

FREE! GIANT ARCTIC MONKEYS & LIAM PULL-OUTS

NME



**MASSIVE
XMAS
DOUBLE ISSUE**
TWICE AS MUCH
TO ENJOY!

**THE YEAR'S
BIGGEST HITS**

REVIEWED BY
**KEITH LEMON
& MARK SMITH!**

**"YOU CAN'T
POLISH A TURD"**

WHY **JACK WHITEHALL**
HATES SPROUTS

NOËL SATISFACTION!

STONES LEGEND **KEITH RICHARDS** SPEAKS EXCLUSIVELY TO NME

PLUS INTERVIEWS WITH

PAUL WELLER * PAUL McCARTNEY * TAME IMPALA * LUCY ROSE
MILES KANE * ELBOW * THE HORRORS * THE KILLERS * SPECTOR
RICHARD HAWLEY * THE MACCABEES * TIM BURGESS * BIFFY CLYRO
BOMBAY BICYCLE CLUB * TRIBES... & **NODDY HOLDER!**



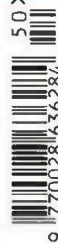
**ULTIMATE
TV GUIDE**

WHAT TO
WATCH
AND WHY

**PALMA
VIOLETS**

THE BEST NEW
BAND OF 2012
GET VERY,
VERY DRUNK

£2.90 15/22 DECEMBER 2012
US\$8.50 £5.64 30 CN8699 www.nme.com



50 >

**NEW
LIMITED
EDITION**

SHORTER DAYS *just mean* LONGER NIGHTS

GET A *zest* FOR WINTER

Enjoy Carling Zest, a crisp refreshing lager
made with a hint of spiced orange

Show us your Zest for Winter at facebook.com/carling

drinkaware.co.uk for the facts



INSIDE THIS WEEK

15/22 December 2012



14

"ROCK'N'ROLL SHOULD BE FREE AND EASY. YOU'RE NOT IN THE ARMY" BUT KEEF IN THE ARMY... HOW GREAT WOULD THAT BE?



12

"2012'S BEEN GOOD. 2013 WILL BE TOO" IT'S THE QUEEN'S SPEECH, DELIVERED BY PAUL WELLER



58

"SHARON VAN ETTEN (OR VON ETTEN AS THE SLEEVE HAS HER)" THIS YEAR'S CHRISTMAS ALBUMS WERE PUT OUT IN A HURRY



26

"My band and my girlfriend are going to kill me"

WHEN WE SAID TO GET YOUR BAUBLES OUT, WE WEREN'T MESSING



50

WIN!

WIN THE CONTENTS OF SANTA'S SACK! AMAZING SWAG UP FOR GRABS, COURTESY OF CONVERSE



54

"IT SOUNDS LIKE AN UPBEAT TUNE TO MASTURBATE TO..." KEITH LEMON AND CO DEBATE THE YEAR'S SINGLES

PLUS
4 THE SLEIGHTLIST
6 UPFRONT
50 BIG CHRISTMAS QUIZ
58 REVIEWS
60 LIVE
73 BOOKING NOW
74 GIG GUIDE
79 MASSIVE CROSSWORD
80 FESTIVE FANMAIL
82 BRAINCELLS



24

"BEST PRESENT EVER? THE SNOW, MATE" HE MEANS ACTUAL SNOW, NOT DRUGS. RIGHT, LIAM?

SUBSCRIBE TO NME AND SAVE OVER £1 AN ISSUE!*

Plus read NME on your iPad at no extra cost**

Subscribe now at MAGAZINESDIRECT.COM/IH02

Or call now on 0844 848 0848 quoting code AGH2

Lines are open between 8am and 9pm, 7 days a week

*Pay only £3.99 when you subscribe by UK quarterly Direct Debit. Offer closes 10/01/2013
** Please note: iPad editions are supplied to subscribers at no extra cost for the first year of their active paid print subscription.



SLEIGHLIST

THE SOUNDS ROCKING AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREES OF THE NME STAFF THIS WEEK

LISTEN
TO EVERY
TRACK ON
NME.COM/
REVIEWS
NOW!



GLASVEGAS

No Her No Hymn
This is crisply beautiful – all shivering piano and bells and James Allan's broken croon – but also quietly devastating. The band have asked for a donation to Scottish Care And Information On Miscarriages, and lines like “*Mother religious, 'til birth do us part/Then carry on the same like you did in the start*” will force hand to wallet and heart to throat.

Emily Mackay, writer

TIM WHEELER & EMMY THE GREAT

Zombie Xmas
Last Christmas, lovers Tim and Emmy gave us their hearts by recording the best festive album in years. This year, they broke up (awk) but they have released a new-for-2012 video for ‘Zombie Christmas’ in the spirit of the season of reconciliation. It’s *Shaun Of The Dead* meets the ‘Mistletoe And Wine’ video as zombies descend on roasting chestnuts.

Dan Martin, writer

ALPHABEAT

X-mas (Let's Do It Again)
The Danes obviously don't celebrate Christmas. Because if they did then Danish duo Alphabeat would know what a Christmas song actually is and what Christmas cheer is made of. They definitely wouldn't try to sabotage it all with this joyless atrocity about taking Christmas up the arse for another year.

Eve Barlow, Deputy Editor

DOG IS DEAD

Wonderful Christmastime
Recently in *NME*, Dog Is Dead paid homage to Michael Jackson's ‘Thriller’ by dressing in *those* jackets and dancing like zombies. Now they're doffing their cap to Macca by covering his festive staple. The saxophone parps are just as sensual as their crotch-grabbing.

Jamie Fullerton, Features Editor

ALEXIS TAYLOR

Jesus' Birthday
In between all the ITV specials and eggnog lattes, it's easy to forget that

the true meaning of Christmas is the unsanitary barn birth of a megalomaniac with a beard. So thanks to Hot Chip's Alexis Taylor, whose nine-minute minimalist instrumental sounds like a Casio recreation of Mary's womb during those crucial final contractions.

Sam Wolfson, writer

DMX

Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer
Recorded on the fly for an amazing video (find it on YouTube, now), DMX brings the gravel-voiced spirit of the Ruff Ryders to this year's festivities with a freestyle rendition of the Christmas classic. Like Santa's hip-hop helper.

David Renshaw, News Reporter

GABRIEL BRUCE

Silent Night
In the midst of all the Christmas crappiness, London's most svelte aesthete reminds us that this time of year should be a celebration of the immaculate conception and the birth of of JC. He's done this by covering ‘Silent Night’ in a voice so low it makes Barry White sound like a choirboy.

Matt Wilkinson, New Music Editor

COLD SPECKS

Christmas Evermore
Christmas round Cold Specks' gaff seems a bit of a drag. “*I wish it were Christmas evermore... it put an end to war*”, she trills; her guests stare bleakly at the turkey and wonder why they can't just pull a sodding cracker instead. Still, she has turned this Mary Margaret O'Hara song into a slow-burning, brassy ditty.

Ben Hewitt, writer



PEACE

All I Want For Christmas Is You (Live on BBC 6Music)
Usually I'd slap any indie band that took on Mariah's winter classic. The song is too big for “cool”. That's probably why Peace have decided to mix up their version with Radiohead's ‘Creep’. Makes them sound like weirdos, but weirdos you'd still snog at the Xmas party.

Siân Rowe, Assistant Reviews Editor

TRACK OF THE WEEK

THE KILLERS

I Feel It In My Bones

Now as inevitable as hearing drunk, party-hatted elderly relatives make mildly sexist comments over the Brussels sprouts, The Killers return this year with their seventh seasonal single. A sequel of sorts to 2007's ‘Don't Shoot Me, Santa’, the song and its campy B-movie video see the band's former tour manager Ryan Pardey, nicknamed ‘The Captain’, reprising his role as a cigar-chomping, vigilante vision of Saint Nick. He's made his list, checked it twice, and now he's mercilessly hunting down those naughty Killers. As for Brandon's desperate protestations that “*Maybe I was naughty once but now I'm nice*”? Santa does not care one iota of his soot-blackened heart. He even dispatches poor old Ronnie Vannucci's brother for having the temerity to have a mounted deer's head

It avoids Christmas bombast and eschews sleigh-bell cliché

on his wall. The tune itself avoids Christmas bombast and eschews sleigh-bell cliché, opting instead for a driving, ‘Road To Hell’-style groove over which Brandon Flowers breaks out the cracker-worthy reference: “*I sweat like a Snowman, out in the sun*”. The man who gave the world the po-faced lyric that I hate more than any other (“*Are we human, or are we dancer?*”), here refuses to take himself at all seriously. Hearing a slick, tight band given an excuse to just piss about makes me wish it could be Christmas every day.

Kevin EG Perry, writer

BOSE
Better sound through research®

Music. Whenever. Wherever.

NEW SoundLink *Bluetooth*® Mobile speaker II



You've got all that music on your phone. Enjoy it out loud with the SoundLink *Bluetooth*® Mobile speaker II – now with improved acoustics for deeper, more powerful sound. Just flip it open, make a quick *Bluetooth* connection and you're ready to play your music with better sound than you thought you could get from a speaker this small. It works with your smartphone, tablet or other *Bluetooth* devices, including Apple and Android™, and has a battery that keeps the music going for hours. Now you can share your music and enjoy it with better sound, wherever you go.



Visit **bose.co.uk** or go to your local authorised Bose dealer

Scan to
learn more



m.bose.co.uk/slm_en

The *Bluetooth*® word mark and logos are registered trademarks owned by Bluetooth SIG, Inc., and any such use by Bose Corporation is under license. AirPlay, the AirPlay logo, Apple, iPad, iPhone, iPod touch, and iTunes are trademarks of Apple Inc., registered in the U.S. and other countries. Android is a trademark of Google Inc.

UPFRONT

WHAT'S HAPPENED AND WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MUSIC THIS WEEK

Edited by Dan Stubbs



SINGLE BELLS

A handy guide to the Christmas Number One playing field, offered up by **Gavin Haynes**

MAIN EVENT

With *The X Factor* in decline, this year's Christmas Number One race is as open as it's been since Gary Jules surprisingly slipped

into the top spot with 'Mad World'. Will it be the moment that a fish-loving Pakistani becomes the Aled Jones of 2012? Or is Carly Rae Jepsen set to become the Bob The Builder of disposable Canadian pop? Here are the runners and riders...

1 THE CHARITY ONE

The Justice Collective
'He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother'
WHAT'S IT LIKE?

This year saw the release of a damning judicial report implicating the police in manipulating the facts of 1989's

Hillsborough disaster, in which 96 Liverpool FC supporters were killed. Accordingly, The Farm's Peter Hooton and a Liverpool MP have organised a range of Scouse-aligned artists to sing The Hollies' classic to help pay victims' families' legal bills, with star wattage



PIANO TUNA

Meet The £1 Fish Man himself

People said my song was so catchy I should go to *The X Factor*."

WHERE DID THE '£1 FISH SONG' COME FROM?

"My owner, he said, 'Shahid, you have to shout to the customer.' So the first day I started shouting and there was no reaction. The next day, I make the 'Come on ladies/Come on ladies, £1 fish' song."

WERE YOU ANNOYED THAT YOU DIDN'T GET THROUGH?

"Yeah, it's a very, very shocking thing for me."

HOW DO YOU FANCY YOUR CHANCES OF BEING NUMBER ONE?

"I will try. It's my fate to go to Number One."

WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS?

"I will make more songs. I have one called 'You Are So Beautiful'. (Sings) I'm watching your face/I'm watching your eyes/I'm watching your legs/You are so beautiful."

WILL THERE BE A £2 MEAT SONG?

"No! I don't want the prices to go up."

going as high as Paul McCartney, Mick Jones and Robbie Williams.

CRACKER OR TURKEY?

Well, it's better than that 'Band Aid 20' one where Dizzee raps: "Spare a thought this Yuletide for the deprived/If the tables turned would you survive?"

ODDS: 3/10 favourite

2 THE X FACTOR ONE

Either Christopher Maloney, Jahmene Douglas or James Arthur
Title TBC

WHAT'S IT LIKE?

Simon Cowell's Westfield-eyed sock-puppets are in open retreat this year. After viewing figures for the TV programme plunged, the annual *X Factor* winner's single has been moved so it no longer comes out in the week just before Christmas. However, a single with profits going to kids' charity Together For Short Lives is out this week.

CRACKER OR TURKEY?

It's all for charity but this is the sound of a failing brand.

ODDS: 6/1

3 THE NOVELTY ONE

The £1 Fish Man

'The £1 Fish Song'

Upton Park market trader Muhammad Shahid Nazir moved to Britain from Pakistan only a year ago. He found work selling fish and made up a silly ditty based on a Punjabi folk song to help him shift more. Someone recorded it. It got three million hits on YouTube. He made it to the early rounds of *The X Factor*. Now Warners are putting it out to satiate demand for his, er, tunery.

CRACKER OR TURKEY?

More authentically neo-globalist pop than a stack of MIA records balanced on top of a stack of Yeasayer records on the back of a Delhi rickshaw. If you're looking for the sound of the 21st century, and enjoy hearing about high-quality, low-cost fish, this is the song for you.

ODDS: 1/1

It's as Christmassy as getting pissed in a Wetherspoon's

4 THE GRANNY'S FAVOURITE ONE

Ladywell Primary School

'O Holy Night'

WHAT'S IT LIKE?

In November, six year-old Glasgow native Caden Beggan lost his fight against childhood meningitis. His classmates have recorded a new version of the carol that they are selling through iTunes to raise money for meningitis research. Their campaign has caught on, and so far the song has climbed as high as Number 23 in the iTunes charts.

CRACKER OR TURKEY?

Well, it's a lot of kids singing in memory of a kid who died. No LOLs here.

ODDS: 14/1

5 THE REIGNING CHAMPS' ONE

Military Wives

'Stronger Together'

WHAT'S IT LIKE?

The gals whose chief qualification for pop success is that they have regular sex with men who fight for a living romped home last year, selling 600,000 with

a little help from Gareth Malone's subtly manipulative documentary and a massively manipulative song. They had a new album out in November, but without a new TV spot, they're not tilting full-speed for the top of the charts like they once were.

CRACKER OR TURKEY?

Crurcey.

ODDS: 20/1

6 THE ONE-HIT WONDER ONE

Carly Rae Jepsen

'This Kiss'

WHAT'S IT LIKE?

Fresh from trying to seduce homosexuals on the year's biggest pop hit, the *Canadian Idol* third-placer returns to the fray with an equally disturbing lyric about the joys of snogging

someone behind your other half's back. It's out on December 10.

CRACKER OR TURKEY?

A disappointingly limp piece of by-numbers synthpop, the only bit that could ever get anyone's motor revving is when they stick her voice through some effects that make it sound like she's talking on a dodgy Skype connection.

ODDS: 35/1

7 THE THEY-TRY-EVERY-YEAR ONE

The Killers

'I Feel It In My Bones'

WHAT'S IT LIKE?

For the past seven years, even when they were officially 'on hiatus', The Killers have indulged themselves by putting out a Christmas single, generally in support of Aids charity RED. This one is a sequel to 2007's 'Don't Shoot Me, Santa'.

CRACKER OR TURKEY?

As quintessentially Christmassy as getting mind-bendingly pissed in a Wetherspoon's with people you barely know then losing your jumper and ringing them up the next day only for them to tell you they haven't got it.

ODDS: 40/1

8 THE IN-AN-AD, INNIT ONE

Gabrielle Aplin

'The Power Of Love'

WHAT'S IT LIKE?

Ever since Ellie Goulding rescued her career by singing Elton John's 'Your Song' for John Lewis' Christmas campaign two years ago, gangs of managers have queued up outside their ad agency with demo tapes of wispy-voiced Birdy-alikes playing flat piano chords. This year, it's the turn of Gabrielle Aplin, who "gained a following online after publishing acoustic covers of songs by bands such as Paramore and You Me At Six on YouTube", it says here. She has recorded a cover of Frankie's famous festive chart-topper that has nothing much to do with Christmas.

CRACKER OR TURKEY?

For a scary child singing about love as though she is dying of emphysema, it's surprisingly moving.

ODDS: 20/1

9 THE SINGLE FROM A GREATEST HITS ONE

Girls Aloud

'Beautiful 'Cause You Love Me'

WHAT'S IT LIKE?

The Girls are creaking their bones

round the PR circuit for one last wheeze before they dissolve back into mutual loathing. Things don't bode well, though. In November, the first single from their new career-spanning greatest hits record was beaten to the top spot by Olly Murs.

CRACKER OR TURKEY?

So workmanlike, you can see the crack of its arse when it bends over.

ODDS: 10/1

10 THE BUY THIS DRESS ONE

Kate Bosworth

'Winter Wonderland'

WHAT'S IT LIKE?

Remember chopped'n'screwed? Those 20-minute drawn-out versions of Justin Bieber songs that ended up sounding like Sigur Rós? It's a bit like that. This glacial-paced minimal rewrite is primarily an excuse for actress Kate Bosworth to star in a video in which she wears a spangly sequined Topshop dress, while a single camera rotates around her. Topshop have paid for all this and say they're angling for a Number One.

CRACKER OR TURKEY?

Well, the dress is nice. Kate Bosworth certainly knows how to stand still while a camera revolves. The song? Zzzzzzz.

THE HOLLIES AND THE IVY

John Power on 'He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother'



How did you become involved with the Hillsborough campaign?

"It's in people's minds because of the independent inquiry this year, so we decided to do something and it's grown and grown."

Beyond the money going to victims' families - would getting to Number One be a kind of moral validation? "It's kind of a little celebration that the truth is coming out now."

Did you get to hang out with Macca?

"No, I was bumping into people like Peter Hooton, Mick Jones, Jon from Reverend And The Makers..."

Are you glad to be tanning the rump of *The X Factor*?

"I have to thank *The X Factor* for making me completely stop watching TV. I find the whole thing slightly offensive."

What about your outsider rival - 'The £1 Fish Song'?

"I haven't heard it, but let the public decide. If 'The £1 Fish Song' gets there, then so be it."



LOST IN CREATION

Mark Beaumont heads to Tokyo to get the lowdown on former Creation boss Alan McGee's new venture

In downtown Tokyo, 'Loveless' means something very different to the seminal album from Creation Records alumni My Bloody Valentine.

"It's a sex shop," says Takashi Yano, pointing out a dark-windowed store in the Shibuya district.

Not only is Yano the man behind bringing Kevin Shields and co to headline his Tokyo Rocks festival in May next year, he's also responsible for bringing Creation founder Alan McGee out of his self-imposed retirement in rural Wales. McGee is curating Tokyo Rocks for the second year running and has been inspired to set up a new record label.

"I had absolutely zero intention of doing anything in music," says McGee of his first rock action since he quit managing bands in 2008, following the demise of his post-Creation label Poptones. "People have been trying to get me to get involved, bands asking me to manage them and people trying to get me to start labels, for about four years."

But it was an invitation from Tokyo that really caught his eye and, before he knew it, McGee had helped book Primal Scream to headline Tokyo Rocks 2012, which is where he met his new collaborator Yano. "He's the first person

I've met in the music industry in years that's inspired me. He's very Creation in that way of 'Can we be the fucking biggest?' In a lot of ways I met my match in Japan. All the people in Europe that I meet in the music business always look as though

they're about to commit suicide!" The pair soon hatched plans for a new kind of record label. "We were talking

Tokyo Rocks star Yojiro Noya



"Geez peace a chance, man"

"Aye, my hat should match my stained glass windae"

about a new move," says Yano. "It's not the 1990s so it's not only CDs; we'll do the festival and tours and create new music communication."

Expanding on this, McGee says: "It's gonna have to be more of a communication company than a record label. We've got to go into business with bands because I don't think it works to just sell their CDs and downloads any more. I hate to call it a 'lifestyle brand' because I don't mean it like that, but you're getting the idea."

The new model will also get a new name: "We threw away the idea of Creation pretty immediately because Creation was Creation – it was what it was but it's done. I felt uncomfortable after I thought about it, calling it Creation," he adds.

As for new bands, McGee says there's "about four new bands I'd definitely sign and about three old bands – when you say 'old', they've been around for a bit – that have great attitude and I would do them as well. But it's conjecture at the moment."

One thing that is set in – rather ancient – stone is the location of the as-yet-nameless label's HQ. "There's this little town about five miles down the road from my house in Wales and I bought its chapel in an auction," he explains. "I bought it for next to nothing, about 30-odd grand, and that's going to be HQ when we get around to doing the label. I'm half thinking about buying the mental institution! It'd be amazing to go, 'Gillespie, d'you want to put a gig on in a mental institution?' I'm sure they'd be up for it."

Given McGee's new Japanese connection and his work on Tokyo Rocks 2013 – a two-day event in May 2013 at the Ajinomoto Stadium in Tokyo – he's currently working on scouting out the Far East's answer to Oasis. "In Japan it's like how music used to be 20 years ago," he says. "What's not permeated Japanese culture is that

"Music biz people in Europe always look suicidal"

ALAN MCGEE

X Factor culture; rock'n'roll culture is still massive. They've still got a rock'n'roll backbeat to the music."

One major act leading Japan's new rock charge is Illion, second on to MBV at the festival, and the solo project from Japan's biggest rock star Yojiro Noda, whom McGee describes as "Kevin Shields from Asia". "If I'm going to do music I want to do it outside Japan as well," Yojiro says of his music, which marries the esoteric rock of Local Natives with Radiohead's electronica. "Of course I'm influenced by music from the UK but I have traditional Japanese sounds as well and I'm confident that I can do well in the UK too," he says.

McGEE'S GUIDE TO RESTARTING A LABEL

STEP ONE: GET INSPIRED

Early 2012: McGee meets Tokyo festival promoter Takashi Yano to talk over potential label ideas. "Takashi's flying the flag for all of us," McGee says. "He thinks left-of-centre but thinks big. I went 'Yeah, OK, I'll do it with you because you're a fucking headcase!'"

STEP TWO: GET INVOLVED

May 2012: After being out of the rock circuit for a few years, McGee DJed at Tokyo Rocks 2012: "The Primals played and 30,000 people showed up, it was nuts," he says.

STEP THREE: GET A TEAM

Aside from Takashi, McGee's putting together a motley crew of collaborators including "a great guy I found that owned a studio".

STEP FOUR: GET A CONCEPT

After realising that the traditional record label model wouldn't work for them, the group are planning on overseeing a business partnership with bands, becoming a badge of affiliation rather than a distributor of CDs and downloads, and taking in tours, festivals and communications.

STEP FIVE: GET A BASE

Or, in McGee's case, buy an actual chapel in deepest Wales. "I've got a graveyard!" he says. "I've got to cut the grass though, keep the locals happy. It's fucking massive!"

STEP SIX: GET BANDS

Although he's keeping it under his hat at the moment, McGee's plotting to get some big bands: "There's bands I really believe in that I think have got a great attitude and have got tunes, but let's just see where it goes."

Before the new label can properly get up and running, however, McGee is hard at work finalising the Tokyo Rocks bill, working on a new film called *Kubricks* with writer/director Dean Cavanagh, compiling his memoirs and setting about "suing the *News Of The World* for phone hacking". But despite this flurry of activity, he's not about to jump on his former party bandwagon and return to his hedonistic ways.

"I'm in the middle of doing the chapel up," he laughs. "I'm going to put on old-age pensioner tea dances there. The local OAPs have asked so I'm gonna let them do their tea dances there. I go from rural Wales to stadiums in Tokyo – somewhere there's a join!"



'QR reader'. Download the QR reader and scan the QR code on this page to get extra features, info and video footage. Mobile network and/or wi-fi charges may apply.

hmv
hmv.com

TO ENTER
Go to your smartphone's app store and type in

If you haven't got a smartphone, go to NME.COM/extra.



NME EXTRA WIN £500 WORTH OF HMV SWAG

The thought of shopping for Christmas presents filling you with dread? Fear not, because HMV are a one-stop shop for the best pressies, offering all the latest tech gear, tablets, headphones and speakers as well as a huge range of CDs, DVDs, books, vinyl and band merchandise. Now

they're offering one NME reader the chance to win a massive bag of HMV swag including Beats by Dr Dre headphones, a Gear4 Union Jack Street Party dock, a Muse vinyl box-set, a Led Zeppelin special-edition 'Celebration Day' live CD and DVD, a stash of DVDs, a signed copy of Duff

McKagan's book and – deep breath – a bundle of this year's best CDs, including a signed copy of Two Door Cinema Club's 'Beacon', Alt-J's 'An Awesome Wave', Example's 'Evolution Of Man', The xx's 'Coexist' and more.

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

FROM THE NME NEWSROOM

LITTLE DRUMMER BOYS

Former Razorlight drummer Andy Burrows has enlisted Muse's Dom Howard to record a theme tune for the sequel to Christmas classic *The Snowman*, titled *The Snowman And The Snowdog*. Watch out, Aled.



BONNIE PRINCE SMELLY

Alt.folk-rocker Bonnie Prince Billy has launched his own aftershave. It's an unlikely step into the fragrance market for the hirsute singer, with a bottle of his beardy scent on offer for the bargain price of \$220 (£136).

LIVE FAUX-EVER

Like Pamela Anderson and Pink before him, Liam Gallagher has taken a stand against the use of fur in fashion and banned it in his Pretty Green stores. The animals can rejoice while the hoods on millions of parkas look set to go unlined this Christmas.

COD YOU BE LOVED

Bob Marley's family have settled a lawsuit against his half-brother after the family member was accused of illegally using the Marley name to sell fishcakes and energy drinks.

HOT CHIP(S THE GOALKEEPER)

Hot Chip have teamed up with comedian Peter Serafinowicz for the animated video to their single 'Don't Deny Your Heart'. The clip is a football computer game tribute that culminates in players getting off with each other. You don't see that on *Match Of The Day* very often.



TALKING
HEADSSHAUN RYDER:
WHY I LOVE UFOS

Happy Mondays singer makes TV show to prove existence of aliens

I've been fascinated by UFOs since I was a kid. In 1978, I saw something that defies physics – an object flying around the sky at about five or six thousand miles an hour. I was in Salford on my way to work as a post boy. I wasn't high or nothing. And it wasn't just me that saw it. There were a couple of girls that'd seen it, and a schoolboy.

"I've been away the past few weeks chasing UFOs around the world for a TV show, *Shaun Ryder On UFOs* [due next year on History]. My recent investigations led to me to Chile, which was great because Chile don't keep any of this shit secret. I've got pilots flying to the Chile airports telling me they've seen things that, you know, aren't from this world. The Chilean military are so fucking inviting to you – 'Come in, we'll show you all our files and our secret films, have a cup of coffee'.

"I've seen one film that looks like fucking *Starship Troopers* coming out of the sky on pogo sticks, right? And they're going towards the ground coming out of the sky, and when they've spotted people taking film of



Amazingly, he doesn't even do drugs any more

them, they disappear back up in the sky. That's authenticated film.

"So I'm a believer. You'd be pretty stupid if you thought we was all alone in the universe. But I wouldn't say I'm a ufologist. A lot of ufologists, are fucking up it, mate. They're not ufologists, they're just fucking raving bonkers, just absolute knobheads. Then you've got some that are really smart and intellectual – scientists.

"A lot of musicians are into UFOs – it's because we've got incredibly intelligent brains. Robbie Williams loves them and he's fucking, you know, genius! I have no idea what I'd do if I actually made contact. I probably wouldn't like to talk to an alien. I'd probably die of a fucking heart attack."

Happy Mondays play London's Roundhouse on December 19 and 20

PETE'S NEW FILM IS A CRAZY SHAMBLES

'Confession...' comes out to awful reviews and Pete doesn't show up at the premiere

Surfing into London's Leicester Square on a tide of extremely scathing reviews, Pete Doherty's film *Confession Of A Child Of The Century* is out in cinemas now. Naturally, Pete failed to turn up to its premiere in the UK capital last week (December 3).

Directed by Sylvie Verheyde and also starring Charlotte Gainsbourg (with whom leading man Pete had an affair during filming, hence she didn't show up to the premiere either), the film sees Pete as Octave, ambling around the French countryside in an enormous top hat, pursuing a relationship with Gainsbourg's Brigitte after they bond by bumping into a friendly goat on a country walk.

Here are five things we learned from the premiere...

1. THERE'S A GOOD REASON WHY HE DIDN'T SHOW UP

"He wanted to come, but maybe he's anxious," director Verheyde told the crowd before it started. Actor Josephine de la Baume added: "He used to work here and steal a bunch of stuff."

2. CARL MIGHT NOT LIKE IT

Early in the film Pete's voiceover declares: "It was not long before the whole of Paris had deemed me the greatest Libertine."

3. HE GETS BETTER AT SHAGGING

Although things get better for

him later in the movie, in Pete's first sex scene he pukes while pumping away – a bit like Chelsea's Ashley Cole in that tabloid story a while back (Google it, if you've got the stomach).

4. IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE IN FRENCH

Confession... was supposed to have French dialogue, but it had to be switched to English after Pete came on board. "I speak bad English," Verheyde confessed, "and, er, he speaks bad French."



"Oh my god, it's had worse reviews than 'Shotter's Nation'"

5. HIS CHAT-UP TECHNIQUE IS CRACKING

Pete's opening gambit to a lady at a particularly debauched party? "Have you been loved? Do you want to be loved?" It gets better. His first words to Brigitte (when they're stroking a goat): "I was wondering why God created you. Was it to heal those who suffer?" Guess it beats "Do you come here often?"

THE BEST OF NME VIDEO.COM THIS WEEK



METALLICANADIANS

<http://ow.ly/f1470>

See Metallica at their monstrous best in this preview of their DVD *Quebec Magnetic*.

CLICK: 00:30 – He's going to fall over if he keeps that up.



FROST STAR

<http://ow.ly/f145x>

Charlie Simpson braves a Siberian winter to play the world's coldest ever gig.

CLICK: 00:45 – He's a record breaker!



NIGHTMARE VISION

<http://ow.ly/f14U6>

Tune-Yards' bassist Naytronix debuts the new video for 'Nightmare'.

CLICK: 2:48 – WAIT, IS THAT TOM MORELLO? NO, NO IT ISN'T.



SHONEN HEART ATTACK

<http://ow.ly/f1hkf>

Mariko Doi of Yuck's other band, Parakeet. They're The Breeders to Yuck's Pixies.

CLICK: 3:39 – Purple haze!

THE
DEBATE

'I'M BRINGING MYSPACE BACK': CAN JUSTIN DO IT?

Justin Timberlake has bought a significant stake in Myspace. Can he save the ailing social network from oblivion? **Luke Lewis** and **Al Horner** battle it out



AL: If anyone can bring sexy back to Myspace, JT can. After all, just like his new purchase,

Timberlake's second coming – from cauliflower-haired 'NSync pin-up to solo megastar – wasn't supposed to amount to anything, but look how that ended: one of the landmark pop records of our time, with a whopping 11 million copies sold worldwide. While the ability to mount a monumental chart comeback isn't the same as rescuing a dying social media brand, Timberlake has proved he's the master of reinvention and knows exactly what people want.



LUKE: You're pinning your hopes on a former member of 'NSync? The artist formerly known as Trousersnake? People

have this idea that Timberlake is some kind of digital guru, purely because he played one in *The Social Network*. It's insane. Beyond enabling a hundred "bringing sexy back to Myspace" headlines, what's he actually good for? But that's precisely the problem with the Myspace 'comeback'. It's all style, no substance. The other month they produced a fancy, expensive-looking demo and everyone went 'Oooh!' But it didn't answer the fundamental question: what role is Myspace supposed to fill in our lives? What on earth do we really need it for in 2012?

AL: Let's put this another way: it's been a long time since Weezer stomped a 'Blue Album'-shaped hole in my life and the years since haven't been an easy ride for me and my fellow Rivers Cuomo fans. So much so there should really be some sort of support group (I'm pretty sure their Lil Wayne collaboration gave me post-traumatic stress disorder). But if they were to release a new album tomorrow I'd give it the respect of an open mind because, like Myspace, they had a huge impact on my teen years. Plus, Facebook and Twitter might not exist had Myspace not led the way with social media. Think about that before your next hilarious anti-Myspace status update.

LUKE: Yes, Myspace was big when you were a teenager. But so were Razorlight. Do we really need to go back there?

Starring in *The Social Network* doesn't actually make you Mark Zuckerberg, y'know



Myspace thrived for a simple reason: it was where you went to hear free music. That was a novelty in 2005. Now we have YouTube, Spotify, Deezer and numerous other places, all competing with each other. There's no gap in the market for Myspace to fill – things are overcrowded as it is. As if we're not exhausted enough, updating Instagram, Tumblr, Twitter and all the rest. Now we have to log in to bloody Myspace again as well? Sorry. I can't face it.

AL: Did Razorlight change the music-consumption habits of a generation and pave the way for further innovations in their field? No, they just swaggered around looking silly 'til the world got bored. Myspace innovated then, and judging by early tester reports, they're innovating again now. One of the sad

ways the internet has changed music is that album artwork gradually became redundant. The new Myspace is visual-heavy, more so than Deezer or Spotify, so it could deliver a richer experience than those platforms. That's exciting.

LUKE: That's pure nostalgia. Myspace has been off the radar for just long enough that people now feel a twinge of affection for it. Cast your mind back just a couple of years: people *hated* Myspace. It was a joke, a throwback. People were chortling gleefully over its troubles. Now the great wheel of nostalgia has turned in its favour – but it won't last. 'New Myspace' is roughly as welcome as The Darkness' comeback. As in: good on them for not giving up. But we've all moved on. Time to give it a rest.

THE NME CHART

- 1 **NEW** THE KILLERS
'HERE WITH ME'
Island
- 2 **NEW** IMAGINE DRAGONS
'RADIOACTIVE'
Interscope
- 3 **NEW** MUSE
'FOLLOW ME'
Warner
- 4 3 JAKE BUGG
'TWO FINGERS'
Mercury
- 5 15 WILLY MOON
'YEAH YEAH'
Island
- 6 17 TWO DOOR CINEMA CLUB
'SUN'
Kitsuné Music
- 7 7 BLOC PARTY
'KETTILING'
Frenchkiss
- 8 20 OF MONSTERS AND MEN
'MOUNTAIN SOUND'
Island
- 9 10 MUMFORD & SONS
'LOVER OF THE LIGHT'
Island
- 10 2 BASTILLE
'FLAWS'
Virgin/EMI
- 11 **NEW** HOT CHIP
'DON'T DENY YOUR HEART'
Domino
- 12 **NEW** ALT-J
'MATILDA'
Infectious
- 13 11 GREEN DAY
'STRAY HEART'
Warner
- 14 **NEW** FOALS
'INHALER'
Transgressive
- 15 9 BEN HOWARD
'OATS IN THE WATER'
Island
- 16 13 THE VACCINES
'I ALWAYS KNEW'
Columbia
- 17 **NEW** BIFFY CLYRO
'BLACK CHANDELIER'
Warner
- 18 19 LIANNE LA HAVAS
'AGE'
Island
- 19 6 THE LUMINEERS
'HO HEY'
Dualtone Music
- 20 8 DJANGO DJANGO
'LIFE'S A BEACH'
Ribbon Music

**NME
RADIO**

Hear the chart
rundown first
every Monday at
7pm on NME Radio
NME.COM/RADIO

The NME Chart is compiled each week by NME Radio and is based on how many times each track has been played on the station over the previous seven days.

THE KING'S SPEECH

At Christmas we turn to our leaders for words of wisdom and truth. So it is that Paul Weller offers his manifesto to wake up the nation. Long live the Modfather...

“**M**usically, 2012 has been really great. I just started getting excited again by loads of new stuff: the Toy album is amazing, Melody's Echo Chamber, Lucy Rose... and Palma Violets being on the cover of *NME* was fantastic. Their single is really good. And Jake Bugg, I like him, and how he's

saying he's against all the *X Factor* shite.

I just got a vibe that there's some bands coming up who are doing things for the right reasons, who are into doing their thing and not driven by success or commercialism.

“One of my highlights of the year was the first gigs we did at the Roundhouse in London for 'Sonik

Kicks', playing it in full. That was a statement, just 'cos I'm sick of all these fucking bands getting back together all the time. I did go and see The Stone Roses at their London show, and it was good, and it's great for them: they're much bigger now than they ever were back then. But I'm more interested in what's going on now, and what's going on tomorrow.

“I watched loads of the Olympics. It was great how excited everyone got about it, and it brought about a great national pride, but in the nicest way possible. When you see Mo Farah or Jessica Ennis and, obviously, Bradley Wiggins, they're people who've worked fucking hard to get where they are, who are at the top of their game. Again, they're doing things for the right reasons and it's inspiring. Hopefully, it's the start of us getting away from celebrity culture and fame for fame's sake, and we can get back to people being known for being good.

“As for me, I'm at home for Christmas with the twins [John Paul and Bowie, born in January this year], but in terms of 2013, I don't know. I've been working on a soundtrack thing, for a British film. I don't wanna say too much about it yet 'cos it's early stages, but I'm really excited about that, about doing a whole soundtrack. I'm also gonna do a couple of bits on Miles Kane's album – his new stuff sounds great. And I want to do more gigs, just because I'm still really into the live thing. I just feel like generally it's a good time at the moment. And next year will be as well.”

Paul Weller

“**IT'S A GOOD TIME
AT THE MOMENT.
AND NEXT YEAR
WILL BE AS WELL**”

PAUL WELLER

*Merry
Christmas*



“CHRISTMASSES? I DON'T REMEMBER A LOT OF 'EM...”

After two incredible 50th anniversary shows at the O2, **Keith Richards** is on a high. He tells **Hamish MacBain** all about his plans for Christmas and, more excitingly, how he's expecting to have a busy 2013 with the Stones

How strange. It is Friday, 5:30pm and, rather than doing what I'd normally be doing at this time – taking Alt-J off the office stereo and replacing it with the somewhat more mood-enhancing sounds of The Rolling Stones – I'm sat by the phone, waiting for one of The Rolling Stones to call. And if I were to tell you that it is THE Rolling Stone then... well, the picture on the opposite page has given the game away, but even if it hadn't, you'd still know who I was talking about, right?

Whenever we're talking about who we should put on the cover of the Christmas issue of *NME*, we always figure it needs to be someone who has owned the last 12 months, but also someone who'll make everyone smile and make everyone excited about what's happened this year and what is going to happen next year. Now, up until last week, had you asked me what the event of 2012 was I'd have said the Olympic Opening Ceremony or The Stone Roses finally playing together again or whatever. If you had asked me what my gig of the year was, I'd have said Pond somewhere in Texas, The Stone Roses in Warrington, or Palma Violets in their house. But then, right at the end of November, I found myself in the O2 Arena, witnessing the Greatest Rock'N'Roll Band In The World, 50 years young, ending a year of rumours, retrospect and near-riots over ticket prices, by being just that. The Rolling Stones felt *vital*. And all of a sudden, everything else I just mentioned above seemed to pale in comparison.

So we decided that on the cover we wanted the man who for half a century has been the beating heart of the Stones. Here – just behind the beat, as ever, at 5:31 – he comes. If a picture is worth a thousand words, and '(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction's riff is worth twice that, then that instantly recognisable, beautifully guttural croak of laughter is a whole novel. And a novel which, as Keith Richards will explain, is still a long way from its conclusion.

NME: So it's the evening after the night before: you played your second and final O2 Arena show last night. How do you feel? How do The Rolling Stones feel?

Keith: “Oh, the band's riding high, man, it's been a couple of great shows. It was a real kick in the pants for us all. And it seems to have all gone down well. After being off the road for

“

THE WHOLE POINT
OF ROCK'N'ROLL IS
TO BE A LITTLE
FREE AND EASY”

KEITH RICHARDS

five years... we were having a ball up there, but it was relaxed and everybody was on form. We all enjoyed ourselves like mad. It was great to play with Bill [Wyman] again – to look round and see the man-mountain there was quite a turn-on onstage. And Mick Taylor, playing his arse off, it was a real joy to play together again. I mean, it's been 40-odd years since I played with Taylor.”

That was not something I, or many people, imagined they would see.

“Well, there you go. The Stones will always pull some surprises.”

How did you go about sorting out what to play?

“We thought, 'It's 50 years, so let's not get chronological, but let's bear it in mind, so let's

start off with some early stuff'. We rehearsed about 150 songs. It's a big well to draw from.” It was nice that you mixed it up quite a bit. A lot of big bands these days play exactly the same set, every single night. “That's pathetic, man. That must drive them mad! The whole point of rock'n'roll is to be a little free and easy, and have some fun at it and take a few chances with it. I mean, you're not in the bloody army, you know?”

On both nights, Mick made a joke of all the kerfuffle there has been over the price of the tickets. On reflection, do you think the prices were fair?

“Whatever the market will bear, man. You know, whatever came through, we chose the best deal ticket-price-wise that we could. Anything else that was on the table would've been even more. So we're just doing the best we can. It takes a lot of money to put those shows on, and we live in those kind of times. At the same time, those tickets were snapped up in four minutes, so it obviously ain't too painful, is it?”

You had Florence Welch on one of the nights doing 'Gimme Shelter'. You a fan? “I've never met her before or seen her work, but I just went, 'Wow, there's a strong voice'. And as it turned out, she's a hell of a performer. I mean, she gave Mick a run for his money! And she can move. Great fun, lovely girl. We'd do it again.”

Is there much other new music that floats your boat? Do you keep up with it? “There's this one cat called K'Naan, from Somalia, now works out of New York, who's got some good stuff going. But I don't play keep-up, no. If I hear something that I like, I say that's nice, and I'll chop the track out. But otherwise, I just listen to what I've always listened to, which is rhythm and blues and blues, that's my staple diet. And a dose of country music, and a touch of Mozart.”

A big music story this year was The Stone Roses getting back together.

Do you know their stuff?

“No, I don't. I know they're a pretty good band and everything, but look, the only





Stones I've been involved in this year has been The Rolling Stones. So great that they've reformed, and I hope that they enjoy it as much as we do."

What about the Olympics? Did you watch much of it?

"I watched nearly all of it, as much as I could. There was a lot of it! And hey, what about Bolt, from Jamaica, my other home island! He was amazing. I saw the Queen jump out of the plane, which I thought was great... but otherwise this year I've been slowly working on constructing what we've just put together. Pulling the band together at the beginning of the year..."

Naturally, with the 50th anniversary comes a lot of looking back. There's 'GRRR!', the new greatest hits collection; the film *Crossfire Hurricane*; you did the book the year before... is reflecting on all that you've done something you enjoy?

"Of course it is! Yeah. I wouldn't be here talking to you if I didn't enjoy it. Ninety per cent of the element of what we do is: you've gotta enjoy it, you've gotta love it, and that's the way it is. You don't get this for free, you know?"

You went to the *Crossfire Hurricane* premiere, and sat and watched it with Mick, Charlie, Ronnie and Bill Wyman. What did you all think of it?

"We felt that Brett Morgen had done a great job, and found some incredible footage, and stuck to pretty much the story of the band, without getting carried away too much with, er... extraneous affairs."

Which is not to say they were not included...

"There was a lot of footage I hadn't seen before, where I was like: 'Oh, I didn't know there was a cameraman there!' But a good cameraman, you don't notice them: they're your friend, so you can capture moments that you're unaware of, which can be fun."

What do you think now when you see the 18-year-old Keith Richards on screen?

"I just wish him well, man. It's a long road!"

On 'GRRR!' all those riffs are collected once again. Which, to you, is the best?

"You gotta say that '...Satisfaction' grabbed the whole thing. But to play? 'Jumpin' Jack Flash' is a killer guitar rock'n'roll riff to play. It just floats there, baby."

If you're ever just sat around at home, on the sofa with a guitar, do you ever just play 'Jumpin' Jack Flash' to yourself?

"Oh yeah. Sometimes just to keep my hand in. But if I sit around and play guitar I play other people's stuff: old Buddy Holly, or Everly Brothers, and just figure out some chords. But usually what happens if you do that, after a little while something else crops up, and then you find you're on the trail of a song somewhere. That's what I do. You sit down and play and, some days, an idea pops up, and you nag it to death."

Speaking of which, the reaction to 'Doom And Gloom' was great. Is there more new Stones music on the way?

"Oh yeah, why not? That's what I mean. We got two tracks there, within a month."

Clockwise from left: Keef onstage at the 02, November 25; Mick Jagger does a Jay Kay (Nov 25) before being outlugged by Flo (Nov 29)

Anything's possible now. This whole thing just seems to be gathering momentum again. So, at the moment, we've got these shows, and then you're into New Year and I guess everybody's... well, without saying anything, everybody's thinking."

So more gigs? Can you tell us anything?

"There's some more things in the works, definitely, I get the feeling now, yeah."

We keep hearing rumours around these parts about Glastonbury...

"That's a good one. I'm really going to be guilty here of leaving that one up in the air. I mean I'd love to. But look, I don't know

“

**FLORENCE GAVE
MICK A RUN FOR
HIS MONEY.
LOVELY GIRL!”**

KEITH RICHARDS



The Barrel Tree in Lynchburg, Tennessee. All 140 barrels of it.


THIS YEAR, THE BIGGEST GIFT ISN'T UNDER THE TREE. IT IS THE TREE.

This holiday season, with the raising of our Barrel Tree in Lynchburg, Tennessee, we're pleased to announce the raising of a second Barrel Tree in Covent Garden, London. So if you can't make it to Lynchburg during the holidays, there's a Barrel Tree a little closer to home. It's our way of saying "Happy Holidays." And remember, it's not what's under the tree that matters. It's who's around it.

Come celebrate with us.

See the raising of the Barrel Tree at facebook.com/jackdanielsUK or jackdaniels.com



JACK DANIEL'S  TENNESSEE WHISKEY

It ain't called sippin' whiskey for nothing. Please drink responsibly.

©2012 Jack Daniel's. All rights reserved. JACK DANIEL'S and OLD NO. 7 are registered trademarks.

See the facts. drinkaware.co.uk



“ I'D LOVE TO PLAY GLASTONBURY. ANYTHING'S POSSIBLE...”

KEITH RICHARDS

anything about next year at the moment, I really don't. We're just getting this year under our belts. But anything's possible, that's all I can say. But if it could happen, I'd love to.” The Rolling Stones were 50 this year, but *NME* was 60...

“Oh, so you got to on me, huh? Heh heh...” Did you read it when you were younger? “Yeah man, I probably had the first issue. It was about the time when I was starting to get into music, and into the charts, and musicians and stuff. I guess I started reading it around '57, '58... I was a regular subscriber for many years! And to go from one minute reading it, to the next minute being in it... there were amazing things happening. It all happened at once and you're only 19, and you think you've gone to heaven.”

On the second night at the O2 Mick said: “This is close to where Keith and I grew up in Dartford, but it seems a long way from exchanging records at the station.”

Have you still got that Bo Diddley record, Keith? Any idea where it is? “You know what, I think he stole it back. Or Brian Jones nicked it. I could never figure out where it went. When were all living together all the records went into a communal pool...” I think my ‘Sticky Fingers’ LP went the same way a few years ago. “So you know what I mean, right? It became a game of, ‘Where's my, where's my...’ It was all very communistic when we were starting out as a band.”

So what does Keith Richards do for Christmas? Any plans?

“Christmas Day, I'm going down to the islands. I'll see everybody up on New Year's, but on Christmas Eve, I'll get out and get some sun...”

Do the Stones exchange Christmas gifts?

“Oh yeah. Sometimes they don't arrive actually on Christmas, sometimes before, and sometimes afterwards. But we always exchange something. It's normally something you see or you pick up and you think, ‘Oh Charlie'll love that.’ But it might not be exactly at Christmas, because we're not that punctual!”

So what's the best gift Charlie, Ronnie or Mick has ever given you?

“Wow, that's a rough one. Let me think... Charlie's given me some incredible things over the years, but they're silly things, like in-jokes and stuff. I can't remember the best one I got, but I remember I once found a Biggles puppet, with a parachute, beautiful 'zos job with all the gear on. And Charlie and I have always had a thing about Biggles, so I sent him that. It's still dangling from his ceiling somewhere.”

What's the wildest Christmas you've ever had?

“Oh Christmases, I don't remember a lot of them. Because if it's a good one, you're not allowed to really, are you? Heh heh heh!”

From left: Keef in Jamaica, or ‘Mr June’ from the Official Keef Calendar 2013; “What fucking joker brought a copy of ‘She’s The Boss?’”; Keith at the London premiere of *Crossfire Hurricane*

KEEF'S CHRISTMAS DAY?

This is how we reckon it might pan out

3PM

A snoring Keef is awoken by the friendly lick of a heavily tattooed cow wearing a Santa beard (how'd that get in here?). Keef soon realises that not only is he upside-down, but that his famously labyrinthine hair has become horribly entangled in his Christmas tree.

Depp. The conversation seems a little stilted – and is repeatedly interrupted by that elf ponce from off that wizards thing – until Keef realises that he's actually watching BBC One's big Christmas Day film, *Pirates Of The Caribbean 2*.

8PM

A biker-chick gang arrive after an armed raid on a nearby turkey farm, festooned with gobble-gobbling birds and terrified teenage farmhands. Keef pours everyone a festive stocking of flaming brandy, before taking to the guitar to lead a singalong of ‘Honky Tonk Snowman’.

3.45PM

Following a quick (dozen) cheeky (bottles of) sherry, Keef sets about opening the presents from his bandmates: Charlie Watts – hooray, 200 fags! – Ronnie Wood – hooray, 200 fags! – and Mick Jagger – 10 fags. Cheap git. Keef consoles himself with the mental image of Mick's face as he opens his gift: a “Who the fuck is Mick Jagger?” T-shirt, same as every year.

5PM

After smoking a box of Christmas crackers Keef settles down for a Skype chat with Johnny

11PM

With a start, Keef realises that it's not actually Christmas Day 2012 at all – it's August 15, 1971, and he's in a five-star motel in Texas, utterly off his tit-margins on mescaline milkshakes and PCP soup. Woah. And how'd this far-out cow get in here...?

'TIS THE SEASON TO BE BIFFY

Biffy Clyro like to keep Christmas traditional – when they're not freezing their tats off onstage, that is

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR CHRISTMAS?

James Johnston, bass: “We’ve spent quite a lot of time away from home this year making the record, and that places more importance on family. So it’ll be a fairly typical Christmas-jumpers-on affair, sitting in front of the fire. Have a nice meal, probably get the guitars out late at night and have a few whiskies.”

WILL YOU WATCH THE QUEEN'S SPEECH?

James: “I like a bit of tradition, and it’s one of those times I always think about my grandfather, who’s no longer with us, who always used to make us watch the Queen’s speech at three o’clock. He’d stand up and salute, which is deeply unfashionable in a way but I kinda like some of those things.”

WHAT PRESENTS ARE YOU GETTING THIS YEAR?

James: “I want to get motorcycle glasses. The guys gave me a funny look when I suggested it but I’m gonna go for it. I don’t have my licence yet but I’m hoping if I buy all the bits and bobs it’ll spur me on to get it next year. I’ll have the goggles and the cravat and the big boots but no bike.”

WHO GOES MADDEST OVER CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR?

James: “Traditionally that would’ve been Benny [Johnston, drums] but he’s having a bit of a quiet time at the moment, so it’s a toss-up between Simon [Neil, singer] and I. Simon had an amazing party last year on Hogmanay. He dressed up as a Norwegian black metallar with his Darkthrone T-shirt on and he put a pillow inside his jersey with face paint all over. Also, a couple of years ago we played the Hogmanay show at Princes Street Gardens in Edinburgh. That was fun to play outdoors with our tops off, seeing everybody else shivering in their jackets. Once we got going it was OK, but it was pretty cold going onstage. Our nipples would’ve taken your eye out.”

WHAT'S YOUR RECIPE FOR THE PERFECT HARD ROCK CHRISTMAS?

James: “Definitely some sort of drink, either Jägermeister or whisky. I don’t know if it’s that rocking to put on Christmas tunes, but it’s a good chance to listen to some of your favourite records you’ve discovered over the past year and make your parents go, ‘What the fuck are you listening to?’”

The festive chest expander was a big hit with the boys

MERRY CHRISTMAS

“

OUR NIPPLES
WOULD'VE TAKEN
YOUR EYE OUT”

JAMES JOHNSTON

A VERY MESSY XMAS FROM ...

LUCY ROSE

Lucy, what are the best and worst things you've found in a cracker?

"A bottle opener's always quite a handy one. The worst ones are dice. I don't see what the point of that is, although I used to try to trick my family that I was psychic and I could roll whatever number I wanted. I think I even believed that myself for a while. And the jokes are always brilliant. Knock knock."

Who's there?

"To."

To who?

"To whom, surely."

Right. What's the most misjudged present you've ever given?

"I'm really bad at presents. I normally just get books for people, a book that I've really enjoyed this year, and films. My dad once got my mum a Buddha, which didn't go down that well. It was this gigantic steel Buddha and it just had a bow on it. We couldn't even move it, it was ridiculous."

And finally, would you do a song for a John Lewis advert?

"I don't think I'm twee enough for John Lewis."

Lots of Love,
Lucy Rose
x



ROLO TOMASSI



PHOTOS: RICHARD JOHNSON. PROPS PROVIDED BY THEME TRADERS - PARTIES, PROPS, PRODUCTION. WWW.THEMETRADERS.COM

What's your plan for Christmas?
Eva Spence (singer): "There was talk of having a Christmas party in Nottingham, where most of the boys live, with all of our friends."

What will you be buying each other?
Nathan Fairweather (bass): "There's talk of doing a Secret Santa, but I'm really bad at buying gifts."

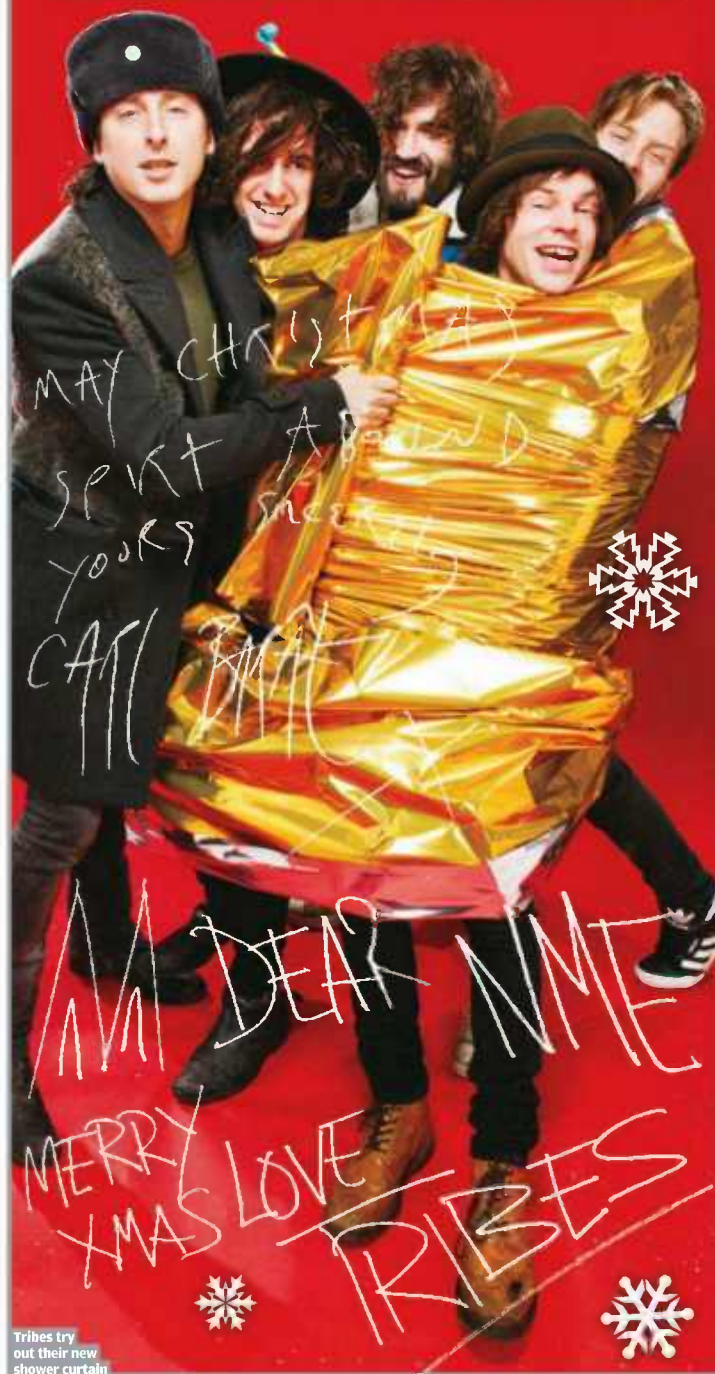
James Spence (synth, vocals): "I'd get Eva a football shirt because she's expressed more of an interest in football, finally, this

year. After 22 years of trying to get her involved, she's just about got it. So a big football shirt."

Which celebrity would you have over for Christmas dinner?

Nathan: "There's only one celebrity around Christmas time and that's Michael Bublé. He just is Christmas, isn't he? James isn't a fan but me and Chris [Cayford, guitar] were looking at tickets, and they're 70 quid!"
James: "Let's just get Jamie Oliver round to cook dinner."

TRIBES & CARL BARAT



Tribes try out their new shower curtain

What do you imagine each other's Christmases to be like, gents?

Johnny Lloyd, Tribes singer: (To Carl) You've got a family now, haven't you?"

Carl: "Yeah, it's about creating the perfect Christmas that I never had for my little 'un. Tribes' Christmas? Do you remember a band called A Tribe Of Toffs? They sang a song called 'John Kettley Is A Weatherman', and the B-side was a song about Christmas Day [Festive Frolics From Four Fellows - Ed]."

If you were to write a Christmas song together, what would it be like?

Carl: "We could rip off that Tribe Of Toffs one."

Johnny: "It'd be 'All I Want For Christmas Is A Pair Of Rollerblades'."

Will you be inviting each other over for Christmas dinner?

Johnny: "We've just invited him to our Christmas party."

Carl: "That sounds like a rock'n'roll dinner - all the boys are in, bring the crackers!"

“FOR OUR XMAS PARTY WE THOUGHT, WHAT WOULD S CLUB 7 DO?”

Palma Violets have been hosting the most debauched gig-parties around in their London basement. What happened when Dan Martin helped them host their Christmas bash? Well, ain't no party like a Palmas party...

You know what we should've done?" cries Sam Fryer, Palma Violets' singer. "The Palma Violets Nativity Scene. That would be really good. With Pete being born, and Harry being Joseph and Chilli being Mary. And Will would be the first goat."

Bassist Chilli Jesson remembers that in *Love, Actually*, there is a lobster who is part of the Nativity, and drummer Will Doyle should be that instead, "and all the A&R men around the country are the Three Kings."

Even without such a Nativity scene, however, things are surreal enough. The four band members, plus henchman Harry Violet (their unofficial fifth member, with no discernible role but a demon at Trivial Pursuit) have a plan in mind. Christmas is a time to party, and since the hottest parties on the circuit are those taking place at their Studio 180 HQ in Lambeth, it figures that putting those two facts together would lead to the party to end them all. And despite it being 4pm, most of the Palmas are drenched in Jägermeister and there's mince pie all over the lovingly assembled Poundland festive scene. This kind of behaviour isn't all that unusual for them, mind.

"We do our studio parties, which are mental," says Chilli, "and then Tom [the owner] just throws parties whenever he feels like."

"We found this place," says Will, "and then we thought, 'You have to do your research'. And there ain't no party like an S Club party, so we thought, 'What would S Club 7 do?' We just replicated that, but instead we used alcohol and real people."

Having taken up residence as the longest-standing of 180's collective of artists ("we stood our ground"), 2012 will mark Palma Violets' first ever Christmas party together.

"Decorations are the *first* thing," says Sam firmly. "You've got to have the perfect Christmas lights. As a band we always have faith in Christmas lights. We have them all year around – they make anything special. And when it isn't snowing we'll just throw polystyrene everywhere and make it look like snow. Or we'll just use our imaginations!"

With booze, they're traditionalists. Sam: "Even if you're in the most depressed of states, mulled wine will be able to cheer you up."

Will: "You see *adults* drinking it all the time, but it's actually really nice. It's not like you can just neck it; it's enjoyable." Will clearly doesn't yet consider himself a grown-up, while everyone else just seems a little disgusted by the idea of Yuletide tippie eggnog ("egg can die" is about the consensus).

As well as booze, animals are an important part of the 180 community. "People have started to bring pets into 180," says Pete, "so you've got to always get the pets involved. Always buy them gifts, never let them feel left

“**THE WORST CHRISTMAS GAME IS MONOPOLY. IT RUINS FAMILIES**”

PETE MAYHEW, KEYS

out. We always buy our pets presents every year." What kind of animals do you have here? Sam: "There's a big wolfhound, it's actually bigger than Chilli."

Will: "Sam hates dogs. We went away on tour and this lady moved in upstairs, she's a painter and moved this lovely dog in, this Irish wolfhound, so we got back from our last gig and this massive wolf-dog was there."

"And he stole my wallet and ran off with it," says Sam. "So if you see an Irish wolfhound with a wallet then let us know because I fucking had to redo my bank cards and everything."

On the subject of party games, things take a more sinister turn. "I'll tell you what," says Pete, "the worst Christmas game is Monopoly. It ruins families, you get so lethal." The voice

GUEST OF FRIENDS

Chilli Jesson's four ultimate Xmas party invitees



DAVID ATTENBOROUGH

"So I can sit on his lap while he tells me stories."



BEN ROMANS-HOPCRAFT (from touring partners Childhood)

"He's a proper kisser, that one. He loves getting his chops all over things."



ROD STEWART "Because blondes like to have fun. Especially this one."

of bitter experience? "Well, me and Harry Violet used to be friends," he continues, "but he bought Mayfair and it got ugly. It's always the kids that win. I played my nephew, and they have no fucking morals when it comes down to fucking Monopoly. But then I punched him in the face afterwards. Taught him a lesson."

Chilli awakes from his festive trance with a start at the mention of games, declaring: "With Twister, I've actually got with girls."

"Not at Christmas," protests Sam. "When you're playing with your family it's not the sort of game where you wanna get with someone."

"No, I just pick random people off the street that I fancy," Chilli jokes. "And once I worked in a posh clothes shop and went to the Christmas party and got with all the girls."

All of them? "And a couple of guys too. It's just Twister. You walk in there, couple of drinks, next thing you know, 'You wanna play?' No-one turns you down. Try it, it works wonders."

Is sextytime at a Christmas party necessary or just an added bonus?

Sam: "Well, you have your family Christmas party, and then there's the office Christmas party. Your 'Boffice' Christmas party."

"It all depends how the night's going," says Chilli. "Whether you're in the loving mood."

Nobody really wants to go too far into whether it's better to give or receive at Christmas. The spoilsports. But they know *exactly* who they want as their fantasy party guests [also see boxout].

Will: "I was at a pub and I got introduced to this guy, and it was David Attenborough's nephew. Apparently David is so crude. I would just love to see that side of him. Plus then when he does start talking you could fall asleep."

"I'd like to see him get drunk around the table," says Sam. Will: "He'd be out in the garden drunk, like, 'What we have here is a thousand years worth of evolutionary... culinary... *stuff*... where is the baster?'"

Pete: "I think everyone should have David Attenborough over for dinner."

Indeed. Well, David, there's a grotty basement, a band and probably a large Irish wolfhound waiting for you, should you choose to accept the offer.

Head to NME.COM/video to watch Palma Violets' boozy Christmas knees-up



Will, king of the
pie money-shot



Chilli and Will
(right) look a bit
pastry-faced



Merry Christmas



Chilli's a sucker
for cheekbones
after a drink



THE BEST/WORST CHRISTMAS EVER!

Felix White THE MACCABEES

What's the best present you've ever been given, Felix?

"Last year Hugo [White, Maccabees guitarist and Felix's brother] got me 'O Lucky Man!' on vinyl, which is the Alan Price soundtrack to the film. Records are good presents."

What's the worst one you've ever given someone?

"I bought a friend this bench-pressing weight with a spoon attached to the top so you can eat yourself fit. It's literally just weights with an Ikea spoon welded to the top; I shouldn't have spent so much money on it really. The idea is that even if you're eating ice cream, you're still putting a bit of effort into it."

What's the best Christmas bash you've been to?

"Two years ago when I was living in New Cross, I told my flatmates I was just gonna have a few people round. Jessie Ware turned up at my house with human-height speakers. We ended up having to break in two doors. I took everyone to the fireworks up my road so there were 100 people dragging mud round my house. I've never cleaned so much in my life as I did the next morning."

Felix means 'lucky' in Latin. Massive guitarist



Kevin Parker TAME IMPALA

Kevin, have you had some great Christmas parties back home in Australia?

"Well, last year we were in Perth because we knew we were gonna be away for a long time touring. So we put on a show with all the Tame Impala family; those times end up being pretty loose. Those of us that didn't run the gauntlet of driving home ended up at the beach, with the sun coming up, all asleep in a hammock in a tree."

What's the best Christmas present you've ever been given?

"My dad bought me an eight-track that I ended up recording the next five years

of Tame Impala stuff on. I was only about 16, but that's what I ended up recording the EP and the first album on. I'd had really crappy tape decks before, but it was so terrible I had to divide each MP3 into quarters and put them onto a floppy disc."

And the worst?

"Someone from my family usually gets me something in the shape of a guitar - my stepmum got me a spatula in the shape of a guitar once. I did end up using it on a barbecue, but I remember getting it and thinking, 'You've got to be kidding me'. I don't think I'd ever used a spatula in my life."



All Kevin wants for Christmas is some real shoes

Liam Gallagher BEADY EYE

What's the best Christmas present you've ever had?

"The snow, mate. I'm staring out my window now at Hampstead Heath. It's frosty, but I like that. As long as it's not fucking raining. It's proper Beatles weather. Scarf, long coat, pair of bins... and all is good with the world. But I'd say the best was when I got a John Lennon guitar, off my missus."

What sort?

"Like... the sort you play! Nah, an acoustic, really nice acoustic guitar."

And what's the worst?

"Socks, slippers. I get all that shit."

What are the best and worst presents you've ever bought someone else?

"I reckon Our Kid has had a few good presents off me over the years... but I'm pretty good at getting people presents in general. I get in there. They get fuck all off me all year, so I sort of make up for it at the end. You're not getting anything off me, though!"

Well, just as long as we know where we stand. And what's the best Christmas party you've ever been to?

"I reckon it's still to come, man. I can't remember off the top of my head, but

I always have a good time at Christmas, definitely. I've got a gaff in New York now, so I'm out there this time. In fact, I've spent a couple of good Christmases out there before; that's how I got the taste for it. I've got some unfinished business over there, as they say in the spirit world."

"Pair of bins", model's own



"MY WORST PRESENTS? SOCKS, SLIPPERS, ALL THAT SHIT"

LIAM GALLAGHER



Aluna Francis

ALUNAGEORGE

What's the best Christmas present you've ever received? "My mum bought me a sewing machine when I was little and I thought it was the coolest thing in the world. I'm really bad at sewing but I can't keep my hands off stuff. I made a patchwork quilt with my best friend, that was pretty cool."

And the worst you've received?

"My gran bought me a concrete cat – just that outdoor, grey concrete – because I really wanted a real cat. She told me she'd got me one and I was beside myself with excitement and then there was this grey concrete thing outside."

What's the best Christmas present you've given someone else?

"Last year I reserved rooms at a beauty parlour for my family and friends and they all got massages. No-one's getting presents this year – just a burnt CD of my music and a printed picture of my face."

Tim Burgess

Bet you've been given some good presents in your time, Tim? What's the best?

"I always get great jumpers. I ask for crazy ones so it's about how good they can be. I got a really good mohair one once, that was probably the best. I got an early Christmas present this year which was *Copendium*, the Julian Cope book – that's good too."

What's the worst present you've been given?

"I got a picture once from a fan – that's pretty mean, picking on a fan, isn't it? – and it was the Mona Lisa smoking a joint. I think they thought it was interesting, but obviously it wasn't."

And the best present you've given someone else?

"Maybe a sun visor? I think that's the best but it's probably the worst because it's Christmassy and snowing. I always think that onesies are pretty good presents, or a nice jumper; maybe

it's because it makes me think of 'Last Christmas' by Wham!. People just get in the mood with that – keeps you warm and it's practical. I'm going to be the practical man of this Christmas issue."

“ONESIES MAKE PRETTY GOOD PRESENTS”

TIM BURGESS



Well, at least a hat would hide that bleach job

Guy Garvey ELBOW

What's the worst present you've ever given anyone?

"I bought my missus an electric blanket once. I said 'I'm gonna be away a lot', and then I split up with her for seven years! It was pretty bad."

Did you buy her a great gift to atone for it? "I need to balance my public image now... I bought her a public access course at Manchester Uni that was on astrophysics because she loves her science."

Well saved. What's the worst Christmas party you've been to?

"I spent Christmas Day once in a bedsit, alone, listening to 'Attack Of The Grey Lantern' by Mansun. All I had was that record and a bottle of Jameson. I don't think I went near a human woman for about 18 months at that point. I was living with Pete, our drummer, and he'd gone home for Christmas so I was left there and it was a kind of self-flagellation thing – like, 'Fuck Christmas, fuck the world, I'm gonna do this on my own'. It put me off Mansun forever. Jameson is still a very good friend."

So... not exactly a party. And the best?

"Me and [wife] Emma had a New Year's Eve party. We managed to get 140 people in a one-bedroom flat. I'd bought a big rocket to set off on the balcony at midnight and there was so little space I had to light it and turn my head away. I ended up with scorch marks on my clothes."



What Santa looks like the other 364 days

We didn't think Elbow liked booze



Ronnie Vannucci

THE KILLERS

Ronnie, have you been to any amazing Christmas parties? "Every year for a while this character we know called Michael Valentine and his brother have a party. They host these parties on Christmas night where bands would play and everyone would take food or drinks and tear up the house until New Year's Eve."

What's the best gift you've been given?

"A drumkit when I was seven or something like that. I was one of those kids that would disappear in the garage and beat on the washer and refrigerator for hours. My parents were like, 'He's been doing this for a couple of years now, let's buy him a fucking drumkit!'"

And the worst?

"I was 18, my mom and dad got me a cheese-cutting board and a pair of socks and a really large flannel."

What's the worst Christmas gift you've given anyone else?

"When I was dating one girlfriend – this is young Vannucci – I didn't know what to get girls. I got her soap and I think it sent the wrong message. Now I know what girls want – money and a place in my will."



Orlando Weeks

THE MACCABEES

What's the worst present you've ever given anyone, Orlando?

"I gave my brother a book from a charity shop, and I didn't notice that it had the price tag still on. I don't know if he read it, but he definitely commented on the price."

And the best?

"There are no particularly good ones that I can think of. I'm better at birthdays than Christmas – it's too much pressure."

What's the worst present you've received? "I'm pretty sure I got that book back. I knew exactly what he was saying with that one."

Depressing. But what's the best Christmas party you've been to?

"There was a Christmas when I was three and we'd just got a swing and it snowed. You know those memories where you can't quite decide whether it's a real memory or it's just a photo you've seen a lot? That's where I'm at with this. That's gotta be up there I reckon."

Turn to page 36 to see Orlando's specially designed Christmas card



Old books: the cheapskate Maccabee way

NME PUB CHALLENGE 2012

What do you get when you mix six indie godheads, shedloads of booze and this magazine's annual test of skill and dexterity? Mayhem and nudity, of course. Your host with the tab: **Emily Mackay**

RUNNERS AND RIDERS

Who's who in our boozy challenge



JEN LONG, BBC RADIO 1
Will you win?

"I'm more up for the taking part, that's what counts. I'm going to really embarrass myself."

Poison of choice: Whatever's cheapest



SHANE PARSONS, DZ DEATHRAYS
Will you win?

"I'll be behind Simon. No, that's not fighting talk, is it? OK. I'm gonna sabotage Simon."

Poison of choice: Sailor Jerry



KEVIN CURRAN, THE CAST OF CHEERS
Will you win?

"Well, there's quizzes and the like and I'm just off tour. But I'm Irish, so, maybe I'll have a chance."

Poison of choice: A fine bitter



DREW MCCONNELL, BABYSHAMBLES
Will you win?

"I haven't got a competitive nature, so I don't fancy my chances. I've just had spinal surgery, so if I fall, I'll break."

Poison of choice: Scotch and soda



PAUL 'BONEHEAD' ARTHURS, PARLOUR FLAMES, EX-OASIS
Will you win?

"Not a chance. I might get ahead in the mental rounds."

Poison of choice: Drunk four pints before we started



SIMON RIDLEY, DZ DEATHRAYS
Will you win?

"I have no idea. In a thing like this, you have to watch out for dark horses. But it's too early to say."

Poison of choice: Scotch and ginger



There's only one way to truly see out another recession-soaked old year, and that's to drown it in a lake of booze and then use the leftover fluid to christen the new one. That's why we gather together the finest, fittest and sharpest of the music world to compete annually in noble games of skill and strength round the rockin' boozin' establishments of London. Joining us this year are former Oasis guitarist and total hero Paul 'Bonehead' Arthurs ("Even me kids call me Bonehead," he assures us), hard-rocking Aussies Shane Parsons and Simon Ridley, aka DZ Deathrays, Drew McConnell, gentleman of Babyshambles, Jen Long, Welsh tigress and BBC Radio 1 DJ, and, due to a last-minute

substitution in which their singer Conor Adams suddenly realised his hair urgently needed a wash, drummer Kevin Curran from The Cast Of Cheers. How do we assemble such dream teams, year after year, you ask us? We don't even know ourselves. Now, as Bane would say, LET THE GAMES BEGIN!

ROUND ONE

As bystanders in Britpop HQ The Good Mixer in Camden look on with a mixture of amusement and dawning horror, we deploy our Post-It Notes to the heads of our contestants for a round of 20 Questions, soundtracked by howls of fiendish laughter as everyone sees what the others have been lumbered with. Bonehead has to guess Noel Gallagher. "Am I a musician?" Nods. "Am



I short?" Furious nods. "A short rock star. Bono?" He gets there in the end, while Drew comes a cropper on account of believing that his brother-in-cheekbones Robert Pattinson is American. Simon gets so close to Robbie Williams we can taste it. "Do you want a massive clue?" offers Bonehead. "His best mate's fat. With nothing better to do than TV talent shows." Shane does remarkably well on Nick Clegg. Having established that he's a politician, he asks "Do I run the country?": cue confused squints and gales of laughter. We give him a conciliatory 10 points for downing his pint, give everyone else one for downing a shot, and so it stands at Shane 11, Bonehead 6, Kev 6, Jen 5, Drew 1, Simon 1.

With volume and spirits creeping ever higher, we swan off to The World's End. Bonehead's keen to score any extra points he can for rock'n'roll behaviour, including literally stopping the traffic. "What about if I fake a heart attack later? I'm only here for the points." Quick, get 'em inside!

ROUND TWO

In Camden's biggest pub, there's a test of bicep prowess in the form of some good old-fashioned arm-wrestling. Bonehead's talking a good game, boasting of how he has

“**WHAT IF I FAKE
A HEART ATTACK?
I'M ONLY HERE
FOR THE POINTS**”

BONEHEAD

strong arms as he used to be a plasterer. Drew, meanwhile, has a rather solid doctor's note in the form of recent spinal surgery, so it's left to me to step in, being drawn from the hat first against Bonehead. "You have to want it," Drew urges encouragingly, massaging my shoulders. I get totally mutilated, but feel a bit better when Bonehead's plastering/plastered arm-strength sees off all comers to emerge the final victor. His last battle, with Kev, is a tense one. "Oof, like two gorillas mating," puffs Bonehead. "Come on, I'm gonna 'ave ya." He comes away with 20 points, with 15 to runner-up Kev and 10 to Simon.

It's not over yet, though; next up we have the original social torture, Twister. Limbs go everywhere. "I did Knebworth!" yells an aggrieved Bonehead, throwing in the towel. "I'm colour blind!" It ends with a seemingly endless and quite terrifyingly bendy arse-off between Shane and Kev. "I'm getting myself into a fucking compromise here," mutters Kev, before Shane snakes one limber ankle between his legs. Kev finally emerges with 20 points, as does, surprisingly, the very game Mr Drew McConnell, opting to do his own

GOOD PUB GUIDE

The fine Camden establishments we visited this year



THE GOOD MIXER
Best for: Playing pool with famous indie types. This was one of Amy Winehouse's favourite old haunts too
Address: 30 Inverness Street



THE WORLD'S END
Best for: Rocking out to Slipknot - they played 'Iowa' in full while we were there
Address: 174 Camden High St



THE DUBLIN CASTLE
Best for: Ska introductions. Suggs answered the phone when we rang recently
Address: 94 Parkway



THE LOCK TAVERN
Best for: Feeling ugly; they've got some kind of bar staff recruitment deal with an Urban Outfitters-affiliated model agency, right?
Address: 35 Chalk Farm Road



Who says blokes can't multitask?



Simon puts the D2 Deathrays line-dance routine into practice



And you will know us by the trail of shite...

stunts for the Twister round. Shane and Jen get 15, Bonehead and Simon 10.

And now, it's time to march up the road to the famed Dublin Castle, to rest tired limbs and exercise those brains. On the way, Bonehead tells us that Liam might come down. Of course. Well, Rihanna's playing up the road as well, why not get the whole crew together?

ROUND THREE

We gather round a table in the comforting low red light of the Castle for the deceptively simple sounding game of 20 Things: we shout a category like 'cheese', and our victims have to name 20 items in that category without error, fumble or hesitation. Bonehead is up first with singers. "Liam Gallagher, Noel

Gallagher..." Well, start with what you know, eh? He actually does very well, coming away with 20 points. Drew, lucky enough to land the category of animals, gets 19. Jen, getting books, only manages five ("I've read loads of books!" she protests after). Simon and Kev scrape a respectable 10 and 11, while Shane

"I'M JUST TRYING TO THROW MY LOAD RIGHT IN YOUR MOUTH"

BONEHEAD

only manages four on actors. ("Brad Pitt, Angelina Jolie, Robin Williams, fuckin'... what'sisname"). By this point, claims are getting grandiose, secrets are being confided and eyes are rapidly losing their focus. Time to hoof it on to our final port of call, the luscious Lock Tavern.

ROUND FOUR

Well, it was *supposed* to be beer mat flipping, but it seems that nobody uses the bloody things any more. Shane is incensed, and tries to convince his publicist to authorise promotional DZ Deathrays beer mats. "You know what else we should do?" he says. "A DZ Tamagotchi, and you have to keep feeding it Jäger, and then you try and feed it rhubarb but it doesn't like rhubarb, so it would die. There's a way into every brain. I did a bachelor's degree in marketing and promotion."

Riiiiight. Emergency supplies are purchased, so we begin our impromptu round of Throw The Jelly Bean In The Other Person's Mouth. It's possibly a bad point in the evening for hand-eye coordination, and everyone proves to be quite terrible at this. Simon dubiously tries to claim that "chest hair counts", while Bonehead replies, "There's nothing gay about

this, I'm just trying to throw my load right in your mouth." Jen Long comes off best, with 10 points. Bonehead, Kev and Drew come away with nothing, while Simon and Shane manage four and two respectively.

Everyone gets some time to think about what they've done as the totals are totted up. It's a massive drummer-off, with Kev and Simon level pegging. To break the deadlock, we decide to award 20 points to whoever gets naked and runs up and down the road outside. Kev leaves off propping up the bar to strip his upper half and go for a jog. He comes back in

to be informed that when we say naked, we do not mean Buffy Clyro-naked. We don't think for a second he's actually going to do the bottom half, but then... heavens! Avert your eyes, ladies and gentlemen! It is The Cast Of Rears! "I hate my job," mutters NME photographer Dan as Kev bounds outside as unburdened by shame as a newborn lamb, tossing the trophy skyward to smash into a million pieces. Words of victory are few and mumbled, but we can make out, "My band and my girlfriend are going to kill me."

Such, my friend, is the price of victory.



THE BEST/WORST CHRISTMAS EVER!

Justin Young THE VACCINES

Justin, what's the best Christmas bash you've ever gone to?

"Well, I don't like New Year's Eve - it's like forced fun. It's the one night where everyone is expected to go bigger than they do for the rest of the year. We had a really good time doing Hogmanay last year in Edinburgh though, and we're gonna be in Tasmania this year which I imagine will be pretty fucking fun."

Well, do try and enjoy yourself.

What's the worst you've been to?

"There have definitely been a couple of New Years where I've been in bed before 12. I was making a stand - it's maybe not the most admirable protest in human history but it made me feel better about myself. Maybe that was a good one. My idea of a good New Year's Eve is just Jools' Hootenany."

Have your bandmates ever got you any decent pressies?

"I've definitely had some fucking pretty sweet presents in my time... the band got me an iPad so that was pretty good. It was quite fancy, I was happy with that."

And what's the worst Christmas present you've been given?

"It annoys me when you get things like deodorant - Lynx. Why fucking bother? Save the energy and the time and money, and don't allow me to get my hopes up. People are sneaky - they conceal things in boxes..."

And the worst present you've ever given anyone?

"I felt bad when we did our Secret Santa and I got something amazing, and I'm pretty sure I gave Arni [Hjörvar, bassist] a DVD of *Blue Planet* or something. It definitely wasn't evenly weighted. It was a nice present, but maybe it wasn't the same..."

Justin: happy with his natural odour, thanks

**"LYNX? WHY
FUCKING BOTHER?
DON'T GET MY
HOPES UP..."**

JUSTIN YOUNG



Jake Bugg

Jake! Have you been to some great Christmas parties in your time?

"I don't really know. It's just about having a few drinks, isn't it? The whole point of having Christmas parties is that you get drunk and don't remember."

Indeed. What's the best Christmas present you've ever had?

"It's got to be my first electric guitar. I was about 13, and I knew I was getting it but it was still really exciting. I'd been playing acoustic before but it was

exciting to start playing electric; it allows you to play different styles and play different things. It's a lot of fun as well, you know?"

And the worst?

"The worst present I've ever heard of - I didn't get it - was a bass wah pedal. It's just shit. Why? Because... it's just not right! It's a wah pedal for a bass guitar! My bass player got one of them once - it wasn't from me."

Jake's holy awe descending from above



Blaine Harrison
MYSTERY JETS

Blaine! What's the best Christmas present you've ever been given?

"I got my first guitar for Christmas... actually, that's a lie, my sister got it and I got a Transformer or something. But she didn't show much interest so I stole it off her and became a musician by accident."

And the best one you've ever given out?

"When I was an art student I used to make big scrapbooks with secret pockets and pop-up pages. You know like what you give a baby where some of the pages are furry and some are squidgy? I used to make adult versions of those."

And the worst?

"Before we got signed, when we were flirting with different record labels, we used to get boxes of CDs and I used to give them out to people all the time, but there's worse presents than a CD!"



CDs are fine presents, Blaine - if you BUY 'em



Tom Morello
RAGE AGAINST THE MACHINE

What's the best Christmas present you've ever been given, Tom?

"'Killing In The Name' being Number One [in 2009, after a campaign to thwart Joe McElderry] was a pretty good one a couple of years ago. It was a rebel Christmas miracle!"

And the worst present you've had?

"In college we did Secret Santa. My present was a Snickers bar. I wasn't looking for diamonds or jewellery, but it felt like my Secret Santa didn't care so much about me."

And the best present you ever gave?

"You probably wouldn't want that printed in your magazine. Let's just say it was a gift for someone very close to me."

What's your best-ever Christmas party?

"It happened a few months after Christmas, but it was the Finsbury Park victory party. That show was about the fans. It was about the power of what music can really do. For every Goliath there's a David. Our song was the stone in the sling. It was awesome to celebrate that with all of you."

A VERY MESSY XMAS FROM ...

Two Door Bicycle Club
Bombay Cinema Club:
(l-r) Alex, Jamie,
Kevin, Suren and
Sam. (Sitting) Ed
and Jack

TWO DOOR CINEMA CLUB & BOMBAY BICYCLE CLUB



What would you two get each other for Christmas?

Jack Steadman (BBC singer/guitar): "A remote-control helicopter. Although they're hard to control."

Alex Trimble (TDCC singer/guitar): "I'd buy Jack a nice jumper, because you were lacking one today."

Jack: "That's true, I was left out today. That's a very thoughtful gift."

What do you imagine the other Club's Christmas would be like?

Jack: "Cosy, well-decorated, homely and with a good, well-stocked bar."

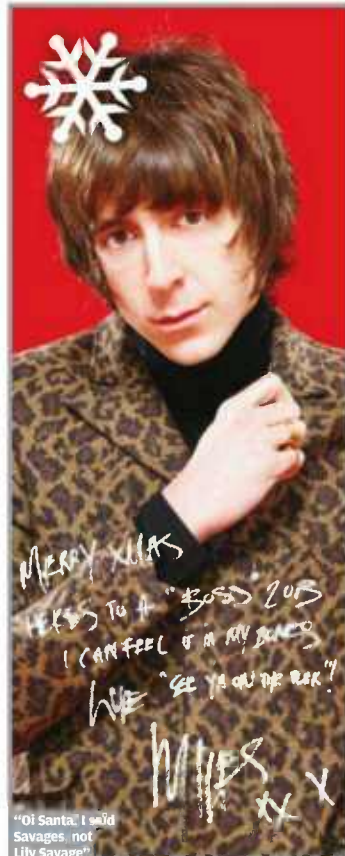
Alex: "I would expect handmade Christmas cards from BBC."

Jack: "Ed [Nash, bass] is an artist so I'd imagine he'd be making some sort of homemade gift."

Which celebrity would you have as a guest at your Christmas table?

Alex: "Jesus, naturally."

Jack: "Was that an exclamation or an answer?"



MILES KANE

What are your plans for Christmas, Miles?

"After we do this gig at Christmas with Weller in Hammersmith on December 19, I'm probably going to go back up to Liverpool and spend it with my family. My mum's coming down for the gig, we'll have a nice couple of nights in London, then I'll go back up with her."

What are the best and worst things you've found in a cracker?

"I always get the nail clippers. I don't know if that's good or bad. Actually, they do come in handy."

How would you feel about being Christmas Number One?

"I'd love it, I'm not gonna lie! Maybe one day."

Which celebrity would you like to swap Christmases with?

"Jack White would be an interesting one. I don't know how he'd do it but I'd like to swap with him to see how he'd do it."

And how would you put together the most rock'n'roll Christmas?

"With Liam Gallagher and Liam Howlett - we'd do a lot of naughty things."

THE 2 BEARS

How would you make the most '2 Bears' Christmas, gents?

Joe: "You'd have to have it in a wood, in a cave. Huddling, trying to keep warm by cuddling each other."

Kind of Bearback Mountain?

Raf: "It'd be a wholesome festival. We'd maybe replace the Jesus imagery with a bunch of classic house DJs. You could have the likes of Larry Levan and Frankie Knuckles. But you'd basically steal some picnic baskets and serve them up in an enchanted wood."

What's the drunkest you've ever got at Christmas?

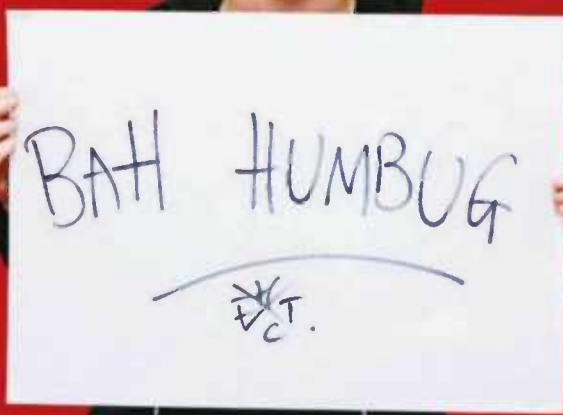
Raf: "One Christmas Eve I got so incredibly drunk that I vomited all over the Christmas dinner table the following day. We used to stay at my auntie and uncle's and my uncle was the local doctor in his neck of the woods in Scotland, so everyone gave him a bottle of whisky at Christmas. However, he was knocking on a bit and he had a terrible stomach ulcer so he couldn't drink any of it, so me and my cousins decided to get stuck in, and it has to be said that it really had disastrous consequences. I vomited in the bread sauce bowl. It was quite local though, it wasn't a spray-off."



"Fuck off! I only came to promote Diet Coke"



(Happy Christmas everyone...)
Frank



"Peace on Earth? Goodwill to men? All a bit lefty, innit?"

FRANK TURNER

How will you be celebrating Christmas this year, Frank?

"It's been a big year for me, and it's wrapping up pretty amazingly with the Pogues show we're doing at the O2 Arena in London on December 20. As far as I'm concerned The Pogues' Christmas shows are a national institution - they're more important to me than the Last Night Of The Proms."

What's the drunkest you've ever been at Christmas?

"I do get pretty drunk at Christmas. Once when I was living in Winchester back in the day I got super-hammered in the pub on Christmas Eve, and I decided to go and kneel to receive communion in the cathedral. Eventually I'm like, 'Oh fuck! What is going on here?' Everyone was at the back of the cathedral laughing at me. I felt a bit bad about it because obviously some people were taking it really seriously, but I was essentially being a drunken anus in a cathedral."

EXTRA HELPINGS

Here's some more seasonal snaps from when this lot came into the office for our Xmas photoshoots – head to NME.COM/video for behind-the-scenes footage



Bombay Bicycle Club got off their sleds



The third bear looks worried. And rightly so



...while Two Door are really into safe sleds



"No! Don't waste all of our drugs for later!"



Rolo Tomassi look like a cheery bunch...



...but give them a fake tree in November and we're ecstatic



Kane models woman at C&A (circa 1966)...

...Barát and Turner (right) model the B's Crimbo range



The new Willy Wonka film is a bit low-budget

PHOTOS: RICHARD JOHNSON PROPS PROVIDED BY THEME TRADERS - PARTIES, PROPS, PRODUCTION. WWW.THEMETRADERS.COM THANKS TO ASOS FOR SUPPLYING THE FESTIVE UNIFORM

ON
SALE
NOW!

THE STORY OF
JOY DIVISION
AND NEW ORDER



SPECIAL COLLECTORS' MAGAZINE

NME

AVAILABLE IN ALL GOOD UK NEWSAGENTS
OR ORDER ONLINE FROM NME.COM/STORE



SONIC EDITIONS

60
YEARS OF
NME



Sonic Editions presents The NME 60th Anniversary Collection

25 exclusive prints of the greatest artists from the last 60 years. Including The Beatles, Amy Winehouse, Blondie, The Clash, Blur, Oasis and many more.

All prints are hand printed and framed, limited edition and individually numbered. From only **£45** unframed, **£69** framed.

Visit www.SonicEditions.com/NME

THE BEST/WORST CHRISTMAS EVER

Example

What's the worst Christmas party you've ever been to? "At the millennium, me and my friend spent the whole night trying to get into a pub and we couldn't get into any of them. When we finally got into one somewhere in Fulham Broadway, I stepped on a bloke's shoe, thought nothing of it, went to the bar and then he cut my arm with a knife he had. He was like, 'If you scuff my shoe, I'm gonna cut you up'. So when people ask about the millennium, some people



Example stars in a spin-off of *Sharky & George*

think of Robbie Williams, but I think of bandaging my arm because I trod on some Patrick Cox knock-offs. I did punch him and run though."

And the best?

"That was when I was in Sydney in 2004. I went out to four or five different parties, just randomly knocking on doors, met loads of people, watched the fireworks on Sydney Harbour Bridge and then had sex with a girl from the Czech Republic on the beach. I kissed one girl on top of a washing machine, went to another party and was in a Jacuzzi, went to another one where there was this DJ and I started rapping, and then I met that Czech girl and went to the beach. I don't think you can have a better New Year's Eve."

And the best present you've received?

"My girlfriend got me a shark dive like when you're in the tank with them. I'm obsessed and terrified of sharks in equal amounts, so that was pretty cool. Even thinking about it now makes me shiver."

**"I WATCHED
THE FIREWORKS
THEN HAD SEX
ON THE BEACH"**

EXAMPLE



Gary Jarman

THE CRIBS

Gary! What's the best Christmas present you've received?

"I got a four-track recorder for Christmas in 1996 and it quite simply changed my life. Being able to record at home was such a big thing for me and Ryan and that entire Christmas period we didn't go out, we just stayed at home recording on that. That's something that's stuck with me ever since. I've always loved home recording."

What was the worst Christmas party you ever went to?

"I remember when I was about 15, I went to this Christmas party nearby and it was a lot of the more nerdy, preppy kids from school there. One of their parents were out of town and all these kids smoked weed for the first time and couldn't really deal with it. It all got a bit weird."

Someone's kid brother was taken into foster care that night I think. It really went downhill."

The prototype iPhone was cumbersome



Frankie Francis

FRANKIE & THE HEARTSTRINGS

Franks! Have you ever been given a truly terrible Christmas present?

"Yeah, the worst present I got was from a relative. You remember in the late '80s when oversized watches were cool to put on your wall? Well, she got me one of those, but it was from a car boot sale, so it was a bit scruffy and it smelt of cigarettes."

What's the worst one you've ever given yourself?

"When I used to work at a restaurant I bought the smelly cleaner a thong as a joke, but she thought it was a sexual compliment so it went a bit wrong. She can take it however she likes, but it definitely wasn't intended to be a sexual thing..."

Keeping on the negative theme, what's the worst festive party you've ever been to?

"Well, the only bad New Year's Eve party I've had is where I've DJed and no-one's been there, and I've had to be paid off. I've never put a party on where no-one's turned up or someone's died or anything like that."



Austin Williams

SWIM DEEP

What's the best Christmas present you've been given? "It was when me and my brothers got these guns that shoot foam bullets. That was good."

And the worst?

"Well, I don't think I've ever had a bad Christmas, overall. I love Christmas so much. But to answer the question, my great aunt, bless her soul, used to buy me *Bob The Builder* colouring books up until I was about 18."

The worst Christmas bash?

"Last year we got kicked out of The Old Blue Last [in Shoreditch, London] because Cav [from Swim Deep] was having a wee in a cup. In all fairness they thought he was weeing up the wall, but he's not that kind of guy."

Have you had a better one?

"The best was when I was 17 - I had my first slow dance to an Aerosmith song. No, put that as the worst!"



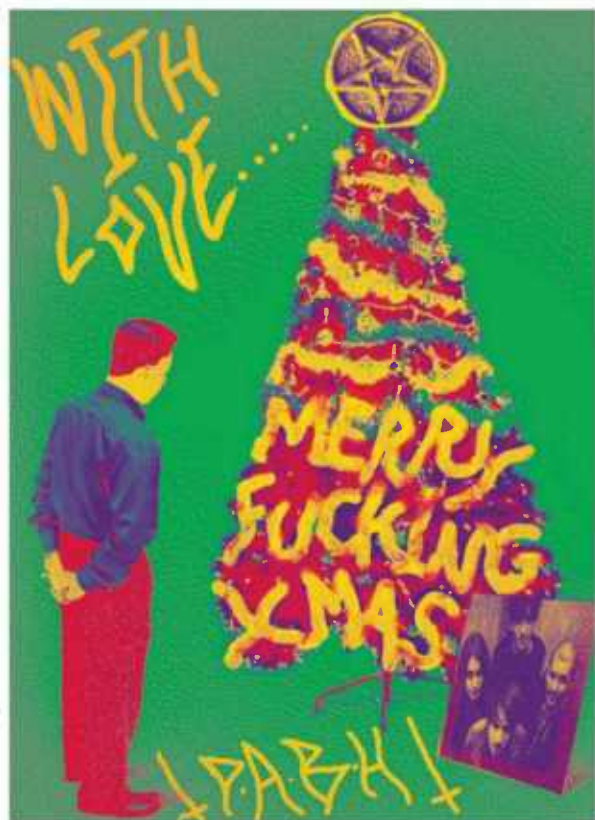
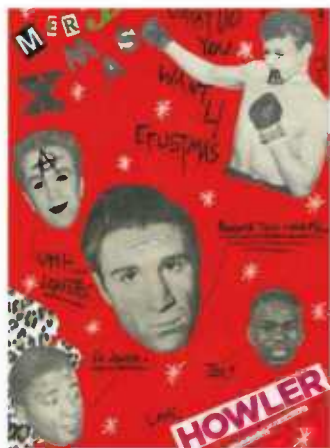
THIS IS CARDCORE! 2

JORDAN GATESMITH ►

Howler



"I must have been eight years old the last time I crafted a holiday card, and the experience was more or less the same this time around: lots of paper cuts, burning fingers as glue is caught in open wounds, and periodic moments of 'Wait, this is my masterpiece'. But finally I can say, Merry Crustmas!"



▲ TOM HUDSON

Pulled Apart By Horses



"There's nothing better than spending your Christmas jazzing the place up with signed pictures of Puled Apart By Horses and decorating

your tree with offensive words written in tinsel. If that still isn't doing it for you then finish the whole thing off with a beautiful Christmas pentagram and pray you weren't naughty this year!"



◀ GABRIEL BRUCE



"As it's Christmas, and Christmas is a Christian celebration, the card depicts a mischievous infant Christ eluding the virgin mother using his flying-Jesus powers. You can see that the words 'Happy Birthday Jesus' have been crossed out due to a spelling error. The card is a Christmas card to the infant Jesus Christ on the day of his birth. Happy birthday Jesus."



ANDY FALLOU, DAN DENNISON, TOM MARTIN, RICHARD JOHNSON, PATRICIA BOARD, AMY BRAMMALL, DEAN CHALKLEY

Last year we persuaded music's finest to get their creative juices flowing by designing a Christmas card. It was so good, we've done it again. Check out this lot...

ORLANDO WEEKS

The Maccabees



"Happy Christmas on behalf of all The Maccabees."

This picture is of our roadie Tom, the current voice of Carling Black Label South Africa. You may also recognise him from when he mimed drums on Italian *Top Of The Pops*. All the best from all of us on The Black Keys tour. Ding dong merrily on high."

THIS IS OUR ROADIE TOM. YOU MAY RECOGNISE HIM"

ORLANDO WEEKS

PINK EYES

Fucked Up



"I'm constantly asked about the antithetical relationship of Christmas and punk. With all the kitsch and overindulgence that embodies the modern Christmas, it is a ripe playground for punk satire, both real and fake. The punk novelty record is a prime example of the fake punk side of this satire. Here I made a cover for one as my Christmas card."



ROU REYNOLDS

Enter Shikari



"We were asked to do this while on tour in the USA – long drives, no sleep, lots of fried food. The best was done with what limited resources were available at such distance. Please do not judge us too harshly. Enjoy your winter holiday season."



RICH FULCHER

The Mighty Boosh



"Rich Fulcher poses as the age-old Christmas Tree Whore, who would often stand by a tree in the local village and wait for the neighbourhood perverts to pick him up and put him on their tree. It's so sad that these relics are no longer appreciated and have often been replaced by plastic dolls and sexbots. But thanks to Rich, we can once again remember the immense pleasure that they brought to small towns everywhere."

MAY YOUR HOLIDAYS BE JOYOUS & A LITTLE BIT EVIL

Love,
Amanda Palmer
& The Grand Theft Orchestra



AMANDA PALMER



"When asked to do a Christmas card for NME, I racked my creative juices, but after thinking about it I realised that all everybody wants is to have a jolly fucking time at Christmas, and an

Amanda with antlers seemed like the most appropriate thing to make. Drink, sing, feast and be merry these holidays, and stick some antlers on your head if you feel the urge. Add glitter according to taste."



ALEX PIERCE

Egyptian Hip Hop



"When NME asked us to draw a Christmas card for them, we were given no specific theme or any type of guidance. This left the whole thing up to my own imagination. My imagination can

be a pretty stupid place to explore, and that exploration somehow ended up with this fat star-man wearing weird pyjamas, who I thought was ridiculous enough to submit."



GIVE 'EM TO YOUR FRIENDS!

Fancy dishing out the cards you've seen on these pages to your mates and family? Well now it's

easy to spread the festive cheer. Head to NME.COM where you can download them for free, then

print them out and send them out into the world. You're welcome - it's all part of the service.

NEW
ISSUE

UNCUT

THIS IS OUR MUSIC



FREE CD!
**AND IN THIS MONTH'S 40-PAGE
ESSENTIAL REVIEWS SECTION:**
JONI MITCHELL, NEIL YOUNG,
BECK, GIL SCOTT HERON, BLUR,
MICK JAGGER, THE DAMNED
AND SUFJAN STEVENS

ON SALE NOW!

VISIT UNCUT.CO.UK FOR DAILY NEWS AND REVIEWS

Tom Cowan THE HORRORS

Tom, what's the best Christmas present you've ever received?

"My parents gave me some Playboy slippers one year. They should become part of my everyday wear."

And what's the best Christmas gift you've ever given?

"I gave my baby sister a tiny pink piano a couple of years ago. Which was fantastic, I think. Probably the best Christmas present anyone has ever been given. She hasn't written any songs yet, but I'm hopeful. It's tough for a toddler."

What's the best festive party you've attended?

"We usually have pretty good New Year Eve's parties. Last year I was in such a state that I closed my eyes and then opened them up again in

the Buffalo Bar, which is where we have the party every year and where we've had it for the past five or six years - I opened them up and I no longer recognised it or anyone there. I was very scared for that 40 seconds. That was pretty good."

And the worst?

"I tend to chop out the bad parts of my life. I've never been cursed with the 'office do' because I kind of came out of school and went to university for about six months and then started a band and then that was it. So I haven't ever been unfortunate enough to have to do the office Christmas party. Which I assume is generally people's worst party."



The Elton John junior piano range is in all good shops now

"I'VE NEVER BEEN CURSED WITH THE OFFICE DO"

TOM COWAN



Roman Rappak

BRETON

What was the best Christmas present you ever got?

"My mum bought me this circuit thing that was like, '31 Things You Can Do With Some Electronic Stuff'. All of them just made horrible noises, that was it. It was meant to be educational but it was just used as a horrible drone-maker. I think my mum burnt it."

Cripes. And the worst?

"My mate's dad thought it was hilarious when I was about 12 to get me this Polish softcore porn puzzle. It was just softcore nudity in cartoon form. My sister got me a bong when I was 13 as well; I didn't know what it was."

Ever been to any cracking parties?

"The best was probably last year's New Year's Eve - we went to this squat party. But there was one NYE where we planned it really badly and ended up having to do the countdown on the bus. It's important where you are for that particular minute, and we ended up on the 484 to New Cross."

Lonely electric guitar seeks similar for jams



Tom Dougall

TOY

What's the best festive party you've been to, Tom?

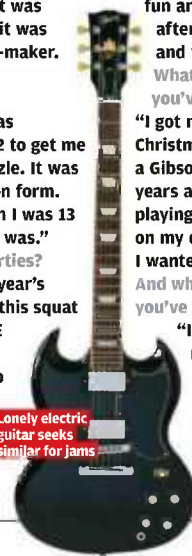
"I've had really good times at New Year at the Cave Club (at London's Buffalo Bar - see Tom Cowan's answers, above) which is usually good fun and there's always lots of parties after. Rhys, Joe and other Horrors DJ and they always play good stuff."

What's the best Christmas present you've ever been given?

"I got my first electric guitar for Christmas when I was 13. It was a Gibson SG, but I had to sell it a few years ago to pay my rent. I'd been playing acoustic and used to play on my dad's electric - I always knew I wanted my own one."

And what's the best Christmas present you've given?

"I like getting people gifts but not necessarily for special occasions. When I was younger I didn't have any money so I used to make mixtapes for people. People don't really use tapes any more so it's quite difficult. Spotify isn't the same, is it?"



Jonathan Higgs EVERYTHING EVERYTHING

What's the best festive party you've ever been to, Jonathan?

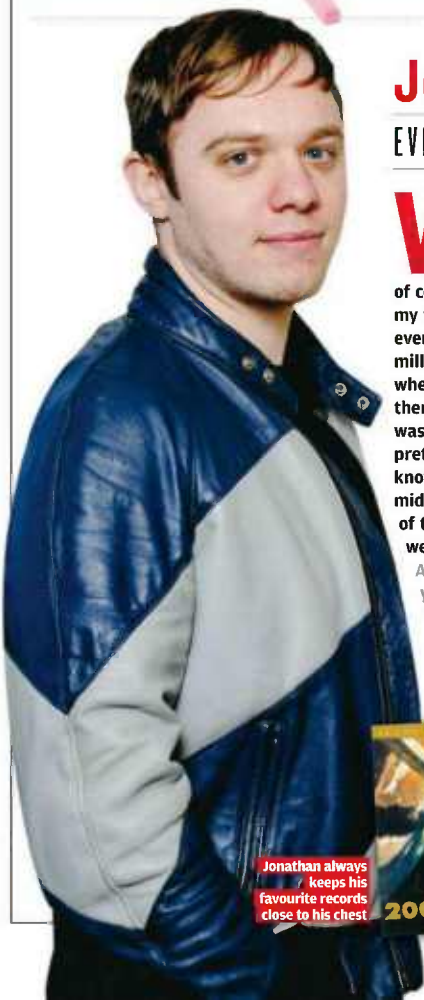
"Well, the millennium one, of course. Mine was in a bar and most of my friends had passed out before we even got to midnight so they missed the millennium. My brother was DJing and when it got to midnight he put on the theme from 2001: A Space Odyssey, which was obviously wrong - that music is pretty amazing and I remember no-one knowing whether it was actually midnight. We were definitely afraid of the millennium bug, which was why we were taking refuge there."

And what's the best Christmas present you've given anyone?

"Probably homemade wine - that always goes down well. The trick is to put a banana in there. If you're making a country wine, then put a banana in there and it gives it a bit of extra texture. Whole banana, loads of fruits... that's the way."



Jonathan always keeps his favourite records close to his chest



MISTLETOE & WHINE

Terrible jumpers. Mince pie-induced comas. Sloshed, senile relatives. What's not to like about Christmas?
Absolutely everything, according to **Jack Whitehall**, who talks turkey with **Tom Howard**

He's had a big year, has 24-year-old Jack Whitehall. Not only has *Fresh Meat* – the TV series in which he stars as the character JP – become the Channel 4 programme of choice for every mashed-up student in the land, but also his debut DVD, *Live*, has just come out, providing an exciting Christmas present option for anyone in your family who likes laughing at posh people. So you'd think he'd be excited, right? About the festive season? About goodwill to all men and all that? Actually, nope. Because Jack Whitehall hates Christmas. Here's why...

MY DAD'S FRIEND'S STINKY CHEESE

Jack: "My dad has a friend called Neil Stacy who always comes round with cheese. It's his thing. He buys cheese from a cheese shop in Bath and brings it over and it always smells. We have to put up with Neil's smelly cheese. He brings a whole truckle, a large wheel of cheese. It's usually Vacherin. Neil has to eat it outside. It stinks out the whole place and lays very heavily on his breath. Neil eats it by himself, in the garden. We don't eat it."

MY DAD'S FRIEND NEIL ALWAYS GIVES RUBBISH PRESENTS

"Neil has given me the same present for two years: Gordon Ramsay's cookbook. I don't even like cooking. The second time I was like, 'Aaah, thanks Neil', then turned to my mum and whispered, 'I think he might have Alzheimer's'. He's just a bit mad. He was in *Duty Free*, which was a sitcom in the '70s. I gave him the *Duty Free* box-set for Christmas one year."

SPROUTS ARE RUBBISH, EVEN WHEN THEY'RE FANCY

"You can't polish a turd. Brussels sprouts with bacon and all the nice bits – it's a Heston recipe – it doesn't work. They're still shit. At the end of the day they're Brussels sprouts. I'd rather have spinach or something."

WE HAVE TO STAND UP TO SALUTE THE QUEEN

"We have to stand for her speech because my dad's really into her. It's fucking bullshit. She doesn't need that. She doesn't want us to stand up. She's obsessed with standing up. During the royal pageant she stood up for the whole thing, and that was for her anniversary. The following day Prince Philip got a urinary infection. All signs point to anal sex. If you fuck the Queen in the arse you definitely get a urinary infection."

OLD PEOPLE AREN'T AS FUNNY AS THEY ARE ON DOWNTON ABBEY

"I've been very excited recently about my grandmother's existence because I watch a lot of *Downton Abbey* and Maggie Smith is very funny. Every scene basically ends with her doing a fucking witty put-down, so I got very excited and thought maybe my granny has got more banter than I've given her credit for. Let's get her down for Christmas to fire off a few little joke bombs. But unfortunately my granny is just a bit racist."

THE WAITROSE ADVERTS PRETEND TO BE CHEAP

"Heston Blumenthal and Delia Smith just stand there like, 'We're not spending any money on it and we're just standing here in a studio'. But the reason those adverts cost a lot of money is not because of the studio hire, it's because you have to pay Heston

“WE HAVE TO STAND UP FOR THE QUEEN. IT'S BULLSHIT”

JACK WHITEHALL

and Delia. The whole concept of that advert doesn't work unless they're donating their fee to charity, though I suspect Heston is using it to fund the building of a massive pack of fucking Hula Hoops, which is completely pointless [Heston and Delia have actually waived their appearance fees – Charity Ed]. All of Heston's programmes are pointless."

CHRISTMAS JUMPERS MAKE ME ITCH

"I have a wool allergy so I don't wear those. My skin gets really itchy and I get, like, late-onset eczema. I have to wear cotton, like these pictures of Mark Wright in his 2013 calendar (*picks up pictures left in his publicist's office*)."

FRESH MEAT GIFT IDEAS

Jack on what JP will buy the others



"Drugs. She's scary and she likes drugs."



"Maybe a Taser. He's very into personal safety. Do you have to have a licence?"



"Some cock. I'd get her Mark Wright. You seen the pic of his penis on the internet? Big chap."



"She likes to hide the fact she's posh, so maybe some dubstep. That's what we did at uni."



"How many times can someone give Mark Wright? He'd like Mark Wright."

CHRISTMAS ISN'T VERY INCLUSIVE

"Because I like everyone, and the Jews and the Muslims don't have as much fun at Christmas. I wish everyone could have fun. The homeless get it fucking good at Christmas though. Shelter look after them."

YOUTHS ATTACK YOU WITH SNOW

"I got attacked by some youths with snowballs last year. They targeted me on Putney Common. It was a volley of snowballs at roam. They're bastards. But there's quite a lot of people in my region who are the target of youth snowballing. We've got some pretty big names around there: Peter Bowles from *To The Manor Born*, the man who played Catweazle and David Dimbleby."

MY DAD AT MIDNIGHT MASS

"We have a woman vicar, and my dad's not very keen on that. So we sit through Midnight Mass and listen to my dad telling us why she shouldn't be a woman vicar. Last year he was going on about how she was clearly just wearing lingerie under her robes, which she definitely wasn't. But he was like, 'How do you know she's not wearing some tarty bra?' And I was like, 'Well, because she's a priest'."

PORT

"Port is shit. Fuck port. Jesus Christ. It's fortified wine isn't it? It's no better than Buck's Fizz but they make it out to sound like it's a really nice liqueur. It's not. It's bullshit."

CHRISTMAS DINNER INSTEAD OF CHRISTMAS LUNCH

"I hate dinner. If I eat too late I go to bed with crippling indigestion and heartburn. I have to double-drop Rennie's, because that's the type of fast lifestyle I live. Sometimes I wash it down with Gaviscon."

THE NEVERENDING BULLSHIT THAT IS TURKEY

"Turkey is shit. I prefer chicken and all of the other meats because they are very moist and juicy. Also I once got raped by a turkey. I went to a turkey farm with my parents and they left me alone for a couple of minutes, and when they did the turkey flew over the pen and it raped me. It sucked my cock so hard its beak turned my penis into a turkey twizzler. My penis is now like a spring. I was eight. I'm used to it being a spring now. But at the time it was really traumatic and I had to write a letter to Bernard Matthews and tell him what one of his turkeys had done to me. Bernard Matthews told me that he'd been raped by a turkey and he really enjoyed it and that was why he was now a turkey farmer."

It was the
worst spill ever



THE STORIES BEHIND THE SONGS

You hear them every year in every shop and every party, but what do these ubiquitous Christmas tracks actually mean? **Barry Nicolson** asks the people who wrote them – and they should know

Wings wanted better haircuts for Christmas



DID YOU KNOW?

- Macca wrote and played every note himself. His band Wings only appeared in the video
- This song earns McCartney around £250,000 a year in royalties
- It was written on a new synthesizer McCartney had just bought: a Sequential Circuits Prophet-5
- It's been covered by the cast of *The West Wing*



“IT’S REALLY A DRINKING SONG!”

PAUL McCARTNEY

WONDERFUL CHRISTMASTIME

Chunky knitwear, mullets and synthesizers: could Macca’s 1979 hit be any more Christmassy?



PAUL McCARTNEY: “That song was one of my little home efforts, just me on my own, as I was doing around that time, with all kinds of synths and things on it. It was good fun to make. The video was great, too: we went out to some pub somewhere, and so that was a laugh... we just ran out of the pub occasionally, filmed a bit, and then went back in the pub. So that was quite a nice evening!

“For a while it sort of got on my nerves, that song – something like that will, because it gets played a lot. I go on and off a few of my songs, and I think ‘It’s not really that good’, but then what will happen is other people will like it, and I then re-evaluate through other people’s eyes. I go, ‘You know what? He or she is not thick, so what are they seeing in it?’ And then eventually I’ll go, ‘Oh yeah, that’s what I wanted it to be’. It’s just a Christmas party song, after all. Don’t get too heavy on it, you know? It really is just a drinking song. If we’re playing somewhere around Christmas, we always wheel that one out. And when I go back to it now, I think, yeah, this is pretty cool.”

“**FOR A WHILE
IT SORT OF GOT
ON MY NERVES,
THAT SONG”**

PAUL McCARTNEY

Chilli's a rocker for cheekbones after a while

DID YOU KNOW?

* 'Stay Another Day' was Number One in Denmark, Ireland and Sweden as well as the UK

* Tony Mortimer won an Ivor Novello songwriting award for the song

* Aside from flourishes of timpani at the beginning and end, the track has no drums on it

* Despite selling just under a million copies in the UK so far, Mortimer doesn't think it's his best song. "But it is my biggest hit, so it's a weird one. My favourite song is 'Deep,'" he says



The 'SAD' video: 15-tog duvets have many uses

"WHEN PEOPLE LEAVE, YOU WISH YOU HAD ONE MORE DAY"

EAST 17
STAY ANOTHER DAY

The least Christmassy Christmas song ever, released in 1994 by Walthamstow's finest, is also one of the best



TONY MORTIMER: "Sometimes when I'm working on a song I'll just let it play on repeat, and 'Stay Another Day' was one of those – I went and made some spaghetti on toast once and I realised that I'd had it playing for half an hour and it hadn't pissed me off yet, so it must be good. It wasn't meant to be a Christmas single; the A&R department said we should stick some bells on the end, but that's as much as it touches on the old ho-ho-ho stuff. I thought they was all mad.

"The song is about my brother Ollie, who committed suicide when I was younger. I'd grown up with the other guys in the band, so

they knew it was about him, though it wasn't something I told anyone about until people started asking about it in interviews. People know about my brother now, but what they don't know is that it's also about a good friend of mine who lost her father, and as he was dying in his hospital bed, he woke up and came back for another 24 hours. When people are leaving, you always wish that you had one more day with them, and that's where the title came from.

"Every year I say I'm never gonna perform it again, and eventually there will come a point where I'll stop doing it. As I've got older, I've lightened up about it, although I did find it weird when Girls Aloud covered a song about my brother's suicide.

"I recently had a look for the furry white parka from the video, but I don't know where it went. We looked like a bunch of fucking Eskimos, but it was one of those moments in time, wasn't it? I do wonder where it's gone. It's gotta be in my garage somewhere."

"WE GOT THROWN OUT OF THE PRECINCT"

THE POGUES
FAIRYTALE OF NEW YORK

Is this 1987 classic the greatest Christmas song of all time? Quite possibly



SPIDER STACY, GUITARIST: "Shane [MacGowan] started writing the song two years before it was released. It had some roots in The Pogues' first trip to New York in the mid '80s. The city is exactly as you imagine it to be from all the movies you've seen, but it's also so much more than that. That was probably rattling around in Shane's head.

"Kirsty MacColl came to sing on it by accident – originally Shane and Cait [O'Riordan, former Pogues bassist] were going to do it, but then Cait left. Steve Lillywhite [producer] took it home to Kirsty and asked her to sing on it, to get an idea of what the female part would sound like. When we heard it back, that was our eureka moment. The song sounded so right.

"There was a bit of trouble when we were filming the video in New York – we ended up getting thrown out of the precinct house we were shooting in. We were being too loud and too drunk and not taking our presence behind the NYPD's hallowed walls seriously enough for their liking, and the police threw us out.

"The song just missed out on being Christmas Number One to Pet Shop Boys' cover of 'Always On My Mind'. None of us believed that it would get to Number One, but we were all gutted when it didn't. I bumped into Neil Tennant recently and I mentioned that song to him and he went, 'God, are you *still* banging on about that?'"

Kirsty and Shane have proof that Father Christmas is real (if you've had a few)



DID YOU KNOW?

* Shane MacGowan was born on Christmas Day

* The video features Hollywood star and Pogues fan Matt Dillon as an irate NYPD officer

* In 2007, the BBC began playing an edited version of the song that omitted the word "faggot". After much uproar, they went back to playing the original

* The title came from a 1961 JP Donleavy novel

* The song has charted in the UK Top 20 every single year since 2005

THE POGUES



Merry Christmas



Someone wasn't happy standing so close to Sting – maybe he could write a song about it

“STATUS QUO BROUGHT A BIG BAG OF COCAINE”

BAND AID

DO THEY KNOW IT'S CHRISTMAS?

Featuring everyone from Phil Collins to Sting to Bono, this 1984 effort remains one of the few genuinely great charity records



MIDGE URE: “Bob [Geldof] and I wrote it separately. After the initial discussion, I went home and wrote the melody, and Bob turned up later with this half-baked song The Boomtown Rats had

turned down years before that he'd probably reworked in the taxi on the way over. I then spent four days working on the track, trying to turn it into a palatable song while Bob was on the phone. On the day of the recording, we were stood outside an empty studio, hoping all these people would turn up.

“We had 24 hours to record and mix it, and it was a bit of a bunfight. Trevor Horn showed up – it was his studio we were recording in – and had this idea of doing a madrigal, all these vocals cascading over one another. He spent an hour of our very valuable time trying this and eventually

DID YOU KNOW?

• Boy George almost missed the recording – he was in New York and flew in on Concorde after a hectoring call from Bob Geldof

• Until Elton John's ‘Candle In The Wind 1997’, this was the biggest-selling single in British history, shifting 3.7 million copies

• The song was recorded in one frantic 24-hour burst, starting on November 25, 1984. It hit the shelves two days later

• It's been re-recorded twice – by Band Aid II in 1989, and Band Aid 20 in 2004

I had to say, ‘Look Trevor, thanks but no thanks.’ There was a bit of a party going on too – apparently Status Quo brought a big bag of cocaine, but I was behind the desk for the entire day, so I never saw any of that first-hand. It was only afterwards that I heard Duran Duran and the Quo were the ringleaders – I was stuck in the control room all day doing the job!

“It was all very good-natured though; people generally got on with each other. The only person I lost my temper at was Bob. He's not the world's best singer, and it's intimidating for any artist to stand in a studio with a camera in their face, singing a song they've never heard while their contemporaries look on through the control-room window. The last thing anyone needed was Bob singing the wrong melody at them. Eventually I snapped and went, ‘For Christ's sake, I know how the melody goes, let me tell them!’”

"OUR PRODUCT IS PEACE"

JOHN LENNON AND
YOKO ONO

HAPPY XMAS (WAR IS OVER)

World peace was the goal in 1971. Radio play at Christmas is the result 40 years later

"In today's society," John Lennon said in 1969, "advertising is the thing that politicians use

and companies use. The Beatles use it, and John and Yoko should use it. Our product is peace." Midge Ure and Bob Geldof may have perfected the art of the Christmas single as political statement, but 'Happy Xmas (War Is Over)' is where, knowingly or not, they got the idea. The only thing lacking was timing: the song arrived two years *after* John and Yoko had plastered 12 cities around the world with posters declaring 'WAR IS OVER'



DID YOU KNOW?

• The single's UK release in 1971 was delayed over a legal dispute, but it was eventually released in November 1972, peaking at Number Four

• Despite its similarity to the song 'Stewball', Lennon claimed he'd based it on the Paris Sisters' Phil Spector-produced 1961 hit 'I Love How You Love Me'

• The cities targeted by John and Yoko's poster campaign were New York, LA, Toronto, Rome, Athens, London, Amsterdam, Berlin, Paris, Tokyo, Hong Kong and Helsinki

• Phil Spector used the Harlem Community Choir to sing the climactic "War is over/If you want it" coda

• The song was written in a New York hotel room shortly after John and Yoko had moved to the city

and its eventual recording in late 1971 meant its release came too late to make much of a dent in the charts.

"I was sick of 'White Christmas'," Lennon quipped when asked about the song's genesis, and though it's since become a festive staple, back then, there had never been a Christmas song quite like it. The song, whose chords and melody borrow heavily from the US folk standard 'Stewball', was written in collaboration with Yoko and recorded with Phil Spector, a man who knows a thing or two about Christmas records. And yet it's not *really* about Christmas at all. Lennon's main fixation was the ongoing war in Vietnam and the idea "that we're just as

“
**WE WANTED TO
GET A PLUG IN
FOR PEACE AT
CHRISTMAS”**

JOHN LENNON

responsible as the man who pushes the button. As long as people imagine that somebody's doing it to them, and that they have no control, then they have no control."

Though it disappointed commercially (and politically; the war continued for another four years), the song is now a seasonal standard, almost as ubiquitous as 'White Christmas' itself. The message behind it, however, is evergreen: "We wanted to get at least one plug in for peace on Earth at Christmas," Lennon explained. "That implies no violence, no starving children, no violent minds, no violent households, no frustration and no fear."

*The Xmas
song world
cup!*

Get involved in our big festive vote! We're holding the Christmas Song World Cup on NME.COM now, whittling down 50 entrants to one eventual winner. The heat winners will be decided by NME.COM users - head to the site now to have your say, and check out videos from the likes of Palma Violets and Jack Whitehall talking about their favourite festive songs.

CHAMPAGNE SPECTOR-NOVA!

It's been a year to celebrate: who knew London scenesters **Spector** would end 2012 as bona fide chart stars and festival heroes? **Ben Hewitt** pops his cork

Let's put it this way," booms Fred Macpherson triumphantly. "I heard that Geri Halliwell wrote on a picture of her dead father – and this ties in with a lot of Noel Edmonds' theories about cosmic ordering, too – the five things she wanted to achieve: have a Number One single, meet George Michael, blah blah. All those things happened in a year.

"On the back of a scrap piece of paper, which I think was the packaging of a *Star Wars* toy I found in my old bedroom at my mum's house, I wrote down five things I wanted to achieve," he continues. "And without saying what they were, we as a band achieved four of those things."

Fuck the naysayers! Cast out the cynics! String up the grinchies! After hurtling into 2012 pegged as everything from buzz band to calculated jokers, Spector are ending the year as A Big Deal. And Fred is the jester-turned-indie-king, holding court in the band's French dressing room and showing us the official Spector calendar (best picture: Fred staring balefully down the lens, rubbing a kitten against his face). "I'm glad you're here to celebrate with us in what feels like a cold psychiatric unit," says Fred of the soulless Zenith De Paris arena they're holed up in, supporting Florence + The Machine. "Hopefully there might be free soup."

Spector have racked up an impressive record of achievement over the past 12 months. There was the early performance on *Later... With Jools Holland*; slaying the crowds at Reading And Leeds Festivals and the Isle Of Wight. And throw in a bizarre foray to the Far East, too, where they were handpicked to launch Topman in Kuala Lumpur (Fred: "I don't know if we had Goebbels doing our press... we had to take some competition winners shopping, and I got a 40-year-old engineer who decided he wasn't interested in silk floral shirts and wanted some work trousers instead").

But, beyond all the big talk, 2012's been massive for Spector because of the music: the album 'Enjoy It While It Lasts' may have

been gift-wrapped with an insurance policy of a title, but tracks such as 'Friday Night, Don't Ever Let It End' and 'Chevy Thunder' have become bona-fide indie disco staples, and the album debuted at Number 12 in the UK charts. "I'm so proud of making that album," says Fred, suddenly serious. "And in doing so, we weren't just fulfilling our aims now – it was fulfilling all the teenage dreams we had."

“I'D NEVER SLEEP WITH SOMEONE WHO PAID TO SEE A SPECTOR GIG”

FRED MACPHERSON

"If I had an airhorn and was listening to it, there's at least five or six moments where I'd be smashing it. Just massive moments," he continues. "I can see why they're irrelevant to some people – certain tracks seem like things from another time – but it's psychology: like the Stereophonics once said, you've gotta go there to come back. And you can't put it better than Kelly Jones, a true wordsmith."

If there's a rub to all this, of course, it's what becomes of Spector now they've smashed through to the other side. As Fred says: "I grew up





in the London indie scene. For us, getting a gig at The Rhythm Factory supporting someone who once met one of Babyshambles was as good as it got." Now he's something of an indie celeb himself – spouting witticisms on *Never Mind The Buzzcocks* and inspiring at least one person to tattoo himself with pictures of Fred's face. So the question is, what comes next?

"The best moments of the year haven't been people coming up to me in HMV when I'm trying to buy *Cool Runnings* on DVD, saying 'Were you in that band on TV?'" he insists.

And there's no lustful groupies, either. "I would never sleep with

Pricey champagne is small beer for the newly minted Spector

someone who paid to see a Spector gig," deadpans Fred. "The fame or any of the trappings don't add anything to the creative process. When you're in your bed – however many supermodels are in it – the thing you think about before you go to sleep is whether you're doing what you want to do. And the second we're not, we'll dust off the old CV. I haven't opened my CV since I had Windows 95, but at least I'll be able to put a couple more things on it now, if and when I need to get a job. No doubt I will..."

Somehow, though, it's unlikely Fred and his bandmates will need to pop down to the Job Centre just yet – they're too busy taking over the world, one indie hit, fan tattoo and kitten calendar at a time.



"I NEED TO FIND A WIFE..."

Fred Macpherson's New Year's resolutions

1 BE A NICER PERSON

"When I spoke to *NME* last year, I said my New Year's Resolution was to be more obnoxious, because obnoxious people do better in life. We've done well and I've been obnoxious, so this year I want to try and do some good deeds. I want to be nicer to people and the ones who care about me the most. I played the wanker card a lot, and now it's dog-eared. But I've got a deck of 52 cards and I'll be playing the Mr Nice Guy one."

2 CATCH UP ON SOAPS AND GET MARRIED

"I need to find a wife and catch up on *EastEnders*. I'm 35 episodes back, but due to BT Vision – it's a Sky-like digital thing that records every episode of your favourite programme – I have them saved. Each one is half an hour long, and I have 17 and a half hours to watch. Where I'm at, Ian Beale is only just back from being a tramp, which shows how far I am behind. And I want to find love in a hopeless place. If anyone wants to come round to my house, I can guarantee I can provide the hopeless place, if not quite the love."

3 MAKE BETTER MUSIC

"We're going to make better music. That's our promise. We've made some pretty good tunes. Sure, 'Chevy Thunder' is a banger. Maybe it gets the kids going wild at your northern indie disco. But let's be honest: we've only written some quite good songs. And I believe in this band we have at least one, if not two, of the nation's premier songwriters. Spector will make better music in 2013. I don't know when we'll get to release it – sooner rather than later, hopefully. But we'll make a great record."

4 BE MORE HONEST

"The other resolution is to work out what Spector actually is. People say you have your whole life to make your first album and only however long to make your second one, but I'm actually excited by that, because taste-wise we've cleaned out all of the... what's that spiky insulation stuff called? Asbestos. We've cleaned all the asbestos out of the loft, and we're ready to have a spring clean. Maybe make room for the baby – that's a metaphor. So I think we'll be more honest. And more real. And continue to enjoy it."

MERRY QUIFFMAS EVERYONE

With sellout tours, an Arctic Monkeys hook-up and his biggest album yet, **Richard Hawley** has just nailed 2012. **Lisa Wright** joins him by the fireside to toast his year with a thousand pints of Guinness

Despite clocking up more than two decades in the music business, Sheffield don Richard Hawley has had his best year yet. From January's collaboration with pals Arctic Monkeys as The Death Ramps on 'You And I', to his adored, Mercury-nominated album 'Standing At The Sky's Edge' and its brave new psych-buzz direction, to a slew of sell-out tours, Hawley upped his game from smartly tailored, string-laden crooner to something more important. So, to toast the singer's mad 2012, we settled him next to the roaring fire of his local boozer The Scotsman's Pack, opened up the mince pies, lined up countless pints of Guinness and got him to ruminate on his recent past. "The Brits are offensive, they're just full of coked-up, fat old white men," he lolls, taking a slug on his pint. We might be here a while...

NME: It's been a pretty manic year. Did you expect 'Standing At The Sky's Edge' to go down so well?

Hawley: "You have to be brave and push yourself. With this record I knew I was going to be challenging people. I've always had quite low expectations, which is healthy in a lot of ways, but pretty much everywhere we've played this year has sold out and, considering that we're living in pretty tough times, that's amazing. People are really nailing their colours to my mast... excuse the euphemism."

You got nominated for the Mercury Prize again – are you sad you didn't win? "I didn't give a fuck. Some people have told me that it's good that I've been nominated twice, but I'm genuinely not arsed. My wife got absolutely rat-arsed there, she picked up the little award you get [for being nominated] and it just fell apart in her hands. I've now got a carrier bag under the bed stuffed with bits of Mercury award. I try to avoid the whole celebrity thing; you don't want to become bigger than your own music. It's not necessary for me to appear on *Strictly Come Fuckwit*; that's got nothing to do with why I've got a guitar in my hands and why I'm singing my heart out."

Any memorable touring adventures?

"Well, on the second day of the first tour I broke my leg. I slipped on a marble

staircase in Barcelona after visiting my friend's newborn son; I was being such a good boy as well. I did the whole 15-date tour in a wheelchair completely and utterly out of my brains on tramadol and red wine – it was like a little sojourn back into the old days. I remember Guy Garvey pushing me onstage at Latitude wearing one of them hi-vis jackets. The minute my wife found out I was enjoying temazepam she threw them all down the toilet."

Any plans to take that Arctic Monkeys collaboration further?

"Yeah, I enjoyed that. We've talked about

“

I FELL THROUGH
A PLATE-GLASS
WINDOW ONE
CHRISTMAS EVE..."

RICHARD HAWLEY

[doing an album]. It'll happen when the time is right. There's loads of things going off at the moment... I've been working with Edwyn Collins, which I'm really excited about; I've adored Edwyn since I was a very young man so that was a great, great honour. To be one of those people that he chose was like that thing out of *Toy Story*, one of those aliens with three eyes being plucked out."

Now you've got time to relax, what are you going to be up to this Christmas? "I try and keep the whole corporate horror of it all as far away as possible. We're getting another dog this Christmas, though; he's going to be called Alfie Bone, like Alfie Boe the opera singer."

OLD SAINT DICK

What Hawley's
getting his
Sheffield pals for
Christmas



ALEX TURNER

"I've hooked Alex up with Eastwood guitars and they're gonna give him loads of guitars. I'll buy him a pint as well – they're in LA so I don't see them often. You'll have to take me out of Sheffield in a box."



JARVIS COCKER

"I'll be buying Jarvis vinyl. If I tell you what it'll spoil it though! We like our choons. He once got me a fucking boss album by Gary Burton called 'Good Vibes'. Jarv puts a lot of thought into the gifts that he gives."

Any memorably lairy festivities from back in the Pulp days?

"I fell through a plate-glass window once on Christmas Eve. I got totally shitfaced and tried to take my trousers off. Trying to do that while being vertical after 15 pints of Guinness is difficult, and I fell back through the window of our house. So on Christmas Day we didn't have a bedroom window. Everyone in the band was in the arena of the unwell at that time. The millennium was a humdinger too. Jarvis bought this firework that looked like a fucking Zanussi fridge, with one fuse at the top where you light the motherfucker and it all goes off for you. There was shit flying at us, rockets aimed at the house, and we were all pinned to the wall like being in a war zone. Terrifying."

Presumably things have calmed down a bit since then...

"Kind of. When you get older you just want to shut the doors a bit more. A few years ago me and Chez, who plays guitar in our band, had done a world tour from January to December and we played a gig in Ireland right at the end. We were fucked. When you're on tour it's like an egg frying in a pan for too long – it looks like an egg, but you don't wanna go there. We turned up at the Benner's Hotel and Pete from Elbow called me and asked if I was alright, and then by the Christmas tree was all the Elbow boys, Billy Bragg, Hugh Cornwell from The Stranglers and two pints of Guinness. I nearly wept."

That's the spirit. And any New Year's resolutions for 2013?

"Never done it. I'll not keep them. I'd like to give up smoking... well, I sort of don't want to... ah, fuck it, I love smoking and drinking. They're my last bad boy vices..."

True to form, five hours later we're still firmly in the pub. Pies have been pushed to the side, pints have been treated in the opposite manner and Hawley's recounting the kind of tales that could make for one of the most ridiculous biographies in history. For example, there's the time Joe Strummer sprinkled a gram of cocaine on his fish and chips. Why? Because he had to "use it up somehow". Of course. Let's hope next year he gets round to writing a book.



Merry Christmas

THE MEGA NME BOREDOL

Ready for some Christmas music quiz action? Then dive into our festive challenge and you could win yourself a load of Converse swag and gig tickets! So grab yourself an eggnog and a sausage roll and let it begin...



Nicki Minaj on her way to Spike Island

4 Jake Bugg had a rather big 2012 – but Bugg is actually his mum's maiden name. What's his birth surname?

5 Who supposedly handpicked Two Door Cinema Club's Alex Trimble to sing at the opening ceremony of the Olympics when the torch was entering the stadium?

6 Which former *X Factor*-type got a bottle of piss thrown at them at V Festival?

7 Which French actress and singer did Pete Doherty tell *NME* this year he had a steamy affair with?

8 Ex-Gallows screamer Frank Carter played his first gigs with Pure Love this year. But who is the 'other one' in the band?

9 Which two members of The Vaccines took to wearing fetching sleeveless denim jackets this year, like they were in the early years of Take That?

10 Who released a box-set with a song called 'Sir Elton John's Cock' on it?

11 Which Primal Scream replacement bassist was herself replaced by a relative unknown called Simone Butler in October?

12 Which daughter of a Sex Pistol supported The Stone Roses at Heaton Park in June?

13 Which oddball US singer this year declared that he had an "active masturbation life" in *NME*?



Alex stands dangerously close to the Olympic flame



Frank Carter sings a lovely carol...



Green Day can't count to four in Spanish



...and Pond's Nick Allbrook joins in

14 Which band, who were ditched by their record label this year, released their album featuring an erect cock on the cover art?

15 Continuing the theme, what did Natasha Khan have draped over her shoulders on the cover of her new album?

16 Pond and Tame Impala share a few of the same members and both released new albums in 2012 – but whose came out first?

17 This was the year Lee Newell from defunct lad-rockers Viva Brother launched a new boyband career. What's his new band called?

18 Who released a book called *Unknown Pleasures* this year?

19 Green Day released three albums in 2012: '¡Uno!', '¡Dos!' and '¡Tré!'. But which of the three featured rehab-visiting singer Billie Joe Armstrong's face on it?

20 Glasvegas named their new album twice this year. What was the first name for it?



Natasha Khan salutes leopards

Round 1 20 QUESTIONS ABOUT 2012

1 Which hard partier was named a US Cultural Ambassador to the Middle East this year?

2 The first man on the moon, Neil Armstrong, died this year. But which band paid touching tribute to him at Leeds Festival by giving him a shout-out?

3 Nicki Minaj told fans on Twitter to "eat shit" and do what after cancelling her appearance at V Festival?

Round 2 GARY LIGHTBODY'S REINDEER CHALLENGE

Gary chasing stars



Snow Patrol warbler Gary Lightbody (wait, come back!) used to be in an indie group called Reindeer Section, y'know – and now he's only gone and stuck reindeer features on a load of rock stars. Can you identify the faces under the antlers?

M-CRUSHING XMAS QUIZ

Round 3 FESTIVE ANAGRAMS

All these wintry artists have had their letters jumbled up – can you straighten them out?

- 1 A Glaze Hen
- 2 Lady Clop
- 3 Bless He Gill
- 4 Weary Birth
- 5 Nachos Geez III



Round 4 THE ALBUM COVER CHALLENGE

We've spelled out a festive message for you – but which album cover does each letter come from?



Round 5 SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Look, it's those Arctic Monkeys, all dressed up as evil elves. Spot the five differences in the pictures and write down exactly where they are on your email when you enter the competition (right)

WIN!

Converse exclusives and money-can't-buy gig tickets up for grabs

Reckon you've nailed the quiz?

Email your answers in full to letters@NME.COM with 'XMAS QUIZ 2012' as the subject. Include your full name, address and shoe size, and you'll be in with a shot of winning a massive Converse swag bag. Inside the bag will be one pair of Chuck Taylors, one pair of exclusive 100 Club Chuck Taylors, a Converse 100 Club T-shirt and entry to every

Converse gig taking place at London's 100 Club in 2013. Bands who have played the shows before include The Vaccines, Blur, Nas, Plan B and Paul Weller – so it's a pretty special prize. Good luck!

Entries must be in by January 1. The answers will be published at NME.COM/blogs on January 2.



NME'S ALTERNAT

Wondering what to watch on the box this Yuletide? Let comedian **Peter Serafinowicz** be your guide. Warning: contains Noel Edmonds nudity and Philip Schofield's paedo list...

BBC1

MRS BROWN'S BOYS CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

Christmas Eve, 10.10pm

A special feature-length edition of the popular comedy show takes a thoughtful turn from the outset: while queuing for the bathroom, the boys' patience gets the better of them and they burst in on Mrs Brown, and are shocked to discover she has a penis. Poignant, harrowing and moving exploration of comedy gender issues. Pedro Almodóvar directs.



DOCTOR WHO CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

Christmas Day, 5.20pm

The Doctor returns to his old profession: treating genito-urinary infections in his TARDIS. A Dalek comes in, disguised as an obese man suffering from cystitis. The Dalek tries to exterminate the Doctor while being examined but he has it on the wrong setting and snow comes out of the plunger thing. Then they all sing carols and the Doc fits the Dalek with a vocoder so he can join in.



STRICTLY COME DANCING CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

Christmas Day, 6.20pm

The bionically controlled corpse of Bruce Forsyth has had a software update for Christmas - it now has Inspector Gadget-style extending legs which he uses to pneumatically bound around the dancers while creating a mystical atmosphere by issuing dry ice from his robotic 'anus' (another feature of Bruce version 2.8.0).



THE ROYLE FAMILY CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

Christmas Day, 10pm

The gang sit round the TV and watch old episodes of *The*

Royle Family. Caroline Aherne and Craig Cash take turns saying "I wrote that bit".

BBC2



DRAGONS' DEN CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

December 23, 8.30pm

The Dragons make an incredible discovery: when presenter Evan Davis' index finger glows as he points to the crayon Peter Jones uses to write his jokes, Duncan realises the truth: he is an alien. But just as Theo is about to smash Evan's head with a glass coffee table, Deborah communicates with the alien telepathically and realises he means them no harm and just wants to go home. Last in the series.

JAMES MAY'S TOY STORIES

December 23, 9.30pm

James May's Toy Stories Xmas Special. James May's Toy Stories Xmas Special. James May's Toy Stories Xmas Special. James May's Toy Stories Xmas Special. James May's Toy Stories Xmas Special. JAMES MAY'S. TOY STORIES. XMAS SPECIAL.

CELEBRITY UNIVERSITY CHALLENGE

New Year's Eve, 5.10pm

For this Yuletide edition the show becomes *I'm A Celebrity University Challenge!* The mid to highbrow questions are replaced by tasks wherein the panellists must eat the gonads, pudenda and genitals of animals kindly donated by the British Natural History Museum. Presented by Jeremy Paxman and Dec.

JOOLS' HOOTENANNY ON NYE

New Year's Eve, 11.15pm

Sadly, this show was recorded after Jools had his hands amputated due to his long battle with acute honciconitis. He gamely bashes away with his stumps, but it's just not the same, although it is greatly improved. On a happier note, Jools' voice has finally broken, revealing a rich, irritating baritone.



“

THE ONLY GUEST
ON JONATHAN
ROSS IS PETER
SERAFINOWICZ”

PETER SERAFINOWICZ

IVE TV GUIDE



ITV

THE JONATHAN ROSS CHRISTMAS SHOW

December 22, 9pm

Jonathan's only guest is the acclaimed comedian and actor Peter Serafinowicz, who talks about his book *A Billion Jokes (Volume One)*, his upcoming Brian Butterfield movie, and the sincere apology he received from the BBC for cancelling his sketch show.

THE CUBE

December 23, 8pm

It's back with a twist: this time, the actual Cube is completely black so no-one can witness what occurs inside. Guests include the cast of Philip Schofield's paedophile list.



PAUL O'GRADY: FOR THE LOVE OF DOGS CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

Christmas Day, 6pm

Paul O'Grady visits Korea where he samples some of the local street delicacies... oh fuck it, I can't say anything remotely nasty about this man: absolutely everything he does is bursting with warmth and humanity. He's hilarious too. I love him. Undoubtedly one of Earth's finest humans.



DOWNTON ABBEY

Christmas Day, 8.45pm

A huge coup for Julian Fellowes as the show becomes *Ricky Gervais' Down's Syndrome Abbey!* Ricky's hilarious Down's Syndrome character 'Derek' bumbles his way through the Abbey, causing Down's Syndrome-related havoc both upstairs and 'Down's'-stairs! A must for everyone who loves to see a successful, mentally able comedian make fun of a Down's Syndrome man. Also features a dwarf in a toilet and a movie star pretending they're not very nice! Heart-chilling.



CHANNEL 4

DEAL OR NO DEAL'S BIG CHRISTMAS DINNER

Christmas Eve, 1.45pm

Noel Edmonds presents a special all-naked episode of *Deal Or No Deal*, and maintains a beautiful, dainty erection throughout. Note: make sure you catch it live, as the 40D version will be censored because it's Noel's surprise! I really hope Channel 4 aren't reading this.



GORDON'S CHRISTMAS COOKALONG

Christmas Day, 10am

Gordon learns to speak Turkish in order to berate and swear at a turkey, which he then slaughters and roasts. Then he calls everyone cunts and we all laugh. He also shows us how to make the perfect cinnamon Danish, using his forehead as a template.

ALAN CARR'S NYE SPECTACULAR

New Year's Eve, 9pm

Alan is surprised by a guest appearance from Santa, but surprise quickly turns to shock when he pulls the beard off to reveal another beard - that of Justin Lee Collins. JLC quickly orders everyone to look directly at him (or at the floor) while combing his hair and moisturising his back. Good times!



FIVE

A RIGHT ROYAL YEAR

Christmas Eve, 8pm

A lavish programme charting one of the most memorable years for our Royal Family. All the glittering highlights from the Jubilee right up to the latest Royal embryo have been chronicled by a group of filthy commoners for us all to gape at in our hovels. Narrated by some peasant.

THE WORLD'S BIGGEST ANIMALS

Christmas Eve, 8pm

Channel 5's Christmas theme continues with that old festive standby, giant beasts. We meet the blue whale Alan Titchmarsh keeps in his swimming pool and a gargantuan maggot that has learned to paint. Merry Christmas!



EDDIE STOBART: TRUCKS, TRAILERS AND TINSEL

Christmas Day, 8pm

What could be more Christmassy than a show about truck drivers and the enchanting world of logistics? An enthralling, beguiling Christmas treat for all of us who enjoy that most potent of Yuletide symbols: the heavy goods vehicle.



WORLD'S STRONGEST MAN

December 27, 8pm

Forget beefcakes, this competition focuses purely on emotional strength. Contestants are faced with gruelling challenges from reliving their childhood bullying to watching their wives have multiple affairs. Features Europe's largest emotional rollercoaster.

CELEBRITY BIG BROTHER LAUNCH

January 4, 9pm

CBB is back!! This year's celebrity line-up includes (SPOILER ALERT!) a man who was on *Normal Big Brother*, a woman who was on television in the 1960s, a man who was on YouTube, a woman who had sexual intercourse with a man from *Normal Big Brother*, a man who was an unsuccessful contestant on a talent show two years ago, a woman whose picture was in a magazine, and George Galloway MP.



SINGLES ALL THE WAY

Our star-studded panel (and Keith Lemon) pump it up and look back at the year's most chat-worthy tracks



YOUR PANEL



WRETCH 32

Who: Ed Sheeran-
endorsed rapping dude
Vibe: Placid
Distance travelled to
be here: 12 miles
(Tottenham to
Battersea)



LINDSEY TROY

Who: Deap Vally
guitarist/vocalist
Vibe: American
Distance travelled to
be here: 5,500 miles
(Los Angeles to
London)



MARK E SMITH

Who: The Fall leader
and singer
Vibe: Affable
Distance travelled to
be here: 200 miles
(Manchester to
London)



WILL REES

Who: Mystery Jets
guitarist
Vibe: Contemplative
Distance travelled to
be here: 10 miles
(Twickenham to
Battersea)



KEITH LEMON

Who: Moustachioed
host of *Celebrity Juice*
Vibe: Manic
Distance travelled to
be here: 180 miles
(Yorkshire to
London)



IAN WATKINS

Who: Lostprophets
vocalist
Vibe: Dashing
Distance travelled to
be here: 160 miles
(Pontypridd to
London)



JULIE EDWARDS

Who: Deap Vally
drummer
Vibe: Slightly less
American than Lindsey
Distance travelled to
be here: 5,500 miles
(Los Angeles to London)

CALL ME MAYBE CARLY RAE JEPSEN

Keith: "I don't know how old she is, but it sounds like an upbeat tune to masturbate to while I was thinking I was making love to her."
Wretch: "It's infectious."

Mark: "I like it. It goes a bit."

Keith: "I can imagine it at a six-year-old's party with balloon animals – 'I had a great time. Thanks, Dad'. What did you think, Ian? Can you say it all in Welsh so they have to translate it?"

Ian: "I like it."

Keith: "It's not real music. But for kids, it does the job, doesn't it?"

TEENAGE ICON THE VACCINES

Julie: "I think now is a good time to bring up Frankie Avalon."

Ian: "Who's Frankie Avalon?"

Julie: "Frankie Avalon was a heart-throb in the '50s and '60s."

Keith: "Was he in *Grease*?"

Ian: "Frankie Valli sang 'Grease'."

Will: "I think they've written better songs."

Lindsey: "I'm just happy to hear a guitar solo in pop music. That makes me happy."

Wretch: "It's not my favourite Vaccines song but I still like it."

Mark: "Don't they all live together or something? I've heard better songs by them."

Will: "Is he saying he isn't a teenage icon because he's scruffy and messy? What's the message here?"

Julie: "I think he is a teenage icon. We just opened for them on tour and if you see the look on the girls' faces while they are playing, they think of him as a teenage icon. They like the fact that he doesn't see himself like that."

Keith: "I think this is another good song to have a wank to, but with a different feeling. I'd have a quick wank to this song before I go out and meet me mates."

Mark: "You're giving all your creativity away! (mouths some words at Keith)."

Keith: "What?"

Mark: "Keith, wanking makes you deaf!"

CANNONBALL JAKE BUGG

Keith: "Jake who?"

Wretch: "I like the lyrics. But I'm kind of waiting for it to kick in."

Will: "His singing reminds me of Liam Gallagher."

Keith: "It reminds me of Buddy Holly and jukebox music, like you'd hear in the background of *Happy Days*. I like this tune."

Will: "I think it's great."

Ian: "Is he legit?"

Will: "What do you mean?"

Ian: "Does he write his own songs?"

Will: "I think it's definitely him."

CANDY ROBBIE WILLIAMS

Keith: "I don't normally like Robbie Williams songs because they've been destroyed by karaoke. But I quite like this. The chorus

I'D HAVE A QUICK WANK TO THIS SONG BEFORE I MEET MY MATES"

KEITH LEMON

dance sound in it. The lyrics are quite good."

Keith: "It sounds like it could be the theme tune to a show where you get back together with your family."

Lindsey: "It sounds like a theme tune for a cruise liner!"

BEST OF FRIENDS PALMA VIOLETS

Keith: "This is NME's Single Of The Year? Above anything Peter Andre has done? Wow."

Mark: "It sounds like 'The Whole Of The Moon' by The Waterboys (starts singing)."

Keith: "It does!"

Julie: "I think it sounds really danceable. This is the sort of song you could dance to when you're blow-drying your hair and putting your makeup on."

sounds very football chant-y. (*Sings along*) 'Hey, ho, hairy bole...'. That's what I like to sing."

Wretch: "It's catchy. When you hear there's going to be a new Robbie Williams song, you do expect it to sound like this."

Julie: "It's light and fluffy but it lacks the epicness of 'Millennium'."

Mark: "I think it's good, this. I'm surprised. It's got a lot of that new



Someone's chuffed about their wanking injury

Mark: "This type of singing is quite popular, isn't it?"

Wretch: "I didn't get into it."

Keith: "It scares me, this song. It makes me have bad thoughts."

GANGNAM STYLE PSY

Ian: "Remember 'Pump Up The Jam' by Technotronic? (*sings*). This is basically it."

Ian/Keith: "(*Rapping*) Pump up the jam/Pump it up while your feet are stomping!"

Keith: "It is! Fucking hell. The robbing bastards! I wonder what they are up to now?"

Ian: "It's been over 20 years. No-one's going to remember 'Pump Up The Jam!'"

Mark: "I don't know what it means."

Keith: "What is Gangnam?"

Julie: "If you put a 'gang' and a 'hey' in a song it's going to be a hit. This song reminds me of a regrettable night, like causing trouble at a wedding."

Wretch: "This song comes on all the time. I've never heard this to the end. I hate it."

Keith: "I hate this song but I like 'Pump Up The Jam!'"



Two cans of lager and no peanuts – we know how to throw a party!

UNDER THE WESTWAY BLUR

Keith: "This is the music I hear when I'm having a dream."

Ian: "Doesn't it sound like 'Imagine' by John Lennon?"

Julie: "It's definitely Beatles-esque."

Ian: "I rip off so many songs, I know when someone else is doing it."

Julie: "It's full of longing. It reminds you of the one that got away."

Mark: "This is music for old women, isn't it? Barry Manilow, all that stuff is coming back with the young couples, isn't it? At least with him [Damon Albarn], it's honest, innit?"

Wretch: "It sounds like something new done in an old way."

Keith: "When I met Blur at t'Brits, I thought Damon Albarn was going to be friendlier then he was. Everyone else in Blur were right nice. He wasn't 'orrible. I just thought he'd be friendlier. I met Noel Gallagher and I said, 'Can I shake your hand and tell my mates that I've met you?' Noel Gallagher is a lovely bloke."

BAD GIRLS MIA

Keith: "I like this song but the video scares me."

Lindsey: "She's really pretty."

Wretch: "I think the video's sick, man. I like the lyrics as well."

Ian: "What about all the health and safety rules? You can't do that in a car."

Julie: "I think she's one of the most interesting women in music. It's heavy, it's groovy, it's sexy, it's clever, it's political."

Mark: "It's quite good this. It's quite different, it's not like dance music from the '80s or drum'n'bass and all that. It's not something anyone else is doing. It's interesting."

Ian: "I think it's wicked."

Keith: "I don't think it would be very good for an eight-year-old's birthday party."

Julie: "I think it'd be great for an eight-year-old. Isn't an eight-year-old's desire to hear good rhythm?"

Keith: "I can't remember being eight. It was ages ago!"

CLIMAX USHER

Keith: "I'm not so excited about Usher since he touched Michael Jackson's coffin. He got a bit over-dramatic."

Ian: "I saw him in a hotel once and he said hello to me. He didn't have to, did he?"

Keith: "I got pally with Justin Timberlake."



I don't know how that happened. He'd probably spit in my face now."

Wretch: "I like that they've put R&B over something different, more than the traditional good keys and great harmonies."

Ian: "It's not his best work. It's a bit of an anti-climax."

WE ARE NEVER EVER GETTING BACK TOGETHER TAYLOR SWIFT

Ian: "This sounds like it was written by a songwriting team, Auto-tune on full."

Keith: "I don't like it when she talks and I fucking can't stand it when they laugh in songs and you see them miming the laughter on a TV show."

Wretch: "What if the song's a joke?"

Mark: "Remember the criminals in [the 1970s TV version of] *Batman*? They'd laugh like this. (Does massive evil laugh). I like that."

Keith: "I just don't like fake laughing in songs."

Ian: "What about 'Thriller'?"

Keith: "That's theatrical laughing. They're not trying to go, 'We're having a good time, join our gang' in 'Thriller'."

Julie: "Do you have Asperger syndrome here?"

Keith: "Why? Do you think I've got that?"

Julie: "I think this song is an example of Asperger syndrome. It's extremely literal."

Keith: "I'm a big fan of Tourette's. I think I've got that."

Wretch: "You've hit the nail on the head there!"

PYRAMIDS FRANK OCEAN

Keith: "This makes me imagine I'm taking out my wheelie bin and seeing the dustman driving away and I'm thinking, 'What am I going to do for the week now?' I like to put songs into context."

Will: "I love this. I think Frank Ocean is amazing. I like the way that the first bit of the song is about Cleopatra from Egyptian times and the second bit of the song is about a stripper called Cleopatra who works in a club called The Pyramid. I think he made a great record and I really like it."

Keith: "That's the best line anyone has said today!"

Lindsey: "I love the vocals. I think it's gutsy!"

Wretch: "It takes me about the length of this song to Hoover my house. It helps me in the morning."

Ian: "I'm going to try that! Ha!"

Head to NME.COM/video for behind-the-scenes footage and interviews from the review

“
I RIP OFF SO MANY
SONGS, I KNOW
WHEN SOMEONE
ELSE IS DOING IT”

IAN WATKINS

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS OFFER

SUBSCRIBE TO **NME** AND SAVE OVER **£1** AN ISSUE!*



Subscribe now at
WWW.MAGAZINESDIRECT.COM/IHL2
Or call now on **0844 848 0848** quoting code **AFZ2**

Lines are open between 8am and 9pm UK time, 7 days a week.

*When you subscribe by UK quarterly Direct Debit. ** Please note that iPad editions are available to subscribers at no extra cost for the first 12 months of their active paid print subscription. To access your iPad edition go to the App Store and search for the NME magazine app.

Pay only £18.99 by quarterly Direct Debit, saving 41% off the full subscription price of £32.48. Pay only £78.99 by annual cash/credit card, saving 39% off the full subscription price.

Offer only open to new subscribers. Direct Debit offer is available to UK subscribers. Final closing date for all orders is 1st February 2013. Orders purchased as a gift before 9th December 2012 will begin with the first available issue in January. All gift orders purchased after this date will begin with the first available issue. Orders purchased for yourself will start with the next available issue - please allow up to six weeks for delivery, 8 weeks for overseas orders. For enquiries and overseas rates call +44 330 3330 233, or email ipcsubs@quadrantsubs.co.uk. All prices are discounted from the full subscription rate advertised in each title, include P&P and are correct at time of going to press. If the magazine ordered changes frequency per annum, we will honour the number of issues paid for, not the term of the subscription. Offer only available for delivery to UK addresses.

REVIEWS

THE BIG OPINIONS ON THIS WEEK'S IMPORTANT RELEASES

Edited by Tom Howard

(Clockwise) Rufus Wainwright, Macca, Sharon Van Etten, James Mercer of The Shins



VARIOUS

CHRISTMAS RULES DECCA

In trying to recapture the golden age of Christmas songs, this mixed bag of hipsters and old-timers forgets the fun



The golden age of Christmas music is behind us. That's why, at this time of year, radio stations turn into Dave Lee Travis-era Radio 1. Step forward Macca and your 'Wonderful Christmastime'. Hello Slade, s'been a while! 'Step Into Christmas', Elton. Back away, Gary Glitter, your 'Another Rock'n'Roll Christmas' ain't welcome no more. People have tried Christmas songs since the '70s and '80s, of course, but never with quite the same gusto. Meekly adding the cheerful tinkle of sleigh bells to a tune does not a Christmas corker make. New comp 'Christmas Rules' tries to set the record straight, charging a mixture of current artists, oldies and the ubiquitous Macca with the task of recording a Christmas cover each. Probably assuming that people will listen after Christmas dinner and fall asleep halfway

through, it's toploaded with the bigger names. Up first are capital-letter-evading popsters fun., doing 'Sleigh Ride' – which they manage to make sound far less fun than an actual sleigh ride. Then The Shins do their tuneful indie thing on Paul McCartney's 'Wonderful Christmastime', closely followed by McCartney himself doing 'The Christmas Song (Chestnuts Roasting On An Open Fire)'. Neither are especially pleasurable, and the latter only confirms the fact that male pop singers of a certain age are as irresistibly drawn to covers of 'standards' as toddlers to an unattended chip pan, with results almost as disastrous. At least Rod Stewart had the good grace to confine them to his *own* Christmas album.

Standards dirty the album like yellow snow. Rufus Wainwright and Sharon Van Etten (or Von Etten as the sleeve has her) get all Tom Jones and Cerys Matthews on a smug 'Baby, It's Cold Outside'. It'd have to be minus 50 outside for me to stick by that piano. The cancer turns malignant with The Head And The Heart's 'What Are You Doing New Year's Eve?', on which the Seattle indie-folk-pop plops channel Michael Bublé like hapless horror-movie teens summoning the devil on a makeshift Ouija board.

The other foul thing about this album is its sense of worthiness: The Civil Wars are po-faced on 'I Heard The Bells On Christmas Day', and Punch Brothers treat 'O Come, O Come, Emmanuel' as if it were scripture. There's nothing wrong with a bit of spiritual calm around Christmas (I believe there is some kind of religious aspect to the season) but there's also a reason why Slade's 'Merry Xmas Everybody' is practically a carol. It's because it has a Brummie man screaming "IT'S CHRISTMAS!" like a pissed boss at an office party and it's brilliant. Artists on this album: think more like Noddy Holder. It bloody well is Christmas. There will be presents, and sickly drinks, and you may well cop off with somebody. Cheer up.

So who is this album for? Some of these bands are hipster faves, or former hipster faves now in that position where the fickle barometer of hipsterdom doesn't quite know whether they're still cool or not (hello, Holly Golightly). Then there are those oldies – the brilliant Irma Thomas doing 'May Ev'ry Day Be Christmas'; the aforementioned Paul McCanta. And lots of sundry Americana acts straying in like lost exiles from a Wilco house-party.

Is it for you? Is it for your mum? Is it for your cousin who works in graphic design? The answer to this question is: all of them and none of them. It's produced in collaboration with Hear Music, the label owned by Starbucks. It is, essentially, background music to soundtrack your next mince-pie-choco-chai-nog latte. But what, ultimately, does this leave us with? Just a compilation that's not as clever as it thinks it is, or as joyful as it should be. And next time,

Starbucks, have some respect and get Cliff Richard involved. Jeez. **Dan Stubbs**

BEST TRACKS: The Shins – 'Wonderful Christmastime', Irma Thomas – 'May Ev'ry Day Be Christmas', Calexico – 'Green Grows The Holly'

MACCA'S MATES

THE MORE OBSCURE ARTISTS ON 'CHRISTMAS RULES'



IRMA THOMAS

A 71-year-old singer from New Orleans who used to hang out with Aretha Franklin and Etta James. Won a Grammy in 2007.



ELEANOR FRIEDBERGER

One half of Fiery Furnaces (along with her big bro Matthew). Released her debut solo LP 'Last Summer' last year.



FRUIT BATS

American rockers from Chicago whose leader Eric D Johnson has played guitar for California and The Shins.



HOLLY GOLIGHTLY

Y'know, Holly Golightly! Who sang on The White Stripes' 2003 song 'It's True That We Love One Another!' Y'know?

VARIOUS ARTISTS

FESTIVUS HIGHLINE

At Christmas, albums like this jingly-jangly label showcase can expect a grade inflation of approximately 1.5–1.8 marks, depending on blood alcohol content, until the precise moment the wrapping paper hits the bin. The finger-pickin', crystal-voiced prettiness of Correatown's 'Christmas Time Is Here' and Glam Chops' punchy Glitter Band-take-a-Fall-workout 'Countdown To Christmas' don't stretch our goodwill. But the twee pop-by-numbers of (sigh) Skiffle And The Piffles and others is taxing, and by the time the hokey-tonking cobblers of The Werewandas' 'I Love You Santa Claus' arrives, your finger will be itching on the button marked 'Send Them To The Dickensian Workhouse'. But that's for tomorrow. **Emily Mackay** **6**

BEST TRACK: Glam Chops – 'Countdown To Christmas'

CEE LO GREEN

CEE LO'S MAGIC MOMENT WARNER BROS

The increasingly curious development of Cee Lo Green's career from R&B crooner to cuddly prime-time cartoon character takes its latest turn with the release of this, his first Christmas album. 'Magic Moment' veers between festive bonhomie and the season's habit of invoking more maudlin feelings, perhaps best typified by the Christina Aguilera duet 'Baby It's Cold Outside'. Naturally, The Muppets make an appearance (on 'All I Need Is Love'), as does Rod Stewart on 'Merry Christmas, Baby'. Ultimately though, this feels most like the result of a major-label brainstorming session titled 'Which Of Our Artists Will Fill A Santa Suit Best This Year?' **David Renshaw** **5**

BEST TRACK: 'All I Want For Christmas'

CASCADA

IT'S CHRISTMAS TIME ZOOLAND

German Eurodance heroes Cascada are as reliable as anyone at making flesh-stripping assault-pop. It's curious, therefore, that now

Christmas is here they want to cuddle up to you so hard you puke tinsel. Surely Cascada can be depended upon to do away with festive sentimentality and make everyone dance shirtless while hopped up on 34 litres of Jägermeister? But no: Natalie Horler, DJ Manian and Yann Peifer have got serious. There's no 'Mistletoe And Poppers', just dreck like 'Jingle Bell Rock' and 'Silent Night'. They even keep manage to keep a straight face while singing a Coors-esque 'Away In A Manger'. Cascada just killed Christmas. **Mof Gimmers** **1**

BEST TRACK: Don't be ridiculous

ROD STEWART

MERRY CHRISTMAS, BABY VERVE

There's only one essential Rod Stewart purchase this Christmas: his autobiography. The hilarious, frank and self-deprecating story of how one of the great rock vocalists rose to fame and fortune, making fabulous music along the way before settling into his role as vendor of an endless succession of I-could-not-give-a-shit-any-more covers albums, of which this is the latest. Mary J Blige, Ella bloody Fitzgerald and the odious Cee Lo (see above) all phone in a hand, but... look, just get the book, OK? It's brilliant, and this isn't. **Hamish MacBain** **3**

BEST TRACK: 'A Nod Is As Good As A Wink... To A Blind Horse' [Are you sure? – Ed]

FACES TO NAMES...

What the reviewers are doing this week



DAVID RENSHAW

"Christmas this year will mainly revolve around my annual ice-skating trip. I'm very much the Christopher Dean (of Torvill and... fame) of the music scene."



EMILY MACKAY

"In my quest to roast chestnuts on an actual open fire, I am hiring an actual chimney sweep and forcing him to whistle Wild Beasts."



HAMISH MACBAIN

"I went to see The Rolling Stones at the O2 Arena in London and then interviewed Keith Richards (see page 14), both of which were life highsoints."



SUFJAN STEVENS

SILVER & GOLD ASTHMATIC KITT

Yuletide's indie champion roasts us a darker chestnut this year, but it's full of freaky festive flavour



Sufjan Stevens really likes Christmas. The Michigan maestro's obsession with all things Yuletide has now spawned 100-odd songs and two collections, the last of which –

2006's 'Songs For Christmas', has become as much a staple of any hipster's festive listening as Bright Eyes' 'A Christmas Album' and Low's 'Christmas'. This follow-up sees Sufjan's festive fascination darken. "Advent is ultimately about death. The end is near. You are going to die. Happy Holidays," read the liner notes.

Last time we heard from Stevens was on the chaotic future-pop thrum of 2010's 'The Age of Adz', an album so disorientating and intense it was little surprise to hear the 37-year-old's next move would be a return to the relative fun and simplicity of his Yuletide recordings. Echoes of that album linger here – in particular on the woozy electronics that turn 'I'll Be Home For Christmas' into a codeine-fucked Christmas trip and the haunting upset of sinister acoustic guitar ballad 'Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow!'. The darkness that gripped Stevens during his last outing seems to be still tugging at his heels.

But compelling as those moments are, more fun are the tracks where he puts his expansive imagination to use and lets go a little

– 'Christmas Unicorn' for instance, which, as batshit insane as it is irresistibly infectious, opens out into a 12-minute tangle of drum-machine noises, symphonic flourishes and luminous synth melodies like a knot of tree-lights going haywire, before morphing into a cover of Joy Division's 'Love Will Tear Us Apart'. Elsewhere, The National's Aaron and Bryce Dessner turn up to cast their spell over 'Gloria', while 'Do You Hear What I Hear?' counts not just among Stevens' best Christmas songs, but his best songs full-stop.

In a career of constant reinvention that has seen him dally with folk, throbbing electronica and experimental future-pop, Stevens' fixation with Christmas has been one of two constants – the other being the unerring brilliance of his output (not counting his 2010 misstep, the 'All Delighted People' EP). Accompanying this release is a lengthy essay that attacks the concept of Christmas trees: "The Christmas tree has become nothing more than a symbol of environmental bondage," Stevens writes. "In a word, the Christmas tree is our bitch." And so long as he's making music this magical, if not entirely merry, we're all Stevens' slaves. **AI Horner** **7**

BEST TRACKS: 'Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow!', 'Christmas Unicorn', 'Do You Hear What I Hear?'

LIVE

FROM PUBS TO ARENAS,
THE WEEK'S TOP GIGS

Edited by Tom Howard

FOALS

THE LEOPARD, DONCASTER SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2

The venue may be small, but Yannis and co take their inventive output to staggering new heights

Foals' idiosyncratic way of warming up for new album 'Holy Fire' is a tour of towns they've rarely had cause to visit, playing venues about a tenth of the size they'd normally fill. We've missed them, the contrary buggers.

Filing onto The Leopard's tiny stage, only Yannis and fellow guitarist Jimmy Smith are able to fit at the front; their bandmates are stacked up behind them, disappearing into the low ceiling. They're flanked by a couple of bouncers on a fruitless mission to prevent the capacity crowd from spilling over.

Twinkling arpeggios propel the slow-burning instrumental opener 'Pavlov', a song that offers a slightly misleading introduction to Foals 3.0. It's only when they launch into a rejuvenated 'Balloons' two songs later that the influence of the 'Holy Fire' sessions becomes apparent: the riffs are that much beefier, the pace less frenetic, and the emphasis is on funky, muscular

rhythms rather than the twitchy, fretwork-led Foals of old. Recently they told *NME* their new album was "swampy" with "grooves that are quite stinky" and that their "indie disco stuff's dead and buried with a chain of garlic around its neck". At the time we weren't quite sure what they were on about, but tonight all becomes clear.

Then comes 'Cleaver', which has Yannis imploring, "I'm an animal, just like you/Oh Lord, what can I do?" against a backdrop

of scurrilous rock riffage. During the song's lascivious instrumental break he finds himself clambering up the back wall, standing with arms aloft, lost in the ecstasy of it all, while the band continue to unleash merry hell onstage. It's Foals' weirdest direction yet, so far from their math-rock beginnings you have to wonder if it's still them. But they still

have the courage of their convictions – Foals have always been a band ready to speed off in the opposite direction from everyone else. Somehow, they always end up somewhere brilliant.

'My Number' deviates less from the sonic blueprint established on the first two albums, coming on like a tropical cousin of 'Miami' from 'Total Life Forever', played earlier alongside a masterful 'Spanish Sahara', for which Yannis barely needs to sing, such is the volume of the crowd's accompaniment. Debut album 'Antidotes' is well represented too, with the aforementioned 'Balloons' as well as 'Electric Bloom', 'Olympic Airways' and a raucous encore of 'Two Steps Twice',

which ends with both Yannis and various microphones surfing above the crowd.

We might only get to hear a measly four 'Holy Fire' cuts tonight, but there's plentiful evidence to suggest that 2013 is in safe hands. It's a brave man indeed who'd bet against Yannis' post-'Inhaler' assertion that the third coming of his band is going to "smoke some bitches up, yo". *Robert Webb.*

Yannis gets lost in the ecstasy of it all, while the band unleash merry hell

VIEW FROM THE CROWD

DIGGING THE NEW SONGS?



Megan, 16, Doncaster
"The new songs sounded great! They're all instant classics."



Laura, 16, Doncaster
"My favourite of the newies is definitely 'Inhaler'. The riff is so good!"



Carys, 16, Doncaster
"I love the new direction – especially the basslines, which are so prominent now."

TODDLA T SOUND

CONVERSE GIGS @ 100 CLUB, LONDON

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5

Sheffield's techno-dub showman brings his multiple talents to London's rock'n'roll heart for one helluva party

The 100 Club wears its heritage on its sleeve. The walls are plastered with photos of blues pioneers, punk legends and, er, The Hives. It's a nook for stars on their way up and Toddla T – Thomas Bell to the taxman – is climbing that pole.

For the past two years, T's performed an impressive manoeuvre that has seen him go from poster boy for Sheffield's flagging UK bassline scene, to a big-name Radio 1 DJ with a sideline in producing massive pop albums. This past 12 months have seen him take his dancehall roadshow from Washington to Croatia, start work on a third album, and cap it all off by siring a child with his Radio 1 co-worker Annie Mac.

Mac's here tonight but keeping out of trouble as Roses Gabor offers gnarly support, spitting old-skool rhymes in alarmingly laddered tights and flashing the bling like Roxanne Shanté in cryogenic limbo from the '80s. It's a raw, engaging start, but Toddla T blows all that away with a video intro from fellow Sheffield folk hero Jarvis Cocker.

"Toddla T – who is he?" draws Cocker, as laconic as he's contractually

obliged to be. Suddenly T's bopping behind the decks, looking like Example in a wind tunnel. His shtick's all techno dub – fiery, relentless and fun. Favourites such as 'Cherry Picking' are chucked away early on like so much deep cut detritus. MCs Serocce and DRS vibe off each other to whip up the party.

A guest on last year's 'Watch Me Dance', '90s Brit soul star Shola Ama has become a bit of a muse to T and she rattles through her own hits 'You Might Need Somebody' and 'Taboo' as well as her Toddla T collaboration 'Take Me Back'. Together they threaten to exhume UK garage in 2013. That might not even be a bad thing.

There are cheeky throwaways to keep the joint jumping, with DRS and Serocce freestyling over Sean Paul's 'Gimme The Light' and The Specials' 'Ghost Town'. But the control remains entirely in T's hands. He mugs and waves, ostentatiously twisting fictional knobs and pulls in the young, the old, the bearded and the bobble-hatted.

For years, Toddla T has been bringing the carnival to the people. Tonight he proves he's deserving of a framed snap behind the bar. *Matthew Horton*

WHAT TWITTER THOUGHT

@boggist
"Toddla T sound is BIG!!! @TODDLA T smashing up the 100 club!"

@anniemacdj
"At the 100 Club to see Toddla T Sound. Support act @RosesGabor is smashing it"

@Franklewade1
"When I go to a rave I go to get sweaty!! Tonight was unreal. Toddla T Sound smashed it..."



THE WEEKND

THE SUPPER CLUB, LONDON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 25

In a small club on a deserted street under the Westway, The Weeknd is getting physical tonight. As in, The Weeknd is physically showing up. The thing about being an internet sensation – something Abel Tesfaye (aka The Weeknd) has been for two years – is that you only exist on the internet. So in terms of experiencing his music you're contained within the realms of speakers and iPods. It's a solitary enjoyment. He has the added obstacle of total invisibility; besides one or two B&W images of his face obscured by a puff of smoke, the audience know nothing about him, other than perhaps he's a really stoned Wizard Of Oz.

So tonight, this crowd finally feel the music... together... in a room, where the 22-year-old from Ontario will perform. Is he half-man half-machine? Is he a zitty geek? Does he have FIVE limbs?! No. Tesfaye is a humble yet cocky R&B vocal acrobat, here to get babies MADE.

He performs cuts from his first three free-download albums, now available physically and for money as 'Trilogy'. The set is heavy on the first and best LP, 'House Of Balloons', and climaxes during 'Wicked Games' and the title track, a drum-filled party jam sampling Siouxsie And The Banshees which is all the more thrilling given the stadium rock feel of his live band. But as well as thrills and lust, the crowd feel relief – The Weeknd can perform without a glitch. He may have played hard to get, but we've got him now. *Eve Barlow*

FOXYGEN

SHACKLEWELL ARMS, LONDON

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27

There are few bands who can pull off being funny while actually being good. But Foxygen have got this nailed.

The Cali quartet are not ones to take themselves too seriously. Their between-song patter is gloriously ridiculous, their music is giddy, exuberant and face-achingly infectious and they're not trying to be hilarious, see, they're just a bunch of wonderful weirdos and it tumbles out of every pore.

Defying those boring conventions of 'traditional song structure' and 'not using your forehead as a percussive instrument', Foxygen veer between MGMT hooks, Rolling Stones pomp and a million and one psychedelic, space-age wig-outs that defy labelling. The likes of 'Shuggie' and set-acer 'On Blue Mountain' combine about 10 (excellent) songs in one – held together by frontman Sam France, who howls, screams, runs into the crowd and hits himself throughout the set like an unhinged Mick Jagger.

This was a support show for a band called Hundred Waters (no, us neither) but by the time Foxygen's 30-minute slot is over, it's clear who owned the night. They leave, joshing they have to make way for "a real band instead of this shit". Best. Fun. Ever. *Lisa Wright*

BOBBY WOMACK

THE FORUM, LONDON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 25

Soul singers of this calibre often have a hype man to welcome them onstage. But Womack doesn't bring on the usual zoot-suited speed addict spitting a Pentecostal introduction along the lines of "Are you readah for tha GRAND DADDY OF SOOOOWLLL!". Instead, Damon Albarn jogs onstage, whips up the cheers, and claps through Womack's opening acoustic gospel 'Deep River'. For a minute you wonder if you're here to watch Womack's latest and greatest reinvention or Damon loving it.

Albarn has been credited as the backroom architect of Womack's latest record 'The Bravest Man In The Universe', a record that revisits the raw grit of the earliest soul through minimalist fuzztronica and rap scatterbeats. But he's also Womack's most enthusiastic cheerleader, punching the air through the chilling subterranean throbs of 'Whatever Happened To The Times' and singing Lana Del Rey's parts on the chemical shuffle of 'Dayglo Reflection'. He's clearly in awe at breathing the same stage-dust as Womack.

After that half-hour preview of what Royal Albert Hall soul gigs will sound like in 2187, Womack returns with his full band to crack through an hour of classics such as 'Across 110th Street' and 'California Dreamin'' in his traditional brass-blasted style, but even then Damon bops in the wings, high-fiving trumpeters, beckoning on the bongo solos and kneeling in honour as Womack leaves the stage. The new album's title track claims the bravest man in the universe is "the one who forgives first", but Damon's a constant reminder that it's the 68-year-old legend who quits a comfortable furrow to embrace edgy new textures. The Mack is back. *Mark Beaumont*

TEENAGE CANCER TRUST

AT THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL

In partnership with

THE BODY SHOP



KEEP IN TOUCH:

[f](#) TEENAGECANCERTRUST

[t](#) @TEENAGECANCER #ROCKING4TEENAGECANCER

For box hospitality please email hospitality@teenagecancertrust.org. All proceeds will go towards providing specialist treatment and support for young people with cancer. Artists may be subject to change. Registered charity (1062559, SC039757). Produced by Roger Daltrey CBE and Des Murphy for Teenage Cancer Trust.

A week of benefit concerts curated by

NOEL GALLAGHER

Tuesday 19 March

RYAN ADAMS

plus special guest

BETH ORTON

Wednesday 20 March

An evening of comedy with

RUSSELL BRAND

NOEL FIELDING

plus special guests

Thursday 21 March

PRIMAL SCREAM

Friday 22 March

KASABIAN

Saturday 23 March

NOEL GALLAGHER

DAMON ALBARN & GRAHAM COXON

plus special guests

Sunday 24 March

RIZZLE KICKS

LABRINTH

GIGSANDTOURS.COM

0844 811 0051

TICKETMASTER.CO.UK

0844 844 0444

ROYALALBERTHALL.COM

0845 401 5030

MORE INFO: TEENAGECANCERTRUST.ORG



American
Airlines

BEN SHERMAN

NME

XFM

S.J.M.
CANCER IS

SJM Concerts by arrangement with ITB present

COURTEENERS



FEBRUARY 2013

THU 21 • NOTTINGHAM ROCK CITY

FRI 22 • LEEDS O₂ ACADEMY

SAT 23 • BIRMINGHAM O₂ ACADEMY

MON 25 • LIVERPOOL O₂ ACADEMY

TUE 26 • DUNDEE FAT SAM'S

THU 28 • INVERNESS IRONWORKS

MARCH 2013

FRI 01 • GLASGOW O₂ ACADEMY

SAT 02 • EDINBURGH PICTURE HOUSE

MON 04 • PORTSMOUTH PYRAMIDS CENTRE

TUE 05 • CAMBRIDGE JUNCTION

THU 07 • BRISTOL O₂ ACADEMY

FRI 08 • BLACKPOOL EMPRESS BALLROOM

SAT 09 • OXFORD O₂ ACADEMY

MON 11 • LEICESTER O₂ ACADEMY

TUE 12 • CARDIFF UNIVERSITY SOLUS

THU 14 • NEWCASTLE O₂ ACADEMY

FRI 15 • SHEFFIELD O₂ ACADEMY

SAT 16 • LONDON O₂ ACADEMY BRIXTON

GIGSANDTOURS.COM | TICKETMASTER.CO.UK

0844 811 0051 | 0844 826 2826

TICKETS ON SALE 9AM FRIDAY 14TH DECEMBER

NEW ALBUM **'ANNA'** OUT ON 4TH FEBRUARY 2013 NEW SINGLE **'LOSE CONTROL'** AVAILABLE TO DOWNLOAD NOW

THECOURTEENERS.COM

LITTLE COMETS

PLUS SPECIAL GUESTS



APRIL 2013

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| TUE 09 NOTTINGHAM RESCUE ROOMS | TUE 16 EXETER PHOENIX |
| WED 10 LONDON O ₂ | THU 18 BRISTOL O ₂ ACADEMY |
| SHEPHERDS BUSH EMPIRE | FRI 19 CARDIFF GATE |
| THU 11 CAMBRIDGE JUNCTION | SUN 21 BELFAST AUNTIE ANNIES |
| SAT 13 WOLVERHAMPTON | MON 22 LIVERPOOL MASQUE |
| SLADE ROOMS | WED 24 GLASGOW KING TUTS |
| SUN 14 OXFORD O ₂ ACADEMY2 | THU 25 YORK FIBBERS |
| MON 15 BOURNEMOUTH | FRI 26 PRESTON 53 DEGREES |
| OLD FIRE STATION | |

TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE: KILILIVE.COM | GIGSANDTOURS.COM | GIGSINSCOTLAND.COM
24HR BOOKING LINE: 0844 871 8803 | 0871 220 0260

NEW ALBUM 'LIFE IS ELSEWHERE' OUT NOW WWW.LITTLECOMETS.COM
A KILIMANJARO, METROPOLIS & DF CONCERTS PRESENTATION BY ARRANGEMENT WITH ITB, DIRTY HIT AND ALL ON RED MANAGEMENT

THE 1975

Kilimanjaro, S&A and friends by arrangement with
Pentony Talent, Dirty Hit and All On Red Management present

TUE 22/01/2013 NEWCASTLE - THINK TANK HOULTS (14+)
WED 23/01/2013 YORK - FIBBERS (14+)
THU 24/01/2013 LEEDS - COCKPIT 2 (14+)
FRI 25/01/2013 NEWCASTLE-U-LYME - FULL MOON (16+)
SAT 26/01/2013 EDINBURGH - ELECTRIC CIRCUS (16+)
SUN 27/01/2013 GLASGOW - KING TUTS (14+)
MON 28/01/2013 SHEFFIELD - SOYO (18+)
WED 30/01/2013 BRISTOL - EXCHANGE (14+)
THU 31/01/2013 GUILDFORD - BOILERROOM (16+)
FRI 01/02/2013 ALDERSHOT - WEST END CENTRE (U14 ACCOMP)
SAT 02/02/2013 BIRMINGHAM - TEMPLE (14+)
MON 04/02/2013 CAMBRIDGE - PORTLAND ARMS (U18 ACCOMP)
TUE 05/02/2013 - EXETER - CAVERN
WED 06/02/2013 CHELMSFORD - HOOGA (18+)
THU 07/02/2013 KINGSTON - NEW SLANG
FRI 08/02/2013 BRIGHTON - GREEN DOOR STORE
SAT 09/02/2013 SOUTHAMPTON - LENNONS (18+)
MON 11/02/2013 LIVERPOOL - SHIPPING FORECAST (18+)
TUE 12/02/2013 MIDDLESBOROUGH - MIXTAPE @ KEYS (18+)
WED 13/02/2013 NOTTINGHAM - BODEGA (14+ U18 ACCOMP)
THU 14/02/2013 CHESTER - THE COMPASS (18+)
FRI 15/02/2013 PRESTON - 53 DEGREES (16+)
SAT 16/02/2013 MANCHESTER - DEAF INSTITUTE 10PM CURFEW (16+)
MON 18/02/2013 LONDON - BORDERLINE (14+)

Tickets available from:
www.artistticket.com // www.the1975.com

WAVE MACHINES

THURSDAY 31 JANUARY
BATH MOLES
FRIDAY 01 FEBRUARY
LIVERPOOL THE KAZIMIER
SATURDAY 02 FEBRUARY
GLASGOW BROADCAST
SUNDAY 03 FEBRUARY
NEWCASTLE THE CLUNY
TUESDAY 05 FEBRUARY
NOTTINGHAM BODEGA
WEDNESDAY 06 FEBRUARY
LONDON SHALAH
THURSDAY 07 FEBRUARY
SOUTHAMPTON JOINERS

TICKETS: 0844 871 8803
KILILIVE.COM / SEETICKETS.COM

NEW ALBUM 'POLLEN'
OUT MONDAY 21 JANUARY
WAVEMACHINES.CO.UK
A KILIMANJARO PRESENTATION

ANDY BURROWS

FEBRUARY

| | |
|------------------------------------|---------------|
| MON 18 BRIGHTON KOMEDIA STUDIO | 0844 871 8803 |
| TUE 19 PORTSMOUTH | |
| WEDGEWOOD ROOMS | 023 9286 3911 |
| WED 20 BRISTOL THE FLEECE | 0844 477 1060 |
| THU 21 LONDON BUSH HALL | 0844 871 8803 |
| SAT 23 BIRMINGHAM | |
| HMV INSTITUTE TEMPLE | 0844 871 8803 |
| SUN 24 MANCHESTER RUBY LOUNGE | 0161 832 1111 |
| MON 25 GLASGOW KING TUTS | 0844 499 9990 |
| TUE 26 LEEDS BRUDENELL SOCIAL CLUB | 0113 245 5570 |

TICKETS ONLINE: KILILIVE.COM
TICKETWEB.CO.UK | GIGSINSCOTLAND.COM

THE ALBUM 'COMPANY' OUT NOW WWW.ANDYBURROWS.CO.UK

A KILIMANJARO & FRIENDS PRESENTATION BY ARRANGEMENT WITH THE AGENCY GROUP



JIM LOCKEY and THE SOLEMN SUN

| JANUARY | | FEBRUARY | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------|--|
| 20th MILTON KEYNES THE CASTLE ARMS | 15th NEWCASTLE THE CLUNY | | |
| 31st CAMBRIDGE THE PORTLAND ARMS | 16th EDINBURGH ELECTRIC CIRCUS | | |
| FEBRUARY | | | |
| 01st OXFORD THE JERICHO | 17th GLASGOW KING TUTS | | |
| 02nd READING SOUTHSTAR CENTRE | 18th CARLISLE THE BRICKYARD | | |
| 03rd BRIGHTON THE PRINCE ALBERT | 20th WREXHAM CENTRAL STATION | | |
| 04th SOUTHAMPTON JOINERS | 21st SHEFFIELD CORPORATION | | |
| 06th BATH MOLES | 22nd LEEDS BRUDENELL SOCIAL CLUB | | |
| 07th PLYMOUTH WHITE RABBIT | 23rd HULL LADELPHI | | |
| 08th TRURO B-SIDE AT BUNTERS | 24th NOTTINGHAM BODEGA | | |
| 09th EXETER CAVERN | 26th BIRMINGHAM HARE & HOUNDS | | |
| 10th BRISTOL LOUISIANA | 27th NORWICH WATERFRONT | | |
| 11th CARDIFF CLWB JIFFY BACH | 28th LONDON THE BORDERLINE | | |
| 12th MANCHESTER THE CASTLE HOTEL | MARCH | | |
| 13th LIVERPOOL SHIPPING FORECAST | 01st GUILDFORD THE BOILERROOM | | |
| | 02nd CHELTENHAM FROG & FIDDLE | | |

TICKETS FOR ALL SHOWS AVAILABLE AT ARTISTTICKET.COM - SEARCH 'JIM LOCKEY'



"A blend of Folk, Country and Punk" - NINE
"Driving electric guitars and socio-political lyrics" - ROCKSOUND
"A beautiful piece of music with a heavy message" - ZANE LOWE
"A selection of songs that show how to play a folk song" - THE FLY
"Considered and coming debut set from some of the best" - KERRANG
WWW.JIMLOCKEY.COM | WWW.JIMLOCKEYANDTHESOLEMNSUN.COM | WWW.JIMLOCKEYANDTHESOLEMNSUN.COM



KING CHARLES

30 SHOWS - 30 DAYS

APRIL 2013

- 01 NOTTINGHAM RESCUE ROOMS
- 02 COLCHESTER ARTS CENTRE
- 03 LEICESTER O2 ACADEMY2
- 04 NORWICH WATERFRONT
- 05 WREXHAM CENTRAL STATION
- 06 STOKE SUGARMILL
- 07 WOLVERHAMPTON SLADE ROOMS
- 08 LIVERPOOL KAZIMIER
- 09 DONCASTER LEOPARD
- 10 COVENTRY KASBAH
- 11 PORTSMOUTH WEDGEWOOD ROOMS
- 12 OXFORD O2 ACADEMY2
- 13 BRISTOL FLEECE
- 14 EXETER CAVERN
- 15 FALMOUTH PAVILIONS
- 16 CARDIFF GATE
- 17 BRIGHTON THE HAUNT
- 18 LONDON O2 SHEPHERDS BUSH EMPIRE
- 19 LEEDS COCKPIT
- 20 SHEFFIELD LEADMILL
- 21 YORK DUCHESS
- 22 NEWCASTLE W34
- 23 ABERDEEN LEMON TREE
- 24 EDINBURGH ELECTRIC CIRCUS
- 25 GLASGOW KING TUTS
- 26 BELFAST MCHUGHS
- 27 DUBLIN WHELAN'S
- 28 MANCHESTER SOUND CONTROL
- 29 BIRMINGHAM HMV INSTITUTE LIBRARY
- 30 *END OF TOUR SECRET SHOW*

TICKETS ONLINE: KILILIVE.COM | SEETICKETS.COM
GIGSINSCOTLAND.COM

24HR BOOKING LINE: 0844 871 8803 | 0871 220 0260 | 0844 499 9990

SEE FACEBOOK FOR SECRET SHOW INFO

KINGCHARLESUK.COM • FACEBOOK.COM/KINGCHARLESOFFICIAL

A KILIMANJARO & FRIENDS PRESENTATION BY ARRANGEMENT WITH THE AGENCY GROUP

KILIMANJARO, SJM + FRIENDS BY ARRANGEMENT WITH THE AGENCY GROUP PRESENT

THE JOY FORMIDABLE

IN CONCERT

JANUARY

- 22 • LIVERPOOL KAZIMIER
- 23 • NORWICH WATERFRONT
- 28 • CARDIFF SOLUS
- 29 • BRISTOL FIDDLERS

FEBRUARY

- 24 • NOTTINGHAM RESCUE ROOMS
- 25 • LEEDS THE COCKPIT
- 26 • GLASGOW ORAN MOR
- 28 • MANCHESTER HMV RITZ

MARCH

- 01 • WOLVERHAMPTON WULFRUN HALL
- 02 • SHEFFIELD LEADMILL
- 04 • BRIGHTON CONCORDE 2
- 05 • EXETER PHOENIX
- 06 • PORTSMOUTH WEDGEWOOD ROOMS
- 08 • LONDON ROUNDHOUSE

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT:
KILILIVE.COM, 0844 871 8803
& USUAL OUTLETS

THE NEW ALBUM 'WOLF'S LAW' OUT 21ST JANUARY

WWW.THEJOYFORMIDABLE.COM



+ SPECIAL GUESTS

FEBRUARY 2013

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 01 TUNBRIDGE WELLS FORUM | 13 NORWICH ARTS CENTRE |
| 02 COVENTRY KASBAH | 14 LONDON XOYO |
| 03 CAMBRIDGE PORTLAND ARMS | 18 BRIGHTON THE HAUNT |
| 06 MANCHESTER DEAF INSTITUTE | 19 SOUTHAMPTON JOINERS |
| 07 GLASGOW KING TUTS | 20 NEWPORT LE PUB |
| 08 EDINBURGH ELECTRIC CIRCUS | 21 BRISTOL THE CROFT |
| 09 YORK DUCHESS | 22 BIRMINGHAM |
| 10 PRESTON 53 DEGREES | THE TEMPLE @ HMV INSTITUTE |
| 12 NOTTINGHAM THE BODEGA | 23 BEDFORD ESQUIRES |

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT: KILILIVE.COM, 0844 871 8803 & USUAL OUTLETS

WWW.THEREALPURELOVE.COM

THE DEBUT ALBUM 'ANTHERS' OUT 4TH FEB 2013

A KILIMANJARO, SJM + FRIENDS PRESENTATION BY ARRANGEMENT WITH X-RAY & 99% POWER MANAGEMENT



PLUS SPECIAL GUESTS

JANUARY

- 31 GLASGOW KING TUTS

FEBRUARY

- 01 MANCHESTER CASTLE HOTEL
- 02 WIGAN INDEPENDENCE
- 03 YORK DUCHESS
- 05 NEWCASTLE THINK TANK
- 06 LEEDS COCKPIT 2
- 07 HULL FRUIT

08 CHESTER COMPASS

- 09 BIRMINGHAM HMV INSTITUTE TEMPLE
- 10 LEICESTER SOUNDHOUSE
- 11 LONDON BARFLY
- 12 BRIGHTON HAUNT
- 13 BRISTOL LOUISIANA
- 14 GLOUCESTER GUILDHALL
- 15 SWANSEA SIN CITY

TICKETS ONLINE: KILILIVE.COM | SEETICKETS.COM | TICKETWEB.CO.UK

24HR BOOKING LINE: 0844 871 8803 | 0844 477 1000

WWW.GENERALFIASCO.CO.UK

A KILIMANJARO & FRIENDS PRESENTATION BY ARRANGEMENT WITH PRIMARY TALENT INTERNATIONAL

ON SALE NOW



METZ

PLUS GUESTS

FRIDAY 01 FEBRUARY
LONDON BIRTHDAYS

020 7403 3331

Dinosaur jr.

PLUS GUESTS

MONDAY 04 FEBRUARY
LONDON ELECTRIC BALLROOM

020 7403 3331

GABRIEL BRUCE

PLUS GUESTS

TUESDAY 05 FEBRUARY
LONDON HOXTON BAR & KITCHEN

020 7403 3331

TRIBES

PLUS GUESTS

WEDNESDAY 06 FEBRUARY
SECRET VENUE IN LONDON EC1 TO BE ANNOUNCED

020 7403 3331

HURTS

PLUS GUESTS

THURSDAY 07 FEBRUARY
LONDON HEAVEN

0844 847 2331

TOY

PLUS GUESTS

TUESDAY 12 FEBRUARY
LONDON SCALA

0844 477 1000

**EVERYTHING
EVERYTHING**

PLUS GUESTS

WEDNESDAY 13 FEBRUARY
LONDON HEAVEN

0844 847 2331

KODALINE

PLUS GUESTS

THURSDAY 14 FEBRUARY
LONDON DINGWALLS

020 7403 3331

COLDRIMS

PLUS GUESTS

WEDNESDAY 20 FEBRUARY
LONDON CORSICA STUDIOS

020 7403 3331

TIM BURGESS

PLUS GUESTS

THURSDAY 21 FEBRUARY
LONDON BIRTHDAYS

020 7403 3331

SAVAGES

PLUS GUESTS

THURSDAY 21 FEBRUARY
LONDON ELECTRIC BALLROOM

020 7403 3331

THE CRIBS

...AND YOU WILL KNOW US BY THE TRAIL OF DEAD
DEAP VALLY • DRENCH

FRIDAY 22 FEBRUARY
LONDON 02 ACADEMY BRIXTON

0844 477 2000

Fiction

PLUS GUESTS

MONDAY 25 FEBRUARY
LONDON ELECTROWERKZ

020 7403 3331

FIDLAR

PLUS GUESTS

MONDAY 25 FEBRUARY
LONDON THE GARAGE

0844 847 1010

Jagwar Ma

PLUS GUESTS

TUESDAY 26 FEBRUARY
LONDON BIRTHDAYS

020 7403 3331

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM: WWW.NME.COM/TICKETS OR 0844 858 6765 | WWW.DIGSANDTOURS.COM | WWW.TICKETMASTER.CO.UK
24HR CC HOTLINE 0844 811 0051 | 0044 026 2826

A METROPOLIS MUSIC PRESENTATION

TICKETS INCLUDE A 50P DONATION TO YOUNG CANCER TRUST (REGISTERED CHARITY 1062669 IN ENGLAND AND WALES, SC009757 IN SCOTLAND)

Spotify

SONOS
THE WORLD'S BEST MUSIC SYSTEM

TEENAGE
CANCER
TRUST

WWW.NME.COM/AWARDS #NMEAWARDS

THE VACCINES

PLUS SPECIAL GUESTS
LONDON THE 02

THE
WALKMEN TOY



WEDNESDAY 01 MAY
MARGATE WINTER GARDENS
01843 296 111

THURSDAY 02 MAY
LONDON THE 02
0844 856 0202

SATURDAY 04 MAY
CARLISLE SANDS CENTRE
01228 633 766
SUNDAY 05 MAY
LEEDS MILLENNIUM SQUARE
0844 811 0051

MONDAY 06 MAY
LLANDUDNO CYMRU ARENA
01492 872 000

0844 811 0051 | GIGSANDTOURS.COM | SEETICKETS.COM | TICKETMASTER.CO.UK
A METROPOLIS MUSIC, SJM CONCERTS & FUTURESOUND PRESENTATION BY ARRANGEMENT WITH CODA
THE #1 LP 'COME OF AGE' OUT NOW | THEVACCINES.CO.UK



STORNOWAY



FEBRUARY 2013

- 08 HEBDEN BRIDGE TRADES CLUB
- 09 POCKLINGTON ARTS CENTRE
- 10 MIDDLESBROUGH WESTGARTH SC
- 11 GLASGOW DRAN MOR
- 12 GATESHEAD THE SAGE GATESHEAD
- 14 OXFORD TOWN HALL
- 15 OXFORD TOWN HALL **SOLD OUT**
- 16 FOLKESTONE QUARTERHOUSE
- 18 NEWBURY NEW GREENHAM ARTS
- 19 POOLE MR KYPS
- 20 PONTADAWA ARTS CENTRE
- 21 KINGSTON NEW SLANG AT MCCLUSKYS

Tickets from: seetickets.com | stornoway.co.uk

MARCH 2013

- 11 LIVERPOOL KAZIMIER
- 12 MANCHESTER BAND ON THE WALL
- 13 LEEDS COCKPIT
- 15 NORWICH OPEN
- 16 SHEFFIELD LEAD MILL
- 17 PRESTON 53 DEGREES
- 19 PORTSMOUTH WEDGEWOOD ROOMS
- 20 BRIGHTON CONCORDE 2
- 21 BATH KOMEDIA
- 23 LEAMINGTON SPA ASSEMBLY
- 24 EXETER PHOENIX
- 25 GLOUCESTER GUILDHALL
- 27 LONDON FORUM

New album TALES FROM TERRA FIRMA out March 2013 on 4AD

A Metropolis Music, SJM Concerts, Killmanjaro, OF Concerts & DHP presentation by arrangement with Coda

KAISER CHIEFS



Plus guests

RACE HORSES & **NEWBELL** (11 Feb - 19 Feb)
ZULU WINTER & **THIS MANY BOYFRIENDS** (21st Feb - 1st Mar)

Monday **SOLD OUT** February
CARLISLE SANDS CENTRE

Tuesday 12th February
GLASGOW BARROWLAND

Thursday 14th February
DUNFERMLINE ALHAMBRA

Friday 15th February
MANCHESTER O₂ APOLLO

Saturday **SOLD OUT** February
BRIDLINGTON SPA

Monday **SOLD OUT** February
NEWCASTLE O₂ ACADEMY

Tuesday 19th February
PRESTON GUILD HALL

Thursday **SOLD OUT** February
CHELTENHAM RACECOURSE

Friday **SOLD OUT** February
WOLVERHAMPTON CIVIC HALL

Saturday **SOLD OUT** February
EXETER GREAT HALL

Monday **SOLD OUT** February
SOUTHAMPTON GUILDHALL

Tuesday **SOLD OUT** February
MARGATE WINTER GARDENS

Wednesday **SOLD OUT** February
CAMBRIDGE CORN EXCHANGE

Friday **SOLD OUT** February
LONDON O₂ ACADEMY BRIXTON

TICKETS: 0844 811 0051 | GIGSANDTOURS.COM | GIGSINSCOTLAND.COM



FRIDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER 2013
LEEDS ARENA

0844 248 1585 • GIGSANDTOURS.COM • LUNATICKETS.CO.UK

Evening Post @wearechefs

'Souvenir: The Singles 2001-2012' Out Now • KAISERCHIEFS.COM

A METROPOLIS MUSIC, FUTURESOUND, SJM CONCERTS & OF CONCERTS
PRESENTATION BY ARRANGEMENT WITH X-RAY

SJM CONCERTS PRESENT

TUESDAY 22 JANUARY
LONDON
O₂ SHEPHERDS
BUSH EMPIRE
 0844 477 2000
 GIGSANDTOURS.COM
 0844 811 0051
 WWW.BLOODREDSHOES.CO.UK

blood red shoes

PLUS GUESTS **ROLO TOMASSI + WET NUNS**

AN SJM CONCERTS PRESENTATION BY ARRANGEMENT WITH 13 ARTISTS

THE SKINTS

MAY 2013

Wed 15 **Portsmouth Wedgewood Rooms**
 Fri 17 **Guilford Boileroom**
 Sat 18 **Nottingham Rescue Rooms**
 Sun 19 **Norwich Waterfront**
 Mon 20 **Glasgow King Tuts**
 Tue 21 **Manchester Academy 2**
 Wed 22 **London Koko**

Thu 23 **Newcastle O₂ Academy2**
 Fri 24 **Carlisle The Brickyard**
 Tue 28 **Gloucester Guildhall**
 Wed 29 **Cardiff CF 10**
 Thu 30 **Plymouth White Rabbit**
 Fri 31 **Exeter Phoenix**

JUNE 2013

Sat 01 **Newton Abbot Lemonfest**

gigsandtours.com | 0844 811 0051 | theskints.co.uk

An SJM Concerts presentation by arrangement with The Agency Group

EXCLUSIVE LIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRIORITY BOOKING

KODALINE

PLUS GUESTS

FEBRUARY 2013

07 YORK FIBBERS

08 EDINBURGH CABARET VOLTAIRE

09 COVENTRY KASBAH [TRICKY DISCO CLUB NIGHT]

11 BRIGHTON GREEN DOOR STORE

12 CAMBRIDGE PORTLAND ARMS

13 OXFORD JERICHO TAVERN

14 LONDON DINGWALLS [NME AWARDS SHOW]

TICKETMASTER.CO.UK - SEETICKETS.COM

KODALINE.COM

BY ARRANGEMENT WITH X-RAY AND SCRUFFY BIRD MANAGEMENT

EVERY FRIDAY **KOKO** EVERY FRIDAY

14 DEC

12 DIRTY BULLETS
XMAS PARTY
 DJ ED WILDER
 DJ ALANA B DEVOTION

9.30PM - 4AM
 FIRST 100 FREE ENTRY
 £5 BEFORE 11PM £7 AFTER

TICKETS - 0844 847 2258
 WWW.KOKO.UK.COM

NO CLUB NME*
NME-NYE BALL
PEACE + LULS

TICKETS £15 ADV
 FROM KOKO.UK.COM

DRINKS OFFERS
 (EXCL. NYE)
 FOSTERS CANS - £2.80
 SOURZ SHOTS - £1.20
 JAGERBOMBS 3 FOR £12

EVERY FRIDAY **KOKO** EVERY FRIDAY

A MONTH OF FRIDAYS

SONS & LOVERS

JANUARY 4th / 11th / 18th / 25th

9.30pm - 4am FIRST 100 FREE ENTRY £5 before 11pm £7 after

TICKETS - 0844 847 2258 WWW.KOKO.UK.COM

REBEKKA KARIJORD

WED 16 JAN
 THE BORERLINE
 LONDON

THU 17 JAN
 THE RUBY LOUNGE
 MANCHESTER

SAT 19 JAN
 KING TUTS
 GLASGOW

TICKETS FROM: TICKETWEB.CO.UK / SEETICKETS.COM

UNCUT JANUARY SALE
SUBSCRIBE AND SAVE UP TO 50%

2012 THE ULTIMATE REVIEW
UNCUT
 2012
 BRUCE
 SNAPE

CONVENIENT HOME DELIVERY EVERY MONTH
 GET THE NEW ISSUE BEFORE IT HITS THE SHOPS
 RECEIVE A FREE CD EVERY MONTH*
 PRINT SUBSCRIBERS CAN READ EVERY ISSUE
 ON THE IPAD AT NO EXTRA COST*

SUBSCRIBE NOW AT WWW.UNCUTSUBS.CO.UK/F
 OR CALL 0844 848 0848 AND QUOTE CODE 15M
 (Lines are open between 8am and 9pm, 7 days a week - UK time)

*Offer open to new subscribers only. Offer ends 29.03.2013. To access your iPad edition go to the App store and search for Uncut magazine app. Please note iPad editions are supplied to subscribers at no extra cost for the initial term of your subscription or for the first 12 months of a Direct Debit subscription.

GET YOUR GIG IN NME

0203 148 6705

METROPOLIS MUSIC PRESENT

SAVAGES



THURSDAY 21 FEBRUARY
LONDON
ELECTRIC
BALLROOM

GIGSANDTOURS.COM / STARGREEN.COM
0844 811 0051 / 020 7734 8932
SAVAGESBAND.COM

Emmy The Great & Tim Wheeler

present

ZOMBIE CHRISTMAS

Thursday 20th December
London Scala

0844 477 1000 | 0844 811 0051 | gigsandtours.com

A Metropolis Music presentation by arrangement with X-Fay

Playing songs from their 'This is our new album
and others of seasonal cheer!



DAUGHTER

UK & IRELAND TOUR JANUARY 2013



MON 14 **NORWICH** ARTS CENTRE
TUE 15 **LEEDS** HOLY TRINITY **SOLD OUT** CHURCH
THU 17 **BRIGHTON** ST MARY'S CHURCH
FRI 18 **MANCHESTER** ST **SOLD OUT** S
SAT 19 **STOCKTON** GEORGE **SOLD OUT** THEATRE
MON 21 **GLASGOW** ORAN MOR
TUE 22 **BRISTOL** ST GEORGES
THU 24 **LONDON** HACKNEY **SOLD OUT** PIRE
SAT 26 **DUBLIN** BUTTON FACTORY

• WWW.OHDAUGHTER.COM •

SJM CONCERTS PRESENT

SJM Concerts & DF by arrangement with Primary Talent International presents

TWO DOOR CINEMA CLUB

PLUS GUESTS

BASTILLE JAN / FEB **SWIMDEFF** JAN / FEB **CHVRCHES** APRIL **EVERYTHING EVERYTHING** 27 APRIL ONLY



JANUARY 2013
THU 24 NEWCASTLE O2 ACADEMY
FRI 25 MANCHESTER O2 ACADEMY
SAT 26 MANCHESTER O2 ACADEMY
MON 27 NOTTINGHAM GUILDHALL
TUE 28 NOTTINGHAM ROCK CITY
THU 31 CARDIFF UNIVERSITY
FEBRUARY 2013
FRI 01 BIRMINGHAM O2 ACADEMY
SAT 02 BIRMINGHAM O2 ACADEMY
SUN 03 BIRMINGHAM O2 ACADEMY
THU 07 LEEDS O2 ACADEMY
FRI 08 LONDON O2 ACADEMY BRIXTON

EXTRA DATES ADDED DUE TO OVERWHELMING PUBLIC DEMAND
THURSDAY 25 APRIL 2013 **EDINBURGH** CORN EXCHANGE
FRIDAY 26 APRIL 2013 **WOLVERHAMPTON** CIVIC HALL
SATURDAY 27 APRIL 2013 **ALEXANDRA PALACE**

www.gigsandtours.com • 0844 811 0051

www.twodoorcinemaclub.com

New album **Beacon** out now includes the new single **Sun**

EVERYTHING EVERYTHING

PLUS SPECIAL GUESTS

OUTFIT

6-11 ONLY

OW7

15-22 ONLY



FEBRUARY 2013

WED 06 **POR** **SOLD OUT** TH WEDGEWOOD ROOMS
THU 07 **BRIS** **SOLD OUT** CONCORDE 2
FRI 08 **NOR** **SOLD OUT** ARTS CENTRE
SAT 09 **BRIS** **SOLD OUT** EKLA
MON 11 **CAMBRIDGE** JUNCTION
TUE 12 **BIRMINGHAM** HMV LIBRARY
THU 14 **OXFORD** O2 ACADEMY
SAT 16 **SHEFFIELD** LEADMILL
SUN 17 **LIVERPOOL** O2 ACADEMY2
WED 20 **GLASGOW** ORAN MOR
THU 21 **NEWCASTLE** O2 ACADEMY2
FRI 22 **MANCHESTER** ACADEMY 2

GIGSANDTOURS.COM | 0844 811 0051 'Arc' new album out January 14th 2013

An SJM Concerts & DF presentation by arrangement with 13 Artists & Scruffy Bird Management

THEME PARK



THURSDAY 14 MARCH 2013 / 020 7403 3331

LONDON HEAVEN

GIGSANDTOURS.COM | 0844 811 0051 +14 SHOW

thetemparkband.com

An SJM & Rockfeedback Concerts presentation by arrangement with 13 Artists



NME
AWARDS
TOUR 2013

**ON SALE
NOW**

DJANGO

DJANGO

MILES KANE

PALMA VIOLETS

PEACE

NEWCASTLE O, ACADEMY - THU 07 FEB

MANCHESTER ACADEMY 1 - FRI 08 FEB

LEEDS O, ACADEMY - SAT 09 FEB

GLASGOW O, ACADEMY - MON 11 FEB

NOTTINGHAM ROCK CITY - TUE 12 FEB

LIVERPOOL O, ACADEMY - WED 13 FEB

FRI 15 FEB - NORWICH UEA

SAT 16 FEB - BIRMINGHAM O, ACADEMY

SUN 17 FEB - CARDIFF UNI GREAT HALL

TUE 19 FEB - BRISTOL O, ACADEMY

WED 20 FEB - BOURNEMOUTH O, ACADEMY

THU 21 FEB - BRIGHTON DOME

SAT 23 FEB - LONDON O, ACADEMY BRIXTON

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM: WWW.NME.COM/TICKETS OR 0844 858 6765 | WWW.GIGSANDTOURS.COM | WWW.TICKETMASTER.CO.UK

24HR CC HOTLINE 0844 811 0051/ 0844 826 2826 | MAXIMUM SIX PER PERSON

AN SJM CONCERTS PRESENTATION IN ASSOCIATION WITH DF CONCERTS AND METROPOLIS MUSIC ALL TICKETS INCLUDE A 50P DONATION TO TEENAGE CANCER TRUST (REGISTERED CHARITY 1062558 IN ENGLAND AND WALES, SC039757 IN SCOTLAND)

Spotify

SONOS
THE WIRELESS HI-FI SYSTEM

**TEENAGE
CANCER
TRUST**

[#NMEAWARDS](http://WWW.NME.COM/AWARDS)

WWW.DJANGODJANGO.CO.UK | WWW.MILESKANE.COM | WWW.PALMAVIOLETS.CO.UK | WWW.PEACEFOREVEREVER.COM

Ocean Colour Scene

DUBLIN THE ACADEMY ^{SOLD OUT} Fri 15 & ^{SOLD OUT} Sat 16 Feb
EXTRA SHOW ADDED SUN 17 FEBRUARY
 Tickets: Ireland 0818 903 001 NI/UK 0844 277 9964

GLASGOW O2 ABC ^{SOLD OUT} Thu 21 & ^{SOLD OUT} Fri 22 Feb
EXTRA SHOW ADDED SAT 23 FEBRUARY
 24hr Tkt Hotline: 0844 844 0444

LONDON ELECTRIC BALLROOM
 Mon 25 & Tues 26 February 2013
EXTRA SHOW ADDED WED 27 FEBRUARY
 24hr Tkt Hotline: 0844 338 0000

London show presented by 3A Entertainment



DOG IS DEAD



FEBRUARY

22 OXFORD O2 ACADEMY
 23 GLOUCESTER GUILDHALL
 24 CARDIFF THE GLOBE
 25 NORWICH ARTS CENTRE
 27 PORTSMOUTH WEDGEWOOD ROOMS
 28 PRESTON 53 DEGREES

MARCH

01 NOTTINGHAM ROCK CITY
 02 HULL FRUIT
 03 SHEFFIELD QUEENS SOCIAL
06 LONDON KOKO
 07 MANCHESTER SOUND CONTROL
 08 STOKE SUGARMILL

TICKETS ONSALE NOW FROM [DOGISDEAD.CO.UK/TICKETS](http://dogisdead.co.uk/tickets)
 'ALL OUR FAVOURITE STORIES' Debut album out now on iTunes & In all good record shops

academy events present

ACADEMY EVENTS by arrangement with RHINO AGENCY present

SPIN DOCTORS



UK TOUR

23/01 Edinburgh HMV Picture House
 24/01 Liverpool Eric's Live
 25/01 Leeds Brudenell Social Club
 26/01 Porth The Factory
 27/01 Bristol The Fleece
 29/01 Wolverhampton Robin 2
 30/01 London O2 Academy Islington
 31/01 Hertford Corn Exchange
 01/02 Reading Sub 89

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM: 0844 477 2000 · WWW.TICKETWEB.CO.UK

ACADEMY EVENTS PRESENTS BY ARRANGEMENT WITH SPIRIT, THE AGENCY AND PRIMARY TALENT



WED 16 DEC
 O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire

THU 20th DEC
 O2 Academy Liverpool

FRI 21st DEC
 O2 Academy Leeds

SAT 22 DEC
 O2 Academy Birmingham

BOX OFFICE: 0844 477 2000
 BUY ONLINE: TICKETWEB.CO.UK

THE WONDER STUFF'S NEW ALBUM
 'Oh no... It's The Wonder Stuff' out Nov 2012

www.thewonderstuff.co.uk · www.pweiofficial.com · www.jesusjones.com

THE SOFT MOON



TUE 16 APRIL 2013
O2 ACADEMY ISLINGTON

BOX OFFICE: 0844 477 2000 · BUY ONLINE: ticketweb.co.uk

New EP 'ZEROS' Out Now on Captured Tracks
thesoftmoon.com · facebook.com/thesoftmoon

AN ACADEMY EVENTS PRESENTATION BY ARRANGEMENT WITH THE AGENCY GROUP

www.facebook.com/academyevents



P R E S E N T S

NYE BALL



PEACE



+LULS

DJ ED WILDER / DJ ALANA B DEVOTION

£15 ADV.

MORE ON THE DOOR

9PM - 4AM / NO ENTRY AFTER 11PM

TICKETS : 0844 847 2258 WWW.KOKO.UK.COM/NYE

31ST DECEMBER 2012

STRICTLY OVER 18S ONLY / RIGHTS OF ADMISSION RESERVED / ID MAY BE REQUIRED

GIG GUIDE

THE UK'S BIGGEST GUIDE TO THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Siân Rowe

FOR
TICKETS
GO TO
**NME.COM/
TICKETS**
NOW!

BOOKING NOW



FIELD DAY

STARTS: London Victoria Park, May 25

DON'T MISS

If you're looking for some 'tips for 2013' to namedrop at fashionable Christmas parties (and who isn't!), look no further than the line-up for 2013's Field Day festival, this time taking place on May Bank Holiday weekend. Alongside a few recognisable names – Animal Collective, Bat For Lashes and Django Django all play – there will be fierce competition for the annual 'Oh fuck, we're playing a small tent but are waayyyy popular' award. Grimes played to an over-capacity crowd in 2012 but 2013 is wide open. Will Charlie Boyer And The Voyeurs break through? Will Chrches overcome the hindrance of having a 'V' where the 'U' should be to find fame? Will Disclosure make it huge even though they're just two boys wearing Adidas tracksuit tops and pushing buttons? Other bands playing include Daughter, How To Dress Well, Virals, Vondelpark and Fucked Up.



BRETON

STARTS: London BFI, Jan 11

The former squat band (yes, they were forced to move out) soundtrack 60 minutes of silent film with their own music. Expect to do a lot of chin-scratching.



METZ

STARTS: Manchester Soup Kitchen, Jan 28
Canadian troublemakers Metz set their sights on a UK tour. Fans in Manchester, Glasgow, Leeds, Brighton and London should get their stomping shoes on.



JULIO BASHMORE

STARTS: Bristol Secret Location, Feb 8
'Au Seve' was one of 2012's dancefloor anthems. Now Julio's playing a set of secret shows. See him somewhere in Bristol, London, Leeds and Manchester.



VERONICA FALLS

STARTS: London St Leonard's Shoreditch, Feb 8

The dreamy Bella Union band head off on a UK tour, visiting London, Norwich, Leeds, Sheffield, Glasgow and Newcastle.



GIRLS NAMES

STARTS: Leeds The Cockpit, Feb 22
Northern Irish lo-fi(ish) group Girls Names follow some European dates with a short trip around the UK. See them in Leeds, Glasgow, Manchester and London.



RUDIMENTAL

STARTS: London Village Underground, Feb 22
The production quartet who had a Number One with their first single 'Feel The Love' headline this date at the London warehouse club.



SLASH

STARTS: Nottingham Capital FM Arena, Feb 28
The ex-Guns N' Roses guitarist and hat wearer plays two dates in early 2013. Feel the leathery force in Nottingham and Blackpool's Empress Ballroom.



NOVELLA

STARTS: London The Lexington, Mar 8
The Radar-tipped band have announced details of a show early next year. They'll play songs from their debut EP and new single 'Mary's Gun' at the Lexington in March.



PURITY RING

STARTS: London St John-At-Hackney Church, Mar 14
The creepy Canadians have announced a one-off show in this London church. If their lightshow's still working fans will be in for a treat.



PLEASURE PRINCIPLE WEEKENDER

STARTS: Newquay, Trelvelgue Holiday Park, Apr 26-28
Electronic weekender with TNGHT, Rustie, Deadboy, John Talabot and Koreless.



ISLE OF WIGHT FESTIVAL

STARTS: Isle Of Wight Seaclose Park, Jun 13-15
Festival announcements are already upon us. The Stone Roses headline on Friday night and Bon Jovi take the top spot on Sunday.



SONAR

STARTS: Barcelona, Various, Jun 13-15
The multimedia festival celebrates its 20th year. Kraftwerk headline, with support including Pet Shop Boys, Two Door Cinema Club and Fantastic Mr Fox.

PICK of the WEEK

What to see this week? Let us help



FOR TICKETS GO TO NME.COM/TICKETS NOW!

THE XX

STARTS: Wolverhampton Civic Hall, Dec 12

NME PICK

If you're somebody who thinks The xx are boring just because they wear a lot of black and don't let their egos outweigh the songs, then you haven't seen their live show. Since starting out as a band who looked like they absolutely *bated* performing, they've turned into an impressive and surprisingly forceful live act who inspire word-for-word singalongs and mass swooning. Jamie's bass and drum sounds are nicely amped up, so it's even possible to try out some woozy dance moves to all the tracks from 'xx' and 'Coexist'. Still not convinced? In an interview in 2009 they joked that there'd be dancing girls and cartwheels at an xx gig. Katy Perry, watch your back. The band play Wolverhampton, Portsmouth, Bristol and Brixton before heading to Paris for two dates. The UK tour ends at Brighton Centre on December 20.



Everyone's Talking About THE PRODIGY

STARTS: London O2 Academy Brixton, Dec 18
To coincide with the 15th anniversary reissue of 'The Fat Of The Land', The Prodigy play two dates at the O2 Academy Brixton. As anyone who caught Liam Howlett and Keith Flint at Download will know, their firepower hasn't been dulled over the years. Jaguar Skills, AraabMuzik and Caspa provide support.



Don't Miss ALLAH-LAS

STARTS: Liverpool Leaf, Dec 12
Garage rock is definitely not new, it's definitely not clever and it definitely hasn't got high hygiene standards. What it definitely *is* though, is sweaty, debauched fun. San Francisco's Allah-Las' self-titled album was one of the genre's best this year so give them a good UK send-off at dates in Liverpool and Manchester.



Radar Star HOOKWORMS' PSYCHMARE BEFORE XMAS

STARTS: Manchester Soup Kitchen, Dec 20
Three Radar favourites line up for a Christmas party. Hookworms will batter you with rugged motorik noise (and a few grooves), Kult Country will frazzle your synapses, and (former?) WU LYF member Tom McLung appears as Francis Lung. It'll be totally festive, maaaaan.

WED/THU

December 12/13

WEDNESDAY, DEC 12

ABERDEEN
Frank Turner Lemon Tree 012 2464 2230

BIRMINGHAM
Charlie Lankester And The Mojo Killers O2 Academy 3 0870 477 2000
Follow You Home The End 0121 448 0797
Fool's Glory Roadhouse 0121 624 2920
The Other Tribe/Shades Hare & Hounds 0870 264 3333

BOURNEMOUTH
Electric Six Old Fire Station 0120 2503888
Orbital O2 Academy 0870 4772000

BRIGHTON
Coves/The Peppermint Beat Band Green Door Store 07894 267 053

BRISTOL
Boris Fleece 0117 945 0996
The Escapists Thekla 0871 3100000
Glass City Vice/Shogun Glu Croft (Main Room) 0117 987 4144
Rancid O2 Academy 0870 4772000

CARDIFF
Ed Solo The Moon Club
Future Of The Left Cwbf Ifor Bach 029 2023 2199
Local Sports Team/Gindrinker Undertone 029 2022 8883

DUNDEE
Native Beat Generator 01382 229226

EDINBURGH
Ben Miller Captain's Bar 0131 6682312
The Minutes Electric Circus 0131 226 4224

GLASGOW
Bombscare Ivory Blacks 0141 221 7871
Crazy Arm 13th Note Cafe 0141 553 1638
Katatonia Cathouse 0141 248 6606
The Rasmus The Garage 0141 332 1120
Stoosie Oran Mor 0141 552 9224
Yukowl King Tut's Wah Wah Hut 0141 221 5279

LEEDS
The Glass Caves/French Soul Party/Seasick Cockpit 0113 244 3446
Roller Trio Brudenell Social Club 0113 243 5866

LEICESTER
Acoda/Elven Eleven Lock 42 Jess Morgan The Cookie Jar 0116 2531212

LIVERPOOL
TRC O2 Academy 2 0870 477 2000

LONDON
Admiral Fallow Scala 020 7833 2022
Auctions For The Promise Club O2 Academy Islington 0870 477 2000
The Black Keys/The Maccabees 02 08 70 701 4444
Blitz Kids Borderline 020 7734 5547
Dragonette Cargo 020 7749 7840
Ellie Goulding O2 Academy Brixton 0870 477 2000

MANCHESTER
Friendly Fires/The Horrors/Trailer Trash Tracys XOYO 020 7729 5959
Futures Garage 020 7607 1818
Happy Graveyard Orchestra 21gfrid Von Underbilly 020 7613 1988
Hey Sholay Hoxton Square Bar & Kitchen 020 7613 0709
Holly And The Wolf St Moritz 020 74370525
Junkie Kut Power Lunches Arts Cafe Luke Sital-Singh St Pancras Old Church Malcolm Middleton Slaughtered Lamb 020 8682 4080
Mmoths/Minotaur Shock Shacklewell Arms 020 7249 0810
Pinkunoiz Sebright Arms 020 7729 0937
Silver Story Dublin Castle 020 7485 1773
Squeeze HMV Forum 020 7344 0044
Thee Faction/Eight Rounds Rapid Buffalo Bar 020 7359 6191

MILTON KEYNES
Russian Winter Stables 01908 280800

NEWCASTLE
Little Angels O2 Academy 0870 477 2000

NORWICH
Cold In Berlin/Tortoise Family Connections Arts Centre 01603 660 352

NOTTINGHAM
Enter Shikari/Cancer Bats Rock City 08713 100000
The Famous Class Rescue Rooms 0115 958 8484

PETERBOROUGH
TV Smith/The Destructors Met Lounge 01733 566100

POOLE
Bad Manners Mr Kyps 01202 748945

SHEFFIELD
Epica Corporation 0114 276 0262

STALBANS
The Fizzy Indigo Lamps Of Ghana Horn 01727 853 143

WAKEFIELD
Broken Snooty Fox 01924 374455

WOLVERHAMPTON
The xx Civic Hall 01902 552121
It Bites Slade Room 0870 320 7000

YORK
Skindred The Duchess 01904 641413

Treetop Flyers Power's Bar
020 7287 3834
Ulterior The Lexington 020 7837 5387
The Wolfhounds MacBeth 020 7739 5095
Zodiac N Black 100 Club 020 7636 0933

MANCHESTER
Chris Cohen Trof Fallowfield 0161 224 0467

Lower Dens Deaf Institute 0161 330 4019
Natalie Duncan Gorilla 0161 832 1111
Saint Etienne HMV Ritz 0161 236 4355

MILTON KEYNES
Russian Winter Stables 01908 280800

NEWCASTLE
Little Angels O2 Academy 0870 477 2000

NORWICH
Cold In Berlin/Tortoise Family Connections Arts Centre 01603 660 352

NOTTINGHAM
Enter Shikari/Cancer Bats Rock City 08713 100000
The Famous Class Rescue Rooms 0115 958 8484

PETERBOROUGH
TV Smith/The Destructors Met Lounge 01733 566100

POOLE
Bad Manners Mr Kyps 01202 748945

SHEFFIELD
Epica Corporation 0114 276 0262

STALBANS
The Fizzy Indigo Lamps Of Ghana Horn 01727 853 143

WAKEFIELD
Broken Snooty Fox 01924 374455

WOLVERHAMPTON
The xx Civic Hall 01902 552121
It Bites Slade Room 0870 320 7000

YORK
Skindred The Duchess 01904 641413

THURSDAY, DEC 13

ABERDEEN
Slade Music Hall 01224 641122

BIRMINGHAM
The Damned O2 Academy 2 0870 477 2000

Madness LG Arena 0121 780 4133
Murdering Monica/Meow Meow Address & Bishop 0121 236 7426

Our Dystopia O2 Academy 3 0870 477 2000
Sinners Highway Scruffy Murphy's 0121 333 3201

BRIGHTON
Admiral Fallow Green Door Store 07894 267 053

Bad For Lazars The Hope 01273 723 568
The Common Tongues/Holy Vessels Blind Tiger 01273 681228

Johnson And The Believers Mesmerist 01273 328542
Saint Etienne Concorde 2 01273 673 311

Imperial Leisure Sticky Mike's Frog Bar 01273 749 465

BRISTOL
Electric Six O2 Academy 0870 4772000
Falling Stars/Infrared Bear Mother's Ruin 0117 925 6969

Ghouls Mr Wolf's 0117 927 3221
The Other Tribe Thekla 08713 100000
Subhumans Fleece 0117 945 0996

CARDIFF
Dopamine Clwb Ifor Bach 029 2023 2199

Mumford & Sons Motorpoint Arena 029 2022 4488
Pinkunoiz Buffalo Bar 029 2031 0312
The Singing Adams Undertone 029 2022 8883

EDINBURGH
Ballboy Electric Circus 0131 226 4224
Rufus Wainwright Usher Hall 0131 228 1155

GATESHEAD
Black River Three Tuns 0191 487 0666

GLASGOW
Action Bronson O2 ABC 0141 2045151
Beth Orton Oran Mor 0141 552 9224
Deacon Blue Royal Concert Hall 0141 353 8000
Ellie Goulding O2 Academy 0870 477 2000

The Hives O2 ABC 0870 903 3444
Lower Dens King Tut's 0141 221 5279

GLoucester
The Mediaeval Baebes Cathedral 01452 528095

GUILDFORD
Hildamary Star Inn 01483 532 887

HUDDERSFIELD
Crazy Arm Parish 01484 468801

LEEDS
Dan Beesley & The SSSSS Brudenell Social Club 0113 243 5866
Down The Machine Carpe Diem 0113 243 6264
Trevor McKee Empire 01132 420868
White Noise Warehouse 0113 223434

LONDON
Age Of Pilots/The Screaming Kicks Dublin Castle 020 7485 1773
Arthur Rigby & The Baskervilles Wilmington Arms 020 7837 1384
The Black Keys/The Maccabees O2 0870 701 4444
Bo Keeney Sebright Arms 020 7729 0937
Dreadzone Garage 020 7607 1818
Emperor Yes The Wheelbarrow Gentleman's Dub Club XOYO 020 7729 5959
Karnataka Scala 020 7833 2022
Lovellie Barfly 0870 907 0999
Madeon Electric Ballroom 020 7485 9006
Mika Roundhouse 020 7482 7318
Mithras Power Lunches Arts Cafe Money Union Chapel 020 7226 1686
Pinback Hoxton Square Bar & Kitchen 020 7613 0709
Roller Trio The Lexington 020 7837 5387
Sharks Old Blue Last 020 7613 2478
Squeeze O2 Shepherds Bush Empire 0870 771 2000
Transformer Bull & Gate 020 7485 5358
Allah-Las Night & Day Cafe 0161 236 1822
Beth Rowley The Castle 0161 237 9485
Lady Fortune/Foreign Hands Trof Fallowfield 0161 224 0467
Little Angels HMV Ritz 0161 2364355
The Rasmus Club Academy 0161 832 1111
The Slow Show Roadhouse 0161 228 1789
Stone Sour O2 Apollo 0870 401 8000
2 Many DJs/Soulwax/Kindness/The 2 Bears Warehouse Project 0161 835 3500

NEWCASTLE
The Famous Class/This Years Winner Is O2 Academy 2 0870 477 2000
The 1975 Head Of Steam 0191 232 4379

NORWICH
Dappy UEA 01603 505401
Matthew P Epic Studios 01603 727727
Tom Pearce Bicycle Shop 01603 625 777

NOTTINGHAM
TRC Rock City 08713 100000

PORTSMOUTH
The xx Guildhall 023 9282 4355

PRESTON
Trembling Bells/Three Dimensional Tanx Continental 01772 499 425

SOUTHAMPTON
Canterbury The Cellar 023 8071 0648
Talisman Talking Heads 023 8055 5899

SToke On Trent
Cancer Bats Sugarmill 01782 214 991

WAKEFIELD
Twisted Wheel The Hop 0871 230 1094

YORK
Panda Cubs The Duchess 01904 641 413
UK Subs Fibbers 01904 651 250

FRIDAY

December 14

BIRMINGHAM

Carousel Circus The End 0121 448 0797
 Enter Shikari HMV Institute
 0844 248 5037
 Jackmaster Hare & Hounds
 0870 264 3333
 Kitten Pyramid/Idle Playthings
 O2 Academy 3 0870 477 2000
 Swim With Sharks Irish Centre
 0121 622 2314
 TRC/Polar Asylum 0121 233 1109

BOURNEMOUTH

The Damned O2 Academy
 0870 477 2000
 New Killer Shoes/Booleans
 The Winchester 01202 552 206

BRIGHTON

British Sea Power/Rozi Plain The
 Haunt 01273 770 847
 Laurent Garnier Concorde 2 01273
 673 311

BRISTOL

The xx Colston Hall 0117 922 3683
 Speech DeBelle Start The Bus
 0117 930 4370

CARDIFF

The Other Tribe Clwb Ifor Bach
 029 2023 2199

COLCHESTER

Goodiepal Arts Centre 01206 500900

GLASGOW

Hex/Flux The Box 01270 257 398

LIVERPOOL

Buzzcocks Mick Jagger Centre
 01322 291100

MILWAUKEE

Delorentos Masons Bar 028 7136 0177

MUNSTER

Slade Caird Hall 01382 434941

NEWCASTLE

Flutes N Co Sleafy 0141 333 9637

Rufus Wainwright O2 Academy
 0870 477 2000

Slow Club Oran Mor 0141 552 9224

NOTTINGHAM

Labrinth The Forum 0844 477 2000

OZ

Kings Mews Brunswick 01273 735254

PETERBOROUGH

Apollo's Basement The Library
 0113 2440794

Cud Cockpit 0113 244 3446

READING

The Atlantic Donkey 0166 270 5042

Seven Deadly Soundhouse
 07830 425555

SHEFFIELD

Cold Shoulder Eric's Club

Raise The Youth/Broken English
 O2 Academy 2 0870 477 2000

The Roughneck Riot Mello Mello
 0151 707 0898

Stealing Sheep Kazimier 0871 230 1094

SUNDERLAND

Andy C/Chase & Status Fabric
 020 7336 8898

Blonde Bunny/Defectors Camden
 Rock 0871 230 1094

Chris Cohen Lexington 020 7837 5387

The Dirty Flaws Garage (Upstairs)
 0871 230 1094

Down To Nothing/Brutality Will
 Prevail Underworld 020 7482 1932

DJ Outwork Garage 020 7607 1818

FC20 Purple Turtle 020 7383 4976

Halfway To New York 100 Club
 020 7636 0933

Happa/Sunless 97 Birthdays
 The Hives Roundhouse 020 7482 7318

Kassem Mosse Basing House
 020 7033 1900

Los Pepes Power Lunches Arts Cafe
 Madness 02 0870 701 4444

The Moonjets Barfly 0870 907 0999

Mosca XOYO 020 7729 5959

Native Roses Troubadour Club
 020 7370 1434

Orbital/Nathan Fake O2 Academy
 Brixton 0870 477 2000

Philip Glass Ensemble Barbican
 Centre 020 7638 8891

Rancid HMV Forum 020 7344 0044

The Rasmus Electric Ballroom
 020 7485 9006

Saint Etienne O2 Shepherds Bush
 Empire 0870 771 2000

Imperial Leisure Club Surya
 020 7713 6262

12 Dirty Bullets Club NME @ KOKO
 0870 4325527

MANCHESTER

Action Bronson Academy 3
 0161 832 1111

Cancer Bats NQ Live 0161 834 8180

Cosmos Collapse Wilbraham St
 Niman's Church

Fatboy Slim/Madeon Warehouse
 Project 0161 835 3500

Kid British Sound Control 0161 236 0340

Mika HMV Ritz 0161 236 4355

Y Niwl Night & Day Cafe 0161 236 1822

NEWCASTLE

Admiral Fallow Cluny 0191 230 4474

Dog In A Box The Station 0871 230 1094

Epica O2 Academy 2 0870 477 2000

Eric Prydz Digital 01912 619755

Enter Shikari, HMV
 Institute, Birmingham,
 Saturday

Enter Shikari, HMV
 Institute, Birmingham,
 Saturday

Enter Shikari, HMV
 Institute, Birmingham,
 Saturday

Enter Shikari, HMV
 Institute, Birmingham,
 Saturday

Enter Shikari, HMV
 Institute, Birmingham,
 Saturday

Enter Shikari, HMV
 Institute, Birmingham,
 Saturday

Enter Shikari, HMV
 Institute, Birmingham,
 Saturday

Enter Shikari, HMV
 Institute, Birmingham,
 Saturday

Enter Shikari, HMV
 Institute, Birmingham,
 Saturday

Enter Shikari, HMV
 Institute, Birmingham,
 Saturday

Enter Shikari, HMV
 Institute, Birmingham,
 Saturday

Enter Shikari, HMV
 Institute, Birmingham,
 Saturday

Enter Shikari, HMV
 Institute, Birmingham,
 Saturday

Enter Shikari, HMV
 Institute, Birmingham,
 Saturday

Enter Shikari, HMV
 Institute, Birmingham,
 Saturday

Enter Shikari, HMV
 Institute, Birmingham,
 Saturday

Enter Shikari, HMV
 Institute, Birmingham,
 Saturday

Enter Shikari, HMV
 Institute, Birmingham,
 Saturday

Enter Shikari, HMV
 Institute, Birmingham,
 Saturday

Enter Shikari, HMV
 Institute, Birmingham,
 Saturday

Enter Shikari, HMV
 Institute, Birmingham,
 Saturday

Enter Shikari, HMV
 Institute, Birmingham,
 Saturday

Enter Shikari, HMV
 Institute, Birmingham,
 Saturday

Enter Shikari, HMV
 Institute, Birmingham,
 Saturday

Enter Shikari, HMV
 Institute, Birmingham,
 Saturday

Enter Shikari, HMV
 Institute, Birmingham,
 Saturday

Enter Shikari, HMV
 Institute, Birmingham,
 Saturday

Enter Shikari, HMV
 Institute, Birmingham,
 Saturday

Enter Shikari, HMV
 Institute, Birmingham,
 Saturday

Enter Shikari, HMV
 Institute, Birmingham,
 Saturday

Enter Shikari, HMV
 Institute, Birmingham,
 Saturday

Enter Shikari, HMV
 Institute, Birmingham,
 Saturday

Enter Shikari, HMV
 Institute, Birmingham,
 Saturday

Enter Shikari, HMV
 Institute, Birmingham,
 Saturday

Enter Shikari, HMV
 Institute, Birmingham,
 Saturday

Enter Shikari, HMV
 Institute, Birmingham,
 Saturday

Enter Shikari, HMV
 Institute, Birmingham,
 Saturday

Enter Shikari, HMV
 Institute, Birmingham,
 Saturday

Enter Shikari, HMV
 Institute, Birmingham,
 Saturday

Enter Shikari, HMV
 Institute, Birmingham,
 Saturday

Enter Shikari, HMV
 Institute, Birmingham,
 Saturday

Enter Shikari, HMV
 Institute, Birmingham,
 Saturday

Enter Shikari, HMV
 Institute, Birmingham,
 Saturday

Enter Shikari, HMV
 Institute, Birmingham,
 Saturday

Enter Shikari, HMV
 Institute, Birmingham,
 Saturday

Enter Shikari, HMV
 Institute, Birmingham,
 Saturday

Enter Shikari, HMV
 Institute, Birmingham,
 Saturday

Enter Shikari, HMV
 Institute, Birmingham,
 Saturday

Enter Shikari, HMV
 Institute, Birmingham,
 Saturday

Enter Shikari, HMV
 Institute, Birmingham,
 Saturday

Enter Shikari, HMV
 Institute, Birmingham,
 Saturday

Enter Shikari, HMV
 Institute, Birmingham,
 Saturday

Enter Shikari, HMV
 Institute, Birmingham,
 Saturday

Enter Shikari, HMV
 Institute, Birmingham,
 Saturday

Enter Shikari, HMV
 Institute, Birmingham,
 Saturday

Enter Shikari, HMV
 Institute, Birmingham,
 Saturday

Enter Shikari, HMV
 Institute, Birmingham,
 Saturday

Enter Shikari, HMV
 Institute, Birmingham,
 Saturday

Enter Shikari, HMV
 Institute, Birmingham,
 Saturday

Enter Shikari, HMV
 Institute, Birmingham,
 Saturday

Enter Shikari, HMV
 Institute, Birmingham,
 Saturday

Enter Shikari, HMV
 Institute, Birmingham,
 Saturday

Enter Shikari, HMV
 Institute, Birmingham,
 Saturday

Enter Shikari, HMV
 Institute, Birmingham,
 Saturday

Enter Shikari, HMV
 Institute, Birmingham,
 Saturday

Enter Shikari, HMV
 Institute, Birmingham,
 Saturday

Enter Shikari, HMV
 Institute, Birmingham,
 Saturday

SATURDAY/SUNDAY

December 15/16 March 11



SATURDAY, DEC 15

ABERDEEN

The Little Kicks The Tunnels
 01224 211121

BEDFORD

Don Broco Esquires 01234 340120

BIRMINGHAM

Aitita/Sister Shotgun O2 Academy 3
 0870 477 2000

Ancient Ascendant/Morgue Orgy
 Scruffy Murphy's 0121 333 3201

The Beat Town Hall 0121 780 3333

Castrovalva Sunflower Lounge
 0121 632 6756

Dappy O2 Academy 2 0870 477 2000

Enter Shikari/Cancer Bats HMV
 Institute 0844 248 5037

Enter The Reaper Actress & Bishop
 0121 236 7426

Shapes/The Wolves Flapper
 0121 236 2421

BOURNEMOUTH

Stone Sour O2 Academy
 0870 477 2000

BRIGHTON

Jackmaster Digital 01273 202407

BRISTOL

Little Angels O2 Academy
 0870 477 2000

Trouble On The Green Fleece
 0117 945 0996

BURY ST EDMUNDS

Solko/Cathedral Cars The Hunter
 Club 01284 748280

CARDIFF

Hell's Bent Undertone
 029 2022 8883

CARLISLE

Falling Red/Hellion Rising
 Brickyard 01228 512 220

DUNDEE

Bad Name Beat Generator
 01782 219944

EDINBURGH

Cauldstone Slap Captain's Bar
 01316 682312

EXETER

Br'dskulls Cavern Club 01392 495 370

GLASGOW

Madeon Arches 0141 221 4001

Malcolm Middleton King Tut's Wah
 Wah Hut 0141 221 5279

No Limits The Attic
 The Twilight Slad Barrowland
 0141 552 4601

HOLWORTHAMPTON

Cerys Matthews Old Market
 01273 325440

The Impellers Brunswick
 01273 735254

HULL

Buzzcocks The Welly 01482 221113

LEEDS

Being A Tiger Carpe Diem
 0113 243 6264

Ellie Goulding O2 Academy
 0870 477 2000

Neville Staple Brudenell Social Club
 0113 243 5866

The Prowlers Duck & Drake
 0113 246 5806

Scabies & James The Well 0113 2440474

Unmade Bed/Runners Wharf Chambers
 We Were Frontiers Cockpit
 0113 244 3446

LIVERPOOL

Charlie And The Martyrs
 Donkey 0116 270 5042

The Dissenters/The Healers
 Musician 0116 251 0080

Yeah Yeah Noh/Frantic Drift
 Abbey 0116 270 4007

LIVERPOOL

Echo & The Bunnymen O2 Academy
 0870 477 2000

The Hummingbirds Zanzibar
 0151 707 0633

Ian McEwan Kazimier 0871 230 1094

Young Times O2 Academy 2
 0870 477 2000

LONDON

Basement Jaxx Ministry Of Sound
 020 7378 6528

Beards/Candy Highway
 Power Lunches Arts Cafe

Bok Bok/Girl Unit Secret Warehouse
 Charles Dexter & The Imagineers
 Nambucca 020 7272 7366

The Damned Roundhouse
 020 7482 7318

Death In June Electrowerkz
 020 7837 6419

The Dub Ratz Barfly 0870 907 0999

Electric Six O2 Shepherds Bush
 Empire 0870 771 2000

The Filthy Dukes Queen Of Hoxton
 020 7422 0958

Follow You Home Garage (Upstairs)
 0871 230 1094

High Higgs/Best Friends Old Blue
 Last 020 7613 2478

I Luddicrous/We Buy Gold Hope &
 Anchor 020 7354 1312

Labyrinth Ear/Vuvuvutures
 Shacklwell Arms 020 7249 0810

Lawnmower Deth Garage
 020 7601 1818

Los Campesinos!/Among Brothers
 Assembly Hall 020 8577 6969

MJ Cole Cable Club 020 7403 7730

Orbital/Nathan Fake O2 Academy
 Brixton 0870 477 2000

Philip Glass Ensemble Union Chapel
 020 7226 1686

Rancid HMV Forum 020 7344 0044

MON/TUE

December 17/18



MONDAY, DEC 17

ABERDEEN

Molotov Jukebox The Tunnels
01224 211121

BIRMINGHAM

Nice N Easy Baldwin 0121 744 3356

BOURNEMOUTH

Crazy Arm The Anvi 01202 295898

BRIGHTON

Paper Dollhouse Green Door Store
07894 267 053

The Red Jumpsuit Apparatus/
Hawthorn Heights The Haunt

01273 770 847

Stooshe Concorde 2 01273 673 311

BRISTOL

Sheelanagig Tobacco Factory
0117 902 0344

Shilmo The Speigeltent 0117 3789663

Tim Burgess Thekla 08713 100000

CARDIFF

Native Buffalo Bar 02920 310312

EDINBURGH

Ewan Forfar Captain's Bar
01316 682312

EXETER

Project EDM Cavern Club
01392 495 370

GLASGOW

Emmy The Great & Tim Wheeler
Oran Mor 0141 552 9224

Natives King Tut's Wah Wah Hut
0141 221 5279

Rat Scabies Pivo Pivo 0141 564 8100

Stereophonics O2 Academy
0870 477 2000

The View Barrowland 0141 552 4601

GUILDFORD

From Forests/Blaenavon Boilerroom
01483 539 539

LONDON

Berri Txarrak Garage 020 7607 1818

Bridgebound/Mozes Dirty South
020 8852 1267

Editors/The Temper Trap/The
Courtneers O2 Academy Brixton

0870 477 2000

Endless/Repair To Ruin Dublin Castle
020 7485 1773

Enter Shikari/Cancer Bats
Roundhouse 020 7482 7318

The Keepsakes Barfly 0870 907 0999

Slow Club KOKO 020 7388 3222

Theophilus London Cargo
020 7749 7840

Thin Lizzy 02 Shepherds Bush Empire
0870 771 2000

The Wildhearts HMV Forum
01392 495 370

MANCHESTER

Ellie Goulding Academy
0161 832 1111

NEWCASTLE

Katatonla O2 Academy 2
0870 477 2000

Red Letters Trillians 0191 232 1619

STOKE ON TRENT

Moral Panics/Borders Sugarmill
01782 214 991

TUESDAY, DEC 18

BIRMINGHAM

Hallway District Adam & Eve
0121 693 1500

Jake Bugg HMV Institute
0844 248 5037

Natives O2 Academy 3 0870 477 2000

BOURNEMOUTH

Dappy O2 Academy 0870 477 2000

BRIGHTON

Slow Club The Haunt 01273 770 847

BRISTOL

Circle Sea/Disruptive Influence
Croft (Front Bar) 0117 987 4144

CARDIFF

ThistleDown/Elle Makes Music
10 Feet Tall 02920 228883

EDINBURGH

The Black Charge Electric Circus
0131 226 4224

GLASGOW

Eden Rejects/Unsinkable
Inflatables Three Tuns 0191 487 0666

LEEDS

Backyard Burners Milo 0113 245 7101

Marmozets Cockpit 0113 244 3446

LEICESTER

Pete Roe/Sam Brookes The Cookie
Jar 0116 2531212

LIVERPOOL

Cancer Bats/Always The Quiet Ones
O2 Academy 2 0870 477 2000

LONDON

Dingus Khan/Towns Old Blue Last
020 7613 2478

Fear Factory KOKO 020 7388 3222

Gnarwolves Birthdays
Heavens Basement Barfly
0870 907 0999

Mumford & Sons O2 0870 701 4444

New Infection/Straw Dogs MacBeth
020 7739 5095

The Prodigy O2 Academy Brixton
0870 477 2000

Rekks Jamm 020 7274 5537

Revere/Little Night Terrors Hoxton
Square Bar & Kitchen 020 7613 0709

Stooshe Scala 020 7833 2022

Young Husband/The Red Lapels
The Lexington 020 7837 5387

NEWCASTLE

Roller Trio Cluny 0191 230 4474

NORWICH

Blind Spirit Brickmakers
01603 441 118

NOTTINGHAM

Katatonla Rescue Rooms
0115 958 8484

Molotov Jukebox Bodega Social Club
08713 100000

SHEFFIELD

Wet Nuns Harley
0114 275 2288

SOUTHAMPTON

Ellie Goulding Guildhall
023 8063 2601

Native Joints 023 8022 5612

WAKEFIELD

Nine Black Alps The Hop
0871 230 1094

YORK

Magpie/The Birdman Rallies
Basement 01904 612 940

WED/THU

December 19/20

WEDNESDAY, DEC 19

BIRMINGHAM

The Bombers Yardbird
0121 212 2524

Diamond Lil/Our Days Wasted
Adam & Eve 0121 693 1500

M-Tron Actress & Bishop
0121 236 7426

BOURNEMOUTH

Gnarwolves Blue Line Studios

BRIGHTON

The Common Tongues Green Door
Store 07894 267 053

The Modern Exposition Latest Music
Bar 01273 687 171

BRISTOL

Beak/Savages/DROKK Exchange
0117 9304538

Chekhov's Guns Croft (Front Bar)
0117 987 4144

Dappy O2 Academy 0870 477 2000

Francis Fear Croft (Main Room)
0117 987 4144

Lizzee Rascal Fleece 0117 945 0996

Slow Club The Speigeltent
0117 3789663

CARDIFF

Bad Manners The Globe
07738 983947

Cwpwrdd Nansi Gwdihw Cafe Bar
029 2039 7933

Laurence Made Me Cry 10 Feet Tall
02920 228883

DUNDEE

The View Caird Hall 01382 434941

EDINBURGH

Cerys Matthews The Caves
0131 557 8989

LEEDS

Quip Wharf Chambers

LEICESTER

Chris Conway Musician
0116 251 0080

LONDON

Crazy Arm MacBeth 020 7739 5095

Dexy/Makeout Tactics/The Trees
Scream Lounge 020 8667 0155

Ed Harcourt Cecil Sharp House
020 7485 2206

Happy Mondays Roundhouse
020 7482 7318

James Yorkston Shackell Arms
020 7249 0810

JP Cooper/The Lottery Winners
Hoxton Square Bar & Kitchen
020 7613 0709

The Little Victory Old Blue Last
020 7613 2478

Male Bonding/Mazes/Novella
Sebright Arms 020 7729 0937

Mute Swimmer Slaughtered Lamb
020 8682 4080

Paul Weller/Miles Kane HMV
Hammersmith Apollo 0870 606 3400

The Prodigy/AraabMuzik O2
Academy Brixton 0870 477 2000

The Rose Tinted Zigfrid Von
Underbelly 020 7613 1988

The Sassys/Men Of Good Fortune
Power Lunches Arts Cafe

Sauna Youth Garage (Upstairs)
0871 230 1094

Status Quo O2 0870 701 4444

There Goes Sunday Dublin Castle
020 7485 1773

Toy Barfly 0870 907 0999

BRANCMSTER

Emmy The Great & Tim Wheeler
Deaf Institute 0161 330 4019

Ren Harvieu Ruby Lounge
0161 834 1392

Toy, Barfly,
London,
Wednesday



NORWICH

Enter Shikari/Cancer Bats UEA
01603 505401

PORTSMOUTH

Nine Black Alps Wedgewood Rooms
023 9286 3911

PRESTON

Duke Special 53 Degrees
01772 893 000

SOUTHAMPTON

Katatonla Talking Heads
023 8055 5899

STOKE ON TRENT

In The Cards Sugarmill 01782 214 991

THURSDAY, DEC 20

BATH

YouLoveHerCozShesDead Moles
01225 404445

BIRMINGHAM

Breakfast At Charlies/The Regulars
O2 Academy 3 0870 477 2000

In Denial Flapper 0121 236 2421

The Toy Hearts/Troumaca Hare &
Hounds 0870 264 3333

BRIGHTON

The xx Centre 0870 900 9100

BRISTOL

Evil Eye/Disorder Croft (Front Bar)
0117 987 4144

Katatonla Fleece 0117 945 0996

CARDIFF

Means Heinz/The Jelas Undertone
029 2022 8883

DUNDEE

The Proclaimers Caird Hall
01382 434941

GATESHEAD

Onemanrevival Three Tuns
0191 487 0666

GLASGOW

Jonny And The Robots/How To
Swim Pivo Pivo 0141 564 8100

Mungo's HiFi Berkeley Suite

LEEDS

Crows Bones Howard Assembly Room
0113 243 9999

Martin Stephenson & The Daintees
Brudenell Social Club 0113 243 5866

LONDON

Autoheart Bull & Gate 020 7485 5358

Duke Special O2 Shepherds Bush
Empire 0870 771 2000

Echo Lake/Novella Monto Water Rats
020 7813 1079

Emmy The Great & Tim Wheeler
Scala 020 7833 2022

Frank Hamilton Barfly
0870 907 0999

Glam Chops/No Cars Buffalo Bar
020 7359 6191

Happy Mondays Roundhouse
020 7482 7318

Iced Earth Electric Ballroom
020 7485 9006

Kidnap Kid/Vuvuvultures Birthdays

The Pogues/Frank Turner O2
0870 701 4444

The Prodigy O2 Academy Brixton
0870 477 2000

Stereophonics Troxy 020 7734 3922

Stubb Black Heart 020 7428 9730

Swim Good Garage (Upstairs)
0871 230 1094

Vice Squad Garage 020 7607 1818

MANCHESTER

The Beat/The Minx Ruby Lounge
0161 834 1392

Hookworms/Kult Country/
Francis Lung Soup Kitchen
0161 236 5100

Michael McGoldrick Band On The
Wall 0161 832 6625

Sex Hands/Bad Grammar/Base
Ventura Kraak 07855 939 129

Slam Cartel Retro Bar 0161 274 4892

NEWCASTLE

Pointless View O2 Academy
0870 477 2000

NORWICH

Bad Manners Waterfront
01603 632 717

Brooke Sharkey Bicycle Shop
01603 625 777

Nine Black Alps Arts Centre
01603 660 352

NOTTINGHAM

Father Neptune's Sea Lions Rescue
Rooms 0115 958 8484

Matt Gold Bodega Social Club
08713 100000

SHEFFIELD

Hammer South Sea 0114 268 2992

Drawings/Due Kie Avondale House
023 8022 3405

STOKE ON TRENT

This Game Of Ghosts/Betrayal
Within The Ranks Sugarmill
01782 214 991



Jake Bugg, HMV
Institute, Birmingham,
Tuesday

GET IN THE GIG GUIDE!

DO YOU WANT TO GET YOUR BASH INCLUDED IN THE NME WEEKLY GIG GUIDE? GO TO NME.COM/GIGS AND SUBMIT YOUR LISTING FOR FREE. YOU MUST SUBMIT DETAILS AT LEAST THREE WEEKS BEFORE THE GIG DATE



FRIDAY

December 21

ABERDEEN
The Ruckus Lemon Tree 01224 642230

BIRMINGHAM
Call Atlantis O2 Academy 3
0870 477 2000

Wrapped In Plastic Flapper
0121 236 2421

BRIGHTON
Twin Brother Dome 01273 709709

BRISTOL
Dreadsquad Start The Bus
0117 930 4370

Dub Pistols Soundsystem The Lanes
0171 325 1979

Gaz Brookfield Fleece 0117 945 0996
Pops Of Chiltown Mr Wolf's
0117 927 3221

The Reacharounds Thunderbolt
07791 319 614

CARLISLE
Expression Brickyard 01228 512 220

PERRY
Damian McGinty Nerve Centre
028 7126 0562

EDINBURGH
The Rezillos The Liquidroom
0131 225 2564

GLASGOW
Black Sun 13th Note Cafe
0141 553 1638

Culann King Tut's Wah Wah Hut
0141 221 5279

Hardwell Arches 0141 221 4001
The Revolt/Bay View O2 ABC2
0141 204 5151

GULFORD
The Moulettes Boilerroom
01483 539 539

LEEDS
The Beat Brudenell Social Club
0113 243 5866

The Omega Particle The Well
0113 2440474

The Wonder Stuff O2 Academy
0870 477 2000

LEICESTER
Diesel Park West Musician
0116 251 0080

LIVERPOOL
Dominic Dunn/Milly Pye Parr St
Studios 0151 707 3727
Marley Chingus The Caledonia
0151 709 5909

Martha Reeves & The Vandellas
Eric's Club
Reva Shipping Forecast 0151 709 6901

Space O2 Academy 0870 477 2000
They're Coming To Get You Barbara
O2 Academy 2 0870 477 2000

LONDON
Bananamarama/2 Unlimited/Steps
O2 0870 701 4444

Brains Mcloud Barfly 0870 907 0999
Caspa/Breakage Fabric
020 7336 8898

Coki/Swindle Cable Club
020 7403 7730

Crypsis The Unicorn 020 7485 3073
David Devant & His Spirit Wife The
Lexington 020 7837 5387

Django Django O2 Shepherds Bush
Empire 0870 771 2000

The Lucky Strikes/The Dreaming
Spines Windmill 020 8671 0700

The Sonic Jewels Camden Rock
0871 230 1094

Soulwax/2 Many DJs/Kindness O2
Academy Brixton 0870 477 2000

Spizz Oil Dublin Castle 020 7485 1773
Touchstone Borderline 020 7734 5547
Whisky Blood Rattlesnake Of Angel
020 7354 0471

MANCHESTER
AAAK/Stalagmites Kings Arms
0161 832 3605

Cast Sound Control 0161 236 0340

Danny Mahon Ruby Lounge
0161 834 1392

Mikey DON Band On The Wall
0161 832 6625

Pins/Female Band Fuhrer Bunker
MILTON KEYNES

Nine Black Alps Craufurd Arms
01908 313 864

Zion Train/The Defekters Pitz
01908 660392

NEWCASTLE
Martin Stephenson & The Daintees
Cluny 0191 230 4474

Natasha Haws Cluny 2 0191 230 4474

PLYMOUTH
Crazy Arm White Rabbit 01752 227522

READING
Private Jet/Borderline/Fire South
Street Arts Centre 0118 960 6060

SHEFFIELD
Bison/Drymabago Plug 0114 276 7093

Joe Carnall & The Book Club Queens
Social Club 0114 272 5544

Reasons To Be Cheerful New Barrack
Tavern 0114 234 9148

SOUTHAMPTON
The Horse Talking Heads
023 8055 5899

STONE ON TRENT
Blue Origin Underground
01782 219944

The Get Alongs/The Control
Sugarhill 01782 214 991

ST ALBANS
The Zipheads Horn 01727 853 143

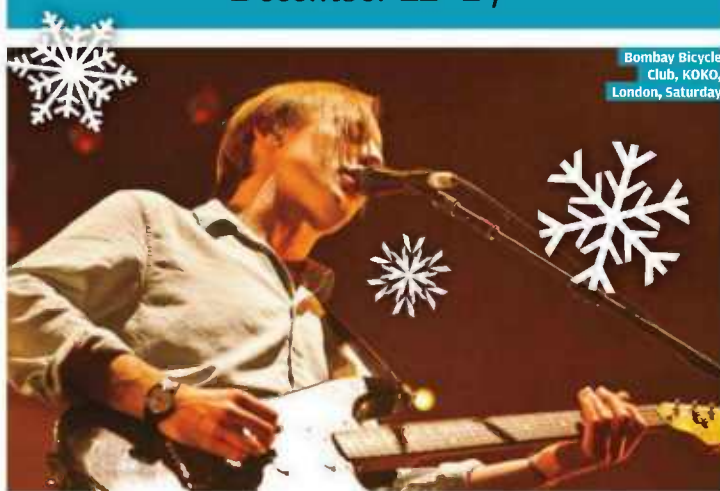
SWANSEA
The Somethings/Spitfire The Vault
01792 456 110

WAKEFIELD
Skipratt Snooty Fox 01924 374455

YORK
Toby Jepson Fibbers
01904 651 250

SAT-MON

December 22-24



Bombay Bicycle
Club, KOKO,
London, Saturday

SATURDAY, DEC 22

BIRMINGHAM
Cold Fields O2 Academy 3
0870 477 2000

The Crooked Empire Flapper
0121 236 2421

Kill Timers/Elven Miles Between
The End 0121 448 0797

Peace Rainbow 0121 772 8174
Rockastella Actress & Bishop
0121 236 7426

BRIGHTON
This Is The Kit/Early Ghost Latest
Music Bar 01273 687 171

BRISTOL
Marmalade Sky The Lanes
0117 325 1979

CARDIFF
City Bass Undertone 029 2022 8883
Veto Gwdhwh Cafe Bar
029 2039 7933

PERRY
Scott Bond St Columb's Hall
0870 216 2880

DUNDEE
The Rezillos Beat Generator
01382 229226

EDINBURGH
This Feeling/Fridge Magnets Voodoo
Rooms 0131 556 7060

GLASGOW
Gerry Lyons O2 ABC2 0141 204 5151

GUILDFORD
Ben Pearce Boilerroom 01483 539 539

LEEDS
Jimmy Holland The Well
0113 2440474

Little Devils Duck & Drake
0113 246 5806

The Ratistas Packhorse
0113 245 3980

LEICESTER
Echolocation The Cookie Jar
0116 2531212

LIVERPOOL
Cast/The Hummingbirds O2
Academy 0870 477 2000

LONDON
Berlin Blonde Nambucca
020 7272 7366

Bombay Bicycle Club/Trophy Wife
KOKO 020 7388 3222

Citieswillfall Dublin Castle
020 7485 1773

Hopeless Heroic Borderline
020 7734 5547

James Zablala/Pangaea Electric
Brixton 020 7274 2290

Madness O2 0870 701 4444
Moxie Queen Of Hoxton
020 7422 0958

Pocket Satellite Bull & Gate
020 7485 5358

Simonne & The Dark Stars Monto
Water Rats 020 7813 1079

Smoke And Mirrors Barfly
0870 907 0999

Those Amongst Us Are Wolves
Zigrid Von Underbelly 020 7613 1988

Vision Fortune/Yola Fatouh Power
Lunches Arts Cafe

2 Many DJs/James Murphy/
Kindness O2 Academy Brixton
0870 477 2000

MANCHESTER
Happy Mondays/808 State Victoria
Warehouse 0161 660 7000

The Rainband HMV Ritz
0161 236 4355

Special Duties Star & Garter
0161 273 6726

MILTON KEYNES
Deferred Success/Tim Ten Yen
Watershed 07935 641 660

NEWCASTLE
The Cornshed Sisters/Our
Imaginary Friends Star And Shadow
Cinema 0191 2610066

The Me Me's Star Inn 0191 222 3111

NORWICH
Run Like Rivers Brickmakers
01603 441 118

Shackleton Arts Centre
01603 660 352

NOTTINGHAM
ICON/Line Of Fire Salutation Inn
0115 950 4627

New Model Army Rock City
08713 100000

SHEFFIELD
Everly Pregnant Brothers Leadmill
0114 221 2828

SOUTHAMPTON
Peers Unit 02380 225612

Sean McGowan Lennons
023 8057 0460

STONE ON TRENT
The Black Mirrors The Famous Lion
01782 846780

Fallen Inquest Underground
01782 219944

Sworn To Oath/Tussk Sugarhill
01782 214 991

SWANSEA
The Underdogs The Vault
01792 456 110

WOLVERHAMPTON
My Great Affliction/Diamond Lil
Slade Room 0870 320 7000

YORK
Morderstein Fibbers 01904 651 250

SUNDAY, DEC 23

BIRMINGHAM
The Twang O2 Academy 2
0870 477 2000

BRISTOL
Troy Ellis/Jah Garvey Fleece
0117 945 0996

CARDIFF
One Track Mind Buffalo Bar
02920 310312

GLASGOW
Dead Man Fall King Tut's Wah Wah
Hut 0141 221 5279

This Feeling/Fridge Magnets Maggie
May's 0141 548 1350

LEEDS
Nikki Allan Seven Arts 0113 262 6777

Resurgence Duck & Drake
0113 246 5806

The Solicitors New Roscoe
0113 246 0778

LEICESTER
No Way Back Musician 0116 251 0080

LONDON
Kunt And The Gang New Cross Inn
020 8692 1866

Matisyahu O2 Academy Islington
0870 477 2000

Tempus Fusion Nambucca
020 7272 7366

This Is The Kit/Sweet Baboo The
Lexington 020 7837 5387

NEWCASTLE
Minotaurus Cluny 2 0191 230 4474

Tom Williams & The Boat/The
Cornshed Sisters Hoult's Yard
0191 265 4282

SOUTHAMPTON
Henry Cluney Talking Heads
023 8055 5899

STONE ON TRENT
3's A Riot Sugarhill 01782 214 991

WOLVERHAMPTON
Martha Reeves & The Vandellas
Robin 2 01902 497860

YORK
Cast/Little Triggers Fibbers
01904 651 250

MONDAY, DEC 24

BIRMINGHAM
Misty's Big Adventure
Hare & Hounds 0870 264 3333

BRISTOL
Crazy Zoe/No Prima Donnas
Mr Wolf's 0117 927 3221

GLASGOW
Sixth Avenue Traffic King Tut's Wah
Hut 0141 221 5279

LEICESTER
The Moonlights Donkey
0116 270 5042

LONDON
Serafina Steer St Leonard's Church
020 7739 20

SOUTHAMPTON
The Racketeers Cellars 02392 826249



Django Django,
O2 Shepherds Bush
Empire, London

MARKETPLACE

STORAGE

[illegible]

CLOTHING & ACCESSORIES

**THE ORIGINAL
STASH PANTS**

**SD
SMUGGLING
DUDS**



**KEEP YOUR
CROWN JEWELS
SAFE THIS
X-MAS WITH
SMUGGLING DUDS**



**GET 20% OFF ALL ORDERS ONLINE THIS CHRISTMAS AT
SMUGGLINGDUDS.COM WITH DISCOUNT CODE - **NME20****



THE INTERNATIONAL COLLECTION
UNION JACK SAMURAI BRAZILIAN STAR SPANGLED



RECORDING STUDIOS

Mill Hill Music Complex
Bunns Lane Works, NW7 2AJ
020 8906 9991

Recording – Great Live Room with
MacPro & Logic X
Rehearsals – 10 fully equipped studios
from £30 free inc Backline
Opening April 2012
New studio complex with six fully air
conditioned purpose built studios includ-
ing Dance studio with Harlequin Floor,
Private Practice practise room, Composer
room, Photo/video room with infinity wall
– full details & pics at studio blog on
www.millhillmusiccomplex.blogspot.com
5 mins walk from Mill Hill Thameslink,
10 mins drive from M1/M25 J2, many
local bus routes and ample parking

For all other studio detail
www.millhillmusiccomplex.co.uk

TEXT CHAT

CHEAP
Chat
36p
LIVE
0909 860 9940

MUSICIANS WANTED

THINK YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES
to be the singer in a band
similar in style to The Killers, Kings Of Leon, U2?



Unreleased commercial rock/pop band with good contacts and major industry interest seeks charismatic singer to complete line-up. Piano playing a plus but not essential!

Please email searchforahitsinger@gmail.com with information about yourself and a photo to arrange an audition. Male 18-24 London based.

**PLEASE
MENTION
NME WHEN
REPLYING TO
ADVERTS**

TUITION

LEADING VOCAL COACH

TO THE FAMOUS
www.punk2opera.com
Tel: 020 8958 9323

Adam J Humphreys Photography
PR/Showcase/Covers



Don't forget to mention NME when replying
www.adamjhumphreysphotography.com
adam.j.humphreys@btconnect.com

www.mobilesolarchargers.co.uk



RECHARGE ON THE MOVE

IN NEED OF A PHONE BATTERY THAT CAN GO THE DISTANCE?

TRY OUR ESTABLISHED RANGE OF SOLAR POWERED CHARGERS
PERFECT FOR OUTDOOR PURSUITS, FESTIVALS, TRAVEL & **LIFE**

enquiries@mobilesolarchargers.co.uk

CHAT

GAY CHAT
0871 908 5272
Call now and start chatting!
12p weekdays 0844 244... The... recorded
0871... per min... te... on... app... SP. 40...



FREE TEXTCHAT

**enme
mnme
gnme**

18+ only. Helpdesk: 0844 944 0002. Standard network charges apply. Women: Network charges only. Send STOP to 69866 to Stop. IP: X-On.

DATE CHAT
MEN: 0871 908 9919
GAY: 0871 908 9944
 18+. H/desk 0844 944 0444.
 0871 = 10p per min. Network extras
 apply. Live calls recorded. S: 4D.
WOMEN CALL FREE*
0800 075 9128

CHAT OR DATE
10p
PER MIN
0872 100 1002
18+. Helpdesk 0844 844 0844. Network extras apply. Live calls received. SP 40

NME

BIG FAT XMAS XWORD

Digested all the turkey, Christmas pudding and Spector chat? Yes? Then relax with our biggest crossword of the year – if you can finish it, you could win a festive sack of NME goodies. Compiled by Trevor Hunger-For-Mince-Pies

CLUES ACROSS

- 1+7A** Killers on horseback taking their partners for a glass of mulled wine (3-7-9-4)
14+3D A 'number one' for Biffy Clyro (3-7)
17 Trudge a long distance with bag-lady Sharon Van Etten (5)
18+19A Somehow Dan's only deal was for a Secret Machines number (3-3-6)
20 The Vaccines are not minor now (4-2-3)
21 (See 99 down)
22 At the very heart of things for The Stone Temple Pilots was their debut album (4)
23 For when things are not bad, it's music by Chic, Eric Burdon and The Hoodoo Gurus (4-5)
24 This album offer by Two Door Cinema Club could actually be a con (6)
26+36A I remarked on ban strangely given to a single by Python Lee Jackson/Rod Stewart (2-1-6-5)
27 The Bravery showed bravery in releasing this (8)
29+46D Talks as we're making arrangements for a Van Morrison album (6-5)
30 Liverpool band who sang 'Groovy Train' and 'All Together Now', The... (4)
32+45D Hold a steady firm view of a Hold Steady release (4-8)
34 "All... in jest/Still a man hears what he wants to hear and disregards the rest", from Simon And Garfunkel's 'The Boxer' (4)
36 (See 26 across)
37 Third man I had upset by singing 'Don't Make Promises' (3-6)
40 Quiet please, Deep Purple are playing (4)
42 "A band is blowing... double four time", from Dire Straits' 'Sultans Of Swing' (5)
43 The 1975 with a number that will be the finish of David Essex (3)
44 It's the music that we all like from a U2 album (3)
46 Old-fashioned message from the Manic Street Preachers (4)
48 "1,000 ways to please your man, not even one requires a...", from The Strokes' 'You Only Live Once' (4)
50 Singer-songwriter who knows how to 'Murder Ballads' (4-4)
52+76D A sketch in remembrance of Embrace? (5-4-6)
53 "You treat me like a dog, get me down on my knees/We call it...", Depeche Mode (6-3-7)

- 55** (See 109 across)
59+76A There's a cash point for this Supergrass album (2-2-3-3-5)
60 Have a drink with Kelis (9)
62+57D She first appeared from 'Under The Sheets' in 2009 (5-8)
64 (See 9 down)
65 "Let's dance to Joy Division and celebrate the.../Everything is going wrong", The Wombats (5)
68 Fronted by Billy Mackenzie, they had an '80s hit with 'Party Fears Two' (10)

69 "Not to put too fine a point on it/Say I'm the only bee in your bonnet", 1999 (9-2-4-4)
74+81D "Was that the wrong pill to take? Raise it up", 2009 (6-5)

75 They spoke well of Jack White (10)
76 (See 59 across)
77 Their singles include 'This Is Radio...' and '...City Rockers' (5)
78 Songstress who has appeared on Bombay Bicycle Club recordings (4-4)
79 Poor practices resulting in a General Fiasco of a performance (3-6)

83 "...is where we start, a thousand poles apart", 2012 (7)
84 John..., whose Bluesbreakers have included Eric Clapton and Peter Green (6)
89 Member of Neil Young's Crazy Horse gets stuck into a semolina pudding (6)
90 A bit of a strange look for Brotherhood Of Man hit (6)
91 (See 28 down)

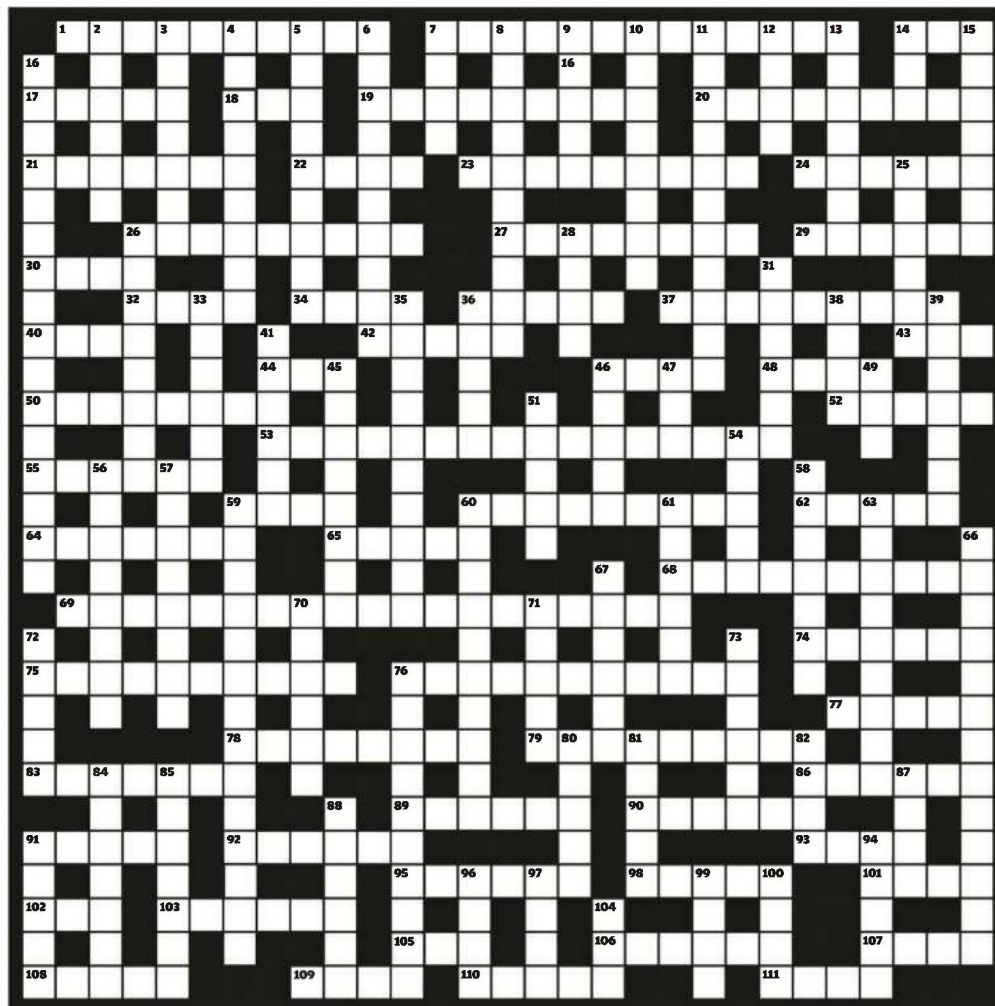
92 A rather personal question from The Kooks (2-2-2)
93 "Day after day, alone on a hill/The man with the foolish... is keeping perfectly still", from The Beatles' Fool On The Hill' (4)
95 (See 38 down)
96 (See 107 across)

101 "I fear rivers overflowing/I hear the voice of... and ruin", from Creedence Clearwater Revival's 'Bad Moon Rising' (4)
102 Yeasayer number taken from The Rolling Stones (1-1-1)
103 The atom he exploded with Crystal Fighters (2-4)
105 "Will you tell me when the lights are fading, 'cos I can't see, I can't see no more", 2008 (3)

106 Musical with the two main characters Danny and Sandy (6)
107+98A Awful pithy muck from The White Stripes (4-5)
108 A bit of a shitty song for member of Cast (5)
109+55A A terrible nervy sight for Midlands band of the '80s (4-6)
110+70D Infatuated with the glamour of performing live for a Rory Gallagher album (5-6)
111 There's no fat on Joe, especially without his Jing Jang Jong (4)

CLUES DOWN

- 2** Wonderful place that has an Emeli Sande single and a Walkmen album (6)
3 (See 14 across)
4 Frank Turner's early Anglo-Saxon roots (6-3)
5 The songs on this Nils Lofgren album won't be newly learnt (3-6)
6 Perhaps yesterday will be about right for follow-up single to 62 across (6-4)
7 A bit of disco dancing to Led Zeppelin album (4)
8 The Strokes somehow get one from Rio (4-2-4)
9+64A "Birds come flying from the underground/If you could see it you'd understand", 2005 (5-2-5)



- 10** (See 25 down)
11 "Nobody knows it but you've got a..., and you use it only for me", 1999 (6-5)
12+91D Put your hands right up in the air! It's Joe Strummer And The Mescaleros (4-5)
13 Left the strange noises to a posthumous Amy Winehouse album (7)
14 Cat Stevens' album '... For The Tillerman' (3)
15 Unrelenting sound of that immortal '90s R&B group (7)
16 "Yes, it's the... that's holding our salvation", New Order (5-2-3-6)
25+100D Ray lifted music wrongfully from this American soul/R&B legend (6-8)
26 Miki Nash turns up with a Jack White single (2-6)
28+91A Regrettably she was named by Mystery Jets (4-5)
31 How to serve up the cream of Devo's recordings (4-2)
33 Repeatedly puts on a Blink-182 number (6)
35 Perhaps the TV's in lower place for The Men They

- Couldn't Hang (6-4)
36 "Squeeze me baby with all your might/Oh, please stay with me...", Paul Anka (5)
38+95A "On the corner of main street, just tryin' to keep it in line", 2007 (4-2-4)
39 Album from The Auteurs comes with a fresh outbreak (3-4)
41 "I don't feel safe in this world no more, I don't want to die in a nuclear war", The Kinks (6)
45 (See 32 across)
46 (See 29 across)
47 (See 58 down)
49 I leave 93 across and make a comeback with Adamski (1-1-1)
51 She can be seen in homemade leggings (5)
54 (See 96 down)
56 Both Niki + The Dove and Iggy Pop had the knack for recording albums (8)
57 (See 62 across)
58+47D Their albums include 'Deserter's Songs' and 'Snowflake Midnight' (7-3)
59 That's me totally in the dark

- about being on the road for both Cyndi Lauper and Roy Orbison (1-5-3-5)
60 More boldly makes move for The White Stripes (2-8)
61 Both Professor Green and Roxy Music have a connection with the legend of King Arthur (6)
63 Legendary blues musician who might have been able to stomach heavy metal (4-5)
66 Only lets Hives do version of a Stevie Wonder classic (4-3-6)
67+80D How Art Brut got going in order to release their debut single (6-1-4)
70 (See 110 across)
71 Amy Winehouse got into some bizarre habits (5)
72 Put something on, like PJ Harvey's first single (5)
73 "I don't need you to worry because I'm alright/I don't want you to tell me it's time to come home", Billy Joel (2-4)
76 (See 52 across)
80 (See 67 down)
81 (See 74 across)
82 This makes it difficult to see

- Bill Callahan's band (4)
84 Tyler, The Creator number from the state of New York (7)
85 It's a ban wrongly imposed on a single from Five Thirty (7)
87 An American naturally includes an early Beatles' number (4)
88 Tommy..., British rock'n'roller who was 'Singing The Blues' in the '50s (6)
91 (See 12 down)
94 Big Dee... had '60s hit with 'Swinging On A Star' (5)
96+54D The blokes were satisfied by this Cibs number (4-5)
97 German singer who had UK number one in 1984 with '99 Red Balloons' (4)
99+21A The 'Luka' tape reworked by The Charlatans (2-2-3-4)
100 "The... Sessions" include a record number of 24 by The Fall (4)
104 "The morning sun when it's in your face really shows your...", from Rod Stewart's 'Maggie May' (3)

NOVEMBER 10 ANSWERS
ACROSS 1 Miss Atomic Bomb, 10 The Bell, 11 Shields, 12-30A The Bitter End, 13-25A Samia Pa Ti, 14 Slip, 15-35A All Around The World, 19-26A-40D Up, 41 row 1 top Ranking, 22 Nos, 24-27, 29-30 Days Of Speed, 29 Bell, 31-32-33-34-35-36-37-38-39-40-41-42-43-44-45-46-47-48-49-50-51-52-53-54-55-56-57-58-59-60-61-62-63-64-65-66-67-68-69-70-71-72-73-74-75-76-77-78-79-80-81-82-83-84-85-86-87-88-89-90-91-92-93-94-95-96-97-98-99-100-101-102-103-104-105-106-107-108-109-110-111-112-113-114-115-116-117-118-119-120-121-122-123-124-125-126-127-128-129-130-131-132-133-134-135-136-137-138-139-140-141-142-143-144-145-146-147-148-149-150-151-152-153-154-155-156-157-158-159-160-161-162-163-164-165-166-167-168-169-170-171-172-173-174-175-176-177-178-179-180-181-182-183-184-185-186-187-188-189-190-191-192-193-194-195-196-197-198-199-200-201-202-203-204-205-206-207-208-209-210-211-212-213-214-215-216-217-218-219-220-221-222-223-224-225-226-227-228-229-230-231-232-233-234-235-236-237-238-239-240-241-242-243-244-245-246-247-248-249-250-251-252-253-254-255-256-257-258-259-260-261-262-263-264-265-266-267-268-269-270-271-272-273-274-275-276-277-278-279-280-281-282-283-284-285-286-287-288-289-290-291-292-293-294-295-296-297-298-299-300-301-302-303-304-305-306-307-308-309-310-311-312-313-314-315-316-317-318-319-320-321-322-323-324-325-326-327-328-329-330-331-332-333-334-335-336-337-338-339-340-341-342-343-344-345-346-347-348-349-350-351-352-353-354-355-356-357-358-359-360-361-362-363-364-365-366-367-368-369-370-371-372-373-374-375-376-377-378-379-380-381-382-383-384-385-386-387-388-389-390-391-392-393-394-395-396-397-398-399-400-401-402-403-404-405-406-407-408-409-410-411-412-413-414-415-416-417-418-419-420-421-422-423-424-425-426-427-428-429-430-431-432-433-434-435-436-437-438-439-440-441-442-443-444-445-446-447-448-449-450-451-452-453-454-455-456-457-458-459-460-461-462-463-464-465-466-467-468-469-470-471-472-473-474-475-476-477-478-479-480-481-482-483-484-485-486-487-488-489-490-491-492-493-494-495-496-497-498-499-500-501-502-503-504-505-506-507-508-509-510-511-512-513-514-515-516-517-518-519-520-521-522-523-524-525-526-527-528-529-530-531-532-533-534-535-536-537-538-539-540-541-542-543-544-545-546-547-548-549-550-551-552-553-554-555-556-557-558-559-560-561-562-563-564-565-566-567-568-569-570-571-572-573-574-575-576-577-578-579-580-581-582-583-584-585-586-587-588-589-590-591-592-593-594-595-596-597-598-599-600-601-602-603-604-605-606-607-608-609-610-611-612-613-614-615-616-617-618-619-620-621-622-623-624-625-626-627-628-629-630-631-632-633-634-635-636-637-638-639-640-641-642-643-644-645-646-647-648-649-650-651-652-653-654-655-656-657-658-659-660-661-662-663-664-665-666-667-668-669-670-671-672-673-674-675-676-677-678-679-680-681-682-683-684-685-686-687-688-689-690-691-692-693-694-695-696-697-698-699-700-701-702-703-704-705-706-707-708-709-710-711-712-713-714-715-716-717-718-719-720-721-722-723-724-725-726-727-728-729-730-731-732-733-734-735-736-737-738-739-740-741-742-743-744-745-746-747-748-749-750-751-752-753-754-755-756-757-758-759-760-761-762-763-764-765-766-767-768-769-770-771-772-773-774-775-776-777-778-779-780-781-782-783-784-785-786-787-788-789-790-791-792-793-794-795-796-797-798-799-800-801-802-803-804-805-806-807-808-809-810-811-812-813-814-815-816-817-818-819-820-821-822-823-824-825-826-827-828-829-830-831-832-833-834-835-836-837-838-839-840-841-842-843-844-845-846-847-848-849-850-851-852-853-854-855-856-857-858-859-860-861-862-863-864-865-866-867-868-869-870-871-872-873-874-875-876-877-878-879-880-881-882-883-884-885-886-887-888-889-890-891-892-893-894-895-896-897-898-899-900-901-902-903-904-905-906-907-908-909-910-911-912-913-914-915-916-917-918-919-920-921-922-923-924-925-926-927-928-929-930-931-932-933-934-935-936-937-938-939-940-941-942-943-944-945-946-947-948-949-950-951-952-953-954-955-956-957-958-959-960-961-962-963-964-965-966-967-968-969-970-971-972-973-974-975-976-977-978-979-980-981-982-983-984-985-986-987-988-989-990-991-992-993-994-995-996-997-998-999-1000-1001-1002-1003-1004-1005-1006-1007-1008-1009-1010-1011-1012-1013-1014-1015-1016-1017-1018-1019-1020-1021-1022-1023-1024-1025-1026-1027-1028-1029-1030-1031-1032-1033-1034-1035-1036-1037-1038-1039-1040-1041-1042-1043-1044-1045-1046-1047-1048-1049-1050-1051-1052-1053-1054-1055-1056-1057-1058-1059-1060-1061-1062-1063-1064-1065-1066-1067-1068-1069-1070-1071-1072-1073-1074-1075-1076-1077-1078-1079-1080-1081-1082-1083-1084-1085-1086-1087-1088-1089-1090-1091-1092-1093-1094-1095-1096-1097-1098-1099-1100-1101-1102-1103-1104-1105-1106-1107-1108-1109-1110-1111-1112-1113-1114-1115-1116-1117-1118-1119-1120-1121-1122-1123-1124-1125-1126-1127-1128-1129-1130-1131-1132-1133-1134-1135-1136-1137-1138-1139-1140-1141-1142-1143-1144-1145-1146-1147-1148-1149-1150-1151-1152-1153-1154-1155-1156-1157-1158-1159-1160-1161-1162-1163-1164-1165-1166-1167-1168-1169-1170-1171-1172-1173-1174-1175-1176-1177-1178-1179-1180-1181-1182-1183-1184-1185-1186-1187-1188-1189-1190-1191-1192-1193-1194-1195-1196-1197-1198-1199-1200-1201-1202-1203-1204-1205-1206-1207-1208-1209-1210-1211-1212-1213-1214-1215-1216-1217-1218-1219-1220-1221-1222-1223-1224-1225-1226-1227-1228-1229-1230-1231-1232-1233-1234-1235-1236-1237-1238-1239-1240-1241-1242-1243-1244-1245-1246-1247-1248-1249-1250-1251-1252-1253-1254-1255-1256-1257-1258-1259-1260-1261-1262-1263-1264-1265-1266-1267-1268-1269-1270-1271-1272-1273-1274-1275-1276-1277-1278-1279-1280-1281-1282-1283-1284-1285-1286-1287-1288-1289-1290-1291-1292-1293-1294-1295-1296-1297-1298-1299-1300-1301-1302-1303-1304-1305-1306-1307-1308-1309-1310-1311-1312-1313-1314-1315-1316-1317-1318-1319-1320-1321-1322-1323-1324-1325-1326-1327-1328-1329-1330-1331-1332-1333-1334-1335-1336-1337-1338-1339-1340-1341-1342-1343-1344-1345-1346-1347-1348-1349-1350-1351-1352-1353-1354-1355-1356-1357-1358-1359-1360-1361-1362-1363-1364-1365-1366-1367-1368-1369-1370-1371-1372-1373-1374-1375-1376-1377-1378-1379-1380-1381-1382-1383-1384-1385-1386-1387-1388-1389-1390-1391-1392-1393-1394-1395-1396-1397-1398-1399-1400-1401-1402-1403-1404-1405-1406-1407-1408-1409-1410-1411-1412-1413-1414-1415-1416-1417-1418-1419-1420-1421-1422-1423-1424-1425-1426-1427-1428-1429-1430-1431-1432-1433-1434-1435-1436-1437-1438-1439-1440-1441-1442-1443-1444-1445-1446-1447-1448-1449-1450-1451-1452-1453-1454-1455-1456-1457-1458-1459-1460-1461-1462-1463-1464-1465-1466-1467-1468-1469-1470-1471-1472-1473-1474-1475-1476-1477-1478-1479-1480-1481-1482-1483-1484-1485-1486-1487-1488-1489-1490-1491-1492-1493-1494-1495-1496-1497-1498-1499-1500-1501-1502-1503-1504-1505-1506-1507-1508-1509-1510-1511-1512-1513-1514-1515-1516-1517-1518-1519-1520-1521-1522-1523-1524-1525-1526-1527-1528-1529-1530-1531-1532-1533-1534-1535-1536-1537-1538-1539-1540-1541-1542-1543-1544-1545-1546-1547-1548-1549-1550-1551-1552-1553-1554-1555-1556-1557-1558-1559-1560-1561-1562-1563-1564-1565-1566-1567-1568-1569-1570-1571-1572-1573-1574-1575-1576-1577-1578-1579-1580-1581-1582-1583-1584-1585-1586-1587-1588-1589-1590-1591-1592-1593-1594-1595-1596-1597-1598-1599-1600-1601-1602-1603-1604-1605-1606-1607-1608-1609-1610-1611-1612-1613-1614-1615-1616-1617-1618-1619-1620-1621-1622-1623-1624-1625-1626-1627-1628-1629-1630-1631-1632-1633-1634-1635-1636-1637-1638-1639-1640-1641-1642-1643-1644-1645-1646-1647-1648-1649-1650-1651-1652-1653-1654-1655-1656-1657-1658-1659-1660-1661-1662-1663-1664-1665-1666-1667-1668-1669-1670-1671-1672-1673-1674-1675-1676-1677-1678-1679-1680-1681-1682-1683-1684-1685-1686-1687-1688-1689-1690-1691-1692-1693-1694-1695-1696-1697-1698-1699-1700-1701-1702-1703-1704-1705-1706-1707-1708-1709-1710-1711-1712-1713-1714-1715-1716-1717-1718-1719-1720-1721-1722-1723-1724-1725-1726-1727-1728-1729-1730-1731-1732-1733-1734-1735-1736-1737-1738-1739-1740-1741-1742-1743-1744-1745-1746-1747-1748-1749-1750-1751-1752-1753-1754-1755-1756-1757-1758-1759-1760-1761-1762-1763-1764-1765-1766-1767-1768-1769-1770-1771-1772-1773-1774-1775-1776-1777-1778-1779-1780-1781-1782-1783-1784-1785-1786-1787-1788-1789-1790-1791-1792-1793-1794-1795-1796-1797-1798-1799-1800-1801-1802-1803-1804-1805-1806-1807-1808-1809-1810-1811-1812-1813-1814-1815-1816-1817-1818-1819-1820-1821-1822-1823-1824-1825-1826-1827-1828-1829-1830-1831-1832-1833-1834-1835-1836-1837-1838-1839-1840-1841-1842-1843-1844-1845-1846-1847-1848-1849-1850-1851-1852-1853-1854-1855-1856-1857-1858-1859-1860-1861-1862-1863-1864-1865-1866-1867-1868-1869-1870-1871-1872-1873-1874-1875-1876-1877-1878-1879-1880-1881-1882-1883-1884-1885-1886-1887-1888-1889-1890-1891-1892-1893-1894-1895-1896-1897-1898-1899-1900-1901-1902-1903-1904-1905-1906-1907-1

SANTA'S BIG SACK

HAVE MUSIC'S GREAT AND GOOD
BEEN NAUGHTY OR NICE?

Edited by Santa Claus



FACEBOOK.COM/
NMEMAGAZINE



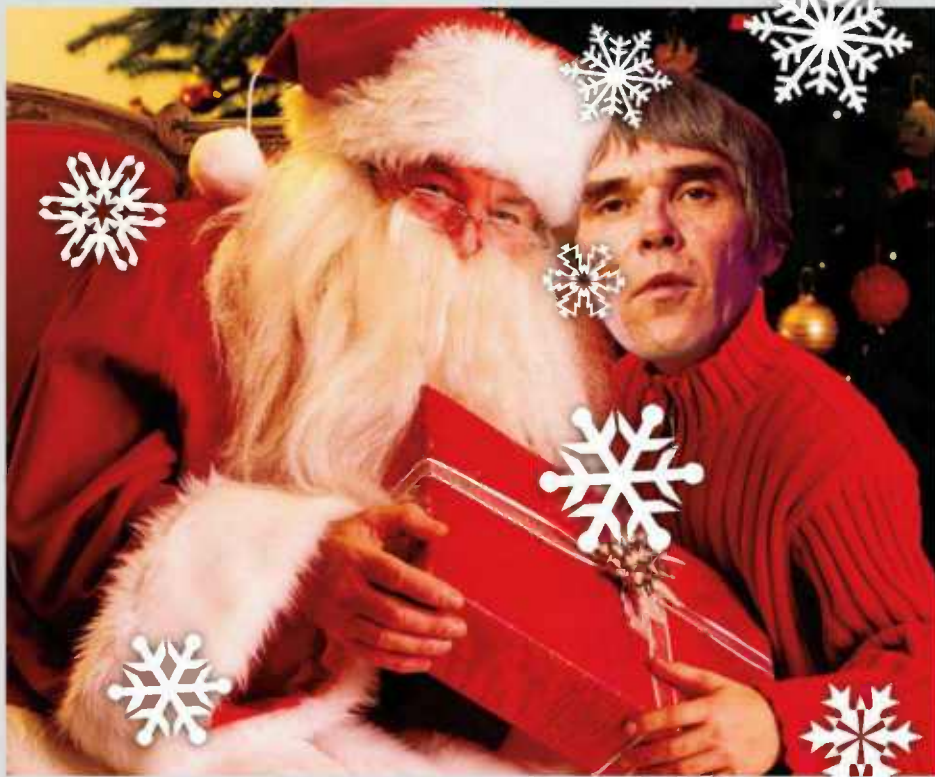
TWITTER.COM/
NME



LETTERS
@NME.COM

Letter of the week

The best of the NME mailbag



SHOOT YULE DOWN

To: Santa
From: Ian Brown

What you sayin', Santa, yeah? Stone Roses, up on a stage, all the rage, lookin' good for our age. Been a mega year in which me and the players have ruled the world again, just like we said we would. Got some more big gigs comin' up next year, gonna be Biblical. Glasgow Green, gonna be a scene, know what I mean? But the thing is: we've gotta do some new tunes as well now, innit? It's been massive playing all the old ones, and people have even been dead nice about me singing this time around, but this is the point at which our legacy is at stake. 2013 is gonna be the one you've waited for. We've been doing the usual hyping it up to the max thing, promising all the kids some proper classics, but I'm just gettin' a little bit nervous about it now. You couldn't lob us a Bible, could ya, to help out with me lyrics? Oh, and I know John's probably been on your case about getting a copy of that Led Zeppelin Celebration Day DVD, but do us a favour and swap it for a Byrds songbook or some hip-hop or summat, will ya? We all know what happened the last time he got in *that* zone.

Santa's response...

Ian, Ian, Ian. No-one is more excited than I am about your impending new songs. And listening to that ginormous solo box-set of yours that's just come

out, I feel optimistic about your chances of adding to rather than subtracting from your legacy. Just learn some lessons from times past and you'll be fine.

Get that Reni chappie of yours involved a bit more, and that lovely Mani guy, and you won't go too far wrong. Oh, and those lovely folk at NME have asked

me for a full Stone Roses interview again. They were so disappointed last year, I could hardly stand to look at their little faces. How about Boxing Day?

CHRISTMAS VISIONS

From: Grimes
To: Santa

I'm gonna get straight to the point: I need to concoct some new mythology, and fast. My whole "staying up for nine days straight on speed making my record" shtick seemed to distract the hipster community from the fact that it basically sounded like really bad Enya, but I'm really not sure I can pull off the same trick twice and there are only so many colours you can dye your hair. Any ideas?

From: Santa
To: Grimes

Nonsense, my dear! There's nothing to worry about. I've been telling people to leave a glass of sherry out for me for years: as if I drink every single one of them! You're not alone in desperately trying to make yourself seem more interesting by lying about your drink/drug intake. And people are pretty fucking stupid.

KER-CHING DONG MERRILY

From: Mick Jagger
To: Santa

'Allo Santa, I've just got a little proposal I wanted to put to you regarding my band's inevitable stadium tour next year. The thing is, we've just done a couple of arena gigs, primarily to see how much all those CEOs who had long hair in the '60s would be willing to shell out for a ticket. And guess what? We dressed it up in all kinds of 'VIP enclosure' crap, and they went in seconds for £1,000 a pop! So now I'm thinking if we can get the 2013 dates announced sharpish - and of course if those cats at American Express are cool - we could work together on a Santa delivery package, where we charge them £3,000 each for you to personally deliver the tickets on Christmas Day. We could even embroider the ol' tongue logo on your coat for the occasion? I can offer you a 98-2 per cent split. What say ye?

From: Santa

To: Mick Jagger
I dunno, all these sleigh bells ain't cheap. And then I've got reindeer to keep happy. And elves. Shall we say £8,000, and then my cut can be bigger?

OH GOD, IT'S HIM AGAIN

From: Jack White
To: Santa

I'm still thinkin' 'bout my doorbell: when you gonna ring it, when you gonna ring it?

From: Santa

To: Jack White
I don't do doors. I do bells, but not bells on doors. That clear enough for you? Also, stop biting my colour scheme, you're confusing the brand message.

COME ALL YE WRATHFUL

From: Plan B
To: Santa

Yo Santa, you fucking muppet, fuck this Christmas shit, you get me? What's with this only coming down chimneys? Round here on the estates we ain't got no chimneys: the only thing that even vaguely looks like a fucking chimney round here is the Coalition's dick shafting us up the arse, every second of every day. Well, that and the fucking barrel of the Glock-9 you'd get in your eye if you DID ever come down my chimney without warning. We know you're serving us a con, mate, just like your Conservative mates: you come out once a fucking year, smiling down at us from your big golden sleigh, doling out stuff to the upper classes with a smile. How d'you think that makes us feel? Of COURSE we're gonna fucking riot, and yeah, everyone'll blame us, but it's the system that made us this way. It's YOU who made us this way, you red-faced fat cunt!

From: Santa

To: Plan B
Dearie me, my young friend, is this just because I don't need quite as many copies

of your latest album as I did the last one? Hardly my fault the housewives have gone off you, is it? Anyway, Santa forgives all, so I shall be sure to wrap you up another Oxbridge-educated journalist to incessantly declare you "the only artist speaking for kids from the council estates". It's not 2million-plus album sales, but it's the best I can do. PS You were magnetic in *The Sweeney*.

OVERLY TALL ORDER

From: Alt-J
To: Santa
We'd like some charisma. Please.

From: Santa
To: Alt-J
How about a massive bag of drugs instead?

BLUE SCENES, QUITE HURT

From: Lana Del Rey
To: Santa
Santa baby, what a difference a year makes! This time last December I was writing to you about how I was drowning in an ocean of pseudo-intellectual online prevarications over whatever 'Video Games' was supposed to mean, but now? A year on I'm putting out songs about how my pussy tastes like Pepsi-Cola to not even a whimper from "the blogosphere". Oh sure, H&M, Jaguar, Mulberry and Findus Crispy Pancakes still can't get

enough of me, but I just miss the feeling of being on the business end of some spotty Brooklynite twat's battered old iBook.

From: Santa
To: Lana Del Rey
I'm not sure there's a great deal I can do to help you, dearest Lizzie. But if you read on, maybe the chappie below can help you out. PS You couldn't sling us one of them bags of yours, could you? The Missus is desperate for one. Well, to be honest, she really wants one of that Alexa's ones, but yours'll do in these lean times.

TROUBLED TIMES

From: Matt Prime
To: Santa
You might not know me, because I've never had cause to write to you before. Up until this year, I was making a tidy living co-writing songs with X Factor types like Olly Murs and Will Young and him out of Blue. Then I get a call from this guy called Jake Bugg asking me to write a tune with him and before you know it he's on about killing off all "that X Factor shit". But if he succeeds in this mission, I'll soon have no work. I feel a bit embarrassed to even ask, but could you at least make sure there's a couple more of these 'real', 'authentic' artists who don't mind working with professional people like me on the sly? I won't tell if you won't.

To: Matt Prime
From: Santa
Weirdly, I was just chatting to a friend of mine who people used to say is really *inauthentic*, so I reckon you two should get together! So how about you pour me a little sherry, and then get yourself over to: Lana Del Rey, 69 Mulholland Drive, Lynchtown, USA. Oh, and don't worry about all the eerie strings you hear round those parts, it's just what they do.

SILENT NIGHT, UNHOLY NIGHT

From: Hyde Park
To: Santa
"...S..."

"...S..."

"...d..."

"...PARKLIFE!..."

"...f..."

From: Santa
To: Hyde Park
I'm so sorry, I couldn't hear any of that. And I must be setting off now. Try to be a little bit louder next year.

ALL YOU NEED IS WUB

From: Skrillex
To: Santa
I don't know if you've heard, but I recently split up with a girl. She was quite lovely, but all she liked doing was jogging, talking about jogging and writing electro-tinged schmaltz. Plus, have you seen the Wiki page for her album? There were 67 people who worked on the bloody thing, including that Tinie Tempah guy! For a guy like me, who cuts generation-defining, face-melting tracks in the few moments of life when I'm not rocking the shit out of some American hellhole - usually on the crapper, to be honest - this just seems silly. So I need a new chick, man. And preferably one who's not gonna start copying my fucking haircut after two weeks.

From: Santa
To: Skrillex
I think the chances of you finding another person who isn't repulsed by your "look" - much less someone who is not-repulsed to the extent that they'll actually *copy* it - are slim. And to be honest, the utter rubbishness of these tunes you talk of is not exactly going to get the *laydeez'* pulses racing, either.

STALKERS



From: Alex Turner
To: Santa
"I met NME's Picture Queen Zoe when she was cycling round the Olympic opening ceremony. It's people like her who make this country great."



From: Sir Paul
To: Santa
"Here's me and NME's Hamish MacBain having a quick groove together. He put £4 change in that jukebox to play 'Be Here Now' in full!"



From: The Weeknd
To: Santa
"I met NME's Eve Barlow recently. I talked for hours and hours and hours. It was fun. I wish my record label would let me do more interviews."



From: Slash
To: Santa
"NME's Deputy News Editor Jenny Stevens kindly agreed to pose for this photo earlier this year. I talked to her about snakes and drugs!"

NME

NME EDITORIAL
(Call 020 3148 + ext)

Editor Mike Williams
Editor's PA Karen Walter (ext 6864)
Deputy Editor Eve Barlow (ext 6854)
Assistant Editor Hamish MacBain (ext 6894)
Features Editor Jamie Fullerton (ext 6871)
Reviews Editor Tom Howard (ext 6866)
Assistant Reviews Editor Slán Rowe (ext 6860)
News Editor Dan Stubbs (ext 6858)
Deputy News Editor Jenny Stevens (ext 6863)
News Music Editor Matt Wilkinson (ext 6856)

Art Director Giles Arbery
Deputy Art Editor Tony Ennis
Designer Kat Goddington
Freelance Designer James Firth, Dani Liquieri
Picture Director Marian Paterson (ext 6889)
Acting Picture Director Zoe Capstick (ext 6889)
Acting Picture Editor Sadie Gould (ext 6893)
Picture Researchers Patricia Board (ext 6888), Jenn Fife

Production Editor Tom Mugridge
Chief Sub-Editor Sarah Lotherington
Senior Sub-Editors Alan Woodhouse, Kathy Ball
Sub-Editors Nathaniel Cramp (ext 6881), Anthony Pearce, Emily Mackay

NME.COM
Editor Luke Lewis
Deputy Editor Lucy Jones
Producer Jo Weekley
Senior Video Producer Phil Wallis (ext 5374)
News Reporter David Renshaw

ADVERTISING

6th Floor, Blue Fin Building, 110 Southwark Street, London SE1 0SU
Group Trading Director Kate Macdonald (ext 3670)
Group Trading Director's PA Kate Faulkner (ext 3670)
Group Deputy Trading Director Jon Restall (ext 7626)
Ad Manager Tim Collins (ext 6703)
Senior Sales Executive Josie Westbrook-Caswell (ext 6731)
Display & Online Sales - Record Labels
Stephane Folquet (ext 6724)
Hollie-Anne Shelley (ext 6725)
Live Ads Executive Emma Martin (ext 6705)
Creative Media Director Matt Downs (ext 3681)
Creative Media Director's PA Tribha Shukla (ext 6733)
Head of Creative Media - Men & Music
Rob Hunt (ext 6721)
Deputy Head of Creative Media Neil McSteen (ext 6707)
Creative Media Director's PA Rebecca Rogers
Adam Sulleid (ext 6704)
Jade Bousfield (ext 6706)
Alex Fletcher (ext 6722)
Creative Media Project Manager
Elisabeth Hemphill (ext 6726)
Director Of Insight Amanda Wigginton (ext 3636)
Regional Business Development Manager
Oliver Scull (0161 872 2152)
Ad Production Alec Short (ext 6736)
Classified Sales Manager Robina Shahid (2540)
Classified Sales Executive Patrick Denison (2533)
Classified Ad Copy Susan Rowell (2626)
Syndication Manager Nicola Beasley-Suffolk (ext 5478)
Senior Subscriptions Marketing Executive
Romina Guastella (ext 86298)

INNOVATOR - INSERT SALES
Ad Manager Zoe Freeman (ext 3707)
Account Executive Roxanne Billups (ext 3709)

PUBLISHING
Group Production Manager Tom Jennings
Production Controller Lisa Clay
Senior Marketing & Events Manager Ellie Miles (ext 6775)
Marketing Executive Charlotte Treadaway (ext 6778)
International Editions Bianca Foster-Hamilton (ext 5490)
Publisher Tracy Cheesman
Publishing Director Emily Hutchings
Acting Publishing Director Ed Beale
PA to Publishing Director Hollie Bishop (ext 6848)

© IPC Inspire
Production of any material without permission is strictly forbidden

IPC INSPIRE **recycle**
A part of IPC Media, a Time Warner Company

SUBSCRIBE TO NME. Call +44 (0) 844 848 0848 Subscription rates: one-year rates (52 weekly issues) UK £129.00; Europe £154.00; United States (direct entry) \$233.15; rest of North America \$307.15; rest of the world £192.70 (prices include contribution to postage. Payment by credit card or cheque (payable to IPC Media Ltd).
Credit card hotline (UK orders only): **0844 848 0848**. Write to: NME Subscriptions, IPC Media Ltd, PO Box 272, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, RH16 3PS. All enquiries and overseas orders:
+44 (0)330 3330 233 (open 7 days a week, 9am-9pm UK time), Fax +44 (0)845 675 9101, email subscriptions@antipodes.co.uk. Periodicals postage paid at Rahway, NJ. Postmaster: Send address changes to NME, 365 Blair Road, Avenel, NJ 07001, USA.
BACK ISSUES OF NME cost £1.50 in the UK (US \$5.00 in the rest of the world) including postage and are available from John Denton Services, The Back Issues Department, PO Box 772, Peterborough PE2 6WL. Tel 01733 385370, email backissues@john-denton-services.com or visit mags-uk.com/ipc.
LEGAL STUFF NME is published weekly by IPC Inspire, 9th Floor, Blue Fin Building, 110 Southwark Street, London SE1 0SU. NME must be sold at more than the recommended selling price shown on the front cover. Registered at the Post Office as a newspaper. All rights reserved and reproduction without permission is strictly forbidden. All contributions to NME must be original and not duplicated on other publications. The editor reserves the right to shorten or modify any letter or material submitted. IPC Media or its associated companies reserves the right to reuse any submission, in any form or medium. Printed by Weybridge Press Limited, Weybridge, Surrey. Distributed by IPC Media Ltd. © 2012 IPC Media Ltd, England. US agent: Mercury International, 305 Blair Road, Avenel, NJ 07001

SUBSCRIBE TO NME AND SAVE OVER £1 AN ISSUE!*

Plus read NME on your iPad at no extra cost**

Subscribe now at **WWW.MAGAZINESDIRECT.COM/IH2**

Or call now on 0844 848 0848 quoting code AGH2
Lines are open between 8am and 9pm, 7 days a week.

*You will save £1.95 when you subscribe by UK quarterly Direct Debit. Offer closes 31/01/2013.
**Please note: iPad subscriptions are supplied to subscribers at no extra cost for the first year of their active paid print subscriptions.

UNSEEN PICTURES!
LOTS FROM THE EARLY DAYS

WIN! TICKETS TO READING & LEEDS 2013

NME THE 50 BEST ALBUMS

THE BEATLES

ALBUM TRAC

THE 75 MOST DEFINED

JAKE BUGG

THE 10 YEAR OLD SONS OF THE FUTURE

THE 10 YEAR OLD SONS OF THE FUTURE

THE 10 YEAR OLD SONS OF THE FUTURE

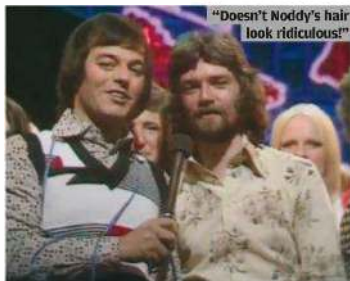
DOES CHRISTMAS KILL BRAINCELLS?

TESTING MUSICIANS' MEMORIES AFTER A FESTIVE SEASON OF ABUSE

QUESTION 1

Who introduced you when you performed 'Merry Xmas Everybody' on the Christmas Top Of The Pops in 1973?
"Noel Edmonds and Tony Blackburn."

Correct



QUESTION 2

Name five guests on Ant & Dec's Christmas Show in 2009, where you were the announcer.
"Wouldn't have a clue. I was in a booth hidden away."

Wrong. Geri Halliwell, Richard Madeley, Piers Morgan, Cliff Richard, Simon Cowell... ring any bells?
"No."

QUESTION 3

Which of the following have not performed a version of 'Merry Xmas Everybody': The Mission, Spice Girls, Noel Gallagher, Westlife, Megadeth, Girls Aloud, Steps, Tony Christie, REM?
"The Mission have."

Spice Girls have. Noel did a great version for The Royle Family. Girls Aloud have. Steps have. Tony has. REM have. It's between Westlife and Megadeth. I'm going for Westlife."

Wrong. Megadeth

QUESTION 4

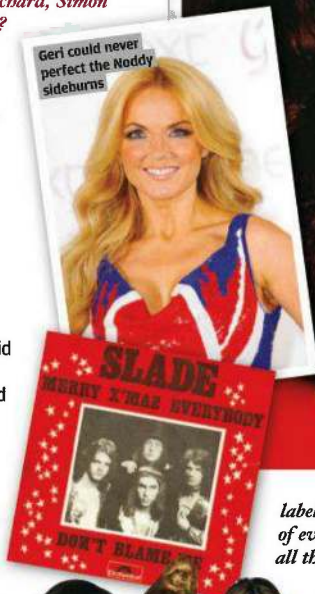
How much did The Sun report Slade were paid by Jive Bunny & The Mastermixers for sampling 'Merry Xmas Everybody' on their 1989 track 'Let's Party'?
"£50,000?"

Wrong. £20,000

QUESTION 5

What do your record

NODDY HOLDER SLADE



Label Polydor send you crates of every year to thank you for all the money 'Merry Xmas

Everybody' makes for them?

"They used to buy us champagne every Christmas and we used to say, 'We don't really drink champagne. We'd rather have crates of beer'. They don't any more."

Correct

QUESTION 6

Who did a dance remix of 'Merry Xmas Everybody' in 1998?

"That Swedish dance duo. Sounds like a toilet cleaner. Was it Flush?"

Correct

QUESTION 7

When were your sideburns larger: when you performed 'Merry Xmas Everybody'

on Christmas Day Top Of The Pops in 1973, or 10 years later in 1983?
"1973."

Correct. Do your chops take much work to maintain?

"They've always been a lot of work to maintain. I used to let them run wild in the early days. There are less sideburns now than there used to be."

QUESTION 8

What did you tell the Daily Mail in 2011 is the biggest common misconception about you?

"That people think I walk around in platform shoes with a top hat with mirrors on shouting 'Merry Christmas!' to all and sundry. Having said that, I don't think a day goes past when someone doesn't shout 'It's Christmaaaaaaas!' at me."

QUESTION 9

What did Slade have for Christmas dinner when you were spoofed by Reeves and Mortimer in the Slade In Residence Christmas special?

"Turkey flavoured Cup-A-Soup."

Correct



QUESTION 10

While analysing the lyrics to 'Merry Xmas Everybody' in Melody Maker in 2000 – specifically the line "Do the fairies keep him sober for a day?" – how many different drinks did you reveal you like to have on Christmas Day?

"I have a glass of sherry, and a snowball because it takes me back. I have a whiskey, some red wine and a brandy somewhere. And my nightcap would be a hot toddy."

Correct

Total Score

7/10

"That's not bad! My braincells are not totally shattered. I was expecting them to be!"

IN THE NEXT ISSUE...

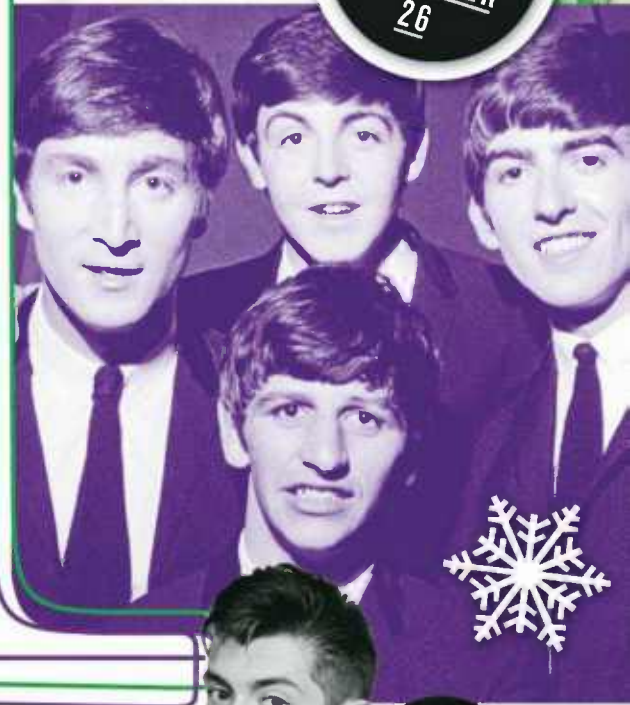


NME
PRESENTS

**THE
GREATEST
NUMBER
ONES
IN
HISTORY**



OUT
WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER
26



THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO THE BEST CHART-TOPPERS OF ALL TIME
AS CHOSEN BY **VAMPIRE WEEKEND**, **BIFFY CLYRO**,
BOMBAY BICYCLE CLUB, **JOHNNY MARR** AND **NME**

THE STORIES BEHIND SONGS BY

THE BEATLES THE HUMAN LEAGUE
ARCTIC MONKEYS OASIS BOWIE QUEEN
KRAFTWERK MANIC STREET PREACHERS

THE BEATLES
I WANT TO HOLD YOUR HAND



THE HUMAN LEAGUE





PlayStation®Plus

PUT

PUT 40

QUID DOWN

BE

BE 45 GAMES UP

Become a member of **PlayStation Plus** for only **£39.99 per year** and you get to download over 45 games a year for your PS3 including **Motorstorm Apocalypse**, **LittleBigPlanet 2** and **inFamous 2 PLUS** over 20 games a year for your PS Vita.

You also get access to online storage, themes and avatars, plus much, much more.



Game of the month

uk.playstation.com/playstationplus



**PlayStation®
Network**



SONY
make.believe

**NME**2013

January

January

February

March

April

May

June

