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# NME



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# NME

## Hello...



I HAVE BECOME OBSESSED with a man named John B McLemore, a clock-mender, maze-builder, stray-dog-adopter and angry but eloquent climate change doom-monger, who lived in a small town in Alabama called Woodstock. Or, as John B called it, S\*\*t Town. John is the star of the excellent podcast *S-Town*, the latest from the people behind *Serial*. You may know this already. I'm tragically late to the party.

This morning I spent four hours in John's intense company, pacing around my house, then the streets, and then the *NME* office, with my headphones on, staring into nothing as the darkness of the story engulfed me. His is a world where nothing works the way it should, where negativity and suspicion permeate everything. Where everyone around him subscribes to the "f\*\*k it" mentality, because when you've nothing to lose, but nothing to win either, what's the point in caring?

John cares. But he's disenfranchised and disengaged from the community and society around him. If there were an election in S\*\*t Town, I bet John wouldn't vote. He'd rant about all the candidates being crooks and all being the same. And then he'd carry on being p\*\*sed off about the world around him, unable to do anything about it...

**MIKE WILLIAMS**  
Editor-in-Chief  
@itsmikelike

"We're gonna use animal noises to cover up explicit lyrics" Sälen **p30**



### COVER STORY

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## Election 2017

How to register. Who the major players are. How to do more than just vote. Why all this could make a MASSIVE difference

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## Dave Grohl's mum

"It's very good being the mum of one of the world's biggest rock stars. I recommend it!"

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# AGENDA

WHAT EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT THIS WEEK

## Return of the space cowboy

Eight things Chris Pratt would like you to know about his new film, the highly enjoyable intergalactic romp *Guardians Of The Galaxy Vol. 2*

**1** "The first *Guardians Of The Galaxy* was surprising, unexpected, fresh – unlike anything that had come before."

**2** "The second one is riding that wave and creating even bigger laughs, a bigger spectacle – it's deeper, more profound. We worked our butts off for it."

**3** "The most interesting thing about my character [Peter Quill, AKA Star-Lord] is his unique and interesting heritage, the reality of his biological father and all that – all the wonderful things that come along with his sort of exceptional genealogy."

**4** "The soundtrack is really good. I daresay it's better than the first one. There's some really deep cuts on it: George Harrison, Cat Stevens, Fleetwood Mac."

**5** "It's cool when a soundtrack from the '70s comes out because there are people who grew up with those songs, so they bring back this sense of sentimentality. And there's going to be a whole new generation hearing these songs for the first time."

**6** "For the artists, it's great to have their work exposed to a whole new audience and for them to have another big moment. We're really proud of the music."

**7** "James [Gunn, director] does a good job of threading the music in and using it to help tell the story. It's a big part of our movie."

**8** "Cat Stevens' 'Father And Son', at the end, got me the most emotional."

Chris Pratt plays Peter Quill

Read the NME review of *Guardians Of The Galaxy Vol. 2* on page 28

# Monkeying around

Things got weird when we interviewed Gorillaz

"WE'LL DO ALL SORTS OF different interviews," says 2D of Gorillaz – yes, the cartoon one – granting *NME* an audience on his first ever day of live-action interviews. "Some websites, not naughty ones." Beside him on the sofa, band mastermind Murdoc agrees, having conquered 17 years of crippling camera-shyness. "Look at me!" he babbles. "I'm chilled out."

Thanks to the technical wizardry of Telekom Electronic Beats, Gorillaz have finally been brought to life. Or, at least,

motion-captured projections of them have; for now, interviewing 2D and Murdoc still involves talking to an empty sofa that answers back. Still, they give suitably cartoonish quote, with 2D revealing his eyes turned black after a traumatic formaldehyde accident and Murdoc relating his recent prison experiences. "I shared a cell with this big, huge man called Harry The Hammer," he says, "and he gave me a great piece of advice – 'Get your nut down and do your bird, son.'"

*NME's* Mark Beaumont meets Murdoc and 2D



**JAMIE HEWLETT AND DAMON ALBARN EXPLAIN**

**So how did you do that, then?**

**Hewlett:** "There are two wonderful actors. One of whom has been with us forever – Murdoc, played by Phil Cornwell."

**Albarn:** "And 2D's played by Kevin Bishop."

**Hewlett:** "They're in the back room on a mirrored version of your set, on the worst-looking IKEA furniture you've ever seen, in skintight scuba suits."

**What are they doing back there?**

**Hewlett:** "With headgear and cameras picking up every one of their facial expressions and their body movement. They have a screen so they can see you."

**Was this what you envisaged when Gorillaz started out?**

**Hewlett:** "We had ideas of what we'd like to do in the future. The technology is finally catching up."

**Albarn:** "It was a very simple principle: 'We're going to do everything through the frame of animation and where can we take that?'"

To watch the whole video, go to [NME.com](http://NME.com). Turn to p26 for the *NME* review of the new Gorillaz album

WORDS: MARK BEAUMONT. PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES



"THE NEAREST YOU CAN GET TO WATCHING A GIG ON THE MOON" Evening Standard

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Webcam performers in LA

# Let's talk about porn, baby

In 2015, Netflix aired the documentary *Hot Girls Wanted*, about amateur porn. Now it's back as a series, *Hot Girls Wanted: Turned On*. Producers Rashida Jones and Jill Bauer give us the lowdown

**The series is about porn. Is porn taboo? And do you want to make it not taboo?**

**Jill Bauer:** "It isn't about porn..."

**Rashida Jones:** "It's about sex and technology and porn, but there is a lot of porn in there. It shouldn't be taboo. If there was any kind of correlation between how people consume porn and how much we talk about it and accept it in daily life, we'd be talking about it all the time. But it's still shrouded in this secrecy, mystery, guilt and shame, and we have to talk about it. It's the only way to really get to the dark corners of the industry where people don't feel like they're being respected – and for us to deal with the fact that young people have very little access to seeing sex first-hand like that in a way that might be accurate and might actually look like what *their* sex is gonna look like."

**Rashida, the episode you directed is about female pornographers. Was it hard to track them down?**

**Rashida:** "No. Luckily the

women in my episode are incredibly bold, brave and articulate. Erika Lust [porn director] has been on the scene for a while and she's very clear about what her mission is and the kind of film she wants to make. Suze [Randall, porn photographer] and Holly [Suze's daughter, also a porn photographer] were really happy to talk to us as well. But it's hard to track down *other* women. Hopefully, this will encourage others. Like Erika says in her TED Talk: 'Most people are trying to get women *out* of porn. I'm trying to get women *in* porn. More women in porn!'"

**What was the most surprising thing you learned while shooting?**

**Rashida:** "How technical sex is on camera. Performers still try to turn each other on because they have to do that, but it's so technical and they have sex for *such* a long time. Hours!"

**Erika says "porn today is sex education". Do you agree?**



Rashida Jones

**Rashida:** "There's a statistic that the average age of watching your first porn in the US is 11. So what are the chances that you've had a *really* good sex education before that? Probably not. So it *is* sex education. We can't keep protecting porn because it's considered adult entertainment, because it *is* being used as sex education."

**Jill:** "There should be classes on porn literacy or understanding porn."

**Rashida:** "That's a big trend now: media literacy. Helping kids understand that what you see on social media or TV isn't reflective of real life. And there's no more important place to do that than porn."

*Hot Girls Wanted: Turned On* is on Netflix now



**KENDRICK LAMAR'S MUM**

Her son shared Paula's mega-excited, emoji-filled text about his new album.



**JEREMY CORBYN**

Publicly endorsed by Jme. Will he be our first Grime Minister?



**RIHANNA**

Called "disrespectful" after Photoshopping the Queen into some of her outfits.



**NOEL FIELDING**

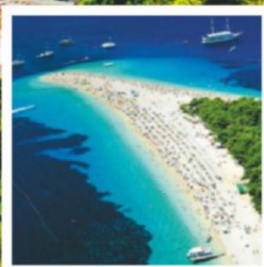
The new *Great British Bake Off* host has never baked a cake. The fraud.



# 6 NAMES FOR PARADISE

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V05

HEADS UP:  
NEW STYLES  
NOW PLAYING

Lisa as "the first straight female president"

## SHE INSPIRED A WHOLE GENERATION OF GIRLS TO PICK UP THE SAXOPHONE

In February, a *Financial Times* article found around 97 per cent of trumpet, trombone and tuba players in top US orchestras are male. But Lisa didn't let gender bias keep her away from the sax. And it made a difference – in 1996, the *New York Times* ran a story about the phenomenon of primary school girls asking to play the sax because of the Lisa effect. They quoted sax teacher Cynthia Sikes, who said, "When the show started I got an influx of girls saying, 'I want to play the saxophone because Lisa plays the saxophone.'" *The Simpsons* creator Matt Groening said his fan mail regularly included pictures of girls holding up their saxophones. Go, Lisa!

## SHE DENOUNCED THE TOBACCO INDUSTRY

In the episode *Lisa The Beauty Queen*, Lisa competes for the title of Little Miss Springfield. Like a mini Leslie Knope from *Parks And Recreation*, she tells the crowd she'd like to win to "make America a better place". Her inspirational message isn't enough to take the top prize, but after the winner gets struck by lightning, Lisa takes the crown. When asked to sit on a float for the cigarette company sponsoring the pageant, Lisa stops the parade, declaring she's "tired of being a corporate shill. From now on I will speak out against the evils in society". She loses her spot, but doesn't care – staying true to her beliefs is much more important.

# In praise of Lisa Simpson, feminist icon

As *The Simpsons* turns 30, a look at how a yellow eight-year-old helped thousands of millennials fall in love with feminism

## SHE WAS AN OVERACHIEVER – AND COOL WITH IT

Even at elementary school, Lisa had #goals. She joined Mensa and was the best musician in the jazz band. She taught young girls that it was never too early to aspire to greatness.

## SHE SET HER EYES ON TRADITIONALLY MALE-DOMINATED CAREERS

In the episode *Bart To The Future*, Lisa is depicted as the "first straight female president" and tasked with clearing up the national debt caused by the presidency of Donald Trump. Who's down for #Simpson2020?

## SHE CALLED BULLS\*\*T ON SEXIST GENDERED PRODUCTS

In the episode *Lisa Vs. Malibu Stacy*, Lisa is disappointed her new talking doll can only say misogynistic things like, "I wish they taught shopping in school!" and, "Let's bake some cookies for the boys!" Lisa proclaims to her friends, "The things she says are sexist!" They giggle at her for using a "dirty word". She responds by making her own rival feminist doll, Lisa Lionheart. Now who's laughing?

WORDS: HELEN THOMAS. PHOTOS: ALAMY, GETTY IMAGES, NETFLIX, LINDSEY BYRNES

## Last W33K IN NUMBERS



£11,500

eBay price of a limited-edition McDonald's sauce after *Rick And Morty* gave it cult fame.



5,397

Signatures (currently) on a petition to make Louis Theroux Prime Minister. Look out, Theresa May.



500 million

Collective hours Netflix users will never get back after watching Adam Sandler films.



10 million

Views for Paramore's epic comeback banger 'Hard Times' on YouTube after just five days.

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**Three.co.uk**

# ON THE RECORD



THIS WEEK

## Where are all the female festival headliners at?

SHAKE OUT YOUR sleeping bags and scrape the mould off your tents, because the great British festival season is nearly upon us. I can almost feel the mud beneath my wellies, smell the manky noodles and taste the lukewarm cider. Lush. Yet there's something not quite right with this country's festivals, and that's the shocking lack of female artists playing them.

In 2015, a blogger called Josh Dalton created an embarrassing mock version of the Reading & Leeds Festival line-up poster, removing the male acts and leaving only the female artists. A pitiful nine acts remained. Two years down the line and it seems little has changed. Only five female-fronted acts have made the lower reaches of the Reading & Leeds main stage – Deap Vally, Honeyblood, Pvrri, The Pretty Reckless and Against The Current – under a highly blokey run of headliners: Muse, Kasabian and Eminem. The dude-heavy pattern

continues elsewhere, with Radiohead, Ed Sheeran and Foo Fighters topping the bill at Glastonbury; The 1975, Fleet Foxes and Mumford & Sons at Latitude; Chance The Rapper, Skepta and The Weeknd at Wireless; and System Of A Down, Biffy Clyro and Aerosmith at Download. The only female headliners we can spot this summer are PJ Harvey at Green Man and P!nk at V Festival. Wherefore art thou, my girls?

Despite the fact that the biggest-selling artists in the world are strong, no-bulls\*\*t women – Adele, Taylor Swift, Madonna and Beyoncé for starters – there seems to be a festival-shaped glass ceiling that female artists find it impossible to smash through.

Following the 2015 Reading furore, I spoke to Festival

P!nk is one of only two women breaking the male monopoly this summer



Republic boss Melvin Benn about his event's lack of ladies. "We can't put a bill together based on gender – we can only put a bill together based on availability and appropriateness," he said. But why can't a bill be based on gender? How else will things change unless someone takes an active decision to push things forward? Festival bookers need to realise that their job is about more than lining up the same old macho rockers who they know will shift tickets. It's about setting the cultural agenda.

Over three million people attend festivals every year, many of them young and many of them female. With such a massive platform comes an equally massive duty to show young women what they can do with their lives, proving that – unlike so many other areas of life – it doesn't always have to be men first. With a wealth of female talent capable of heading up Reading and beyond, we're hoping in 2018 Lana Del Rey, M.I.A., Grimes, Haim, Lorde, Nicki Minaj, Rihanna, Katy Perry and Florence + The Machine will be where they belong: on the top of the bill as well as the charts. @leoniemaycooper

“Women should top the bill as well as the charts”



## THINGS WE LIKE

### THIS WEEK'S OBJECTS OF DESIRE



#### Hop to it

Hop Stuff's Four Hour Session IPA comes straight outta Woolwich.  
£2.50 [eebria.com](http://eebria.com)



#### Perry good

Bella Freud's leopard-print track jacket is sporty but chic.  
£125 [fredperry.com](http://fredperry.com)



#### Hot hot heat

Encona's limited edition Carolina Reaper hot sauce is a right sizzler.  
£1.49 [tesco.com](http://tesco.com)



#### Roxy music

100 Nights At The Roxy tells the true story of the iconic punk club.  
£17 [amazon.co.uk](http://amazon.co.uk)



#### Lonely hearts

Celebrate 50 years of 'Sgt. Pepper's...' with this tee.  
£15.99 *in-store and online* [hmv.com](http://hmv.com)



#### Sound advice

The Walkman is back. Again! The A35HN has 45 hours of battery life.  
£250 [sony.co.uk](http://sony.co.uk)



#### Going live

This 1994 repro Green Day tour shirt is as good as an original.  
£15.95 [nmemerch.com](http://nmemerch.com)



#### Sugar rush

Get a hit of sweetness with some fancy Turkish delight.  
£4.50 [arabicafoodandspice.com](http://arabicafoodandspice.com)



#### Doom diary

Grab stoner metal festival Desertfest's photo fanzine by photographer Sam Mellish.  
£6 [desertscene.co.uk](http://desertscene.co.uk)



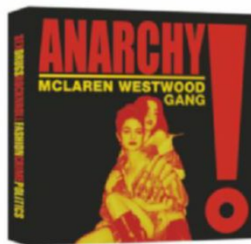
#### Top hat

A bright bucket hat will help you nail the perfect 1990s look at this summer's festivals.  
£35 [66north.com](http://66north.com)



#### Stripe season

Breton stripes make this grandad shirt cooler than your actual grandad.  
£40 [gandyslondon.com](http://gandyslondon.com)



#### Rock doc

Picking apart punk, *Anarchy! McLaren Westwood Gang* is on DVD now.  
£25 [viveleshop.com](http://viveleshop.com)



#### Full moon

Pink Floyd's 'Dark Side Of The Moon' cover in tee form.  
£15.99 *in-store and online* [hmv.com](http://hmv.com)



#### Sweet treat

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YOUR TOWN. YOUR MUSIC. YOUR STYLE

# What's ON your Headphones?

THIS WEEK

## Wallington

"It's very easy to get to gigs"



### < NABIRAH KAZANZI

22, poet

Listening to:  
**JAMILA WOODS**  
*HEAVN*  
"She sounds like bubblegum, candyfloss and gold rain."

**Wearing:** Selfridges coat, vintage jumper, trousers from a charity shop, Dr Martens boots.  
**Best thing about Wallington:** "There's a really great garden centre. They even have fish."

### IMRAN SHERWANI >

26, accountant

Listening to:  
**STORMZY**  
*Big For Your Boots*  
"He grew up quite near here."

**Wearing:** House Of Fraser blazer, ASOS shirt and trousers, Vans trainers.  
**Best thing about Wallington:** "There's noise, so you know you're still alive, but also quiet spaces if you want to chill out."



### < BARRY WILLIAMS

58, musician

Listening to:  
**LED ZEPPELIN**  
*Kashmir*  
"I'm really into the Indian sound of the song. It's my hippy side coming out."

**Wearing:** Topman blazer, Burton shirt.  
**Best thing about Wallington:** "As a band member, I like it because it's very easy to get around to gigs."

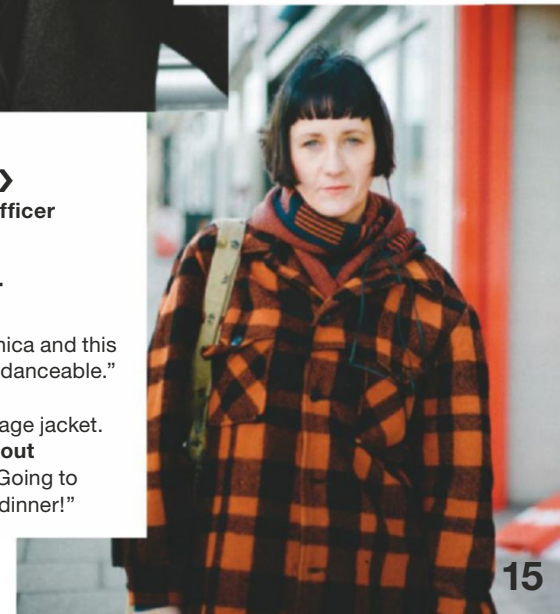


### KELLY HAMILL >

46, support officer

Listening to:  
**BROADCAST**  
*Black Cat*  
"I love electronica and this tune is just so danceable."

**Wearing:** Vintage jacket.  
**Best thing about Wallington:** "Going to my mum's for dinner!"



PHOTOS: PHOEBE FOX

# ROCK THE VOTE

There's a general election coming on June 8 and it's our chance to be heard and make a difference. Are you registered to vote? Do you know what the political parties stand for? Do you want to get stuck in and make a difference? Come this way...

**I**t's a bleak statistic that more people didn't vote in the last general election than did vote for any individual political party. There's clearly an issue in the UK where people either don't know how to, don't want to or are too apathetic to go to the polling stations. This needs to change, starting with June's snap election.

Much of the Brexit reporting focused on the idea that the majority of young people wanted to remain in the EU and that they – the people who would be most affected by this huge decision long-term – were stamped down by the generations of their parents and their grandparents. It's a fact that 71 per cent of people under 25 who voted in the referendum put their cross in the remain box.

Whichever way you voted, the UK currently feels more divided than ever. Too many voices have been marginalised. The rallying cry of the Prime Minister that “the country is coming together” is a sham right now. The mainstream right-wing media might be doing their best to suppress different and challenging opinions (from both the right and the left), but there are reasons to be optimistic that a new and more positive voice can emerge.

In the three days after the snap election was called, 103,439 18-24-year-olds registered to vote. Add the 99,106 people aged 25-34 that also enrolled and the picture looks brighter for more young influence in this election. But to really mean something, that number needs to keep increasing day by day.

Brexit isn't the only issue and the only reason to get active. Welfare, housing prices, tuition fees, zero-hours contracts and environmental concerns all matter and will all affect you one way or another. And that's before even mentioning the NHS, arguably Britain's proudest achievement, crippled and on its knees. Whose fault that is and what needs to be done next might well determine the way you vote. But if you don't register and you don't vote, you've lost your right to a say.

Registering to vote only matters if you actually turn out to vote. In 2015, 70 per cent of young people registered, but only 43 per cent actually did it. This is why we need to talk about this now. It takes time to galvanise people and inspire them to get up and do something, and over the next six weeks we intend to try to do that. Six weeks before the Brexit vote, six weeks before the US presidential election, no one believed that the eventual winners would pull it off. Nothing is a foregone conclusion.

Your vote really does matter, whoever you decide to cast it for. You have an opportunity to make a political statement. Do it. Register. Vote.

Mike Williams, Editor-in-Chief

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# EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT VOTING IN THE ELECTION BUT WERE TOO AFRAID TO ASK

## WHEN IS THE GENERAL ELECTION?

Thursday, June 8, 2017.

## HOW DO I VOTE?

Go to your local polling station on Election Day and cast your vote. Stations are open until 10pm. The location of your polling station will be on your polling card. But before you can vote, you need to be registered.

## HOW DO I REGISTER TO VOTE?

If you're 18 or over and have never voted before, you need to register to join the electoral register. To do so, you must have either your National Insurance number or passport details. If you don't have a National Insurance number, call 0300 200 3500 to get it sent to you in 10 days. You can register to vote online at gov.uk. If you don't register in time, you won't be able to vote.

## WHAT IS THE DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION?

Monday, May 22, 2017.

## WHAT IF I'M AWAY ON JUNE 8?

If you're unable to make it to the polling station on the day of the vote, you can either vote via proxy (this means that a family member or friend you trust votes on your behalf) or by a postal vote. You must register for a postal vote before May 23, and proxy by May 31.

## WHERE CAN I VOTE?

You can only vote in the constituency (area) where you're registered. You can find your local polling station online at gov.uk.

## WHO AM I VOTING FOR?

Your ballot paper will list every candidate standing for election in your local area. The candidate with the most votes will become your local MP and take a seat in the House of Commons. The party with the most MPs will win the election, and their leader will be Prime Minister.

## WHEN WILL THE RESULT BE ANNOUNCED?

Counting begins as soon as the polls close. The results of the election gradually come in overnight as each area announces who has won their seat. By the early hours of the following day, we should have a winner.

## THAT ALL SEEMS PRETTY STRAIGHT- FORWARD

It is. Things get more complicated when you start talking about exit polls, hung parliaments, coalitions, tactical voting and psephology (nope, no idea either), but the most important thing at this stage is to make sure you register to vote. Do it as soon as you can – it might be the most important thing you do this year.

# MEET THE

## Theresa May CONSERVATIVE

**AGE:** 60

**CONSTITUENCY:** Maidenhead

**IN A NUTSHELL:** The UK's second female Prime Minister. Held Donald Trump's little hand.

**BREXIT MEANS...** Hard Brexit. How hard? As hard as she likes, if she gets her massive new majority. One minute she talks of a "deep and special partnership" with the EU; the next she's happy to walk away without a deal.

**ON TUITION FEES:** Plans to raise the interest rates on student loans to 6.1 per cent, a whopping 5.85 per cent above the base rate. You may well find better deals on Wonga.

**ON LGBTQ+:** Mixed bag. She voted against lowering the homosexual age of consent to 16, but in favour of gay marriage, and was absent for all four votes over the Gender Recognition Act.

**ON THE NHS:** Since the Con-Lib coalition's Health and Social Care Act, the NHS has been underfunded and privatised to the point of crisis. May has refused to rule out potential post-Brexit trade deals that would open the NHS up to US corporate interests.

**REASONS TO BE OPTIMISTIC:** A Tory landslide will be great for you if you're already rich.

**REASONS TO DESPAIR:** Potential destruction of the NHS, an unchecked crash out of the single market, the probable break-up of the Union and Boris Johnson continuing to represent Britain on the world stage.

**BIGGEST WHOPPER TO DATE:** This very election, which she repeatedly insisted wouldn't happen.

**IF SHE WERE A ROCK STAR:** Phil Collins

# LEADERS

For more on  
the election go  
to [NME.com/  
election2017](https://www.nme.com/election2017)

## Jeremy Corbyn

### LABOUR

**AGE:** 67

**CONSTITUENCY:** Islington North

**IN A NUTSHELL:** Veteran left-winger leading a party that wants him to lose.

**BREXIT MEANS...** Gentle Brexit. Corbyn claims he would focus on protecting workers' rights, tariff-free access to the single market, managed immigration and stopping the UK turning into a low-economy tax haven, like Singapore-on-Thames.

**ON TUITION FEES:** Says he will abolish them, paid for by a 2 per cent increase in corporation tax.

**ON LGBTQ+:** Caused a flap when he referred to being LGBTQ+ as a "choice", but he has consistently voted for equal rights for the community since the '80s.

**ON THE NHS:** Big fan, and determined to save it. Comedian Mark Steel even suggested that if Labour win we could fund the NHS for a year simply by pay-per-viewing Corbyn's first meeting with Trump.

**REASONS TO BE OPTIMISTIC:** Claims he will make life better for regular people – a properly funded NHS, free university education, cheaper train tickets, affordable flats, a higher minimum wage, no zero-hours contracts, Gary Barlow paying his tax...

**REASONS TO DESPAIR:** The polls. It doesn't look good right now.

**BIGGEST WHOPPER TO DATE:** Corbyn lost a lot of Remain support when he campaigned to stay in the EU but then whipped his MPs to vote through the triggering of Article 50.

**IF HE WERE A ROCK STAR:** Billy Bragg

## Tim Farron

### LIBERAL DEMOCRAT

**AGE:** 46

**CONSTITUENCY:** Westmorland and Lonsdale

**IN A NUTSHELL:** Christian Remoaner-in-Chief hoping to wipe all memory of the coalition by leading the charge back into Europe.

**BREXIT MEANS...** No Brexit. Farron's main rallying cry is "second referendum", behind which hopeful Remainers are rallying.

**ON TUITION FEES:** Christ. The very last thing Farron will do in this election is mention tuition fees. Nick Clegg bagged the deputy PM seat in 2010 off of his promise to abolish them, then sat on his hands throughout the Con-Lib coalition as they were ramped up to £9k a year.

**ON LGBTQ+:** Basically "I fully support your freedom to burn in eternal hellfire".

**ON THE NHS:** Farron has attacked government plans to get patients to pay upfront for NHS services, suggested a special EU passport for NHS staff to guarantee their rights in the UK and proposed remodelling it as the National Health and Care Service by making social care fully government-funded.

**REASONS TO BE OPTIMISTIC:** There's a tactical voting push nationwide to swing marginal Tory seats, which can only help the Lib Dems. And with Farron in government, he'll put the kibosh on Brexit and we'll all be doing the can-can through the Brandenburg Gate by teatime. Arrrrriba!

**REASONS TO DESPAIR:** Won't happen.

**BIGGEST WHOPPER TO DATE:** "Only the Liberal Democrats can prevent a Conservative majority". And if they don't get one, Tim'll give them one.

**IF HE WERE A ROCK STAR:** Cliff Richard ●●●

SCOTLAND

## Nicola Sturgeon

### SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY

**AGE:** 46**CONSTITUENCY:** Glasgow Southside**IN A NUTSHELL:** Hardline indyref activist and star of many a Krankies meme.**BREXIT MEANS...** Scottish independence. Sturgeon is looking into any which way an independent Scotland might remain part of the EU, pre- or post-Brexit, while pushing for a second independence referendum.**ON TUITION FEES:** Scottish students in Scotland don't pay fees, and that won't change under her watch.**ON LGBTQ+:** Sturgeon is deemed an 'LGBTQ+ innovator' thanks to her pro-rights legislation.**ON THE NHS:** It's in almost as dire a state in Scotland as the rest of the UK, and many blame her.**REASONS TO BE OPTIMISTIC:** Sturgeon has offered the entire country the chance to move to Scotland to escape Brexit, potentially turning the entire country into one big life raft.**REASONS TO DESPAIR:** Everything the SNP does is framed with independence in mind. Some critics claim they have no ideological core of its own, others that they're a right-wing wolf in leftie sheep's clothing.**BIGGEST WHOPPER TO DATE:** The economic figures Sturgeon put forward to convince voters to vote for independence in the 2014 referendum were, some say, fanciful.**IF SHE WERE A ROCK STAR:** Bobby Gillespie

## Paul Nuttall

### UK INDEPENDENCE PARTY

**AGE:** 40**CONSTITUENCY:** None**IN A NUTSHELL:** You still here?**BREXIT MEANS...** Extreme Brexit. This "guard dog of Brexit" would probably brick up the Chunnel.**ON TUITION FEES:** Nuttall would scrap them, but only for some students. He'd also make EU students pay the same as non-EU foreigners, obviously.**ON LGBTQ+:** Nuttall has called for HIV sufferers to be banned from the UK, opposed all LGBTQ+ rights and same-sex marriage, attacked plans to stop homophobia in schools and supported companies discriminating against gay couples.**ON THE NHS:** "I believe that the NHS is a monolithic hangover from days gone by."**REASON TO BE OPTIMISTIC:** With their one and only MP resigning, UKIP are dead in Westminster.**REASON TO DESPAIR:** That doesn't stop Nigel Farage being given a daily platform.**BIGGEST WHOPPER TO DATE:** That he lived in Stoke, played professional football, conquered ancient Macedonia on elephants etc.**IF HE WERE A ROCK STAR:** Kid Rock

## Leanne Wood

### PLAID CYMRU

**AGE:** 45**CONSTITUENCY:** None**IN A NUTSHELL:** Welsh speaker that wants a proud, independent Wales.**BREXIT MEANS...** Welsh devolution.**ON TUITION FEES:** Under Plaid policies, Welsh students would have £6k a year wiped off their fees if they returned to work in Wales after graduation.**ON LGBTQ+:** We're not sure anyone's ever asked her.**ON THE NHS:** Supports efficiency cuts as long as they're put back into the NHS budget.**REASON TO BE OPTIMISTIC:** Likely to jump into a coalition, if one comes up.**REASON TO DESPAIR:** Never likely to be taken seriously as anything more than a marginal party.**BIGGEST WHOPPER TO DATE:** Rumours abounded that Plaid conspired with UKIP and the Tories to force a stalemate with Labour in a vote for First Minister in the Welsh National Assembly in 2016.**IF SHE WERE A ROCK STAR:** Gruff Rhys



For more on  
the election go  
to [NME.com/  
election2017](http://NME.com/election2017)

## Caroline Lucas

### GREEN PARTY

**AGE:** 56

**CONSTITUENCY:** Brighton Pavilion

**IN A NUTSHELL:** Worthy planet-saver we should all be voting for but won't until the tropical typhoons are lashing the windows of Witney.

**BREXIT MEANS...** Global warming. Warning of a 'cliff-edge' Brexit and encouraging cross-party co-ordination, Lucas is particularly attuned to the loss of environmental protections that Brexit will bring, plunging us ever-closer to the day that you can die of heatstroke in Preston.

**ON TUITION FEES:** She'll scrap them. Too much paper involved.

**ON LGBTQ+:** She's the MP for Brighton. 'Nuff said.

**ON THE NHS:** Lucas introduced the NHS Reinstatement Bill, intended to reverse Conservative privatisation of the NHS. It was deliberately 'filibustered' by Tory MPs, who spoke so long on other subjects that the bill didn't have time for a vote and was shelved.

**REASONS TO BE OPTIMISTIC:** Lucas has suggested a cross-party progressive coalition.

**REASONS TO DESPAIR:** Everyone else has told her to bog off.

**BIGGEST WHOPPER TO DATE:** She doesn't have time to lie – she's already got too many uncomfortable truths that nobody's listening to.

**IF SHE WERE A ROCK STAR:** Chris Martin

# DIY POLITICS: WHAT YOU CAN DO

Want to make a difference? Here's how you can

## 1 DIP YOUR TOE IN

### POP THE SOCIAL BUBBLE

Didn't see Brexit coming? Ruled out Trump's victory because your Facebook feed suggested he was electorally doomed? Pop the social media 'bubble' and get clued-up on the election through different means – radio debates, reading papers you wouldn't usually read, attending rallies. Find out what's really happening.

### CAN I GOOGLE THAT FOR YOU?

Knowing who and what you're voting for is a good idea, and June's election isn't just a simple choice between May and Corbyn. Every area is different, every politician is different, and it's worth reading up on the policies your local candidates stand for. The information is pretty easy to find just by Googling your candidates. And if you want to get into the murky world of tactical voting, there are widely circulated tables of who to vote for where to get your desired result. Everything you want to know is out there – you just need to look.

## 2 TAKE THE PLUNGE

### IT'S GOOD TO TALK

Whether it's a member of your family with different views or an old schoolfriend hating online, just because people think differently to you doesn't mean they're a lost cause. Speak to them one-to-one or take them down the pub – find out the roots of their views and explain yours. You might think, 'Apart from the erosion of family ties and an all-out fist-fight, what's the worst than can happen?' But having actual, positive

discussions is the first way to bring change.

### VIVA VOLUNTEERS

There are so many ways to help your party of choice. Whether it's canvassing locally, knocking on doors, distributing flyers or doing the hard graft and calling up existing members to guarantee their support, there are always jobs to be done. In the lead-up to an election, everything will be focused on getting voters to turn out. All of the major political parties have information on their websites telling you how to volunteer and get involved.

## 3 DEEP DIVE

### SET THE AGENDA

Any member of a political party can attend local meetings. You can join any of the major parties via their websites. This gives you the right to help decide what needs to be discussed, which people need help – and most importantly, how to win the election.

### STAND IN THE ELECTION YOURSELF

If you're over 18, a British citizen, not bankrupt, not a police officer and not in the armed forces, congratulations, you can stand as a candidate in the upcoming election yourself. All you need is a British passport, a £500 deposit, and you need to submit an application by May 15 (some parties have their own separate deadlines). All of the information you need can be found at [parliament.uk/get-involved/elections/standing](http://parliament.uk/get-involved/elections/standing). Unfortunately, the odds aren't really on your side: only two independent candidates have been elected since 1950 – but don't let that put you off.

**NME**

# DAVE GROHL'S MOM HAS GOT IT GOING ON



Virginia Hanlon Grohl, who spawned the Nirvana and Foo Fighters star, tells **Mark Beaumont** about life as a rock mum

## Mum's the word

What the mums in *From Cradle To Stage* have to say about their famous offspring...

### JANIS WINEHOUSE ON AMY

"My life was spent constantly developing new strategies to get her to do the simplest things, from brushing her teeth before going to bed to getting her uniform on for school in the morning."



### MARIANNE STIPE ON MICHAEL

"He's a Southern gentleman [who] always brings the kale and chooses the best cheeses."

### VERNA GRIFFIN ON DR DRE

"He was born with a love for music... I feel like I, too, have accomplished something. That's what I wanted, for my children to grow up and make something of themselves, to do better than me."



# B

Dave Grohl with mum Virginia



BEHIND EVERY ROCK GOD THERE'S a devoted mother trying to get strange stains out of leather trousers. Yet, on her regular tours with Foo Fighters, Virginia Hanlon Grohl never seemed to run into any of the other rock stars' mums. So she set out to interview them, telling the stories of the mothers of R.E.M.'s Michael Stipe, Dr Dre, Rage Against The Machine's Tom Morello, Amy Winehouse, Beastie Boys' Mike D, Haim, Pharrell Williams and more in her new book *From Cradle To Stage*. "It turned out to be an amazing group of women who all said in the beginning, 'There's nothing special about me, nothing interesting about my story'," she says, "and that turned out to be entirely untrue."

### What's life like as the mother of one of the biggest rock stars in the world?

"It's very good – I recommend it. Buy your kid a guitar and a drum and hope things go the way my life did. I've been able to travel the world with them. David always said, 'Jump on the bus, jump on the plane, come along,' and I do. I used to think I should hide because I didn't want anyone to think he was a momma's boy, but he'd pull me on stage and introduce me. The crew know who I am. I have the best seat in the house."

### Dave's famously nice. Does he treat you to lots of stuff?

"It's just one wonderful party after another! I just mentioned on purpose that I wanted to go back to Italy. And guess what? My wish will be granted! He's making it possible for us as a family to go and have my 80th birthday in Italy."

### Have you found yourself in some strange rock 'n' roll situations?

"Early on, the fans were difficult with Nirvana – it was hard to get out of a car. I've met Stevie Nicks, I've met Prince Harry, I've met Obama when Dave played at the White House. Paul McCartney was there, so I got to watch the President as he sang 'Michelle' to his wife. That was a very shivery evening."

### What was Dave like as a child?

"Full-on energy from morning to night. He

**"It's just one wonderful party after another"**

and his sister fought a lot. He enjoyed making her angry, so he ruined a lot of her plans. Once, he was showing off while she was having a slumber party with friends. He was doing cartwheels down a short hallway and bumped his head into her door and began bleeding all over the carpet. He required hospitalisation and a great number of stitches, and of course it ended her slumber party. She's never forgiven him..."

### Can you remember what his first musical endeavours were like?

"He never had drums in the house because we had a small house – he played other people's drums. He was maybe nine or 10 when he got a guitar. I pictured him sitting there strumming classical guitar pieces like Segovia while I prepared dinner, but Segovia turned into Metallica and that dream faded."

### When he got into punk rock, did you ever put your foot down about the tattoos?

"I was never asked for guidance about tattoos or hair. The worst was when he had long hair and half of it was jet black and half was platinum white. It looked great when he was flailing his head around playing the drums, but the rest of the time it was a little bit terrifying."

### How did it feel to watch him become famous almost overnight with Nirvana?

"Nobody expected it; it was one enormous surprise after another. It happened really fast and it was very fun. I got to go to

## FROM CRADLE TO STAGE

*Saturday Night Live* to see them and I got to go to Reading Festival and the crowds just got bigger and bigger. It never stopped being a huge surprise."

### What were your fellow rock mums' funniest and most inspiring stories?

"There were lots of stories about the kids having so much energy – Pharrell Williams' grandmother couldn't bear his pounding on everything and bought him a drum set just to get him to stop pounding on the furniture. Look how that turned out."

### Did a pattern emerge?

"No matter what the type of music or what their instrument was, they all committed to music as a lifetime work at around the age of 12. It occurred to them like a flash from the sky and there was no turning back, no matter what their mother did or said."

### Did talking to mothers who'd lost their children to rock 'n' roll – Wendy Cobain O'Connor and Janis Winehouse – make you feel fortunate to have turned out such a well-adjusted rock god?

"Of course. When they start out on this path, all of us had heard 'sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll – watch out'. We didn't know what was going to happen and we all made separate deals with them – they made promises to their mothers no to do certain things. When I met Amy Winehouse's mom, I was amazed. I've never met anyone like her – she's got multiple sclerosis, she's lost a daughter in a horrible way and she remains someone who has a positive outlook in life."

### Any advice for musicians' mums on how to raise the nicest guy in rock?

"I don't think I can take credit for that – I don't know how that happened. We had this ridiculous saying 'It's nice when things are nice' and he was nice. I'd suggest certain things about how to keep a relationship with a teenage musician an open one, with communication. Things we already know."

**NME**

*From Cradle To Stage* is out now, published by Hodder & Stoughton

PHOTOS: MICHAEL ELINS, GETTY IMAGES, RED FEATURES, ED MILES, DEAN CHALKLEY



**DR CAROLYN WILLIAMS ON PHARRELL**

"I think the experiences he had as a child helped to create the man he became – growing up having to work hard and realising that you can't depend on others to do it for you."

**PATSY NOAH ON ADAM LEVINE**

"[We had] almost a spiritual connection, a mother/son ESP... [He] drove me crazy... A handful, no question."



**HESTER DIAMOND ON MIKE D**

"The whole course of [Mike's] life was bizarre. He was a big star at 19. 15,000 people began screaming when my kid ran on stage."

**DONNA HAIM ON HAIM**

"It's hard to have all your kids on the road, but at least they're together. Like a wolf pack, watching out for each other."



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# RADAR

THIS WEEK'S ESSENTIAL NEW RELEASES

## Best NEW tracks

And when to drop them

### BEST FOR GOING POP

**PARAMORE**

*Hard Times*

Former emo kids Paramore fully embrace the chirpier side of life on this perky, Daft Punk-inspired electropop tune.

### BEST FOR WILD WORKOUTS

**SIGRID**

*Plot Twist*

Norway's Sigrid is the name to watch. 'Plot Twist' is a twisty-turvy banger of mega pop proportions.

### BEST FOR PRACTISING YOUR POUT

**HURTS**

*Beautiful Ones*

Drama-packed synth lords Hurts return with an unsurprisingly high-octane tune.

### BEST FOR BEDROOM DISCOS

**WAXAHATCHEE**

*Silver*

Stateside songwriter Katie Crutchfield does a lovely line in upbeat, grungy sounds – seek out this ace new song.

### BEST FOR SLAYING IT

**LADY GAGA**

*The Cure*

Emotive power pop is the name of Gaga's game and she's won it once again. We are not worthy.

### BEST FOR NOT GIVING A F\*\*K

**NOAH CYRUS**

*Stay Together*

Miley's little sis follows in her sibling's footsteps by being sassy AF on this leisurely teen anthem.

LANA DEL REY  
AND THE WEEKND

### BEST FOR GETTING YOUR RAGE ON

**NADINE SHAH**

*Out The Way*

Like PJ Harvey at her most intense and experimental, 'Out The Way' is political, powerful and maddeningly good.

### BEST FOR GETTING EXCITED

**LORDE**

*Homemade Dynamite*

Debuted at Coachella, this party tune will feature on the New Zealand great's new album 'Melodrama', out on June 16.

### BEST FOR BLOCK PARTIES

**TLC FEAT.**

**SNOOP DOGG**

*Way Back*

The 1990s' slickest R&B group return as a duo with Snoop on board for this old school-style jam.

### BEST FOR MOODY MAKE-OUTS

**LANA DEL REY FEAT.**

**THE WEEKND**

*Lust For Life*

Old-school Hollywood vibes and sad shagging – this is a perfect fusion of Del Rey and her super high-profile guest vocalist.

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# MUSIC

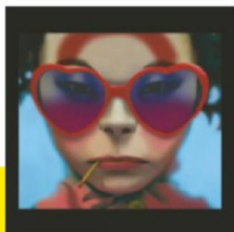


Gorillaz (l-r): Russel Hobbs, Noodle, 2-D, Murdoc

ALBUM  
OF THE  
WEEK

## Going ape

**Gorillaz's fifth album is a star-studded and political dose of hope and fear set in a freaky, amorphous nightmare**



**GORILLAZ**  
*Humanz*



"IT'S AMERICA THAT MADE Gorillaz," Damon Albarn said recently. The animated band's four albums have so far sold 16m copies worldwide – more than Blur – and that's largely

thanks to America's warm embrace. Perhaps by way of thanks, this long-awaited fifth album is about America going to hell.

The lawless, world-altering scenario 'Humanz' presents us with is not a poorly attended inauguration but a massive, cross-genre party, composed largely on an iPad by Albarn and illustrated by his mate Jamie Hewlett. Taking a look at the album's futuristic floor-fillers leads to the standout 'Momentz', where De La Soul give hangover advice over a strict

marching beat, wriggling synths and a massive, jolting mantra. Or 'Charger', where Grace Jones bares some sphinx-like teeth over a distorted two-note line to declare "*I am the ghost / I am the soul / I'm gonna take you for a ride / No antennas*," while Albarn's bewildered vocals splutter out in flouncy dribs and drabs. So strange, it's fantastic.

'Humanz' features guests at all stages in their careers, from reggae's man of the moment Popcaan to gospel legend Mavis Staples. Albarn's explained that each contributor was asked the same question: "Imagine a night where everything that you believed in was turned on its head. How would you feel?" Regardless of the answer, the resulting collaborations had to

convey "pain, joy, and urgency" – and they do. We begin with Vince Staples blaring: "*The sky is falling baby / Drop that ass 'fore it crash*"; the ensuing trip takes us past some last-ditch disco ('Strobelite', 'Submission') and a 'non-conformist oath' that runs: "*I promise to be different / I promise to be unique / I promise not to repeat things other people say*." Words to live by.

It all becomes slightly non-fiction on Benjamin Clementine's feature 'Hallelujah Money' – an anti-Trump eulogy for human goodness – but then comes the soothing final track 'We Got The Power', on which Albarn puts to bed his Britpop-era rivalry with Noel Gallagher by joining him and Savages' Jehnnny Beth for a dose of fierce optimism. "*We got the power to be loving each other no matter what happens*," they yell. "*We got the power to do that*." **Larry Bartleet**

## STRANGE & TRUE

Contributing to 'Andromeda', both Rag'n'Bone Man and Christine And The Queens created versions that Albarn says "didn't work". The song ended up featuring rapper and singer D.R.A.M. instead.



# Greatness only

**Kendrick Lamar's album is a powerful, potent look inside the troubled mind of a genius**

FAITH, P\*\*\*Y AND POLITICS

– the mind of Kendrick Lamar is a hectic, action-packed place. The triumphant Compton MC might have cut down the number of tracks on his fourth studio album – ‘DAMN.’ is by far his shortest release to date – but the ideas, thoughts and feelings it contains are massive, weighty things, from sexual tension to deep, dark depression.

Also jostling for attention is the eternal battle between good and evil, with some chart-friendly rap bangers thrown in just because he can. ‘DAMN.’ shows Lamar as spiritual but tormented, confused and ego-tripping all at the

**KENDRICK LAMAR**

**DAMN.**



RAP RELIGION EGO



same time. Being Kendrick Lamar, you imagine, must be knacker.

Every bit as cinematic as 2012's outstanding

breakthrough ‘Good Kid, M.A.A.D City’, ‘DAMN.’ begins with the immediate ‘BLOOD.’, a stark scene-setter that sees Lamar speaking over swooping sampled strings and slow, funky keys, telling the story of helping out a woman on the street before being shot dead. As album openers go, killing off your main protagonist in the first two minutes is a bold move, but since 2011's high-concept debut ‘Section.80’ Lamar has proved himself to be one of the boldest artists around.

With, we can only assume, Lamar's body still warm, we fire

straight into a sample from Geraldo Rivera, a presenter for US television station Fox News, criticising Lamar's take on police brutality on his 2015 track ‘Alright’. Lamar has no time for Rivera's racist bulls\*\*t, taking him and Fox to task throughout the album.

But rallying against the right-wing media isn't Lamar's only objective with ‘DAMN.’ The high-octane, beat-heavy ‘HUMBLE.’ sees him battling off other MCs and stating his greatness, while on the dreamy ‘GOD.’ he compares his life to that of a deity and the Rihanna-featuring slow jam ‘LOYALTY.’ muses on a different kind of faithfulness.

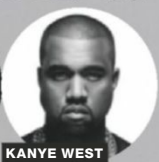
We plunge into darkness on the doomy ‘FEEL.’ which opens a window into Lamar's bleak, lonesome state of mind. *“I feel like it ain't no tomorrow / F\*\*k the world / The world is ending / I'm done pretending,”* he spits, showing that even when you're on top of the world, sometimes it feels like you're being crushed by the weight of it.

**Leonie Cooper**

FOR **FANS OF**



2PAC



KANYE WEST

# FILM

# Watch this space

A very watchable second slice of intergalactic fun

## GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY VOL. 2

12A Chris Pratt, Zoe Saldana, Kurt Russell



SEQUEL CGI DADDY ISSUES

## STRANGE & TRUE

Miley Cyrus – or rather her voice – makes a brief cameo in a post-credits scene.

WHEN THE FIRST *Guardians Of The Galaxy* film hit cinemas three summers ago, it benefited from the element of surprise. No Marvel Studios blockbuster is ever an underdog, but few movie fans expected one featuring a talking raccoon and a dancing tree to be so funny and visually stunning. But this sequel's title suggests we won't be wrong-footed again; *Guardians Of The Galaxy Vol. 2* is here to give us more of the same.

It opens with the motley superhero crew pissing off a pompous high priestess called Ayesha (Elizabeth Debicki), but

the story really begins when Peter Quill (Chris Pratt) meets Ego (Kurt Russell), a charismatic god-like being who claims to be his father. Ego takes Quill and the gang to a sublime but somewhat sterile planet he says he created from scratch. Soon father and son begin to bond, but the naturally cautious Gamora (Zoe Saldana) suspects that something about Ego is too good to be true.

Right from the start, *Guardians Of The Galaxy Vol. 2* crackles with the same waggish energy that defined the original. Director James Gunn supplies more impressive visuals and the

way he juxtaposes state-of-the-art CGI with classic dad-rock bangers remains strangely entertaining. A massive action sequence is soundtracked by Fleetwood Mac's 'The Chain', while a key emotional moment wrings the sentiment from Cat Stevens' 'Father And Son'. Gunn's script is frequently hilarious, too, packing in '80s pop culture references to Pac-Man and David Hasselhoff and more scene-stealing





(L-r:) Zoe Saldana, Karen Gillan, Chris Pratt, Dave Bautista, Bradley Cooper

moments for crotchety Rocket (voiced by Bradley Cooper) and super-cute Baby Groot (Vin Diesel). In fact, Gunn's ability to juggle LOLs and thrills only really slips with a misguided recurring joke that involves a privileged male character telling a subservient female one that she's "ugly".

Yet despite its infectious sense of fun, the film is dimmed a little by over-familiarity and a lack of urgency: the film's main threat only really materialises in the final third of its 135-minute runtime. This doesn't prevent it from being another very watchable comic book romp, but it does make *Vol. 2* feel less vital than it should be.

**Nick Levine**



Gabin Verdet (centre) as Simon, with Kool Shen and Emmanuelle Seigner as his parents



## Better than Casualty

**Yes, it's a medical drama, but it packs an emotional wallop**

### HEAL THE LIVING

12A Tahar Rahim, Anne Dorval, Emmanuelle Seigner, Gabin Verdet



SURFING DRAMA PAIN

A KEY SEQUENCE NEAR the start of Katell Quillévéré's *Heal The Living* involves a stretch of road becoming ocean. Seventeen-year-old Simon (Gabin Verdet) and his friends are driving home after an early morning's surf. One moment, their van powers across tarmac; the next, dark waves roll majestically on all sides, causing a tragic accident with an aftermath that will touch everyone to come.

Adapted from Maylis de Kerangal's 2014 novel *Mend The Living*, which was longlisted for the Booker International Prize, Quillévéré's melodrama about intersecting lives pivots around those who need medical care and those who provide it. All the characters orbit around either Simon, who spends most of the film on life support,

or Claire (Anne Dorval), a fiftysomething former violinist with a weak heart.

What sounds on paper like a corny medical drama is never less than engrossing. Despite choosing a setting loaded with physical and emotional pain, Quillévéré doesn't play for easy tear-jerking scenes. She's interested in the jigsaw of how human beings connect and the mechanics of hospital life.

Part of the fascination of this film is feeling like a fly on the wall during transplant procedures. At times, it has the feel of a documentary, like when you see a human heart being packed on ice and taken onto a private plane. This attention to detail strengthens the emotional wallop, especially when Quillévéré allows her story to meander. It's particularly charming when the sombre and kind Dr Rémige (played by *A Prophet*'s Tahar Rahim) is found watching YouTube videos of birds during a break.

Every character, no matter how small, is given a moment to be private and complex, so no one's defined purely by their role as doctor or patient. Quillévéré shows poise in managing each human thread and, at precisely chosen moments, creates breathtakingly emotional climaxes that hit hard.

**Sophie Monks Kaufman**

# Sälen



**KERO KERO BONITO**

**Graduation**

Irreverent, kooky, slightly mad.

The London trio's post-ironic pop debut was an full-on assault on the senses.

## Best track

**HEARTBREAK DIET**

While they routinely flip the break-up formula on each track, this is their most acerbic and witty to date.

## STRANGE & TRUE

The trio are known to read their YouTube comments, but they don't take them to heart – "Someone called us a 'hipster N-Dubz', can you believe that?"

## FOR FANS OF



RIHANNA



KATY B

**Uncensored and witty electropop to get down and dirty to**

**HIDING UNDERNEATH**  
Sälen's sugary sweet electropop is a fierce NSFW streak. In the video for 2016 single 'Copper Kiss' they writhe around with a load of venomous snakes, and their lyrics tend to feature sordid tales of bedroom shenanigans ('Copper Kiss' again) or straight up telling haters to go suck a d\*\*k ('Pretty, Fake'). They may well be the most explicit pop act in the UK. Let Ellie Kamio (vocals) and Simon Milner (production) introduce themselves...

**Did you sing much before you joined the band, Ellie?**

Ellie: "One of the only times I'd performed in public was when I sang the pretty inappropriate 'Lady Marmalade' in front of these French exchange students at the age of seven. My mum was trying to entertain them so said, 'This will be a French song that they know, Ellie. Sing it!' So I did it, then the students were like, 'What are you doing getting your seven-year-old child to sing that?' It took a while to get back to it after that."

## DETAILS

**From:** East London

**Social:** @heySalen

**Live:** London O2 Forum (April 28) w/ Rejjie Snow; The Great Escape, Brighton (May 19)

**Buy:** Single 'Heartbreak Diet' is out now

**Your songs are both funny and pretty explicit – ever think you're taking it too far?**

**Simon:** "We do make ourselves laugh when we come up with our lyrics. Sometimes you don't know if someone's joking when they go, 'What about this?' and you're like, 'Is this a joke? Or is it serious?'"

**Ellie:** "We're gonna start using animal noises to cover up old explicit lyrics – like on our song 'Pretty, Fake' we've used a big panther growl to mask the word 'd\*\*k'. But we probably should start writing some non-explicit ones."

**Some of your music videos have featured live animals, though some are a bit more lo-fi. Which one is your favourite?**

**Simon:** "Probably 'The Drwg'. We had £200 and just rented a car and drove round. It was supposed to be easy. But Ellie did an all-nighter and when she turned up for the shoot she was still drunk, technically. After we looked at the footage, Ellie kept saying, 'You can't use that shot, I look too drunk there', so it took forever to edit."

**Your last single 'Heartbreak Diet' was your most straight-up pop song yet.**

**Where do you go from here?**

**Ellie:** "We're going to do an EP and have a featured female act on each track, whether that's with rappers, singers, DJs or producers. Then, by the end of the year, I want us all to have matching red, white and blue grills." **Thomas Smith**

PHOTOS: AGNES LLOYD

Sälen (l-r): Ellie and  
Simon with bassist  
Paul Taylor

**“We’re gonna  
start using animal  
noises to cover  
up explicit lyrics”**



# TOPMAN

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# live

THIS WEEK'S BEST TICKETS AND GIGS

Hayley Williams

## Para-tour

Emo crew Paramore have gone pop. Check it out at their first UK shows in three years

FOR CLUES ON THE titular hard times of Paramore's brand-new single – their first in three years – look no further than the Tennessee pop-punk crew's recent years of instability. In 2010, the five-piece's guitarist Josh Farro and drummer Zac Farro departed dramatically. Then their bassist Jeremy Davis quit in 2015, leaving lead

vocalist Hayley Williams and guitarist Taylor York as a duo.

But this year drummer Zac returned and, from the sounds of it, those hard times are well and truly over. This new tune is a totally unexpected move into fun, glossy pop and it's as bold and bombastic as their new look. Promo material shows the trio striking silly poses in block colours, and Williams' hair is no longer a splash of zany colour but a long, shocking white.

It's like a page has been turned for Paramore and everything is falling into place for a proper good time when the trio tour their forthcoming fifth album 'After Laughter' in the UK this summer – their first set of shows here since 2014's Reading & Leeds Festival.

### PARAMORE

Pop-punks who've ditched the punk

#### JUNE

**Fri 16** Waterfront, Belfast

**Sun 18** O2 Apollo, Manchester

**Mon 19** Royal Albert Hall, London

**Wed 21** Colston Hall, Bristol

**Thu 22** Usher Hall, Edinburgh

**TICKETS:** £35

ON SALE  
NOW



**ON SALE  
NOW**





## HO9909

Thrashcore punk duo

### JUNE

**Tue 20** Rebellion, Manchester  
**Wed 21** Underworld, London

### TELL ME MORE:

Whether you like it or not, Ho9909 will get right in your face at every opportunity.

**TICKETS:** £13.20-£14.85

## FRANKIE COSMOS

Indie rockers from NYC

### JULY

**Fri 28** The Haunt, Brighton  
**Mon 31** Full Moon, Cardiff

### AUGUST

**Tue 1** Magnet, Liverpool  
**Thu 3** Mash House, Edinburgh  
**Fri 4** Band On The Wall, Manchester

**TELL ME MORE:** The lo-fi project of ex-Porches bassist Greta Kline.

**TICKETS:** £9.90-£11.55

## MAC DEMARCO

Wondrous Canadian slacker

### NOVEMBER

**Mon 20** Rock City, Nottingham  
**Tue 21** Mountford Hall, Liverpool  
**Fri 24** Barrowland, Glasgow  
**Sat 25** Academy, Manchester

**TELL ME MORE:** He's a laid-back guitarist on record, but at gigs often strips to his birthday suit.

**TICKETS:** £20.16-£22

## GOAT

Beautifully strange Swedish psychsters

### JULY

**Sat 29** O2 Academy Brixton, London

**TELL ME MORE:** This is 2017's only UK show by the flute-loving and supposedly ancient group.

**TICKETS:** £29.50

# live

## THE CRIBS

Noughties indie heroes

### MAY

**Thu 11** O2 Academy, Glasgow  
**Fri 12** Academy, Manchester  
**Sat 13** O2 Institute, Birmingham  
**Mon 15** O2 Academy, Newcastle  
**Tue 16** O2 Academy, Bristol  
**Thu 18 & Fri 19** O2 Forum Kentish Town, London  
**Sat 20** First Direct Arena, Leeds

### TELL ME MORE:

Supported by Norwegian newcomers Sløtface, The Cribbs are on a nostalgia trip to celebrate 10 years since third album 'Men's Needs, Women's Needs, Whatever'.

**TICKETS:** £22.55-£25.85

## RAT BOY

Hip-hop/indie kid from Essex

### APRIL

**Fri 28** The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent  
**Sat 29** O2 Academy, Oxford

### MAY

**Mon 1** Waterfront, Norwich  
**Tue 2** O2 Institute, Birmingham  
**Wed 3** Bierkeller, Bristol  
**Fri 5** Academy, Manchester  
**Sat 6** Roundhouse, London

**TELL ME MORE:** This skating-obsessed 21-year-old was recently sampled by Compton rap don Kendrick Lamar on his new album 'DAMN.'.

**TICKETS:** £14.30-£18.80

## THE WEEK'S BEST GIGS

### AMBER ARCADES

Fri 28 The Finsbury, London

### ARCA

Fri 28 Roundhouse, London

### ASTROID BOYS

Wed 3 The Horn, St Albans  
Thu 4 The Empire, Coventry

### BICEP

Sun 30 O2 Academy, Oxford

### THE BIG MOON

Fri 28 The Deaf Institute, Manchester  
Tue 2 Village Underground, London

### BLONDIE

Wed 3 Roundhouse, London

### CABBAGE

Fri 28 Academy, Manchester  
Wed 3 Voodoo, Belfast

### CHARLOTTE CHURCH

Fri 28 Concorde 2, Brighton

### COSIMA

Wed 3 Bussey Building, London

### DMA'S

Tue 2 Lemon Tree, Aberdeen  
Wed 3 Bar 15, Dundee  
Thu 4 O2 Academy, Liverpool

### ELECTRIC GUEST

Tue 2 O2 Academy Islington, London  
Wed 3 Sound Control, Manchester

### FUTURE ISLANDS

Fri 28 Stylus, Leeds  
Sat 29 O2 Academy, Liverpool  
Sun 30 Dome, Brighton  
Wed 3 O2 Academy, Bristol

### FYFE

Thu 4 Omeara, London

### GEKO

Tue 2 The Wardrobe, Leeds

### HAPPYNESS

Fri 28 The Dome, London

### HMLTD

Wed 3 Scala, London

### HONEYBLOOD

Tue 2 Phoenix, Exeter  
Wed 3 Haunt, Brighton  
Thu 4 The Wedgewood Rooms, Portsmouth

### HOOPS

Tue 2 The Hug And Pint, Glasgow  
Wed 3 Headrow House, Leeds  
Thu 4 Soup Kitchen, Manchester

### THE HUNNA

Sun 30 Barrowland, Glasgow  
Tue 2 Roundhouse, London  
Wed 3 Engine Rooms, Southampton

### J HUS

Mon 1 Riverside, Newcastle  
Wed 3 O2 Academy, Liverpool  
Thu 4 Albert Hall, Manchester

### JAPANDROIDS

Fri 28 O2 Institute, Birmingham  
Sun 30 The Garage, Glasgow  
Mon 1 University Union, Leeds  
Tue 2 The Rescue Rooms, Nottingham  
Thu 4 Gorilla, Manchester

### KOJEY RADICAL

Fri 28 The Jazz Cafe, London

### THE MAGIC GANG

Mon 1 Leadmill, Sheffield  
Tue 2 Sound Control, Manchester  
Wed 3 The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent  
Thu 4 O2 Academy, Leicester

### MAVERICK SABRE

Thu 4 Terrace, Exeter

### THE ORIELLES

Fri 28 Chameleon Arts Café, Nottingham

### P MONEY

Fri 28 The Arch, Brighton

### THE PARROTS

Tue 2 Think Tank? Underground, Newcastle  
Wed 3 Sneaky Pete's, Edinburgh  
Thu 4 Voodoo, Belfast

### PVRIS

Thu 4 O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire, London

### REJJIE SNOW

Fri 28 O2 Forum Kentish Town, London

### SEAFRET

Tue 2 Bush Hall, London  
Wed 3 O2 Institute, Birmingham  
Thu 4 Leadmill, Sheffield

### SHAME

Mon 1 Bodega, Nottingham  
Wed 3 Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham  
Thu 4 The Cellar, Oxford

### SPECTRES

Fri 28 The Hope & Ruin, Brighton

### SYLVAN ESSO

Thu 4 Village Underground, London

### TALL SHIPS

Tue 2 Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
Wed 3 The Portland Arms, Cambridge  
Thu 4 Clwb Ifor Bach, Cardiff

### TINARIWEN

Fri 28 O2 Academy, Oxford  
Sat 29 Cheese & Grain, Frome

### TOUTS

Sun 30 Castle Hotel, Manchester

### TRUDY AND THE ROMANCE

Thu 4 The Shacklewell Arms, London

### WILL JOSEPH COOK

Tue 2 Stereo, Glasgow  
Wed 3 O2 Academy, Newcastle  
Thu 4 Sound Control, Manchester

### YONAKA

Tue 2 The Portland Arms, London  
Wed 3 Waterfront, Norwich  
Thu 4 The Horn, St Albans

### ZOLA BLOOD

Wed 3 Electrowerkz, London



THE PARROTS

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# SOUNDTRACK OF MY LIFE

## Oscar Isaac

**Star Wars rebel hero Poe Dameron**

### THE FIRST SONG I REMEMBER HEARING

**CAT STEVENS**

*Wild World*

"When I was little, this was the first song I tried to learn all the words to. I was probably in the bathtub listening to it on the radio. My dad was a musician so there was always music playing in our house. Everything from The Beatles to Cat Stevens and Jimi Hendrix."

### THE FIRST ALBUM I BOUGHT

**THE CURE**

*Staring At The Sea: The Singles*

"This singles collection was my introduction to them. The Cure were the first band where I wanted every album of theirs because their music seemed to fit perfectly with everything that was happening in my adolescent life."

### THE SONG I CAN NO LONGER LISTEN TO

**GOTYE**

*Somebody That I Used To Know*

"I will say it's a great song, but when I was working in Serbia it was literally every fourth song played on the radio. In every café. Every club. Too much!"

### THE SONG THAT TAKES ME TO THE DARK SIDE

**SLEEP**

*Dopesmoker*

"This stoner metal album is actually just one epic, grinding track. I'll listen to this when I really just want to wallow, man. I call it 'sludge metal' or 'metal meets Gregorian chants'. It's real head music, if you know what I mean."

### THE SONG I DO AT KARAOKE

**QUEEN & DAVID BOWIE**

*Under Pressure*

"I love to duet, so this classic is a lot of fun to do. I mean, singing in the footsteps of Freddie and Ziggy – what's not to like?"

### THE FIRST GIG I WENT TO

**YES**

"I went to see British prog-rock band Yes with my parents when we were living in Florida. I must have been just 11 or 12 years old."



ERNST REIJSEGER

### THE SONG I PLAY BEFORE I GO ON SET

**ERNST REIJSEGER**

*Shadow*

"It depends on the work I'm doing. In my new film *The Promise* there's a scene where my character returns home to his small town in Armenia and discovers it's fallen victim to a genocide at the hands of the Turkish government. It's a very intense moment so I prepared by listening to the Dutch cellist Ernst Reijseger, who scored the soundtrack for Werner Herzog's documentary *Cave Of Forgotten Dreams*. It's really haunting – some of the most beautiful, primal music I've ever heard."

### THE SONG THAT MAKES ME WANT TO DANCE

**OLIVER CHEATHAM**

*Get Down Saturday Night*

"It might be cheesy but you just can't keep still to this. And I like to get my groove on to Marvin Gaye's 'I Want You'."



The wisdom of the **NME** archives

**THIS WEEK**

**TOM MORELLO**

*Rage Against The Machine*

May 1, 1993



### THE ALBUM THAT CHANGED MY LIFE

**THE CURE**

*Wish*

"I was so obsessed with this album, but no one thinks it was their best one. It was really the band at the point of disintegration... But you know what? 'From The Edge Of The Deep Green Sea' is one of my favourite songs of all time and the first song I truly fell in love with. Then, as an adult, Marvin Gaye's 'What's Going On'."

*The Promise* is in cinemas now

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