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SOUNDING OFF

TELL US
WHAT'S
ON YOUR
MIND

Answering
you this week:
Matt Wilkinson

LETTER OF THE WEEK

WINS AN ORANGE MICRO CRUSH AMP www.orangeamps.com

Orange Micro Crush practice amps pack plenty of punch with a seriously cool **British** sound. A micro amp with big soul.



WHO... CARES?

Honestly, I'm very disappointed by The Who being announced as the last Glastonbury headliner. You cannot deny that they are an iconic band with an array of classic songs and a massive history. However, after seeing them on their recent tour, I believe they are past it. Roger Daltrey had to finish the set early because of hearing problems. This isn't ageism. Compare The Who's recent performances with The Rolling Stones' and there is a clear difference in quality. Townshend has recently announced that his heart is no longer in playing with The Who, so why headline one of the UK's major festivals? Just for the money? I believe that a more current headliner would be far superior, but the real question is who? The festival scene is currently filled with the same recycled bands year in, year out. The UK is in need of a new musical revolution, and it needs to be soon.

Josh Goodman, via email



Matt Wilkinson: Amen to the sentiment here, Josh. The Who does seem pretty phoned in – but let's give them the benefit of the doubt until after they've played, huh? If anyone's earned the right to headline that stage five decades after they broke more barriers than I have space to list on this page, it's that lot. But yeah: we're running on empty when it comes to new bands big enough to boast headline status. Sort it out, world...

WHAT'S MY AGE AGAIN

It would be easy for me to write to you about how you should give cover space to small, up-and-coming bands like Menace Beach instead of farmer-wannabes Mumford & Sons, or how Oasis may or may not reform, but instead I want to talk about age restrictions at gigs. As a 16-year-old living just outside Brighton, the local music scene is vibrant and varied, with lots of great things happening. However, many of the venues in the city have 18+ policies which exclude younger gig-goers and music lovers. I feel it's important to support the bands you like. Support is what allows a band to survive, and that's all I want to do – support the bands that I like. I'm at an age where I don't have any real responsibilities and can spend my disposable

income on band T-shirts and gig tickets without worry, yet I am still unable to get past the door, let alone the merch stand. I'm not fussed about getting served or drinking at gigs, I just want to hear some good tunes and jump around a little. Is that really too much to ask?
Callum O'Driscoll, via email

MW: With all the best intentions, Callum, you've gotta seize the opportunity here. First off, you're right: venues are shit at catering for people your age. I encountered the same stuff when I was 16 and it doesn't look like things have changed much now. But I also know that most touring bands – especially the new bands you make reference to – are desperate to play as many

gigs as possible when they're on the road. What's the point in paying £££ to fly to the UK from America and then take days off when you could be making more fans (not to mention merch money) from people like yourself? The point I'm making is this: find a room, hit up a new band on Facebook and see if you can make it happen. I've done it myself in the past – it's not as insurmountable as you might think...

DE BURGH > BRANDON

Is it just me or does the new Brandon Flowers single sound sorta like a Chris De Burgh C-side?

Peter Pig, via post, West Yorkshire

MW: You don't have to listen, Peter. Personally, I'd advise not to. Try

any one of these amazing new artists instead: Sunflower Bean, Girl Band, Novelist, Alessia, Hooton Tennis Club, Yung, Yak, The Big Moon, HO9909, Rat Boy, Wand, Kali Uchis, Formation, Bully, Krill, Sheer Mag, H Hawkline, Shamir, Seratones, Hinds. Capiche?

SAVE THE CELLARS!

I have a small request to make, but it could really make a huge difference. A great little music venue in Portsmouth is shutting because of being unable to pay rent and it's heartbreaking to see as it is a popular place for up-and-coming bands to play. The Cellars at Eastney is a small venue that has been open many years and I'd do anything to see it stay alive. It is important we save our small music venues so that smaller

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acts can show their talent to the world – everyone starts somewhere. If you could maybe give a shout out to it, it really would be most appreciated. Thanks for listening.

Dan Hennessy, via email

MW: Consider this a shout out, Dan – and big up to you for taking the time to write in. You're right – Britain needs venues like this for music to prosper. The Beatles came from The Cavern, the Monkeys from the Leadmill. And nothing's ever going to change the sheer thrill of seeing the Next Big Thing on a stage that's within spitting distance of their audience... apart from shitty councillors, governments and property investors, that is. Make your voice heard by doing whatever you can.



LOOK WHO'S STALKING

Myself and Sam Fryer from Palma Violets after their show at the Echo in Los Angeles in March. Incredibly down-to-earth guy. I nearly strained my neck looking up at him he's so tall.
Veronica Lopez, Los Angeles



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NME TRACK OF THE WEEK

**1. Foxygen
24-Hour Lover Man**

Over a mutilated mash-up of Jimi Hendrix's 'Manic Depression' and splatters of white noise nicked straight out of Death Grips' back pocket, Foxygen return weirder than ever. There's a *great* line about Beverly Hills ("Everyone's famous in this section of Hell") and an overriding sentiment that's wholly apocalyptic. It sounds like Jonathan Richman soundtracking the end of the world, basically.

Matt Wilkinson, New Music Editor

**2. Giorgio Moroder
Diamonds (feat. Charli XCX)**

Credit to the internet's caretakers, who've had a busy few months mopping up leaks from Giorgio Moroder's 'Déjà Vu' album. Rogue tracks featuring Britney, Kylie, Kelis and Sia have surfaced, but it's this latest peek, which sees the 75-year-old disco pioneer tap up Charli XCX, that's got us all a-flutter. 'Diamonds' is shamelessly trashy – seven seconds in, the turbocharged europop bassline is already dated – but Charli's confetti chorus is irresistible.

Jazz Monroe, writer

**3. Tame Impala
Eventually**

Finally, Tame Impala's third album 'Currents' has a release date – July 17 – and, with it, another preview in 'Eventually'. It's an elegantly sad masterpiece that has Kevin Parker mourning the breakdown of a relationship over crisp synths and graceful strings. "Wish I could turn you back into a stranger", he sighs before the chorus reaches a reluctant acceptance: "I know that I'll be happier/ And I know you will too, eventually".

Rhian Daly, Assistant Reviews Editor

**4. Mystery Jets
Blood Red Balloon**

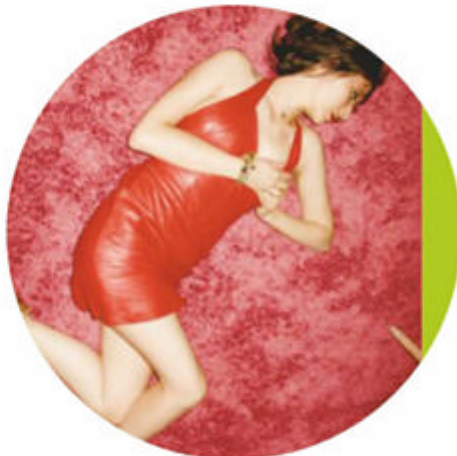
Recently debuted at Sheffield's Leadmill during a special event to celebrate the iconic venue's 35th anniversary, 'Blood Red Balloon' sees Mystery Jets relocating Fleet Foxes' thundering horseback folk to Primrose Hill. The first taster of the follow-up to 2012's 'Radlands', this finds Blaine and the boys at their most moody before soaring into a Pink Floyd-worthy prog-out, complete with wailing guitars and stacked synths. Good to have you back, lads.

Leonie Cooper, writer

**5. Ho99o9
POW**

"Sex and violence sex and violence sex and violence", goes the sample at the beginning of 'POW', over and over and over again. Sixty seconds later and one of Eaddy or The OGM (it's unclear which of the New Jersey duo is on the mic) has turned his attention to "mass murder, killing sprees, destroy those who lie". There's something of Tyler, The Creator's cartoonishness in it, but the industrial hip-hop and punk is pure Death Grips.

Tom Howard, Assistant Editor

**6. The Parrots
I'm Not Alone**

What's Spanish for "favourite new band"? Madrid gang The Parrots could be named after singer Diego Garcia's squawky vocals, laid here over Libertines-y guitar swagger (or maybe how, true to their feathered inspiration, their songs are worth repeat listen after repeat listen). Either way, 'I'm Not Alone', from their upcoming debut UK release 'Weed For The Parrots', is a lush summer gem.

Al Horner, Assistant Editor, NME.COM

**7. Public Access TV
All We Want**

In the wake of Brandon Flowers comes more non-ironic Hall & Oates impressions, this time from Public Access TV. The New York foursome have caught a hefty case of slap bass and jaunty upswing since 'In The Mirror' in November. They do it with dedication and panache, John Eatherly giving 'All We Want' – essentially The Strokes with mullets – an authentically breathy sensuality and cracking Thompson Twins-esque chanty bit.

Mark Beaumont, writer

**8. Telegram
Aeons**

East London quartet Telegram may not be the speediest workers (this is only their third single in nearly two years), but what they lack in productivity they make up for in prowling, pulsing atmosphere. An established live favourite, 'Aeons' tones down the glam of their previous offerings and replaces it with jagged, claustrophobic guitar lines and a big pay-off of a chorus that's more menacing on record than its onstage incarnation.

Lisa Wright, writer

**9. Karen O
Nellie Bly's 151st Birthday**

Aside from solo debut 'Crush Songs', Karen O has spent most of her post-Yeah Yeah Yeahs sabbatical soundtracking various adverts. Now, she's achieved the most zeitgeist-y of feats and soundtracked a Google Doodle. Honouring investigative journalist Nellie Bly, the song in question is a folksy number in the vein of The Moldy Peaches, packing an important empowering message: "Someone's gotta stand up and tell 'em what a girl is good for".

Luke Morgan Britton, writer

**10. Real Lies
Seven Sisters**

Real Lies' previous single, 'North Circular', found the north London dance lads in contemplative mood. That bleary-eyed lope was titled in tribute to an A-road, and this follow-up is similar, named after an area near their Holloway home. But 'Seven Sisters' is the trio's most buoyant, accessible tune to date, packaging a New Order-style synth riff in sunny drumbeats and a pleasingly dumb chorus that goes: "Get in it/ Do it again". You heard them.

Ben Homewood, Reviews Editor

ESSENTIAL NEW TRACKS

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11. The Cribs Orange Star Rattle

The B-side to 'Different Angle', 'Orange Star Rattle', revels in the same school of unabashed pop hooks that informed The Cribs' recent album 'For All My Sisters'. This time they're underpinned with synths that might take Jarmans purists aback, but fear not – there are enough throat-shredding vocals and heart-busting melodies to ensure the brothers haven't strayed too far from their musical home.

Lisa Wright, writer

12. The Strypes Scumbag City

As you'd expect, considering they were still mid-teens when they released their 2013 debut album 'Snapshot', Ireland's The Strypes have returned with something far more mature. Gone are the quick-fire garage-blues riffs and covers of old blues musicians from their parents' record collections, and in comes an altogether more refined, Primal Scream vibe. It's looser, groovier and bigger. A welcome return.

Greg Cochran, Editor, NME.COM

13. Ducktails Headbanging In The Mirror

Real Estate guitarist Matthew Mondanile once used his Ducktails side project to sketch atmospheric songs too lo-fi and fractured for his main band. But 'The Flower Lane' in 2013 ushered in a cleaner, more fully formed Ducktails sound, and this first single from upcoming fifth album 'St Catherine' is shinier still. Like Real Estate did on 2013's 'Days', the bespectacled guitarist sings yearningly about his New Jersey hometown over lush riffs.

Ben Homewood, Reviews Editor

14. Hooton Tennis Club Kathleen Sat On The Arm Of Her Favourite Chair

Its title might suggest something quite sedentary, but Wirral quartet Hooton Tennis Club's new single is more free-spirited and nomadic than the images it conjures up. "Spent the best days of my life travelling on trains and drawing cartoons", sings Ryan Murphy nonchalantly. Pavement-indebted guitars course underneath, before the whole thing tumbles to a close.

Rhian Daly, Assistant Reviews Editor

15. Disclosure Bang That

'Bang That' has been a fixture in Disclosure's DJ sets for nearly two years, and the chart-topping duo have finally shared the ghetto-tech banger online. It revolves around a vocal sample of 313 Bass Mechanics' raw 2002 track 'Pass Out' ("Let me see you work it, I want to see you twerk it") and combines techno and garage influences, suggesting that while the Lawrence brothers haven't forgotten the club.

David Renshaw, Acting Deputy News Editor



16. All Time Low Too Young To Live

'Too Young To Live' is the second single from Dublin duo All Time Low, made up of singing bassist Conor Adams, who used to play in The Cast Of Cheers, and multi-instrumentalist Lar Kaye. Introduced by a booming drumbeat, the funky Killers riffing of 'Too Young To Live' is prime for humming along to while stuck in traffic. Radio-ready is an understatement.

Ben Homewood, Reviews Editor

17. A\$AP Rocky Everyday (feat. Rod Stewart x Miguel x Mark Ronson)

Tartan-loving Rod Stewart might not be someone you'd expect A\$AP Rocky to sample, but this new track does the unexpected and repurposes Stewart's 'In A Broken Dream'. After a soulful start in which Miguel echoes the former Faces frontman's lines, things kick up a gear with Rocky declaring "I ain't even mad yet" and "I'll be fine just drinking my wine, bitch".

Rhian Daly, Assistant Reviews Editor

18. The Chemical Brothers Go (feat. Q-Tip)

The Chemical Brothers' new album 'Born In The Echoes' features collaborations with St Vincent and Beck, but it's hip-hop veteran Q-Tip who steps up to the mic here, spraying 'Go's' tetchy, industrial beat with his rapid-fire bars. By the time the chorus arrives with its message of "No time to rest, just do your best/ We're only here to make you go!" you'll be ready to take on the world.

David Renshaw, Acting Deputy News Editor

19. LA Priest Party Zute/Learning To Love

On February's debut single 'Oino', Sam Dust shared a track that screams 'festival moment'. On its follow-up, Dust builds things up more gradually, starting with silky keys and leading into tootling sax, squelching synths and odd noises that recall his old band Late Of The Pier. The electronic wizard repeats the mantra "It'll be like learning to love all over again" over the top, snapping the final piece of this alluring puzzle into place.

Rhian Daly, Assistant Reviews Editor

20. Meredith Graves Took The Ghost To The Movies

With last year's 'Say Yes To Love', Meredith Graves' Perfect Pussy traded on filth and fury. But Graves is no frenzied one-trick pony. The first taste of her solo material opens with 45-odd seconds of peaceful guitar before the storm breaks with a clattering drum machine. But even then it's moody rather than thunderous, with cushions of warm, fuzzy noise and Graves' drawl like a siren leading you to shipwreck. Time to say yes all over again.

Ben Hewitt, writer



TheWeek.

► EVERYTHING THAT MATTERS IN MUSIC ■ EDITED BY DAN STUBBS

Broken belle

Despite a foot injury, Florence
+ The Machine build up to their
huge summer at a tiny NYC gig

PHOTO BY DANIEL TOPETE

Having broken her foot during an energetic Coachella performance last month, Florence Welch's first New York show in three years saw her swapping flamboyance for intimacy. Spending the entirety of her 14-song set at Brooklyn's Music Hall Of Williamsburg last week sat on a stool, she showed off the contraption supporting the metatarsal injury sustained after jumping off the Californian festival stage. "I've upgraded – or rather downgraded – to a smaller mini-boot," quipped the Florence + The Machine frontwoman politely. "Thanks so much for understanding and for being so nice."

The 28-year-old singer and her band only announced the concert the day before the show but played to a sold-out crowd of 550. Proceedings started quietly, with just Welch, a harpist and guitarist onstage for opening tracks 'Cosmic Love', 'All This And Heaven Too' and 'Breaking Down'. Swelling in sound and size to 12 people for 'Ship To Wreck', the new song was the first of four from forthcoming third album 'How Big, How Blue, How Beautiful' – out June 1 – the others being the title track, 'St Jude' and set-closer 'What Kind Of Man'. She also aired her cover of 'Hospital Beds' by Cold War Kids and debuted a rendition of 'Only Love Can Break Your Heart' by Neil Young, who, Welch told the crowd, had thought she was a "man with a high voice" before they actually met. The fiercest audience reaction of the night came for the climactic, shamanistic stomp of 'Dog Days Are Over' – "the culprit of the broken foot" – but the mood was one of high-octane, excitable energy throughout, and even as Welch was carried offstage, her smile was one of triumph. ■ MISCHA PEARLMAN





9

Florence Welch
onstage in
Brooklyn,
New York City,
May 5, 2015

Pulp take a trip to
Sheffield's Leadmill to
celebrate their debut
gig there 35 years ago

Remembering the first time

August 16, 1980:
a Saturday that
will live in rock
infamy. It was
the day Jools

Holland quit Squeeze, Franz
Ferdinand's Robert Hardy came into the world,
and a young Sheffield band called Pulp played
their first ever gig while smelling slightly of
cabbage. Last Monday (May 4), Jarvis Cocker
and co were honoured with a PRS for Music
Heritage plaque commemorating the 35th
anniversary of their live debut at the place
where it all began, the Sheffield Leadmill. After
the unveiling ceremony, *NME* caught up with
the band to take a walk down memory lane and
find out what the future might hold.

What do you remember about your first gig at the Leadmill?

Jarvis: "It was a festival and we were the second
band on in the afternoon. It was the first time
we'd been on a proper stage, and when our bass
player started experiencing feedback he didn't
know what to do, so he started walking towards
the front of the stage and fell off it. People
found us entertaining,
but only because we were
a bunch of mad kids who
didn't know how to play.
We also made one of the
best entrances of all time.
There was a man across the
yard with a mobile grocer's
van, and we used that to
transport our equipment.
We stunk of cabbage. I certainly wouldn't have
thought that, 35 years on, there would be a
plaque commemorating such an event!"

What makes the Leadmill so special to Sheffield?

Steve Mackey: "If you were a local band, you felt
that you'd at least be noticed if you managed to
get a gig there. Back then, getting a spot at the
Leadmill was how bands like us managed to get
out of the rehearsal room."

Jarvis: "It seemed massive as well, didn't it?
There was only one other place, The Limit,



which was just a small underground club. If you
played at the Leadmill, that was a big, posh,
proper concert. Some of our best concerts and
some of our worst concerts took place here."

Go on, tell us about the worst one.

Jarvis: "The one that's in the film [*Pulp: A Film
About Life, Death & Supermarkets*] happened
here. That was when we tried to have the
whole multimedia extravaganza, but the video
projector was broken, so we had to have a telly
with tinfoil on it. The bass player had put all
these coloured things on his fretboard to make
it look like a rainbow, but he'd covered all the
dots up, so he kept playing wrong notes all the
time. It was horrible."

And the best?

Jarvis: "We did a Christmas concert here in '89
where we gave everyone bingo cards when they
came in. Cleverly, we'd put all
the same numbers on them,
but they were all jumbled up
in different orders. So when
we read the numbers out
onstage, everybody shouted
'House!' at the same time,
and we went straight into
'This House Is Condemned'.
Very high-concept stuff!"

"PLAQUES ARE THE WAY FORWARD FOR PULP NOW"

Jarvis Cocker

What's on the horizon for Pulp? Are you thinking about doing any more gigs or a new album?

Jarvis: (*shaking head*) "Steve and I are DJing
here in four hours, so that's our next gig. But
I'm thinking we might do a tour of venues we
played 30 years ago, and just go around the
country unveiling all these plaques; the next
one will probably be the Adelphi in Hull, and
we'll just go in chronological order from there.
I think plaques are the way forward for Pulp
now..." ■ BARRY NICOLSON

THE MINI INTERVIEW



Scarlett
Johansson

Actress

How empowering is it to play a female superhero in the macho Marvel comics universe?

"Black Widow has
experienced a lot of trauma
and never been able to
make active choices for
herself, but now she's ready.
I'm looking at it as an actor
looking for material that's
substantial. So when you're
shooting a page of the script
over two weeks it gives you
something real to hold on to."

What makes *Avengers: Age Of Ultron* more than just another superhero mash-up?

"There's a Shakespearean
aspect to the story that
Joss Whedon has crafted
– particularly with the
villain Ultron (James
Spader). His artificial
intelligence is created
by Tony Stark (Robert
Downey Jr) to protect
humanity, but because
Ultron's born of Tony's ego
he's tragically flawed."

Did you see the romance between *The Hulk* and *Black Widow* coming?

"Mark Ruffalo (*The Hulk*)
always thought our
characters had this burning
desire from *Avengers
Assemble* because Widow
tracks him down in India.
I just thought she was on
another mission!"

Isn't it about time she had her own stand- alone hero movie?

"A *Black Widow* movie would
be cool. I'm always happy
to put the catsuit back on.
From your lips to Marvel's
big-pocketed ears..." ■

FABIO DE PAOLA

INTERVIEW: DAN BRIGHTMORE

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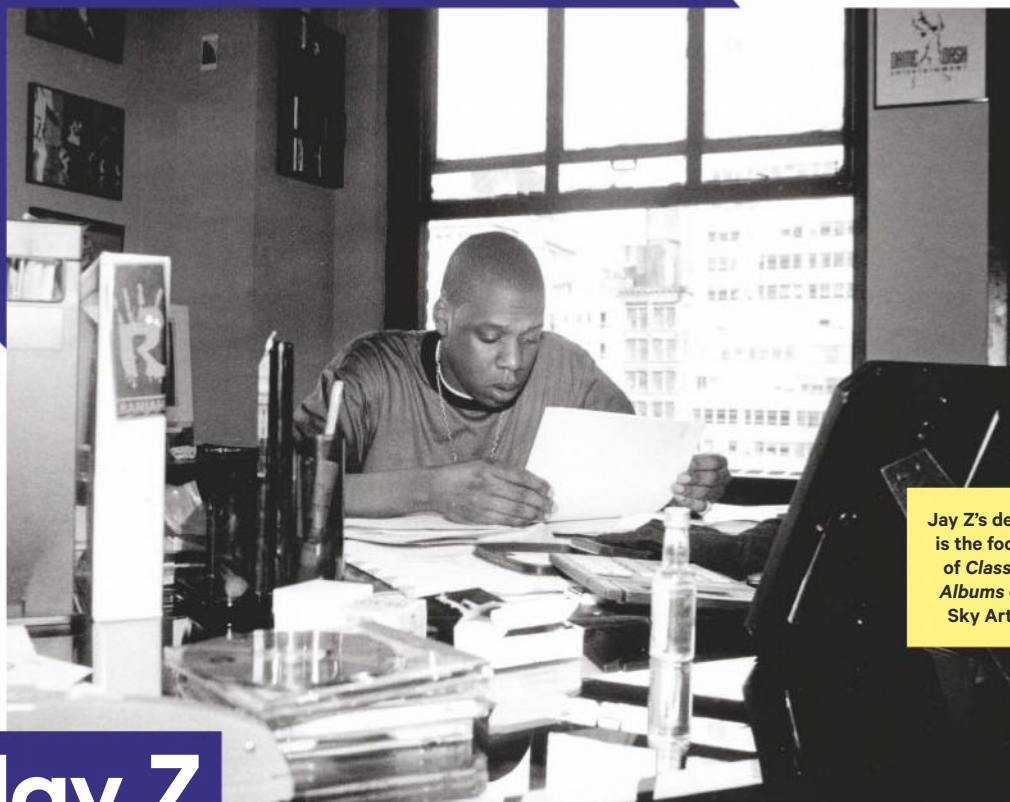
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STAYING IN

THE BEST MUSIC ON TV, RADIO AND ONLINE THIS WEEK



Jay Z's debut is the focus of *Classic Albums* on Sky Arts

Jay Z

Classic Albums

► WATCH Sky Arts, 1.10am, May 16

In 1996, a still hyphenated Jay Z released his debut album 'Reasonable Doubt', embarking on a career that would spawn hit after hit. Here, he discusses that first record and the topics tackled in its unapologetic lyrics.

Leon Bridges Later... Live With Jools Holland

► WATCH BBC Two, 10pm, May 19

The Texan soul songwriter makes his UK TV debut. His early releases have earned comparisons to Otis Redding and Sam Cooke. Rudimental will also perform.

Brandon Flowers Jo Whiley

► LISTEN BBC Radio 2, 8pm, May 18

With his second solo album 'The Desired Effect' out this week, The Killers' frontman heads to London's famed Maida Vale studios to recreate some of the record's finest moments.

Street Sound And Style Channel 4

► WATCH Channel 4, 12 midnight, May 13

This new series looks at the evolving sounds and styles of Britain's streets. The first episode will explore mods, the ska scene, skinheads and '80s scooter boys.



The Vaccines play a session on BBC 6 Music

The Vaccines Lauren Laverne

► LISTEN BBC 6 Music, 10am, May 18

Listen out for another sneak peek of tracks from new album 'English Graffiti' on this session.

Moog Sky Arts

► WATCH Sky Arts, 2.25am, May 14

Bands ranging from The Beatles to Sonic Youth have utilised the Moog synthesizer on their records. This documentary profiles the instrument's creator, Robert Moog.

GOING OUT

THE BEST LIVE EVENTS

THIS WEEK



Hinds

The Madrid quartet bring their ramshackle garage-pop back to the UK for their biggest shows to date, with more to follow next week.

► DATES London Scala (May 19)

► TICKETS £10 from NME.COM/tickets with £1 booking fee

DMA's

Australian trio DMA's pay homage to their Britpop heroes on home soil this week as they play London and Manchester.

► DATES London Hoxton Bar & Grill (May 14), London Electrowerkz (18), Manchester Night & Day (19)

► TICKETS £6; Electrowerkz £7 from NME.COM/tickets with £1-£1.25 booking fee

5 TO SEE FOR FREE

1. Meat Wave

Bar Bloc, Glasgow
► May 13, 9pm

2. Wand

Rough Trade East, London
► May 14, 7pm

3. Sunflower Bean

Bleach, Brighton
► May 16, 2pm

4. Unknown Mortal Orchestra

Rough Trade East, London
► May 19, 7pm

5. Summer Camp

Rise, Bristol
► May 19, 6.30pm

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PRIORITY

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Morrissey-influenced eighth album by the West Coast alt-metal band is their first since bass player Chi Cheng died

Deftones

Chino Moreno: "I've been obsessing over Morrissey's solo records"



It's a few days after the second anniversary of Deftones bassist Chi Cheng's death, and singer Chino Moreno is feeling "emotionally very heavy" having just laid down the vocals for the group's first album since Cheng's passing. Critically injured in a car crash in Santa Clara, California in November 2008, Cheng never regained consciousness, staying comatose until he eventually died on April 13, 2013.

"For five years I watched someone I'd grown up with and known my whole life – living in each other's pockets doing this band, a guy so full of expression and life – in this in-between state, just staring into nothing," says Moreno

"I THINK SOME OF THE FEELING OF MISSING CHI SEEPS INTO THE MUSIC"

CHINO MORENO

sadly. "In the end it was kind of a relief. At least I know he's not suffering any more. There isn't a day I don't think about his vibe and his contribution to this band and my life."

As on 2010's 'Diamond Eyes' and 2012's 'Koi No Yokan' – with Sergio Vega standing in for Cheng on bass – the Sacramento alt-metal band have declined to deal with their loss in song on their as-yet-untitled eighth studio album, due out in October. "I think some of the feeling of missing him seeps into the music," says Moreno. "I've never gone into writing a song thinking, 'This is about this special person,' or anything like that. But naturally the feeling feeds through. We've all been affected."

Moreno describes the record as "out of the box" and full of "keyboards and a lot of cool, spacey low frequencies". Recording began in Los Angeles, where Moreno and his bandmates, for the first time, came to writing sessions with no ideas or parts. Instead, they let the songs spill out of "these organic jams... it was exactly how we had to do it, a clean slate. I've been on this crazy Morrissey tip recently – totally obsessing over his solo records – so I brought a lot of that to the table. On those early solo records, he uses this awesome, Elvis-y delay on his vocal that I've been ripping off a ton." He laughs. "He's always been a favourite lyricist of mine – the beautiful, poetic melancholy of it all."

Don't expect guitarist Stephen Carpenter to switch up his usual low-slung riffs for Smithy jangles, though. "There are definitely heavy elements to the album," adds the frontman.

"But, as usual for us, the jagged and coarse bits only make the sweeter parts even sweeter."

Produced by British engineer Matt Hyde – best known for his work with Slipknot – the album is still coming together. "I wish I had more for you," says Moreno. "But no album title, no track titles. The music's there, but the rest is still coming together. I've got nothing. Sorry!"

Its planned October release coincides with the 20th anniversary of Deftones' first album, 1995's 'Adrenaline'. Are

there any throwbacks to that album's leaner, more straight-up metal sound to mark the occasion? "No. Don't get me wrong, it's an awesome thing to think about, but to look back and try to recapture who we were then for nostalgia's sake? That'd just be awkward."

For the same reason, there'll be no anniversary tour, and no recreating the album in full. "We're happy looking forward," confirms Moreno. "I'm really excited for people to hear the new record. It's another chapter." ■ AL HORNER

▶ THE DETAILS

- ▶ **TITLE** TBC
- ▶ **RELEASE DATE** October
- ▶ **LABEL** Warner
- ▶ **PRODUCER** Matt Hyde
- ▶ **RECORDED** Chino Moreno's home studio, Portland (vocals); Megawatt Studios, LA
- ▶ **TRACKLISTING** TBC
- ▶ **CHINO MORENO SAYS** "It's cool to still be doing this after two decades. We didn't mean for this record to coincide with the 20th anniversary of the first album, but that's really cool."

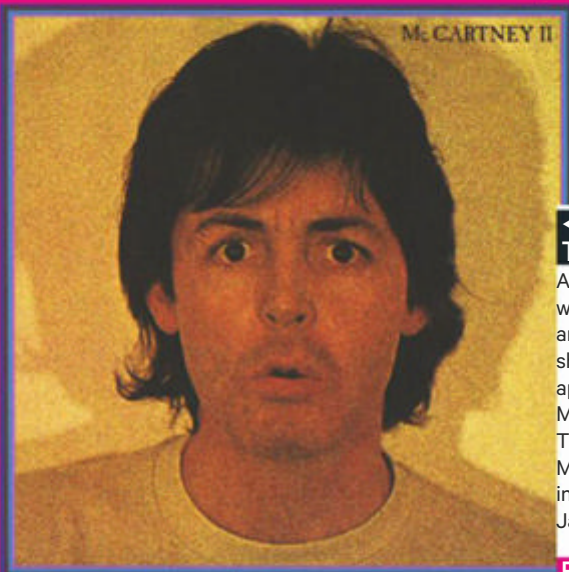
Chino Moreno in Megawatt Studios, LA



ANATOMY OF AN ALBUM



"IT WAS ALL NEW TECHNOLOGY AND I JUST WANTED TO HAVE A GO"
PAUL MCCARTNEY



STORY BEHIND THE SLEEVE

A shot of Paul taken by his wife Linda, with lighting arranged to give him two shadows. A similar shot appears on the back, with Macca's face split into two. The inner sleeve pictures McCartney pottering around in his home studio with son James tugging at his shirt.

FIVE FACTS

- 1 'McCartney II' was originally conceived as a double album, comprising 20 songs that McCartney recorded between East Sussex and his farmhouse in Scotland. In the end, only 11 songs made the cut, but many of the outtakes were restored in a 2011 reissue.
- 2 The looping electronica experiment 'Secret Friend' (B-side to 'Temporary Secretary'/bonus track), is the longest solo Macca track of all time, clocking in at 10 minutes and 31 seconds.
- 3 The song 'Bogey Music' was inspired by *Fungus The Bogeyman*, Raymond Briggs' popular 1977 picture book about a green monster.
- 4 Lead single 'Coming Up' features McCartney's voice sped up and run through an echo machine. It was a Number Two hit in the UK, but in the US a Columbia record executive decided that Americans wanted to hear "Paul McCartney's real voice", so the record's B-side, a rockier live take of the song by Wings, was pushed out to radio stations.
- 5 Often disparaging of Macca's post-Beatles output, John Lennon declared 'Coming Up' "a good piece of work", and it reportedly prompted him out of retirement to make his final album, 'Double Fantasy'.

THE BACKGROUND

An icon he may be, but sometimes Paul McCartney doesn't get the respect he deserves, maybe because next to sarky, saintly Lennon he can't help but seem a bit of a sentimental old softie. Yet, as a fan of experimental composer Stockhausen in his youth and a dabbler in electronica as one half of The Fireman in his autumn years, Macca has always been an experimenter, keen to embrace new techniques and unafraid to appear a little silly in the process. That, in a nutshell, is the story of 'McCartney II'. In 1979, with Wings gradually disintegrating, McCartney sat alone in his farmhouse in East Sussex surrounded by some state-of-the-art equipment – new synths, sequencers, and a hired Studer 16-track tape machine. The self-produced and largely self-performed result was experimental and playful – and greeted with a decidedly mixed reception.

THIS WEEK...

Paul McCartney: McCartney II

Released 35 years ago this month, Macca's quirky, synth heavy second solo album feels like a foretaste of the '80s

LYRICAL ANALYSIS

"Mr Marks, can you find for me/Someone strong and sweet fitting on my knee" – Temporary Secretary

The "Mr Marks" refers to a real recruitment agency, Alfred Marks Bureau, which amused McCartney because its proprietor shared his name with a comedian who worked alongside Peter Sellers and Spike Milligan.

"Don't go jumping waterfalls/Please keep to the lake/People who jump waterfalls/Sometimes can make mistakes" – Waterfalls

A mistily beautiful love song that would provide a lyrical cue to the TLC song of the same name.

"Check my machine/Check check check my machine" – Check My Machine

A freaky reggae lode echoes Macca's state of mind as he rolls up his sleeves and gets stuck into his new technology.

WHAT WE SAID THEN

"'McCartney II' isn't worth the plastic it's printed on. Neither is Paul, but he'll go on doodling and fooling his public because they're too frightened to ditch him and his past and he's too rich to be stopped"
– Danny Baker, *NME*, June 21, 1980

WHAT WE SAY NOW

Wonky and experimental it may be, but 'McCartney II' feels ahead of its time. 'Front Parlour', a dreamy excursion on synth and drum machine, feels uncannily current, while the limber Talking Heads funk of 'Coming Up' and the dotty synth-pop of 'Temporary Secretary' demand a place on any solo Macca playlist.

FAMOUS FAN

"I grew up listening to 'Check My Machine' and generally dancing round the living room to it as a four- or five-year-old. I still listen a lot to the album now."
– Alexis Taylor, *Hot Chip*

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

"I was fascinated with these things called synthesizers which had appeared on the scene – particularly with sequencers, I loved them. It was all new technology and I just wanted to see what it was all about, and have a go, and see what I can do with it." *The Quietus*, 2011

AFTERMATH

Despite mixed reviews, 'McCartney II' topped the UK charts, and Macca entered the '80s on the right foot, facing a new, synthesized future. 'Temporary Secretary' became a favourite at '00s hipster nightclub Trash, was brilliantly overhauled on 2005's remix album *Twin Freaks* and has been covered by Darkstar with Wild Beasts' Hayden Thorpe.

THE DETAILS

►RECORDED July – August 1979 ►RELEASE DATE May 16, 1980
►LENGTH 38:36 ►PRODUCER Paul McCartney ►STUDIO Home studio, East Sussex; home studio, Kintyre ►HIGHEST UK CHART POSITION 1 ►UK SALES Over 100,000 ►SINGLES Coming Up, Waterfalls, Temporary Secretary ►TRACKLISTING ►1. Coming Up ►2. Temporary Secretary ►3. On The Way ►4. Waterfalls ►5. Nobody Knows ►6. Front Parlour ►7. Summer's Day Song ►8. Frozen Jap ►9. Bogey Music ►10. Darkroom ►11. One Of These Days



QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"I see Noel Katie Hopkins Gallagher is talking out of his slack arse again – go and polish your SAXOPHONE"

The mooted Oasis reunion looks unlikely as **Liam** reacts on Twitter to Noel's suggestion that the initial rumour came from him.

THE NUMBERS

9

The number of names credited on Mark Ronson's 'Uptown Funk' now the writers of The Gap Band's 'Oops Upside Your Head' have been added.

£400,000

The amount De La Soul raised via Kickstarter for their first album in 11 years. The album will feature Damon Albarn and 2 Chainz.



1 in 8

Big albums from Sam Smith, Ed Sheeran and Coldplay helped UK artists account for one in eight album sales in America in 2014.

151

Number of complaints Kanye West's expletive-filled Brit Awards performance received. Ofcom have since confirmed they won't take the investigation further.

WHO THE FUCK IS...



Anthony Gomez

The Doors superfan campaigning to preserve Jim Morrison's childhood home in New Mexico.

Is it under threat?

No, but Gomez is campaigning to make the property a designated historical site. "Living in Albuquerque for a while, I think he should have a spot here," Gomez said. Morrison lived at the property from the ages of 12 to 14, while his father worked at the Kirtland Air Force Base.

Who is living there at the moment?

The current owner of the house, Thelma Lue, is unconvinced by the idea but isn't bothered by pilgrimage trips from Doors fans.

+ GOOD WEEK +



The Who

Glastonbury's line-up of headliners is complete, with The Who set to play the Sunday night on the Pyramid Stage. Paul Weller will perform before the 'Quadrophenia' icons, in what could be their last ever UK gig.

- BAD WEEK -



Jamie Foxx

The actor and musician was forced to defend his shoddy rendition of the US national anthem at the Mayweather-Pacquiao fight. Foxx blamed "technical difficulties" for his bum notes but defended himself, saying that "in the arena it killed".

IN BRIEF

Revolution number none

The Beatles and Stones didn't 'revolutionise' music but hip-hop did, a new study has claimed. Royal Society Open Science suggest that the Fab Four merely followed patterns that already existed.

Ready to eat

Arcade Fire are set to open a restaurant in their home city of Montreal, Canada. Win Butler and Régine Chassagne will launch the Haitian-themed establishment, which will go by the name of Agrikol, this summer.

Ryan 4 Bryan

Bryan Adams has revealed that he and Ryan Adams email each other advice and that Ryan told him his plan to finally cover 'Summer Of '69' at a recent gig in Nashville. "I think it was some sort of cathartic release for him," Bryan said.

► Find these stories and more on **NME.COM**

Official RECORD STORE Chart

TOP 40 ALBUMS MAY 10, 2015



NEW 01

Django Django Born Under Saturn

The London-based Edinburgh band stave off anxiety with baggy beats and '50s rock'n'roll on their second album. It takes the top spot this week.

NEW 2	Danger In The Club Palma Violets ROUGH TRADE
NEW 3	Wilder Mind Mumford & Sons GENTLEMEN OF THE ROAD/ISLAND
4	The Magic Whip Blur PARLOPHONE
NEW 5	Integrity Jme BOY BETTER KNOW
NEW 6	The Waterfall My Morning Jacket ATO
NEW 7	Sound & Color Alabama Shakes ROUGH TRADE
8	Mwng Super Furry Animals DOMINO RECORDINGS
9	Carrie & Lowell Sufjan Stevens ASTHMATIC KITTY
NEW 10	Peanut Butter Joanna Gruesome FORTUNA POP
11	The Race For Space Public Service Broadcasting TEST CARD RECORDINGS
12	Sometimes I Sit And Think, And Sometimes I Just Sit Courtney Barnett HOUSE ANXIETY
NEW 13	Ba Power Bassekou Kouyate & Ngoni Ba GLITTERBEAT
NEW 14	Giants Andriana Triana COUNTER
15	To Where The Wild Things Are Death & Vanilla FIRE
NEW 16	Hyperview Title Fight ANTI
NEW 17	Hypnophobia Jacco Gardner FULL TIME HOBBY
NEW 18	Liquid Spirit Gregory Porter BLUE NOTE
19	Chasing Yesterday Noel Gallagher's High Flying Birds SOUR MASH
NEW 20	2 Metz SUB POP
21	The Ultimate Collection Paul Simon SONY MUSIC CG
22	X Ed Sheeran ASYLUM
NEW 23	California Nights Best Coast VIRGIN
24	Chaos And The Calm James Bay REPUBLIC
25	Vulnicura Björk ONE LITTLE INDIAN
NEW 26	Wanted On Voyage George Ezra COLUMBIA
27	Short Movie Laura Marling VIRGIN
NEW 28	Friend Rozzi Plain LOST MAP
NEW 29	Post Björk ONE LITTLE INDIAN
30	Edge Of The Sun Calexico CITY SLANG
NEW 31	Heartbreak Pass Giant Sand NEW WEST
NEW 32	Hozier Hozier ISLAND
33	I Love You, Honeybear Father John Misty BELLA UNION
34	The Day Is My Enemy The Prodigy TAKEMETOTHEHOSPITAL
NEW 35	Unplugged In New York Nirvana GEFEN
NEW 36	Tracker Mark Knopfler BRITISH GROVE
NEW 37	Rituals Other Lives PLAY IT AGAIN SAM
NEW 38	The Bell That Never Rang Lau REVEAL
NEW 39	In The Lonely Hour Sam Smith CAPITOL
40	Sonic Soul Surfer Seasick Steve CAROLINE/THERE'S A DEAD SKUNK

The Official Charts Company compiles the Official Record Store Chart from sales through 100 of the UK's best independent record shops from Sunday to Sunday.

TOP OF THE SHOPS



THIS WEEK CULT HERO BRIGHTON

FOUNDED 2004

WHY IT'S GREAT They often give away free gifts with new albums, from posters to mix CDs, and aim to keep their stock affordable.

TOP SELLER LAST WEEK Alabama Shakes - 'Sound & Color'

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GENGAHR | YAK
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THE HORRORS
ROOTS MANUVA | DRENCE
JUPITER & OKWESS INTERNATIONAL
KITTY, DAISY & LEWIS | TELEMAN
IRIS GOLD | FUFANU | SUGARMEN

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KAISER CHIEFS
JOHNNY MARR
GAZ COOMBES | THE RIFLES
VINTAGE TROUBLE
ST. PAUL & THE BROKEN BONES
SUGARMEN | SLEAFORD MODS
SLYDIGS | STANDARD LAMPS
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NME
NEW
BAND
 OF THE WEEK



Hooton Tennis Club

Wirral slackers carving out a niche – with a little help from Robbie Williams

In his day job, Hooton Tennis Club bassist Callum McFadden is a hydrographic surveyor, whose tasks involve mapping the riverbed along the Mersey. Today, the band are on his boat, filming a potential video for their single 'Katherine Sat On The Arm Of Her Favourite Chair', as Journey's 'Don't Stop Believin' blares out of the speakers. But rather than power ballads, the fast-rising quartet are purveyors of lo-fi slacker brilliance. "We're inspired by the new garage explosion and the way Deerhunter and Ariel Pink work," says singer Ryan Murphy. "Just press record and make it up as you go along. It doesn't matter about mistakes – keep them in, because that's part of the charm."

The school friends were in various teenage bands together, before deciding to record "scuzzy, Jesus And Mary Chain-influenced noise" in the summer of 2013. The poppier, Pavement-esque 'Katherine...' – originally on an EP of "overly long song titles with girls' names"

– started life like several of their current tracks: it was an idea sung into Ryan's phone when he toured Europe with Robbie Williams. "I was working for this company recording bands live and then selling the CDs straight after," he explains, adding: "I went hiking with Robbie, got pally with [support act] Olly Murs. Taught him the difference between ice cream and sorbet."

Scouted by The Farm's bassist Carl Hunter, and signed to Heavenly after three gigs, Hooton gained attention with debut single 'Jasper', all chiming Byrds guitars and somersaulting melodies. Bill Ryder-Jones – tagging along today and miming oral sex on a nearby pirate statue – is producing their debut album, 'Highest Point In Cliff Town', for which the quartet are attempting to retain their DIY spirit. "We used to do vocals in a wardrobe and made a snare mic out of a coat hanger," recalls guitarist James Madden. "Going into a studio was intimidating, but Wild Bill built up our confidence by having us re-record 'Katherine...' at his mum's house, surrounded by her chinchillas, geckos and dogs."

And that name? It's from a road sign for the Little Sutton-based tennis courts. "None of us are particularly good at topspins," admits Callum. ■ GARY RYAN

► THE DETAILS

- **BASED** The Wirral
- **FOR FANS OF** Guided By Voices, Parquet Courts
- **SOCIAL** twitter.com/hootontenniscb
- **SEE THEM LIVE** Brighton Great Escape (May 15), London, Field Day (June 6), Nottingham, The Rescue Rooms (July 6), Liverpool, LIMF Summer Jam (August 31)
- **BUY IT** 'Katherine Sat On The Arm Of Her Favourite Chair' is released by Heavenly on July 6
- **BELIEVE IT OR NOT** Ryan was nicknamed the "child of peace" – he was born in Berlin on the hour that the Wall came down

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MORE NEW MUSIC

Willy Muse

Widowspeak bassist Willy Muse may now reside in New York but his starkly beautiful country-noir confessionals offer up a slice of his native American homeland, Iowa. The Mark Lanegan-esque 'Badlands' sees Muse's low-end growl rise and fall with the kind of intensity that only a simple acoustic strum could truly make space for.

► **SOCIAL** facebook.com/willymusemusic

► **HEAR HIM** soundcloud.com/willy-muse

NME BUZZ BAND OF THE WEEK

Man Of Moon

This Edinburgh duo's setup – guitar and drums – might recall Royal Blood and The White Stripes, but musically they're far more diverse. Debut single 'The Road' mixes taut '70s punk riffs with 'Lonerism'-style vocals and an unforgettable breakdown that's pure Jagwar Ma. Elsewhere, they stray into more grandiose, multilayered territory akin to mid-'90s Radiohead. Out of this world.

► **SOCIAL** facebook.com/manofmoonedinburgh

► **SEE THEM LIVE** Edinburgh Summerhall Arts Venue (May 14)

Honduras

These New York punks recently got the call to support Blur at their free gig in Brooklyn. It's fitting, too – tracks like 'Illusion' and 'Borders' swelter in the kind of ramshackle, three-chord glory that defined Damon and co before Britpop took them to the top of the charts.

► **SOCIAL** facebook.com/hondurasband

► **HEAR THEM** soundcloud.com/black-bell-records

Novo Amor

Cardiff's Ali Lacey came to our attention last year with the pastoral folk of 'Faux', but it's his most recent stuff that really showcases his



Man Of
Moon

profoundly moving and gently experimental slant. 'Callow' is almost orchestral, playing off Lacey's fragile vocal lament against a despondent hum of keys and walloped floor toms; it's the sort of genuine progressive, heart-wringing folk music that Daughter or Bon Iver might be proud of.

► **SOCIAL** facebook.com/novoamorsongs

► **HEAR HIM** soundcloud.com/novo-amor

Joel Jerome

Formerly the lynchpin of Cali psych kings Dios, Joel Jerome has more recently worked on production for the likes of Cherry Glazerr. He's also been releasing solo material, with album 'Psychedelic Thriftstore Folk' out now via Manimal. Key track 'Everybody Wants Somebody' is a seven-minute epic that sees him joined by many of the LA scene's lynchpins.

► **SOCIAL** facebook.com/joeljeromemusicpage

► **HEAR HIM** soundcloud.com/manimal-vinyl

The Cave Children

Athens' Cave Children expertly twist Kevin Parker's lysergic formula to their



Honduras

own end. Debut album 'Quasiland', out now, proudly flashes its debt to him. Whether it's the slow-quick dynamics of 'Pelorian' – a clear homage to Sabbath via Parker's 'Half Full Glass Of Wine' – or the infectious 'Antigone', replete with synth washes that gently buoy you into lackadaisical euphoria, these psychonauts are not to be scoffed at.

► **SOCIAL** facebook.com/cavechildren

► **HEAR THEM** soundcloud.com/innerearrecords

Babe Punch

The all-female outfit from Nottingham are still in their teens, but they make a racket that goes well beyond their years. Their influences lie in punk and grunge, with feedback-laden, angsty anthems like 'Snake Tongue' recalling the fiery energy of

bands such as The Slits and Sleater-Kinney.

► **SOCIAL** facebook.com/babepunch

► **HEAR THEM** soundcloud.com/babe-punch-1

Alessia

This 18-year-old Ontario newcomer caused a stir with debut track 'Here' last month. Sampling Isaac Hayes' cult 'Ike's Rap II' (utilised by both Portishead and Tricky in the '90s), it's her bruising lyrics that really hit home. Defiant and pissed off at the attention of stoned boys at a jock party, she's the self-described "anti-social pessimist" who has intentions "to take over the planet". It's rare for a US R&B siren to strike with such realism. ➔

BAND CRUSH

Zach Dawes

Mini Mansions

Algiers

"Algiers are really cool. They remind me a little bit of The Birthday Party, and nothing's reminded me of them in a really long time. They're raw and savage. They're a band I really wanna see live."



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 ► **HEAR HER** soundcloud.com/ep-ent-llc/here

Fossa

Rarely does contemporary folk-pop sound as instantly classic as on Fossa's debut track 'Five Days', which invokes the soft-handed melodic approach of America on 'A Horse With No Name'. That strong resemblance to Neil Young colours the whole of their 'Sea Of Skies' EP, packed with melodic beauty such as the bossa nova inflections of opening waltz 'Sea Of Trees'.

► **SOCIAL** [facebook.com/fossamusic](https://www.facebook.com/fossamusic)
 ► **HEAR THEM** soundcloud.com/fossamusic

Marine

It's all smoky textures and echoed guitars with London quartet Marine. On recent track 'Kraken', an unblinking, almost St Vincent-like vocal delivery is pushed to the fore by guitars that revolve like a millwheel, with harmonies eventually appearing out of the song's cracks. 'Selkie' pares things back slightly, submerging ethereal vocals and gentle guitars in an ocean of space.

► **SOCIAL** [facebook.com/wearemarinemarine](https://www.facebook.com/wearemarinemarine)

Marine

► **HEAR THEM** soundcloud.com/wearemarinemarine
 ► **SEE THEM LIVE** London Stane St Syndicate (May 14)

Jazz Purple

One-time Bipolar Sunshine collaborator Jazz Purple has struck out by himself, with debut track 'Do You' showcasing his jazzy, virtuoso pop skills. Its four minutes see it continually plunge into deep bass and the steady thwack of percussion resembling the march of a glittery elephant, before surfacing to a battery of synths and snatches of soulful vocals.

► **SOCIAL** [facebook.com/thejazzpurple](https://www.facebook.com/thejazzpurple)
 ► **HEAR HIM** soundcloud.com/jazzpurple

Bo Rocha

Londoner Bo Rocha's woozy approximation of pop music has had us captivated since she unveiled sultry debut track 'Tangerine Flake'. It's all soft pads and sparse, undulating percussion until it explodes into a chorus, and from there on dusky, R&B-indebted production and poignant melodies take over. Follow-up 'Angel Eyes'



Jazz Purple

not? Brimming with lo-fi distortion, their latest track 'Per Schooner Agro' doffs its hat to 'Halcyon Digest'-era Deerhunter and Guided By Voices.

► **SOCIAL** [facebook.com/honolulujangle](https://www.facebook.com/honolulujangle)
 ► **HEAR THEM** soundcloud.com/honey-radar

Gallant

New track 'Open Up' sees R&B's newest visionary continue his ascent on the back of an entrancing mesh of breathy vocals, glossy stabs of warm keys and enigmatic lyrics. There's something satisfying about the contradiction in lines like "keep me underwater 'til I'm breathing", his voice starting out slight and introspective before blossoming into a breathless plea for honesty.

► **SOCIAL** [facebook.com/sogallant](https://www.facebook.com/sogallant)
 ► **HEAR HIM** soundcloud.com/gallant

fulfils that early promise via whirring synths that rub shoulders with Bo's confident, celestial vocals.

► **SOCIAL** [facebook.com/borocha](https://www.facebook.com/borocha)
 ► **HEAR HER** soundcloud.com/bo-rocha

Honey Radar

Honey Radar are the sort of enigmatic alt-rockers who post bizarre 30-second conversations about baseball on their Soundcloud, because why

Radar NEWS ROUND UP

CHERRY GLAZERR TOUR

LA's Cherry Glazerr – the Burger Records-affiliated garage band behind one of *Radar's* favourite tracks last year, 'Had Ten Dollaz' – play their first UK dates at London Garage (July 23) and Leeds Brudenell Social Club (25). The shows follow the release of debut album 'Haxel Princess'.

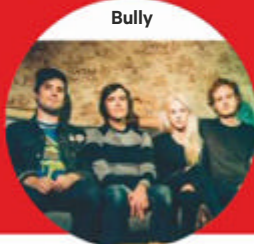
BULLY CONFIRM DEBUT

Alicia Bognanno's Hole-esque group are midway through their first UK tour, and they've also confirmed details of their debut album. Out on June 22 via Sony, the 10-track album is called 'Feels Like'. As well as new single 'Trying', it includes fan favourites 'Milkman' and 'Brainfreeze'.

Ezra Furman



Bully



HEAT GET ROOMY

Canadian Velvets enthusiasts Heat have bulked up last year's debut EP for their first proper UK release, adding some new songs. With seven tracks, 'Rooms' is out now via Kitsuné. Meanwhile, you can catch the band at Brighton's Great Escape, where they play *Radar's* stage at The Haunt.

EZRA FURMAN'S RETURN

Bella Union will release Chicago songsmith Ezra Furman's new album after a series of storming UK shows last year. 'Perpetual Motion People' is out on July 6. The reason for that title? "That's who it was made by and that's who it's for," says Furman. "People who feel they can never settle."

► For daily new music recommendations and exclusive tracks and videos go to [NME.COM/NEWMUSIC](https://www.nme.com/newmusic)

Bo Rocha

Boys

After playing together in various school bands since the age of 11, and forming properly in February, London/Reading outfit Boys signed to FatCat to re-record their demos for a debut EP. Early Killers-influenced song 'Set Me On Fire' has been renamed and lyrically re-written as 'Us', serving as the first taste.

► **HEAR THEM** soundcloud.com/theboysband

Lanks

Lanks' recent single 'Hold Me Closer' seems like an intersection of modern indie, folk and electronic music. It's got those warm, almost

jazzy guitar tones of 'In Rainbows'-era Radiohead and a menacing hum of electronic production, both eclipsed by the raw catharsis of Lanks' voice, which ends up a strangely melodic scream at the track's peak. An EP is promised later this year.

► **SOCIAL** facebook.com/lanksmusic
► **HEAR HIM** soundcloud.com/lanksmusic

Lung Dart

Utilising samples of broken washing machines ('B.OK') and mobile phones falling into buckets of knives ('A Home') might just make London-based duo Lung Dart the most DIY newcomers out there. Debut EP 'EBBS' is wilfully diverse, recalling James Blake's more soulful moments in places and elsewhere veering into Björk-style atmospherics.

► **SOCIAL** twitter.com/lung_dart
► **HEAR THEM** soundcloud.com/happy-valley-records

Magic Potion

Stockholm outfit Magic Potion have created a stir with their first track, 'Deep Web', which channels some irresistibly hazy and maudlin vibes through blissful, Real Estate-esque guitars and Mac DeMarco's sense of playfulness and languor. It bodes well for their upcoming EP on PNKSLM.

► **SOCIAL** facebook.com/magicpotionmusic
► **HEAR THEM** soundcloud.com/magic-potion

Spoilers

Having met via teenage friendship, Deerhunter's ATP festival and Guntree, Spoilers cite Fugazi and Sonic Youth as influences. The Londoners' latest demo, 'Try Try Try', adds Hives-esque garage chords and krauty walls of noise to the mix. They like their amps to sound like buzzsaws, apparently, and their wig-outs are full of phase.

► **SOCIAL** facebook.com/wearespoilers
► **HEAR THEM** soundcloud.com/fatcat-demo

NEW SOUNDS FROM WAY OUT

This week's columnist

FELIX WHITE

The Maccabees



THE MAGIC TIP

I was glad to be able to see **Wolf Alice** headline O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire recently. I came away thinking how good it was to see a band who've been playing venues all the way up achieve something really tangible. It felt reassuring. Special mention to **The Magic Gang**, too, who were supporting. They have the un-teachable knack of looking like they genuinely love playing with each other. It's a very contagious thing. The way they bounded around onstage even made me feel sentimental about how we would have behaved before we all developed differing degrees of back problems. Allied with an obvious and natural sense of melody, it makes them very likeable.

As a side note, on leaving that gig I couldn't help but feel how another London venue, the Astoria, is deeply missed in the capital now. It was a real rite of passage for me [before being closed down to make way for Crossrail in 2009], and it's sad that bands like those two can't tick it off as well. The Coronet in Elephant & Castle, one of the closest venues in structure to the Astoria, is also being threatened with closure, and we'd encourage anyone to make their voice heard in trying to halt another step in the constant bulldozing of what holds live music up in the capital.

Anyway, back to the music. While I haven't seen **Crows** live yet, my brother assures me they have the best frontman around – so that's on my to-do list. And also there's **The Big Moon**, who NME's own Lisa Wright told me last week are a must-see. Their debut single 'Sucker' suggests she's probably right.

Four albums in but new to me is **Toro Y Moi**. I hope more learned readers will also forgive me for admitting that being invited to see him at London's Oval Space was the first I'd heard of him. It was

absolutely brilliant. It must have affected me in some way, as we ended up getting vinyl signed by him, which I haven't done since I queued up to meet The Hives aeons ago. That new record, 'What For?' is all Teenage Fanclub melodies, a really addictive listen.

Meanwhile, our new record is finally finished. As anyone who has worked on anything for three years will tell you, to have it done is a relief, and it all suddenly feels worth it. The first tour back takes place this week and includes a show at the aforementioned Coronet. I look forward to seeing some of you there. ■

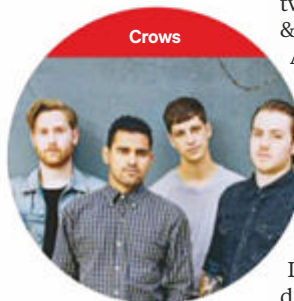
Next week: Huw Stephens

Radar LABEL OF THE WEEK

Hassle



► **FOUNDED** 2005, by Wez and Nigel Adams
► **BASED** North London
► **KEY RELEASES** **Brand New** – 'Déjà Entendu' (first released 2003), **Trash Talk** – 'Eyes And Nines' (2010), **Lonely The Brave** – 'The Day's War' (2014)
► **RADAR SAYS** Purveyors of all things great about punk and metal, Hassle have just celebrated their 10th birthday by releasing a new compilation, 'More Hassle Than It's Worth'.



Crows

"Toro Y Moi was brilliant. We got vinyl signed by him"



Cat Footwear looks great whatever the weather or outfit

Festival style alert

Come rain or shine...

Cat Footwear's spring/summer range covers all bases so you can look good no matter what the conditions are

Fed up of boring, blister-inducing wellies sapping the style out of your festival season? Cat Footwear's spring/summer '15 range offers an array of boots that are comfortable, durable and are a staple of the workwear trend, not sacrificing even an inch of style. What's more, the range can be adapted to fit a whole host of looks, meaning wherever you go, you can look good in footwear that will last for festival after festival.

► Festival Look 1: Layering

Heading to Glastonbury or Bestival this year? It's wise to dress in layers for weather that can turn as quickly as rumours of a Kanye secret set – think slogan sweatshirts, denim shorts and leggings for the ladies and jeans, teamed with Cat Footwear's black and white Walala Ridge printed boots, the chic black-on-black printed option from the Walala x Cat collaboration line or a pair of Colorado Burnish Brights in



sparkling gold to give your outfit that extra statement look.

Guys can pair jeans, thick socks and hoodies with the slick Founder boots in espresso or the Colorado boots in black to stay stylish and weatherproof.



► Festival Look 2: International

If you're lucky enough to head further afield this summer to the likes of Benicàssim, Primavera or Austin City Limits, you won't want several pairs of shoes taking up precious space in your suitcase. Take one pair of Cat boots and you'll be golden.

How about the Colorado in black for the girls or Colorado in simple honey for the boys – they'll hide any dust perfectly while offsetting your (hopefully) newly bronzed tan.

Or, women, try the Ridge Walala boots in beet red to make yourself stand out a little from the crowd, while men can look classic but cool in a pair of the super lightweight Highbury boots or Sequoia 6" in dark beige.



► Festival Look 3: Boutique

Everyone knows that boutique festivals like London-based one-dayer Visions, Field Day or Live At Leeds have an extra level of cool to them, bringing together all the hottest new bands and idolised, established alternative acts. Dress to reflect that by toughening up dark, printed dresses or turned-up jeans with a pair of Colorados in honey or their print-adorned counterparts, the Colorado Walala, while the Colorado in Cloud will give an even edgier, grungier finish.

Boys, swap the boat shoes and high tops for a pair of Oatman in dark brown or the Colorado boots in royal brown and feel free to stomp around city or parks looking great and without the danger of getting your feet wet or muddy.

► BOOTY RETAILERS



Black and White
- £100 ASOS



White Colorado
- £110 ASOS



Highbury
- £110 schuh



Sequoia
- £130 schuh



Black Colorado
- £110 schuh

► WIN!

Cat Footwear are giving one lucky boy and one lucky girl festival footwear for the season and a digital camera each! To enter and for full details head to NME.COM/win.

► BLOG

Head to NME.COM/blogs to read the full festival style report.

FESTIVALS

SPECIAL

The next four months will be a delirious fug of bands, tents, booze and mind-blowing weekends. Here's NME's definitive A-Z of the magic and mayhem

A

IS FOR...

ALBION

The reunited Libertines are hitting the festival circuit hard. Here are five reasons to celebrate

1 New material

The Libs have already got an album's worth of new songs ready, and they're planning to field test some of them. "We're making a record and coming up to test it out on Scotland," said Pete Doherty following their T In The Park booking.

2 New festival anthems

Of all the tracks they've spilled the beans on so far, 'Woke Up Again' seems the most likely to go down well under moonlight. Carl Barat has described it as "bouncy" and says it packs a "big singalong chorus".

3 They've got a lot to prove

First time around, The Libertines never made it to festival headliner status before imploding. Their 2010 Reading And Leeds reunion show saw them playing second fiddle to Arcade Fire. This time – finally – it's their name at the top.

4 They'll be trying to outdo Metallica at Reading And Leeds

"Reading has always been a special festival to me – it's where I misspent a lot of my youth," Carl said of the band's slot. "It's pretty dizzying to be headlining alongside Metallica – I used to love them when I was a kid. They were up there with Michael Jackson and James Dean."

5 Anything could happen

"We're absolutely honoured, but we haven't even thought about the festival shows yet," says Carl. "The album is the big thing right now, and then after that the big thing will be these gigs. I can't start thinking about what Gary [Powell, drummer] is going to wear onstage just yet."

► The Libertines play
T In The Park (July 11)
and Reading And Leeds
(August 28 to 30)



ROGER SARGENT, PAUL MAPLE/OXFAM

B

IS FOR...

BLAGGING

Can't afford a ticket? There are ways and means, if you're not afraid of a bit of hard graft

► Volunteer

Festaff (festaff.co.uk) are currently advertising positions for T in The Park, British Summer Time at Hyde Park, Download, V Festival and a host of others. Hotbox Events (hotboxevents.com) still have more than 500 volunteer spots open for Latitude and Leeds festival (Reading is already full), where you'll work three eight-hour shifts over the course of the weekend, and have the rest of the time to yourself. Paid positions are also available.

► Pick litter

Litter Pickers (litterpickers.com) contribute to the clean-up effort at Glastonbury, Secret



Garden Party and more, and are always looking for people to join their team. In return for doing an eight-12 hour shift, you get free access, a backstage pass, secure camping and three meals a day.

► Be a steward

Oxfam provide a stewarding service at Glastonbury, Bestival, Latitude, Reading And Leeds and 2000trees. It's unpaid, but you will be provided with your own camping and crew facilities. Apply online at oxfam.org.uk/stewarding/festivals.

► Work a bar

If you fancy making some money off your festival blag, Barcode recruitment (barcoderecruitment.co.uk) are looking for bar staff to work at T In The Park, Latitude, Cornbury, Reading And Leeds and V Festival. Most positions are minimum wage.



IS FOR...

CATFISH AND THE BOTTLEMEN

Van McCann had one instruction for his booking agent regarding festival season: say yes to everything. Kevin EG Perry meets up with the man fronting the band of the summer to talk sex, drugs and sticky toffee pudding

PHOTOS: SHAMIL TANNA

At first, he thinks it must have started raining. It's August 2014, moments before Catfish And The Bottlemen are due onstage at Reading Festival, and Van McCann can see crowds of people running towards the tent, pushing forward to squeeze inside. Then he looks outside and sees sunshine. "That's when I knew it was real," he says. "I thought they were coming in because it was pissing it down, but it was sunny. When we went on they knew all the songs. Our album wasn't even out yet. It was *mental*."

After tearing through their set, Van walked offstage and noticed the band's management team were crying tears of joy. "I think everyone was kind of taken aback," he says. "Playing T In The Park and then Reading and Leeds last year were real game-changers for us. Before that we'd been playing 50-100-capacity venues, and they'd been crazy – but then at the festivals it was just as crazy and there were 4,000 more people."

A lot has happened since then. In the past six months, the band released debut album 'The Balcony', which duly hit the Top 10 and went gold. Meanwhile, their live reputation has grown to the point that they sold out two nights at London's 5,000-capacity O2 Academy Brixton this November – within nine minutes of tickets going on sale. "That's 10,000 tickets," marvels Van. "Could we have sold 20,000 in 20 minutes? You're on your way to stadiums then, aren't you?"

Ahead of this summer, Van had a simple instruction for the band's booking agent: 'Say yes to everything.' You'll therefore be able to see Catfish And The Bottlemen at Glastonbury, Radio 1's Big Weekend, Rock Werchter, Bilbao BBK, T In The Park, Latitude, Longitude, Boardmasters, Festival No 6 and Reading And Leeds. If your town's got a village fête, they'll probably turn up and play that too.

"I love festivals," says Van. "We started the band when we were so young that we always said: 'We're not going to that festival unless we play it.' We never went to Glasto or Leeds or anything like that. I never really liked them until we played them last year. You always have to drag your gear through the mud and you're never allowed into the posh

bit where the Arctic Monkeys are eating. Now we've earned our way into different areas. Now we're having sticky toffee pudding for dessert... and more!"

When Van arrives in east London on the day of his first *NME* cover shoot he's clean-shaven, grinning from ear to ear and already buzzing about the summer ahead of him. "I had a big ginger beard this morning but I've just shaved it off. I've got loads of cuts. I look like a mug," he says. "I can't believe I'm doing a cover shoot. That's mad. I'm well too ugly for cover shoots, me."

"At festivals, no band will throw a rave like us"

Van McCann

We head to a bar, where he orders a pint of Guinness and heads outside to smoke in the sun and reminisce about bygone festivals. Having spent his teenage years on tour, Van's only real memory of going as a punter was V Festival in 2009. "I only went to that because it was close and all the girls at school were going," he says. "We got a lift off one of them and bought one ticket between eight of us so it was only a tenner each. We ➡



25

Van McCann
photographed in
Hoxton, London,
April 27, 2015



Catfish And The
Bottlemen play
Reading Festival 2014



passed it through the fence." It meant he got to see his two favourite bands: The Streets and Oasis. The Gallagher brothers played their last ever show together that weekend. "They sounded class," says Van. "I love bands like The Strokes and Arctic Monkeys, but they don't come close to Oasis for me. They sounded enormous."

At Catfish And The Bottlemen's own festival shows, Van wants to keep things simple. "No pyrotechnics, no big light show, just the hits," he says. "Live is our thing. I'm not saying no other bands can touch us, but that's our expertise. I think there are so many bands who are better than us as at recording, writing songs, singing and playing guitars or whatever, but in terms of creating an atmosphere I think we're the best. At this year's festivals, no band will throw a rave like we can."

He thinks part of their appeal is in knowing exactly what the audience want.

"I got into music to make lads bounce, girls blush and my dad feel proud"

Van McCann

"I like playing the singles," he says. "I don't understand why Radiohead don't want to play 'Creep'. I remember Caleb from Kings Of Leon kicking up a fuss about 'Sex On Fire'. He was throwing his guitar down onstage and saying, 'You're only here for one song.' It's like, so? You wrote it! Don't put it on the fucking album then! Don't buy nice jackets with the money it's made you. You love some aspects of it. I'd love to get three albums deep, if the fans believe in it enough and the songs are right, because our Glastonbury headline set would just be greatest hits. No album tracks, no B-sides, no messing about with the shit songs."

It's Van's relentless ambition that's got Catfish And The Bottlemen where they are today, and he won't be truly happy at festivals until he's headlining the Pyramid Stage. "I like it when a band just takes headliner status, instead of being bestowed with it just because it's about time," he says. "No band since the Arctic Monkeys has done that. With us, the fans have made us and I want that to continue. I'd love for Glastonbury to say: 'Well, it has to be them.' I'd love for it to not even be rumoured. They'd just say: 'Well, it has to be them because of what they've done this year, and what their songs have done.' I'd love it if we could force our way in."

In keeping with his 'just play the hits' philosophy, don't expect to hear any of the band's already-written second album this summer. "New tracks are worse than playing album tracks!" says Van. "Nobody will know them."

He will say that he's confident the next record, when it does come out, will comfortably surpass the youthful exuberance and teenage wet dreams of 'The Balcony'. "I think a little bomb will go off in the music industry and people will go, 'Who's making all that racket?'" he says. "It's miles better

than the last album. The band's 10 times better, the crew's 10 times better, we're all 10 times better looking. I wanted to make a life-affirming record for normal heads. People who get up and just want to have a good day. They'll put this on and think, 'Fuck, this feels mint.' It's proper arms-out music. I want to make you feel the way The Strokes did, but with the enormity of Oasis and the lyrics of The Streets."

One thing he can confirm is that there'll be no wanky guitar solos. In fact, Van might ditch his guitar altogether because the band's guitarist Johnny 'Bondy' Bond is "so good he plays like there's 10 of him anyway". As for Van: "I've hated guitar since I started. It hurts my hands. It's heavy. It cost me money to buy when I was a kid. They break. They all sound shite and out of tune anyway. I hate face-melting guitar solos. Why would I want to melt anyone's face? I got into music to make lads bounce, girls blush and my dad feel proud. I didn't get into it to melt someone's fucking head off."

CAT KIT

Van McCann's essential
festival checklist

► Lambert & Butlers

"You're gonna need something to smoke, so bring Lambert & Butlers in their droves."

► Afghan kush

"But remember: beer before grass, you're on your ass. Grass before beer, you're in the clear."

► Wine in a bag

"You don't need a tent or anything, but you will want some wine in a bag."

► See Bo Ningen on acid

"If you want life to never be the same again, go see Bo Ningen. Preferably on acid. If you want to understand what The Beatles were on about in their 'Revolution 9' phase, go see Bo Ningen on acid. Seeing them live was like watching *The Ring*. I was stunned."

► Avoid Bastille

"Just go back to your camp instead. Have a party."

Get in the van

All the Bottlemen's festival dates

- **Glastonbury**
Pilton, June 24
- **Rock Werchter**
Rotselaar, Belgium, June 28
- **BBK Live**
Bilbao, Spain, July 9
- **T In The Park**
Strathallan Castle, Perthshire, July 12
- **Ibiza Rocks**
Ibiza, Spain, July 15
- **Longitude**
Dublin, Ireland, July 17
- **Latitude**
Suffolk, July 18
- **Melt!**
Grafenhausen, Germany, July 19
- **Fuji Rocks**
Naebacho, Japan, July 24
- **Boardmasters**
Newquay, August 5
- **Rock En Seine**
Paris, France, August 28
- **Reading Festival**
August 29
- **Leeds Festival**
August 30
- **Festival Number 6**
Portmeirion, Wales, September 3

"I want to make you feel like The Strokes did"

Van McCann

As Van skins up in the beer garden, he says he'd like to clarify that, despite recent reports, he's still having the time of his life. One recent story featured him apparently complaining that being on the road had meant he'd lost touch with his family. "Somebody texted [Van's guitar tech and best mate] Larry saying, 'Tell him he's a miserable cunt,'" he says. "I read the comments online first. Somebody said, 'I'm sure all the drugs and sex make up for it.' I read the story and the journalist had asked me, 'What sacrifices do you have to make being in a band?' I said, 'I dunno, mate. I love being in a band.' Like that guy said, the sex and drugs do make up for it. They make up for it a lot. Then I'd said, 'I've not seen my mum and dad for six months. I used to have a missus who I was mad about. I had to split up with her

because I was away so much, not because we had a fall-out.' I just answered his question, but people made out like I was complaining. At the end of the day though, even if there's a thousand people who hate me, there's a gold disc on my kitchen wall that says a hundred thousand people think I'm alright."

He says he's dabbled in the LA lifestyle of partying with celebrities, gangsters and models, but now that he's having a bit of time off he'd rather just take his mum and dad out for dinner. "When I'm with the band I'm up for any of that, but when it's me on my own I won't be on no yachts," he says. "I won't be going to no mansions to play table tennis with Jonathan Ross. I'd rather write a song at home than go to a party where some guy is telling me he's just written the bridge for the next Maroon 5 single. I just go, 'You don't fancy a game of *Fifa*, no?' That scene isn't

'THIS IS IT!'

Van McCann on his favourite festival memory

"We played at the Governors Ball festival in New York. I saw OutKast and I remember seeing Jack White walk past with his security guards around him like the Red Arrows. It was also the first time I ever saw The Strokes. That was a big moment for me. I was 21 and in New York, it was roasting hot and I'd found something to smoke. I was loving it. They played 'Someday' and I was just thinking, 'This is it! This is my fucking tune!' Me being me though, I was also thinking, 'Julian doesn't really get the crowd going, does he?' He was smashed. I wasn't into that. It was amazing to see them, but I wasn't going, 'Oh my god, The Strokes!' It wasn't quite everything I dreamt it would be, but it was still mega."

me. I definitely do fancy models though, if that's what you're asking."

Van can always rely on his "shitty cottage" in Chester to bring him back down to earth, as he explains: "We got home at four in the morning for our night off and we had no electricity. It was ice cold, pitch black, I had six jackets on and I was eating tagliatelle on the floor getting stoned with no music, no phone, no internet, no nothing. I was thinking, 'Is this how Kings Of Leon did it?' This was months after we'd sold out Brixton Academy. I was thinking, 'Are we doing this right?' Larry was giving it the 'Ah, but we're keeping our feet on the ground'. I said, 'Isn't that what rock'n'roll's about? Aren't you supposed to lose your feet for a bit?'"

We finish our pints and head over to the photo studio where Van will have his portrait taken for this magazine. There's no rest for the wicked: after this, he'll be rejoining his bandmates for more live dates in America and Europe, and then heading into a studio in the next couple of weeks to start recording demos for the second Catfish And The Bottlemen album. Right now though, Van is putting on The Streets and putting aside any worries about looking like a mug. He laughs when he sees his leather-clad image flash up on the photographer's laptop. "Fucking hell," he says, "am I the bad boy of rock?" At least he's got his shades on, which is handy. Whatever the festival weather this summer, Van McCann is gonna spend his days in the sunsh-iiiine. ■



Catfish And The Bottlemen (l-r): Benji, Van, Johnny, Bob

D

IS FOR...

DIY

Got some mates and a big garden? Why not set up your own festival. Leefest's Lee Denny tells us how

►Think local

"Chances are Jack White's agent isn't even going to acknowledge your emails. Support your local scene by booking bands and DJs from the area."

►Get a licence

"We didn't have one in our first year, and got away with saying it was a private party, but activities like selling alcohol or the performance of live music need a licence. You can apply for these from the local council, who should give you free advice."

►Buy loads of booze

"A surefire way to end a party is to run out of stock, so make sure you've got plenty of booze."

►Beg, borrow, build

"With a bit of ingenuity you should be able to beg, borrow or build most things you need. We used an old trampoline

for our stage and got a soundsystem from our school. The caretaker let us wheel it up the road in a shopping trolley in return for a case of beer! You can get a Portaloo craned into your garden for under £100. Not only will this legitimise your operation by providing an authentic festival experience, it will save you a momentous plumbing disaster."

►Promote it the old-school way

"Social media has a reputation for encouraging gatecrashers. Word of mouth and small DIY posters are the best way to spread the word. You'll most likely want to name your festival after yourself. It's hilarious at the time, but will get embarrassing if it grows into something bigger. I should know..." *Leefest is taking a fallow year in 2015 but will return on a grander scale in 2016.*

Three of the best DIY festivals

Y Not

►WHERE Pikehall, Derbyshire
►WHEN July 31 – August 2
►WHO'S PLAYING Snoop Dogg, Primal Scream, Basement Jaxx
►USP Big names at an intimate site in the Peak District
►TICKETS £89.50, ynotfestivals.co.uk

2000 Trees

►WHERE Upcote Farm, Gloucester
►WHEN July 9–11
►WHO'S PLAYING Alkaline Trio, Deaf Havana, Mclusky
►USP Enjoy hardcore bands while sipping cider on John and Sheila's farm
►TICKETS £72, twothousandtreesfestival.co.uk

Truck

►WHERE Hill Farm, Oxfordshire
►WHEN July 17–18
►WHO'S PLAYING The Charlatans, Fat White Family, Slaves
►USP The main stage was originally constructed out of three flatbed trucks. Tickets: £79.50, truckfestival.com

E

IS FOR...

EUROPE

Festivals in the UK are great, but do you know what's just as great? Festivals that double up as holidays. Behold...

■BBK Bilbao

Bilbao, Spain, July 9–11
►WHO'S PLAYING Mumford & Sons, The Jesus And Mary Chain, Muse, Disclosure, Alt-J, Catfish And The Bottlemen, Of Monsters And Men, Future Islands, Azealia Banks.
►USP Basque cuisine. Pinchos is a kind of fancy, foodie tapas. Go gorge. ►TICKETS £103 for a three-day ticket with camping
►FLIGHT Fly to Bilbao from London (£44), Glasgow (£233), East Midlands (£290), Manchester (£189), Bristol (£147)

▲Benicàssim

Benicàssim, Spain, July 16–19
►WHO'S PLAYING Florence + The Machine, The Prodigy, Blur, Portishead, Jamie T, Frank Turner, Noel Gallagher's High Flying Birds, Kaiser Chiefs, Public Enemy
►USP The beaches. As well as being the only festival with a backstage swimming pool, once the music stops at dawn, the crowds flock to the nearby beach to bask the day away. ►TICKETS £119 for a four-day ticket with camping ►FLIGHT Fly to Alicante from Glasgow (£126), Manchester (£196), Leeds (£163), East Midlands (£154)

▲Nos Alive

Passeio Marítimo De Algés, Lisbon, Portugal, July 9–11
►WHO'S PLAYING Muse, Alt-J, The Wombats, The Prodigy, Mumford & Sons, Disclosure
►USP A big-name shebang staged beside the docks of Lisbon, Portugal, Nos Alive – formerly Optimus Alive – is a picturesque vacation festival; wander world heritage site Mosteiro dos Jerónimos by day, gibbon out to The Prodigy by night.
►TICKETS £101.83 for three days and five nights' camping
►FLIGHT Fly to Lisbon from London (£136), Manchester (£185), Edinburgh (£233)

●Primavera

Parc del Forum, Barcelona, Spain, May 28–30
►WHO'S PLAYING The Strokes, The Replacements, Underworld, The Black Keys, Sleater-Kinney, Patti Smith (performing 'Horses' in full), Ride
►USP Described as "the ATP of the Mediterranean", Primavera is an alt-rock dream. ►TICKETS £136.45 for a weekend ticket. No camping required, because it's in Barcelona. ►FLIGHT Fly to Barcelona from Glasgow (£93), Manchester (£144), East Midlands (£146), London (£260)



▲ Øya

Toyenparken, Oslo, Norway, August 11–15

►WHO'S PLAYING Beck, Chic feat. Nile Rodgers, Florence + The Machine, Alt-J, Mastodon, Ride, The War On Drugs, Caribou ►USP Since moving to a larger site but refusing to increase the number of passes, Øya has become renowned as the most pleasant festival in Europe, with space to move around, free sunscreen and not a single arrest reported in its 16-year history. ►TICKETS Passes for the week have sold out; day tickets are £77.80 ►FLIGHT Fly to Oslo from London (£38), Edinburgh (£119) and Manchester (£112)



■ Roskilde

Roskilde, Denmark, June 24–July 4

►WHO'S PLAYING Paul McCartney, Florence + The Machine, Disclosure, Kendrick Lamar, Muse, Pharrell Williams, Die Antwoord, Jamie xx, Nicki Minaj, Noel Gallagher's High Flying Birds, Run The Jewels, Ryan Adams, St Vincent. ►USP Each year Roskilde kicks off with a Naked Run, wherein punters streak across the site en masse in an attempt to win a ticket for the following year's festival. ►TICKETS Eight days plus camping pass: £213.07 ►FLIGHT Fly to Copenhagen from Luton (£45), Edinburgh (£114), Bristol (£150)

● Open'er

Gdynia, Lotnisko Gdynia-Kosakowo, Poland, July 1–4

►WHO'S PLAYING Kasabian, Faithless, Alt-J, Enter Shikari, The Prodigy, Mumford & Sons, The Libertines, The Vaccines, Drake, Major Lazer, Disclosure, A\$AP Rocky ►USP For the culturally minded, Open'er boasts many edifying experiences, from its on-site museum to a tent dedicated to Polish theatre. ►TICKETS £117 for a four-day ticket with camping ►FLIGHT Fly to Gdansk from Birmingham (£161), Aberdeen (£179), London (£82)



● Pukkelpop

Kempische Steenweg, 3500 Kiewit/Hasselt, Belgium, August 20–22

►WHO'S PLAYING Major Lazer, Mark Ronson (DJ Set), Interpol, The War On Drugs, James Blake, Rudimental ►USP Variety: Pukkelpop prides itself as a "progressive and contemporary" bash, taking in indie-rock, electronica, metal and hip-hop in equal measure. ►TICKETS £146 for a weekend ticket plus travel and camping ►FLIGHT Fly to Brussels from Glasgow (£156), East Midlands (£123), Manchester (£72), Bristol (£126), London (£198)



▲ INmusic Festival

Isle of Youth, Trešnjevka Island, Univerzijada Island, Croatia, June 22–24

►WHO'S PLAYING Florence + The Machine, FFS, Placebo, La Roux, Future Islands, Death Cab For Cutie, Kate Tempest ►USP Some festivals have lovely lakes you can swim in. Others have stunning cities to explore. Still more have Florence + The Machine playing. Croatia's biggest outdoor fest has all three, plus the debut festival performance from Franz Ferdinand and Sparks' collaboration, FFS. Boom. ►TICKETS £60 for a three-day ticket with camping, eufest.com/festivals/inmusic/tickets ►FLIGHT Fly to Zagreb from London (£38), Aberdeen (£179), Manchester (£178)

▲ Exit

Petrovaradin Fortress, Novi Sad, Serbia, July 9–12

►WHO'S PLAYING Faithless, Eagles Of Death Metal, The Prodigy, Milky Chance, Motörhead ►USP Originally organised as a protest against President Milosevic and held in an actual fort, Exit is your best chance to make raving all night to Faithless feel like a blow for freedom. ►TICKETS £125.40 for a weekend ticket and camping ►FLIGHT Fly to Belgrade from London (£166), Birmingham (£203) and Aberdeen (£264)



■ Rock Werchter

Werchter, Belgium, June 25–28

►WHO'S PLAYING Alabama Shakes, Alt-J, Catfish And The Bottlemen, Death Cab For Cutie, Die Antwoord, Elbow, Enter Shikari, FKA Twigs, Foo Fighters, Jungle, Kasabian, Muse, Mumford & Sons, Noel Gallagher's High Flying Birds, The Vaccines, Pharrell Williams, Royal Blood ►USP The archetypal Big Gig In A Field, Rock Werchter 2015 stands out for its impressive line-up and its generous recycling programme. Just 20 cups gets you a free drink. You finished that, mate? ►TICKETS £181.47 for a weekend pass with camping ►FLIGHT See above



F

IS FOR...

FASHION

Writer, comedian and fashion blogger Anne T Donahue on the dos and don'ts of festival apparel

DO

► Think practically

"The most important thing is covering your shoulders. For women, you can't beat a scarf or shawl. Not just as an accessory, but because it'll keep you warm at night and double as a blanket to sit on, too."

DON'T

► Overthink (or overspend on) wellies

"A festival without rubber boots is a festival that will live on in terrible infamy. They don't have to be pricey or a brand name, and they certainly don't have to match the rest of your pieces."

DO

► Pack a hat

"Seventies-inspired wide-brims are key to preventing the sunburn you're too smart to get. Just accept it: music festivals are our chance to pretend it's 1974."

DON'T

► Wear anything offensive

"For reasons I can't understand, Native American headdresses made appearances at Coachella again this year. But on another front, some dude wore a T-shirt reading 'Eat Sleep Rape Repeat', which is disgusting on a whole other level. So I say this: if you want to wear something and you think it might be offensive in any way at all, don't wear it. It's not controversial, it's just embarrassing."

DO

► Check what the celebs are wearing

"The only thing we can be sure of is that whatever they're wearing will be more expensive than anything than we can afford. But if you want to use Coachella as the benchmark, think crop tops, crocheted vests and short shorts."

G

IS FOR...

GLASTONBURY, OBVIOUSLY

With all the Pyramid headliners now nailed down, Emily Eavis tells us some things you *didn't* know about Glastonbury 2015



Glastonbury-goers will get to see The Who (above) headline this year

► There's a new woodland glade area

Emily Eavis: "That's where Strummerville will be located this year. It's going to have a quiet, kind of campfire vibe. You get a lovely perspective of the site and it'll be quite a nice place to go on the way back to your tent or early in the morning."

► Secret sets are back

"We've got all sorts of things popping up that are unprogrammed. You'll see lots of special guests up at The Park this year, but you'll just have to stumble on them. Don't listen to the rumours. Any kind of hysteria that's started on Twitter is normally not true."

► There'll be lots of politics

"Shangri-La has a political theme this year, and it's a brand-new concept from them. We've got a few political speakers, too – more than we'd normally have although we always have a bit of politics. We've got a few high-profile ones and we're also going big on Trident."

► There's lots of new art

"As we speak, carpenters are building a large structure like a ship at the hill on The Park,



and Joe Rush – who did the giant phoenix on the Pyramid Stage – has built some incredible sculptures that are going all over the site.”

► The Other Stage has had a facelift

“We’ve got a new structure for the other stage. Currently it’s the standard dome stage, which you see everywhere. The new one is a rectangular stage, which hasn’t been seen anywhere, and then on the front of it, Joe Rush has done an amazing installation. My project is to try to give The Other Stage its own identity because it’s an amazing stage with so much incredible music on it.”

► Prince isn’t playing

“Every year people say Prince is playing. He’s not.”

► There’ll be flying Mexicans

“We’ve got Mexican aerialists coming – some of the team found them at a festival in Mexico. They do this incredible show suspended from a 20-foot pole, and dance around in the air at a great height. For the welcome ceremony on Wednesday afternoon, we’re having a procession to the Theatre and Circus field, where the pole will go in and stay for the rest of the weekend, and they’ll do a show every day.”

► She had death threats over Kanye

“I had death threats after Kanye was announced. It got quite heavy on Twitter. But we looked into that whole petition against him headlining and it turned out that most of the



Jamie will play Glasto

people on it were in America and they didn’t even know what Glastonbury was. They’re just anti-Kanye. We all know his set will be an incredible moment, and I’ve got no doubt he will pull out all the stops.”

► The line-up is about to get much bigger

“There are thousands of acts still to announce. We’ve only given you 75 names so far, and I think we’ve had the most positive response to the line-up in a long time.”

► Selfie sticks are welcome – for now

“A lot of festivals have banned selfie sticks, but we’re not really in the business of banning stuff. We haven’t really decided where we stand on them. I’m going to walk around and see if they’re getting in the way or not!”

► THE DETAILS

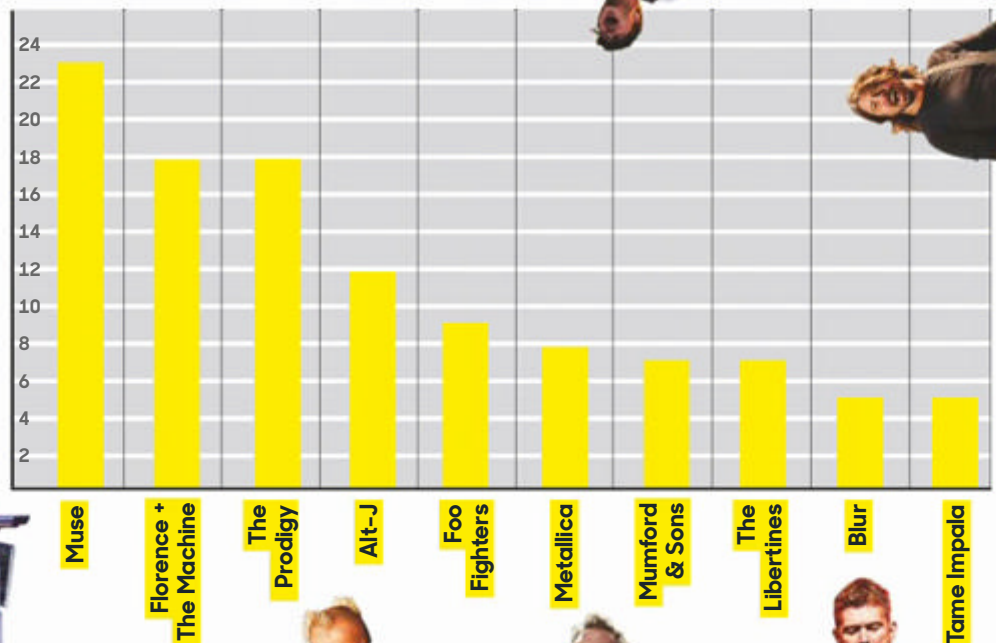
► **FESTIVAL** Glastonbury ► **WHERE** Pilton, Somerset
 ► **WHEN** June 24–28 ► **WHO’S PLAYING** Foo Fighters, Kanye West, The Who, Florence & The Machine, Jamie xx, Jungle, Suede, Run The Jewels ► **TICKETS** Sold out



IS FOR...

HEADLINERS

Which acts are topping the bill at the most events this summer?
 Hint: don’t expect Matt Bellamy to turn up at your barbecue...



The mighty
Carnival Parade
at Bestival

IS FOR...

THE ISLE OF WIGHT

The 150 square-mile lump of rock off the coast of Hampshire is home to two of the UK's biggest festivals. The organisers tell us what makes it so special

Rob da Bank BESTIVAL



"The Isle of Wight is a magical place. People love the adventure of getting on the ferry, the escapism of leaving everyday life behind. Maybe it's not as exotic as Ibiza or Croatia, but it has its special brand of exoticism, and on an island you get the feeling people can't get to you.

This year's theme is Summer of Love, because last year there was so much bad shit going on, and there still is. From earthquakes to shootings to UKIP, it's kinda bleak. We don't wanna come over as airy-fairy, but we think the 50–55,000 people who come to Bestival are active and want change. So on the one hand it's a jokey, Woodstocky vibe, but on the other it's serious: we don't have to live like this.

We've got a new fitness area called Slow Motion – yoga, chanting, meditation, fitness classes, wild runs, stuff off-site like mountain boarding and rock climbing. It's an antidote to the insanity of the 24-hour Bestival experience. People can still party and rave, but you might wake up on the Saturday and go, 'Wow, I need a change of pace.' Or you could just spend the whole weekend there!"

▶ THE DETAILS

▶ **FESTIVAL** Bestival ▶ **WHERE** Robin Hill Country Park, Isle of Wight ▶ **WHEN** September 10–13 ▶ **WHO'S PLAYING** The Chemical Brothers, Underworld, Fat White Family, Future Islands, Slaves, The Jacksons ▶ **USP** Beyond the eclectic line-up, fancy dress, keeping fit and 'Summer of Love' vibes are encouraged – there's even an inflatable church where you can get married ▶ **TICKETS** £195 (weekend camping)

John Giddings ISLE OF WIGHT FESTIVAL



"The great thing about being on an island is that you have to travel by boat to get there, so instead of sitting in a traffic jam it feels like you're going on holiday. Plus the Isle of Wight has its own microclimate – it's the sunniest place in the UK all year round, and the scenery's beautiful. It's like going back in time. At the festival you don't have to spend every minute of every day with your mates; they can go off and do something themselves – dress up, take their clothes off – so you don't get bored and fall out like you do on package holidays. It was a real coup for us to get Fleetwood Mac this year. They originally didn't want to do any open-air shows, but [2014 headliners] Kings Of Leon told them that it was a great festival to do, and we won them over."

▶ THE DETAILS

▶ **FESTIVAL** Isle Of Wight Festival ▶ **WHERE** Seaclose Park, Isle of Wight ▶ **WHEN** June 11–14 ▶ **WHO'S PLAYING** Blur, Fleetwood Mac, The Black Keys, The Prodigy, Pharrell Williams, Jessie Ware ▶ **USP** Side attractions include the leafy Bohemian Woods area, knees-up bar the Intoxicated Tearooms and quirky game area Bulmers Colourena ▶ **TICKETS** £195 (weekend camping)



Blur will headline
this year's Isle Of
Wight Festival

JOKES

Festivals can be a tough crowd for bands, but tougher for comedians, says circuit veteran Daniel Sloss



IS FOR...

KANYE

Forget the haters, Mr West will deliver the set of the year at Worthy Farm. Here's why:

► **He's one of the world's great performers**

The Yeezus tour was a conceptual extravaganza inspired by Alejandro Jodorowsky's 'The Holy Mountain' and centred on a 50ft-tall volcano. His festival shows have previously involved full-face masks, ballet dancers and gigantic ancient-Roman imagery. His Brits performance has already gone down as one of the rawest in the show's history. Whatever he's got up his sleeve for Glastonbury, it won't be run-of-the-mill.

► **There'll be new material**

We've got a title and a possible cover, but still no release date for Kanye's incoming seventh album, 'Swish'. If it doesn't drop before Glastonbury, we should at least come away with a better idea of what it will sound like.

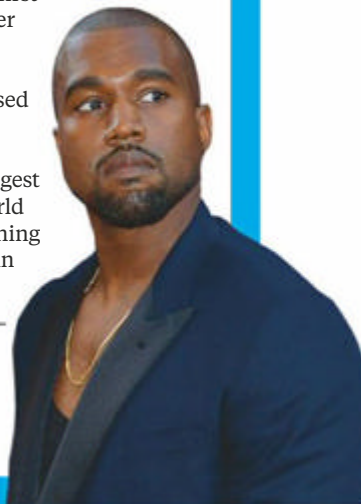
► **Macca**

The yearly speculation over who'll be joining who on the Pyramid Stage usually comes to nothing because everyone wants to show that they're able to pull off a headline set in their own right. Kanye, though, is unlikely to be approaching this gig from a 'prove yourself' perspective, and recent collaborator Paul McCartney is free that weekend...

► **It's way overdue**

It's been seven years since Jay Z smashed through the glass ceiling, but Kanye is the first hip-hop headliner to follow in his footsteps. His booking has caused controversy, but in truth it's long overdue. The biggest rapper in the world *should* be headlining the best festival in the world.

► **Kanye West plays Glastonbury Festival, June 24–28 (specific date not confirmed)**



CALLUM BAKER, JILL FURMANOVSKY, JENN FIVE, TOM MARTIN, GETTY



IS FOR...

LATITUDE

At which Radio 1 hero Huw Stephens curates the Lake Stage. His top four picks:

► **Sundara Karma**
Friday, July 17

"I heard them via BBC Introducing in Reading, which is where they're from. They have a real confidence in their sound, and a real class about them. They're only a couple of singles old, but the lyrics are really intriguing. The guitars sound like poetry."

► **Neon Waltz**
Saturday, July 18

"They're one of the most promising new bands around. They wear their influences on their sleeve – they've been listening to a lot of psych, maybe some Jesus & Mary Chain – and have a real elegance about them."

► **Pretty Vicious**
Saturday, July 18

"They're a super-young Welsh band from Merthyr Tydfil, and they sing like they mean it – they have that early-Oasis realness. They write these gnarly, punky guitar anthems which are really captivating onstage."

► **Gwenno**
Sunday, July 19

"She's a solo artist who sings in Welsh and Cornish and makes these big, warm, woozy wall-of-sound type songs, with melting electronica and beautiful vocals. She also hosts an experimental radio show in Cardiff, so she hears a lot of interesting sounds that channel into her music."

► **THE DETAILS**

► **FESTIVAL** Latitude ► **WHERE** Henham Park, Southwold ► **WHEN** July 16–19 ► **WHO'S PLAYING** Alt-J, Noel Gallagher's High Flying Birds, Manic Street Preachers, Portishead ► **TICKETS** £200.50 (weekend camping)

33

► "Over the years, I've played Rockness, Bestival, Latitude, Reading And Leeds and Hydro Connect – which I would like to go on record and say was a bag of shit, and I'm glad it's dead. I don't know if 'raucous' is the correct term to describe festival crowds, but at a normal gig there's far less chance of some guy wandering in absolutely off his face on ecstasy. At regular shows, you'll go on at eight in the evening and everyone is there to see you, but at a music festival you're not the main event. Realistically, you're a break in the day: people will come and see you because they're hungover and they want a 25-minute break from listening to drum'n'bass, but you can totally turn that to your advantage – if the crowd are in a party mood, you

can leave the stage feeling like a god.

If someone's being drunk and mouthy, musicians have an obvious advantage because they can play their guitar louder and no-one will hear them, whereas we have to rely much more on timing and silences. That said, I can definitely call a punter a cunt in more creative ways than a musician can: I played Latitude when I was 19, and even though I was having a pretty good gig, some guy kept calling out, 'You're shit! You're shit!' and I can't remember exactly what I came back with, but it was something to do with his uncle fucking him. I wasn't overly intelligent with my heckle retorts back then – it was more about going for the jugular and shutting them up as quickly as fucking possible."

► **THE THREE BEST FESTS FOR COMEDY**

► **V Festival**

August 22–23, Weston Park, Shropshire; Hylands Park, Chelmsford

► **PLAYING** Russell Kane, Frankie Boyle, Nick Helm, Seann Walsh

► **Latitude**

July 16–19, Henham Park, Suffolk

► **PLAYING** Josh Widdicombe, David O'Doherty, Sarah Pascoe, Nina Conti, Adam Hills

► **Green Man**

August 20–23, Brecon Beacons

► **PLAYING** Rob Newman, Sarah Pascoe, Holly Walsh, Rob Deering



IS FOR...

METAL

Here are the 10 tunes you shouldn't miss at this year's epic gnarlorama Download, the mutha of all metal festivals

Muse

'Knights Of Cydonia'

► Main Stage, Saturday

The moment Muse detonate the heaviest riff bomb in their canon has been the indie fan's excuse to mosh like an epileptic mongoose. Now imagine what'll happen when some *real* moshers get their hands on it.

Slipknot

'Spit It Out'

► Main Stage, Friday

Slipknot have some of the most inventively brutal songs in rock. Take this, a maniacal thrash that takes in rave, rap and useful advice in the event of accidentally drinking anything Clown gives you.

Enter Shikari

'Juggernauts'

► Encore Stage, Sunday

If Mike Skinner suddenly got into politics, math metal and Pendulum, it would sound a bit like ES's biggest live banger.

Kiss

'Love Gun'

► Main Stage, Sunday

Going by their show at Monsters Of Rock in Brazil

this year, expect Paul Stanley to fly over the audience on a wire to a second stage to sing this song about his penis.

Andrew WK

'Party Hard'

► Third Stage, Saturday

Andrew WK's set will be light relief from all the barking about cruel dads that'll be permeating the rest of the site.

Hyena

'Mental Home'

► Fourth Stage, Sunday

Full of frantic Muse fretwork, lung-busting vocals and Soundgarden-ish grunge emoting, 'Mental Home' is a festival anthem in waiting.

Marilyn Manson

'The Beautiful People'

► Encore Stage, Saturday

Mazza's crunchy perversion of all things glam is the highlight of his sets.

Slash

'Paradise City'

► Main Stage, Sunday

Accompanied by a world-class Axl impersonator, Slash reels out some

of his finest Guns N' Roses megahits, and you don't even have to wait seven hours in the pissing rain for him to turn up. Result!

Faith No More

'Epic'

► Main Stage, Saturday

Faith No More's crowning moment quakes every stage and will make Download feel like it's just defeated an alien invasion single-handed.

Fidlar

'Cheap Beer'

► Fourth Stage, Sunday

"I drink cheap beer! So what? Fuck you!" OK, calm down Fidlar. We're not here to judge your choice of Lidl beverages, we're here to recommend this three-chord garage-punk blast as the perfect reason to avoid Mötley Crüe on the Sunday.

► THE DETAILS

► **FESTIVAL** Download ► **WHERE** Donington Park, Derbyshire

► **WHEN** June 12-14 ► **TICKETS** Only day tickets still available, £82.50 from ticketmaster.co.uk

N

IS FOR...

NEWBIES

Five events hoping to make a blistering debut this year



► Wild Life

City Airport, Brighton, June 6-7

► **WHO'S PLAYING** Disclosure (above), Mark Ronson, Nas, Wu-Tang Clan, Jamie xx ► **USP** It's run and curated by Disclosure and Rudimental.

► **TICKETS** Weekend tickets £99 and day tickets £55 from ticketmaster.co.uk with £5.50-£9.90 booking fee

► Citadel

Victoria Park, London, July 19

► **WHO'S PLAYING** Bombay Bicycle Club, Kurt Vile & The Violators, Anna Calvi ► **USP** Side attractions include the Sunday papers being recreated by poets, politicians and comedians.

► **TICKETS** £49.50 from ticketmaster.co.uk with £5.50 booking fee

► Forgotten Fields

Eridge Park, Tunbridge Wells, August 7-9

► **WHO'S PLAYING** Super Furry Animals, Razorlight, De La Soul, British Sea Power ► **USP** It's got an intimate 4,000 capacity.

► **TICKETS** £95 from forgottenfields.co.uk with £8 booking fee

► Croatia Rocks

Zre Beach, Island Of Pag, July 19-23

► **WHO'S PLAYING** The Vaccines, Jungle, Kate Tempest, Lxury, Bondax ► **USP** The festival hosts poolside and boat parties as well as beach stages.

► **TICKETS** £119 from croatia-rocks-tickets.eventgenius.co.uk with £11.90 booking fee

► Lollapalooza Berlin

Tempelhof Airport, September 12-13

► **WHO'S PLAYING** The Libertines, Tame Impala, Chvrches, FFS, Hot Chip ► **USP** It's the festival's first European leg. ► **TICKETS** Two-day tickets 119 euros, one-day tickets 69 euros from ticketmaster.de

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IS FOR...

ONE-DAYERS

If you haven't got the funds or the stomach for a full-on three-day blowout, there are plenty of one-day options where you could be home in time for *Later...*

Dot To Dot

Various venues in Manchester (May 22), Bristol (May 23) and Nottingham (May 24)

► **WHO'S PLAYING** Swim Deep, Best Coast, Honeyblood (left)

► **USP** Dot To Dot has a knack for booking bands about to break – such as Superfood last year.

► **TICKETS** £27.50, dottodotfestival.co.uk

**Visions**

Various venues, east London, August 8

► **WHO'S PLAYING** Camera Obscura, Merchandise, Shamir, The Antlers, Toy, Girl Band, Peaking Lights

► **USP** Visions may take place at several venues, but they're all within walking distance of each other, which makes it way easier to catch as many bands as possible. And no weather issues, either.

► **TICKETS** £30, visionsfestivals.com

Calling Festival

Clapham Common, London, July 4

► **WHO'S PLAYING** Noel Gallagher's High Flying Birds (right), Modest Mouse, Ryan Adams And The Shining

► **USP** A heavy-hitting line-up, convenient location and the first chance to see Noel Gallagher's High Flying Birds in the UK this summer.

► **TICKETS** £64, callingfestival.co.uk



P

IS FOR...

PRICE

Festivals can be real wallet-hoovers, but Sally Francis from moneysavingexpert.com has five tips to keep it thrifty

**Cut travel costs**

"If you're going to one of the big festivals, find people sharing lifts online and split the cost of petrol. If you're taking the train, try to book at least 12 weeks in advance to bag the cheapest tickets. See if buying an annual railcard is worth it – most will give you a third off. Pay for petrol and train tickets on a cashback credit card to regain some of the cost, though always remember to repay in full."

Head to the pound shop

"It's not worth kitting yourself out with top-priced essentials when the likelihood is they'll get muddy or get lost. Head to the pound shop for cheap torches, batteries, ponchos and bin bags. If they only last you the festival, you've not lost much."

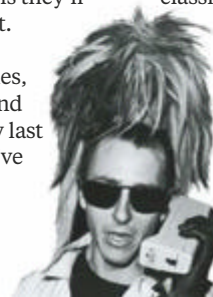
Bulk buy toiletries

"Baby wipes and dry shampoo are the extent of washing when it comes to festival stays, but buying small packets and cans can be pricey. Club together with friends to spot bargain buys and two-for-one offers and share the costs."

Don't take your smartphone – go retro

"A muddy field, dancing around without a care and sleeping in a potentially damp tent don't add up to an ideal environment for your smartphone. Don't take the risk – many of us will have a classic Nokia lying around.

If it still works, grab a cheap Sim and party the weekend away. As a bonus, it's likely that its simplicity means the battery lasts longer, too."



THREE FESTIVALS THAT WON'T BREAK THE BANK

Richmond Live

Richmond, Yorkshire, July 31 – August 1

► **WHO'S PLAYING** Funeral For A Friend, The Bootleg Beatles, Hello Operator

► **USP** At this not-for-profit festival, the meagre ticket price only goes towards covering costs.

► **TICKETS** £10, richmondlive.org

**Farm Fest**

Gilcombe Farm, Somerset, July 31 – August 1

► **WHO'S PLAYING** Lamb, Stealing Sheep (above), Zun Zun Egui

► **USP** A Somerset event that "doesn't believe in hype or inflated prices".

► **TICKETS** £59

Monmouth Festival

Monmouth, south Wales, July 24 – August 1

► **WHO'S PLAYING** TBA

► **USP** The festival in the south of Wales relies on grants and public donations rather than ticket sales.

► **TICKETS** It's free!



IS FOR...

QUAFFING CHAMPAGNE

First we had 'glamping'. Now we have festivals that are posher than a *Made In Chelsea* wrap party, like these...

► Cornbury Music Festival

Great Tew Estate, Oxfordshire, July 10–12

►PLAYING Razorlight, Tom Jones

►POSHEST THING It describes itself as a "homespun melting pot where music lovers share pies and a glass of champagne with superstars, toffs, rockers, crooners, morris dancers, farmers, urbanites, fashionistas, gourmet chefs and little old ladies who make exceptional cakes".

►TICKETS £212 (weekend with camping); £89 day

► Wilderness Festival

Cornbury Estate, Oxfordshire, August 6–9

►PLAYING Björk, Ben Howard

►POSHEST THING You can go horse riding, enjoy a philosophy walk, sign up for a cooking class where you have to forage for your own ingredients or take part in workshops on topics as varied as 'Living Room Creativity' and 'Is There Such a Thing as Western Contemplation?'.

►TICKETS £175.94 (weekend with camping)

► Camp Bestival

Lulworth Castle, Dorset, July 30 – August 2

►PLAYING Clean Bandit, Kaiser Chiefs, Kate Tempest

►POSHEST THING There's a wine club, an observatory and hot tubs. It even has its own 'food ambassador'.

►TICKETS £195 (weekend with camping)



IS FOR...

READING AND LEEDS

What else could it be? The boss, Melvin Benn, discusses Kendrick vs Kanye and this year's big hitters

Deadmau5 headlines the NME/Radio 1 Stage. Would that have worked five years ago?



Melvin Benn: "I don't think it would, but two things have changed: Deadmau5, and Reading And Leeds. I hadn't naturally seen it, but after the phenomenal show he did at Creamfields last year it felt appropriate."

Lower down the bill, who's gonna pack the tents?

"Besides the obvious – Catfish And The Bottlemen, Slaves – I think Ghostpoet's gonna be huge, and Pretty Vicious are gonna storm the tent."

Glasto has Kanye West, Reading And Leeds has Kendrick Lamar – who wins?

"Oh, no question – Kendrick is way ahead. He's in his rightful place as a penultimate act on the Main Stage."

► THE DETAILS

►FESTIVAL Reading And Leeds ►WHEN

August 28–30 ►WHO'S PLAYING Mumford & Sons, Metallica, The Libertines, Alt-J, Palma Violets, Drengé, The Maccabees, Circa Waves, Azealia Banks, The Wombats, Django Django

►TICKETS £213.00 (weekend with camping)

BATTLE OF THE HEADLINE ACTS

It's metal titans Metallica vs folk stompers Mumford & Sons. Who will win out?

MUMFORD & SONS

Vs

METALLICA

CROWD PLEASERS

The new album is arena-sized rock, and their hits are raggle-taggle chants. So, lots.

For the casually interested, it's a hell of a long wait for 'Enter Sandman'.



Mumfords win!

RIFFS

"More banjo fire, duuuude!" yelled no-one ever. But 'Wilder Mind' finds them plugging in.

Riffs? From Metallica? That's like asking Greggs if they've got any pies.



Metallica win!

PARTNER SWINGING

You can do-si-do yourself down to the knees to Mumfords' farmer-folk.

The only partner swinging you'll do to Tallica is by the hair, screaming like a baboon.



Mumfords win!

S

IS FOR...

SLAVES

Because Kent duo Laurie Vincent and Isaac Holman are gonna blow up this festival season

You're playing loads of festivals this summer – are you excited?

Isaac Holman: "We've got a good feeling!"

Laurie Vincent: "You earn the chance to showcase your band at festivals; it's like your vegetable you've been growing all year and you're taking it on show. We definitely weren't ready for a while, but when we got the chance we took it and now it's building. You can't beat the feeling of someone singing your songs back to you. We have the potential to gain 10,000 new fans on these big stages, do you know what I mean? Turn Slaves up on the NME/Radio 1 Stage and the whole campsite's gonna be hearing our music. I used to camp in the yellow area at Reading, so I know."

Give us your best festival survival tips then...

Laurie: "I find festivals really hard, a proper marathon – by the end I'm not drinking

or anything, I literally get headaches. You don't drink water; you just wake up and drink beer. For some reason you act like a fucking freak."

Isaac: "Why would you do that? Because you're in a field with loads of people, so you're allowed to? I've definitely lost my marbles at a few festivals. They're dangerous, man. My advice is: be careful."

Laurie: "I think my tip is it's good to watch it on TV at home and not go!"

Isaac: "Don't just sit in the campsite and not be bothered to move, that's another one."

Laurie: "But that's so fun sometimes."

You're snappy dressers. How do you maintain that in the mud?

Laurie: "It's shit – this year I'm just gonna dedicate myself to ruining whatever I wear, I think it looks cool. I'm gonna get a fresh white outfit for each one and see how fucked it gets. Julian Casablancas used to do that, didn't he?"

Sounds good. Have you made plans for any extra stage props?

Isaac: "Maybe a coat stand. That's probably it. We'll put a couple of rain macs on it."

Kent on tour

Slaves' key UK festival dates

► **The Great Escape**
Brighton, May 14–16

► **Sound City**
Liverpool, May 22–24

► **Common People**
Southampton, May 23–24

► **T In The Park**
July 10

► **Truck Festival**
Steventon, July 17

► **Tramlines Festival**
Sheffield, July 24

► **Y Not Festival**
Derbyshire, July 31

► **Standon Calling**
Hertfordshire, August 1

► **Camp Festival**
Dorset, August 2

► **Reading Festival**
August 29

► **Leeds Festival**
August 30

► **Bestival**
September 12

T

IS FOR...

T IN THE PARK

The Scottish festival is leaving Balado near Kinross this year to pitch up at nearby Strathallan Castle. Organiser Geoff Ellis tells us what will change

► **It'll have the feel of a boutique festival**

"We're not making it smaller. The term I'd use would probably be more 'picturesque'. It's surrounded by mature woodlands and the topography is different, whereas the old site was flat as it was an old airfield. There are a lot of rolling hills and you've got a castle, so people will be watching the Main Stage with a castle in the background. It is a country estate – it'll have that feel to it. So I was trying to be evocative of a boutique festival, but no, we're not making it any smaller. It's still going to be T In The Park. It's got the same energy, passion and vibrancy that we've always had there, and that's

because we've got the same audience and it's the audience who bring that energy to the party."

► **You get to camp at Strathallan Castle**

"The camping arcs around the arena, and it sets in where the castle is as well, so quite a lot of the campers will see the castle and the lake from where they are. It's a beautiful location. There'll be more than one entrance to the campsite, so people may have less walking to do, but being part of a festival is just wandering about and discovering new things and meeting new people."

► **It'll have a similar vibe to Glastonbury's Shangri-La**

"The new location gives us more scope because we've got copses to create things around – a mix of lighting, seating and music – and dress it all up and put in that kind of vibe. This site lends itself to that. We're not going to mirror other festivals, because we'll still be T In The Park, but it allows us to be creative. The old site was too open to create."

WIN

WIN VIP TICKETS TO T IN THE PARK!

We have two pairs of VIP weekend camping tickets to give away. To win, simply send the answer to the question below to letters@nme.com. Closing date: May 23.

In May 2006, T In The Park headliners Noel Gallagher and Carl Barat appeared together on *Soccer AM*. Which Oasis song did Carl forget the title of during the conversation?

- A. 'Live Forever'
B. 'I Can See A Liar'
C. 'Magic Pie'



► THE DETAILS

► **FESTIVAL** T In The Park ► **WHEN**

July 10–12 ► **WHERE** Strathallan

Castle, Perthshire ► **WHO'S**

PLAYING Kasabian, The Libertines, Alt-J, Noel Gallagher's High Flying Birds, The Prodigy ► **TICKETS**

£205 for weekend camping from tinthepark.com/tickets

U

IS FOR...

URBAN FESTIVALS

Sticking to cities: the best way to protect yourself from trench foot this summer

► Love Saves The Day

Eastville Park, Bristol, May 23–24

►WHO'S PLAYING Jessie Ware, Azealia Banks, Four Tet, Wiley, Skepta, Julio Bashmore

►USP The festival is organised by the teams behind Glastonbury's Wow! Stage, In:Motion and Global Gathering, so they know how to put on a proper party.

►TICKETS £79.50 for weekend tickets from lovesavestheday.org/tickets

► Field Day

Victoria Park, London, June 6–7

►WHO'S PLAYING Caribou, Ride, Patti Smith, Diiv, Eagulls, Ex Hex, FKA Twigs, Mac DeMarco, Savages (pictured above), Run The Jewels

►USP Field Day consistently offers one of the best line-ups of the summer, combining it with a vibey village fête atmosphere.

►TICKETS Weekend tickets £92.30, Saturday tickets £54.50, Sunday tickets £38.50 from ticketweb.co.uk with £5–£9.30 booking fee

► Wireless

Finsbury Park, London, July 3–5

►WHO'S PLAYING Drake (below), A\$AP Rocky, Major Lazer, Kendrick Lamar, Nicki Minaj, Pusha T

►USP It's the only festival in the UK where you can see

hip-hop's biggest names on the same stage

►TICKETS Day tickets £62.50–£69.50, two-day tickets £125–£132, three-day tickets £194.50 from ticketmaster.co.uk with £6.25–£15 booking fee

► Tramlines

Various venues, Sheffield, July 24–26

►WHO'S PLAYING Wu-Tang Clan, Buzzcocks, Kate Tempest, The Charlatans, Rolo Tomassi, Slaves, Mike Skinner

►USP Brilliantly, you can watch up-and-coming acts and Motown legend Martha Reeves in the same weekend.

►TICKETS Weekend tickets £30 from tramlines.gigantic.com with £3 booking fee

► Liverpool Sound City

Bramley Moore Dock, Liverpool, July 22–24

►WHO'S PLAYING The Vaccines, The Cribs, Belle & Sebastian, Everything Everything, The Flaming Lips, Peace, Fucked Up

►USP The festival has moved to Liverpool's docks as a nod to the days when records would arrive on boats from around the world.

►TICKETS Weekend tickets £65 from liverpoolsoundcity.seetickets.com with £5 booking fee

V

IS FOR...

VOODOO RAY'S...

...and six other outrageously delicious food trucks you'll find at this summer's fests

► VODOO RAY'S

►WHAT? East London's pissed-up party crowd's late-night pizzeria of choice.

►MENU HIGHLIGHTS The Giorgio Moroder (goat's cheese, sunblush tomato and courgette) and the King Tubby (fennel, chilli sausage and cavolo nero).

►FIND THEM AT Glastonbury, Lovebox, Field Day, Love Box, Festival No 6, Love Saves The Day

► THE GOAN SEAFOOD COMPANY

►WHAT? A perennial Glasto favourite feeding the festival faithful since 2005 with south Indian delights.

►MENU HIGHLIGHTS Kedgerie for breakfast, or delish mackerel masala dahl and the Goan fish curry.

►FIND THEM AT Glastonbury, End Of The Road

► THE CHEESE TRUCK

►WHAT? A bright-yellow truck that doubles as a grilled-cheese nirvana. Serving since 2013.

►MENU HIGHLIGHTS Chorizo, bacon, pears and honey partner stilton, goat's cheese and cheddar.

►FIND THEM AT Field Day, Glastonbury, Lovebox, Citadel, Secret Garden Party, Festival Number 6, End Of The Road

► NOT DOGS

►WHAT? A veggie hotdog truck perfect for the meat-avoiding Morrisseys among us.

►MENU HIGHLIGHTS Vegetarian bratwursts come simply topped with beer-fried onions or with guacamole, cheese and pickled jalapenos for a Mexican-style dog.

►FIND THEM AT Citadel, V Festival, Lovebox, BBC Radio 1's Big Weekend

► MAMA'S JERK

►WHAT? Caribbean street food that all comes slathered in the stall's special secret jerk BBQ marinade.

►MENU HIGHLIGHTS Go for the jerk chicken wrap or veggie bean cake wrap – don't forget fried plantain on the side and tropical mayo if it all gets a bit too spicy.

►FIND THEM AT Lovebox, Wireless, British Summer Time

► ANNA MAE'S

►WHAT? Masters of mac'n'cheese, Anna Mae's are Southern American street-food specialists.

►MENU HIGHLIGHTS Popular offerings include the three-cheese 'Annie Mac' and 'Kanye Western' – a beef hotdog with homemade BBQ sauce.

►FIND THEM AT Lovebox, Green Man, Glastonbury, Wilderness, Secret Garden Party, Festival Number 6.

► LE BUN

►WHAT? Classy French scrán in an American diner style. If you're trying to impress someone while covered in mud and stinking of stale cider, this is the stall to visit.

►MENU HIGHLIGHTS Duck frittes buns.

►FIND THEM AT Wilderness, On Blackheath, Lovebox, Somersault

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IS FOR...

WEATHER

One thing's for sure, there'll be plenty of it. But what does the long-term forecast look like? Marieta Gan of The Weather Network tells us

It's still early

"It's still very early to have an accurate forecast for the upcoming festival season, with Glastonbury still a couple of months away and Reading And Leeds in four months' time."

It could be wet

"However, early indications for the upcoming summer suggest that June, July and August will see temperatures around or slightly below average for the time of year, with rainfall perhaps above average, particularly in the south of the UK."

But don't panic!

"While the summer as a whole may be cool and showery compared to a typical summer, there could still be plenty of dry and warm spells too, which hopefully will coincide with some of the big festivals like Glastonbury and T In The Park."



IS FOR...

XXL FESTIVALS

Sure, we can all handle a weekend in the wild, but some festivals stretch the experience beyond a week



Dance mecca The Garden Festival in Tisno, Croatia

EIGHT DAYS

► **Sziget Festival**
Budapest, Hungary,
August 10-17

One of Europe's biggest festivals is also among the longest: this year the island bash's eclectic bill will start with an opening-night show by Robbie Williams and will also feature Florence + The Machine, Foals (right) and Kasabian.

SEVEN DAYS

► **Worldwide Festival**
Sète, France, July 6-12

Spend a week in the port town in the south of France in the company of James Blake, Kate Tempest and a host of other musical mavericks from across the globe.

EIGHT DAYS

► **The Garden Festival**
Tisno, Croatia, July 1-8

This dance music festival is a marathon, not a sprint, so it's best to pace yourself. And, like a real marathon, keep drinking plenty of fluids.

EIGHT DAYS

► **SunSplash Festival**
Bodrum, Turkey,
June 21-28

An eight-day beach party in Turkey with the likes of Gilles Peterson behind the decks. We mean, really, what's not to love about that? Pure Turkish delight.



Y

IS FOR...

YURTS

...well, OK, tents. But how do you choose one? Chris Townsend, of *The Great Outdoors* mag, advises

DO

► Go big

"If you plan to camp in larger groups of five or six people, make sure you buy something with adequate sleeping and storage room, not just enough space to squeeze everyone in. You'll want something with good headroom, too."

DON'T

► Go cheap

"There will always be the temptation to go for the cheapest tent you can find, but you'll invariably get what you pay for. Instead, consider spending a bit more money. Depending on the size you're buying, anything upwards of £100 should get you a tent that will last for many years."

DO

► Say yes to extras

"You should invest in a few extras: groundsheets tend to get the most wear, so a separate groundsheet to go under the sewn-in one can help to extend your tent's life. And buy some extra pegs – these are easily lost and most tents only come with the minimum number you'll need."

Z

Find inner peace
with the Dalai
Lama, below

IS FOR...

ZEN

Where to find calm and enlightenment in the great British countryside this summer – because festivals aren't just about forcing fistfuls of MDMA up your arse and watching Disclosure

► The Dalai Lama, Glastonbury

Along with the healing fields and their incumbent hippies, you'll almost certainly (given that he self-confirmed on his website last year) have a chance to hear a talk by His Holiness (right). If you're not familiar with his work, think of him as the Michael Eavis of Tibetan Buddhism.

► Dance Of The Dead, Bestival

Here's where you can embrace your existential dread and then take it partying at the Dance Of The Dead, inspired by Mexico's annual Día de Muertos.

► Martyn Ware, Festival No 6

Make the most of its setting in picturesque Portmeirion by surrendering yourself to Martyn Ware's immersive 3D soundscapes inspired by *The Prisoner*, the cult TV show filmed at the Welsh village in the '60s.

► Rob Newman's The Brain Show, Green Man

Where the comedian (below) will be recounting his experiences of being used as a human guinea pig to test medicine in a series of brain-imaging experiments.



INmusic


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Reviews

► THE DEFINITIVE VERDICT ■ EDITED BY BEN HOMEWOOD

46

**Brandon
Flowers**

The Desired Effect



**Aided by '80s soft-rockers, a
Pet Shop Boy and a Haim, the
Killers frontman dives back into
the dry ice on solo album two**



Up The Heart', a housebreaker returns from the state pen tormented by dreams of damnation and unable to change his criminal ways. 'Lonely Town' sees a jilted loner break into his ex's house, knife in hand and reason running red. A hooker from a broken home – "born lost and dirt blonde" – sneers at the kerb-crawling traffic during 'Never Get You Right'. Throw in a terminal illness and some hard drugs and HBO would be biting Brandon's hand off to make it into a mini-series.

Ex-cons, lost angels, stalkers, the struggling, the lonely and the damned. If Brandon Flowers' 2010 solo debut 'Flamingo' celebrated home, faith and the romance of the Mojave Desert, his second, 'The Desired Effect', takes a grittier view on Fabulous Las Vegas. On 'Diggin'

But if the lyrical content reads like a full-length cinema cut of 'Hot Fuss' opener 'Jenny Was A Friend Of Mine' (which told the story of a man being questioned about a woman's murder), musically it sits at the more recent end of The Killers' oeuvre. Having lived out all of his Bono, Morrissey, Simon Le Bon and Springsteen fantasies with his main band, the 33-year-old Flowers has been using his solo albums to explore the slicker, cornier US mainstream end of the '80s. 'Flamingo' emulated Fleetwood Mac, Heart, Kate Bush and Tom Petty, and this time he mullets to the max, rolls his blazer sleeves to the elbow and throws himself even deeper into the dry ice. With the help of some authentic '80s soft-rock names such as Peter Gabriel bassist Tony Levin and Kenny Aronoff, drummer for heartland rocker John Mellencamp, he and Haim producer Ariel Rechtshaid out themselves as true Friends Of Foreigner on the plush, misty likes of 'Between Me And You',

BRINSON + BANKS

lead single 'Can't Deny My Love' and streetwalker's lament 'Never Get You Right'. How much of an '80s homage is this album? There are blasts of electro-shock synth, afrobeats and drum pads and guitar riffs

FLOWERS ARRANGING

Three of the musicians
Brandon assembled for
'The Desired Effect'

Neil Tennant

Neil and Brandon have history – they've been friends for some years and Brandon sang with Pet Shop Boys at the Brits in 2009. So when Flowers needed a spoken-word part for 'I Can Change' he texted Tennant asking him to record himself speaking the chorus line on his phone and send it on. It took roughly 20 seconds.

Danielle Haim

Last summer, Danielle made a surprise appearance with The Killers on drums in LA; now Haim's lead guitarist crops up drumming and providing backing vocals on 'Lonely Town' and 'I Can Change'.

Bruce Hornsby

Once the frontman of Bruce Hornsby And The Range and then a regular touring member of The Grateful Dead, Hornsby is a bona fide '80s legend thanks to his sizzly soft-rock classic 'The Way It Is'.

over '80s production cheese, 'The Desired Effect' is an impressive collection that even includes an uncharacteristic wobble of faith. "Everybody's sitting around waiting for the Son to come again", he croons on the swelling country of 'The Way It's Always Been', "and hoping that he's really got the power to save us from these sins". But even if the big JC lets us all down, Brandon's own Second Coming undoubtedly delivers. ■ MARK BEAUMONT

THE DETAILS

► RELEASE DATE May 18 ► LABEL Vertigo ► PRODUCER Ariel Rechtshaid, Brandon Flowers ► LENGTH 42:53 ► TRACKLISTING
► 1. Dreams Come True ► 2. Can't Deny My Love ► 3. I Can Change
► 4. Still Want You ► 5. Between Me And You ► 6. Lonely Town
► 7. Diggin' Up The Heart ► 8. Never Get You Right ► 9. Untangled Love ► 10. The Way It's Always Been ► 11. The Desired Effect
► BEST TRACK Diggin' Up The Heart

MORE ALBUMS

Sweet Billy Pilgrim Motorcade Amnesiacs

Pledgemusic



In 2009, this Aylesbury quartet scored a Mercury

nomination for genre-hopping second album 'Twice Born Men – Samadhi Sound'. They have admitted that they've since struggled to convert critical acclaim into a steady income. This partly crowdfunded fourth is unlikely to save them. Its touchstones – hints of Bruce Springsteen on 'FFwd To The Freeze Frame', Ryan Adams on 'Tyrekickers' – run the gamut of heritage rock, and despite its diversity, its experiments feel predictable. 'Just Above Midtown', which has Blood Orange's funky exuberance, is a welcome curveball, but too often 'Motorcade Amnesiacs' watches interesting ideas fly by as it cruises down the middle of the road.

■ JAZZ MONROE

5

The Fall Sub-Lingual Tablet

Cherry Red



This 31st studio album finds The Fall continuing to mine their

seam of proto-rock'n'roll influences, with 'Stout Man' a reinterpretation of The Stooges' 'Cock In My Pocket' and 'Junger Cloth' riding a riff that feels less written than unearthed. The centrepiece is a 10-minute swirl of three-note guitar and Mark E Smith's vocal inscrutability called 'Auto Chip 2014-2016' ("How bad are English musicians?" he snarls). Elsewhere, the sextet's belated embrace of new media – they launched their first official website in January – is balanced by 'Quit iPhone's consumer-tech disgruntlement and an enthusiastic paean to social-media malcontents called 'Fibre Book Troll'. Marvellous.

■ ANGUS BATEY

8



The Las Vegas singer's debut digs into Prince and '80s dance bangers, but with a fresh slant

For someone born in 1994, Shamir Bailey has managed to absorb a hell of a lot of the soulful plasticity of music made in the '80s. The Las Vegas singer's debut contains all the ingredients of vintage dance bangers: metronomic drum machines like Chicago DJ Jesse Saunders ('Head In The Clouds'); melodic synth lines punctuated by bursts of dissonance reminiscent of Frankie Knuckles' 'Baby Wants To Ride' ('Make A Scene'); androgynous vocals that borrow from gospel like Prince on 'When Doves Cry' ('Hot Mess'). For all that, this record still sounds fresh, full of warmth, spontaneity and spark. It helps, too, that 'On The Regular', 'Call It Off' and 'In For The Kill' are stone-cold pop anthems, bouncing between Azealia Banks hip-house, elastic disco and the strut of

a drunken Hercules & Love Affair. 'Darker', meanwhile, is a brooding ballad of strings and drums that shows another side to Shamir, making 'Ratchet' the perfect summer soundtrack.

■ BEN CARDEW

8



THE DETAILS

► LABEL XL ► RELEASE DATE May 18 ► PRODUCER Nick Sylvester/GODMODE ► LENGTH 38:18 ► TRACKLISTING ► 1. Vegas ► 2. Make A Scene ► 3. On The Regular ► 4. Call It Off ► 5. Hot Mess ► 6. Demon ► 7. In For The Kill ► 8. Youth ► 9. Darker ► 10. Head In The Clouds ► BEST TRACK On The Regular

Ash Kablammo!

earMUSIC



Ash's 2007 album 'Twilight Of The Innocents'

was supposed to be the trio's last, with Tim Wheeler declaring they would only release their short, sharp, riff-to-the-chest songs as singles from then on. This sixth record marks a U-turn in their release policy – but

don't expect a stylistic swerve too. 'Kablammo!' simply offers 12 more short, sharp, riff-to-the-chest songs with disposable titles such as 'Let's Ride' and 'Go! Fight! Win!'. Still, the windswept likes of 'Cocoon' confirm that Ash's puppyish charm is intact, even if the hope that they'll ever release a song that doesn't sound like a slight variation of one they've already written isn't.

■ JAMIE FULLERTON

5

Cheatahs

Murasaki EP

Wichita



Cheatahs took five years to make 2014's self-titled

debut album, but the London shoegazers are now on a creative sprint. 'Murasaki' follows February's terrific 'Sunne' EP, with the quartet finding unlikely inspiration in 11th-century Japanese poet Murasaki Shikibu. The euphoric title track ascends rapidly through whooshing guitars and vaporous synths, a vertiginous celebration of travel, love ("Lost in Tokyo, I saw her") and noise. While the nuances of 'Warm Palms' and the gloopy '3D Milk' – on which Nathan Hewitt dreamily sings "Sleep for hours" – are buried beneath fragmented studio treatments, closer 'Wash Out' ensures the record finishes on a disorientating high.

STUART HUGGETT

7

Yak

Plastic People EP

Fat Possum



So far, Yak have built their fledgling reputation on

volatile punk. On February's debut single 'Hungry Heart', Oli Burslem barked over fierce rhythms from bassist Andy Jones and drummer Elliot Rawson. Two of the three songs on this new EP follow suit, but while 'Smile' and the title track build on the London-based trio's Velvets-meets-Nick Cave menace, closer 'Distortion' is the real eye-opener. Woozy swathes of guitar glide through the intro, melting away as Burslem sings. It's dreamy but dark, reaching a crescendo that has the frontman singing "when you can't see straight 'cos you're going round the bend" with twitchy paranoia. Proof that Yak are exhilarating and vital whether chaotic or more considered.

RHIAN DALY

8

Hot Chip

Why Make Sense?

Stripping back the electro layers, the dance music anoraks get funky, free and fun for album six



Among the many lessons pop learned from Daft Punk's 'Random Access

Memories' in 2013 – Pharrell guarantees you a million-seller, *Muppets* songwriter Paul Williams makes a strange match for hip French electro – there was another compelling discovery: live drums still sound fantastic on a dance record. Daft Punk had Michael Jackson and Miles Davis collaborator Omar Hakim doing the business; Hot Chip have their rather less starry touring member Sarah Jones, but the effect doesn't waver. Powered by Jones' beats, the quintet's sixth album, 'Why Make Sense?', has an organic power that puts it a cut above their previous machine-driven efforts.



This fresh muscle shows that, 15 years into their career, Hot Chip are making an explicit attempt to capture their live energy and change their approach. Who wants to be static anyway? The group's new, natural sound is most obvious on the title track –

THE DETAILS

► **RELEASE DATE** May 18 ► **LABEL** Domino ► **PRODUCERS** Hot Chip, Mark Ralph ► **LENGTH** 44:49 ► **TRACKLISTING** ► 1. Huarache Lights ► 2. Love Is The Future ► 3. Cry For You ► 4. Started Right ► 5. White Wine And Fried Chicken ► 6. Dark Night ► 7. Easy To Get ► 8. Need You Now ► 9. So Much Further To Go ► 10. Why Make Sense?

► **BEST TRACK** Huarache Lights



a churning groove amplified by churchy organ – and on first single 'Huarache Lights'. On the latter, fat, chewy beats ground a sweet tale of singer Alexis Taylor's joy at going out DJing ("I know every single we play tonight will make the people just bathe in the light"), an unexpectedly exciting sample of Philadelphia disco group First Choice's 1977 dancefloor classic 'Let No Man Put Asunder', and a lot of larking about with a vocal-distorting talkbox.

They use the talkbox – a funk favourite of the 1970s – when chipping out old-school R&B matched by disco strings on the fluid 'Love Is The Future', which features De La Soul's Posdnuos rapping over an itchy, hyperactive rhythm. The lope of 'White Wine And Fried Chicken', meanwhile, may have Marvin Gaye's children making fantasy royalties calculations. Hot Chip indulge Clavinet – think Stevie Wonder's 'Superstition' – on the clipped, funky 'Started Right', before rediscovering their modern touch for the garage house of 'Need You Now', a song apparently inspired by the threat of terrorism that laments "a world that's just gone wrong" over sparse electro beats and bleeps.

It's a rare paranoid moment on a record that mostly finds Hot Chip carefree, revelling in the absence of layers of electronic adornment.

Stripped back to basics and muttering against the machines, they've never come on so

strong. MATTHEW HORTON

8

Summer Camp

Bad Love Moshi Moshi



Following the release of their score for 2014 teen

movie documentary *Beyond Clueless*, 'Bad Love' finds husband-and-wife duo Summer Camp (aka multi-instrumentalist Jeremy Warmsley and singer Elizabeth Sankey) playing a balancing game that doesn't quite manage to level out. The saccharine vocals and bassy distortion

on the bedroom-eyed 'Beautiful' are deliberately jarring, and don't necessarily equate to a pleasurable listen. 'So Happy So Sad' is full of dense, claustrophobic synths and 'Keep Up's' frantic pace is exhausting. When the pair aren't trying to be smart – as on the summery acoustic jangle of 'Just Fine' or the '80s new-wave bounce of 'Catch Me' – this fourth album works, but enforced darkness just doesn't suit them.

LISA WRIGHT

6

Becoming Real

Pure Apparition

Transgressive



In what's become the modern equivalent of telling sir

that the dog has eaten your homework, Becoming Real (aka Toby Ridler) says his debut is late because he lost the files for a near-completed album back in 2013. For the love of creating music that sounds fresh and well edited, starting from scratch is no

bad thing, and these 12 short tracks mark a giant leap forwards for the Glasgow-based producer. Flashes of electronic R&B ('SPS 7', 'Only Real') meet with bleepy techno ('DARE', 'Rude'), dubbed-out soundscapes ('Comets Pull', 'Tibetan Moves') and ambient house ('Kick Flip', 'Pure Apparition'). It makes for a quality, crafted listen caught somewhere between Jon Hopkins, Rustie and How To Dress Well, but it's lacking bite.

PHIL HEBBLETHWAITE

7

Reviews

Sheer Mag

II EP Katorga Works



If Sheer Mag's debut seven-inch didn't alert you to their

noisy talent when it was released last year, then this brilliant follow-up certainly will. Jammed with the same Thin Lizzy licks and squealing choruses, 'II' is even better than its predecessor, and sounds like

it was recorded in a mucky skip with rusty-stringed guitars and blown out microphones. Set to drums smothered in fuzz and singer Christina Halladay's melodic vocals, lead guitarist Kyle Seely's spidery fretwork on opener 'Fan The Flames' is awesome. The mellower 'Travelin On' allows the Philadelphia quintet's poppier side to shine, before 'Button Up's chunky riffing close a record that rubber-stamps Sheer Mag's huge promise.

■ BEN HOMEWOOD

9

The KVB Mirror Being Invada



In their brief existence, London duo The KVB have won some influential friends. Anton Newcombe of Brian Jonestown Massacre recorded and released 2014's 'Out Of Body' EP, while this – a cassette collection of "unreleased instrumentals and analogue experiments" – is now out on Geoff 'Portishead' Barrow's Invada. It's easy

to see why Barrow might be into it: the likes of 'Dys-Appearance' cleave to the same eerie synthesizer template that's powered his recent *Ex Machina* soundtrack. There are also germs of songs, such as 'Fields', a Suicide-like mope of clappy drum machine and doomy muttering. But really it's all about atmosphere, the sort that gives you fantasies about being a protagonist in some dystopian sci-fi movie when you've just popped out to buy milk. ■ LOUIS PATTISON

7

Torres Sprinter Partisan

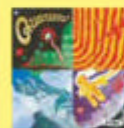


The uncompromising emotional honesty of Mackenzie Scott's 2013 debut announced the arrival of a major talent, and her follow-up is every bit as impressive. It's an open book of candid thoughts and uncomfortable home truths like 'Son, You Are No Island' (a song you wouldn't want to be on the receiving end of) or startling eight-minute closer 'The Exchange', which plays out like a generational saga. "If you do not know the darkness/Then you're the one who fears the most", she sings on 'New Skin', a tone of familiarity in her voice that you'd normally reserve for an old friend. This record finds Scott facing down her own darkness with poise and poetry.

■ BARRY NICOLSON

8

King Gizzard & The Lizard Wizard Quarters! Heavenly



'Quarters!', King Gizzard & The Lizard Wizard's sixth album, consists of four 10-minute songs and has cartoonish drawings of crocodiles and dragons adorning its sleeve. Fans of last year's brilliant 'I'm In Your Mind Fuzz' album will be enticed by how odd that sounds, but musically 'Quarters!' misfires. The Australian psych seven-piece remain immensely tight, but scattershot riffs and breakneck drums have been replaced by slow guitar noodling and muted basslines. Wandering in on a jazzy riff, opener 'The River' ensures a drowsy start. 'Infinite Rise' and 'God Is In The Rhythm' are better, powered by harder-hitting drums and the fuzzy funk of Unknown Mortal Orchestra. But things unravel again on loose, crawling finale 'Lonely Steel Sheet Flyer', which ends this surprisingly sedate record with a whimper.

■ BEN HOMEWOOD

6

Du Blonde Welcome Back To Milk

Beth Jeans Houghton re-emerges with a cock-rock image and songs that snarl like the Arctics and The Runaways



NME
ALBUM
OF THE WEEK

Reinvention is the 2015 thing to do: we've got Mumford & Sons kitting out at World Of Leather and pawning their banjos, The Vaccines jacking up on candy pop at Dave Fridmann's studio and Laura Marling channelling Dire Straits. None of them, however, have attempted quite such a complete and total rebirth as Beth Jeans Houghton, whose reincarnation as Du Blonde spins the Newcastle-born, LA-based singer-songwriter's look, sound and attitude on its head.

The 25-year-old's debut album, 2012's 'Yours Truly, Cellophane Nose', cast her as a pop star spawned from the imagination of Phoebe from *Friends*, an unabashed uber-kook with a band named The Hooves Of Destiny and a penchant for mind-bending pixie pop. To see Beth in her new incarnation, you'd assume Du Blonde killed and ate the old Houghton in a forest, and took the face to wear as a mask. That's her on the cover under Cali-punk lettering, rocking a bleach-blonde merkin



and looking like the hell spawn of Dave Lee Roth. Even the song titles come straight from the cock-rock handbook: 'Raw Honey', 'After The Show', 'If You're Legal', 'Mr Hyde'.

The music reflects this new image, bringing in snarling, Runaways-style vocals, raging guitars and thunderous drums, a stall set out neatly by the riotous, Arctic Monkeys-like opening track 'Black Flag' and 'Chips To Go', which follows it with funk-rock flavour and the screaming chorus line "If love is just a word for us, then why did I goddam let it hold me down?"

Clearly, Houghton's found fertile ground in connecting with her inner rage monster, but there's a different side to the album too: anthemic glam rock reminiscent of Bowie's work with guitarist Mick Ronson. It's there in spectral power ballad 'Hunter' and 'Five Years'-like 'After The Show' and, towards the end of the album, in 'Mind Is On My Mind', which Future Islands' Samuel T Herring guests on, his vocal booming in like a communiqué from deep space. There's a clear kinship: Future Islands have managed to sneak something out-there into the mainstream. Thanks to this strong set, Du Blonde should do the same. ■ DAN STUBBS

9

THE DETAILS

► **RELEASE DATE** May 18 ► **LABEL** Mute ► **PRODUCER** Jim Sclavunos, Youth
► **LENGTH** 35:45 ► **TRACKLISTING** ►1. Black Flag ►2. Chips To Go ►3. Raw Honey
►4. After The Show ►5. If You're Legal ►6. Hunter ►7. Hard To Please ►8. Young
Entertainment ►9. Mr Hyde ►10. Four In The Morning ►11. Mind Is On My Mind
(feat. Samuel T Herring) ►12. Isn't It Wild ► **BEST TRACK** Black Flag



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FILM

Lambert & Stamp

An illuminating doc nails the tale of The Who's charismatic managers

It's ironic that Kit Lambert and Chris Stamp, the subjects of this hugely entertaining documentary, got into the music business because they thought they'd find the subject matter to realise their real dream of making a movie. Lambert and Stamp started managing The Who in 1964, and here, first-time director James D Cooper tells the tale of the odd couple who guided the band to fame and fortune.

Cooper's friend Chris Stamp, the younger brother of actor Terence and the son of a Thames tugboat captain, was raised in the working-class environs of London's East End. He met the more erudite Kit Lambert, whose father was a classical composer, when they were both assistants at Shepperton Studios in the early '60s. Despite their different backgrounds, the pair bonded over a love of French New Wave cinema, and trawled the pubs and clubs of London looking for suitable silver-screen subjects. After finding The High Numbers (as The Who were known then), Lambert and Stamp were able to get around their lack of money, connections and prior experience by acting on their instincts and passions and showing a commendable disdain for conventional thinking. As The Who's guitarist and main songwriter Pete Townshend puts it: "I loved them immediately. They changed my life forever." He also says that his only problem with Lambert's homosexuality (still illegal back then) was that he never made a move on Townshend himself.

The film is at its best when concentrating on the turbulent and tumultuous '60s. With the help of some



► **DIRECTOR** James D Cooper
► **RELEASE DATE** May 15

incredible archive footage – witness Townshend hesitantly unveiling 1967 track 'Glittering Girl' on acoustic guitar for his bosses – and extensive interviews with Townshend and The Who's only other surviving member, Roger Daltrey, we get an insider's view of Lambert and Stamp's role in their rise: placing the band at the heart of the mod movement, settling internal scraps and, in Lambert's case, pushing his dad's collection of classical LPs on Townshend in order for him to learn about structure and melody. The pair also formed a record label, Track, and had success with the likes of Jimi Hendrix and The Crazy World Of Arthur Brown.

Cooper's movie understandably gets darker when, after the release of 1969 rock opera 'Tommy', money, drug addictions and disputes over who should make the group's relationship with their bosses. Stamp's drug and alcohol addictions saw him end up in rehab, while Lambert's descent into heroin abuse started a downward spiral that led to his death from a cerebral haemorrhage sustained after falling down the stairs in his mother's house in 1981, aged 45. Towards the documentary's close, Stamp mentions letting go of his teenage dream of making a film, his acceptance all the more moving as he, too, passed away in 2012. It's heartening to know, however, that Lambert and Stamp have finally got what they always wanted.

CINEMA

Danny Collins

In 2010, English folk singer Steve Tilston found a letter John Lennon had sent him 40 years earlier, reassuring the young Tilston that future wealth and fame needn't affect his songwriting. The story inspired this directorial debut from Dan Fogelman, starring Al Pacino as Danny Collins, a fictional rock star who realises his career is "bullshit" after receiving a decades-old letter from the Beatles legend. Though riddled with clichés (Collins likes drink, drugs and younger women), there are memorable performances from Pacino, Annette Bening as his lover and Christopher Plummer as his sardonic manager. The soundtrack features nine Lennon songs and a score co-composed by Ryan Adams, who supplies the lovely ballad 'Still, Was'. ■ NICK LEVINE

6

CINEMA

Wyrwood: Road Of The Dead

In February, *Wyrwood: Road Of The Dead* was the most illegally downloaded film in the world. It's clear why. This hot-blooded debut from Australian brothers Kiah and Tristan Roache-Turner is grimly enjoyable. The pair conceived their crowd-funded flick – starring little-known Aussie actors – as a mix of *Dawn Of The Dead* and *Mad Max*, but its pace, intensity and shock value give it its own niche. The plot – mechanic Barry (Jay Gallagher) tears around Australia to save his sister Brooke (Bianca Bradey) from the zombies and the experiments of a mad doctor – is patchy, but the action makes up for it. Two hundred litres of fake blood were used during filming, and from the opening scene – screeching zombies destroying a tattoo parlour – *Wyrwood...* is a white-knuckle nightmare. ■ BEN HOMEWOOD

8

CINEMA

Man Up

This comedy from *The Inbetweeners* Movie director Ben Palmer revolves around a blind date gone wrong. When Jack (Simon Pegg) mistakes Nancy (*It's Complicated* actress Lake Bell) for a woman named Jessica he's meant to be meeting, they hit it off immediately, but will Nancy's deception kill the chemistry once Jack

discovers who she really is? The plot doesn't require much guesswork, but the first film script from former *My Family* writer Tess Morris provides enough laughs to atone for its cheesier scenes, including a dancefloor set-piece involving Duran Duran's 'The Reflex'. Entertaining performances from Pegg and the American Bell, who adopts a convincing English accent, help make *Man Up* a surprise delight.

■ NICK LEVINE

7

CINEMA

The Goob

Writer-director Guy Myhill's first feature is a tale from similar margins as Clio Barnard's *The Selfish Giant* or Ken Loach's *Kes*. *Goob* – played with ease by newcomer Liam Walpole – is a school-leaver who works at his mum's rundown transport cafe and pumpkin farm. This hardscrabble patch has somehow become the fiefdom of stock-car

driver and irredeemable bully Gene (an excellent, if one-note, turn by Sean Harris, channelling the malevolence of his 2006 TV portrayal of Moors murderer Ian Brady), who scowls, smoulders, simmers and makes everyone's life miserable. The bleakly beautiful Norfolk backdrops subvert cliché, but the characters' obeisance to tinpot tyrant Gene leaves an inexplicable hole at the heart of the film.

■ ANGUS BATEY

6

Live At Leeds



Various Venues, Leeds

Saturday, May 2

52



Slaves' Isaac Holman in the crowd at the band's Brudenell show

53

**Slaves incite mayhem and
The Cribs return triumphant
at the Yorkshire one-dayer**

PHOTOS BY DANNY PAYNE

Kicking off this year's UK festival season with a predictable dose of dreary weather, Live At Leeds – the north's multi-venue answer to Austin's SXSW – prioritises function over fluff. The premise is simple: 19 easily accessible venues crammed to bursting with bands, who play non-stop for a day. Today's bill is crammed with enough enticing new talent to make those who worship at the six-string altar feel more than a little hot under the collar. ➔

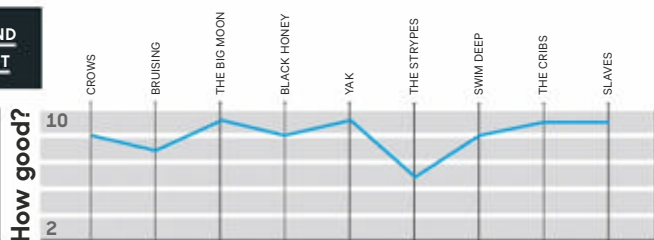


London quartet **Crows** kick things off at the Faversham, pushing a claustrophobic strain of punk. Frontman James Cox is a wired combination of Ian Curtis antsiness and Henry Rollins intensity, and recent single 'Crawling' rumbles on a bassline that suggests Crows' hearts are as dark as the birds they're named after. At Leeds Beckett, **Bruising's** fuzz pop easily endears (especially on the soaring guitar lines of 'Can't You Feel'), but it's female four-piece **The Big Moon** who trounce all opposition. Updating The Libertines' ramshackle romance, the hook on current single 'Sucker' is undeniable and there's little in their 30-minute set – from the stop-start rattle of 'Eureka Moment' to the sweeter 'The Road' – that couldn't be a single. A playful cover of Madonna's 'Beautiful Stranger' caps a brilliant show.

Brighton quartet **Black Honey** treat the Brudenell to a bewitching combination of howling energy and film noir seduction, all vocal purrs and reverb. London trio **Yak**, meanwhile, are rapidly becoming one of the most gloriously unpredictable live acts around. From the Doors rumble of 'Smile' to the Led Zeppelin noise of a thunderous untitled new song, their dirty riffs are doused in psychedelic organs and impromptu jams. Frontman Oli

YAK'S FRONTMAN STALKS AROUND TRYING TO KISS HIS BANMATES

BAND
LIST



Yak's Ollie Burslem and (inset) The Big Moon

Burslem looks a genuine star: like a young, maniacal Mick Jagger, he stalks around trying to kiss his bandmates, scale the wall and, as the set culminates, tosses aside bits of drummer Elliot Rawson's kit as he continues playing.

The evening lulls with **The Strypes**, who've stopped trying to be The Beatles and are now trying to be The Last Shadow Puppets instead. Playing to a largely over-40s crowd, frontman Ross Farrelly – wearing shades and hip-thrusting for all he's worth – comes on like a *Stars In Their Eyes* tribute to Miles Kane, while the band's new material is full of the kind of big, obvious riffs you could find on any given Friday night down your local. **Swim Deep** state a case for 'most improved', rave-indebted new tracks 'One Great Song And I Could Change The World' and 'To My Brother' surging ahead of the wide-eyed whimsy of their 2013 debut

'Where The Heaven Are We'. But the night belongs to hometown heroes **The Cries**, who prompt a queue that stretches down the road from Leeds Town Hall (the grandiose setting of the recent *Question Time* election leaders debate). The Jarmans segue from

BAND OF THE WEEKEND?



Abbi, 21, Maidstone
"It was the first time I've seen Slaves and they were really fun, you can just jump around. One of them was half-naked, which was funny, and they jumped in the crowd, which was cool."



Jonathan, 17, Bradford
"I saw Yak and thought they were mental. They touch that dark bit of your head that comes out at night. You wanna run away because you're drawn to it but you have to stay."



Toby, 16, Leeds
"Eagulls were great. They're really intense and I thought the whole set was just really exciting."

a cover of Queen's legendary chart-topper 'Bohemian Rhapsody' into the lo-fi bounce of their debut single 'Another Number', and their set perfectly encapsulates a 12-year career of going their own merry way. The pop hooks of 'Finally Free' and 'An Ivory Hand' from this year's acclaimed 'For All My Sisters' show their relentless ideas factory is still going strong.

It's left to **Slaves** to close the evening in a haze of smoke and sweat. Topless, red-faced and pounding the living hell out of his drums, singer Isaac Holman

looks like a rampaging nutter, but between call-to-arms anthems 'Do Something' and 'The Hunter' and the band's witty storytelling, there's much more to him and guitarist Laurie Vincent than just young, dumb fun. Like most of the bands on today's bill, from the stalwarts to those barely out of the starting blocks, they're carving out their own exciting niche in an indie landscape that's in rude health. ■ LISA WRIGHT

Flying Lotus

O2 Academy Brixton,
London

Friday, May 1

Before he steps inside his spectacular box of tricks – a giant cube projected with 3D video visuals that range from tie dye to manga – Flying Lotus surveys the crowd. “Y’all look kinda drunk,” he surmises of the audience, who’ve just clambered down from a chaotic stage invasion during support artist Jay Electronica’s rowdy set. The LA producer and rapper’s response is to blast the punters with a bass sound on ‘Dead Man’s Tetris’ so powerful it borders on the fringes of legality. Later, when he drops Kendrick Lamar’s verse from ‘You’re Dead!’ offcut ‘Eyes Above’, the cheers are as big as if the Compton MC had turned up in person, but they still have nothing on the venue-shuddering beats.

LEONIE COOPER

9

Purity Ring

The Button Factory,
Dublin

Monday, May 4

Montreal electropop duo Purity Ring are surrounded by a forest of light that pulsates to the music. Singer Megan James wanders through the branches. Instrumentalist Corin Roddick stands in an enclosure, illuminating the lantern-like pods wired to his synthesizer. Despite this self-contained demeanour, the pair’s hour-long set sounds meatier than their recorded output. ‘Belispeak’ underlines Roddick’s commandingly murky low-end, and even when repetitive moments like ‘Heartsigh’ slacken the pace, the measured crescendos and kaleidoscopic visuals are enough to keep the crowd entranced.

CIAN TRAYNOR

7

Super Furry Animals

University Great Hall, Cardiff

Friday, May 1



**NME
GIG
OF THE WEEK**

SETLIST

- (A Touch) Sensitive
- (Drawing) Rings Around The World
- Do Or Die
- God! Show Me Magic
- Bad Behaviour
- Demons
- Northern Lites
- Ymaelodi âr Ymylon
- Y Gwnyeb Iau
- Nythod Cacwn
- Pan Ddaw'r Wawr
- Bleed Forever
- Run! Christian, Run!
- Hello Sunshine
- Hometown Unicorn
- Zoom!
- Arnofio/Glo In The Dark
- Ice Hockey Hair
- Gwreiddiau Dwfn/Mawrth Oer Ar Y Blaned Neifion
- Slow Life
- Golden Retriever
- Receptacle For The Respectable
- Fire In My Heart
- Mountain People
- The Man Don't Give A Fuck

Cardiff pop legends play marathon comeback show – and, yes, they brought the yetis too

For a band with such a forward-thinking outlook as Super Furry Animals, it seemed initially surprising that the *main reason behind their first tour in six years is to mark a couple of anniversaries.

However, the dates – which begin officially tonight inside a sweaty university hall in the city the Furies regard as home – were booked to plug the 15th-anniversary reissue of their Welsh-language album ‘Mwng’, as well as marking 20 years since their first EP. It’s an appropriate time to remind people of the synapse-shredding brilliance of one of the UK’s best ever groups, especially as there remains a nagging feeling that their excellence was taken somewhat for granted. As singer Gruff Rhys told *NME* recently, “It’s nice to remind people what we’ve done” – namely recording a peerless back catalogue and developing a reputation for performing astonishing gigs. Their followers’ giddy excitement can be sensed the minute you walk in the venue. Many fans are here with their kids, most of

whom will have never witnessed the Furies’ magical mayhem.

The band, dressed like mad scientists in white boiler suits, tear through a dizzying blur of frantic psych pop (a demented ‘Do Or Die’, the naughty glam of ‘Bad Behaviour’) early on. The crowd show they share their idols’ commendable attention to detail by singing along to intricate harmonies, crunchy guitar riffs and even the brass parts that pleasingly embellish the dreamy ‘Demons’ and ‘Northern Lites’ crazy calypso – their back-to-back airings kicking off a mellow mid-section dominated by a batch of songs off ‘Mwng’.

In an act of typical perversity, SFA didn’t tour that record in their native country at the time, so bar the odd occasion (such as at their Bethesda show in 2003), the Welsh public hadn’t had much of a chance to hear this material played live. In particular the strained beauty of ‘Gwreiddiau Dwfn/Mawrth Oer Ar YBlaned Neifon’ is a reminder that, for all the inventiveness behind the band’s approach to live performance, it’s the more simple moments that are arguably the most rewarding. Having said that, no-one’s complaining about the touches that embellish the rest of the evening – these boys don’t skimp on the lights and lasers. When set closer (a frenzied ‘The Man Don’t Give A Fuck’) sees the reappearance of the headbanging yetis, which have famously graced SFA’s stage in bygone times, we’re reminded just how much we’ve missed them all. See them this summer, because SFA’s past still sounds like the future.

ALAN WOODHOUSE

Gruff Rhys Q&A

That looked like fun...
“Yeah, it was great! The audience was unbelievable.”

How does it feel to be back playing the old songs again?
“It’s a celebration – it’s in that spirit. And we’re the sort of band that the

more we play, the better we’ll get. The gigs will get stranger and more amazing.”

Will you change the set around? There were some big singles missing.
“Definitely. It causes some debate in the band about how much, though!”



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10

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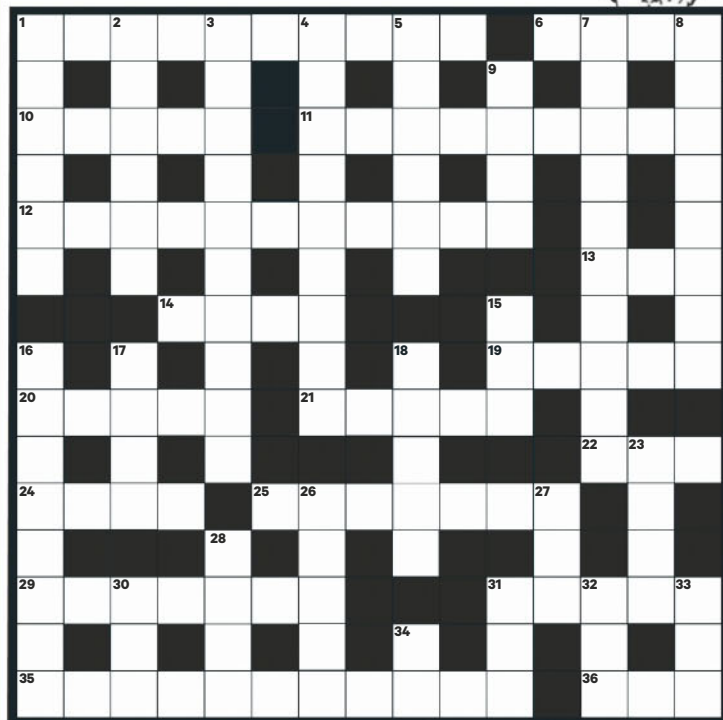
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CLUES ACROSS

1 From 'Winter Winds' in 2009 to now a milder wind, perhaps (6-4)
6+29A Florence + The Machine all at sea, then get their big break (4-2-6)
10 Lawson with a performance in Broadstairs (5)
11 This Fall Out Boy number ensures they'll be remembered throughout time (9)
12 "I've been roaming around always looking down at all I see", 2008 (3-8)
13+28D The Cure do a remix of The Cure (3-4)
14 Single by the Yeah Yeah Yeahs that had nothing to it (4)
19 US group who gave us 'All Or Nothing' getting nothing from an urban area (1-4)
20 "I'm not saying it's your fault, although you could have done more", 2006 (5)
21+31A The Vaccines with an eye for the same person as Bobby Darin once had (5-5)

22 "We can be together in the nuclear _____, and we will dance in the poison rain", from Suede's 'Stay Together' (3)
24 Graeme _____, veteran drummer with The Moody Blues has gone as far as he can go (4)
25 (See 9 down)
29 (See 6 across)
31 (See 21 across)
35 Alt-rockers who got 'Dizzy' with comedian Vic Reeves (6-5)
36 Single by the Yeah Yeah Yeahs that had a point to it (3)

CLUES DOWN

1 This is one down? Cameo look at it the other way (4-2)
2 Having made lots of money from a Velvet Underground album and Primal Scream single (6)
3 See one daft turn by old prog-rock band (4-2-4)
4 Venue for two Oasis gigs in April 1996 (5-4)
5 Someone skilled in hunting down a Green Day album (6)
7 Cash so very hard to sort

from Gossip (5-4)
8 A song by The Coral you'll not want to keep hold of (4-2-2)
9+25A This country looks bleak from Gallows (4-7)
15+18D A Traveling Wilbury along with Bob Dylan, George Harrison, Roy Orbison and Jeff Lynne (3-5)
16 Deep down it's a drag listening to Drenge (8)
17 As a rule, he's there for Years & Years (4)
18 (See 15 down)
23 He performed a 'Trick' last year (4)
26 Alan Donohoe's band that went out with a 'Klang' (5)
27 One change needed to complete '_____ Wave' album by Silver Sun (3)
28 (See 13 across)
30 A bit of Cocteau Twins with a bit of Arcade Fire (3)
31 (See 34 down)
32 Someone of great eminence associated with the Jungle Brothers (1-1-1)
33 "I'll sing it one last time for you", 2004 (3)
34+31D Mancunians who proclaimed 'Go Tell Fire To The Mountain' (2-3)

MAY 2 ANSWERS

ACROSS 1 Riverman, 5 Cocoon, 10+11A Marks To Prove It, 12+6D Maid Of Orleans, 13+31A Hard Rain, 14 Loser, 17 Exodus, 18 Brian Eno, 20 Mystery Jets, 22 Bis, 23 Palace, 30+33D In One Ear, 32 Edie, 34 Mann, 35 Dek, 36 Hey Now **DOWN** 1 Remember Me, 2 Vertigo, 4+28D Astral Weeks, 7+15D One Step Beyond, 8+26A Notorious BIG, 9 Spider Webb, 16 Muse, 19 Hyde, 21 Sea, 24 Lenny, 25 Credo, 27+23A Giant Peach, 29+3D Tim Rose

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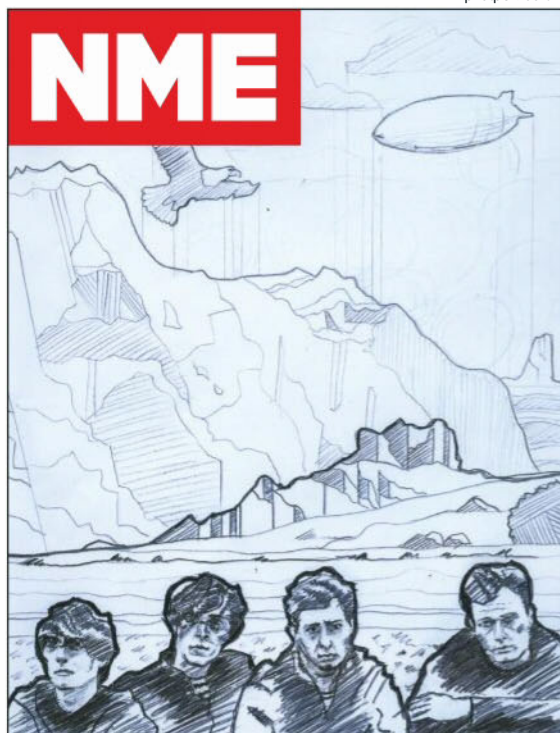
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