

IS AWAY ...

I DON'T WANT THIS week's NME to peak too early, but the Editor's away and here's a little snippet from our cover feature with Sam Smith: "I'm a gay man who came out when I was 10 years old,

and there's nothing in my life that I'm prouder of. I want to be a spokesperson. I sell records in countries where gay men get killed and that's a big thing for me, because maybe one person in that country will pick up my album, realise it's by a gay artist, and it might change their opinion."

And that's before he gets into Bond (favourites: Connery and Moore), losing weight and how he was "born with a little bit of sadness in me". It's even more fun than that video of a boozed-up Smith rocking up to McDonald's in Rio De Janeiro at 5am, only to find it was closed.

Elsewhere in the issue you will find: Australia's coolest songwriter Courtney Barnett drinking whiskey with America's most intense songwriter Jack White; an essential dissection of the maddest plotlines the Hollyoaks writers have conjured in their 20 years on TV; an analysis of synaesthesia - the neurological phenomenon Lorde revealed she had last week - from medicine's Dr Jules Montague and exclusive snaps from the new Green Day documentary Heart Like A Hand Grenade. Enjoy.

TOM HOWARD Deputy Editor @tomahoward

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He's world famous and his Bond theme is the biggest ever, but he wants more

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Australia's coolest songwriter on drinking with Jack White and becoming a role model

A regal collection of the soap's craziest storylines, to help celebrate its anniversary

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AGENDA

WHAT EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT THIS WEEK



Heart Like A Hand Grenade documents the recording of

ELEVEN YEARS AGO, GREEN Day made the most important album of their career – and it just so happens someone was filming them every step of the way.

'American Idiot'

That someone was director John Roecker, who painstakingly documented the process behind the recording of 2004's game-changing 'American Idiot'.

The footage was then squirrelled away for years, but the subsequent film *Heart Like* A Hand Grenade offers fresh insight into the world of Billie Joe Armstrong, Mike Dirnt and Tre Cool, and goes behind the scenes as the band set about making their ambitious seventh album.

In preparation for the film, feast your eyes on this selection of exclusive pictures.

Heart Like A Hand Grenade is showing at selected cinemas for one day only on November 11, and will be available to buy digitally and on DVD from Nov 13



She sees sounds

Last week Lorde revealed she has synaesthesia a condition that can make you see sounds as colours. But what, exactly, is it? We asked an expert.

DURING AN IMPROMPTU Q&A ON her Tumblr, teenage pop superstar Lorde revealed that when she first wrote her 2013 super-smash 'Tennis Court', it was so boringly tan it made her feel sick. Then they worked out a pre-chorus and it turned green, which was loads better. Dr Jules Montague, a consultant neurologist at the Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust, tells us more



Svnaesthesia sounds pretty intense. What, exactly, is it? Dr Jules: "It is a brainprocessing

condition. I think of it in terms of your senses being tangled or joined-up, it's kind of a sensory cross-wiring, and because of that you get your senses mixed up."

Trippy. Can you give an example?

Dr Jules: "Vision and taste can get confused. You could see, maybe, the number three. And if you have synaesthesia you don't just see it, you also taste it. It might taste of coconut, egg yolk or Brussels sprouts - I kid you not. Another type is mirror-touch synaesthesia, and that's where you get the same sensation that someone else is experiencing. If they're whacked in the face, you feel pain in your own face, or if someone is stabbed, you feel the knife plunge in."

Why do you think so many musicians have it?

Dr Jules: "It's very contentious whether or not it gives people more talent, but I personally think it does. Studies have shown there is crosswiring in the brain - so if you do scans on synaesthetes and stimulate the auditory parts of their brains, other parts of their brains light up as well. Where you and I just hear a note, some musical synaesthetes can taste it, smell it and see it. They've got this multimodal experience, so when they

Have you got svnaesthesia?

The five most common forms are:

Graphemecolour synaesthesia You see colours numbers.

Chromesthesia

You see colours in the sound of, for example, music playing, doors opening or even cars honking.

Lexicalgustatory synaesthesia When you hear words, you taste them. Subject of the documentary Derek Tastes Of Earwax.

Spatial sequence synaesthesia You visualise numerical sequences, like dates and times, as points in space.

linguistic personification You see distinct personalities in ordered sequences like days and months.

If you think you're a synaesthete, don't worry! As Dr Jules says, "It's more of a difference than a disorder."

choose the choruses and bridges, they're based on all of those connections we can't see. It's like a creative passport that perhaps other people don't have."

Sounds good. Where can I get some?

Dr Jules: "They say that hallucinogenics simulate the condition. If you take LSD you do get this multimodal sensation, I'm guessing, where all your senses are stimulated to a degree that you might never have experienced before. So you

could argue that synaesthetes are in a permanent hallucinogenic state."

So I can't learn it then?

Dr Jules: "There's quite a bit of research that has tried to instigate it. We know of a gene that's potentially connected with synaesthesia, but there are identical twins where only one of the twins

have it. The genetic contribution is probably around 40 per cent, but we know there must be other factors as

Lorde has visions

of colours when

she hears music

Is it ever a problem?

Dr Jules: "The disadvantage if you're a musician could be that it's very overwhelming. If you're in a group or a choir or whatever and everyone is singing together, I would imagine that you're not just hearing one colour but there's a whole rainbow of colours coming into your head and competing - it's basically just sensory overload."

well as just the genes."

Who else has it? And how it manifests in their minds



MARINA AND THE DIAMONDS 'I Am Not A

Robot' [Marina's 2010 single] is very light purple, with blues.'



WILLIAMS

in key because the same colour





AGENDA



Where is Luke Skywalker?

The hero of the first three *Star War*s films has been missing from every *The Force Awaken*s promo so far

THE WEB IS ABUZZ WITH FAN theories about what's happened to Luke Skywalker. He was noticably absent from the Force Awakens trailer that dropped this Monday. Where is he? What's he doing? Here are five of the internet's weirdest suggestions.

Daisy Ridley in the latest Force Awakens trailer HE'S LOST ON A DESERT PLANET

Origin: birthmoviesdeath.com
Gist: Luke Skywalker's severed
hand and lightsaber – lost to his
baddie daddy Darth Vader in
1980's The Empire Strikes Back –
have tumbled into the path of The
Force Awakens' main characters,
Rey (Daisy Ridley) and Finn (John
Boyega). Supposedly, after finding
these bits of Luke, the pair then go
on a quest, along with Han Solo
and Chewbacca, to track down
the rest of him.

Likelihood: 2/5

HE'S GONE OVER TO THE DARK SIDE
Origin: starwarsnewsnet.com
Gist: As anyone who's seen a
Batman film or two will know,
good guys shouldn't kill their
nemeses, like Luke did at the end
of Return Of The Jedi. Without
the evil Emperor to fight against,
Luke faces an existential crisis,
becomes mad and evil, and
according to this theory, kills his
old pal Han Solo.

Likelihood: 1/5

HE'S LIVING IN SELF-IMPOSED EXILE

Origin: makingstarwars.net Gist: Luke's done something apocalyptic and unforgivable with The Force. Not wanting to make the same mistakes as his dad, he's hidden away from society while his sanity slowly seeps away. It's up to The Force Awakens' new heroes (Rey and Finn) and villains (The Knights of Ren) to reawaken his interest in galactic affairs, for good or ill.

Likelihood: 4/5

HE'S PROTECTING AN ANCIENT SITH TOMB

Origin: makingstarwars.net Gist: The Force Awakens' new Darth Vader, Kylo Ren, is going around collecting artefacts with his group The Knights of Ren. Luke's old lightsaber (the one he lost in Episode V) was once Vader's, and supposedly has the power to open an evil-housing Sith tomb.

Likelihood: 3/5

HE'S BEING
HELD IN CAPTIVITY
BY EVIL FOLKS

Origin: starwarsfans.wikia.com
Gist: Some bad guys are planning
to use Luke's Jedi powers to
activate a 'planet-based weapon'
that has the power to destroy
entire star systems – making him
a more potent version of the Death
Stars he went to such lengths to
destroy. That's how irony plays out
in Star Wars: with the deaths of
billions of life forms.

Likelihood: 2/5

For more Star Wars go to NME.com





Lena Dunham

The *Girls* creator has partnered with HBO to make *Max*, a comedy pilot about a '60s mag writer.



Adele

The singer made her return in an ad break during *The X Factor*, with a snippet of a new song.



Deerhunter

Bradford Cox's band played one song for 30 minutes in a show dogged by sound issues.



Jay Z

The rapper headed to court on charges of copyright infringement over 1999's 'Big Pimpin'.

















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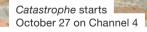
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It is absolutely essential that you watch the second series of *Catastrophe*

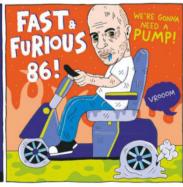


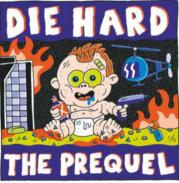
Sharon Horgan

people is fine at a certain point in your life. That's no life as you get older, though. I think dating and marriage are even-stevens when it comes to comedy, but if you're gonna write about children and marriage, you can't write about it as people who have children and are married. It can't be knowing and nude-nudge wink-wink. You have to make jokes for everyone: they have to see themselves in what you're talking about. It's less of a romantic view of a relationship this time around. There was a lot of reality in the first series, but series two is much more: 'This is how it is.' There's a good chance people will watch it and see their own lives reflected back at them. I hope they feel we're offering some kind of empathy or kinship and they get a couple of answers from it. Mainly we want people to laugh, but we want to move them a little bit as well."











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IN CINEMAS EVERYWHERE NOW

AGENDA

Read all about it

Russell Howard's take on the biggest news stories of 2015

AS HOST OF RUSSELL HOWARD'S Good News, it's the comedian's job to look at the news and take the p*ss out of it. The series has just returned to BBC Two, but in its absence from our screens he missed out on the chance to comment on Greece going broke, Fifa getting busted, Jeremy Corbyn rising to power and David Cameron's piggate. We took it upon ourselves to rectify that.

The refugee crisis

The story: So far this year approximately 600,000 refugees have fled Syria and Afghanistan, many seeking asylum in the EU. Russell says: "It's such a weighty and serious issue that you can't really treat it light-heartedly. That said, The Daily Star took an odd angle on this; it ran an article basically saying that refugees were bringing fleas with big d*cks over to Britain with them through the Channel Tunnel. It was so weird."





When: September The story: The allegation that the PM placed a 'private part of his anatomy' into a dead pig's mouth.

Russell says: "It was basically a thing he did when he was a kid and there's no real evidence that he did it. The first thing it made me think of was that I've seen my mate Alan put his moves on a sleeping dog and I certainly wouldn't vote for him to run the country."





Labour's election disaster and Jeremy Corbyn

When: September

The story: Labour crashed and burned in May's General Election. Socialist Jeremy Corbyn was elected to lead after Ed Miliband stepped down.

Russell says: "There was a sleeping inevitability to Labour losing the election. That's what is so refreshing about Jeremy Corbyn, he's a different voice. He's the first left-wing politician who is comfortable talking about things he's passionate about. He will be great for our show because he represents an alternative point of view."

Junior doctors protest

When: October

The story: Junior docs have protested about pay cuts and proposed changes to their

contracts.

Russell says: "Junior doctors are upset with the Government and every story about the NHS in the right-wing press is how much doctors get paid. The truth is, the NHS is an amazing institution and we should never let it die. Secretary of State for Health Jeremy Hunt wrote a book [Direct Democracy] on how to dismantle the NHS and now he's in charge of it!"



AGENDA



Fifa scandal

When: Mav

The story: The body in charge of world football was accused of corruption - seven executives were arrested.

Russell says: "I'm a massive football fan and it's no surprise to me that Fifa is corrupt. It's been known for years, but all I care about is my team, Liverpool. If Liverpool were corrupt but could buy Messi and Ronaldo I'd be happy with that. What Sepp Blatter taught me is that all I want is for Liverpool to win the league."

Russell Howard's Good News is on BBC Two, Thursdays at 10pm





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Living with lupus

HAD TO GET NAKED ON Wednesday. It was for a rap music video pastiche in a room filled with hot (in here) young dancers. I was revealed completely nude for the cameras and everyone said I was brave. Urgh. I've transitioned into 'brave' territory now. So that's happened. I know I haven't got the body of a supermodel or anything but I wasn't aware I'd reached a point where getting undressed was heroic. Total commendations, by the way, to any man who has been able to hold an erection under the circumstances of my nudity. They are the examples of true courage; staying in bed with me when they could have been out climbing trees, rescuing actual pussies instead.

Selena Gomez has been keeping her chin up lately, after revealing her struggle with lupus. According to the pop star, what the press thought to be a stint in rehab was actually a time when she became so ill she had to undergo chemotherapy. Justin Bieber, whose music is a cancer in my own life, helped Selena through that rough time and told her she was "the most beautiful girl in the world, no matter what". Aw. Selena has been

on a promotional tour for her new album, 'Revival', which was released on October 9. October is also Lupus Awareness Month.

Lupus is an auto-immune disease. Like Aids, but without the celebrity campaigners, and not contagious. It's where specific antibodies send a message to attack your own healthy organs and cells as though they were invaders. So if you had a genetic mutation that allowed a rightwing government to run your bloodstream, and your heart and lungs were innocent Syrian refugees, your immune system might mistake them for terrorists. Ridiculous, right? There'd be a battle over how many cells to let in, and which ones had links to ISIS. That fight would cause

inflammation, making you weak and sick. It could give you mouth ulcers, blood in your urine, rashes, joint pain, hair loss, pulmonary haemorrhage and lots more general f**kery to deal with. More than 90 per cent of lupus sufferers are women, and most of those are

> Hispanic/Latino. It's the Donald Trump of diseases. And there's no cure.

Or is there? I know a lot about systemic lupus erythematosus because I have

"Stress and junk food put me in hospital"

will literally



Diagnosed with lupus:

Selena Gomez

He always

Reasons to fall in love with Tinie Tempah

texts me back and has excellent emoji game.

Tinie by name, enormous in Canada

He has more UK Number Ones than any other rap artist and he's just 26 years old. When I was 26, all I had was one useless baby.

Tinie conceived his stage name during class (gangster for a 12-year-old) by searching 'angry' in a thesaurus.

He's really famous in Canada, which is hard. Nothing is famous in Canada besides poutine, hockey, apologising and Tinie Tempah.

5 He's a gentleman, He's a and all about family. He let his cousin manage him. I won't even allow my own parents backstage.

it too. I was diagnosed through the NHS when I first moved to England in 2008 following months of serious illness. I had a huge rash on my face that looked like a burn, around the time that Amy Winehouse was photographed with scabs on her cheek, either from rumoured impetigo or from putting out a cigar on it. Either way, I looked just as troubled. The drugs I was prescribed made me

feel even worse.

My mother sent me a book by a lady who'd obliterated her symptoms through meditation and eating whole, raw foods. It was a pain in the ass to follow, but eventually it started working. I wish lupus on everyone,

because it taught me to relax. My life is so much better with lupus because I know that stress and too much junk food will literally put me in hospital. I got a kidney infection watching The Notebook. I got high off a can of Pringles. So now I just chill. I still see a medical doctor for check-ups every six months, and he tells me that diet has nothing to do with my miraculous recovery. Then he tells me I'm brave. And I put my clothes back on.



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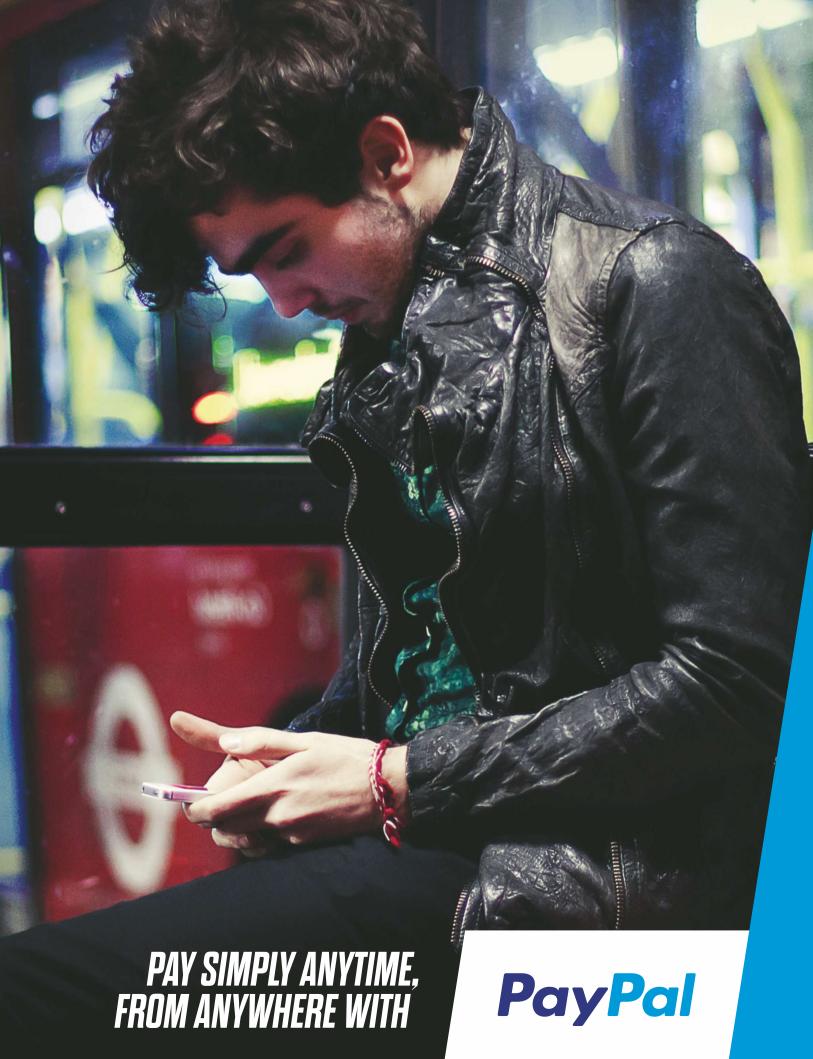
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LIST VOICE LIFE VOICE AND ADDRESS OF THE PORTION OF

BECAUSE EVERYONE LOVES A LIST

10 people Kanye West has compared himself to



1 Mahatma Gandhi

Kanye says: "Everything I'm not made me everything I am. In my humble opinion that's a prophetic statement. Gandhi would have said something like that." (Rolling Stone, 2007)



2 Steve Jobs

Kanye says: "I think what Kanye West is going to mean is something similar to what Steve Jobs means... I honestly feel that because Steve has passed, you know, it's like when Biggie passed and Jay Z was allowed to become Jay Z." (New York Times, 2013)



3 Ludwig van Beethoven

Kanye says: "I am flawed as a human being, but my music is perfect... You could go back to Beethoven and sh*t, but as far as this lifetime, though, this is all you got." (onstage in Atlantic City, 2012)



4 Michael Jackson

Kanye says: "I would not be Kanye West if it wasn't for Michael Jackson. But I was able to ascend to massive heights. And I've got to a point that Michael Jackson did not break down. I have reached the glass ceiling." (Radio 1, 2013)



5 Will Ferrell in *Elf*

Kanye says: "A lot of times I feel like Will Ferrell in the movie *Elf*. You know, this big guy that wants to [join in] and his hands are a little bit too big..." (Vanity Fair, 2015)



6 Adolf Hitler

Kanye says: "I walk through the hotel and I walk down the street and people look at me like I'm f***ing insane, like I'm Hitler. One day the light will shine through and one day people will understand everything I ever did." (onstage at The Big Chill Festival, 2011)



7 William Shakespeare

Kanye says: "I am Warhol! I am the number one most impactful artist of our generation. I am Shakespeare in the flesh. Walt Disney, Nike, Google." (Shade 45 Sirius XM, 2013)



8 Barack Obama

Kanye says: "No one is looking at what [Barack Obama] is wearing. Michelle Obama cannot Instagram a pic like what my girl Instagrammed the other day." (On air with Ryan Seacrest, 2013)



9 Vanellope von Schweetz

Kanye says: "Have y'all ever seen Wreck-It Ralph? You remember how that girl in there – the people that was racing? She was the glitch. You're telling me they don't look at me like the motherf***ing glitch?" (Radio 1, 2013)



10 God

Kanye says: "When someone comes along and says something like, 'I am a God,' everybody says, 'Who does he think he is?' I just told you who I thought I was.
A God. I just told you. That's who I think I am." (Radio 1, 2013)

Go to NME.com for loads more lists

Last W33K IN NUMBERS



£19k

The amount One Direction earned every day last year. Each. Even Louis, and he's basically just the spare one.



36

Years passed since
Patti Smith had a bag of
sentimentally-important
possessions stolen,
which were returned
last week



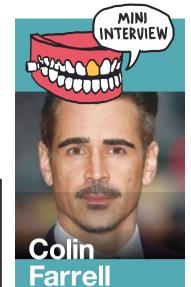
\$150m

The amount that flop
Peter Pan prequel Pan
is projected to lose the
Warner Bros movie studio.



6

The number of *Die Hard* films that will exist, now that a prequel has been announced.



Star of this year's weirdest comedy, The Lobster

What attracted you to this film set in a near-future where single people have 45 days to find a partner or are turned into animals? "Before I'd even read the script, I was attracted to the seen *Dogtooth*, one of [Greek director] Yorgos Lanthimos Then I read the script and it was so unusual. There was such an awkwardness and lack of convention. It was funny and moving and like nothing I'd ever read."

When you were shooting the film, did Lanthimos give you any idea what it might end up looking like? "When I read the script I couldn't imagine how this world could be rendered in I saw the film for the first time. inside out, I was still shocked by the audacity of it."

Will you ever make a weirder film?

this film is as unusual to me as a piece of work by David Lynch or Charlie Kaufman. Anything more unusual than this would run the risk of being unusual for the sake of it. So no, I can't imagine doing anything weirder.'

The Lobster is in cinemas now



I guess I must have been 14 - it was our first ever tour. I've got a photo of us sat outside looking properly pop punk with blue hair and wearing Sick Of It All T-shirts. It's still got that same feeling I remember from the DIY punk scene in Brighton. Everyone's so nice there. It's so welcoming and warm."



"We played there on our greatest tour"

our first big Ordinary Boys tour, with Kaiser Chiefs and The Cribs supporting us. That was the greatest tour of all time - it was so much fun. We played there last year and saw that there's still a

sticker from our first single, 'Maybe

Preston: "We went there on

Someday', stuck on the wall."

Your week in Jack The Milk @ **Rocks** shows

The Milk

The Boileroom. Guildford -October 31 WHO:

London-based four-piece specialising in R&B sounds. WHY: To get in touch with your soulful side.

Flesh@ The Night & Day Café, Manchester -October 31 WHO: Local

boys who play grunge by way of Britpop. WHY: To support your local scene.

Trampolene @ The Black Heart, London - November 3 WHO: Leatherand denim-clad indie upstarts. WHY: Because rock'n'roll will never die.

"It's all about little punk gigs"

Preston fronts The Ordinary Boys at

Coventry's Godiva

Festival, July 2014

Preston: "We're going to be reliving our youth this month and going back to places we did on our first tour, when it was the most fun. All that stuff with me being on TV [Preston was on Celebrity Big Brother in 2006] propelled us into venues that didn't suit us. This is a chance for us to go back and

remind everyone that when we play little punk gigs we are really good."

Like the sound of Jack Rocks? Visit NME.com/ iackrocks to see content from some of the best Jack Rocks gigs this year.



DAN DENNISON





Dive another day

The Seamaster Aqua Terra is water-resistant to 150-metres, but the price is eye-watering. £3,500 omegawatches.com



From Russia with gloves

Keep your trigger fingers toasty with these natty deerskin numbers. £250 mulberry.com



Pocket Bond

If you can't afford a full-sized Aston Martin DB10, get this 1:18 scale Hot Wheels model instead. £139.99 zavvi.com



Case closed

Make your travels a bit more suave with some specialedition luggage. £180-£1,560 globe-trotter.com



Pop gun

This limited-edition champagne comes in a box designed to look like a massive gun grip. £125 champagnedirect.co.uk



Ring leader

Pretend you're the head of the evil Spectre organisation with this replica ring. £119.99 007.com



You know his name

Bond On Bond is the perfect 007 book, in which Roger Moore wittily bangs on about 50 years of JB. £19.99 hmv.com



Specs-tre

Tom Ford is the man who suits up Bond these days. He also supplies these cool shades. £239 johnlewis.com



Boy racer

Recreate the hair-raising car chases of the new film with this Scalextric set.

£129.99 scalextric.com



A view to a kill

With a 23MP camera and 4k video-tech, the Sony Xperia Z5 is good enough for any spy work. £9 (with contract) vodafone.co.uk



Shaken, not stirred

You've definitely arrived when there's a bottle of Belvedere vodka with your number on it! £36 tesco.com



For your nose only

What does 007 smell like precisely? Vetiver and bergamot, apparently. £25 theperfumeshop.com



For the record

Stop getting Bond wrong with this 'Best Of ...' CD, a chronological run-down of 007's themes. £19.99 hmv.com



Woman with the golden gun

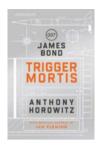
Guns are bad, obviously. Guns on jewellery are fine. This one is both stylish and non-lethal. £66.70 revolveclothing.com

AGENDA



Spy games

There's no Scotty dog in the Bond edition of Monopoly, but you do get a submarine car. £32.99 amazon.co.uk



Under cover

Trigger Mortis reunites Bond with Pussy Galore in the latest 007 novel by Anthony Horowitz. £13.99 waterstones.com



Bond's top tune

Sam Smith's best Bassey impression for Spectre slots into the Bond canon with panache. £2.99 hmv.com



Scent of a woman

The newly launched 007 For Women means ladies, too, can smell like flirting and espionage. £20 superdrug.com



Cappuccino royale

Raise the stakes when drinking your morning cuppa with this gun-handled mug. £10 amazon.co.uk



In the spirit

Bond doesn't shake his Martinis in any old rubbish. Splash out on Alessi's barware design classic. £77 selfridges.com



00Heaven

Gear up for Spectre by watching the previous 23 Bond movies on Blu-ray. £69.99 hmv.com



Dress to kill

Be ready for any villainpacked soirée with this classic little black dress. £39 topshop.com



Spy cam

This Leica B&W camera costs nearly £6,000, but who said being a super spy was cheap? £5,750 jessops.com



Live and let fly

Spy on nocturnal evil-doers (or possibly your neighbours) with the Parrot Airborne Night Drone. £99.99 firebox.com



Bet on Bond

Next time your mates are round for poker night, go all Casino Royale with these Cartamundi chips.

£39.99 amazon.co.uk



To die for

Bond's whisky of choice is Macallan, so raise a glass of this 10-year-old single malt. £37.95 thewhiskyexchange.com



The writing's on the wall

Relive Bond's greatest moments through this collection of classic film posters.

From £125 atthemovies.co.uk



Coming up trumps

The safest way to beat a Bond baddie is via these 007 Top Trumps cards. £4.68 amazon.co.uk

YOUR TOWN. YOUR MUSIC. YOUR STYLE

What's ON YORK Head Phones?

Southampton

"It's a really vibrant city - there's lots to do for students" Gilly Marchini > 18, student Listening to: **NEWTON FAULKNER** I Need Something "I needed something to chill to and he's really relaxing." Wearing: Dunnes top, Primark ieans. Dr Martens shoes. Best thing about Southampton: "It's a really vibrant city - there's lots to do for students. I'm off to a brass band meeting now, then going for ice cream

at Sprinkles!"

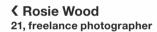
George Wardley > 21. student and bassist in Bel Esprit

Listening to: **EZRA FURMAN** Tip Of A Match

"He's got very catchy hooks and riffs."

Wearing: All clothes River Island, Topman trainers. Best thing about Southampton:

"The football team."



Listening to:

DISCLOSURE FEAT. LION BABE Hourglass

"I love their new album, and I've got tickets to see them at Alexandra Palace in December!"

Wearing: Whistles shirt, & Other Stories jumper, Topshop trousers, Ray Ban sunglasses.

Best thing about Southampton: "My family live here and it's a great getaway from London."

Stefan Adamson >

25, musician Listening to:

ERIC ROBERSON At The Same Time

"All of my songs are on shuffle, but I really like his music."

Wearing: Burton jacket, Matalan hoodie, T-shirt stolen from his brother, H&M joggers, Reebok trainers. Best thing about Southampton: "It's quiet. It's got a good nightlife, but it's not busy all the time."

> For the full gallery head to NME.com





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OU CAN TELL A LOT about a person from their favourite Bond. Are you a Connery classicist or a Lazenby hipster? Do you go for the arched-eyebrow

absurdity of Moore, or Dalton's grittier, more grounded entries? Until recently, Sam Smith was a Daniel Craig modernist: "He was my favourite initially, because I'm 23 years old. I hadn't seen all the old movies, and I loved how modern his take on Bond was," he says over the phone from Raleigh, North Carolina, where he's playing the penultimate date of his current US tour. "But when I went back and watched them all, I realised that it's Connery and Moore who I love the most. I love how classy and clean-cut they are.

I think I'd like the next Bond to be more of a return to that."

As a pop star who extols the virtues of doing things the old-fashioned way -"standing onstage in a suit and singing", as he puts it - Smith's preference for the elegant, urbane 007s of the 1960s, '70s and '80s isn't surprising; indeed, the sweeping, John Barryesque strings and dramatic delivery of 'Writing's On The Wall', the theme song he's written for Spectre, feel like a deliberate throwback to that era. Not for nothing was Smith always the bookies' favourite to land the gig.

"In my first meeting with Sam [Mendes, director] and Barbara [Broccoli, producer], my pitch was that I wanted to create something genuinely timeless and classy," he explains of the track, which made history this month by being the first Bond theme to go to Number One. "Sam was talking about how a lot of Bond songs are love songs, and how love is an underlying theme in all the films. I write love songs - that's all I do! - and I felt that was something which could play to my strengths. So that's what I set out to create, an epic love song."

Becoming the first British male solo artist in 50 years to front a Bond theme caps a remarkable couple of years for Smith, in which he's gone from guest-spots with Disclosure and Naughty Boy to being a pop phenomenon in his

own right. 'In The Lonely Hour' has sold 8.5m copies worldwide (2m in the US alone), spawning four Number One singles,

four Grammys and three Brit awards. Bond, however, "has been a whole different monster. Before my album came out, I wasn't bothered by what anybody else thought of it. This was my album and I was so proud of it, and no bad reviews were ever going to get to me, but with a Bond theme, you're being compared to some of the greatest songs in the history of music." Smith is a sensitive sort who doesn't read his own reviews -"I genuinely believe, especially in England, that people are just waiting to give me bad ones," he says - but while critical consensus has been divided, "The general response to the song has been amazing,

> and to get to Number One was just incredible. You're never going to please everyone and not everyone's going to love it, but I'm so happy with it. I feel like I've done a good job."

Smith intended

'Writing's On The Wall' to

through in the movie: "You

see him bleed, you see him

battered and bruised, and

I wanted the track to have

that kind of vulnerability,"

he says. Vulnerability is

his forte, after all: Smith

is the guy who could sell

reflect what Bond goes

the mournful tone of

Sam Smith in numbers

8.5m

Lonely Hour' sold worldwide to date

69

Weeks that it spent in the UK Top 10 (the longest for a debut album ever)

Countries in which 'In The Lonely Hour' hit Number One on iTunes

Bond themes that didn't go to Number One, before 'Writing's On The Wall' nailed it

Grammy Awards

Brit Awards

UK Number Ones

1.3bn Number of views on his Vevo channel

"If I wasn't so selfconscious I'd be a bit of a pr*ck"

single person's lap" - impulses that were perhaps too evident on the album itself.

Yet Smith is comfortable being typecast as Mr Misery: "I don't have any problem with being the guy whose album people put on when they're feeling

sad," he says. "In three years' time, that might completely change, but right now, I don't mind being the go-to CD when you're having a glass of wine and feeling a bit sorry for yourself. I like that my music can be this kind of crutch for people."

Melancholy, he continues, is second nature to him. "I've had an amazing life, but I think I was born with a little bit of sadness in me. I've always been attracted to those things, whether it's sad movies, sad music... when you're sad, you feel everything in a greater way than you do when you're happy. I'm a vulnerable, sensitive person. I overthink everything. I'm insanely self-conscious about my body, about my music, about everything in my life, and that self-consciousness is what's keeping my feet on the ground at the moment. If I didn't have it, I'd become a bit of a pr*ck. I'm thankful for my sadness."

loneliness. Smith grew up in the tiny Cambridgeshire village of Great Chishill, where he had an "amazing" childhood with a loving, supportive (and well-off) family, "But I was out in the middle of nowhere, where there were no

A lot of that sadness stemmed from





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I THINK THAT EVEN THE WAY IN WHICH

A MAN SHAVES IN THE MORNING

IS WELL WORTH RECORDING.

Jan Fleming

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"I want being gay to be treated as the new normal"

other gay people, and not a lot of people with the same kind of mind that I had." He came out when he was 10 years old - a fact he made public shortly before the release of 'In The Lonely Hour' - but even now, he says he's only had one real relationship, with the American model Jonathan Zeizel, which ended earlier this year. (Smith has "commitment issues" he's trying to work out.)

Then of course there's the not-quite relationship that spawned 'In The Lonely Hour'. During his fourth and final acceptance speech at the Grammys in February, Smith thanked "the man who this record is about", a casual remark of huge significance, considering the occasion. "I read an article saying I was one of the first openly gay men to do that on TV," he says proudly. "I thought it was an impactful thing to do: to treat being gay as the new normal, on live TV in front of millions and millions of people across America. I'm trying to make it a non-issue, even though I'm fully aware that it is one."

His determination to do that extends to his lyrics, all of which are written to be gender-neutral; even his cover of Whitney Houston's 'How Will I Know' was given the same treatment. Last year, Smith said he wasn't trying to be a spokesperson for the gay community, though he got "angry and upset" when those words were misconstrued as a reluctance to talk publicly about the issues facing them.

"I'm a gay man who came out when I was 10 years old, and there's nothing in my life that I'm prouder of," he says. "What I was trying to say was that I didn't want the album to appeal to just one community, I wanted it to appeal to all of them. I wanted anyone, gay or straight, to be able to relate to me singing about men, like I was able to relate to Stevie Wonder or John Legend singing about girls. I want to be a spokesperson. I want to be a figure in the gay community, who speaks for gay men. I sell records in countries where gay men get killed and that's a big thing for me, because maybe one person in that country will pick up my album, realise it's by a gay artist, and it might change their opinion."

To that end, he says, "I have a few projects in the works that are about trying to attack problems happening in certain countries, but I'm very aware that I'm young, and I don't know everything. I want to do more research, to travel to certain places so that I know what I'm talking about, and then start raising money so I can be a spokesperson in the way that I want to be."

Since Daniel Craig would "rather slash [his] wrists" than return to the Bond franchise and Spectre looks like being the send-off for his hyper-masculine iteration of the character, does Smith think the world is ready for a black Bond, or a gay Bond, or any sort of Bond who isn't a straight white male?

"A black Bond would be incredible," he replies. "I'm not sure if the world is ready for a gay Bond, but I'm ready for it!"

Smith plans to take some time off when his tour ends in December, so the follow-up to 'In The Lonely Hour' isn't due any time soon, but it's slowly taking shape - he has the album's title and visual concepts in place, as well as three new songs slated for inclusion. "The most beautiful thing about what I'm doing now is that I'm writing when I'm feeling," he explains. "When I wrote 'In The Lonely Hour', I was put in the studio for a yearand-a-half with this mission to write a record, but with this album, things are happening to me, and the day after they end or begin, I'm writing

every emotion is raw." One of the new songs - possibly 'Scars', which deals with the subject of his parents' divorce - he describes as "the saddest thing I've ever written". Another is about the pressure he feels to conform to an industry standard of what pop stars, male and female, should look like.

music. Every feeling and

Smith has struggled with negative body image since childhood, and even though he's shed almost 50lb in weight over the past year, "I still feel pressured to look a certain way. For women, the pressure in this industry is horrendous and it's got to stop. But it's the same for guys, even though they won't speak about it. I want to be a voice for that: iust because I've lost weight doesn't mean that I'm happy and content with my body. Because of the media, and because of what I feel I should look like, it's always going to be a battle in my head."

He'll later call that song "the happiest I've ever written", before immediately qualifying the statement: "Well, at least it's not too sad." Either way, he says, "My first album was called 'In The Lonely Hour', so people shouldn't be expecting anything too joyous from the next one. When I write sad songs, I feel like I'm sewing up a scar in me, and the outcome always feels so much better than when I write happy ones."

It might seem as if everyone in the world knows Sam Smith's name, but he remains the goldenvoiced lonely man of pop. It's a role that fits him like a well-tailored NME tuxedo.

International man of mystery

How Smith tried to disguise the fact he'd done the Bond theme

AUGUST 8, 2014 The Sun claims Smith is in talks to record the next Bond theme.

AUGUST 13, 2014 Smith tells NME: "I have no idea what that was about and I know as much as you do."

DECEMBER 4, 2014 Bookies make Smith favourite to do the theme.

JULY 3, 2015 Smith tells Capital FM: "I heard Ellie Goulding was going to do it."

JULY 6, 2015 More blanket denial: "It's the funniest thing just to sit back and watch everyone confirming something I know nothing about,' he tells Absolute Radio.

JULY 28, 2015 Ellie Goulding Instagrams a picture of herself at Abbey Road, where every Bond theme has been recorded. Is she a decoy?

SEPTEMBER 3, 2015 Another denial from Smith, this time to BBC's Jo Whiley.

SEPTEMBER 8, 2015 Smith is revealed as the man behind the new Bond theme. Our national security is safe with this one.





OURTNEY BARNETT IS DESCRIBING her recent visit to ex-White Stripe Jack White's studio in Nashville in great detail. "There was heaps of wacky sh*t in there," says the 27year-old. "Cool vintage amps. Pedals. A nice old piano... it was full of real nerdy stuff. And Jack kept offering us food. But we were too excited to eat."

The invitation from White to follow in the footsteps of Neil Young, Loretta Lynn and Willie Nelson and record at his Third Man Records HQ came in June, three months after the release of Barnett's debut album, 'Sometimes I Sit And Think, And Sometimes I Just Sit'.

A short time later she was recording the 'Blue Series' 7-inch. Pressed to vinyl and released by Third Man last week, it features a bold sequel to one of her own tracks, 'Boxing Day Blues - Revisited', and a hazy, heartfelt cover of 'Shivers' by Aussie songwriter Rowland S Howard.

"I only decided what songs to do that morning 'cos I always put sh*t like that off," says Barnett. "But it was amazing! We had whiskey when we finished."

Courtney Barnett's angsty cool is a refreshing dose of reality in 2015. Through her lowslung slacker-pop, she champions life's banalities and celebrates boredom in a world of 24/7 notifications. It's a bittersweet philosophy, and hordes of fans have climbed on board.

"Put me on a pedestal, I'll only disappoint you," she sang on this year's single 'Pedestrian At Best'. Jack White's not the only person ignoring her advice. She admits to having received some pretty intense fanmail. "People tell me stories," she says. "Heaps of really deep, emotional, personal ones." Following the release of 'Sometimes I Sit And Think...', she slayed US TV audiences with her appearance on Jimmy Fallon's Tonight Show, played Glastonbury's Pyramid Stage, busked in London for her 'Nobody Really Cares...' video, covered Patti Smith's 'Horses' onstage in Melbourne and supported Blur on their American Tour. It's all happening hard and fast.

When we speak she's crashed out at her kitchen table in Melbourne. It's 10.45pm and she's only just having dinner ("miso soup and veggies"). How is she handling the heavy schedule?

"The biggest change is that I've got a lot more frequentflyer points! It's funny, by avoiding a nine-to-five lifestyle, I've created a 24/7 one instead. But it's cool. I used to hate working jobs that meant nothing and were just about earning enough to live. I wanted to create my own job where I could do what I wanted. That's kinda what I did."

Over the past few weeks she's been at home, working out where to go next. To help suss it all out she's been

Famous fans

JAMIE T "She keeps her songs simple, but when you dig a bit deeper there's a lot o Jamie T, citing Barnett as a major influence on his recent album 'Carry On

The Grudge'

KIM DEAL

The Breeders with Barnett in a joint interview for the Talkhouse Music podcast. 'My last drink was in 2002,'

Barnett replied.

The ex-White Stripe invited Barnett to Nashville. produced her new single 'Shivers' and released it on Deal told her. his label. "Damn 'That sounds did she deliver,"



he posted on his site.



Courtney's cuts

Barnett's small but perfectly formed discography



The Double EP: A Sea Of Split Peas 2014

★★★☆

What we said: "Slouching out of a Melbourne bedsit, Barnett's two EPs, 'How To Carve A Carrot Into A Rose' and 2012's 'I've Got A Friend Called Emily Ferris', establish her as a prodigiously talented songwriter."



Sometimes I Sit And Think, And Sometimes I Just Sit 2015

★★★☆

What we said: "On the follow-up to 'A Sea Of Split Peas', she's still trying to figure it all out, spooling streamof-consciousness thoughts about all of life's mundanities. She might not want a pedestal, but there aren't many songwriters who'd make better use of it."

"I wanted to create my own job where I could do what I wanted. That's kinda what I did"

sorting through her journals and "collecting all the good bits of songs and writing new ones". About what, she won't say. The political situation in Australia, perhaps? (At the end of September, the country switched their Prime Minister in a snap party ballot.) "Oh come on! Our government is the most confused f***ing school of idiots trying to run a country. It's terrifying! Stuff like marriage equality is still seen as a crazy idea to some people, you know? I don't have faith in any of those people to do the right thing."

So Barnett's taking matters into her own hands. Of everything coming her way, it's an upcoming talk at a rock camp for girls that she's most excited about. "You give 'em guitars and teach 'em how to write a song," she says. What will she tell them? "I guess, just... write what you know."

For all the whisky quaffing in Nashville, Barnett really is most content when, well, sitting and thinking. "When I was a teenager I was nerdy and goody-goody. I read a lot. Did all my homework. Went to the library every day after school. Played a lot of guitar. I had like, friends. But I preferred to hang out by myself."

Years later she's still on the outside looking in, more anxious about "what to order at a restaurant" than making her second album. "I'm just happy to not stress about that side of stuff," she shrugs. "There's always something else going on. People don't care that much."

It's this kind of perspective that draws you to Courtney Barnett. Unlike the rock gods of yore, she offers up an escapism that is actually attainable. For proof, just ask her where she sees herself in 20 years' time. "Oh, I don't f***ing know!" she replies, pausing for thought. "Hopefully I'll have grey hair and be living somewhere with a cat."

The maddest plotlines from 20 years of Hollyoaks

Channel 4's long-running soap has never let plausibility get in the way of entertaining stories. **Gary Ryan** recalls the best



1997 Jambo's plastic cow goes missing

Jambo was the kind of guy who drove a three-wheeled orange car with mouse ears and a tail, would climb through windows instead of opening doors and had a 'pet' plastic cow named Margaret, which tragically went missing.

What happened next: Hollyoaks creator Phil Redmond later admitted this plot development covered up the fact that the cow had been stolen from the set. Will Mellor, who played Jambo, left in 1998 to become an actor.

kidnapped Lucy, whisked her away to a nautical test centre and tried to drown her in a water tank. As her friends Lewis, Tony and Ruth attempted to rescue her, he tortured them by altering the depth and temperature of the water, like a crap underwater Saw spin-off.

an escape hatch and drifted ashore. This wouldn't be the first time some Hollyoaks actors found themselves washed up.

Bombhead dines with his dead mum

When Bombhead's mother died. he suffered a mental breakdown and decided to live with her decomposing corpse, even cooking her the odd meal now and then. His only comfort was talking to the ghost of father figure, Gordon 'Mr C' Cunningham.

What happened next: The festering remains were discovered by Stacey, who accidentally sat on them during an illicit tryst with Lee. Not the sexiest ménage à trois.

2008

Newt's imaginary friend

Bad boy Eli cajoled eyeliner-wearing emo kid Newt into trying to kill his foster father.

What happened next: In a highlypraised storyline it was revealed that Eli was a figment of Newt's imagination and a product of his schizophrenia.



2009

Carmel finds Jesus in a potato...

Amazingly, this storyline about Carmel McQueen discovering the face of Jesus in a spud dragged on for more than one episode. What happened next: Fans

complained it was unbelievable. As if any of the Hollyoaks cast eat carbs.



...then sings with Bonnie Tyler - in a dream

In the post-watershed spin-off Hollyoaks Later, Carmel was thrown into prison after being mistaken for a prostitute. Cue a feverish. Inception-like dream sequence in which she duetted with growling Welsh singer Bonnie Tyler on 'Holding Out For A Hero'.

What happened next:

Carmel woke up.



Lydia's parachute sabotage backfires

How best to resolve a lesbian love triangle? Have a character cut her rival's parachute cord before a skydive, as Lydia did to Zoe in Hollyoaks Later.

What happened next: The cords got mixed up, and Lydia's objectof-desire Sarah accidentally plunged to oblivion instead.

Serial Silas' Catwoman calamity

Throughout 2011, serial killer Silas posed a greater threat to the female cast of Hollyoaks than dodgy spray tans.

What happened next:

His killing spree came to an end on Halloween, when he accidentally killed his own daughter due to a Catwoman costume mix-up.

Trainee nun seduces priest

Haunted by visions of her dead husband, Carmel trained to become a nun - but ended up falling for a good-looking priest.

What happened next:

She helped him raise money for an African orphanage by organising a naked calendar. Her heart, like her skin, was gold.

2012

Wedding crashers

Hollyoaks rule: every wedding must end in tragedy. In this annual cast clear-out, a minibus bulldozed into the doubleceremony of Tony, Cindy, Doug and Ste.

What happened next: The minibus exploded in a fireball, claiming the lives of four characters.

2013 Sienna's pretend pregnancv

Sienna faked being up the duff in order to ward off love rival Nancy. What happened next: Sienna's lie was exposed when her ripped top revealed the prosthetic baby bump. She then went on the run, taking her nephew Charlie and Nancy's baby son Oscar with her. Fact: you have more chance of being kidnapped in Hollyoaks

2014

The accidental incest incident

than you do in Colombia.

Sienna and Dodger had no idea they were actually twins when they conceived Nico, who in turn was brought up with no idea that her uncle is also her dad.

What happened next: The whole thing was revealed in a legendary on-screen sh*tstorm.



Hollyoaks' latest absurd storyline concerns a mysterious killer wearing a blue surgical glove who's been seen administering lethal injections around Dee Valley Hospital. Well,

it's one way to reduce NHS waiting lists. What happens next: The identity of the assailant will be revealed during the soap's 20th anniversary shows this week.





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MUSIC, FILM, TV AND MORE - THIS WEEK'S ESSENTIAL NEW RELEASES

Still tracks And when to drop them Best for Still tracks

Best for serenading vour beau

RAURY

Demo 1: The Sea Atlanta boy Raury Alexander Tullis cares not for the confines of genre. Previous singles 'Devil's Whisper' and 'Forbidden Knowledge' merged hip-hop, folk and more. 'Demo 1: The Sea' adds an acoustic string to his bow.

Best for inducing hvpnosis

BEACH HOUSE Majorette

One of three tracks available from the Baltimore duo's second album this year, and its hazy vocals and lilting melody are very much 'classic Beach House'. Key word: woozy.

Best for starting circle pits METZ

Eraser

The Toronto punks' first new tune since this year's 'II' is little more than a bratty chant of its title over brutal guitar squalls and relentless drum pounds. Direct and uncompromising.



Best for easing hangovers LIZZO

Humanize

Built around a sparkling, honey-smooth vocal and deep bass beat, rapper Lizzo reinvents herself as a seductive soul siren. An unexpected curveball.

Best for a pub conga

DJANGO DJANGO

Hold The Line

Falsetto harmonies, carnival drumbeats and plinky plonky keyboards combine into something a bit like Hot Chip throwing a knees-up down your local.

Best for pre-drinks

ALL TVVINS Darkest Ocean

"Do yourself a f***ing favour/ Throw yourself a rope", sing the Irish duo over synths that we'll dub 'ravey Bastille'.

shaking your tail feather

Cellphone (Unknown Mortal Orchestra Rework) UMO man Ruban Nielson reworks a track by brother Kody's band Silicon, adding fluttering falsetto vocals to hip-shuddering basslines.

Best for reliving your childhood

JESSIE WARE A Dream Is A Wish Your **Heart Makes**

Jessie delivers fairytale sweetness on this cover of the Cinderella classic, recorded as part of a Disney celebration CD.



Saturday night Best for getting sentimental

CHANCE THE RAPPER Family Matters

Chance's adaptation of Kanye's 2004 track 'Family Business' strips the original back into something soft and intimate.

Best for

Warpaint bassist Jenny Lee Lindberg's solo album is a heady blend of Joy Division-ey repetition and misty vocals.

go to NME.com





Wonderfu

Californian kook Joanna Newsom's new album is a marvel of country, pop and lyrical oddity

JOANNA NEWSOM



HARPS FOLK POP

SINCE HER enduringly lovely third album, 2010's 'Have One On Me', Joanna Newsom has turned her oddball cult into an

empire. Between fancy fashion shoots, starring as Sortilège, the earthy narrator of noir flick *Inherent Vice* and marrying comedian Andy Samberg, the harpist – treasured for her knotty compositions, wicked wordplay and quizzical, pipsqueak vocals – has emerged as indie's least-





BON IVER,
'Bon Iver' (2011)
On his second
album, Justin
Vernon expanded

his elegant outcast folk to soundtrack broken marriages, battle scenes and dumped hipsters walking in the snow.



KATE BUSH, 'Aerial' (2005) Even by the standards of the 'Babooshka'

singer, this double comeback album was barmy and inventive beyond her weirdest and wildest dreams. likely infiltrator of pop culture.
So it's reassuring

that, five years on, the 33-yearold is back with something utterly predictable: yet another masterpiece. 'Divers', her unusually tight fourth album, is full of lofty concepts ('Waltz Of The 101st Lightborne' sees timetravelling soldiers wage a futile war on their own ghosts) but her crafty tales. signposted by ornate folk

arrangements, rarely outpace your imagination.

On 'Leaving The City' – all pirouetting harps and Celtic cacophony – sneaky rhymes fidget like anxious thoughts: "The bridle bends in idle hands/And slows our canter to a trot/We mean to stop, in increments, but can't commit/We post and sit, in impotence". The album's a puny 50 minutes compared to its two-hour predecessor, but you'll disappear down its lyrical rabbit holes for hours.

The music can be cinematic, as on the epic 'Anecdotes', or spartan, like piano ballad 'The Things I Say'. One constant is Newsom's inclination towards the warped country of 'Hejira'-era Joni Mitchell and the wild Greenwich

Village folk of Karen Dalton, yet she's never corny. But then,
Newsom has never really been one for tradition. In interviews since getting hitched in September 2013, she's observed that it's "inviting death into your life... because there's someone you can't bear to lose". 'Divers', then, is no honeymoon-period frolic.

Revisiting a theme that's infiltrated her every record since 2004 debut 'The Milk-Eyed Mender', prog-country hybrid 'Goose Eggs' knots together allusions to wilting attraction and

infertility: "The old veil of desire/ Like the vessels that we fired/ Fell thin as eggshells". But when Newsom is more playful, a creative dam bursts, and you're sent reeling. On 'Anecdotes', she describes a bird, startled mid-flight by gunfire, as a "hotdogging loon". It's a puzzler of a detail, but it's so strangely evocative you can't help but marvel along with her. Jazz Monroe





The Sydney quartet, signed after millions of YouTube views, release their second album of catchy pop-punk, cowritten with members of Good Charlotte and All Time Low.



PURE BATHING CULTURE Pray For Rain

Two years after sleek debut 'Moon Tides', Daniel Hindman and Sarah Versprille return with harsher textures, though pop remains at the band's core. Haim fans will approve.



FUZZ

★★★☆ All the consistency

you'd expect from Californian lo-fi overlord Ty Segall. This double album - his second with the psychy side-project is so relentless that its heft can overpower. It still rules though.

Read the full reviews of these and many more albums on NME.com



Sheer madness

The numbers behind Ed Sheeran's ongoing 'x' tour are truly ridiculous

JUMPERS FOR **GOALPOSTS**

12A Ed Sheeran, Elton John LIVE TOUR MASSIVE NUMBERS

SINCE IT KICKED OFF LAST August, Ed Sheeran's 'x' tour has been attended by more than two million people. His trio of July gigs at Wembley - where he lit the stadium's arch in neon green - are the focus of the film Jumpers For Goalposts, out this weekend.

Shows on the 'x' tour. which ends in December after crossing five continents via 124 cities. By comparison, Taylor Swift played 85 shows across four continents in 55 cities on her '1989' World Tour, Pathetic.

90 Percentage of 'x' tour dates that have sold out.

The number of Elton John duets at Wembley: Elt song 'Don't Go Breaking My Heart' and Sheeran's 'April Love'.

2.53m*

People who will have seen the Framlingham lad live by the tour's end. That's more than the population of Slovenia. *approximately

Money made from 240,000 fans buying tickets for the Wembley shows, which were priced between £45-52.

6.000 Number of staff employed for the Wembley shows. If the £11.64m made from ticket sales was divided evenly among them, they'd take home £2,000 each.

Actual iumpers referenced in the film. It's called Jumpers For Goalposts, says Ed, "because we keep moving them". Bit smug. Larry Bartleet

Tatt's great Ed on getting a giant

lion inked on his chest for Wembley

"Originally I was going to get a bit ridiculous." Yeah, the lion is way better...



Jo of all

How Newsom infiltrated

Last year, Joanna narrated

and made a stylish

cameo in Paul Thomas

Anderson's stoner flight

(starring Joaquin Pheonix).

A cursory Tumblr search

reveals that Joanna is a

for W, and adorned the

THE SIMPSONS

Simpsons creator and

big Newsom fan Matt

Groening drew the singer as a character in 2010. Her

response? "Holy sh*t! I'm

a Simpson! I made it!"

big deal in fashion. She's

modelled alongside J-Law

cover of Paper magazine.

of fancy Inherent Vice

trades

pop culture

FILMS

Skewering her 'privileged boho faerie' reputation on satirical US show Portlandia, Newsom leads a pagan chant, then crams her harp into a hatchback.

The story of the comedian's path to politics portrays a confused man at odds with himself

BRAND: A SECOND COMING
15 Russell Brand, Noel
Gallagher, Katy Perry

DOCUMENTARY POLITICS REVOLUTION



WHATEVER YOU THINK OF Russell Brand – revolutionary, confusing egotist or somewhere in between – there is usually something at the centre of whatever he's saying that is worth considering, or at least questioning. What's not always

clear is why he's saying it or what he hopes it will achieve, which is largely what this film wants to find. Who is Russell Brand and what does he want?

Director Ondi Timoner spends a lot of time telling Brand's life-story, taking him back to his hometown in Essex, talking to his parents, tracking his sex and drugs years. All this feels like PR fluff, allowing Brand to define his own history unchallenged, with talking-head interjections from people who like him (including a sarcastic Noel Gallagher and Katy Perry who says she has "all the real power because I control the pussy"). It's only when Brand decides he's to be the figurehead of political change that things get interesting, because we get to see how his thought process works in real time.

At this stage Timoner, who joined the project as director when much of the earlier footage was already shot, just watches Brand without prejudice. She allows him his moments of grandstanding but doesn't look away when he makes a fool of himself, such as when he lays out his belief in a world free of material greed, pausing briefly to point out his new gold gun lamp. He's full of these contradictions, seeming well-intentioned but always butting up against his desire to be more famous than everyone else. He wants a world in which everybody is equal, but to be worshipped for creating it.

There's a telling moment when Brand tries to explain his idealism to director Oliver Stone. He details his plan to devote himself to "purity of consciousness, passion, love, duty, revolution and change", only after he's become the most famous man in the world. So Stone asks, "OK, so what's the ideology?" Brand doesn't have an answer. The picture is of a man desperate to be remembered as a leader even if he's not sure where he's going. Olly Richards

RONALD REAGAN

An unremarkable film actor, Reagan turned his attention to US politics. SUCCESS? Eight years as

President, which wasn't necessarily a good thing.



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER

People laughed when Arnie announced plans to become Governor of California.

SUCCESS? He served not one term but two.



BEZ

In May, the Happy Mondays' dancer ran for election in Salford and Eccles on behalf of his Reality Party.

SUCCESS? Bez received 703 votes, coming sixth.

MOVIESTORE COLLECTION, GETTY, MIRRORPIX, ALAMY, REX



Worth a punt

There might not be much of a plot, but this whiskysoaked gambling comedy thrills nonetheless

MISSISSIPPI GRIND
15 Ryan Reynolds, Ben
Mendelsohn, Sienna Miller

BUDDY COMEDY GAMBLING WHISKY

THERE'S A REPEATED LINE in Mississippi Grind that "the journey's the destination". This is both true for the characters and the film. If you've come for plot, you may find yourself checking your watch. If you're happy to just steep in the lives of complicated,

shifting, funny characters then this is a journey well worth taking. It's sort of a buddy-comedy, though with distinctly depressive elements. It's the feel-contentedly-dolorous film of the year.

Ben Mendelsohn, one of those actors whose name you may not recognise but whose face you will (perhaps from *The Dark Knight Rises*), plays Gerry, an enthusiastic gambler who is always chasing that one big win. Gerry meets Curtis (Ryan Reynolds), a charming young gambler who just does it for fun and can walk away at any time. Over a shared love of whisky and

unearned cash they decide to take a road trip to New Orleans.

They're an inspired team. Mendelsohn will always downplay a moment, while Reynolds will always energise it; the contrast makes them fascinating. The plot's muddiness doesn't matter, the point is in getting to know two broken men and, as their complexities unravel, that isn't always a pleasant process. It's perfectly cast, including a tiny role for 12 Years A Slave's Alfre Woodard as a money-lender and Sienna Miller adding to her comeback roster of little parts in great films as Curtis' girlfriend.

You might not imagine that moments of a man turning over some cards could be particularly nerve-wracking, but tension builds unbearably as Gerry's future eternally rests on the roll of a die. As the film moves along you'll be less sure if you want him to win or lose, but he's so well drawn that you'll always care. Olly Richards

For more film reviews visit NME.com

ST LOUIS

guide /

America's 58th biggest city has the largest Bosnian population outside of Bosnia and was named after a French king.

A Mississippi Grind travel



MEMPHIS

The largest city on the river, and a mega famous music town. Elvis, Johnny Cash and Aretha Franklin started here.



NEW ORLEANS

The birthplace of jazz kingpin Louis Armstrong is renowned for its lip-smacking creole cuisine. Louis reportedly signed his letters 'red beans and ricely yours' after one of the city's most famous dishes

Also out this week



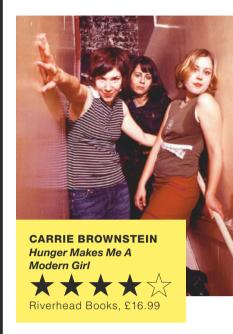
THE BLACK PANTHERS: VANGUARD OF THE REVOLUTION

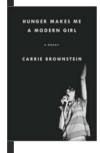
15 Dir. Stanley Nelson

With a mixture of archive footage and new interviews, documentary-maker Stanley Nelson attempts to pull apart the story of revolutionary American group the Black Panthers and their fight for equality in the 1960s.



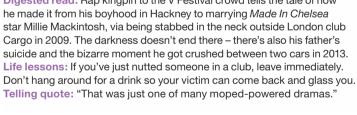






Digested read:
The SleaterKinney, Wild Flag
and Portlandia
polymath turns
her hand to
writing, and
turns out to be
unsurprisingly
good at that
too. This

memoir covers her father's belated homosexuality, her own homosexuality, her troubled teenhood after her mother ran out on the family when she was 14, her friendship with Miranda July, the heyday of riot grrrl, panic attacks, shingles and soy allergies. Life lessons: Even if your postnuclear family is a bit weird, you can still turn out sensitive and sussed - and possibly launch your own hit alt.comedy franchise. Telling quote: "We also received the International Male catalogue, a men's underwear catalogue that is essentially a showcase for big European c**ks."





TOM JONES

Over The Top And Back

Penguin, £20

Digested read: In which the former Thomas Woodward makes no mention, across 500 pages, of one extra-marital affair, despite reportedly bedding 250 girls a year. Instead, a flat-pack showbiz memoir narrative plays out: one day he's a hairy vacuum cleaner salesman in Pontypridd, the next he's hanging out with Elvis en route to selling 100 million records.

Life lessons: If a court order has already validated the existence of your 27-year-old love child, it might be polite to give him a mention in your book.

Telling quote: "I was going over as some kind of love god, occasionally I was even persuaded of it myself."

Full reviews of these and many more books are on NME.com



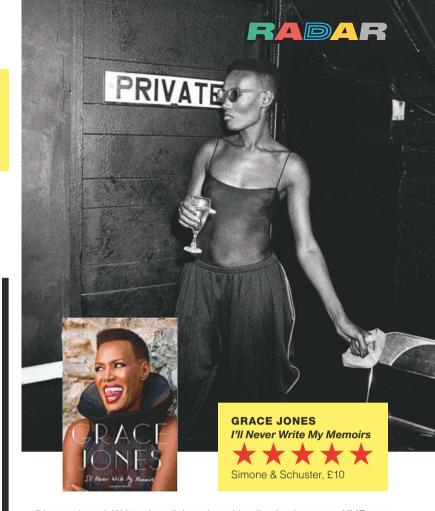
Digested read: Declan MacManus has long promised a truly weighty rock memoir, and here he drops a 674-page breeze block. From early memories of his father, a singer in a jazz band, to writing his first songs in a "furious whisper" while his wife and infant son slept upstairs, plus an ill-judged remark about Ray Charles that nearly ended his career. There's plenty of insight into his art here, a smattering of gossip, a wealth of pop-cultural knowledge, and just enough self-flagellation to keep things interesting. Life lessons: Bearing grudges will f**k you up in day-to-day life. But hang on to them, and they'll make your memoirs so much more entertaining. Telling quote: "They gave me a pair of horn-rimmed glasses and said, 'Put these on.' It was

like Superman in reverse."



Digested read: The boho icon follows up her brilliant Just Kids with this slim volume. From her membership of a society celebrating the life of a polar geologist, her honeymoon visit to Jean Genet's Guiana hideout, singing Buddy Holly songs with chess grandmaster Bobby Fischer, to the revelation that she stays at a London hotel solely "to watch ITV3 mystery dramas", it's a near-Seinfeldian trip into nothing. Life lessons: It's not the story you tell - and the multiple pages about her sitting in her fave NYC cafe drinking coffee and eating bread with olive oil are hardly skeleton-bobsled-on-mescaline it's how you tell it.

Telling quote: "It's not so easy writing about nothing."



Digested read: Written in collaboration with adjective-happy ex-NME word-squirter Paul Morley, this is a non-trad take on the life of music's best-loved extra-terrestrial. There are four pages on her first orgasm and an entire chapter on why she's always late. There's chilling tales (the late-'80s Aids crisis), comedy (her stint as a nudist), glamour (opposite James Bond) and a Grace-eye view of her infamous Russell Harty chat show meltdown. All that, and the factoid that she always requests 12 oysters on her rider. Life lessons: Do not f**k with Grace Jones.

Telling quote: "I still cry when I have a big orgasm... from a combination of pleasure and quilt."





Digested read: Having never heard of Jack Kerouac, the X Factor bobble-head releases his sequel to 2012 memoir Happy Days. This is the story of being 'on the road' with the Mursmeister. Robbie Williams, Jonathan Ross, Russell Brand and other super-obvious green room luminaries turn up, but somehow he never meets Genesis P-Orridge. There's also the hilarious tale of how he fell "victim to a few terrible practical jokes".

Life lessons: You might think life at X Factor Towers is all snapping Simon Cowell's waistband and accidentally walking in on Ant & Dec b*mming, but it can have its downsides. Olly cites "unwanted female attention" behind the collapse of his relationship with property manager Francesca Thomas. Telling quote: "A lot of my fans are girls, so it can cause problems."



OLD

First step: Guitar Hero Live. Second step: forming the world's greatest rock band

GUITAR HERO LIVE PS4&3, XBox, Xbox360/Wii U BE-A-ROCK STAR

AS PLAY-ALONG-TO-

'Basketcase'-on-a-plastic-Fender games go, this is Blur vs Oasis in 1995. After a five-year release gap each, both Rock Band and Guitar Hero are back this month in what no one's yet calling the Battle Of Tap-pop. The recent Rock Band 4 took a back-to-basics consolidation approach, simply making the art of hitting notes rocketing at you down an on-screen highway smoother and more bandmate-friendly. Guitar Hero Live, on the other hand, takes the whole genre into a brand new dimension. Real life.

Like the Simpsons episode where Homer is sucked down a visuals plonk you onto a stage playing guitar in a real human band to an authentic - if digitally expanded - festival crowd. Play well and your bandmates will crowd surf and ecstatic fans will faint at your feet. Fumble riffs like a drunk Fat White Family and the 'YOU SUCK' signs will come out, bottles of unsavoury liquids will come flying and angry kids will invade the stage to try to wrestle the guitar off you. With your view filmed on a massive, careering Dalek of a camera, this is the closest you'll get to being in a major rock band until it's your turn to be the special guest on the next Taylor Swift tour.

Meanwhile, a new six-button guitar controller - three at the top and three at the bottom, allowing for chord-like tapping patterns - means GHL is a captivating experience that won't wear thin quickly. There's also hundreds of songs pre-packaged and a GHTV channel option that allows you to play along to a catalogue of curated videos, like the brilliantsounding '80s MTV' your dad gets misty-eyed about. So good you'll get stage fright. Mark Beaumont

> For more games reviews and previews go to NME.com





new features



ILL TOLEDO. the Seattlebased musician known as Car Seat Headrest, used to be so self-conscious

about recording vocals for his lo-fi bedroom project that he'd drive to a quiet car park and sing into his mic there. Sat in the divey Pianos venue on New York's Lower producer and, in a rare calm moment midway through CMJ festival, he laughs at the reminder of his former ways.

"I was intimidated at times," says Will of having to play and sing in front of other people during the recording process. "But it was easier than I expected."

Toledo has released 11 albums over the past five years, rife with teenage angst but also big, ambitious ideas. 'How To Leave Town', for instance, is full of spacey epics, while 'Nervous Young Man' is his "conceptual double album".

His Bandcamp page is a veritable treasure trove with heaps of free songs to trawl through,

Car Seat Headrest play the NME Showcase at CMJ, New York, October 14, 2015 band for his Matador debut, 'Teens Of Style'. Is that a cop out? Not in his eyes: "You can never do a song the same way twice, even if you try," he reasons.

Besides, he's already got his 13th LP in the bag. The "simpler, poppier" 'Teens Of Denial' is due next year and boasts an eightminute song called 'Vincent', which Toledo describes with a grin as "definitely the funkiest thing Car Seat Headrest have ever done". With his prolific nature, he'll have eclipsed it with something else soon enough. Rhian Daly

LISTEN 'Teens Of Style' is released on October 30

FACT Car Seat Headrest's sets at CMJ were so buzzy that even Ed Sheeran turned up to watch him play

LIVE London Servant Jazz Quarters (November 17)

SOCIAL @carseatheadrest

For more on Car Seat Headrest, head to NME.com

Something Soon

Depressive lyrics masked by rousing melodies, rattling drums and church organ synths

Best track FOR FANS OF







John Misty Friday 23 QUBSU, Belfast Monday 26 The Plug, Sheffield Tuesday 27 The Junction, Cambridge

Father

Wednesday 28 & Thursday 29 O2 Shepherds Bush Empire, London

Friday 23 & Saturday 24 Oslo, London

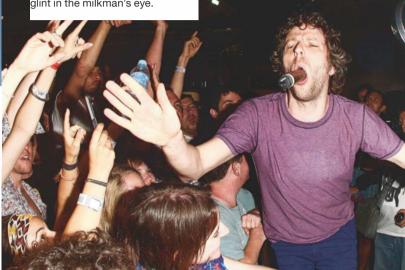
WHO: Sacramentoborn stalwarts of dancepunk who were doing the unpronounceable band name thing while Ho99o9 were still a glint in the milkman's eye.



WHY: Six albums in and the sextet are showing no signs of mellowing, with the houseinfluenced 'Sick Ass Moon' and current album 'As If' confirming their party credentials.

WHO'S SUPPORTING:

Glaswegian electronica producers General Ludd. TICKETS: Sold out, but some tickets are available from £79.99 on secondary ticketing sites



Wednesday 28 XOYO, London

WHO: Danish maker of stylish electronic pop. Think Grimes, but sleeker and marginally less freaky. Once WHY: Debut 'No Mythologies To Follow' came out last year, so new songs are likely. Watch out for the juicy chorus on 2013 single 'Pilgrim' too.

WHO'S SUPPORTING: tbc TICKETS: £15 from NME.com/ tickets

> For tour news and live reviews go to NME.com



Katy B

Friday 23 Motion, Bristol

WHO: Flame-haired south London dance queen who broke through with 2011's 'On A Mission', and has collaborated with the likes of Mark Ronson and Magnetic Man.

WHY: Her dancers and upbeat stage presence bring the party

vibes, but Katy's voice is the real draw here, veering from the slick pop of 'Lights On' to the emotional hooks of 'Crying For No Reason'.

and former Fleet Foxes drummer

WHO'S SUPPORTING: Singer-

TICKETS: Belfast £22.50 from

openhousefestival.ticketsolve.

com; everywhere else sold out,

but try secondary ticketing sites

WHY: Misty is part sardonic showman, part suave romancer.

songwriter Anna B Savage.

for tickets starting at £39

Josh Tillman.

WHO'S SUPPORTING:

Garage hero Ms Dynamite, EDM, grime and trap DJ Siobhan Bell and more.

TICKETS: £8.80 from ents24.com





Songhoy Blues

Friday 23 Brudenell Social Club, Leeds

Sunday 25 Gorilla, Manchester Monday 26 Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

Tuesday 27 The Fleece, Bristol

WHO: Jimi Hendrix-influenced Malian group who were the focus of recent documentary They Will Have To Kill Us First.

WHY: Their live shows are full of wild guitar solos, tightknit percussion and hints of R&B. Krautrock and more.

WHO'S SUPPORTING:

Tremulous indie types Blaenavon. TICKETS: Manchester £13.20 from NME.com/tickets; all other dates sold out

Ekkah

Saturday 24 Brudenell Social Club, Leeds

WHO: Buzzy, Nile Rodgersworshipping Birmingham duo Rebecca Wilson and Rebekah Pennington, who put the 'disco' in indie disco.

WHY: From dance routines to saxophone solos, the pair's sparkly, sultry pop is never boring, while 'Last Chance To Dance' is an ultimately sassy floor-filler.

WHO'S SUPPORTING: Dark pop from Brighton in the shape of Yonaka.

TICKETS: £6.60 from NME. com/tickets



10 **Hooton Tennis Club**

Friday 23 Think Tank,

WHO: Wirral Heavenly signings WHY: 'Powerful Pierre' and 'Up In The Air' are full of

scratchy melodies.

WHO'S SUPPORTING:

Madrid punk gang The Parrots. TICKETS: £5.50-£8 from





Cat Power

Tuesday 27 Albert Hall, Wednesday 28 & Thursday 29 St-John-At-Hackney Church, London

stage fright, which lends her live shows an intimate, affecting vibe.

WHO'S SUPPORTING: No details yet

TICKETS: Manchester £27.50 from NME.com/tickets; London sold out, but tickets doing the rounds on secondary ticketing sites from £44.79

Best of the rest

All Tyvins

Mon 26 Shipping Forecast, Liverpool

Beach House

Sat 24 QUBSU, Belfast Mon 26 O2 ABC, Glasgow Tue 27 The Ritz, Manchester

Bear's Den

Sun 25 Trinity, Bristol Mon 26 Wedgewood Rooms, Portsmouth

Tue 27 Roundhouse, London

Best Coast

Thu 29 Electric Brixton, London

Big Narstie

Fri 23 Sub89, Reading

Blackalicious

Tue 27 Clunv. Newcastle Thu 29 Rescue Rooms, Nottingham

Broken Hands

Wed 28 Soup Kitchen, Manchester Thu 29 Broadcast, Glasgow

Dappy

Mon 26 O2 ABC, Glasgow Tue 27 Academy, Manchester Wed 28 O2 Academy, Newcastle

Dave McCabe & The Ramifications

Fri 23 Bodega Social Club, Sat 24 The Harley, Sheffield

East India Youth

Sat 24 Hare & Hounds, Birmingham Wed 28 Summerhall, Edinburgh Thu 29 Lemon Tree, Aberdeen

Tue 27 Gullivers, Manchester Thu 29 Start The Bus, Bristol

Fraser A Gorman

Tue 27 Castle Hotel, Manchester Wed 28 Sebright Arms, London

Mon 26 Night & Day, Manchester Tue 27 The Laundry, London

Half Moon Run

Mon 26 KOKO, London Wed 28 Gorilla, Manchester

Mon 26 Stereo, Glasgow Tue 27 Gorilla, Manchester Wed 28 Heaven, London

Ian McCulloch

Sat 24 Kenton Theatre, Henley

Knife Party

Thu 29 Warehouse Project, Manchester

Kode9

Fri 23 Shipping Forecast, Liverpool

Lady Leshurr

Sun 25 O2 ABC, Glasgow Mon 26 Sound Control, Manchester Tue 27 Hoxton Bar & Grill, London Wed 28 The Institute, Birmingham



pector

Sat 24 Leadmill, Sheffield "Spector at the Leadmill! I can't wait to hear the new material live."

@cgireland

Lapslev

Tue 27 Portland Arms, Cambridge Wed 28 Waterfront, Norwich Thu 29 Clwb Ifor Bach, Cardiff

Maribou State

Tue 27 Village Underground,

Wed 28 Exchange, Bristol Thu 29 The Haunt, Brighton

Mates Of State

Mon 26 Soup Kitchen, Manchester Tue 27 Hug & Pint, Glasgow Wed 28 Headrow House, Leeds

Mike Krol

Mon 26 Boileroom, Guildford Tue 27 Start The Bus, Bristol Wed 28 Eagle Inn, Manchester Thu 29 Shacklewell Arms, London

Prides

Mon 26 Hemelvaart Bier Café, Ayton Tue 27 Duchess, York Wed 28 Sugarmill, Stoke-On-Trent Thu 29 O2 Academy, Liverpool

Purity Ring

Tue 27 Plug, Sheffield Wed 28 The Junction, Cambridge Thu 29 Roundhouse, London

Friday 23 Belgrave Music Hall,

Saturday 24 Soup Kitchen, Manchester

Soak

Tue 27 Union Chapel, London Thu 29 Concorde 2, Brighton

Mon 26 The Harley, Sheffield Tue 27 Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

Wed 28 The Hope, Brighton Thu 29 Music Hall, Ramsgate

Spector

October 29

Neon Waltz play

Ku Bar, Stockton-On-

Tees on Thursday.

Sat 24 Leadmill, Sheffield Sun 25 Brudenell Social Club,

Tue 27 Patterns, Brighton Wed 28 O2 Academy, Oxford Thu 29 Heaven, London

The Staves

Sat 24 Albert Hall, Manchester Sun 25 University SU, Newcastle Mon 26 Old Fruitmarket, Glasgow Tue 27 Met Uni SU, Leeds

Susanne Sundfor

Mon 26 The Haunt, Brighton Tue 27 KOKO, London Wed 28 Deaf Institute, Manchester Thu 29 Brudenell Social Club. Leeds

Telegram

Wed 28 Shipping Forecast, Liverpool

US Girls

Mon 26 Headrow House, Leeds Tue 27 Broadcast, Glasgow Wed 28 Corsica Studios, London

Wed 28 Voodoo, Belfast

Waxahatchee

Thu 29 Islington Assembly Hall, London

Thu 29 Shooshh, Brighton

The Wombats

Fri 23 Guild Of Students, Liverpool

For tour news and live reviews go to NME.com

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- 16 OXFORD O₂ ACADEMY
- 17 BRIGHTON DOME
- 18 PORTSMOUTH PYRAMIDS
- 20 BIRMINGHAM INSTITUTE
- 21 MANCHESTER ALBERT HALL
- 22 LIVERPOOL O₂ ACADEMY
- 23 EDINBURGH QUEENS HALL
- 25 NEWCASTLE O₂ ACADEMY
- 26 LEEDS BECKETT'S UNIVERSITY
- 27 NOTTINGHAM ROCK CITY
- 28 LONDON O₂ FORUM

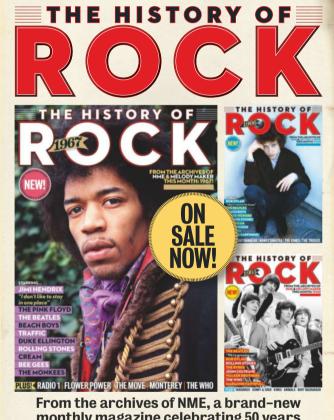
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A METROPOLIS MUSIC & FRIENDS PRESENTATION BY ARRANGEMENT WITH CODA





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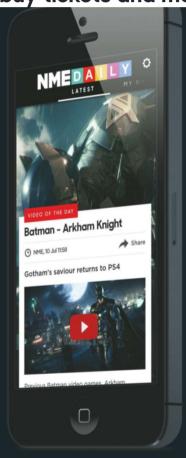




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GOUNDUACK OF MY-Life

Elijah Wood

Ex-Hobbit, currently in Cooties

The first song I remember hearing

MICHAEL JACKSON Thriller

"I remember when the video premiered on MTV, it was a real big thing. My whole family gathered around the TV to watch, but the beginning of the video is like a horror movie and I found it absolutely terrifying! I remember running into the basement for refuge, and though the basement was a terrifying place for me too, I felt safer there than in front of the TV."



The first album I bought PRINCE

Batman

"I was a huge Prince fan and a huge Batman fan, and at the time I thought the songs 'Batdance' and 'Partyman' were awesome, so I went out and bought the soundtrack album with my own money. Looking back, it's not one of Prince's best albums, but it has 'Arms Of Orion' on it and

that's still a dope song."



The song I do at karaoke

This Is Hardcore

"It's just a great karaoke song. I did it recently at karaoke as a duet with [Spanish filmmaker] Nacho Vigalondo. It's a relatively easy song for me to sing because Jarvis' vocal register is pretty low and mine's relatively low too. I was screwed when I tried to do Stevie Wonder's 'Superstition' because of all the high notes."

The first song I fell in love with THE TEMPTATIONS

My Girl

"I was about eight when I got into this song. I think I just heard it on the radio one day, it was definitely before it was used in the film My Girl. I remember listening to it over and over again and asking my mum for a 'Best Of The Temptations' album because this song resonated with me so much. It just hit me on a really deep level."

The song I can no longer listen to

UGLY KID JOE

Everything About You

"This was a big hit on the radio when I was growing up. I guess it's sort of a medium-tempo dirty rock'n'roll song about hating somebody. At the time it felt like a novelty because it was so angry and belligerent, but in a funny way. In retrospect, it's just a terrible, terrible song. I think even the band may acknowledge that now."



The song I can't get out of my head THE SUNDAYS

Homeward

"I'm a big Sundays fan and this is an awesome song from their final album, 'Static & Silence'. I was listening to it yesterday and I've had it stuck in my head for the last 24 hours. I want Harriet Wheeler to come back, please. She needs to make another record."

Go to NME.com for more Soundtracks



All My Friends

"The build that this song has is just incredible. It's one groove but it keeps getting tighter and tighter; it's a masterpiece. I'm a DJ and I love playing it in my sets."

The song I want played at my funeral

Fearless

"F**k, dude! I'd want it to be something celebratory and this song has a lifting, lilting vibe to its chord progression. It ends on those chords and a load of people singing, which I think was recorded at a football match. It feels weirdly appropriate for a funeral, I think."



The wisdom of the *NME* archives

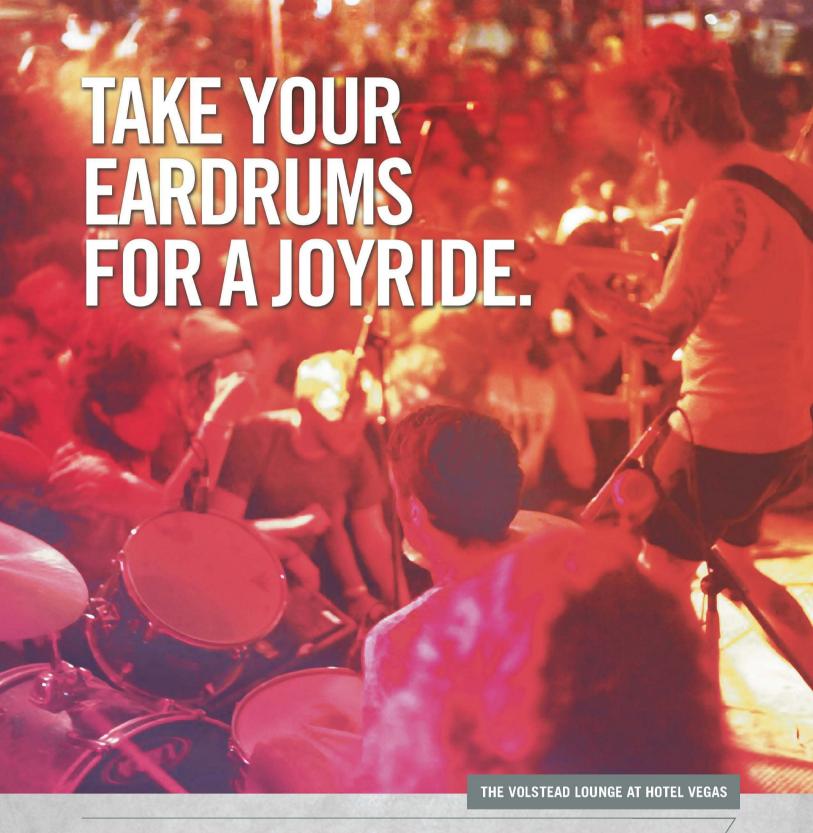
THIS WEEK
BOB GELDOF

Musician and activist October 20, 1979

"Ambitions are things you'll probably attain; a dream is something that you hope you'll attain. An ambition is more readily definable than a dream, a dream has a nebulous quality."



INTERVIEW: NICK LEVINE PHOTOS: REX, GETTY, STE





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MANCHESTER ARENA

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TUESDAY 16

THE SSE ARENA WEMBLEY

LONDON SSEARENA.CO.UK

FRIDAY 19

BARCLAYCARD ARENA

BIRMINGHAM THETICKETFACTORY.COM

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