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A YEAR ON THE ROAD WITH
CHVRCHES





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NME

Hello...



THE PAST WEEK has offered us positive proof that British music is still on top of the world. The 1975 have just joined a select group of amazing artists – including The Beatles, The Rolling Stones and Led Zep – to

top both the UK and US album charts simultaneously. It couldn't have happened to a more deserving bunch.

Another British band who've casually conquered the globe are the mighty Chvrches, who've spent the past six months touring their second album 'Every Open Eye'. Chvrches are a band who showcase everything that's great about British music – they've got great tunes, a crazy work ethic, bags of style and, in lead singer Lauren Mayberry, someone who's not afraid to speak out on important issues – from sexism in the industry as well as her personal life.

In this week's issue of NME, we follow the band through Europe, North America, Australia and Asia as they traverse sold-out gigs, circle pits and rabid fans, as well as showing off some rather nifty lightsaber chopsticks. Praise be.

MIKE WILLIAMS
Editor-in-Chief
@itsmikelike

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AGENDA

WHAT EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT THIS WEEK

Stormzy

College drop-in

Grime star Stormzy spoke at Oxford University on March 7, following in the footsteps of the Dalai Lama, Stephen Hawking and Kanye West. Here are the wisest words that came from the 22-year-old's mouth

HE'S NOT ANGRY AT THE BRITS ANY MORE

Since blasting the BRIT Awards for their "embarrassing" lack of diversity on 'One Take Freestyle' in January, Stormzy told the audience at the Oxford Guild that his "opinions have slightly changed" after meeting up with their chairman Ged Doherty. "It's more of a discussion about the voting panel. Most of them are middle-aged white men. Most middle-aged white men probably don't know about little Stormzy from south London shouting 'Shut Up' in a park. Bands like Little Mix do represent youth culture because

loads of 16-year-old girls listen to them, but Britain isn't just Little Mix, One Direction and James Bay. There are thousands of people outside the O2 queueing up to see people like Skepta and Jme."

GRIME NEEDS TO BE GRITTY...

"Punk, hip-hop, grime... all these genres come from frustration and rebellion. You can't expect guys from tough, violent areas to start rapping about peace and love. You're going to have the people who glorify the violence and the people who speak about it from the angle that they grew up around it and chose a different route. For

example, Kano's new album is from a new perspective. And you do need both. You need someone to tell you about the guns and the robbery and the violence, but the next person will give you the other side of the story."

...BUT HAS A SEXISM PROBLEM

"I'm sure a lot of MCs are derogatory towards females but we're not as bad as the Americans. Me personally, I say the odd B-word or slut or sket... I don't want to say 'We're not that bad' when we probably are. But, yeah, MCs stop cussing girls! I'll have a word with the grime massive."

HE NEEDS TO STOP USING THE N-WORD

"It's horrible. It's disgusting. But I'm the worst. It's not cool. I'm trying to stop. I'm saying that like I'm quitting cigarettes! It's very lazy of us as well. You know the worst thing, it's become like, just, good to use in a lyric, because it flows well. The word is way too horrible to be used in that way."

Speaking at Oxford Uni



The 1975 (l-r): Ross MacDonald, Matt Healy, Adam Hann and George Daniel

“Will we be the biggest band in the world? Probably.”

The 1975 have topped the UK and US charts at the same time with their new album. “We’re part of history now,” says singer Matt Healy

Congratulations on the success of ‘I Like It When You Sleep, For You Are So Beautiful Yet So Unaware Of It’. Feel good, does it?

Matt: “It’s very exciting. It feels surreal because I can’t picture a kid in Kentucky sitting there listening to the album, so it’s still a weird thing for me. It’s humbling and I suppose it means that I was right or that the things that I believed in on the record did actually translate, which obviously makes me quite proud. I really believed in that record.”

The video for ‘The Sound’ referenced some 1975 haters. Do you feel like you’ve won people over?

“That was more just referencing the culture that surrounds our band and that divisive conversation. I’ve not been on some kind of redemption. I’m not about to rise from the ashes. I’ve never really paid that much

attention to what was said about me. I suppose people have the right to their opinions, don’t they?”

How did you celebrate?

“I didn’t really, in a party sense. We were very focused on the London shows and it’s a really long set. I’ve been spending time with my brother, as well, who I haven’t seen for a while. He’s 15. I actually ended up just going back to my house and playing FIFA with him until 2am. And then I was in bed. I slept under a towel ‘cos I didn’t have another duvet. The night that my album went to Number One I slept under a towel.”

Only 15 artists have had a Number One in the UK and US simultaneously, including The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, Led Zeppelin and Beyoncé. Nice club to be part of? “I suppose it means we’re definitely part of history now.

That’s something, isn’t it? That’s an achievement that came out of nowhere. It’s amazing. Number One album in America is a statistic that you hold up to superstars. It’s a weird thing to think about and try to understand.”

Will you be the biggest band in the world? “Probably. For a bit. I dunno, maybe. I know that we have the potential to be. Let’s hope? We’re obviously giving it a go, aren’t we?”

On sale now!

The 1975 tour this month

Fri 12-Tue 15 Manchester O2 Apollo
Thu 17-Sun 20 Glasgow Glasgow O2 Academy
Tue 22 Birmingham Barclaycard Arena
Thu 24 Dublin 3Arena

NME.com/tickets



The Obamas

Barack and Michelle Obama will both give speeches at this month’s SXSW festival in Texas. Politics: the new rock’n’roll.



Kesha

The troubled singer received the Human Rights Campaign’s Visibility Award at the 2016 Nashville Equality Dinner.



The Voice

Paloma Faith, coach on the singing contest, claimed one twist was pre-planned – something that producers later refuted.



Sacha Baron Cohen

Ex-MP John Prescott took a jab at the comedian (“a spoilt public schoolboy”) for mocking the North in new film *Grimsby*.



NEW

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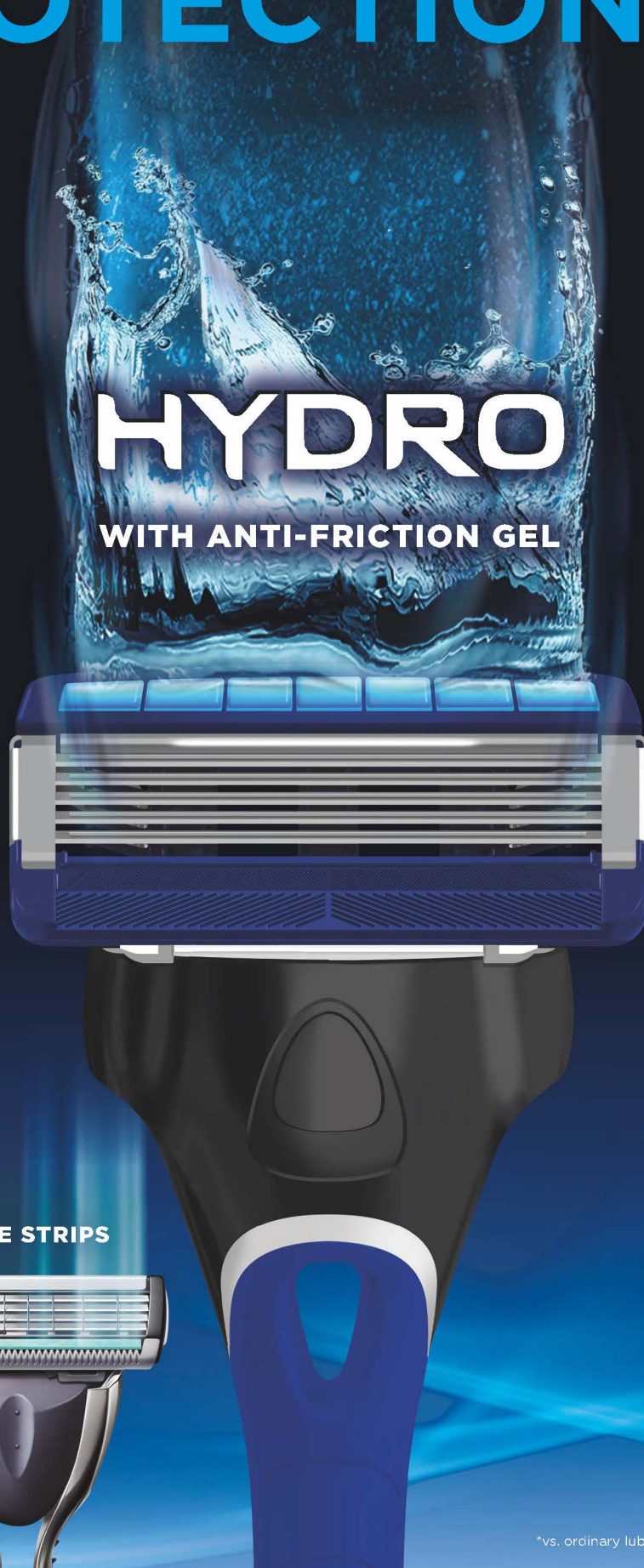
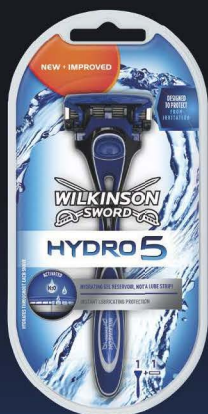


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*vs. ordinary lubrication strip

Olly Alexander in the 'Desire' video

Why this Years & Years video is so important

Olly Alexander gets his snog on in 'Desire' and it's the band's boldest statement yet

IT GOES WHERE POP RARELY GOES

Years & Years frontman Olly Alexander has become one of the most outspoken figures in pop, starting conversations about mental health and LGBT issues. In the vid for R&B banger 'Desire', from 2015 album 'Communion', he gets frisky with men *and* women. "Why is it that in 2016, a pop video featuring people expressing their sexuality, who aren't cisgendered or heterosexual, feels at all unusual or progressive?" said Alexander on the band's Facebook page. "It shouldn't but it does."



IT CHAMPIONS 'QUEER' SEXUALITY

Alexander's statement again: "The word 'queer' first started being used in the 1980s by members of the community who wanted to reclaim something negative and turn it into something positive. I've been wanting to make a video with some of my queer family for a long time. Everyone has a different definition of what they find sexy... For me, whoever it is – two women, two men, a group of gender-queer people – it's all cute."



GODDAMN, IT'S VERY SEXY

A string of saliva arches between Alexander and a dancer's lips after they kiss. The camera zooms in on a woman's crotch. It then lingers lovingly on a naked bum being slapped by an umbrella. Alexander walks up to woman, snogs her, then breaks off to smooch the bloke next to her. "Here's the thing, I like sex," he explains. "Being able to assert myself and talk about my sexuality is a powerful thing for me."



Last W33K IN NUMBERS



12

Years since the release of cult comedy *Mean Girls*, which creator Tina Fey has announced will become a musical. Fetch!



15

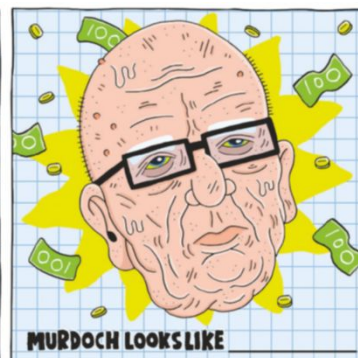
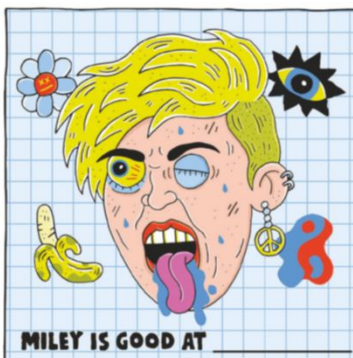
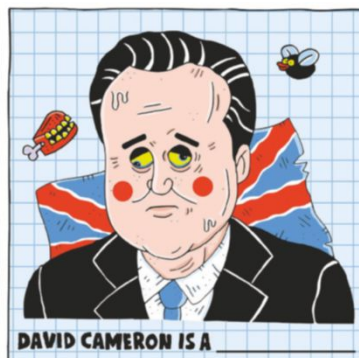
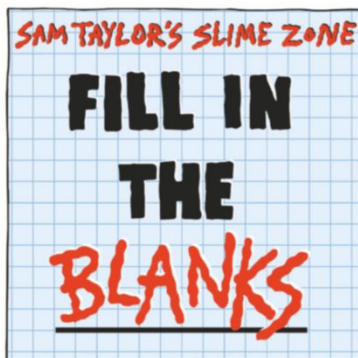
Times Public Enemy's Flavor Flav asked "You know what I'm sayin'?" during a 90-second weather report he gave on US TV.



3

Number of essays about his sex life Iggy Pop sent Josh Homme before they recorded new album 'Post Pop Depression'.

WORDS: JORDAN BASSETT PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES, YOUTUBE





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Katherine Ryan

OFF THE TV AND IN YOUR FACE

THIS WEEK

Icky Trump

IN RESPONSE TO TRUMP'S success in the primaries, Google noticed a spike in browser searches for 'How to move to Canada'. The losing side has threatened to do so before. They did it for Bush, Reagan and halfway through *WrestleMania 12*. It's petulant, isn't it? It's the political equivalent of marching upstairs to your room and slamming the door. "Screw this family; I'm going to CANADA." Like you'll even be sheltered there. Firstly, we have bears. Secondly, make no mistake, we are ALL going down if Trump makes it to the White House. You think people were safe from Hitler so long as they didn't live in Germany? You think Trump cares if you leave? He wants power, not prosperity. 'Oh, all my naysayers have gone and now I'm left with just the racists and idiots. How will I possibly be re-elected in 2020?!'

It's hilarious that a lot of them don't even realise they would have to actually qualify to move. They assume Canada's immigration policy is the opposite to their own. Like we're just sat up in our sloppy second igloos, waiting for the high-school hunk to ask us to prom. It's *hard* to be Canadian. We have to speak two languages while most Americans can't even manage one. And I'm sorry, but we're too busy taking in refugees to be, um, taking in refugees. Does Trump's plan to 'Make America

Great Again' involve making refugees of its own citizens? I guess without any liberals, there'll be lots of job vacancies in graphic design and skateboarding.

Maybe we should copy Trump's plan and build a wall. I've heard Americans are less physically fit than Mexicans, so the wall wouldn't even need to be very high. A speed bump should do it. It'll be harder to smuggle any over because they *love* telling you where they're from. At border control, you'd hear a very proud but muffled 'Texas!' from the boot of the vehicle. Busted, cowboy.

As a moderately proud Canadian, I was asked by BBC World News to speak on the issue last week. My father warned me: "Be careful what you say. Trump's a bully. His supporters are nuts and they have guns." More dangerously, he wants to limit the freedom of the press, punishing anyone who dares speak against him. For me, this neatly sums up why we cannot have this tyrant in office. My boyfriend is American. He wisely cosied up to me as soon as Trump announced he was running and this perilous situation could put a ring on my finger, so thanks, you bigoted monster. But people are panic-stricken no matter where they are. I'm Canadian. I'm white. I cannot begin to imagine how terrifying this is for those who aren't.

"Trump wants power, not prosperity"

And another thing...

ARE YOU WATCHING *THE People V OJ Simpson* on BBC Two? David Schwimmer nails the role of lawyer Robert Kardashian. But here's my problem: a white man has been cast to play Michael Jackson in a film and now I'm supposed

to believe that Kim K came out of Ross from *Friends*? How is this the thing that infuriates me the most about the OJ Simpson story?! The biggest scandal so far is whether OJ threatened to kill himself in Kim or in Khloé's room. They keep shoehorning in the

Kardashian kids as though they were more relevant than OJ and Nicole's kids. You know, the people effectively orphaned by this tragedy. What pretends to be a gripping crime story so far is really just *Keeping Up With The Kardashians: The Early Years*.

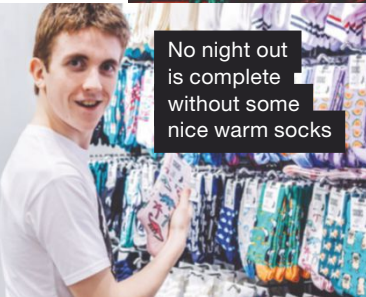
David Schwimmer as Robert Kardashian



Peace's Doug and Dom stand in for a sick Grimmy as quizmasters in Birmingham



It's a wonder these quiz-goers kept their balance after all those shots



No night out is complete without some nice warm socks

Top stuff!

The Topman Twenty:Four tour featuring The Strypes and The Amazons has sent the UK giddy. Here are some highlights in pics



The Strypes and The Amazons play it cool



Fans in Cardiff invade The Strypes' stage



#TOPMAN24



There's been mic-stealing and hair-flicking galore on the tour



Nick Grimshaw turns Topman into a disco

One more date to go!

March 15 Edinburgh

FEATURING: The Strypes, The Lapelles, NME DJs and a music quiz and DJ set from Nick Grimshaw.

TICKETS: topman.com/24
All sales go to CALM, the campaign against living miserably.

24 TOPMAN TWENTY:FOUR

THINGS WE LIKE

THIS WEEK'S OBJECTS OF DESIRE



Zip it

Be a star of track and field in this sporty number. A Britpop classic.
£54 fila.co.uk



Strong look

These bold Pimps & Pinups hair paints deliver a fast blast of intense colour.
£7.95 asos.com



Colour run

Slime-splattered florals make for a quirky twist on the classic DMs shoe.
£110 drmartens.com



Mad hatter

A reversible bucket hat that should get you in the mood for the Stone Roses' return this year.
£22.50 farah.co.uk



Bad seed

This Nick Cave pin will make your jacket as stylish as the man himself.
£7.19 goodgoodpins.com



Hardcore hops

Punk band White Lung get in on the craft ale act with their very own Kölsch-style brew.
£3.70 shop.mikkeller.dk



Easily suede

A retro miniskirt will help you swing into the impending – we hope – sunshine.
£45 clothingattesco.com



Getting shirtly

Create T-shirt designs at home with this ace photo-printing kit.
£40 urbanoutfitters.com



Who's who

The latest series of *Doctor Who* is out on DVD now, complete with four hours of extras.
£31.99 amazon.co.uk



Jumping hoops

Speak your mind with this swish custom jewellery, all laser cut in the UK.
£20 blackheartcreatives.com



Going nuts

A peanut-butter-themed eyeshadow palette? Delicious.
£28 toofaced.com



In the bag

Stash cash near your ass with this polka-dotted bum bag.
£30 obeyclothing.co.uk

Ten reasons to go to **NOS Alive** this summer

2016 is the 10th anniversary of one of the best music festivals in Europe

1 Legends!

For one: Radiohead. For two: Arcade Fire. For three: Pixies. For four: The Chemical Brothers. And that's only the beginning...

2 Limeys!

The best bands in Britain will be at NOS Alive, including the multicoloured prog of The 1975, the fierce grunge of Wolf Alice and pop-with-a-message from Years & Years.

3 Lyrics!

It doesn't get any better than Courtney Barnett and Father John Misty if you like kicking back and getting your ears round some tongue twisters.



Father John Misty

4 Lisbon!

Which is, of course, the capital of Portugal. Highlights include custard tarts, clubbing, port, hills, and rooftop bars aplenty.

5 Led Zeppelin!

Well, singer Robert Plant. But he and the Sensational Space Shifters do tend to throw in the odd classic Zep track, which will do nicely.

6 Seafood!

It's all about the grilled sardines in Portugal.



Radiohead

7 Sun!

The average temperature in the Portuguese capital in July is 27°C. It hasn't gone below 21°C for over 30 years. There is no chance you will need a woolly jumper.

8 Sand!

There are *loads* of beaches around Lisbon. Is there a finer place to build up enough energy for an all-nighter?

9 Surfing!

The top spots for catching a wave, all easily accessible by bus: Praia das Maças, Praia Grande, Praia de Carcavelos.

10 Savings!

A cost of about £96.35 for the whole weekend? Ridiculously good value.



Foals

Essential info

LINE-UP: Radiohead, Arcade Fire, The Chemical Brothers, Tame Impala, Pixies, Robert Plant and the Sensational Space Shifters, Biffy Clyro, The 1975, Wolf Alice, Foals, Years & Years, Father John Misty, Courtney Barnett, plus many more

WHEN: July 7-9

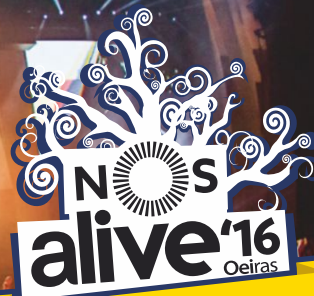
WHERE: Lisbon, Portugal

TICKETS: nosalive.com/en/tickets

JORDAN HUGHES/NME; GETTY; DEREK BRENNER/NME; LINO SILVA



Robert Plant



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What's ON your Headphones?

THIS WEEK

Edinburgh



"There's always someone new to meet."

◀ **Tamara Inkster**
20, student

Listening to:
SIA
Elastic Heart
"Her music is so different to anything else out there."

Wearing: Levi's denim jacket, Topshop jeans, boots and T-shirt.
Best thing about Edinburgh: "There's always someone new to meet."

Duncan Ferguson >
25, tobacconist

Listening to:
LYNYRD SKYNYRD
That Smell
"I've always appreciated old-fashioned music. I grew up listening to bagpipes!"

Wearing: Marvel T-shirt, Nike trainers, vintage kilt.
Best thing about Edinburgh: "It's such a diverse city. You find a little bit of everything here."



◀ **Katherine Moar**
18, student

Listening to:
LIN-MANUEL MIRANDA
Wait For It (from the musical 'Hamilton')
"I'm pretty obsessed with it at the moment!"

Wearing: Urban Outfitters jumper, Jack Wills leggings.
Best thing about Edinburgh: "The people are so friendly and the night life is great."



Steven Penny >
31, bar worker

Listening to:
PAROV STELAR
Chambermaid Swing
"Electro-swing, jazz, funk, soul – there's a little bit of everything in there."

Wearing: Next jacket and trousers, Superdry shirt, House Of Fraser tie.
Best thing about Edinburgh: "It doesn't feel like a city at all. One minute you're walking through the meadows and the next you're in the city centre."



PHOTOS: NATHAN FERGUSON



7 • 8 • 9 JULY
LISBON, PORTUGAL

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THE CHEMICAL BROTHERS • PIXIES
ROBERT PLANT AND THE SENSATIONAL SPACE SHIFTERS • **TAME IMPALA**
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THE 1975 • YEARS & YEARS • GRIMES • HOT CHIP
BAND OF HORSES • FATHER JOHN MISTY • WOLF ALICE
JOHN GRANT • CARLÃO • PAUS • COURTNEY BARNETT • JOSÉ GONZÁLEZ
CALEXICO • RATATAT • NBC & SIR SCRATCH & BOB DA RAGE SENSE
SAM THE KID & MUNDO SEGUNDO • HMB & DJ KAMALA & FILIPE GONÇALVES
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NME

ALL AROUND THE WORLD WITH CHVRCHES

Chvrches have spent the past six months thrilling audiences worldwide with their heart-bursting electropop. Photographer **Rachael Wright** was there to capture the whole thing

Words: Larry Bartleet

IN SEPTEMBER 2015, 'EVERY Open Eye', the second album by Glasgow trio Chvrches, hit the Top 10 in Australia, the US and the UK. They've been on tour ever since. In a rare week off, frontwoman Lauren Mayberry is pinning down the essence of their gigs: "We play it like it's a rock show," she says, "and it sounds like it's a synth-pop band. But lyrically it's probably '90s emo..."

Fans love these lyrics enough to get them tattooed on their bodies. They also hang on Mayberry's every word. Since the group shot to fame in 2013, the 28-year-old has become an outspoken figurehead for equality in pop, commenting with authority on the sexism she experiences daily.

That fighting talk has, in the past, been at odds with the shy figure she cuts on stage. "After the first album, I spent a lot of time being like, 'I'm not really a singer.' That kind of mentality doesn't help," she says. A lecture in body language "completely changed the way I play shows" and the mic stand is no longer her crutch – "I was like, 'Take that discomfort and make it mobile.'"

Poised to take the summer festivals by storm, Chvrches take us through six months, four continents, 58 gigs and countless miles on the road.

L-r: Martin 'Dok' Doherty (keyboards/vocals), Lauren Mayberry (vocals/synths) and Iain Cook (various instruments) on a day off in Berlin

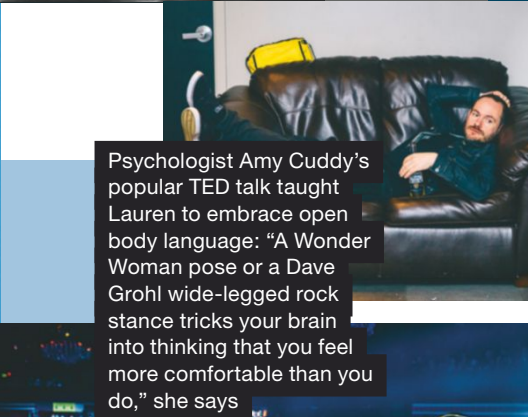


Kansas City,
Oct 23



Central Park, New York,
Sep 29

NORTH AMERICA



Psychologist Amy Cuddy's popular TED talk taught Lauren to embrace open body language: "A Wonder Woman pose or a Dave Grohl wide-legged rock stance tricks your brain into thinking that you feel more comfortable than you do," she says

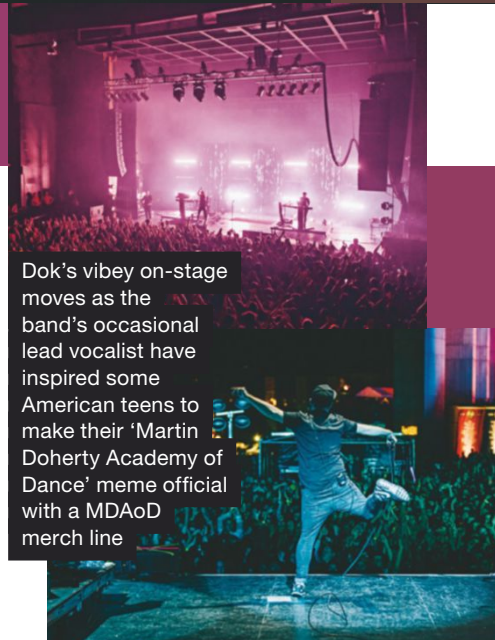
A whirl of famous friends, irksome hecklers and unexpected circle pits

FOUR DAYS AFTER THE release of 'Every Open Eye', Chvrches kicked off the US leg of their world tour in the not-too-shabby location of New York's Central Park. The group have long been outspoken opponents of sexism and objectification, but one heckler hadn't got the memo, and shouted "Marry me!" at singer Lauren throughout. Her response went viral. "What's the hit rate on that?" she shot back. "Does that work out well for you, sir?"

In early October, an appearance on *The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon* saw the group's star rise

further. Over the following weeks, Mayberry duetted with The National in San Francisco and welcomed Paramore's Hayley Williams to Chvrches' stage in Nashville. "Sometimes you're like, 'Don't meet your heroes, because what if they're massive a*seholes?'" says Lauren. "But [Hayley] is just the nicest."

Of all the highlights of the North American leg of the tour, it's the wild, 2,500-capacity gig at Rockwell in Salt Lake City that really sticks out for the band. "There were people crowd-surfing and circle pits," says Iain. "It had more in common with an emo show or a metal show than it did with an indie gig," reckons Dok.



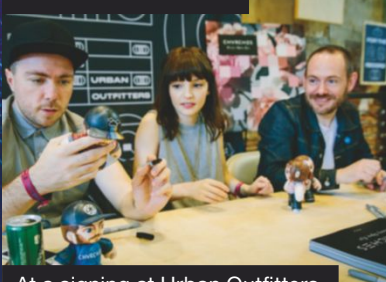
Dok's vibey on-stage moves as the band's occasional lead vocalist have inspired some American teens to make their 'Martin Doherty Academy of Dance' meme official with a MDAoD merch line



Halloween in Miami. Lauren's costume was meant to be The Cure's Robert Smith but her fans thought she was trying to be Edward Scissorhands and she had to improvise some claws



Paramore's Hayley Williams invited Chvrches on her Miami-to-Mexico cruise festival after playing with them in Nashville in October



At a signing at Urban Outfitters, Washington, DC, Sep 27

San Francisco, Oct 18. The trio visited former prison island Alcatraz – "profoundly depressing, but interesting" is Lauren's assessment



At 'The Exorcist steps', Washington, DC, Sep 27

EUROPE

Paris, Nov 10



Chvrches' 'fanclyb' meet-up at O2 Academy, Birmingham

**Back to Britain with a bump, but their biggest ever show is a triumph**

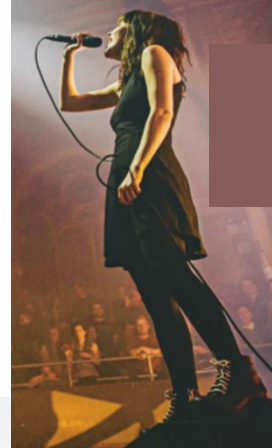
SOLD-OUT SHOWS in Paris, Hamburg, Amsterdam and Brussels kept the group on a high. But their first show back in the UK – on a rainy Monday in Brighton – gave them a jolt. “People were just standing there with their arms folded,” says Iain. “It was like, ‘Do people really hate us here now?’”

“That can be tough to pick yourself up from,” Dok explains. “It’s important not to let anxieties get the better of you.” They didn’t, and their crowds soon picked up steam in

the run-up to their biggest ever show at London’s Alexandra Palace. Dundee club Fat Sam’s “really set us up,” says Iain, “but what a contrast going from a few hundred people in Dundee to 10,000 in Ally Pally.”

Meanwhile, Lauren’s ‘solo plans’ were rumoured when an interview quoted her saying, “Eventually, everyone will do their own thing.” Iain is straightforward about it (“We have zero plans to go our own ways”), while Lauren says, “I wouldn’t want to do a solo project.” ● ● ●

A pre-show takeaway in Berlin, Sep 12. Chvrches’ culinary highlights from across the globe include Japanese octopus balls and USA BBQ



Lollapalooza Berlin, Sep 12



Chvrches’ biggest show yet at Alexandra Palace, Nov 27. “In the dressing room there’s a giant mural of the venue, sold out, shot from the back,” says Martin. “If you weren’t psyched out when you got there, you are by the time you go onstage!”



Backstage in Dundee, Nov 24

Bristol, Oct 17



Before hitting the stage, Lauren puts on a power playlist (Katy Perry, Paramore, Cyndi Lauper) to psych herself up

At Le Trianon, Paris, Nov 10



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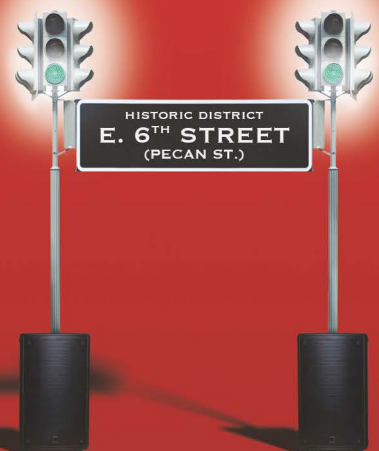
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AUSTRALIA

Mad crowds and festival gigs, but it's not all work, work, work

AFTER CHRISTMAS, Chvrches hit Singapore and Australia for touring festival Laneway. Australian audiences provide "a total outpouring of emotion", Martin says approvingly.

When they have the time and the energy the band explore, and in Australia Dok indulges a love of watersports. "It makes me sound like a *Miami Vice* a*sehole," he says. Lauren's not into extreme sports – "I think I would die" – so for her and Iain it's often a cinema trip instead:

"Being in a movie theatre is pretty much the same everywhere, so it feels kind of comforting," she says.

Lauren keeps her brain busy on the day of a show and can usually be found reading or listening to podcasts such as *Serial*, *Nerdist* and *NPR Fresh Air*. She puts the jewels around her eyes just before showtime, helping her channel her on-stage persona. "Running around dressed like a proto-goth with loads of eyeliner and glitter on feels like it helps put that barrier up," she says. "I know I sound like a crazy b*stard."

Canberra, Feb 12

Auckland, New Zealand, Feb 1

ASIA

An encounter with the über-fans

LATE FEBRUARY TOOK Chvrches to Asia for a gig in Tokyo and a festival in the Philippines. In Japan, in particular, their fans are passionately dedicated, even if the culture there means audiences often remain unnervingly silent before a band is actually on stage.

The Chvrches 'fancldb' facilitates meet-and-greets with fans in cities around the world and the one in Tokyo saw them showered with gifts – particularly *Star Wars*-lover Iain, who received a pair of lightsaber chopsticks. "Making sure that we interact with the fanbase in a way that feels right to us has been really

important," Lauren says.

Another lap of the US now beckons, where Chvrches will co-headline five dates with Death Cab for Cutie, before a summer of festival dates. Time for the band "to go properly to the next level," reckons Dok. "Watching the record succeed has given us so much confidence," he says. "I can feel the band getting bigger in front of me. It's crazy."

Album three will follow after a proper break – "I think we'll take a bit longer than six weeks this time," says Dok. That should give them time to catch up with their old lives, even if they keep schtum about some of their experiences. "I don't tend to boast that much," he says. "It won't get you very far in Glasgow, that's for sure!"

NME



The Japan branch of Chvrches' fancldb (right) showered the band with gifts, including some lightsaber chopsticks for *Star Wars* fan Iain (above)



Shibuya Crossing, Tokyo, Feb 16



CHVRCHES PLAY:
Mar 31 London Royal Albert Hall
Apr 2 Glasgow SSE Hydro

Alessia more

She counts Drake and Taylor Swift as fans but writes songs about being an “antisocial pessimist” and the “life purgatory” of being a late teenager. Nick Levine meets YouTube sensation-turned-proper popstar Alessia Cara in her native Toronto



So

ONE OF THE BEST

songs on Alessia Cara's debut album 'Know-It-All' is 'Four Pink Walls', a sparky

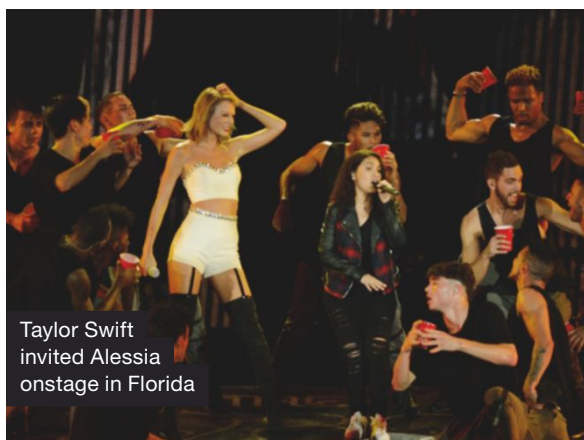
example of what the 19-year-old calls her "visual songwriting".

As she soulfully sings over a loping R&B beat, we picture Alessia sitting within the four pink walls of her childhood bedroom trying to process how life has changed since she went from "*when boredom strikes to Ms Star-On-The-Rise*".

Today, *NME* is standing with Ms Star-On-The-Rise in that same bedroom in her family's home in Brampton, Ontario, a suburban enclave 45 minutes outside of Toronto. Somewhat disappointingly, the walls are now painted a more grown-up shade of grey, though we can spot some pink bits around the door frame where Alessia says she "didn't do a very good job". On the wall is a signed photo of Amy Winehouse, a birthday present from Alessia's management company.

"Amy was so unapologetically herself and musically raw," Alessia says when we sit down for a chat. "As an artist, she was able to capture people with just her voice and guitar and it looked so effortless. That's all I ever wanted to do: put out music from the heart that people could relate to."

When Alessia was a kid, she would hide in her wardrobe and sing for hours because she was too shy to perform in front of people. At 13, partly inspired by her fellow Canadian Justin Bieber, she started uploading videos of herself singing pop covers to YouTube.



Taylor Swift invited Alessia onstage in Florida

"I realised that I could have people hear me without having to be in front of a real audience," she explains. "My intention wasn't to get famous off of it. I just wanted people to hear my voice and maybe offer some constructive criticism."

For a few years, these YouTube covers were only watched by Alessia's friends and family. "I remember making a 'thank you' video when one of my videos got to 50 views!" she says with a self-

deprecating smile. But when she posted her cover of The Neighbourhood's 'Sweater Weather', the video inexplicably took off. Alessia was contacted by a music production company and, soon after her 17th birthday, she was flying to New York for a songwriting session. "It was a little strange," she recalls, "because I wasn't quite sure who I wanted to be as an artist yet or what I wanted to say."

Remarkably, one of the first songs Alessia wrote was her breakthrough hit 'Here', a lyrically brilliant tale of feeling out of place at a party. Anchored by the string sample from Isaac Hayes' 'Ike's Rap II', this super-catchy pop song climbed all the way to Number Five in the US. "People from age 15 to 40 tell me the song resonates with them," Alessia says. Her fellow Ontarian Drake is one of them. "I met him backstage at a festival and I couldn't believe he knew the song," Alessia says. "He's definitely given Toronto a cool vibe. When I was growing up, it was awesome to see someone from my city make it."

Another famous admirer

is Taylor Swift, who publicly endorsed Alessia's cover of 'Bad Blood' and recently welcomed her to the stage in Tampa, Florida. Although it's become fashionable to mock Swift's glossy version of female solidarity, Alessia says the singer's friendship has really helped her. "She's given me loads of support online and she even agreed to interview me about my album," she explains.

Meeting Drake and Taylor are "totally crazy" by-products of Alessia's growing popularity, but they're hardly what drives her. She wants to be "someone who has something to say and someone you can relate to". Her songs deal with what she calls "life purgatory: that in-between space from age 16 to 19," and the album's title is tongue-in-cheek because "often as teens we think we know everything, but actually we're just trying to figure life out and we don't know much at all".

"I really want to speak for young women, especially because I feel like we're constantly brainwashed in everyday life," Alessia says. "We're told how to think, how to look, how to act." To highlight her point, she recalls receiving a torrent of abuse on social media after she performed on a New Year's Eve TV show wearing jeans and a T-shirt. "I couldn't believe the backlash I got, from women especially," Alessia says. "They were saying, 'Why aren't you wearing a dress? It's New Year's Eve! Why are you dressed like a homeless person?' I was like, 'Oh my goodness, really?' I'm not a fashion model, I'm a singer. If my performance is good what does it matter what I'm wearing?"

Alessia's sense of self shines through in person and in her music. When she describes herself as an "antisocial pessimist" on 'Here', she says that's just "a tiny little aspect of who I am. Obviously I'm not always miserable and I don't hate people!" There's something refreshing about the way she's not afraid to go against the grain. "I want people to understand that there can be different perspectives and if you have an unpopular opinion, it doesn't mean it's a wrong one," Alessia says. "You know, it's OK to be different. I think that's always going to be my message."

NME

PHOTOS: MEREDITH TRUAX, GETTY IMAGES

'Here', there and everywhere

Does the haunting sample in Alessia Cara's 'Here' sound familiar? Here's why.

PORTISHEAD

Glory Box
The last track on the Bristol trio's landmark 1994 debut 'Dummy' borrowed 'Ike's Rap II' for its bassline.

TRICKY

Hell Is Round The Corner

A year later, the Massive Attack collaborator used the same sample on his debut album 'Maxinquaye'.

MAVERICK SABRE

Let Me Go
The Hackney-born rapper made use of the sample on his Top 20 single in 2011.

ALESSIA CARA

Here
"There was something missing in the low end of the song," Alessia tells us. "So [producers] Pop & Oak took a piece of the Isaac Hayes track and looped it."

Performing in Austin, Texas on February 6



RETURN OF THE MACK

His mix of humour and big issues has made Macklemore one of hip hop's most loved and loathed figures, but his own demons pushed him to the edge, finds Mark Beaumont

THE REMOTE WOODLAND cabin: natural habitat of serial killers, trappers and heartbroken folk singers whimpering out an album called 'Why Jessica, Why?'

It's not the natural home of superstar rap-pop duos making a record about drugs, dancing and police brutality, yet that's exactly what rapper Macklemore and producer Ryan Lewis did to create the newly released 'This Unruly Mess I've Made' – all in the name of escaping the celebrity whirl that's followed them since 2013's global hit 'Thrift Shop'. "Celebrity is addictive," says Macklemore, "and I didn't want that to be the thing that gave me self-worth. I wanted to step back and remember why I love music."

Out at Lewis's parents' bolthole in the mobile signal-free Idaho wilderness, Macklemore prayed, meditated, tapped away on a typewriter and found his voice again. First album 'The Heist' had showcased his ability to fuse Lonely Island-style comedy with firebrand social commentary and 'This Unruly Mess I've Made' is a similar mix of thumped tubs and belly laughs. In one corner are bubble-rap tunes

about getting fat ('Let's Eat') and Z-list hangers on ('Brad Pitt's Cousin'). In the other lurk moments of reflection on ageing and fatherhood ('St Ides' and 'Growing Up', featuring Ed Sheeran).

At the album's most political, 'White Privilege II' tackles police brutality, the Black Lives Matter movement and cultural appropriation – all dangerous territory for a rich, white, American rapper, and none of which went unnoticed on social media. Macklemore's argument is that he's starting a conversation we all need to have. "I care about humanity," he explains.

"We've been falsely taught since the beginning that white is superior. That's in the media, in the movies we watch, in the way our teachers teach us history, and it's a false ideology. Until we unpack that then we're not doing the work to undo racism."

On a more personal level, the '...Unruly Mess...' of the title may well refer to Macklemore's slip back into "old habits" in the wake of his sudden rise. "When I use drugs and alcohol my life quickly becomes unmanageable," he says. "It affects me, it affects my relationships and it's extremely dangerous." Macklemore first entered a rehab programme in 2008 and the album's most devastating track, 'Kevin', tells the story of a childhood friend he ran into there. "We were trying to stay sober together. I told him that if he could get a couple of weeks sober he could come over to my studio and record. The morning after we did it, I got a call from his sister to say that he'd passed away of a drug overdose," he explains.

It's a heavy subject for an album that also includes a LOL-sy track about buying a cheap scooter, but that's Macklemore's modus operandi: luring audiences in with comedy party hits and then forcing them to think. "Art can be a catalyst for change if done in an authentic way," he says. And that, to quote 'Thrift Shop', is really "f**king awesome".

NME



What is a Ryan Lewis?

Three things you don't know about Macklemore's sidekick

- He was once the guitarist in a scream metal band.
- He has a degree in Comparative History Of Ideas.
- Lewis used to be Macklemore's promotional photographer.

Macklemore has tried to escape the "addictive" world of celebrity



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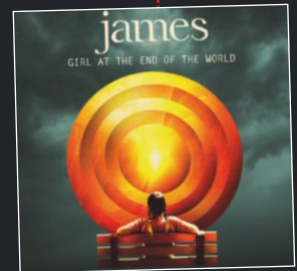
album of the month



steve mason
meet the humans
out now



james
girl at the end of the world
18/03/2016



primal scream
chaosmosis
18/03/2016



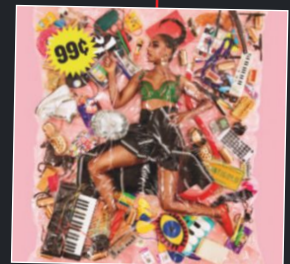
school of seven bells
sviib
out now



nada surf
you know who you are
out now



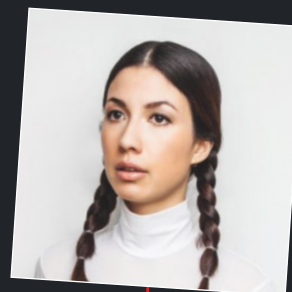
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RADAR

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

The last
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Best NEW tracks

And when to drop them

BEST FOR BIG CITY DREAMING

KATE JACKSON
Metropolis

Former Long Blondes singer Jackson makes a welcome return after a decade-long break. Working with ex-Suede man Bernard Butler, 'Metropolis' is gritty northern indie at its best.

BEST FOR A TOTAL PSYCH WIGOUT

KING GIZZARD & THE LIZARD WIZARD
Gamma Knife

A near-perfect 60s-influenced slice of garage rock from Australia's premier psychedelic madmen. And yeah, their music is just as crazy as their name implies...

BEST FOR SOUND-TRACKING A WAYNE'S WORLD THEME PARTY

SHEER MAG
Nobody's Baby

Fact: Sheer Mag are the best new band in America. This riff-heavy, vocally earthshaking track from their new EP 'III' is impeccable.

BEST FOR EARLY 90S REMINISCING

BOXED IN FT FORMATION
Running Out

Part of the acclaimed Speedy Wunderground release series, the dancey 'Running Out' unites two of the UK's best new acts.

BEST FOR CARRYING ON THE POST-GIG PARTY

IGGY POP
American Valhalla

The latest track from Pop's new album – with Queens Of The Stone Age frontman Josh Homme and Arctic Monkey Matt Helders – is an epic, disco-infused punk rock beast.

BEST FOR TRIPPING THE LIGHT FANTASTIC

SHOCK MACHINE
Shock Machine

Former Klaxons singer (and Keira Knightley's hubby) James Righton returns with a sleepy, ultra-melodic slice of darkened electronica.

BEST FOR LOSING A WEEKEND

THE LAST SHADOW PUPPETS

Everything You've Come To Expect

Perhaps the druggiest song either Alex Turner or Miles Kane has ever done, it trickles along lysergically, like a late 60s Beatles dream sequence.

BEST FOR REGALLY ROCKING IT

SERATONES

Chandelier

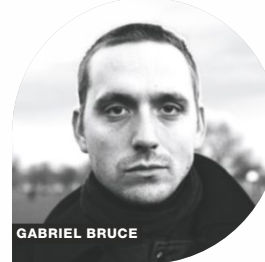
This new track comes on like a spikier Alabama Shakes, veering from huge chorus to majestic guitar solo in epic fashion.

BEST FOR A LONG, HARD THINK

PJ HARVEY

The Community Of Hope

The great PJH sounds as political as ever on her new album 'The Hope Six Demolition Project'. This latest track is no exception. Essential listening.



BEST FOR ROMANCE AT SHORT NOTICE

GABRIEL BRUCE
Metal Soul

Londoner Gabriel is one of the capital's cult heroes. On 'Metal Soul' he croons like a bruised Leonard Cohen jacked up to the eyeballs on the sleepy meds.

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Pimp pimp hooray!

Lamar's return is unexpected, explosive and brilliant

KENDRICK LAMAR

untitled unmastered.



HIP-HOP FAITH RACISM

BATHED IN police-blue lights and with his hair twisted into jagged spikes, Kendrick Lamar delivered the first taste of 'untitled unmastered.' during an appearance on Stephen Colbert's US TV show in September 2014. The Compton rapper twitched through a nameless track that depicted the white man as a music exec "selling me just for \$10.99" and appears on this surprise release fourth album as 'untitled 03'. Sixteen months later came an electrifying performance of 'Untitled 2' on Jimmy Fallon's *Tonight Show*. That song, it turns out, combines two of the eight here – G-funk jam 'untitled 08' and the morose, synth 'untitled 02'.

Few people predicted a new Kendrick Lamar album would come so quickly after March 2015's magnificent 'To Pimp A Butterfly', a record so great that popular opinion suggested its sheer quality had delayed Kanye West's 'The Life Of Pablo'. It was a politically charged game-changer that directly addressed Kendrick's hero Tupac Shakur, featured a chorus that was chanted at an anti-police harassment protest ('Alright'), and earned 11 Grammy nominations – more than Taylor Swift. It was easy to be bowled over by its 80-minute exploration of racism and Kendrick's mental health.

The intermittent phrase 'Pimp pimp... Hooray!' ties 'untitled unmastered.' superficially to its predecessor – but does it match up? Coming at an opportune midpoint between the two other biggest rap releases of 2016 – 'The Life Of Pablo' and Drake's

upcoming 'Views From The 6' – it continues to uncompromisingly address civil rights across eight tracks of jazz-filtered hip-hop. But Kendrick has called the album "unfinished demos" and each

song comes with a date, suggesting it was mostly recorded during the 'TPAB' sessions in 2013-2014.

It would be easy to view it, then, as a 34-minute collection of B-sides, but the thematic

progression here runs smoothly from the doom-laden, sample-filled apocalypse of 'untitled 01' (*"Preachers touching on boys run for cover... Valleys and high places turn into dust"*) to the final track's perspective-swapping scorn of self-pity (*"Your projects ain't s**t, I live in a hut, b***h"*) via faith, materialism and racial profiling. The lo-fi, meandering 'untitled 07' jars slightly, but mostly these recordings show Kendrick as an artist constantly in motion.

It's all dense and considered, but never overwrought or explicitly angry. What really emerges is Kendrick's nuanced worldview: he knows he's a big deal but resents his wealth and is constantly considering his standpoints on faith, police brutality and black America. Apart from a verse from Cee Lo Green on 'untitled 06', there are no big surprises.

But if this *really* is just a collection of offcuts, we can only join the cheers of "Pimp pimp... Hooray!" **Larry Bartleet**

STRANGE & TRUE

Swizz Beatz and Alicia Keys' five-year-old son Egypt helped produce 'untitled 07'. Posting evidence to Insta, his dad wrote: "Shout out to the youth!!!! FYI no help on the beat!!!!"

ALBUM
OF THE
WEEK



Kendrick Lamar:
king of the rap game

Brian Fallon shows his sensitive side

Explaining private Brian

The husky Gaslight Anthem frontman opens up on his intimate solo debut

BRIAN FALLON

Painkillers



COUNTRY WHISKY SMOKING

AFTER FIVE albums and 10 years of grit'n'gasoline-caked anthems with New Jersey rockers The Gaslight Anthem, frontman Brian Fallon has ditched the dirty denim and branched out on his own.

With 'Painkillers', the 36-year-old songwriter has bucked the heavy, Pearl Jam-indebted stylings of his band's critically divisive last album – 2014's 'Get Hurt' – to offer up something a bit more stonewashed and emotionally frayed.

Instead of the butch riffing that Fallon made his name with, 'Painkillers' plugs directly into the roots of country and laid-back



acoustic songwriting. Yet it still retains a sense of toughness. This is the closest Fallon has come to Springsteen's 'Nebraska' so far, teaming up with Nashville-based

producer Butch Walker, who also worked with Frank Turner on his 2015 album 'Positive Songs For Negative People'.

Like Turner, Fallon doesn't shy away from injecting a little ferocity into folk

music. 'Painkillers' was recorded last year at Walker's Traxidermy Studios in Nashville, and is a direct continuation of the Gaslight man's Americana-driven Horrible Crowes side project of 2011, only imbued with more confidence.

Thanks to acoustic finger-picking, the high and lonesome wail of a pedal steel guitar and vintage harmonies, 'Long

Drives' takes us musically furthest from familiar Gaslight territory – even if lyrical nods to listening to beat-up cassettes in cars and post-hardcore bands ('I met a girl with a taste for the world and whiskey and Rites Of Spring'), place it firmly in the Fallon canon.

His obsession with Hollywood's glory days also seeps through in 'Steve McQueen', a softly shuffling tribute to his hotshot hero. The

piano-led 'Honey Magnolia' ploughs an equally sensitive path, with Fallon's husky Marlboro Reds-infused croak rendered a near whisper as he fans the dying embers of a relationship.

It's not all rough-hewn campfire balladry however. Fallon can still push the pace forward, as he does on the spry 'Rosemary', with the throaty hoedown of 'Smoke' and in the positive cowpunk that underpins the redemptive 'A Wonderful Life'.

With The Gaslight Anthem's future uncertain – they're currently on a hiatus that began after their performances at last year's Reading and Leeds Festivals – there's no telling what's next for the band. But on the strength of 'Painkillers', Fallon's transition to a solo career seems risk free.

Leonie Cooper



BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN
'Nebraska' (1982)

Bruce Springsteen's 'serious' one. The boss turned to the dark side for his sixth album and released a collection of doomy, acoustic demos that are considered by many to be his finest work.

Digital love

Emma-Lee Moss' epic exploration of tech vs humans

EMMY THE GREAT

Second Love



LOVE LAPTOPS ALGORITHMS

YOU CAN UNDERSTAND Emmy The Great wanting to get lost in the machine – her first two albums were driven by heartbreak. 'First Love' in 2009 detailed the fallout of a mid-twenties relationship, while 2011's 'Virtue' was preceded by her atheist fiancé converting to Christianity and cancelling their wedding.

'Second Love' was originally planned to tackle advancing technology. Composed while touring, its sparse electronics speak of deserted airports and laptop-lit hotel rooms, of cold connections and unwanted updates. Emma-Lee Moss wasn't made for the swipe-right age,

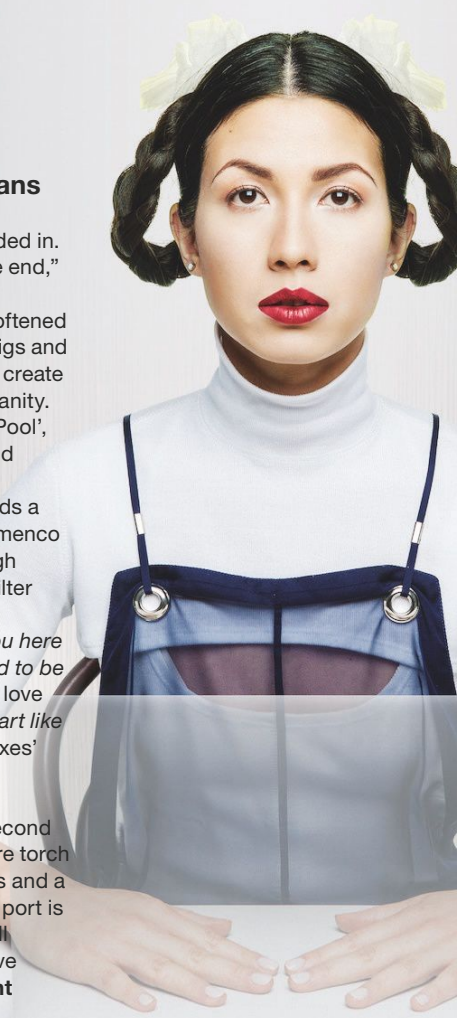
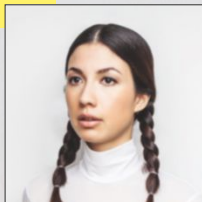
though – emotion soon flooded in.

"Love is the answer in the end," she sings on 'Hyperlink', humanising the computer-softened sounds favoured by FKA Twigs and Alt-J. Her romantic nuances create

life and humanity. 'Swimming Pool', featuring Wild Beasts' Tom Fleming, feeds a phantom flamenco guitar through a synthetic filter while Emmy

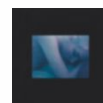
whispers, "Now I've seen you here I don't know how I even used to be alive." 'Algorithm' describes love as "pumping through my heart like an algorithm", while 'Phoenixes' reminisces about fashion-obsessed teenage years.

Both muted and epic, 'Second Love' foresees a future where torch singers are forlorn replicants and a post-human's ElectroFolk.2 port is hard-wired to its heart. You'll believe they can 3D-print love songs now. **Mark Beaumont**



RADAR

Also out this week



M.M.O.T.H.S.
Luneworks

★★★★☆

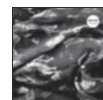
The Irish producer explores undulating rhythms and crunching electronic effects on an impressive debut.



IS TROPICAL
Black Anything

★★★★☆

You'd have to be a pretty ardent noughties indie nut to still be interested in Is Tropical. But, released via five vinyl instalments, this ambitious third album will reward fans.



THE KVB
Of Desire

★★★★☆

Portishead's Geoff Barrow loves this duo so much he invited them to record 'Of Desire' in his studio. The result is a suitably clanging delight.

Read reviews of
many more albums
on NME.com

WORDS: BEN HOMEWOOD PHOTOS: DANNY CLINCH

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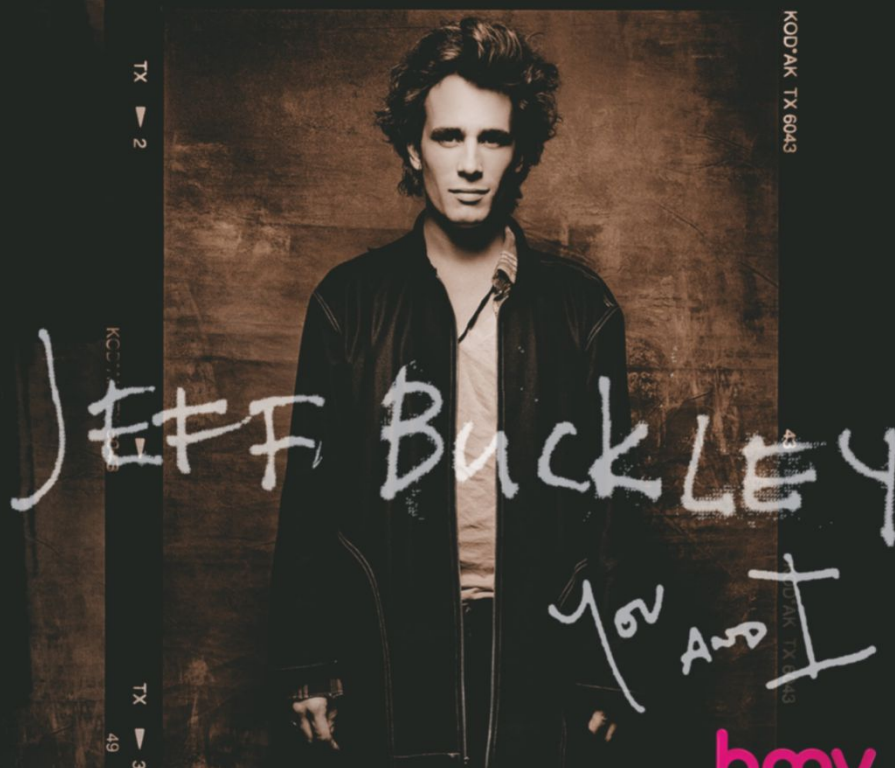
GRACE
AN UNHEARD ORIGINAL
RECORDING
YOU AND I

AND BEAUTIFUL COVERS OF
BOB DYLAN
SLY & THE FAMILY STONE
THE SMITHS
LED ZEPPELIN
BUKKA WHITE
AND
JEVETTA STEELE

LEGACY

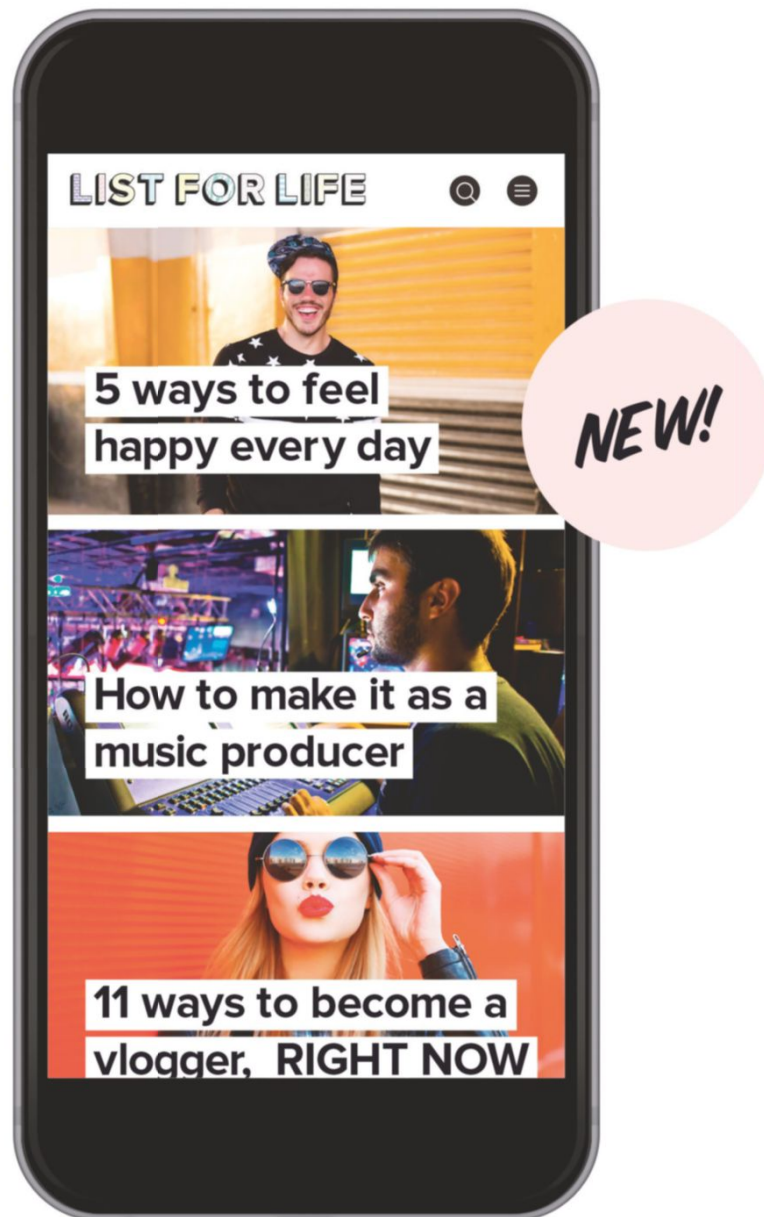


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career advice to achieve your #goals

♥ **WHAT YOU DO**

Michael is voiced
by David Thewlis

Puppet master

The absolutely bloody excellent Charlie Kaufman has directed another classic

ANOMALISA

15 David Thewlis, Jennifer Jason Leigh, Tom Noonan



PUPPETS BOOKS WEIRDNESS

FOR HIS LATEST ATTEMPT TO understand the human condition Charlie Kaufman has, in a very Kaufman-ish way, turned to puppets. The man who wrote the weird and affecting *Eternal Sunshine Of The Spotless Mind* and *Being John Malkovich* and wrote/directed the befuddling *Synecdoche, New York*, doesn't see people like other people do.

Based on Kaufman's own play and co-directed by Duke Johnson, *Anomalisa* begins with chubby, middle-aged man Michael (voiced by David Thewlis), who's famed as a self-help author but hates everything about his life. So

bored is he with his entire existence that to him everyone else, no matter age or gender, has the same face and voice (all are provided by Tom Noonan). Out on promotional duties for his latest book in a bland hotel, Michael hears the shocking ring of an unfamiliar voice. He chases it and meets Lisa (Jennifer Jason Leigh), a woman who looks thrillingly different and, Michael hopes, presents the promise of a life outside the blankness.

Using stop-motion puppets allows Michael's identikit world to be realised in a way it couldn't in live action without a big budget,



With Lisa
(Jennifer Jason Leigh)

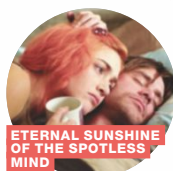
but the puppets give something deeper to the story. They're not quite people; they're not under their own control. Yet like all Kaufman's work, while there are all sorts of intellectual knots to be unpicked, it's not joyless navel gazing. It's funny and touching. A sex scene between Michael and Lisa is inherently amusing – they're both made of plastic – but there's something in its awkwardness and the way

the animators go to the effort of convincingly wobbling a belly or an ageing puppet buttock that makes it more human than most film sex. Everything's aided by superb voice work by Thewlis and Leigh.

Like almost all Kaufman's work it's a waste of time to try to understand every aspect of the film, but that's not necessary. You just need to feel it and despite not featuring real, living beings *Anomalisa* thrums with life and emotion. It's extraordinary.

Olly Richards

FOR FANS OF



ETERNAL SUNSHINE
OF THE SPOTLESS
MIND



BEING JOHN
MALKOVICH

Under the skin

A chilly horror film that'll nibble away at your nerves

THE WITCH

18 Anya Taylor-Joy, Ralph Ineson, Kate Dickie



BLACK MAGIC FOREST FAMILY

TO CALL *THE WITCH* A HORROR film may give you the wrong idea. We hear 'horror' and we tend to think shocks, monsters, the catharsis of laughter after a nasty fright. *The Witch* is perhaps more a *dread* film that keeps you in a state of pent-up terror for 90 minutes, convinced that something terrible will come and then leave, as is the way of these things. But it doesn't leave. It will follow you out of the cinema and revisit you from dark 3am corners.

In the 17th century, a family of seven has gone into self-imposed exile in a remote part of America after they deem the rest of their town to be insufficiently puritanical. In keeping with their ascetic approach to life, the family moves to the edge of a dark forest, sets up a modest farm and commences suffering to honour God. Then someone comes from the woods and snatches their

youngest, a baby boy. A *horrendous* fate awaits the child and the family begins to turn on each other as they're convinced the devil schemes among them. Something very bad lurks in the woods, but something just as awful is happening in their house.

First-time director Robert Eggers tells this lurid tale with a calmness that adds to the unease. It almost feels like the film is watching you as much as you're watching it, the woods sitting unmoved in the back of most shots, hiding who knows what.

Eggers' ability to keep hold of multiple ideas – parents' fear of teenage sexuality; the hypocrisy of by-the-book religion; the dark temptation that comes with strict self-denial – while continually cranking up the fear is extraordinary in a brand-new director. Those who like their horror loud and bloody may find it too chilly, but if you like films that slip under your skin and nibble at your nerves, come and be terrified. **Olly Richards**

Anya Taylor-Joy



Also out this week



KUNG FU PANDA 3

PG Angelina Jolie, Seth Rogen, Jackie Chan, Kate Hudson

★★★★☆

You might not think that Kung Fu Panda, the saga of a fat bear who discovers he's surprisingly good at fighting, could sustain a trilogy. Wrong! KFP3 zips along at a sprightly clip, is magnificently designed and makes strong use of 3D to give extra texture to its painterly scenes. **Olly Richards**

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



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L-r: Hawkgirl, Dr Stein,
White Canary, The Atom,
Captain Cold and Heat Wave

The five most ridiculous things in TV's new superhero show

Trust us, it was hard to get it down to five

DC'S LEGENDS OF TOMORROW

Thursday, 8pm, Sky One
Arthur Darvill, Caity Lotz,
Wentworth Miller

GIDDY CAMPY COMIC-Y

DOWNBEAT REALISM MAY BE big in fantasy TV these days (think *Jessica Jones* and *Daredevil*) but DC is having none of that. Its new show takes a more-is-more approach. If you like your superheroics big, fast and daft you'll have a blast.

1 THE PLOT MOVES FASTER THAN A SPEEDING BULLET

The show's opening moments depict the destruction of 22nd century London before we're swiftly introduced to the show's villain – "Vandal Savage, an evil dictator blessed with immortality!"

Savage kills a young boy (boo!) and we cut to time-traveller Rip Hunter, who whooshes off to 2016 to assemble a team of eight superheroes to take on Savage. This he achieves, via kidnappings, before the six-minute mark.

Granted, moving at this frantic pace doesn't leave much room for characterisation or, y'know, logic – but if you want fancy-schmancy, go watch HBO.

2 THE ATOM-SIZED GUY ISN'T THE SHOW'S MOST RIDICULOUS CHARACTER

While Atom's superpower is impressively useless – a fact even he seems forlornly aware of – the most chin-scratching character is Firestorm. He can fly and has fire for hair but only exists when a 20-year-old black mechanic and a sixtysomething white physics professor meld themselves together. It's like some weird odd-couple sitcom from the '90s got reimagined as a superhero.

3 NO SCENERY IS LEFT UNCHEWED

It's fair to say that none of the cast will be bagging Emmys for their roles, which range from 'kinda wacky' to 'swivel-eyed insane'. Particularly ridic are Arthur Darvill as roguish Rip Turner, Casper Crump as sneering Vandal Savage and *Prison Break*'s Wentworth Miller as campy Captain Cold. All three are under no illusions what kind of show they're in and crank up the goofery accordingly.

4 EVERYONE'S DIED AND COME BACK TO LIFE BEFORE THE SHOW'S EVEN STARTED

Comic books are forever killing off characters before resurrecting them a few issues later – Superman, Batman, Wolverine, Thor and Captain America have all shuffled off this mortal coil before quickly shuffling it on again.

Legends Of Tomorrow is all over this classic trope, as we swiftly learn that *five* of the characters have previously died and risen again – or, in the case of Hawkman and Hawkgirl, 206 times. Yes, 206 times. Come on now.

5 THE DIALOGUE IS BANANAS

"Ever since as a child I first heard the story of Chay-Ara, the high priestess of Horus the hawk god, and her lover Prince Khufu, I hoped and prayed this day might come!"

This is not a show begging to be taken seriously. **Joe Madden**

Gripping stuff: Caity Lotz plays the White Canary

YOU HEARD IT HERE FIRST

“I was like: ‘I could figure out guitar, it can’t be that hard’”

Day Wave

Californian surf popper who’s as influenced by UK post-punk as he is The Beach Boys

AS DRAMATIC LIFE choices go, Day Wave (AKA Jackson Phillips) made a risky one last year: he canned his fast-rising synth duo Carousel to buy a Fender Telecaster and start a surf rock and shoegaze project. “All these bands rehashing synth-pop were getting a little stale,” he explains. “So I just was like: ‘F*** it, I could figure out guitar, it can’t be that hard...’”

Evidently so – just one year later, Phillips has seen his riff-heavy ‘Headcase’ EP knock up millions of SoundCloud streams. But the coolest thing to have happened to him under the Day Wave moniker? Meeting a particularly explosive DJ. “The other day I had an interview with Zane Lowe!” he beams. “I used to watch him interview people like Kanye, so I was just like: ‘This guy’s such a badass!’”

New EP ‘Hard To Read’ takes his prickly Joy Division guitar lines and twins them with floods of breezy, beatific Beach Boys hooks. Phillips is totally aware of these roots, too, saying

that Brian Wilson and co’s 1966 masterpiece ‘Pet Sounds’ “is definitely one of the main influences” and something he listened to “every day” at the beginning of the project.

He isn’t paralysed by influences, though. Having studied at Boston’s Berklee College of Music as a jazz drummer (fellow alumni include everyone from Quincy Jones to Kiesza), Phillips says he’s a true music obsessive and as much into J Dilla as he is Debussy (“although it might not come off that way”).

It’s proving a popular approach. Last year he headlined a London gig that was “the best show we played... People had flown in just for that show!” And considering the ease with which things have taken off for him so far, he’s keen to return as soon as possible. “So much music I grew up listening to is from the UK,” he enthuses. “Everything except for The Beach Boys, I guess...” **Phil Gwyn**

Details

BASED
Oakland, CA

SOCIAL
@daywavemusic

FACT
Blink-182 dude Mark Hoppus tweeted his appreciation of Day Wave’s music exactly a day after Phillips had been revisiting the pop-punk heroes’ back catalogue with his roommate.

BUY
Both the ‘Hard To Read’ and ‘Headcase’ EPs are out now via Fat Possum Records.

For more on Day Wave, head to NME.com

Best track

Stuck

A bittersweet love letter led by pounding drums and revolving stacks of guitar that make up a Phil Spector-esque wall of sound.

FOR FANS OF



REAL ESTATE



THE BEACH BOYS



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Sport Relief is an initiative of Comic Relief, registered charity 326568 (England/Wales); SC039730 (Scotland). Photo credits: Lucille Flood, Victoria Dawe, Tom Dymond.



live

THE 10 MOST IMPORTANT
GIGS THIS WEEK

1

Adele

Friday 11 Arena, Manchester
Tuesday 15 & Wednesday 16
The O2, London

WHO: Singer from Tottenham who's still getting stick for using a flip phone in 2015.

WHY: She's a brilliant performer, with a huge voice and a hilarious laugh, and her stage fright means she rarely tours – which makes this kind of a big deal.

WHO'S SUPPORTING: No details yet.

TICKETS: Sold out, but available from £137 on secondary ticketing sites.

2

Foxes

Friday 11 Riverside, Newcastle
Saturday 12 O2 Academy, Liverpool

WHO: Louisa Rose Allen won a Grammy for her 2013 Zedd collaboration 'Clarity'. Still finds time to work on her mum's London market stall though.

WHY: She's toured with Pharrell, so she knows exactly how to deliver the bangers.

WHO'S SUPPORTING: No details yet.

TICKETS: £17.60 from ents24.com



3

Giggs

Fri 11 Motion, Bristol
Thursday 17 O2 Academy, Birmingham

WHO: Peckham rapper who also goes by the names of Hollowman and Nathaniel Thompson. He's been working with everyone from Jme to Ed Sheeran in recent years.

WHY: Live, he's rivetingly direct, with no gimmicks, hangers-on or elaborate stage antics.

WHO'S SUPPORTING: Brentwood grime star Logan Sama and Bristol's Blazey Bodynod.

TICKETS: £15.40-£28.75 from ents24.com



5

The 1975

Saturday 12, Sunday 13, Monday 14, Tuesday 15 O2 Apollo, Manchester
Thursday 17 O2 Academy, Glasgow

WHO: Manchester four-piece who've just released probably the longest album title of 2016 so far. They channel INXS and are fronted by Matt Healy, who often goes shirtless and demands your love.

WHY: They're frighteningly OTT and absolutely adored by legions of fans. Their live shows will show you why.

WHO'S SUPPORTING: No details yet.

TICKETS: £26.40-£28.60 from ents24.com

4

Wolf Alice

Friday 11 UEA, Norwich
Sunday 13 O2 Academy, Oxford
Monday 14 Pyramid Centre, Portsmouth
Wednesday 16 Barrowland, Glasgow
Thursday 17 Barbican, York

WHO: North London indie four-piece who created one of 2015's best debut albums, *My Love Is Cool*, and picked up Best Live Band at the NME Awards 2016 with Austin, Texas.

WHY: Their grungy indie took 2015's festival season by storm and their ambition is growing.

WHO'S SUPPORTING: No details yet.

TICKETS: £17.50-£19.80 from ents24.com



6

The Internet

Friday 11 Academy, Manchester
Saturday 12 The ABC, Glasgow

WHY: They're not in the UK very often – this is a rare chance to see them live.

WHO'S SUPPORTING: No details yet.

TICKETS: £15 from nme.com/tickets

For tour news and live reviews go to NME.com



live



7

Grimes

Saturday 12 Academy, Manchester
Sunday 13 The ABC, Glasgow

WHO: Canadian electropop dream-weaver aka Claire Boucher, who's bringing a wildly imaginative show called AC!D Reign to Britain.

WHY: Her fourth album *Art Angels* was NME's favourite album of 2015 – the product of a brilliantly inventive mind. The visuals should be equally genius.

WHO'S SUPPORTING: HANA, a 26-year-old pop artist who also toured with Lana Del Rey last year.

TICKETS: From £19 on nme.com/tickets



9

Bill Ryder-Jones

Friday 11 The Moon Club, Cardiff

WHO: Ex-member of The Coral who played on Arctic Monkeys' *AM* and then toured with them. He released sublime third solo album *West Kirby County Primary* last year.

WHY: He's a proper good guitarist playing proper good songs. The real deal.

WHO'S SUPPORTING: No details yet.

TICKETS: £8.80 from seetickets.com

8

Emmy The Great

Friday 11 O2 Academy, Oxford
Saturday 12 Bodega, Nottingham
Sunday 13 The Cluny, Newcastle
Tuesday 15 Stereo, Glasgow
Wednesday 16 Belgrave Music Hall, Leeds

WHO: Known to her mum as Emma-Lee Moss, the folky singer/songwriter is gearing up to release her third album *Second Love* in March.

WHY: The theme of Emmy's new album is making friends in new cities, so there's a chance she'll hang out with you after the show.

WHO'S SUPPORTING: No details yet.

TICKETS: From £15.75 at ticketweb.co.uk



10

Ellie Goulding

Saturday 12 Motorpoint Arena, Sheffield
Sunday 13 Motorpoint Arena, Nottingham
Tuesday 15 First Direct Arena, Leeds
Wednesday 16 Metro Radio Arena, Newcastle

WHO: Goulding's become a member of the pop elite and a major player in the US charts thanks to recent 50 *Shades* soundtrack hit 'Love Me Like You Do'.

WHY: This is the start of a six-month world tour named after her 2015 album *Delirium*. Pop fans take note.

WHO'S SUPPORTING: Yorkshire singer John Newman, of Rudimental-collaboration fame.

TICKETS: £35.75-£39.20 from ents24.com



Best of the rest

Black Honey

Wed 16 The Joiners, Southampton
Thu 17 The Bullingdon, Oxford

Black Peaches

Thu 17 Shacklewell Arms, London

Blossoms

Fri 11 Night & Day Café, Manchester

Cate Le Bon

Sat 12 The Gate Arts And Community Centre, Cardiff

Clean Cut Kid

Fri 11 The Magnet, Liverpool

The Coral

Fri 11 Leadmill, Sheffield
Sat 12 Albert Hall, Manchester
Tue 15 O2 Academy, Oxford
Wed 16 O2 Forum, London

Deafheaven

Sat 12 Victoria Warehouse, Manchester
Sun 13 The Fleece, Bristol
Mon 14 Heaven, London

Diiv

Thu 17 O2 Institute, Birmingham

Eagulls

Fri 11 Islington Mill, Manchester

Esben And The Witch

Fri 11 The Green Door Store, Brighton
Sat 12 Victoria Warehouse, Manchester

Field Music

Fri 11 Band on the Wall, Manchester
Sun 13 CCA, Glasgow

Flowers

Fri 11 Sebright Arms, London

Flume

Wed 16 The Roundhouse, London

Frankie & The Heartstrings

Fri 11 The Rainbow Complex, Birmingham
Sun 13 The Crofters Rights, Bristol
Mon 14 The Lexington, London

Gwenno

Fri 11 Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
Sat 12 Moth Club, London

Holy Wave

Fri 11 Nation of Shopkeepers, Leeds
Sat 12 Victoria Warehouse, Manchester
Mon 14 Sneaky Pete's, Edinburgh
Thu 17 Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

James Morrison

Fri 11 City Hall, Newcastle
Sun 13 Theatre Royal Concert Hall, Nottingham
Mon 14 Symphony Hall, Birmingham
Tue 15 Colston Hall, Bristol
Thu 17 O2 Guildhall, Southampton

Josef Salvat

Fri 11 O2 Academy, Birmingham
Sat 12 The Haunt, Brighton

Kurt Vile

Fri 11 All Saints Church, Hove

Kwabs, Jamie Woon, Nadine Shah

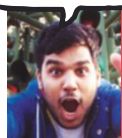
Sun 13 The Roundhouse, London

Lethal Bizzle

Sat 12 Watering Hole, Perranporth



READER'S PICK



AaKash
29, London
@kashnaik

Shye Ben Tzur, The Rajasthan Express & Jonny Greenwood

Fri 11 Barbican Centre, London
"Music is not all about white dudes in jeans."



Black Honey

Lianne La Havas

Sat 12 De La Warr Pavilion, Bexhill-on-Sea
Mon 14 Royal Albert Hall, London

Little Mix

Sun 13 Motorpoint Arena, Cardiff
Mon 14 Brighton Centre, Brighton
Tue 15 BIC, Bournemouth
Thu 17 Metro Radio Arena, Newcastle

Mariah Carey

Tue 15 SSE Hydro, Glasgow
Thu 17 First Direct Arena, Leeds

Matt Corby

Sat 12 Engine Rooms, Southampton
Mon 14 Pavilion Theatre, Worthing
Tue 15 The Roundhouse, London

North Atlas

Thu 17 Sound Control, Manchester

Of Montreal, Larry Gus

Mon 14 Village Underground, London

Oh Wonder

Sat 12 Empire Bar & Music Hall, Belfast
Tue 15 O2 Institute, Birmingham
Wed 16 The Wedgewood Rooms, Portsmouth
Thu 17 O2 Forum, London

Omar Souleyman

Wed 16 KOKO, London

The Rifles

Fri 11 The Wardrobe, Leeds
Sat 12 Academy, Manchester

Savages

Thu 17 The Roundhouse, London

Shye Ben Tzur, The Rajasthan Express & Jonny Greenwood

Fri 11 Barbican Centre, London

Stormzy

Sat 12 Guildhall, Portsmouth

The Strypes

Tue 15 Teviot Underground, Edinburgh

Sundara Karma

Fri 11 Sub89, Reading

TRAAMS

Fri 11 King Tut's, Glasgow
Sat 12 Think Tank, Newcastle
Sun 13 Gullivers, Manchester
Wed 16 The Lexington, London
Thu 17 Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

Tricot

Sun 13 The Firebug, Leicester

Turin Brakes

Fri 11 La Belle Angele, Edinburgh
Sat 12 The Cluny, Newcastle
Sun 13 The Live Rooms, Chester

Wiley

Fri 11 Sub89, Reading

Yonaka

Fri 11 Clwb Ifor Bach, Cardiff



CLUB NME

Kármán Line
Fri 11 KOKO, London

For tour news and live reviews go to NME.com

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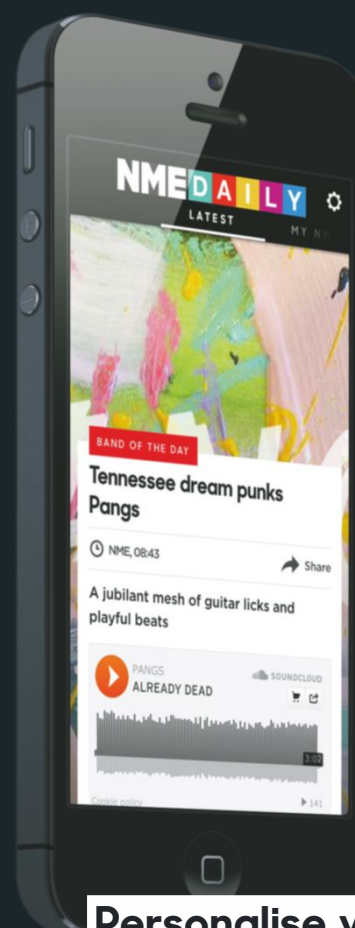
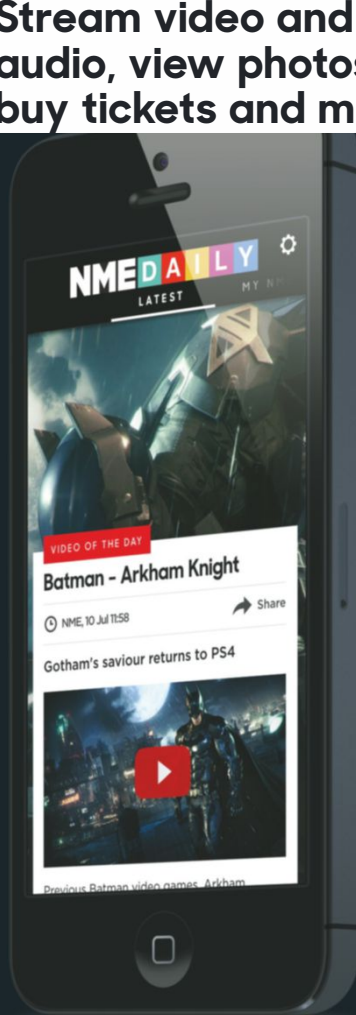
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SOUNDTRACK OF MY LIFE

Jemima Kirke

Plays Jessa in the telly show *Girls*

The first song I remember hearing

AL GREEN

Love And Happiness

"Who doesn't like that kind of music? It was a great foundation for me. There was always music on in the house. You would think it was my dad's [Simon Kirke, drummer with classic rock acts Bad Company and Free] influence, but it was actually my mum – my dad likes quiet and my mum likes to have music playing in every room!"



The song I sing at karaoke

PRINCE

Purple Rain

"I like to sing it because it makes me laugh and it goes on for so f**king long and it's also really expressive. I also like to sing country songs – I went on a date with someone who ended up being my boyfriend and we went to a bar called SingSing in New York. I was showing off and did 'Walkin' After Midnight' by Patsy Cline."



The song I can't get out of my head

ANYTHING BY PULP

"I had a nanny who used to listen to them back in the '90s. She'd play them in the car on the way to school. I rediscovered them in my twenties and started properly listening to them. They're so bad-boy English, but poppy as well and their songs are so f**king catchy, it's crazy."

The song that makes me dance

FUGAZI

Waiting Room

"I make up my dance moves as I go – I thrash about a bit, but I also like to get quite impulsive and do something weird, like throw myself to the floor. I go out dancing quite a bit – last week I went to my sister's house [actress Lola Kirke] and her and her friends took their clothes off and started dancing. They're much younger than me, so I didn't take my clothes off, but I danced with them."

The song I want played at my funeral

BONE THUGS N HARMONY

Crossroads

"Bone Thugs-N-Harmony have a bunch of really heavy, sentimental songs and 'Crossroads' could be really good. I've already made a funeral songs list with friends. 'Freebird' by Lynyrd Skynyrd and 'November Rain' by Guns N' Roses are also on it."

The song I can no longer listen to

PIXIES

Where Is My Mind

"In high school we exhausted the Pixies! We played them so much and this song was their biggest hit and their easiest one to listen to. When I discovered the Pixies I started with this and played it over and over and over again."

The song that makes me cry

LEE MOSES

Bad Girl

"There are so many that make me cry. Lee Moses only made one album – he used to play guitar for Jimi Hendrix. It's so cinematic and moving. I suggested it to Lena [Dunham] and she finally put it in *Girls* because I kept nagging her! It's in a scene when I'm dancing really frustratedly."



The song that reminds me of *Girls*

ROBYN

Dancing On My Own

"It's in the first season – Lena (Hannah) is dancing with Allison (Marnie). I'm not in the scene, but it's beautiful – I've always loved it."

The first song I fell in love with

THE CURE

Just Like Heaven

"I had it on a mix-tape. I put it on in my bedroom and I was so overwhelmed. It was the first time I felt really moved by a song."

Girls is on Mondays at 10.45pm on Sky Atlantic

Go to NME.com for more Soundtracks



The wisdom of the NME archives

THIS WEEK
BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN
March 9 1996

"The only rule I have about photos is that my socks don't show and I'm very strict about it. Nick Cave probably has great socks – he insists that you show his socks, am I right?"



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