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NME

Hello...



HALFWAY THROUGH writing this week's intro, the news broke that Theresa May will become the new Prime Minister before the weekend. By the time you read this, she'll be in Number 10. The people haven't elected her. She's there by default because everyone else dropped out of the race. I don't know whether to laugh, cry or revolt.

In next week's *NME* we're going to be delving deep into what the political madness of the last few weeks means for you. If you want to get in touch and share your hopes and fears, drop us a line at letters@nme.com

So from a bunch of politicians taking a massive s*** on the country, to a man pretending to take one on Coldplay's table at the NME Awards in February...

Bring Me The Horizon frontman Oli Sykes caused a worldwide stir when he squatted in front of our Godlike Geniuses while the rest of his band thrashed away on stage. Some people thought it was a (dirty) protest at Coldplay allegedly ripping off BMTH's artwork. Oli claimed he didn't know whose table it was. Whatever the truth, it was funny. This week, we rejoin their raucous party on a private jet as they head to Canada to continue their massive rise. Strap in and enjoy.

MIKE WILLIAMS
Editor-in-Chief
@ismsikelike

Shura **p29**



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It's been a bumpy ride for the Sheffield band but things are looking up

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110 SOUTHWARK ST
LONDON
SE1 0SU
TEL 020 3148 + Ext

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AGENDA

WHAT EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT THIS WEEK

Pokémon Go takes over the world

The augmented reality game is here – and it's, like, everywhere

THE ARRIVAL OF *Pokémon Go* has had a heck of an impact. The game allows you to capture Pikachu and pals in real life via your phone, and it's inspired all sorts of weirdness...

1 IT'S HELPING PEOPLE EMBRACE EXERCISE

A Reddit user has taken to the site to proclaim the health benefits of playing the game, writing: "I just spent the last hour riding my bike throughout my neighbourhood looking for Pokémon. Best part, it didn't even feel like working out."

2 IT GOT SOMEONE A DATE

Another Redditor has shared a story of meeting a prospective partner while playing the game. "Her *Pokémon Go* collection was far superior than mine," he wrote. "But the important thing is that I'm meeting her again tomorrow! I asked her out on a date and she said yes! Thank you *Pokémon Go*!"

3 IT GOT USED BY ARMED ROBBERS

A gang of teenage armed robbers in Missouri used the game's multi-player feature – which allows users to congregate at a specific location – to entrap victims. "The robbers were able to anticipate the location and level of seclusion of unwitting victims," said local police sergeant Bill Stringer. But don't worry, they've all been arrested.

4 IT'S BEEN HELPING PEOPLE RECEIVING CHEMOTHERAPY

The game has offered a welcome and much-needed escape for hospital patients, who've found that the creatures are available to catch from their hospital beds. Reddit user 'chubbshoozer' said that "in the middle of my chemo treatment, the homie Psyduck decided to sit in the chair and hang out with me".

5 IT LED A LADY TO A DEAD BODY

In the American state of Wyoming, a woman called Shayla Wiggins jumped over a fence to find a Pokémon, only to discover a corpse in a river. "It was pretty shocking," she said. But it hasn't put her off. "I might go get a water Pokémon," she told CNN. "I'm going to try."



Winona Ryder as
Joyce Buyers

STRANGER THINGS IS SET IN A SMALL TOWN

"And you really just don't know what's around the corner or what's going to happen. As the story plays out, you find out things, sometimes as they're happening. It's like putting pieces of the puzzle together. Joyce's heart is shattered and she's in a totally different place so she can't really be logical. Everyone thinks she's out of her mind but she's actually kind of onto something."

IT'S GOT DANGER

"It has a nostalgia. It has these great kids who are really fun to watch and are really unique and very funny, so it's got humour. It's got government conspiracy and then it's got some supernatural stuff and it's also got a human thread throughout; friendship and family and community."

Stranger Things is available on Netflix from July 15

Charlie Heaton and
Natalia Dyer also star

For the Win

The iconic Winona Ryder goes deep on her lead role in spooky new eight-part Netflix show *Stranger Things*

IT'S 1983 IN THE SMALL town of Hawkins, Indiana, and odd happenings are afoot. Joyce Buyers' (Winona Ryder) son Will (Noah Schnapp) disappears while playing *Dungeons & Dragons* with his pals, and what follows is part *Twin Peaks*, part *E.T.* and full-on fascinating.

I PLAY JOYCE BUYERS

"She's a single mom of two boys: a teenager, Jonathan, and Will, who's 11. She's broke and working two jobs. She works Christmases and Thanksgiving. She's struggling. Her husband took off when Will was five and never gave her any help, so there's a little bitterness there."

I'M NOT A PARENT...

"But I have done a lot of work with The National Center For Missing & Exploited Children. There's been stuff in my life that's happened. I had to tap into a lot of really frightening stuff. It was incredibly emotional for me."

I WAS TRYING TO LOOK AS UNGLAMOROUS AS POSSIBLE

"I just wanted to look very different from what certain people have expected. I used to have a whole thing where I would start with the shoes. It really helps you understand what kind of character you are. Someone who wears heels is very different to someone who wears flip-flops. I chose to weigh myself down with a lot and obviously it wasn't a vanity thing for me."

Must-watch Winona Her finest screen moments



BEETLEJUICE 1988
Ryder became Hollywood's go-to weirdo by playing "strange and unusual" goth Lydia.



HEATHERS 1988
She kills it as Veronica, a member of the most popular clique in school, who so happens to have a homicidal boyfriend.



REALITY BITES 1994
Aspiring documentarian Lelaina, played by Ryder, films her disenfranchised pals. One of the first films to define the grunge era.



BLACK SWAN 2010
After a break from the big screen, Ryder's return in this bats**t psychological thriller is terrifying, creepy and impressive.



M.I.A.'S FANS

The star Tweeted she's "on the verge" of leaking her new album. Keep eyes and ears peeled.



RONALDO'S MOTH

Flew onto the footballer's face in the Euro 2016 final and instantly became a Twitter phenomenon.



COREY TAYLOR

Spotted a fan on his phone at a recent Slipknot gig, so knocked it out of his hand. Lairy bastard.



DAVID CAMERON

Got a shout-out in Andy Murray's Wimbledon victory speech – so Centre Court booed him.



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Kristofer Hivju in
The Last King

Ahead of the game

Bad news: season seven of *Game Of Thrones* has been delayed until late 2017. Good news: if you look hard enough there are plenty of TV shows, video games and more to fill that dragon-sized hole in your life



To sate your thirst for...
BIG BEARDED WILDLINGS

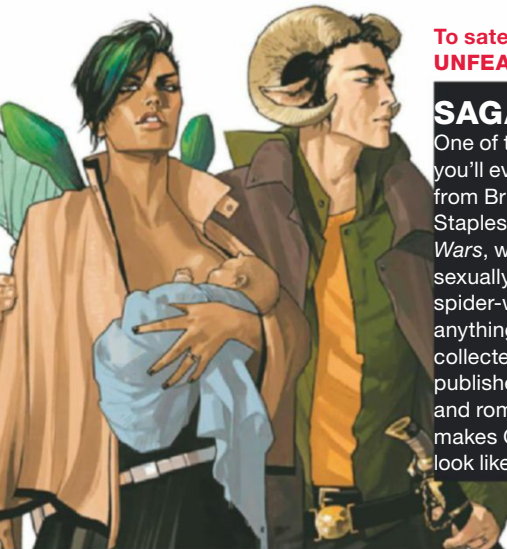
THE LAST KING

The best thing about *Game Of Thrones* is clearly Tormund Giantsbane, the massive, ginger-bearded Wildling who looks like he's in prog-metal band Mastodon. Norwegian actor Kristofer Hivju has recently-announced roles in *Fast 8* and *Justice League*, but his most Giantsbane-esque work can be seen in just-released film *The Last King*. Best described as "Vikings on skis". Amazing.

To sate your thirst for...
UNFEASIBLY VAST STORIES

SAGA

One of the best-looking comics you'll ever see, this ongoing series from Brian K Vaughan and Fiona Staples is like a grown-up *Star Wars*, with horned warriors, sexually deviant robots, topless spider-women and pretty much anything you could think of. Six collected editions have been published so far. It's funny, sexy and romantic. The sheer scale of it makes George R R Martin's series look like *Neighbours*.



To sate your thirst for...
SEXY, SWEEPING EPICS

OUTLANDER

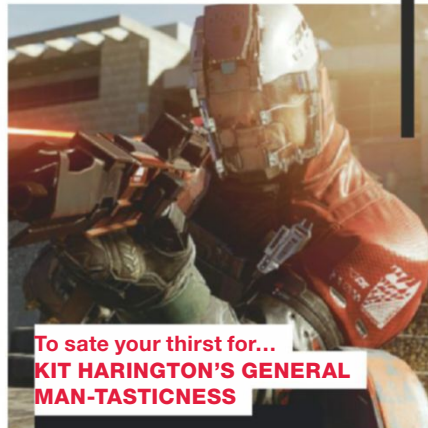
Outlander has a lot in common with *Game Of Thrones* – epic fights, photogenic leads prone to disrobing and a wee bit of magic. It follows a World War II nurse who's transported to 18th-century Scotland and her husband's great-great-whatever grandfather. It's even got a Westeros connection, as co-star Tobias Menzies played Edmure Tully (but didn't get his chap out in that).



To sate your thirst for...
KIT HARINGTON'S GENERAL MAN-TASTICNESS

CALL OF DUTY: INFINITE WARFARE

It's hard to cope without Jon Snow. He's the closest thing there is to a main character, and he's just so earnest. Sure, there's the newsreader of the same name, the London pub of the same name and the cholera-fighting scientist of the same name, but none of them has his doleful eyes or shaggy mane, or did it with a Wildling in a cave. Someone who might have all those things, though, is Settlement Defence Front admiral Salen Kotch, the villain from the new COD game, as motion-captured by Fit Handsomeman himself.



Last W33K IN NUMBERS



140

Miles travelled to deliver Adele's favourite pizza to Soho Farmhouse, where she was staying.



£500k

Approximate fee for Lil' Kim's rumoured upcoming *Celebrity Big Brother* appearance.



1,500

Singers in the choir for a cover of Leonard Cohen's 'Hallelujah', led by Rufus Wainwright. Preach!



£18m

Amount 50 Cent has been ordered to pay creditors over five years after going bankrupt.

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SINCLAIR RILEY

Photo by: The Shes

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Spice up your life

Five reasons why a Spice Girls reunion will be the highlight of 2017

LAST WEEK MEL B, Geri Horner (Halliwell) and Emma Bunton released a video to mark the 20th anniversary of their debut single 'Wannabe'. "We want to celebrate and have a party," said Mel B. "And when we do, you're all invited." According to the rumours, that party will be a special show in London's Hyde Park next July. If it happens, it will be the girl-power party of your dreams. Here's why...

1 IT'LL BE FIERCELY FEMINIST

You've probably heard of the Bechdel test, used by film critics to determine the feminist rating of a film, which requires at least two female characters to talk about something other than a man. You could see the Hyde Park gig as a real-life Bechdel test, where a field full of women discuss their love for one of the most empowering girl groups of all time and don't mention blokes at all.

2 MØ MIGHT CAMEO

Once upon a time, Danish pop songstress MØ was in a punk band. Before that, she dressed up as the Spice Girls with her mates. In 2014, MØ released a cover of 'Say You'll Be There', complete with home VHS footage of that kiddy dance routine. It may have earned her a position in the line-up.

3 THEY'LL SPEAK UP ABOUT WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Last week, sustainable development group The Global Goals released a remake of the video to 'Wannabe', focusing on the plight of women across the world. Three of the Spices have promoted the video on social media, so hopefully the campaign will get a shout-out.

4 THEY'LL ARRIVE BY PARACHUTE, OR SOMETHING

For their 2012 Olympics closing ceremony performance, the girls arrived secretly in mysterious black cabs that lit up. Then, when the girls emerged, the world went into shutdown because it was all a bit too exciting. If the Hyde Park concert is ever going to top that, it needs to do something even cooler.

5 THEY'LL BRING THE COUNTRY TOGETHER

It'll be a year on from Brexit and the divides between Remain and Leave supporters and politicians could be deeper than ever. But everyone likes the Spice Girls, don't they? Whether or not the Union Jack dress will be relevant following more independence referendums, however, remains to be seen.

(L-r:) Mel B, Mel C, Emma Bunton, Victoria Beckham and Geri Horner back in 1996

WORDS: HELEN THOMAS. PHOTOS: TIM RONEY/GETTY IMAGES



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THINGS WE LIKE

THIS WEEK'S OBJECTS OF DESIRE



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Celebrate 30 years of vintage shop Rokit with its custom denim dresses.
£35 rokit.co.uk



Tasty trainers

K-Swiss's Tongue Twister sneakers celebrate 10 years with a host of new colourways.
£70 kswiss.com



Big mac

Cult label YMC has teamed up with River Island's Design Forum for a menswear line.
£55 riverisland.com



Pretty in pink

Baby G's pastel watch is a sweet alternative to checking the time on your phone.
£65 baby-g.co.uk



Colour me good

Pimps & Pinups' non-permanent Blow Tone spray tops up hair colour in a jiffy.
£9.99 asos.com



Sounding good

Audio-Technica's ATH-SR5 headphones offer punchy sound and slick design.
£99 johnlewis.com



Rubber soul

French brand Aigle's lace-up rubber boot is festie chic at its finest.
£100 aigle.com



Sky-high

Lazy Oaf is reissuing its brilliant cloud quilted jacket to celebrate its 15th birthday.
£150 lazyoaf.com



Coasting along

These vinyl-record-style drinks coasters are perfect for album listening parties.
£9.95 trufflesuffle.com



Splash landing

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YOUR TOWN. YOUR MUSIC. YOUR STYLE

What's ON your Headphones?

THIS WEEK

Exeter



"There are some really great restaurants"

< MIKE VAUGHAN 24, wholesaler

Listening to:
VEIL OF MAYA
Mikasa
"The new album is pretty damn good."

Wearing: Vans T-shirt, Schuh trainers, Winners shorts.
Best thing about Exeter:
"There are some really great restaurants. The Bella Italia's mint."



MONIQUE GOLDSMITH > 25, bid manager

Listening to:
ROLLING STONES
Paint It Black
"I actually only discovered them about two weeks ago!"

Wearing: Dress and scarf from a charity shop.
Best thing about Exeter:
"It's got a small city vibe, but there's still a ton to do."



< ZOE UNDERWOOD 20, student

Listening to:
LANA DEL REY
West Coast
"A really summery song. It's so chill to listen to in the sun."

Wearing: Zara denim jacket, vintage dress.
Best thing about Exeter:
"The Old Firehouse has a great atmosphere and the pizza's tough to beat."



ESA SETH > 23, student

Listening to:
ARCHITECTS
Nihilist
"I really like proper heavy music. It gets the blood pumping."

Wearing: Under Armour cap, Iron Maiden T-shirt.
Best thing about Exeter:
"Anywhere you go you'll see someone you know. The city is like one big campus."



PHOTOS: LAURA PALMER

TOPMAN.COM



TOPMAN



(L-r:) Matt Nicholls,
Matt Kean, Oli Sykes,
Jordan Fish and Lee Malia



In the past year, Bring Me The Horizon have released a critically acclaimed fifth album, trashed Coldplay's table at the NME Awards, dealt with personal troubles and continued their epic rise. Jonny Ensall hops on their private jet to find out how

PHOTOS: ED MILES

→ **T**HERE'S A SMALL PLANE on the tarmac of Bristol airport. Outside it, a pilot awaits his passengers, next to a very small piece of carpet. This is no Ryanair cattle wagon. This is a private jet.

A private jet! The reality of that is sinking in for the five members of Bring Me The Horizon, who arrive fresh from their debut performance at Glastonbury. It's the night after the morning of the EU referendum result, but there's nothing like a slot at the world's biggest festival, followed by a taste of absurd luxury, to distract you from the country's inevitable slide into chaos. The band stand on the carpet, where they take photos, posing like rappers and flashing Westside gang signs. They're doing what almost anyone would do, considering the circumstances – they're owning it.

"We're ballin', guys!" shouts Matt Nicholls, the drummer and broadest Yorkshireman of the lot. He swigs a can of cider. "What's for tea?" Tea means dinner. And dinner, tonight, is sandwiches, which isn't very glam. "Sandwiches? I bet Justin Bieber's jet isn't like this," says Oli Sykes, the frontman. He's wearing grey shorts and a top from his clothing label Drop Dead. There are tattoos on his shins, neck and face. And one arm is entirely black with ink. There's something impossibly brooding about him, like an emo Heathcliff.

Oli sits alone, quietly flicking through his phone. Keyboardist and producer Jordan Fish is also flying solo, but is bouncing around the cabin. He's had two Valium and a few mini bottles of prosecco to help with his fear of flying. "There are two main reasons a plane goes down," he tells me, with widening eyes. "Technical failure or pilot suicide. The first thing I asked the pilot was: 'How are you feeling? Any dark thoughts?'" Lee Malia, lead guitarist, is sitting quietly near the front. Matt Kean, bassist, is spooking people out by drifting up and down the plane, taking photos of the sleeping tour crew.

The jet's flying to Montreal, and has been laid on by the organisers of Amnesia Rockfest, Canada's biggest rock festival. In less than 24 hours, the band will be headlining one of the stages. It's a journey that shows how far this metal outfit from Sheffield have come. Earlier tonight, they played to peace-loving musos at Glastonbury – something they said they'd never do. Tomorrow they're entertaining the Coors-swalling hellfire heathens of North America. They're bridging genres – joining the gap between furious metalcore and dark, electronic-edged pop.

It's a genuine 'we made it' moment. But something's not right. Oli's barely touched his sandwiches, and it's not because he's wishing this was Bieber's plane.

THERE'S NO REAL secret to Bring Me The Horizon's success. Since forming in 2004 (minus Jordan, he came later), they've simply been committed to

what they do, and determined enough to survive years of vilification by the metal community, who viewed them as preening indie kids and, latterly, pop sellouts. But who cares? Especially now they've got millions of new fans. Oli alone has 1.4m Twitter followers. In October, they're playing two dates at the 20,000 capacity O2 Arena (another thing they said they'd never do). Even the headbangers have to admit: these guys have toughed it out.

"The band was hated. HATED," says Jordan. It's the next day, and we're having lunch at a lakeside hotel in Quebec, a short boat trip from the festival site. It's a place straight out of *Twin Peaks* – all log cabins and eerie natural beauty. "The band's been through shows where they've been bottled, or people have been running on stage trying to kick the f**k out of them." At Reading Festival in 2008, they were pelted with bottles, bananas and camera phones, and their stint supporting Machine Head on a 2011 UK tour is similarly infamous for bottling. "That was the tour before I joined," says Jordan. "That was the tour before rehab as well."

Jordan is 30. He's clean-shaven, extremely fit and intelligent. Oli – a year his junior – calls him a genius, while Jordan calls Oli a workaholic. It was out of their relationship that last year's gangbusting album *'That's The Spirit'* emerged, with its huge riffs, electronic flourishes and adolescent sensitivity to the ills of the world. 'Throne' is an anthem for anyone who's ever been bullied, while 'Happy Song' gives the finger to the mindfulness revolution. Yet these aren't morbid dirges; they're exhilarating earworms. "Pop's not a dirty word to us," Jordan says. "We needed to write that album to get to where we are."

When he mentions rehab, he's talking about Oli's experiences, not his own. It's just that Oli's treatment for ketamine addiction was a big thing for the whole band to go through. When Oli sits down with me, it's not long before he launches into the story, speaking with the self-assurance of someone who's been over this many times before.

"I didn't understand why I was on drugs," he says. "I thought it was just like cigarettes: you're addicted to them but you stop and it's hard but you get over it. I didn't really respect the fact that there was a lot more to it than that."

"You're trying so hard to be the person the people who worship you see. [But] you don't look like that Photoshopped version of yourself, and you don't act like that confident guy on stage. One side of you's trying to keep that up, while the other side is trying to prove you're a good person. And all the time you're actually being a bad person in many ways. As melodramatic as it sounds, you just get to the point where you're sick of hearing your own name. You're sick of seeing yourself. That's where the drugs start becoming a problem."

I ask him about being diagnosed with ADHD – and whether that was a watershed

"I feel like I took a knife but dodged a bullet"
Oli Sykes



moment in his recovery. "I knew I had ADHD; I just didn't realise it was a factor in why I'd become addicted to drugs," he explains. Now, Oli only takes what's prescribed by his doctor. "[The medicine] just helps," he says, a little sadly. "My

mind's always full of ideas, but just all racing about. It puts them all into one place. I still take it today. I wish I didn't have to."

How happy and secure is he feeling right now? "I feel very sorted. I've been going through summat quite big recently. I'm surprised with the way I've handled it. My friends were worried about me going down a bad path." I agree, he doesn't look like a man in crisis. "A lot of that is because I accept I'm a mess... Sometimes people think it's only happy emotions that make a life worth living, but sometimes, when you're that sad and you feel that much, it's a lot more intense; it's more of an experience than just being happy."

It's a philosophy that's attracted criticism in the past. "Some people are like, 'How f**king dare you say that? I've suffered from depression

Oli Sykes on...

YORKSHIRE

"The people are friendly but if someone's chatting s**t, they'll say it."

JOURNALISM

"If it's true or interesting, it's the journalist's job to write about it. People want the dirt, not a f**king success story."

JUMPING ON COLDPLAY'S TABLE AT THE NME AWARDS

"I were a bit p**sed up, and I just walked on someone's table."

THE INTERNET

"It's terrifying how many things are going on under my name. Who are these [copycats]? I don't know if it's boredom or malice."

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Sounds of the summer

The best of BMTH's depressing lyrics

"There will be no peaceful revolution, no war without blood / You can say I'm just a fool, that stands for nothing / Well, to that, I say you're a c**t!"

Antivist

"I'm going blind, but one thing's clear / Death is the only salvation you'll feel."

The House Of Wolves

"Don't wake us up / We'd rather just keep dreaming / Cos the nightmares in our heads are bad enough."

Happy Song

"Everyone has the right to say whatever they want"
Oli Sykes

for years and it's not romantic.' I'm like, 'F**k you, I can say what I want.'

"Everyone has a right to say whatever they want, no matter the repercussions," he goes on. Even racist stuff, I ask? "Everyone has a right to be racist if they want." My eyebrows raise. "I'm not talking about when people say actual blatant racist stuff," he says, backtracking a bit. "But when someone has an opinion and people jump on them... The amount of people you see saying, 'If you want to leave the EU you're a racist c**t.' Is that true?"

Oli's not in the Leave camp. He just specialises in seeing the other side of things – the good side to any bad situation; the joy to be found in sorrow. But, then again, every man has his limits.

In July 2015, Oli married Hannah Snowdon, a tattooist from Sheffield. They

danced on the beach at their Tuscan reception, and Oli sang a version of Craig David's 'Re-Rewind'.

However, in May this year, a picture appeared on Hannah's Instagram. It's not clear who posted it but the caption read: "Ladies & gentlemen the man I cheated on my husband with". The account has since been deleted. At the time, Oli tweeted, "Well at least I know what the next album's going to be about".

The subject of marriage isn't an easy one to broach. "To be honest, that whole part of my life is not really..." he trails off. "I don't know how to say it. Basically, I'm not married any more. I am still, technically, on paper. You know how messy divorces can get." He's incredibly stoic, even through this. "At the end of the day, it's just life," he considers. "You can let it ruin you or you can see it as a lesson. I feel like I took a knife but dodged a bullet."

BY 10PM THAT EVENING

it's showtime again, and Bring Me The Horizon are ready. "Bands go one of two

ways," Jordan told me earlier. "They either drink, get fat, then coast it out until it goes away. Or they keep trying to better themselves." None of them are drunk. Or fat. In fact, they've ditched their usual drinks rider in order to pay for a gym-bunny mate of theirs to come on tour and keep them in shape.

Jordan – whose wife is due to have their first child in a few weeks – is by the side of the stage, can of Red Bull in hand, screaming at the top of his voice. A couple of Canadian bros fist-bump him out of respect for his manic energy. Looking out, the festival is a sweaty, beery dustbowl. It's only on the other side of the lake to our hotel but it feels like an ocean away. This is real. This is heavy. Never mind the personal trainer and the private jet and the pop songs. When it comes to it, Bring Me The Horizon are still metal.

The crowd are practically fighting each other with glee as Oli swaggers to the front of the stage, savouring the delirium of utter, nihilistic misery. "The world's in the s**t and your children are F**KED!" he screams. He's right, probably. Our children are f**ked. But, as Oli says, "At the end of the day, it's just life."

Hitting the big time:
The band with their private jet

Oli laps up the Canadian adoration

Summer lovin

A photograph of Joe Mount, a man with curly hair and a light beard, sitting and looking directly at the camera. He is wearing a light-colored zip-up jacket over a white t-shirt. In his right hand, he holds a clear glass filled with a light-colored beverage and a straw. The background is a warm, orange-hued sunset or sunrise, with a large, bright sun partially obscured by a large, semi-transparent red circle. The overall mood is nostalgic and relaxed.

Joe Mount
tells **Charlotte**
Gunn why, for
Metronomy's
fifth album,
he's ditched
his bandmates
and revisited
a "nice, naïve"
time of his life



Joe plus band at the NME Awards 2014

SUMMER OF 2008: the country was sliding into recession, Boris Johnson had just become mayor of London, the Labour Party was in turmoil, and England wasn't just out of the Euros, it hadn't even qualified. It was bleak and, in hindsight, eerily familiar. But for Metronomy founder Joe Mount, it was a blast...

Mount is visiting London from his home in Paris to talk about the summer of '08 – not the point in time, specifically, but his new record of the very same name.

"It started as a joke really," he explains. "Back in 2008, immediately after 'Nights Out' had been released, I thought, 'I'm gonna release this record called 'Summer 2008' and it's going to be about all the things I could have done had I not been having a great time touring.'"

Over the past 10 years, Metronomy have evolved from Mount's teenage bedroom in Devon, where he first dreamed it up, into one of the UK's most respected and prolific bands. First album 'Pip Paine (Pay The £5000 You Owe)' was a niche underground success. For the follow-up, 2008's brilliant 'Nights Out', he recruited his pal Gabriel Stebbing and cousin Oscar Cash. After Stebbing left to form the underrated but excellent yacht rock group Your Twenties, Mount recruited Gbenga Adelekan and Anna Prior for Mercury-nominated third album 'The English Riviera', with the same line-up delivering 2012's 'Love Letters' and touring with Coldplay. Add in remixes for Gorillaz, Lady Gaga and more, and you have a very successful decade.

But for this next record he's ditched his bandmates, isn't touring and is taking inspiration from a time before most of that happened, pitching this as the record he wishes he'd made eight years ago. "As you get older, it's very hard to put as little thought into music as when you started," he says. "I wanted to try to recapture that naivety and youth – despite being fully aware that it's actually impossible."

AS YOU MIGHT EXPECT, 'Summer 08' draws on the synth-pop vibes of 'Nights Out', which was recorded when the Metronomy dudes were new to London. "Back then, I was mostly concerned about what the coolest bar in Dalston was or what NME thought of us compared to Klaxons. They're such nice, naïve worries."

So how does a now-thirtysomething

dad of two recapture that youthful exuberance? And is there an element of having an early mid-life crisis about wanting to?

"Yeah, maybe there is," he laughs. "But that time in my life feels like it wasn't that long ago, although someone who's 25 now looks very young to me. I guess the person I was then – idiotic and carefree – made some good decisions, which led me to where I am now."

The new album's first single 'Old Skool' is a cynical look at the west London party scene, featuring the scratch skills of Beastie Boys DJ Mix Master Mike, an *Abigail's Party*-esque music video and a killer bassline. "I've always liked the idea of having a scratch break in a song," he says. "I kinda knew it would be brilliant."

Working with Mix Master Mike is the stuff of dreams for Mount, who grew up listening to hip-hop and R&B. "He's my childhood hero. I'm at a stage where I'm trying to fulfil teenage fantasies – musical fantasies, that is. And maybe make a Metronomy skateboard. That would be cool."

Despite the nostalgia, Mount is happy. Paris life involves taking the kids – aged three and one – to crèche, making them soup, putting them to bed and working on some music. Y'know, dad stuff. Dad stuff that's made much harder when you've got to be on tour for months on end.

So his decision to go this one alone and have a break from his three touring bandmates makes sense, but how do you have that conversation with the band without it being really awkward? "They were a bit like, 'Er, what are we going to do for money?'" he says. "But we worked so hard touring the last album we can afford a little break. I've got kids, Gbenga's had a baby, Oscar's moved to America, Anna's... doing yoga. I have no desire to slow down making records, so if we didn't have a break now, when would it happen?"

Is there still a future for the four-member version of Metronomy?

"We'll tour again, for sure. It probably

Metronomy's guide to offbeat success

1 NAME YOUR FIRST ALBUM AFTER AN IOU

'Pip Paine (Pay The £5000 You Owe)' was named after a note on a car at the side of the road near Joe's childhood home in Devon.

2 WRITE A CONCEPT ALBUM ABOUT CLUBBING IN EAST LONDON

'Nights Out' was written after Joe moved to London and climbed inside his Dalston bubble.

3 TAKE INSPIRATION FROM A RETIREMENT TOWN

Joe made 'The English Riviera' about his sleepy hometown of Totnes and bagged a Mercury nom in the process.

4 SHUN DIGITAL RECORDING TECHNIQUES

Fourth album 'Love Letters' was recorded in London's analogue Toe Rag studios. "I love that record. And without it, this record wouldn't exist," he says.

5 DRESS LIKE YOU WORK IN BUTLINS

The band took to performing in matching gear. "I don't know that Gbenga was that into the outfits. But I wanted to try to make a bit of a show out of it."

6 HAVE A BAND, THEN DON'T HAVE A BAND

Tell your Redcoat pals their services aren't needed – but do it in a nice way so they'll come back again when you're ready.

won't even be that long until we do," he says. "But the one regret I have about 'Love Letters' and 'The English Riviera' is that I thought a bit too much about how they'd be performed live and that's a problem a lot of bands suffer from. As soon as that thought enters your head, it destroys any freedom that you had."

'Summer 08' also features a guest vocal by Swedish pop artist Robyn on the infectious 'Hang Me Out To Dry'. The pair became friends after working on each other's musical projects over the past few years and this particular collab has become Mount's favourite song on the record.

"I've always been wary of 'features'. When I was younger and I'd just see albums where it was all 'featuring, featuring, featuring', I'd feel a bit like, 'Whose album is it and why are you trying to make a bigger deal of everyone other than you?' But this seemed like exactly the right time and Robyn is the right person to do it."

So where do Metronomy go from here? Despite his desire to maintain control, Mount likes the idea of more collaborations – ideally someone that satisfies his teenage love of hip-hop like De La Soul, Q-Tip or André 3000. "Kanye's good, but he's mad. I liked him better when he was just into music."

And album number six is already bubbling away. "I've got all this time this year to work on another album, whereas before I'd be like, 'Oh s**t, we're about to go on tour and my girlfriend is already getting a bit wound up by it.' And all that anxiety has just gone and I'm looking forward to touring again too, which I definitely wouldn't be if it was happening next week."

So all this delving into the memory bank might just have paid off for Joe Mount. He gets to be super-dad, fulfil the dreams of his youth and pick

up his band again when he's ready. They say you should never look back, but for this guy from Totnes it might just be the best thing he's ever done.

NME

NICOLAS WINDING REFN

DRIVEN TOD

Drive director Nicolas Winding Refn tells Jordan Bassett why new film *The Neon Demon* is “beyond feminist”

I'M COURSING THROUGH central London in the back of a blacked-out SUV with Nicolas Winding Refn, the director of *Drive*, who does his best to avoid answering any of my questions.

The man behind the critically acclaimed 2011 box office smash, which starred Ryan Gosling as an LA stuntman, is evasive. Even when he does give more than a one-word answer, his musings can be so abstract that it's hard to fathom what he means. When you're in his company, these are perversely likeable qualities. The awkward interview is sport to him. Asked what he enjoys about working with two-time collaborator Gosling (see 2013's ultra-violent *Only God Forgives*), Refn replies, with a raffish grin, "Everything," but declines to elaborate.

The Danish director's new film *The Neon Demon* is an exploration of the Los Angeles fashion industry. Elle Fanning plays Jesse, a 16-year-old aspiring model and next big thing. Christina Hendricks (Joan from *Mad Men*) is her unscrupulous agent, while Keanu Reeves plays the unstable landlord at her seedy motel. Jesse finds herself targeted by established models threatened by her arrival on the scene, which results in stomach-churning violence and gore.

Like *Only God Forgives*, it's already proved divisive. Audiences booed the film at its Cannes Film Festival premiere. The same day I meet Refn, *The Daily Mail* publishes a moral panic article about *The Neon Demon* with the stunning headline: "Grim film featuring murder, cannibalism and lesbian

NICOLAS WINDING REFN: A CAREER

1996 PUSHER

Refn's directorial debut, and the first of a trilogy, follows the fallout of a drug deal gone awry and stars *Hannibal* actor Mads Mikkelsen.

2008 BRONSON

Tom Hardy plays Charles Bronson, one of the UK's most dangerous men, who spent most of his life in prison. Weirdly, it's quite funny.

2009 MISS MARPLE: NEMESIS

In a peculiar career move, Refn helms an ITV feature-length episode of the cosy Agatha Christie crime series. "I needed the money," he's said.

PHOTOS: KIA HARTELIUS, REX FEATURES, ITV

ISTRATION

necrophilia that even shocked Cannes is now set for British screens". Refn, of course, laughs darkly. "Thank you for the free publicity!" he says. "If I can provoke that kind of reaction, the sky's the limit."

We meet at Soho record store Sounds Of The Universe, where Refn – a keen record collector – buys a various artists ska album alongside a funk compilation called *Purple Snow: Forecasting The Minneapolis Sound*. On the way to the SUV, which is taking us to Refn's next meeting in Chelsea, he's approached by a woman asking for directions. He roundly ignores her, walking straight past. The woman looks offended. You suspect he takes the same attitude to critics of his movies. Refn could not care less what you think.

It's not just that *The Neon Demon* is violent. The film declines to invite the viewer into its world; events unfold at a painfully slow pace, while some of the plot developments seem bewilderingly random.

"[The movie] is whatever you make it," he says. "That singularity is always interesting – doing it the way you want to do it and being very unapologetic about it." He says the controversy is not deliberate. "No, that's predictable. If someone does it for the sake of provocation, for shock, it's too easy."

Refn has described the film as "beyond feminist", yet this is a movie in which things are done to women's bodies (there's a scene in which Fanning's character is deep throated with a knife) and which parades naked women around to be defined by their beauty. How can he seriously claim that this is anything but objectification? Here's how the conversation goes down:

What do you mean when you say *The Neon Demon* is "beyond feminist"?

"I'm not a woman."

What does that answer mean?

"It's what you make it."

Can you help me make it into something?

"Ah, you're a big boy."

Faced with the suggestion that his new film is the opposite of feminist, Refn replies,

"Clearly you have a clichéd point of view of what a feminist is," but refuses to expand on the comment. He spends the 20-minute car journey regarding me coolly from behind a pair of reflective shades – smiling, enjoying the game. Refn is f**king with me.

In his film, the fashion industry comes across as a cold, sterile and brutal place. Yet he claims to love it. Asked what attracts him about this world, he says, "Everything."

This is kind of infuriating, yes; but it's not hostile. It's like we're batting a ping-pong ball at one another. He scores far more than I do. The crux is that Refn believes his films should create an ongoing conversation that can't be neatly resolved. There's a scene in *Only God Forgives* where Ryan Gosling's character stares at his hands for what feels like an age. Why? F**k knows.

At one point during our drive, ironically, Refn spells out his desire for ambiguity: "You're trying to fish for a specific answer that will answer all your questions and I'm not gonna give you that because that's not interesting to your reader."

Yet, like the characters in his new film, he is interested in ambition. At the suggestion that his characters are ruthlessly self-interested, he says, "Anyone who is ambitious or lives in a competitive world is self-interested. You have to be in order to survive. If you want to be a writer, you need to start learning that the hard way. You have to really want it. You have to want it so badly that you're willing to kill for it. Maybe you could try to be a little more competitive; you'll see it's not so dangerous."

So, as the car crawls along Kensington High Street, this has transformed from an interview into a life-coaching session. And the answer is that I need to enter the world of ambition, narcissism and cold indifference of *The Neon Demon*.

"And with that," Refn says, assessing the brutally opulent, gold-plated shop front that stretches down the street, dispassionately reflecting the blacked-out SUV, "we arrive outside Gucci."

Elle Fanning stars as Jesse in *The Neon Demon*

Fanning on set with Refn

"You have to want it so badly you're willing to kill for it"

2011 DRIVE

The film that won Refn the keys to Hollywood. Ryan Gosling plays a getaway driver in Los Angeles, Carey Mulligan his lover. Soundtrack is cool as f**k.

2013 ONLY GOD FORGIVES

Gosling stars as Julian, an American in Thailand seeking retribution for his brother's murder.

2016 THE NEON DEMON

Elle Fanning plays a newbie in LA targeted by cannibalistic models. "As seductive as it is repellent," reads the NME review.

NME

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RADAR

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

Best NEW tracks And when to drop them

BEST FOR WINNING

JAMIE N COMMONS

Not Gonna Break Me

The spit 'n' sawdust-lunged bluesman is behind this propulsive song, which will be soundtracking the BBC's coverage of the Rio Olympics this summer.

BEST FOR DEEP THINKING

THOM SONNY GREEN

Vienna

'High Anxiety' – the full solo album from Alt-J's über-talented drummer – comes out in August but 'Vienna' makes for an atmospheric teaser.

BEST FOR PROM

CLEAN CUT KID

We Used To Be In Love

Channelling an uptempo '80s John Hughes movie vibe by way of Haim, Liverpool's Clean Cut Kid shimmer with classic pop stardust on this driving, anthemic future classic.



CLEAN CUT KID



FRANCES

BEST FOR FEELING THE LOVE

FRANCES

Say It Again

The Berkshire vocalist has teamed up with Adele's 'Hello' co-writer Greg Kurstin on this soaring, gospel-inflected pop banger.

BEST FOR GOING TO THE ZOO

WILD BEASTS

Big Cat

As seductive as ever, Wild Beasts shift their attentions to felines on this prowling, growling tune. "Take the collar off, baby / Won't be a house cat," they purr. Filthy animals.

BEST FOR GETTING SWEATY

LADY LESHURR

Where Are You Now?

Brummie firebrand Lady Leshurr welcomes in Wiley for a guest spot on this full-throttle slice of grime-y gold.

BEST FOR BEING BADASS

PIXIES

Um Chagga Lagga

Alt-rock titans Pixies dropped this new belter of a tune to trail their new album 'Head Carrier', which is out in September. It's basically evil rockabilly for no-good cowboys – perfect, in other words.

BEST FOR GETTING AGGRO

CRYSTAL CASTLES

Concrete

Crystal Castles yet again manage to nail a feeling of sonic claustrophobia on this moody headspinner of a single. This is what Grimes would sound like if she was ever tempted over to the dark side.

BEST FOR TAKING A STAND

JAY Z

Spiritual

Dropped in the wake of the killings of Alton Sterling and Philando Castile by US police, Jay Z's take on the Black Lives Matter movement is a powerful statement for troubling times, featuring the emotive refrain: "Got my hands in the air in despair / Don't shoot I just wanna do good."



BEST FOR SOAKING UP SUNSHINE

FETTY WAP

Flossin Freestyle

New Jersey's finest freestyling over Houston rapper Mike Jones' 2005 track 'Flossin' is one of the freshest things to hit SoundCloud of late.

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Honesty is the best policy

North London soul boy Michael Kiwanuka sings from the heart on his impressive second album

MICHAEL KIWANUKA

Love & Hate



STRINGS VIBES EMOTION

IN 2012, MICHAEL Kiwanuka left Frank Ocean and Skrillex in his wake to win the BBC's 'Sound Of' poll. But since then, the north Londoner has been somewhat less prominent than some of the poll's other champs. While Adele, Ellie Goulding and Sam Smith have gone on to be bigger than the Brexit backlash, Kiwanuka has avoided becoming a household name. 'Love & Hate' could change all that.

Four years since the pleasant Bill Withers-balladeering of his debut 'Home Again', Kiwanuka has bought in the production heft of Danger Mouse, as

well as up-and-comer Inflo, to seriously up the ante. This is an album that's not d**king around.

Opener 'Cold Little Heart' is a stonking 10 minutes long – a good five minutes of heroic 'While My Guitar Gently Weeps' soloing, the angelic trilling of a butter-soft choir and a sweeping string section before Kiwanuka's astonishingly self-possessed vocal strides into the mix.

"Bleeding, I'm bleeding... I can't stand myself," he croons, as

he picks through the tatters of a relationship.

It's not just the soppy stuff that Kiwanuka confronts head on. On 'Black Man In A White World' he brings up

questions surrounding racial identity – Kiwanuka is of Ugandan descent – over a funk-inflected Marvin Gaye throwdown. Spirituality is on the table too, with the dreamy 'Father's Child' opening up about his relationship with religion over violins that bring to mind Minnie Riperton's soul classic 'Les Fleurs'. The iconic 1970 track is a cornerstone of the album, gracefully grounding a number of songs here, the warm shuffle of 'Place I Belong' included.

"The confessional aspect is cathartic for me," explains Kiwanuka about his need to splurge his feelings in the studio. "A lot of this album was grappling with the insecurities that I'd learned. The first album was grappling with faith. Here, I'm not so worried about that – I've accepted that it comes and goes, and now I'm left with myself." We'll take it. **Leonie Cooper**



FAMOUS FAN



ADELE

"Michael Kiwanuka is sounding very exciting on his new record!! So glad he's back!"



Sure footed

The former Manchester City youth footballer is in her element on this sleek debut of '80s-indebted pop

SHURA

Nothing's Real



SYNTHS POP NOSTALGIA

A MONTH AGO, ALEXANDRA Denton released one of the most memorable music videos of 2016 for her Class A earworm 'What's It Gonna Be?' The unabashedly cheesy clip is a crush story inspired by films like *The Breakfast Club* and *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*, and in it she and her twin brother Nick fall for each other's

heartthrobs. These four minutes encapsulate all of Shura's best qualities – humour, an unassailable passion for all things retro, and an approach to youth and love that's

both heady and steady.

'What's It Gonna Be?' makes the capriciousness of young love sound thrilling, whereas its neighbouring track 'Touch' is a

gem of a torch song that bears the pained voice of experience. That level of contrast stretches across the whole of her debut album 'Nothing's Real'. The 24-year-old's synthy, guitar-backed pop tackles a broad sweep of issues surrounding love and relationships. 'Indecision' finds her frustrated at a lover's hesitance; on '2Shy' she's unable to share her feelings with her crush; 'Kidz N Stuff' has her bathed in post-breakup anguish. Occasionally she goes on the attack too – on 'Tongue Tied', she teases, "*I know you want me / I could be all you want.*"

Shura's sleek production unifies the lot under the umbrella of '80s pop: the icy 'Make It Up' recalls Fleetwood Mac's 'Everywhere', while the sublime funk of 'Tongue Tied' seems to take cues from Blood Orange's '80s revivalism. A glimmer of early Madonna lurks here and there too: 'Holiday' is

a clear precursor to the bouncy 'Indecision', while on the disco-thump of 'Nothing's Real' Shura's voice channels Madonna's nonchalant delivery as she recalls a panic attack ("*Game over: nothing's real*").

The album's bittersweet introspection is complemented by samples of audio recorded by her and her documentary-maker dad: a four-year-old Shura screams in frustration on 'Nothing's Real'; she and her twin brother chat as children on '(ii)'; her Russian mother tells her off for smoking on '31.12.15'. These clips give the album even more vitality and personality – precious commodities in pop, but ones Shura appears to have in spades.

Larry Bartleet

ALBUM
OF THE
WEEK



STRANGE & TRUE

Shura once had a job in the Amazon walking a puma rescued from the circus. He was called Gato, which means 'cat' in Spanish.

'32 Levels' was more than two years in the making, including an entire year spent stockpiling potential samples.

Jackpot

Clams Casino cements his status in hip-hop's hall of fame on a frequently dazzling debut featuring A\$AP Rocky, Kelela and Vince Staples

CLAMS CASINO

32 Levels



DARK BEAUTIFUL WOOLY

FEW PRODUCERS have had as big an impact on hip-hop as Clams Casino. His early 2010 productions for Lil B and A\$AP Rocky earned him instant fame as the figurehead of a sound that came to be dubbed 'cloud rap' – a woolly, hefty, synth-soaked re-imagining of classic hip-hop. A triptych of acclaimed instrumental mixtapes proved that his beats had enough depth to work without vocals, while production work for the likes of The Weeknd, FKA Twigs, Danny Brown and Lana Del Rey sent his

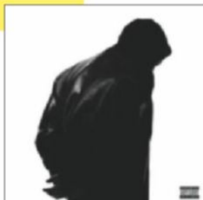
stock rising ever higher.

Inevitably, Clams' success has led to copycatting, and he hasn't regarded the imitation as flattering: "It sucks," he stated recently. '32 Levels', then, his first "proper" album, is a chance to rise above his legion of clones and cement his place in hip-hop's hall of fame.

Opening on the instrumental 'Level 1' – little more than a chopped-up vocal loop, but a gorgeous and hypnotic one at that – the album next reunites Clams Casino with Lil B and A\$AP Rocky for the chilly and distorted 'Be Somebody'. From there the so-hot-right-

now guest vocalists just keep coming: Warp-signed R&B chanteuse Kelela, Kelly Zutrau of NY alt-poppers Wet and Future Islands' Samuel T Herring all swing by, but it's buzzed-over Long Beach rapper Vince Staples who steals the show on album highlight 'All Nite' – his urgent technical rhyming is utterly refreshing amid the current trend for slurred, semi-sung raps.

Clams Casino's productions are strong and downright weird enough to not have the spotlight stolen from them by the nine guests on '32 Levels'. He's dug deep to produce some of the most darkly beautiful tracks of his career: from the otherworldly electro of 'Back To You' to the lush heaviness of album closer 'Blast', there's a lot to get lost in on here. Granted, not every gamble pays off – 'Thanks To You' and 'Ghost In A Kiss' both whoosh past eccentric and into exhausting – but this is a frequently dazzling piece of work from one of hip-hop's most ambitious and imaginative stylists. **Joe Madden**



VINCE STAPLES

Summertime '06

One of last year's most acclaimed hip-hop releases,

Staples' debut finds him meditating on the thrills, romances and violence of his teenage years.

BURIAL

Rival Dealer

Degraded samples, endless layers, crackly

atmospheres, unexpected moments of pure beauty – south London's Burial has a lot in common with Clams Casino.



So loud it hurts

The thrilling debut album from this intense New York trio makes their city feel alive once again

SHOW ME THE BODY

Body War



RAP HARDCORE SOUL

THERE'S AN undiluted confidence around Show Me The Body. The New York three-piece last appeared in *NME* in February, when they were pictured burning a Union Jack on the eve of their debut UK gig. Far more than cartoon punks, these boys are primarily about soul and spirit – the kind that's been absent from practically every emerging NYC buzz band for over a decade now.

Operating as part of the Letter Racer collective alongside their school friends Ratking, over the

past few years these two groups have become the hidden face of underground New York. The audience who go to their shows are wilfully unreachable when it comes to mainstream culture,

taking inspiration from the band themselves.

With SMTB there's no pandering to record labels, no 'post three shots a day on Instagram'. At

that first London gig, they were so loud that a neighbouring theatre performance of *Hamlet* was almost halted, and so intense that several audience members drew blood.

Now, with 'Body War', they have something to solidify it all. Lyricist and main singer Julian Cashwan Pratt is 21 and just out of school. Obsessed as much with the poetry of Emily Dickinson as he is with rap and hardcore, his words are

aggressive and bleak, but also deal with themes of immortality and magic. The title track, which sounds like something early Beastie Boys, circa 'Cooky Puss', might have served up, boldly declares: "*I f**k God instead / It won't be incest.*"

Even the sole moment of serenity here, 'Metallic Taste', contains the wonderfully acerbic line: "*Arms and the body parts coming out the top floor,*" as Cashwan Pratt obliquely chastises NYC's low wage nightmare over sad, almost pretty riffs. Eventually, even he can't help but give in to the city's enlightenment, though ("*Sirens shining in / It's so inspiring*").

Drummer Noah Cohen-Corbett keeps things sounding dense throughout – SMTB describe their sound as "sludge" for a reason

– while bassist Harlan Steed is more sonic-sound-architect than pace-keeper. Along with Cashwan Pratt, who sometimes uses a banjo to create atonal feedback, the trio revel in dirty funk à la Death Grips, but allow their music to mutate into raw, difficult punk ('Tight SWAT' recalls classic Wipers), heavy glam ('Two Blood Pacts') and cop-baiting nihilism ('Chrome Exposed'). It's thrilling, and while nothing like it musically, 'Body War' is surely the most New-York 'sounding' album since The Strokes appeared full of inner-city rage some 15 years ago with 'Is This It'. Show Me The Body are a band worth believing in.

Matt Wilkinson



BEASTIE BOYS

Cooky Puss (1983)

This debut single caught the Beasties between being grotty hardcore kids and rap pioneers.

(Left to right:) Noah Cohen-Corbett, Julian Cashwan Pratt and Harlan Steed



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(L-r:) Abby (Melissa McCarthy),
Jillian (Kate McKinnon),
Erin (Kristen Wiig)
and Patty (Leslie Jones)



FOR FANS OF



SPY



21 JUMP STREET

Screw you, haters

If you want a trip to the flicks that'll make you giggle, you know who to call...

GHOSTBUSTERS

Melissa McCarthy, Kristen Wiig, Leslie Jones, Kate McKinnon



ACTION COMEDY REBOOT

ALTHOUGH THE INTERNET often whinges when a beloved film franchise gets a reboot, most people hope the new version will do justice to the original. But somehow, the new *Ghostbusters* film has managed to offend people before they've even seen it. Some fans of the classic 80s flick are so incensed by this reimagining (which boasts co-creator Dan Aykroyd as an executive producer) that they've made its trailer the most disliked in YouTube's history.

Smartly, director Paul Feig (*Bridesmaids*, *Spy*) and his co-writer Katie Dippold (*Parks and Recreation*) play this outrage for

laughs. In an early scene, we see the new, all-female *Ghostbusters* crew checking the comments on a YouTube video of their first spooky encounter. One reads, "Ain't no bitches gonna hunt no ghosts!" – a not-so thinly veiled reference to the sexism that seems to be fuelling the disapproval.

The haters will be dismayed, though, because the only terrible thing about 2016's *Ghostbusters* is the way Fall Out Boy have mauled Ray Parker Jr's theme song. Feig introduces the new crew smoothly as high-flying scientist Erin Gilbert (Kristen Wiig) tracks down her somewhat sketchy old friend Abby Yates (Melissa McCarthy) and gets sucked into the makeshift supernatural investigation unit she's formed with ingenious nuclear engineer Jillian Holtzmann (*Saturday Night Live*'s Kate McKinnon). The four-piece is completed when smart-talking subway worker Patty Tolan (Leslie Jones, another *SNL* favourite)

brings them a case and makes herself indispensable.

A-listers McCarthy and Wiig are typically brilliant, but Feig delivers a true ensemble piece that allows each actress to shine. McKinnon steals scenes with her madcap swagger, while Jones gets many of the best lines. "Is this a black thing or a lady thing?" she deadpans when a rock concert crowd drops her as she crowd-surfs. *Thor*'s Chris Hemsworth provides the eye candy and also gets to flex his comedic muscles as the crew's hilariously dim receptionist.

Feig's film isn't perfect: the action sequences could be slicker and some of the cameos from original 80s *Ghostbusters* stars aren't as sharp as they should be. But if you like slightly silly, gag-packed films starring talented comic actors at the top of their game, this is a real treat.

Nick Levine



The robot is coming

A refresher course on cyber thriller *Mr Robot*, the second series of which is available right now

MR ROBOT On Amazon Prime



HACKING ANARCHISTS SNOWDEN

THERE WAS A TIME WHEN TV showed hackers as basement-dwelling nerds whose key skill was switching between two computers *reeeeeally* quickly. When it began last year, *Mr Robot* hard reset that image. Its tone is dark, its script is smart and Christian Slater is gripping.

WHAT IS MR ROBOT ABOUT?

Elliot Alderson works at New York cyber security company Allsafe as a security engineer. He suffers from anxiety, depression and morphine addiction – and US actor Rami Malek plays him with dead-eyed intensity. Initially, he uses his skills to hack social media accounts and find out more about his drug dealer or therapist. But as his vigilante status grows, he's recruited to the mysterious anarchist group fsociety (their spelling). Their target is E Corp, who just so happen to be Allsafe's biggest client.

WHO IS MR ROBOT?

The charismatic ringleader of a gang of hackers who plot to bring down major corporations one firewall at a time, played by *True Romance* actor Christian Slater. The group don't wear Anonymous masks, but that's all that separates them from their real-life counterparts.

WHAT'S GONNA GO DOWN IN SEASON 2?

A year on from the E Corp hack and the FBI is investigating. They suspect an inside job, and devious E Corp executive Tyrell Wellick (Martin Wallström) is the main suspect. Elliot, meanwhile, has a three-day gap in his memory. Much of season two will focus on trying to plug that gap, which conveniently occurred during the hack. This means his mysterious family history being explored.

ANYTHING ELSE?

The show's website features what appears to be a message to fans from the hackers. It reads: "We lit the fuse of revolution. Now we decide if it sputters and dies, or truly ignites." New characters in the second run include rapper Joey Bada\$\$ as Leon, a friend of Elliot's.

Rami Malek as security engineer turned hacker Elliot Alderson

WHAT'S SO GOOD ABOUT IT, EXACTLY?

We live in a world where data is valuable and hackers and scammers are out to break through flimsy passwords and access it all. That's the gist of the paranoia *Mr Robot* plays on. It's an unashamedly anti-corporate show, taking shots at late Apple boss Steve Jobs, among others, and has found itself mirroring real life. For example, the first series mentioned the hack of dating-site-for-married-people Ashley Madison before it happened in real life.

ANY FAMOUS FANS?

With its themes of national security and controversial morals, *Mr Robot* has caught the attention of Edward Snowden, the former CIA employee who leaked classified documents from the National Security Agency in 2013. He tweets about the show, and Malek has said: "When you realise how much he knows about government spying tactics... it feels like we're doing a very accurate job."

Happy valley

Geeks, computers and d**k jokes – the essential ingredients of ace US comedy *Silicon Valley*

SILICON VALLEY

On Sky Atlantic



TECH WEALTH SPECTRUM

THE TECH WORLD, WITH ITS billionaire CEOs and socially awkward programmers, might not strike you as ripe ground for comedy, but the stars and writers of *Silicon Valley* have found LOLs in circuit boards. The show follows Richard Hendricks (Thomas Middleditch) and his company Pied Piper, as he clumsily attempts to become the next Mark Zuckerberg. *NME* spoke to Middleditch, plus creator Mike Judge and writer Alec Berg, ahead of the season three finale.

How do you make the world of CEOs and start-ups funny?

Mike: "There were lots of discussions about how do we make this funny, because most of what these people do is programming. What that gives us, though, is a less obvious comedy. It's an odd world with lots of money at play. It's the idea of the richest people in the world being introverted that's interesting. Historically the people

who would become the richest people were aggressive captains of industry, and now you've got Bill Gates and Mark Zuckerberg. It's just funny."

Thomas, what attracted you to playing a beta male who becomes rich and powerful?

Thomas: "The script was genuinely funny and I liked that it wasn't reliant on network-style humour. I enjoy being on a show where you can spend five minutes of an episode talking about a d**k. I'm nerdy myself – I know about computers and *Dungeons & Dragons*. All that fun stuff."

So what do the real-life *Silicon Valley* people make of the show?

Thomas: "The best compliment I get from fans is when they tell me they watch *Silicon Valley* to chill out after *Game Of Thrones*. Everybody dies on that show and we're much more relaxed."

CEOs from Snapchat and Dropbox have made cameos. Is every billionaire in Silicon Valley desperate to be on it?

Mike: "Lots of people have asked to be on the show, which is funny when they could just buy HBO and own the whole thing. We've had lots of cameos but people don't tend to realise who they are."

Alec: "A lot of the CEOs we meet aren't very self-aware. They'll say how funny the show is for poking fun of certain companies and then try to explain how they're different. They're all the same though."

Have you all secretly got a billion-dollar business idea at the back of your mind?

Mike: "I think the answer to that is that if we did have an idea that good, we wouldn't be here."

Thomas: "It's hard to imagine working harder at a start-up than we do on the show – so if we could do that and make hundreds of millions, we'd be interested."

The finale of *Silicon Valley* season three airs Thursday July 14 at 10.10pm on Sky Atlantic, or catch up on demand

FOR FANS OF



(L-r): TJ Miller, Zach Woods, Thomas Middleditch, Kumail Nanjiani and Martin Starr

best of the year so far



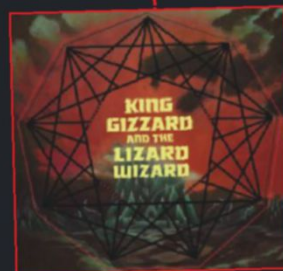
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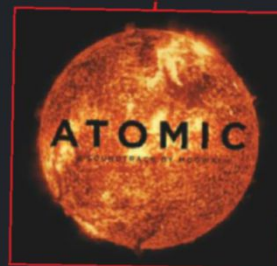
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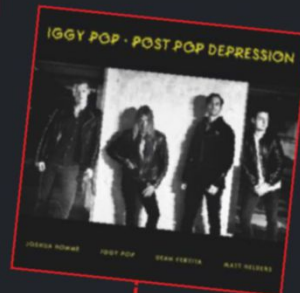
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the hope six
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post pop depression
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Under THE RADAR

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Best track

Queen's Speech 4

Her most-streamed track for a reason. It's packed full of zip, humour and a carriage full of fire bars.



Lady Leshurr

Grime's most exciting new star

AT A TIME WHEN GRIME AND the British rap scene are thriving from Sheffield to Manchester, Birmingham's contribution is still found wanting. Lady Leshurr agrees: "It's a shame," she tells *NME*. "We don't really have anyone. We've got Laura Mvula, then we've got the old-school likes of Jamelia and UB40."

Except now there's also the lady herself: Leshurr is carrying the flag as one of the most exciting and engaging rap talents to emerge from the second city in aeons.

Such progression came to life at Glastonbury last month. "The majority of the people there didn't know who I was," she explains, "but to be introduced to a new audience and see how grime is being received by people who wouldn't normally listen to it – that was the main thing."

Hailing from Kingshurst in

north-east Birmingham, Leshurr was initially inspired to write lyrics when she heard dancehall icon Sister Nancy's 'Bam Bam', which led to falling for the charms of Ms Dynamite and Eminem. Endeavours in poetry and DJing followed; milestones on the route to her current position as newly anointed rap royalty. Case in point: 'The Queen's Speech', a stunning five-episode series of performative YouTube freestyle videos, which collectively have racked up

65 million views in 18 months.

Now Leshurr finds herself in Atlanta, recording her debut album with "legendary" producers. She'll only divulge the identity of one: "Timbaland! That's a massive deal for me because I grew up listening to Missy Elliott and I just love the energy and vibe of her work with Timbaland. I'll be trying to forge that same connection with him to make some crazy music together."

Crazy is an apt description of her latest single 'Where Are You Now?', which features a knockout verse from Wiley, AKA the Godfather of Grime. "I told

him I wanted it to be the old-school Wiley, who had the fire – and he delivered."

Leshurr still very much reps her home city. "The music scene there is evolving," she says. "But I'm just happy to be representing females. I'm a proud Brummie, definitely." Consider Birmingham's reputation significantly enhanced, then. **Sam Moore**

Details

BASED Birmingham

SOCIAL @LadyLeshurr

BUY IT The 'Queen's Speech EP' is on streaming sites now

LIVE August 26 Reading Festival, August 27 Leeds Festival, September 8-11 Bestival, Isle of Wight

FACT Leshurr used to run her own 'Rap College' between London and Birmingham, where she dispensed career advice to aspiring MCs

For more on Lady Leshurr, go to NME.com

FOR FANS OF



LITTLE SIMZ



MISSY ELLIOTT



live

THE MOST IMPORTANT
GIGS THIS WEEK

FESTIVAL

TRUCK FESTIVAL

WHERE: Steventon, Oxfordshire

WHY: It's one of the longest-running small UK music festivals – and considering the line-up, it's a bargain.

FUN FACT: The name of the festival isn't from the trucks that make up the main stage – it's from an old compilation CD called '10 Trucking Greats'.

TICKETS: £86.50 weekend camping, with campsite upgrade options (£40)

ARTISTS: See below for highlights

RAT BOY

WHO: Essex lad Jordan Cardy, who writes lyrics like Jamie T and mixes indie with hip-hop.

WHY: Despite his huge songwriting talent, he's unpretentious and full of humour.

STAGE & DATE: Truck Stage, Saturday 16

MANIC STREET PREACHERS

WHO: Rock heroes who did the Welsh anthem for Euro 2016, 'Together Stronger (C'mon Wales)'.

WHY: They recently played a set of 20th anniversary shows for 'Everything Must Go', so you'll probably hear a fair bit of that.

STAGE & DATE: Truck Stage, Saturday 16

BLACK HONEY

WHO: Brighton four-piece who mix grunge with sweet Americana.

WHY: Last year's festival season had them making waves – this one will be a victory lap.

STAGE & DATE: Market Stage, Sunday 17

SWIM DEEP

WHO: Brummie five-piece who turned to psych on their brilliant 2015 second album 'Mothers'.

WHY: So you can hear their epic masterpiece 'Fueiho Boogie'.

STAGE & DATE: Market Stage, Saturday 16

ALSO LOOK OUT FOR:

Mystery Jets, DMA's, SOAK, The Big Moon, Blossoms, Beach Baby, Vant, Sundara Karma

FESTIVAL

LATITUDE

WHERE: Henham Park, Suffolk

WHY: It's known for its niceness and child-friendliness. If music isn't your bag, it also has theatre, comedy and cabaret on offer.

FUN FACT: A flock of multicoloured sheep are the festival's mascots and no one really knows why.

TICKETS: £205.50 for weekend camping, or £84.50 per day

ARTISTS: See below for highlights

CHVRCHES

WHO: Electro-pop trio from Glasgow who released second album 'Every Open Eye' last year.

WHY: Their shows are like a synthy fist-pump and frontwoman Lauren Mayberry has great onstage chat.

STAGE & DATE: Obelisk Arena, Saturday 16

GRIMES

WHO: Unique Canadian art-pop singer/songwriter/producer, AKA Claire Boucher, whose fourth album 'Art Angels' was NME's top album of 2015.

WHY: Her stage show is energetic, colourful and loads of fun.

STAGE & DATE: BBC Radio 6 Music Stage, Friday 15

THE NATIONAL

WHO: Five-piece indie band from Cincinnati whose last album 'Trouble Will Find Me' was released in 2013.

WHY: They've promised their seventh album will be "harsher" and "brighter". Sounds good to us.

STAGE & DATE: Obelisk Arena, Saturday 16

THE MACCABEES

WHO: South London indie band who released 'Marks To Prove It' last summer.

WHY: They're one of the best live bands in Britain.

STAGE & DATE: Obelisk Arena, Friday 15

ALSO LOOK OUT FOR:

Weaves, The Magic Gang, Teleman, Suuns, Sophie, Meilyr Jones, Liss, Isaac Gracie

HANNAH WANTS

WHO: Birmingham DJ who has her own tent at this year's festival.

WHY: She's one of the biggest names in dance music at the moment.

STAGE & DATE: What Hannah Wants, Friday 15

KATY B

WHO: Peckham singer who made her name on Rinse FM and recently released star-studded album 'Honey'.

WHY: As she put it in a recent interview with *NME*, her music "celebrates escapism through raving".

STAGE & DATE: Main Stage, Friday 15

FESTIVAL

LOVEBOX

WHERE: East London's Victoria Park

WHY: For Londoners, convenience. For those outside London, the killer line-up.

FUN FACT: It was founded by DJ pair Groove Armada, AKA Andy Cato and Tom Findlay.

TICKETS: £93.50 for a weekend ticket; £54.50-£58.50 per day

ARTISTS: See below for highlights

For tour news and live reviews go to NME.com

RUN THE JEWELS

WHO: Funny and estimable American rap duo who remixed their most recent album with cat sounds for charity last year. It was actually pretty good.

WHY: They're legends. Trust us.

STAGE & DATE: Main Stage, Friday 15

LCD SOUNDSYSTEM

WHO: New York dance-punks who disbanded in 2011 and confirmed their reunion in January 2016.

WHY: This is one of three UK shows and only their 13th since their reunion. It'll be a treat.

STAGE & DATE: Main Stage, Saturday 16

ALSO LOOK OUT FOR:

Diplo, Jungle, Chet Faker, Stormzy, Giggs, Kano, Shy FX & Stamina, Big Narstie

BEAR'S DEN

Thu 21 The Hippodrome,
Kingston upon Thames

BELLY

Fri 15 The Garage, Glasgow

Sat 16 University Union,
Leeds

Sun 17 O2 Ritz, Manchester

Mon 18 Waterfront, Norwich

Tue 19 Rock City, Nottingham

Wed 20 O2 Academy, Bristol

Thu 21 O2 Forum, London

BLACK PEAKS

Sun 17 The Boileroom, Guildford

Thu 21 Fruit, Hull

FATHER JOHN MISTY

Sat 16 Guild of Students,
Liverpool

FEMME

Thu 21 Exchange, Bristol

FEWS

Wed 20 Hare & Hounds,
Birmingham

Thu 21 The Prince Albert, Brighton

FRISCO

Fri 15 The Art School

Sat 16 Gorilla, Manchester

Sun 17 Motion, Bristol



READER'S PICK



AARON

15, Galway

@Prospekt_Aaron

VILLAGERS

Tue 19 Absolut Big Top, Galway

"They're coming off an Ivor Novello win and it'll be my first time seeing them!"

KRS-ONE

Fri 15 O2 Forum, London

Sat 16 The Fleece, Bristol

THE LAFONTAINES

Wed 20 The Horn, St. Albans

Thu 21 229 The Venue, London

THE LAPELLES

Sat 16 King Tut's, Glasgow

THE LAST SHADOW PUPPETS

Fri 15 & Sat 16 Alexandra Palace,
London

LISSIE

Thu 21 The Watering Hole,
Perranporth

LITTLE LAPIN

Sat 16 Snails Deli, Cardiff

LOLA COLT

Fri 15 Sunflower Lounge,
Birmingham

LOW STEPPA

Sat 16 The Nest, London

MENACE BEACH

Thu 21 The Hairy Dog, Derby

MICHAEL KIWANUKA

Sat 16 All Saints Church, Kingston
upon Thames

PAOLO NUTINI

Wed 20 Newport Centre, Newport

PET SHOP BOYS

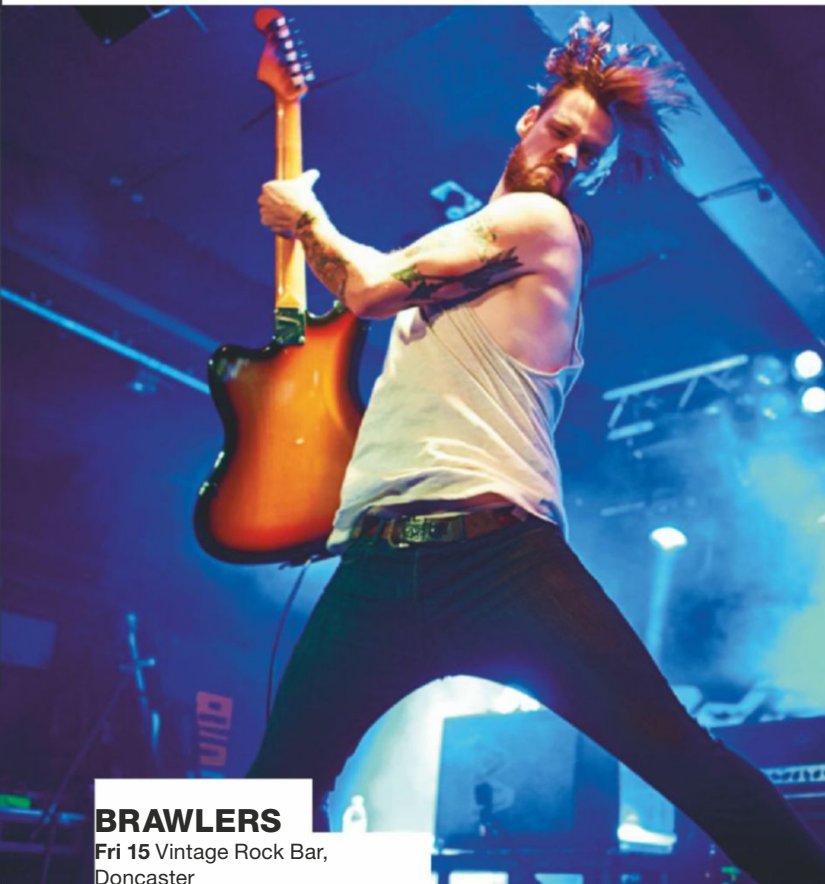
Wed 20 & Thu 21 Royal Opera
House, London

REN HARVIEU

Fri 15 The Spa Hotel, Saltburn-by-
the-Sea

RUFUS WAINWRIGHT

Fri 15 Symphony Hall, Birmingham
Mon 18 Colston Hall, Bristol



BRAWLERS

Fri 15 Vintage Rock Bar,
Doncaster

BRITISH SEA POWER

Sat 16 Town Hall, Louth

CHRONIXX

Sat 16 O2 Academy, Oxford

DENZEL CURRY

Sun 17 Nation Of Shopkeepers,
Leeds

DJ SHADOW

Wed 20 The ABC, Glasgow
Thu 21 Motion, Bristol

ETIENNE DE CRECY

Fri 15 The Nest, London

GOLDIE

Fri 15 Oval Space, London

THE HYENA KILL

Wed 20 Underground, Plymouth

JESSARAE

Mon 18 Leadmill, Sheffield

Tue 19 O2 Academy, Birmingham

Wed 20 O2 Academy, Islington

Thu 21 Clwb Ifor Bach, Cardiff

JESS GLYNNE

Sat 16 Howard Davis Park, Jersey

KELIS

Sat 16 The Jazz Café, London

SPECTRES

Fri 15 Drift Bar, Portsmouth

STEREOPHONICS

Fri 15 & Sat 16 Castle, Edinburgh

SUN KIL MOON

Tue 19 Glee Club, Birmingham

Wed 20 RNCM, Manchester

TIM BURGESS

Tue 19 Cecil Sharp House,
London

TINARIWEN

Mon 18 Arts Centre, Norwich

TIRED LION

Fri 15 Gullivers, Manchester

TWIN ATLANTIC

Fri 15 La Belle Angele, Edinburgh

UNKLE

Sun 17 Somerset House, London

WEAVES

Sun 17 Nice N Sleazy, Glasgow

Mon 18 Think Tank, Newcastle

Tue 19 Brudenell Social Club,
Leeds

Wed 20 Parr Street Studios,
Liverpool

Thu 21 Bodega, Nottingham

ZIBRA

Wed 20 The Social W1, London

CLUB NME



DAGNY

Fri 15 KOKO, London

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SHIT!

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The Enemy

Thu 15th Sept MANCHESTER O₂ RITZ
Fri 16th Sept LONDON O₂ FORUM KENTISH TOWN
Sat 17th Sept COVENTRY EMPIRE
Sat 24th Sept LIVERPOOL O₂ ACADEMY
Sun 25th Sept GLASGOW O₂ ABC
Fri 7th & Sat 8th Oct COVENTRY EMPIRE

SOLD OUT

New Shows Announced

Sat 3rd September
LONDON O₂ FORUM KENTISH TOWN
Sun 4th September
BRISTOL O₂ ACADEMY
Wed 7th September
MANCHESTER O₂ RITZ
Thu 8th September
LEICESTER O₂ ACADEMY
Fri 9th September
LIVERPOOL O₂ ACADEMY
Wed 21st September
GLASGOW O₂ ABC
Thu 6th October
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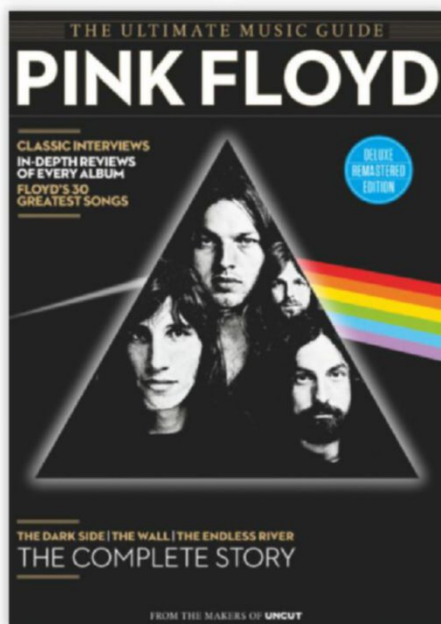
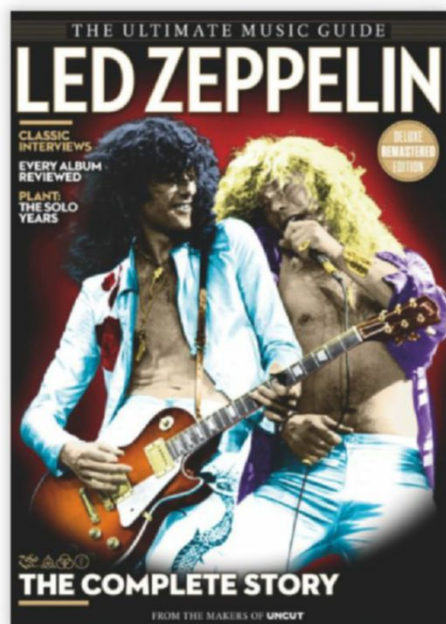
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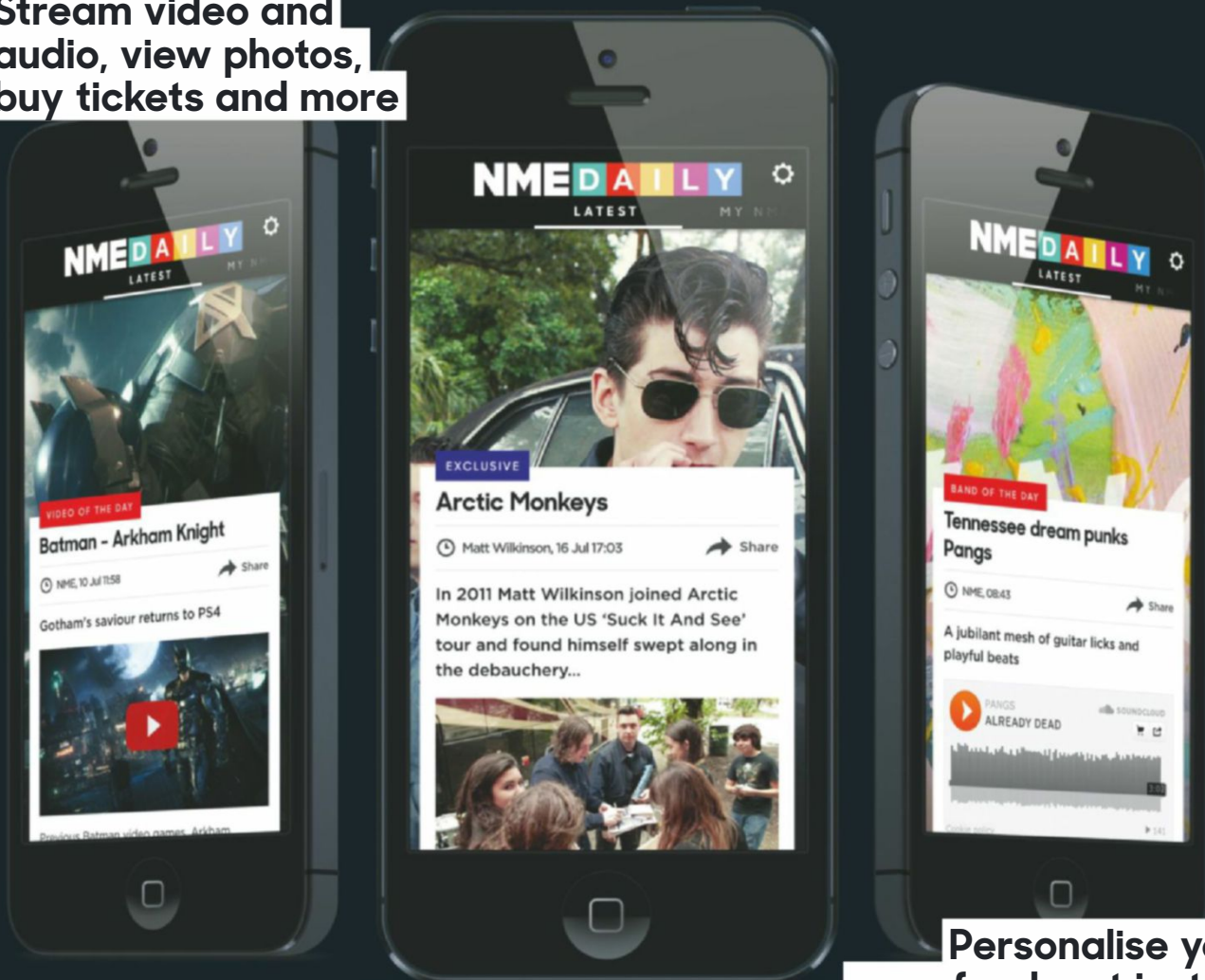


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FRIDAY

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SKEPTA
YEARS & YEARS
DAMIAN "JR. GONG" MARLEY
& MANY MORE

SATURDAY

THE CURE
RIDE • WOLF ALICE
CRAIG DAVID'S TS5
THE CHUCKLE BROTHERS
& MANY MORE

SUNDAY

WIZ KHALIFA
SEAN PAUL
BASTILLE • KANO
KREPT & KONAN
CARAVAN PALACE
& MANY MORE

BIG TOP

THURSDAY

HOT CHIP • GLASS ANIMALS

FRIDAY

KATY B
ODESZA
ANIMAL COLLECTIVE
MØ • LOYLE CARNER
& MANY MORE

SATURDAY

RICHIE HAWTIN
LEFTFIELD
CRYSTAL FIGHTERS
IZZY BIZU • TOURIST
& MANY MORE

SUNDAY

THE HUMAN LEAGUE
JAGWAR MA
MURA MASA
HOSPITALITY PRES.
& MANY MORE

THE SPACEPORT

FRIDAY

DIPLO • CARL COX
MOUNT KIMBIE (DJ SET)
BENJI B • THE HEATWAVE
KENTON SLASH DEMON
& MANY MORE

SATURDAY

SKREAM
ONEMAN B2B MY NU LENG
NORMAN JAY MBE
DJ YODA
& MANY MORE

SUNDAY

FATBOY SLIM
EATS EVERYTHING
RITON • SINK THE PINK
PRES. CANDI STATON
& MANY MORE

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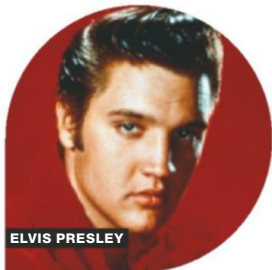
FULL LINE-UP & TICKETS: **BESTIVAL.NET**



SOUNDTRACK OF MY LIFE

Freddie Flintoff

Cricket legend and all-round excellent man



ELVIS PRESLEY

THE SONG I DO AT KARAOKE

ELVIS PRESLEY

In The Ghetto

"Back in the day we used to do karaoke every Friday in Preston. We all used to meet in the social club, have a few pints and then do a pub crawl. My all-time low was singing Boyzone's 'Father And Son'. I thought it was good at the time, but looking back it was a mistake."

THE SONG THAT REMINDS ME OF BEING ENGLAND CAPTAIN

JOHNNY CASH

Ring Of Fire

"We were in India and I had to give all these team talks. I was bored of my own voice, to be honest. On the final day, we came off at lunchtime. We were hot and sweaty. I had a shower, came in and had nothing to say to the lads. But then I put on 'Ring Of Fire' and started singing and dancing naked. One by one, all the lads started singing, dancing and jumping around. We quickly got dressed, went out that afternoon and beat India."

THE FIRST GIG I WENT TO

OASIS

Maine Road, Manchester, 1996

"I was playing for Lancashire and they got a load of tickets for the team. Somehow I managed to get my hands on one, even though I was such a junior player. Noel Gallagher was amazing. It was probably the best gig I've ever been to."

THE FIRST SONG I FELL IN LOVE WITH

PAUL WELLER

Broken Stones

"I'd left home, I lived in a house in Manchester and I remember playing it over and over again. I loved it. I worked behind the record counter at Woolworths when 'Stanley Road' came out. I saw Paul Weller live a few times at the Apollo in Manchester. I actually met him, which was nice. I was starstruck inside, but I kept it cool."



PAUL WELLER

THE SONG I CAN'T GET OUT OF MY HEAD

BEYONCÉ

Hold Up

"I really don't like myself for it. It's that Beyoncé thing – that one that goes, 'Waahh...' My daughter listens to it in the house. She's going to see her, actually. Am I going with her? It's not for me – she's going with her mum."

THE SONG THAT MAKES ME DANCE

BLACK BOX

Ride On Time

"I'm not much of a dancer, I'm more of a foot tapper. I went to a wedding a few weeks ago and danced a lot because my daughter's 12. She was dragging me on the dancefloor every two minutes, which was good because it meant I didn't have to speak to people. I could just dance."

THE SONG I WANT PLAYED AT MY FUNERAL

OASIS

Half The World Away

"I'll be honest with you, I haven't really organised it. But I love this song – it opens my favourite TV show of all time, *The Royle Family*. It's quite fitting, 'I would like to leave this city,' you know, and I'm off."

Go to NME.com for more Soundtracks



DIRE STRAITS

THE FIRST ALBUM I BOUGHT

DIRE STRAITS

Brothers In Arms

"I saved up – it was about £7.99 from WH Smith. I really enjoyed it. I also liked Queen. I like the classics."

Freddie Flintoff backs StubHub's What Live Feels Like campaign. For more info, visit stubhub.co.uk



The wisdom of the NME archives

THIS WEEK

KENDRICK LAMAR

Hip-hop hero
July 18, 2015

"I want to be talked about in the same way as Dylan, The Beatles, Hendrix..."



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