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Official fuel economy figures for the MINI Cooper Clubman: Urban 45.6 mpg (6.2 l/100km). Extra Urban 64.2 mpg (4.4 l/100km). Combined 55.4 mpg (5.1 l/100km). CO2 Emissions 118 g/km. Figures may vary depending on driving style and conditions.

MINI UK, a trading name of BMW (UK) Limited, is a credit broker.

Initial rental £3,429. Price shown is for 48 month Personal Contract Hire agreement for the new MINI Cooper Clubman, excluding optional Melting Silver metallic paint available at an additional cost of £515, with a contract mileage of 40,000 miles and excess mileage charge of 5.20p per mile. Applies for new vehicles ordered at participating MINI retailers between 1 October and 31 December 2016 and registered by 31 March 2017 (subject to availability). Retail customers only. At the end of your agreement you must return the vehicle. Excess mileage, vehicle condition and other charges may be payable. Hire available subject to status to UK residents aged 18 or over. Guarantees and indemnities may be required. Terms and conditions apply. Offer may be varied, withdrawn or extended at any time. Hire provided by MINI Financial Services, Summit ONE, Summit Avenue, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 OFB.

# HELLO...

WHEN GREEN DAY FORMED in 1986. Ronald Reagan was president of the USA. A former Hollywood star, his phony good guy image and right-wing policies turned him into a hate figure for the emerging punk scene, which flourished during his reign.

In 1991, when Green Day's debut album 'Kerplunk' was released, George Bush Senior was two years into a term remembered for a massive lie when he said "read my lips: no new taxes" then brought in new taxes anyway.

In 2004, when Green Day's 'American Idiot' came out, it was slap bang in the middle of Bush's offspring George W Bush's own chaotic era. What can you say about W other than Green Day's album couldn't have been more aptly titled.

On Tuesday, America will elect its next leader, and the result is globally significant. Donald Trump is bizarrely still in the running, despite running a wildly bigoted campaign. He's dangerous, and hopefully America is smart enough to reject his hate. As ever, Green Day are here, and they're angry about the state of the country they love. In such a momentous week for the world, only one band could be on our cover. Enjoy.

## **MIKE WILLIAMS**

Editor-in-Chief @itsmikelike



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THE WEEKND 2017 WORLD TOUR PHASE ONE



WITH SPECIAL GUESTS BRYSON TILLER **LIL UZI VERT** 

TURN TO PAGE 19 **FULL TOUR** 



# or something to wake your brain up?

We made our choice.

MOONCEON

STOOD



HFADTEN

Guess the well-known phrases hidden in these puzzles.



# AGENDA

WHAT EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT THIS WEEK



New Twitter pics from the set of *Game Of Thrones* offer tantalising clues about how the show's seventh season will play out. Possibly



## JON SNOW

There are pics of Jon Snow (played by Kit Harrington) scrapping with former ally Theon Greyjoy (Alfie Allen). This follows the storyline where Theon betrayed the Starks before attempting to redeem his actions by helping Sansa (Arya and Bran's older sister) escape. Snow has also been snapped in Westeros with Daenerys (above).

# **GENDRY**

The actor Joe Dempsie – who plays Gendry – was also on set. He was last seen at the end of season three, after he sailed away to avoid being sacrificed by Melisandre.

Allegedly he'll make his return where he left off – Dragonstone. Gendry is a known blood relative of Robert Baratheon, the former Lord of the Seven Kingdoms. His return could be the catalyst for some big storylines in the series.



# THE STARKS

The pics show Maisie Williams (who plays Arya Stark) and Isaac Hempstead Wright (Bran Stark) getting ready on-set together. Maisie appears to be wearing 'northern' clothing – sparking rumours of a Stark reunion.

# THE ENTIRE SEASON 7 PLOT

After sharing accurate spoilers for season six, Free Folk on Reddit has put extensive season seven info online. The website Heat Street has turned it all into an episode-by-episode breakdown of what's going to happen. Nathalie Emmanuel, who plays Missandei in GoT, has since taken to Twitter to slam those who want to "ruin season 7 for everyone". She's got a point. So let's stop now.

Season seven of *Game Of*Thrones premieres in late 2017

# THE ACCOUNTANT







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WRITTEN BILL DUBUQUE PRODUCED MARK WILLIAMS, p.g.a. LYNETTE HOWELL TAYLOR, p.g.a. DIRECTED GAVIN O'CONNOR

IN CINEMAS NOW



# 6 things that'll blow your mind on the You Me At Six tour

# Josh Franceschi

BACK WITH A MOODY FIFTH album 'Night People' and a "stadiums or bust" attitude, Surrey rock sensations You Me At Six have announced an April 2017 UK tour, culminating at Alexandra Palace. It'll be a shirt-flinging, tout-defying riot.

# THERE'LL BE **FLYING SCREENS**

"Screens that come out from different angles. Screens that can move up in the air and across the stage.. You can take it to a whole new level if you spend the money."

## IT'LL BE A FESTIVAL **HEADLINE SHOW. BUT INDOORS**

"We want to do something grander than we've done before. While we've been away there have been great bands - some of which are our friends coming to prominence. It's our turn to come back with a bang.'

# **SWAGGER**

"There's a new vibe, onstage. I don't envision us doing the whole jumping up and down on the spot in unison thing that we've done before. There's a new, dare I say it, swagger. A moodier thing going on."

YOU'LL GO TOPLESS "We did the song 'Reckless' at Reading & Leeds in 2012 and I asked the whole audience to take their shirts off and fling them around their heads - 40,000 people all jumping up and down flinging their shirts above their heads. It's become a cult thing. Without fail, anywhere in the world, people do it."

# **DRAKE MIGHT GUEST** (POSSIBLY)

"He's on speed dial."

## **IT'LL BE THE LAST CHANCE TO SEE** THE WHITES OF THEIR EYES

"It's stadiums or bust for us in the next two or three years. There's a crop of young rock bands who've been bubbling for a while who've got to start turning into festival headliners or outdoor headliners. Every day we've been getting up going, 'We're gonna headline Milton Keynes Bowl' or 'We're gonna headline the Emirates'. Someone's got to do it."





Won Halloween with her Hillary Clinton costume. Even Clinton loved it: "Wow, that is great!" she gushed.



The Lewisham grime MC has launched his own label. Hasn't got a name yet. Gonna be sick.



## **MARK RONSON AND BRUNO MARS**

'80s band Collage are suing them for "copied" bits of their hit tune 'Uptown Funk'.



## **LILY ALLEN**

Tried to get a black cab only to be told by the twat driver, "Find an immigrant to drive you, you stupid tart."









Take your top off at the following:

April 3 O2 Academy, Newcastle

**5** Pavilions, Plymouth

6 King George's Hall, Blackburn

7 Dome, Doncaster

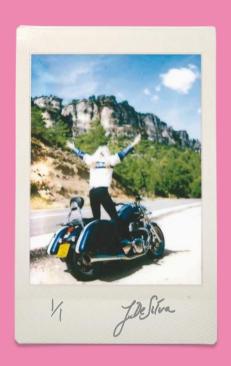
10 O2 Academy, Birmingham

11 Solent Hall, Bournemouth

13 SECC, Glasgow

14 Motorpoint Arena, Cardiff

**15** Alexandra Palace, London



# FILL THE WORLD WITH ONE-OFFS

WE SENT 101 PEOPLE AN INSTAX CAMERA
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SEE THEIR '1 OF 1' PHOTOS AT INSTAX.CO.UK









It's all about access to music...

...including a pop-up home studio so you can mirror the experiences of the participants involved in Levi's® Music Project, a community music space created with Skepta.

It's inspired by the V&A exhibition You Say Want A Revolution? Records and Rebels 1966-1970...

...which celebrates the counter culture revolution of the '60s, and how it influenced the modern day. It's part of The Revolutions Weekender: A Festival of Peace, Love and Music at the V&A...

NME PROMOTION

...events on Nov 4-6 inspired by the mayhem of the late 1960s.

Skepta wants to inspire the next generation...
..."I want to show that success is not something you search for externally, it is from within," he says. "Ideas can become reality with hard work."

**WHEN:** Nov 5, 11am-5pm **WHERE:** The Raphael Gallery at the V&A, London



# "People know we're not bulls\*\*tters" Speaking of dedicated fans, have you got anything They're a real of the state of the

As the Courteeners prepare to take new album 'Mapping The Rendezvous' out on the road, Liam Fray talks humility, humanity, and why people love them so much

You're shifting a lot of albums and about to tour huge venues across the UK. Do you still get angry when people claim you're only big in the north?

"If you're in a band, you're there to be shot at, it doesn't matter what sort of music you do. I don't think it's necessarily right people start having a go at a band's fanbase that's not okay. That's really, really uncool, whether it's Catfish And The Bottlemen fans or our fans or up north and they're f\*\*king monkeys who don't understand anything.' Give me a break. That angers me. It's just absurd."

The Courteeners (I-r): Michael Campbell, Liam Fray, Daniel Moores

Last W33K IN NUMBERS

# Your fans are really dedicated. Why do you think that is?

"There's a humility and self-deprecation that people like in our songs. They're very human. We take the songs seriously in the studio, but the actual lyrics are quite a lighthearted take on romance and failure. I'd like to write global pop songs that sell me. Maybe people know we're not bullsh\*\*ters."

# fans, have you got anything planned for the couple who bought 67 tickets to your Old Trafford gig next year for their wedding reception party?

definitely gonna do something special, something private for them. We're not going to draw attention to them in a middle of a cricket ground – that might not be ideal at 8pm on a Bank Holiday weekend. I'm not sure if they'd appreciate 50,000 people staring at them – maybe they would, I don't know. But we will do something. It's a great story."

## You've got great support acts too - including Blossoms...

"They're a real grassroots northern band - no f\*\*king leg-ups from anybody or anything like that. They've grafted their balls off and toured extensively. Great pop songs, good lads, what's not to love about it? It's a proper old-school story - four lads meet at college and start a band. That's what we want in this country, it should be celebrated. It gives me faith a little bit as well. None of their dads are loaded and gave them a million quid to set up a studio. They're normal lads who wrote songs in their bedrooms like we did. F\*\*king great, they should be celebrated. It doesn't matter about anything else - you need the songs."









# 200m

Vine users sad to see the six-second video clip app axed. We'll always have Marnie the Dog.



Words from Bieber that riled a city. "Manchester can't handle me," he said before storming off stage.



# 100

Students who'll attend a Hogwarts-style wizarding school at the Château de Jolibert in May next year.



# 15

Number of pre-rolled joints James Arthur would take to bed with him at a bad time in his life.

# THE HISTORY OF

From the makers of *Uncut*, a monthly magazine celebrating 50 years of the music that changed the world.

Month by month, it will build up into an unprecedentedly detailed chronicle of the music and musicians we love.



ORDER ONLINE AT WWW.UNCUT.CO.UK/STORE



A2 weaved some skunk dub witchcraft, pacing the stage

muttering, "Please don't fall

asleep, you might wake up in

romantic Freddy Krueger.

my dreams", like a rather more

# BOXPARK

# Party in the park

Last week, NME hosted a free launch party at Boxpark Croydon, a cool new food, drink and event space that's open now. Here's how the day panned out...

Alfa Mist did some serious seduction work with his jazzy lounge pieces. One track was even called 'Brian' – from the sounds of it, the most chilled Brian ever to walk the earth.

Headliner Jay Prince brought sensitive, summery vibes to chilly Croydon, pouring his soul over slick R'n'B on 'Homecoming/Love Is' and his breakout lowriding rap track 'Polaroids'.

Croydon threw itself into the spirit of the day, reloading its finger pistols with wild abandon and starting gymnastic dance circles between bands.

The day opened with
Tailr.Made.Lvn's Jamell
wandering the crowd, luring
people forward with psych
ragga raps that suggested
they put something special
in the Lebanese tapas.

Between bands, the punters dug into the range of chic shipping container-sized eateries – we recommend the special Halloween spider donuts.

INDI•GO

Nova Twins blew the Box apart with their urban punk amalgam of Skunk Anansie, Rage Against The Machine, Red Hot Chili Peppers and Kelis in full "I hate you so much right now" mode.

Liveliest of all was Barney
Artist, whose rousing set took
in hop-hip odes to the mean
streets of, um, Forest Gate,
and a lesson in the s\*\*tthere's-a-mouse dance.





**BIG OPINIONS. NO FILTER.** 

**THIS WEEK** 

It's time for **President** Kanye Wes

HE PEOPLE OF the United States of America have a pretty big decision to make in the coming days. It's out with the Kendrick Lamarloving, mic-dropping, wisecracking Barack Obama and time for them to vote in someone new as President of the most populous county in the western world – a job *almost* as important as presenting the next series of The Great British Bake Off.

There are two options, one of which isn't really an option at all because it's the bloated sack of insanity that is Donald Trump - a pouting, p\*\*\*y-grabbing proposition of a man whose flagrant racism, sexism and downright awfulness has dogged his unfathomably successful campaign so far.

What started off as a joke has become all too crushingly real. Fingers crossed that this ghastly blip upon history will be vanguished come November 8 and sent back to the land of trashy television. Polls are currently predicting a win for the rather more preferable Hillary Clinton, but we all know what happened with Brexit, so you can never be too certain.

However, just to make things that little bit more exciting, we suggest an entirely new

"Kim would bring serious sass to the role of First Lady"

independent candidate, someone who's already expressed an interest in running for office, albeit in the year 2020. Now I'm not entirely sure how US politics works (although I have seen the first four seasons of The West Wing, so I think I've got a pretty decent grasp on things), but surely there's scope to jet in the mighty Kanye West.

Look.

it suits

him!

He's already got a massive public profile, is able to hold the

attention of a room (or festival field) and isn't afraid to speak his mind on everything from the importance of Black Lives Matter and

Occupy Wall Street to his love of mid-century modern design and perhaps the most important fashion item of recent years: leather jogging bottoms.

A few months ago West spoke to Radio 1's Annie Mac about his political intentions and in a couple of seconds showed he's capable of more compassion than Donald Trump has expressed in the entirety of his campaign to date.

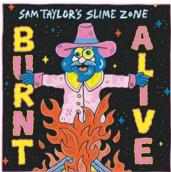
"We are numb, we're numb to 500 kids getting killed in Chicago a year. We're numb to the fact that it was seven police shootings in the beginning of July," said West. "We're numb to places on the Earth that we don't live - like our life is okay but it's okay for other people's lives to not be okay."

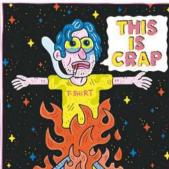
President Kanye West would look after the little guy. President Kanye would make sure everything looked immaculate. President Kanye would release a totally banging album every year.

Also, Kim Kardashian would bring some serious sass to the role of First Lady.

Vote for Kanye - it might sound ridiculous, but it's a million times more sensible than putting Trump in charge.

@leoniemaycooper











# Show us yer city

**Bring Me The Horizon** frontman Oli Sykes shows us round the very best refuelling stations in his hometown of Sheffield

# FOOD TRUCK **MAKE NO BONES**

Oli says: "I'm one of the most awkward people ever when it comes to food because I'm vegan and I can't eat gluten and a bunch of other stuff. A couple of vegan places have popped up recently in Sheffield and this is the best one I've eaten at."

What to order: "Kentucky fried tofu. It's not junk food, it's good soul food with a modern twist."

@makenobonescafe

urger lolz

# THE BURGER BAR BURGER LOLZ

Oli says: "I'm not quite sure why it's called that, but it's a vegan burger place and they make these crazy burgers." What to order: "These things called Freak Shakes. They're all the rage - milkshakes that have ice cream and stuff, they do vegan takes on that. They have a vegan Oreo cream 🏾 🥙 shake with peanut butter and bananas. It's a crazy looking thing. I also had an Indian burger. It was a burger made of cheese, loaded with poppadoms and mango chutney, with an onion bhaji burger base."

@burgerlolz

THE POSH PUB BUNGALOWS AND BEARS I

bears.com

Oli savs: "It was the first bar of its kind in Sheffield. It's a good place to go and they've got good events on I and stuff. I haven't been for a while actually, but it has a nice relaxed atmosphere." What to order: "Your drink of choice." bungalowsand

THE INDIAN

THE BHAJI SHOP Oli says: "A friend of my dad's has actually got a couple of them around Sheffield. He prides himself on his bhajis and claims they're the best in Sheffield or South Yorkshire. They are good, to be fair." What to order: "It's like tapas, so small plates. It's a cool little vibe. It's really nice and they change the menu up. But the bhajis are really good, obviously." facebook.com/ thebhajishop

Oli Sykes likes to wine, dine and have a good time in Sheffield

AGENDA

Uno

# THE ITALIAN ITALIA UNO

Oli says: "It's a regular Italian place, but they've got a really good vegan menu. Usually Italian 🛘 takeout in Sheffield isn't the best, but I think they're genuine Italians who are really into making sure all the dough is perfect, authentic and fresh. It's a really good place - especially if you're a vegan."

What to order: "They do a great vegan pizza."

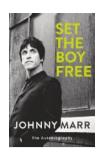


FOR MORE EATS & BEATS GO TO NME.COM

# AGENDA



THIS WEEK'S OBJECTS OF DESIRE



Marr-vellous reading
The Smiths guitarist Johnny
Marr's memoir Set The Boy
Free is an indie must-read.
£11 amazon.co.uk



Splatter style
Keep dry in this waterrepellent Jackson Pollockstyle art attack jacket.
£190 napapijri.com



Rock chic
Debbie Harry was a fan of
Levi's 505 jeans. They've now
been updated as the 505C.
£95 levi.com



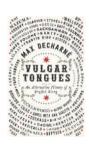
Hot stuff
Gran Luchito's Smoked Chilli
Honey will add a sweet but
spicy kick to dinner.
£4.99 amazon.co.uk



Denim delight
Eastpak has come over all
blue with this special
denim backpack.
£115 selfridges.com



Blockbuster book
Peek into the mind of
a great with The Stanley
Kubrick Archives.
£12.99 taschen.com



Slang tough
Max Décharné's Vulgar
Tongues offers an alternative
history of English slang.
£14.99 serpentstail.com



Furry friend
Lazy Oaf's Disney collab
features this Cruella de Vil
coat – faux fur, of course.
£160 lazyoaf.com



Check mate
Barbour International's bikerinfluenced range features this
sleek checked shirt.
£89.95 barbour.com



Woolly wonder
New Era's New York Yankees
bobble hat is the perfect
blend of cosy and cool.
£20 neweracap.co.uk



Specs appeal
Ray-Ban has brought back
its iconic 1953 Signet
sunglasses design.
£143 ray-ban.com



Sweet deal
Ben & Jerry's One Sweet
World ice cream is helping to
fund community projects.
£4 ocado.com



Quizzy rascal
The Official Radio 6 Music
Quiz Book offers rock geeks
a chance to shine/show off.
£9.98 amazon.co.uk



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Timberland's classic, sturdy
and stomp-worthy boots are
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£300 mrporter.com

# THE WEEKND

# STARBOY LEGEND OF THE FALL

2017 WORLD TOUR PHASE ONE

BRYSON TILLER
LIL UZI VERT

MARCH 2017
SUN 05 MANCHESTER ARENA
TUE 07 LONDON THE 02
WED 08 LONDON THE 02
FRI 10 GLASGOW THE SSE HYDRO
SAT 11 NEWCASTLE METRO RADIO ARENA
MON 13 BIRMINGHAM BARCLAYCARD ARENA
TUE 14 LEEDS FIRST DIRECT ARENA

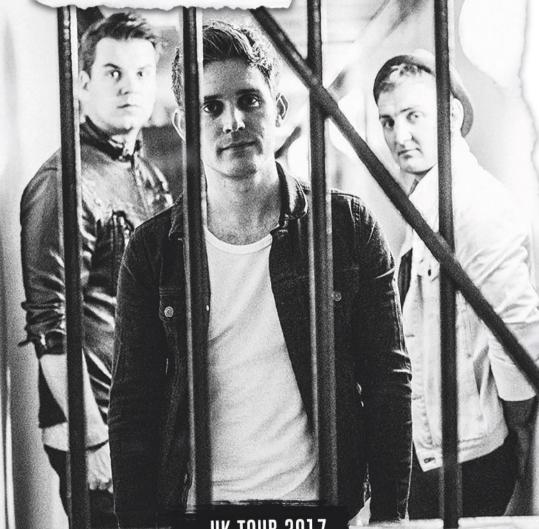
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A LIVE NATION & DF CONCERTS PRESENTATION IN ASSOCIATION WITH WME ENTERTAINMENT

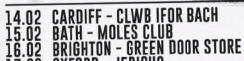


# SANDINISTAS

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The Sandinistas



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YOUR TOWN, YOUR MUSIC, YOUR STYLE

# What's ON your Head Phones?

**Afropunk** Fest London

"It's a friendly place where

people can connect"

# KAY SOLOMAN >

31, teacher

Listening to: **KENDRICK LAMAR** 

Kina Kunta

"He's the s\*\*t. Everything about him is so beautiful."

Wearing: Homemade headband, top and trousers.

Best thing about Afropunk Fest: "This

festival is so multicultural. If I could live in a world like Afropunk, I would do every day."



26, fashion designer

Listening to:

OVERDOZ. Killer Tofu

"They're a hip-hop band from America."

Wearing: Shadow Intimates choker, Topshop top, jacket from a charity shop, H&M jumper, Forever 21 trousers, Adidas Yeezy trainers.

Best thing about Afropunk Fest: "It's

a friendly place where people can connect, share interests and enjoy music."

# **CLIAM DIALLO**

23, musician

Listening to:

# **GREGORY PORTER**

Mother's Song

"He's amazing. His voice is crazy deep."

Wearing: Vintage hat, jacket and shirt, Topman sweater, trousers from Camden Market.

Best thing about

Afropunk Fest: "Black and ethnic culture often gets marginalised. This explodes that out of the box."

# ANGELA KWASHIE >

28, works in advertising

Listening to: **CKTRL** 

Roses

"The beat and lyrics are so good. It's my summer jam."

Wearing: Zara dress, Reebok trainers. Best thing about Afropunk Fest: "That

it's in London - the heart of culture, art, fashion and music."











N SEPTEMBER 28 of this year, Green Day were playing at the Starland Ballroom in Sayreville, New Jersey. Billie Joe Armstrong

was belting out the lyrics to 'Holiday', a song he wrote over a decade ago to stick it to the Bush administration and protest against the war in Iraq. Politics has changed since then, but not necessarily for the better. Halfway through the song, during the breakdown, drummer Tré Cool and bassist Mike Dirnt slow their playing to a steady, rousing thump as Armstrong grabs the mic and leans out over the audience.

"You guys been watching the news lately?" he asks. "What do you think of our candidates for the presidency of the United States?" There are boos. "What do you think of New York's finest, Mr Donald Trump?" The booing gets much louder. "No racism!" Armstrong shouts. "No racism in this f\*\*king room right now! We are coming together to call bulls\*\*t on all the f\*\*king politicians!"

The crowd loses it. They holler their support. They are united in their animosity towards Trump and fed up with the rise in misogyny, xenophobia and outright racism in the US. Music has brought them together, Republicans and Democrats alike, to ask the same question: what the f\*\*k happened to the American Dream?

In the UK we can sympathise, even if we don't quite understand. The result of the EU referendum exposed some deep rifts in this country, as well as bigotry that most of us hoped was long behind us. But at least we're not facing up to the possibility of being ruled by a serially bankrupt, pathologically narcissistic demagogue with a face like a two-week-old satsuma.

If it takes the raw power of punk rock to cut through the bulls\*\*t and make sense of all this, then the rock star we need right now is Billie Joe Armstrong. Green Day released 'Revolution Radio', their 12th studio album, in October. Like all of the band's best records, the

# **Footnotes**

(1) In July, WikiLeaks published 19,252
Democratic National Committee emails, including many sent by senior Democrats. Some suspect the Russian intelligence services of being behind the hack. Separately, Hillary Clinton is being investigated by the FBI for using her family email server to send government emails.

(2) In May 2014, a college student named Elliot Rodger went on a shooting spree around California, killing six and injuring 14 others.
According to the Gun Violence Archive there is, on average, a mass shooting in the US on five out of every six days.

playing's tight and the feeling's angry. It's the sound of a downtrodden American underclass raising a collective middle finger to anyone who thinks that ruling a country is just about making money and winning wars. With the polls narrowing as we race towards the election of a new Leader of the Free World on November 8, can he explain, please, what the hell is going on?

"Ha!" he laughs. "Well, I'll do my best, but I'm trying to figure out the whole damn thing myself."

We're talking on the phone. Or rather, Armstrong is in full flow and I'm listening as the incredulity pours out of him. "I'm just confused. I have anxiety about the whole thing," he says. "You wake up every morning and think, what now? What stupid thing's going to be said? What new email hack are you going to read about (1)? What racist comment? A lot of my songs come from... not really anger, but anxiety. And feeling lost in the whole game."

ask him for the story behind 'Revolution Radio', arguably the most political of all Green Day's albums - more so, even, than 2004's Bushbashing rock opera 'American Idiot'. "A couple of years ago, in the spring of 2014, I wrote the song 'Bang Bang'," he explains. "I wrote it coming from the viewpoint of a mass shooter [after what] happened in Santa Barbara (2). This young man was clearly deranged and had a Facebook manifesto about how 'no girls will f\*\*k me so I'm going to kill everybody'. The song just came out really powerfully... I thought, 'Wow, this feels like Green Day."

The lyrics to 'Bang Bang' include the line "I wanna be a celebrity martyr". That word, 'martyr', we tend to associate more with suicide bombers in the Middle East than with American gun nuts. Did that occur to him when he wrote the song? "I think human nature is something we all live with," Armstrong responds, thoughtfully. "I tried to find the ties between what we call terrorism, whether it's ISIS or whatever, and the militia mentality that Americans have

(3) The second amendment of the US Constitution grants the right to bear arms and suggests groups of armed civilians (or militias) are a good idea for national security. Some Americans (mostly Trump supporters) have organised militias to help prevent voter fraud. Others think that having people with guns outside polling stations is voter intimidation.

and their entitlement to arms (3). For me, I look at it and it confuses the \*\*\*t out of me, because I'm like: what's the difference?" He goes on: "The world changed after 9/11. George Bush said, 'You're either with us or you're with the terrorists' – and there's the beginning of the split in our country."

George W Bush can't take all the credit for America's issues, however. We've been skirting around it, but there's a big, orange elephant in the room that we now have to look full in its saggy face: Donald Trump, Republican candidate for the presidency of the United States of America. The man who once said, "It doesn't matter what the media write as long as you've got a young and beautiful piece of ass."

"He has no compassion," Armstrong shoots back. "He has no empathy for anything except power. That's all he wants, and he'll step on anybody to get it. And the thought of a guy like that having his finger on the nuclear button is pretty f\*\*king scary." Does Armstrong know any Trump voters? What is it that they find appealing about The Donald? "I've got family members from Oklahoma that are big Trump supporters. And there's no clear answer on why they're supporting him because he doesn't even have any policies. How can you have an opinion about who you want for the Leader of the Free World when the guy running doesn't have answers to any questions?" He does want to build a wall to stop the Mexicans getting in, I remind him. "Except for a f\*\*king wall! That's never going to happen, give me a break.

"You know, dude, I just think it's been mass manipulation," he continues, with some degree of sadness. "Your grandparents have been hijacked by Fox News [who are] getting their information from the *National Enquirer*(4) [and] tabloids that are saying, 'Hillary Clinton adopted an alien baby'. I'm not kidding you. Like, an alien from outer space! They're grasping at straws to do anything to destroy her."

Armstrong was a vocal supporter of Bernie Sanders, the socialist candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination, whose rise to prominence

(4) The National Enquirer is a salacious American tabloid magazine that pays sources for tips on celebrity stories.

(5) The #BlackLivesMatter hashtag emerged after the fatal shooting of unarmed African-American teenager Trayvon Martin by neighbourhood watch volunteer George Zimmerman in 2012. Black Lives Matter has since grown to become an international activist movement.

# "Searching for justice is ingrained into Green Day"

in the US coincided with Jeremy
Corbyn's in the UK. Now, with
Sanders endorsing Clinton, Armstrong
thinks she's the "only choice" – though
there are very few people from his
background who would agree with him.
Some polls have Trump leading by
76 per cent to 17 per cent over Clinton
among white men without degrees.

"The biggest Trump supporters are uneducated white working-class people. And that's the problem right there," he argues. "There's this white nationalism that's been brewing under the radar for a long time. But now [Trump's] been able to cause people to lash out and blame minorities and it's really confusing. I mean, blatant misogyny going on at the same time." Earlier this year, Armstrong suggested Trump was taking his cues from the Nazis. "That's f\*\*king Hitler, man," he said of the property-mogul-turnedpolitician's attitude towards immigrants. "The comparison is that he's using scare tactics against minorities - Muslims and Mexicans and African-Americans. There could be race wars," he adds, grimly.

In 2014 America had a taste of what might be to come. There were riots in Ferguson, Missouri, sparked by the fatal shooting of Michael Brown, an African-American civilian, by Darren Wilson, a white police officer. The news channels broadcast war-like scenes, with the cops putting on a show of military force while parts of the city burned into the night. "When you watched on TV there was this military state," remembers Armstrong. On the song 'Somewhere Now' he sings, "I put the riot in patriot". So, does he think that rioting is ever the right way to go? "I think that's a justifiable demonstration by all means," he says, of Ferguson. "They're throwing tear gas at people - what the f\*\*k do you expect is going to happen?"

There's another song on 'Revolution Radio', 'Outlaws', that recalls a very different time in Armstrong's life: his wild

A man who wants to change the world in

some positive way, through moments of

unity at gigs like the one in New Jersey.

But it's not an easy thing to do,

(6) Less than 20 per cent of Americans under 30 turned out to vote in the 2014 midterm elections.



ingrained into Green Day... The only

thing I would say to a young person

NME

is: look for the truth and

find your own."

25

# RIDING IT 'TIL THE DOORS



HE STORY OF TWO Door Cinema Club's three-years-in-themaking third album begins in July 2014, in a hospital bed: a bed occupied by their singer, Alex Trimble. Alex wasn't supposed to be there. He was supposed to be headlining Latitude. Instead. while Lilv Allen replaced his band at the last minute and threw in a cover of 'Something Good Can Work' for the disappointed throng, Alex was being treated for stress-induced stomach ulcers.

"I was in there for two weeks," he says. "So that became the point where we had to stop."

Six years of non-stop touring - they wrote and recorded second album 'Beacon' in just a few weeks at the end of 2011 after three years, then dived  $\Box$ straight back in - had taken their toll. And the physical deterioration was only part of what had gone wrong. "Communication had broken down through being in each other's company constantly for years," Alex continues. "It's hard to communicate when you just want to escape. The hard work, for all of the damage it does, is undoubtedly beneficial. But it also generates a fear that if you stop, then everything's going to go away. It's 'living the dream', but you fear that once you have it, you could easily lose it. So that's what stopped us giving ourselves time to breathe. It did have to come to an ugly end before we put our hands up."

"It was forcing our hand, in a way," lead quitarist Sam Halliday concedes. 'We didn't have anything else outside of the band. It makes everything seem so much more important, because 📱 you're there in it all the time. Stuff that really wasn't that big of a deal became a massive deal."

Essentially, Two Door Cinema Club were sick of the sight of each other. Among the issues were the fact that Alex "wanted to be making music, whereas the other two enjoyed being out on the road more than I did – so I'd get frustrated when tours got extended and we couldn't get back in the studio." But, more broadly, as bass player Kevin Baird puts it, "We began to realise we were very different people: we'd started to feel like we couldn't express ourselves individually and that we were always 'that guy from that band'."

The class of 2010: reunited

What became of Two Door Cinema Club's rivals?



# **HURTS**

Remain arena-huge in mainland Europe, but have struggled in their homeland.

Cue a long, open-ended break. As well as a place he has in Portland, Oregon, Alex spent a few months at his parents' house "in the middle of nowhere" in Donegal, Ireland, doing "simple things: like learning to eat better, reading and just focusing on nothing but figuring s\*\*t out". Sam stayed in London, having got married at the end of the last campaign, while Kevin and his fiancée went to LA: a city he didn't like at first but has now come to enjoy ("I don't really know anyone there," he laughs, "so I enjoyed spending a lot of time on my own, and... not doing a whole lot").

hen the three of them did reconvene after about a year, it was by swapping music that they were listening to and, as Alex puts it, "trying to get into each other's heads". Again, there were differences. "I sent them some ELO and some Bee Gees," Alex says. "They were listening to dance music, electro, more club-based stuff. I'd I delved back into the past, while they were more up to date. So we'd gone off in opposite directions. But they both fitted in perfectly with what we wanted to do going forward."

Certainly, the above pool of influences will not come as a surprise to anyone who's heard latest single | 'Bad Decisions'. It sounds exactly like disco-era Bee Gees reimagined for the modern-day dancefloor (Alex: "We always all want to make danceable music") and is also indicative of their third album's aesthetic: a densesounding, propulsive electro-disco record, but with classic, soulful melodies over the top. It turns out, in light of the still-evidently-raw issues, that it took shape over Skype and email. "It was difficult at first," says Alex. "We hadn't resolved a lot of the differences, so there was a feeling still of a lack of communication.

"But then we reached a point that everyone had sent through ideas that everyone else was loving, and we realised we were genuinely excited by what each other was contributing. Then we realised that to make it sound like us, we needed to be in the room together." Lyrically, Alex had a lot of stuff to draw

from. There are traces of the crises that he, Sam and Kevin went through ("I'm a sinner / I'm the victim / I'm an alien when I'm myself" opens 'Good | Morning'), but not too much. He spent some time with producer Jacknife Lee drinking coffee and figuring out what he wanted to say. And what he wanted to say – or rather express – was a I bafflement with, and fear of, what he on 'Bad Decisions' calls "generation information". The title track 'Gameshow', driven by a Joy Divisionesque bassline, continues on a similar theme: Alex adapting the persona of a Instagram addict ("I'll be the souvenir of this cheap champagne year / Spilling bubbles on designer clothes"). And in truth, many of the lyrics feel like they have a more direct message to impart. "I knew I had stuff to write about this time," Alex agrees. "With the first two records, the lyrics served a different purpose: they were there to fill the gap over the top of the song, to fit in with the melody. I wanted to still do that this time, but I wanted to get a message in...

get something out of myself, I guess." So Two Door Cinema Club return to the same lifestyle that nearly finished them off for good, but now with some very clear things to say, a fresh outlook on what they want their band to be, and what they want each other to be (in a word: communicative). They are, of course, a bona fide big band now: on a major label (they signed with Parlophone back in 2013 just prior to disappearing), with big tours made up of big shows – bigger than they've ever done before - now not just a possibility. but more than likely a necessity. Which might, for someone who literally put himself in hospital through what turned out to be over-commitment, be a little daunting. But there have been lessons learnt from that near-fatal almostimplosion, and what has resulted, even overlooking any interpersonal resolutions, is a band who've made an album that's a giant leap on from what they've done before.

"This is what we want to do, for as long as possible now," Alex says. In the darker days not too long ago he might not have meant that. But today, and for the foreseeable future, his words ring more than true.



## **THE DRUMS**

Shed a few members after being hyped as the best band on the planet, and with them a lot of interest.



## **EVERYTHING EVERYTHING**

Still infiltrate parts of radio that no other alternative band can get near.



## **YEASAYER**

Released a fourth album, 'Amen & Goodbye', earlier this year; not the best sign of a healthy future.

The revolution will not be televised

Instead, it'll be at the Victoria & Albert Museum on November 5, thanks to a collaboration between the Levi's® Music Project and Skepta

MODERN MUSIC IS ALL about giving something back. Breakout acts turn their spotlight onto their home crews, superstars mentor wannabes. Youth culture's flame is constantly fanned, the streets stay alight, music wins.

Cue Skepta's N17 musical masterclass, the first event in the Levi's® Music Project, a global music program set to inspire the next generation. In a groundbreaking partnership between denim and dynamo, the Mercury-winning MC created the Levi's® Music & Revolution space at his local Tottenham community centre where, for the past two months, 12 students have learnt about all aspects of music - from recording to lighting design and wearing sunglasses at night from Skepta and other music experts.

Aligned to the Victoria & Albert Museum's You Say You Want A Revolution? Records & Rebels 1966-1970 exhibition, the first iteration of this long-term project culminates in students performing the work they've produced, themed around the exhibition, during the Revolutions Weekender: A Festival Of Peace, Love And Music on November 5. There will be fireworks - and if you want to get involved yourself, you can look over the students' lyrics and notes in the Raphael gallery, and even remix their beats and vocals into your own tracks in a pop-up home studio.

"I want to show the young generation that success is not something you search for externally, it is from within," Skepta explains. As fiercely independent figures at the forefront of grime's movement, Skepta and his BBK crew represent a modern day revolution, reflecting the '60s counter-culture explosion celebrated by the exhibition.

But the project is also part of a far wider #SupportMusic initiative, in which the Levi's® Music Project will partner with major artists around the world to encourage music education and help inspire creativity and ambition in their local communities.

"By offering students the opportunity to create, the Levi's® Music Project gives young people a voice and a chance to express themselves in a positive and meaningful way," says Jennifer Sey, chief marketing officer for Levi's®.

Behind the images of every cool, denim-clad rebel, from Debbie Harry to The Stones, Levi's® has always been about giving back, building skate parks, supporting LGBTQ equality and encouraging environmentally conscious living. Now it's out to nurture the new wave of icons. Once more, music wins.

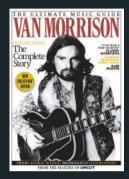
For more info on the Levi's® Music Project, head to levi.com/ liveinlevis





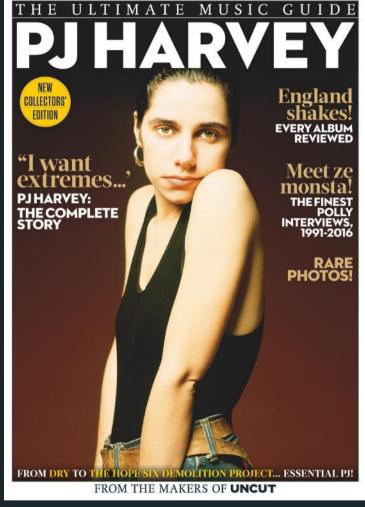
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MUSIC, FILM, TV & MORE - THIS WEEK'S ESSENTIAL NEW RELEASES

# Best NEW tracks And when to drop them

A\$AP ROCKY



A\$AP ROCKY FEAT.
PLAYBOI CARTI,
TYLER, THE CREATOR
& YUNG GLEESH
Telephone Calls

Rocky's back and on top form on this ace track from A\$AP Mob's 'Cozy Tapes'. "James Brown swag, Papa's got a brand new bag," he boasts before claiming Harlem's "back up on the map".

# BEST FOR POPPING THE QUESTION

PAUL McCARTNEY
In The Blink Of An Eye
Macca does emotional
on this strings-led epic
from the soundtrack to
the new Raymond Briggs
adaptation Ethel & Ernest,
which promises to "hold
onto love". Aww.

# BEST FOR HAVING SOME FEELINGS

DAUGHN GIBSON 31, '16

Taken from a new EP, '31, '16' is about a boy confessing his love to his babysitter's ghost. It's fittingly surreal, with pan pipes and tweeting birds cutting through Gibson's deep croon.

# BEST FOR KICKING OFF

# DREAM WIFE FEAT. FEVER DREAM

"I'm gonna f\*\*k you up, gonna cut you up," sings Rakel Mjöll sweetly on the Icelandic-British grunge-pop trio's jagged new single. Turns out that sweetness is just an act as the track morphs into a chaotic scream.

# BEST FOR POPPING YOUR COLLAR

## MUSE

## **New Kind Of Kick**

The trio's usual overblown space-rock is MIA on this one-off Halloween track, replaced by Matt Bellamy doing his best Iggy Pop impression over rumbling post-punk. Guess what? It suits them.

# BEST FOR HAVING A MOSH

# THE ORWELLS They Put A Body In The Bayou

It's business as usual for the Chicago livewires on this track from upcoming album 'Terrible Human Beings'. Features disdain, fury and ramshackle garage-punk licks that'll make your heart race.

# BEST FOR DRESSING UP

## SHAME Gold Hole

live shows.

"She feels so dirty, she knows that it's wrong / But she feels so good in Louis Vuitton," purr the Brixton newcomers on this brooding track that captures the brink-of-collapse feel of their

# BEST FOR FEELING FRAGILE

# THE SHINS

## **Dead Alive**

James Mercer's band announce their fifth album (due next year) with this shuffling cut. It's very Shins and very delicate, with Mercer sadly instructing "so tonight, dance and cry" in the chorus.



# BEST FOR PREPPING FOR THE APOCALYPSE

# RUN THE JEWELS Talk To Me

EI-P and Killer Mike call this "the soundtrack to WWIII" – and it lives up to that billing, with dystopian unease by the truckload.

# BEST FOR RUNNING WILD CHARLI XCX FEAT.

# LIL YACHTY

# After The Afterparty UK pop's most exciting star returns with a

star returns with a supreme banger that'll make you want to get on the shots, run wild in the streets and return home with glitter in your underwear. Just like Charli would.

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# 

# **Pixie** Geldof pop star

The socialite turned musician's debut album is a dark and lovely affair

# PIXIE GELDOF

I'm Yours



NOIR-POP MOODY COUNTRY

PIXIE GELDOF HAS spent the past decade in the limelight. The third daughter of Live Aid lynchpin Bob Geldof and television presenter Paula Yates, she's a tabloid regular and occasional model who's dabbled in music before, fronting the moody, Hole-worshiping group Violet a few years back. But now, at the age of 26, she's decided to branch out alone with her solo debut – and this time around she's even moodier.

Living out much of her life in the public eye probably goes some way to explaining the confidence that seeps through the 10 songs which make up 'I'm Yours', an album that's as deeply atmospheric as Lana Del Rey going for a midnight walk through a rundown cemetery to buy a packet of 20 Marlboro Reds from the haunted offie on the other side. Del Rey is evidently a huge influence on the sound of this record too - the breathy vocals, the emotional outpourings and general feeling of malaise are lessons learned from a noir-pop masterclass.

Even when Pixie's singing about the good times, like on the lusty 'Woman Go Wild' and the 'lipstick kisses"-smothered 'Close To You', there's a lingering melancholy that suggests late night Whatsapp chats with Pixie

are always pretty intense.

Yet even though the title track, 'I'm Yours' is feathery-soft and the cutesy 'Wild Things I Grow' almost Disney-ish with its string-laden symphonics, this isn't an album that lacks balls. The storming 'Rain Comes Down' sounds as weighty as prime 90s Garbage, adding a slick industrial stomp to the classic country music riffing that underpins the whole album, regularly harking back to Nancy Sinatra and Lee Hazlewood's 1968 psychedelic-folk ■

Pixie Geldof's debut album in the same breath as Thomas Cohen's 'Bloom Forever', with both albums released two years down the line from the 2014 death of Peaches Geldof - Pixie's sister and Cohen's wife. But much like Cohen's album, this isn't an album that dwells on that tragedy. 'Twin Thing' is the only song that directly references her passing, but is perhaps one of the most beautiful, lifeaffirming tracks here. Here's to

Leonie Cooper



Reinventing Robbie

He's a bit silly, but he's a damn good pop star

# ROBBIE WILLIAMS

The Heavy Entertainment Show



ROBBIE WILLIAMS
recently appeared on *The Graham Norton Show* to
share an anecdote about
the time he was w\*\*ked
off by a stranger in a
rented castle. The
woman, he told Norton, ha

woman, he told Norton, had wandered in off the street. "She could have been anywhere from 28 to 58. She went, 'Have you got morning glory?' I said, 'Yeah!' She said, 'I'll w\*\*k you off!'"

Williams is a proper, oldfashioned pop star who knows it's part of his job to say and do ridiculous things. Look at 'Party Like A Russian', the lead single from 'The Heavy Entertainment Show', a demented march through a minefield of clichés about Rasputin and Russian dolls, with a chorus that samples Prokofiev's 'Dance Of The Knights' (The Apprentice theme) and boasts the exceptional line: "'Ave it like an oligarch." It's not even a great song - the chorus is a bit lumpen - but it's weird and mad and makes the world a little more colourful.

Some of the album is questionable. Take the unwieldy big band swing of the title track and the forgettable 'Love My Life', a vanilla ballad that sees Robbie lament his past mistakes. But there is gold here too. 'Motherf\*\*ker' is a warm pop-rock banger addressed to his baby son: "Your grandma is a fluffer / Your grandad's in the gutter / Your mother is a nutter... We are mad motherf\*\*kers /

You're a bad motherf\*\*ker."

People say that Robbie, after years of ups and downs, finally mellowed when he married and found domestic bliss. Here, he recasts the Williams household as a successor to The Osbournes. 'Pretty Woman' is a thumping, country-tinged hoedown and 'Sensitive' is slinky electro-pop that uncoils with the same confidence as 'Kids', his classic 2000 collaboration with Kylie Minogue. That, and much of the rest of the album, confirms that Robbie's reconciliation with his estranged hitmaking songwriter Guy Chambers was one worth making, helping him recapture some of the verve of his early noughties imperial phase - albeit refocused through the lens of a man who spent a few wilderness years alienhunting in Nevada. There's still no other British pop star quite as entertaining and unpredictable. May he be w\*\*ked off in rented castles forevermore.

Jordan Bassett





# Under their spell WEEK Two years after their debut, Honeyblood have use their anger and returned a darm!

**HONEYBLOOD** Ready For The Magic EMPOWERING ROCK ANGER

HONEYBLOOD HAVE NEVER suffered fools gladly. On 2014's self-titled debut, Glasgow duo Stina Tweeddale and Cat Myers laid into scumbag exes and cheating heartbreakers.

Follow-up 'Ready For The Magic' is just as angry and their sometimes gauzy alt-rock is beefed up to ferocious levels.

Where last time round

rubbish men were in the firing line, this time it's haters. 'Babes Never Die', a v-flicking ode to not letting the bastards get you down, is as strong and resilient as early single 'Super Rat'. Instead of name-calling, though, it taunts its target by refusing to crumble. "Thought I'd go up in flames instead of lights /

burn bright / Cos babes never die," frontwoman Tweeddale snarls over a serrated guitar line. It's about toughness and empowerment - themes that form the backbone of the record.

'Sea Hearts' flips the usual narrative of the woman being the one left heartbroken on its head. "We'll break hearts that get in the way," she promises before giddily indulging in chants of "Hey hey! It's just a little heartbreak!" with drummer Cat Myers. The Le Tigre-gone-rock title track has Tweeddale igniting a relationship on her own terms,

rather than moping about waiting to be picked, while the shadowy 'Gangs' offers a different kind of empowerment. "Don't let your fears keep you here / They'll turn into quicksand," Tweeddale advises with the kind of subtle urgency in her voice that makes you question whether you could be doing better.

Unlike their debut album, not all of the songs on 'Ready For The Magic' are about the band's leader. The aforementioned 'Sea Hearts' is about a friend of Tweeddale's, and elsewhere she dabbles in character studies. All of them are people you could do without - 'Sister Wolf''s protagonist is painted as a sly creature, 'Hey Stellar' focuses on a betraying "bitch" and 'Justine, Misery Queen' is - as the song's title says – a complete sourpuss. If only she had Honeyblood's tempestuous second album to help her vent her frustrations. **Rhian Daly** 







Honeyblood (I-r): Cat Myers and Stina Tweeddale

# Mr Smith

Johnny Marr was, alongside Morrissey, the driving force in the most influential British band of the '80s

– The Smiths, Now he's written a book about it...

# Have you always had a burning desire to write this book?

"I thought I'd get round to it eventually. I gave myself a few years to think about it, and it took me nine months to write. I like the way I got to do it when I'm still so busy. People are often writing autobiographies looking back on a career, but I've thankfully still got a lot going on."

## You don't seem to have any scores to settle?

"I had no interest in rewriting history to do that, and there's nothing as bad or boring as a rock star laying down their neuroses on everyone. That's just not really my style."

# How did you approach writing about the Smiths era?

"What else to say than that it was amazing? Because it was. How could anyone imagine otherwise? We were young, we were in a great band and lots of amazing things were happening to us. That's the truth. That's been misrepresented by people with different agendas, and I wanted to straighten that out."

# So you've read Morrissey's book then?

"No, I haven't. Mainly because I don't want to answer that question. People think I'm bulls\*\*tting, but I really haven't. I'll get round to it one day probably, but initially I didn't to avoid everyone asking what I thought, and later it was because I didn't want to react to anything while writing my book."

# How much research did vou have to do?

"Lots of fact-checking. There's always some clever d\*\*k going 'Actually, I think you'll find...'
Angie [Johnny's wife] kept a diary throughout all The Smiths days, which were very useful. Funnily enough, no f\*\*ker thought to ask about them when they were writing their so-called Smiths books."

# It seems like life turned out exactly as you wanted it to...

"It has, but like anyone, I've had to fight for it. S\*\*t gets in the way. I never banked on a court case. I never banked on the reality of a car crash. Having all those things on my to-do list as a teenager was one thing, but actually experiencing drug psychosis, the pressure of making a few really big records, and then the break-up of a band is a different matter when you have to go through it. And those songs and albums didn't just make themselves. Things did turn out as I wanted, but it wasn't always easy and it's been a lot of work. Luckily I like work."

Johnny Marr in The Smiths, London, 1985

# JOHNNY MARR Set The Boy Free

\*\*\*

EIGHTIES LEGEND

# WHEN JOHNNY MARR'S ex-songwriting partner,

Morrissey, released the book *Autobiography* in 2013, it was a desperately bitter account of his career, written with a considerable amount of poetic licence. Marr has risen above any temptations to do the same, and gone for a decidedly JOHNNY MARR factual take. Insightful and interesting, Set The Boy Free is a well-written account of a thrilling life well lived. Anyone looking for a warts-and-all take on The Smiths' decline will be disappointed, aside from a warm account of Marr and Morrissey reuniting in a pub in 2008. There's the odd downbeat moment, but on the whole, Marr marches onwards, upbeat and with his mystique and

dignity intact.



# She's electric

WHEN ANYONE IN A FILM

moves to an island lashed by

storms and crashing waves, you

well. The possibilities for pathetic

know things aren't going to go

fallacy are just too great for

any storyteller to resist. So it

proves for the central couple

in Derek Cianfrance's yearning

Alicia Vikander has, in just a couple of years, become reason enough to see a film. She's the best thing about this so-so period drama

# THE LIGHT BETWEEN OCEANS

**12A** Michael Fassbender, Alicia Vikander, Rachel Weisz, Bryan Brown



FANCY DRESS SAD period drama.

After fighting in World War

Fassbender) is looking for a significantly quieter life. He heads to a quiet part of Western Australia and takes a job running a lighthouse on the island of Janus Rock (there's symbolism afoot here). He's prepared to spend his life there alone, but he catches the eye of young local woman Isabel (Alicia Vikander), who sees something interesting within him. Soon enough they're married and trying unsuccessfully for a baby. When a child washes up on the beach in a boat, Isabel thinks their pravers have been answered. Thomas is not so sure.

I, Thomas Sherbourne (Michael

Oddly, it's in the earlier scenes, before the child shows up and everything goes to hell, that the film is more powerful. There's potent chemistry between Fassbender and

Vikander and their courtship scenes are affecting and sort of sexy in a very buttonedup kind of way. Vikander, particularly, is stellar. She's quietly become an extremely impressive screen presence, underplaying her way to an Oscar in 2015's The Danish Girl. Here, she again keeps the volume on her performance low, even when it gives every chance to really crank it up to full snot and wailing. She's become, in just a couple of years, reason enough to see a film.

Having allowed himself to luxuriate in the lesser-plotted first half of his film, Cianfrance seems in a rush to get to the end once his story really kicks in. Twists and turns shoot out with such rapid frequency that there's little time to stop and feel the effects, rather than just watch them. The result is that despite everything being objectively very sad, in the telling it's peculiarly sterile.



# Out for revenge

Fashion designer turned director Tom Ford's second film is a gripping and remarkably accomplished piece of storytelling

#### **NOCTURNAL** ANIMALS

15 Amy Adams, Jake Gyllenhaal, Michael Shannon



THRILLER COMPLEX GRIPP

**REVERED FASHION** designer Tom Ford made an impressive directing debut with 2009's A Single Man, an elegant portrait of a lonely gay university professor living in '60s California. His second film as writerdirector, adapted from Austin Wright's 1993 novel Tony And Susan, is an equally stylish but

far more complex thriller that soon becomes a haunting story-within-a-story. We meet LA art gallery owner Susan Morrow (Amy Adams) as

she receives a pre-release copy

of Nocturnal Animals, a novel

written by her ex-husband Edward Sheffield (Jake Gyllenhaal). With her current husband distracted and away on business, Susan becomes engrossed in the novel, which Edward has unexpectedly dedicated to her. As she reads, we see her visualisation of its violent, revenge-driven story involving Tony Hastings (Gyllenhaal - because Susan sees her ex-husband in the novel's hero) and a maverick Texan cop (Michael Shannon) helping him secure justice for his family.

Although the novel's gritty Texan setting bears no relation to Susan's luxe LA life, she begins to realise that Edward hasn't dedicated Nocturnal Animals to her out of simple nostalgic affection. As we see the novel's brutal story unfold, and Susan's harrowed reactions to it, Ford also offers us flashback scenes showing key moments in Susan and Edward's doomed romance. A brilliantly clipped encounter between Susan and her overbearing mother (Love Actually's Laura Linney) later proves to be very revealing indeed.

Nocturnal Animals could easily have become a

confusing jumble of competing narratives, but Ford's controlled touch keeps it streamlined: we're invested throughout in both Tony's quest for revenge and Susan's visceral response to it. Gyllenhaal is convincing as both boyishly optimistic Edward and battle-hardened Tony, but the film is anchored by a sensitive and compelling performance from Adams, whose natural warmth makes Susan sympathetic even when we learn she has behaved cruelly.

Aside from the odd jarring moment, including a provocative opening sequence that belongs in a different film, Nocturnal Animals is a gripping and remarkably accomplished piece of storytelling. Ford's day job obviously keeps him busy, but on this evidence he should definitely direct more often. Nick Levine



Amy Adams as LA art gallery owner Susan Morrow



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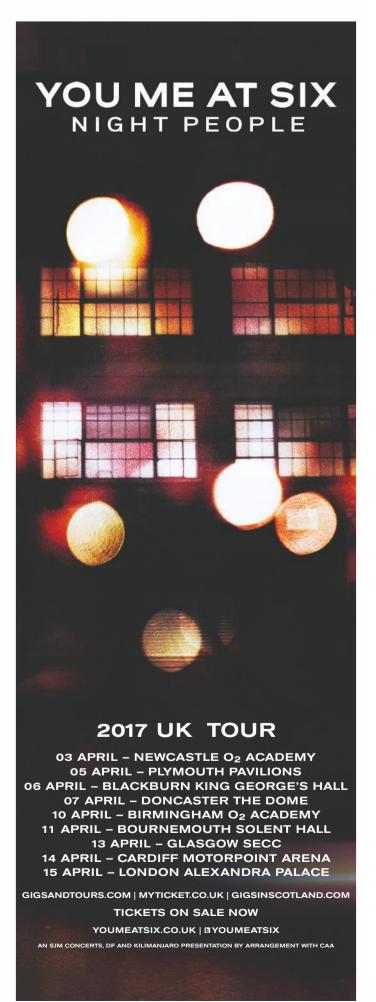
D'ANGELO
Black Messiah
(2014)
A gritty and

heart-rending mix of electro-soul, hip-hop and blues – all while packing a political and emotional punch. One of Rory's icons.



"Rory has one of the most insane voices I've ever heard and also happens to be an awesome guy. We're all massive fans of the music he's making." Dan Smith, Bastille









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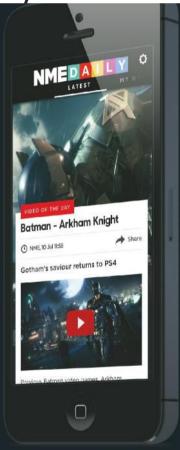
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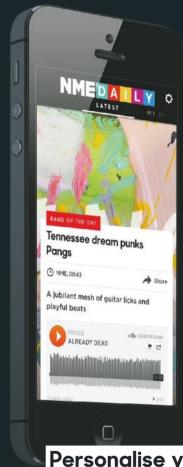
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# THE WEEK'S BEST GIGS

#### **ALLUSONDRUGS**

Sat 5 The Cellar Bar, Stafford Thu 10 The Tap & Barrel, Pontefract

#### **ANAÏS MITCHELL**

Wed 9 The Glee Club, Nottingham Thu 10 St John The Evangelist Church, Oxford

#### **ARDYN**

Thu 10 Nice N Sleazy, Glasgow

#### **BASTILLE**

Fri 4 First Direct Arena, Leeds Sat 5 Motorpoint Arena, Nottingham Sun 6 Arena, Manchester Tue 8 Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham Wed 9 SSE Arena, Belfast

#### **BEACH SLANG**

Mon 7 Mono, Glasgow Tue 8 Scala, London Wed 9 Brudenell Social Club, Leeds Thu 10 The Haunt, Brighton

#### **BONDAX**

Tue 8 Lakota, Bristol

#### **BONOBO**

Slaves

Fri 4 Studio Spaces, London

### BRING ME THE HORIZON

Fri 4 Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham Sat 5 The O2, London Sun 6 Arena, Sheffield Tue 8 Arena, Manchester Wed 9 SSE Hydro, Glasgow

#### **CABBAGE**

Fri 4 The Magnet, Liverpool Sat 5 The Blind Tiger, Bolton Thu 10 Purple Turtle, Reading

#### **CASS MCCOMBS**

Mon 7 Scala, London

#### **CAT'S EYES**

Fri 4 Cathedral, Coventry Sun 6 The Old Market, Hove

#### CORINNE BAILEY RAE

Fri 4 O2 Institute, Birmingham Sat 5 Albert Hall, Manchester Mon 7 Corn Exchange, Cambridge Tue 8 O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire, London

#### **COURTEENERS**

**Thu 10** Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

#### **CRYSTAL CASTLES**

Mon 7 The Garage, Glasgow Tue 8 O2 Ritz, Manchester Wed 9 Riverside, Newcastle Thu 10 The Leadmill, Sheffield

#### **DANNY BROWN**

Thu 10 Electric Brixton, London

#### **FIFI RONG**

Fri 4 Century Club, London

## FRANCIS & THE LIGHTS

Thu 10 The Jazz Café, London

#### FRANK CARTER & THE RATTLESNAKES

Fri 4 The Tunnels, Aberdeen

Frank Carter & The Rattlesnakes

Sun 6 Rescue Rooms, Nottingham Mon 7 The Key Club, Leeds Tue 8 The Fleece, Bristol Thu 10 Electric Ballroom, London

#### **HAPPY MEALS**

Tue 8 Aatma, Manchester

#### HOOTON TENNIS CLUB

Mon 7 Thekla, Bristol Tue 8 The Boileroom, Guildford Wed 9 The Craufurd Arms, Milton Keynes Thu 10 Bleach, Brighton

#### **JACK GARRATT**

**Sat 5** O2 Academy, Glasgow **Tue 8** O2 Academy, Newcastle **Wed 9** O2 Academy, Leeds

#### **JAMES BLAKE**

**Sat 5** O2 Academy Brixton, London

#### **JAWS**

Fri 4 Banquet Records, Kingston upon Thames

#### **JULIA BIEL**

Sun 6 Tivoli Theatre, Wimborne

#### KERO KERO BONITO

Wed 9 Scala, London

#### KEVIN MORBY

Tue 8 Islington Assembly Hall, London

#### LOCAL NATIVES

Fri 4 Motion & The Marble Factory, Bristol Sun 6 QMU, Glasgow Mon 7 University Union, Leeds Tue 8 Academy, Manchester

#### MERCHANDISE

**Fri 4** Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

#### **NAO**

Fri 4 O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire, London

#### **NETSKY**

**Fri 4** Engine Rooms, Southampton **Sat 5** O2 Forum, London

#### **PEACHES**

Fri 4 SWG3, Glasgow Sat 5 Concorde 2, Brighton Tue 8 & Wed 9 Oval Space, London Thu 10 Academy, Manchester

#### **SLAVES**

**Thu 10** De La Warr Pavilion, Bexhill-on-Sea

#### **SPIRITUALIZED**

Mon 7 & Tue 8 Barbican Centre, London

#### **TRAAMS**

Wed 9 Queen of Hoxton, London Thu 10 Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

## THE VRYLL SOCIETY

Fri 4 O2 Academy, Oxford Sat 5 The Joiners, Southampton

#### WHITNEY

Fri 4 Bodega, Nottingham Sat 5 The Art School, Glasgow Sun 6 The Cluny, Newcastle Tue 8 Gorilla, Manchester Wed 9 Thekla, Bristol Thu 10 KOKO, London

#### **WRETCH 32**

Wed 9 O2 Forum, London Thu 10 O2 Ritz, Manchester

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Melanie C

Scouse. Sporty. Spicy

#### THE FIRST SONG I FELL IN LOVE WITH

THE BEATLES
Eleanor Rigby

"Mum had a really, really good vinyl collection and the crazy woman let me just rifle through it and scratch it to bits. When I heard 'Eleanor Rigby' it was the first time I listened to a song and it just kind of made my imagination run wild. The lyric is so sad and I used to think, 'Who is she?'"

## THE FIRST CONCERT I WENT TO

#### FRANKIE VALLI & THE FOUR SEASONS

"This is such a random one. We were on holiday in Canada and Frankie Valli was playing in a theme park, so we ended up going. I was maybe 10 and wasn't aware of him before that."

#### THE BAND I CAN NO LONGER LISTEN TO

#### **ABBA**

"Weirdly, I have an aversion to ABBA. I shouldn't even admit it. If I'm at a wedding and an ABBA song comes on, I have to leave. I don't know why. Maybe there's something that happened that I've blocked out."



#### THE SONG I WISH I'D WRITTEN

SIA

Breathe Me

"I recently was on Jools Holland's Radio 2 show and I did this with him and a few other guys from his band. It's so beautiful lyrically. It's about being broken and small. She's a great lyricist. Most of her songs I wish I'd written."

#### THE SONG I WANT PLAYED AT MY FUNERAL

THE SPICE GIRLS
Spice Up Your Life

"The song that springs to mind that always fills me with sadness, if I really want to pull on the heartstrings, is 'Who Wants To Live Forever' by Queen. But I think I'll go for 'Spice Up Your Life' so everyone can have a little jiggle."



#### THE SONG THAT REMINDS ME OF JOINING SPICE GIRLS

THE POINTER SISTERS

I'm So Excited

"It's what I sang in my audition. I was trying out for West End shows and got this flyer for a girl band. It was just another audition. But I rocked up and said to my friend, 'That's it, that's what I'm going to do' – and I did."



#### THE SONG I DO AT KARAOKE

NENEH CHERRY
Buffalo Stance

"I've always fancied myself as more of an urban artist. I totally cannot do it, but you know, in the safety of the drunken haze..."

Melanie C's new solo album 'Version Of Me' is out now

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The wisdom of the NME archives

THIS WEEK

ALEX TURNER
Arctic Monkeys
November 2, 2011

"When you're in the van, all you think is, 'I'm on tour in a rock'n'roll band."



NTERVIEW: LEONIE COOPER. PHOTOS: REX FEATURES, TOI