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Hello...

SOMETIMES DEFEAT CAN feel like victory. Last Friday, as the result of the General Election was confirmed, although the old establishment hadn't been overthrown, the country didn't have a new leader, the NHS wasn't suddenly saved and tuition fees hadn't been instantly abolished, a new hope spread across the UK.

People saw that not only could their voice be heard, but that it could effect positive change. People now *know* that whichever way this settles, whoever's in power, the landscape of politics in the UK has changed for ever.

There was a funny story in the i newspaper a couple of days ago that kicked off with "It was the NME wot won it" (a reference to a Sun headline from 1993, after they viciously attacked the Labour leader and won it for the Tories. Sound familiar?). But while it's nice to think that our campaign coverage and our Jeremy Corbyn cover helped to mobilise a much bigger than expected youth vote (and I'm totally sure it did), I'm going to nick an NME headline from this very issue on page 5 for a more accurate picture: "You did it". You guys engaged, you guys voted, you guys changed the world. By how much, we'll see over the coming month. It's going to be exciting to watch.

MIKE WILLIAMS

Editor-in-Chief @itsmikelike



NME

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AGENDA

WHAT EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT THIS WEEK



In last week's election, young people used their vote to voice their frustration at an establishment that has failed them. Here are 11 reasons to be positive

YOUR VOICE HAS BEEN HEARD

More than a million new voters aged 18-34 registered to vote in this election, including a record last-minute batch on the deadline day and a reported nine out of 10 students. This resulted in the highest youth turnout in 25 years (56 per cent), according to *NME*'s 'exit' poll of 1,000 young people. Two-thirds of young voters moved to reject the establishment – no wonder they're calling it a 'youthquake'.

YOU CHOSE HOPE

Labour's manifesto told young people what they could have, not what they couldn't – free university tuition, promises on housing and an end to zero-hours contracts. No wonder the majority of you found it more attractive than austerity. The manifesto helped bring a 9.6 per cent increase in vote share for Labour – the biggest jump since 1945. In short, parties need to realise that fear won't motivate you, but hope will.

3 POP CULTURE POLITICAL

The Labour swing was helped along by several #Grime4Corbyn events and vocal support from Stormzy, Jme, Novelist, AJ Tracey, Rag'n'Bone Man and many more. Plus – of course – an NME cover. For too long, our popstars have been scared of voicing a political opinion – but not any more.

THE SYSTEM IS TERRIFIED OF YOU

This election upset the status quo: Labour took control of 28 previously Tory-held seats, including long-standing ones such as Kensington and Canterbury. Senior ministers Boris Johnson and Amber Rudd had their majorities slashed. Only 22 per cent of people aged 18-34 voted Tory. Essentially, their supporters are the past; you are the future. Expect to see Johnson in a backwards cap trying to engage 'da yoot' soon.

AGENDA

5 PARLIAMENT LOOKS MORE LIKE YOU NOW

There are now more ethnic minorities, more LGBT people and more women in Parliament than ever before. Out of 650 MPs, 45 are LGBT, 52 are ethnic minority post-holders and 208 are women. True representation is still a way off, but 2017 showed progress with several firsts, including Manchester's first Muslim MP, Afzal Khan, and the UK's first female Sikh MP, Preet Gill, in Birmingham Edgbaston.

The Brexiteers finished the 2015 election with a 12.6 per cent share of the vote, and ended this one with just two per cent. They lost their only seat and their leader resigned after declaring the party "a victim of its own success" – Brexit, that is. It's unlikely this single-issue party will come back from such a disastrous result.



Camden Town



YOU PUT AN END TO THE WORD 'REMOANER'

The Tory manifesto gave continuity to George Osborne's austerity policies with its 'dementia tax' and promise of a hard Brexit. But the public has rejected those ideas – and now May must listen to the UK's 'remoaning' 48 per cent again.

YOU SHOWED YOU WON'T BE TALKED DOWN TO

"Strong and stable". Theresa May's campaign hinged on this irritating and now pretty ironic catchphrase, working on the assumption that the electorate can just about understand two words. Corbyn instead offered a costed manifesto, firmly held opinions and passion. You know, like a human being.

THE PAPERS LOST THE POWER

Britain's right-wing press – especially Rupert Murdoch's *Times* and *Sun* – have long boasted that they never backed a party that failed to gain a majority. No longer. This election proved the landscape is shifting, and Corbyn shone on social media – as did videos of people buying up and binning stacks of *Daily Mails* on polling day.

10 YOU MADE THE PRIME MINISTER EAT HUMBLE PIE

May's snap election was intended to 'strengthen her hand' for Brexit talks. It's resulted in a minority government that relies on a controversial deal with Northern Ireland's homophobic, antiabortion DUP. Since then, both her chief advisers have quit, and without a clear majority her authority is in tatters. Who knows if she'll even be PM by the time you're reading this.

YOU SENT A POSITIVE MESSAGE ABOUT BRITAIN TO THE WORLD

Let's face it, we'd started to seem a bit inward-looking. This election represented the more complicated picture about this divided nation. Last weekend it was reported that Donald Trump had told May he didn't want to continue with his forthcoming state visit "if there were large-scale protests". This election result has sent a message that even the US President can hear: Britain is hopeful again. Britain cares.







ALAN PARTRIDGE
Confirmed for a new
BBC series. Up yours,
Tony Hayers!



RIHANNA

Cut body-shamers down thus: "If you can't handle me at my 2007 Gucci Mane you don't deserve me at my 2017 Gucci Mane."



RICHARD HAMMOND Injured in another life-

threatening crash. He's "mostly OK", says Jeremy Clarkson.



DIZZEE RASCAL
Said he wanted Wiley

on his new album; the Godfather let rip on Twitter.









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Sophie Lancaster and Robert Maltby

hate crimes.

BBC Three's Murdered For Being Different is on iPlaver from June 18



A decade since she was beaten to death for being a goth, Sophie Lancaster's case is remembered in a new BBC dramatisation



TEN YEARS AGO, 20-YEARold Sophie Lancaster died after being beaten up by a gang while walking through a park - simply because she was a goth. Two teenagers, Brendan Harris and Ryan Herbert, were sentenced to life imprisonment for murder, and three other defendants were jailed for grievous bodily harm with intent. A new BBC Three docu-drama. Murdered For Being Different, tells the story of the crime in bleak detail, with extensive input from Sophie's then-boyfriend Robert Maltby, who was lucky enough to recover from his injuries.

"The thing I objected to a lot [about other dramatisations of the story] was that it seemed to romanticise it - and it wasn't romantic, it was ugly," says Maltby, "There was nothing meaningful about it. The banality of it was so cruel."

Following the attack, Maltby, now 31, says he "retreated" and was barely able to leave the house, let alone return to his degree in Manchester. Three years after the ordeal, he decided that distancing himself from the event was the only way to move on. "I separated myself entirely from what was happening with the charity [The Sophie Lancaster Foundation] - I felt it was better for me personally to cut ties. I was trapped in that stage," he explains.

The callous killing sparked a nationwide debate about whether targeting people for the way they look should be treated as a hate crime, and the hope is that the documentary keeps the conversation alive. Maltby is hesitant when asked if people



Newsreaders who called Jeremy Hunt "Jeremy

Davs Katy Perry Big Brother-style.



Times Frank Ocean restarted songs over two live comeback shows.

Last W33K N NUMBERS

Davs Taylor Swift's music was absent from Spotify.

C**t" on TV. Freudian slip.

live streamed her life,



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GEORGE EZRA 'Budapest' hitmaker

You have an interesting way of introducing vour new single, 'Don't Matter Now'...

"I tell crowds I wrote this sona when the biagest thing we had to worry about was whether David Cameron had a sleepover with a pig. And it's true, those were the headlines then. But in the last 18 months it's all changed."

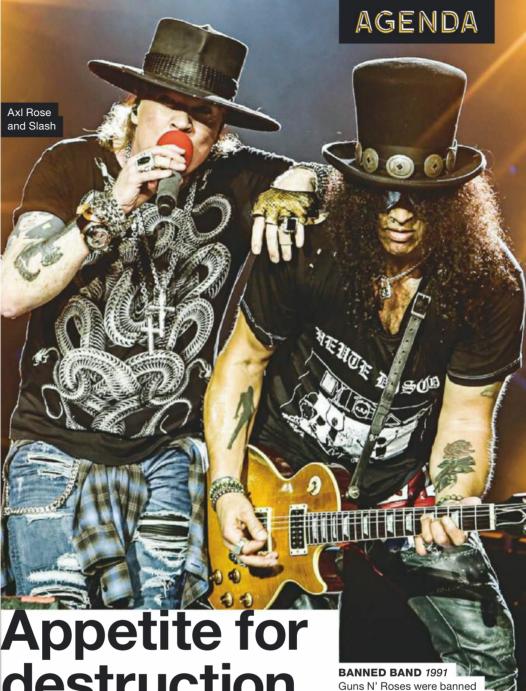
But the song's about tuning out from the world's problems - are you burying your head in the sand?

"I don't want it to come across the wrong way. I just think some of us don't do ourselves any being involved.

How would vou define vour time between [2014 debut] 'Wanted On Voyage' and your upcoming new album? "For the first time, I was an anxious person. I convinced myself other people would be able to tell what was going on in my head. But then I realised nobody knows."

You've been away for a while - did you worry everyone had forgotten about you?

comeback act, if that makes sense. If I'd done an Adele 'Hello' advert during The X Factor, going, 'Alright! It's been a while ...', people would be like, 'Who the f**k is this?!'"



destruction

After vears of infighting, Guns N' Roses lynchpins Axl Rose and Slash are back together and hitting the UK this week. To celebrate, here are five of the iconic LA rock band's wildest moments

WHERE'S THE SINGER **GONE?** 1986

Axl Rose turns up super-late for an Alice Cooper support set. He's not allowed into the venue, so quitarist Izzv Stradlin makes up lyrics while Slash asks the crowd if anyone can help out. In that moment. Guns N' Roses invented The Libertines.

CROWDSURF'S UP 1988

Guns N' Roses played The Ritz in New York and the crowd was so rowdy they swallowed up Rose during a majestic rendition of 'Paradise City'. Three security guards had to pull him out of the melee and when they finally got him he was missing his shirt and jewellery.

I PREDICT A RIOT 1992

Arriving onstage two hours late in Montreal, Guns N' Roses played only nine songs due to Rose's sore throat. An actual riot ensued, with fans trashing the venue before looting nearby shops, starting fires and flipping cars.

from St Louis for life after a gig that saw Rose beating up a photographer. A number of fans were also injured in the incident and Rose was charged with four counts of assault and one of property damage, as well as being fined \$50,000. Naughty frontman.

ANIMAL MAGIC 1994

In classic rockstar move. Slash decided to set up a mini zoo in his Los Angeles home, including snakes, lizards and Curtis, a mountain lion cub. After a huge earthquake hit that year, Slash headed to the Four Seasons hotel with his pet lion in tow.

Guns N' Roses play London Stadium, June 16 and 17

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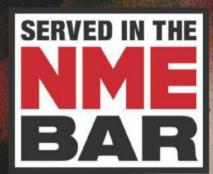




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THIS WEEK

Lord Buckethead is the true face of UK democracy (even if we can't see it) fell asleep on the job to Jeremy Corbyn accidentally high-fiving

THERE WERE MANY
wonderful, strange and bizarre
moments during last week's
General Election, from the
suspension of the Kensington
recount as volunteers almost

fell asleep on the job to Jeremy Corbyn accidentally high-fiving Emily Thornberry's boob and the fantabulous surge in youth voting that made Theresa May's future look very shaky indeed (well done, blessed readers). But oddest of all was the vision in black that was Lord Buckethead.

An independent candidate

standing in Theresa May's constituency of Maidenhead. the helmeted man (if, indeed, it is a man) looked like something out of a Monty Python movie: all British eccentricity, too many weekday afternoons spent in suburban branches of Wetherspoons and a couple of leftover bin-liners. His policies included the nationalisation of Adele, the banishment of Katie Hopkins to the 'Phantom Zone'. free bicycles for all and the abolition of every single Lord - apart from Lord Buckethead. of course. As manifestos go, it was pretty damn watertight.

The beauty of UK democracy means that anyone who can get together a £500 deposit – which you get back if you get more than 5% of the total vote – can stand in the election. This also meant we had an aggy-looking Mr Fishfinger standing against Liberal

"We had an aggylooking Mr Fishfinger vs Tim Farron" Democrat leader Tim Farron in Westmorland & Lonsdale, and a grown man in an Elmo costume (unless we're mistaken and that actually was the *real* Elmo) up against Buckethead and May. Anyone else suddenly interested in visiting Maidenhead?

But back to Lord
Buckethead, an intergalactic
space lord who over the past
four decades has stood against
a number of Conservative
Prime Ministers: Margaret
Thatcher in 1987, John Major
in 1992 and now, 25 years later,
May. Sure, he's never won, but
it's the taking part and standing
on a stage and making them
look, by default, very silly
indeed that matters.

This year, as his 249 votes were announced, Lord Buckethead celebrated by dabbing. Theresa May was not amused. However, thousands of people across the UK - and the world - were. In fact, John Oliver of the US late-night chat show Last Week Tonight flew the bedsit steampunk politician out to New York to be showered with adulation from the studio audience. Lord Buckethead might have lost his deposit, but he's gained the respect of many - which is much more than you can say for May.

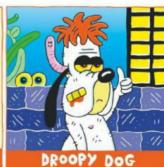
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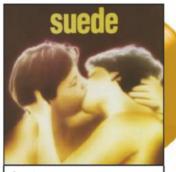




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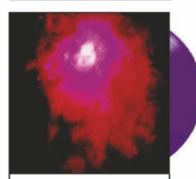
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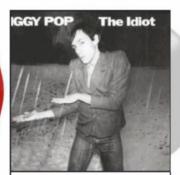
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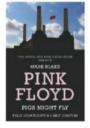
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THE AFTER-PARTY

It's not just the party people care about, it's the after-party. Sophie Hannah Richardson, fashion, beauty and lifestyle blogger, talks about her own after-party and how it would inspire her hair and style

MY STYLE

Can you tell I love the colour blue?! A little bit obsessed, I've been blue-haired for a few years now and I reckon I've got the mermaid trend down to a T – it now just feels like me and I can't imagine myself without it. I love playing around with anything and everything that sparkles and I'm a huge fan of the '90s, which offsets my girly style perfectly, giving me that bit of an edge.

HAIR HACK

"As Sophie is always experimenting with colour, styles, braids, glitter – you name it – she needs products that allow her to play around. VO5 Express Primer Spray is her new go-to – it protects the hair from heat styling and also gives it an amazing base to work up party styles. If she wants to add some texture or volume, the VO5 Instant Volume Powder is also a must-have!"

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LORDE

N JUNE 2013, LORDE released 'Tennis Court', the follow-up to her huge global hit 'Rovals', "Pretty soon, I'll be getting on my first plane," she sang. "I'll see the veins of my city like they do in space". The thrill of new experiences was a big part of what made her debut album 'Pure Heroine' so wonderful. But even then. Ella Yelich-O'Connor, the 16-year-old holding her breath one step down from the top of world, worried what fame might bring her. "My head's filling up fast with the wicked games, up in flames / How can I f**k with the fun again, when I'm known?"

We meet in London: Lorde's flown across the Atlantic from the Billboard Music Awards in Las Vegas to play BBC Radio 1's Big Weekend in Hull. In a few days, she'll flit back across the ocean to play The Governor's Ball in New York. She's criss-crossed the world many times over in the past four years, seen many cities with an astronaut's eye. And fame was, indeed, a massive headf**k.

"When it was happening, I was quite overwhelmed by it," she says, sitting on a sofa in a Whitehall hotel suite. "But that was a long time ago. If anything, I've slowly been getting less famous since 'Royals' was really big." She laughs. "Which is totally cool for me... I suck at being famous. And that's fine."

Lorde, as I'll learn over the short time we spend together, is very selfdeprecating. Clad simply in a dark sweatshirt and trousers, she's also quick to laugh, eloquent and very down to earth. And of course, she's also massively famous. In the past four years, she went from teenage songwriter to millennial figurehead. She befriended Taylor Swift. Lena Dunham. Karlie Kloss. She curated a soundtrack for one of her generation's defining film franchises, The Hunger Games. She made Forbes' 30 Under 30 list of world-shaking young people. She was asked to help induct Nirvana into the Hall of Fame, and then to pay tribute to David Bowie at the BRIT Awards, where Gary Oldman, by way of a no-pressure introduction, announced her as "a young lady who David himself said was the future of music".

And along the way, she's effortlessly maintained her integrity, artistry and likeability with a nonchalant New Zealand cool. Despite her demurral, she's pretty good at fame. Still, it's not as easy as she makes it look, and being 16 is mad enough at the best of times. "It rocked my foundations and could have f**ked me, you know?" she says. "I remember being made aware of my looks and my body in a way that I had never been.

"I remember all these kids online,"



she goes on, smiling. "I think I beat their favourite people to Number One, and they were like, 'F**k her, she's got really far-apart eyes.' I remember being like, 'Whoa! How did I get all this way without knowing I had far-apart eyes?' Just weird s**t like that. But I was able to return to my family and shelter against that and get to where I am now. I feel so comfortable in myself."

rom the early days, Lorde went her own way, turning down a big-name guest rap spot on 'Royals' and a support slot with Katy Perry, keen to establish her own voice. The past four years have only strengthened that self-possession. In May 2015, she split from her long-term manager Scott Maclachlan, who'd signed her on a development deal at the age of 13 ("Hey, men – do me and yourselves a favour and don't underestimate my skill," she tweeted when a Guardian journalist questioned the wisdom of the decision).

Work on her second album was begun with Joel Little, her songwriting partner and producer on 'Pure Heroine', but in late 2015 Lorde instead brought in Jack Antonoff - of Bleachers and, formerly, Fun – with whom she'd struck up an instant rapport when they met through his girlfriend Lena Dunham. The changes have audibly done her good: 'Melodrama' is a beautifully crafted record that unites a range of styles from the wide-eyed, heart-skippy pop of 'The Louvre' to the screwy. sonic dark night of the soul that is 'Sober II (Melodrama)'. "We laboured over every little sound, every word," Lorde says. "To a level that I think people would never even pick up on."

Reflecting her disorientating experiences with fame, one of Lorde's early ideas was to write the album from the perspective of aliens stepping outside of a hermetically sealed environment for the first time. She ended up drawing inspiration from a more familiar source: her friendship group and their interactions (taking "field notes", as she puts it). "A lot of being in America was about watching

people's faces and realising I didn't really know what they were saying," she says. "I would meet American boys and be like, 'I don't even think I'm being an accurate version of myself because I'm so confused by who you are.' A lot of going back to New Zealand is about knowing how to decode people again."

Lorde invited her gang round to her new house and, well, things got messy. The idea of a house party ended up forming a narrative thread to link the songs, which jacknife through intense, intoxicated highs and slumping lows, hook-ups and break-ups. 'Melodrama' captures the wild, wired energy of being young enough that a night out still feels like anything could happen. "I do believe in the transcendent nature of partying, still," she says.

At the same time, things in the outside world were fast heading south: the refugee crisis, Syria, environmental catastrophe, Trump... An interesting time to be the official voice of the youth. "Oh boy," says Lorde, rolling her eyes and laughing. "And young people have never needed a specialised

Lorde and master

Four times Lorde ruled Twitter

When 'Royals' was her Uber jam: "I was in a cab home in nyc and royals came on and i laughed and the driver asked why and i told him it was my song and he said 'mine too!'"

When Diplo began his 'Get Taylor Swift A Booty' campaign: "@diplo should we do something about your tiny penis while we're at it hm"

On hanging with Taylor Swift:

"just laughing like 'this is our job how lucky are we/this stadium is so loud and pretty/we are best buds/ KILLING IT"

On positivity:
"something about
realising you quite like
who you're becoming
and where you're
headed that seems to
paint everything gold"

spokesperson – one young voice – *less* than right now... I've always known that it's bulls**t when people would say 'voice of a generation'. I'd be like, 'I'm gonna nip it in the bud now... This is not what this is, and it will never be that.'"

'Melodrama' is very much a personal statement. "The first record was 'we' and 'us'. And this record is 'I'," she says. "The focus does close in. I think that was necessary to get to the level of frankness that's in there." And yet the world's horrors seep in, mixing with the fevered feelings. "I hate the headlines and the weather," she sings on 'Perfect Places'. "But when we're dancing I'm alright." Recurrent words in the lyrics are "party", "rush" and "violence". "It's about contrast: really big and grand, and really tiny and intimate. Going from the personal. emotional stuff to the headlines and the web. It goes from the world to my bedroom. You're talking about literal, out-there violence and. like, heart violence."

Ithough she ditched the "aliens step out of their bubble" idea, Lorde did end up drawing on a sci-fi source: a short story called There Will Come Soft Rains by Ray Bradbury, a favourite back when she was young. "It's about this self-operating house and how it continues to run every day after some sort of nuclear event," she explains. "I was very aware of the fact that we were just holing up in my house, drinking and making a concerted effort to block out the rest of the world, as if there'd been some sort of nuclear fallout. When there've been two years that have been so turbulent and traumatic, and the climate is so tangible when you walk outside... There was definitely an element of, 'If we just make our own little universe inside and no one looks at their phones, then none of it's really happening."

But you can't hide away forever and reality comes crashing in to burst the bubble - nuclear holocaust in Bradbury's story, a s**tty break-up in Lorde's, who split with her long-term boyfriend, photographer James Lowe. While many songs on 'Melodrama' buzz with lust, there's a mascarastained flipside on 'Liability' ("Says he made the big mistake of dancing in my storm / Savs it was poison"). Troubles come to a head on the spare, dramatic piano ballad 'Writer In The Dark', in which Lorde lets go of guilt. "Stood on my chest and kept me down / Hated hearing my name on the lips of a crowd." she croons. It's a song that revels in the power of songwriting: "Bet you rue the day you kissed a writer in the dark".

"I think that when you do this, you have to find a way to live with yourself, because it's not making no one feel anything. A handful of people will listen to this album and have it sort of get them there," she says, pointing to her gut. "But it was important for me to say. And I don't think that song is apologising for it. It's more like, what did you think was going to happen? I was doing this before I met you and I'll be doing this after vou're gone... I felt quite empowered. It was weird, I woke up in the middle of the night and was lying next to someone. And I wrote it down on my phone and I was like, 'Oh God, I feel so naughty writing this!" She laughs. "While somebody's sleeping, like an evil witch. But I really love that song. I feel like it's such a cool, painful moment in the record."

It's that real, genuine feeling that makes the escapist aspects of 'Melodrama' so powerful: the shadow of heartbreak hell that makes the bright lights of pop heaven sparkle even brighter. And pop paradises have been playing on her mind. Tweeting recently

about Miley Cyrus's new single 'Malibu', she wrote: "Enjoying Miley's idea of Malibu as utopia, or the answer, similar to how Paul Simon talked about Graceland – as somewhere we hope we're headed. How lovely that first love is Malibu, and Graceland is enlightenment after love lost."

Simon's 1986 album 'Graceland' was a great inspiration to Lorde in making 'Melodrama' - much of which was written at the piano - along with other '70s and '80s singersongwriters including Don Henley, Tom Petty, Phil Collins and Joni Mitchell. They're surprising inspirations for an artist known for her cutting-edge taste. "I've been so dialled into youth culture and pop culture." savs

Lorde. "I needed to be challenged in a different way. I know what modern sounds like. That's something every young person is all over. What I found so revelatory about someone like Paul Simon or Don Henley is it's really nice for me to sit down with my headphones and be schooled in the art of writing a perfect song."

It's often said of Lorde's generation that they're musically omnivorous, seeing no boundaries between dance pop or art rock, old or new, Paul Simon or Kanye. "I'm a believer in that for sure," she says. "When I'm making work, I don't think about staying in my genre lane... I feel like that's the cool thing about this record. We finished it... and I said to Jack, 'You realise, I can go anywhere I want now.'"

In the short term, she'll be going to Glastonbury for the first time. A world tour is loosely planned and after that it'll be back to New Zealand to write more records. "It's cool to have gone all over the world and to know that's where I want to be," she says. There might not be any utopias, apart from in the pop dreams Lorde will keep chasing, but there's always home, something vou appreciate a lot more when you've been away. Or, as the final line of 'Melodrama' puts it: "What the f**k are perfect places anyway?"





It used to be a truth universally acknowledged that The Beatles' 'Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band' – which turned 50 this month – is one of the best, if not the best, albums of all time. But is it really, or is it just a load of old hippy tosh? Leonie Cooper tries out the ultimate classic album on some fresh ears and lets a bunch of kids decide whether it's the perfect record – or actually kind of 'meh'...

Duke, four

What's your favourite music?

Duke: "The Fire Song." [Duke's mum tells us he's a big fan of Ibibio Sound System's 'The Pot Is On Fire', which Duke then plays us]

When do you think the Beatles' music is from? Duke: "I don't know." Does it sound like it's from

a long time ago?

Duke: "Yeah."

Can you play 'Lucy In The Sky With Diamonds' on your guitar?

Duke: "Yeah!"

When you grow up are you going to be in a band?

Duke: "I'm going to play music by myself."

Will you write better songs than The Beatles?

Duke: "Yes."

Are any of these Beatles songs as good as 'The

Fire Song'?

Duke: "'The Fire Song' is better."

Are these the best songs you've ever heard or are they silly?

Duke: "They're silly. They're for adults."

VERDICT: 'Sgt Pepper's' is not the greatest album of all time.



Mika, four

Who's your favourite Beatle? [Mika points to Ringo]
He's called Ringo...

Mika: "Ringo?"

Mika's dad: "What does Ringo mean in Japanese?"

Mika: 'Apple!"

What do you like about him?

Mika: "Pink."

This song's called 'Fixing A Hole' – do you like it? [Mika gets a spade and starts digging holes in the garden] Excellent work, Mika! How about 'She's Leaving Home'? [Mika chases a cat] "Cleo! Cleo! I just gave Cleo three cat treats."

Brilliant – do you think Cleo likes this music?

Mika: "Cleo! Maybe she'll come if we blow bubbles?"

So are The Beatles the best musicians in the world – or is that Bruno Mars?

Mika: "Bruno."

Do you think The Beatles are good or a bit rubbish?
Mika: "They're a bit rubbish, but the 'Hole' song is not."

VERDICT: 'Sgt Pepper's' is not the greatest album of all time.

Mika looks suitably freaked out by vinyl



Aurora, 10, and Kasia, 13

What kind of music do you normally listen to?

Aurora: "She's a big fan of Ariana Grande."

Kasia: "I like lively pop."
Aurora: "I like jumpy songs."

Hmm – not sure how The Beatles will fit in with that. What do you make of the cover picture?

Kasia: "It looks tropical."
Aurora: "It looks kind of
creepy because of this guy."
[Points to very dead comic
actor Oliver Hardy]
How about The Beatles

themselves – what do you think of their shiny suits?

Kasia: "They look a bit like

formal Power Rangers."
What about Paul McCartney
with his moustache?

Aurora: "I really like the McCartney people – they have really awesome food – I'm a vegetarian. Love it."

Are any of the band handsome?

Aurora: "Not particularly."

Now for some music... the first track has got the same name as the album.

Aurora: "I imagine a comedy act dancing to it."

Kasia: "It's quite strange,

because at first it's really rock-y and roll-y but you can hear the background laughs, like at a comedy show. That didn't really fit in. But it's kind of nice."

How about 'With A Little Help From My Friends'?

Aurora: "My music teacher makes us listen to this! He makes us listen to really weird stuff, like the blues."

Kasia: "It sounds like that Toy Story song about friends, but it's much slower."

Aurora: "There's been nothing really horrible yet."

You're coping well, girls.

This one is called 'Lucy In The Sky With Diamonds'.

Kasia: "Hmm, it's a bit weird.

Too many dynamic changes."

Aurora: 'Oh, it's my favourite one so far. It has a nice beat."
What do you think it's about?
Aurora: "Lucy died. That's why she's in the sky. She's gone to heaven and someone's sad about it.
I could make a really good dance to this song."

Wow – I've never thought of it like that. Thoughts on 'Fixing A Hole'?

Kasia: "It's too slow. There's nothing bad about it, but there's nothing good about it either."

How about 'Being For The Benefit Of Mr Kite'?
Kasia: "It's like you're in

the funfair."

Aurora: "It's creepy, but in a good way."

'Within You Without You' is different – do you like that?

THE BEATLES

Kasia and Aurora: "No!" Aurora: "It's like a pancake that's flopped."

Kasia: "It's a bit of a bore. It doesn't fit with the other songs."

Aurora: "You know that one song that's skipped on an album?

This would be that song."

And 'When I'm Sixty-Four'?

Aurora: "I heard that at my grandmother's 64th birthday. It's the kind of song that you'd hire a girl to dance to it."

This one's 'Lovely Rita' – it's about a parking warden.

Kasia: "Don't like it. It doesn't really have a very catchy tune."
Aurora: "I think people back in the day would have liked it, but, nah."

So do you think this is the greatest album of all time?

Aurora: "I never listen to a whole album! I just search for songs on YouTube. I don't think I'd listen to any of these songs at home. I'm into them, but I wouldn't take my time to go and search them out."

Kasia: "'Yellow Submarine'

is way better than all of these. I feel like this is the beginning of their career when they didn't really know what they were doing. I wouldn't pay money for it."

Aurora: "Yeah, it's kind of all over the place. They certainly were amazing musicians, but times have changed."

VERDICT: 'Sgt Pepper's' is not the greatest album of all time.

'Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band [50th Anniversary Stereo Edition]' by The Beatles is out now, and in spite of what the kids think, it is excellent.











THIS WEEK'S ESSENTIAL NEW RELEASES



Best NEW tracks And when to drop them

BEST FOR GETTING YOUR MATES OVER

DJ KHALED FEAT. **DRAKE**

To The Max

Khaled brings in the big guns with Drake for this fast-paced club track.

BEST FOR DAYDREAMING **JORJA SMITH**

Teenage Fantasy

Utterly lush homegrown neo soul about unrequited love from the 19-vear-old star in the making.

BEST FOR GRAVE-DIGGING **ZOLA JESUS**

Exhumed

Electro-goth Zola Jesus does intensity like no other. This symphonic, mysterious tune will send a shiver down your spine.

BEST FOR STRUTTING DOWN THE HIGH STREET

RAY BLK Doing Me

Catford's finest comes on like early TLC I with this sunshiny

BEST FOR GETTING MOODY

M.I.A.

Goals

This year's Meltdown Festival curator serves up a serious slow jam that pays subtle tribute to Depeche Mode.

BEST FOR THROWING **SOME SHAPES**

SHEER MAG

Need To Feel Your Love

The greatest band vou've never heard of drop the super-catchy title track from their upcoming debut album.

BEST FOR SINGALONGS **GEORGE EZRA**

Don't Matter Now

If Calvin Harris made Motown tunes, they might sound like this: all horns. attitude and a big chorus.

BEST FOR MOMENTS OF CONFUSION

HARE SQUEAD

Pure

The super-fun Irish rap collective get smooth and slick on this in-and-out-of-love song.

BEST FOR FEELING **YOURSELF**

THE KILLERS

The Man

Swaggering lyrics and heavy, heady 1980s electropop squelches - self-confidence never sounded so sassy.

BEST FOR MOSHPIT **MAYHEM**

WOLF ALICE

Yuk Foo

Wolf Alice return kicking and spitting with this sweary grunge tune.



MUSIC



Royal Blood (I-r): Ben Thatcher and Mike Kerr

Out of the blue, into the black

After that explosive debut, the duo are hell-bent on proving it was no fluke

ROYAL BLOOD
How Did We Get So Dark?
RIFFS ROCK BREAK-UPS

IT DIDN'T TAKE Royal Blood long to reach the top. When they emerged in 2013 they were an ampedup, old-school rock phenomenon - and duly captured the global imagination with 2014's debut album. In its first week, that self-titled record sold 66,000 copies. There was talk of them spearheading a new wave of bombastic British rock, but the fact that the meteoric ascent of the Brighton duo - singer/guitarist Mike Kerr and drummer Ben Thatcher - didn't open the floodgates to followers only proves how unique their lean, muscular blues really is.

But where on earth do you go from there? They were hardly going to produce a brainmelting, space-psych triple album as a follow-up, right? Thank the riff gods that no, they haven't. Here on second album 'How Did We Get So Dark?', we

welcome another 40 minutes of Royal Blood exploring their home turf on 10 shamelessly melodic rock monsters that hit home like

a nail gun to the eardrum.

Progression is subtle but significant. At the more familiar end, 'Lights Out' recreates 'Out Of The Black"s two-piece frenzy like a stampede at Jurassic Park but with more austo. At the furthest extremes, they base 'Hole In Your Heart' around a dark retro-funk organ that Jack White might have handrestored. A determination to rock up non-rock genres creates moments like 'Don't Tell' and the hip-hopinfluenced 'Sleep'. Best of all is the heavy machinery

rock 'n' roll of 'I Only Lie When I Love You', which sounds like Josh Homme has kidnapped the duo at his desert studio and forced them play for their lives.

Lyrically we're still neck-deep in Kerr's romantic cesspit. But the violent streak of the debut has matured into a song-by-song dissection of a doomed relationship that dissolves over the course of the record. It goes from insidious obsession ('She's Creeping', 'Hook, Line & Sinker') to desolate Dumpsville ('Hole In Your Heart', the title track). Familiar ground, but consider this the sound of modern masters honing their craft.

Mark Beaumont



TWIN
ATLANTIC
'GLA'
Skyscraper rock
with a Scottish

twist, this is a love letter to the Glasgow band's hometown.



Boitalk

The ex-OutKast superstar's return is an honest glimpse into his own world, hindered by the odd dose of misogyny

BIG BOI 'Boomiverse' HIP-HOP GUESTS

IF 2012'S 'Vicious Lies And Dangerous Rumors' was

ex-OutKast star Big Boi's first foray into a different world – indie-leaning, featuring Wavves and Little Dragon – 'Boomiverse' is a return to his roots. It's a record bursting with Southern-flavoured hip-hop basslines and frenzied synths, his trademarks since the early '00s. There are disco and funk signatures ('Mic Jack'), sharply delivered lyricism and guest spots from Run The Jewels' Killer Mike and Snoop Dogg. It feels like a pure expression of his world.

Bia Boi obviously eniovs toying with the dark side of hip-hop in his solo work, but he brings back some of OutKast's playfulness on 'All Night', which starts with a piano riff lifted straight from a 1920s silent movie. But it's the listener's choice whether to look past the unpalatable lyrical moments. like 'Kill Jill''s question: "They say Cosby gave 'em roofies, now who knows what the truth is?" Musically, it's a hot-footed tour of musical styles, and there's a lot worth hearing. Thea de Gallier

FILM

One moment in time

Nick Broomfield and Rudi Dolezal's Whitney Houston documentary explores an extraordinary musical talent but fails to explain her downfall

WHITNEY: CAN I BE ME

15 Bobbi Kristina Brown, Bobby Brown



WHEN WHITNEY HOUSTON was found drowned in a hotel bathtub in 2012, with a variety of drugs in her system, the primary global reaction was shock. Not just that she'd died at the age of 48, but that a popstar who built her image - or had it built for her - on wholesomeness and Godloving positivity had lived such a troubled private life. Where had things gone wrong? That's a question documentarians Nick Broomfield and Rudi Dolezal keep asking here though a firm answer evades them. Where Asif Kapadia's Oscar-winning Amy was able to put together a vivid portrait of Amy Winehouse using countless hours of private and public video footage, Whitney

is hobbled by the fact Houston came to fame before phones had cameras, before evewitnesses routinely recorded everything. Most of its off-stage material is from a single tour of Houston's in the late '90s. It provides some insight into what she was like off-duty but it is, to nick a Houston line, one moment in time. To fill in the portrait, it requires the memories of those closest to Houston, which it doesn't have. There's no input from mother Cissv who, it's claimed, pushed her daughter towards fame. There's no Bobby Brown, the ex-husband who seemed to be the starting gun for her decline. Most importantly, there's not a word

FOR FANS OF



from Robyn Crawford, the long-time friend who may also have been Houston's girlfriend. The secrecy of that relationship might have been at the heart of the singer's troubles, the film suggests, but it doesn't have anyone to firmly corroborate that — it's just more gossip.

If its grip on important facts is slippery, Whitney: Can I Be Me gives a fascinating look at the making of a popstar before the age of social media. Houston was presented as a perfect pop princess. But the film shows a normal girl who partied, was sexual and casually enjoyed drugs in her teenage years. People

wanted this extraordinary talent to come out of someone equally extraordinary. The sadness of the film is that at its conclusion Houston's inner life remains a mystery. She asks, 'Can I be me?' but we don't find out who that was. Olly Richards



PHOTOS: REX FEATURES



20 YEARS OF PLACEBO

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DONCASTER DOME. 10.10.17
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READING RIVERMEAD. 13.10.17
CARDIFF MOTORPOINT ARENA. 14.10.17
PORTSMOUTH GUILDHALL. 16.10.17
SWINDON OASIS. 17.10.17
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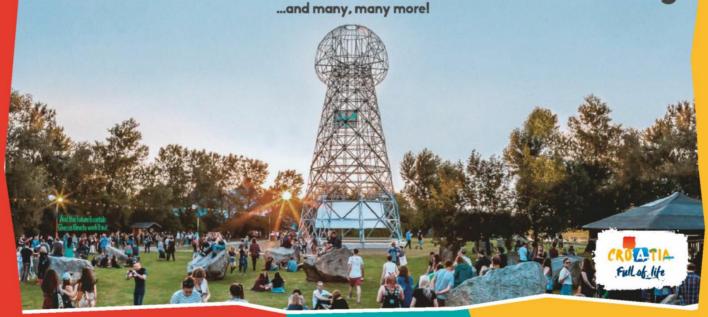




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THE WEEK'S BEST GIGS

FUTURE

ISLANDS

Nottingham

GAPS

London

Bristol

Cardiff

Thu 22 Rock City.

Thu 22 Birthdays,

GLASS CAVES

Sun 18 The Louisiana.

Mon 19 Undertone,

THE AVALANCHES

Tue 20 Motion & The Marble Factory, Bristol **Wed 21** O2 Forum, London

BLEACHED

Tue 20 The Victoria, London

BONOBO

Wed 21 Bristol Amphitheatre & Waterfront Square

THE COMET IS COMING

Sat 17 SVA Goods Shed, Stroud

DECLAN MCKENNA

Sat 17 The Boileroom, Guildford Sun 18 Esquires, Bedford Wed 21 The Zephyr Lounge, Leamington Spa Thu 22 Clwb Ifor Bach, Cardiff

DEEP THROAT CHOIR

Tue 20 Scala, London

DESPERATE JOURNALIST

Fri 16 The Half Moon, Bishops Stortford Sat 17 The Hunter Club, Bury St Edmunds

ELBOW

Sat 17 Bedgebury Pinetum, Goudhurst

EVERYTHING EVERYTHING

Sun 18 The Rescue Rooms, Nottingham Tue 20 Albert Hall, Manchester Wed 21 Heaven, London

MACCABEES Thu 22 O2 Institute.

Thu 22 O2 Institute Birmingham

MAGGIE ROGERS

THE

Wed 21 Electric Brixton, London

M.I.A.

Sun 18 Southbank Centre, London

MONDO COZMO

Tue 20 The Lexington, London

NICK MULVEY Sat 17 O2 Academy.

Oxford
Sun 18 Thekla, Bristol
Mon 19 Village
Underground, London

NIGHTMARES ON WAX

Fri 16 The Jazz Café, London

POLO

Fri 16 Think Tank?, Newcastle Wed 21 Crescent WMC, York

POND

Fri 16 O2 Forum, London Sat 17 University Union, Leeds Mon 19 Art School, Glasgow Tue 20 Gorilla, Manchester Wed 21 Thekla, Bristol

PORTICO QUARTET

Thu 22 Archspace Haggerston, London

RIDE

Thu 22 The Hippodrome, Kingston Upon Thames

RYLEY WALKER

Tue 20 Arts Centre, Norwich

SHOW ME THE BODY

Mon 19 Corsica Studios, London Tue 20 The Eagle Inn, Manchester Wed 21 Think Tank? Underground, Newcastle

THE STONE ROSES

Sat 17 Wembley Stadium, London Tue 20 & Wed 21 First Direct Arena, Leeds

TALL SHIPS

Sat 17 Small Pond, Brighton

WHITNEY

Tue 20 Brudenell Social Club, Leeds Wed 21 The Rainbow Complex, Birmingham

YONAKA

Tue 20 The Social, London







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Kiefer Sutherland

Actor, musician and total dude

THE FIRST SONG I CAN REMEMBER HEARING

DAWN FEAT.
TONY ORLANDO

Tie A Yellow Ribbon Round The Old Oak Tree

"It was on the radio a lot. My mum hated it. She was very opposed to the Vietnam War and hated the connotations of that song."

THE FIRST SONG I FELL IN LOVE WITH ELTON JOHN

Your Song

"I had a brother named Tom. He was seven years older than I was, so I ended up wanting to be him and do everything like him; I was probably the first kid in second grade that was an Aerosmith fan. But the first song that I really fell in love with? It would have to be Elton John, 'Your Song'. I just love the melody and I thought he sang it so beautifully."



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THE FIRST ALBUM I EVER BOUGHT

BOB SEGER

Night Moves

"Bob Seger wrote really linear stories. It wasn't like a Pink Floyd song. which was loaded with metaphors. He wrote a song like 'Mainstreet' and it was about a kid walking down Main Street, passing a pool hall and a strip bar. He wrote these fantastic stories about those teenage years and, like, that first girl, where you took her to the point and made out. I really connected with that.'

THE SONG BY ANOTHER ARTIST I WISH I'D WRITTEN

TOM PETTY

Honey Bee

"Oh. there's a thousand. 'Honey Bee' by Tom Petty would definitely be one of them. It's a simple song, but it's such a badass rock tune and it's so much fun to play. We played it last set but I certainly wish I'd written that. I'm going back to Toronto for my television show Designated Survivor and I actually have tickets to go see Tom Petty for the first time."

THE FIRST SONG I LEARNED TO PLAY

JIM CROCE
Operator

"It was the easiest chord configuration and my voice somehow worked with it. I remember really getting thrilled with knowing a song from beginning to end, including the bridge, and once I realised that was possible, I started to play a lot more."

THE SONG I DO AT KARAOKE

AMERICA

Sister Golden Hair
"If I'm drunk enough,
I'll do a song by America
called 'Sister Golden
Hair'. You have to be
drunk to start, so
I'd expect that my
performances of it are
not great. I'm lucky if
I keep my clothes on
through to the end."

THE FIRST GIG I WENT TO

PAT BENATAR

"The first concert I ever went to was Pat Benatar in Toronto. I was 15 and it was embarrassing, but it was one of the best concerts I've ever seen. In fact, I met [guitarist] Neil Giraldo many years later and I said, 'You're the reason why I bought a BC Rich [guitar] and part of me won't ever forgive you."

THE SONG I WANT PLAYED AT MY FUNERAL BRUCE

BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN

SPRINGSTEEN
Born To Run

"Oh, I haven't thought about that! I spend most of my time thinking about the tombstone — I haven't considered the song. Maybe Bruce Springsteen, 'Born To Run', or 'Racing In The Street'. I think those songs would have encapsulated, on some level, my life."

Kiefer's UK tour begins June 20 in Bristol



The wisdom of the NME archives

THIS WEEK
GEORGE MICHAEL

*Wham!*June 18, 1983

"We're being seen by so many young people. We're basically a very young version of Bucks Fizz."



NTERVIEW: LEONIE COOPER. PHOTO: GETTY I