

9 DECEMBER 2016 / FREE EVERY FRIDAY

NME

People
of the
year
2016





**SHOULDERS CAN
CARRY ANYTHING**

BUT DANDRUFF



Visible flakes seen at 2ft with regular use

NME



Hello...

IT'S NEARLY THE END OF the year, so let's stop worrying about all of the horrendous things that have happened in 2016 and focus instead on some of the amazing people who've contributed something positive to the world.

NME's second annual People Of The Year list is a celebration of the great and the good who've entertained us, made us ask questions, challenged the establishment, succeeded in the face of adversity, used their platform to draw attention to the important things in life and inspired us to act and think in different ways. Oh, and Pikachu.

So – if only for the time it takes you to read this week's magazine – banish all thoughts of death, doom, despair, bigotry, fascism and the impending World War III from your brains and remind yourself that there are good people on the planet doing good things, and that these 12 are only a small representation of that.

Onwards into 2017 we go...

MIKE WILLIAMS

Editor-in-Chief
@itsmikelike

Bad Sounds **p36**

COVER STORY

16 People Of The Year

Matty Healy. Beyoncé. Margot Robbie. Kanye West. Héroïse Letissier. Skepta. Riz Ahmed. Pikachu. Phoebe Waller-Bridge. Girls Against. Millie Bobby Brown. And, of course, David Bowie.

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NME

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EMELI SANDÉ

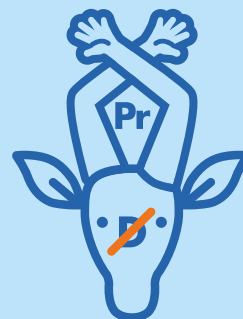
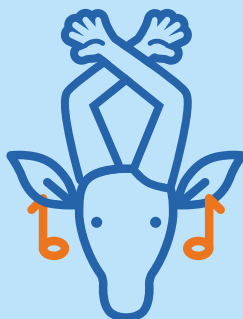
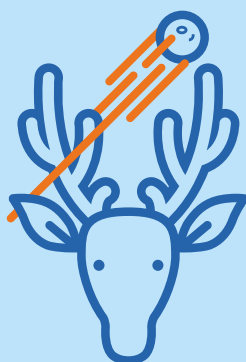
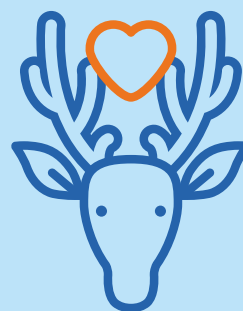
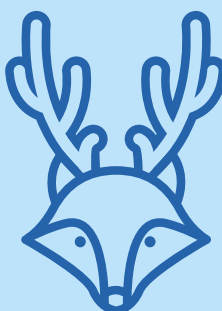
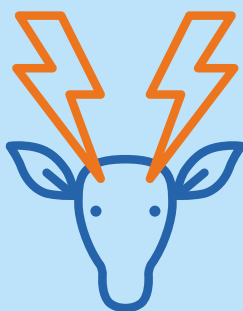
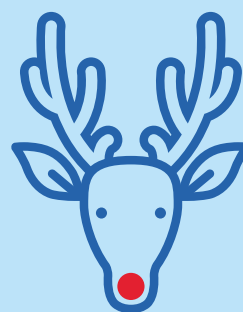
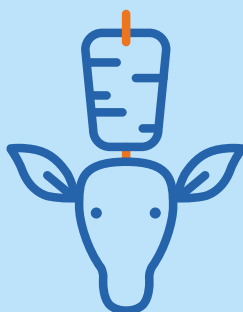
LONG LIVE THE ANGELS TOUR

TURN TO PAGE 15 TO FIND OUT MORE

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AGENDA

WHAT EVERYONE'S DOING THIS WEEK



GUNS N' ROSES

Guns N' Roses have confirmed that they'll bring their Not In This Lifetime tour to Slane Castle in Ireland on May 27, and to the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in London on June 16. The veteran lunatics announced the reunion of their classic line-up earlier this year, featuring founder Axl Rose and former members Slash and Duff McKagan. Original guitarist Izzy Stradlin has not been involved. Both these shows will be enormous.

Wake up and smell the Roses

The Stone Roses and Guns N' Roses have both announced megagigs

THE STONE ROSES

They've added two massive gigs to their upcoming 2017 UK tour plans: Leeds First Direct Arena on June 20 and 21. The news comes after rumours spread of the band headlining Reading & Leeds Festival 2017, when their iconic lemon logo reportedly appeared across both cities; The Roses' representatives refused to comment when approached by *NME*. Both these shows will be enormous.

Set your alarm

Tickets are on sale imminently. Tickets for The Stone Roses go on sale at 9.30am on Friday Dec 9. Tickets for Guns N' Roses go on sale at 10am on the same day





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Tove Lo making a point

P*ssy power

Swedish pop star Tove Lo's got a tattoo of a vagina on her arm

TOVE LO, SINGER OF THE excellent song 'Cool Girl', has got a tattoo of a vagina on her arm. The 29-year-old took to Instagram to share the design, from the sleeve of her new album 'Lady Wood'. She captioned the photo with 'P*SSY IS LIT'. Amazing. She's been pushing boundaries all year, look:

NOVEMBER 1

Her 30-minute film 'Fairy Dust' is pulled from YouTube. The clip co-stars Lina Esco, the actress and activist who founded the Free The Nipple movement. It features tracks including 'Lady Wood', 'Disaster', 'Cool Girl' and a scene where the singer masturbates. On Twitter she said it was taken down because of "YouTube's policies on sexual content. HA. #imnotevennaked".

NOVEMBER 14

Gave *NME* the following advice for getting over a relationship: "The break-ups I've had have all been very intense and passionate and rough, so after that you're exhausted. Go on a random trip, go crazy, get f**ked up. Next step is I pull myself together a bit, because you need to after a while. I don't burn photos or anything but I'll put them in a box. After that usually, I write a song."

NOVEMBER 18

Told *NME*: "We put so much emphasis on looks. People think it's what they should be focusing on, but it's really not. It's OK not to be beautiful. In the media, whenever you see a naked woman it's always sexualised, or to please someone else's eyes. I want to get to a place where women can be naked the same way that men can – funny naked or naked just to be naked."



NOVEMBER 23

Wore a vagina and ovary design dress to the ARIA Awards, where she performed with the producer Flume. "A vagina or a p*ssy... whatever you want to call it," she said. "I'm from Sweden, where we don't really censor. My Swedish stylist, who calls himself Crap Diem, he asked if he could make me a dress and I was like, 'Yeah, whatever you make, I'm in.'"

See Lo live

Two 2017 dates are on sale now

Wed March 15

O2 Ritz, Manchester

Fri March 17 O2 Shepherd's

Bush Empire, London

Tickets: £19

AGENDA



SKEPTA AND MARILYN MANSON

Two legends hung out at the British Fashion Awards. Now make a tune together, please.



OLLY MURS

Was a real life Superman after rescuing a choking diner by performing the Heimlich manoeuvre.



DRAKE

Got dissed by Shia LaBeouf during the actor's freestyle rap sesh on US radio.



LIAM FRAY

The Courteeners' frontman took a plastic bottle to the face and refused to go back on stage.



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Vote right now!

Foo Fighters drummer Taylor Hawkins is rooting for this lot

BEST INTERNATIONAL BAND

Supported by *Austin*
- THE MUSIC OF THE WORLD -

"Eagles Of Death Metal. I love them. Their album 'Zipper Down' is really good. They've had a heck of a year with everything in Paris, and Jesse, the singer, is a total f**king character. You never know what's going to happen with that guy. I don't mean that with any disrespect - he's just out there, that's part of their genius. The record is made by Josh Homme, who just knows how to make great records. It's their time, I'd say."



EAGLES OF DEATH METAL

The categories

BEST BRITISH BAND

Supported by *Zig-Zag*

BEST BRITISH FEMALE ARTIST

BEST BRITISH MALE ARTIST

Supported by *PILOT*

BEST INTERNATIONAL BAND

Supported by *Austin*
- THE MUSIC OF THE WORLD -

BEST INTERNATIONAL FEMALE ARTIST

Supported by *VO5*

BEST INTERNATIONAL MALE ARTIST

Supported by *VO5*

BEST NEW ARTIST

BEST LIVE BAND

Supported by *Nikon*

BEST ALBUM

BEST TRACK

BEST MUSIC VIDEO

BEST RE-ISSUE

BEST FESTIVAL

BEST SMALL FESTIVAL

BEST FESTIVAL HEADLINER

MUSIC MOMENT OF THE YEAR

BEST FILM

BEST MUSIC FILM

BEST TV SERIES

BEST BOOK

HERO OF THE YEAR

VILLAIN OF THE YEAR

WORST BAND

The big questions

How do I vote?

Go here: awards.NME.com

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WILL
SMITH

JARED
LETO

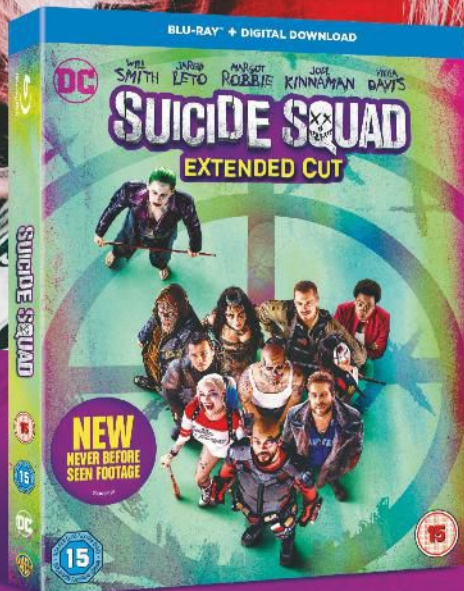
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ON THE RECORD



BIG OPINIONS. NO FILTER.

THIS WEEK

Getting my first 'Now' album was a religious experience

MUCH LIKE YOUR FIRST kiss, your first gig or your first moment of public humiliation, you never forget your first 'Now That's What I Call Music!' compilation. In fact if you're lucky enough, maybe all four of them are combined in one extreme moment of lust, public nudity and pop magic. The long-running chart compilation released its 95th instalment last month, and despite the fact that CD sales have been slipping into oblivion for the past decade, the 'Now' market remains as strong as Donald Trump's toupee glue. The latest CD sold a humongous 230,000 copies in its first week, and over the years it's shifted over 100 million copies across the world.

The series launched back in 1983 and in 1992 I got my hands on my first 'Now', picked up from the long-since-gone Wood Green branch of Our Price.

Released just before Christmas, it was 'Now 23', a double cassette packed full of 39 bona fide bangers. It kicked off with one hit wonder Tasmin Archer's one very good hit, 'Sleeping Satellite', before offering up Billy Ray Cyrus's sanitised version of country in 'Achy Breaky Heart', The Shamen's not-very-subtle-at-all drugs ode 'Ebeneezer Goode', East 17's ravey 'House Of Love' and the Euro-dance themes to computer games *Tetris* and *Super Mario Land*. There was also some ABBA, and for some reason ABBA tribute band Björn Again, Enya, Bob Marley, INXS and Roy Orbison.

"The 'Now' market remains as strong as Donald Trump's toupee glue"



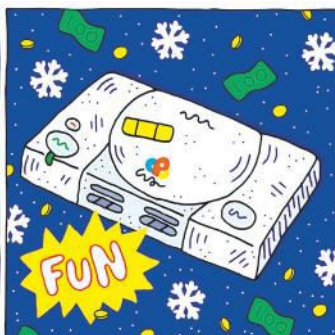
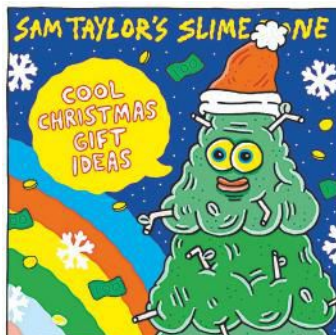
Pop, reggae and psychedelic techno: early 1990s music was a beautiful thing indeed.

From the moment I had the chubby plastic casing in my hand, I was addicted. The next instalment came four months later, boasting perhaps the most beautiful of all the outrageously lurid 'Now' artworks; purple lettering floating in a violet-shaded gathering of clouds. The content was just as majestic.

Shabba Ranks, 2 Unlimited, Shaggy – and yes, yet more East 17. You can never have too much East 17.

In 2016, 'Now's stronghold over the

British imagination is as potent as ever, offering an easy, tried-and-tested answer to that eternal question of 'What shall I listen to today?' without the faff of endless streaming of playlists with increasingly niche song selections. Instead, 'Now' does what it always has, offering up a shameless selection of chart hits, from Drake and Little Mix to Christine And The Queens. Pop has never been known for its staying power, but the compilation's 33 years at the top lets its makers boss the charts in the same way David Attenborough does the natural world. Now that's what we call impressive. @leoniemaycooper



YOUR TOWN. YOUR MUSIC. YOUR STYLE

What's ON your Headphones?

THIS WEEK

Hartlepool



"The folk music scene is really good"

< JARED THORPE 24, musician

Listening to:
AVALANCHE PARTY
Porcelain
"I love the energy of the song."

Wearing: Vintage shirt, AllSaints jeans, Converse trainers.
Best thing about Hartlepool: "We Are Family festival is great."

JACK CORBETT > 18, musician

Listening to:
GREEN DAY
Revolution Radio
"I'm going to see them in Leeds next year. I'm really looking forward to it."

Wearing: Adidas jacket, vintage shirt, Vans trainers.
Best thing about Hartlepool: "Red Dreams is the best place for band practice."



< FRAN MURIEL 18, unemployed

Listening to:
PIXIES
Where Is My Mind?
"When I die I want it played at my funeral."

Wearing: Street One jacket, Laura Ashley playsuit.
Best thing about Hartlepool: "The folk music scene is really good. There's a lot of festivals."

CAROLINE SHILSON > 26, youth worker

Listening to:
FIRST AID KIT
My Silver Lining
"It's got a '70s, laid-back vibe about it."

Wearing: Matalan coat, dress from a charity shop.
Best thing about Hartlepool: "The Park Inn is a great pub."



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THE STONE ROSES

Plus special guests



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EXTRA DATES ADDED

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THINGS WE LIKE

THIS WEEK'S OBJECTS OF DESIRE



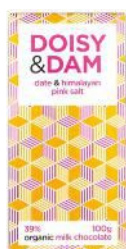
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Soft and quilty, Google Daydream is the VR experience you'll play and wear with ease.
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Picture perfect
Artist Marcus Reed's classic indie prints will spruce up your walls.
£40 marcusreed.com



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£1.75 doisyanddam.com



Hard as nails
House Of Holland's stick-on nails offer instant, easy glamour.
£8.99 boots.com



Tickle your fancy
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£9.99 amazon.co.uk



Vinyl countdown
Tatty Devine has branched out into ace homewares, like these vinyl record fairy lights.
£24.95 tattydevine.com



Rap game
Rapper Trumps lets you battle '90s hip-hop legends against each other.
£9.99 rappertrumps.com



Cocktail hour
Pre-mixed cocktails don't come much classier than Campari's very own Negroni.
£19 ocado.com



Twinkle toes
Chuck Taylor All Stars have never been this sparkly before.
£60 converse.com



Raw power
Jack White's Third Man brings us the raucous *Total Chaos: The Story Of The Stooges* book.
£23.11 amazon.co.uk



Adventure time
Ted from Mumford & Sons celebrates Antarctic explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton.
£450 stop-and-fix.com



Cap if off
A natty rose and spider's web decorate this cute baby pink cap.
£30 obeyclothing.co.uk



Sweat it out
This cropped sweatshirt from Kappa will transport you back to the old school.
£39.99 kappa.com

EMELI SANDÉ

L O N G L I V E T H E A N G E L S T O U R



OCTOBER 2017

SAT 14 ABERDEEN GE OIL & GAS ARENA

SUN 15 GLASGOW THE SSE HYDRO

MON 16 NEWCASTLE METRO RADIO ARENA

WED 18 LONDON THE O2

THU 19 BRIGHTON CENTRE

SAT 21 CARDIFF MOTORPOINT ARENA

SUN 22 MANCHESTER ARENA

TUE 24 LEEDS FIRST DIRECT ARENA

WED 25 BIRMINGHAM GENTING ARENA

FRI 27 DUBLIN 3 ARENA

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LONG LIVE THE ANGELS
OUT NOW



NME

People of the year 2016

As the world went to st and we lost so many iconic stars, there were still some leading lights who managed to brighten our year. Shine on, you crazy diamonds...**



Matty Healy

**For being a rock star
people can believe in**

WHO Singer in the band The 1975

WHY The 1975's credo is this: create as you consume. So if you and your fans listen to everything from post-rock to neo-soul, it's fine for your band to make that music too. That's why 'I Like It When You Sleep, For You Are So Beautiful Yet So Unaware Of It', our Album Of The Year, is so far-ranging and able to connect with so many people. Matty Healy has applied this philosophy to his stage persona, too, taking a bit of the David Byrne jitters, a touch of shirtless Jim Morrison preening, a pinch of Michael Hutchence posturing and an ounce of Kanye West's ego to create a style he's described as "sexually confused Edward Scissorhands".

Really, Healy's genius is to deliver madly egotistical proclamations about himself, his band and their music, and to do it using words Russell Brand might need to look up, while understanding he's walking a tightrope between legend and w**ker. In a time when social media has made people afraid to say anything much at all, Healy says whatever he wants: about mental health, music, drugs, celebrity, feminism, God, politics and his favourite subject: himself.

WHAT HE SAYS "My ego's daft. It's like having a hat on – as soon as you knock it off, it's gone. It's not a real ego. I can't not take the p**s out of myself."

WHAT PEOPLE SAY ABOUT HIM "When he sells out The O2 in three hours, I'm like, 'I can't believe you came out of me!'" – his mum, Denise Welch

HOW HE MADE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE

Made an amazing album. Created the year's most visually stunning live show. Brought personality back to music. Revived the saxophone.



Skepta

For taking grime to the top of the charts

WHO Tottenham-raised grime icon

WHY Grime's storming comeback was the big British music story of 2016, and scene veteran Skepta was the face and focal point of that resurrection. Skepta started the year by signing Drake to his Boy Better Know imprint – a deal Drake sealed by getting tattooed with the BBK logo. He then took his own career next-level with the release of his much-hyped, much-delayed fourth album, the mighty 'Konnichiwa'. Generating the biggest buzz around a grime release since Dizzee Rascal's 'Boy In Da Corner' back in 2003, 'Konnichiwa' built up enough forward momentum to bag the Mercury Prize in September. It crowned a glorious year for both Skepta and the scene that he'd helped to bring back from the dead.

WHAT HE SAYS "My album came out in May. I was on a flight to Toronto the next day to play a show and they knew all the words to the new songs. The next day! You think when I was a kid I ever thought that would happen?"

WHAT PEOPLE SAY ABOUT HIM "'Konnichiwa' is such a great record – confident, funny, clever, scary, personal and political. Skepta makes music for our times" – Mercury Prize judging panel

HOW HE MADE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE

Skepta showed us what can be achieved when you combine laser-like focus with a punk-rock, DIY, no-sell-out ethos.



Margot Robbie

For being a badass onscreen and off

WHO Star of blockbusters *Suicide Squad* and *The Legend Of Tarzan*

WHY This was the year Margot Robbie capitalised on the 'next big thing' heat she gained from 2013's *The Wolf Of Wall Street*. As grade-A nutjob Harley Quinn in *Suicide Squad* and Jane in *The Legend Of Tarzan*, she leapt from unknown supporting actress to female lead in two of the most high-profile films of the year. A 24-carat movie star, at ease with comedy, action and drama, Robbie was superb in each, playing good-hearted heroine and black-souled villain with equal magnetism, and proving that a female character can steal the show in the male-dominated world of superhero movies.

And what really made Robbie stand out this year, aside from the work, was her willingness to call out the sexism that goes with being a newly minted female star. When a *Vanity Fair* cover story kept harping on about how "beautiful" and "sexy" she is, as well as knocking her home country Australia, she ripped it for being "really weird" and "insulting". When you're still on the ascent, that's brave.

WHAT SHE SAYS "I know my look is more toothpaste model, as opposed to artsy, which sucks because I can play those roles" – *Marie Claire*

WHAT PEOPLE SAY ABOUT HER "She's a tough girl and she's incredibly smart and mature beyond her years. She has ridiculous depth, and she's never been coddled, so she's very physically courageous" – David Ayer, director of *Suicide Squad*

HOW SHE MADE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE She gave us the best female supervillain ever captured on camera – and an easy Halloween costume option, too.



Girls Against

For fighting sexual assault one gig at a time

WHO Ava Cadenhead, Anni Cowan, Anni Cameron, Bea Bennister and Hannah Camilleri – a gang of fierce-as-f**k teens who joined forces to eliminate sexual harassment at live music venues

WHY Girls Against got together at the end of 2015 as a response to being groped while in the crowd at gigs. They were angry, and rightfully so, intent on calling out the perpetrators and bringing an end to everyday sexual assault.

They've spent the past year and a bit fighting misogyny in the mosh pit, and the likes of The 1975, Wolf Alice, Slaves, The Vaccines, Hinds and Frank Turner have all done their bit to offer support and help spread their message. Meanwhile, Girls Against have recruited 80 grassroots reps to raise awareness and make sure people know that touching someone up – or worse – in the crowd at a concert simply isn't OK.

WHAT THEY SAY "When you go out onto a busy and crowded street, you don't expect to be sexually assaulted, so why expect it when you're at a gig? Sexual assault is illegal and should be treated as such" – Anna

WHAT PEOPLE SAY ABOUT THEM

"Putting your hands all over any woman without her permission is not on at any sort of concert. Going as far as putting your hand up her skirt, forcing her to leave the venue and go home, ruining her night, is disgusting. Please go and follow Girls Against on Twitter to fight this kind of behaviour" – Slaves

HOW THEY MADE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE By rounding up bands and fans alike, and getting them to speak out and put a stop to venue-based bellendery.

Beyoncé

For her political awakening

WHO One half of music's ultimate power couple and arguably the world's biggest solo artist

WHY Beyoncé had an incredible year even by her own lofty standards. In February she surprise-released 'Formation', a stunning single and music video whose politically charged imagery took days to unpack but which firmly aligned her with the Black Lives Matter movement. BLM co-founder Alicia Garza hailed Beyoncé as "an expert at encouraging some of us black women to love on ourselves, exactly as we are, just a little bit more".

Then, in April, Beyoncé surprised us again with 'Lemonade', a career-best album accompanied by an Emmy-nominated HBO film. Its songs tackled the emotional fallout from marital infidelity while proving traditional genre boundaries just don't apply to Queen Bey. 'Don't Hurt Yourself' has blistering rock riffs from Jack White; 'Daddy Lessons' is so country she performed it with the Dixie Chicks at a Nashville awards bash. Beyoncé also dazzled us on The Formation World Tour, playing 49 sellout stadium shows across Europe and North America between April and November. Quite simply, it's hard to put it better than Bey herself on 'Formation': "*I'm a star cause I slay*".

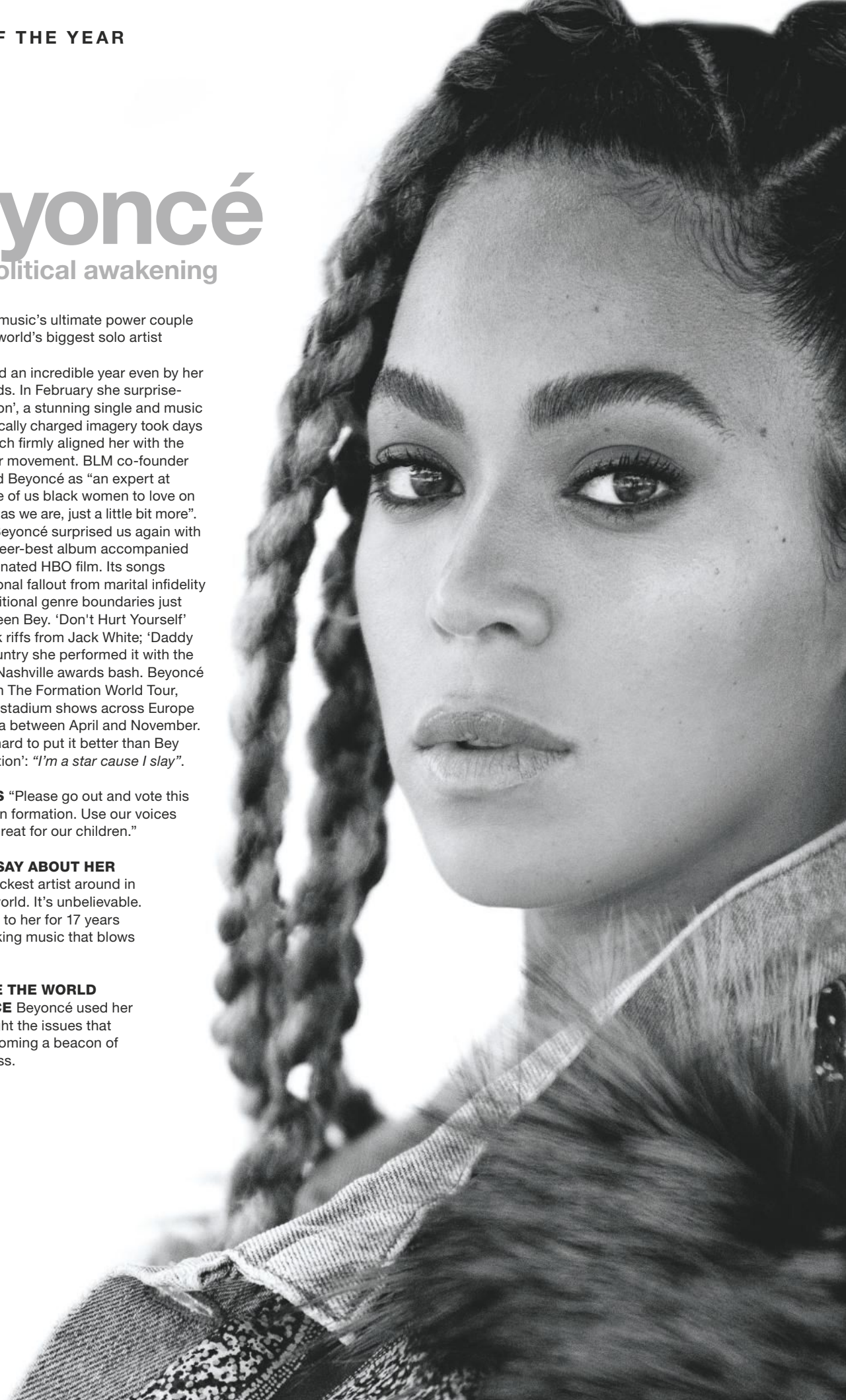
WHAT SHE SAYS "Please go out and vote this November.... Get in formation. Use our voices to do something great for our children."

WHAT PEOPLE SAY ABOUT HER

"Beyoncé is the sickest artist around in the whole entire world. It's unbelievable. I've been listening to her for 17 years and she's still making music that blows my mind" – Adele

HOW SHE MADE THE WORLD

A BETTER PLACE Beyoncé used her platform to highlight the issues that matter to her, becoming a beacon of hope in the process.



Millie Bobby Brown

For dominating 2016 telly and making it cool to be different

WHO Eleven

WHY As the Eggo-loving 'science experiment with a heart' star of *Stranger Things*, Millie Bobby Brown uttered a mere 246 words across eight hours of television, but honestly, she had us at "Eleven". Yes, yes, RIP Barb and all that, but it was Brown's turn as the telekinetic best friend everyone wishes they'd had that gave Netflix's '80s-set nostalgia fest its emotional centre. Eleven was part X-Man, part E.T. and all awesome.

In the wake of the show's success, meanwhile, the 12-year-old English actress revealed herself to be as much of a badass as the character she played. Whether through her adorable YouTube

karaoke videos, rocking the Emmys with her *Stranger Things* co-stars, or ordering a venti latte at Starbucks in the style of Adele, no one seemed to be having a better time in 2016 than Millie Bobby Brown, and no one could begrudge her it.

WHAT SHE SAID "At the end of the day, I just do my job. I love my art. But I genuinely want to change the world."

WHAT PEOPLE SAY ABOUT HER "To find someone that is able to convey that sense of character and to be talking without talking, that's a hard enough thing for an adult actor to do. But for someone who's 11 years old is just... it's almost freaky how good she is" – Ross Duffer, co-creator of *Stranger Things*

HOW SHE MADE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE: Have you *seen* her rapping to Nicki Minaj's 'Monster'?



Pikachu

For redefining gaming

WHO Yeah, he's not a person. The cute electric rodent is merely symbolising something much bigger than himself (even after metamorphosis into Raichu following exposure to a Thunder Stone)

WHY *Pokémon Go*, of course. An app so anticipated, people hacked their phones to get it early. So playable that one man lost half a stone in a week in his quest to catch 'em all. So popular it spawned headlines about thieves luring hapless players to shady locations, people walking into ponds while playing it, and conspiracy theories about it being a new form of government surveillance.

The technology behind it wasn't new, but *Pokémon Go* was the first game to deliver an augmented reality experience that captured the public imagination, tapping into both a millennial nostalgia for the beloved Nintendo franchise and a universally appealing sense that the real world is more magical than you thought. Your local area might still be s**t, but now it has magical creatures living in it. Are we still playing? Hell no. But it was fun for a while.

WHAT HE SAYS "Pika! Pika! Pikachu!" Your childhood friend has spoken.

WHAT PEOPLE SAY ABOUT HIM "Pokémon [is] bringing people together all over the world. Even though nobody's speaking to one another/everyone is walking into poles" – Ariana Grande

HOW HE MADE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE In a year like 2016, a little daft escapism went a long way.



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Riz Ahmed

For being the year's hardest working polymath

WHO A man with two parallel careers: one as a sought-after TV and movie actor, the other as Riz MC, one half of unflinchingly politicised hip-hop duo Swet Shop Boys

WHY Riz Ahmed's year of glory didn't come out of nowhere: he's been ramping up to this for a while now, solidifying his rep through intense, darkly comic performances in the likes of Charlie Brooker's *Dead Set* (2008), Chris Morris's *Four Lions* (2010) and the jet-black Jake Gyllenhaal vehicle *Nightcrawler* (2014). His reward was a triptych of breakthrough roles for 2016, in *Jason Bourne*, *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story* and HBO's *The Night Of*, which earned Ahmed universal acclaim for his nuanced, heartbreaking portrayal of hapless protagonist Naz (plus he totally pulled off a legit Queens accent). Musically, too, Ahmed hit new heights, teaming with NY rapper Heems – ex of Das Racist – to form Swet Shop Boys, whose 'Cashmere' album was a killer cross-pollination of heavy AF beats, South Asian samples and righteous, timely polemic. Double win.

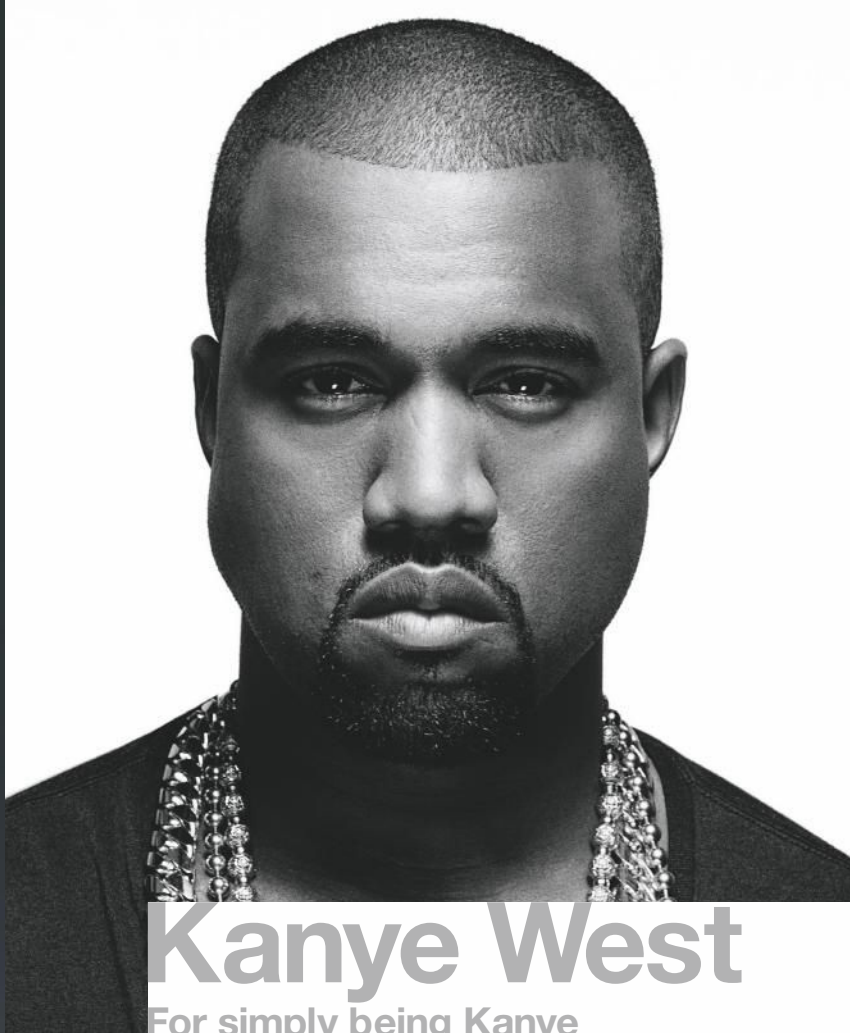
WHAT HE SAYS "Trump want my exit / But if he press the red button to watch Netflix, bruv, I'm on" (Swet Shop Boys – 'T5')

WHAT PEOPLE SAY ABOUT HIM

"Riz Ahmed is magnetic and impressive, keeping Naz a sympathetic cipher, even as he hardens, body and soul" – Jeff Benson, reviewing *The Night Of* in *Entertainment Weekly*

HOW HE MADE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE

A BETTER PLACE Riz has been making renaissance-man moves and engaging with hot-button issues all year long, and it's been an inspirational joy to behold.



Kanye West

For simply being Kanye

WHO Hip-hop's 39-year-old *enfant terrible*

WHY At the MTV VMAs in August, Kanye was given four minutes of airtime to introduce his new video for 'Fade'. "I am Kanye West," began his tribute to his own genius, "and that feels really great to say, especially this year." Too right. The year might have been something of a rollercoaster ride for Kanye, but the highs were skyscrapingly good. With 'The Life Of Pablo' he offered up arguably his finest ever collection of work; an ever-evolving, star-studded release that pushed the boundaries of mainstream hip-hop further than ever before and confirmed his status as one of music's most vital voices. The provocative 10-minute 'Famous' video earned the admiration of film legend Werner Herzog and also the shock of a public he'd played like a fiddle.

The epic, 20-track masterpiece also gave rise to his jaw-dropping 'Saint Pablo' tour, a feat of engineering and entertainment, with West performing on top of a moving platform suspended above the crowd amid a light show worthy of an alien landing. The tour reached 41 dizzying performances before its key player was hospitalised in November for "temporary psychosis due to sleep deprivation and dehydration". An intense year, then, and one with a fittingly intense ending.

WHAT HE SAYS "Don't be mad at the truth. When you don't like me you are merely shooting the messenger."

WHAT PEOPLE SAY ABOUT HIM "We had a few afternoons at the Beverly Hills Hotel. The only deal I made with Kanye was that if it doesn't work, we won't tell anyone. I think he's a great artist" – Paul McCartney

HOW HE MADE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE

By ensuring there was never a dull moment. ●●●



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LATTE

GINGERBREAD
LATTE

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FUDGE
HOT CHOCOLATE



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Héloïse Letissier

For fiercely celebrating her individuality

WHO The mastermind behind Christine And The Queens

WHY Just a few short years ago, Héloïse Letissier was lost and unsure of her place in the world. In 2016, she basically conquered it. The rise of Christine And The Queens was as atypical as it was irresistible – we Brits have historically given short shrift to French pop stars, and there was a delicious irony in her breakthrough Glastonbury performance coming mere hours after the Brexit vote was tallied – but no one who listened to

her re-recorded debut album, or caught one of her extraordinary live shows, could fail to be converted. In writing about subjects like queerness and gender identity from a perennial outsiders' perspective, she struck a strangely universal chord – who couldn't root for, or relate to, a ferociously talented young woman celebrating her own individuality? While politicians sought to drive wedges between us, she preached a doctrine of acceptance and inclusivity, of otherness being a virtue. She was the pop star we needed, but scarcely deserved. Long may she reign.

WHAT SHE SAID "I want to keep Christine and grow old with her. I'm kind of obsessed with growing old in this industry. I want people to see my wrinkled face everywhere, like a female Keith Richards."

WHAT PEOPLE SAY ABOUT HER "I saw her at The Roundhouse in the spring and she was amazing, and she's huge in England now. I hope it spreads to the rest of the world, and I think it will because once you see her live you're mesmerised" – Elton John

HOW SHE MADE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE By reminding us that it doesn't have to be a terrible one. ● ● ●



Phoebe Waller-Bridge

For making British television funny, filthy and poignant

WHO Quite posh British actress, writer, director and comedian whose show *Fleabag* was the surprise hit of the year for its brutally real – and really f**king funny – depiction of millennial womanhood.

WHY When *Fleabag* debuted on BBC3 this summer it made thousands of young women across the country gawp in wonder and yell, 'OMG, that's me!' at their laptop screens. Waller-Bridge's *Fleabag* – a character based on a one-woman show that had impressed 2013 Edinburgh Festival crowds with its no-holds-barred depiction of female sexuality – was kind of a d**k. A self-centred, w**k-happy woman with limited drive, a failing small business and a family in ruins, her lifestyle tiptoed around the edges of urban hipsterdom, but also deep, dark loss. It might sound depressing, but its caustic humour and downright filthiness made it unmissable.

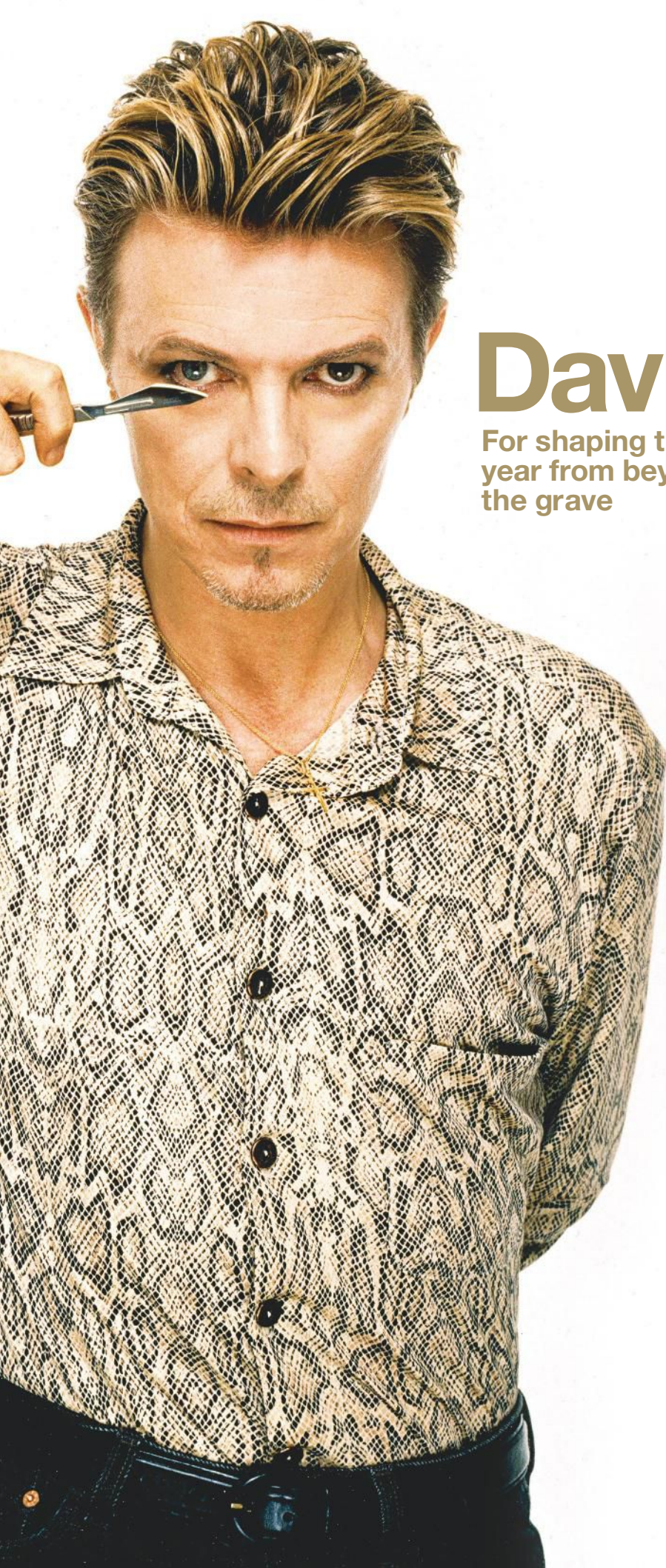
WHAT SHE SAYS "I wanted to create a character who had a front and a confidence about sex that seemed completely impenetrable, and that was how she controlled her emotions and the way she was in the world. And then skewering it by saying, no one can be that confident about it, that relentlessly. There has to be a chink."

WHAT PEOPLE SAY ABOUT HER "*Fleabag* marked the emergence of a new voice in British comedy" – *NME*

HOW SHE MADE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE By shining a light on the modern, multifaceted face of the twentysomething woman – flaws and all.



WORDS: LEONIE COOPER, DAN STUBBS, BARRY NICOLSON, JOE MADDEN, NICK LEVINE. PHOTOS: ADAM POWELL, CAMERA PRESS, OLIVIA ROSE, REX FEATURES, AP/PRESS ASSOCIATION, BELLA HOWARD, GETTY IMAGES



David Bowie

For shaping the year from beyond the grave

WHO The glue that held reality together

WHY For more than 40 years, David Bowie has helped us to make sense of life. In 2016, he taught us how to face death – on his own terms, without fear, compromise or sentimentality, in a last, remarkable rush of creativity. Knowing that the end was near, most of us would likely have spent our final months at home in the company of our families; instead, he was busy labouring away on a new album, choosing to confront his own mortality rather than meekly capitulating to it. Cancer may have killed Bowie, but it never defeated him. If anything, it seemed to embolden him.

When icons die, they generally leave a void, a sense of something left unfinished. Had Bowie passed before embarking on the late-career renaissance that began with 2013's 'The Next Day', that's almost certainly what would have happened. In the end, however, his death felt like a completion: 'Blackstar' hit shelves on Friday, and by Monday its author was gone, his work accomplished, just as the video for 'Lazarus' had not-so-subtly hinted. The shock and grief quickly reverberated all over the world, yet at the same time you couldn't help but admire how he'd handled it: for Bowie, death was simply another muse, another performance, and certainly nothing to be afraid of.

WHAT HE SAID "Look up here, I'm in heaven / I've got scars that can't be seen" – 'Lazarus'

WHAT PEOPLE SAY ABOUT HIM

"He always did what he wanted to do. And he wanted to do it his way and he wanted to do it the best way. His death was no different from his life – a work of art" – Tony Visconti, producer

HOW HE MADE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE

In too many ways to count. But everything certainly went to s**t pretty quickly after he was gone.

NME

the
fopp
100

best of 2016

nick cave &
the bad seeds
skeleton tree

album of the year

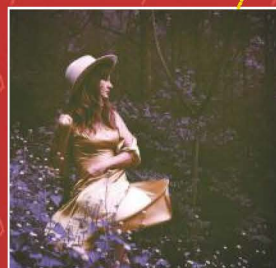


bat for lashes
the bride



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BIFFY CLYRO



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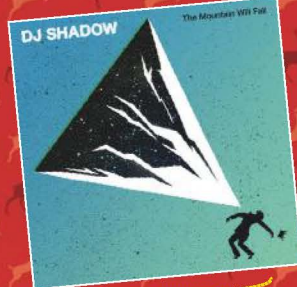
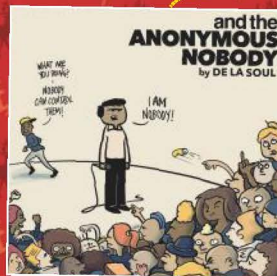
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david bowie
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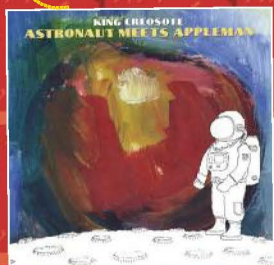
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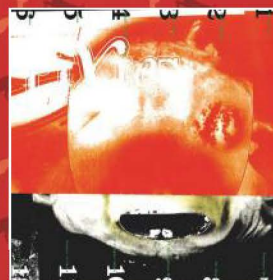
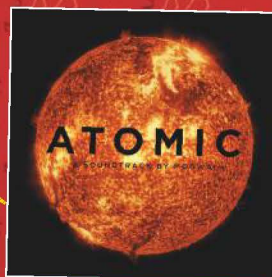
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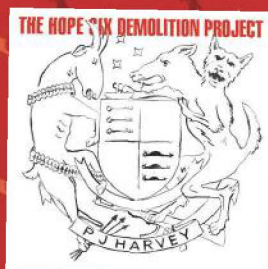
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king gizzard
and the lizard
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the fopp list

see our complete top 100 albums of the year in this month's edition of the fopp list or online at fopp.com

HOW TO HAVE THE PERFECT XMAS PARTY



T.J. Miller with Courtney B Vance as Walter

Work do rules according to riotous new comedy *Office Christmas Party*...

IT'S SAID THAT CHRISTMAS is a time for giving, which is true... if you're a grandma. For most of the population, Christmas means one thing: parties. And there's no party more likely to get out of hand than the office Christmas party. But even your wildest 'remembered with waves of regret' work shindig won't compare to the bash in hilarious new comedy *Office Christmas Party*. All it needed were these three crucial ingredients...

The Vanstone siblings: Jennifer Aniston as Carol and T.J. Miller as Clay

GOOD PEOPLE

Jennifer Aniston and Jason Bateman head a supremely funny cast in a tale of the party to end all parties. Aniston is Carol Vanstone, the CEO of tech company Zenotek. Her younger brother Clay (T.J. Miller) is running his branch of the company into the ground, despite the best efforts of his right-hand man Josh (Bateman), and his only chance to save it is to impress a new client with the greatest party ever. The A+ supporting cast includes 2016 breakout comedy star Kate McKinnon (*Saturday Night Live*, *Ghostbusters*), Olivia Munn (*X-Men: Apocalypse*), Rob Corddry (*The Daily Show*) and Vanessa Bayer (*Trainwreck*), to name just a few.

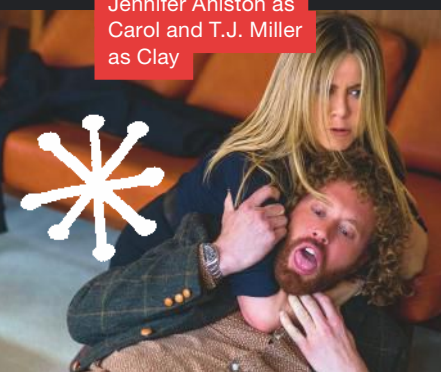
GOOD VIBES

With guests like that, what could possibly go wrong? Basically everything. Destruction of most of the building. Inappropriate coupling up. Severe injuries as the result of ill-advised stunts. The works. As the night draws on the party only gets bigger until it's challenging the very limits of party-bigness.

ZERO INTEREST IN CONSEQUENCES

Office Christmas Party is a film that reflects the true spirit of the season: having as much fun as you can before the end of the December, and worrying about the consequences later.

Office Christmas Party is in cinemas now



RADAR

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

BEST FOR FEELING THE FEELS

LOYLE CARNER

Isle Of Arran

Mark our words, 2017 is going to be Loyle Carner's year. The south London rapper mixes gospel with his emotive form of hip-hop on this gorgeous old-school soul-influenced offering.

BEST FOR RAGING AGAINST THE MACHINE

RUN THE JEWELS

Legend Has It

El-P and Killer Mike announce their third album – out January 20 – with this intense blast of rap rage. This is what defiance sounds like.



RUN THE JEWELS

Best NEW tracks

And when to drop them

BEST FOR DAYDREAMING

LAURA MARLING

Soothing

One of England's greatest modern songwriters returns with a dreamy, jazzy alt.folk ode that's as weird as it is beautiful.

BEST FOR SMASHING THE DANCEFLOOR

AUSTRA

Future Politics

Icy cold electro with a hidden heart, 'Future Politics' manages to meld ostentatious operatics with Kraftwerk-style coolness but still sound like the song we'll all be keeping warm to this winter.

BEST FOR GETTING SERIOUS

LITTLE CUB

My Nature

Like a low-key Hot Chip, Londoners Little Cub certainly want to make you want to dance, but they also make you want to get all moody too. The dark and stormy 'My Nature' is electronica as a form of therapy.



SIA

BEST FOR RAISING YOUR LIGHTERS

SIA

Angel By The Wings

Taken from the soundtrack to new doc *The Eagle Huntress*, this is an appropriately soaring ballad, all piano tinkles, crashing choruses and super-empowering lyricism.

BEST FOR TAKING ON THE WORLD

TWIN ATLANTIC

The Rising

The Scots take on Bruce Springsteen's 2002 fist-pumper and somehow manage to make it sound even more epic than the original.

BEST FOR GETTING GOTHIC

AFI

Aurelia

US rockers AFI are going to be playing with Deftones next year in the UK. This new track is bound to be a highlight, all Cure-style anguish and The Damned-esque darkness.

BEST FOR GETTING YOUR GROOVE ON

JAE TYLER

Life As A Wall

Born in Kansas, but living in Berlin, Jae Tyler is a melting pot of musical oddities. 'Life As A Wall' is a little bit disco, a little bit Queen, a little bit Mac DeMarco and a lot amazing.

BEST FOR STARTING A CIRCLE PIT

FRANK CARTER & THE RATTLESNAKES

Wild Flowers

Rowdy punk legend Frank Carter channels The Cult's 1985 classic 'She Sells Sanctuary' on this full-throttle rocker with a sneaky pop core.

FOR MORE NEW MUSIC,
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MUSIC

(L-r:) Brandon Flowers, Ronnie Vannucci Jr, Dave Keuning and Mark Stoermer

Holidays are coming

It's that time again: The Killers transform from synth-indie heroes into the 21st century Slade

THE KILLERS
Don't Waste Your Wishes



CHRISTMAS | SUBLINE

FOR MOST OF the year, The Killers are the suave Vegas synth-indie showmen we know and love, but one whiff of a Brussels sprout and they instantly transform into the 21st century Slade.

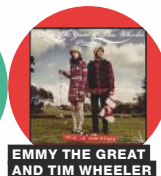
For 11 years, Brandon Flowers and co have been roping in fellow musicians and celebrities to record Christmas songs in aid of the (RED) Aids charity and make star-studded videos, bringing seasonal joy to those of us who revel in the sight of the more smile-averse, too-cool-for-yule Killers Dave Keuning and Mark Stoermer dutifully dusting off their elf suits and antlers once a year.

Launched in 2006, The Killers' (RED) project, collected here on their first Christmas album, veered from the ridiculous to the sublime and swiftly back again. The first instalment, 'A Great Big Sled', features Curve's Toni Halliday on what's essentially a standard Killers pop epic with sleigh bells on. But the band's tour manager Ryan Pardey soon became the star of the series, portraying a demented Bad Santa hunting down a child-killing

Brandon to extract murderous revenge on 'Don't Shoot Me Santa' and its two sequel songs: menacing stalked-by-Santa synth anthem 'I Feel It In My Bones' and last year's glam Elvis boogie 'Dirt Sledding', in which Santa forgives, forgets and puts Brandon back on his 'nice list'.



FOR FANS OF



Even though their more comic yuletide crackers were as novelty and jingle-belled as the worst festive excesses of Mel Smith and Kim Wilde, The Killers' sharp wit, melodic opulence and theatrical class fights back the tidal wave of cheese that floods most other acts' Xmas efforts. Take 'Joel The Lump Of Coal', featuring Jimmy Kimmel as a malicious Santa giving a bad kid the titular "lump of anthracite" – a Beatledelic heart-warmer that'll make you believe Donald Trump was right to feel mindless affection for fossil fuels.

But when The Killers take yuletide more seriously – rattling out a gorgeous mariachi romance on '¡Happy Birthday Guadalupe!', picturing lovelorn actors and drunkards on 'Christmas In LA' and 'Boots' or considering what it's like to be cuckolded by God alongside Neil Tennant and Elton John on 'Joseph, Better You Than Me' – they conjure stirring festive anthems that make 'Don't Waste Your Wishes' a worthy addition to their canon and among the best Xmas albums ever made. It all ends with Brandon's moving duet on 'I'll Be Home For Christmas' with the fourth-grade teacher who inspired him to get into music; go on, just try not to hug your mum. **Mark Beaumont**

Their best yet

ALBUM
OF THE
WEEK

AVENGED SEVENFOLD *really* divide rock fans. One camp berates them as style-over-substance guyliner-wearing pussies. The other side rates their constant reinvention and epic live shows – even in the face of adversity.

And things have been *really* crap for Avenged. In 2009 their beloved founding member Jimmy 'The Rev' Sullivan was found dead from an accidental overdose.

A year later they released 'Nightmare', which blended their early metalcore sound with their softer hard-rock guise and was the ultimate tribute album to a fallen friend. But they followed it with 'Hail To

The King' in 2013, which was hugely derivative of Metallica and Iron Maiden and sounded like they'd lost their way.

That's why 'The Stage' is so pivotal for this band – it's the difference between keeping their festival headline slots or slowly slipping into oblivion. Things started well in October when they dropped the title track and first single which, with its spooky organ and soaring guitars, was compelling to the end of its eight minutes. The rest of the record doesn't flounder. 'Paradigm' is more lyrically sophisticated than they've been before as they imagine an AI world run by robots, while 'God Damn' is all thrashy double drum kicks and sleaze-rock choruses. Producer Joe Barresi (Queens Of The Stone Age, The Melvins) seems to be the perfect fit, even if he's managed to make M. Shadows' usually explosive

FOR FANS OF



METALLICA

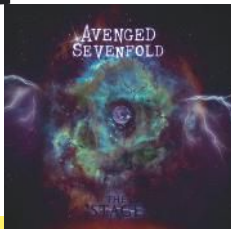


ALTER BRIDGE

vocals sound thin and nasal, most noticeable on ballads 'Angels' and 'Roman Sky'.

Avenged have uncharacteristically thrown everything up in the air with this record – from recruiting former Bad Religion drummer Brooks Wackerman to streaming an ambitious 360 degree/3D/virtual reality gig via mysterious 'deathbats' (the bands logo) appearing on key landmarks across the globe. As the album's swan song 'Exist' closes with a monologue from astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson, it's evident the band have begun a new chapter where they appreciate rather than *become* their influences. They've truly arrived. **Anita Bhagwandas**

Finally, seven albums in, Avenged Sevenfold find their voice



AVENGED SEVENFOLD
The Stage



EPIC HARD-ROCK LOUD

(L-r:) Synyster Gates, Zacky Vengeance, M. Shadows, Johnny Christ and Brooks Wackerman

Best track

'SUNNY DISPOSITION'

Pure rock that's reminiscent of the band's party-hard 2005 album *City Of Evil*.

Russell Tovey (left) and Arinzé Kene as footballers Jason and Ade

The beautiful game

There are currently no openly gay professional footballers. This film asks why

THE PASS

15 Russell Tovey, Arinzé Kene, Lisa McGrillis



FOOTBALL HOMOPHOBIA

THIS SPIRITED BRITISH film tackles a topical issue that could be a ticking time-bomb. Although LGBT rights have made great strides in recent years, most notably with the introduction of same-sex marriage in most parts of the UK, the same progress hasn't

filtered through to the world of professional football. Incredibly, there are currently no openly gay players competing in any of England's top four divisions. Former Manchester City midfielder Joey Barton, a spokesperson for LGBT charity Stonewall's Rainbow Laces campaign, has said they're "as rare as hen's teeth".

Adapted by John Donnelly from his own acclaimed stage play, *The Pass* is a sensitive story about repressed sexuality that takes place in three acts.

The first chronicles an awkward sexual encounter between ostensibly heterosexual young footballers Jason (*The History Boys*' Russell Tovey) and Ade (*Crazyhead*'s Arinzé Kene). The second follows an even more awkward sexual encounter between Jason, now a household-name pro with lucrative endorsement

deals, and a female stripper he hires to diffuse rumours about his sexuality. The third shows an emotionally charged reunion between Jason and Ade, whose own playing career quickly fizzled out, 10 years after they last met.

Because the story unfolds in three different hotel rooms with virtually no glimpses of the outside world, *The Pass* can feel more like a play than a film. Then again, perhaps director Ben A Williams

decided not to expand the setting to highlight the claustrophobia of Jason's high-profile lifestyle and the constraints of the closet he's trapped inside. Donnelly's wordy dialogue can sound theatrical, too, but it's often powerful as well and boosted by a pair of brilliant lead performances. Tovey manages to evoke some sympathy for Jason even when he's being unbearably cruel and arrogant; Kene captures Ade's conflicting emotions for Jason and his own sexuality with soulful restraint.

In spite of its flaws, this is a poignant and provocative film that often feels uncomfortably realistic. "I'm a f**king role model. Your kids have posters of me on their walls," a furious Jason rants at one point. "I ain't gay: gay ain't even an option."

Nick Levine



BEAUTIFUL THING (1996)

Also adapted from an acclaimed stage play, this seminal British film follows two teenage boys getting to grips with their sexuality on a tough south London council estate.

Stranger than fiction

Moving doc about Disney films teaching an autistic man how to make sense of the world

LIFE, ANIMATED

Jonathan Freeman, Gilbert Gottfried, Alan Rosenblatt



DOCUMENTARY AUTISM DISNEY

FOR FANS OF



PETER PAN



ETRE ET AVOIR

AT THE AGE OF THREE Owen Suskind's speech began to deteriorate. The once chatty kid started to detach from the outside world and retreat into a silent one all his own. Suskind was diagnosed as autistic. His parents were shocked, but the family adapted to Suskind's new normal, accepting that the son they knew would probably never return. Yet one day he did, led back to them by, of all things, Disney cartoons.

Roger Ross Williams' extremely moving documentary explains how a fixation with Disney animation taught Suskind not only to talk again but also to read and how to make sense of the world. The film tells two stories. One is of the now adult Suskind, who still has significant emotional and learning difficulties but has become independent enough that he's preparing to live on his own. The other is the story of Suskind's family and how they gently, lovingly coaxed Suskind back to them. When, after a year of silence, he began repeating a line of dialogue from *The Little*

Mermaid, then compared his older brother to Peter Pan, his parents saw that something in the cartoons was getting through to him, so they showed him as many as they could. Incrementally, Suskind himself became more animated.

It's a remarkable story very well told. The film is based on the book by Suskind's father Ron, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, and there's a clear-eyed journalistic tone to it. As interviewees, the Suskinds are all eloquent and detailed, able to vividly describe scenes from decades ago. Owen's childhood is brought to life in old home movies and charming animation that gets more colourful as his world gets richer.

As much as it's an account of how Disney helped bring Suskind back to his family, it's much more about how hard that family worked to help him find his way and how much they loved him at every stage. You might call it a corny, Disney-esque cliché, but it's really about how if someone believes in you, you can do incredible things.

Olly Richards



Owen Suskind with his Disney drawings

YOU HEARD IT HERE FIRST

Bad Sounds

Meet Ewan and Callum Merrett – brothers from Bath making irresistible horn-blasted indie-funk

PHOTOS BY ZOE MCCONNELL

STYLED BY KYLIE GRIFFITHS

(L-r:) Callum and Ewan Merrett

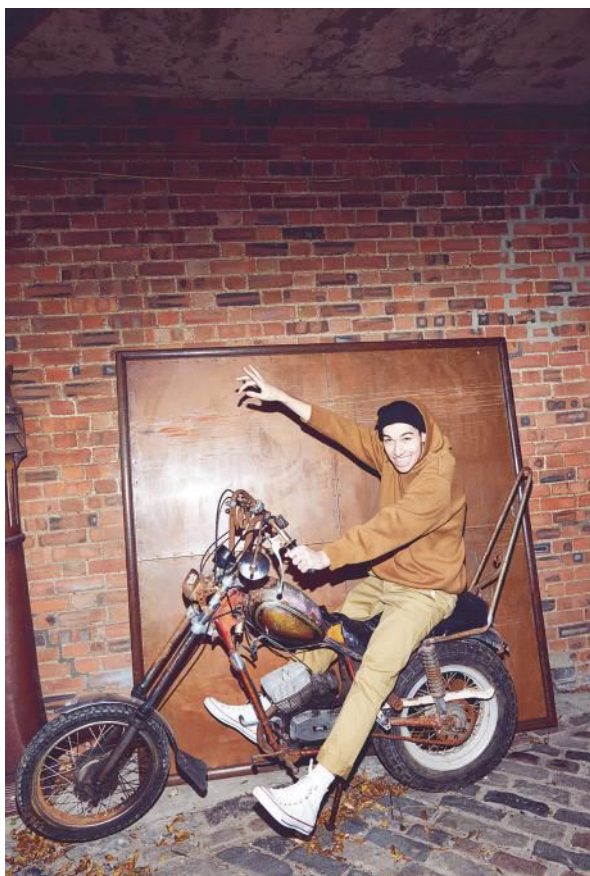
LONG GONE, THANK GOD, are the days when you'd get a faceful of ticker tape at Bad Sounds gigs. "The first show we ever did we built our own confetti cannon," confesses keyboardist and singer Ewan Merrett. "We were trying, like The Flaming Lips, to put on as much of a show as possible, but when you spray a confetti cannon on about five people, they don't go crazy." His singer brother Callum adds: "It was just a leaf blower I found."

Two years on, the Bath hip-rock five-piece bring their own light-up dancefloor, balloons and party poppers to their shows, all the better to vibe up their horn-blasted indie funk songs channelling Beck, Metronomy, Sly And The Family Stone and classic '90s baggy. "We want to throw a party and invite people, rather than say, 'Watch us play in front of you for half an hour,'" explains Callum.

And their party is going a bit Project X: since Ewan merged his hip-hop beats with Callum's guitar rock to make Bad Sounds in 2014, they've enraptured Annie Mac, lifted Glastonbury's Brexit blues and toured with Rat Boy ("They set a deodorant can on fire outside our tour bus") on the back of their jubilant-but-quite-dark-actually songs about mountaineering disasters ('Avalanche'), the façade of Instagram ('Living Alone') and what their mates are up to. "I'm terrible at writing lyrics that are made up," says Ewan. "It comes across way more genuine if it's about a real situation. Otherwise it'd be spaceships and I'll have 10,000 ladies on each arm."

Currently on the label courtship circuit while they prepare a new single 'Meat On My Bones', about a friend who got a tattoo when their dog died, they're already envisioning their fantasy big-budget stage show. "Pyramid stage, full light-up dancefloor," Ewan exclaims. "Or you know where they have the backdrops in *Street Fighter*? We'd have a Japanese town with fast-food stores and people walking past at the back of the stage." Bad Sounds: good times.

Mark Beaumont



STRANGE & TRUE



FOR FANS OF *Best track*

On tour in Manchester, Bad Sounds found themselves in the worst hotel in the world. Their windowless basement room had 'You're Dead' carved into the back of a door.



METRONOMY
Love Letters
Small-town misery turned into chilled glitterball anthems. How very Bad Sounds.



'WAGES'
Formerly Radio 1 DJ Annie Mac's Hottest Record In The World, 'Wages' is the most danceable song ever about not wanting to dance at a wedding.



Callum wears:

Shirt, £75, Nike SB
T-shirt, £30, Nike SB
Trousers, £39, Urban Outfitters
Trainers, £50, Converse

Ewan wears:

Jumper, £25, Topman
Tracksuit bottoms, £49.99, Adidas at Urban Outfitters
Trainers, £60, Nike

Callum wears:

Jacket, £70, Topman
Jumper, £15, Topman
Chinos, £54.99, HUF at Route One
Trainers, £55, Converse

Ewan wears:

Jumper, £230, Yeezy Season 3 at Harvey Nichols
Chinos, £63, Nike SB
Trainers, £60, Nike



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH SNAP FASHION

Think pink

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at Snap Fashion £635



BOOHOO
at Snap Fashion £12



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at Snap Fashion £9



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**THE VAMPIRE'S WIFE
AT MATCHES**
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**ADIDAS BY STELLA
McARTNEY AT STYLEBOP**
at Snap Fashion £69



PHOTO: STEAVE NEAVES

SNAP FASHION





live

THIS WEEK'S BEST TICKETS AND GIGS

Hugo (left)
and Orlando

Farewell, sweet princes

The Maccabees are bowing out in style with three farewell shows

THE MACCABEES BROKE THE SAD NEWS LAST SUMMER that, after 14 years, four albums and hundreds of sweaty, divine gigs together, they were calling it a day. Orlando, Hugo, Felix, Rupert and Sam had completed their first major festival headline performance at Latitude a couple of weeks earlier – an emotional set that now seems even more poignant knowing they'll never do it again. Luckily, there are three final chances to catch the south London group, who've been an ever-present highlight over the past decade of British indie. They'll bring the sweet coos of 'Toothpaste Kisses', the boisterous bounce of 'Pelican' and the tear-jerking beauty of 'Spit It Out' and 'Silence' to London and Manchester for three mammoth send-offs next summer. Bring plenty of tissues.

ON SALE
NOW

THE MACCABEES

JUNE 2017

Wed 28 O2 Apollo, Manchester

Fri 30 Alexandra Palace, London

JULY 2017

Sat 1 Alexandra Palace, London

TICKETS: £28.50-£35

**ON SALE
NOW**



DRENCE

The noisy Derbyshire crew have announced two Christmas shows

DECEMBER

Sun 18 Clwb Ifor Bach, Cardiff

Mon 19 Forum, Tunbridge Wells

TELL ME MORE: The Loveless brothers have recruited a bassist since releasing second album 'Undertow' – if they're feeling festive, they might play some new material.

TICKETS: £13.75



THE COMET IS COMING

Mercury-nominated futurist jazz trio

DECEMBER 2016

Sun 11 Band On The Wall, Manchester

Thu 15 Brudenell Social Club, Leeds

MARCH 2017

Wed 8 O2 ABC2, Glasgow

Thu 9 Cluny, Newcastle upon Tyne

MAY 2017

Tue 9 Haunt, Brighton Tue 16

O2 Academy2, Oxford Wed 17

Old Fire Station, Bournemouth

Thu 18 The Fleece, Bristol

Fri 19 24 Kitchen Street, Liverpool

Sat 20 O2 Academy2, Sheffield

Wed 24 Heaven, London

TELL ME MORE: Intense and invigorating, TCIC are for those who like their psychedelia complex and saxophone-heavy.

TICKETS: £11-£15.55



ANGEL OLSEN

Top indie-rock singer from Missouri

MAY 2017

Thu 18 Rescue Rooms, Nottingham

Fri 19 Vicar Street, Dublin

Sat 20 Opera House, Cork

Sun 21 Empire Music Hall, Belfast

Tue 23 Stylus, Leeds

Wed 24 Roundhouse, London

TELL ME MORE: Olsen's fourth album 'My Woman' was one of 2016's greatest. Get ready to shout along to 'Shut Up Kiss Me'.

TICKETS: £15.40-£20.35



BRITISH SUMMER TIME: KINGS OF LEON

Nashville's rock star family play central London's biggest park

JULY 2017

Thu 6 Hyde Park, London

TELL ME MORE: As well as Kings Of Leon, bands performing at this day-long festival include Pixies, Nathaniel Rateliff & The Night Sweats – and several more yet to be announced.

TICKETS: £62.50-£199.50



CIGARETTES AFTER SEX

Swooning, ambient Texans led by a man called Greg Gonzalez

APRIL 2017

Tue 18 Gorilla, Manchester

Wed 19 Hare and Hounds, Birmingham

Thu 20 KOKO, London

TELL ME MORE: They've just completed a sold-out UK tour, so consider this a victory lap, or just another chance to see a great live band.

TICKETS: £13.20-£16.80

THE WEEK'S BEST GIGS

THE 1975

Tue 13 Arena, Manchester
Thu 15 The O2, London

AGAINST ME!

Fri 9 The Garage, Glasgow
Sat 10 SWX, Bristol
Sun 11 Rescue Rooms, Nottingham

ALLUSONDRUGS

Fri 9 Sir Charles Napier, Blackburn
Sat 10 Head Of Steam, Newcastle
Sun 11 Sitwell Tavern, Derby
Thu 15 Dog And Whistle at the Ram, Hertford

THE AMAZONS

Fri 9 Esquires, Bedford
Sat 10 Nambucca, London
Thu 15 Think Tank, Newcastle

ASH

Sat 10 Roundhouse, London
Sun 11 O2 Ritz, Manchester
Mon 12 Rock City, Nottingham
Wed 14 Garage, Aberdeen
Thu 15 Garage, Glasgow

BLACK GRAPE

Fri 9 Warehouse 23, Wakefield
Sat 10 Roadmender, Northampton

BLOSSOMS

Sun 11 O2 Academy, Oxford
Tue 13 O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire, London
Wed 14 Old Fire Station, Bournemouth

CLEAN CUT KID

Sat 10 Tram & Social, London

DENZEL CURRY

Fri 9 Jazz Cafe, London

EAST 17

Fri 9 OPEN, Norwich

FATBOY SLIM

Fri 9 SSE Hydro, Glasgow
Sat 10 Albert Hall, Manchester

FRANK TURNER & THE SLEEPING SOULS

Fri 9 Rock City, Nottingham
Sat 10 De La Warr Pavilion, Bexhill-on-Sea
Sun 11 UEA, Norwich
Mon 12 G Live, Guildford
Wed 14 Guildhall, Portsmouth
Thu 15 Rock City, Nottingham

THE FRATELLIS

Fri 9 O2 Academy, Newcastle
Sat 10 Barrowland, Glasgow
Mon 12 O2 Academy & Underground, Leeds
Tue 13 & Wed 14 O2 Forum, London
Thu 15 O2 ABC, Glasgow

FRONTEERS

Sat 10 The Cookie, Leicester

GALLANT

Sun 11 Deaf Institute, Manchester
Mon 12 Islington Assembly Hall, London

GIRL BAND

Fri 9 Gorilla, Manchester

HOOTON TENNIS CLUB

Fri 9 Invisible Wind Factory, Liverpool

IDLES

Sat 10 Night & Day Café, Manchester

ISLET

Sat 10 Clwb Ifor Bach, Cardiff

JAMES

Fri 9 O2 Academy, Sheffield
Sat 10 Echo Arena, Liverpool

JORJA SMITH

Tue 13 Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

KATE TEMPEST

Fri 9 All Saints Church, Hove
Sun 11 Roundhouse, London

KATHRYN JOSEPH

Fri 9 Mono, Glasgow

KING NO-ONE

Fri 9 Boston Music Room, London
Tue 13 Rainbow Complex, London
Wed 14 King Tut's, Glasgow
Thu 15 Wardrobe, Leeds

KORN, LIMP BIZKIT

Mon 12 Arena, Manchester
Wed 14 SSE Hydro, Glasgow
Thu 15 Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham

LISSIE

Sat 10 Guildhall, Gloucester
Sun 11 Glee Club, Cardiff
Mon 12 Leadmill, Sheffield
Wed 14 Rescue Rooms, Nottingham

LIVING BODY

Sun 11 Brudenell Social Club, Leeds

LUCY ROSE

Fri 9 Idea Store Whitechapel, London
Sat 10 Central Library, Bristol
Sun 11 Central Library, Liverpool
Mon 12 Music Library, Bristol
Tue 13 Library, Barrow-in-Furness

MARIKA HACKMAN

Fri 9 St John On Bethnal Green, London

MEILYR JONES

Fri 9 Westgarth Social Club, Middlesbrough

NEON WALTZ

Fri 9 Hootananny, Inverness

PLACEBO

Mon 12 Centre, Newport
Wed 14 Centre, Brighton
Thu 15 SSE Arena Wembley, London

POST MALONE

Mon 12 Electric Brixton, London

REVEREND AND THE MAKERS

Wed 14 Thekla, Bristol
Thu 15 Rescue Rooms, Nottingham

SHURA

Fri 9 Academy, Manchester

SLOW CLUB

Fri 9 Live Rooms, Chester
Sat 10 Museum Of Wigan Life, Wigan
Tue 13 Caves, Edinburgh
Wed 14 Crescent WMC, York
Thu 15 Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

TWIN ATLANTIC

Sun 11 Limelight, Belfast
Tue 13, Wed 14 & Thu 15 Barrowland, Glasgow

YEARS & YEARS

Mon 12 Union Chapel, London



LIMP BIZKIT

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THE SONG I WANT PLAYED AT MY FUNERAL

LOUIS ARMSTRONG
What A Wonderful World
"I want everyone to be very sad when I've died."

THE FIRST SONG I FELL IN LOVE WITH

HERBIE HANCOCK
Rockit
"I remember seeing the video for it on *Tiswas* and we recorded it on our VHS video recorder. We used to record lots and lots of things then – it was like our own analogue YouTube. The video was kind of all these weird robotic mannequins and Herbie Hancock was barely in it."



BEST SONG I'VE DIRECTED A MUSIC VIDEO FOR

HOT CHIP
Don't Deny Your Heart
"I did 'I Feel Better' and 'Night And Day' too, but I think there's something very special and very beautiful about 'Don't Deny Your Heart'."



THE FIRST SONG I REMEMBER HEARING

ROD STEWART
Sailing
"It just made me feel very emotional, sort of very wistful and sad. When I was a little kid, this song was on all the time. It was just on the radio for years. It was a popular song in the '70s when I was little but now I can't even remember the last time I heard it."

THE SONG I CAN NO LONGER LISTEN TO

FRANK OCEAN
Super Rich Kids
"It was a combination of loving the song too much and playing it too much but I also had some weird virus that knocked me out for months around the time the song came out. A side effect of this thing was that I couldn't get songs out of my head. I had 'Super Rich Kids' in my head every night for weeks on end."

GO TO NME.COM FOR MORE SOUNDTRACKS

THE SONG I DO AT KARAOKE

PAUL MCCARTNEY & WINGS
Bluebird
"I would probably do a Paul McCartney song. About three years ago, 6Music did this Christmas gig at the Union Chapel with Paul Weller. They had little comedy bits in between and I did my Paul McCartney impression. I think people were disappointed because, given the line-up, it was quite plausible that Paul McCartney would be there. I felt like I'd ruined people's Christmas."

THE FIRST ALBUM I BOUGHT

ADAM AND THE ANTS
Kings Of The Wild Frontier
"I didn't go to a shop to buy it – I bought it off a friend who sold it to me for £1. I was a bit disappointed because side two was a bit scuffed, but I didn't have any statutory rights in this transaction. I had no legal recourse."



THE SONG THAT MAKES ME WANT TO DANCE

PSY
Gangnam Style
"I still listen to this quite a bit. But I don't go to any dancefloors – not even in my teens and early twenties."

Deus Ex: Mankind Divided is out now



The wisdom of the NME archives

THIS WEEK
MIKE SKINNER
The Streets
December 7, 2002

"You should eat kebabs in a box with a fork. They're not that unhealthy really, because you get so much salad with it."



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