

NEW MUSICAL EXPRESS

**MUSIC
FILM
STYLE**

**The myth and mystery
of Lana Del Rey**

THE ONLY UK INTERVIEW



MAN OF TODAY

GERARD BUTLER FOR BOSS BOTTLED



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NEW MUSICAL EXPRESS

Hello...



WHEN WE SENT an email full of questions over to Lana Del Rey at the end of the summer, we didn't realise just how long we would be waiting for her replies. Not days, not weeks, but months. *Months!*

(OK, it was only two).

Anyway, as the clichéd old saying goes, the best things come to those who wait, and the interview with the intriguing and mysterious singer in this week's issue fits into that category. I don't think she's ever been more open or honest.

NME first interviewed Lana in September 2011, just as her smash hit 'Video Games' was blowing up. Back then she was nervous and seemed like she could burst into tears at any time. She talked about life as the pre-LDR Lizzy Grant, about working as a biker jacket model for trucker mags and about being attracted to the dark side.

What was as obvious then as it is now is that Lana is a completely unique pop star who understands everything about the enduring allure of mystique in music. On top of all that she has such brilliantly retro stylings that we've even cracked out our take on the classic Barney Bubbles NME logo from 1978 to suit the mood.

Enjoy the interview and the rest of the issue.

MIKE WILLIAMS
Editor-in-Chief
@itsmikelike

**Idris Elba chats
to NME on p30**



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Pop's most mysterious lets us into her warped world

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John Boyega and Daisy Ridley spill the beans about *The Force Awakens*

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The actor/rapper/DJ invites us to Camden after pulling an all nighter with Madonna

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(SCRIPT.04)

act.2 - scene.1

'THE HOLLYWOOD'

- 1 Is it a bird? Is it a plane?
- 2 It's anyone's guess on Nanna's telly.
- 3 That ancient contraption would be more at home in a museum, than a living room. But dear old Nanna would be hurt if you looked like you weren't enjoying it.
- 4 So ACT.
- 5 To help you really nail your performance, try using 'THE HOLLYWOOD' technique.
- 6 Simply ignore the migraine inducing quality of Nanna's TV, and picture instead that you're watching the latest blockbuster on a LG 4K OLED TV with the deepest blacks and colours that are richer than a Russian Oligarch.
- 7 (Pause.)
Oh yeah, now that's entertainment heaven.

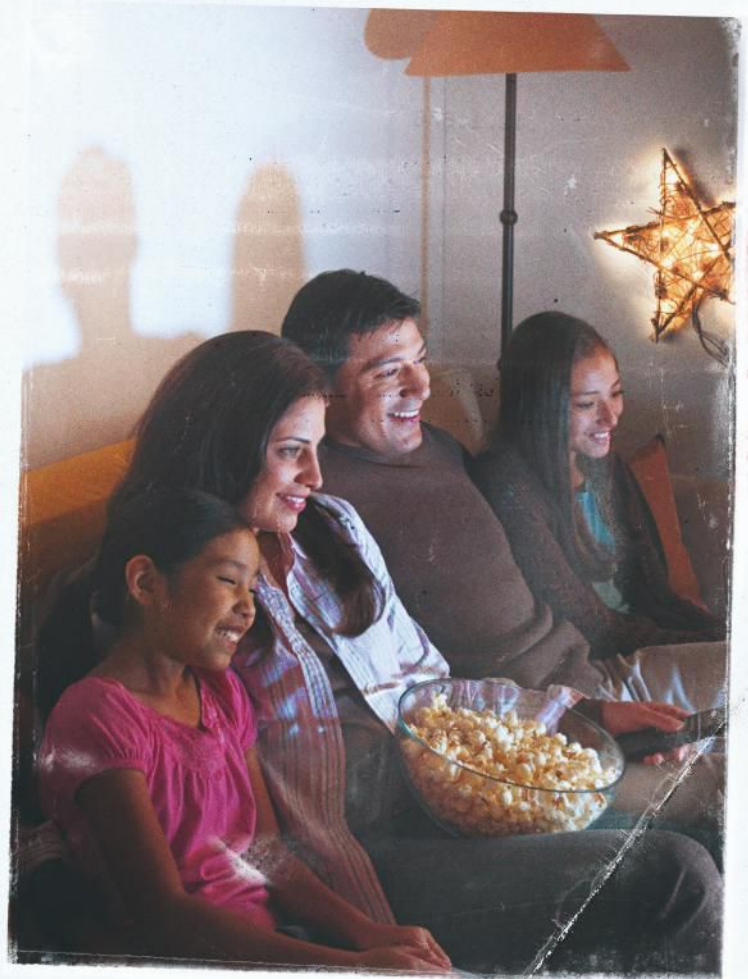
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AGENDA

WHAT EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT THIS WEEK

Liberté, égalité, fraternité

Twenty-four days after the Paris terrorist attacks, Eagles Of Death Metal join U2 onstage in the French capital



EODM singer Jesse Hughes belts out 'People Have The Power' with Bono

ON MONDAY, EAGLES Of Death Metal made an emotional return to Paris following the terrorist attack at their gig at Le Bataclan on November 13 that left 90 people dead.

The Californians joined U2 onstage during the Irish band's second night at the AccorHotels Arena. "They were robbed of their stage three weeks ago,"

announced Bono to the 20,000-strong audience. "We'd like to offer them ours tonight."

The bands played an emotive cover of Patti Smith's 'People Have The Power', before Eagles Of Death Metal closed the show with their own 'I Love You All The Time'.

"I love you guys so hard," said frontman Jesse Hughes. "I will never stop rocking and rolling."



NME AWARDS TOUR 2016 WITH Austin - LIVE MUSIC CAPITAL OF THE WORLD -

Bloc rocking treats

The first in a series of profiles of the artists on the NME Awards Tour 2016 with Austin, Texas. This week: Bloc Party

History

It's been an against-the-odds battle to get this Party re-started. As leading figures in the Class Of 2005 indie explosion and a band who've consistently reinvented their sound – from masters of paranoid rock noir to electro rave romantics inside their first three albums – demand for Bloc Party's fifth record 'Hymns' is up there with *Star Wars* spoilers.

Legendary gigs

Though Bloc Party were amongst the finest live acts of the noughties, their recent comeback show at The Glass House in Pomona, CA, in August, at which they introduced new members Louise Bartle (drums) and Justin Harris (bass), has gone down in legend. Not least because, premiering new tracks 'Eden' and 'Exes', the new line-up rocked just as vibrantly as the first.

Best tunes

Where to start? 'Banquet', their early-period hit that sounded like a nefarious punk-funk party, but it's mid-period dancefloor destroyers like 'Mercury' and 'Flux' that really bazooka the oil tanks under their live shows.

The dates

See Bloc Party, Drengre, Rat Boy and Bugzy Malone, here:

January 29 Great Hall, Cardiff

January 30 O2 Guildhall, Southampton

February 1 O2 Academy, Bristol

February 2 Rock City, Nottingham

February 4 O2 Academy, Newcastle

February 5 Barrowlands, Glasgow

February 6 Academy, Manchester

February 8 O2 Academy, Leeds

February 9 Corn Exchange, Cambridge

February 11 O2 Academy Brixton, London

February 12 O2 Academy, Birmingham

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Biggest WTF moment

Most bands with drug issues tend to sweep them under the cliché carpet. Kele, though, was remarkably frank when asked why the original Bloc Party line-up crumbled. "It was about someone doing cocaine and someone not being into it," the singer explained. "That's all I'm gonna say." That'll do fine, Kele.

Next week: Drengre

Vote in the NME Awards 2016 with Austin, Texas

Here are Ellie Rowsell from Wolf Alice's picks

BEST BRITISH BAND

The 1975

"I'd go with The 1975 'cos they've got intensely dedicated fans, massive bangers, and an incredible new live show."

BEST INTERNATIONAL BAND supported by

Austin
- LIVE MUSIC CAPITAL OF THE WORLD -

Tame Impala

"They are the most important guitar band of right now."

BEST BRITISH SOLO ARTIST supported by

PILOT

Skeptak

"Grime is brilliantly British and Skepta seems to be leading the way."

BEST INTERNATIONAL SOLO ARTIST

Kendrick Lamar

"It's too hard to choose between Kendrick and Grimes, but if I have to, I'll choose Kendrick."

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

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NME.com/awardsvote

GOOD WEEK



Kim and Kanye

The couple welcomed their second child into the world – a baby boy called Saint West, to follow daughter North.



Carrie Fisher

The *Star Wars* actor called out Hollywood sexism in a hilarious *Good Morning America* interview, sat with her French bulldog, Gary.



Courteeners

Liam Fray's band had to pull a London's Shepherd's Bush Empire gig because of 'serious structural damage' to the venue.



Simon Cowell

The *X Factor* judge's home was burgled while he and his family were asleep upstairs. The intruders took cash and jewellery.

BAD WEEK

AMAZON DELIVERS BEFORE BEDTIME

**PRIME SAME-DAY
DELIVERY**



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Mystery Jets, the much-loved eccentric rockers, get windswept outside Ramsgate Music Hall



NME
BRITAIN'S
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SMALL
VENUE

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

JACK DANIEL'S

The band stripped back their set-up to fit on the tiny stage



New album 'Curve Of The Earth' was played in full



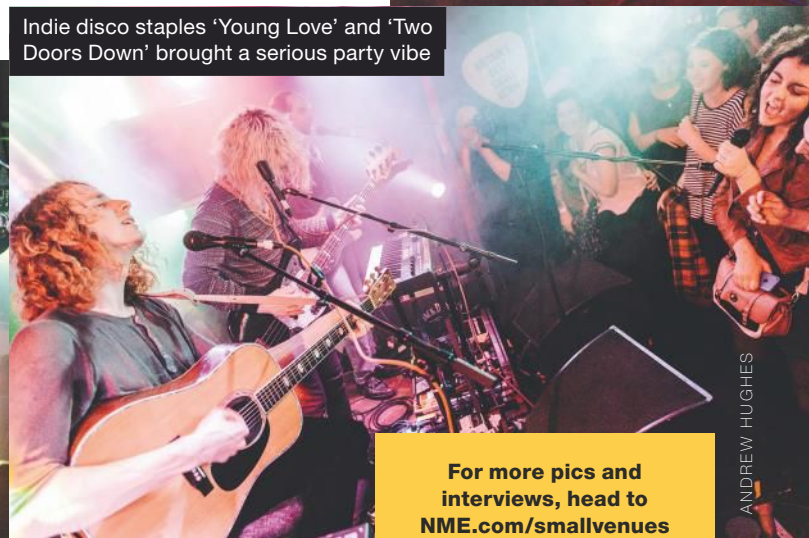
Live by the sea

What happened when the Mystery Jets played the Ramsgate Music Hall, winner of 2015's search for Britain's Best Small Venue in association with Jack Daniel's

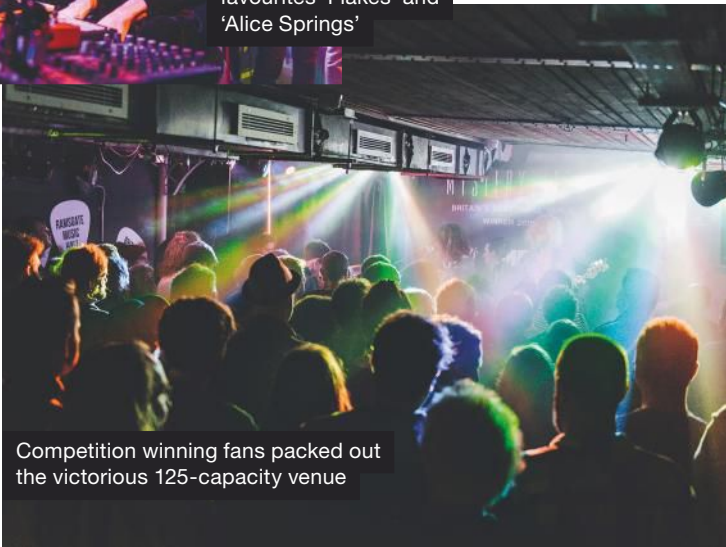


The band closed with live favourites 'Flakes' and 'Alice Springs'

Indie disco staples 'Young Love' and 'Two Doors Down' brought a serious party vibe



Competition winning fans packed out the victorious 125-capacity venue

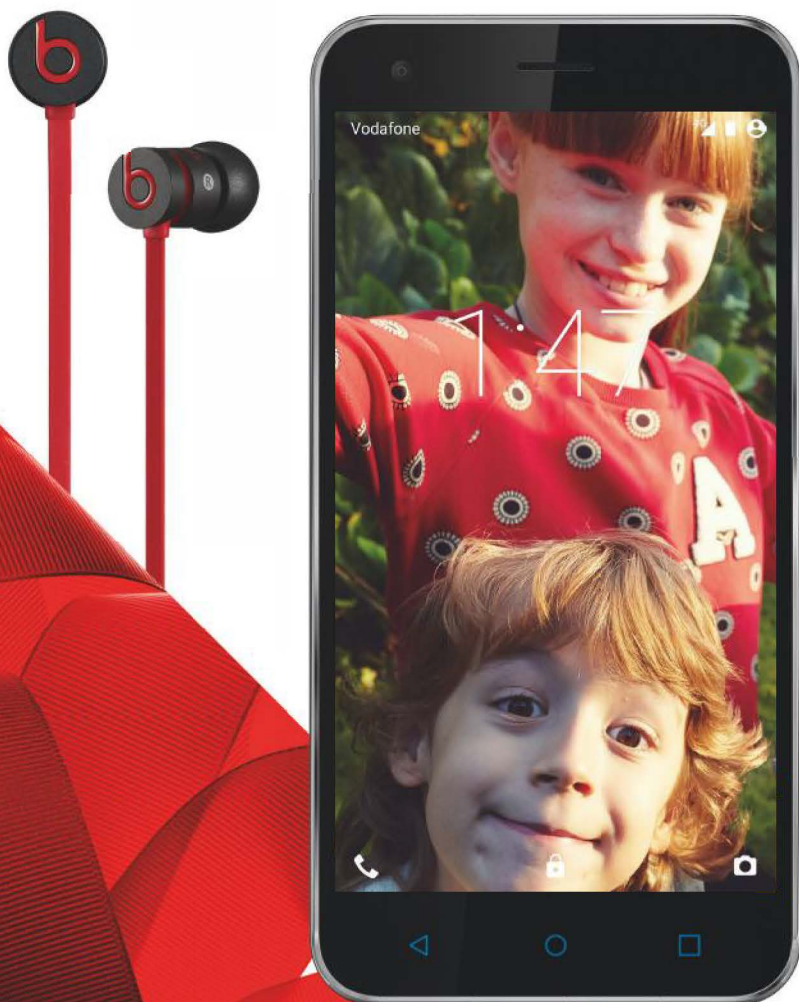


For more pics and interviews, head to NME.com/smallvenues

ANDREW HUGHES



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Katherine Ryan

OFF THE TV AND IN YOUR FACE

THIS WEEK

Gift ideas

THIS CHRISTMAS, I'm boycotting a certain Canadian parka brand because they won't ship the jacket I want to the UK. They won't even deliver to my mum's back home and let me pay with a British credit card! I can't be expected to arrive in Toronto, in December, without adequate weather protection. I no longer have Canadian blood – it's official. The last time I dragged my basic fish and chips body across the Atlantic, it was so cold that I wanted to eat everything that looked warmer than me to absorb its power. The list included, but was not limited to, swaddled babies in cuddly prams. I wish I wasn't going at all. The holidays are the worst time to travel and ISIS aren't making things any easier. I wasn't a fan of crowded airports before the imminent threat of terror attacks, so this year I'll need to be doubly sedated just to get on that plane. So at least some good news.

If you're struggling for gift ideas, my advice is to give experiences rather than things. Some internet genius edited together two clips to make it look like Mariah Carey is being forced to watch Ariana Grande sing 'All I Want for Christmas Is You' during an interview. I laughed at her facial expression for three whole days. If you don't know what I'm on about, then sorry, you might

“My advice is to give experiences rather than things”

not be gay. Find this, copy it onto a USB or send it in an email and you've got yourself a nice present.

My daughter collects these tiny toys inspired by grocery items, but with faces. When she's not shopping for them or scattering them across my kitchen floor, she's watching YouTube videos of them being opened. She's at maximum crap capacity. I'm not buying her another item of any physical mass this Christmas. Instead, she's getting lessons from a YouTuber on how to create her own stupid videos. When I was her age and my mother decided I had enough toys, she bought me a goat. Well, a goat in my name for a family in a third world country. They got chickens for my birthday.

Mum and I will be spending a few days in New York, and what she doesn't know is that I've arranged to have her face and neck heated up with a painful laser. It's this new collagen treatment I want, so I thought I'd test it out on her to find out if it's safe. My sister wants to go back to this creepy salt water swimming pool where ladies walk around naked. It's like a body-positive Playboy Mansion but without an old man in the middle.

Wherever you are this holiday season, I hope you make lasting memories with the people you love. And let's all stop buying so much sh*t.



PHOTOGRAPHY BELLA HOWARD. STYLING JEN MICHALSKI-BRAY. HAIR & MAKE-UP FIONA EUSTACE. DRESS BY MARY KATRANTZOU. SHOES BY MALONE SOULIERS. CUFF AND EARRINGS ALL BY LOLA & GRACE. BLUE RING BY MISSOMA. ALL OTHER RINGS BY CARAT. PIC: GETTY

Katherine Ryan's high five

Reasons I wouldn't have liked Frank Sinatra

- 1 He seemed like a man's man on a power trip.
- 2 While he did give Sammy Davis Jr his big break, he also made racist jokes on stage at his expense.
- 3 His Mafia connections are well documented.
- 4 He had numerous extra-marital affairs and relationships with fights and altercations.
- 5 None of this is a secret, but he is adored anyway.



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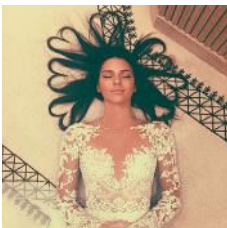
HUAWEI Mate S

LIST FOR LIFE



BECAUSE EVERYONE LOVES A LIST

The 10 most-liked Instagram posts of 2015



1 Kendall Jenner

Likes: 3.2 million

Posted: May 25 Yes, the most-liked Instagram snap of 2015 was this shot of the model napping in the hallway of her local Travelodge.



2 Taylor Swift

Likes: 2.6 million

Posted: Sep 4 Tay-Tay's first appearance of five in the top 10 sees her stunned by the arrival of some Tesco Value bouquets taped together by Kanye West.



3 Taylor Swift

Likes: 2.5 million

Posted: Jul 3 In which Taylor piggybacks boyf Calvin Harris, with the caption, "Friendly relations between Scotland and America." Oh, to be rich and in love.



4 Taylor Swift

Likes: 2.4 million

Posted: Oct 4 This time, Swift's joined by a grumpy, furry friend. "Meredith is allergic to joy," wrote Taylor. But not Instagram likes, eh?



5 Kylie Jenner

Likes: 2.3 million

Posted: Jul 23 Kendall Jenner's sister did a school! The model's high school diploma/trout-pout combo was the fifth-most-popular pic on Insta this year.



6 Beyoncé

Likes: 2.3 million

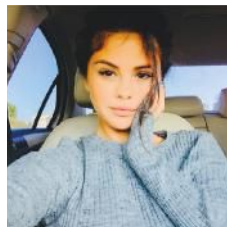
Posted: Aug 14 Beyoncé's shot of her and Jay Z's kid Blue Ivy at 11 months old – and with a cheeky expression on her wee face – broke the internet with its cuteness.



7 Taylor Swift

Likes: 2.3 million

Posted: Sep 7 Taylor and her cat in another adorbs moment. This time, they pretend to be meerkats. Welcome to the complex life of a globally successful megastar.



8 Selena Gomez

Likes: 2.3 million

Posted: May 13 The caption is banal ("My fav sweat shirt"), but the world went inexplicably mad for this pic of Gomez in a car sporting a grey jumper.



9 Taylor Swift

Likes: 2.2 million

Posted: Mar 5 No idea who this woman is. She looks kind of familiar, but we're drawing a blank. Any ideas?



10 Kendall Jenner

Likes: 2.2 million

Posted: Feb 24 Kendall 'gifted' this selfie to her fans after reaching 20 million followers. Her generosity knows no bounds.

Go to NME.com for loads more lists

Last W33K IN NUMBERS



9

Age of kids who Adele says "don't even know what a f***ing CD is" due to the popularity of streaming.



4

Number of times Red Hot Chili Peppers will have headlined Reading and Leeds as of 2016 – they top the just-announced bill.



50

Weight in pounds lost by Mark Hamill in preparation for his role in the new *Star Wars* film.



£60

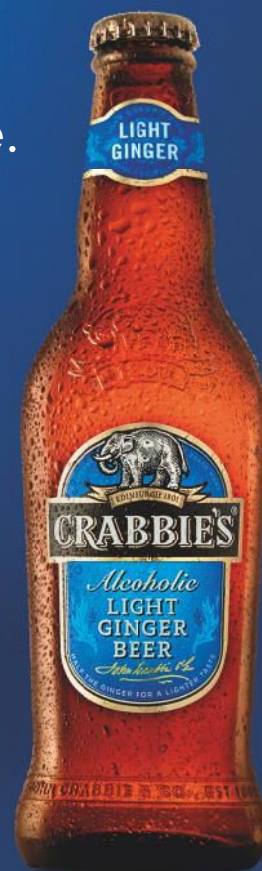
Cost of a weekend ticket to the live, interactive version of *The Crystal Maze*, which will open next March in London. Start the fans, please!

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for the facts

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YOUR TOWN. YOUR MUSIC. YOUR STYLE

What's ON your Headphones?

THIS WEEK

Newcastle



◀ **Veronica Marcos**
19, student

Listening to:
THE 1975
Love Me
"I've travelled here from Edinburgh to see The 1975. I'm already queueing. It's only 2pm and it starts at 7pm!"

Wearing: Everything from Zara.
Best thing about Newcastle: "I love coming to Newcastle – I'm here to have fun with my friends. I love going to gigs at the O2 Academy."

"I love coming to Newcastle and going to gigs at the O2 Academy"

Diji Solanke ▶
21, student

Listening to:
LUCY ROSE
Cover Up
"It's just a fantastic tune, and as a musician she's really talented. I went to see her three days ago at Riverside. It was really good."

Wearing: Topman jacket, secondhand sweater from Buy The Bag, Primark jeans.
Best thing about Newcastle: "There are some beautiful places in Newcastle – you've just got to walk around and you'll find them. The quayside is nice."



◀ **Paul Bentley**
36, teacher

Listening to:
JAMES CHANCE AND THE CONTORTIONS
Bedroom Athlete
"I'd love to see them play live."

Wearing: John Rocha jacket, Next shirt.
Best thing about Newcastle: "The little pubs: The Cluny, The Tyne Bar, places with a lot of character."

PHOTOS: DAVID WALA

Grace Blamire ▶
19, musician

Listening to:
TRANSFIGURE
Fields
"It's my band! We just got the masters back from the studio, so I'm checking the mix to see how it sounds."

Wearing: Dad's old jacket, vintage dress from France, boots borrowed from a friend.
Best thing about Newcastle: "I spend most of my time at Polestar Studios. If I'm not there I'm at RPM Music buying records."



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A letter from Lana

Back in September, we optimistically emailed [Lana Del Rey](#) a bunch of questions about life, love, *Twin Peaks*, Courtney Love and “intergalactic possibilities”. Three months later the answers turned up. Interrogation by [Al Horner](#). Introduction by [Dan Stubbs](#).

A recent *New York Times* article argued that Drake is a human meme, propagated by the internet, feeding off likes and shares, fame growing exponentially. The same might be said of Lana Del Rey, a woman seen more in GIFs and Tumblr posts than in real life. And it's truer than ever this year, when the 30-year-old New Yorker has retreated to Miss Havisham-like levels of reclusion, giving no direct interviews to the press and choosing to communicate only via admirers like actor James Franco, a man so besotted with the singer he has begun writing a book of conversations, “real and imagined”, with her.

Del Rey's mutation from shy wannabe Lizzy Grant to hyper-sexualised femme fatale Lana Del Rey was sealed with 2011's 'Video Games', a debut single, like perhaps only Kate Bush's 'Wuthering Heights' before it, that was so arrestingly different from everything else around that it stopped the listener in their tracks and dragged them into its world. It brought her instant fame, but you wondered if she'd be able to sustain success built on the sheer otherness of what she was offering. Her career since – from debut album proper 'Born To Die' to the retro-sounding 'Ultraviolence' and this year's desolate, immaculate 'Honeymoon' – has been spent walking a tightrope between fact and fiction, and the latter generally gets the upper hand. It's partly due to the uneasy clashing of Del Rey's artifice and the real world. In song, her fatalism is part of the dusky world she creates, her search for bad boys and willingness to submit completely to the role. In real life, those lyrics trouble people, and telling a *Guardian* journalist – as she did in 2014 – that she “wish[es] she was dead already” was the trigger for a Twitter storm about the glamorisation of suicide. The fallout is Del Rey's further withdrawal from the public eye.

It is, of course, this tension that makes Del Rey so fascinating. She's someone who belongs in a Raymond Chandler novel, not on stage at Reading Festival, and in the rare moments where we see her up close, her fragility

is startling. There's nothing fake about the fan-shot video where she's singing 'Video Games' on stage in Dublin and tears start streaming down her face. 'Honeymoon' is proof – if needed – that Del Rey's here to stay. She may never have another 'Video Games' moment, but she's become an avatar for everything teenagers ever thought cool, from James Dean to smoking to telling your parents you wish you'd never been born, in one Instagram-ready package. Is she laughing on the inside? Some of the answers might be found in this rare Q&A – Lana's answers to a set of questions *NME* sent her back in September. But one thing seems clear: we will never *really* know.

What kind of place in your life were you at while writing 'Honeymoon'? What was going on for you personally as you wrote these songs?

“I guess the first thing that was going on was that I really wanted to have one more record out that was able to speak for me, even if I wasn't in a place where I felt like speaking about myself. Aside from that I was happy and not really feeling like the album needed to be too cathartic. It felt like a good time to have fun with some elements of psychedelia and surrealism, production-wise.”

“On Monday they destroyed me but by Friday I'm revived... I've got nothing much to live for ever since I found my fame,” you sing on 'God Knows I Tried'. Is life in the spotlight as crushing for you as it sounds? What are the most extreme situations you've found yourself in because of fame?

“There were unusual situations I found myself in that I didn't know how to extract myself from, situations that needed more attention than me or the people around me knew how to handle at first. I think that song was a reminder to myself that if you don't want the problems that come with being in the spotlight the best thing you can do is



A Lana Del Rey timeline

2006 September	2007 March	2008 October	2010 January	2011 June
Made her first live appearance – in the first round of the Williamsburg Live Songwriter Competition in New York City – under her birth name Elizabeth Woolridge Grant.	Signed her first record deal with 5 Points Records for \$10,000.	Released her first EP, 'Kill Kill', as Lizzy Grant.	An album under the name Lana Del Ray aka Lizzy Grant was released, then pulled.	Released 'Video Games'. Instantly became ridiculously famous.

try and take yourself out of the spotlight when you're not on stage. I think my two big goals with work are to make great records, and stay out of the press for the wrong reasons, so that song lyrically and melodically is especially poignant for me when I listen back to it. My family was traditional, and some of my extended family used to say a gentleman is only in the paper two times in his life: when he's born and when he dies. Obviously, it's a little too late for me when it comes to that sentiment."

'Freak' is maybe my favourite song on the new record – those bassy trap rumbles are something I'd not really heard in your music until now. What music were you listening to as you plotted this album?

"I really love Rae Sremmurd so that might be a surprise inspiration. Also Sage The Gemini. I really love listening to some of the people that came out of Atlanta in the last two years. I don't think I was trying to emulate that sound, but I had elements of it in 'Freak' and 'High By The Beach'."

Your music, this album included, has always had a Bond-theme kind of feel to it. You were hotly tipped earlier this year to record the theme song to the new film. Were you approached?

"I would've done it if I was asked but I wasn't asked. I love all the Bond music that's been put out over the years and I love soundtracks in general. There are a couple of songs on this record that have a Bond feel, like '24' and 'Swan Song'."

There's such a timeless, intensely personal, glamour fantasy element to your music. How plugged into 'real life' stuff are you? Did you follow what was happening in Ferguson [the protests and riots following the fatal shooting of a young black man by a police officer] last year, for example?

"There is a high fantasy element in the music, but I'm incredibly plugged into what's going on politically, socially and pretty much in every way except pop-culturally. I've had a very real life, and there have been a lot of things that took a lot of strength and wherewithal to figure out... things I'm still figuring out. That's probably why the music has such an element of escapism to it."

David Lynch is making a new series of *Twin Peaks* – a show that seems to have had an impact on your music. Are you excited?

"I would love to do anything with David Lynch. I don't know too much about what's going on but I certainly love the original TV series and his movies since then."

"I'm incredibly plugged into what's going on politically and socially"



Your three Lana Del Rey albums have been very Californian in sound and imagery. But Lizzy Grant is from New York. Will you ever make a New York record?

"I feel like 'Born To Die' had a lot of New York in it because I was in New York leading up to the time that the record came out, except for the time I was in London while I was working on it. I find it very easy to go back and forth between a New York state of mind and a California way of being, so I could see me making another New York record. I think it would be different just because it would be a little harder, faster, more upbeat and less dreamy."

You toured with Courtney Love earlier this year. How was that? Did you hang out much after shows?

"Touring with Courtney was great – we have some things in common that might not be visible from the outside. I did spend some time with her, and I still see her now and then. I think the most important thing I learned was that some people just have it when it comes to performing. She's totally entrancing, a born performer."

How close is the character of Lana Del Rey to who you are off stage? Your songs are full of doomed heroines, hopelessly devoted to bad boys who treat them badly. Are you similar in real life?

"I guess the biggest difference is that when I'm on stage I'm the centre of attention and when I'm back at home I try to blend in. Obviously I'm singing the songs because they relate to my life. When it comes to guys, I haven't courted bad guys into my life but I think because I was artistic I never settled for anyone who wasn't completely enthralled with life or with being different, and that didn't lend any clarity to my world, although it was enriching in other ways." ●●●

2012

January

Made her first major TV appearance on *Saturday Night Live*. Got terrible reviews. 'Born To Die' was released. It became the UK's fourth-biggest-selling album of 2012.

September

A clip of 'Cola', with the lyric "*My pussy tastes like Pepsi Cola*", went viral.

2013

March

Went to Liverpool vs Spurs at Anfield. "I love watching Luis Suarez play," she said.

May

A clip of her crying while singing 'Video Games' in Dublin broke the internet.

December

Played Eve in the short film *Tropico*, which also featured three of her songs.

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4AD

Have you grown more or less like that character in the time since 'Born To Die'?

"I think sometimes as an artist it's difficult to know where your unique aesthetic comes from... real life and imagination and art all bend in and out of each other to create your records. I've found, about five years down the line from writing the first song for that record, that I am surprisingly similar to the person in those songs – mostly in the way that I have a strong sense of who I am but not a clear idea of where I'm going."

Are you that character full time? The character in your songs and videos and photoshoots is so fully realised that it's hard to imagine you doing normal things – laundry, lazing around in front of the TV. Do you ever lead a normal life, doing normal things?

"I do lots of normal things, and I never feel different from the person I am on stage to the person I am when I'm driving or cleaning or talking to my friends... I guess I know what you mean about the world being so fully realised that it's hard to imagine anything going on outside of it, but even with the highly stylised videos it's my hope that my intentions and soul come through."

Can you ever imagine releasing music without that persona? Returning to Lizzy Grant?

"I definitely don't need a persona to create music, it's not a David Bowie type of thing necessarily (maybe that's not a good reference, he may be completely as I imagine him to be). I just put music out under a different name with a fully realised sound and texture."

You covered Nina Simone's 'Don't Let Me Be Misunderstood' on 'Honeymoon'. What is it about Nina, her story and her music, that you're drawn to?

"I love the song I covered and I love the song I covered of hers ['The Other Woman'] on the last record... I'm drawn to her melodies and words. Personality-wise, we're quite different. We may have had some of the same issues, but I picked that song just because it resonated with me."

"I don't need a persona to create music. It's not a David Bowie thing"**The song 'Art Deco' is rumoured to be about Azealia Banks. Is that true?**

"Definitely not. I have no idea where people got that from. I just don't know what the correlation is. That song is actually about a group of teenagers who go out every night."

You've expressed an interest in "intergalactic possibilities". How serious is that interest?

"It's not only intergalactic possibilities that interest me, it's the exciting technological horizon we're looking at right now. There are a lot of people I'm interested in, but I like what Sergey Brin, Yuri Milner and Mark Zuckerberg are doing with the Breakthrough Prize Awards in fundamental physics and life sciences. I think it's important to have the same amount of attention, focus and glamour (if that's what's needed) to bring science to the forefront of people's everyday lives in the same way that politics or celebrity culture do now."

Your live shows are powerful, emotional experiences – you sometimes seem to become overwhelmed by them, often leading you to the brink of tears. What goes through your head before you go onstage?

"Every show is different, I'm not always overwhelmed by my show, but sometimes I am. It's not dependent on the size of the crowd, it's just how I'm doing that day... Touring for six months out of the year is so different from doing anything else; it's freeing, but there's something strange about it in the way that it's such a transient experience."

You're quite prolific – three albums in four years is some turnover. Do you worry about burning out?

"The best thing I can do is let the music speak for itself. So it's probably time well spent other than the time I spend on the road. I'm pretty happy writing and recording."

When writing, do you ever feel the pressure to deliver another 'Video Games'-sized hit?

"Not really, I don't ever even think about that actually. That song didn't feel bigger than the album was or the experience continues to be for me."

How long do you think you'll wait until the next record? Any early thoughts on where you'd like to go with it?

"I do have early thoughts about what I'd like to do with it. My label, Interscope, is pretty flexible and open to my records coming out at any time, so I don't have that pressure. I'm just happy to be able to keep on making music I can stand behind. That's enough for me."

NME

Lana on stage at Glastonbury in 2014

**2014****April**

Released 'West Coast', the first single from 'Ultraviolence'.

May

Performed at Kanye West and Kim Kardashian's wedding.

June

Third album 'Ultraviolence' was released.

November

A video was leaked showing Del Rey in a simulated rape scene with director Eli Roth.

2015**January**

James Franco wrote a love poem to her in an article in *V Magazine*.

September

Released 'Honeymoon', debuting at No. 2 on the US album charts.

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STAR WARS: THE NEW HOPES

The Force Awakens is out this week. Andy Welch meets two of its new stars to chat droids, the Millennium Falcon and *Episode VIII*

JOHN BOYEGA

Age: 23

Star Wars character: Finn

Backstory: A disillusioned Stormtrooper, he crash-lands on the planet Jakku, and acquires the lightsaber Luke Skywalker lost in *The Empire Strikes Back*.

A S A HUGE STAR WARS fan, what's it like to now be part of this?

"Exciting, and a blessing to be part of something people love so much."

Each trailer and teaser has ramped up the expectation. How does that feel?

"I expected it. *Star Wars* is a culture by itself. My real expectation is that people will enjoy it. The first trailer showed that the music was there, the practical effects, and that this film will pay tribute to the originals."

But still only vague plot details?

"If I had my way I wouldn't be doing interviews, and there'd be one trailer that just says, 'Go to see this film.' It's amazingly effective not knowing the narrative or the ins and outs of the characters."

Can you tell us anything?

"No. No one knows what's happening in this film. No one. I'm in it, believe me. I remember reading the script and saying 'Really?' It's not like the others. I am very happy to keep things to myself so everyone can enjoy it the way it's meant to be enjoyed."

We've seen you use a lightsaber in the trailers...

"Yes I do. I use a lightsaber and it's blue. It's heavy to swing, and

I really had to pump some weights to do that. I'm going to email JJ Abrams and ask if I can keep it."

How was filming?

"I always had to keep myself entertained, and what better way than to have lunch on the Millennium Falcon? There were days when I'd be finished but I'd stay to watch the rest of filming."

What were the original cast like?

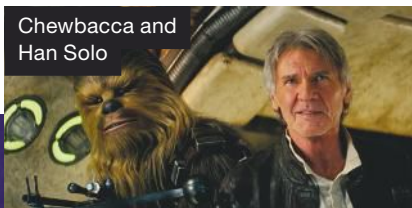
"I loved them. Harrison Ford in particular. I thought it would be fun to get under his skin. I'd say, 'Are you and me best friends?'

He'd say, 'No' and when I'd ask why, he'd just say, 'I don't like you, kid!' He, Carrie Fisher and Mark Hamill have got such great stories about making the first three. It's hard to know how it feels for them to be back all these years later."

Can you imagine what will happen to you when *The Force Awakens* is released?

"I can't, to be honest. I can go to the supermarket still, but I expect that will change. Would I go back and say no to the role because of that? Nah. No way."

Chewbacca and Han Solo



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DAISY RIDLEY

Age: 23

Star Wars character: Rey

Backstory: Abandoned on Jakku aged five, little is known about Rey, but fans theorise that she could be the daughter of Han Solo and Princess Leia.

WERE YOU A STAR Wars fan before this?

"I'd watched all the films and enjoyed them, but never knew the love people have for them."

Did you feel a bit overwhelmed working with the original cast?

"I was nervous. Once you get past, 'Oh my God, Harrison Ford,' you realise he's just a normal guy. Working with the original cast is daunting, but not because they're famous – they're just great actors."

What's it like having your own action figure?

"It's crazy. People keep sending me pictures of it, and I say, 'I know, I've seen it, it's me,' but it's very nice. A young girl wanted me to sign an action figure. I asked why

it wasn't Rey and she said they'd sold out. That was a cool feeling."

Are you worried about being seen as a role model?

"No. If I loved partying it would be more of a concern, but I am the most boring person. I would prefer to stay in and watch *Bake Off*. You see people say, 'I didn't ask for this,' but I see what this film might mean to young girls, and I want people to realise the possibilities are endless. If I had a younger sister, I'd think it was great that I could show her *The Force Awakens* and Rey, someone who's not sexualised, not in a gold bikini, not born into privilege, just a person who finds herself on a crazy adventure and exceeds all expectations, including her own. The female audience of *Star Wars*

is underestimated, but I have met so many female fans. And I hope there are more, encouraged by Rey."

What was it like flying the Millennium Falcon?

"I felt sick, mainly. It was like going on a rollercoaster again and again. I needed to pretend I was flying it through space, but I just felt ill."

Did you enjoy working with the spherical droid, BB8?

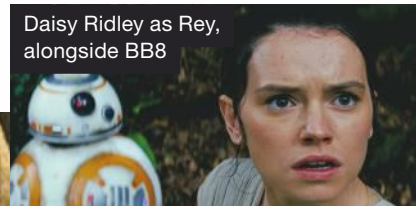
"It was great, and the guys that created and controlled him were the sweetest. It really felt like BB8 was alive, he was given a soul by them

and as a result he's my favourite character. He's going to steal the show, and I'm fine with that."

When do you start the next film, *Episode VIII*?

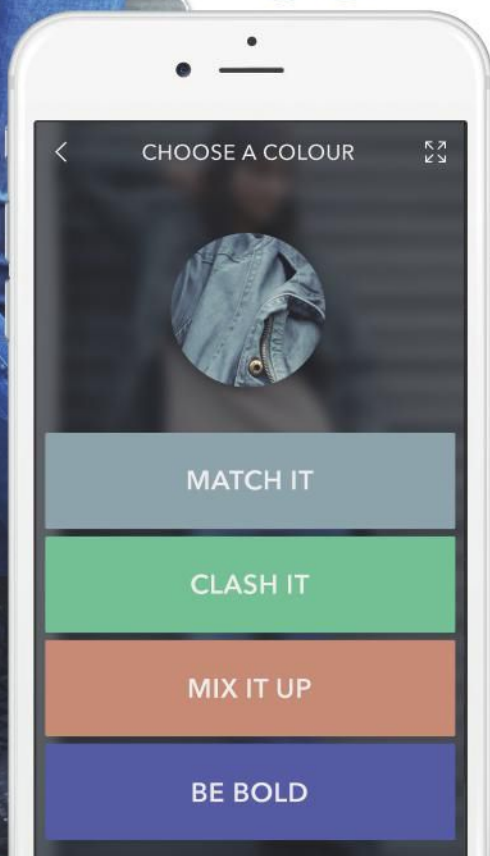
"January. It's nice, we have two weeks of thinking, 'Oh my God, the film's out,' and then we start the next one."

Star Wars: The Force Awakens is in cinemas December 17



Daisy Ridley as Rey, alongside BB8

NME



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IDRIS ELBA

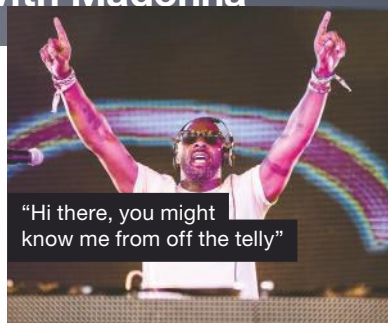
CAN'T TOUCH DRIS

From acting in *The Wire* and *Luther* to rapping with Skepta and DJing Glasto, Idris Elba does it all, and does it well. Nick Levine meets him the morning after an all-nighter with Madonna

MORE THAN A decade since drug kingpin Stringer Bell ruled the streets of Baltimore, people are still asking Idris Elba about his breakout role in *The Wire*. "That show's like *Breaking Bad*," he says. "New people discover it and tell their friends, so I'm always getting, 'Oh, it's Stringer!'"

But since he started fronting the BBC's coolest-ever cop series in 2010, Elba gets nearly as many questions about *Luther*. The 43-year-old Londoner says he relates to obsessive detective DCI John Luther because they're both workaholics. He's not exaggerating. When we meet at his Camden office, Elba is drumming the table with his fingers to keep himself awake. He didn't get any sleep the night before because he accepted a last-minute DJ gig opening for Madonna in Berlin. Midge fancied a nightcap, so there was no time to nap before catching a 5am flight back to London.

Despite being knackered, Elba is excited to discuss his "character album" 'Murda Loves John', a spin-off from *Luther*'s new two-part special that starts on BBC One on December 15. First question: what is a character album? "It's an alternative to your bog standard soundtrack album," Elba explains while raiding a jar of sweets on the table. "Instead of writing about the



"Hi there, you might know me from off the telly"

TV show's themes, we've focused in on the central character and written songs about him and the things that affect him. If you love John Luther, this album gives you an opportunity to get more in-depth with him."

'Murda Loves John' is Elba's second character album, following last year's 'Mi Mandela', inspired by his lead role in the acclaimed *Mandela: Long Walk To Freedom*, about late Apartheid activist Nelson Mandela. Where 'Mi Mandela' drew from the music of South Africa, 'Murda Loves John' is designed to evoke Luther's gritty London streets with a sound Elba calls "industrial funk". It's more mainstream, featuring cameos from Kasabian's Tom Meighan – who Elba says "smashes it" on 'Sinner Man' – and grime MC Wretch 32.

"The endgame is to have a nice boxset of character albums from all my films and TV shows," Elba says, enthusiastically. "I've really found my niche with character albums."

Elba wrote and produced 'Murda Loves John' with up-and-coming musician Fred Cox, but doesn't

actually appear on the album, even though he has form as a rapper (check

out his recent remix of Skepta's 'Shutdown'). Will we ever see a proper Idris Elba album? "I don't know whether I'm there yet," he says. "I've fantasised about making a hip-hop album for years. Not as a rapper – well, partly as a rapper – and not necessarily attached to a character. So that might be it. It's on the cards one day for sure."

There's also the small matter of time. Because Elba has established himself as such a formidably charismatic actor, he's highly sought after. His forceful performance as the delusional, warmongering commandant in *Beasts Of No Nation* is attracting Oscar buzz, and next year brings a high-profile role in *Star Trek Beyond*. There's also constant chatter about James Bond. "I think people have started to realise," Elba says, adopting an exaggerated American accent, "'Oh my Gaaahd, this guy is versatile!' I always ask myself, 'Can I disappear into this role? Is it a repeat beat of something I've done?' If the answer isn't 'yes I can', and 'no it isn't', then I won't do it."

Because of his screen success, Elba concedes his music will inevitably be greeted with suspicion. "When someone who's sort of respected as an actor changes lanes into music, people are like, 'Whaaat?'" But that pressure challenges me," he says. "I'm proud of both my character albums. They're very different, but when people lay them next to each other, hopefully they'll think, 'Wow. Fair enough.' I'm not doing this in a fly-by-night sort of way. I think when I release my third album, that's when people will really start to see me as a musician and a producer."

He was, though, given a special MOBO Inspiration Award last year in recognition of his journey from East Ham to Hollywood. "I don't feel like a role model, but I guess I speak to people who come from a similar background. They see me and think, 'If he can do it, so can I.' I meet a lot of young artists doing their thing, and I always emphasise the importance of hard work. That's how I got where I am today."

So knuckle down, and you too might be knocking them back with Madonna. You will need some sleep, though...

NME

Idris Elba: Renaissance Man

Behold the many strings to his bow



ACTOR

Best known for *The Wire* and *Luther*. Has also impressed in films such as Ridley Scott's *Prometheus* and the acclaimed *Mandela: Long Walk To Freedom* (above).

RAPPER

Released three EPs ('Big Man', 'Kings Among Kings', 'High Class Problems Vol 1') plus the memorably dumb 'Merry DriisMas Holiday Mixtape'. Recently guested on a remix of Skepta's track 'Shutdown', rapping: "Ain't nobody else Stringer Bell/Boy from the East End did well."

DJ

Name: Big Driis. Recent gigs include opening for Madonna on the Berlin leg of her Rebel Heart tour.

PRESENTER

Hosted the Channel 4 documentary *Idris Elba's How Clubbing Changed The World*, and the Discovery Channel series *Idris Elba: No Limit*.

PRODUCER AND DIRECTOR

Has producer credits on *Luther* and latest film *Beasts Of No Nation*. Co-directed and starred in Mumford & Sons' 'Lover Of The Light' video.

FASHION DESIGNER

Collaborated with Superdry on a massive 250-item menswear collection, which launched in November.

Lessons in Luther

What we know about the TV detective from 'Murda Loves John'

He's an insomniac

The evidence: On the title track, Wretch 32 admits: "I pray for the day I'll get a full night sleep, maybe that's when I'll find peace."

Satan is all around him

The evidence: "The devil makes us sin," sings Fabienne on 'Paradise Circus', "but we like it when we're spinning in his grip."

Regrets? He's got a few...

The evidence: On 'Finish Line', musician Stephen Ridley laments, "I watched my life shoot by like a bullet... I blew it." Oh, Luther.

He's enigmatic

The evidence: "You think you really know me," sings Kasabian's Tom Meighan on 'Sinner Man', "but are you sure?"



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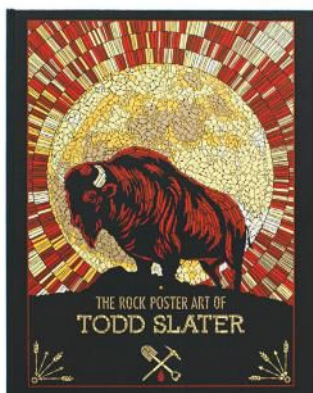
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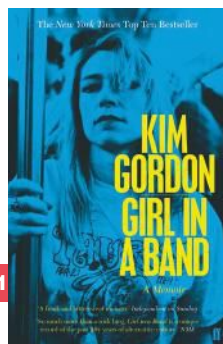
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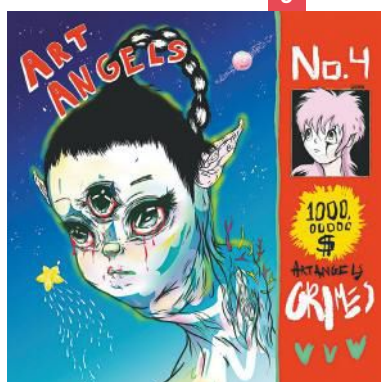
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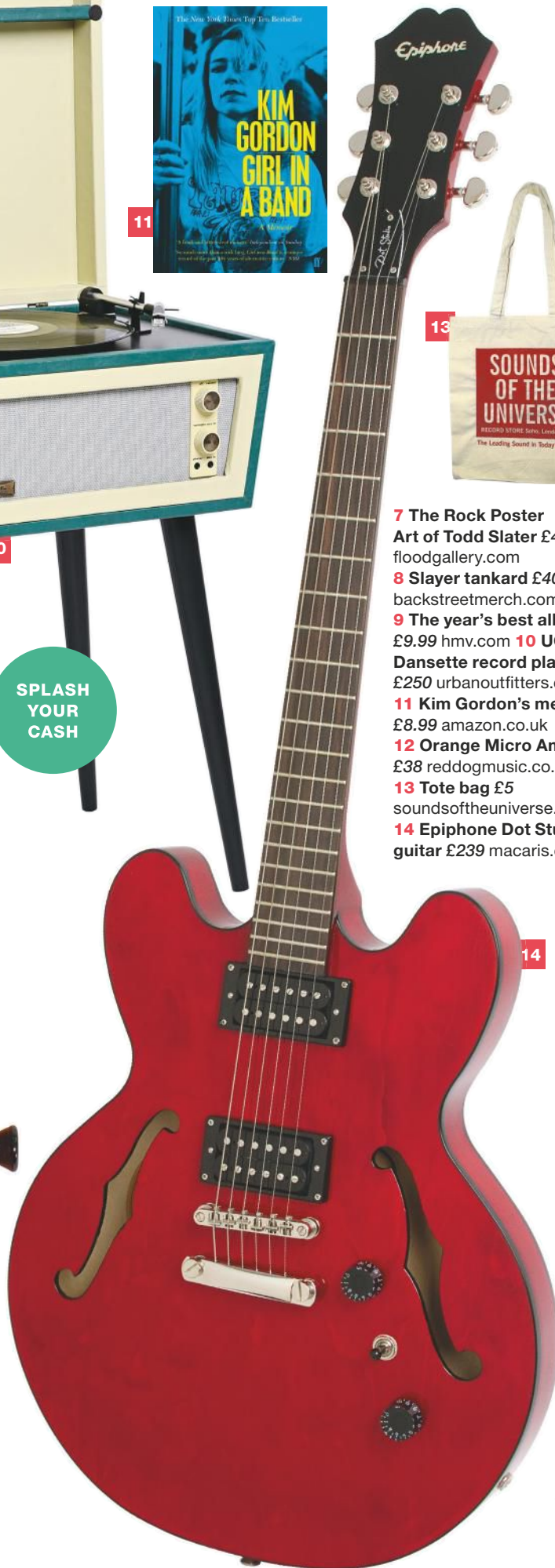
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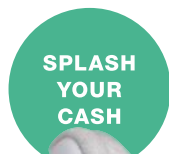
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#JACKROCKS

Artist line ups are correct as of 04/12/15 and may be subject to change.

Play with heart. Drink with care. for the facts drinkaware.co.uk

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RADAR

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

Best NEW tracks

And when to drop them

Best for planning your summer hols

ANIMAL COLLECTIVE
FloriDada

Noah Lennox and his oddball gang return like Vampire Weekend circa 2007, seemingly on a jittery high caused by listening to too much Afrobeat.



Best for going on the run

THE CORAL
Chasing The Tail Of A Dream

Like a fuzzed-up Last Shadow Puppets, the Wirral band come back with a moody cut buzzing with noirish drama.



Best for shaking off a hangover

LUCIUS
Born Again Teen

The Brooklyn band build on the sugary indie-pop of 2013's 'Wildewoman' with this infectious first taste of new album 'Good Grief'.

Best for heartache

BLOC PARTY
The Good News

Over a chugging country-rock guitar line, Kele laments the diminishing effect of a break-up: "Since my baby left me, my light refuses to shine."

Best for fronting up to an ex

SANTIGOLD
Who Be Lovin' Me (Feat. iLoveMakonnen)

In which the Philadelphia singer smoothly boasts about "the boys around the world who be loving me".

Best for protest

KATE TEMPEST
Europe Is Lost

"And you wonder why kids want to die for religion," sneers Tempest on this thought-provoking reaction to the Paris attacks and the resulting political fallout.

Best for doing Classics homework to

CHAIRLIFT
Romeo
Written from the perspective of Atalanta, a character in Greek mythology, 'Romeo' is juddering, bright synth-pop.

Best for howling at the Moon

BIG UPS
Capitalized
The NY punks return with a song so brutal and powerful, you'll get bruises just from listening to it.

Best for moody gym workouts

FEWS
The Zoo
Jagged post-punk zigs and zags punctuate the mesmerising new single from the Dan Carey-collaborating Swedish/American quartet.

Best for first dates

JEHNNY BETH & JULIAN CASABLANCAS
Boy/Girl

Savages and The Strokes' leaders unite on a dirty update of Danish band Sort Sol's 1983 hook-up with no wave icon Lydia Lunch, keeping the punk spirit alive and well.

For more new music, go to NME.com

JEHNNY BETH & JULIAN CASABLANCAS

ALBUM OF THE WEEK

Sweet Dreams

Coldplay have hinted that this could be their last album. If it is, then with a little help from ex-wives and US Presidents, they're going out on a high

COLDPLAY
A Head Full Of Dreams



POP SWANSONG OBAMA

THE CREDITS FOR Coldplay's seventh album say much about the sort of group they've become. Duets with Beyoncé, guest-spots from Noel Gallagher, sample clearances from Barack Obama – few bands can pull these sorts of strings, and fewer still would invite their frontman's ex-wife (the subject of a desperate, disconsolate break-up record released just last year) and his new girlfriend to join them on backing vocals. Curiously enough, however, it's Gallagher whose name sticks out: after their EDM/pop excursions and the meek, miserabilist balladry of 'Ghost Stories', it's been a while since they seemed bothered about being a 'rock' band of the sort the ex-Oasis man usually turns out for.

From Chris Martin's god's-eye vantage point, that undoubtedly makes a lot of sense: rock is an empty

battlefield but pop is Coldplay's new frontier; maybe even their final one, depending on how you interpret his claim that 'A Head Full Of Dreams' represents

"the completion of something". In any case, they've met it with a spring in their step and it's the most satisfying collection of songs they've written in years. Inclusivity is hardly a new concept

for this band, but from the title track's ecstatic, starry-eyed expression of wonder to the gargantuan gospel-pop curtain call of 'Up&Up', they've rarely sounded so open-armed and elated. On



U2
Achtung Baby
(1991)

When Bono's boys discovered wraparound shades and plastic jackets, they added an electropop sheen to their arena rock with 'The Fly' and 'Even Better Than The Real Thing' – sordid disco writers to usher in their next phase.

'Hymn For The Weekend', the first of two appearances from Beyoncé, Martin even sings about "feeling drunk and high", a line which – in its own totally benign, PG-13 way – may be the first drug reference to ever grace the lyrics of a Coldplay album.

The cumulative effect of all that vibrancy and positivity is not unlike that of a sugar-coated pill to wash away the bitter taste of 'Ghost Stories'. Taken together, the buoyant, disco-fied Afro-pop of 'Adventure Of A Lifetime' and the Tove Lo-featuring 'Fun' form a sort of mini-narrative about the breathless beginning and amicable end of a brief, revitalising relationship. It makes a refreshing change, given that Martin's romantic entanglements usually end in plaintive minor-key torpor. Even

Best track

Up&Up

Beyoncé! Noel Gallagher! The woman who sang on 'Gimme Shelter'! The album's closing track packs 'em in, but Chris Martin's knack for massive melodies steals the thunder from all of them.

the more ruminative 'Everglow' – seemingly another open letter to the ex – sounds sung from the light at the end of the tunnel, with Martin vowing to remain "Brothers in blood, sisters in rhyme/We swore on that night we'd be friends till we die." If 'A Head Full Of Dreams' really is to be Coldplay's last hurrah, then they've gone out with a flashbang of colour and catharsis. **Barry Nicolson**



Slow burner

Warpaint's bassist doesn't venture far from the moody, hypnotic sound of her main band

JENNYLEE
Right On!



TRIPPY '80S GOTH GROWER

DON'T BE DECEIVED by that exclamation mark in the title: Jenny Lee Lindberg's 'Right On!' has many qualities to recommend it, but a great sense of urgency isn't among them. Instead, in keeping with the two albums she's made with Warpaint, Lindberg's first solo LP



moves in mysterious, circuitous ways, emphasising mood over melody and aesthetic over dynamic. It's a grower, whose charms are revealed like arcane secrets to those with patience, persistence and a lack of proximity to heavy machinery.

Take opener 'Blind', wherein Lindberg's breathy vocal is accompanied by little more than a bass guitar plodding eerily away on the periphery, as though swaying to the rhythm of a sacramental censer filled with narcotics. Like much of 'Right On!' it only ever seems to be building towards anticlimax (and unhurriedly, at that), yet it remains a tantalisingly evocative and esoteric piece. Elsewhere, Lindberg broadens her scope to include elements of austere '80s goth and darkwave – witness

the chilly early-Cure guitar work on 'Never', or the skittering, skeletal disco of 'Offerings', lifting slyly from both Nirvana's 'Something In The Way' and The Beatles' 'Something' – but many of the album's strengths and weaknesses are shared by Warpaint themselves.

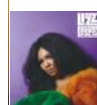
Still, 'Right On!' does succeed in creating a very particular vibe. After a certain point, the languid, lucid-dream R&B of 'He Fresh' ("He's so fresh, he's so fresh, he's so fresh") begins to sound like an incantation, while the agitated post-punk of 'Riot' and 'White Devil' adopt a more clamorous, diabolical air, the latter culminating in Lindberg and her friend Kris Byerly screaming the title with increasing rage and malevolence. Some more of that aggression and animation wouldn't have gone amiss, but Lindberg and her bandmates have always dealt in a currency of distant, unknowable cool – why throw open the doors at this point? **Barry Nicolson**

FOR FANS OF



RADAR

Also out
this week



LIZZO
Big Grrrl Small World
★★★★☆

Minneapolis rapper Lizzo's equivalent of a second date – her debut album made a fun first impression, the second shows more emotional depth.



CASS McCOMBS
A Folk Set Apart: Rarities, B-Sides & Space, Junk Etc
★★★★☆

The eccentric Californian's hit-and-miss, 19-track collection of studio floor scrapings.



R KELLY
The Buffet
★★★★☆

So named because it's "a variety of things", mostly food-based sexual metaphors. One of the few songs that's not X-rated is single 'Backyard Party', which is about a barbecue. No, really...



CASSIE RAMONE
Christmas In Reno
★★★★☆

Cassie Ramone fronted New York indie darlings Vivian Girls, and this album of scratchy Christmas covers shows why their 2014 break-up was such a shame. Punk snottiness this well executed is rare.



CAGE THE ELEPHANT
Tell Me I'm Pretty
★★★★☆

The Black Keys' Dan Auerbach guides these Kentucky indie rock monsters in the ways of the psychedelic Western, with help from dollops of The Hives, Tame Impala and T Rex.

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

Idris Elba in the new series of *Luther*

The anti-Christmas special

The upcoming two-part edition of Idris Elba's psychotic detective drama will be a Christmas TV treat, even though it's about as festive as *Scrooge McDuck*

LUTHER

Tuesday, 9pm, BBC Two
Idris Elba, Ruth Wilson,
Rose Leslie



DRAMA DETECTIVES CANNIBALISM

IT ISN'T SET AT CHRISTMAS...

...and Idris Elba doesn't don novelty reindeer antlers, or pull a cracker to find a ransom note popping out. Instead, Elba says he and writer Neil Cross saw this as a two-hour pilot for a film. Seeking to tie up some of the loose ends from series three, it begins with Elba's character, volatile policeman John Luther, on a leave of absence from the police.

IT'S BRAIN, NOT TURKEY, FOR DINNER

Fresh from perusing a fetish website devoted to cannibal erotica – which tells you how to kidnap, cook and eat young teens – a *Silence Of The Lambs*-style killer is on the loose. “How much of the brain did he eat?” is a line you're unlikely to hear during Christmas dinner.

IT'S BAD WILL TO ALL MEN (AND WOMEN)

Luther has become famed for its disturbing scenes. The last series even drew outrage from bed manufacturers after a harrowing scene involving a killer hiding under one, like some kind of psycho remake of *Monsters Inc.* This time around, trigger warnings include dismembered women and bodies dissolved in baths. The only time you'll see the treachery of man so vividly illustrated this Xmas is Jools Holland pretending its New Year's Eve.

LITERALLY NO ONE IS HAVING A GOOD TIME

“Are you having a laugh?” the gravel-voiced Luther asks a criminal at one point. The answer, unsurprisingly, is “no”. But that's OK, because Elba's at his best when brooding about his haunted past and struggling to keep it together or operate within normal social parameters. Whether headbutting someone or mowing them down in a car, his behaviour appeals to our inner sociopath when Granny Agnes has eaten the last Green Triangle from the Quality Street box.

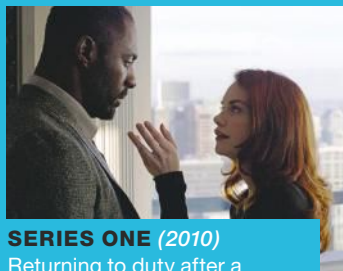
BUT HEY, AT LEAST THERE ARE SOME CHRISTMAS GUESTS

Rose Leslie – Ygritte from *Game Of Thrones* – co-stars as DC Emma Jones, dealing with events that make *GOT*'s Red Wedding episode look as quaint as *Midsomer Murders*. Another chocolate?

Gary Ryan

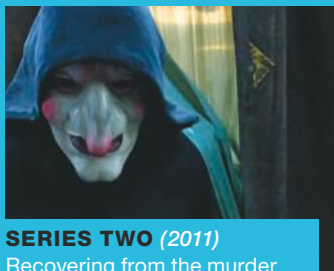
A carnival of horrors

A handy recap of previous *Luther* series. Contains spoilers!



SERIES ONE (2010)

Returning to duty after a nervous breakdown, Luther gets involved in a cat-and-mouse game with Alice Morgan (Ruth Wilson), a genius psychopath who helps him solve crimes.



SERIES TWO (2011)

Recovering from the murder of his wife at the hands of a colleague, Luther tackles a maniac wearing a Punch mask, and twins who throw dice to decide their means of murder.



SERIES THREE (2013)

While Luther hunts a murderer who hides under beds, he's framed for shooting his partner Justin Ripley. Alice Morgan swoops in to save the day. But where is she now? Stay tuned...



Lily Tomlin (right) and Julia Garner in *Grandma*

Generation game

This bijou road movie is hilarious, but there's a serious message about growing old lurking underneath

GRANDMA

15 Lily Tomlin, Julia Garner, Marcia Gay Harden



COMEDY ROAD TRIP

WISE-ASS OAPS

SIMPLE STORIES DON'T necessarily have simple messages. On the surface, *American Pie* co-director Paul Weitz's road movie, which is so small-scale it never even makes it out of Los Angeles, is just about a 70-something woman, Elle (*The West Wing* actor Lily Tomlin), and her granddaughter, Sage (21-year-old Julia Garner), trying to hustle up enough money for the latter to terminate an unwanted pregnancy. Yet on that little journey we learn

Elle's entire life story, as well as musing on loss, the transformation of feminism and what it means to be a family. And all that is done with constant hilarity and without once giving you the feeling of being lectured.

Tomlin gives one of the great cranky-old-person performances. There are a few things more enjoyable in cinema than a seasoned character actor being gifted a wryly written, no-bullsh*t part and throwing all their decades of experience at it. Elle, a lesbian who's lost the love of her life and puts up an unconvincing front that she's over it, has many surprising secrets in her past and plenty of opinions about the details of everyone else's personal life. Tomlin storms through the public outbursts but she also brings quieter power to the times when

Elle lets her guard down. It's one hell of a turn.

What Weitz's script does so well is to believably portray three different women – Elle, Sage and Judy (*Mystic River*'s Marcia Gay Harden), the daughter/mother who connects the two – who grew up in very different generations with very different ideas on how to get things done. It's quite a feat to make all those voices sound distinct and true, and even more so to strip away the differences to find their common drives. Outside those three major roles, Weitz also writes meaty smaller parts for some of the best supporting actors in the business, like Sam Elliott and Judy Greer (even if you don't know the names you'll recognise the faces).

It's so funny and so eventful that you'll likely be shocked to find the running time is a shade under 80 minutes. A lot of films do far less with twice the time.

Olly Richards

Golden years

Three of the best cranky pensioners on film



ABOUT SCHMIDT (2002)

Jack Nicholson

Nicholson plays a depressed retiree travelling across the country to his daughter's wedding, examining all his poor life choices on the way.



UP (2009)

Carl Fredricksen (voiced by Edward Asner)

Sure he's a cartoon, but Carl Fredricksen is so disillusioned with the modern world that he floats his house to the middle of nowhere.



HAROLD AND MAUDE (1971)

Ruth Gordon

A very young man falls for an eccentric pensioner, except he's the one acting grown up.

Also out this week



HECTOR

15 Peter Mullan, Keith Allen, Natalie Gavin, Sharon Rooney, Sarah Solemani



The always wonderful and extremely Scottish Peter Mullan plays a homeless man who has spent years trying to escape his past, which, as pasts must in movies, eventually catches up with him.



BY THE SEA

15 Angelia Jolie Pitt, Brad Pitt, Mélanie Laurent, Niels Arestrup



In which Brangelina team up in a romantic drama written and directed by Jolie Pitt, drawing inspiration from the life of her mother, who died in 2007. The pair play a troubled couple touring 1970s coastal France and 'finding themselves' amidst the local colour. No great shakes, all told.



Rainbow Six Siege is made for multiplayer

Siege mentality

The latest in the brutal shoot 'em up series is best enjoyed with a platoon of highly-trained friends

TOM CLANCY'S RAINBOW SIX SIEGE
PlayStation 4, Xbox One, Microsoft Windows



MULTIPLAYER SHOOTING TERROR

IT SEEMS GAMERS HAVE finally tired of playing with themselves. Recent first-person shooters – *Halo 5: Guardians*, *Call Of Duty: Black Ops III* – sidelined their single-player campaigns in favour of concentrating on the ever-expanding interest in online multiplayer modes, where players team up with or fight against each other across a variety of battlegrounds. After all, why bother memorising the pre-planned routines of your enemies when it's much more of a challenge (and better *schadenfreude*) taking down

a sentient, unpredictable human opponent?

Often these games are little more than brutal free-for-all fire-fights differing only in weaponry and scenery, but the 19th edition of Baltimore author Tom Clancy's realistic SAS-simulation *Rainbow Six* franchise – the first since 2008's *Rainbow Six: Vegas 2* – takes a more cat-and-mouse approach. The solo 'campaign' is basically an extended training stage. Voiced by Oscar-nominated actor Angela Bassett, Six is the deputy director of the Rainbow Six counter-terrorism unit. She sends you to foil terrorist plots in order to introduce you to the different operatives you can play and their various skills in explosives, electric charges or brute force. After that,

you're thrust into multiplayer siege scenarios in condensed locations – an aeroplane, a mountain chalet, a warehouse. The crew defending their hostage or piece of world-changing technology set traps and barricade themselves in. Meanwhile, the attacking team despatch mobile drones to scout their assault, then literally shoot, batter and blast through the walls to wipe out the opposition – brickwork proves no match for a sturdy sledgehammer.

The locations are limited, the gameplay is rather repetitive and, to get the most out of *TCRSS*, it'll take a gang of friends dedicated to synchronising watches and intricately scouting every location until they've developed code words for the weakest entry points. But for a dose of tense, paranoid adrenaline, crouching under a desk waiting for a wall to explode can't be beat. **Mark Beaumont**

For more games reviews and previews go to NME.com



Just Cause 3: the best bits

The third instalment of the action-adventure game is out now. Warning: lots of things explode

You can destroy it all

Have you ever gazed at a game's vast, beautifully-crafted vista and been annoyed that you can't blow enough of it up? Then this is the game for you. With deft use of unlimited explosives you can raze *everything* to the ground.

You're virtually superhuman

Protagonist Rico Rodriguez can essentially fly, swing and soar

across the 1,000km² of fictional island Medici, inspiring revolution like a cross between Spider-Man and Russell Brand.

The physics is nuts

When you're not liberating towns from evil despots, you can explore the possibilities of in-game physics by tethering helicopters together in mid-air or fixing a ramp into the middle of a motorway and watch cars make daredevil leaps.



Just Cause 3: for fans of wanton destruction

YOU HEARD IT HERE FIRST

“It’s like we’re suddenly being allowed to go out”
Izzy B Phillips



Black Honey (l-r):
Tom Dewhurst, Izzy B
Phillips, Tommy Taylor,
Chris Ostler

Black Honey

This secretive Brighton four-piece combine dark grunge with sweet, sticky Americana

UNLEASHED ON the festival circuit for the first time earlier this year, Brighton quartet Black Honey gained an insatiable appetite for touring. “Imagine being locked inside your house for six years,” says frontwoman Izzy B Phillips, “then you’re suddenly allowed to go out, and you’re like, ‘Oh my God! What is the world? Where are we?!’ That’s what we’re like about just getting out on the road.”

Until recently, the only visuals they provided were those on their single artwork – a guarded move designed to place their music front and centre – so for a long time the only way you could learn more about them was via text, after they casually published their mobile number alongside last year’s attention-grabbing demo ‘Teenager’. It’s a plan that paid off, says Phillips. “Everyone who’s

reached out genuinely gives a sh*t and wants to be friends.”

Like the rest of their music, ‘Teenager’ is brimming with ideas and references. It’s a canny pairing of Western-spiked guitar and Phillips’ vigorous, femme fatale voice, which has earned comparisons to Nancy Sinatra, Debbie Harry and Lana Del Rey.

That makes it all sound vaguely American, which it does – Phillips loves diners and Warhol’s Factory scene – but clarifies, “We are

quintessentially a British rock band.” They’re influenced as much by The Beatles as by Lou Reed, both of whose CDs they’ve been blasting out during their marathon tour bus journeys this summer.

Their 2016 calendar is already bursting: an EP, album plans, festivals, a video directed by Dan Kendall – the man behind Swim Deep’s brilliantly retro ‘Namaste’ vid – and, as bassist Tommy Taylor puts it, “as many shows as we can play”. A record deal seems imminent too, but – you guessed it – it’s a secret. **Larry Bartleet**

Details

LISTEN ‘Corrine’, their single released in September, is a scuzzy Brightonian take on the *Pulp Fiction* soundtrack

FACT Singer Izzy worked in American eatery TGI Fridays for four years. “The Americana seeped into my bones from that,” she says

SOCIAL
twitter.com/blackhoneyuk

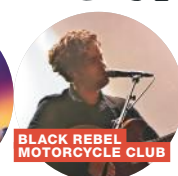
For more on Black Honey, head to **NME.com**

Best track

Spinning Wheel

Starts as nebulously as Nancy Sinatra’s menacing ‘Bang Bang’, before being catapulted into chaotic, screaming Spaghetti Western territory.

FOR FANS OF



Live

THE MOST IMPORTANT
GIGS THIS WEEK

1

Enter Shikari

Thursday 17 The Limelight, Belfast

WHO: Politically-charged hardcore group from St Albans, who'll batter your ears with their uncompromising riffs and then tell you why the NHS is so great.

WHY: This is the first of two nights at The Limelight – a venue Shikari could surely sell out many nights in a row – so expect it to be sweaty, chaotic and a whole lot of fun.

WHO'S SUPPORTING: Suffolk death-pop quintet Fearless Vampire Killers.

TICKETS: £20.90 from entershikari.com

2

Kylie Minogue

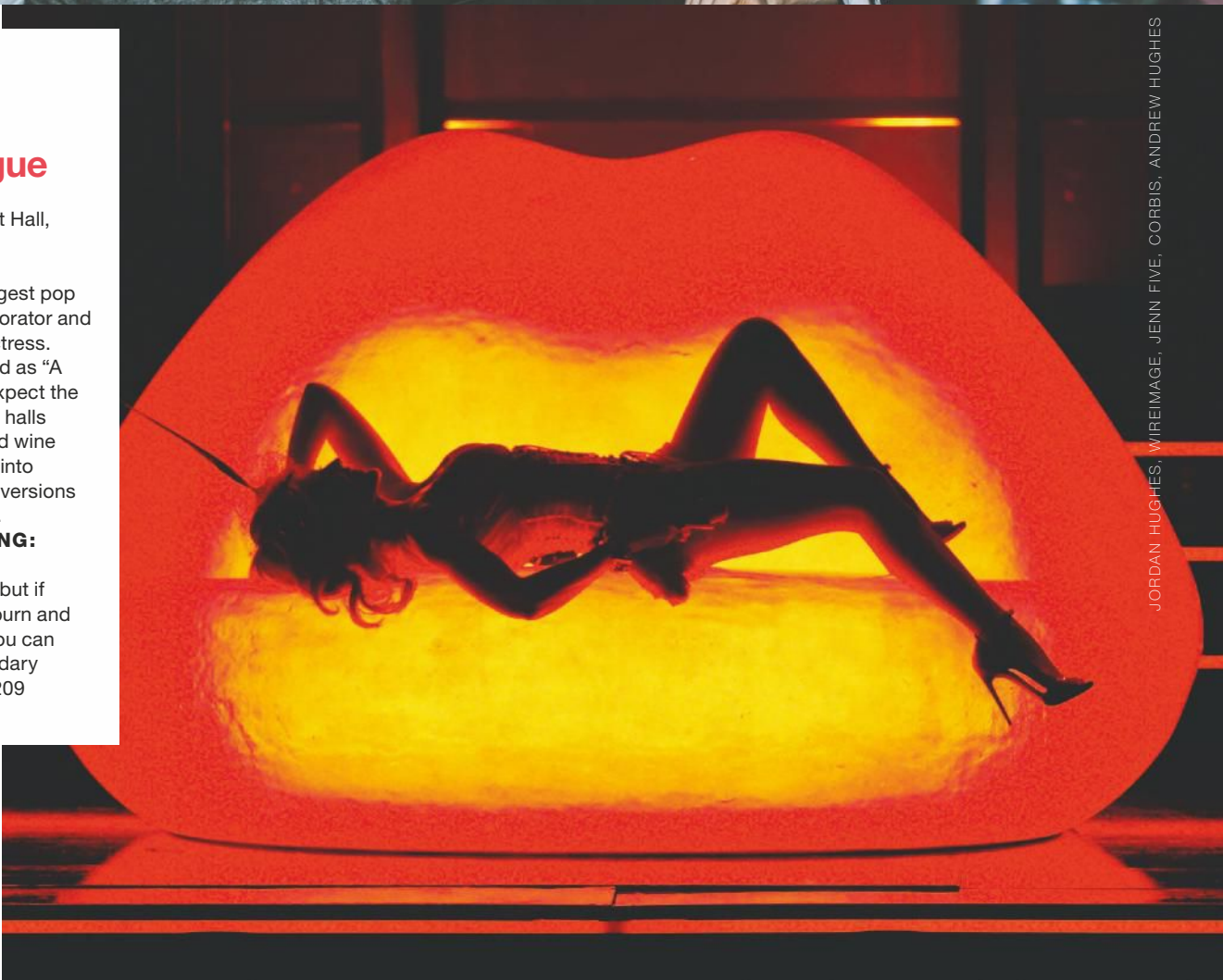
Friday 11 Royal Albert Hall, London

WHO: Australia's biggest pop star, Nick Cave collaborator and former *Neighbours* actress.

WHY: This gig is billed as "A Kylie Christmas" so expect the tiny singer to have the halls decked and the mulled wine flowing as she delves into Santa's sack and airs versions of Christmas classics.

WHO'S SUPPORTING: No details yet.

TICKETS: Sold out, but if you've got money to burn and fancy a festive treat you can grab tickets on secondary ticketing sites from £209 upwards



JORDAN HUGHES, WIREIMAGE, JENN FIVE, CORBIS, ANDREW HUGHES



3

British Sea Power

Thursday 17 The Haunt, Brighton

WHO: Brighton six-piece famed for curious lyrics and incorporating foliage into their live shows.

WHY: This is their Christmas party and the line-up has been curated by the BSP themselves. As well as a live performance from the band, expect other oddities, like Communist ping-pong.

WHO'S SUPPORTING: Dreamy duo Gaps, plus a DJ set from journalist and author Simon Price.

TICKETS: £15.40 from wegottickets.com



5

The Bronx

Friday 11 Ruby Lounge, Manchester
Sunday 13 Brooklyn Bowl, London

WHO: LA punk veterans who also operate as a mariachi band under the alter ego Mariachi El Bronx.

WHY: There'll be no Mexican folk at these shows, as Joby J Ford and co dial up their amps and bring their passionate punk rock to decimate these intimate venues.

WHO'S SUPPORTING: Frank Carter & The Rattlesnakes and Pounded By The Surf in Manchester, London still to be announced.

TICKETS: Sold out, but there are a few tickets available from secondary ticketing sites for around £40

4

Rae Sremmurd

Friday 11 Electric Brixton, London
Saturday 12 O2 Academy, Bristol
Sunday 13 O2 Institute2, Birmingham
Monday 14 O2 Ritz, Manchester
Tuesday 15 O2 ABC, Glasgow

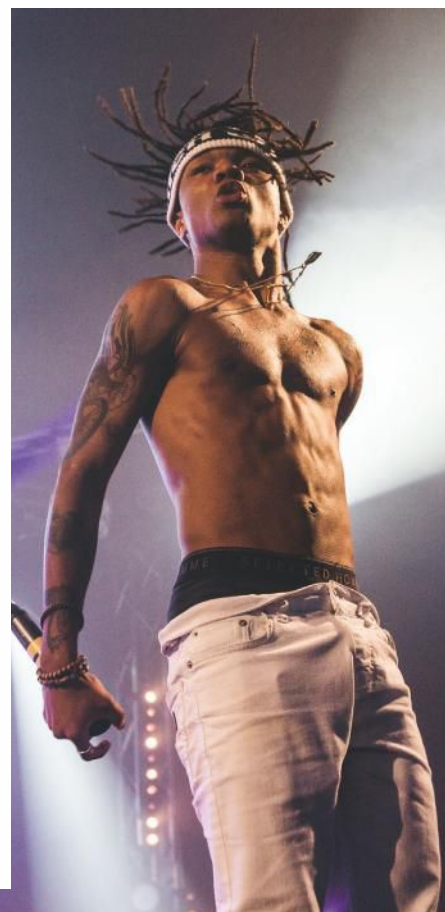
WHO: Hip-hop brothers Khalif "Swae Lee" Brown and Aaquil "Slim Jxmmi" Brown, whose odd band name is pronounced "Ray Shrim-er".

WHY: They regularly take to the stage armed with joints and bottles of Hennessy, and they're unrelenting in their energy and enthusiasm.

WHO'S SUPPORTING: South London MOBO award winners Section Boyz.

TICKETS: £20.95-£23.55 from NME.com/tickets; Glasgow £19.68 from ticketweb.co.uk; Birmingham sold out

live



6

The Darkness

Friday 11 O2 Academy, Birmingham
Sunday 13 O2 Academy, Bristol
Monday 14 Guildhall, Southampton
Tuesday 15 De La Warr Pavilion, Bexhill-On-Sea
Thursday 17 O2 Academy, Bournemouth

WHO: Jumpsuit-wearing, falsetto-warbling cock-rockers who first hit fame in 2003.

WHY: As well as seeing whatever spandex outfit frontman Justin Hawkins has picked out for these shows, you'll also get to hear 'I Believe In A Thing Called Love' and 'Love Is Only A Feeling'.

WHO'S SUPPORTING: Calgary rockers These Raven Skies, Glasgow's The River 68's.

TICKETS: £29.55 from seetickets.com



For tour news and live reviews go to NME.com

Live

7

The Charlatans

Friday 11 UEA, Norwich
Saturday 12 O2 Academy, Birmingham
Monday 14 Usher Hall, Edinburgh
Tuesday 15 Caird Hall, Dundee
Thursday 17 O2 Academy, Newcastle

WHO: Band who straddled Madchester and Britpop, and recently returned to form with

12th album 'Modern Nature', following the death of drummer Jon Brookes.

WHY: The band have looked re-energised on this record, bringing '60s grooves to their loping, distinctive organ melodies.

WHO'S SUPPORTING: Chipper, witty Sunderland indie-poppers Frankie & The Heartstrings, plus a selection of Riding The Low, Yucatan, Hot Vestry and BMX Bandits.

TICKETS: £30.25 from NME.com/tickets

8

Demob Happy

Friday 11 The Haunt, Brighton
Thursday 17 The Cluny, Newcastle

WHO: Long-haired, grungy newcomers whose debut album 'Dream Soda' fizzes and thrums with fun and lust.

WHY: They're playing their adopted home (Brighton) and their actual home (Newcastle) so both shows should be full of excitable, supportive fans ready to lose all inhibitions to the group's sleazy riffs.

WHO'S SUPPORTING: Fellow Brightoners Yonaka will join Demob by the sea, Geordie rock trio Enter The Lexicon support in Newcastle.

TICKETS: £5.50-£7.48 from NME.com/tickets

Strange fruit

Lucy Rose

A Jack Rocks special

This run of gigs will keep you warm and toasty

Darkshaft

Saturday 12 Boileroom, Guildford

WHO: London-based punk two-piece.

WHY: For cathartic clattering and messy rock action.

WHO'S SUPPORTING: Hardcore trio Let's Talk Daggers.

The View

Sunday 13 Macbeth, London

WHO: Scottish scallywags playing a stripped down show.

WHY: An acoustic set will make a break from Xmas party mayhem.

WHO'S SUPPORTING: Chirpy Warrington indie fourpiece Man And The Echo.

Lucy Rose

Tuesday 15 Macbeth, London

WHO: One of the UK's finest singer-songwriters.

WHY: Lucy will be playing with a full band – so expect a tougher take on her folk-infused sound.

WHO'S SUPPORTING: Oxford troubadour Rhys Lewis.

Strange fruit

Friday 18 Macbeth, London

WHO: Lush alt-rockers featuring former members of Babyshambles.

WHY: Because Jenny Maxwell's voice will make your spine tingle.

WHO'S SUPPORTING: Beardy Twickenham blues duo Dead Men.

JACK DANIEL'S
JACK ROCKS

Darkshaft

The View

Best of the rest



2ManyDJs

Fri 11 SWG3, Glasgow

The Courteeners

Fri 11 & Sat 12 O2 Apollo, Manchester
Thu 17 O2 Academy, Glasgow

Craig Finn

Fri 11 Ramsgate Music Hall, Ramsgate

Don Broco

Fri 11 O2 Ritz, Manchester
Sat 12 Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton
Sun 13 O2 Academy Brixton, London

Dutch Uncles

Fri 11 Brudenell Social Club, Leeds
Mon 14 Oslo, London
Tue 15 The Fleece, Bristol
Wed 16 The Globe, Cardiff

Echo & The Bunnymen

Fri 11 & Sat 12 O2 Academy, Liverpool

EL VY

Sat 12 Gorilla, Manchester

Euros Childs

Fri 11 Thekla, Bristol
Sat 12 Clwb Ifor Bach, Cardiff

The Family Rain

Fri 11 Moles, Bath

Fat White Family

Sun 13 The Continental, Preston

Gaz Coombes

Mon 14 Komedia, Brighton

Happy Mondays

Sat 12 QUBSU, Belfast

Ho9909

Fri 11 SWG3, Glasgow
Sat 12 Rewind, Wrexham
Sun 13 Louisiana, Bristol
Mon 14 Waterfront, Norwich

Hudson Mohawke

Fri 11 Warehouse Project, Manchester
Sat 12 O2 ABC, Glasgow

Jaws

Fri 11 Mono, Falmouth
Sat 12 Exchange, Bristol
Mon 14 Clwb Ifor Bach, Cardiff
Tue 15 O2 Academy, Oxford
Wed 16 Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

Jeffrey Lewis

Sat 12 CCA, Glasgow
Sun 13 The Mash House, Edinburgh
Mon 14 The Cluny, Newcastle
Wed 16 The Portland Arms, Cambridge

The Kooks

Fri 11 Rock City, Nottingham
Sat 12 UEA, Norwich
Mon 14 Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone
Tue 15 O2 Guildhall, Southampton
Wed 16 The Engine Shed, Lincoln



READER'S PICK

Rosie, 26,
London
@rosiesgigs

Lianne La Havas

Mon 14 O2 Academy Brixton, London
"I'm super excited, it's going to leave a mark."

Lower Than Atlantis

Fri 11 O2 Academy, Bristol
Sat 12 O2 Institute, Birmingham
Mon 14 The Roundhouse, London
Tue 15 O2 Ritz, Manchester
Wed 16 O2 ABC, Glasgow

Lianne La Havas

Fri 11 Albert Hall, Manchester
Sat 12 O2 Academy, Leeds
Mon 14 O2 Academy Brixton, London

Madonna

Mon 14 Arena, Manchester
Wed 16 Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham

The Magic Gang

Sat 12 Think Tank?, Newcastle
Sun 13 King Tut's, Glasgow
Mon 14 Brudenell Social Club, Leeds
Tue 15 The Lexington, London

Mariachi El Bronx

Sat 12 Brooklyn Bowl, London

Marianne Faithfull

Fri 11 Ricoh Arena, Coventry

Maximo Park

Sat 12 Borough Hall, Hartlepool
Tue 15 Rock City, Nottingham
Thu 17 The Roundhouse, London

Mew

Mon 14 & Tue 15 Village Underground, London

Mumford & Sons

Sat 12 First Direct Arena, Leeds
Sun 13 & Mon 14 SSE Hydro, Glasgow

Nao

Fri 11 Broadcast, Glasgow

Nelly

Mon 14 KOKO, London
Tue 15 O2 Academy, Glasgow
Wed 16 O2 Academy, Birmingham
Thu 17 O2 Ritz, Manchester

Saint Etienne

Fri 11 Fairfield, Croydon

Shopping

Fri 11 Night & Day, Manchester
Sat 12 Crescent Working Men's Club, York
Sun 13 Brudenell Social Club, Leeds
Wed 16 Sneaky Pete's, Edinburgh

Slaves

Tue 15 O2 Academy, Newcastle
Wed 16 O2 Institute, Birmingham
Thu 17 O2 Academy Brixton, London

Todd Terje

Sun 13 KOKO, London

The View

Wed 16 O2 Academy, Glasgow
Thu 17 Caird Hall, Dundee

White

Fri 11 The Lexington, London
Sat 12 The Old Blue Last, London
Thu 17 Summerhall, Edinburgh



Club NME vs Killing Moon Xmas Party

Sundara Karma + Rocky NTI

Guest DJs: Ally McCrae, Amazonica, Alana B Devotion
Fri 11 KOKO, London

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together
PANGEA

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 + MOZES AND THE FIRSTBORN

FRIDAY 5 FEBRUARY
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MOTH CLUB

KID WAVE

PLUS GUESTS

SUNDAY 7 FEBRUARY
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CROWS

PLUS GUESTS

WEDNESDAY 10 FEBRUARY
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Pretty Vicious

PLUS GUESTS

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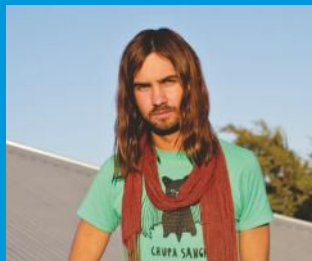
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SLIPKNOT
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SOUNDTRACK OF MY LIFE

Carrie Brownstein

Sleater-Kinney axe-grinder and Portlandia resident

The first song I remember hearing

FLEETWOOD MAC

Rhiannon

"My father had that record – I was probably about five years old. My parents didn't have great taste, but they did have Fleetwood Mac albums. I really liked the lyrics. There was a mystery and mysticism that I was really drawn to."



BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN

The song that makes me want to dance

MARLENA SHAW

Let's Wade In The Water

"I will sometimes put it on when I'm getting ready to go out – it's a great dance song and I can put it on repeat and listen to it over and over again, and get dressed and put my make-up on. It gets me motivated to leave the house. Unfortunately that song is never playing at the parties I go to, so usually I leave really early!"

The song I do at karaoke

BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN

Dancing In The Dark

"It's in my range, and I love the lyrics. But I'm not a karaoke fan, because I sing professionally!"

The song I can no longer listen to

GREAT WHITE

Once Bitten, Twice Shy

"They were a hair-metal band in the '80s, but a horrible tragedy befell them a few years ago. There was a fire at their show in Rhode Island, and a lot of people were killed. So when I hear that song I have to shut it off – it seems too dark."

The song that made me want to make music

GANG OF FOUR

I Found That Essence Rare

"A student teacher gave me the album 'Entertainment'. I was very drawn to the guitar playing; it was terse and angular. And the lyrics were pointed and trenchant, but there was still an incessant melody."



MICHAEL JACKSON

The first song I fell in love with

MICHAEL JACKSON

Billie Jean

"So much of Michael Jackson was a marriage of image and sound, because he was dominating MTV. 'Billie Jean' had a wonderful video, so I just thought he was larger than life. And I liked dancing to that song."

The first album I bought

HUEY LEWIS AND THE NEWS

Sports

"'Sports' is such a brilliant title – it plays to the lowest common denominator. It was chock-full of hits."



The song that reminds me of starting Sleater-Kinney

PATTI SMITH

Gloria

"I think that song is grandiose and guttural at the same time and it's very aspirational. In the narrative, you want to be both the object of desire and the narrator. I just love the 360-degree view."

The song I can't get out of my head

ADELE

Hello

"I have Adele's 'Hello' in my head about 95 per cent of the time, especially as I'm travelling through the UK right now. I love it, I love the song. I think it's beautiful. I think the chorus is soaring and really splendid."

The song I wish I'd written

WIRE

The 15th

"It has this repetitive guitar line that manages to swell and be larger through repetition. I love the concept of duration in relation to film or music because it's its own form of hypnosis."



JOANNA NEWSOM

The song I want played at my funeral

JOANNA NEWSOM

Divers

"They can just play Joanna Newsom's entire 'Divers' album. It's really long and beautiful, and will distract people from my death."



The wisdom of the NME archives

THIS WEEK

KEITH RICHARDS

Rolling Stones legend

December 15, 2012

"The whole point of rock'n'roll is to be a little free and easy and have some fun at it and take a few chances with it. I mean, you're not in the bloody Army, you know?"



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