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NME

Hello...

IT'S BEEN OVER A WEEK since the VO5 NME Awards took place in Brixton, which means that even the most ferocious hangovers should have worn off by now (I'm looking at you, Theo Hutchcraft and Dan Smith). My personal highlights were London Mayor Sadiq Khan becoming bezzie mates with Skepta and Wiley, Goldie's intense enjoyment of being at his first NME Awards in 20 years, Christine And The Queens' excellent speech about growing up as "a French, weird kid", and of course the psychedelic lasers and thumping beats of Pet Shop Boys.

But mostly I enjoyed the sense in the room that there's something bigger going on in the world right now, and each of us needs to take some responsibility in dealing with it, so big ups to Matty Healy and M.I.A. for getting up on stage and talking about it. You've got a chance to make a difference too: text REFU to 70700 to give £5 to Help Refugees and make the guys on the cover (and me) happy.

MIKE WILLIAMS
Editor-in-Chief
@itsmikeli

Sadiq Khan and Wiley at the VO5 NME Awards 2017 p18

COVER STORY

14 Bands 4 Refugees

Read all about it – then, if you can, donate to a good cause

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Amazing pics of amazing people having an amazing time

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The rise and rise and rise of one of grime's most exciting MCs

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NME

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EMELI SANDÉ

LONG LIVE THE ANGELS TOUR

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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AGENDA

WHAT EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT THIS WEEK

Five Glasto secrets

Michael Eavis, Emily Eavis and Wiley told us some things about this year's extravaganza (and one about 2020)

THERE'LL BE A DRIVE-IN CINEMA

Michael: "We've got a massive film screen and 100 1960s American and Cuban cars. We've put them all in straight lines so you can sit in the cars and watch the films. The sound comes into the cars by a little Bluetooth thingy on the wing mirror. Julien Temple is doing all the film choices. This is the biggest thing of the year."

WILEY IS PLAYING

Wiley: "I'll be there. I can't wait." Speaking about his 2013 comment, "f**k them and their farm", he added: "I was young, I was naive, and also no one told me what really happens when you go to a festival. No one enlightened me or told me the origins or the meaning. Now I know and now I can go there with an open mind."

THERE'LL BE TWICE AS MUCH MUSIC

Emily: "We've got a year off next year, so we're throwing everything into this one. We've got twice as many bands and lots to push into this festival. We made two more bookings at the NME Awards."

HEADLINER NEWS IS COMING IN MARCH

Emily: "And there might just be a little thing before. We're all gearing up for that. There's not long to wait now. It's only a couple of weeks."

ONE OF THE 2020 HEADLINERS IS SORTED

Emily: "We're talking to our first headliner for the 50th anniversary – that'll be in 2020. It's someone pretty massive."

Down on the farm with Michael and Emily Eavis

Dreamville

J. COLE

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TOUR



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14.10 **BIRMINGHAM** BARCLAYCARD ARENA
15.10 **LONDON** THE O2
20.10 **CARDIFF** MOTORPOINT ARENA
21.10 **MANCHESTER** ARENA
22.10 **LEEDS** FIRST DIRECT ARENA

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do you understand me?

Let him entertain you

A funny chat with Robbie Williams, who just won the BRITs Icon Award

ON HAVING IT LIKE AN OLIGARCH

"My life is sort of oligarchic, but if an oligarch was on a budget. But listen, compared to where I was from and the socio-economic background I was born into, I'm a f**king oligarch."

ON PUTIN AND TRUMP

"I like a conspiracy of any shape or form. I kind of believe and don't believe everything at the same time, for entertainment purposes and the soap opera of everyday life. It's interesting and entertaining. Is it true? Maybe. Is it not? Maybe. By the sounds of it, Moby knows."

ON POP STARS NOT BEING FUN ANY MORE

"We were a different breed back then [in the '90s] – cussing and dissing and needing to say things in order to be interesting. I don't think people do that now. It was expected of everybody to be drunk and off their face on cocaine. People don't do that now – it seems so f**king weird. It's not acceptable and great. If people did that now, it would just look a bit sad. I think it depends what drugs are out there at the time. What's out there at the moment? Ketamine? Or am I out of date on that?"

ON SAYING WATCHING WIFE AYDA GIVE BIRTH WAS LIKE "WATCHING YOUR FAVOURITE PUB BURN DOWN"

"It's great because recently there's an off-licence that's been opened round the back. Boom, right? I've been waiting for somebody to ask me so I can say that. But really, I'm an over-sharer, my wife's an over-sharer. She enjoys that kind of banter. We both do."

ON FEELING PROUD OF HIS BRITs ICON AWARD

"It depends who they give it to next. Maybe I'm just devaluing the brand. Maybe it's like the heavy descent. Maybe it's S Club 7 next. Look, it was a cracking bit of promo, I'm glad they gave it to me. But there's so much in my career where I look into the abyss and the abyss looks back and goes: 'I don't know, I don't have a f**king clue.' How have I got 18 BRITs and Paul McCartney hasn't? Something weird has happened. But I'm not going to give them back and I'm glad it's happened to me."

ON SAYING DUMB STUFF

"I like to entertain. I do have limited creative skills and I find myself saying things that, on later inspection, I probably wouldn't have said. I'm just trying to be funny all the time. There are so many boring pH7 neutral artists out there that it's not difficult standing out."

Jordan Bassett

Robbie's teamed up with Mastercard as part of the Priceless Surprises campaign in celebration of The BRIT Awards 2017. To watch, visit pricelessurprises.co.uk

AGENDA



CHRISTINE AND THE QUEENS

She's progressing with her "sweaty, more sexual and tougher" new album.



LIAM GALLAGHER

Says "L f**kin' G is on his way" with new music.

"Noel's fans are gonna have nowhere to run or hide."



JUSTIN BIEBER

Under investigation for allegedly head-butting a man who was filming him. Is it too late now to say sorry?



SAM RILEY

His role in the new BBC Nazi drama SS-GB was marred by complaints that everyone was mumbling all the time.



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Wick burns on

Keanu Reeves and director Chad Stahelski, star and director of *John Wick: Chapter Two*, explain why it's an action film for our times

Why is *John Wick* such a cult success?

Keanu: "This isn't just a guy's action movie. Because of the first film's plot – John Wick's wife dies, then his dog gets killed – you really root for this character. Obviously there's loads of crazy gun-play, but there's humour along the way too."

Chad: "You nailed it: he gets sad, he even cries, he's not just some heartless assassin."

Keanu: "And these movies are so much fun to watch because of the music, the style, the design, everything. I mean, John Wick wears some great suits."

One of *John Wick*'s main rivals is Ares, played by Ruby Rose, who only communicates using sign language. Where did this idea come from?

Chad: "Originally that was just a stunt person's role, but Ruby's work in *Orange Is The New Black* fascinated us. Making her mute was a tricky sell, but it made her stand out too. I also think it made her a lot more threatening because Ruby has such an expressive face."

Keanu: "She's a rad character. And Ruby Rose is, like, superhuman. She's like a next generation evolutionary advance of the human species. What's the Latin for it? She's like a nova human. Sapien novo?"

Your old *The Matrix* buddy Laurence Fishburne appears in the film too. Was this your doing, Keanu?

Keanu: "Yeah. We're friends and he told me he liked *John Wick*, so I was like, 'You wanna do something in the second movie?' We have a really good rhythm together and our roles are so much fun. He plays the Bowery King, who's like the king of the underworld. I go to him begging for help and when I get there, you don't know if he's going to help me or kill me."

The film's ending definitely sets up *John Wick: Chapter Three*. Are you already planning it?

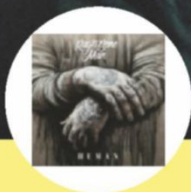
Chad: "We're in development and we have some very clear ideas of what the next film should be."

Keanu: "It really depends on whether the audience wants another one. But we're cooking it right now and we're having a lot of fun. I want to see John Wick get poisoned..."

Chad: "Now there's an idea!"

Keanu: "I want him to go to Jerusalem. John Wick crosses the desert would be cool."

***John Wick: Chapter Two* is in cinemas now**



117,000

Copies Rag'n'Bone Man's album *Human* sold in its first week – the fastest-selling debut of the year. He'll go far.



80

New creatures unleashed on *Pokémon Go*. Keep an eye out for those zombified pedestrians.



19

Years since Sleeper's last gig – but they're back and hitting the road with Dodgy and Space. Britpop never dies.



4,147

Days Daniel Craig has been James Bond – which makes him the second longest-serving Bond ever.

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ON THE RECORD



THIS WEEK

Enough's enough – bands need to stop reuniting

ICONIC SAN FRANCISCO politico-punk band Dead Kennedys were recently asked to dust off their Dr Martens and reform their 1980s line-up in order to play a festival in Chicago. According to some rather grumpy band members who were apparently keen on the offer, former frontman Jello Biafra stopped the reunion dead in its tracks. As such, it seems that Dead Kennedys will almost definitely not be playing Riot Fest – which has in the past brought together the classic line-ups of new wave idols The Replacements and horror-punks Misfits – this autumn. But you know what, despite being a fan of the band as well as of travelling to Chicago in September to stuff my face with

soupy deep-dish pizza, pretend I'm in *The Blues Brothers* and get my shins scuffed in a circle pit, I'm pretty cool with it. In fact, consider this my public call to classic bands to please *stop getting back together*, no matter how legendary you are.

Over the past decade or so, a seemingly endless list of artists of a certain age have dragged themselves out of their lovely houses in Devon, dusted off their guitars, crossed their moats and sighed a deep, lonesome sigh as they've gathered together with people they probably can't stand the sight of in order to pay off the mortgage on their second holiday home in the Lake District. And to be honest, a swift arena tour is probably

"There's something noble in not going after past glories"

BIG OPINIONS. NO FILTER.



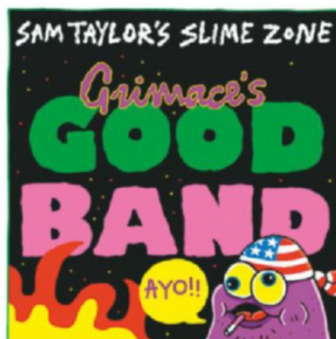
The White Stripes are never, ever getting back together

a far easier way to raise funds than by selling a few extra cakes at the local village fete. Everyone from The Stone Roses to Rage Against The Machine, Pixies and The Libertines have got back together, not to mention the vaguely terrifying pop likes of Vengaboys and Steps. And I'm not saying that it hasn't been a laugh. The recently reunited LCD Soundsystem's gloriously ravey set at Lovebox was a highlight of last summer, while Pulp's 2011

reunion bought me endless joy as well as an excellent excuse to wear 1970s pussy-bow blouses for a whole summer. But there's

something impressive when a band refuses to scrabble back together, something noble in not trying to go after past glories and simply leaving your adoring public wanting more. As much as I love ABBA and their holy disco majesty, the fact that they've held firm and refused to risk putting on a show that might not match the sequin-spangled excellence of their 1970s heyday – even when offered a billion dollars – is pretty impressive. The same goes for The Smiths, The Kinks and The White Stripes – all heroes, but heroes who are never, ever getting back together. Good on them. @leoniemaycooper

PHOTO: ANDY WILLISHER



THINGS WE LIKE

THIS WEEK'S OBJECTS OF DESIRE



Cure all

Go goth with this tribute tee to Bob Smith from legendary band The Cure.

£19.99 [in-store](#) and [hmv.com](#)



Craft culture

Estrella Galicia is Spain's largest independent brewery. Their beer's a beaut.

£1.49 [ocado.com](#)



Get Carter

Frank Carter and co tour the UK next month – prepare yourself by grabbing this tee.

£14.99 [nmemerch.com](#)



Excess baggage

Paul & Joe's bespoke prints are now adorning a tasty new Eastpak range.

£27 [eastpak.com](#)



Dangerous love

Wear your heart on your sleeve. Or anywhere else you choose with this pin.

£6.42 [ballandchainco.com](#)



Shear style

A denim shearing jacket will keep you snug and stylish at the same time.

£35 [boohooman.com](#)



Being board

Tino Razo's neat *Party In The Back* photobook looks at Californian skate culture.

£35 [anthologyeditions.com](#)



Lip service

Go glam with pop star Kiesza's signature Vamplify gloss shade, Thunder Kiss.

£18 [maccosmetics.co.uk](#)



Just support it

Share your love for the welfare state with this sweet tee, as seen on Jessie Ware.

£19.99 [sportsbanger.com](#)



Lovely locks

Lush's cruelty-free shampoo bar is infused with cinnamon, clove and peppermint.

£5.95 [lush.com](#)



A band apart

Go for a fuss-free rockabilly look with this ace bandana hair band.

£46 [danalevy.co.uk](#)



Cult clothing

Shirts don't get more iconic than Joy Division's 'Unknown Pleasures' artwork tee.

£17.99 [in-store](#) and [hmv.com](#)



Good read

David Keenan's debut novel *This Is Memorial Device* is a love letter to post-punk.

£14.99 [waterstones.com](#)



Personal trainer

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£205 [nike.com/nikelab](#)

YOUR TOWN. YOUR MUSIC. YOUR STYLE

What's ON your Headphones?

THIS WEEK

Peterborough



< ALEXANDER GIANCARLO RUGGIERO

22, student

Listening to:
TAME IMPALA
The Less I Know The Better
"It's psychedelic groove-rock. What more do you want from a song?"

Wearing: John Lewis jacket and T-shirt, Topman jeans, TK Maxx boots.
Best thing about Peterborough: "I love the cathedral."

TRIXIE RODDICK >

22, teaching assistant

Listening to:
BLOSSOMS
Honey Sweet
"It's so catchy and always puts me in a good mood."

Wearing: DKNY jacket, vintage top, Primark jeans.
Best thing about Peterborough: "It's nice and small but it still packs so much in."

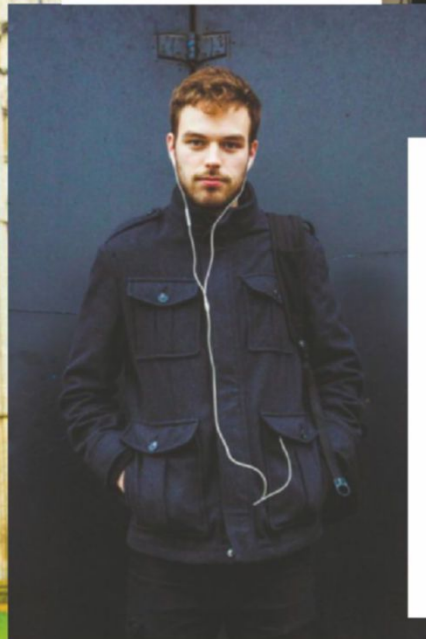


< BRIAN MORONEY

20, drummer

Listening to:
CAGE THE ELEPHANT
Trouble
"It's pretty laid-back with an interesting vocal style. They're totally unique."

Wearing: Tommy Hilfiger jacket, H&M jeans.
Best thing about Peterborough: "Argo Lounge has great vibes."



GEORGE AINSWORTH >

22, student

Listening to:
ELLA FITZGERALD
Miss Otis Regrets
"I like it because it's quite chilled out – you can just sit down and relax to it."

Wearing: River Island jacket, Topman shirt, New Look jeans, Jones shoes, North Face cap.
Best thing about Peterborough: "The Met Lounge is where some of my favourite bands play."



PHOTOS: EMMA VIOLA LILJA

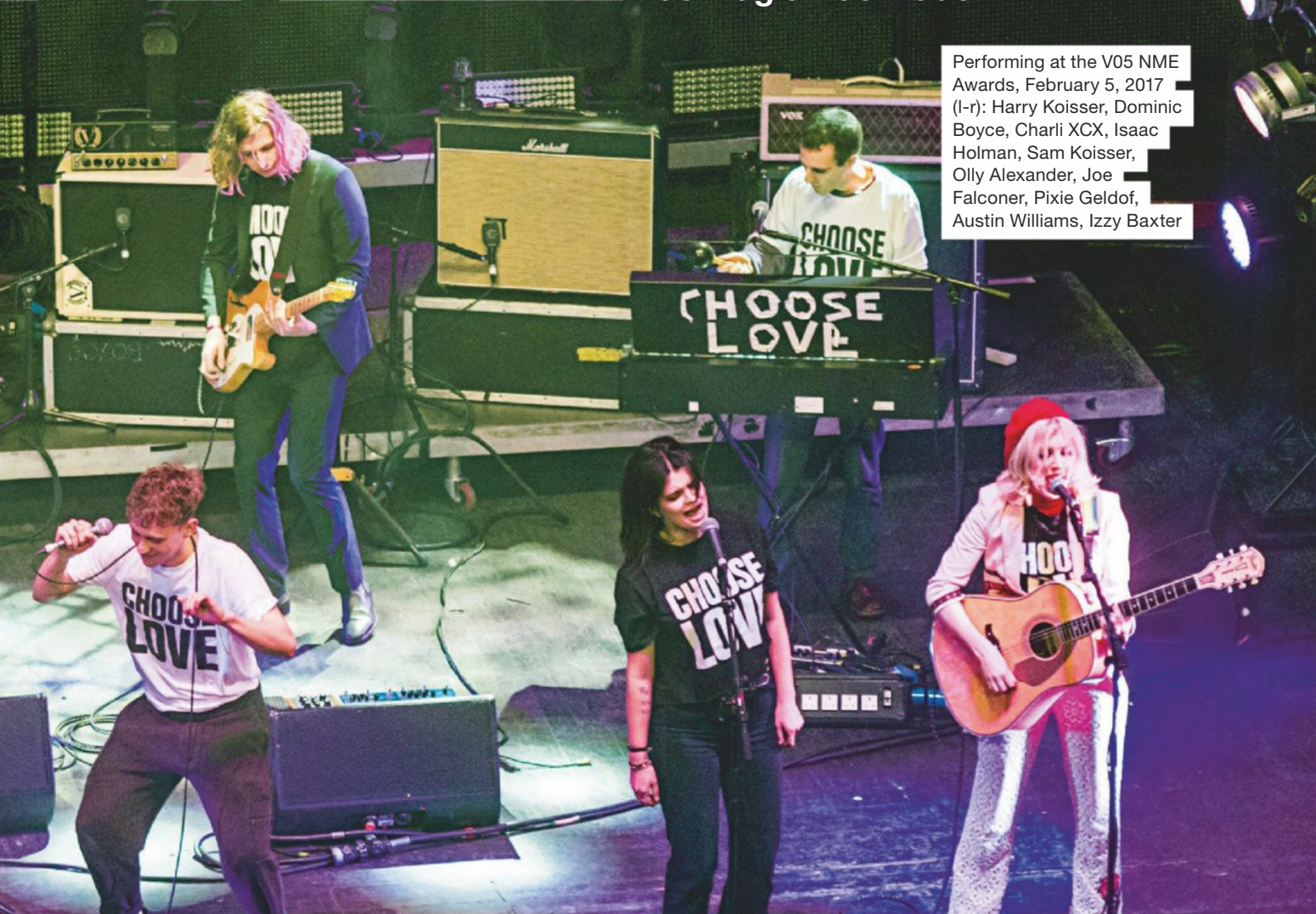
GIMM



THE

Bands 4 Refugees put together a one-off supergroup to raise awareness of the refugee crisis at the VO5 NME Awards 2017. Kevin EG Perry joined Olly Alexander, Charli XCX and the gang as magic was made

Performing at the VO5 NME Awards, February 5, 2017
(l-r): Harry Koisser, Dominic Boyce, Charli XCX, Isaac Holman, Sam Koisser, Olly Alexander, Joe Falconer, Pixie Geldof, Austin Williams, Izzy Baxter



FOR

BANDS 4 REFUGEES



PIXIE GELDOF

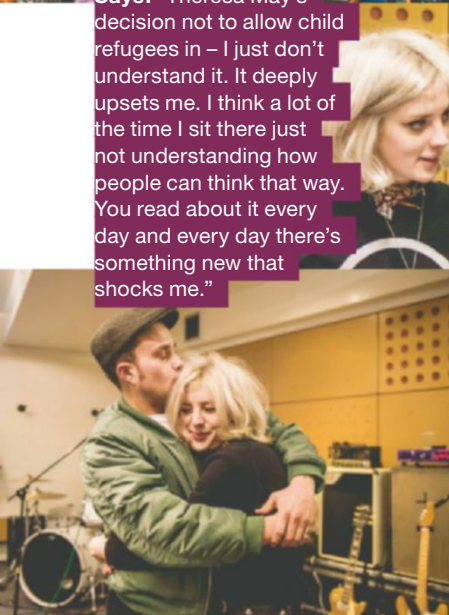
Solo artist and daughter of Live Aid's Bob

Says: "Theresa May's decision not to allow child refugees in – I just don't understand it. It deeply upsets me. I think a lot of the time I sit there just not understanding how people can think that way. You read about it every day and every day there's something new that shocks me."

IZZY BAXTER

Black Honey singer

Says: "Honestly, I didn't really know much about the situation until we did that first gig, and I'm so glad we did. The stuff I learned from Help Refugees is something that I don't think reaches a lot of young people."



ISAAC HOLMAN

Slaves' singing drummer

Says: "I was involved in the original Bands 4 Refugees shows that we did at Kamio that Ellie sorted out. Harry and Dom asked me to do this one and I was well chuffed. I was keen to get stuck in. I think everyone is. It feels like a really good cause."



HARRY KOISSER

Peace frontman and Bands 4 Refugees organiser

Says: "Anyone who gives five minutes to read something about the refugee situation will find it slowly eats into you and you can't help but get sucked into it. Luckily Josie's put forward this idea and let artists come together, which is great. It's been close to me."

OLLY ALEXANDER

Years & Years frontman

Says: "I think we have an obligation to help all the people who've been displaced from their countries and are seeking refuge. We're a rich country – there's space. We should be welcoming people in."



IT'S TWO DAYS BEFORE THE VO5 NME Awards and, in a rehearsal room in London's King's Cross, a group of musicians are gathering to prepare a very special performance.

What unites them is a belief that we're in a time of crisis and we all need to do what we can to raise our voices.

Almost six years ago, a ferocious civil war broke out in Syria. With much of the country now controlled by so-called ISIS, there's still no end in sight. Just like the victims of wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, millions of ordinary Syrians were left with little choice but to flee for their lives. They packed a few belongings into plastic bags and set off with their children in tow. Most ended up in neighbouring countries Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan, but some kept going and made the precarious journey to Europe. Many of those who hoped to come to Britain ended up at a camp in Calais, France, which at its peak was a makeshift home for 15,000 refugees.

For a time, the crisis made headlines, but before long our collective gaze drifted to Brexit, Trump and *Bake Off*. While we looked away, a million new refugees from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan arrived in Europe last year. The camps in Calais and elsewhere were closed down, leaving many people homeless on the streets of Paris. In Britain, we've given refuge to just a few thousand. In the last few weeks, the Government announced that a scheme which promised to rehome 3,000 unaccompanied children in the UK will be scrapped after letting in just 350. That decision alone makes the idea of Britain as a compassionate country sound like cheap fiction – and it's why the charity movement Help Refugees is currently in the process of suing the Home Office.

One person who wanted to help out in any way she could was Wolf Alice frontwoman Ellie Rowsell. Last year, she got in touch with Josie Naughton, one of the founders of Help Refugees. Together, they came up with the idea of Bands 4 Refugees, and Ellie pulled together a group of her mates for a series of covers nights at London venue Kamio in December, raising both money and awareness of the essential work that Help Refugees does across Europe and even within Syria itself.

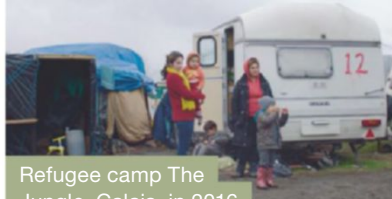
We were so impressed by the cause and the music being made that we invited Bands 4 Refugees to reunite for this year's NME Awards. With Ellie currently locked in recording sessions out in LA, the baton was passed to Peace frontman Harry Koisser. He rounded up the troops, which today include his band's rhythm section Dom Boyce and Sam Koisser, Circa Waves guitarist Joe Falconer and Swim Deep's Austin Williams on keys. Vocals are being divvied up between Harry, Years

& Years' Olly Alexander, *Slaves'* Isaac Holman, Pixie Geldof and Black Honey's Izzy Baxter. Charli XCX is also due to perform but is currently making the long trip back from the Grammys in LA.

"Everyone we asked who was in the country said yes," says Harry. His brother Sam adds: "It's good to see people getting together for a good cause," he says. "It may not be Live Aid, but we do have a Geldof."

The group have got permission from The Rolling Stones to cover 'Gimme Shelter'. Written almost 50 years ago in the shadow of the Vietnam war, Mick Jagger's lyrics were originally a response to images of burning homes being broadcast around the world. Now, in the refugee crisis, the refrain: "*If I don't get some shelter / I'm gonna fade away*" takes on a chilling new resonance. "It's an amazing song to sing," says Pixie. "Every now and then you need that jolt to remind you that every single voice is so important."

Harry, meanwhile, is pleased by how good they're already sounding. "Izzy and Pixie have amazing voices, which has been good for the Merry Clayton [soul singer and the Stones' original guest vocalist] bits," he says. "And Olly probably has one of the best male voices I've ever heard in the flesh." As Harry and Joe trade guitar licks, Isaac is bounding around the room handing out lollies from a jar he bought just for the occasion. There's an air of high spirits and mischief in the room, but nobody's in any doubt about the importance of the cause. "There are a lot of lies about refugees perpetuated by our awful Tory government, as well as governments around the world," says Olly. "It's easy to think your elected leaders will sort things out, but sadly, in this instance especially, we need to make our voices heard."



Refugee camp The Jungle, Calais, in 2016

A couple of days later, the awards are in full swing at the O2 Academy Brixton. The VIP area near the stage is a chaotic cavalcade of hedonism, through which Josie is darting about handing out T-shirts bearing the slogan Choose Love. Even London Mayor Sadiq Khan is getting in on the act. The band members look on admiringly. "Josie is wicked," says Isaac. "Her passion rubs off on everyone else." Their performance will be introduced by M.I.A., another artist who's been inspired by Help Refugees. Having arrived in Britain as a refugee from Sri Lanka at the age of 11, M.I.A. last year volunteered to go to see the work that Help Refugees are doing in Athens. "I got to go and see that stuff first-hand," she says backstage. "I'm happy that that world and this world can combine together." Josie agrees. "It shows our generation that it's cool to care," she says. "Donating money is obviously super-helpful, but so are things like writing to your MP. You can also come and volunteer in France, or in Greece, or you can start talking to your friends about ways you could fundraise."

It's finally show time, and the band gather in a back corridor of the Academy. The 1975's Matt Healy is ushered past, fresh from collecting the Best Live Band Award with a call-to-arms speech that went: "Everything is f**ked,

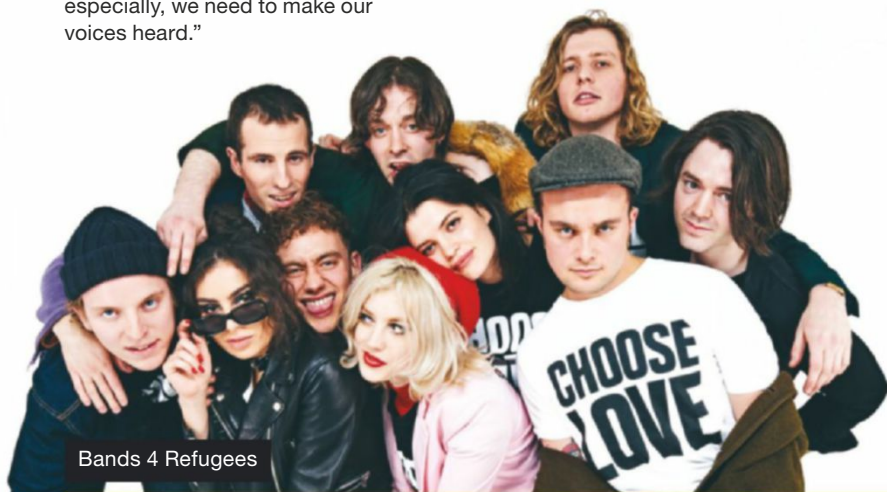
"It's called: Help! Refugees! It's fking simple"**

and if your music isn't purposefully informative, then there's no point to it." He gives his love to Bands 4 Refugees, but his plan to come on and "shake a tambourine" is halted when he's whisked away elsewhere. There's still no sign of Charli XCX, who missed the soundcheck yesterday after her flight back from LA was late arriving. She's still not had a chance to practise with the band at all, but minutes before they're due on stage she arrives. "War, children, it's just a shot away!" she belts out. "That's all I need, right?" A stage door swings open and a man wearing a headset ushers the band out to take their places. At the podium stage right, M.I.A. is boiling the issue down to the key point: "It's called: Help! Refugees!" she says. "It's really f**king simple."

"It's also them that got Lily Allen into loads of s**t," she adds, alluding to the visit to the Calais camp that Help Refugees organised for the singer last October. When Lily apologised to a refugee living there "on behalf of my country" she was vilified by the press. It's a pattern that continued when Gary Lineker spoke out in support of refugees, but these attacks only prove the importance of cutting through the divisive rhetoric.

When Harry and Joe start playing that electric 'Gimme Shelter' riff, the entirety of the venue is soon caught up in the song's unstoppable momentum. Behind them, the screen exhorts the audience to text in donations to Help Refugees. After they tumble off stage, it's this that Harry wants to focus on. "More, more, more!" he shouts. "Tonight wasn't about awards, it was about donations! Text the number! I want 100,000 more texts."

It's easy to sneer at rock stars who throw their weight behind political causes, but we all have a part to play. "People could be doing Bands 4 Refugees anywhere in the country, whether or not they're famous," says Josie. "We want people to take it into their own hands." How we choose to treat people who are in desperate need will be with us for the rest of our lives – whether you're me, you, Theresa May, Piers Morgan, Keith Richards, Gary Lineker or your mum. This isn't a generational thing. This is about the type of people we are and the type of country we live in. It's a choice. We can choose to be the sort of place that turns people away when they need our help. Or we can choose love. **NME**



Bands 4 Refugees

YOU CAN CHOOSE LOVE BY DONATING A FIVER TO HELP REFUGEES RIGHT NOW. TEXT REFU TO 70700 TO GIVE £5. GO ON!



VO5 NME AWARDS 2017

Last week, the godfather of grime, a Queen and – yes – the actual Mayor of London gathered to celebrate at the VO5 NME Awards 2017. Here's what went down

BACKSTAGE PHOTOGRAPHY BY DEAN CHALKLEY



Mayor of London Sadiq Khan became an honorary member of the evening's most epic crew, featuring Wiley, Skepta and Goldie. Bow down

The night, as it happened



Bastille kick off the show with 'Good Grief'



Christine And The Queens picks up the first of her two awards



NME Editor Mike Williams



Best New Artist Dua Lipa dazzles during 'Be The One'

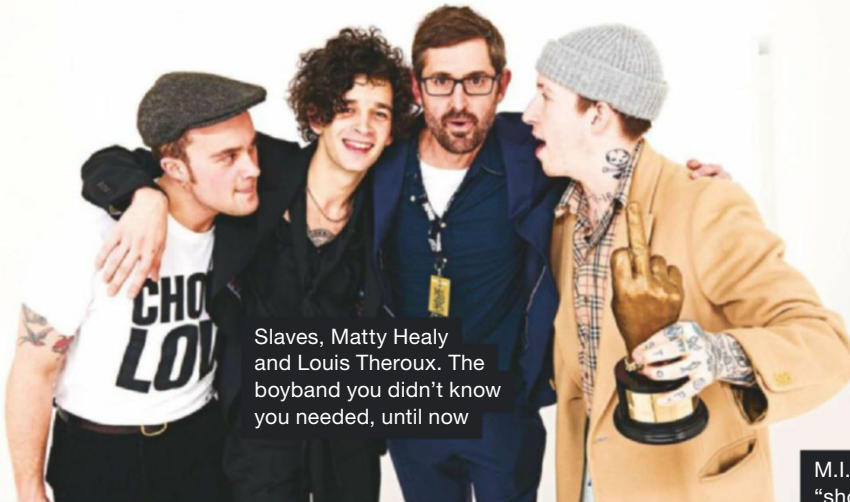


Best International Female Christine And The Queens: "All the females that are nominated with me are amazing and present a really strong way to exist as a woman in today's world and my way is a bit twisted and a bit awkward"

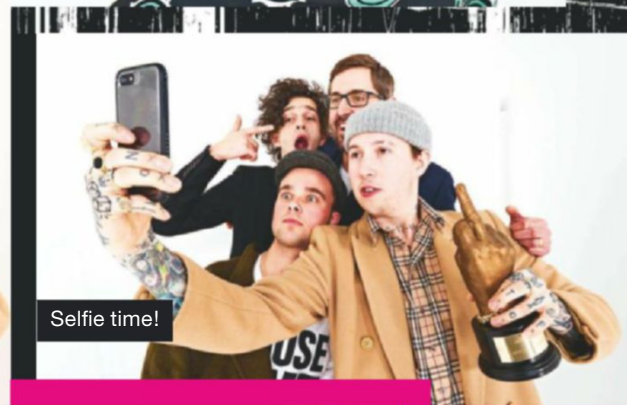


Best New Artist Dua Lipa: "Oh man, thank you so much... It means the world to me"

VOS
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AWARDS 2017



Slaves, Matty Healy and Louis Theroux. The boyband you didn't know you needed, until now



Selfie time!

M.I.A. says Best British Female "should have been mine a long time ago"



Metallica pick up Best International Band via video



A very happy Skepta gives Wiley his Outstanding Contribution award



Glastonbury's Michael and Emily Eavis pick up Best Festival. Shorts!



Sadiq Khan presents to Best British Male Skepta. Two London legends



THE NME
OUTSTANDING
CONTRIBUTOR
TO MUSIC
AWARD



Comedian Matt Berry



Bastille



Frank Carter and touring buddies Biffy Clyro



DJ Martin Garrix



You Me At Six's Josh Franceschi: "F**k touts!"



Radio 1's Clara Amfo



Wiley



The 1975's Matty Healy



The Pussycat Dolls' Ashley Roberts



Busted...



Best British Female M.I.A.: "Music needs to represent and give chances to people that are actually from the hood, immigrants and migrants... This is for all of them"



Wiley smashes out 'Speakerbox' and 'Can't Go Wrong'...



Slaves celebrate winning Best Video



Bands 4 Refugees get ready to play



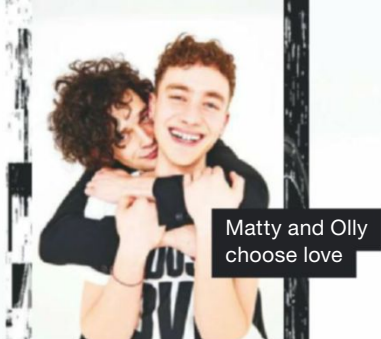
...as Novelist and Skepta lose their s**t



Best Film winner and actual genius Louis Theroux



Fleabag's Phoebe Waller-Bridge



Matty and Olly choose love



Pet Shop Boys and Johnny Marr



Glasto legends Michael and Emily Eavis: "Thanks to everyone who comes and makes it so brilliant. It's all the people that come who really make it special"



The boys in the bands (l-r): Ben Johnston, James Johnston (Biffy Clyro), Will Farquarson, Kyle J Simmons, Dan Smith (Bastille), Matty Healy (The 1975), Simon Neil (Biffy Clyro), Chris Wood (Bastille)



Frank Carter hands Best British Band to Biffy Clyro



Johnny Marr introduces Godlike Genius winners Pet Shop Boys and their laser-tastic closing set

VO5 NME AWARDS 2017

Big ups

The VO5 NME Awards 2017 wouldn't have been so bloody brilliant without these absolute heroes. Thanks to:



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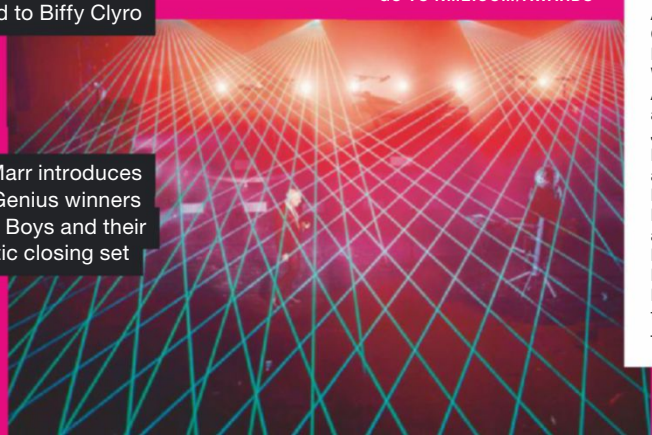


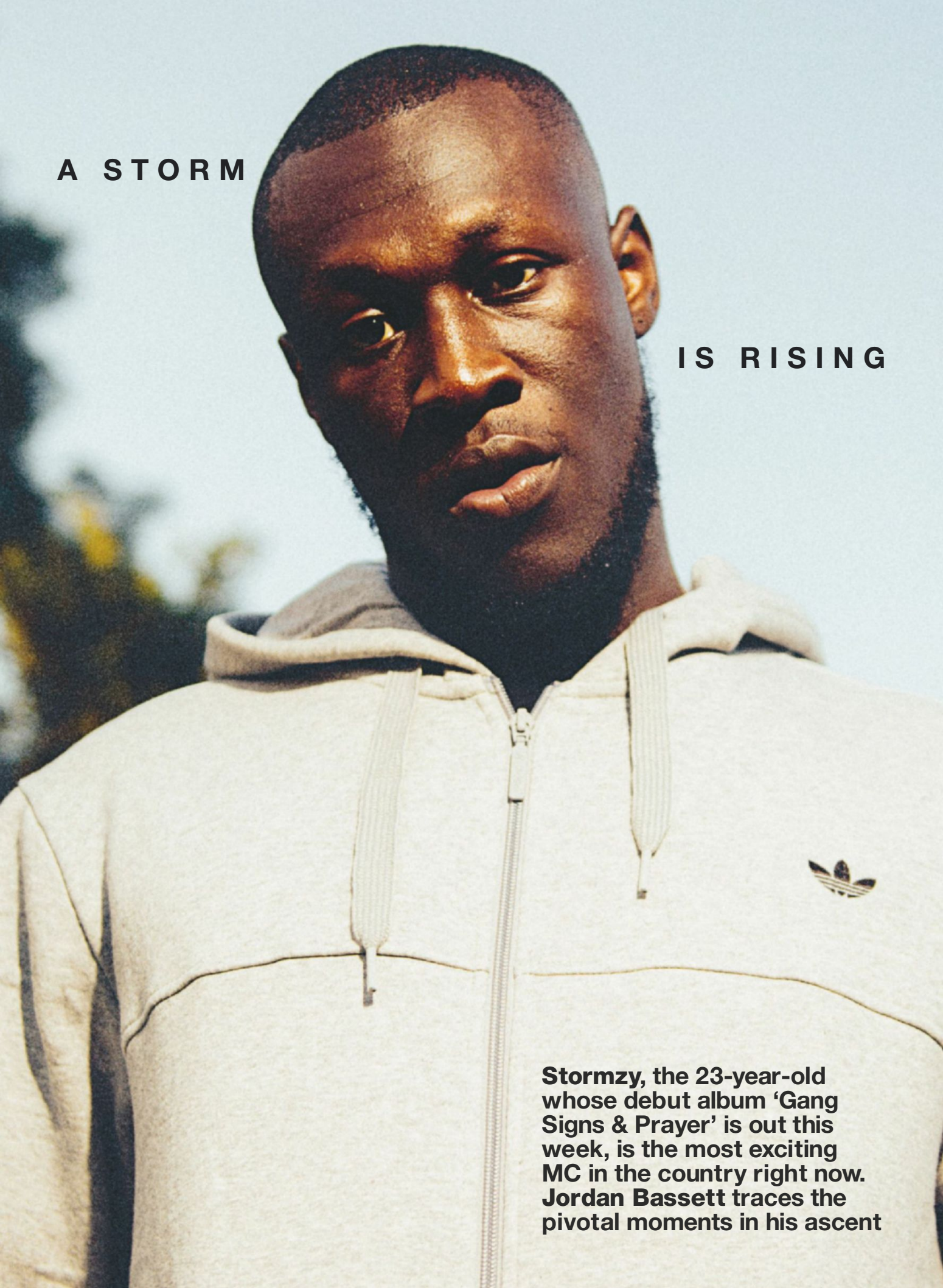
Austin
— LIVE MUSIC CAPITAL OF THE WORLD —



PLUS: Huw Stephens, Johnny Marr, Skepta, Angela Becker & Charlie Coletta, John Woolf, James Sandom, Sadiq Khan, Josie Naughton, Ed Morford, Harrison Koisser, Alisa Coleman ABKCO U.S., Pat Woods Warner Chappell U.S., Murray, Sarah & Lottie and all at MCPR, Andy Prevezer, all at O2 Academy Brixton especially Louise Kovacs, Josh Rosen, Amanda Dawe, Mark Aplin and Nigel Downs, Alice Lindars, Paul Corrick and all at Reality, My Accomplice, Siana Weston, Tim & Emma at Acclaim, Chris Hollands at APSecurity, Quentin Jarman, Andrew Frengley, Pauline Carroll at Foxy Events, Jared Pepall and all at Blacpack, Toby Bryant and all at Solution, Jane Bridgeman, Darren Moorhouse, David Marshall and all at Arc, the NME audience – thanks for watching.

TO SEE THE FULL VO5 NME AWARDS 2017 COVERAGE, GO TO NME.COM/AWARDS





A STORM

IS RISING

Stormzy, the 23-year-old whose debut album 'Gang Signs & Prayer' is out this week, is the most exciting MC in the country right now. Jordan Bassett traces the pivotal moments in his ascent

JULY 26 • 1993

A SMART – BUT NAUGHTY – KID

Stormzy was born Michael Omari in 1993 into pretty average circumstances. Brought up in Thornton Heath, south London, by Abigail Uwuo, a single mum, he was a smart kid but often in bother at school – and was almost expelled. There's no record of him telling a teacher to 'Shut Up', but we're not quite ruling it out.

2011

DROPPING OUT OF SCHOOL TO PURSUE MUSIC

That academic talent took him to Leamington Spa, where he began studying for an engineering apprenticeship. He was shocked at the outrageous language his fellow "lads" used when speaking to each other, but came to realise it was all fairly harmless. This perhaps contributed to his persona as the funnyman of grime, the MC-next-door. "I was two different people," he told Pitchfork of his student days. "One good professional who did all his assignments – and then on the weekends I was back in London being Stormzy. Not even Stormzy the rapper, just Stormzy the hoodlum. But coming back just made me realise how distant I was becoming from my life [in London]. It didn't make sense for me to be a criminal on the weekends."

JULY 20 • 2014

HITTING IT BIG WITH HIS DEBUT EP

Having put out the '168' mixtape in 2013, the following year Stormzy released his debut EP 'Dreamers Disease', which topped the iTunes Hip-Hop/Rap chart. In March 2015, he broke the UK Top 50 with his first official single, 'Know Me From', the video for which featured him and his mum strutting through Thornton Heath.



FEBRUARY 25 • 2015

PERFORMING WITH KANYE AT THE BRITS

Kanye West is a man with his finger on the pulse of popular music. At the BRITs in 2015, he ushered 40 emerging UK grime artists onstage for a crushing rendition of his track 'All Day'. The genre was overlooked at that year's ceremony, so it was a symbolic moment of walls being broken down.

SEPTEMBER 11 • 2015

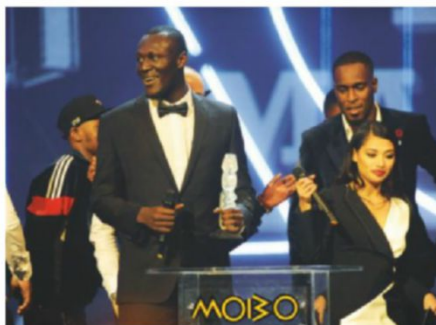
BUSTING THE CHARTS WITH A FREESTYLE

It's true that the charts are all over the place at the moment, having been wildly disrupted by streaming, but Stormzy going Top 20 with a freestyle – 'WickedSkengMan Part 4' – was still a bizarrely impressive feat. The lo-fi video sees Stormzy – in a park, pals calmly sipping bottled water in the background – deliver a vicious response to his doubters. "We've got a grime freestyle into the UK Top 20 – history for us all," said Stormzy afterwards.

DECEMBER 12 • 2015

RAPPING AT THE BOXING

After 'WickedSkengMan Part 4', the B-side, 'Shut Up', reached Number Eight in December 2015. The reason? Stormzy performed it before British heavyweight champion Anthony Joshua's boxing match against Dillian Whyte at London's O2, and launched a campaign to have it reach Christmas Number One. While the result wasn't quite the KO he'd hoped for, it was still a swift right hook to that year's *X Factor* single, which topped out at Number Nine.



NOVEMBER 4 • 2015

BEATING SKEPTA AT THE MOBOS

Given the supportive nature of grime, there was no bad blood from Skepta when, in 2015, Stormzy was named Best Male Act and Best Grime Act at the MOBOS. Taking to the stage, he said: "I'm gonna keep on saying this: a lot of people think these things are down to the artist, but it's down to God."

MAY 21 • 2016

COMING OUT IN SUPPORT OF JEREMY CORBYN

The beleaguered Labour leader received a much-needed boost of credibility when Stormzy told *The Guardian*: "My man, Jeremy! Young Jeremy, my guy. I dig what he says... Have you seen that footage of House of Commons? They're all neeky dons! The way they all laugh and cheer. Is this f**king *Game Of Thrones*?... That's why I like Jeremy – I feel like he gets what the ethnic minorities are going through and the homeless and the working class." Not the first nor the last time politicians will be called "neeky dons", we hope.

They say...



WILEY
"Big up @Stormzy1 the #1 grime don in this new era ... God bless you brother."



WRETCH 32
"Stormzy has added a new level of excitement. If I was a 12-year-old kid that makes grime music now, I would think the sky's the limit."



SKEPTA
"He's a blessing to earth. He's a gift to earth."

JULY 26 • 2016

SHUTTING DOWN THORPE PARK FOR THE LOLS

July 26, 2016 has gone down in history as a great moment for the relationship between theme parks and rap. Stormzy asked Thorpe Park if he and 200 "of the gang" could visit to celebrate his birthday. They said yes. On the day, Stormzy tweeted: "The ones thinking why's he so gassed are the ones who ain't never been Thorpe park on a bangin sunny day with the mandem and a few girls."

MARCH 15 • 2016

GETTING HIS OWN NANDO'S BURGER

Stormzy's bantz – like the Thorpe Park stunt – have endeared him to an audience that likes his good-time-guy persona. This audience also enjoys a cheeky Nando's. Naturally, then, Stormzy tweeted

Nando's about the #Merkly Burger, a creation from his own brilliant mind (it's basically grilled halloumi in garlic bread with chilli) and the chain restaurant tweeted back that they'd made it reality. In the music business, they call this synergy. We call it delicious.

FEBRUARY 24 • 2017

UNVEILING HIS ALBUM 'GANG SIGNS & PRAYER'

Stormzy recently released the excellent track 'Big For Your Boots', on which he pronounces the word "boots" like he's speaking through a Polo mint. He also sold out a UK tour and unveiled the tracklist for his debut album, which will feature – among others – Kehlani, Wretch 32 and J Hus. Wonder what his former teachers make of *that*?

Turn to page 29 to read the **NME** review of 'Gang Signs & Prayer'

NME

TOPMAN ON TOUR

WITH NME

First band announced!

Meet Brighton's Fickle
Friends, creators of highly
danceable electropop



Fickle Friends (l-r): Sam,
Harry, Natti, Jack, Chris

Are you looking forward to the tour?**Natassja Shiner (singer):**

"Very much so. We haven't played for a long time so we've been itching to get back on the road. We've been finishing our album and writing incessantly for the past couple of months. It's always the way – when you're on tour you desperately want to write and if you're writing loads you really want to go on tour."

Did you tear up LA while recording your album?

"It was really cool, a bit surreal. LA is a weird place. We were staying in the valley in the baking heat. I feel like we did all the novelty things. We went to

Venice Beach and did the canals and we went to Six Flags and there was a lot of celebrity spotting. There's this bar in Silverlake, and every single night Lana Del Rey was in there. I think the guys saw Kim and Kanye one night in Soho House."

Are you expecting a wild time at these university shows?

"We've done a couple of uni balls and things like that and it's quite a rowdy crowd usually. They're students, they're up for it. Our shows are pretty lively. I imagine it'll be pretty fun. We definitely get into it, especially our guitarist. He's an absolute nutter. Everyone calls him the funky pigeon. He has long hair and he

thrashes around and jumps in the crowd. We always like to do something fun. We tried having a tombola on our last tour, doing this big giveaway of T-shirts and records and stuff. Everyone got a raffle ticket on the way into the show and we'd just yell it out in the middle! We hang out with our fans afterwards – we usually say we're going to a bar round the corner and they should come. Usually it's in Liverpool – we played at the Arts Club there and everyone turned up at Heebie Jeebies next door and we hung out and drank together. We get a lot of aspiring musicians who come to the gigs and kids in bands and people on their first Tinder date who spend all night

making out at our gig and end up getting a cab home together. Our music brings them all together for half an hour."

Which cities are you looking forward to getting back to?

"Glasgow – sick! The crowds in Scotland are unreal. They take rowdy to a whole other level. It'd be nice to see the city a little bit."

You'd been releasing singles and touring festivals by yourselves for several years before signing to Polydor – does that make you appreciate success more?

"Definitely. It meant that we did everything organically. It was a pain in the arse driving round in a family car with the roof box and we were broke, but we did everything ourselves, which is really rewarding. Taking tents always helped."

Of the 50-odd festival shows you've played since 2015, what were the best experiences?

"Playing Reading & Leeds for the first time was one off the bucket list – it was amazing. And there's a festival in Holland called Best Kept Secret in a safari park. It was mental. All the artists got a complimentary tour of the park and we were going off-road and letting the giraffes lick us."

"Uni gigs are usually pretty rowdy. They're students, they're up for it"

Write for NME

TOPMAN ON TOUR WITH NME hits the road this March, and we want YOU to help us cover it. Here's how:

1. One student from every city that TOPMAN ON TOUR WITH NME visits will have their Guide To Uni Life published on NME.com.

2. One of these students will shadow an NME journalist at the gig at their uni, before reviewing the night.

For a chance to write for NME, go to nme.com/topmanontour and tell us what's great about your uni.

*Terms and conditions apply

The dates

See Fickle Friends at the following:

Fri March 17
Strathclyde University, Glasgow
Sat March 18
Hull University
Thu March 23
University Of East Anglia, Norwich
Fri March 24
University Of Sheffield
Fri March 31
Loughborough University

For tickets: contact the venues directly. If you're not a student, you're not getting in.

Follow TOPMAN social channels for the latest TOPMAN ON TOUR WITH NME news, including more dates, venues and bands

V05
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FRI 17 MAR LIVERPOOL OLYMPIA **SAT 18 MAR** LIVERPOOL OLYMPIA

SAT 18 MAR LIVERPOOL OLYMPIA **SAT 18 MAR** LIVERPOOL OLYMPIA

MON 20 MAR LIVERPOOL OLYMPIA **MON 20 MAR** LIVERPOOL OLYMPIA

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RADAR

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

BEST FOR RELEASING THE RAGE

WHILE SHE SLEEPS

Silence Speaks

Oli Sykes of Bring Me The Horizon teams up with Sheffield metalcore gang While She Sleeps to provide guest vocals, resulting in this multi-textured, epically aggro tune.

BEST FOR A CHANGE OF PACE

LINKIN PARK

Heavy

Linkin Park ditch the nu-metal in favour of Bieber-esque beats on this strangely catchy dose of doomy pop, featuring US vocalist Kiara.

BEST FOR HAVING A CRY

LONDON GRAMMAR

Bitter Sweet Symphony

Covering The Verve's 1997 classic, London Grammar's stripped-back, atmospheric version will grab you by the gut and have you sobbing like a big baby. Powerful stuff.

BEST FOR SOPPY MOMENTS

ED SHEERAN

How Would You Feel (Paean)

Ed gets all emotional on this low-key ballad. "How would you feel / If I told you I loved you", he sings. We're pretty cool with it, babes.

Best NEW tracks

And when to drop them

BEST FOR FEELING THE LOVE

LANA DEL REY

Love

LDR returns with a typically intense outpouring of vintage-styled romance. Pour yourself a martini, kick back and embrace the seriously sensual vibes.

BEST FOR SLEEPY SUNDAYS

LITTLE DRAGON

High

The most laid-back thing you'll hear all year, this psych-soul tune is softer and sweeter than a box of kittens. Press play and transport yourself to a land made of marshmallow and cotton wool. Bliss.

BEST FOR DOING GOOD

THE 1975

By Your Side

Matty Healy and the gang cover a Sade song for the War Child charity. Good lads.

BEST FOR WEDDED BLISS

DJ KHALED

Shining

Both Beyoncé and Jay Z feature on this up-tempo smasher from Snapchat's favourite DJ. Greatness only.

BEST FOR KICKING BACK

PHIFE DAWG

FEAT. DWELE AND MIKE CITY

Wanna Dance

This posthumous release from A Tribe Called Quest's legendary MC – who passed away almost a year ago – is a celebration of an icon and a seriously slick offering of 1990s throwback R&B.

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V05 NME AWARDS 2017

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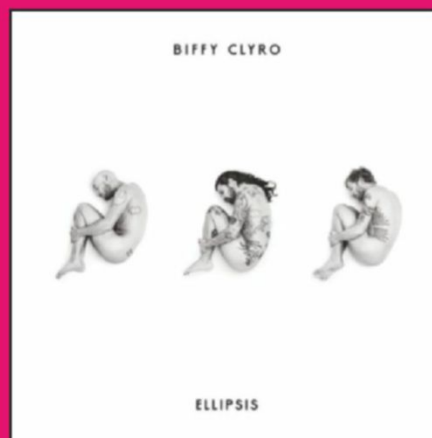
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Konnichiwa



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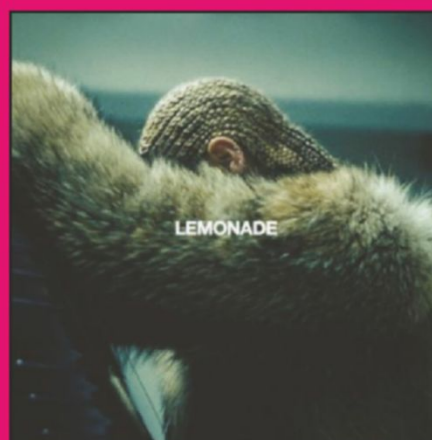
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MUSIC

ALBUM
OF THE
WEEK

Praise be

The south London grime don delivers a knockout debut that's brash and pensive in equal measure

STORMZY

Gang Signs & Prayer



GRIME MC-ING VIBES

ON 'COLD', A trap-influenced track on Stormzy's debut album, he boasts: "I just went to the park with my friends and I charted". He's talking about 'WickedSkengMan Part 4', the release that made history in 2015, becoming the first freestyle to break the UK charts. The 23-year-old south London grime don (real name Michael Omari) has reason aplenty for showing off, yet much of 'Gang Signs & Prayer' catches him in a more reflective, appreciative mood.

Not that there's a banger shortage here. 'Bad Boys' is brooding road rap that sees grime veteran Ghetts and relative newcomer J Hus unite to call out "f**kboys" whose badman credentials are in doubt. On 'Return Of The Rucksack', the main man rides staccato beats to dismiss fame-hungry newcomers who want to clash with him: "Bro, I'm above that". The frenetic 'Big For Your Boots', recently released as a single, makes the cut too, as does the blasé but bruising 'Shut Up',

which beat *The X Factor* in the UK charts at Christmas 2015.

Yet the record is notable for its pensive moments that reveal a side to Stormzy we saw on last

year's 'Birthday Girl', a smooth track that was dedicated to his girlfriend, the radio host Maya Jama. 'Blinded By Your Grace' is an organ-led ballad that trades in

unashamed schmaltz: "Through the darkness you came / And I'll be alright with you by my side". 'Cigarettes and Cush', featuring Californian vocalist Kehlani, is influenced by '90s R&B and pays homage to a lover who has their priorities straight: "You've got those cigarettes and cushion / No, you never let me down".

Stormzy, a prolific tweeter, has built a reputation as something of a comedian and concludes one lush track with a self-effacing skit on which easy-listening radio host Jenny Francis drawls: "That was Stormzy with the smoochy 'Velvet'." This is followed by the marching, uncompromising grime of 'Mr Skeng', one of the most confrontational tracks on 'Gang Signs & Prayer', underlining the fact that the rapper does what he wants, in his own way. Amen to that.

Jordan Basset

STRANGE & TRUE

Stormzy took 200 fans for a day out at Thorpe Park to celebrate his 23rd birthday.

Top bloke.

MUSIC

Feel the magic

Wild, cosmic sounds from the architect behind Kendrick Lamar's 'To Pimp A Butterfly'

THUNDERCAT

Drunk



GUESTS SLOW JAMS JAZZ



THUNDERCAT WAS NEVER going to exist in the background for long. His father drummed for both The Temptations and Diana Ross, and when Stephen Bruner started on his own path as a session bass player in LA he was hard to ignore, wearing a helmet and colourful shoulder pads to perform with the likes of Suicidal Tendencies and Erykah Badu. His vibrant wardrobe, dark humour and love of obscure South Korean movies attracted Flying Lotus, who signed him six years ago. Soon everyone from Dr Dre to Odd Future was a convert. But his really big break came as the creative architect behind 2015's 'To Pimp A Butterfly', Kendrick Lamar's

ambitious, jazzy second album.

Which means he has a lot of famous fans, a number of whom return some favours on this, his fourth album: Kendrick, who pops up on the shuffling 'Walk On By'; Pharrell, who lends a spacey vocal to 'The Turn Down'; and Wiz Khalifa, who raps about the dark side of excess on 'Drink Dat'. Kamasi Washington and Flying Lotus are also there. So too is Thundercat's long-time hero Kenny 'The Soundtrack King' Loggins (of 'Top Gun' and 'Footloose' fame) cropping up on 'Show You The Way', a Kenny-G-meets-Prince smoochy slow jam.

'Drunk' is jazz, but not the *La La Land* type. It's a futuristic

brand that'd be as at home at Coachella as at Ronnie Scott's. Funk, soul, pop, electronica and hip-hop orbit around each other. When they cluster and fuse, the results are cosmic ('Bus In These Streets' and 'Them Changes').

It's funny, too, in an odd, silly, cartoonish way. 'Drunk' ponders some serious issues – the death of a close musician friend, police brutality and Thundercat's own demons – but that's contrasted with fart sound effects, snoring and meowing cat noises. Sure, there's some annoying wiggly tangents ('Uh Uh' and 'Blackkk') and occasionally it feels longer than its 43-minute lifespan. But those things are forgivable, because 'Drunk', as out-there as it can be, is an album totally high on its own unique ideas.

Greg Cochrane



Best track

'THEM CHANGES'

Where Thundercat's myriad influences all converge into what's basically a weird, loveable pop song.

THEY. (l-r):
Dante Jones
and Drew Love

They might be giants

Drew Love and Dante Jones have reinvigorated sex-pop by adding a little grunge

THEY.

Nü Religion: **HYENA**



BASS R&B GRUNGE

IN THE WOOZY WAKE of Drake, The Weeknd, Bryson Tiller and Post Malone's über-laid-back R&B, you'd have thought there was simply no more room for navel-gazing, sex-fixated dudes with bachelor pads full of Sade records, lava lamps and above-average-priced vodka. And yet here come the rather impressive THEY., oozing sauciness as well as some of the most deeply atmospheric tunes this side of The Weeknd's 2015 smasher 'Beauty Behind The Madness'.

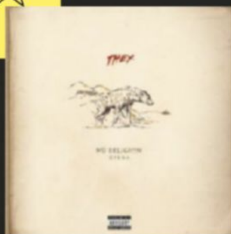
By slightly twisting the sex-pop formula with the addition of gritty guitars, Los Angeles-based vocalist Drew Love and producer Dante Jones manage to reinvigorate the smooth sound of the millennial bunk-up with grit

and edge borrowed from the class of 1993. They might have first come to attention thanks to a collaboration with Skrillex and by making beats for Will.i.am, but Jones has made much of Kurt Cobain being his favourite songwriter.

While 'Nü Religion: HYENA' isn't quite a sizzurp-drenched 'Nevermind', there's some serious strumming on the vibey 'What You Want' that gives it a rawness Drizzy would give away his copy of Skepta's 'Konichiwa' for. And while Drake seems to spend most of his time moping about his love life, THEY. are comfortable taking on the bigger issues. The powerful 'Say When' directly tackles police brutality and Black Lives Matter over grungy guitars and ghostly beats ('Now shoot down my brothers / And let them fall /

And then we some thugs if we get involved").

Strangely, though, the album's highlight is 'Dante's Creek', which sees the theme tune of 1990s teen cry-fest drama *Dawson's Creek* reimagined as a slinky soundtrack to seduction. THEY. aren't afraid of being heard. From the rattling bass on 'Back It Up' to the incessant foghorn sample on the dubby 'U-RITE', these are sounds made for playing loud, something Cobain would no doubt approve of. When 'Motley Crew' explodes into life the beats course through your entire body. THEY. are here not just for your ears, but your entire being. Let them have it. **Leonie Cooper**



FOR FANS OF



NIRVANA



THE WEEKND

Howlin' wolf

This brooding entry into the Wolverine opus is a new direction for Marvel

LOGAN

15 Hugh Jackman, Patrick Stewart, Dafne Keen



AGEING ENNUI KNUCKLE-PUS

IT'S HARD TO THINK OF A more beaten-up Marvel superhero than Logan. This third solo outing for the adamantium-clawed brawler best known as Wolverine finds him living in an authoritarian world that hasn't seen a mutant born for 20 years. Our conflicted hero has a limp; he's a high-functioning alcoholic; he gets "knuckle-pus"; he's losing his rapid healing abilities and he whispers emo lines like, "Maybe we were God's mistake."

Tonally, *Logan* is comparable to Marvel's grittier TV output, but it really hopes to mirror the classic '50s Western *Shane*. That story of an alienated gunslinger is referenced twice. Mid-1800s Wyoming this isn't, though: it's 2029 and most mutants have been hunted down. Logan (Hugh Jackman) has taken 90-year-old Charles Xavier (Patrick Stewart) to the Mexican desert as damage control for the apocalyptic seizures racking his powerful brain. When they're joined by mysterious 11-year-old Laura (Dafne Keen) – who has Logan's powers – they become a fascinatingly odd trio of outcasts.

Hunting them are generic science man (Richard E Grant) and generic security man (Boyd Holbrook), who lead a seemingly innumerable set of *Mad Max: Fury Road*-style mercenaries. The action sequences are impressive, but also ludicrously blood-drenched, which jars with the subtle dynamic growing between our protagonists.

Logan acts as both an adrenaline-heavy action thriller and an interrogation of the ageing superhero psyche. *Deadpool* showed us that superheroes can be hilarious; *Logan* shows us they can be hurt. **Larry Bartleet**

Hugh Jackman in his third and final solo outing as Wolverine



Maggie Rogers

Inventive pop from a 22-year-old who made Pharrell Williams cry

IN MARCH 2016, MAGGIE Rogers brought Pharrell Williams to the brink of tears when she played him her debut track 'Alaska' at a filmed video masterclass. The footage went viral.

"I kind of blacked out, to be completely honest," she says of the experience. "It was really weird. I felt like I was showing my homework. I pretty much picked a spot on the floor and stared at it. I saw his foot tapping and felt my classmates moving, but I didn't really know what was happening or how excited he was until I saw the video – and I've only really seen it once. We're not in touch; that was my whole interaction with him."

Rogers was raised in rural

Maryland, wrote her first song aged 12 and picked up the banjo as a teen. Studying music composition at New York University and a "spiritual" experience with dance music when she spent a year studying in Paris invigorated her songwriting further.

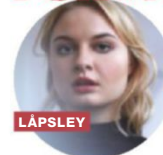
She wrote 'Alaska' in just 15 minutes, and it's since been streamed over 30 million times. Despite the success, she's still working out exactly where she's going next. "I don't really know what I sound like. I'm 22. I'm very much still figuring it out. But in terms of my voice, I'm very clear about who I am as a person and what I think."

Rogers is a synaesthete, so she feels a strong connection

between colour and music. "I've always been a very visual creator. I make mood boards or sit with coloured pencils, scribble and try to figure out what I'm trying to work through musically," she says. "In production, if I'm getting stuck and can't figure out what I need, I make a palette visualising what I'm trying to do. Then I can hear it."

Next week she's in the UK to showcase her ethereal debut EP 'Now That The Light Is Fading' live, and is ready to make a racket. "I've never played this kind of music live before. I've made quiet music my entire life, so I'm really ready to be loud and have fun onstage." Making noise in more ways than one, then. **Helen Thomas**

FOR FANS OF



LAPSLEY



JAMES BLAKE

STRANGE & TRUE

At one point in her life Rogers owned a pet cat, appropriately named Cat Stevens.

Best track

ALASKA

The song that gave Rogers her break swells with her sublime vocals and playful, bouncy synths.

The details

FROM: Maryland, US

BUY: Debut EP 'Now That The Light Is Fading' is out now

LIVE: Omeara, London (Feb 27, 28), Electric Brixton, London (June 21)

SOCIAL: @maggierogers

PHOTOS: FRASER JONES, NABIL

"I'm ready to be loud and have fun"

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TWO DOOR CINEMA CLUB FATBOY SLIM CARL COX STORMZY

DAMIAN 'JR GONG' MARLEY GEORGE EZRA LONDON GRAMMAR

FLYING LOTUS CHAKA KHAN ERIC PRYDZ ABOVE & BEYOND

ANDY C DJ EZ JAMIE JONES SETH TROXLER THE MARTINEZ BROTHERS

RAG'N'BONE MAN ANDERSON .PAAK & THE FREE NATIONALS ZARA LARSSON LITTLE DRAGON

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ADAM BEYER JOSEPH CAPRIATI DIXON OLIVER HELDENS HANNAH WANTS

MAYA JANE COLES DUSKY JORIS VOORN DAVID RODIGAN HOT SINCE 82

JACKMASTER KÖLSCH BICEP PATRICK TOPPING PETE TONG SKREAM

ARMAND VAN HELDEN FLOATING POINTS SOLO LIVE SET JON HOPKINS DJ

JAGWAR MA RATBOY NAO LOYLE CARNER TOM MISCH LIVE LEVELZ

MOODYMANN THE BLACK MADONNA FATIMA YAMAHA GOLDIE INFLUENCES

WILKINSON DJ YOUSEF RICHY AHMED NOISIA DJ TODDLA T & COCO

SOLARDO GERD JANSON MIDLAND HUNEE MIND AGAINST REJTIE SNOW

J HUS CRAZY P LIVE AJ TRACEY WAZE & ODYSSEY ARTWORK MONKI

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ALEXIS TAYLOR HOT CHIP PRINCE TRIBUTE DENIS SULTA JASPER JAMES PREDITAH

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ROMARE LIVE DJ CRAZE NASTIA NADIA ROSE STEFFLON DON MOXIE

NIGHTMARES ON WAX NORMAN JAY MBE THE HEATWAVE BONZAI MELE

DUB PHIZIX & STRATEGY WILLIAM DJOKO DEKMANTEL SOUND SYSTEM HAMMER

REX ORANGE COUNTY DE LA SWING MARC MAYA KRYSTAL KLEAR

KLOSE ONE MAX CHAPMAN JACKY THEO KOTTIS FAKEAR LAUREN LO SUNG

CONDUCTA JAMZ SUPERNOVA PRESIDENT T ABRA CADABRA GEORGE PRIVATTI

ELLIE COCKS ELLIOT ADAMSON NORTH BASE VENUM SOUND RICH REASON

KRYSKO GREG LORD PIRATE COPY JONNY DUB WILL TRAMP ZUTKEH DJS

PETE ZORBA JAMES ORGAN HACKETT NICOLA BEAR NOW WAVE DJS

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THIS WEEK'S BEST TICKETS AND GIGS

Shutdown

Skepta's headlining Wireless! As are Chance The Rapper and The Weeknd

AT 2016'S WIRELESS Festival, the north London grime collective Boy Better Know were co-headliners. This year, one of BBK's key members Skepta will take grime a step further by headlining solo. It caps off a brilliant 12 months for the MC also known as Joseph Junior Adenuga: he won the Mercury Prize in September, sold out the 10,000-capacity Alexandra Palace in December, and just last week was presented with the VO5 NME Award for Best British Male Artist.

Like Skepta, Chance The Rapper has had a hell of a year, helping Kanye West put together 'The Life Of Pablo' last year and picking up three Grammys this year for himself. Toronto R&B star The Weeknd recently worked with Daft Punk, earns regular comparisons to Michael Jackson and has a stockpile of massive tunes. Together, these guys form the best trio of Wireless headliners in years.

PHOTO: XPOSUREPHOTOS.COM

FESTIVAL

**WIRELESS
FESTIVAL**

July 7-9

HEADLINERS:

Chance The Rapper (Friday)
Skepta (Saturday)
The Weeknd (Sunday)

TICKETS: Single day

£55-£62; two days £110-
£117.50; full weekend £160

ON SALE
NOW



ON SALE
NOW



CABBAGE

Absurdist and political five-piece

JUNE

Thu 29 Scala, London

Fri 30 O2 Institute, Birmingham

TELL ME MORE: The young Manchester indie band describe their tour strategy as "driving round with a circus cult trying to anarchise people".

TICKETS: £11-£13.20



GLASS ANIMALS

Slick Oxford indie quartet

MARCH

Wed 8 & Thu 9 Liquid Room, Edinburgh

Fri 10 O2 Institute, Birmingham

Sat 11 LMUSU, Leeds

Thu 16 O2 Academy, Brixton

Fri 17 UEA, Norwich

Sat 18 Albert Hall, Manchester

TELL ME MORE: If you're lucky you'll hear their sweltering cover of Kanye West's 'Love Lockdown'.

TICKETS: £17.60-£24.75



WILEY

The godfather of grime

MARCH

Sat 25 Albert Hall, Manchester

TELL ME MORE: The Londoner was recently given a VO5 NME Award for Outstanding Contribution To Music.

TICKETS: £21.45



HONEYBLOOD

Scottish indie-rock duo

APRIL

Sun 9 Empire Music Hall, Belfast

Tue 18 PJ Molloy's, Dunfermline

Wed 19 Lemon Tree, Aberdeen

Thu 20 Madhatters, Inverness

Fri 21 Bar 15, Dundee

Sat 22 Liquid Room, Edinburgh

Mon 24 Crescent, York

Wed 26 Sub 89, Reading

Thu 27 Esquires, Bedford

MAY

Tue 2 Phoenix, Exeter

Wed 3 Haunt, Brighton

Thu 4 Wedgewood Rooms, Portsmouth

Sat 6 Museum Of Wigan Life, Wigan

JUNE

Fri 16 KOKO, London

TELL ME MORE: Touring their "superhuman" second album 'Babes Never Die'.

TICKETS: £9-£13.75



GIRLI

Hyperpop by Milly Toomey

APRIL

Tue 11 Electrowerkz, London

Fri 14 Stereo, Glasgow

TELL ME MORE: This London teen deals in anarchic, whip-smart pop.

TICKETS: £7-£8

live

LADY LESHURR



THE WEEK'S BEST GIGS

THE 2 BEARS

Fri 24 Camden Assembly, London

AJ TRACEY

Mon 27 University SU, Cardiff

ARISTOPHANES

Thu 2 Headrow House, Leeds

BENJAMIN FRANCIS LEFTWICH

Thu 2 Omeara, London

BLONDE REDHEAD

Tue 28 Islington Assembly Hall, London

CATHOLIC ACTION

Fri 24 Cafe Drummond, Aberdeen
Sat 25 The Mash House, Edinburgh

COSMO PYKE

Mon 27 The Crofters Rights, Bristol
Tue 28 Belgrave Music Hall, Leeds
Wed 1 Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham
Thu 2 The Montague Arms, London

DE LA SOUL

Fri 24 Colston Hall, Bristol
Sat 25 Rock City, Nottingham
Tue 28 O2 Academy, Leeds
Thu 2 Albert Hall, Manchester

DISCIPLES

Fri 24 Gorilla, Manchester

ELBOW

Wed 1 & Thu 2 O2 Academy, Birmingham

FENECH SOLER

Fri 24 Patterns, Brighton
Sat 25 Waterfront, Norwich
Mon 27 Thekla, Bristol
Tue 28 Gorilla, Manchester
Wed 1 Heaven, London

FOXYGEN

Mon 27 KOKO, London

FRANKMUSIK

Fri 24 Tunnel 267, London

GEORGIE

Fri 24 The Islington, London

INHEAVEN

Fri 24 Trades Club, Hebden Bridge
Sat 25 Guildhall, Preston

JULIA JACKLIN

Fri 24 Bodega, Nottingham
Mon 27 King Tut's, Glasgow
Tue 28 Headrow House, Leeds
Wed 1 The Louisiana, Bristol
Thu 2 Scala, London

KEHLANI

Wed 1 The ABC, Glasgow

KOJEY RADICAL

Fri 24 Music Library, Lancaster
Sat 25 Oldham Library & Lifelong Learning Centre, Oldham
Sun 26 Central Library, Liverpool

LADY LESHURR

Fri 24 The Arch, Brighton
Sun 26 The ABC, Glasgow
Mon 27 O2 Academy, Newcastle
Tue 28 O2 Academy, Liverpool
Thu 2 O2 Institute, Birmingham

LIL YACHTY

Mon 27 KOKO, London

METHYL ETHEL

Wed 1 Oslo, London
Thu 2 Brudenell Social Club, Leeds

NOVELIST

Thu 2 Queen of Hoxton, London

PIXX

Tue 28 Birthdays, London

RAY BLK

Mon 27 Village Underground, London

STEVIE PARKER

Fri 24 The Garage, Glasgow
Sat 25 Electric Circus, Edinburgh

SUNDARA KARMA

Fri 24 O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire, London

TALL SHIPS

Thu 2 The Bullingdon, Oxford

TEI SHI

Wed 1 Moth Club, London

TELEMAN

Fri 24 Riverside, Newcastle
Sat 25 Oran Mor, Glasgow
Sun 26 Gorilla, Manchester

TINCHY STRYDER

Fri 24 King George's Hall, Blackburn

TOM GRENNAN

Tue 28 King Tut's, Glasgow
Wed 1 Shipping Forecast, Liverpool

TOOTHLESS

Mon 27 Stereo, Glasgow
Tue 28 Sound Control, Manchester
Wed 1 The Lexington, London
Thu 2 Bodega, Nottingham

TRIM

Tue 28 XOYO, London

TYCHO

Mon 27 & Tue 28 Electric Brixton, London

VANT

Fri 24 Rescue Rooms, Nottingham
Sat 25 The Wardrobe, Leeds
Mon 27 Outlet Building, Belfast
Wed 1 Gorilla, Manchester
Thu 2 The Plug, Sheffield

WHITE LIES

Fri 24 O2 Academy, Sheffield
Sat 25 O2 Academy, Oxford
Mon 27 University SU, Cardiff
Tue 28 O2 Academy, Leicester
Thu 2 Pyramids Centre, Portsmouth

WILD BEASTS

Fri 24 Omeara, London



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- 07 APRIL - DONCASTER THE DOME
- 08 APRIL - NORWICH UEA
- 10 APRIL - BIRMINGHAM O2 ACADEMY
- 11 APRIL - BOURNEMOUTH SOLENT HALL
- 13 APRIL - GLASGOW SECC
- 14 APRIL - CARDIFF MOTORPOINT ARENA
- 15 APRIL - LONDON ALEXANDRA PALACE

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Stan Lee

94-year-old Marvel Comics genius



THE ANDREWS SISTERS

THE SONG I CAN'T GET OUT OF MY HEAD

**THE ANDREWS
SISTERS**

Ti-Pi-Tin

"I woke up singing it this morning and I don't know why. It's an old romantic song that's about a million years old."

THE MUSIC I LISTENED TO WHILE CREATING MARVEL CHARACTERS SHOW TUNES

"I'm a romantic guy; mostly I loved songs from shows. I would listen to show tunes from *Camelot*, for example. Anything from a show I loved. I wasn't really much into rock 'n' roll – I like songs with good lyrics!"

THE SONG I DANCE TO ANYTHING FROM A FRED ASTAIRE MOVIE

"It's been a long time since I've been dancing, but anything from an old Fred Astaire movie gets my feet moving. I like them all."

THE FIRST SONG I FELL IN LOVE WITH

**JEANETTE
MACDONALD AND
NELSON EDDY**
Rose Marie

"I guess there was an actor and an actress that made a bunch of movies, Nelson Eddy and Jeanette MacDonald, and they had one called 'Rose Marie' that registered with me. What did I like about it? Jesus, it was just a good song! How can you say why you like something? You like a song or you don't, right?"

THE FIRST SONG I REMEMBER HEARING

ADRIANA CASELOTTI
Whistle While You Work
"The first songs I can remember are from Disney's *Snow White And The Seven Dwarves* – 'Whistle While You Work' and all the rest. I watched the movies as a little kid. I was a big Disney fan."

THE SONG I DO AT KARAOKE

"A friend of mine had a set once. I'd go over and we'd kid around on it. I don't remember what I sang – I have the world's worst memory. In my mind, I'm the best singer in the world – it's just that no one else can stand it."

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MY FAVOURITE MARVEL THEME TUNE

Spider-Man

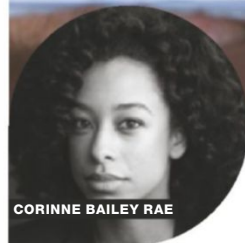
"The Marvel cartoons were all great. [Sings] 'Spider-Man, Spider-Man, does whatever a spider can / Is he strong? Listen, bud, he's got radioactive blood'. That's the one I remember the best."

THE LAST CONCERT I WENT TO

KISS
"They invited me to sit near the stage and I was deafened. The music was so loud I had to run out screaming. It was quite a while ago, the '70s probably. They did a Marvel comic and I got friendly with the guys. They were made up to look like superheroes. Gene [Simmons, bassist/singer] came up to my office wearing those big shoes of his when he was getting his costume together. He said, 'What do you think, Stan? Do these look right?' I said, 'People will certainly remember you...'"



KISS



CORINNE BAILEY RAE

MY FAVOURITE NEW SONG

CORINNE BAILEY RAE
Lucky Man

"It's the theme from *Stan Lee's Lucky Man*. She has a magical voice and the song captures the spirit of the show."

THE SONG I CAN NO LONGER LISTEN TO

"I like 'em all. I like music. I don't understand most of 'em all that well and I don't hear so good, so I miss a lot of the lyrics. But I like music."

Series 2 of *Stan Lee's Lucky Man* starts on Sky 1 on February 24



The wisdom of
the NME archives

THIS WEEK

KEITH RICHARDS
The Rolling Stones
February 22, 1986

"If I want to work fast I'll work for Ford in Dagenham. Work to the crack of a f**king whip. That's why I'm a musician, I can't work like that. If you don't like it, that's tough s**t."

