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## RICHARD ASHCROFT

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  - ▶ Graham Coxon
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SHOWS

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for Awards gig  
Find out who, page 10

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For being born without a silver spoon"

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# GOD BLESS BLOC PARTY!

## UK

NME: #1 ALBUM OF THE YEAR  
Q: ALBUMS OF THE YEAR  
MOJO: ALBUMS OF THE YEAR

## FRANCE

LES INROCKUPTIBLES: # 6 ALBUM OF THE YEAR  
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EXPRESSEN: 6TH BEST ALBUM OF THE YEAR  
SVT MUSIKBYRÅN: TOP 5 ALBUM OF THE YEAR

## NORWAY

BAND OF THE YEAR IN MUTE MAGAZINE

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VISIONS : NO. 5 ALBUM OF THE YEAR

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HOT PRESS: # 2 ALBUM OF THE YEAR

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## JAPAN

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NUMBER 1: BEST NEW ALBUM OF THE YEAR



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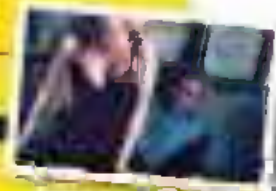
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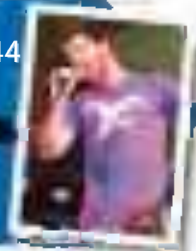
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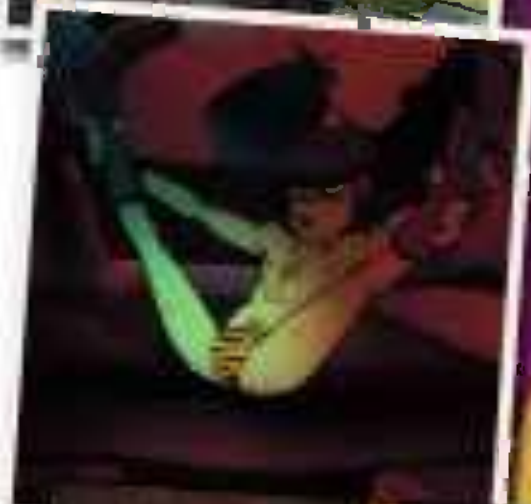
# NEWS

The latest from the world of rock'n'roll

Edited by Julian Marshall. Newsdesk: 030 7261 5818

## [SHOTS]

PICS OF THE WEEK



### ▲ AT HOME WITH GORILLAZ

Cartoon superstars **Gorillaz** are giving fans the chance to get to know them a little better – by opening their studio up to MTV's *Cribs* show. The band will take cameras deep inside their legendary Kong Studios recording base, which has spawned both their self-titled debut and 'Demon Days' and which also houses the four animated musicians and plenty of dark, dark secrets. *Cribs* gives viewers the chance to look inside the lives of the rich and famous, going behind the closed doors of the biggest, most grandiose houses in the world. From Missy Elliot to Robbie Williams, a host of stars have shown off their bling, cars and khazis on the program. Tune into MTV2 on January 11 at 8pm – straight after the NME Chart – for your guided tour around one of pop's most mysterious locations. [www.gorillaz.com](http://www.gorillaz.com)

**LATEST** ►►► Carling Weekend: Reading And Leeds Festivals confirmed for August 25-27. Tickets go on sale mid-March ► The Strokes, The Darkness and Super Furry Animals to play Environmental





### PARTY FAITHFUL GIVEN SPECIAL TREAT ▲

**Bloc Party** rewarded their loyal supporters with an unexpected meet-and-greet before their fan club show at London Camden KOKO (December 18).

The band popped their heads round the stage door and had a chat in the street with fans queuing for the gig.

Ben Surdeau, 21, from Knebworth, was the first person at the door – and got a drum-skin signed by the band.

“I’ve met a few bands before and they don’t generally have time for their fans,” Surdeau said. “I’ve met Bloc Party a few times and they give setlists away and sign autographs. They are way friendlier than your bog-standard band, which is why we don’t want them to get any bigger because it’ll stop happening.”

The fans may have their work cut out though – as revealed by *NME* last week, the Bloc boys are now heading back into the studio to work on a follow-up to their debut and *NME*’s Album Of The Year, ‘Silent Alarm’.

[www.blocparty.com](http://www.blocparty.com)



### PICTURE PERFECT

Tired of rock exhibitions featuring a load of old blokes who died ages ago? *NME* photographer **Dean Chalkley** is, and has decided to do something about it.

The top lensman kicks off his new exhibition *Now Stand Tall* from February 2 at The Spitz in east London. The show defiantly celebrates the here and now in music and, after a year shooting the best acts in the world for these pages, it seems worth making a fuss about it.

“This exhibition is about people who are in their prime and blooming,” says Chalkley. “Most rock exhibitions celebrate dead people and I want to celebrate the now. It’s been brilliant and it’s not going to stop, this is just a pit-stop to celebrate the moment.”

Chalkley is also staging a series of gigs at the same venue to accompany his exhibition: **Shitdisco** (Feb 2), **The Long Blondes** (4) and **Selfish Cunt** (5).

“Doing the gigs is all part of keeping it current,” says Chalkley. “It’s going to be a real happening – so in a sense we’ll be recovering that ‘60s spirit but we’re definitely looking towards the future.”

[www.spitz.co.uk](http://www.spitz.co.uk)



### MYLO'S VIDEO SHOCKER

Forget Bob Dylan, Bright Eyes and even U2 – **Mylo** is getting political.

For the video for new single ‘Muscle Car’ (out January 9), the Scot couldn’t resist having a pop at George W Bush by hiring a look-alike to snort coke and cavort with tarts while he lays down the beats.

Will powerful men feel very, very ashamed? Probably not, but the vid is quite funny all the same.

[www.mylo.tv](http://www.mylo.tv)

ANDREW KENDALL/ANDY WILLSHER/DEAN CHALKLEY



# NEWS

## 2006 ALBUMS PREVIEW

### PART II

Last week, NME showcased some of the albums set to define your 2006 – and the good news is there's more. Over the next four pages, we preview new albums from Kaiser Chiefs, Scissor Sisters and Maximo Park, as well as a host of other surprises. Enjoy!

# KAISER CHIEFS

**Leeds' finest back in studio aiming to better The Beatles**

**K**aiser Chiefs are set to begin work on their second album within a matter of weeks.

The band, who concluded a hectic year of touring in London on December 11, will now settle at their rehearsal space in Leeds and work on songs for the follow-up to 'Employment'.

"It's back into our little hole to write album number two," explained singer **Ricky Wilson**, who added that with the biggest gigs of their career booked for the spring – including two nights at his hometown's Millennium Square – the band come first, then we've got to really start

bashing them out, like you make a dint in a car. Imagine a song is a very dinted, buckled-up car, we've got to start bashing it until it makes

the shape of a Renault Clio. In fact, it's like a Fiat Panda and we're going to bash it out into the shape of a Lamborghini! That's the way we're going to write the album. At the moment we've got a Fiat Panda, but hopefully at the end of it we'll have a Lamborghini."

Currently the thinking among the group's camp is that this high performance vehicle will be "heavier sounding" than their debut, with the Kaisers' more aggressive live sound influencing their approach, but Ricky suggests that the band have got plenty of ideas and the record could go in several different ways.

"We've got lots of bits and bobs," said the singer. "I've got a book full of my ideas, and



"Hey guys! How 'bout a bit that goes, 'Oooooooooohhhhhhh!'"

**"Imagine a song is a very dinted car – we've got to bash it 'til it looks like a Lamborghini" Ricky Wilson**

earlier this year I brought Nick [Hodgson, drummer] one. I don't know if he's been using it, but I'm really looking forward to it. I'm not worried, I don't feel any pressure. When we wrote the first one, we didn't start off making sweeping statements. I hate that, when people say,

"It's going to be ballsy and more electronic!". There's no point saying that because the songs themselves dictate how they should sound and you shouldn't push things in a way they don't want to go. It's going to be a Kaiser Chiefs record, and it will be the best Kaiser Chiefs record released!"

The band are currently in the process of deciding on a producer, and while the Kaisers themselves are keeping quiet,

reportedly one of the world's most in-demand knob-twiddlers, who's previously worked with everyone from esoteric indie bands to genuine rock legends, has expressed an interest.

However, with tentative plans to release the album in winter 2006, for the time being the Chiefs will be concentrating on writing songs – and the oft-forgotten art of naming the record.

"It's got to be good, because we've got to prove to ourselves we can do it. We want to make the best album since 'Abbey Road' (laughs) and we've got to think of a good name for it as well!" declared Ricky. "Naming albums is really difficult. We might get Nick's girlfriend to name it again, she thought of 'Employment' – no-one knows that."



Peanut bashes the ivories...

...while Ricky and Nick discuss Lamborghinis

RETNA/ANDY WILLSHER





You've got to play it to get the record finished, Richard

# HARD-FI

The headline bards of Staines have No 2 in the bag already

**H**ard-Fi have an album of material waiting to go, and are just looking for time to get into the studio this coming year to bash it out.

The Staines massive have a hectic year of touring ahead - including a

**"We'll be working on the road, jamming songs in sound-check"**  
**Richard Archer**

ShockWaves NME Awards date on February 13 - but frontman **Richard Archer** is keen to get working on new material.

"Basically the second album is pretty much written," explained the singer. "People seem to think we're an overnight success, but there was a year of frustration and heartbreak before that - like finding a distribution company to put out our mini album, then watching them going bust in front of our eyes. All that kind of shit - but in that year I was still writing."

The band have a January tour of America planned, but Archer hopes to get some sessions sorted when the band return to the UK.

"I'd like to think we can start looking at that in February or March," he said. "We're

going to the States in January, but I'd like to find a way of doing both. Working on the road, jamming the songs in sound-checks, it will be tough but it's what you've got to do. We want to have the stage set for it, so we don't want to go away for too long."

## HARD-FI ALBUM UPDATE

**Album title:** TBC

**Key tracks:** TBC

**Musicians:** Richard Archer (vocals, guitar, keyboards), Ross Phillips (guitars) Kai Stephens (bass), Steve Kemp (drums)

**Producer:** Richard Archer (provisional)

**Release date:** Autumn 2006

# GRAHAM COXON



Ex-Blur guitarist's latest is a concept album about love

**T**he former Blur guitarist finished the follow-up to 'Happiness In Magazines' last May, and it's taken almost a year to see the light of day.

"It's generally more focused around issues of the heart than before," **Coxon** said. "Every song is something to do with love. Not in a soppy S Club 7 way, just L-O-V-E from all angles, whether it be jealousy, lust, splitting up, being in love not enjoying it or whatever. All the songs are drawn from past experiences, because I don't go out at the moment. Past experiences, fantasies, the telly and books."

While waiting for the album to be released, Graham continues to work on his guitar-playing, and has moved away from the loud electric sound he became famous for in Blur, instead picking up an acoustic.

"My personal explorations have been more based around acoustic music and traditional music," he said. "After I finished the album I dedicated the summer to getting better as an acoustic guitar player. I always found playing acoustic a bit of a chore but now I've realised just how important it is as a means of expression. So I've been messing around with that, recording bits for myself. I think a lot of the books I've been reading have been about being on your own and making your personal explorations the main drive of your recorded work. If you find that you're doing things for money, then it's detrimental to your health, I think."

## GRAHAM COXON ALBUM UPDATE

**Album title:** 'Love Travels At Illegal Speeds'

**Key tracks:** 'Standing On My Own Again', 'I Can't Look At Your Skin Cos It's Doing Me In'

**Musicians:** Graham Coxon

**Producer:** Stephen Street

**Release date:** March 13

Coxo: in lurrve



"Wanna know a secret? Our album's out real soon"

# SECRET MACHINES

Noel's favourites ready second album for March

**A**fter their debut became one of the most lauded records of 2004, quietly building up until the likes of Noel Gallagher were declaring them genii, Texans

**Secret Machines'** second album, due out in March, is one of this year's most anticipated albums. However, frontman **Brandon Curtis** explains they're not feeling any pressure as the public have already had their say on '10 Silver Drops'.

"We'd written most of the material on the road and there's something about performing it in front of an audience - you're getting immediate feedback - it had a lot of bearing on the album we made," reckons Curtis. Recorded in upstate New York's Catskill Mountains and mixed in London, Curtis adds that

the immediate-sounding record owes a lot to its backdrops. "The different locations added a dimension to this record," he says. "It was rural where we recorded it, but it's got maybe the tension of the city."

## SECRET MACHINES ALBUM UPDATE

**Album title:** 'Ten Silver Drops'

**Key tracks:** 'Alone, Jealous And Stoned', 'Lightning Blue Eyes', 'Daddy's In The Doldrums'

**Musicians:** Benjamin Curtis (vocals, guitar), Brandon Curtis (vocals, keyboard, bass), Josh Garza (drums)

**Producer:** Secret Machines

**Release date:** March 26



2006  
ALBUMS  
PREVIEW  
PART  
II



**COURTNEY LOVE  
ALBUM UPDATE**

**Album title:** TBC  
**Key tracks:** 'Sad But True', 'How Dirty Girls Get Clean', 'Never Go Hungry Again'  
**Musicians:** Courtney Love, Billy Corgan, Anthony Rossamundo, Ben Gordon  
**Producer:** TBC  
**Release Date:** Late 2006

**DIRTY PRETTY THINGS**

**After working in LA with Dave Sardy, Carl Barât plans to finish Dirty Pretty Things' debut album in dear old Blighty, with secret shows too - if Courtney returns his handmate**

"[England]'ll be a lot more relaxed than this session [in LA]. This is a new band born in adversity and we're still finding our feet. We've only played a few live shows. I wanna play around England, in dirtboxes like we used to in the good old days. But I'm a bit scared of lighting the touch paper because as soon as you do one little gig..."

"I loved the happy days of being pressed against the wall with a cymbal at my throat. My whole thing about secret gigs was that we were musicians and we liked to play. You have to have a modicum of appreciation

to keep yourself afloat for the sake of doing it but [The Libertines] always did gigs at the last minute because it was interesting to see who'd turn up. I'm excited to do that again, I'd hate to think there'd be some kind of corporate barrier to stop me. But I'm worried about the press - everyone's so desperate to have an opinion that there's a lot of pressure.

"It's going to be a varied album but there'll be continuity. We're gonna sound like us and not like anybody else. Obviously there's endless parallels that are gonna be drawn to The Libertines but that's inevitable."

**COURTNEY LOVE**

**UK stars guest on new LP from former Hole frontwoman**

**C**ourtney Love is currently writing the follow-up to 2004's 'America's Sweetheart' and *NME* can exclusively reveal many indie stars have joined her in the process.

The singer wrote eight songs on her own before leaving court-ordered rehab at the end of November. Since that time, she has written with ex-Smashing Pumpkins frontman **Billy Corgan**, but *NME* has learned several other musicians have stopped by the studio to hear the new material and play with her, including guitarist **Anthony Rossamundo** from ex-Libertine Carl Barât's new band **Dirty Pretty Things** and **Ben Gordon**, guitarist and keyboardist for Liverpool's **The Dead 60s**.

Gordon, who met Love through friends, told *NME* her new material is really beginning to shine. "I had an amazing time," he said of an afternoon he joined her on guitar. "She's got some good ideas. The

songs sound fresh. Some of it has a [Bob] Dylan quality. It's raw and more personal." According to the guitarist one of Love's standout tracks is 'Sunset Marquis' - a cut

**"Her songs sound fresh, some have a Bob Dylan quality"**  
**Ben Gordon,**  
**The Dead 60s**

which takes its name from the legendary hotel in Los Angeles where rock stars including the Kings Of Leon and Iggy Pop regularly stay.

"Her lyrics have a really good story," Gordon said. "It sounds like a classic

Courtney Love song and feels like it could be a big hit."

Rossamundo met Love while Corgan was in town at the end of November recording with Dirty Pretty Things. Brought down to Los Angeles' Village Studios by Alan McGee of Creation Records, Rossamundo jumped in when the two needed a chord change on power-pop cut 'For Once In Your Life'.

Other songs Love is currently refining include 'Wildfire', 'The Depths Of My Despair', 'Never Go Hungry Again', 'Bedroom Walls', 'Sad But True', 'How Dirty Girls Get Clean' and the anti-cocaine rant 'Loser Dust'.

Love plans to continue work on her demos throughout the New Year with friends in Los Angeles including ex-Alice In Chains guitarist Jerry Cantrell. She has already been approached by labels about her new material, after Virgin chose not to renew her contract last year.

**NEXT WEEK IN NME**

**The first full interview with Carl Barât and his Dirty Pretty Things**

**MORE ALBUMS!**

**What else can 2006 bring us?**

**E**ven though two weeks of *NME* have been devoted to next year's amazing albums, there's still tons more to talk about in 2006.

**The Killers** are in the studio in Las Vegas working on the follow-up to 'Hot Fuss', aiming for a single release in September, with the album to follow.

**The Vines** have finished their third album too - the follow-up to 'Winning Days' will be out in the spring. Fellow Aussies **Jet** are still in the studio working on their second album.

**Muse** are said to be at a "critical stage" in the recording of the follow-up to 'Absolution', which will be out in 2006 with massive live shows to follow. This year will also be a big one

for Pete'n'Carl. If he can stay out of trouble for long enough there's talk of a **Doherty** solo record in the next 12 months, while Carl's new project **Dirty Pretty Things** have been recording out in LA (see above).

On a new bands tip, **Larrikin Love** have been in London working on their debut album, which is due out in July. **Be Your Own Pet** have finished their self-titled record, which is out on January 30 and Coldplay's mates **Morning Runner** release 'Wilderness Is Paradise Now' in March. Also, ShockWaves NME Awards Tour band **Mystery Jets** release their debut 'Mystery Dens' on March 6 and **The Concretes** have 'The Concretes In Colour' out on March 6.



Muse indicate how many apocalyptic chords are on their new LP

With **The White Stripes** still touring in support of 'Get Behind Me Satan' you might think it'll be all quiet from Jack and Meg. Wrong. Last year there were rumours were rife that The White Stripes are planning to re-record their last album in one take and release it on vinyl this year. Watch this space. Meanwhile Jack's 'side-project' with Brendan Benson, **Raconteurs**, have completed the recording of their debut album. That'll be out in the first half of the year and there's talk of live shows before the dawn of 2007.

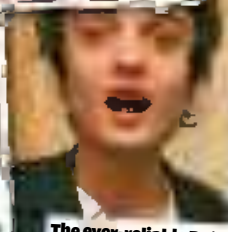


Picture caption to go here

Be Your Own Pet: buy your own album in January



The Vines: they'll be back (hopefully with new haircuts)



The ever-reliable Pete promises new stuff



# MAXIMO PARK



The Park make the most of outdoor fun before boarding themselves up in the studio

## The NME Tour headliners are itching to get back in the studio for LP number two

With a ShockWaves NME Awards Tour to headline, **Maximo Park** could be forgiven for not thinking about the studio. However, frontman **Paul Smith** is adamant the band will make a rapid return to the control room after concluding their dates.

"It would be easy to keep touring," says Smith. "Our success to whatever level has been quite steady, there's not been too much hype surrounding us and it would be very easy to keep growing and see how far we can push it."

However, the band are in fact itching to get the bank of new material they've steadily generated down on tape.

"We've been playing these songs for the last three years of our lives and we've written a ton of new songs that we want to play and release. So we'll start recording our next album in the spring after the NME tour," says Smith.

"We've evolved sound-wise and I think when a band stop being creative and just try flogging what they've got it can be dangerous, so rather than face the possibility of falling into that trap we're going into the studio to replenish our creative energy."

After Paul Epworth produced the band's debut 'A Certain Trigger', Maximo Park are aiming to recruit a new producer in order to expand the number of ideas and influences they're exposed to.

"It's nice to draw on new things to make sure you don't get complacent," says Smith.

The band currently have several new songs they are considering for the record - some of which will get an airing on the ShockWaves NME Awards Tour 2006,

including the singer's current favourite, entitled 'Nosebleed'.

"It's quite an emotional song," Smith explains of the track. "We've been playing it in Europe and it's finally found itself a form. It was a bit ramshackle, but we've given it

**"We're going into the studio to replenish our creative energy"**  
**Paul Smith**

a very powerful overhaul, so I think people can look forward to that one."

Despite holing up in a studio for the spring, Maximo Park's frontman insists his band will not disappear for too long. Smith says that he hopes his band will be back playing for crowds this summer.

"We're going to get out there with a few new songs," says Maximo Park's lead singer. "Probably play the festivals and make these new songs festival anthems."

### MAXIMO PARK ALBUM UPDATE

**Album title:** TBC  
**Key tracks:** 'Nosebleed'  
**Musicians:** Paul Smith (vocals), Duncan Lloyd (guitars), Archis Tikku (bass), Lukas Wooller (keyboards) and Tom English (drums)  
**Producer:** TBC  
**Release date:** May

# SCISSOR SISTERS

**They've been hanging out with Elton John and recording in the jungle... just your average sessions, then**

**Scissor Sisters** are set to make a quicker-than-expected return with their second album - which will feature **Elton John**.

The band, who previewed a host of new songs when they visited the UK for the V Festivals and **Ana Matronic's** secret birthday gig in London this year, say that recording is preceding extremely well.

Elton John has been to the band's New York studio to play on the record the group are producing themselves, though the Sisters have recruited a whole host of guests to feature on the album.

"The group are currently aiming to have finished in time for a late spring release," explained a source close to

### SCISSOR SISTERS ALBUM UPDATE

**Album title:** TBC  
**Key tracks:** 'Paul McCartney' and 'Everybody Wants'  
**Musicians:** Paddy Boom (drums), Ana Matronic (vocals), Jake Shears (vocals), Babydaddy (bass), Del Marquis (guitars)  
**Producer:** Scissor Sisters  
**Release date:** May

hair-extension parlour, employing a 25-piece choir comprised solely of unemployed Brooklyn haircutters, a famous glam-rock figure (or two) wondering just what they can buy at the Jamaican grocery downstairs and plenty of swimming with and jumping

sharks."

On another note, the insider added that the recorded tracks are sounding good, but will surprise some of the band's fans. "The songs still sound like old friends," he explained, "but perhaps a slightly different set of friends

**"Elton came by to make tea and lay down some Bo Diddley grooves"**  
**Scissor Sisters source**

the band, adding that they have had several adventures between sessions.

The insider claimed the following has been happening during the process of making the record:

"Jamming in a central American jungle with people who have spent time in a studio with Def Leppard, Elton coming by to make tea and lay down some mean Bo Diddley grooves, picking banjos above a

than you had round the last time." Songs believed to be under consideration include 'Can't Decide', 'Hybrid', 'Other Side', 'Cher Baby' and 'Paul McCartney', while 'Everybody Wants', which the band debuted onstage at **Live8**, is also set to feature.

At present, a final release date is yet to be confirmed but it's expected the band will return to live action this summer, with this year's festivals not out of the question.



Scissor Sisters team up with Elton John in the fashion stakes, as well as in the studio



# IAN BROWN PLANS NME AWARDS SHOW SPECTACULAR



**Former Stone Roses singer starts 2006 with smallest London gig in years**

**I**an Brown is the latest name to sign up for a ShockWaves NME Awards 2006 Show - and he's promised it'll be one of the best yet.

His "busiest year ever" in 2005 saw the release of a hits compilation, 'The Greatest' and his biggest ever tour, which included a massive homecoming show at Manchester MEN Arena. Brown will play one of his first UK dates of the year at London Camden KOKO on February 15. Support will come from DJs **Scratch Perverts**.

"Last year was my biggest since 1989,"

Brown told *NME* during a break from touring. "I hope 2006 is going to be even bigger. Playing this show will set me up for the year. I'll have been in Australia in January, so I'm hoping to bring some of their summer vibe back to the UK."

Although Brown won't release a new single to coincide with his date, he told *NME* he is planning on going into the studio this year to work on his new record, the follow-up to 'Solarized'. Other plans for 2006 included playing live in a prison, but Brown says his original idea of playing at Strangeways - where he served a short sentence - is unlikely to get off the ground.

"We wrote to Strangeways, but we got a letter recently, actually, to say that it's not something that's gonna happen," he said. "The governor said, 'Sorry I can't be more positive, but it's a more high-security prison than it used to be'. He doesn't think it's a good idea. I wanted to play Strangeways because I'd had a little stay in there. But I'll try to play another prison."

Brown is also planning a live DVD release in 2006. Tickets for his *NME* show are on sale now. Go to [NME.COM/GIGS](http://NME.COM/GIGS) or call NME Tickets on 0870 1 663 663.



Scratch Perverts:  
decksy beasts

You'll be seeing more of him soon. Brownie, that is, not Beethoven. He's dead

## BAND BITS

### ELBOW

Following on from the release of their third studio album, 'Leaders Of The Free World', **Elbow** are putting out a career-spanning B-sides LP in 2006.

Entitled 'Dead In The Boot', the collection does not yet have a release date, though singer Guy Garvey revealed that it will feature their best songs.

"There's something about the pressure-off of writing B-sides at high speed," he told *NME*. "My favourite songs that we've done are all B-sides. There's enough for a triple album, but we'll see what happens."

### goldie lookin chain

Despite only releasing two albums so far, **Goldie Lookin Chain** claim to have got the next 10 in the bag already.

Newport's rap collective have also employed computer technology to package the future LPs.

"You've got to stagger the releases because you can't give it all to everyone at once otherwise they don't know where they are," Billy Webb told *NME*. "We've even computer-aged ourselves on the sleeves. If you step off the gas, then you lose momentum and I won't be able to look after my retirement."

### THE WHITE STRIPES

The owner of the legendary London studio Toe Rag, Liam Watson, is launching his own record label.

The recording facility has already spawned such albums as **The White Stripes'** 'Elephant' and **The Kills'** 'Keep On Your Mean Side' and the new spin-off label Toe Rag Recording Company will launch in March.

The first, limited-edition single will come from **Motion Pictures** and Watson hopes to put out a new release every couple of months.

### THE GO! TEAM

**The Go! Team** have cast doubt over the possibility of a second album.

Bassist Jamie Bell said that a follow-up to last year's debut 'Thunder, Lightning, Strike' may not appear for some time.

"Personally, I'd like there to be another one, but it could be a good few years or so, if at all," he told *NME*. "The first record took us all by surprise. We're aware that we might miss the boat if we leave it too long. We've got nothing planned after the tour. I might well go back to working as a draughtsman."

### Baby Shambles

In what is expected to be the last release from their debut album 'Down In Albion', **Babyshambles** have announced that '32nd Of December' will become their next single on Feb 27.

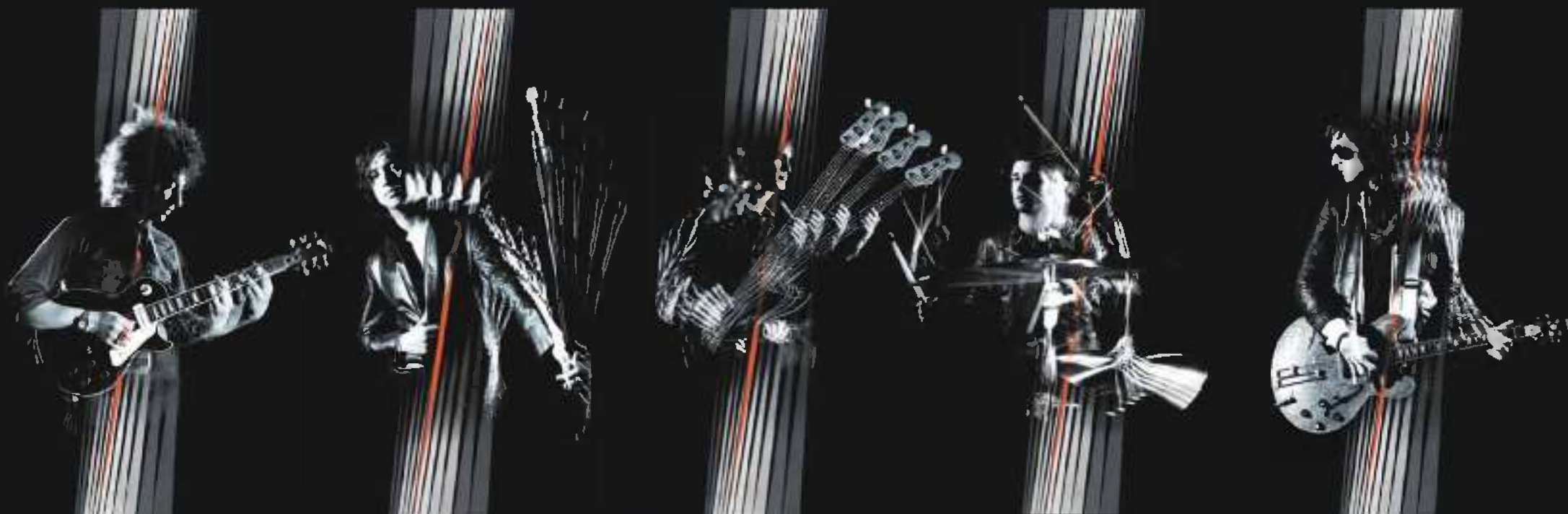
B-sides are yet to be confirmed, and bassist Drew McConnell has told *NME* of the song's hip-hop roots.

"It started with a spiky, Kinky riff, then we demoed it and I played piano on it, which was a bit like [De La Soul's] '3 Is The Magic Number'," he said. "It was a lot of fun to record."



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# Peter Robinson

## Nizlopi

### A JCB Song is for life, not just for Christmas

**H**ello, Luke! Why do you smile so much?  
 “Well, I guess... Do you know what pisses me off, Peter?”

**Tell me.**  
 “All these ‘ironic’, ‘clever’, ‘cynical’ bands. Most bands seem to think it’s cool to frown. That’s wrong! We try not to do that.”

**Is your dad actually Bruce Lee?**  
 “Absolutely, yes.”

**You do lots of ‘gigs’ in people’s front rooms. Are you the posho Pete’n’Carl?**  
 “Do you think we’re posh?”

**You seem rather posh.**  
 “How so?”

**You just seem posh. I don’t really want to elaborate.**  
 “Well... I don’t think we’re posh.”

**Are you working-class?**  
 “No. I’d say I’m aspirational middle-class and John is, er... Well, that’s by-the-by. We have played in some pretty wonderful living rooms, I have to say. We played in the living room of a radical pastor in Texas and his whole congregation came around.”

**I imagine it must be quite enjoyable to beat off Westlife. Did you enjoy beating them off?**  
 “Well, let me put it like this. I don’t know any Westlife songs. Could you name even one Westlife song?”

**‘Fool Again’?**  
 “Right.”

**‘Swear It Again’, ‘My Love’, ‘Bop Bop Baby’, ‘World Of Our Own’, ‘Flying Without Wings’, ‘When You’re Looking Like That’...**

“Well, fair play to you, Peter. Anyway, my point is, to be truthful we’ve never been fans of manufactured music that debases the human spirit, so it feels fucking great that our music is getting heard by a lot of people. But it is scary because people treat us slightly differently. They come up to us in a pub and go, ‘Oh my gosh! I love your song!’”

**But that’s a good thing!**  
 “Well, yes. It’s just a new experience and a massive adjustment.”

**“Most bands think it’s cool to frown. That’s wrong! We don’t do that”**

**I saw a picture of you in a newspaper and your clothes had fallen off. Why was that?**  
 “(Groans) Well, I had this idea that it would be a good idea to do a second album called ‘Folk Hip-Hop’ which would have the two of us as naked Celtic warriors, running into battle. With a ukulele and a double bass. We took a shot of it, but the photographer sold it to the *Daily Star*! We were mortified, ha ha! But it’s quite funny.”

**The Sun said that your song was about bullying. To me it seems more about being a nuisance in a yellow truck. What’s it all about, Luke?**

“What the song is really about is a memory of a time when I was not happy with the vicious buggers that I was at school with – teachers and students.”

**Down with school!**  
 “I was a young lad. We had a building business – my grandfather drove JCBs, so did my dad – and we were just singing [traditional Irish solo singer-songwriter] Christy Moore songs and going down the bypass. It’s about childhood memories.”

**Does having a Number One make you think, ‘Hurrah, we’re at Number One, that’s a brilliant thing’?**  
 “We’ve been slogging for four years, playing in living rooms and loving it, but also feeling like it would be great to get music to more people. And now we’re beating the most corporate music in the world! It feels quite crazy.”

**Do you plan to ‘do a Gary Jules’ and disappear without a trace after scoring a seasonal Number One?**  
 “Our plan is to keep writing the best fucking songs that we can. It would be good to have more success before we die. I’m thinking I’ll die when I’m 98. I’m 27 now, so I should be able to knock out a couple more songs prior to death.”

**Nizlopi (l-r) Luke Concannon and John Parker: cherish these smiling faces before cocaine and eight-minute feedback epics become their “thing”**

**Who do you want to collaborate with?**  
 “Laurn Hill would be amazing. John keeps saying Tony Blair on guitar – we should maybe knock him off a building [?!].”

**Do you both have girlfriends and are you planning on binning them now you’re famous?**  
 “Well, I’m in love with a girl from Oxford.”

**Song title alert!**  
 “She’s inspired lyrics like: ‘Going back to her, and I wanna do rudies/But she’s a lady so I just kiss on her boobies, love our two nudies/ Kate you just soothe me, score a soul goal in me like Wayne Rooney’.”

**Right.**  
 “So, it’s a good thing. But John is single, so I presume he will be going out with Kate Moss by the end of the month.”

**FYI**  
 • NME once saw Nizlopi play at a wedding. The bride looked radiant.  
 • Next year, Nizlopi are taking their ‘hip-hop folk’ to America. They have already “gone down a storm” at SXSW.  
 • Although Americans don’t have JCBs so that bit takes a bit of explaining.

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V2





EDITED BY:  
ALEX NEEDHAM

Love something? Loathe it? Then write to the world's greatest letters page

## 2006: So here we are...

### MARDY AL-BUM

I nearly sprayed my cider and black through my nostrils when I read the interview with Anthony Kiedis from Red Hot Chili Peppers in last week's issue (NME, Dec 31). It's a long time since I've read such gloriously awful quotes as "our new song's very warm sounding, like the Ganges in summertime". Or that another song "speaks to a cultural death on the west coast of the United States of America, a certain death and a rebirth in a way, out with the old, in with the new, from specifically the state from which we hail". Or, best of all, that priceless anecdote about how Anthony Kiedis went to some new age healer to be cleansed, only for John Frusciante to mither, "Whoa, be careful there because I don't want this lady getting rid of all your dark energy because I rather enjoy the creative element that is born from that dark energy". Hello? What planet are these men from? (Um, California? - AN) Pete might be a fuck-up but he'd never come out with one sentence as naff as that, never mind three in the course of a few hundred words. Let's kick these over-muscled, permatanned ponces to the kerb and celebrate proper cool English upstarts like Arctic Monkeys instead.

**Lewis Adams, Cambridge**

NME, don't get me wrong. I'm pant-dampeningly excited by the return of the Mozfather and can't wait to hear Yeah Yeah Yeahs, whose album I'm sure will be genius (not to mention the rockin' outfit that Karen O is no doubt constructing as we speak). But Lord, you'd have thought Radiohead would have cheered up a bit by now. Here's Thom: "It's taken me a long time to get my confidence back after getting a kicking... commercial suicide and proud of it... just a little stink bomb at a lousy party." Er, at which point did they get a kicking? I've never known such a critically-lauded band, not to mention one with an audience that's stayed loyal despite the band doing everything in their power to alienate them. We all know that life is pointless and love's an illusory goal,

but god, Radiohead - count your blessings will you! At the moment, you're making Morrissey look cheerful!

**Aimi Jones, Cardiff**

Your new albums special got me seriously thrilled about the prospect of the new Streets album - thank God Mike Skinner managed to retrieve it from his trashed laptop. The man is the forefather to the Arctic Monkeys and the most original talent we've got in the whole country. People talk about Pete Doherty in terms of classic Englishness but it's Mike and Alex Turner who sum up what this country is *really* like. The release of both their albums will be a generation-defining moment in pop culture (*steady on - AN*). Who's going to need the airheaded Californianism of the Red Hot Chili Peppers or the vaguely "political" maunderings of Radiohead after that?

**Rio Bravo, Huddersfield**

OK, Arctic Monkeys. They've got some good tunes etc. But that album title, 'Whatever You Say I Am, That's What I'm Not'? It's the most contrary, adolescent, clumsy "message of defiance to the media/fans/whoever" that I've ever heard. I know they're about 15 but must they flaunt it so? I expected more from the "coolest man in rock", someone who's responsible for some genuine lyrical gems.

**Ben Sainton, via email**

**2006 - and as per usual it's out with the old and in with the new. Do Radiohead and Red Hot Chili Peppers still have a place in a world defined by lyrics about drinking Smirnoff Ice in nightclubs and being duffed up in the taxi queue afterwards? Is it all George Formby to anyone south of Watford Gap? Do you agree with the irate gentleman we overheard in the bar at the Monkeys' Astoria gig moaning that he "didn't want to be lectured to by a bunch of Northern cunts"? One thing's for sure - Arctic Monkeys are going to define this year, so strap yourself in for the joyride**



Aw, you've upset him. Look at the size of that bottom lip!

**"Let's kick these over-muscled, permatanned ponces to the kerb"**

and get ready for a LOT of heated pub conversations - AN

### DIRTY PRETTY THOUGHTS

In the interests of keeping the world's population under control, can I suggest that Dirty Pretty Things are banned immediately? The effect that those four tall, dark, handsome men are going to have on indie Britain's hormones doesn't bear thinking about. Not so much love in the moshpit as mosh in the love pit. As for them touring, I predict Strokes-style outbreaks of spontaneous shagging

wherever they tread. Excuse me - I need to open a window.

**Emily Barron, via email**

The last year must have been torture to poor Carl Barât. He did the responsible thing and chucked Peter out of the band until he got clean, only to see Pete get off with Kate Moss and become the most famous rock'n'roll star in Britain! But he who laughs last laughs loudest and I bet the dawn of 2006 sees Carl rolling in the aisles. The Babysambles album has bombed, Pete's on skid row and Kate Moss is nowhere to be seen. Meanwhile, Carl's new band features three of the fittest men on the planet basically playing Libertines songs without the hard drugs and rubbish bits. I bet Pete would be livid if he wasn't so trashed.

**Grace Hobson, Aberdeen**

Speaking of which... - AN

## STALKERS!

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### THOMAS, SHEFFIELD

"This is me with **Test Icicles** at Sheffield Union for Fuzztival. I won the air guitar comp and they were the prize givers."



### LIAM, LONDON

"I bumped into **Paul Smith** from **Maximo Park** in Leicester Square. Lovely chap."



### SAM, CROYDON

"Me and **Martin** from **Nine Black Alps** on the set of the suuuper snazzy video for 'Just Friends'. All hail to the beard!"



### AMANDA & LAUREN, SOMERSET

"This is us backstage with **Dominic Masters** from **The Others** at the Guildhall Centre in Gloucester. He's so sweet."



Gorillaz toon up the vocals in the mix. Arf!



### PETE AND KATE - THE 'DEBATE' THAT WON'T DIE!

OK, so this isn't strictly about music, but it's something that's been getting my goat for ages. Why are female broadsheet journalists so keen to bumlick Kate Moss? Some silly cow recently claimed that if she was male she would have been given a knighthood. What, for services to the Colombian economy? When it comes to childcare, the woman makes Mary Wragg look like Kate Bush (*Steady on* - AN). The fashion industry only continues to big her up because they're too dozy to find a new model to replace her. To everyone in the real world she's just a pathetic - and unbelievably selfish - rock chick who's old enough to know better.

**The Moral Majority, via email**

Rather harsh words there, The Moral Majority. Strikes me you're the kind of person who pillories working mothers like our Kate while letting fathers like Pete Doherty off scot free. And as for her "partying", well, what kind of boring git hasn't repeatedly sung Bob Marley's 'One Love' at a crack-fuelled orgy with their breasts hanging out? - AN

2006, and I still can't stop playing 'Down In Albion'. So the bores and fakers have written it off, but anyone with romance in their soul can recognise genius when they see it. If you want flawless singing and pristine production, then buy the bloody Charlotte Church album. So Pete's an out-of-control junkie who keeps getting arrested every two minutes - well, what are rock stars supposed to do? Go to bed at half 10 and enjoy the occasional half of mild when they're feeling a bit 'outrageous'?

**Foxy Gillespie, Maidenhead**

### 'DARE' TO BE DIFFERENT

Why do you find it necessary to have 'interviews' with Gorillaz? You're just filling pages with made-up bollocks! It's not very amusing at all having to read 'Murdoc's witty comments and such like. Maybe I'm the only one who thinks like this and I'm wrong. If so, where's the interview with the Crazy Frog? King Kong has a new movie, why not ask him what's on his iPod? (Arctic Monkeys? Simian? Jay-Z's 'Big Chimpin'?)

- Boom! Tish! - AN) Or running a feature on Iron Maiden's mate Eddie the zombie and his current whereabouts? You get the gist...  
**Anon, via email**

So Damon Albarn's been moaning about how shows like *The X Factor* are ruining pop music? That's rich. Presumably he thinks it should be left to middle class dilettantes like him, and not give an opportunity for working-class raw talents like Andy Abraham and the glorious Shayne Ward to raise themselves out of a life on the bins or - worse - behind the counter at New Look. But what else can you expect of a man who happily shared a stage with not one, but two wife-beaters - Shaun Ryder and Ike Turner - late last year? Maybe if Andy gave his missus a couple of back-handers Damon Albarn might rate him more highly.  
**Marc Tyler, Sunderland**

### LET'S GO TO WERK

Being the "trendy" know-it-all types that you are, I imagine that you must noticed that the riff from Coldplay's song 'Talk' is awfully similar to Kraftwerk's Teutonic

**"King Kong has a new movie, why not ask him what's on his iPod?"**

masterpiece 'Computer Love'. Indeed one might even go as far as to argue that Mr Martin has completely ripped off Kraftwerk in the vain hope that no one will notice (more fool you!). Listen to them side by side if you're a doubting Thomas and you'll see exactly what I mean.

**A displeased Kraftwerk fan, Edinburgh**

We did indeed notice - a year ago when Chris Martin bloomin' told us that he'd had to write a letter to Kraftwerk to ask for permission! Keep up at the back, please... - AN

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## ...AND ANOTHER THING

So The Darkness are playing a gig for global warming. Wouldn't it be more beneficial if Justin Hawkins just shut his trap for two minutes?

**Kit Langley, Bradford**

I've just heard the new Sparks single, 'Dick Around'. It's so great that the rest of pop music might as well shut up shop for the rest of 2006. Why can't any of our current pop stars be as imaginative, inventive and plain bizarre?

**Stephanie Wilson, Sheffield**

What, you're telling me you haven't heard the last Starsailor album? - AN

So Bono got 'Person Of The Year' from *Time* magazine. Does this mean we won't have his foghorn voice and 70-storey ego in our faces for the whole of 2006, or is that too much to hope for?

**Neil Kelly, Brighton**

Is it just me, or are Foo Fighters really shit? As a frontman, Dave Grohl makes a great drummer and I defy anyone to whistle me 10 of their tunes. I thought I was going to lose the will to live during their two-and-a-half-hour (!) extravaganza at Earl's Court (a friend got me tickets) - thank God the bar stayed open for the duration!

**Courtney Like, Goole**

Rock in 2006? Give me Alex Turner singing about taxi ranks and '80s discos - beats 'Juicebox' and vodka rigatoni with the Upper West Side set any day!

**Jack Lee, Blackpool**

Which, rather neatly is where we came in - AN

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# WOLF



## **i** WOLF MOTHER: NEED TO KNOW

**Who:** Andrew Stockdale (vocals), Myles Heskett (drums), Chris Ross (bass/keyboards).

**What:** Deep down and dirty psychedelic blues rock.

**Buy:** New single 'Mind's Eye' is out on January 9 on Modular.

**See:** The band are over for a full UK tour in February, starting at the London Charing Cross Astoria ShockWaves NME Awards 2006 Show (February 24).

**Visit:** [www.wolfmother.com](http://www.wolfmother.com)

**Wolfmother (l-r Chris, Andrew, Myles):** demonstrating Oz's fuck-off version of the iPod nano



# Wolfmother

**Australia's best new band make raw-powered rock'n'roll to strip, fight and riot to. Even God approves...**

**W**elcome to Homebake Festival, Sydney, Australia - a festival celebrating homegrown music, where Jet once announced their arrival and The Vines probably imploded. Again. Onstage, in the blazing midday sunshine, Australia's most 'fro'd up and best new band, Wolfmother, are experiencing their 'Arctic Monkeys at Reading' moment, unexpectedly pulling one of the biggest crowds of the day.

Two songs into their set, as a celebratory frenzy of flip-flops, plastic bottles and blow-up white unicorns hurtle towards the stage, the first of many fights breaks out in the moshpit.

"It was like little whirlpools of violence. Crazy," shudders drummer Myles Heskett ('fro size: medium) after the show.

"It reminded me of the time we played a theatre once and people just started ripping the seats out and throwing them around," adds keyboards/bassist Chris Ross

**"We played a theatre once and people started ripping the seats out and throwing them around"**

('fro size: mini).

"I remember our producer saying that, 'People are gonna get beat up at your shows', after he heard the song 'Pyramid'," says singer Andrew, ('fro style: the full-on Barbra Streisand). "None of us are aggressive but the music... FUCK! It felt like that today!"

"When we first started, we had so many people who came up to us and said they were making out to our EP 'Woman'," adds

Chris. "One guy said, 'I don't know how it does it but it gets girls to take their clothes off.'"

Myles: "The problem arises when you're in a crowd with thousands of men - it has the opposite effect."

Perhaps it's the primordial thunder of their music, maybe it's just something in the air (a few days after Homebake, Sydney experiences its worst riots in years). More than likely though it's the sheer excitement at seeing the three-piece perform their big-bollocked take on the Zeppelin/Sabbath/Stripes template and fire up Australia's new music explosion (see below).

Produced in LA by Dave Sardy (who's worked with the likes of Oasis and Jet and is currently manning the decks for Dirty Pretty Things) Wolfmother's self-titled debut has gone platinum in just a few weeks in Australia, winning the Triple J award - the Aussie equivalent of the Mercury Prize. It's the result of years of experimentation with a set of wholly-unexpected influences, ranging from Aphex Twin and Radiohead to The Avalanches. And don't be fooled by the psychedelic lyrics, the devil-pact blues wailings and the fantasy pagan Frank Frazetta artwork - Andrew only chanced upon his inner Robert Plant after "hearing the Beck album".

Blues legend Jeff Beck, right?

"No, Beck. I was mucking around in that higher register, trying to copy the falsetto he does on 'Deborah', and I realised I could project. I didn't know I could sing like that. When do you ever have the opportunity? You'd freak out the whole neighbourhood."

The Wolfmother live experience, meanwhile, is winning over stoner dudes, Aussie Hell's Angels, wankers ("We had to kick a guy out of a gig 'cos he was having a flog," explains Andrew) and er, the Lord Almighty himself.

Myles: "We met God on our first tour in Brisbane. There was this dude, wearing this gnome hat, a big fat guy, and he said, 'Can you sign my poster, make it out to God'. I was like, 'Are you God?!'"

Chris: "Yeah, meeting God was cool."

Wolfmother: naked girls, aggro guys and God loves them. So should you. **Malik Meer**

## WHAT'S ON THE NME STEREO?



**Islands: you can mock, but we'll all be rocking the bib come summer**

### Islands

#### Jogging Gorgeous Summer

*Rough Trade*

Ex-indie wunderkins The Unicorns go calypso with a song destined to accompany the greatest Lilt advert ever. **Irie!**

### Raconteurs

#### Steady As She Goes

*XL Recordings*

From Jack White and Brendan Benson's new band, an even more radio-friendly anthem than 'Seven Nation Army'. You'll all be humming it soon, trust us.

### Cat Power

#### The Greatest

*Matador*

Sadly not a medley of Chan's most mournful bits, but a crystalline piano epic that makes us weep with joy.

### Gwen Stefani/Franz Ferdinand

#### What You Waiting For?

*White Label*

Stefani gets the art-school treatment. Is this what they play at the Transmission Party?

### The Boyfriends

#### I Love You

*Boobytrap*

Dramatic proclamation of adoration from the Smiths-tinged indie sizzlers.

### The Early Years

#### All Ones And Zeros

*Beggars Banquet*

Twitchy guitars, a belly of buzzing feedback and wispy vocals manifest into driving psychedelic-folk.

### Unsound

#### Motion Control

*Moshi Moshi*

Bubbling Italo-disco from, er, Iceland, this is sexy robot music to warm the coldest dancefloor.

### The Kooks

#### Naïve

*Virgin*

This uncharacteristically fragile moment on the ska-rockers' winter-warmer of a debut album is also one of its highlights.

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### Modular Records

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**Hear:** Cut Copy 'Going Nowhere', Van She 'Kelly'

### Bang Gang

DJ Ajax, Desperate Dan, Gus Da Hoodrat Jaime Doom and Damage rule Sydney's coolest DJ collective and best club night.

**Hear:** Their acid rave electro-pop bootleg mixes.

### Wolf N Cub

Primal Scream-esque swamp-rock four-piece from Adelaide. "If our music was a kid, he'd be a bit mixed-up," they say.

**Hear:** 'Targets' (Dot Dash)

### The Grates

Arty, scuzz punk three-piece; known as the

### Australian Yeah Yeah Yeahs.

**Hear:** 'Sukkafish' (Captains Of Industry)

### Expatriate

Smart-ass new wave indie from Sydney. **Hear:** 'Killer Kat' (Dew Process)

### Architecture In Helsinki

Eight-strong crew from Melbourne specialising in weird pop made from analog synths, samplers and glockenspiel. Like a sun-soaked Arcade Fire. **Hear:** 'Maybe You Can Owe Me' (Moshi Moshi)





# RADAR LIVE



Next time they go to a fancy dress party, you imagine Envy & Other Sins will be ringing each other beforehand

## Envy And Other Sins

► Bush Hall, London  
► Tuesday, December 6

**E**nvy And Other Sins are four flat-capped, neckerchief-fiddling rascallions from Birmingham who tonight treat the already sinful crowd – the band have laid on a free buffet – to a set of extremely polished pop-rock pomp. Flanked by images of debauched splendour and flagon-gulping naughtiness, this group of marauding dandies sound like an episode of *Blackadder III*, directed by Freddie Mercury, produced by Jellyfish and edited by Matt Bellamy.

Udeniable highlights strike forth in the form of the uproariously anthemic 'Prodigal Son' and the heavy-stomping choruses of the Franz-ified 'Step Across'. Envy And Other Sins are also the only band out there to namecheck the Roman river Rubicon in one of their songs. And while looking to the past for musical inspiration isn't much of a new thing these days, having a 1920s labourer playing a Yamaha onstage is definitely a novelty. And a downright spiffing one at that. **Ross Bennett**

## Humanzi

► Temple Bar Music Centre, Dublin  
► Saturday December 10

**T**he name really couldn't be more apt. Humanzi are a bastard offspring in every sense Human meets chimpanzee; Ramones bedded by Kasabian; The Stooges clashing with the Mondays, and the sounds of angular, hedonistic rock'n'roll smashing head on into feverish electro punk. In front of a hometown crowd, dirty, ragged guitar riffs collide with unashamed hooky synths, to create dark explosive rock music shot through with adrenaline-inducing beats.

It's the sound of the clubbing generation awakening from a loved-up haze only to realise the world is still as shit and deceitful as it used to be. Body-pounding anthems like 'Diet Pills' and 'Fix The Cracks' rail against contemporary culture with a vital ferocity. If Joy Division had emerged from the fog of ecstasy-fuelled decadence, they'd probably be making music not unlike this.

Humanzi, then: a very dark and very distinctive Dublin pleasure. **Steve Cummins**



At the very least, Humanzi have got the posturing for stadiums



## Hot Chip

► Trash, London  
► Monday, December 19

**K**eyboard fetishism, sexual allusions to monkeys and R Kelly references – Hot Chip are the future of electro. Armed with a new DFA-shaped record deal, this Prince-worshipping disco-troupe are here to lay the bloated ghost of electroclash to rest. These five London boys may look like the British Kraftwerk (complete with Asbo and glue addiction), but they could not be further from the ice-cold electronica of Berlin.

Armed with skiffle techno ('My Shit's On Fire') and Scandinavian euphoria ('No Fit State') these young eccentrics are spiritually closest to the fun-at-all-costs mash-up of The Go! Team.

Cowbells, maracas and electronic noises you probably spell with numbers make up 'Over And Over', a blend of Chicago house and New Order terrace-trance funkier than a George Clinton fart. If dance music is dead then tonight, Hot Chip are hosting a séance. **Alex Miller**



Hot Chip's Alexis: that second mike's for the voices in his head

## DEMO REVIEWS



**Shin Jin Rui**  
**Brutalised By Song**  
[www.myspace.com/shinjinruinewcastle](http://www.myspace.com/shinjinruinewcastle)  
This Newcastle trio ape the prototype heavy metal of early Black Sabbath with savage, snarling results. Their debut demo is a shuddering, cantankerous listen – like getting stoned and watching *Jurassic Park* really, really loud, or attempting to breed your pet lizard with a horny pitbull.



**Dirty Little Faces**  
**Three-song demo**  
[www.myspace.com/dirtylittlefaces](http://www.myspace.com/dirtylittlefaces)  
Dirty Little Faces' songs have energy and spark, but their new-wave-tinged tunes lack much that sets them apart from the crowd. That is until the singer opens his mouth, unleashing a tirade of arresting lyrical spite. We'd call them 'jitterrock' if there was such a word.



**Black Cab Casino**  
**Sweets And Lead**  
[www.myspace.com/blackcabcasino](http://www.myspace.com/blackcabcasino)  
If The Kinks re-recorded their back catalogue backwards, peppered their works with dabs of Pulp's wry lyricisms, and then condensed all their songs into 90-second stabs of perfect pop, then they'd sound like this lot. Sweet. **James Jam**

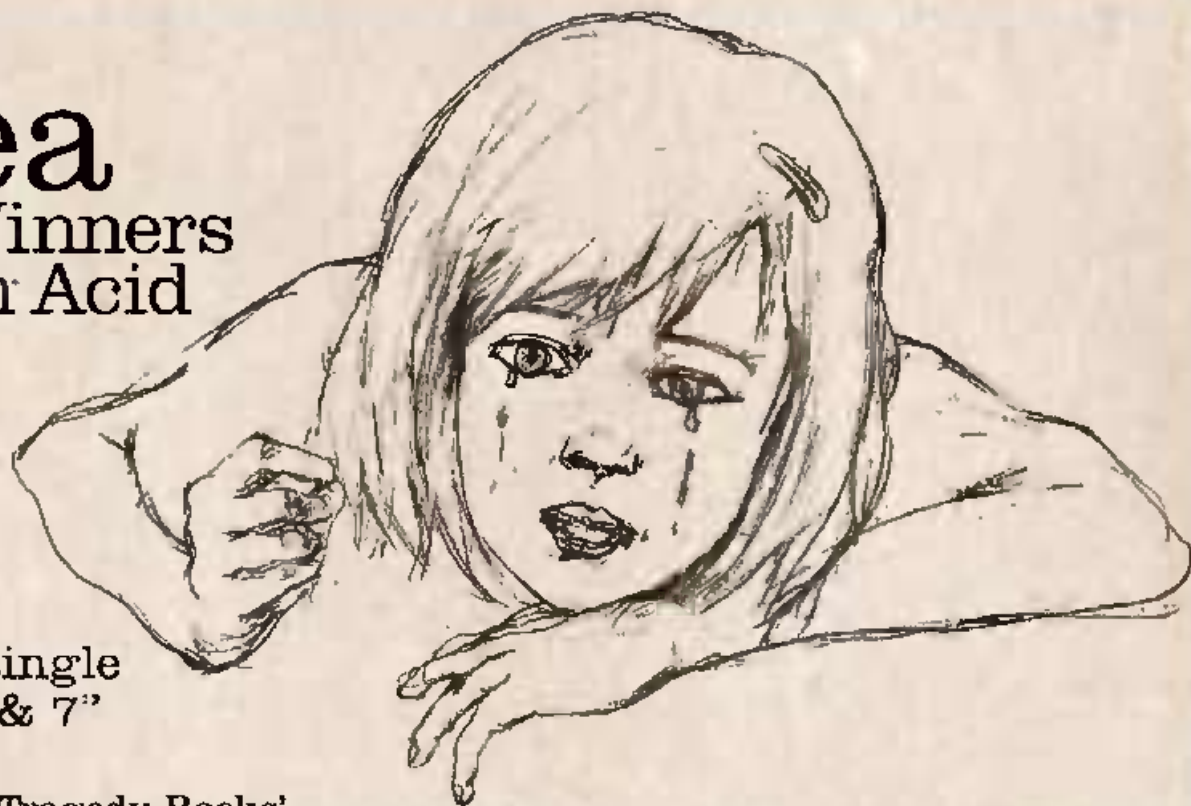
## TESTING TESTING

Are you in a band? Are you any good? Send your demos to Radar, NME, 25th Floor, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS



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# “ROCK’N’ROLL SPITS ‘I’M BUILT TO WITHSTAND

**He inspired Oasis and Chris Martin calls him “the greatest singer in the world”.  
Richard Ashcroft is back and wants to be as important as Shakespeare**

**R**ichard Ashcroft has a survivor’s instinct, the prowling gait of a prizefighter and the sort of voice that could hold court all on its own. A single blast of his lavish Lancashire baritone could, you sense, turn a classroom of riotous happy-slappers into whimpering babies. Gaunt and good looking, and dressed in post-Britpop day-wear of jeans, pale grey jumper and jean jacket, at 35 he is still recognisable as the man behind The Verve, the early ’90s visionaries who took the plunge off the end of Wigan Pier in search of a whole new universe.

“Rock’n’roll spits out the weak!” he booms, pacing up the stairs of *NME*’s photo studios in Battersea in Hush Puppy-assisted seven-league strides. “I’m built to withstand the pressure, but loads of people aren’t. So many people in bands have died, and for what? Their face on the T-shirt of a 13-year-old girl 20 years later? We’ve got to turn this culture round and celebrate the living!”

Most recently, of course, Ashcroft has become known as the man Coldplay asked to perform with at Live8 in front of a global audience of two billion.

“It was fuckin’ great!” he beams, speed-rolling a spliff. “It’s weird. Fifteen years avoiding my peers and there they all are, in the same place at the same time on the same day. Just singing those words, ‘*You’re a slave to the money then you die*’, proved it’s a tune which can unite the generations. It’s bigger than me or Coldplay. I was just standing onstage looking out on the crowd thinking, ‘How the fuck did I get here?’”

Richard Ashcroft was born on September 11, 1971 in Billinge, a suburb of Wigan. In a town famous only for rugby league, northern soul and George Formby, he had to grow up fast. At 11, his father – an office

clerk – died of a brain haemorrhage, leaving the young Richard with a determination to treat every day like his last. With dreams of becoming the next George Best thwarted by a trip to the Bobby Charlton Soccer School, he gained guidance from his stepfather, a Rosicrucian (an ancient secret sect), and exponent of telekinesis who imbued in him a belief in the power of spiritual enlightenment.

Consequently, while his Britpop contemporaries sought inspiration in The Good Mixer, Ashcroft – long-haired, large-lipped and draped in velvet – looked and sounded like The Man Who Fell To Earth. Resembling a sexy, scarecrow Mick Jagger, his messianic stage performances and tangential pronouncements prompted the press to dub him ‘Mad’

**“Only Liam and I know how it feels to touch so many people and how powerful that is”**

Richard – thanks largely to an *NME* interview in 1992 where he explained, “I believe you can fly. If I thought I was just going to walk around this place for the next 50 years, I don’t think I could exist.”

If he had his supporters – not least Noel Gallagher, who dubbed him ‘Captain Rock’ and wrote ‘Cast No Shadow’, about him – vindication came with million-selling third album ‘Urban Hymns’. A comedown classic featuring worldwide hits ‘The Drugs Don’t Work’ and ‘Bitter Sweet Symphony’ (Number Two in Saudi Arabia!), it became the fifth fastest-selling UK album ever. As well as providing the Britpop party with a much-needed sonic Alka Seltzer, it also ensured Ashcroft

need never worry about the cat-calling again.

If his first two solo albums ‘Alone With Everybody’ and ‘Human Conditions’ were brooding, sombre affairs, wrapping profound thoughts on the universe in swooping strings, then his latest, ‘Keys To The World’, is a more accessible effort. Oscillating between full-blown rockers (‘Why Not Nothing?’), blissed-out soul (‘Music Is Power’) and acoustic ballads (‘Sweet Brother Malcolm’), it’s a heady mix of the entire Ashcroft oeuvre.

Which begs the question, who is Richard Ashcroft now? A glowering acoustic strummer in sensible shoes? An aviator-shaded shaman stalking rain-swept city centres composing sonic sermons? A hippy rock star sipping herb tea in his Richmond bolthole? Or just a Liam for the literate?

***NME*: You’ve been away for four years, then Chris Martin introduces you at Live8 as, “the greatest singer in the world singing the greatest song in the world”. How did it come about?**

Richard: “Well, I knew something was coming, I just had a feeling. We were having dinner one night and he asked me out of the blue if I wanted to do it. And when Chris Martin is sitting next to you, it’s hard to say to the kid, ‘You go and do Live8, you take it’. So I bowled down to Crystal Palace and we did a quick rehearsal at the soundcheck and that was it. ‘See you at the gig!’”

**When did you first meet Coldplay?**

“Over the years I’ve had a connection with them because the DJ they take on tour with them [Wayne Griggs] is my best mate. He told me the band were big fans of The Verve, and when I played some dates with them in



Ashcroft (centre bottom) and The Verve in 1992: Jesus complex not pictured

Europe we got on great. They can strike up a tune from ‘A Northern Soul’ just like that; Chris can play the guitar on ‘Life’s An Ocean’ all the way through. They’re funny lads. After gigs they go on the web seeing what the fans liked. If someone has said the gig was too short they sit around worrying whether to change it! I had to give them some advice: fucking forget the fansites, man – do your own thing!”

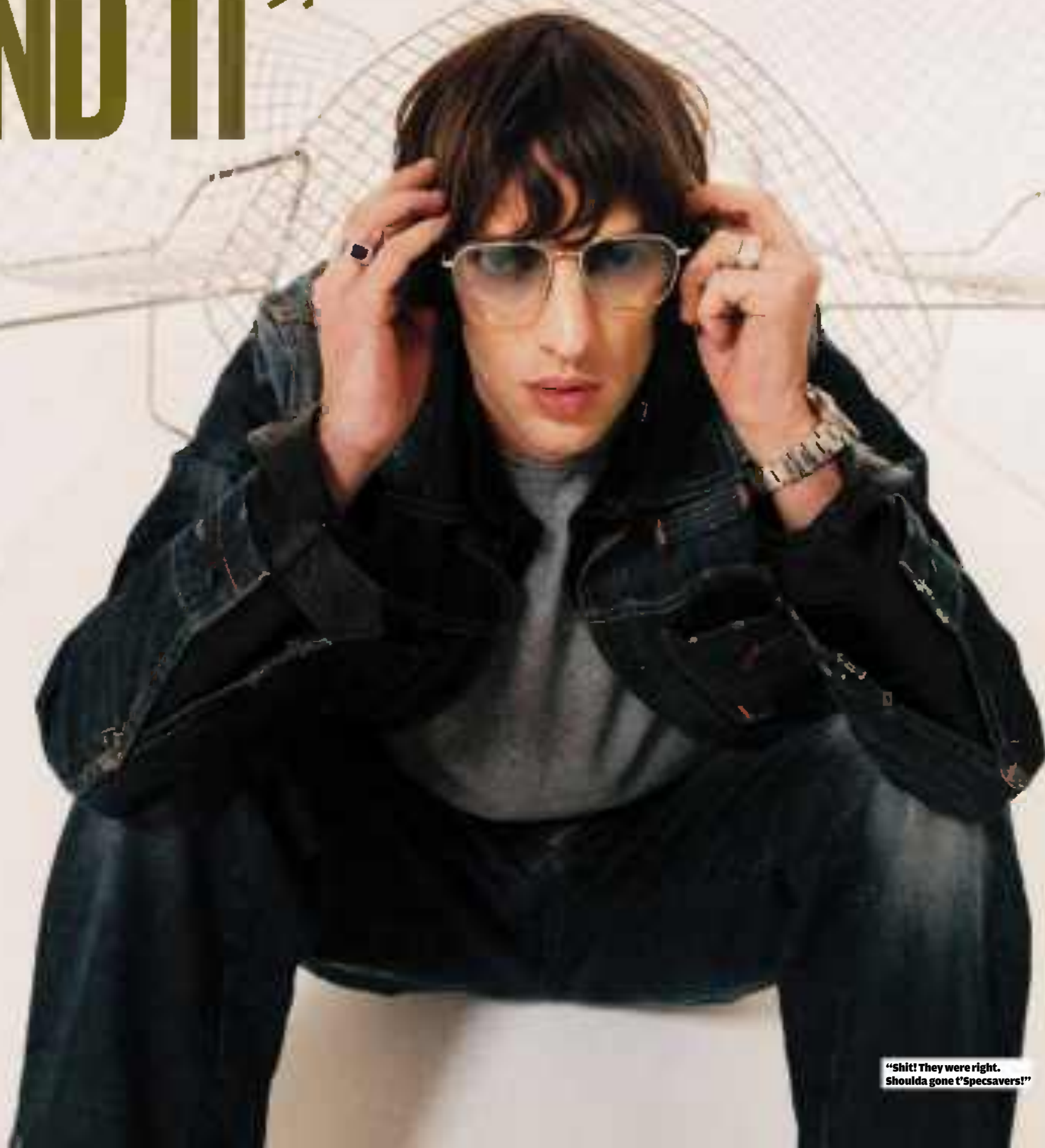
**It’s been four years since your last album...**

“In rock’n’roll time, four years is a long time, yeah, but I was always in this for the long haul. My blueprint was put down by the Dylans, the Neil Youngs, the Van Morrisons. They took detours which perplexed their audience but gave them longevity. It annoys me because I always feel as though I’m only partially





# OUT THE WEAK AND IT"



"Shit! They were right.  
Shoulda gone t' Specsavers!"





Tense, nervous headache Dickie? Try some Nurofen. Sometimes the drugs do work! (Boom! Tish! - Caption Ed)

of life: black, white, you name it. That's the thing no cultural commentator knows or will ever understand. There's only Richard Ashcroft and Liam Gallagher who know what it feels like. We're the only ones who know how many people we've touched, and how powerful that is."

## Do you see much of Liam?

"Not as much as I'd like to. We always seem to be holidaying in the same places at the same time though, and I feel totally energised whenever I see him. We wind each other up, it's great. He's a frustrated songwriter. I heard a demo of 15 of his songs and six or seven of 'em were classics."

## Looking back on the '90s, what do you think Oasis and The Verve achieved?

"There was a male repression in this country which I think we unlocked. I remember going to an England match in the World Cup and I was stopped by a fuckin' huge guy covered in tattoos with no teeth, and he said my songs helped him through a bad period. And you could just tell that was the first time he'd ever said something like that or admitted to another guy that he needed help in the first place! So in many ways the music did many things beyond my power."

## Do you think you can be as important to this decade as you were to the last one?

"The way I look at it is that things happened so fast, it's taken a while to get our bearings again. It took me three albums to get there with The Verve. I'm on my third solo album now. All I know is I've got this burning feeling inside and I know Liam feels the same way. It's a new decade, we're halfway through it, and the question is are we gonna fuckin' do something about it? 'Cos who else has stepped up and taken our place? 'Cos if there's no-one, I'm more than up for it."

## Have you had a chance to hear any new bands?

"I think the young lads are doing great. I saw Hard-Fi at some TV studio and they've got great rock'n'roll songs. Arctic Monkeys, great stuff. They've got a good feeling about them. Kaiser Chiefs opening Live8 was a great pop moment. What I will say though is that I think the way bands behave is a lot more studied than it was. As The Verve we made a lot of mistakes, but by the end our sound was such a fuckin' thick broth we'd invented something of our own, just like the Mondays created this weird brew. Now we've got this Xerox generation where bands don't soak stuff up. Instead they get an artist or album and focus on that."

## Have you taken note of the media frenzy around Pete Doherty?

"The very fact you're asking me about him perpetuates it! All I'll say is, having seen the power of the media, I'm just glad all my coverage has been just about the music. I find it hard enough getting out of the door to buy a pint of milk, so God knows how he feels not knowing what

people's reactions to him will be (*laughs*). The year after The Verve made it I almost got into so many fights because I was convinced people were staring me out!"

## Do you see a little of yourself in Johnny Borrell?

"Yeah, I met the kid, he's a nice guy. The only difference between me and him is journey and my experience as a kid. I was a mixture of Jimmy from *Quadrophenia* and a boxer. I had to talk the loudest and fight the hardest just to survive. People think we made it on the tail-end of the Manchester thing, but that had all gone by the time we started"

## Apart from your drummer Pete Salisbury, do you still see the other members of The Verve?

"No. I don't see any of the guys. It's not for me. I've got some serious problems with one of the guys which ain't gonna be resolved in this life. I just hope we never get to the lawyers. While we're on the subject though can I just say on tape: the journey we took, the laughs we had, the music we made... let's remember The Verve for the music, not all that shit that came afterwards. For me, the band broke up at the right time and no-one in the band's dead yet. That's what I'm celebrating. If one of us had died the whole thing would have been a waste. [The Verve's guitarist] Nick McCabe is one of the most intelligent, sensitive musicians I've ever met, and that's the truth."

## With talk of a reunion out of the question, what ambitions do you have left as an artist?

"It's hard on your own because you have to get your own orchestra together. You can talk about destiny or being pre-ordained, but right now I feel like I'm on a one-man mission. I'm here to use my tools and my gift to take them to a higher level. The level Stevie Wonder or Bob Dylan or John Lydon reached. They took it to some other place. All this manufactured crap has to end. Words aren't seen to be important but that's what songwriting is about. It's got to be like Shakespeare. The hordes can come and celebrate and cry with you. And also in 20, 100 or 200 years time the music has got to stand up to some fucking guy in a university picking through it."

Richard Ashcroft may occasionally sound like he's a few lines short of a sonnet, but witnessing his show that night at Xfm's Christmas bash, few could argue that he's not a poet. Performing a three-song acoustic set, he delivers a joyous 'Lucky Man' and a poignant 'Sweet Brother Malcolm', then achieves the biggest roar of the night for a boozy, sing-a-long 'Bittersweet Symphony'. The combined effect is enough to make you, well, celebrate the living. Thirteen years on from when he first (star)sailed into orbit, it looks like Captain Rock is firmly back on course.

**M** appreciated by the press. Everyone got it into their heads over the last few years that I was in my ivory tower like Lennon, baking bread all day. The fact of the matter was that I was bringing up kids."

## Your last album, 'Human Conditions', received a fairly lukewarm reception. Do you think it was misunderstood?

"If that album had come out now 'Nature Is The Law' would have been seen as a comment on the six worldwide disasters we've witnessed over the last year. Instead, at the time, it was just, 'The kid smokes too much dope'. It was an album about man's arrogance in the face of powers beyond his control. The trouble is, whenever you say the word 'mankind' people turn off. That's what 'Check The Meaning' was about. The religious war is coming to our streets. I don't want it to be a Nostradamus record, but ultimately it will be. By the end of the decade it'll be seen as a prophetic piece of work. That album is my 'What's Goin' On'."

**'Keys To The World' wrestles with depression and happiness, love and how to maintain it. Do you still feel frustrated when you see Bush'n'Blair on the news?**

"Of course. I don't meet politicians, full stop. You're just a photo opportunity. I would not vote Labour again for a start. They've been a real learning curve for all of us. Once you start spinning, you can never stop. In the end, the people became more savvy than the spin doctors. The way I look at it is how would Jesus Christ cope? I love the man. I feel like him in the sense that, whatever

**"I'm here to use my gift, to take it to a higher level. The level Wonder, Dylan or Lydon reached"**

the situation is, you've got to ask yourself, what would he do? He'd smash the huge glass cathedrals. It's the abuse of very basic peaceful words and aligning them to politics which is so scary."

## Do you think people misread your passion for arrogance?

"It's only journalists with the problem, not the people who like my music. I'm stopped on the street every day by people from all walks

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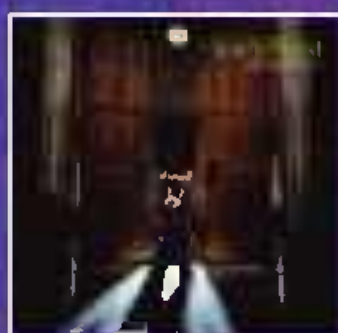
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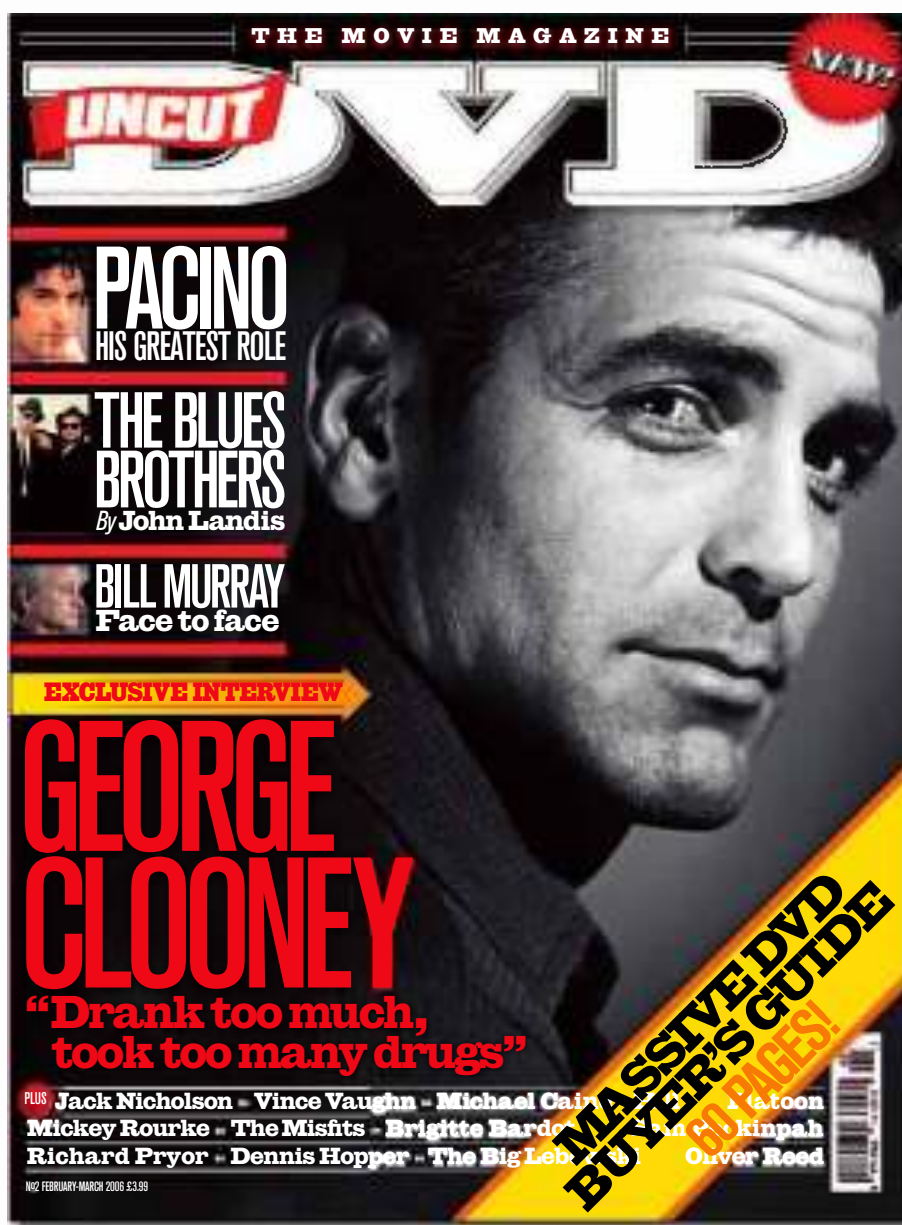
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## DEATH FROM ABOVE 1979

**I**t's been a while since *NME*'s caught up with Death From Above 1979, so here's a quick refresher: they're the band who look like a pair of moustachioed porn icons from the '70s and play skin-searing laser-dance metal like genetically-perfected robocock cyborg rock gods of the 2090s. They've just survived their largest shows to date at a string of enormodomes across north America in support of *Nine Inch Nails* and *Queens Of The Stone Age*, at the invitation of one Josh Homme.

Elsewhere Death From Above 1979's second album is due at the start of this year (not the long-mooted triple LP) and the buzz surrounding bass player Jesse Keeler's dance side-project *MSTRKRFT* ("We're trying to get Cyndi Lauper to sing on the LP and she's been like, 'Yeah, send me tracks!'") is currently louder than a night out in Fallujah.

But it's DFA 1979's past we're more interested in. You see, it all harks back to one drunken night in Manchester, when Jesse placed a burly arm around *NME* and let fly with a fistful of secrets concerning some of the more colourful aspects of his pre-DFA 1979 history. They hadn't spent their formative years in some shiftless university idyll like most bands. These motherfuckers graduated from the university of life – with Jesse attaining a respectable MBA in Money Laundering, and drummer Sebastian Grainger with an MA in Pantomime Damery (we'll explain later).

"Aw, shit, what did I tell you?" Jesse sputters.

We believe it had something to do with you being a teenage millionaire and diamond smuggler.

"You wanna hear the story? OK, let's begin," he says, picking at a brutal-looking scab on his knee.

"After high school, I just ended up selling drugs. It wasn't glamorous, my first gun was a Walther PPL. You know, James Bond's gun."

James Bond's gun?

"It was just for protection man – everyone had one then. I never used it. Except for this one time we shot up the glass in that bus station. That was pretty rap."

It would seem then that clearly, there's more to Jesse than DFA 1979's press release would have you know. Do continue.

"After stealing scrap metal from construction sites, I was working for this guy selling gemstones," recalls Jesse.

"It's known as 'portfolio conversion', when you convert cash to stones to get money across a border. It's, uh, legal. I bought my first BMW when I was 17, and managed to buy my mother a house. And then, from that, this godfather guy who I worked for got me into being a stockbroker."

Wait, a stockbroker?

"The important part is that being an SB means you just lie all the time.



Jesse and Sebastian (l-r) model the latest in lightweight and cheap-to-trash cardboard instruments. Just watch out for the mother of all papercuts

# Diamond smugglers, drug dealers and pantomime dames...

...Welcome to the secret history of **Death From Above 1979**



You build relationships with people, then just lie to them. Like, I can be a crooked person but I can still have a hard time being friendly to someone then lying about their money. It doesn't feel good. At least when I was selling drugs to people, they'd ask me for stuff and they'd get it.

"It's like the doorman at a strip-club selling porn. You see people at their most honest," Sebastian chips in, still twirling his cardboard drumsticks.

Before we can begin to ponder to what degree Sebastian was also involved in petty crime, he throws us with a lifestyle choice markedly

different from his hetero lifemate.

"Before the band I just did children's theatre," he sniffs. "I played Rapunzel's mother in a kid's play. When you're broke, nothing beats performing – it's creative, it's fun. I'd rather do that than sit in an office that sucks out pieces of my soul."

"But you know, all this stuff was a long time ago," smiles Jesse, cradling his bleeding knee, the scab clearly no match for persistent, bass-hardened fingers. "This is what we do now."

**NME.COM**

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# MONEY MATTERS

**Especially when you've got three years at Uni to get through**

With new friends to be made, rockin' parties to be attended and ill-advised Oasis covers bands to be formed, you've got enough on your plate at university without money worries getting in your way. Well there's good news for those thinking about uni life: because help is at hand to stop your cash flow concerns turning into a crisis. For a start, you're not alone - lots of people are concerned about money without realising how much help is at hand. The most important thing you need to know is that financial help is available to get you through university – meaning that it really is possible to study first and then pay back when you are earning.

## **Cash machine**

You'll find all the info you need at [www.studentmoneyguide.com](http://www.studentmoneyguide.com) a website crammed with exciting cash-related tips that should make you feel less queasy about heading off into higher education.

For one thing, it'll thrill you with a simple money-saving guide that will have you retaining the pounds without even realising it. For another, you'll be put straight in touch with all the

best student offers, saving you on everything from the hottest new records to the flashiest new iPod. You'll also find out loads of strange facts including why losing your hair might make you rich quick (you'll have to go online to find out). Most importantly, though, you'll find all the information you need about student loans and how you can study first and then pay back when you are earning.

## **Work, work, work**

Did you know, for instance, that there's currently a new loan available to eligible full-time students to cover tuition fees, which should make life a lot easier and students

can also apply for a loan, which is based on their personal circumstances, to help with living costs? Students do not have to repay these student loans until they have left their course and are earning over £15,000 a year. And even then, students only have to pay back nine per cent of their earnings above £15,000 a year, meaning that someone earning £18,000 would repay £5.19 a week.

If you've still got money worries – read on! Students from lower income households could be eligible for a non-repayable grant of up to £2,700 a year. And that's not all! Many colleges/universities also offer non-repayable bursaries – so it's worth seeing what is available as you might benefit.

University has a lot to offer you, so don't let money worries put you off. Financial help is available, and [www.studentmoneyguide.com](http://www.studentmoneyguide.com) is there to save you the headaches.

**Aim higher**  
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# NIRVANA RELEASE 'NEVERMIND'

## Tuesday, September 24, 1991 Rock'n'roll changes forever



**"With 'Nevermind' Nirvana have made an LP which is not only better than anything they've ever done before, it'll stand up as a new reference point for the future generation."**

**Steve Lamacq, NME, September 21, 1991**

**W**hen Nirvana started recording their second album on April 2, 1990, they were merely a cult group on the US underground. A band revered by fanzine editors and punk scenesters, they were a staple of the Seattle movement that would become known as 'grunge' (a fusion of ferocious punk aesthetic with the sludgy prototype metal of Black Sabbath and their gloriously cantankerous ilk). But singer, songwriter and guitarist Kurt Cobain was so broke that he was sleeping under a bridge. Nirvana were cool. They were respected. They had some fun songs. But were they expected to sell 10million records? Hell no!

By the time 'Nevermind' was completed, the trio had signed to a major label, Geffen, and replaced drummers (booting out Chad Channing for Dale Crover of the Melvins, then Dan Peters of Mudhoney, before settling upon Dave Grohl). It was a time of much change for the Seattle band. Yet there was more to come: 'Nevermind's' release on September 24, 1991 would alter things forever.

First there was the single, released on September 10 and called 'Smells Like Teen Spirit'. The song fused Kurt's

### "Courtney Love is the best fuck in the world!" Kurt Cobain on live TV, September 1991

fanatical love of the Pixies with a chorus that recalled 'More Than A Feeling' by AOR favourites Boston. Teen Spirit was the name of a brand of US deodorant, a fact unbeknown to Kurt when Kathleen Hanna of riot grrrl band Bikini Kill spray-painted the phrase "Kurt Smells Like Teen Spirit" on the wall of his flat. The notoriously anti-corporate Cobain was allegedly unhappy with the name-checking of a commercial product in one of his songs. Soon the song, and its incessant popularity, would become a bugbear all of its own.

On September 13, Nirvana celebrated the release of their album at Seattle's Re-bar. It was a glitzy, Geffen-funded affair that the band (who were still coming to terms with being a punk band on a major label) were reportedly uncomfortable attending. Bassist Krist Novoselic got bored and promptly threw potato-chip dip at Kurt. Kurt responded with a bowl of herb dressing and started a full-scale food fight. The band were ejected. "We got thrown out of our own party!" beamed Krist to NME at the time.



The audience at the James Blunt gig decided the stage could do with a papier-mâché Kurt Cobain



Nirvana: scourge of light-entertainment TV producers everywhere

Within a month of its release 'Nevermind' had sold a staggering 1million copies, a figure previously unheard of for a band with Nirvana's indie lineage. Geffen, bewildered at the whirlwind of excitement surrounding their new signings, panicked at only pressing 40,000 and had to hastily order more to match demand. "I never envisaged 'Nevermind' becoming so successful," said producer Butch Vig. "I think it just touched a nerve with lots of lots of people. And Nirvana did it on their own merit. Geffen didn't take out any billboards or TV ads, it just caught on through word of mouth."

The world was falling in love with Nirvana, to the band's horror. "We'll do something to fuck it up," Cobain told NME as they hit Europe for a tour that saw them on the road until nearly the end of that crazy year.

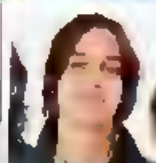
On November 8, the band appeared on Channel 4's compulsively-watched youth culture show *The Word*. Their performance of 'Smells Like Teen Spirit' was cut two minutes and 41 seconds into the song - despite having been promised a guaranteed four-minute slot. This was after Kurt declared, "I just want everyone to know that Courtney Love, of the pop group Hole, is the best fuck in the world!" Now Radio One DJ and then *Word* band booker Jo Whaley had to be snuck out of the back of

the venue to avoid Geffen label types going crazy. The band laughed off the storm. "Nirvana are the blister on the buttock of the programme," wrote Mary Anne Hobbs in NME, November 23. Two weeks later and Nirvana graced UK screens once again, promoting 'Smells Like Teen Spirit' on *Top Of The Pops*.

Incensed when they were told that only Kurt's vocals would be recorded live, Dave and Krist flailed their instruments around, obviously miming, while Kurt changed the opening line of their song to "load up on drugs and kill your friends", singing in a sombre baritone which he later claimed was a tribute to Morrissey. The performance, alongside their December 6 appearance on Jonathan Ross' TV show (where, after agreeing to play the poppy future single 'Lithium', they break into a sneering, nasty run-through of 'Territorial Pissings' - unbeknown to a startled Ross) can be found on essential Nirvana video document *Live! Tonight! Sold Out!*. It was final proof that Nirvana had entered the mainstream - on their own terms entirely.

**James Jam**

### WHAT IT MEANT TO ME...



**Julian Casablancas  
The Strokes**

"Nirvana started me into music in a huge way. 'Polly' was the first song I ever figured out how to play, and Nirvana was the first band to make me want to find out about other bands."

### WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

- **January 1992:** 'Nevermind' reaches 2million sales.
- **February 1992:** Kurt and Courtney tie the knot on Waikiki beach, Hawaii.
- **August 1992:** The couple's daughter, Frances Bean Cobain, is born.
- **September 1992:** Global sales of 'Nevermind' approach 8million. Nirvana headline Reading.
- **December 1992:** 'Incesticide', a stop-gap compilation of demos and rarities, is released.
- **September 1993:** Nirvana's third LP released. Its working title, 'I Hate Myself And I Want To Die' is replaced by 'In Utero'.



- **March 1994:** Kurt hospitalised after overdosing on champagne and Rohypnol sleeping tablets in a Rome hotel.



- **April 1994:** Kurt commits suicide in his Seattle home. A handwritten note reads: "It's not fun for me any more. I can't live this life."



# ALBUMS

OHMV  
DIRECT

DOWNLOAD THE GREATEST RAN

**CYHSY, Talking Heads,  
Mary J Blige**

Edited by Anthony Thornton

The Steve Lamacq  
haircare product range  
is taking off nicely

## CLAP YOUR HANDS SAY WHO?

Just who is it that stirred these  
boys into musical action?

### The Go-Betweens

The epitome of the 'cult band', every '80s rock critic's second favourite band and the so-called Australian Smiths, The Go-Betweens have sold about seven records during the course of their whole career. It's likely Clap Your Hands Say Yeah bought at least five of them.

### David Bowie

If you were a teenager in the late '70s, you either wanted to fuck the Thin White Duke, or be him. As fans of the ever-evolving musical chameleon, it's likely Clap Your Hands Say Yeah wanted to do both.

### Neutral Milk Hotel

The much-underrated, self-described 'fuzz folk' combo from Ruston, LA formed part of the Elephant 6 Recording Company collective. Alec CYHSY's impersonation of NMH singer Jeff Mangum is uncanny.

### Talking Heads

Led by NYC poet David Byrne, the angular art-rock quartet are a key Clap Your Hands Say Yeah reference point. Oh, and Byrne says he'll be round for his cut of the publishing in a bit, alright lads?

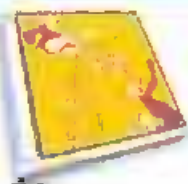
### The Smiths

The definitive British guitar band of the '80s, they mustered six albums. It's likely Clap Your Hands Say Yeah own at least a couple of them.



# Clappers delight!

The song remains the same... but that's  
fine really, honestly, it is



## Clap Your Hands Say Yeah

Clap Your Hands Say Yeah Wichita

REVIEWED BY  
JAMES JAM

**T**here's an old adage that states the Ramones only had one kind of song. Pah! You know what? People who say that are wrong. What's more, they're silly and reek of wee. See, da bruddas actually had two variants of their musical palate. Songs you could jump around like a giddy dog to ('Blitzkrieg Bop', 'Carbana Not Glue') and then songs you could make out with girls to ('I Wanna Be Well', 'I Wanna Be Your Boyfriend'). Wanna know something else? Clap Your Hands Say Yeah make the Ramones look like Radiohead at their eclectically eccentric, genre-hopping 'Kid A'-era peak. See the Brooklyn-based band really *do* only have one kind of song. It's a shuffling, organ-led number, with jingle-jangle guitars, and whimsical, wry lyrics about

girls that look like David Bowie, the quest to capture Bigfoot and the growth of beards. It's both cordial and charming, the kind of song that plays in your head when you're sat reading Sartre in the library and that foxy librarian comes over to tell you off for chewing gum. Yeah, we've all been there.

It's a brilliant, brilliant song. As good as any Smiths album cut, or anything their spiritual peers REM have recorded in almost 20 years. And, like flumps, blowjobs and trying to sneeze while keeping your eyes open, partaking in its consumption is a devoutly enjoyable experience you'll want to return to again and again. There's a warmth and familiarity about singer Alec Ounsworth's garbled lyrical mush that recalls the literate lyricisms of The Cure's Robert Smith, yet is delivered via the nasal whine of Talking Heads' David Byrne.

Likewise their chiming indie guitar, driven by the pounding of drums seemingly borrowed from Velvet Underground percussion goddess Moe Tucker, and low frequency bass parts that rumble like an expectant, long-dormant volcano. They create a sound in thrall to beauty and romance and youth, like *Catcher In The Rye: The Musical*, or an everlasting evening smoking spicy cigarettes with friends in the park as the sunset seeps into the ether. As the songs weave into the fabric of each other, it daubs a visual listen that's both pretty and pouty. CYHSY's debut is a veritable swoon of a record.

Though 'Details Of The War', 'Is This Love?', 'Heavy Metal', or indeed any of the songs that come after a clunker of an opener, would work brilliantly in their singularity, these are songs that would make fine single fodder, tunes that would make your shins skip as you go about

your day. It's just when they're segued together, with little in the way of dynamic to alter the current of the record's spin, they become one and the same. As we said, it's a good song. A beautiful listen. A good record. With a peppering of variation it could have been a moment-defining one, a *great* record. Here's to album number two then.

Where they go next time round is a troubling question. You'd hope they'd craft another style of song, or molest their existing template into new, challenging ways. Yet circa their debut, CYHSY make the world seem silly and quaint, stylish and aloof, and as a document of beauty, 2006 should see them as peerless for much of their year. Yeah, they're one-trick ponies alright, but what does that matter when they're the prettiest mares in the paddock?





Talking Heads (l-r) Chris Frantz, Jerry Harrison, Tina Weymouth and David Byrne: laughing at your protégés hair is not good karma guys

## Now you're talking

And you may ask yourself, who are this great band?

### Talking Heads

**Talking Heads '77**  
**More Songs About Buildings And Food**  
**Fear Of Music**  
**Remain In Light**

Rhino/Sire

Kleenex at the ready because CBGBs is to close on Halloween of 2006. Well boo-bleeding-hoo. The NYC bands that cut their teeth in there in mid-'70s are what made the venue important, not the other way around and out of them all, Talking Heads are one of

the most crucial. If you've only heard 'Take Me Out' on the radio a few times, it doesn't take much to draw a direct line between the clean, minimal guitar sound of their debut 'Talking Heads '77' and Franz Ferdinand's omnipotent pop.

The following three albums are just as crucial but in a much different way. By hooking up with slap-head genius Brian Eno as producer, Talking Heads managed to splice their love of funk beats and African rhythms with their established new-wave prowess. In doing so, they became that rarest of sights - white people playing black music and not looking stupid. It started

innocently enough on 'More Songs...' with its swaggering cover of Al Green's 'Take Me To The River' but by the time 'Fear Of Music' and more specifically, 1980's 'Remain In Light' emerged, the band had a cast of extra musicians who could realise Talking Heads' musical visions. It wasn't just muso-fodder either for it was around then that they also wrote the majestic 'Once In A Lifetime' - truly one of the greatest singles of the decade. These four albums mark the point at which they were more daring than their contemporaries... long after most had stopped giving a toss about CBGBs.

**Hardeep Phull**

### Notorious BIG

**Duets: The Final Chapter** *Bad Boy*



**Woo hoo! Biggie raps from the grave**

'Duets...'? Is this a Cliff record? No, it's Biggie Smalls, vocally exhumed and paired with a lengthy cabal of rap stars. While recordings of old foe 2Pac cutting his toenails still go platinum, Biggie hasn't been as posthumously prolific. The result is that BIG's rhymes here have been either lifted from other records or are rediscovered demos with new vocals from the likes of Jay-Z, Eminem and Snoop bolted on. The results are sometimes rather good ('Hustler's Story' with Scarface and Akon has a loping menace) but more often than not merely plod. Hopefully, this really is the final chapter. **Stephen Worthy**

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### Paris Motel

**071** *Hotel* (available from [www.parismotel.co.uk](http://www.parismotel.co.uk))



**Only 20 minutes but pure beauty**

Paris Motel's debut EP shouldn't have been born into a world of iPods and file-sharing. The ethereal masterpiece, created by the classically trained Amy May, would be more comfortable echoing from a dusty gramophone in an empty hotel room. It's a beautiful slice of archaic chamber-pop that lifts you somewhere sublime, and from 'Mr Splitfoot's Victorian freakshow of twisted strings and demonic organ to '071's courtly guitar picks and breathy whispers (the most beautiful song ever written?), the only downside is that after a meagre 20 minutes it drops you back down on your arse in the real world. **Tim Chester**

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**TEN TO DOWNLOAD FROM THIS WEEK'S ALBUMS**

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### Billy Mahonie

**Found** *Oof!*



**Bratty post-rock types return**

The fondness that Kele Bloc Party has for name-dropping obscure indie bands from the late '90s/early noughties has bought a second wave (no, make that waft) of interest to London instrumentalists Billy Mahonie - and deservedly so. Their debut 'The Big Dig' is something of a minor classic and while this collection of rarities doesn't quite have the inspiring dynamism that Mr Okereke might remember, there's still a huge amount of darkened beauty in BM's monochrome-Mogwai leanings. Brooding and at times marvellously sinister, the likes of 'Are We Rolling' are art-rock equivalents to that feeling you get when you're being polite to someone you hate. Let Billy Mahonie take you to that angry place. **Hardeep Phull**

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### Mary J Blige

**The Breakthrough**



**Number eight from the R'n'B veteran**

From the globe's penthouses to pavements, Mary J Blige is known and respected as the fiery queen of hip-hop soul. It's all in her distinctive voice: one that taps wellsprings of deep emotion, conveys sadness and pain, and revels in life's many simple joys. When welded to spruced-up beats that retain memories of hits by Onyx, The Game, Nina Simone, U2, and more, her voice goes supernova. Mary J draws on an eventful life to reach new levels of feeling - check the second-person perspective of 'Take Me As I Am', 'Ain't Really Love's' home truths, and 'The Father In You's' striking childhood reminiscences. She ain't going nowhere. **Dele Fadele**

8

### Dakar & Grinser

**Triumph Of Flesh** *Disko B*



**Cult German electro-pop duo return in style**

Back in 1999, Dakar & Grinser's cover of The Stooges' 'I Wanna Be Your Dog' was a revelation; a fierce, glamorous electronic record that, like Fischerspooner's 'Emerge', starkly illustrated exactly how dull mainstream dance music had become. However, no sooner had electroclash coalesced into a meaningful scene, than the German duo split. Six years on, and they're back, still rocking tales of heartbreak and hollow, sleazy fun in nightclubs, but now with stronger songs (the strident, soulful electro-pop of 'Making A Slip', the Alabama 3-ish 'Better Times') and a more sophisticated, detailed electronic pop sound. Killer. **Tony Naylor**

8

- 1 **Psycho Killer**  
Talking Heads (77)
- 2 **Let the Cool Goddess Rust Away**  
CYHSY (Clap Your Hands Say Yeah)
- 3 **The Breakthrough**  
Mary J Blige (The Breakthrough)
- 4 **Life During Wartime**  
Talking Heads (Fear Of Music)
- 5 **Hustler's Story**  
Notorious BIG (Duets: The Final Chapter)
- 6 **Heavy Metal**  
CYHSY (Clap Your Hands Say Yeah)
- 7 **Found A Job**  
Talking Heads (More Songs About Buildings And Food)
- 8 **Details of the War**  
CYHSY (Clap Your Hands Say Yeah)
- 9 **No One Will Do**  
Mary J Blige (The Breakthrough)
- 10 **Once In A Lifetime**  
Talking Heads (Remain In Light)

6



# TRACKS

The week's new downloads, radio tracks and videos  
Edited by Mark Beaumont

## Pole position

Another obvious Number One from spunky Monkeys

### ARCTIC MONKEYS



**When The Sun Goes Down**  
(Domino)

Forgive us for toeing the party line, parroting the status quo and banging on about it, but this is absolutely, effortlessly frigging brilliant and packs more wit and smarts and pop hooks into its 198 seconds than every other act on this page put together, unless it happens to be a very good week. It starts out gentle, acoustic and scratchy, with Alex Turner describing a scene of urban unpleasantness, and delivering one of the great slightly-doesn't-make-sense lyrics of our time in "You can see it in his eyes that he's got a driving ban/Amongst some other offences". While you're pondering how a traffic infraction can be visible in someone's peepers, the ROCK! comes thundering in and it becomes apparent that, however good 'I Bet You Look Good On The Dancefloor' was, they were saving their first murderous chorus for single number two. You get two hits of that, then we return to quieter pastures, and then it's done, and you're left mutely pondering the pop juggernaut magnificence of what has just unfolded, and how brilliant it is that a song about picking up hookers is going to be Number One. And resistance is truly useless - just because they're surrounded by a blizzard of absurd hype doesn't mean they're not worth every last syllable. Play this and The Cribs' 'You're Gonna Lose Us' back to back, and then go and hurl a trashcan through a shopfront somewhere. There's not a court in the land that will convict you. **PC**  
**ON RADIO 1, XFM AND MTV2 NOW**

He's pointing at your bird, spilt your pint and you're still buying his records

TRACK OF THE WEEK!

### BELLE & SEBASTIAN



**Funny Little Frog**  
(Rough Trade)

Not that funny little frog, thankfully

'Funny Little Frog' would be perfect for the scene where Morrissey first meets Marr on the windswept streets of Manchester, gladioli in one hand, book of Oscar Wilde verse in the other. Thumping piano in the background, it's a tale of love-gone-right that screams, "I'm so over you Isobel Campbell!!" Could Mr Murdoch be protesting too much? Still, this is a rollicking good mood of a song, that makes you raise a smile but keeps your jazz hands at bay. Definitely a good thing. **PE**  
**ON VIRGINDIGITAL AND OTHER MUSIC DOWNLOAD SERVICES NOW**

### QUEENS OF THE STONE AGE



**Burn The Witch**  
(Polydor)

Medieval desert-rock - kind of proto-Circulus

Joshua Homme may be self-confessedly "made from iron, and other ores", but he's still enough of a jessie to have devoted a big chunk of his "creative energy" to repopularising waltz time (waltz time!) as an accepted language in modern alternative rock. But good news! 'Burn The Witch' (the moment when 'Lullabies To Paralyze' gets properly fucking strange), is barney enough to live up to its ridiculous premise. Indeed, it's so creepy and kooky that they should have got Liam Lynch to make a video where the band do battle with an undead army of skeletons. **DM**  
**ON VIRGINDIGITAL AND OTHER MAJOR DOWNLOAD SERVICES NOW**

### THE KOOKS



**You Don't Love Me**  
(Virgin)

Blunt-stuffing song for the dumped

Brit singer-songwriting has had a bad, bad rep this year, ever since James Blunt took his 'Well, hellooooo, aging divorcee!' rock to the top of the Mother's Day presents list. Into this coffin of cack come The Kooks, armed with an armful of reggae-fried pure pop diamonds, writing about Albarn-esque curtain twitching. 'You Don't Love Me' is a thrashing, crashing pure-pop-stomp injection of rejection on the sofa of existence, that takes its cue from Hot Hot Heat's urgent currrrrrock and gives it an acid-prog flip. Glorious. Now, if we can just get Blunt to move back to the manor of insignificance. **PE**  
**OUT NOW ON CD AND LIMITED EDITION SEVEN-INCH**

RUNNER-UP 2!

Pull the chord and the band will then pull a 'sad' face

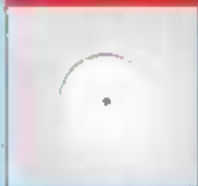






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## DIRTY PRETTY THINGS



First demo sample from 2006's most surefire superstars

### Bang Bang You're Dead

(Download)

With Pete reportedly in negotiations to take over from Wayne Sleep as The Childcatcher in *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, the goal has been left open for his former blood brother to try the rock thing again, and so, this tune has emerged on London's trendy The Internet. The presence of Didz hasn't turned Carl towards industrial stadium techno. In fact, this



There are less cows in the world now DPT are around

sounds rather a lot like 'Boys In The Band' after a traumatic relationship, which, if you think back, had a bit to do with why everybody started to like The Libertines in the first place. Didn't it? **DM**  
**ON WWW.DIRTYPRETTYTHINGSBAND.COM NOW**

**RUNNER-UP!**

## FELIX DA HOUSECAT



Jack U (Rude Photo)

Once upon a time, when dinosaurs ruled the earth, we were all about jacking. We'd jack the groove, we'd jack our bodies, we'd jack all over the bloody shop.

Then the 1990s and 2000s happened and we stopped jacking, unless we happened to be Pete Doherty and by "jacking" you mean "taking a lot of heroin". But here's Felix, with a certain P Diddy, bringing back the late-'80s house vibe with lots of rumbling, sinuous bass and whispered proclamations from the Diddster about how he intends to jack us. Though liable to get your average early-30s clubber reminiscing, with eyes a-misty, about the old days, it isn't actually much cop. So jack off, OK, Diddy? **PC**  
**ON RADIO 1 NOW**

He's not a real cat, you know

## NME CLASSIC SINGLES OF THE WEEK

January 3, 1987

They're called "hands", Julian



### JULIAN COPE

Trampoline (Island)

“Saint Julian is just like the caterpillar in that Terry Gilliam animated sketch for an ancient Monty Python: all grouchy, slippered and furtive, he suddenly sloughs off his cocoon and takes flight as the most gorgeous gigolo butterfly. As his career, so also the records of his ongoing new lease of life.

'Trampoline' is a gas, better even than 'World Shut Your Mouth'. Bold, action-packed, yet bearing the characteristic wistfulness of the unrequited comic/romantic hero, this bursts with an opulent conviction that makes you feel two feet taller... Already the tub is too small for the both of us. Magnificent.

Mat Snow

## SECRET MACHINES



Future drone-rockers make King Kong comeback

### Alone, Jealous And Stoned

(Polydor)

Now that My Morning Jacket have ditched their countrified take on space-rock in favour of pop choruses and cod reggae, Dallas/New Yorkers Secret

Machines seem set to take their place as the band you'd want playing at your funeral. 'Alone, Jealous And Stoned' has the words "epic comeback single!" written so brazenly through its grooves that it makes you want to run and hide beneath a stack of C86 tapes and bad knitwear. However, it succeeds as being the song Radiohead would have made if they'd roped in a big American producer after 'The Bends'. Beautiful in its bombastic own way. **PE**  
**ON XFM AND MTV2 NOW**

## SWAY



### Little Derek

(Dcypa)

Mobo fav and mate of NME's pub quiz victors The Mitchell Brothers, Sway's newbie is a harpsichord-inflected tale of loveliness about Sway's, erm, Little

Urban act sings about his penis. World shifts on axis

Derek. "Dezzer" is, depending on your point of view, either the north London rapper's nickname for his alter ego or an appendage of his that is really, really versatile (it writes its own lyrics and everything!). It's almost the polar opposite of Run The Road's goading classic 'Up Your Speed', but as his crazy downloaded mixtapes show, he's far from a one-trick pony. It's a great track that should see Sway taking the Kano trip to the mainstream. Can he put Little Derek away now? It's scaring the kids. **PE**  
**AVAILABLE TO DOWNLOAD FROM NAPSTER, ITUNES AND TUNE TRIBE NOW**

## STARSAILOR



### This Time (EMI)

Like most exponents of modern aggregative big rock, Starsailor periodically stumble onto something lovely with a frequency that means we can never dismiss them

thoroughly, much as we'd like to and staff the New Pop Order with nothing but Be Your Own Pet clones. But this is eminently forgettable, a large and rather empty doodle of a song that uses swirling Hammonds and crashing symbols to atone for the fact that the chorus isn't much cop. Their PR bump boasts that this is the band at their most urgent, but it actually sounds like the first assembly-made product of a computer programme called Starsailor 2.0. Still better than Keane though. **PC**  
**ON VIRGINDIGITAL AND OTHER MAJOR DOWNLOAD SERVICES NOW**

## BEDOUIIN SOUNDCLASH



Yes, it really is the U2 song

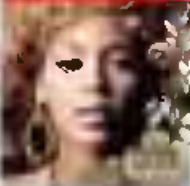
### New Year's Day

(B-Unique)

Some things really shouldn't work, and this, given that it is a gentle, expansive, dub reggae version of U2's classic of fin-de-siècle

bombast, this is one of them. But it's actually rather terrific, cooking up a marvellously ramshackle mess of vocal wails, deep dub inflections and spidery guitar runs. There's the vague feeling that, if you ever actually tried to play it at a genuine reggae soundclash (great word, that) you'd be shot in the face within the first four bars, and occasionally it veers perilously close to Sting territory. But it just shows that a good song is a good song, no matter what colour cardigan it's wearing. **PC**  
**ON RADIO 1 NOW**

## BEYONCÉ



### Check It On

(Sony/BMG)

After all the huffing and puffing about "independence", and paying their own telephone bills Destiny's Child let all the triffin',

Queen B lets us eat wet flannel

goodfornothin' typa brothers win, ironed all their shirts, and the punkest of all the girl groups ended with a big, ballady whimper, and nicely fucked the whole thing. Now they've split, Solo Beyoncé properly begins, but this is nothing as fabulously gaudy as 'Crazy In Love'. It is a satisfying enough 'Jumpin' Jumpin'-style shuffle, given weight by a stoned guest spot from Slim Thug. Which is a) probably a good thing for now, but b) doing nothing to smother suspicions that Future Soul's biggest ballbreaker has finally gone soft. **DM**  
**ON RADIO 1 NOW**

## VARIOUS



### Make Some Noise

(Download)

John Lennon. Icon. Trailblazer. Musical revolutionary. The Black Eyed Peas. Writers of the classic line "My humps/My humps/My lovely lady lumps". Their version of Lennon's political activation anthem 'Power To The People' is a bit like McDonald's doing McCaviar - the disparity repeats on you at regular intervals. Snow Patrol's version of 'Isolation', meanwhile, is haunting in the right way - as inspired as The Cure's gothic take on 'Love'. Unfortunately The Postal Service's half-baked 'Grow Old With Me' makes you shudder at the thought of a still-breathing Lennon going through his difficult Flock Of Seagulls '80s period. 'Happy Xmas (War Is Stupid)', anyone? Thought not. **PE**  
**AVAILABLE TO DOWNLOAD NOW FROM WWW.AMNESTY.ORG/NOISE**

## IN THE SHOPS THIS WEEK



### JOSÉ GONZÁLEZ Heartbeats

(Peacefrog)

CD: Heartbeats

Suggestions

DVD: Heartbeats (audio)

Heartbeats Live (audio)

Live In London (video)

documentary)

Heartbeats (Colour Like No

Other Film)

Behind The Scenes (Gallery)

**RICHARD ASHCROFT**

**BREAK THE NIGHT WITH COLOUR (EMI)**

**CD:1.** Break The Night With Colour **2.** The Direction **DVD:1.** Break The Night With Colour **2.** Slip Sliding **3.** Break The Night With Colour (Video)

**THE CRIMEA Lottery Winners On Acid** (Warners)

**CD1:1.** Lottery Winners On Acid **2.** Heads I Win, Tails You Lose **3.** Ocean With No Edge **4.** Lottery Winners On Acid (Video)

**CD2:1.** Lottery Winners On Acid **2.** You've Been A Long Time Coming

**77:A.** Lottery Winners On Acid **B.** Heads I Win, Tails You Lose

**HOBOKEN**

**Beauty Queen (Royal Jelly)**

**CD1:1.** Beauty Queen (MBRB Mix) **2.** Sophia (Batteries Mix) **3.** Beauty Queen (Batteries Mix) **4.** Sophia (MBRB Mix) **5.** Beauty Queen (Video)

See page 33 for the latest releases from Virgin Megastores





## NEW TO MTV2 THIS WEEK



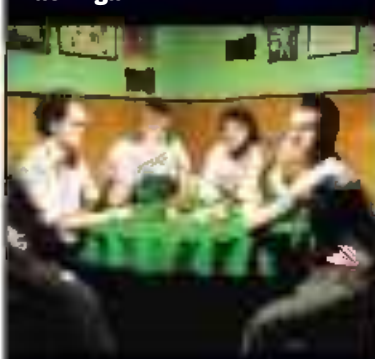
**Beck**  
Hell Yes



**Sunshine Underground**  
Commercial Breakdown



**Boy Kill Boy**  
Back Again



**The Rumble Strips**  
Motorcycle

## THIS WEEK'S VIDEO TOP 10

1		<b>Queens Of The Stone Age</b> <b>Burn The Witch</b> When Josh Homme first played this track to girlfriend Brody Dalle, he jokingly told her it was written as an angry response to her not doing her share of the housework.
2		<b>The Strokes</b> <b>Juicebox</b> One of The Strokes received a Furby for Christmas - but their press officer is keeping tight-lipped about which one for fear "it might make him look a bit of a jessie".
3		<b>Editors</b> <b>Munich</b> Editors frontman Tom Smith admits he's "fed up" with fans coming up to him after gigs telling him they share the same surname.
4		<b>Arctic Monkeys</b> <b>When The Sun Goes Down</b> This song is a direct riposte to Rolf Harris' 'Sun Arise', which Monkeys frontman Alex Turner describes as "one of the all-time great drugs songs".
5		<b>We Are Scientists</b> <b>It's A Hit</b> We Are Scientists frontman Keith Murray was recently spotted buying a chemistry set.
6		<b>Sigur Rós</b> <b>Hoppipolla</b> Sigur Rós were thrown out of a London café after they insisted on ordering their fry-ups by simply whistling.
7		<b>Hard-Fi</b> <b>Cash Machine</b> Ironically, Hard-Fi singer Richard Archer is allergic to banks.
8		<b>Arcade Fire</b> <b>Wake Up</b> When asked what his favourite breakfast cereal was recently, frontman Win Butler dodged the issue by saying he preferred toast.
9		<b>Forward, Russia!</b> <b>Twelve</b> Despite their love of numbers, none of the band ever harboured any ambitions to become an accountant.
10		<b>The Go! Team</b> <b>Ladyflash</b> The Go! Team have put out a statement confirming that none of them have ever flashed at a lady. "Or a man, for that matter," they added.

## BEHIND THE VIDEO



The Spaghetti Head: set to replace The Bloc Head as this year's indie 'do

### Belle & Sebastian Funny Little Frog Director: Blair Young

“The concept initially came from Stuart [Murdoch, frontman]. He wanted to make a video he could dance in. He had the idea of making it like the DV8 Physical Theatre group, but I felt the song lent itself more into an old-fashioned musical - *Singin' In The Rain* was an influence. Working with Belle & Sebastian is a collaborative effort and Stuart was happy to go a different way. I don't like to pinch things directly from films. I think videos that are a pastiche are lazy. I listened to the song a few times and got a sense of it. It has a really uplifting chorus and dance helps put that across - to get the rush of blood around your head that the music gives. The look of the video is removed from reality. It has the look of music halls and theatres. It was one of the fastest jobs I've ever worked on. It took 10 days from being asked to do it to delivery. And it came together brilliantly. We were lucky that all the people we wanted to work with were available, that we got a great choreographer and that Stuart has a big interest in film and the video side. A good music video complements the song and I think we got it.”

## TUNE INTO THE CHART EVERY DAY

**7PM EVERY DAY**  
What's up, what's down

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Hot New Ones - all the week's new videos in one go

**7PM SUNDAYS**  
The NME Chart Show

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# LIVE!

## The week's best gigs

Edited by Cat Goodwin

The crowd gasp as Gallagher's long-range freekick is dramatically deflected by Martin



WORDS: JULIAN MARSHALL PHOTOGRAPHS: PENNY HOWLE

## Coldplay

►Earl's Court, London  
►December 14, 2005



### Britain's biggest band celebrate their best ever year with emotional homecoming

"It's too high! I'm getting a rush of blood..."



Seeing Coldplay tonight at Earl's Court, it's difficult to believe that just a year ago they were at their lowest ebb. Six months before the release of 'X&Y', with the pressure building to claustrophobic levels, *NME* headed to Sarm West Studio in London to hear what had been recorded so far. It was obvious that Coldplay, having been locked away for more than a year, were a band without confidence or any kind of grip on reality. Cabin fever had set in.

Playing their new songs to outsiders for the first time, where we heard beauty Coldplay heard mistakes. They talked about canning anthems like 'Talk' for little or no reason, and after the playback Chris Martin was the man asking the questions.

"This is making me panic," he confided. "We're very chaotic and nobody has any perspective. It's a terrifying time. When do we stop?"

What followed in 2005 wasn't a shock to anyone but them. Eight million copies of 'X&Y' sold worldwide. Number One in over 30 countries. Show-stealing Glastonbury

and Live8 performances. 'Fix You' became their biggest anthem since 'Yellow' and they topped it off with an American tour that visited venues so big most British bands could fit all their fans into just one.

This run of three nights at Earl's Court with Richard Ashcroft are a victory lap of sorts. The dates are a thank you to the fans, but also a way to let off steam and finish an exhausting year with their closest friends. Twenty thousand of them a night. With nothing planned in England until next autumn, they intend to go out with a bang.

Coldplay have finally embraced being a stadium band, and it's dazzling to see. In fact, for a man who is often perceived as lacking charisma, Chris Martin is having the time of his life.

From the opening chords of 'Square One' through to 'Fix You', he's running on pure adrenaline, bending himself backwards and hurling himself around, falling at the knees of guitarist Jonny Buckland and at one point, during 'In My Place', running full throttle right through the venue to meet

fans at the back of the arena - all the time singing the chorus. It's more Bono than bedwetter, and electrifying to watch.

The 'X&Y' songs are played with a sense of real urgency, and have grown into monsters. They're 10 times bigger tonight than on record, with 'Speed Of Sound' the best song by a mile.

**Chris is running on adrenaline, bending backwards and hurling himself around**

They throw 'Yellow' away inside the first 15 minutes, and fill Earl's Court with giant balloons, showering the audience with golden glitter hiding inside.

There's time for a few covers too - Madonna's 'Hung Up' and The Darkness' 'One Way Ticket' are mixed into 'God Put A Smile Upon Your Face' and it works, while

PHIL WALLIS





Enter The Martin: Chris opens up a can of kung-fu whup-ass



"Quality Street for all!"  
"Aw, I like the purple ones..."

Johnny Cash's 'Ring Of Fire' is played as a tribute after 'Til Kingdom Come'.

Backstage all the talk is about finding the time to work on new songs during soundchecks and explore new directions. So this time next year, Coldplay will be back in the studio, probably at the point of killing each other. But that's a way off yet. Coldplay are enjoying the moment, where they're playing with the confidence of the biggest - and best - band Britain has seen in years. And, if they follow their instincts and ambition, yet bigger and better things are surely to come. **Julian Marshall**

## X&Y FACTOIDS

- People played to in UK: **330,450**
- Number of shows played worldwide: **92**
- Number of albums sold in 2005: **8million approx**
- How many countries they've visited: **22**
- How many Top 10 singles they've had this year: **Two. 'Speed Of Sound' and 'Fix You', 'Talk' out next week**
- How many countries their album reached Number One in: **32**

## SETLIST

- SQUARE ONE
- POLITIK
- YELLOW
- SPEED OF SOUND
- GOD PUT A SMILE UPON YOUR FACE
- X & Y
- IT'S HOW YOU SEE THE WORLD
- WHITE SHADOWS
- THE SCIENTIST
- 'TIL KINGDOM COME
- RING OF FIRE
- DON'T PANIC
- CLOCKS
- TALK
- SHALLOWED IN THE SEA
- IN MY PLACE
- FIX YOU



## Are you enjoying being back in London?

Will Champion [drums]: "It's nice to be home but we only got back yesterday. It's weird, there's always stuff to do, especially around Christmas and all that kind of stuff, family and friends, catching up, especially when you've been away for most of the year. Everything ends up just piling into one week, and that happens to be the week that we have three London shows, so it's pretty hectic." Guy Berryman [bass]: "I don't generally get nervous about any shows but I think London's always a bit of a scary place to play. I don't know if that's 'cos it's London or whether it's because it's home."

## Chris said he wasn't into the outdoor arena shows in the summer because they were too big. Earl's Court's not exactly a pub, so how is this different?

WC: "Outdoor shows are quite difficult. I think they were a bit too big but it's kind of hard when you get offered big gigs and when you think about how many people there are willing to come and see you it's hard to turn them down. But it's also hard to make them amazing. I don't know how many people were at the Crystal Palace gigs but it was quite a lot and it's kind of hard to reach that many people. I think we've become quite good at doing that in arenas because we've spent a lot of time doing them in America and Europe. This show has got to a point where we know what we're doing and it's got really good, and so we're happy that we're doing shows in the UK again. I think the show's become a lot more honed and kind of precise now." GB: "It's a totally different production. We've got much more going on. I don't agree with Chris, I really enjoyed doing those shows. We're very proud of the show that we put on."

## Do you miss doing clubs? Would you ever try playing a 'secret' club tour?

WC: "They're fun, but it's hard because you don't want to disappoint people by not allowing at least two thirds of the people that would see you a chance to see you. If we played in KOKO we'd have to play like 100 nights. It's great playing those places but I think we're really getting comfortable in this kind-of-sized place and it's much easier now to get our show together, in the way that we want it, in this kind of place."

## What's it like being on the road with Richard Ashcroft, is he a hero of yours?

WC: "Those two records ('A Northern Soul' and 'Urban Hymns') were the big records when we were starting up as a band. I remember hearing 'Bitter Sweet Symphony' and thinking it's probably the best single of all time. It's extraordinary."

## Any plans to repeat your Live8 onstage collaboration?

GB: "I hadn't really thought of that. It's a good idea though. When we did a show with Richard because he did a little run with us in Europe, we did 'Life's An Ocean'." Will: "It's something that will probably happen, but there's nothing planned yet. He's one of the people that we had on a pedestal and now we're sharing the stage with him. It's amazing."



Coldplay prepare for another jumble sale



# LIVE!



DIY fact: Stars Of The Silver Screen wallpaper available at Homebase, £8.99 a roll

## BEST GIG YOU'VE SEEN RECENTLY?



"**Dungen** in a club in Dallas. I happened upon another band playing in the building - it was Dungen! Really exciting prog-rock!" **Jimi Goodwin, Doves**



"**Blood On The Wall**. A three-piece slacker band from New York, who play three-minute feedback gems." **Stuart Oglivie, The Longcut**

## The Long Blondes

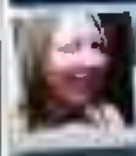
►The Harley, Sheffield  
►Monday, December 12, 2005



Yes! Rewind for the Crazy Frog Xmas single!



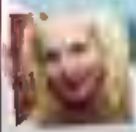
## WHAT YOU THOUGHT



"They are legends. The Long Blondes are the best band in Sheffield, and quite possibly the best band in Britain." **Bryony, 23, Sheffield**



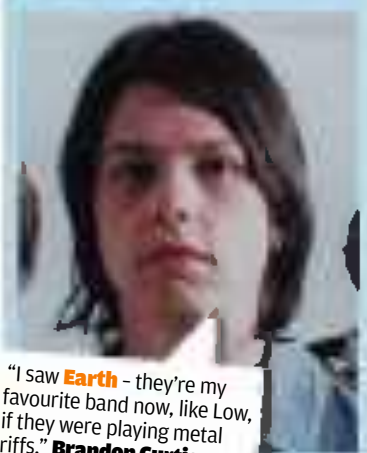
"I put a single out by them on Thee Sheffield Phonographic Corporation and they're brilliant. Sheffield is the best city in the world right now. There's some sensational music coming out of here." **Darren, 35, Sheffield**



"They're totally, totally great. I'm hoping they'll be signed really, really soon." **Shelly, 21, Doncaster**



"There aren't enough girls in bands right now. Kate is ace. I want to be her." **Katie, 21, Sheffield**



"I saw **Earth** - they're my favourite band now, like Low, if they were playing metal riffs." **Brandon Curtis, Secret Machines**



"We've been on tour with **Hot Hot Heat**, so we're listening to them every night." **Keith, We Are Scientists**

## Still unsigned and still brilliant. Wake up, record-company stooges

**T**he drummer's tattered kit is strewn across the stage, mountains of cracked beer plastics bob about on puddles of spilled booze, the singer is teetering perilously on the very tips of her high heels, and the bassist ticks and twirls like a sprightly, sloshed Russian doll. And *NME*? Frankly, *NME* is in love. "Ladies and gentlemen! We were The Long Blondes! Goodnight!"

We're in the Blondes' adopted hometown of Sheffield tonight to witness the launch party for their current slab of supersexysmart vinyl 'Separated By Motorways'. We've been banging on in *NME* for weeks at our disbelief that, despite being the blindingly ace force behind the best pop music we heard all of last year, none of those oily record company schmucks have yet come forth to sign them. We've heard their clumsy excuses of, "It's a risk." We've baulked at the inverted sexism of, "Girls don't sell." The Long Blondes' own PR informs us that labels are worried that they can't cut it live. Flashback to that first paragraph. There's that theory flunked and flummoxed, then.

Because, as singer Kate, guitarist Dorian, guitarist Emma, bassist Reenie and drummer Screech grace the stage to a crackly, crooned wartime cut spinning on the DJ's turntable, it's obvious - from their stylistic panache, the glamorous cut of their jib, and in nanoseconds' time, their

brilliant, brilliant (and let's reaffirm that again) brilliant pop songs - that we're in the company of a brilliant, brilliant (aw, go on then) brilliant pop group. Opening salvo 'Appropriation (By Any Other Name)' is both smart and sussed and sees Kate adopting the onstage persona of Patti Smith at the office party, yet grafted on to the smutty mouth of Kathy Burke. Likewise 'Swallow Tattoo', a flexed, fused amalgamation of Blondie, Kenickie, and '60s doo-wop songs. And, if you were wondering whether

## They can do both 10pm Saturday night and 11am Sunday morning

all their songs sounded like 10pm on a Saturday night, then the slinky 'Madame Ray' proves they can do 11am on a Sunday morning. It's a sombre, soulful, *sussed* variation to their palate.

"Thank you for having us," coos Kate, as closing track 'Separated By Motorways' explodes into finality and an airborne cymbal threatens to shave inches off her immaculately thatched barnet. No, seriously - with the entirety of our jaded heart, our knackered soul, and our yearning mind - thank you. Thank you. So. Fucking. Much. **James Jam**



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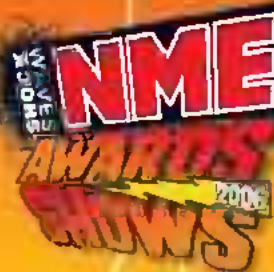
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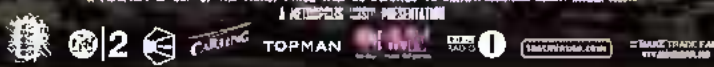
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18<sup>th</sup> Feb - Islington Carling Academy

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**THE 90 TEAM**  
5<sup>th</sup> Feb

**Luke Haines**  
25<sup>th</sup> Jan  
Islington Carling Academy

**THE RIFLES**  
17<sup>th</sup> Feb - Newcastle Carling Academy 2  
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## I WANT TO SOUND LIKE...

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## THE CLASS OF 2006!

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### SHEFFIELD SHAKE-UP

It's no longer grim up north with Sheffield bands such as **Milburn** hot on the Arctic Monkeys' tail. **Harrisons** were inspired to plug in by Oasis, and while "Jubby" Taylor plays the prerequisite angular Tele, Ben Stanton rounds out the sound

with an Epiphone Sheraton. **Bromhead's Jacket** wear Fred Perry cardies, listen to The Fall, and write songs about Surrey

Do you have a Blondes ambition?

girls who get their wotsits waxed. Frontbloke Tim Hampton switches between an SG and a Tele, while Jono West chooses a Rickenbacker bass, which, seeing as they're a trio, means he can help out with lead lines too. **The Long Blondes** admired the laconic dandiness of local heroes Pulp when they were growing up. "We're delicate, highly strung people in real life so we need to reflect that in our choice of gear," says Dorian Cox, who plays his guitars upside-down, giving him a weird trebly sound. "For gig use I have a Gretsch Electromatic [good for jangly, choppy sounds] with a Boss Tremolo and a vintage echo pedal. Emma has a Squier through a Boss DS1 with all the dials turned up for feedback in the middle of 'Separated By Motorways'."

### LO-FI INDIE DANCE

Finally, the much-touted indie dance revival is go with **Shitdisco** really making music girls can dance to.

Joe plays a cheap Yamaha guitar from Argos, Joel alternates a 1976 Roland GR500 synth guitar with a Fender Jazz bass,

while second bassist Jan plays his fingerstyle through an arsenal of Ibanez pedals. **Cut Copy** have proved a powerful live act at last summer's festivals, using a Roland Juno 106 and Nord Micro Modular to make even the most pale-blooded punter cry "Tune!". The samples are taken care of by an MPC-1000, while the sexy guitar stuff is courtesy of a Fender Jaguar and Music Master, and a "cheap-ass bass" through a Kruger rig. **Hot Chip** drive their synths through octave pedals and a Moogerfooger. Al plays solos on his SH101, putting it through wah and distortion. Joe plays bass on an old

"We're highly strung people, we need to reflect that in our gear" **Dorian Long Blonde**

Italian Teisco synth, the sound of which sent Soulwax on a wild eBay chase. Then there's the '80s Casio, for its piano sound, a MicroKorg for strings and the Sequential Prophet 1, once beloved of legendary keyboard noodler Vangelis. Nothing is sequenced apart from the drums, which Felix tampers with during the set, applying effects on a whim. Laptops? No way!

### NEW EMO METAL

Following the success of My Chemical Romance a whole batch of emo/screamo bands are ready to cash in. And why not? On **Fall Out Boy's** 'From Under The Cork Tree', axeman Patrick Stump's has taken the thick humbucker route with his SG, while Joe Trohman has a Tele fitted with abrasive Hot Rail pickups. Elsewhere **Bullet For My Valentine's** Padge and Matt are kitted out with Jackson and ESP guitars, which they power up with some serious Mesa Boogie gear.



BFMV: is that, like, Roman for 2006?



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NEXT WEEK: I WANT TO SOUND LIKE... BOY KILL BOY

Words by Jenny Knight from...

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DRUMMER REQUIRED FOR LONDON BASED PUNK/INDIE BAND, influences include The Clash, The Libertines, The Strokes, The Cribs and The Jam. Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 142106

POWERFUL, DYNAMIC DRUMMER WANTED, TO JOIN HARDWORKING, EXPERIMENTAL, LONDON BAND, influences Mars Volta, Tool, Pink Floyd. Demo available. Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 770606

CREATIVE, IMAGINATIVE, ENERGETIC, ENTHUSIASTIC DRUMMER WANTED, FOR WELL-ESTABLISHED LONDON BAND, e.g. Steven Morris, Brian Chase, Benny Goffery, Dave Lovering, jazz drummers welcome. Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 493854

POWERFUL AND CREATIVE DRUMMER WANTED, FOR CREDITABLE ROCK BAND, with substance, essential to be a flamboyant, hard hitting animal, with versatility, touches of creative flair also. Album sketches done, pro set up, own recording studio, major key promo gigs lined up, influences are Radiohead, Pink Floyd, Smashing Pumpkins, Led Zeppelin. Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 703611

VERSATILE DRUMMER WANTED, FOR EASYGOING, EXCITING BAND, unique rock, funk, punk jazz sound, nearest influence Jefferson Airplane. Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 300534

### Guitarists

GUITARIST WANTED BY BAND, WITH MANAGEMENT AND SINGLE RELEASE, influences Interpol, The Rapture, Sonic Youth, Bloc Party. Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 435334

LEAD GUITARIST WANTED, FOR MANAGED, GIGGING, BUCKS-BASED ROCK BAND, age 20-22, dedicated and versatile, influences include Jane's Addiction, Alkaline Trio, Hendrix, Foo Fighters. Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 492110

LEAD GUITARIST WANTED, TO COMPLETE GARAGE/BLUES BAND, influences are Black Keys, Soledad Brothers, South London/Surrey area. Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 895248

GUITARIST AVAILABLE FOR GIG, able to travel, valid passport, etc. Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 251921

GUITARIST WANTED, FOR THIRTY SOMETHING BAND, we have a great voice and songs, influences Coldplay meet Bad Company etc, time wasters stay in bed. Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 375273

LEAD GUITARIST 17-25 WANTED FOR A WEST LONDON BAND, influences The Stones, The Faces, Oasis and Jet. Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 603506

LONDON BASED FEMALE GUITARIST SEEKS VOCALIST/SONGWRITER, OWN MATERIAL, looking to recruit additional guitarist/bassist/drummer/chellist, alternatively looking to join existing band. Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 827653

### Bassists

BASS PLAYER WANTED BY HEADLAND. "Thrilling, throbbing, electro-pop" - NME. Finishing second album. Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 672888

COOL BASS PLAYER, NEEDED FOR ECCENTRIC, London-based rock band, image essential, 22-28, influences, The Stones, Elvis, CCR, Guns and Roses, Who, Oasis. Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 159454

BASSIST WANTED FOR LONDON-BASED BAND, great name and tunes, gigging, think Razorlight, Killers, Clash, Blondie, call James, commitment essential. Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 447964

BASS PLAYER WANTED ASAP! influences are U2, Oasis and Kravitz, aged 18-28, based in London/Surrey. Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 165326

COOL BASS PLAYER REQUIRED FOR ECCENTRIC ROCK 'N' ROLL BAND, 22-27, image essential, Excel, Air of Stones, crossed with fat period Elvis. Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 466736

### Singers

WANTED, MUSICIANS WHO THINK THE SAME AS BOB GELDOF, interested in music of Joni Mitchell, Janet Jackson, Michael Jackson, Suzanne Vega, want to form a band called Ministry of Music. Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 331296

SKINNY JEAN, CIGARETTES, TEQUILA, STAR AND GARTER, Manchester hair cut type musicians wanted by very cool, talented female singer/guitarist, influences Yeah Yeah Yeahs, Blondie, Peaches, Duped Spirit, Sex Pistols, Ramones. Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 697321

FEMALE FREDDIE MERCURY WANTED, for London-based band, great tunes and name, gigs no problem, must have big voice and good style, think Blondie, T Rex, Killers, Razorlight. Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 640246

FEMALE SINGER WITH UNIQUE VOICE AND LOOK WANTED, by London based, cutting edge, songwriter, producer, highly connected in the film and music industry, influences Depeche Mode, Bowie, Evanescence, Cure, Cardigans, Nine Inch Nails, Garbage. Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 725226

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### Bands

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GUITARIST, BASSIST AND DRUMMER WANTED BY A LYRICIST GUITARIST, in Manchester, to form punk/indie band, influences The Smiths, Joy Division, Buzzcocks, Stooges and The Sex Pistols. Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 468151

GUITARIST/BASSIST, DRUMMER, CHELLIST REQUIRED, TO FORM BAND influences Nick Drake, Kristin Hersh, Tori Amos, London based. Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 342310

DRUMMER AND BASSIST REQUIRED, FOR AN UP AND COMING, INDIE ROCK BAND, gigs booked, managements in place, with some industry interest, influences include Beatles, Strokes, The Futureheads and Blur. Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 548421

LONDON BASED THREE PIECE, LOOKING FOR BASSIST AND GUITARIST TO COMPLETE LINE-UP, influenced by Green Day, Blink 182 and Good Charlotte. Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 510620

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KEN, contact Jonathan if you are interested in reforming Aspidistra. Tel No: 09058 170 016 Box Number: 131427

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SLENDER, easygoing female, with long blonde hair, 5ft 5ins, up for a laugh, enjoys listening to music and watching live bands. Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 727965

STRAIGHT female, late 20's, just moved to Central London, looking to meet friends to go to gigs and pubs. Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 859353

UPTIGHT, indie male 19, seeks weird and wonderful gig mates, around Newcastle and beyond, likes Radiohead and Coldplay. Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 898375

Looking for someone right now? Call Speed Match on....  
**09052 300 308**

29YR old female, looking for new friends, enjoys gigs, pubs and having a good time, North London area. Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 297805

FIVE hot indie princesses, likes going to gigs and having fun, WLTm some handsome princes. Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 304356

AVERAGE-LOOKING girl, with a GSOH and a good sense of style, loves going to pubs, bars and socialising with mates, but most of all going to gigs. Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 754326

STRAIGHT female, looking for other females, into live music, gigs, shopping, cinema and having a good time. Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 637482

SOUTH Coast male, 35yrs, looking for new friends to attend gigs with, Brighton, Portsmouth, Southampton, likes indie, dance, rock, pop. Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 567264

### Friendship

BROWN-EYED female, with longish hair, quite tall, funny personality, sometimes shy, likes rock and gothic music. Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 177300

EASYGOING female, 21yrs, student, WLTm males and females, for socialising, shopping, cinema etc. Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 737368

24hr Helpline  
**08710 433104**  
Calls cost 10p/min

GOOD looking female, long hair, slightly shy, with SOH, likes going to gigs, reading magazines and art. Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 341184

DARK-EYED brunette, easygoing, 5ft 6ins, likes going to gigs, clubs and singing, WLTm someone. Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 734820

SPANISH/SWEDISH female, dark eyes, curvy, outgoing personality, adventurous, into extreme sports, pubs, gigs, not clubs. Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 596885

SHY, blonde female, 5ft 6ins tall, with a medium build, likes cleaning. Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 719667

### Girls seeking boys

FOR FUN ON THE PHONE, call the instant message exchange, where you can talk and date up to 60 girls and guys who are on the phone at the same time as you. TEL: 09052 300 309.

PREFER TO TXT? Always on the move? No problem. Text potential dates in your area by sending GIG to 69919 now.

FEMALE LOOKING MEN CRAZY about gigs. Somewhat shy brunette, with greyish/blue eyes, enjoys cinema, listening to Radiohead, Pixies, Stone Roses, Killers and more. Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 225434

JEFF from Durham, we met in Newcastle, you like Campag Velocet and Prodigy, would be good to see you again. Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 224998

STRANGE, romantic, Miss Lonely Hearts 2005, can't spell, smoker too much, individual, complicated, unaccepted wannabe artist, loves Elvis and Cherry Pie. Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 737089

PHILOSOPHICAL, creative, shy, funny, average-medium build blonde, enjoys pubs, yoga, reading, gigs and drawing. Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 488512

SEXY, 18yr old blonde, from Scotland, into Sonic Youth, looking for a guy, for friendship or more, looking like Billy Corgan would help. Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 121206

CUDDLY, larger female, looking for friendship/romance with music lovers and lovers of the paranormal. Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 224252

JILL, likes walking in the park, along the beach, meals in and watching DVDs with somebody to cuddle up to. Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 786652

25YRS, single, white female, seeking my own Robbie Williams, Christian Slater, Luke Skywalker, for nights in listening to The Smiths. Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 654090

JEN, bubbly girl, from Falkirk, easygoing, bubbly, great SOH, with a big heart, likes most things in life, hoping to meet someone special. Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 656035

ENTHUSIASTIC, bubbly and full of energy female, slim build, 5ft 8ins, with blondish hair and greeny eyes, likes theatre, going to cinema and reflexology. Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 392751

OUTGOING, blue-eyed blonde, into music, wine, gigs, fun and more wine, WLTm similar, own corkscrew a bonus! Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 41524

SARAH, 4ft 7ins, size 12, medium build, large bust, dark hair, N/S, fun, outgoing, great SOH, WLTm a tall black male, over 36. Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 337992

**Rock chick? Punkette? Sk8ter boy?**

**Whatever you are looking for, you can place a FREE ad in NME gig mates and find someone for gigging, clubs or something more serious.**

**Just call 0800 063 0006**

NICE and young-looking lady, wants a similar bloke, for gigs, pubs, festivals, London/Brighton. Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 524430

HELLO. I'm a female, I enjoy different types of music and I am looking to meet someone. Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 594781

LAIDBACK, attractive, petite, black rock chick 22, recently joys of indie lifestyle, seeking cool, fun guys, to initiate me, Surrey. Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 756145

EVE, with long brown hair and brown eyes, overweight, hoping to meet someone, nationality, size and looks are unimportant. Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 965016

QUITE tall, 5ft 6ins, with long dark hair and green eyes, palish skin, quite outgoing and intelligent, GSOH, likes dancing, outdoor sports. Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 452320

WITTY, fuller-sized girl, looking for a funny, probably lanky guy 19-29, they have to love The Libertines and Babyshambles. Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 618576

MICHAELA, from Leeds, 5ft tall, with shoulder length brown hair and blue eyes, size 16. Call if your interested. Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 663947

FRIENDLY female, 25yrs, slim, blue eyes, looking for a great guy, for lasting friendship, outer London area, get in touch! Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 218777

FUN-LOVING indie girl, wants to find someone to go out to gigs with, for good laughs, East London area. Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 914032

BLONDE, bubbly, 18yrs girl, GSOH, loves music and gigs, WLTm a male, 18-23yrs, to go to gigs with, possibly more, Bristol area. Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 473387

BLUE eyed blonde, GSOH and bubbly, likes to go out on the town and listen to live music, Jack Johnson and Peter Murray. Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 400749

25YRS female, likes pubs, clubs and going to gigs, WLTm a male, with similar interests. Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 206219

CUDDLY, tattooed, girl DJ, seeks an unpretentious, laidback indie boy, for gigs, giggles and maybe more, Leeds. Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 798677

BRUNETTE, brown eyes, medium build, 5ft 4ins, likes going out drinking, having a laugh, if you fancy coming with me, let me know. Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 384208

MICHELLE, mixed race female, brown hair/eyes, medium build, single mum of 3, West Yorkshire area, if you fancy a chat, get back. Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 139629

22YRS female student, loves partying and going out, seeks a guy with GSOH, to have fun in London. Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 424630

SINGLE mum, really into music, WLTm somebody similar, please call. Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 372591

MANCHESTER female, 5ft 4ins, with long blonde, highlighted hair and blue eyes, size 14-16. Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 239058

CUTE, indie girl 18, seeks a perfect indie boy, with perfect indie friends 18-25. Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 754673

HAZEL-EYED, single female, slim build, looking for a nice, kind, honest, sincere gentleman. Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 914017

**HEY THERE...**

**GIG MATES**

**TEXT PEOPLE IN YOUR AREA!**

**TEXT GIG TO 69919**

### Girls seeking girls

BEAUTIFUL, sensual, bisexual babe, into house music, seeks a gorgeous female, for fun times. Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 854529

JANE, 5ft 8ins, medium build, blue eyes, brown hair, aged 37, bubbly personality. Get back to me! London. Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 331164

FEMALE 18, enjoys cinema, music, going out for drinks and laughs, WLTm a similar female, 18-25, Birmingham. Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 763000

BUBBLY, outgoing 25yr old female, likes going out, clubbing, music, looking for a similar female who is honest and caring, Essex area. Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 969754

CUTE 18yr old bi-female, 5ft tall. WLTm a very good looking bi-female, similar age, for friendship and possibly more, Sussex area. Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 872331

YOUNG slim attractive blonde, 25, fun loving, enjoys shopping, going out, cinema, eating out, WLTm someone with similar interests, Surrey area. Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 145792

24YRS female, 5ft 10ins, long brown hair, very sensual, WLTm a bi female, for some fun, laughter and friendship, Liverpool. Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 191494

CUTE, bi-sexual, blue-eyed, blonde, 19yrs old, WLTm a similar female, for socialising and fun times together, Birmingham. Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 174123

### Boys seeking girls

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THOUGHTFUL, creative Asian guy 24, tall, dark and handsome, likes gigs and theatre, London. Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 394048

PHILOSOPHICAL, creative, thoughtful, reasonably attractive male, enjoys playing the guitar, gigs, cinema, reading and coffee shops. Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 834393

HUNK, indie lad, from Central Scotland, seeking an attractive, intelligent girl, for fun times and possibly more. Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 856245

LEEDS lad, good looking, WLTm a girl, to go out to pubs and gigs, maybe more. Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 924776

FUN, indie boy, slim, 5ft 10ins, regular London gig goers, WLTm an indie girl, to enjoy life and have fun with. Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 726585

**HEY THERE...**

**GIG MATES**

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24YR old indie guy, with blond hair and blue eyes, up for a laugh, into going to gigs, rock, ska and indie music, East London. Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 234799

CHARISMATIC male, dark hair, blue eyes, 21, sensitive, loving individual, looking for female, for fun times and stimulation. Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 479357

REASONABLY attractive indie/electro guy, WLTm an indie/electro girl, for indie/electro gigs and kissing, Cambridge/London. Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 864752

BRIGHT indie guy, very likeable, seeks smart, cool female, young or old, to rescue me from mediocrity. South Midlands. Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 696937

FUNNY, smart, medium-stocky build male, with dark red hair, happy-go-lucky personality, enjoys going out having a laugh and gigs. Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 366316

WE met after Ian Brown gig and I just can't stop thinking about you. Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 697709

MUSIC loving male, shy, average looking, 5ft 11ins, into gigs, seeks someone similar for friendship or more, South East. Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 338130

INDIE kid 22, 5ft 7ins, loves films, music, favourite band are The Strokes, looking for someone to have a super time with. Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 341691

30YR old, professional man, from Hampshire, seeks fun ladies, for gigs, pubs, clubbing and general mucking about. Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 536718

24YR old Morrissey fan, seeking a similar aged female, to share interests with, north Manchester area. Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 927515

CURLY-HAIRED indie kid, 19, green eyes, tall, looking for a rock and roll queen, to share good times with, Scotland. Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 882310

24YR old male, seeks a similar aged female, to share interests, including indie music, wrestling, film and comedy, North Manchester area. Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 653042

SHY, average-looking male, 5ft 9ins, into music, gigs, cinema, art, looking for someone similar, for friendship or more, South East. Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 431146

GLASGOW musician 19, into music, playing guitar and gigs, loves posh rock, metal and electronica, looking for a similar beautiful girl. Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 392490

FUN, good-looking lad 22, likes pubs and gigs, looking for a female 18-25, with similar interests, from the Oxford area. Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 819840

### Boys seeking boys

ACTOR, fun-loving, tall, dark, handsome, looking for friendship, possibly more for gigging and going out. Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 520703

INDIE boy Gaz, good looking, bi, enjoys good nights out, crazy dancing, contact me if you love to party. Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 995038

MALE, looking for a guy, who likes music, going to pubs, going to gigs and festivals. Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 698848

GOOD looking guy, from Cardiff, masculine, seeks a stocky, masculine guy, into music, for gigs and more. Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 869654

STRAIGHT-ACTING bloke, slim, 6ft 1ins, in Hull, York area, loves Glastonbury gigs, theatre, films, squash and swimming. Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 780189

SINGLE, chain-smoking man, seeks a hot male, for fun and gigs. Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 482178

MANCHESTER guy, easygoing, looking to meet a slim, attractive, blond-haired guy 18-24, for a possible relationship, ACA. Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 605124

HANDSOME lad, 25yrs, heavily into film, music and literature, WLTm straight acting, similar lads, for possible relationship, Newcastle area. Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 320333

SEXY redhead, gay man, extremely open minded hair dresser, WLTm a fit man, for fun and more. Tel No: 09052 300 306Box Number: 221535

**How to use the service**

**To place a FREE advert**

Simply call the 08000 630 006 and leave your 20 word message to appear in print followed by a longer message for people to listen on-line. If you want to receive FREE text alerts every time you receive a reply remember to leave your mobile number.

**To reply to an advert**

Call 09052 300 306 and enter the 6 digit number of the advertiser you are interested in, then leave them a message! You can also hear other members or swap instant messages online!

**To retrieve messages**

To pick up messages callers have left for you call 09052 300 305 now! You'll need your membership number and PIN handy.

**Think safe!**

- When seeing someone for the first time take along a friend of yours or make sure a friend knows where you're going.
- Meet in a public place like a gig venue or pub. Never meet at your house.
- On your first meeting, make your own way there and back. It's risky to accept a lift from a total stranger.
- Don't invite people back home or give them your address until you're sure about them.
- Trust your instincts. If something feels a bit wrong or weird, end things and don't see them again.

Calls to 09052 cost £1/min at all times. Dating Text alerts are FREE. SMS to 69119 cost 75p/per MSG. Calls may cost more if you are not calling from a BT landline. You must be over 18 to use this service. Service provided by Eckoh, HP3 9HN. To unsubscribe from a text messaging service, send the word "stop" to the relevant short code e.g. 69119. w/c 261205

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# NME GIG GUIDE

## PICK OF THE WEEK

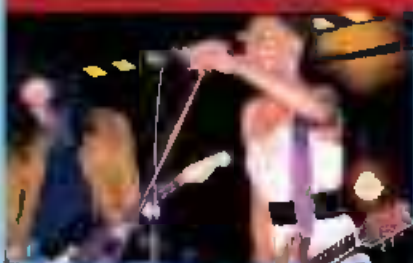


### Mogwai

A new album looms from Scotland's finest eardrum-shattering, nerve-splitting post-rock practitioners as they begin a five-day jaunt at the ICA, with all support acts and DJs chosen by the band.

**Where:** London ICA (Tuesday)

## RADAR BAND



### The Noisettes

This London threesome are like Björk, Macy Gray and The Von Bondies looting and inciting riots in an underground jazz bar, little nuggets of schizo funky garage and not half as kitsch as their name suggests.

**Where:** Canterbury Beercart Arms (Monday), Birmingham Carling Bar Academy (Tuesday)

## EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT



### Paris Motel

Expect anything from an exquisite solo performance to a full-blown orchestra as Amy May, the first lady of ethereal melody with a voice like Lemsip in a bone-china teacup sets out on the road to entertain and enchant.

**Where:** London Garage (Thursday)

## DON'T MISS

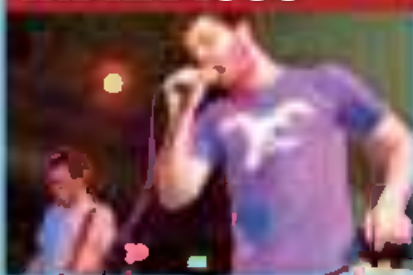


### The Broken Family Band

Expect a riotous hoedown from this Cambridge foursome, who are purveyors of the best country rock this side of the Mississippi, a feast of finger-plucking bluegrass brimming with bile and wit that proves they're more than just a band of hillbillies.

**Where:** London Water Rats (Friday)

## INDIE DISCO



### The Longcut

The Longcut's Stuart Ogilvie is one-part singer, two-parts drummer, and a whole lot of Bez as he goads his fellow Mancs on to cook up an awesome dance-post-rock broth.

**Where:** London 333 (Friday)

## WED/THU

January 4/5

### WEDNESDAY 4

#### BRISTOL

The Metro Louisiana  
0117 926 5978

#### CAMBRIDGE

Born In A Burial Ground/502T  
Portland Arms 01223 357268

#### CARDIFF

Who Killed Frank/Zenith/  
Malpas Barfly 029 2066 7658

#### GLASGOW

Looking For Simon/The Riot/  
Graystar Barfly 0870 907 0999

#### LEEDS

Melody Maker/Sniper/Alyra/The  
Delete Spree Primrose  
0113 262 1368

#### LEICESTER

The Plastix/Break Even/The  
Staves/Minus Sam Attik  
0116 222 3800

#### LIVERPOOL

Mike Newsham/Bo\$\$caine/Sean  
Butler & The Neon Hearts Barfly  
Loft @ Masque 0151 707 6171

#### LONDON

Acacia/Tessmarka/Roy World/  
Sleep Walker Camden Dublin  
Castle NW1 020 7485 1773

Aerials/Miss T & The Japanese  
Tourists Tottenham Court Road  
Metro Club W1 020 7437 0964

Aziz/Ambush/Televise Camden  
Barfly NW1 0870 907 0999

Candy Sniper/E In Motion Kentish  
Town Bull & Gate NW5  
020 7485 5358

Georgie Fame & The Blue Flames  
Camden Jazz Café NW1  
020 7916 6060

Les Incompetents/The On-Off's/  
The Winter Kids King's Cross  
Water Rats WC1 020 7336 7326

The Moogs/Big Linda Notting Hill  
Arts Club W11 020 7460 4459

The Moulettes/Den Of Iniquity  
12 Bar Club WC2 020 7916 6989

Rosa Alchemica/Sonic State  
Relay/I Love Sarah Betsey  
Trotwood 020 7336 7326

Wino/Akira Buffalo Bar N1  
020 7359 6191

#### MANCHESTER

The Deconstructors/The  
Strollers/The Cassettes Night  
And Day Café 0161 236 1822

#### NEWPORT

The Amsterdam Scenario/A  
Day Called Desire Riverside  
Tavern 07863 380496

#### SHEFFIELD

The Chased/The Auxiliaries/  
Vanity/Homeless Joe/Blaming  
Jimmy Boardwalk 0114 279 9090

#### SOUTHAMPTON

Schoolboy Error/Joey  
Nightmare/Sallyforth/Parcel  
Force Joiners 023 8022 5612

#### TUNBRIDGE WELLS

Slipstream Forum 08712 777101

### THURSDAY 5

#### BATH

The Rock Of Travolta/  
Summerteeth/The Counterfeits  
Moles 01225 404445

#### BRISTOL

Gaff Tape/Prolab/Clockwork  
Sniper Fleece 0117 945 0996

#### CARDIFF

Blacklisted 101/Rezmo/Captain  
Smash/Losing Six Seconds Barfly  
029 2066 7658

#### EXETER

Mendeed Cavern Club  
01392 495370

#### GLASGOW

The Almighty Garage  
0141 332 1120

The Little Kicks/Oswald/Kessler  
Barfly 0870 907 0999

The Pedestrians/The Rise/Andy  
Gallagher & Overhaul King Tut's  
Wah Hut 0141 221 5279

#### LEEDS

After The End/A Man Down/  
Thoughts Collide Vine  
0113 203 1821

#### LEICESTER

Last Orders/My Jaded Hero/The  
Squatters Attik 0116 222 3800

#### LIVERPOOL

The Idiot Rate/Atomica/  
Founded By Thought/Bad  
Precedent Barfly @ Masque  
0151 707 6171

Landslide/Frankie Eisenhower/  
X-El/The Reveries Cavern Club  
0151 236 1964

#### LONDON

The Dastards/Blunt Skulls/My  
Broken/Sam Willard Highbury  
Corner Upstairs At The Garage N5  
020 7607 1818

Jim Reid/Sister Vanilla 12 Bar  
Club WC2 020 7916 6989

Kaito/Twisted Charm/Pink Riot  
Trafalgar Square ICA SW1  
020 7930 3647

Lagwagon/Wilhelm Scream/  
Captain Everything Charing Cross  
Road Mean Fiddler WC2  
020 7434 9592

Lazy Slave/Farside/Pilotlight  
Kentish Town Bull & Gate NW5  
020 7485 5358

Monoset/Coarse/The Polaris  
Islington Hope'n'Anchor N1  
020 7354 1312

Myriad/Damn Sly/Nine Finger  
Nun Kingston Peel 020 8546 3516

Paris Motel/Tim Poland  
Highbury Corner Garage N5  
020 7607 1818

Retrofin/The Sound Divide/In  
Theory Camden Dublin Castle NW1  
020 7485 1773

Sixtoes/Niall Quinn/Guy  
Harries/Madeleine Wilson  
Betsey Trotwood 020 7336 7326

Two-Way Mirror/Bombay Bicycle  
Group/Vertigo Camden Barfly  
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Highbury Corner Garage N5  
020 7607 1818

Jim Reid/Sister Vanilla 12 Bar  
Club WC2 020 7916 6989

Kaito/Twisted Charm/Pink Riot  
Trafalgar Square ICA SW1  
020 7930 3647

Lagwagon/Wilhelm Scream/  
Captain Everything Charing Cross  
Road Mean Fiddler WC2  
020 7434 9592

Lazy Slave/Farside/Pilotlight  
Kentish Town Bull & Gate NW5  
020 7485 5358

Monoset/Coarse/The Polaris  
Islington Hope'n'Anchor N1  
020 7354 1312

Myriad/Damn Sly/Nine Finger  
Nun Kingston Peel 020 8546 3516

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Kaito/Twisted Charm/Pink Riot  
Trafalgar Square ICA SW1  
020 7930 3647



# FRI/SAT

December 6/7

## FRIDAY 6

### CARDIFF

**Losing Six Seconds** Barfly  
029 2066 7658

### DERBY

**Drongoes For Europe/Cracked Actors/Cupid Stunt/F.T.W.L.**  
Victoria Inn 01332 740091

### GLASGOW

**The Deltas/Your Scarecrow/Rocketfox** Barfly 0870 907 0999  
**Myopia/The Only Jones/Cosmos**  
Nice'n'Sleazy 0141 333 9637  
**Uncle John & Whitelock** King Tut's  
Wah Wah Hut 0141 221 5279

### HALIFAX

**Edward Molby/Ruby Tombs/The Seconds** Royal Oak 01422 343 781

### HULL

**Revolver/Bubblegum Radar**  
White Room 01482 222785

### LEEDS

**Chichino** Mixing Tin 0113 246 8899  
**This Bleeding Soul/Sikarede/The Suffering/Soulfracture**  
Packhorse 0113 245 3980

### LEICESTER

**Demolition** Charlotte  
0116 255 3956

### LIVERPOOL

**The Breakdowns/The Troubadours/Sequoia/Rumour**  
In The Courtroom Cavern Club  
0151 236 1964

**The Coronation/Mowgli/Mustard Club/Blackout** Barfly  
Loft @ Masque 0151 707 6171

### LONDON

**The Almighty** Charing Cross Road  
Mean Fiddler WC2 020 7434 9592  
**Barfly** Charing Cross Road  
Borderline WC2 020 7734 5547  
**Belle Park/The Oracle/**

**The Boyfriends** Purple Turtle NW1  
020 7383 4976

**Broken Family Band/Fonda 500/Beatnik Filmstars**  
King's Cross Water Rats WC1  
020 7336 7326

**The Camarillos** 12 Bar Club WC2  
020 7916 6989

**The Delaners/King Billie & The Marvellous/The Strollers**  
Highbury Corner Garage N5  
020 7607 1818

**Desmond Dekker & The Aces/Ska Daddy** Oxford Street 100 Club  
W1 020 7636 0933

**Eighty Eight/Jeramy George/Jok/The Battles Of Winter**  
Kentish Town Bull & Gate NW5  
020 7485 5358

**The Longcut/Kill The Young**  
Old Street 333 EC1  
020 7739 5949

**Miasma And The Carousel Of Headless Horses/Revere/They Don't Sleep** Camden Barfly  
NW1 0870 907 0999

**Noah/Chop Chop Bear Touch**  
Kingston Peel 020 8546 3516

**Pocket Promise/The Long Knives/Keith Anderson Betsey**  
Trotwood 020 7336 7326

**Raheem Devaughn** Camden  
Jazz Café NW1 020 7916 6060

**UpC DownC LeftC RightC ABC+Start/Start/Stinking Lizaveta/Souvaris** Highbury  
Corner Upstairs At The Garage N5  
020 7607 1818

**MANCHESTER**  
**Dresden/The Rock Clinic/The Sessions/Red Star/Sarah**  
Dickson Night And Day Café  
0161 236 1822

## OXFORD

**Shirley/The Green/Shaker Heights** Zodiac 01865 420042

## PETERBOROUGH

**The Last Gang In Town** Met  
Lounge 01733 566100

## SHEFFIELD

**Silverjet/Headrush/Harken/Scrim** Boardwalk 0114 279 9090

## SOUTHAMPTON

**The Reason/The Strings/The Plymouths/One Man Rescue**  
Joiners 023 8022 5612

## SATURDAY 7

### BIRMINGHAM

**Bannister/We Are F\*\*k You**  
Sunflower Lounge 0121 632 6756  
**Breezer/Jackpike Flapper & Firkin**  
0121 236 2421

### BRIGHTON

**Take The 5th/Night Of Treason**  
Ocean Rooms 01273 699069

**CARDIFF**  
**Blackdrop/Vision/The October**  
Country Barfly 029 2066 7658

### DERBY

**Fallen Friend/Drednought/Close To Nothing/Penny Chew/Lathkill/Despondent** Victoria Inn  
01332 740091

### GLASGOW

**The Dykeenes/Episode/Three Comrades** King Tut's Wah  
Wah Hut 0141 221 5279

**None My Equal/The Makos/Black Robinson** Barfly  
0870 907 0999

**The Winkle Experience/Villa Nova/The Lasers** 13th Note  
Café 0141 553 1638

### LEEDS

**Bad Penny** New Roscoe  
0113 246 0778

**Isolator/The Sorrow/The Arcane War Machine/Msi** Fenton  
0113 245 3908

## LIVERPOOL

**Milkthief/I Pinata/Strand/The Reveries/The Gutterfighters**  
Barfly Loft @ Masque  
0151 707 6171

**Sushi/8 Days Late/The Heat/Vegas Child** Cavern Club  
0151 236 1964

## LONDON

**Bib** 12 Bar Club WC2  
020 7916 6989

**Butterfly Bangs/Video Nasties**  
Tottenham Court Road Metro Club  
W1 020 7437 0964

**Glass Apple/Billy Mowbray/Ruby Blue/Kinderleader** Kentish  
Town Bull & Gate NW5  
020 7485 5358

**Herman Dune/Darren Hayman/The Singing Adams**  
King's Cross Water Rats WC1  
020 7336 7326

**Indigo Down** Charing Cross Road  
Borderline WC2 020 7734 5547

**Jonny Boston Quartet** Oxford  
Street 100 Club W1 020 7636 0933

**Lozek/Saints Of Insanity/Thirteen66** Purple Turtle NW1  
020 7383 4976

**Newtown/Angie & The Bear/The Sleaze/Sweet Tin Hoax** Camden  
Dublin Castle NW1 020 7485 1773

**Nick Willet/Gene Gambler & The Shufflers** Wembley Ace Café  
020 8961 1000

**Philanthropy & Suzie Hope**  
Highbury Corner Garage N5  
020 7607 1818

**Purple City Amusements/The Touriste/The Gentleman's Club**  
Kingston Peel 020 8546 3516

**Raheem Devaughn**  
Camden Jazz Café NW1  
020 7916 6060

**Semaphore/The Breakdowns/Tortured Souls Afterlife Club**  
Islington Hope'n'Anchor N1  
020 7354 1312

**The Sound Movement/The Under 5s/Wirelake** Camden  
Barfly NW1 0870 907 0999

**Trans-Mission/Last Man Standing/Emerald Sky** Betsey  
Trotwood 020 7336 7326

## MANCHESTER

**The Rebounds** Late Room  
0161 833 3000

**The Sirens Call/Red Winter/Motherjohn/The Goldfever/Andrew Mockler** Night And Day  
Café 0161 236 1822

## SHEFFIELD

**The Gentlemen/Gazelle/Mint Angels/Wonday** Boardwalk  
0114 279 9090

## SOUTHAMPTON

**Mendeed/Solitude/Tight Like Strings/Organs As Black** Joiners  
023 8022 5612

## TUNBRIDGE WELLS

**My 21 Grams/City On Fire/Rocket Child** Forum  
08712 777101



Broken Family Band, King's Cross Water Rats, Friday

Tottenham  
Court Road Metro Club W1  
020 7437 0964

**The Bible Rats/The Envoy**  
Camden Dublin Castle NW1  
020 7485 1773

**Bless The Assassin/Only Joe**  
Islington Hope'n'Anchor N1  
020 7354 1312

## NORWICH

**The Sargasso Trio/Red Cassette**  
Arts Centre 01603 660352

## NOTTINGHAM

**Jimmy The Squirrel/Bud/Mr Wolf/Longdrop** Junktion 7  
0115 911 6959

**Mr Charming/Buen Chico/Jack Afro** Mixing Tin  
0113 246 8899

**Pinstripe/The Forgotten**  
North/Kid ID/Green Car Legacy  
Vine 0113 203 1821

**Rolo Tomassi/Test Switch**



Not a bad first impression. Just look out for King Kong

**RADIO The Music Week**  
Jan 6, 7pm BBC 6Music

Tune in to hear the first impressions of **The Strokes'** new album.

## Side By Side

**TV** Jan 6, 1.30pm Five  
A biopic of those crazy horses **The Osmonds**.

**RADIO 6Music Chart**  
Jan 7, 4pm BBC 6Music

Get the skinny on who's top of the indie pops.

## Popworld

**TV** Jan 7, 10.30am Channel 4  
Let Simon and Miquita say pop of the morning to ya!

# SUN/MON/TUE

January 8/9/10

## SUNDAY 8

### BATH

**The Eileen Johanna Trio** Moles  
01225 404445

### CARDIFF

**Anterior/Shape Of My Addiction**  
Barfly 029 2066 7658

### GLASGOW

**My Shotgun Sister/Martins**  
Room Barfly 0870 907 0999

## LIVERPOOL

**Out4w/Love Life Arena/Geiger**  
Cavern Club 0151 236 1964

## LONDON

**Action Force** Kentish Town Bull & Gate NW5 020 7485 5358

**Civilian/Dancing Bears** Camden  
Dublin Castle NW1 020 7485 1773

**Gemma Ray Ritual/Charles**  
**Campbell Jones** Aldgate East 93  
Feet East E1 020 7247 6095

**Klava/Lucky Soul** Camden Barfly  
NW1 0870 907 0999

**Lost Sunday** Brixton Windmill SW2  
020 8671 0700

**Viva Las Vegas** 12 Bar Club WC2  
020 7916 6989

## NEWCASTLE

**Ricky Warwick** Carling Academy  
0870 771 2000

## SHEFFIELD

**Skyline9/The Return/Durban**  
Boardwalk 0114 279 9090

## SOUTHAMPTON

**Preacher Joe/Breaking The Girl**  
Joiners 023 8022 5612

## MONDAY 9

### BATH

**Circus Of Death/Cabaret Rat/Dunes** Moles 01225 404445

### BRISTOL

**Figmat Fleece** 0117 945 0996

## CANTERBURY

**The Noisettes/Known** Beercart  
Arms 01227 826901

## CARDIFF

**Covergirl/The Citadel** Barfly  
029 2066 7658

**Stretch Armstrong/With Honor**  
Club Ifor Bach 029 2023 2199

## LIVERPOOL

**Major Major/The Last Goodbye**  
Barfly Loft @ Masque 0151 707 6171

## LONDON

**OK Go/Envy And Other Sins**  
Islington Carling Bar Academy N1  
0870 166 3663

**Paper Lung/Kellerton Road**  
Camden Barfly NW1 0870 907 0999

**Phyal/Clemenza Kimble** Camden  
Dublin Castle NW1 020 7485 1773

**Proxy/Free State Prophets/Daddy Long Legs** King's Cross  
Water Rats WC1 020 7336 7326

## MANCHESTER

**Its Mutiny/Redshed** Night And Day  
Café 0161 236 1822

## NEWCASTLE

**Four Day Hombre** Carling  
Academy 0870 771 2000

**The Keep/Very Almost** Cooperage  
0191 233 2940

## SOUTHAMPTON

**In Hail/The Waves/The Arcades**  
Joiners 023 8022 5612

## TUNBRIDGE WELLS

**Reasonable Doubt/Seven Storey**  
Down Forum 08712 777101

## TUESDAY 10

### BELFAST

**Tom McShane/Mary's Great Idea**  
Auntie Annie's Porter House  
028 9050 1660

## BIRMINGHAM

**The Noisettes/Good Shoes**  
Carling Bar Academy  
0121 262 3000

## BRISTOL

**Ricky Warwick** Barfly  
0870 907 0999

## BRISTOL

**Melon Farmer** Louisiana  
0117 926 5978

## DERBY

**David Ford/Meandervent/Lucy**  
Day Victoria Inn 01332 740091

## GLASGOW

**Mendeed** King Tut's Wah Wah Hut  
0141 221 5279

**The Mode/The Front** Barfly  
0870 907 0999

## LIVERPOOL

**Paul Wilkes/Greenwich Resident**  
Barfly Loft @ Masque 0151 707 6171

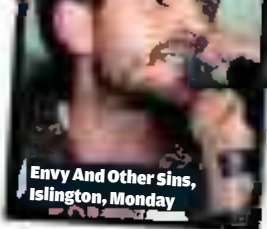
## LONDON

**Black Black/Joiner** Betsey  
Trotwood 020 7336 7326

**Green On Red** Charing Cross Road  
Astoria WC2 020 7434 0403

**The Happiness** Charing Cross Road  
Borderline WC2 020 7734 5547

**Mogwai** Trafalgar Square ICA SW1  
020 7930 3647



Envy And Other Sins, Islington, Monday

## Northwood/The Seen

King's Cross Water Rats WC1  
020 7336 7326

**OK Go/Envy And Other Sins**  
Tottenham Court Road Metro Club  
W1 020 7437 0964

**Pink Riot/Soixante Neuf** Buffalo  
Bar N1 020 7359 6191

## MANCHESTER

**Veer/Guernica** Night And Day Café  
0161 236 1822

## NOTTINGHAM

**Herman Dune** The Social  
0115 950 5078

## SHEFFIELD

**The Speakeasy/The Q's**  
Boardwalk 0114 279 9090

## SOUTHAMPTON

**Bury Tomorrow/Play With Fire**  
Joiners 023 8022 5612

Book now with **NME Tickets** www.nme.com/gigs or 0870 1663 663

Calls are charged at national standard rate



# CLUBS

The world of indie disco

## STAY BEAUTIFUL, LONDON

Luring disco dollies to a life of vice since 2000, Stay Beautiful is where the wild ones get down with nancy boys, girl anachronisms and queen bitches.

**Why this week?** Because the rowdy glam retreat has reached its fifth birthday! To celebrate, there'll be no obscurities or album tracks, just six hours of sexy alternative anthems. New indie hopefuls The Boyfriends are also playing live.

**What's the crowd like?** "It used to be all tiaras and fairy wings. Nowadays it's corsets, ties and asymmetric hair. There's always been a lot of eyeliner and glitter," says founder Simon Price. Expect a whole host of fabulous flamboyant freaks. **Any treats in store?** Well, there is the infamous watering-can song. Every month a particular tune is nominated on the club's website, and when it's played, neat vodka is poured down everyone's throats from a plastic watering can.

**Binge drinking?** You betcha.

**When:** The first Friday of every month, 9pm-3am.

**Venue:** Purple Turtle, 61-65 Crowndale Rd, Mornington Crescent, London NW1.

**Cost:** £6/£7 **Website:** [www.staybeautifulclub.co.uk](http://www.staybeautifulclub.co.uk)

There's a Hole lotta (Courtney) Love in this room

It's raining booze... hallelujah!

Stay Howlin': Pelle of The Hives is a closet glammer

CLUB OF THE WEEK

The only Boyfriends it's OK to two-time your own boy/girlfriend for

## DJ PROFILE

PJ



### What's your favourite song to DJ?

"Have Love Will Travel" by The Sonics always gets the dancefloor moving, or anything else by them, like their version of 'Louie Louie' - if I haven't played The Kingsmen's version."

### What's been the best night you've DJed?

"Las Vegas was pretty cool. It was at the Rockaround, with legendary '60s bands like The Monks playing."

### Seen anything strange on the dancefloor?

"The singer of a band at the Dirty Water Club was attacked by a dwarf. There have also been occasions when the Portuguese kids who come down decided to get naked on the dancefloor. What I find weird is the lost property. I mean, why would someone leave behind a huge bag-full of Christmas decorations? In July?!"

**When:** PJ DJs at The Dirty Water Club at the Boston Arms, Tufnell Park, London, every Friday, Finger Pop at Bar Aquarium, Old Street, London, on the first Saturday of every month and Spicks'n'Specks at the Pleasure Unit, Bethnal Green, London, the third Sunday of every month.

## EVENTS THIS WEEK

Email club listings to [clubguide@nme.com](mailto:clubguide@nme.com)

### BATH

#### Thursday

**Go Ape! At Moles Club**  
George Street, 9pm-2am, £4.50/£5

The part-two, part-punk Go Ape! celebrates its first birthday tonight with help from The Rock Of Travolta and Summerteeth.

[www.myspace.com/goape](http://www.myspace.com/goape)

### BRIGHTON

#### Saturday

**It Came From The Sea at The Sussex Arts Club**

Ship Street, 10pm-2am, £5/£6

The experimental seaside alt disco proffers cut-and-paste MP3s and a whole host of dirty ditties for the delectation of the discerning.

[www.voodoolily.co.uk](http://www.voodoolily.co.uk)

### BRISTOL

#### Thursday

**Club Stutter at Manhattan Bar** St Nicholas Street, 10pm-2am, £3/£4

The underground mixes with the overground in this fabulous indie mash-up. Playing the likes of Arcade Fire and Art Brut, Club Stutter will quite literally leave you lost for words.

[www.club-stutter.co.uk](http://www.club-stutter.co.uk)

#### Friday

**Ramshackle at Bristol Academy** Frogmore Street, 10pm-3am, £3/£4/£5

Punk anthems and rock in the top bar, and more fragrant indie and alternative in the main room.

[www.ramshackle.org.uk](http://www.ramshackle.org.uk)

### EDINBURGH

#### Sunday

**Hobo at The Bongo Club**  
Holyrood Road, 10pm-end, free/£3

Join in the tramp-tastic fun at these weekly meetings of the (fictional) Scottish Hobo Society. Indie bands are followed by an alt disco until the wee small hours.

[www.thebongoclub.co.uk](http://www.thebongoclub.co.uk)

### GLASGOW

#### Sunday

**Optimo at The Sub Club**

Jamaica Street, 11pm-3am, £5/£6  
Rave for the indie kids with DJs Twitch and Wilkes and a dirty mash-up of electro and alternative tunes.

[www.optimo.co.uk](http://www.optimo.co.uk)

### LEEDS

#### Wednesday

**Panic at The Cockpit**, Swinegate, 10.30pm-2am, £3  
The Carl Barât-endorsed Panic offers sleazy electronica, new wave and glorious rock'n'roll.

[www.thecockpit.co.uk](http://www.thecockpit.co.uk)  
**Rebellious Jukebox at Wire Call Lane**, 10pm-2am, £3.50/£4  
Rebellious isn't the half of it - expect to hear the oddest mixture of indie rock this side of the weekend.

[www.rebelliousjukebox.co.uk](http://www.rebelliousjukebox.co.uk)

#### Saturday

**Bad Sneakers at The Faversham Springfield Mount**, 7.30pm-3am, £4/£5

Everything's brilliant in Leeds, and here's the proof: an

excellent disco with the best new bands around.  
[www.thefaversham.com](http://www.thefaversham.com)

### LONDON

#### Thursday

**Club Motherfucker Presents: The Daughters Of The Kaos Film And Music Show at The ICA**

The Mall, 5pm-1am, ETBA  
The girls from Motherfucker head up a night of grrrl-centric short films and music videos. Kaito and Twisted Charm also play live.

[www.clubmotherfucker.com](http://www.clubmotherfucker.com)

#### Friday

**Dirty Water Club at Boston Music Room**  
Junction Road, 8.30pm-3am, £6

Get on down with your bad self to groovy '50s rockabilly, '60s garage rock and the latest in new tunes with teeth, at north London's premier dirty rock'n'roll night.  
[www.dirtywaterclub.com](http://www.dirtywaterclub.com)

**And Did We Mention Our Disco at Plastic People**  
Curtain Road, 10pm-4am, £5/£7  
A self-styled haven for fans of 'sonic anarchy', ...Our Disco is the best place to dance to punk, funk and sleazy mutant electro like no-one's watching.  
[www.ourdisco.com](http://www.ourdisco.com)

**Lady Luck at The Millennium Club**

Drury Lane, 9pm-2am, £7/£12  
The glamorous burlesque haunt and lounge night this week plays host to a fashion show with enough corsets and stockings to make even Peter Stringfellow come over a touch faint.

[www.ladyluckclub.co.uk](http://www.ladyluckclub.co.uk)

#### Saturday

**Feeling Gloomy Goes Live!**  
Bar Academy, Parkfield Street, 9pm-4am, £5/£7

The most miserable club in town inaugurates a series of one-off nights with live music

from Seeing Scarlet and The Hoosier Complex. Dress to depress.

[www.feelinggloomy.com](http://www.feelinggloomy.com)

**After Skool Klub at The Quad**

Houghton Street, 10pm-3am, £5/£6  
A big, bad and boozy night with a bar tagged onto the side if you want to take a break from dancing to tunes from Bloc Party, Long Blondes and The Smiths in the main room.

[www.afterskoolklub.co.uk](http://www.afterskoolklub.co.uk)  
**Monday**  
**Trash at The End**  
West Central Street, 10pm-3am, £5/£6  
Rowdy two-piece punkers Comaneci will tonight attempt to shatter the ear drums of the trendy Trash crowd.  
[www.trashclub.co.uk](http://www.trashclub.co.uk)

### Airport at The Roxy

Rathbone Place, 10pm-3am, £1/£3/£4

If you like your indie delivered by three women dressed as air hostesses, this is your place. Expect classic '80s tunes snuggling against the new.

[www.theroxy.co.uk](http://www.theroxy.co.uk)

### Tuesday

**White Heat at Madame JoJo's** Brewer Street, 8pm-3am, £4/£5

The Horrors, Xerox Teens and Metro Riots play the fabulous drunk art-punk party.

[www.whiteheatmayfair.com](http://www.whiteheatmayfair.com)

### MANCHESTER

#### Friday

**Morrissey/Smiths Disco at The Star & Garter** Fairfield Street, 9pm-late, £3

The perfect place to sulk about no-one wanting to shag you.

[www.starandgarter.co.uk](http://www.starandgarter.co.uk)

### NORWICH

#### Monday

**Lost Youth at Po Na Na**, Bank Plain, 8pm-12.30am, free  
Something for students with an essay due first thing Tuesday. Hip-hop, indie and then early bed with a nice cuppa.  
[www.ponana.com](http://www.ponana.com)

### SHEFFIELD

#### Saturday

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## FUTURE GIGS ON SALE

### Graham Coxon



Coxo spys a suspiciously animated character in the audience. Well, if you will invite Pete Doherty to your gigs...

Continuing his ascent to iconic status, the delicate indie legend whips round the country to warm up for his Kaiser Chief support slots. Bitter paranoia never sounded so good.  
**On tour:** January 16 to April 5

### Goldie Lookin Chain



GLC's newest member, Disco Ball Head preferred to stand at the back

Whether or not they bring the bird off *Hollyoaks* with them, the GLC circus will still have more than enough smoking, joking and toking to go round so catch them before the joke wears thinner than a silver Rizla.  
**On tour:** February 14 to March 3

### Be Your Own Pet



The backscratcher Jemina got for Xmas was the best pressie ever

Last year Nashville, Tennessee spawned this bratty punk-rock foursome among a hurricane of hype, and a blur of guitar chaos and white 'fros ensued, fronted by Jemina Pearl, the devil child of Karen O and Iggy P.  
**On tour:** January 26 to February 5



YYVs' Karen O: "Hey guys. You know we thought we'd lost the TV remote...?"

#### Richard Ashcroft

Glasgow ABC (January 20), Gateshead Sage (21), Preston Guildhall (22), London Electric Ballroom (24 - 26)

#### Bauhaus

Newcastle Carling Academy (January 30), Manchester Academy (February 1), Birmingham Carling Academy (2), London Brixton Carling Academy (3)

#### NEW! Be Your Own Pet

Manchester Roadhouse (January 26), Leeds Cockpit (27), Nottingham Social (28), Glasgow ABC2 (29), London Bush Hall (February 1), London Barfly (2), Oxford Zodiac (4), Bristol Fleece (5)

#### The Boy Least Likely To

Brighton Hanbury Ballroom (February 16), Bristol Louisiana (17), Southampton Joiners (18), Oxford Zodiac (19), Birmingham Bar Carling Academy (20), Sheffield Leadmill (22), Manchester Night & Day (23), Glasgow King Tut's (24), York Fibbers (25), Nottingham Social (26), London Bush Hall (28)

#### Bullet For My Valentine

Cardiff University (January 15), Bristol Carling Academy (16), Nottingham Rock City (17), Southampton Guildhall (19), Norwich UEA (20), Manchester Academy (21), Newcastle Carling Academy (23), Glasgow Carling Academy (24), Leeds University (25), Birmingham Carling Academy (27), London Brixton Carling Academy (28)

#### Cave In

Birmingham Carling Academy 2 (February 28), Glasgow ABC 2 (March 1), Manchester Academy 3 (2), Sheffield Corporation (3), London Garage (4), Oxford Zodiac (6), Exeter Cavern (7), Cardiff University (8)

#### Coldcut

London Cargo (January 19), Norwich Waterfront (February)

16, Nottingham Rescue Rooms (17), Bexhill De La Warr Pavilion (18), Exeter Lemon Grove (22), Birmingham Custard Factory (23), Manchester Academy 2 (24), London Shepherds Bush Empire (25), Brighton Corn Exchange (April 19), Bristol Carling Academy (20), Gateshead Sage (21), Dublin Village (22), Cardiff The Point (24), Sheffield University (25), Glasgow Tramway Theatre (26)

#### NEW! The Concretes

Bournemouth Old Fire Station (February 15), Liverpool Carling Academy 3 (18), London Scala (22)

#### NEW! Graham Coxon

Newcastle Carling Academy (March 20), Liverpool Carling Academy (21), Glasgow Garage (22), Edinburgh Liquid Room (23), Leeds Cockpit (25), Norwich Waterfront (26), Leicester University (27), Manchester Ritz Ballroom (28), Cambridge Junction (30), Oxford Zodiac (21), Nottingham Marcus Garvey Centre Ballroom (April 1), Bristol Bierkeller (2), Brighton Concorde (4), London Hammersmith Palais (5)

#### Editors

Bristol Carling Academy (February 24), Southampton Guildhall (25), Norwich UEA (26), Manchester Academy (27), Glasgow Barrowlands (March 1), Newcastle Carling Academy (2), Birmingham Carling Academy (3)

#### NEW! Embrace

Suffolk Thetford Forest (June 10), Kent Bedgebury Pinetum (11), Gloucestershire Westonbirt Arboretum (16), Cheshire Delamere Forest (17), Nottingham Sherwood Pines Forest Park (23), Staffordshire Cannock Chase Forest (24), Yorkshire Dalby Forest (25)

#### Goldfrapp

Cardiff Great Hall (February 1), Southampton Guildhall (2),

Cambridge Corn Exchange (4), Reading Hexagon (5), London Brixton Carling Academy (9 & 10), Manchester Carling Apollo (18), Liverpool University (21), Sheffield Octagon (23), Birmingham Carling Academy (24), Belfast Ulster Hall (26), Dublin Olympia (27)

#### NEW! Goldie Lookin Chain

Liverpool Carling Academy (February 14), London Astoria (15), Wolverhampton Wulfrun Hall (16), Norwich UEA (17), Sheffield The Plug (18), Glasgow Carling Academy (20), Newcastle Carling Academy (21), Nottingham Rock City (22), Manchester Academy (23), Portsmouth Pyramid (24), Bristol Carling Academy (25), Bournemouth Opera House (March 2), Jersey Fort Regents Leisure Park (3)

#### Isle Of Wight Festival

Feat. The Prodigy, Goldfrapp & Placebo (June 9 - 11)

#### The Kooks

Southampton Joiners (January 24), Birmingham Bar Carling Academy (25), Cambridge APU (26), Bristol Louisiana (27), Tunbridge Wells Forum (28), Leeds Cockpit (30), Nottingham Social (31), Manchester Academy 3 (February 1), Sheffield Fuzz Club (2), Newcastle Carling Academy (3), Edinburgh Venue (5), Glasgow King Tuts (6), Hull Adelphi (7), Liverpool Korova (8), Oxford Zodiac (10), Norwich Arts Centre (11), Brighton Concorde 2 (13), London ULU (14)

#### The Magic Numbers

Wolverhampton Civic Hall (February 19), Edinburgh Corn Exchange (20), Blackpool Empress Ballroom (21)

#### Mogwai

London ICA (January 10-14)

#### Nine Black Alps

Belfast Spring & Airbrake (February 9\*), Dublin Village (10), Cardiff University (12), Hull University (13),

Newcastle Carling Academy (15), Glasgow ABC (16), Liverpool Carling Academy (17), Portsmouth Pyramids Centre (19), Nottingham Rock City (20), Cambridge Junction (21), London Hammersmith Palais (24\*), Manchester Academy (25)

#### NEW! Oasis

Sheffield Arena (February 9 & 10)

#### The Rakes

Exeter Lemon Grove (January 27), Portsmouth Pyramids (28), Cambridge Junction (29), Norwich UEA (30), Bristol Anson Rooms (31), London Astoria (February 2), Sheffield Leadmill (3), Wolverhampton Wulfrun (4), Manchester Academy (6), Newcastle University (7), Glasgow QMU (8), Aberdeen Moshulu (9), Dublin Village (11), Belfast Spring & Airbrake (12), London Shepherds Bush Empire (13\*)

#### Secret Machines

London Garage (January 18), Manchester University (19)

#### Sigur Rós

London Hammersmith Apollo (March 29)

#### NEW! Skin

Glasgow King Tut's Wah Wah Hut (March 17), Edinburgh Liquid Rooms (18), Sheffield Leadmill (19), Manchester Academy 3 (21), Bristol Fleece (22), Newcastle Carling Academy (24), Reading Fez (25), Leeds Cockpit (27), Nottingham Rescue Rooms (28), London KOKO (29), Portsmouth Wedgewood Rooms (30)

#### NEW! Regina Spektor

Birmingham Glee Club (January 25), Manchester Academy 3 (26), Sheffield Leadmill (27), Leeds Cockpit (29), Liverpool Carling Academy (25), Edinburgh Cabaret Voltaire (February 1), Newcastle Carling Academy (2), London Shepherds Bush (4)

#### The Strokes

Belfast Ulster Hall (January 19), Dublin Point (20), London Shepherds Bush Empire (24), Bristol Colston Hall (25), Nottingham ICE Arena (27), Doncaster Dome (28), Manchester Carling Apollo (30 & 31), Brighton Centre (February 3), Portsmouth Guildhall (4), Glasgow Carling Academy (7 & 8), Edinburgh Corn Exchange (10), Hull City Hall (11), Wolverhampton Civic Hall (13), Blackpool Empress (14), London Hammersmith Apollo (17 & 18)

#### Test Icicles

Manchester Academy 3 (January 13), Edinburgh Venue (14), Glasgow Barfly (15), Newcastle Cluny (16), Leeds Faversham (17), Brighton Ocean Rooms (25), Cardiff Barfly (26), Birmingham Barfly (27), Nottingham Rescue Rooms (28), Nottingham Rock City Basement (28 Matinee), Sheffield Leadmill (30), Oxford Zodiac (31), Stoke Sugarmill (February 1), London ULU (2)

#### Kanye West

Manchester MEN Arena (February 16), Glasgow SECC (17), London Hammersmith Apollo (19), Cardiff Arena (22), Birmingham NEC (28), London Theatre Royal Drury Lane (26)

\* = extra date

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# TICKETS TO SEE THE STROKES

Plus a signed album and poster.  
 Who said Christmas was over...?

The last time New York's kings of cool played these shores, fans camped out overnight to get in, such is the intensity of Strokesmania these days. Maybe it's their era-defining garage racket, maybe their effortless chic, but four years after their blazing debut, they are still the hottest ticket around. Sleeping rough needn't be an option for one lucky reader though, as we are giving away two tickets to see the legends on the last night of their UK tour, at London Hammersmith Carling Apollo on February 18.

What's more, we've got a signed copy of their

8/10 NME-rated stunning third album 'First Impressions Of Earth', a 57-minute long monster that sees the boys return to form with an early contender for Album Of The Year. If this wasn't enough, we're also throwing in a signed poster, and all you have to do to win is visit [NME.COM/WIN](http://NME.COM/WIN) and answer the following brain-teaser:

At the start of the controversial video for the 'Juicebox' single, what does the WWIZZ radio DJ call the song?

- a) 'Juicebox'
- b) 'Juicy Juice'
- c) 'Juicy Lucy'

All entrants and guests must be over 18 years old. IPC Media Limited's normal terms and conditions apply to this competition (available at [NME.COM](http://NME.COM)). The judge's decision is final, and there is no cash alternative. The closing date is January 21, 2006.

## WINNER!

**WILL SCHMITT, CARDIFF**

Will, 20, won £500 worth of the very finest Fred Perry clobber (NME, December 3). "Cheers NME. That's bloody brilliant, that is. You've made my year!"



# WIN! £35 OF OHMV VOUCHERS

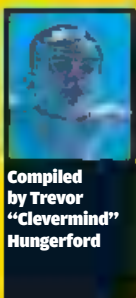
Got a pen and half a brain? You too could be a winner

## CLUES ACROSS

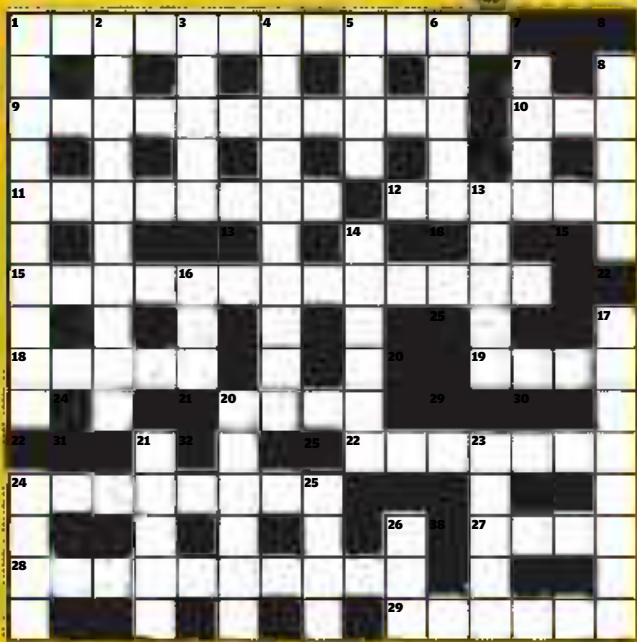
- 1+24D** And finally... the latest bulletin from Paul Weller (5-3-4-4)
- 9+28A** "There must be some way out of here", said the joker to the thief", 1968 (3-5-3-10)
- 10** Shall include an Irish band (3)
- 11+17D** "I know my ex-boyfriend lies, oh he does it every time/It's just his permanent disguise, yeah yeah but he's \_\_\_\_\_", (4-4-8)
- 12** Nubile new look of The Corrs (2-4)
- 15+13D** "Well, I don't know how you take in all the shit you see/No don't believe anyone and most of all don't believe me", 2000 (2-2-9-5)
- 18+29A** Production act comprising Tom Dinsdale and Simon Franks (5-6)
- 19** Area of London associated with a 'Hippy Chick' (4)
- 20** (See 6 down)
- 22** Pushing very hard, while on the road, a single by Everything But The Girl (7)
- 24** Saga akin in some way to the completion of Crass' work '\_\_\_\_\_ Nightmare' (8)
- 27** Collaborator of The Velvet Underground involved in a moronic outburst (4)
- 28** (See 9 across)
- 29** (See 18 across)

## CLUES DOWN

- 1** Yeah, dreams are shattered by Kanye West (5-2-3)
- 2** "Hey, who cares what you play, say whatever you say, 'cos I don't mind", 2003 (8-2)
- 3** A lad's sort of band saying 'Drink Me' (5)
- 4** A quick laugh as Ann goes back twice for old China Crisis single (5-5)
- 5+8D** "I'm gonna \_\_\_\_\_, let this wash all over me", 2003 (2-2-5)
- 6+20A** Echo And The Bunnymen getting one in a car, maybe (5-4)
- 7** Uphill, on the inside, with one of The Everly Brothers (4)
- 8** (See 5 down)
- 13** (See 15 across)
- 14** And it's broken the band who had to 'Break The Cycle' (6)
- 16** Betty \_\_\_\_, rapper with the sound of disapproval (3)
- 17** (See 11 across)
- 20** Right one with the highest adult male voice in 'Untouchable' indie band (6)
- 21** Take steps to get along to this Gary Numan recording (5)
- 23** Material for old discs found at \_\_\_\_\_ Solution indie label (5)
- 24** (See 1 across)
- 25** Isle Of Wight initially gets nothing of Slipknot's music (4)
- 26** Act making an appearance in *The Manor Born* (3)



Compiled by Trevor "Clevermind" Hungerford



## ANSWERS FROM NOVEMBER 26 ISSUE

**Across:** 1+15D With Love And Squalor, 9 Romeo, 10 Lemonheads, 11 Bolen, 12 Annie, 13 Ninja, 14 Cars, 16+22D All I Want, 17 Cook, 19 Soul, 20 Safe As Fuck, 22 Wah, 23 Eels, 24 Infest, 30+28A The Cure, 31 Resist, 33 Push It.  
**Down:** 1 Walk Away, 2 Tom English, 3 Linger, 4 Vienna, 5 Aidan Moffat, 6+8D Dr John, 7 Smiler, 11+32A Back To Life, 18 Dare, 19 Sketches, 21 Funeral, 25 Stipe, 27 Stop, 29+26D East West.

Simply cut out the crossword and send it, along with your name and address, marking the envelope with the issue date, to the usual address, before Wednesday, January 11, 2006. First correct one out of the hat wins!

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# THE RECOMMENDER

Music and more to check out

This week: **Alex Kapranos** and **Bob Hardy**, **Franz Ferdinand**

## WHAT I'M LISTENING TO RIGHT NOW

- 1 Belle & Sebastian**  
**Dog On Wheels**  
Bob: "It reminds me of home and it's comforting. It's just nice and relaxing."
- 2 Four Tet**  
**Hands**  
Bob: "It's a track I'm always listening to. It's really cool."
- 3 Bob Dylan**  
**Ballad Of A Thin Man**  
Alex: "This is a bootleg of my favourite song."
- 4 The Rakes**  
**22 Grand Job**  
Bob: "It's just so much fun. And seeing them do it live is great, they've got so much energy."
- 5 Arctic Monkeys**  
**From The Ritz To The Rubble**  
Alex: "Like everyone else in the country, I've had this on a lot."
- 6 Editors**  
**Munich**  
Alex: "Tom has an amazing voice, he hits lovely long, pure notes."
- 7 Cut Copy**  
**Going Nowhere**  
Bob: "I love their album, and this is probably my favourite."
- 8 Come On**  
**Disneyland**  
Bob: "Great lyrics. (Sings) 'I hate Disneyland!'"
- 9 White**  
**Nights**  
**William**  
Alex: "They feature Andy Knowles who has been drumming with us."
- 10 Unpac**  
**Here On My Own**  
Bob: "They've got this Beach Boys, folkie vibe."

## MY FAVOURITE NEW BANDS



### The 1990s

Alex: "They're a Glasgow band. A bit Velvet Underground. They're made up of various different characters from bands that we know. Some people from The Yummy Fur and some people from V-Twin so they sound like a cross between The Fall and The Rolling Stones. The scene at home seems to be great at the moment, as it's producing bands like these. Every time we go home people are recommending stuff to us."



### The B-Trap

Bob: "They have really thin guitars and the vocals sound like they come out of ['80s indie rockers] The Wedding Present or something."



### Bricolage

Alex: "They're brilliant. They sound like Orange Juice, but they have got a real dark twisty edge to them as well. They're very cool."

## MY BIGGEST INFLUENCE

### Serge Gainsbourg

Alex: "I've been listening to a lot of his stuff again. What his music always had was this slightly sinister undercurrent - he sang about things no-one else would ever dare to, even the most rock'n'roll bands."



## A GUILTY PLEASURE

### Oasis

Alex: "Mine is Oasis. I know we're not supposed to like them but Noel's got a great knack of writing a song. I'm not bothered that they've been slagging us, I'd be disappointed if they didn't."



## OTHER STUFF

### FILM A History Of Violence

Alex: "It's about a former mobster whose past catches up with him when his diner is robbed. I like David Cronenberg's films."



### Vic Reeves' Big Night Out

Bob: "We've watched it a lot on the tour bus. It's really fun how it builds up through repetition. I can't wait until *Small Of...* comes out on DVD."

### READ An American Dream by Norman Mailer

Alex: "I've just finished it. He's an amazing writer, it's a very macho and brutal form of writing. It's as if it's pouring out of him."





**NEXT WEEK IN NME**



**ER, PETE WHO?**

**2006 HOT  
MUSIC  
SPECIAL!**

# **DIRTY PRETTY THINGS**

**What Carl Libertine did next**

**PLUS! The nine other NEW bands  
who'll rock your universe this year**

**AND your favourite rock stars' tips for the top!**

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