

4 DECEMBER 2015 / FREE EVERY FRIDAY

NME

REVIEW OF THE YEAR ISSUE

THE BEST
ALBUMS
TRACKS
GAMES
FILMS & TV
OF 2015



NME ALBUM OF THE YEAR

GRIMES

How she created a modern masterpiece

MUSIC
FILM
STYLE



UNBEATABLE

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NME

Hello...



THERE'S BEEN quite a lot of crap written over the last year or two about the album being dead. George Ergatoudis, the big daddy of Radio 1, isn't a fan. Last summer he

tweeted, "Make no mistake. With very few exceptions, albums are edging closer to extinction. Playlists are the future." Personally, I think that's b*lls. Don't get me wrong, playlists and mixtapes tell amazing stories and can be brilliant voyages of discovery, but albums *mean something* – they're works of art. Apart from the rubbish ones, obviously.

This week's NME celebrates the greatest albums of the year. Top of our list? 'Art Angels' by Grimes, which joins an incredible roster that includes 'AM' by Arctic Monkeys, 'Debut' by Björk and 'Nevermind' by Nirvana in being voted as our Number One. It's an amazing collection of subversive pop tunes, and if you've not heard it yet, get on it – it's genuinely brilliant.

Also in this issue we pick our favourite tracks, films, TV shows and games of the year. Read the lists, and if you don't agree with us, let us know on social media.

Long live the album. They can be life-changing experiences, and this year there have been enough excellent ones to hopefully shut the naysayers up for a while.

MIKE WILLIAMS
Editor-in-Chief
@itsmikelike

Where did Skepta land in Tracks Of The Year? Find out on **p28**



COVER STORY

24 Grimes

The ultimate internet-age pop star on crafting the finest record released this year

FEATURES

16 Albums Of The Year

Did your favourite make the cut? Dive into our Top 20 to find out

28 Tracks Of The Year

Featuring Kendrick Lamar, Drake, Foals and big, bad Justin Bieber

SECTIONS

AGENDA

5

RADAR

37

live

38

REGULARS

10 Katherine Ryan **12 List For Life**
14 What's On Your Headphones? **37 Under The Radar**
48 Soundtrack Of My Life

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AGENDA

WHAT EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT THIS WEEK

Rolling in the data

Adele's third album, '25', has juggernauted its way into the record books. Here are some towering stats from its historic first week on sale

800,307

Copies of '25' sold in the first week in the UK – it has the biggest first-week sales in UK chart history, and exceeded the combined weekly sales of the last 19 Number One albums.

46%

Share of the UK albums market that '25' enjoyed on wits first day on sale.

104,307

First-week sales by which '25' outsold Oasis' 1997 album 'Be Here Now'. A caveat: 'Be Here Now' was released on a Thursday, so only had three days to fly off the shelves.

124

Copies of '25' sold every minute in its first weekend on sale. That's 7,724 per hour, or two every second.

27.7m

Vevo views of 'Hello', the lead single from '25', in its first 24 hours online.

3.38m

Copies of '25' sold in its first week in the US. Ridiculous!

0

Number of Spotify streams '25' has racked up. Adele has withheld the album from them.

3

Percentage of UK households that own a copy of '25'.



Cheer up, you're Number One!



NME
AWARDS
2016
WITH
Austin
— LIVE MUSIC CAPITAL OF THE WORLD —

Royal Blood,
winning big
earlier this year

And the nominees are...

You voted in your 1,000s, and here it is, the shortlist for the NME Awards 2016, with Austin, Texas

BEST BRITISH BAND

- The Libertines
- Foals
- Wolf Alice
- The 1975
- Catfish And The Bottlemen
- The Maccabees

BEST INTERNATIONAL BAND supported by

Austin
— LIVE MUSIC CAPITAL OF THE WORLD —

- Tame Impala
- Foo Fighters
- The Strokes
- The Killers
- Alabama Shakes
- Run The Jewels

BEST NEW ARTIST

- Ratboy
- Hinds
- Halsey
- Yak
- Lapsley
- Formation

BEST BRITISH SOLO ARTIST supported by

PILOT

- Adele
- Noel Gallagher
- Ed Sheeran
- Charli XCX
- Florence Welch
- Skepta

BEST INTERNATIONAL SOLO ARTIST

- Kendrick Lamar
- Lana Del Rey
- Taylor Swift
- Courtney Barnett
- Kanye West
- Grimes

BEST LIVE BAND

- The Maccabees
- The Libertines
- Foals
- Catfish And The Bottlemen
- Royal Blood
- Wolf Alice

BEST ALBUM supported by

hmv

- Wolf Alice
- 'My Love Is Cool'
- The Maccabees
- 'Marks To Prove It'
- Kendrick Lamar 'To Pimp A Butterfly'
- Tame Impala 'Currents'
- Grimes 'Art Angels'
- Foals 'What Went Down'

BEST TRACK

- Coldplay 'Adventure Of A Lifetime'
- The Libertines
- 'Gunga Din'
- Foals
- 'What Went Down'
- The Weeknd
- 'Can't Feel My Face'
- Skepta 'Shutdown'
- Wolf Alice
- 'Giant Peach'

BEST FESTIVAL

- Glastonbury
- Reading & Leeds
- V Festival
- T In The Park
- Bestival
- Isle Of Wight

BEST FILM

- Ex Machina
- Spectre
- Mad Max: Fury Road
- Whiplash
- Kill Your Friends
- Beasts Of No Nation

BEST MUSIC FILM

- Amy
- Kurt Cobain: Montage Of Heck
- Straight Outta Compton
- What Happened, Miss Simone?
- The Reflektor Tapes
- Blur: New World Towers

MUSIC MOMENT OF THE YEAR

- The return of Adele
- Libertines secret Glasto set
- Dave Grohl breaks leg and carries on
- Florence headlines Glastonbury
- Kanye at the Brits
- One Direction 'split'



Wolf Alice



Drake

Spotify has unveiled its list of the most streamed artists of 2015. The world cannot get enough of Drake, Rihanna, Ed Sheeran and The Weeknd.



Justin Bieber

Southend United footballer Ryan Leonard attributed a recent run of goal-scoring to listening to Bieber's hit 'Sorry' a lot.



Chris Moyles

Someone threw a pint at the Radio X DJ's head at a gig in Leeds. Perfect hit. We don't encourage this sort of thing, but good arm.



Fantastic Four

Although the recent movie flopped, Fox still planned a sequel. But this week *Fantastic Four 2* was dropped from the schedule.



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One month – 12 amazing gigs

The 2016 NME Awards Shows with Austin, Texas take place next February across London

FEBRUARY

NME AWARDS SHOWS 2016
WITH *Austin*
— LIVE MUSIC CAPITAL OF THE WORLD —

MONDAY

1

The Strypes
The Garage,
Mon Feb 1

WHO Youthful rockers playing the kind of '50s rhythm'n'blues that ruled the world when their dads were mere sparkles in their dads' eyes.

WHY To check the evolution. While Bo Diddley and T-Bone Walker covers dominate their set, their own material also has a sharp 21st-century sensibility.

TUESDAY

2

Vant
The Lexington,
Tues Feb 2

9

16
Spring King
100 Club
Mystery Jets
Brixton Electric,
Tues Feb 16

23

Swim Deep
Tufnell Park Dome, Wed Feb 24

WHO Birmingham band that have suddenly become serious psych rock contenders

WHY Their transformation from indie also-rans to kings of swirl rock in the space of one album – this year's 'Mothers' – is amongst the most startling in recent memory. Live, they'll mush your brain into endorphin soup.

WEDNESDAY

3

10

Crows
The Black Heart,
Wed Feb 10

17

24

THURSDAY

4

Boots
XOYO, Thurs
Feb 4

11

Pretty Vicious
Dingwalls, Thurs
Feb 11

18

King Gizzard & The Lizard Wizard
Electric Ballroom, Thurs Feb 18

WHO Psychedelic garage collective turned trippy folk-rockers

WHY The Australians are an acid trip come to life, and since new album

25

Blossoms
Scala, Thurs
Feb 25

Together Pangea
Moth Club,
Fri Feb 5

12

Suede

Forum, Fri Feb 12

WHO Svelte'n'savage Britpop originators and NME's 2015 Godlike Geniuses

WHY Suede's comeback has been a triumph, with live shows encompassing wildcat sexpop and noirish drug epics, and recent albums 'Bloodsports' and 'Night Thoughts' matching their best moments.

SUNDAY

7

Kid Wave
Oslo, Sun Feb 7

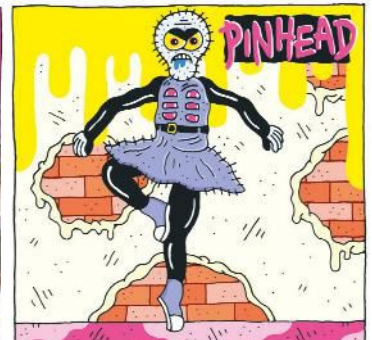
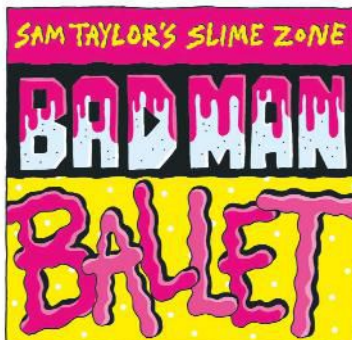
14



Public Access TV
Birthdays, Thurs Feb 25

WHO New York new wave trio
WHY "The next Strokes," gasped NYC in-the-knows at Public Access TV's first release in January 2014 and the heat has barely abated as they continue to mingle 'Is This It?' with 80s funk pop and choruses a mollusc could chant.

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Katherine Ryan

OFF THE TV AND IN YOUR FACE

THIS WEEK

Girl problems



PHOTOGRAPHY BELLA HOWARD. STYLING JEN MICHALSKI-BRAY. HAIR & MAKE-UP FIONA EUSTACE. PICS: ROBERT HAYMAN, JENN FIVE, ANDREW FORD, GETTY, CORBIS

I ENJOY BEING A GIRL'. The very talented American comedian, Jen Kirkman once joked that she'd like to perform a cover of that 1950s showtune but change the chorus to 'I Enjoy Being A C***'. TAKE MY MONEY, JEN! I fully support the creation of this jolly anthem and would play it on repeat every day in my home, but growing up, I just liked being a small lady. I only had sisters and spent a lot of time around really cool women. My grandma sold real estate and drove a Cadillac while wearing red leather gloves. My mum wrote computer code before home computers were a thing. Chat was the currency and I was valued in my family for being funny. My best friend Jessica and I consistently achieved the highest grades in our class and we looked down on most of the boys for behaving like puppies. I remember feeling sorry for them all because they "couldn't wear bright colours" like I loved doing. Basking in my white Canadian privilege, as far as I was concerned, being a girl was the dog's b*lllocks.

Now I see that being a woman is a chronic illness. We're sick nearly half the time. Between headaches, nausea, searing abdominal pain and blind rage, I get maybe one good week a month where I can watch my boyfriend eat without slipping into a murder/suicide fantasy. The rest of the time, I'm just trying to stop myself getting another puppy. I genuinely have a pet or a baby for every time I've failed to control my own vulnerable state of mind. That's two dogs, a cat, and one child for anyone who's counting. We also had a hamster and a couple of bunnies, but a fox got into the hutch one evening and then I accidentally fed smoked turkey to the hamster. Looking back, it was a mistake to trust his discretion on safe snacking meats.

If I were bleeding from my head, people would queue up to hear all about it. But I'm expected to go about my daily business, hiding secret bleeding elsewhere. It's difficult on tour, as the sleeper train is no place for day two of your period. To keep it

"Being female is a chronic illness – we're sick nearly half the time"

interesting, your cycle might decide to change every few years. I've just started getting odd sores on my face before I come on my period, which is random as f**k and bang out of order. I told my GP who stared blankly back at me and said, "Oh well. We're all different." Um, yes we're all different. For example, some of us have cervical

cancer. Just checking I'm not different like that.

After my daughter was born, I had to contend with milk on top of everything else. Delayed travel back from a gig meant that I'd get home to an angry baby and a wet shirt. The babysitter, or "my wife" as she's called, is an absolute hero. My daughter loves her; a reality that agitates the sleeping monster deeply written into my maternal biology that tells me she's doing a better job than I am and that if I had a husband, he'd definitely be banging her by now.

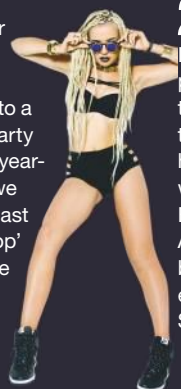
In spite of everything, women keep it together. And we don't start wars. I still enjoy being a girl.

Katherine Ryan's high five

Five British artists I'm psyched my daughter likes

1 Lemon

I'll never forget the day I had to explain to a birthday party full of five-year-olds why we couldn't blast 'Pussy Drop' through the speakers in the soft play area.



2 FKA Twigs

Awestruck, I got to see her perform live at the MOBOs and then presented her with the well-deserved Best Video Award. I've been captivated ever since. She's art.



3 Charli XCX

In my dreams, Charli is a young Caitlin Moran travelling forward in time to coexist with her alternate identity.



4 Anne-Marie

The former triple Shotokan karate world champion toured with Rudimental before launching as a solo artist. Her fresh pop is already huge in my house.



5 Foxes

I love the little canid! She's about to embark on a UK headline tour, and we're already loving singles like 'Better Love' from her second album.



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AGENDA

LIST FOR LIFE



BECAUSE EVERYONE LOVES A LIST

10 pop stars wearing rock T-shirts



1 Louis Tomlinson vs Joy Division

Here's Louis from One Direction in a bit of angsty Joy Division merch. So we should be expecting a dour, no-fi solo album about genocide, correct, Mr T?



2 Five Seconds Of Summer vs Sex Pistols

Aussie pop-punk teens 5 Seconds Of Summer sported the T-shirts of ska punk group Less Than Jake, punk legends Sex Pistols, legendary New York club CBGBs, and Jimi Hendrix. 2-4-1 at Camden Market, lads?



3 Lady Gaga vs Judas Priest

Lady Gaga loves Judas Priest so much she's known to stray from her day-to-day alien motorbike outfits to advertise them, chest-wise.



4 Fergie vs Black Flag

Black Eyed Peas singer Fergie showed sartorial love for hardcore punks Black Flag. However, 'I Gotta Feeling' that she prefers the complexities of 'Slip It In' to the brutal assault of 'Damaged'.

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5 Shakira vs Led Zeppelin

Shakira was snapped in a Led Zep shirt, yet she once said, "[At 15] I only listened to rock. I heard 'The Song Remains The Same' over and over. I can't hear it any more!"



6 Miley Cyrus vs Iron Maiden

The sight of Miley Cyrus rocking an Iron Maiden tee was surprising. Not so much for her band choice, more that she was wearing anything at all.



7 Heidi Range vs Nirvana

Various incarnations of Sugababes have revealed their alt-rock credentials by covering the likes of Arctic Monkeys, and by Heidi Range adapting a 'customised' Nirvana T-shirt to flash more flesh.



8 Rita Ora vs Slayer

What could be more fitting for a visit to a scare park, Rita Ora presumably thought, than a Slayer T-shirt? Her ability to hum 'Raining Blood' went sadly untested.



9 Jessica Simpson vs The Rolling Stones

Is there now anyone on planet Earth who doesn't own a Stones tee? This suggests not.

AGENDA



10 Charlie from Busted vs Sonic Youth

Irony upon irony! Charlie from Busted wore a Sonic Youth T-shirt, on which Kim Gordon is wearing a Rolling Stones T-shirt. Go home, everyone else, Simpson just won the game.

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YOUR TOWN. YOUR MUSIC. YOUR STYLE

What's ON your Headphones?

THIS WEEK

Watford



◀ **Joel Jordan**
21, musician

Listening to:
BRYSON TILLER
Don't
"He's bringing something different – he combines trap with soul music."

Wearing: Zara coat, Topman sweater, ASOS jeans, Adidas trainers, hat from Camden market.

Best thing about Watford:
"The community. Everyone really comes together here. It's a beautiful thing."

"Everyone comes together in Watford – it's a beautiful thing!"


TIDAL

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Leila Simpson ▶
32, record and coffee shop owner

Listening to:
KHRUANGBIN
The Universe Smiles Upon You
"They're Thai-influenced but from Texas and it's got this really nice, surfy vibe. I love instrumental stuff."

Wearing: Charity shop jacket, The Ragged Priest jeans, Dr Martens boots, toy soldier headband from Etsy.

Best thing about Watford:
"It's really creative – the vibe here is amazing. Everyone's creating something; if it's not music, it's film or photography."



◀ **Max Ambrose**
19, student

Listening to:
SLIPKNOT
Duality
"I just like the energy. They're different to a lot of artists, what with the masks and the outfits."

Wearing: Next jacket, Dad's old jumper, H&M jeans.
Best thing about Watford:
"The Harlequin Shopping Centre!"

Emma Sturgess ▶
23, account manager

Listening to:
JUSTIN BIEBER
Sorry
"I love this song, it's so catchy. I just want everyone to feel like they can come out as a Justin Bieber fan."

Wearing: Primark top, charity shop jumper, Levi's jeans.

Best thing about Watford:
"It has a lot of places for food and shopping. You can keep yourself amused for hours."



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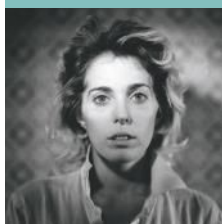
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Albums of the year

20

2015: when the rappers dropped acid, the psych-rockers went disco and the indie kids grew a pair



US GIRLS

Half Free

Released: September 25

Having started out making atonal noise records, Meghan Remy – aka US Girls – has spent her last few albums making much more urgent, accessible art-pop. ‘Half Free’ was full of lopsided melodies and skittering drum loops, a noirish sound that complemented her tales of betrayal and melancholia. Sounding like the lost soundtrack to an arty black-and-white horror film, it was gloriously off-kilter, relentlessly weird stuff (see the spoken-word skit ‘Telephone Play No. 1’), though it never failed to find a groove. **JB**

FOR FANS OF



GRIMES

LANA DEL REY



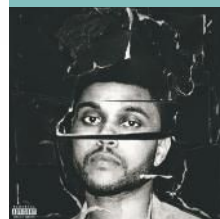
19

THE WEEKND

Beauty Behind The Madness

Released: August 28

Earlier this year Abel Tesfaye, aka The Weeknd, told *Pitchfork*: “I love villains – they’re the best characters in movies.” And this, the Toronto R&B singer’s second proper album, found him plumbing further depths of bastardry. On the acoustic ‘Shameless’ he admitted he’d do pretty much anything to get his leg over, while on the brutally bassy ‘The Hills’ he crooned, “*I just f****ed two bitches ‘fore I saw you.*” The smut was backed by vibrant, ’80s Michael Jackson-style production, resulting in a terrifically fun portrait of a disco-damaged lothario. **JB**



LIKE THIS? TRY THIS!



RAURY

All We Need

His debut

album showed Raury and The Weeknd have pop nous, soul and silky smooth production in common.



KELELA

Hallucigen

The

tricksy beats on the Washington singer’s EP put a cleverer slant on Abel Tesfaye’s twisted R&B.

WORDS: LARRY BARTLETT, JORDAN BASSETT, MARK BEAUMONT, LEONIE COOPER, RHIAN DALY, BEN HOMEWOOD, EMILY MACKAY, BARRY NICOLSON, KEVIN EG PERRY, DAVID RENSHAW, OLLY RICHARDS, SAM RICHARDS, GARY RYAN, DAN STUBBS, DEAN VAN NGUYEN.

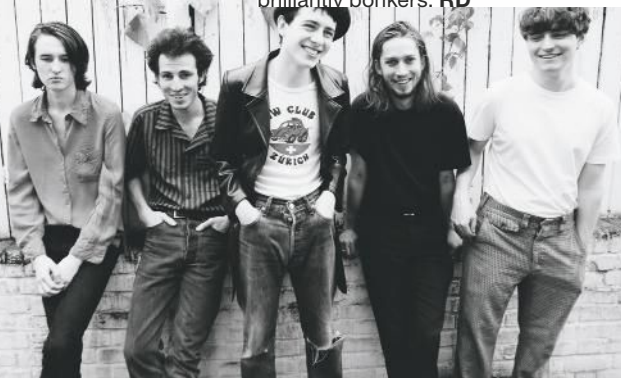
18



SWIM DEEP

Mothers

Released: September 25
Birmingham band Swim Deep ditched the sweet indie-pop of their 2013 debut 'Where The Heaven Are We', choosing instead to burrow into a psychedelic wormhole. The result was a mind-altering journey, through tracks like acid-drenched jam 'Fueiho Boogie' and the bleary-eyed rave of 'One Great Song And I Can Change The World'. 'Namaste' was a poppier moment, but mostly 'Mothers' was the sound of a band going brilliantly bonkers. **RD**



17



JOANNA NEWSOM

Divers

Released: Oct 23
On her fourth album, Californian harpist Joanna Newsom pared back from 2010's three-discer 'Have One On Me'. 'Divers' retained all the Newsom's best qualities, by pairing classical-tinged tunes with deft verbal sorcery ("Hotdogging loon, caught there/ Like a shard of mirror on the Moon" went 'Anecdotes'). It was the lyrical continuity that made it so rewarding, full of poignant reflections on time and death, tucked inside delicate rhymes and weighty metaphors. **LB**



STRANGE & TRUE

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!"

16



FATHER JOHN MISTY

I Love You, Honeybear

Released: February 9
Josh Tilman's second album as Father John Misty was a masterclass in how to be a modern singer-songwriter. With its sweeping string sections overlaid with lyrics about "Mascara, blood, ash and cum", it blended the poetic honesty of a divebar Leonard Cohen with the humour of Randy Newman. The former Fleet Foxes drummer also flexed his experimental muscles, and on 'True Affection' delved into glitchy electronica. But the real gold on 'I Love You, Honeybear' came from the soul-baring love songs dedicated to his new wife: 'Chateau Lobby #4 (In C For Two Virgins)' was a particularly joyous honeymoon triumph. **JB**



15



BLUR

The Magic Whip

Released: April 27
'The Magic Whip' was something of a miracle. With its basic tracks recorded over just five days in Hong Kong in 2013, discarded and later adorned by guitarist Graham Coxon in secret, Blur's eighth album almost never happened. That it was such a masterfully crafted artefact is even more incredible. From the Britpop revivalism of 'Lonesome Street' to the icy majesty of 'Pyongyang' and the louche beach conga of 'Ong Ong', it dribbled deliciously between the fingers. A worthy addition to Blur's iconic canon. **MB**

Best track

PYONGYANG

Graham Coxon: "It's a very simple song, but it sounds epic – when Damon hits that high note in the chorus, it's one of those big moments."

TIDAL

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14



DEERHUNTER

Fading Frontier

Released: October 16

Deerhunter's seventh album was easier on the ear than the dark desperation of 2013's 'Monomania', but the feeling of serenity projected by frontman Bradford Cox on early singles 'Living My Life' and 'Breaker' proved misleading. 'Fading Frontier' was a restless, lonely record that got under your skin and stayed there. It also contained some of the finest songs the Atlanta quartet have ever written, like the Jagger-hipped strut of 'Snakeskin', the gorgeous, sighing resignation of 'Take Care' and the crippled, broken-down blues of 'Leather And Wood'. Seven albums in, Deerhunter are as vital as ever. **BN**



13



SLEATER-KINNEY

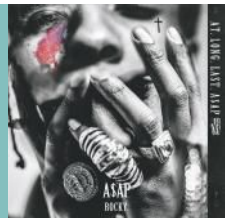
No Cities To Love

Released: January 20

The fearsome threesome of post-riot grrl rock shrugged off the weight of expectation for their first album in a decade with an exhilarating blast of fierce energy. 'No Cities To Love' was breathlessly brilliant, and swept away the reverence that surrounded their return. Those intertwining guitars were bright, ragged and sexy, Corin Tucker's voice was still a city-levelling force and Janet Weiss drummed like a caged beast set loose. From the jagged, careening 'Price Tag' to the stridently glorious 'No Anthems' via the bouncy exuberance of 'New Wave', there wasn't a weak moment. **EM**



12



A\$AP ROCKY

At. Long. Last. A\$AP

Released: May 26

The strangest and most immersive rap record of 2015, 'At. Long. Last. A\$AP' unfolded like a week-long acid trip. 'Everyday' (which sampled Rod Stewart) and 'L\$D' reinvented the Harlem MC as a weird R&B crooner, while 'Lord Pretty Flacko Jodye 2' showed Rocky could still master a synth-driven hip-hop banger. But as muted beats and relentless grunts of "Owuuuhh" shifted in and out of focus, the album's only constant was its hallucinatory atmosphere. As Rocky slurred on 'Fine Whine', this was the moment he "became a drugg...". **BH**



FUTURE DS2
Combined syrupy

beats with auto-tuned raps ("I just took a p'ss and saw some codeine coming out").



10



UNKNOWN MORTAL ORCHESTRA

Multi-Love

Released: May 26

Even without knowledge of this album's incredible backstory – frontman Ruban Nielson wrote it while entangled in a polyamorous relationship with his wife and a woman he met in a Tokyo club – 'Multi-Love' would still be an exhilarating, eye-opening trip. Emotionally pole-axed, Nielson poured his love and confusion into nine pert pellets of funky power-pop and woozy psychedelic disco. Prince, Beck, Sly Stone, Shuggie Otis... suddenly, none of these seemed like outlandish comparisons for a man living his love life on the edge and turning his joyous bewilderment into dazzling psych-pop gold. **SR**

11

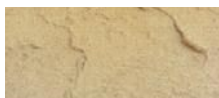


KURT VILE

B'lieve I'm Goin' Down...

Released: September 25

The Philadelphia's sixth album combined the glossy production of 2013's 'Wakin On A Pretty Daze' with the weather-beaten feel of 2011's 'Smoke Ring For My Halo'. Alongside his usual guitar, Vile played banjo on 'I'm An Outlaw' and piano on 'Lost My Head There'. His stream-of-consciousness lyrics were as brilliant as ever. The verse on 'Pretty Pimpin' was best: "I woke up this morning/Didn't recognise the man in the mirror/Then I laughed and said, 'Oh silly me, that's just me.'" **BH**



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THE MACCABEES

Marks To Prove It

Released: July 31

The Maccabees spent three years shut away inside their Elephant & Castle studio making their grand, sumptuous fifth album. 'Marks To Prove It' saw the band pay tribute to this pocket of south London in the grip of gentrification, while jumping from tumbling riffs and rolling piano ('Spit It Out') to more introspective moments ('River Song'). **RD**

FOR FANS OF



LANA DEL REY

Honeymoon

Released: Sep 18
2015 didn't exactly deliver loads of stuff to laugh about, and Lana Del Rey's crushingly bleak third album tapped into the zeitgeist. 'Honeymoon' was a broken Disney fairytale of bankrupt Hollywood dreams in which vocals ached, strings pined and our heroine gasped lines like "You're so art deco, out on the floor/Shining like gun metal, cold and unsure" without so much as a half-smile. Del Rey is a pop star made of slow-mo GIFs, medicinal marijuana and angst, and 'Honeymoon' offered escapism only to a place that's more painful than real life. But somehow, its dark waters dragged you in every time. **DS**

FAMOUS FAN

"She's got fantastic charisma, and this is a very interesting thing. It's like she's born out of another time. She's got something that's so very appealing to people, and I didn't know that she was influenced by me."

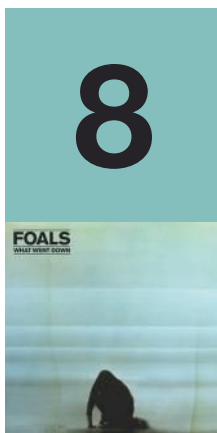
David Lynch



CHVRCHES

Every Open Eye

Released: September 25
'Every Open Eye' very much belongs to the 'if it ain't broke...' school of second-album thought. To follow their 2013 debut, Chvrches simply took what worked about that record and amplified it, with stronger melodies, bigger choruses and more potent beats. Even the token jam from keyboardist Martin Doherty, the yearning Italo disco of 'High Enough To Carry You Over', was much improved. It was on tracks like 'Never Ending Circles' and 'Clearest Blue', however, that the true scale of their ambitions became clear – Chvrches were born on the internet, but they're bound for arenas. **BN**



FOALS

What Went Down

Released: August 28

We always knew the Oxford math rockers would benefit from more meat on their bones. Yet for every quasi-metal riff that made it sound like they'd taken up second jobs as cage fighters (best example: the title track), there were more considered, airy funk moments like 'Birch Tree' and 'Give It All'. It all melded into one beautifully balanced package of ultra-refined art rock, and the glacial 'A Knife In The Ocean' rivalled 'Spanish Sahara' as Foals' most planet-sized tune. **MB**



TAME IMPALA

Currents

Released: July 17

The leaders of the Aussie psych vanguard all but severed ties with guitar-based noise on 'Currents'. "They say people never change, but that's bullsh*t" pondered mastermind Kevin Parker on 'Yes I'm Changing', and it was a fitting observation for a record all about transformation. But fans needn't have feared the disco-flecked new sound; Parker's niggling insecurities – including an admission of "I'm just pathetic" in 'Cause I'm A Man' – still sounded intoxicating. **LB**



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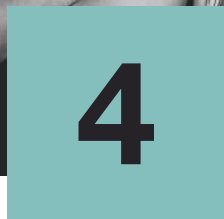
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Best Track

SOAPY WATER

Over delicate guitars and crunching drums, singer Ellie Rowsell got melancholy and asked, "If life is easy then what is this?" The album's angriest moment.

WOLF ALICE

My Love Is Cool

Released: June 22

Their early singles were fun, but no one *really* expected Wolf Alice to release an album as inventive, invigorating and sublime as this. From roaring choruses ('Fluffy', 'You're A Germ') to softer reflections ('Soapy Water' and 'The Wonderwhy'), 'My Love Is Cool' surged with ambition, and proved there is so much more to them than grunge revivalism. **RD**



JAMIE XX

In Colour

Released: May 29

On which The xx's softly-spoken producer, Jamie Smith, went on a sublime journey through the dance music universe. Six years in the making, it transported the listener from dubby drum'n'bass to shimmering disco and summery dancehall. He brought in xx bandmates Romy Madley-Croft and Oliver Sim to help out on the sad-boy party tunes 'Loud Places', 'SeeSaw' and 'Stranger In A Room', while Jamaican artist Popcaan and Atlanta rapper Young Thug were surprise guests. But mostly 'In Colour' was the sound of a man totally confident about going it alone. **LC**



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Kieran Hebden's eighth album featured just two 20-minute tracks of ridiculously dreamy electronica.

DREW REYNOLDS, EMMA TILLMAN, ANNABEL MEHRAN, LINDA BROWNLEE, BRIGITTE SIRE, RYAN STANG, MARINA CHAVEZ, JORDAN HUGHES, JENN FIVE, GETTY IMAGES, DANNY CLINCH, EMILY CHEUNG



KENDRICK LAMAR

To Pimp A Butterfly

Released: March 15

No other album released this year was as sure of its own significance as 'To Pimp A Butterfly'. This boldness was exemplified by closing track 'Mortal Man', a 12-minute odyssey that ended with Lamar 'interviewing' Tupac, ruminating on race, success and celebrity in America, confirming him as the voice of a generation. Lamar's second album was unashamedly high-minded and ambitious, mixing up elements of jazz, funk, soul, spoken-word and hip-hop to create a testament to (and treatise on) the Black American cultural experience in 2015. 'Essential' may be an overused word, but there's no question that it applies here. **BN**

FAMOUS FAN

David Bowie

Long-term Bowie collaborator Tony Visconti recently revealed he and David "loved the fact Kendrick was so open-minded and didn't do a straight-up hip-hop record. He threw everything on there."



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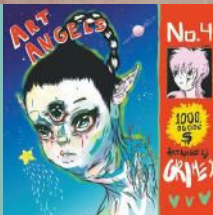
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ALBUM
OF THE
1
YEAR



GRIMES

'Art Angels'

Released: November 6

We knew Grimes could write killer pop songs (last summer's 'Go', 2012's 'Oblivion'), but 'Art Angels' proved she could deliver 14 of them in a row. A musical fantasia taking in an orchestral overture ('Laughing And Not Being Normal'), a candy floss cowboy track ('California'), spiky electro-pop ('Pin') and every station between, 'Art Angels' was not so much the sound of an artist trying to fit into the pop landscape as one trying to shape it in their own image. The best album of the year, from the most exciting artist of a generation. **DS**



“On this record I don’t give a f***k anymore”

Grimes owned 2015, making NME’s Album Of The Year by playing, producing and engineering every element of ‘Art Angels’ herself. Kevin EG Perry meets the consummate internet-age pop star

HOW DO YOU MAKE THE BEST album of 2015? Only Grimes knows. ‘Art Angels’ is an album everyone should own, that everyone can take something from. It’s bold, angry and provocative – a statement of intent from an artist coming of age and imprinting her singular worldview on the mainstream. Even if she doesn’t quite feel like a pop star yet, Grimes certainly looks like one.

We’re in a photo studio in west London and she’s draped in flowing robes and occult jewellery, topped off with a crescent-shaped headpiece. Two burly guys have been called in to carry her clamshell throne over for her. When you’re a pop star, clamshell throne transport is something you can outsource.

Look Grimes up online and you’ll find further evidence of pop stardom. She has half-a-dozen YouTube videos with views in the millions, mixed with unfaltering critical acclaim. She’s signed to Jay Z’s Roc Nation management

PHOTOGRAPHY: STEVE NEAVES

and her glitchy, otherworldly electronica is equally popular with art school kids, science fiction fanatics, hipster music blogs and high fashion designers. You quickly start to build up a picture of not just a pop star, but perhaps the coolest musician on the planet.

Grimes begs to differ. “I hate the words ‘pop star,’” she says. “I don’t make pop music. I’m on an indie label. I don’t want to feel pressure to be a world-class singer, or a professional-level dancer, or super beautiful. I’m not good at any of those things, and I’m very shy. I just want to make what I want to make.” What about her legion of fans? “No-one calls Smashing Pumpkins pop stars. No-one calls Trent Reznor a pop star. You can be experimental and have a big audience and not be pop.”

OK – not a pop star. So what is she? Grimes is the creation and ongoing science-fantasy art project of Claire Boucher. When we sit down to talk, the 27-year-old has swapped her robes for a black hoodie and pulled her home-dyed pink hair back into a loose ponytail. She has to “get into character” for photoshoots, just as she does when making music. She



Grimes, NYC,
June 2014

denies being cool almost as vehemently as she denies being a pop star. "There's a perception that I am, but I'm extremely uncool," she insists. "I don't go out much."

What does she think cool is? "Umm," she thinks. "People with social skills?"

Born and raised in Vancouver, Boucher moved to Montreal to study at McGill University with thoughts of becoming a neuroscientist. That fell by the wayside when she discovered the city's DIY party scene. In 2010 she released two strangely beautiful electronica records: 'Geidi Primes', a concept album about Frank Herbert's fantasy novel *Dune*, and 'Halfaxa'. "When I first started everyone was like, 'Ha, ha, a *Dune* concept album,'" she says. "But now because of *Game Of Thrones* and stuff it's more chill."

Her third album 'Visions', released at the start of 2012, changed everything. Soon her music was soundtracking the most fashionable parties, and Boucher found herself being dressed for the red carpet by Karl Lagerfeld. Not bad for an album produced entirely on GarageBand while holed up in her flat in the depths of a nine-day amphetamine binge.

Boucher's initial reaction was to shun the limelight. She considered an alternative career as a hitmaker for the stars (she wrote 'Go' for Rihanna, but it was rejected and she put it out herself), then retreated to the mountains of Squamish, north of Vancouver. After scrapping some recordings she made there, she relocated to Los Angeles to finish 'Art Angels'.

Boucher says 'Art Angels' came from a more considered place than the Adderall-fuelled 'Visions' sessions. "I smoke weed sometimes," she says. But adds: "I shouldn't talk about that," and says that an anti-drugs blog post she wrote has been exaggerated by the media. "When the internet is like: 'Grimes is on a tirade, hates drugs,' I'm never actually on a tirade. In my life generally I've been cleaning up a lot. It [drug use] becomes exhausting."

She was, however, "extremely drunk" when she made 'California', a sort of hoedown homage to Dolly Parton and the Dixie Chicks. "I wanted to make a song that is so uncool that no cool hipster people would like it."

One thing Boucher has never compromised is that Grimes is and always has been entirely her own work. The only other people to appear on 'Art Angels' are Aristophanes, a Taiwanese rapper her boyfriend came across on SoundCloud, and Janelle Monáe, an artist

whose self-determined career she admires. Earlier this year, she posted an Instagram picture captioned "Fillin out tha paperwork", which showed a list of engineer and producer credits for the songs on 'Art Angels'. Every line simply read: 'Claire Boucher'.

Boucher doesn't consider a song a true Grimes track unless she has played, engineered and produced every element of it. She's Timbaland and Aaliyah rolled into one. She works alone partly to allow herself the space to experiment – she wants the freedom to spend two days working on 100 layers of vocals and then to delete the whole thing – but more importantly to preserve the integrity and purity of her own voice.

On 'Art Angels', Grimes makes it clear she's an artist with a message.

What's your favourite song on 'Art Angels'?

"'Kill V. Maim' for sure, because it's my strongest work as a producer and it probably reflects my personality more than most of my music. It's the song I've always wanted to make, and I finally made it."

What's the best compliment you've been paid about the album?

"A lot of people say it makes them cry, which makes me happy. A lot of people have gotten extremely angry about it too, which makes me feel like Stravinsky!"

What are your own favourite albums of 2015?

"'Honeymoon' by Lana Del Rey, 'Natural Born Losers' by Nicole Dollanganger and FKA Twigs' 'M3LL155X', which is an EP but it's got more good songs than most albums. I've been loving the Joanna Newsom album as well."

Everyone's so f***ing apathetic about everything. Our apathy will lead to the world becoming unliveable in our lifetime. It's on us. It's on my generation right now."

She sees the impact of environmental change every time she reads the news – from the way drought in Syria exacerbated the civil war, to the disproportionate effect of climate change on those already living in poverty. "I'm really stressed about the world becoming so f***ed," she says. "Environmental stuff impacts the poor more than anybody else. People worry about social issues, but it is a social issue. It's the number one social issue."

Having supported Lana Del Rey earlier this year, Boucher is finally getting used to the idea of commanding a big stage (her Ac!d Reign tour hits the UK next year). She enthuses about how her new songs "smack the room around" and says she's considering hypnosis to help overcome any lingering anxiety she still feels about performing.

Boucher is the kind of pop star we've been crying out for: a genuine auteur who can provide an alternative to the mainstream, making music for outcasts and misfits. She's coming round to the idea. "I feel like Grimes is the uncool pop star," she says. "I want to be inclusive. I feel like a lot of people don't feel cool. If you like comic books and technology, then maybe you like Grimes."

Many do. Her clamshell throne awaits.

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Tracks of the year

From space rock anthems to exhilarating grime bangers, there was room for everything on the soundtrack of 2015. You know there's gonna be good tunes...



9

KENDRICK LAMAR King Kunta

Released: March 24
G-funk, James Brown, Michael Jackson, Alex Haley's *Roots* and more besides – Kendrick Lamar's 'King Kunta' was a proudly, purposely referential track that walked tall in some seriously esteemed company. Yet for all the weighty cultural and historical references it threw out there, it was the song's sense of swaggering, militant defiance that set it apart.

Best bit: "The yam brought it out of Richard Pryor/ Manipulated Bill Clinton with desires" – conclusive proof that sweet potato is the root (vegetable) of all evil. **BN**



10

SWIM DEEP Fueiho Boogie

Released: Sept 25
From the absurd lyrics ("Oh cauliflower, don't hold me down") to the mind-melting synth work, 'Fueiho Boogie's eight minutes made you feel like you were about to take off. It also marked Birmingham band Swim Deep's first foray into the political – it was written about the 1948 Fueiho law that, until recently, restricted dancing in Japan. Well worth risking jail time for.

Best bit: When everything goes galactic at the breakbeat-infused climax. **RD**

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8

DRAKE Hotline Bling

Released: July 31
The video inspired a trillion memes of Drake's dad dancing, but they couldn't overshadow the brilliance of 'Hotline Bling'. After hit-or-miss album 'If You're Reading This It's Too Late', it was proof that Drake still had the goods – in this case, a pitter-pattering beat courtesy of frequent collaborator nineteenth85, a smooth, melancholy vibe and lyrics lamenting the state of his love life. Classic Drake.

Best bit: The misery in his voice as he sighs, "You used to call me on my cell phone/ Late night when you need my love." **RD**

7

JAMIE XX I Know There's Gonna Be (Good Times)

Released: May 11
Opening with a lush sample from a capella gospel group The Persuasions' 1972 track 'Good Times', this indisputable banger was the poppiest moment on Jamie xx's brilliant solo debut album, 'In Colour'. Over a deliciously mellow old school groove, Jamaican dancehall artist Popcaan and Atlanta rapper Young Thug's distinctive vocals playfully bounced off each other, uniting London, Kingston and Atlanta in a sweaty, summery embrace. Good times? Great times. **Best bit:** That sweet spot just before the steel drums kick in and everything goes proper euphoric. **LC**



6



GRIMES Kill V. Maim

Released: November 6
This was Canadian electro wizard Claire Boucher's favourite track on her masterful fourth album, 'Art Angels'. Even at face value it was loveable for its plethora of vocal stylings and brain-drilling playground chants – "B-E-H-A-V-E arrest us!" – but the lyrics were reliably batsh*t too. It told *The Godfather Part II's* story, but here mob boss Michael Corleone was a genderqueer space vampire, and the song's inescapable chorus dripped anger like blood. **Best bit:** Boucher's primal scream – "You gave up being good when you declared a state of WAR." **LB**

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5

THE 1975 Love Me

Released: October 8
Matt Healy's chart-humping titans returned with something to say on this strutting first taste of their preposterously named second album, 'I Like It When You Sleep, For You Are So Beautiful Yet So Unaware Of It'. Having a pop at the superficiality and shallowness of selfie culture, Healy used wordplay ("Karcashian panache") to ram his point home, while his bandmates mined 'Fame'-era Bowie, Talking Heads and INXS.

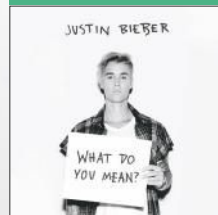
Best bit: When Healy sneered, "You look famous, let's be friends/ And portray we possess something important." **RD**

4

FOALS What Went Down

Released: August 28
"When I see a man I see a liar" – the lyrics chosen by Yannik Philippakis to vent his inner rage on Foals' heaviest moment to date. Expanding the blueprint laid down by 2012 single 'Inhaler', 'What Went Down' is the Oxford band at their most savage. Guitars circled their prey before pouncing on the listener in the chorus, with Jack Bevan's drums matching each riff pound-for-pound. **Best bit:** Philippakis ending the song with "You're the apple of my eye, of my eye, I want ya." Cocky. **DR**

3



JUSTIN BIEBER What Do You Mean?

Released: August 28
What do you mean you're still hating on Bieber? In a year of redemption for the former egg-chucking, monkey-abandoning pop brat, this was the moment when we all became Beliebers. Time is a great healer but a quality tune is even better, and 'What Do You Mean?' was the perfect pop confection: light as air and catchy as hell, allowing us to glimpse the vulnerability behind the megastar façade as Biebs grappled endearingly with the mysteries of womankind. 346 million YouTube viewers can't be wrong... and, this time, they weren't.

Best bit: The finest use of synth-flute since... well, ever. **SR**

TRACK OF THE YEAR

SKEPTA | SHUTDOWN



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go to NME.com

2

THE WEEKND Can't Feel My Face

Released: June 8
Further proof that Swedish producer Max Martin is the messiah of all things pop, 'Can't Feel My Face' was The Weeknd's unabashed tilt at Michael Jackson-style pop superstardom. We're pretty sure that Jacko never sang about having a terrible racket habit though. Comparing drug addiction to the love of a good woman isn't new, but Abel Tesfaye's smooth take on narcotic R&B added a fresh feel to a shady subject, and guaranteed that the most shamelessly sing-along chorus of the year was mostly concerned with nasal numbness. **Best bit:** That first, insanely satisfying drop into the finest chorus of 2015. **LC**

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SKEPTA Shutdown

Released: April 26
2015's mightiest track was an instant self-fulfilling prophecy: Skepta opens on that exhilarating chorus ("That's not me and it's shutdown/Ring ring pussy, it's shutdown") and thereafter never misses an opportunity to press his point home. We're still waiting on Skepta's long-delayed album, but this track was more than enough to reaffirm Joseph Junior Adenuga's place as the reigning King of Grime. **Best bit:** "It's just not what I expect to see on primetime TV." The mid-song skit lampooning the public reaction to Kanye West's "intimidating" Brits performance – which Skepta himself was part of – is priceless. **BN**

Films of the year

Blockbusters that actually delivered, inventive horror stories, twisty thrillers, smart sci-fi and a couple of the best music documentaries ever made. Film in 2015 had it all

8

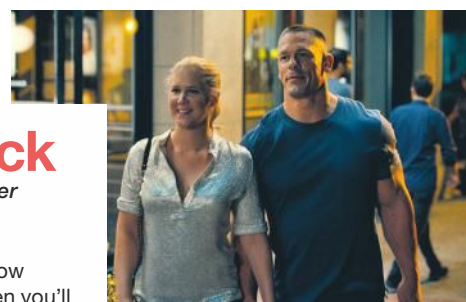
Trainwreck

Amy Schumer, Bill Hader

Released: August 14

If you've seen the TV show *Inside Amy Schumer* then you'll know that Schumer is currently untouchable as a sketchwriter. She's not too shabby at scripting films either, making her debut (as writer and lead actor) with a romantic comedy that managed to be funny and heartwarming without casting men as useless and women as lovelorn and twee.

Best bit: Amy's dates with her very confused sort-of-boyfriend, played by wrestler John Cena. **OR**



6

The Martian

Matt Damon, Jessica Chastain, Chiwetel Ejiofor

Released: Sept 30
Ridley Scott's best film in years. Mostly it was Matt Damon alone on camera, as an astronaut stranded during a mission to Mars and trying to survive the months it would take for NASA to rescue him. Somehow, it made that exciting, tense and funny. The smartest blockbuster of 2015.

Best bit: Learning how to grow potatoes on Mars with a tent, some poo and a dream. **OR**



7

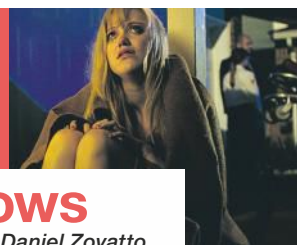
It Follows

Maika Monroe, Daniel Zovatto, Kier Gilchrist

Released: February 27

It's rare to see something new in horror. *It Follows* introduced us to the idea of the sexually transmitted curse, and if that sounded daft, it was actually terrifying and wore its symbolism lightly. A teenage girl went on a date, had unprotected sex, then found a shape-shifting monster trailing her at all times. The only way to get rid of it was to pass it on to someone else.

Best bit: When the monster proved that even when you go to a remote beach house it will find you, and get you. **OR**



9

Sicario

Emily Blunt, Benicio Del Toro, Josh Brolin

Released: October 8

More people should have heard of Denis Villeneuve. After *Incendies*, *Prisoners*, *Enemy* and now *Sicario*, he might be the best working director who's not mega-famous yet (his next gig is *Blade Runner 2*). *Sicario* told the story of an FBI agent (Blunt) recruited for a government op to bring down a Mexican crime boss. A twisty crime drama that made extremely complex storytelling look like a breeze.

Best bit: A shootout in the middle of a traffic jam. **OR**



10

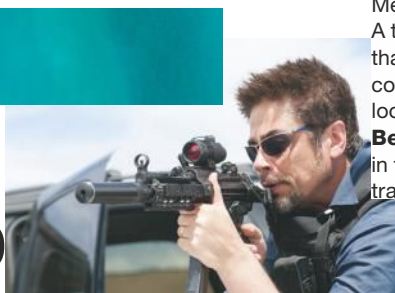
Jurassic World

Chris Pratt, Bryce Dallas Howard, Vincent D'Onofrio

Released: June 11

Jurassic Park was one of the greatest blockbusters ever made, as we all know. The first two sequels tried very hard to make audiences forget that, basically retreading the original with a fraction of the excitement. *Jurassic World* featured loads of loving nods to the original, but also had its own personality and some very 2015 ideas about science and corporate greed. This was what a good summer blockbuster should be: exciting, loud and a bit silly.

Best bit: When the pterodactyls – or some other kind of winged dinosaur – attacked. **OR**





5

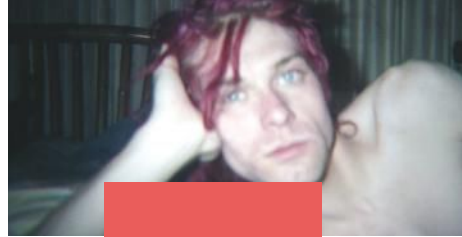
Ex Machina

Domhnall Gleeson, Oscar Isaac, Alicia Vikander

Released: January 21

When Caleb, an employee of a Googley/Appley-type company called Bluebook, found out he'd won the chance to visit the home of his eccentric genius CEO Nathan (Oscar Isaac), he thought he was in for a week of playing with secret gadgets and talking about apps. Instead he was introduced to a robot who wanted to know what it is to be human. Without spoiling where those relationships went, it got *brilliantly* weird.

Best bit: Nathan's bizarre but surprisingly groovy dance routine. It's unusual to see grapevining steps used to such sinister effect. **OR**



4

Cobain: Montage Of Heck

Kurt Cobain, Courtney Love, Tracy Marander

Released: April 24

Prior to watching *Montage Of Heck*, you'd be forgiven for wondering if there was really anything new to say about Kurt Cobain's life. The genius of *MOH*, made with unprecedented access to the Nirvana singer's archive of journals, cassette tapes, home videos and more, was in allowing him to speak for himself. The result was enlightening and often revelatory.

Best bit: The scene depicting Cobain's first sexual encounter and contemplation of suicide, animated by Hisko Hulsing and narrated by the man himself. **BN**



3

Whiplash

Miles Teller, JK Simmons

Released: January 16

Who'd have thought the story of a young man trying to join a jazz band would be one of the tensest films of the year? Damien Chazelle directed this battle of wills between a conductor, Fletcher (*Spider-Man* grouch JK Simmons on wild, Oscar-winning form), and a cocky student, Andrew (Miles Teller), as if it were a horror film, full of rapid editing and face-offs that left your nails bitten to nubs.

Best bit: When Andrew tried to impress Fletcher with his drumming skills, but couldn't match his tempo. Then things turned violent... **OR**

COURTESY OF HBO DOCUMENTARY FILMS



2

Mad Max: Fury Road

Tom Hardy, Charlize Theron, Nicholas Hoult

Released: May 14

Essentially, the *Mad Max* reboot was one long car chase, but *what* a car chase, and much better than any of those old Mel Gibson ones. Basically, it was just Charlize Theron, Tom Hardy, a load of Australians with weird faces and a supermodel tearing across the desert in trucks from Hell, showing how an action film should be made.

Best bit: Any scene featuring the Doof Warrior, a gimp-masked loon in a red onesie, banging out noise on a flaming guitar in front of a giant wall of speakers. **OR**

FILM
OF THE
YEAR

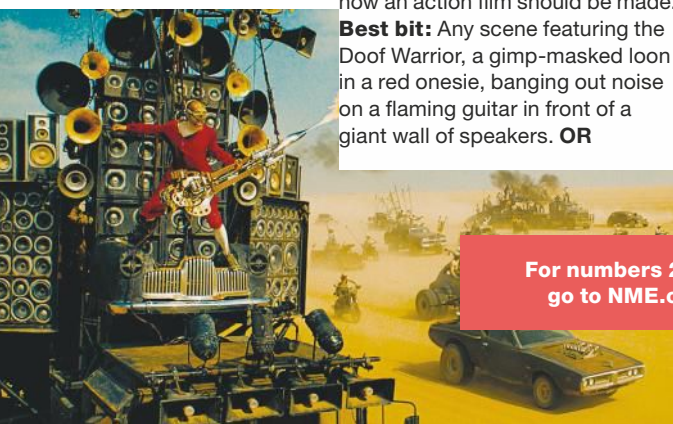
Amy

Amy Winehouse, Mark Ronson

Released: July 3

It would have been so easy for this to be sensationalist and tasteless. Yet using extensive video footage from Winehouse and her friends and family, rather than the usual talking head interviews, director Asif Kapadia (*Senna*) put together a compelling portrait of a woman whose immense talent brought her too much fame too fast. Heartbreaking, but riveting.

Best bit: Seeing Winehouse in the recording studio with Mark Ronson and being reminded of the power of her voice. **OR**



For numbers 20-11,
go to NME.com

TV of the year

6 GAME OF THRONES

Sky Atlantic

In Westeros, life expectancy is shorter than Hodor's vocabulary. Suffice to say, this controversially brutal fifth series of *Game Of Thrones* saw more of our favourite characters horrifically bite the dust, and ended with the fate of another hanging in the balance. Still the most brilliantly over-the-top thing on TV. **GR**

8 MASTER OF NONE

Netflix

Aziz Ansari is best known for playing hyperactive chancer Tom Haverford in *Parks And Recreation*. It was a bit of a surprise, then, when he came out with *Master Of None*, a thoughtful series which ruminates on racism, the elderly and everyday sexism. Funny, smart, romantic and confident, *Master Of None* was everything we needed from TV comedy in 2015. **DR**

5 THE JINX

Sky Atlantic

The tale of American real estate heir Robert Durst – a man accused but never convicted of multiple murders – made for the year's most bone-chilling documentary series. An unflinching portrait of a lifetime of psychopathic behaviour, it posed many questions, not least: In 2015, if you have enough money, can you get away with murder? **KEGP**

4 MAD MEN

Sky Atlantic

The sharp fashions and clean haircuts collapsed into a blurry kaleidoscope of hippie colour as *Mad Men* bade farewell by contemplating the 1970s. Rather than cranking up the drama, the final seven episodes instead went deep on its leading characters, resulting in a mischievous but satisfying ending for this modern TV landmark. **DVN**

3 MR ROBOT

Amazon Prime

Bold, slick, addictive and politically prescient, this cyberpunk *Fight Club* starred Rami Malek as Elliot, a vigilante hacker recruited by the enigmatic Mr Robot (*True Romance*'s Christian Slater) to a cell of hacktivists that plan on erasing global debt. From there he was plunged into a powder-keg world where nothing was as it seemed. **GR**

2

BROAD CITY

Comedy Central

Series 2 of Abbi Jacobson and Ilana Glazer's NYC-based comedy honed the razor-sharp stoner bantz of their original webseries to the point where it became essential viewing for everyone who's ever been young, bored, broke and craving a smoke. **RD**

We said goodbye to old favourites, and welcomed a new cast of stoners, psychos and hacktivists

10 PEEP SHOW

Channel 4

As they gathered for Super Hans' sober stag do at the beginning of this last-ever series, it looked as if Croydon's kings of awkward had finally grown up. But the evening soon descended into drug-fuelled debauchery, Mark got lamped for stalking Dobby and Jez shagged a bloke in Mark's bed. We'll miss these idiots when they're gone. **SR**

9 PEOPLE JUST

DO NOTHING
BBC Three

This mockumentary about a Brentford pirate radio station kept getting better, drawing comparisons to *The Office*, with MC Grindah readily assuming the role of a tower-block Brent. Kurrupt FM might have struggled for listeners, but in real life it was a different matter, with the crew taking over Fabric and even claiming responsibility for resurrecting Craig David's career. Re-wind! **SR**

7

CATASTROPHE

Channel 4

At last, a believable sitcom relationship in which both parties gave as good as they got, turning domestic bickering into an artform: "Your toenails are a hate crime!" "Yeah, well at least I don't sell drugs that kill astronauts!" *Catastrophe* was also unflinching in its portrayal of the messy realities of childbirth. The realest British comedy on TV. **SR**

TV OF THE YEAR

THIS IS ENGLAND '90

Channel 4

The coming-of-age story reached its finale this year with Woody, Lol, Milky and Shaun embracing the '90s. Director Shane Meadows was able to command such devotion from his cast and audience that moments of high farce could exist side-by-side with scenes of harrowing intensity. Lets hope he sees sense and makes *TIE '95*. **DR**

Key quote

"It feels like all our heroes are counterfeit. The world itself is just one big hoax"

Key quote

"Would you rather lick a dead man's penis or have sex with the same person for the rest of your life?"

Key quote

"I've heard about these raves. You go for a day, you end up at another party, another party, another party. Some people end up in Ibiza"

vinyl is back?

it never went away.

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Games of the year

Next-gen consoles came good, with the release of some massive titles. But it was a gruesome, all-consuming epic that won 2015's gaming wars



10

BATMAN: ARKHAM KNIGHT

Released: June 23
The fourth *Arkham* game gave the series a shot in the arm. Standard elements like brawls with thugs were back, but new gameplay from the Batmobile expanded the possibilities. The story was overwrought, but the action was slick.
Best bit: Team-ups with sidekicks Robin, Catwoman and Nightwing. **LB**



9

GUITAR HERO LIVE

Released: Oct 23
Revitalising the rhythm game genre, *Guitar Hero Live* introduced a realistic six-button controller and fans who adored you like Jimmy Page when you got it right or bottled you like a three-hours-late Axl Rose when you messed it up.
Best bit: Bad gigs resulting in a crowd member killing a passing bird with a lobbed boot. **MB**



8

SOMA

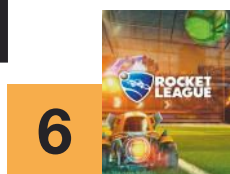
Released: Sept 22
SOMA's trick was to deprive players of power – only your wits could defend you from its half-gl glimpsed enemies. It placed you in a mysterious future and gave a shot in the arm to the 'abandoned facility' horror trope by encouraging players to ask probing philosophical questions about identity.
Best bit: The lingering sense of dread. **LB**



7

HALO 5

Released: Oct 27
Previous *Halos* pitted players against parasitic life forms. The fifth instalment provided a brighter, fresher experience with a campaign against an unexpected enemy playable by four gamers at once.
Best bit: The bombastic intro, which blasted players down a snow-capped mountain. **LB**



6

ROCKET LEAGUE

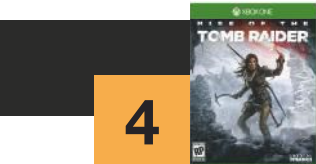
Released: July 7
The premise – four-a-side *FIFA* with jet-powered monster trucks – was simplicity (and silliness) itself, yet once you got through your first few rounds it proved to be surprisingly complex, rewarding swiftness of thought as well as thumbs.
Best bit: Scoring goals is all well and good, but stopping one on its way into the top corner with a gravity-defying barrel roll is even more satisfying. **BN**



5

UNTIL DAWN

Released: August 28
What *LA Noire* and *Heavy Rain* did for moody detective games, *Until Dawn* did for the slasher flick trope of hapless teenagers being stalked by psychopaths. Utilising the 'butterfly effect' that meant every decision had repercussions as to who lived or died, it encouraged multiple play-throughs as you tried to save everyone.
Best bit: Some of the best in-game acting since *The Last Of Us*. **MB**



4

RISE OF THE TOMB RAIDER

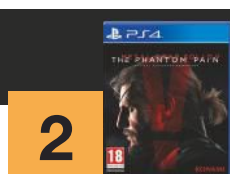
Released: Nov 13
This expanded the scope of 2013's *Tomb Raider* with more involving puzzles and grander landscapes. The tombs were awe-inspiring, the secrets better hidden and Lara's race to a Divine Source so thrill-packed that you could take down an assault helicopter with an arrow. A triumph.
Best bit: Using giant catapults to rain balls of fire on cities. **MB**



3

FALLOUT 4

Released: Nov 10
Both *Fallout 3* and *Fallout: New Vegas* were lessons in how to make the long, slow scouring of a post-nuclear wasteland utterly riveting. *Fallout 4* was about settlement building and armour maintenance, but still totally engrossing.
Best bit: Finding a bar exactly like the one in *Cheers*. **MB**



2

METAL GEAR SOLID V: THE PHANTOM PAIN

Released: Sept 1
Surpassed expectations with gorgeous open-world gameplay, trademark humour and a typically byzantine plot. Creator Hideo Kojima has recently left publisher Konami, but this was a hell of a way to sign off.
Best bit: The Fulton surface-to-air recovery system – the greatest video game mechanic of 2015. **BN**



GAME OF THE YEAR

THE WITCHER 3: WILD HUNT

Released: May 19
This was *Gamer Of Thrones*: a violent, sex-filled epic that lasted forever. To have actually finished all 200 hours of monster slaying, treasure hunting and witch fondling has become a badge of honour in the gaming community. For once, biggest did indeed mean best.
Best bit: On the night before the big battle for the future of the world, you were given plentiful opportunities to get smashed off your face with your witcher mates. **MB**

NME

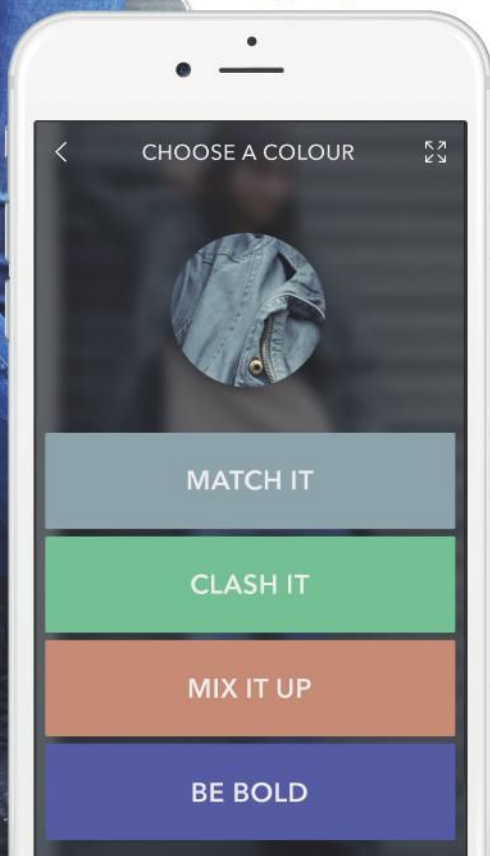


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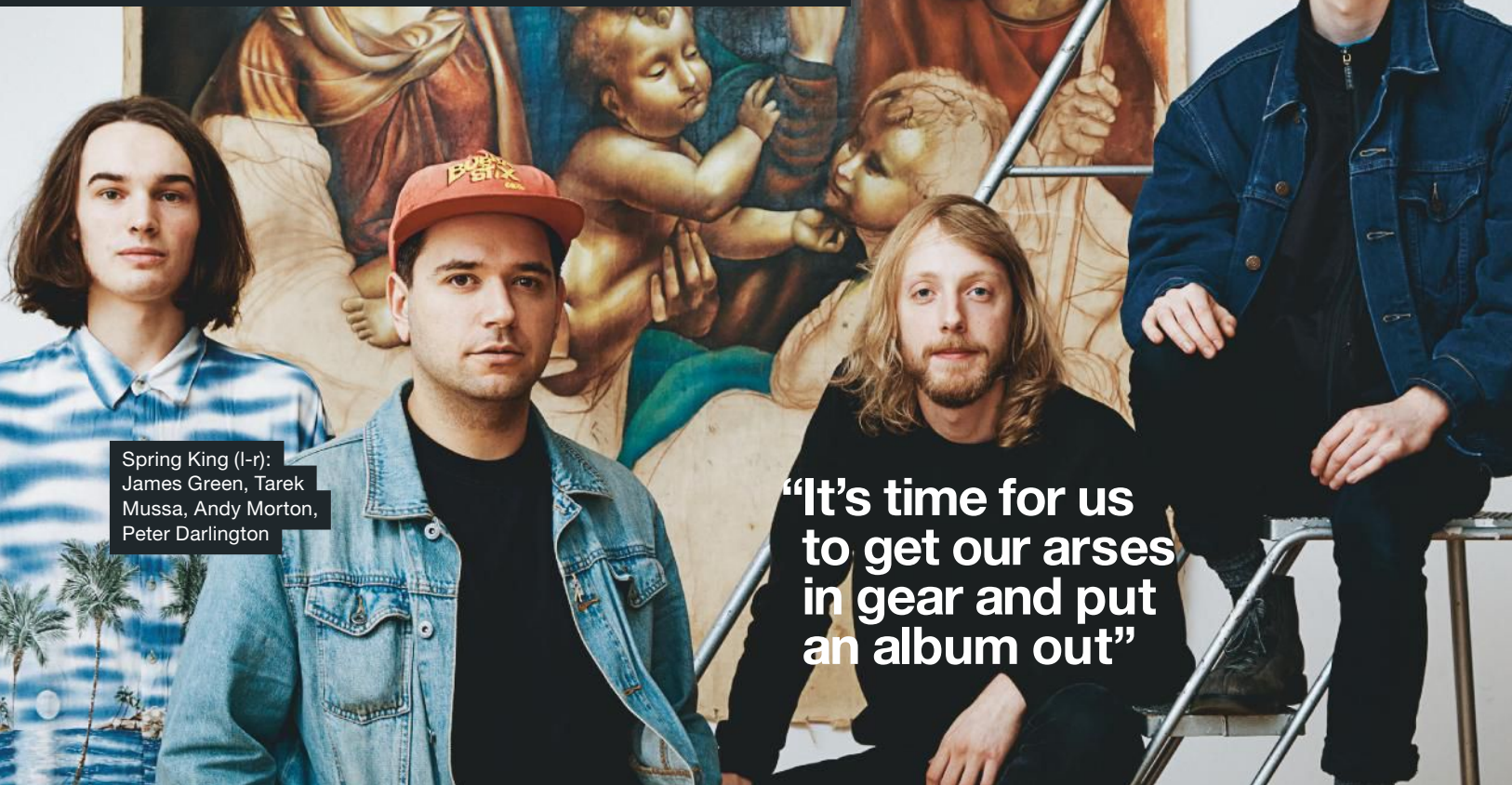
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YOU HEARD IT HERE FIRST



Spring King (l-r): James Green, Tarek Musa, Andy Morton, Peter Darlington

“It’s time for us to get our arses in gear and put an album out”

Spring King

From songwriting experiment to most hyped UK guitar band of 2016

“I’D BEEN PLAYING BASS IN Spring King,” explains Tarek Musa, “but switched to drums when someone left. I finish every gig out of breath. I’m still a chubby boy at heart.”

There were a few occasions, such as their recent gig at London’s Heaven, when the exertion was too much and he threw up all over the stage.

“Thankfully no-one saw and I was able to carry on. It happened when we supported Fildar, too. They were watching side-stage, and as we came off, I was sick on their shoes. Drumming and singing at the same time is a work in progress.”

Hopefully he’ll have it in check soon with the amount of touring they’re going to be doing. Their stock has risen

dramatically in the last eight months. But then being the first band played on Apple’s new radio station will do that.

Zane Lowe kicked off Beats 1 earlier this year with the band’s track ‘City’ and understandably, it had an immediate effect.

“We’re not a big band online, but straight away we had people from all over the world listening, sending us messages,” says Musa. “And loads of labels got in touch. Labels we’d no doubt sent our recordings to previously and never heard back from...”

By day, Musa’s an in-demand producer, having recorded the likes of The Big Moon, Stealing Sheep, Bad Breeding and Gengahr recently, while the rest of the band – Peter Darlington, Andy Morton and James Green – have quit their jobs to take two months to tour.

Thankfully they also found another three weeks to record next year’s debut album. What started as a solo exercise in songwriting practice for Musa a couple of years ago – he set a target of writing and recording one song a day for 100 days – has grown beyond expectation.

“People are tired of us messing around,” he says. “It’s time to get our arses in gear and put an album out”. **Andy Welch**

Details

LISTEN The band’s debut album is due early next year. ‘Who Are You?’ is out now.

LIVE

Feb 9 Broadcast, Glasgow
Feb 10 Think Tank, Newcastle
Feb 11 Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
Feb 12 Moon Club, Cardiff
Feb 16 100 Club, London
Feb 17 Hope & Ruin, Brighton
Feb 18 Bodega, Nottingham
Feb 19 Deaf Institute, Manchester
Feb 20 Nation Of Shopkeepers, Leeds

FACT Their debut album was recorded in the Cheshire house the band share.

SOCIAL @springkingband

For more on Spring King, head to NME.com

FOR FANS OF Best track

Who Are You?

Rockabilly riffs pushed to breaking point and thrilling production courtesy of main man Tarek Musa.



WOLF ALICE



THE VACCINES

Live

THE 10 MOST IMPORTANT
GIGS THIS WEEK

1

Ho99o9

Monday 7 100 Club, London
Tuesday 8 Patterns, Brighton
Wednesday 9 Soup Kitchen, Manchester
Thursday 10 Brudenell Social Club, Leeds

WHO: Freaky punk-rap duo Eaddy and The OGM, who have a predilection for all things filthy and lewd.

WHY: They dress up (in bloodied wedding dresses and plastic bags) and dress down (by removing every last item of clothing), and they match the menacing sounds of their songs by lurching about the stage, threatening fans before sharing joints with them.

WHO'S SUPPORTING:

No details yet.

TICKETS: £8.80-£11 from NME.com/tickets

2

Superfood

Saturday 5 Boston Music Room, London
Sunday 6 Sound Control, Manchester

WHO: Brummie quartet whose 2014 debut 'Don't Say That' was full of brash indie earworms.

WHY: They're road-testing a new line-up after previous drummer Carl Griffin left the band earlier this year, and new material that mixes sci-fi effects with funk licks.

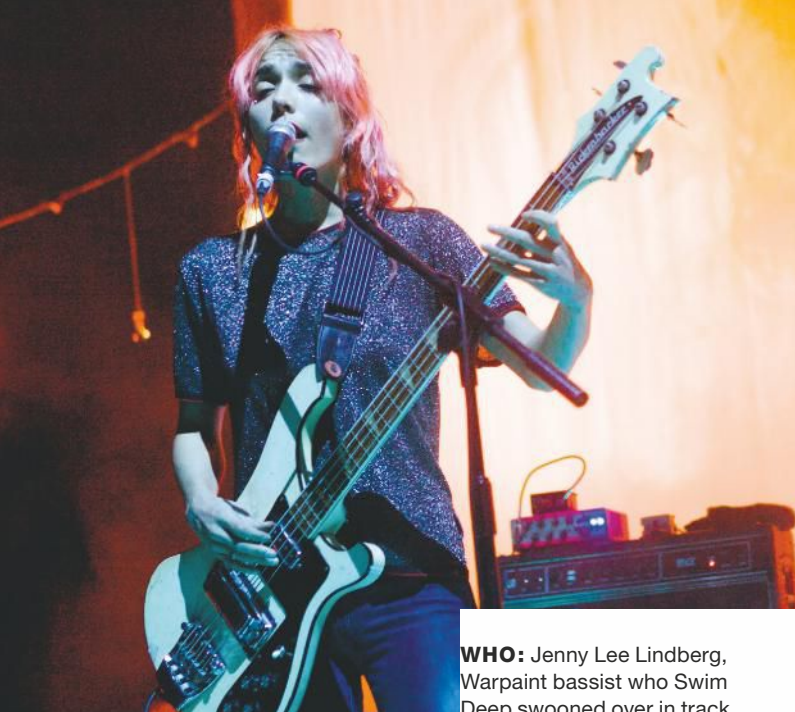
WHO'S SUPPORTING:

No details yet.

TICKETS: Sold out

ANDY HUGHES, PHOTOSHOT, JENN FIVE, GETTY





3

Jennylee

Monday 7 Stereo, Glasgow
Tuesday 8 Band On The Wall, Manchester
Thursday 10 Corsica Studios, London

WHO: Jenny Lee Lindberg, Warpaint bassist who Swim Deep swooned over in track 'King City'.

WHY: Her debut solo album 'Right On!' is an adventure into new wave influences, while keeping the groove that she brings to Warpaint records. A woozy, dreamy treat.

WHO'S SUPPORTING: To be announced.

TICKETS: £13.5-£21.50 from NME.COM/tickets; London sold out



5

Kaiser Chiefs

Thursday 10 O2 Academy, Leeds

WHO: Riot-predicting kings of mid-noughties indie playing a very intimate hometown show.

WHY: All profits go to CLIC Sargent and Leeds Children's Charity, so by buying a ticket you'll be gifting yourself a night of guaranteed hits *and* doing A Good Thing.

WHO'S SUPPORTING: No details yet.

TICKETS: £38.50 from ticketweb.co.uk

4

Noel Gallagher's High Flying Birds

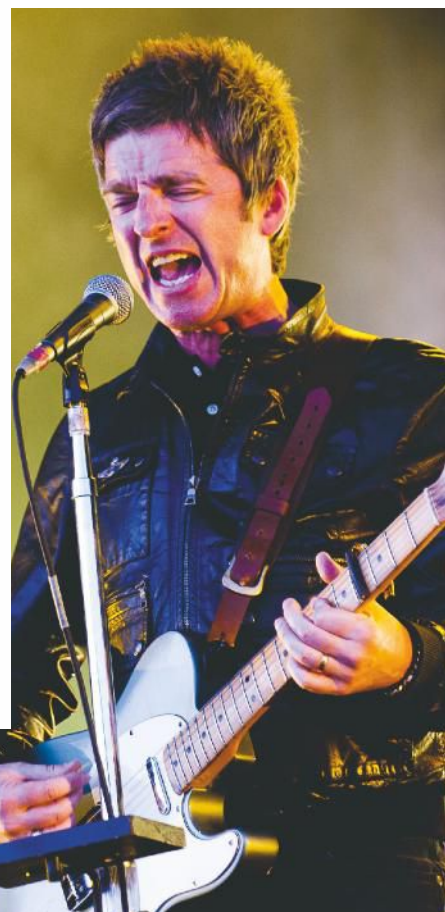
Tuesday 8 SSE Hydro, Glasgow
Thursday 10 Royal Albert Hall, London

WHO: The best interviewee on the planet.

WHY: Noel's said Oasis won't reform for at least five years, but you can still hear some of his old band's best tunes at these two shows.

WHO'S SUPPORTING: Stereophonics, Kodaline, Foxes and Tom Odell in Glasgow; London to be announced.

TICKETS: Sold out, but available on secondary ticketing sites from £49.05



6

Carly Rae Jepsen

Monday 7 Islington Assembly Hall, London

WHO: Canadian pop star who had a breakthrough with the annoyingly catchy 'Call Me Maybe' in 2011.

WHY: New album 'Emotion' is decent – Jeppo's moved away from bubblegum pop to something cooler, working with Dev Hynes, Ariel Rechtshaid and Vampire Weekend's Rostam Batmanglij. The likes of 'I Really Like You' and 'LA Hallucinations' are heaps of fun live.

WHO'S SUPPORTING: To be announced.

TICKETS: Sold out, but if you're quick you can grab tickets on secondary sites from £44.95

For tour news and live reviews go to NME.com





7

EL VY

Wednesday 9 & Thursday 10
Electric Ballroom, London

WHO: The National's Matt Berninger and Menomena's Brent Knopf joining forces on this self-aware and witty side project.

WHY: Berninger's day job might be all about sweeping elegance and poignancy, but on 'Return To The Moon' he lets loose a little, indulging in irony-laced references and strung-out funk. Expect that vibe to be reflected in these shows.

WHO'S SUPPORTING:

No details yet.

TICKETS: Sold out, but available on secondary sites from £46.99



9

Lianne La Havas

Friday 4 O2 Institute, Birmingham
Saturday 5 O2 Academy, Bournemouth
Monday 7 Corn Exchange, Cambridge
Tuesday 8 O2 Academy, Bristol
Wednesday 9 O2 ABC, Glasgow

WHO: Mercury-nominated, jazz-loving soul singer and Prince's new protégée.
WHY: Citing Nina Simone and Lauryn Hill as influences, she's full of muso smarts without being a snoozefest.

WHO'S SUPPORTING:

Colchester-born, Ninja Tune-signed singer Roseau.

TICKETS: Bournemouth and Bristol £19.25 from NME.com/tickets; everywhere else sold out, but tickets are doing the rounds on secondary ticketing sites from £18 upwards

8

Faithless

Friday 4 Alexandra Palace, London
Saturday 5 Arena, Manchester

WHO: Maxi Jazz, Sister Bliss and Rollo, veterans of the British dance scene.

WHY: The trio have been together for 16 years, which means they've got a hell of a lot of experience in turning normal gigs into rave utopias. Classic songs like 'God Is A DJ', 'Insomnia' and 'We Come 1' will only take things higher.

WHO'S SUPPORTING:

To be announced.

TICKETS: £38.50-£47.20 from NME.com/tickets



10

Hudson Mohawke

Thursday 10 The Roundhouse, London

WHO: Kanye and Drake-approved Glaswegian producer Ross Birchard.

WHY: Hud Mo will recreate the inventive and eccentric tracks from his second album 'Lantern' with a full band, meaning the rushing electropop of 'Ryderz' and the 8-bit synths of 'Shadows' will sound bigger, brighter and better than ever.

WHO'S SUPPORTING:

LuckyMe signing Littlebabyangel.

TICKETS: £18.65 from NME.com/tickets

KELLEN NORDSTROM, GETTY

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THIS COULD BE
YOUR DESIGN!

Best of the rest

Alex Calder

Fri 4 The Victoria, London
Sun 6 Prince Albert, Brighton

Benjamin Clementine

Fri 4 Colston Hall, Bristol
Mon 7 St John-At-Hackney Church, London

Bloc Party

Fri 4 St John-At-Hackney Church, London

The Bohicas

Fri 4 Roadmender, Northampton
Sat 5 Talking Heads, Southampton
Sun 6 Horn, St Albans
Mon 7 Sub89, Reading

Bugzy Malone

Wed 9 Concorde 2, Brighton
Thu 10 Plug, Sheffield

The Charlatans

Tue 8 Rock City, Nottingham
Wed 9 Tramshed, Cardiff

The Courteeners

Fri 4 O2 Shepherds Bush Empire, London
Sat 5 O2 Forum, London
Tue 8, Wed 9 & Thu 10 O2 Apollo, Manchester

Courtney Barnett

Fri 4 O2 Academy, Bristol

Demob Happy

Fri 4 Gullivers, Manchester
Sat 5 Broadcast, Glasgow
Mon 7 Start The Bus, Bristol
Tue 8 Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
Thu 10 100 Club, London

Django Django

Sat 5 University Union, Leeds
Sun 6 Albert Hall, Manchester
Mon 7 O2 Institute, Birmingham
Wed 9 The Roundhouse, London

Duran Duran

Fri 4 Genting Arena, Birmingham
Sat 5 Metro Radio Arena, Newcastle
Sun 6 SSE Hydro, Glasgow
Tue 8 The O2, London
Wed 9 International Centre, Bournemouth

Echo & The Bunnymen

Sat 5 Ricoh Arena, Coventry

Ekkah

Fri 4 KOKO, London

Fat White Family

Fri 4 Georgian Theatre, Stockton-On-Tees
Thu 10 Bussey Building, London

Guy Garvey

Fri 4 & Sat 5 Albert Hall, Manchester
Tue 8 O2 ABC, Glasgow

The Internet

Tue 8 XOYO, London



READER'S PICK



Rebecca, 24,
Birmingham
@Rebecca_EMS

The Courteeners

Sat 5 The Forum, London
"They fill an Oasis-shaped hole."



live

Jeffrey Lewis

Fri 4, Lakeside Theatre, Colchester
Sat 5 The Hope And Ruin, Brighton
Sat 5 The Winchester Pub, Bournemouth
Sun 6 Café Kino, Bristol
Mon 7 Mono, Falmouth
Tue 8 Clwb Ifor Bach, Cardiff
Wed 9 The Deaf Institute, Manchester
Thu 10 Wharf Chambers, Leeds

Kagoule

Sat 5 The Sugarmill, Stoke-On-Trent
Wed 9 Sneaky Pete's, Edinburgh
Thu 10 Broadcast, Glasgow

The Kooks

Mon 7 Albert Hall, Manchester
Tue 8 Barrowland, Glasgow
Wed 9 Barbican, York

The Magic Gang

Fri 4 Bullingdon, Oxford
Sat 5 Louisiana, Bristol
Mon 7 Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham
Tue 8 Parr Street Studios, Liverpool
Wed 9 Sound Control, Manchester

Mumford & Sons

Sat 5 Motorpoint Arena, Cardiff
Sun 6 Arena, Manchester
Mon 7 Echo Arena, Liverpool
Wed 9 & Thu 10 The O2, London

The Wyitches play
The Haunt, Brighton,
Saturday, Dec 5

Neon Waltz

Fri 4 PJ Molloys, Dunfermline
Sat 5 Mad Hatters, Inverness

New Order

Sat 5 & Sun 6 Warehouse Project, Manchester

Our Girl

Tue 8 Birthdays, London
Wed 9 Green Door Store, Brighton

Palma Violets

Sat 5 Leadmill, Sheffield

Paul Weller

Fri 4 & Sat 5 Eventim Apollo, London

Peaches

Fri 4 Concorde 2, Brighton
Sun 6 Electric Ballroom, London

Public Enemy

Fri 4 & Sat 5 SSE Arena, London
Sun 6 Concorde 2, Brighton
Mon 7 O2 Academy, Bournemouth

Shopping

Tue 8 100 Club, London
Thu 10 The Bumper, Liverpool

The Vaccines

Fri 4 Winter Gardens, Blackpool
Mon 7 Usher Hall, Edinburgh
Wed 9 The Limelight, Belfast

For tour news and live reviews go to NME.com

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 — LIVE MUSIC CAPITAL OF THE WORLD —

THE STRYPES

THE AMAZONS
 + OTHERKIN

MONDAY 1 FEBRUARY
LONDON
THE GARAGE

VAVAT

PLUS GUESTS

TUESDAY 2 FEBRUARY
LONDON
THE LEXINGTON

BOOTS

PLUS GUESTS

THURSDAY 4 FEBRUARY
LONDON
XOYO

together
PANGEA

FLESH
 + MOZES AND THE FIRSTBORN

FRIDAY 5 FEBRUARY
LONDON
MOTH CLUB

KID WAVE

PLUS GUESTS

SUNDAY 7 FEBRUARY
LONDON
OSLO

CROWS

PLUS GUESTS

WEDNESDAY 10 FEBRUARY
LONDON
THE BLACK HEART

Pretty Vicious

PLUS GUESTS

THURSDAY 11 FEBRUARY
LONDON
DINGWALLS

suede

PRESENT 'NIGHT THOUGHTS' LIVE
 SET ONE: NIGHT THOUGHTS INC. FEATURE FILM
 SET TWO: HITS & TREATS

FRIDAY 12 FEBRUARY
LONDON
O₂ FORUM

DECLAN
MCKENNA

PLUS GUESTS

MONDAY 15 FEBRUARY
LONDON
BARFLY

SPRING
KING

PLUS GUESTS

TUESDAY 16 FEBRUARY
LONDON
100 CLUB

MYSTERY JETS

EKKAH

TUESDAY 16 FEBRUARY
LONDON
ELECTRIC BRIXTON

KING GIZZARD
 AND THE LIZARD WIZARD

PLUS GUESTS

THURSDAY 18 FEBRUARY
LONDON
ELECTRIC BALLROOM

SWIM DEEP

PLUS GUESTS

WEDNESDAY 24 FEBRUARY
LONDON
THE DOME

PUBLIC
ACCESS
T.V.

PLUS GUESTS

THURSDAY 25 FEBRUARY
LONDON
BIRTHDAYS

BLOSSOMS

INHEAVEN
 + THE VRYLL SOCIETY

THURSDAY 25 FEBRUARY
LONDON
SCALA

TICKETS ON SALE 9AM FRIDAY 4 DECEMBER

NME.COM/TICKETS | GIGSANDTOURS.COM | TICKETMASTER.CO.UK

A METROPOLIS MUSIC PRESENTATION

Tickets include a 50p donation to Teenage Cancer Trust (registered charity 1062559 in England and Wales, SC039757 in Scotland) except 12 February

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PILOT

TEENAGE
CANCER
TRUST

KILIMANJARO PRESENTS

CAGE THE ELEPHANT



FEBRUARY

12 BRISTOL BIERKELLER

13 LONDON O₂ SHEPHERD'S BUSH EMPIRE

14 NOTTINGHAM RESCUE ROOMS

15 NEWCASTLE RIVERSIDE

16 GLASGOW QMU

18 LIVERPOOL O₂ ACADEMY2

19 WAKEFIELD UNITY WORKS

20 MANCHESTER ACADEMY 2

TICKETS: MYTICKET.CO.UK | SEETICKETS.COM

CAGETHEELEPHANT.COM @CAGETHEELEPHANT CAGETHEELEPHANT

NEW ALBUM: "TELL ME I'M PRETTY" OUT DEC 18

A KILIMANJARO & FRIENDS PRESENTATION BY ARRANGEMENT WITH UNITED TALENT AGENCY



KOKO

Every Friday
10PM - 4AM

CLUB
NME

FRI 04 DEC
CLUB NME VS KILLING MOON
XMAS PARTY

EKKAH
+ LONDON O'CONNOR

GUEST DJ ABBIE MCCARTHY

DJ ED WILDER

DJ ALANA B DEVOTION

FRI 11 DEC
CLUB NME VS KILLING MOON
XMAS PARTY

SUNDARA KARMA
+ ROCKY NTI

GUEST DJ ALLY MCCRAE

DJ AMAZONICA

DJ ALANA B DEVOTION

*VALID FROM 04 DECEMBER - 11 DECEMBER / STRICTLY OVER 18S ONLY £5 84 11PM / £7 AFTER / STUDENTS £4 ALL NIGHT
WITH VALID STUDENT CARD - EXCLUDING HALLOWEEN AND NYE BALL / ID IS REQUIRED / RIGHT OF ADMISSION RESERVED /
0844 847 2269 / WWW.KOKO.UK.COM

£1.50
FRIDAY DRINKS*
10PM - 11.30PM
BECK'S BOTTLES
ARCHERS & MIXER

KING CHARLES

FEBRUARY

11 MANCHESTER Academy 3

12 SHEFFIELD The Leadmill

13 SOUTHAMPTON Engine Rooms

14 BRIGHTON Concorde 2

15 BRISTOL The Trinity

16 READING Sub 89

17 LEEDS Brudenell Social Club

18 LONDON Oval Space

TICKETS: MYTICKET.CO.UK

SEETICKETS.COM

@KINGCHARLESOFFICIAL @KINGCHARLESUK

THE NEW ALBUM 'GAMBLE FOR A ROSE' OUT 22/01/16

A KILIMANJARO & FRIENDS PRESENTATION
BY ARRANGEMENT WITH UNITED TALENT AGENCY



KILIMANJARO BY ARRANGEMENT WITH ITB & THE SMALLEST LABEL PRESENTS

LITTLE COMETS

SUPPORT HIPPO CAMPUS

FEB 2016

12/02 LEEDS 13/02 EDINBURGH 14/02 LIVERPOOL 15/02 NOTTINGHAM

the wardrobe electric circus O₂ academy2 rescue rooms

17/02 NORWICH 18/02 LONDON 19/02 BATH 20/02 OXFORD 21/02 BRIGHTON

open dingwalls komedia O₂ academy2 concorde 2

TICKETS : MYTICKET.CO.UK SEETICKETS.COM

FRANKIE & THE HEARTSTRINGS

UK TOUR

8 MARCH MANCHESTER, GULLIVERS

9 MARCH GLASGOW, BROADCAST

10 MARCH NEWCASTLE, THE CLUNY

11 MARCH BIRMINGHAM, THE RAINBOW

13 MARCH BRISTOL, CROFTERS RIGHTS

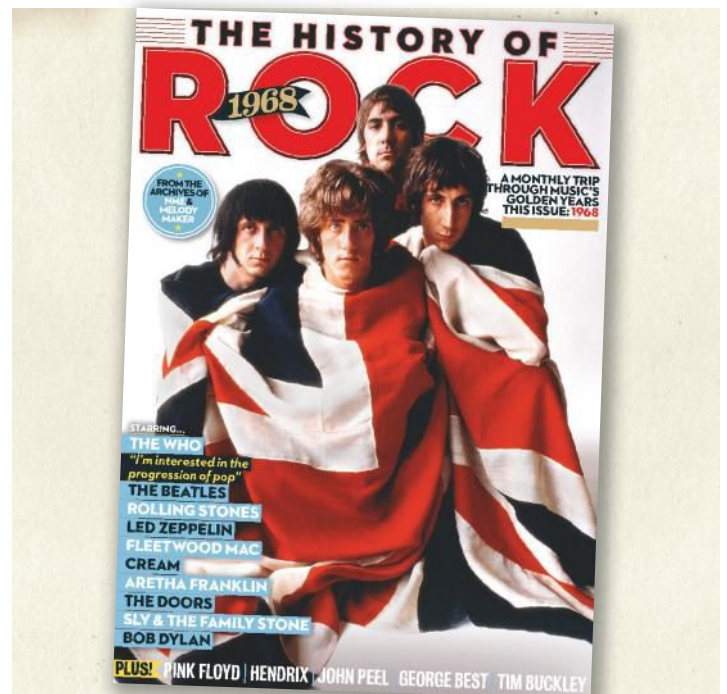
14 MARCH LONDON, THE LEXINGTON

TICKETS: MYTICKET.CO.UK / SEETICKETS.COM

A KILIMANJARO AND FRIENDS PRESENTATION BY ARRANGEMENT WITH X-RAY



TICKETS AVAILABLE AT MYTICKET.CO.UK



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THE WHO TRASHED AMERICA AND WROTE TOMMY

THE DOORS CONVERTED LONDON

THE BEATLES BECAME "FAMILY GROCERS" AND LAUNCHED APPLE

...and **JIMI HENDRIX, THE ROLLING STONES, TIM BUCKLEY, THE HOLLIES, THE KINKS**

and many more shared everything with NME and MELODY MAKER

GET YOUR GIG IN

NME

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LIVE

CHVRCHES
27.11.15



BRING ME THE HORIZON
28.11.15



DISCLOSURE
01.12.15 – 03.12.15



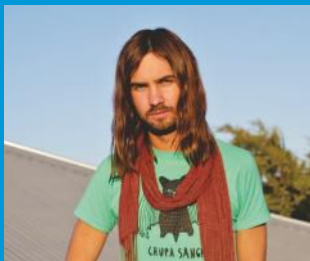
FAITHLESS
04.12.15



SLIPKNOT
09.02.16 – 10.02.16



TAME IMPALA
12.02.16 – 13.02.16



JAMIE XX
26.02.16



ENTER SHIKARI
27.02.16



PAROV STELAR
12.03.16



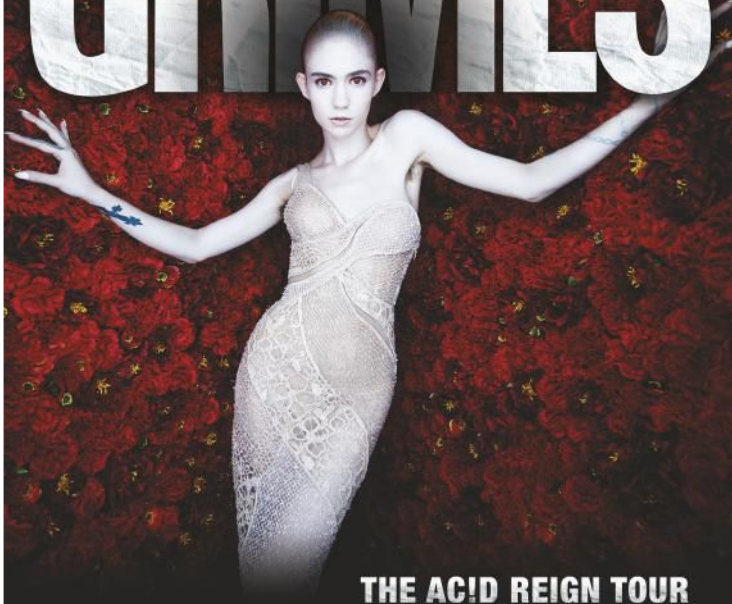
ANDY C
24.03.16



Alexandra Palace

www.alexandrapalace.com

GRIMES



THE ACID REIGN TOUR

WITH VERY SPECIAL GUEST
UAT A

MARCH 2016

SOLD OUT BRISTOL ANSON ROOMS
MON 07 LEEDS BECKETT STUDENT'S UNION
TUE 08 NOTTINGHAM ROCK CITY
SOLD OUT LONDON O₂ ACADEMY BRIXTON
FRI 11 BIRMINGHAM O₂ INSTITUTE
SOLD OUT MANCHESTER ACADEMY
SOLD OUT GLASGOW O₂ ABC

GIGSANDTOURS.COM | TICKETMASTER.CO.UK



DIGITAL ALBUM ART ANGELS OUT NOW
PHYSICAL VERSION OUT 11TH DECEMBER

AN S.J.M. CONCERTS PRESENTATION BY ARRANGEMENT WITH CODA

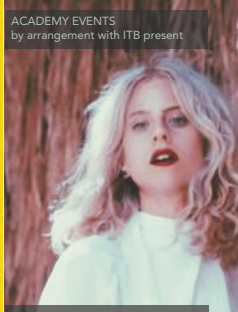
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HAPPY MONDAYS
PILLS N' THRILLS
AND BELLYACHES
CHRISTIAN VICKERS TOUR

SUNDAY 6TH DECEMBER 2015
O2 ACADEMY OXFORD

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HAPPYMONDAYSONLINE.COM
AN ACADEMY EVENTS PRESENTATION

ACADEMY EVENTS
by arrangement with ITB present



DOE PAORO

MON 14TH DECEMBER
O2 ACADEMY3
BIRMINGHAM

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academyevents
by arrangement with THE MAGNIFICENT AGENCY presents



CAST
PLUS SPECIAL GUESTS

APRIL 2016

Thu 07 EDINBURGH Liquid Rooms	Thu 21 GLASGOW O2 ABC
Fri 08 WHITEHAVEN Haig Mining Museum	Fri 22 NEWCASTLE O2 Academy
Sat 09 MANCHESTER Academy 2	Sat 23 LEEDS Brindley Social Club
Thu 14 SHEFFIELD O2 Academy 2	Thu 28 BOURNEMOUTH The Old Fire Station
Fri 15 LEICESTER O2 Academy	Fri 29 BRISTOL O2 Academy
Sat 16 BIRMINGHAM O2 Academy2	Sat 30 LONDON O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire

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ACADEMY EVENTS & FUTURE PERFECT BY ARRANGEMENT WITH ITB PRESENT

THE TWANG

PLUS SPECIAL GUESTS
APRIL // BREEZE // THE AMERICAS



SAT 19TH DEC 2015
O2 ACADEMY BIRMINGHAM

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academyevents presents

DAFT AS PUNK
PLUS SPECIAL GUESTS

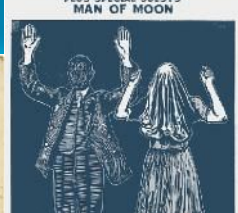


FRI 18 DECEMBER
LIVERPOOL ARTS CLUB
SAT 19 DECEMBER
GLASGOW O2 ABC
SUN 20 DECEMBER
NEWCASTLE O2 ACADEMY2
TICKETWEB.CO.UK
0844 477 2000

academyevents and FUTURE PERFECT PRESENTS

THE TWILIGHT SAD

NOBODY WANTS TO BE HERE
AND NOBODY WANTS TO LEAVE
PLUS SPECIAL GUESTS
MAN OF MOON



WEDS 9TH DECEMBER 2015
O2 ACADEMY2 BIRMINGHAM

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ONE DOORS
ALIVE

DECEMBER
05 OXFORD O2 ACADEMY2
11 BIRMINGHAM O2 ACADEMY3
12 LONDON O2 ACADEMY ISLINGTON

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CJ RAMONE
EUROPE 2015

PLUS GUESTS
Yorkshire Rats (ALL SHOWS)
VICE SQUAD
LOS PEPE (LONDON ONLY)
THE FUCKNITS (SHEFFIELD ONLY)

WED 9 DEC LONDON
O2 ACADEMY ISLINGTON
THU 10 DEC BIRMINGHAM O2 ACADEMY
FRI 11 DEC SHEFFIELD O2 ACADEMY

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An ACADEMY EVENTS & TIDAL CONCERTS presentation
by arrangement with DESTINY TOUR BOOKINGS

THE WONDER STUFF
- ACOUSTIC -

MILES WOODS - KRISTA MOORELLS - DAN SCHWELLY

WEDS 16th DEC Leicester O2 Academy
THUR 17th DEC Birmingham O2 Academy

SIXTH SPECIAL GUESTS
RHINO & THE RANTERS

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THE SELECTER

SUNDAY 13TH DECEMBER
O2 ACADEMY2 BIRMINGHAM

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THE CLONE ROSES

SAT 12th DEC 2015
O2 ACADEMY NEWCASTLE
SAT 21st MAY 2016
O2 ACADEMY LEEDS
• THE SMITHS LTD. (GIGS ONLY)

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AWARDS
TOUR
2016
WITH
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BLOC PARTY

DRENCE

RAT BOY BUGZY MALONE

FRI 29 JAN CARDIFF GREAT HALL
SAT 30 JAN SOUTHAMPTON O₂ GUILDHALL
MON 1 FEB BRISTOL O₂ ACADEMY
TUE 2 FEB NOTTINGHAM ROCK CITY
THU 4 FEB NEWCASTLE O₂ ACADEMY
FRI 5 FEB GLASGOW BARROWLAND

SAT 6 FEB MANCHESTER ACADEMY
MON 8 FEB LEEDS O₂ ACADEMY
TUE 9 FEB CAMBRIDGE CORN EXCHANGE
THU 11 FEB LONDON O₂ ACADEMY BRIXTON
FRI 12 FEB BIRMINGHAM O₂ ACADEMY

ON SALE FRI 6 NOV @ 9AM

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AN SJM CONCERTS, DF AND METROPOLIS PRESENTATION

Tickets include a 50p donation to Teenage Cancer Trust (registered charity 1062559 in England and Wales, SC039757 in Scotland)

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PILOT

SOUNDTRACK OF MY LIFE

Josh Widdicombe

Stand-up comic-turned-sitcom star

The first song I remember hearing

PAUL SIMON

The Boy In The Bubble

"I must have been six or seven. My parents were really into him. I remember them listening to this, and by being track one on 'Graceland', it's the one I remember. It's still a strong, classic album."

The first gig I went to

THE ROLLING STONES
Wembley Stadium

"We went on a family outing. It was 1990 and it was the night England lost to Germany in the semi-finals of the World Cup. I didn't want to go because I wanted to watch football. I was only seven so I'm not sure I enjoyed it. It wasn't a great gig experience. I saw them at Glastonbury a few years ago but I rarely go, 'I'm going to sit down and listen to "Forty Licks".'"

The album that changed my life

BLUR
Parklife

"This changed my taste in music and has defined it ever since. I got it for Christmas in 1994. Blur are my favourite band. They were my specialist subject on *Celebrity Mastermind*. I got two wrong. I'm glad I did – you've got to look like you have some sort of life."

The song I wish I'd written

PATTY AND MILDRED J HILL

Happy Birthday To You

"I saw a documentary – it's the highest-grossing song of all time. Somewhere, there's a family making money off it every time it's in a film or on TV. If I'd written it, I'd be the richest man in... Well, I wouldn't be in comedy."



The song I can no longer listen to

SUPER FURRY ANIMALS
Something For The Weekend

"This was the song they'd play before my second run of Edinburgh shows. I associate it with nerves, nausea, and utter fear. I chose it 'cos I thought it would get me in the mood for the gig. Now, whenever I hear it, I find myself stood backstage at the Pleasance Theatre going, 'Oh God, I hope they don't hate me.'"

Go to NME.com for more Soundtracks



The song I do at karaoke

THE SMITHS

There Is A Light That Never Goes Out

"The Smiths hit me when I was a student in Manchester. This reminds me of going out on the p'ss for £20 and not having to get up in the morning."

The first single I bought

THE SIMPSONS
Do The Bartman

"Well, it was really Bart Simpson and Michael Jackson, so it had some credibility. I bought it on cassette from Our Price in Newton Abbot, where I did most of my early record shopping."

The song that makes me want to dance

ASH

Girl From Mars

"This reminds me of Fifth Avenue indie club in Manchester. That's the last time I danced."

The song I play before I go on stage

PAT BENATAR

Love Is A Battlefield

"We've got a playlist for when the audience is coming in. I've chosen upbeat '80s pop favourites. Its either this, or 'Pull Up To The Bumper' by Grace Jones. I don't think you should try to be too credible when the audience is coming in. I think the mood should be, 'Let them have a good time.'"

The song I want played at my funeral

BLUR

To The End

"Then, after that, I'd have side two of The Beatles' 'Abbey Road' in a 20-minute mash-up. Can I have that? Hey, it's my funeral!"

Josh airs Wednesdays, 10.30pm, BBC Three



The wisdom of the NME archives

THIS WEEK
SERGE PIZZORNO
Kasabian guitarist
December 4, 2004

"The people in power are making the wrong decisions. The beauty of it is it's a celebration. We realise we're f****ed, but it's the last day on Earth, man. Lets f****ing have a good time."

