in the video but still got to keep them."

Top fashion tip: "If you look a bit gothic, don't be scared of it. We get some people saying, 'Oh my god, you look like Frankenstein'. But we just don't care what anyone thinks."



Pale Waves (l-r): Hugo Silvani, Heather Baron-Gracie, Ciara Doran, Charlie Wood



LOYLE CARNER

23, rapper and model

Describe your 'do:

"Honestly? My hairstyle tonight is how I woke up."

Discuss your duds: "I'm wearing YMC, plus a T-shirt my girlfriend got me."

Top fashion tip: "Think about usability and durability. I always buy stuff that I know will last, and stuff I know I can repair."

BIG NARSTIE

32, singer, rapper and MC

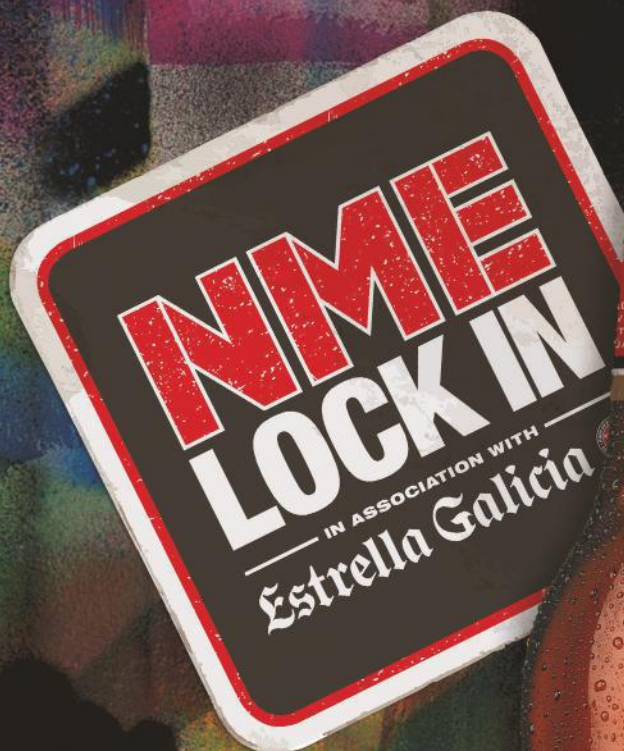
Describe your 'do: "Original bad boy trim."

Discuss your duds: "BDL hoodie and T-shirt, Nike Air Force 1s, a couple carats on the finger and a couple carats on the neck."

Top fashion tip: "This is old-school, but be comfortable."



Estrella Galicia



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NME
BAR



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 MAKING A CHANGE FRANK TURNER

Be More Kind

The title track from Frank's next album is a powerful comment on how we treat each other. With added violins.

BEST FOR SUNDAY AFTERNOON LOUNGING POST MALONE

Psycho

Ty Dolla \$ign joins in the fun on the second single from Post Malone's new album, 'Beerbongs & Bentleys'.

BEST FOR LADIES' NIGHT RAYE

Cigarette

Mabel and Stefflon Don join Raye on this ultimate nu-legends dancehall hit. Addictive.

BEST FOR 1980S DANCE PARTIES

BONIFACE

Phantom Limbs

Proper lighters-in-the-air, closing-credits-from-a-teen-movie stuff, this.

BEST FOR THE 2AM MUNCHIES

UNKNOWN MORTAL ORCHESTRA

Not In Love We're Just High

Ever wanted to know what Prince would sound like after huffing helium and going on a bouncy castle? Wonder no more!

BEST FOR ASKING YOUR CRUSH OUT

MNEK

Tongue

The kind of super-hot club banger that'll have you hitting the dating apps hard. Careful now.

BEST FOR AIR DRUMMING

PARQUET COURTS

Almost Had To Start A Fight/In And Out Of Patience

Epic song name for an epic, clattering punk track.

BEST FOR DAY- DREAMING

SUNFLOWER BEAN

Twentytwo

New York's hippest band offer up dreamy, Fleetwood Mac-influenced loveliness. We likey.

BEST FOR GETTING VIBEY

RAINBOW KITTEN

SURPRISE

Holy War

Soulful indie-funk from North Carolina's oddest-named new band.

BEST FOR FAMILY GATHERINGS

FATHER JOHN MISTY

Mr Tillman

Freewheeling Californian chamber pop with lyrics drier than the Sahara from daddy cool.



FOR MORE NEW MUSIC,
GO TO NME.COM

Go let it out

The US songwriter bears her heart, soul and mega riffs on this ballsy, beautiful guitar record

LUCY DACUS

Historian



ROCK'N'ROLL HEARTBREAK

"THE FIRST TIME

I tasted somebody else's spit / I had a coughing fit". And so opens US singer-songwriter Lucy Dacus's second album. The brutally honest 'Night Shift' makes for a majestic six and a half minutes, an acutely open look into a troubled relationship that makes you feel like Lucy's pouring her heart out to you while sinking a bottle or two of red wine and doing some light Facebook stalking. The song's first part is teasingly soft and acoustic but the second is a caustic, grunged-up anthem with Lucy wailing over the top. We've all been there, mate – but rarely is heartbreak so catchy.

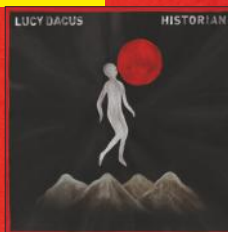
The follow-up to 2016's 'No Burden', 'Historian' is a far bigger, meatier beast than its predecessor. This is a rock'n'roll album with a deep understanding of pop melody but layered up with bold lyrics that disarm you as much as they connect with you. The soulful 'Addictions'

sees Lucy urging an ex to "forget your current lover" over a horn section, coming on like a forgotten 1990s teen movie soundtrack, while saying all the things you know you shouldn't.

The 1970s also loom large over 'Historian', with the unlikely influence of Pink Floyd coming to the fore in the alt-rocking psychedelics of 'The Shell', the

crunchy 'Timefighter' featuring some moody guitar soloing and a prog-rock breakdown, and 'Pillar Of Truth' recalling the haunting Britfolk of Sandy Denny. It's fun, too, with Lucy's laid-back humour bubbling to the surface in the lilting 'Next Of Kin', which tackles her own mental health issues with a sardonic wink: "I am at peace with my death / I can go back to bed". Sleep on 'Historian', however, at your peril.

Leonie Cooper



STRANGE & TRUE

Lucy's Facebook account lists her interests as "smoothies, breakfast sandwiches, simple math". Rock'n'roll!

L-r: Kelley Deal,
Jim Macpherson,
Kim Deal,
Josephine Wiggs



In their prime

The legendary four-piece are at their absolute best on album number five

THE BREEDERS

All Nerve



GRUNGE CHILLING GREATNESS

PARDON THE pun, but there was always something of the pixie forest to The Breeders' 1990 debut 'Pod'; you visited it each time not knowing if it would still be there if you went looking for it again. It had the cold colour and innocent darkness of the Brothers Grimm and – partly perhaps because Tanya Donelly soon absconded to form Belly with a chunk of the album's fairytale menace squirming in a sack – The



Breeders never quite captured its sticky charms again.

Until now. After a couple of prickly porcupine albums in 2002's 'Title TK' and 2008's 'Mountain Battles', Kim Deal has repeated the spell that spun up The Breeders' initial magic – drug issues, flee the Pixies, piece together the premium Breeders line-up – and though the band on 'All Nerve' is the same that recorded the celebrated 'Last Splash' in 1993, it's the flat, glossless glory of 'Pod' and the subsequent 'Safari' EP that it most recalls. Bassist Josephine Wiggs intones one of her mother's poems on

'MetaGoth' in the vein of 'Pod's 'Metal Man'. Ode to isolation 'Spacewoman' and 'Walking With The Killer' – the ghost of a murder victim remembering hitching a ride with their killer – plod wonderfully along with the same chilling grunge gorgeousness as classics 'Glorious' and 'Iris'. Opener 'Nervous Mary' is 2018's 'Doe', 'Wait In The Car' a modern-day 'When I Was A Painter'. The pixie grotto materialises from

the ether once more.

Not that 'All Nerve' is purely 'Pod: Resurrection'. The Breeders are smart and skilful enough to allow their roots to regrow in whatever direction they will. So the title track bolsters the soporific ballroom vibe of 'Oh!' with layers of brutalist guitars, to capture the cold derangement of a woman fantasising about running down her ex. Forget The Beatles: here they cover Amon Düül II's glam drone 'Archangel's Thunderbird'. 'Howl At The Summit' verges on symphonic metal and highlight 'Dawn: Making An Effort' is their most heavenly moment yet, a glistening slice of shoegaze euphoria. This is prime Breeders rebooted, if you've the nerve for it. **Mark Beaumont**

FOR FANS OF



PIXIES



PAVEMENT

Dead as a dodo

A rare misstep from Jennifer Lawrence

RED SPARROW

15 Jennifer Lawrence, Joel Edgerton, Matthias Schoenaerts



BLEAK SPIES DODGY ACCENTS

BASED ON THE BOOK BY ex-CIA agent Jason Matthews, *Red Sparrow* is a darkly sexual spy thriller chock-full of graphic nudity and violence. It follows Dominika Egorova (Jennifer Lawrence), a Russian ballerina whose career is ended by injury.

Desperate for money to pay her mother's medical bills, she agrees to help her uncle (Matthias Schoenaerts) out on a small job, but it doesn't go well. Accidentally witness to a brutal murder, Dominika is forced into 'Sparrow School' – a secret service programme that teaches recruits how to seduce the enemy into submission. Her first assignment: to get close to an American agent (Joel Edgerton) and extract the identity of a mole buried deep in the Russian government.

Surprisingly, this is a bit of a misstep from Lawrence. Her performance is fine, but the Russian accent is awful and the movie strangely mismatched: one moment we're witnessing a brutal rape scene; the next Dominika's trading putdowns with a comically drunk US senator in Claridges. It's like watching two competing movies at once – the campy spy cliché versus the gritty, modern

L-r: Dominika Egorova (Jennifer Lawrence), Nathaniel Nash (Joel Edgerton)

epic. Occasionally, director Francis Lawrence (the *Hunger Games* series) does get it right – there are some beautiful panoramic vistas and the action sequences are spine-tingling. But for the most part, this is a patchy adaptation of a gripping novel. **Alex Flood**

Rolling with the punches

A sensitive story of a trans woman whose every day is a fight she doesn't want to have

A FANTASTIC WOMAN

15 Daniela Vega, Francisco Reyes, Luis Gnecco



IDENTITY GRIEF HOPE

MARINA (DANIELA VEGA) knows who she is. She likes who she is and would like nothing more than to be left alone to live her life. Marina's identity, though, does not entirely belong to her. Almost everyone she meets feels entitled to a view on her life and how, or whether, she should exist. Sebastián Lelio's film is a sensitive, saddening, but not sentimental, story of a trans woman whose every day is a fight she doesn't want to have.

When we first meet her, Marina is relatively happy. She is a singer in a bar and has a boyfriend. He, much older than her, suffers a heart attack and dies. Marina is devastated, of course, but she's not allowed to follow the usual path of grief, propped up by the sympathy of others. She's viewed with different shades of distrust. A social worker assumes that Marina's relationship must have been an abusive one, because that so often happens to 'people like her'. Marina's boyfriend's family suspects her of being after the dead man's

money. The police circle her carefully, looking for hints that there may have been foul play. As she forges on, we see that most of life is like this for Marina, a series of battles to be overcome. The only thing she can rely on for unconditional acceptance is her ex's dog, and even that's been taken from her.

Predictions of Daniela Vega becoming the first trans woman to be nominated for a Best Actress Oscar didn't quite come to pass, but the hype was warranted. She's astonishing. Marina looks like the Hollywood femme fatale, but it's in part her armour against the world. She powers on through abuse both physical and emotional, trying not to harden against the world. Vega rolls with all the punches in a performance that's determined and vulnerable. Roles like this for a trans actor are rare and Vega isn't about to let a moment of it go to waste. She's fully alive. Even though most of Marina's existence is brutal and mean, the film maintains a chin-up hope that tomorrow will be better, if you keep on trying. **Olly Richards**

Marina (Daniela Vega)

Under THE RADAR

YOU HEARD IT HERE FIRST

H.E.R.

R&B star who's got a fan in Rihanna

YOU PROBABLY HAVEN'T heard of H.E.R., and that's just how she likes it. The 20-year-old American may be preparing for a sold-out UK run, but until her real name was finally revealed in 2017 – a whole year after debut EP 'H.E.R. Volume 1' was released – Gabi Wilson's identity was kept deliberately under wraps. Every Instagram picture of H.E.R. shows the singer in dark glasses, a hand over her face.

Her recent success, however, means those barriers are gradually coming down. "Eventually it had to start happening. It was impossible to avoid, but I really do live a very private life," she says. The idea behind the project is about something far bigger than privacy, however. "I felt like I was the only person that was going through these things. It was comforting for me to know that people could identify with the words I was saying, especially women of all ages... I feel empowered in a way," she explains. "It made sense to me to name my project H.E.R. and be a voice for women," she continues, "but learn to be honest with myself and be comfortable with my vulnerability." This vulnerability and sense of self-value shine through on twinkling ballad 'Losing': "My ambition is attractive / My aggression isn't passive".

H.E.R. has picked up plenty of fans – namely Rihanna, who posted an Instagram clip of her listening to H.E.R. song 'Focus' in April 2017. "Her hair was blowing in the wind, it was just this really majestic video," she says. "I just felt like, 'Wow, I've done something special'." Now, she's dreaming of collaborations with Miguel and Stevie Wonder, and a debut album is in the works. At this rate, you'll know all about H.E.R. sooner rather than later.

Thomas Smith

DETAILS

From: Vallejo, California

Social: @HERmusicx

Buy: 'My Song' is out now

Live: O2 Ritz, Manchester (Mar 8), KOKO, London (Mar 9 & 20), O2 Academy, Birmingham (Mar 10)

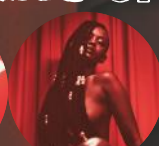
STRANGEST TRUE

Wilson signed her first record deal, with RCA, when she was just 14.

FOR FANS OF



DANIEL CAESAR



KELELA

Best track

'FOCUS'

Wilson is at her most assured on Rihanna's fave, 'Focus'.

shame *uk tour*

Thu Nov 15 UK Bristol SWX
Fri Nov 16 UK Portsmouth Pyramids
Sat Nov 17 UK Leicester O2 Academy
Sun Nov 18 UK Sheffield Leadmill
Tue Nov 20 UK Leeds LUU Stylus
Thu Nov 22 UK Manchester O2 Ritz
Fri Nov 23 UK Newcastle Newcastle University
Sat Nov 24 UK Glasgow O2 ABC
Mon Nov 26 UK Norwich Waterfront
Tue Nov 27 UK Oxford O2 Academy
Wed Nov 28 UK Birmingham O2 Institute
Fri Nov 30 UK London O2 Forum Kentish Town

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THIS WEEK'S BEST TICKETS AND GIGS



F**k yeah

Jorja Smith is coming to a city near you

JORJA SMITH WAS 18 when Canadian chart-breaker Drake publicly named her plangent single 'Where Did I Go?' as his favourite song of

the moment. A year later she featured on 'Get It Together' from his vibey playlist 'More Life'. And so far in 2018, the classically trained 20-year-old has collaborated with Kendrick Lamar on the star-studded *Black Panther* soundtrack,

and picked up the 2018 Critics' Choice Award at the BRITs, with a debut album rumoured for release in June. To celebrate her huge achievements, the Walsall singer-songwriter has announced a massive UK headline tour culminating in a show at the 5,000-capacity O2 Academy Brixton, where it wouldn't be the biggest surprise to see an appearance from Drake himself.

JORJA SMITH
BRITs Critics' Choice
Award winner 2018

OCTOBER

Thu 4 UEA, Norwich.
Fri 5 O2 Academy, Bristol.
Sun 7 O2 Academy, Newcastle. **Mon 8** O2 Academy, Glasgow.
Wed 10 & Thu 11 Albert Hall, Manchester.
Sat 13 O2 Academy, Birmingham. **Sun 14** Rock City, Nottingham.
Wed 17 O2 Academy Brixton, London.

TICKETS: £18.50-£26.12

ON SALE
NOW

new music



the breeders
all nerve
out now

album of the month



anna von hausswolff
dead magic
out now



belle & sebastian
how to solve our human
problems, parts 1-3
out now



editors
violence
09/03/2018



young fathers
cocoa sugar
09/03/2018



car seat headrest
twin fantasy
out now



u.s. girls
in a poem unlimited
out now



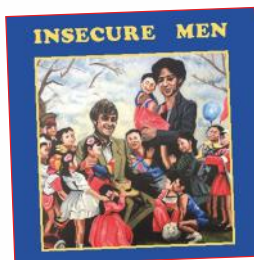
gengahr
where wildness grows
09/03/2018



soccer mommy
clean
out now



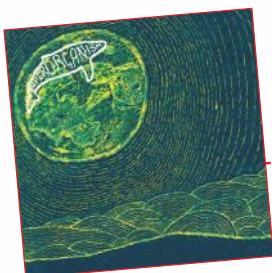
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insecure men
out now



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street safari
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superorganism
superorganism
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nottingham broadmarsh shopping centre
oxford gloucester green



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WIKI

Ratking founder

APRIL

Wed 11 Night & Day Café, Manchester. **Fri 13** Shipping Forecast, Liverpool. **Sat 14** Headrow House, Leeds. **Sun 15** Green Door Store, Brighton. **Mon 16** Thekla, Bristol.

TELL ME MORE: New York rapper Patrick Morales worked with big names Kaytranada and Earl Sweatshirt on his debut solo album 'No Mountains In Manhattan'. **TICKETS:** £13.20-£13.50

ON SALE NOW



COURTNEY BARNETT

Aussie raconteur

MAY

Tue 29 O2 Academy, Leeds.

JUNE

Sat 2 Barrowlands, Glasgow. **Mon 4** Academy, Manchester. **Tue 5** O2 Academy, Bristol. **Wed 6** Roundhouse, London.

TELL ME MORE: Barnett returns in May with her third studio album 'Tell Me How You Really Feel'. **TICKETS:** TBC

ON SALE NOW

DRENGE

Derbyshire alt-rock three-piece

APRIL

Wed 25 Invisible Wind Factory, Liverpool. **Thu 26** Islington Assembly Hall, London. **Fri 27** Lantern, Bristol. **Sat 28** Old Market, Brighton.

MAY

Wed 2 Gorilla, Manchester. **Thu 3** Art School, Glasgow. **Fri 4** Riverside, Newcastle.

TELL ME MORE: After denying weird rumours that they were supporting Natalie Imbruglia on her UK tour, the Loveless brothers and bassist Rob Graham have just announced the Grand Reopening tour – their first in three years. **TICKETS:** £15-£16.50

ON SALE NOW



PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

RAG'N'BONE MAN



THE WEEK'S BEST GIGS

NILS FRAHM

Fri 2 Sage, Gateshead.

ONRA

Fri 2 Rich Mix, London.

PALE WAVES

Fri 2 O2 Academy, Birmingham. **Sun 4** King Tut's, Glasgow. **Mon 5** Leadmill, Sheffield. **Tue 6** Gorilla, Manchester. **Wed 7** The Garage, London. **Thu 8** Thekla, Bristol.

PRETTY VICIOUS

Wed 7 Soup Kitchen, Manchester. **Thu 8** Sneaky Pete's, Edinburgh.

R.LUM.R

Wed 7 Birthdays, London.

RAG'N'BONE MAN

Thu 8 Alexandra Palace, London.

SUPERORGANISM

Mon 5 O2 Institute, Birmingham. **Wed 7** Gorilla, Manchester. **Thu 8** Oval Space, London.

THEE OH SEES

Fri 2 Troxy, London.

TOM MISCH

Fri 2 O2 Ritz, Manchester. **Sat 3** Òran Mór, Glasgow. **Mon 5** O2 Academy, Leeds. **Tue 6** O2 Academy, Bristol. **Thu 8** Roundhouse, London.

WILEY

Fri 2 O2 Academy Brixton, London. **Mon 5** Shooshh, Brighton.

YXNG BANE

Tue 6 Junction, Cambridge.

BRUTUS

Wed 7 The Joiners, Southampton.

CARO

Fri 2 The Flapper, Birmingham. **Sat 3** Sound Food & Drink, Liverpool. **Wed 7** The Lexington, London. **Thu 8** The Boilerroom, Guildford.

CATHOLIC ACTION

Fri 2 Esquires, Bedford. **Sat 3** The Shipping Forecast, Liverpool. **Sun 4** The Fulford Arms, York.

DJANGO DJANGO

Sat 3 Church, Leeds.

ELLI INGRAM

Fri 2 Patterns, Brighton. **Sun 4** Bodega, Nottingham. **Mon 5** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham. **Tue 6** Night & Day Café, Manchester.

EVERYTHING EVERYTHING

Fri 2 UEA, Norwich. **Sat 3** O2 Academy, Birmingham. **Mon 5** Colston Hall, Bristol. **Tue 6** O2 Academy, Leeds. **Thu 8** Barrowland, Glasgow.

FICKLE FRIENDS

Sat 3 The Brickyard, Carlisle. **Sun 4** Lemon Tree, Aberdeen. **Tue 6** Fibbers, York. **Thu 8** Met Lounge, Peterborough.

FIELD MUSIC

Thu 8 Komedica, Brighton.

HAK BAKER

Sun 4 Sneaky Pete's, Edinburgh. **Mon 5** Castle Hotel, Manchester. **Wed 7** & **Thu 8** Bethnal Green WMC, London.

HANNAH WANTS

Fri 2 University SU, Cardiff. **Sat 3** Invisible Wind Factory, Liverpool.

H.E.R.

Thu 8 O2 Ritz, Manchester.

HOOKWORMS

Fri 2 & **Sat 3** Brudenell Social Club, Leeds. **Sun 4** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham.

INSECURE MEN

Thu 8 Scala, London.

JAWS

Fri 2 Dryden Street Social, Leicester.

KREPT & KONAN

Sat 3 Tramps Nightclub, Worcester.

LET'S EAT GRANDMA

Thu 8 Lightbox, London.

MADONNATRON

Thu 8 The Lexington, London.

MAJID JORDAN

Fri 2 The Garage, Glasgow. **Mon 5** O2 Ritz, Manchester. **Wed 7** O2 Forum, London.

MIST

Sun 4 Waterfront, Norwich. **Thu 8** O2 Academy, Leeds.

SOUNDTRACK OF MY LIFE

Maya Jama

Radio 1 presenter, Instagram champ

THE FIRST SONG I REMEMBER HEARING EASTENDERS THEME

"I remember telling my mum I wanted to be in *EastEnders* when I grew up. My mum's always watched it. I also spent a lot of time in Sweden and my nan always played ABBA. I love every single ABBA song – being Swedish it comes by default."

THE FIRST SONG I FELL IN LOVE WITH P DIDDY AND USHER *I Need A Girl*

"It was the first single I bought. I just loved Usher; I think I fancied him back then. Before then I used to love Avril Lavigne, to the extent that I bought the flared trousers with the pink strands that hang off them and a skateboard – but never learnt how to ride it!"

THE FIRST ALBUM I BOUGHT WHITNEY HOUSTON *Whitney: The Greatest Hits*

"My auntie loved Whitney Houston and we'd go on a lot of day trips out and they'd put her album on in the car. I still love it now."

THE FIRST GIG I WENT TO DEVLIN

"I actually went to my first concert quite late. I went to see Devlin and Ed Sheeran was supporting at the O2 [Academy] Islington. I came all the way up to London with my friend and it was great. I didn't know what to expect – Ed just came out with his little guitar, which is crazy because of how big he is now. We had our own little corner; we were underage so we couldn't drink. We just stared adoringly into whoever was onstage's eyes! Loved it though, sung every word. I play it cool in front of Ed now, but one day it'll come out in conversation!"

THE SONG I DO AT KARAOKE ARCTIC MONKEYS *Mardy Bum*

"I do 'Mardy Bum' or Whitney Houston's 'I Have Nothing'. It just depends on how my voice is; if it's fully there I'll go for Whitney, if not I go for something a bit more chilled. Most of my karaoke performances aren't official karaoke performances – it's just me really drunk in my friend's house."

GO TO NME.COM FOR MORE SOUNDTRACKS

THE SONG THAT MAKES ME DANCE FISH GO DEEP

The Cure & The Cause

"It's been a tune for so long – I don't even know when it came out but whenever I hear it now I love it. It hasn't got old for me. It's just a vibe. I'm quite a two-stepper; depending on my level of excitement, I might throw in some other moves in there. There might be some little hand gestures. It can get full routine-y."

THE SONG I CAN NO LONGER LISTEN TO RIHANNA *Umbrella*

"I love everything Rihanna does, so I feel bad even saying this, but I hate that song. I've just heard it way too many times."

THE SONG I WANT PLAYED AT MY FUNERAL 2PAC

Do For Love

"It's a nice, vibey song – it'll make people cry, but I kind of want people to cry. It's not a sad song, it's a love song, but people that know me will know I love the song."

THE SONG THAT REMINDS ME OF HOME VON D FEAT. PHEPHE *Show Me*

"Everyone in Bristol loved that song when I was growing up. It was a song that we would pre-drink to. I was so gross, I couldn't do it now, but me and my friend would get a bottle of sambuca and shot it between the two of us. Now it makes me feel a bit sick. I'll still have a shot or two, but not a whole bottle."

Maya Jama hosts Radio 1's Greatest Hits on Saturdays, 10am-1pm



The wisdom of the NME archives

THIS WEEK
DAMON ALBARN
Blur
March 5, 1994

"I can't stand the idea of being a sad, lonely bedsit poet. I'd much rather be perceived as loud and arrogant."

