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\*Initial rental £259. Price shown is for a 48 month Personal Contract Hire agreement for a MINI Cooper 3-door Hatch with Sports Pack, with a contract mileage of 40,000 miles and excess mileage charge of 3.74p per mile. Applies to new vehicles ordered between 1 July and 30 September 2017 and registered by 31 December 2017 (subject to availability). Retail customers only. At the end of your agreement you must return the vehicle. Excess mileage, vehicle condition and other charges may be payable. Hire available subject to status to UK residents aged 18 or over. Guarantees and indemnities may be required. Terms and conditions apply. Offer may be varied, withdrawn or extended at any time. Hire provided by MINI Financial Services, Summit ONE, Summit Avenue, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 OFB. MINI UK introduces customers to MINI Financial Services only.

Hello...

A COUPLE OF weekends ago my good friend Will fell awkwardly after some innocuous play fighting, dislocating his neck and breaking it in three places.

A week later it was his birthday. He's now 32 years old, has two kids (aged four and one), and after an epic eight-hour operation is having to relearn how to walk by himself, feed himself, use his phone, and other stuff that all of us take for granted every single day.

A faint silver lining to this iet-black cloud has been the outpouring of love towards Will and his family from evervone who wants, so verv much, for him to recover.

I haven't heard from a lot of these people in years, but his accident has created a truly humbling surge of emotion and togetherness. I know he can feel it. "I'll beat this f\*\*ker," he told us, and I believe him. He's a tough kid.

This week's cover stars Haim have been through some big stuff, too. Recently their producer and friend Ariel Rechtshaid was diagnosed with testicular cancer. In this week's NME they talk about it for the first time.

Take care of yourselves.

#### **TOM HOWARD**

**Deputy Editor** @tomahoward

The NME review of the Vic Mensa album p29 COVER STORY Festival style Haim guide Este, Danielle and Alana Communes. Rituals. Biochemistry. Cutting up men. SZA's the most interesting Are man buns OK? Space creators of effortlessly cool soft rock, big fans buns? Other hair buns? All of tequila shots person we've ever met your questions answered SECTIONS AGENDA REGULARS 15 Things We Like 17 What's On Your Headphones? 33 Under The Radar 40 Soundtrack Of My Life

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## AGENDA

WHAT EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT THIS WEEK



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ALEX TURNER
Sang Santana's 'Smooth'

at karaoke and totally smashed it. Don't forget about it.



PARIS JACKSON AND MACAULAY CULKIN

Michael's daughter, and her godfather Mac, got matching tatts. Of spoons.



JAY Z

Was accused of 'using' Kanye West after a new documentary picked apart their alleged feud.



ANGELINA JOLIE

Denied she was exploiting the children auditioning for her new Netflix project.





## Three questions for Clown

He's making a documentary – Day Of The Gusano – about Slipknot's first Mexico gig, in 2015

#### WHY MAKE A MOVIE ABOUT YOUR MEXICAN FANS?

"As a people, they have a unity. The people are very aggressive in their love of music. It really moves them. How they display their affection as one – if you tell them to sit down or jump, it's everybody. It's a power to be reckoned with."

## IS IT POSSIBLE TO CAPTURE THE ENERGY OF SLIPKNOT ON FILM?

"It's a miserable experience for me because I have put myself in the position where I'm a director. We need nine cameramen. If the Clown is on fire while Sid is taking a p\*\*s and you're hired to shoot the crowd, what do you get? You miss the big thing. Slipknot is a very hard band to understand visually."

#### WHAT WAS SO GOOD ABOUT THE MEXICO SHOW IN PARTICULAR?

"It felt like our early days. I grew up enjoying the unity of small clubs. The beautiful thing about the early Slipknot shows was that neither we nor the kids knew what to expect. It's been so long since I've been able to feel that. You can feel that with the Mexican people.

I remember walking off stage with my wife, she grabbed my hand and we were walking to the van and my wife was like, 'Can you feel that?' You could hear the kids stomping through the cement and it was frightening her. It's nice to be reminded that large groups of people can agree."

AGENDA

Some advice from Clown

"I'm so saddened by the pain, the loneliness and isolation. To the general public, just remember the people around you. You

might not know what

they're thinking so it's

Some people have astigmatism in their eyes, some people have ulcers; this is the same thing. You could have anxiety, depression, OCD, ADD, paranoia, anything. Don't be scared. These

always nice to be checked in on. and to check in on

people. We all have flaws.

attributes can be helped

by wonderful people who

dedicate their lives to

helping others. People need to know it's <u>OK to</u>

seek help. Sometimes in depression it's hard to feel like you're not alone

– but you're not."

Following the deaths of Chester Bennington and Chris Cornell

Day Of The Gusano will be released in select UK cinemas on September 6

Slipknot's Corey Taylor hugs a fan

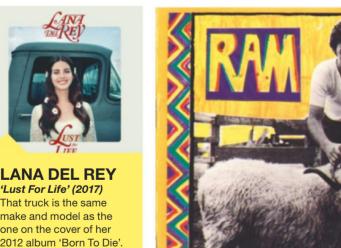
ERVIEW: ANDREW TRENDELL. PHOTOS: PRESS





## Secret messages in classic album art

Lana Del Rey's newie is carrying on a fine tradition



#### 'Lust For Life' (2017) That truck is the same make and model as the one on the cover of her 2012 album 'Born To Die'. "Being on the road was

a big part of the songs," she says.



#### **SANTANA**

'Santana' (1969)

Is this a big cat? Nope! It's nine faces arranged to make a lion, and its chin is a skirt worn by a woman whose head is in between its eyes. Look out, lady!

# **PAUL**

**KATE BUSH** 

against a sunset. In

fact: a waveform of

birdsong placed against

a sunset, a reference to

the blackbird chirping

through the title track.

**MCCARTNEY** 

Look closely, and you

can see the tiny letters

L.I.L.Y. They're a message

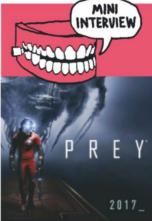
for his wife: 'Linda I Love

'Ram' (1971)

You'. Cute.

'Aerial' (2005) No. not just some rocks

#### **BEASTIE BOYS** 'Licensed To III' (1986)



AGENDA

#### **MICK GORDON**

Composer of the thumping, panicstricken soundtrack for new video game, Prey

How did you approach the soundtrack to Prev? "My conversation with [director] Raphael Colantonio focused on non-musical aspects such as fear of isolation, memory loss, theories on parallel universes. Raphael was keen to instil feelings, not just support

#### Did you intend to shock the player with the soundtrack?

the gameplay."

"More often in Prey the aim is to give the player what has already happened. Sometimes they're fighting aliens and the music aides the tension of that moment, but music plays a big role when the player reflects on their memory loss, or the complex relationship with their brother Alex, or the hope for survival and the loneliness of space."

#### Is Prey a step towards music becoming more important in gameplay?

"The games I loved as a kid had fantastic music - early arcade games, Super Mario Bros, Sonic continue making tunes that players enjoy while they're escaping into these virtual worlds.'











# NTERVIEWS: LEONIE COOPER, PHOTOS; REX FEATURES, GETTY IMAGES, PAUL BUGLER

#### Last W33K IN NUMBERS



Liam Gallagher was ID'd for cigarettes. "I'm 4FU\*IN4 has the world gone mad," he tweeted.



Deadpool 2 is set to be like '90s Jackie Chan flick Rush Hour, according to creator Rob Liefeld.



22,000
Number evacuated from
Barcelona festival
Tomorrowland after a fire
broke out onstage.



Years Prince Harry has held secret jam sessions with The Killers. That's Prince Brightside to you.

## Bigmouth strikes again

England Is Mine tells the story of Morrissey's early years, before he joined The Smiths. Director Mark Gill and actor Jack Lowden explain it all



#### JACK LOWDEN PLAYS MORRISSEY

Are you a Morrissey fan?

"I am definitely a Smiths fan... My music taste is all across the board really, I love everything from Stereophonics to Chopin."

#### When you were researching the role, what was the most invaluable resource?

"We were very, very strict with what I read and didn't read. I didn't read his autobiography but I watched Saturday Night and Sunday Morning. I listened to Smiths music rather than Morrissey music."

#### How important is Morrissey and Linder Sterling's relationship in the film?

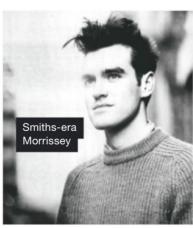
"Massively – she's the spark that kicks everything off really, because he's got all this potential and he's got all these things he wants to see, he just doesn't know how to get them across. He just needs somebody to give him a boot up the backside!"

#### Did you ever have any musical aspirations?

"A bunch of us recorded an album in a farmhouse somewhere. We did a lot of covers of Jamie T songs and The Jam and things like that. I think there's only four copies. We didn't have a name, it was like one of them really cool restaurants in east London."

#### What was your favourite bit of the Morrissey costume?

"The long coat - beautiful."





#### MARK GILL DIRECTOR

### You're from the same part of Manchester as Morrissey – is that where your initial interest came from?

"Yeah – I caught The Smiths on *Top Of The Pops...* My dad just walked in going, 'Er, that wally lives up the road,' and I'm like, 'What! A pop star from Stretford!' That was it."

#### Why was Jack perfect for the role?

"I just thought, 'Wow, Steven is right in front of me'."

#### How many potential Morrisseys did you see?

"Hundreds... But there's only a few people that are capable, and in fact there was only one."

#### What was Jack's audition like?

"Mental. The fact that I don't think he knew who Morrissey was too well [meant] he didn't come in with any baggage."

#### Did you reach out to Morrissey during the making of the film?

"We reached out via different channels... We just know – because he hasn't said anything – that he's not against us. I think he would be fascinated as to why we've done it... I think he'll be cautious and distant and

he'll play a game of 'wait and see', which is smart."

#### There are a few lyric references in the script...

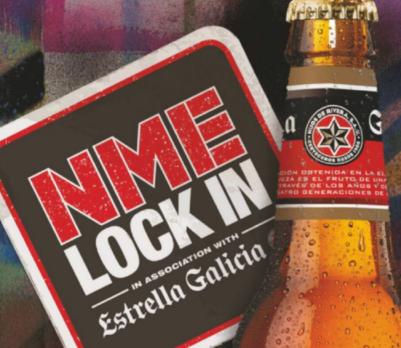
"There's loads, and visual ones too. My favourite is a lyric from 'The Queen Is Dead'. If anyone ever spots it I might have to give them a prize – it's really well hidden!"

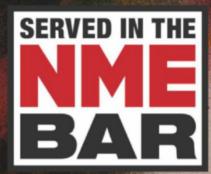
England Is Mine is out now. Turn to page 30 for the NME review



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The trusty

# **BIG OPINIONS. NO FILTER.**

#### RIP iPod nano I'll always love you the most

I'LL NEVER FORGET MY first iPod. A hefty brick of a thing with a fondness for going missing in the bottom of my overpacked handbag and getting covered in lipstick, it was the love of my life. I crammed it full of the kind of music a teenage girl should fill an iPod with: 'ABBA Gold', everything The Smiths ever recorded, endless Motown, the glummest Nick Cave and Leonard Cohen records, plenty of p\*\*sed-off punk rock, TLC's 'CrazySexyCool' and a smattering of pretentious jazz that I'd skip if it had the cheek to pop up when I hit shuffle.

I took it everywhere college, clubs, holidays, shopping trips. My lovely brick immediately replaced the MiniDisc player I'd been carting around for the previous year due to its seemingly limitless storage capacity and propensity to make people go "Ooh" when I ran my finger

across its trackwheel of joy. Every CD I owned fit onto the device, as did most of Mum's and my mates' too - perfect for boosting the music collection at zero cost to me. Over the years my iPod was replaced and reloaded numerous times and I eventually settled on my favourite style, the superlightweight iPod nano, which I still use to this day. News, then, that the nano and shuffle models are to be discontinued - following the death of the iPod classic in 2014 - has hit me hard. This morning, on the way to work, I held my teeny-tiny iPod that little bit tighter than usual and promised that I'd never leave its side - well, not until its hardware started freezing and the headphone iack became so full of crud that

it stopped working entirely (yes, iPod nano I owned from 2012 to 2014, I'm talking about you). Of course, Apple's

discontinuation of every type of iPod is linked to the fact that iPhones have fully functional iPod capabilities, and give you the chance to stream music via Apple's own platform, among others. But I like keeping my phone and music separate and I'm sure I'm not the only one.

Save the phone for the illadvised late-night texts, takeaway food apps, pictures of your dinner on Instagram and the occasional phone call. Music is better than all that. Music deserves its own appliance, music deserves not to be uninterrupted by nuisance PPI calls and music deserves still to be flooding into my ears on those days when I accidentally-on-purpose leave my phone at home so I don't have to deal with the bulls\*\*t of modern life for one sweet. sweet day every couple of months. @leoniemavcooper



#### "Music deserves not to be interrupted by PPI calls"









# CLOUPY ERS

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#### AGENDA



THIS WEEK'S OBJECTS OF DESIRE



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Wednesday 26th July

High Fidelity Willow

Sunday 27th August

Goodfellas Lao Ra Sunday 00° July Trainspetting Dagny

Wednesday 30th August

True Romance

Tom Grennan

\* At the time of printing Photo credit: Jordan Curtis Hughes / Andy Hughes

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## What's ON your Headphorles?

Poole

"The beach is a beautiful way to spend the day"

#### NAOMI RUSH >

24, singer

Listening to:

#### Fake Happy

Wearing: Pull&Bear coat, vintage dress. Comic

music venue."

#### **PARAMORE**

"She's pretending everything's OK on the surface, which is something I can relate to."

Con T-shirt.

**Best thing about Poole:** 

"Mr Kyps is a brilliant live

#### **KANDON** WILLIAMS

AGENDA

23, musician

Listening to:

#### **MACHINE HEAD** Is There Anybody Out There?

"The riff is so catchy."

Wearing: Santa Cruz top and jeans,

Vans trainers.

**Best thing about Poole:** "Bike Night on the

Quay every Tuesday is a lot of fun."

#### ⟨ PARYS BROWNE

20. fundraiser

Listening to:

**JAMES BLAKE** I Need A Forest Fire (feat. Bon Iver)

"It's fun and free. but still quite slow and humble."

Wearing: Top and skirt from a charity shop, Converse trainers.

**Best thing about Poole:** "The beach is a beautiful

way to spend the day."

#### NATHAN POTTER >

27, entrepreneur

Listening to:

#### THE TEMPERANCE MOVEMENT

White Bear

"It's got a lot of contrast. I love the raw, edgy vocals."

Wearing: Reason T-shirt, Crosshatch jeans. Dr. Martens boots.

#### Best thing about Poole:

"The George puts some really great live music on."







the studio. They've collaborated with Calvin Harris, A\$AP Ferg, Kid Cudi and Primal Scream - whom Alana describes as "the most epically rock'n'roll band we've ever met". They're part of Taylor Swift's 'squad', and Hollywood director Paul Thomas Anderson (Boogie Nights, There Will Be Blood) asked to shoot a short film, Valentine, with them, with some of the footage forming the promo to April's low-key comeback track 'Right Now'. Alana calls Stevie Nicks - who gifted them half-moon pendants and regularly offers advice - her "badass fairy-godmother."

Huddled together in Snuggies, Haim are speaking from their hotel room in Sydney, where last night they played the Splendour In The Grass festival - sadly, sans tequila. "We're closer than ever." declares Alana. when asked how the relationship between them has changed postfame, "Literally," Before, they were living with their parents in San Fernando Valley in Greater Los Angeles: now they have separate homes nearby. Alana and Danielle (28, lead vocalist and guitarist) have places on the east side of LA while Este's apron-string cutting hasn't been as successful: "I'm still 10 minutes away from my childhood home."

"We're growing older," adds Este, the eldest Haim at 31. "I'm an old maid!" she mock-wails to protests of "No, you're not". She backtracks: "I'm spry as f\*\*k! And I'm sassier than ever, if that's possible." Strong words from someone who once tweeted, "I want to chisel Andrew Garfield's d\*\*k with my labia" – a direction the Spider-Man film franchise, regrettably, didn't go in.

A torrent of Californian positivity, they have the tendency to sound #blessed. At 25, youngest sibling Alana is the most loquacious. Este has a sardonic streak, while lead vocalist and guitarist Danielle takes a back seat, quietly selecting her words like Scrabble pieces. They finish each other's sentences and occasionally talk in unison, like an ebullient version of the Borg from Star Trek. The familial forcefield was put to good use earlier this year. Asked in pre-release interviews why the album had taken four years, they maintained the party line: the delay was due to the fact they write and produce their own music. True; but secretly something else had gone on. Ironically for a record titled 'Something To Say', they were deliberately holding back.

uly 7, 2017 was the 10th anniversary of Haim's first ever gig. in a Californian museum which boasts a mummified clown corpse in full garish costume and

make-up as the star exhibit. It was also the day Haim's second album 'Something To Say' came out. And the day the album's producer, Ariel Rechtshaid - who is also Danielle's boyfriend - revealed he had been diagnosed with testicular cancer in 2015, just as they began the studio sessions.

This, it turns out, was why the recording of the record was put on hold. "It was a very emotional time," says Alana. "He's such an integral part of our lives. Ariel's our brother. he's everything. And when he got diagnosed, all we thought about was, 'We're here to support you and we love you'. Nothing else mattered. It's scary when you see someone you love, who you would do anything for, have to go through something as scarv as testicular cancer."

She adds: "We had focused so much on his health because that's honestly all that matters. Obviously that took a toll on the record because we had to make sure Ariel was healthy and I would never take that back. Even though it took longer to complete this record, I would not change a second of it, and now he's OK - thank God! - we're so happy. This record is full of emotion and everything we were going through at that point. You can hear it on the record how emotional we were. It was a very big deal."

They remained tight-lipped about the reason for the record's delay, even when some reviewers snarked that it had taken them four years to alight on

a sound that was "more of the same". It was, they say, Rechtshaid's decision to keep schtum, "It was his story to tell," says Danielle. "That's when he decided he felt comfortable telling everyone. I was really proud of him and the post was beautifully written."

The cancer was caught early and he underwent surgery. But, at one point, he confesses candidly on his Instagram post: "I thought I was going to die."

"I think he's still dealing with it," savs Danielle, solemnly, "We were all in shock. I think we're [all] still dealing with it, but the only thing we could do was take every day as it came. And also it made us closer."

So rather than plunder their A-list contacts for 'Something To Tell You' ("We're always open to collaborations but we wanted to keep this contained"). Haim retreated to their parents' living room where their debut was written - the same house where they started as kids in their folks' cover band Rockinhaim - to kick around ideas for the follow-up. Considering what happened during its creation, the fact it sounds similar to 'Days Are Gone' (glossy hook-heavy pop songs, but with lyrics that deal with the shrapnel of broken relationships) is perhaps reassuring.

Yet you need only look at the screen lock on Este's phone - a photo of her sharing a stage with Prince at Saturday Night Live's 40th anniversary celebrations in 2015 - to see how much has changed for the band. "Her face is, like, living!" says Alana. Haim were onstage, poised to play a song, when rumours circulated that the

purple loin king was in the building. She starts to reminisce. "The seas literally parted and he just..." Este picks up the conversation: "...glided, like, floated onto the stage. After he started playing 'Let's Go Crazy' [to which she provided shell-shocked backing vocals] I cannot tell you what happened because I blacked out."

When "the shrimp" - as she endearingly refers to The Purple One at one point - died in April 2016, Alana broke the news to Este over the phone ("She burst into tears and had to pull over on the freeway"). They were both

> on their way into the studio to work with Dev Hvnes. AKA Blood Orange, and the death partly inspired the track 'You Never Knew'. which has some of his funky fingerprints. It was, they say, kismet that Dev - whom Este originally connected with over her love of Prince - was

only in LA on the day he died. "It felt like this cosmic thing," says Este. "I was like, 'F\*\*K FEELING SAD, PRINCE WANTS US TO WRITE A SONG!"

"In my head, I talk to him every day," Este continues, straddling the line between deadpan and serious. "There was definitely an energy, a mood that I'm hoping was The Symbol, The Artist Formerly Known As, Whatever-You'd-Like-To-Call-Him, in the room that day."

he only time Haim's easy-breezy demeanour turns steely is when talk turns to their friendship with Taylor Swift, who they supported for parts of her record-breaking 1989 tour in 2015. Asked if they'd be comfortable with Tay-Tay's level of fame, Alana simply says: "No". A sibling firewall goes up. Quizzed on what they bonded over, Alana eventually offers up: "We spent a lot of time watching

#### "In my head, I talk to Prince" - Este

#### Meet the inner circle laim's nearest and dearest are an eclectic bunch





blowing. They truly are a hook factory!" **Danielle:** "We were all looking at each other



studio is, 'Keep going! It's good! Don't give up which is refreshing."





She's R&B's most dazzling new talent, lives in a commune and wants to save the world. Catch her while you can because, she tells Leonie Cooper, her next album will be her last

SOLÁNA IMANI ROWE, 26, FROM New Jersey via Missouri is a stone-cold superstar with an epic CV to match. She wrote 'Consideration' for Rihanna - and performed it with her at last year's BRIT Awards - has collaborated with everyone from Kendrick Lamar to Chance The Rapper, is best buds with Solange Knowles, and has modelled for Bevoncé's Ivv Park sportswear line.

Earlier this summer, she released her killer debut album, 'Ctrl' - a sublime, inventive R&B record that proves she's ready to go it alone. We met up with

her during a flying visit to the UK to talk about being plagued by selfdoubt, and her sideline in science.

#### You've been making music for a while, but the debut album has only just come out. What took so long?

"I don't feel

so violent

about men

any more"

"I don't know. I felt like

I didn't really know what I was doing, and I didn't really have a direction for who I was and what I wanted, but I started figuring it out."

#### What helped you?

"You have to just keep trying different things and then eventually one of them sucks less. It's weird, once you start to get better and realise you can get better, it's very encouraging. I always

- music is in everyone. I feel like it's innate. But some things can be done really fast and some things can't. I'll go back in on the same s\*\*t for, like. three weeks. It's really just because I'm scared to finish things."

#### Is that another reason why the album took so long? "I have some anxiety. It's

hard for me to complete things because I feel like people will hate it and then it's just like, 'What am I gonna do with my life?' because this is supposed to be my job

and I just got signed and people gave me a cheque for this. I wish they gave me the cheque after I put the album out because then I wouldn't have all this pressure to not suck!"

SZA performs with Rihanna at the BRIT Awards. February 2016

#### So how did you know when the album was finished?

"I didn't. They just cut me off. They didn't even say stop. They just prohibited me from going in to the studio!"

#### In October last year you tweeted. 'I quit'. What brought you back?

"Well, I ended up putting my album out, and now I'm contracted for another album I think, so I'm at least gonna explore that and do that to the best of my ability, because you can't half-ass s\*\*t, you have to really invest your energy 100 per cent. So I'm excited to just take that as far as I can and I think I'm gonna focus on making my next album my best album, because I do believe that might be my last."

#### Really? Why so?

"I need to grow and learn. I feel like music is something that is an amazing medium for me but I don't know if I can really apply my purpose in the world quick enough, because I get lost. Four years went by and I didn't even realise it until someone said, 'Trayvon Martin died five years ago'. I remember I was in the studio writing for Beyoncé at the time, not focusing on what was going on."

#### So what's the plan for after the next album then?

"I just want to learn. I definitely want to get into environmental science and environmental politics, learning a lot more and preserving what's left of the world. That's such a

sacred circle to be in. I'd love to contribute to that."

#### What do you do when vou're not making music?

"Biochemical interactions are very interesting to me. [I'm taking] Lypo-Spheric vitamin C - you get 100 per cent value of the vitamin intake. You can feel it, you can see it. It feels crazy, very bright. The vitamin's very eneraisina. It's good for your brain; things that help your brain synapses are very interesting to me."

#### SZA in the UK

She's supporting **Bryson Tiller later** this year. You should buy some tickets

#### **NOVEMBER** Mon 20

O2 Academy, Glasgow **Wed 22** 

O2 Academy, Sat 25

Mon 27 & Tue 28 London



#### So you're kind of a parttime scientist?

"The place I just moved to is like this commune where this homeopathic gastroenterologist does all these cool, very gnarly experiments with healing via food. Everyone there's buff. It's run by this old man who used to do all these full-moon rituals in the desert. I need to definitely release negative energy every full moon - that's a good idea."



"Airbnb! Then it turned out to be amazing so I staved."

#### I've heard you're a big fan of SCUM Manifesto by Valerie Solanas. the radical feminist who tried to assassinate Andy Warhol. What did you get out of that book?

"I felt really connected to her. I related to her, just the fact that she wanted to be loved and seen. She was very inspiring. I did my thesis on her in college and got a C-. That's the paper that broke me! Mv teacher just didn't wanna hear that s\*\*t. She thought it was too vulgar for the class. That book is racy - she's like, 'Men are not

worth s\*\*t'. At



the time I wanted to make a society for cutting up men. Like, if I lead a tribe of Amazon women with this secret bible that they all read from that keeps us all motivated - but now I don't feel that way! I don't feel so violent about men."

#### Have you read any other empowering feminist literature?

"No. not feminist literature. I don't think I'm inherently feminist, I think the universe wants me to be feminist, and I think I resonate with that. I think it just chose me to be this female energy... thing. And I'm very drawn to female energy but I don't really have any prerequisites in feminism. I just roll with it. I love empowering women, I think it's crazy if you ever try to belittle women, you're playing yourself - I ride with whoever rides with me."

'Ctrl' is out now via TDE/RCA Records. It's great

**NME** 

#### SZA <3 Drew **Barrymore**

Drew cameos in the video for SZA's tune 'Drew Barrymore'. SZA liked her a LOT

and was down as hell. She's television plus 30. We got to talk in the trailer and sit on the steps





## Festival style guide

Last month, London's best-dressed descended on two of the capital's coolest festivals, Lovebox and Citadel. These guys got it spot on

#### SIMONE ATTACAH >

25. events manager

My festival 'do: "Half-up, half-down so it's not in my face when I'm dancing!"

Wearing: Topshop dress. Festival fashion tip: "Don't wear heels, and work your individual style."

#### *CHERI ELLEN*

26. business owner

**My festival 'do:** "Two French plaits with the ends knotted and clipped."

**Wearing:** New Look top, Peacocks shorts, sunglasses from TK Maxx, Monsoon necklace.

Festival fashion tip:

"Before you go, take inspiration from photos of other people at festivals."

#### "I style myself to look like Frank Ocean"

#### KALLAN COFFI >

27, property manager

My festival 'do: "I like keeping it simple. Fresh fade – always get a trim before I go to a festival."

**Wearing:** Acne leather jacket, vintage T-shirt and bandana, Ray-Ban sunglasses.

Festival fashion tip:

"I style myself to look like Frank Ocean. You can't go wrong with that."

#### MATTHEW PARYAG >

25, financial analyst

My festival 'do: "I wet it, and then it goes curly. Mostly, I just let it do what it wants!"

**Wearing:** New Look shirt, AllSaints T-shirt.

Festival fashion tip: "Try and lose yourself. Festivals are about letting your hair down and forgetting about the office. Just go with it."













#### FLEUR NIDOYE >

22, broadcaster

My festival 'do: "Space buns are in at the moment. Nice and easy and they work so well at festivals."

Wearing: Missguided dress, ASOS backpack. Festival fashion tip: "Go all out. Be as glittery and sparkly as you possibly can. Share the love."





THIS WEEK'S ESSENTIAL NEW RELEASES

#### **BEST FOR** PARTY **PLAYLISTS**

**JESSIE WARE** Midnight

Ballsy balladry from Brit-soul gal Jessie, who's back with a 📱 newfound forcefulness and more than a whiff

of Whitney.

#### BEST FOR KUNG FU

ACTION BRONSON The Chairman's Intent

Channelling some vintage Wu Tang Clan, the video for Action Bronson's new sona is almost is good as the track itself.

#### **BEST FOR** NIGHT DRIVING

KELELA LMK I

Experimental. atmospheric R&B from the Gorillaz and Solange collaborator.

#### **BEST FOR** RELEASING THE RAGE

CONVERGE I Can Tell You About Pain I

The metalcore titans' first new material in five years is every bit as brutal as you'd expect.

#### BEST FOR HITTING THE BOTTLE

MARGO PRICE

Weakness |

New country queen Margo gets her booze on in this perky, fiddlefriendly honky-tonk toe-tapper.

## Best NEW tracks And when to drop them

### BEST FOR MAKING YOU THINK

**AVELINO** 

Origami

Tottenham MC Avelino brands himself the "best rapper in the country" on this hard-hitting oldschool-sounding tune. It's hard to argue.

#### **BEST FOR** FESTIVAL PREP

MALLORY KNOX

Sugar 📕

Get hyped for the Cambridge rockers' Reading & Leeds set with this glammy, stomp-tastic tune.

#### **BEST FOR** DREAMING ALVVAYS

Dreams Tonite

The Toronto indie gang return with a soft and lush romantic groover.

#### BEST FOR **GREATNESS** ONLY

MICK JAGGER FEAT. SKEPTA I

England Lost

Two icons ioin forces and take the temperature of the UK's confused political climate on this baggy-blues offering.

#### **BEST FOR** SKIPPING TOWN

THE KILLERS

Run For Cover

Sounding like The Smiths gone disco, Brandon Flowers ramps up the energy on this epic, propulsive synth hit.

FOR MORE NEW MUSIC, GO TO NME.COM



## MUS STRNEETRIE tattooed on his arm. It's the name of his rap collective, not his commitment to an ISA. Victory

Backed by Kanye West and Jay Z, the Chicago rapper is leading a new breed of emotional rap **VIC MENSA** The Autobiography

VULNERABLE GUESTS

IN THE WORLD OF hip-hop, bragging is out and emotion is in. Vulnerability is the order of the day. Jay Z, a man who's spent the last 20 years boasting about his bank balance to anyone who would listen, just released the stunningly vulnerable '4:44'. an album on which he lays his inadequacies - as a husband, as a father - totally bare. Elsewhere, rappers such as

Vince Staples and Danny Brown are dialling down the machismo to explore what's going on in their heads and hearts.

Enter Vic Mensa, the

Chicago rapper who appeared on the Kanye West track 'Wolves' and whose debut album, 'The Autobiography', is released through Jay

Z's label Roc Nation. On the scathing Joey Purp and Chief Keef-featuring 'Down For Some Ignorance (Ghetto Lullaby)', the 24-year-old seethes, "Listen to the voices in my head / Welcome to my f\*\*ked-up reality". 'Wings' allows those

destructive voices to run wild: "Nobody fucking needs you / You should just jump off the bridge... I don't want you to live". Pharrell Williams croons the hook, which encourages Mensa to "Spread [his] wings and fly" to overcome the self-loathing that torments him.

Musically, 'The Autobiography' draws on a diverse palette. 'We Could Be Free' follows Chance The Rapper and West (all three hail from Chicago) into gospel territory, while 'Rage' and 'Homewrecker' see Mensa's flow ape Drake's laconic, matter-of-fact delivery. The album features an all-star cast of guest vocalists, from The-Dream's fantastically creepy, lilting lullaby on 'Heaven On Earth' to Weezer singer Rivers Cuomo's f\*\*king irritating whine through the aforementioned 'Homewrecker'. The latter is a grim low on an otherwise excellent debut.

It's a scattershot album gelled together by Mensa's emotionally frank lyrics, which reveal a complex persona: he appears at once secure in his talent as a musician, while keenly aware of the personal limitations that dog him (well, he has been called Kanye West's protégé). On 'The Fire Next Time', the rapper claims that "Vic's story, that's victory". The Ivric is a rare, uncharacteristic display of old-school rap boasting. On this evidence, though, it's absolutely on the money. Jordan Bassett

This charming man

An affectionate, and unauthorised, dive into Morrissey's early years

## ENGLAND IS MINE 15 Jack Lowden, Laurie Kynaston INDIE MANCHESTER RETRO

Morrissey didn't exist, someone would have had to make him up.

IF STEVEN PATRICK

As characters go, he's one of the greats, a fabulous mixture of northern grit, bookish sentimentality, blind confidence, crippling self-doubt and raw talent – perfect, then, for committing to celluloid.

England Is Mine takes a loving look at his pre-Smiths fame, back when he was a jobless teenager obsessed with writing scathing reviews of local bands and sending them into the NME letters page. In a bedroom plastered with pictures of his heroes, from James Dean to Oscar Wilde, we see Dunkirk actor Jack Lowden sat moodily at his typewriter, bashing out furious screeds as his sister sighs, his mother frets and his father simply ups and leaves.

Although the Scottish actor has Morrissey's world-weary drawl down pat, the fact he isn't an out-and-out lookalike of the young star-in-the-making stops him from falling into the trap of parody, an issue that often ruins a perfectly good rock biopic. Instead, Lowden's sweet and tender portrayal of the notoriously mardy Mancunian casts light on the man underneath the corduroy blazer as he looks for a job - and finds a job - then develops a vital friendship with gregarious, popular art student Linder Sterling (Downton Abbey's Jessica Brown Findlay).

In fact, the film seems to suggest that if it wasn't for Sterling, Morrissey would still be stuck behind his typewriter, as it's she who attempts to bring him out of his shell and convinces him to join local band The Nosebleeds, who *NME* reviews and sings the praises of the frontman's charisma, but also gets his name wrong – sorry, Moz.

L-r: Jack Lowden as

Kynaston as Johnny Marr

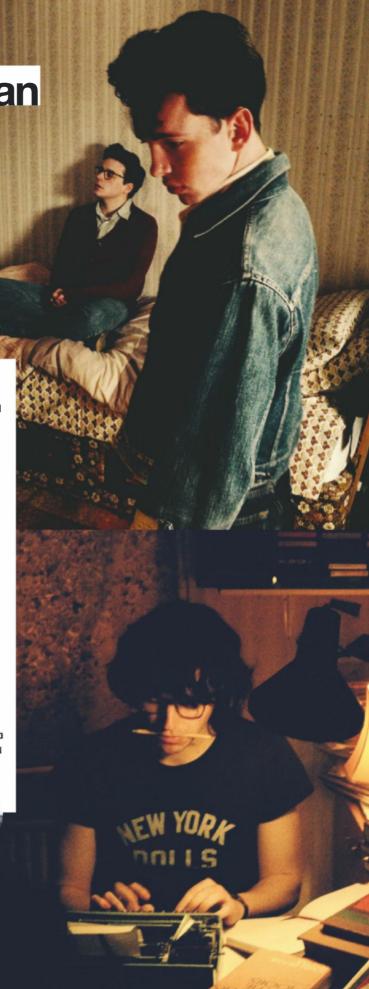
Morrissey and Laurie

Director Mark Gill, who also hails from Morrissev's hometown of Stretford. perfectly captures the late 1970s of the north, from the dingy canals and damp, cobbled streets to the sterile hospitals and grand old art schools, as well as Morrissey's claustrophobic Inland Revenue office, complete with a crabby boss straight out of a vintage sitcom. Morrissey's early years might be rendered in glum browns, greys and blues, but it's somehow one of the most colourful, heartening films of the summer. Leonie Cooper





PARTY PEOPLE







It's a film about emoji, and it's rubbish of course

#### THE EMOJI MOVIE

U Anna Faris, T.J. Miller, James Corden

JOYLESS EXHAUSTING VENAL

HOLLYWOOD STUDIOS make films for the money. It would be sweetly naïve to think any different, but there's usually a degree of creative ambition in them. You can want to make money at the same time as wanting to tell a great story. However, at no point in

L-r: Fried Shrimp

The Emoji Movie is there the sense that anybody felt this was a tale worth telling for any reason but cash. It strains its way into existence, joylessly and illogically limping on until it reaches 87 minutes.

Emoji offer no story of their own because they're just tiny phone pictures, so one is heaved into being. Inside your phone is a place called Textopolis, where the emoji live. While most can just go about doing as they please - being a crown, pig, half an avocado, or of course, cheerful poop - the face emoji must always maintain the mood they've been assigned, e.g. happy, sad, sweaty, horrified cat, so that their expressions can be scanned any time the phone's user sends a text. Why? Excellent question. No answer.

Gene (T.J. Miller), our hero, is

doesn't want to be 'meh'. He wants to express the full range of feelings, but this disrupts the scanning process. His deletion is ordered, forcing him on the run with a hand (James Corden) and a hacker (Anna Faris) who can... do computer things that might save Gene. For something so supposedly breezy, it's exhausting trying to make sense of it.

The voice cast is enthusiastic but the material is woeful. Not only is the adventure unfunny and boring, it's a cynical, undisguised ad for phone apps. For no reason, the characters romp through Candy Crush, YouTube, Spotify, Just Dance and Dropbox, pointing out their excellent features. It's hideously venal. You may as well just watch an hour and a half of pre-roll ads. At least you wouldn't be charged for





## Blank space

Cara Delevingne and Rihanna cannot save Luc Besson's vacuous blockbuster



AMONG THIS YEAR'S crop of summer blockbusters, Valerian And The City Of A Thousand Planets is probably the underdog. Although it's based on a revered comic book series that influenced Star Wars, it can't rely on a huge global fanbase like Wonder Woman or Spider-Man: Homecoming. Factor in a rumoured £138 million production budget – enough to make this the most

expensive independent film ever – and writer-director Luc Besson (*The Fifth Element, Lucy*) has taken a massive gamble here.

His film begins with the familiar sound of David Bowie's 'Space Oddity' and a flimsy introduction to a couple of 28th century space agents. Major Valerian (Dane DeHaan) is convinced his relationship with Sergeant Laureline (Cara Delevingne) should become more than professional, but she thinks he's a player who can't commit. Their basic dynamic barely develops for the next two hours, but after some lively if mindless set-pieces, something approaching a plot begins to crystallise. A mysterious corrosive mass is threatening Alpha, an enormous space metropolis housing species from a thousand planets, including

the human race. Against the wishes of crotchety commander Arün Filitt (Clive Owen), Valerian and Laureline are dispatched to discover what's behind it.

The film's visual effects are always impressive and sometimes breathtaking, but there's little beneath the surface sheen. Valerian And The City Of A Thousand Planets suffers from a crippling lack of heart, partly because its characters are so vacuous. Miscast, DeHaan lacks the swagger to make Valerian the wisecracking hero he's supposed to be, although he's hardly helped by Besson's horrible leaden dialogue.



#### FOR FANS OF



Delevingne's Laureline is more convincing, but her signature reactions – a disapproving eye roll, an irked smirk – are soon overplayed. When Rihanna appears as shape-shifting entertainer Bubble, she initially lifts the film. But she's sunk too when Besson asks her to supply emotional beats her character just hasn't earned.

In several scenes, Besson and cinematographer Thierry Arbogast manage to create a world so immersive you couldn't care less what's happening in it. But most of the time, the film feels like an emotionally empty mess. It's hard to fault Besson's ambition, but his gamble hasn't paid off. **Nick Levine** 



YOU HEARD IT HERE FIRST

#### The Indien

Dreamy pop. with a twist of gritty R&B

AFTER WHIPPING UP A frenzv in their native Holland. indie-pop heroes The Indien popped by NME & BFI present: CineJam Supported By Zig-Zag to offer some soothing vibes, right before 2014 film Whiplash gave everyone a good knock on the head. Rianne Walther (vocals) and Casper Talsma (auitars) give us the lowdown on their sound and why us Brits are a perfect crowd for them.

For those who are new to the band, how would vou describe The Indien's sound?

Rianne: "Melodic but aritty. We live in the now, so we wanna make music for now, but I sometimes wish

I was born in the '60s." Casper: "There's a lot of inspiration from the '60s and '70s, but it doesn't necessarily sound '60s or '70s - we're not a retro band, don't worry."

Your set went down well with the London crowd. Why do you think people connect with your songs so well?

Casper: "I think the alternative scene in the UK is more broad and wide than in Holland. We have a lot of mainstream Dutch artists that people listen to, so when you play alternative music to them sometimes they're like, 'I have to be more drunk for this!""

Music and film go hand in hand, but why do you think that connection is so important?

Casper: "It amplifies the storyline and the emotions massively."

Rianne: "I think it would be so different if you saw a movie with no music or soundtrack at all. It would be a totally different experience. Definitely worse."

It's been nearly two years since your last EP - what can we expect from the next one?

Casper: "We had so little to prove when we did the first EPs - we didn't even do it in a real studio. We just used some cheap audio interface and cheap microphones, and we thought, 'Well, this sounds OK.' But I think the second EP is way more polished than the first."

Rianne: "We're taking more time to develop the songs, so we think it's going to be 'The Indien 2.0'. The better version of ourselves." Sam Moore

The Indien played NME & BFI Present: CineJam Supported By Zig-Zag at Rooftop Film Club, Peckham, a series of summer music and film events curated by Bastille's Dan Smith. Visit NME.com I for more info



The Indien's Rianne Walther

#### **DETAILS**

Based: The Hague, Netherlands I

Social: @TheIndien Buy: 'Hiatus' EP is out now

### STRINGSTRUE Besttla

The band reckon they're perfect for the next James Bond soundtrack - providing it's got

a big retro vibe.

#### RUNNING

Rianne Walther's hypno vocals take flight on this rumbling, lo-fi gem.



ALABAMA SHAKES



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collaborated with the godfather of punk, lggy Pop himself. **TICKETS:** £9.90-£13.75

36





#### **DEAD!**

Fri 4 Maguire's Bar, Liverpool Sat 5 The Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham Sun 6 The Live Rooms, Chester Wed 9 The Empire,

Coventry **Thu 10** The Venue,
Derby

#### DMA'S

Fri 4 Riverside, Newcastle Sat 5 Unity Works, Wakefield Sun 6 Roadmender, Northampton

#### FACTORY FLOOR

**Sat 5** Arts Centre, Norwich

#### FRANKIE COSMOS

Fri 4 Band On The Wall, Manchester

#### GOLDIE LOOKIN' CHAIN

Sat 5 Level III, Swindon

#### **HOLY F\*\*K**

Wed 9 The Jazz Cafe, London Thu 10 Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

#### **IDEAL CLUB**

**Fri 4** The Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

#### INTO THE ARK

**Fri 4** Harbour Arts Centre, Irvine

#### JESS GLYNNE Sat 5 Stadium, Falkirk

.....

#### KATE NASH

Fri 4 O2 Ritz, Manchester Sat 5 Rock City, Nottingham Sun 6 O2 Academy, Bristol Tue 8 Concorde 2, Brighton Wed 9 & Thu 10 O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire, London

#### KUDU BLUE / CROOX / FRANK GAMBLE

Wed 9 Ultralounge @ Selfridges, London

#### **MILK TEETH**

Fri 4 Borderline, London

#### **PIXIES**

Mon 7 & Tue 8 Kelvingrove Park, Glasgow

#### **PJ HARVEY**

Mon 7 & Tue 8 Playhouse Theatre, Edinburgh

#### **PLASTIC**

**Thu 10** Bar Bloc, Glasgow

#### RAYE / MABEL

Thu 10 Ultralounge

@ Selfridges, London

#### REGINA SPEKTOR

Sat 5 Symphony Hall, Birmingham Mon 7 Empire Theatre, Liverpool Wed 9 Eventim Apollo, London

#### SEASICK STEVE

**Wed 9** Kelvingrove Park, Glasgow

#### WHITECHAPEL Thu 10 The Underworld,

London

#### YUNGEN

**Thu 10** indigo at The O2, London







## Somerville

Love Island resident - was also in Blazin' Squad, don't you know

#### THE FIRST **ALBUM I EVER BOUGHT**

**MASE** 

Harlem World

"I bought it from Woolworths. This was when I started getting into rap and I was getting pocket money. Back in the day on The Box channel they had all the videos and you'd sit up and wait for your favourite songs to come on. Mase had 'Feel So Good' - I heard that and was like, 'This is wicked,' so I bought the album."

#### THE SONG I DO AT KARAOKE **BLAZIN' SQUAD**

Crossroads

"Whenever I'm anywhere that does karaoke. everyone's like, 'Marc, do it. do it!' - so it ends up happening. I always try to do something like ABBA or Bon Jovi, but everyone always makes me do 'Crossroads'."





#### THE SONG CHANGED **MY LIFE**

JONI MITCHELL **Both Sides Now** 

"It's a beautiful piece of music and the words are so meaningful. At the time the Squad had gone their own ways and were trying to do their own thing I heard that song, and it made me look at things from a different point of view."

#### THE FIRST **SONG I FELI** IN LOVE WITH **VANILLA ICE**

Ice Ice Baby

"I remember having an old-school cassette player and having the Vanilla Ice album in it and playing it all the way through; but it was that song which was my favourite for so long. The beat's sick, the sample's crazy - so I do still love it now."

#### THE SONG THAT MADE **ME WANT TO PERFORM**

**SO SOLID CREW** Oh No (Sentimental Things)

"I used to download songs. listen and then try to rap around what they were doing, and this was the one what made me want to be an MC."

#### THE SONG THAT REMINDS ME OF **BEING YOUNG**

**BIG MOUNTAIN** Baby I Love Your Way

"It comes on and I go back to being seven. It reminds of being in my mum's Escort and sitting in the back of the car with that on the radio."

#### THE SONG THAT MAKES ME THINK OF LOVE ISLAND

J HUS

Did You See

"Everyone was just singing it around the house - we were just entertaining ourselves with it, and it got played at all the parties."

Marcel is currently working on new music. Bring it on, Marcel!

GO TO NME.COM FOR MORE SOUNDTRACKS



The wisdom of the NME archives

#### THIS WEEK

**LIAM GALLAGHER** 

Oasis August 6, 1994

"I think we'll be the most important band in the f\*\*king world... We'll be the new Beatles."

