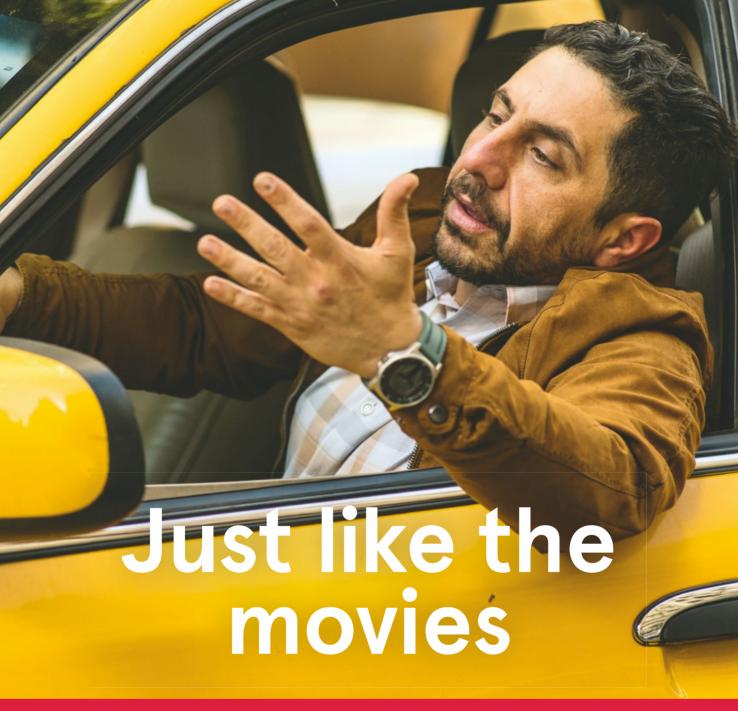
Queens Of The Stone Age's Josh Homme is all smiles



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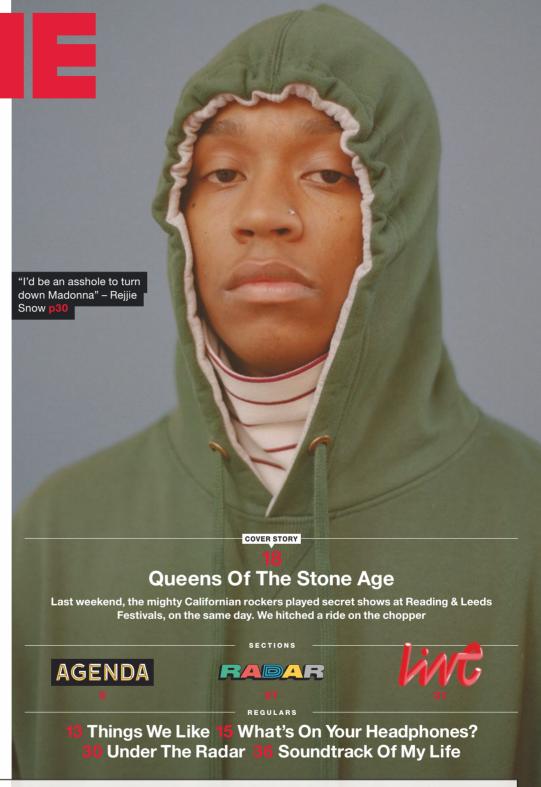
Hello...

a coping mechanism for dealing with the horrors of the world right now, and it was staring me in the face all along: classic albums. For the past two weeks every day I've been digging out a classic (and by classic I just mean stuff that I think is brilliant that I haven't listened to in a while) and playing it from start to finish on my way to work. I then stick the cover on Instagram for some Inception-style nostalgia a few months down the line when I go back in and get mistv-eved about that time I got all misty-eyed.

So far I've gone for masterpieces like 'Sea Change' by Beck, 'The Miseducation Of Lauryn Hill', Kelis' 'Tasty', 'A Grand Don't Come For Free' by The Streets, 'DAMN.' by Kendrick Lemar and Willy Mason's 'Where The Humans Eat'. The albums aren't important in themselves: what matters is giving your brain a rest from the grind of 2017. remembering the great times those records have given you and filling your mind with happy (or that happy kind of sad) feelings to start your day rather than the flashing reminders of doom. Back to the news next week, but my gosh what a lovely fortnight.

MIKE WILLIAMS

Editor-in-Chief @itsmikelike



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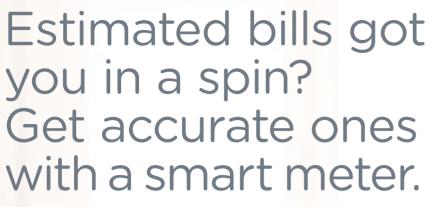
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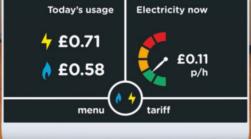
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AGENDA

WHAT EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT THIS WEEK

Taylor sheds her skin

Hard-edged new track 'Look What You Made Me Do' takes potshots at haters, but is it Kanye, David Mueller or someone else who'll "all get yours"?

"I'M SORRY, THE OLD Taylor can't come to the phone right now..."

"Oh, 'cos she's dead."

We only hear Taylor's side of this phone call at the end of new single 'Look What You Made Me Do', but we hear all we need to. In short: no more Mrs Nice Gal.

Earlier this week, Swift deleted all the pictures on her Instagram account and replaced them with glitchy videos of what appeared to be a reptile. The third confirmed we were looking at a snake, which is significant – the snake emoji is the shorthand for Taylor on social media, the implication being she's serving an agenda, a snake in the grass. 'LWYMMD' is Taylor reclaiming the snake, its lyrics defiant, its sound bulletproof.

The track is a co-write with Jack Antonoff, the Bleachers singer and co-author of Swift's 'Out Of The Woods' and Lorde's 'Melodrama'. The sound is hard-edged pop - like her smash '1989' album - but darker and more electronic. Where '1989"s songs built up to a massive chorus, 'Look What You Made Me Do' takes it to a huge drop and the propulsive mantra of the title. It's a song that flips the perky '1989' on its head. Where 'Blank Space' spoke of "a long list of ex-lovers", the new single has a more ominous "list of names and

RIGHT SAID FRED When did you first hear the song? "This morning." So you didn't know how it was going to use your song? "No! They don't know us from Adam: we could be a couple of idiots and tweet about it." What do you think? "I was impressed with the lyrics: edgy, a bit dark and angry." How did Taylor get in touch? "My brother [Fred] phoned and said Taylor Swift wants to use part of 'I'm Too Sexy'." How has she used it? "They've adapted the rhythm and attitude of 'I'm Too Sexy' for the chorus – they've just interpolated it differently."

yours is in red underlined". But who is the song about?

Katy Perry's name will come up. She's spoken about Swift while promoting new album 'Witness', telling *NME* she finds it hard to turn the other cheek when someone "assassinate[s] my character with little girls. That's so messed up!"

Other likely targets are Kim Kardashian and Kanye West, who released audio of Taylor apparently agreeing to the lyric in 'Famous' ("I feel like me and Taylor might still have sex"), causing a tide of snake emojis across social media. Taylor countered that there was no recording of her agreeing to the lyric "I made that b***h famous". The cover of Swift's forthcoming album 'Reputation' makes a direct reference to the visual style of West's 'The Life Of Pablo' album, on which 'Famous' appeared.

And it would be hard not to consider the lines "I don't like your perfect crime / How you laugh when you lie / You said the gun was mine" might refer to the recent

court case with US DJ David Mueller, who was found guilty of assault and battery earlier this month when Swift countersued him following his groping her in 2013.

Ex-partners will be thrown into the mix too, whether Calvin Harris, who recently worked with Katy Perry on the song 'Feels', or Tom Hiddleston, whose short-lived relationship with Swift was ridiculed by the press.

If people have had their claws out for Taylor following the success of '1989' and the reign of her and her squad, the message is clear: this new incarnation bites back. Dan Stubbs



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PARIS JACKSON
Michael's daughter blasted
"Nazi, white supremacist
jerks" in her MTV VMAs
speech. Powerful stuff.



Made a surprise
appearance at Reading
during Giggs' massive set.



JK ROWLING
Warned HP fans not to keep
owls as pets after reading
a "disturbing story". Eek.



BLAKE LIVELY
The actress was trolled by
hubby Ryan Reynolds on
her birthday. Joker.









Adam Wingard, director of Netflix's controversial new thriller-horror *Death Note*, on death threats, whitewashing and adapting Japanese manga

Why adapt Death Note?

"My brother suggested it.
Randomly Warner Bros sent me
a script years later, and I liked
it, though it needed work. Gus
Van Sant was the last director
attached to it. It was originally
set in Chicago. I wanted it to be
grittier so moved it to Seattle."

How does your interpretation differ from previous Japanese liveaction versions?

"Aside from it being set in a different country, the characters have different personalities and the vibe is a 1980s high school movie, like *Heathers*, instead of trying to imitate anime stylisation – which is why live-action manga like *Speed Racer* and *Ghost In The Shell* haven't worked."

When the trailer dropped, you were accused of 'whitewashing' for



transposing it to the US and having Nat Wolff, a white actor, playing a character who is Japanese in the source material...

"The whole point was to do something different. After Ghost In The Shell, there's a different environment around these things. One of our producers, Roy Lee, worked on the US adaptations of The Ring and The Grudge and has never seen a reaction like this. The term 'whitewashing' used to mean taking a white actor and having them play an Asian character. whereas now it's been twisted where if you're adapting a property from a different country, it's whitewashing. There was never a mandate not to cast a Japanese actor."

Did you expect the backlash from die-hard fans?

"It was knee-jerk. People were already telling me I'd ruined Death Note before we'd even shot anything. It's funny when they tell me they hope my movie flops – how will they prove it? It's on Netflix! I've just accepted my Twitter feed will be filled with death threats for another year."

Did knowing it would be on Netflix change your approach to filmmaking?

"It's in the back of your mind people will watch it on Netflix on their phones eventually. This isn't the type of film studios would let you put out in theatres. If we'd stayed at Warner Bros, they would have diluted it down and pressurised us into making it PG-13."

Will there be a sequel?

"I wouldn't be surprised if I end up working on sequels... The movie is a closed loop – it works on its own but there's lots of places you could take it. I'd like to see a whole movie exploring L's backstory."

Death Note is on Netflix now



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t, that person will die.



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Margaret Qualley
Light's crush, who
helps him embark on
a vigilante spree to
eliminate criminals.



Lakeith Stanfield
Super-sleuth on the trail
of Light and Mia, who
hides his name to
prevent being executed.



RYUK
Willem Dafoe /
Jason Liles
Apple-quaffing god
of death and creator of
the Death Note.

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AGENDA

The people vs Everything Everything

We did a Facebook Live with the Mancunian art-poppers, and you asked good questions. Here they are!

Everything Everything will be 10 next month. What has been your greatest achievement?

EMMA LEPOIDEVIN

Jonathan Higgs: "Probably reaching 10 years."

Alex Robertshaw: "We've seen a lot of bands die along the way." Jon: "It's weird when you think of some of the ones you used to be contemporaries with. Bands that got way bigger than us and disappeared completely. You kind of think, well, what's better? Would I have rather done that and disappeared, or am I happy doing what I do?" **NME:** You could be in a pool right now.

Jon: "Then no one would be listening to our s**tty tunes."

What's your favourite area at Glastonbury? ALEX COOPER

Alex: "I like being as close as possible, so the front barrier of the main stage for someone like Radiohead."

Jon: "Behind the Pyramid Stage. I remember watching the limo pull up for Kings Of Leon a few years ago, that was quite interesting. They had a limo each and I remember wondering if we'd ever get like that in terms of success and hating each other as much."

What is your biggest fear? ALEX DONELLAN

Alex: "I hate wasps. Nature's enemies."

Jon: "Jeremy, who is not here, hates birds. There is a Canadian goose which hangs around our studio where we rehearse. It squawks and he s**ts himself."

If the new album was a celebrity, who would it be? GABRIELLE ILARDI

Alex: "Corey Feldman."

Jon: "Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Apart from when he became
governor [of California]. Aside
from that, he made good films."

NME: Favourite Arnie quote?

Alex: "Get to the chopper."

If you could play any venue, where would it be? IRENA KORENEVSKAYA

Jon: "Top of Mount Everest." Alex: "Buckingham Palace. We're working on it for 2023."

Everything Everything's new album 'A Fever Dream' is out now





Off to Bestival?

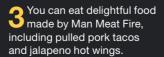
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THIS WEEK

I've never watched *Game*Of Thrones – and I never will

IF THERE'S ONE THING I hate, it's being late to the party. Not just, like, an actual IRL party, when all the booze has been drunk and the cheese plate is a miserable void, accessorised with a smear of sweaty pickle, a couple of wrinkled grapes and half a Babybel - but the kind of pop-cultural happening that the whole world and their labradoodle is involved with. Prime examples include: working out that Justin Bieber's 'Sorry' is actually a modern masterpiece, deciding that Tom Hardy is indeed the most desirable man in the universe and getting heavily into The Wire, which I watched when it was still a relative secret, with DVDs covertly passed around between me and my mates who all became hugely obsessed with the Baltimore underworld

 and the docks, especially the docks. Damn it, remember the docks.

So, after six years of bloodlust, incest and murder - them, not me, I'm not a monster - this is the reason why I've still not seen a single episode of Game Of Thrones. When the show began, back in 2011, I was fully ensconced in my Mad Men addiction. Don Draper's sharp suits, Joan Holloway's sass and Peggy Olson's nascent feminism were my telly crack, alongside lashings of Parks And Recreation and - I'm not ashamed to say - a fair wallop of Downton Abbey. The following year brought with it

Lena Dunham's groundbreaking *Girls*, the year after that *Orange Is The New Black*, and by then, we were three seasons deep into *Game Of Thrones*. I'd already made the mistake of trying to get into *Breaking Bad* too late and made it through just half an episode before the threat of all those hours looming ahead of me gave me severe box-set-induced anxiety.

Which is a shame, really, because it really does sound like something I'd enjoy. I'm a big fan of flagrant nudity and I've always had a soft spot for dragons and gruffly spoken folk from Yorkshire, but the fact that

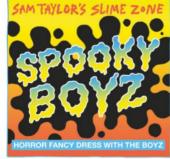
I'd have to promise 65 hours of my life to it to get up to date scares me deeply. Call it a commitment issue if you want. You would be entirely correct.

Some dragons.

I guess?

I was kind of alright with living a chaste televisual life. unfettered by the goings on of Westeros, but over the past few weeks it's become clear to me that I am one of literally only three people in NME Towers who doesn't watch the show. leaving me blank in the face of the endless chatter about it. And if there's one other thing I don't like, it's being left out of endless chatter, which I consider one of my strengths. Hmm, I suppose 65 hours is only just under three days... @leoniemavcooper

"Breaking Bad gave me severe box-set anxiety"













AGENDA



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JORDAN GIBB >

23, tattoo apprentice

Listening to: **RAY J** One Wish

"An all-time favourite of mine."

Wearing: Sam Ricketts T-shirt, jeans from a charity shop, Reebok trainers. Dickies hat. Best thing about Scarborough: "Come to North Sea Tattoo Company if you're looking to get inked."

⟨ CHLOE PROCTOR

22. accounts and admin

AGENDA

Listening to:

ORIANTHI

How Do You Sleep? "I saw her at the 100 Club in London. She brought Alice Cooper on stage as her guest!"

Wearing: New Look jumper and top. Matalan ieans. Best thing about Scarborough: "There's a really good guitar shop on Bar Street called Guitar Galleries."

DAVID MADON >

41. paramedic

Listening to: **PEARL JAM**

Alive

"It's a chillout song with a great intro."

Wearing: Vintage top, Gap jeans, Skechers trainers, Topman cap. Best thing about Scarborough: "All the little curiosity shops down by the seafront."

GINTARE > SENDRAVICIUTE

20, student

Listening to:

IMAGINE DRAGONS Walking The Wire

"It's the best song on the new album."

Wearing: Next top, jeans and boots.

Best thing about Scarborough: "Hit up an ice cream parlour. It's amazing here."

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just gone midday and the towering, cowboy
ueens Of The Stone Age audience of racist assholes"

London to Leeds and then back down to Reading, "In the upstairs there's an open bar," jokes Homme of the chopper. "And I did some laps of the pool - I don't know how many I did because I was so busy looking at the stables." The fact that the band's founding member is currently brandishing a silver-topped cane due to a long-standing knee injury exacerbated by the recent all-singing. all-dancing video shoot for 'The Way You Used To Do' hasn't hampered the party, even though he underwent surgery just two weeks ago. "I tore my leg up in the morning [but] I didn't want anyone to know because then they would, like, try to baby me," he says of the epic 18-hour video shoot, which sees Homme channelling Fred Astaire, Willy Wonka and Satan himself. Despite the injury, Homme upheld his Australian and Japanese tour commitments too. "I can bite my lip, so I just did that a lot," he explains, and so he did until it got so serious the band had to pull out of San Francisco's Outside Lands Festival, much to Homme's disappointment. "We had to

doing, you know, everyone cancels if their finger hurts."

Strutting onstage for the first gig of the day in blinging biker boots, Homme ditches the cane and goes in hard. It might be early, but the Leeds crowd crammed into the NME/Radio 1 tent are madly up for it, seamlessly arranging themselves into a circle pit for the filthy glamabilly of the new 'Villains' material as well as big hitters like 'No One Knows' and 'Little Sister'. "It's a f**king pleasure to be here," Homme tells the first big crowd of the weekend. "I gotta tell you, no matter how sober you are, I'm already f**ked up." It's a good audience, but if it wasn't, Homme would be the first to say something. Well known for calling out crowd members when he spots d**kish behaviour, Homme has been fighting the good fight since the band's early days. "Once in Holland, I think it was the Lowlands Festival, I saw a guy punching a girl in the face, right by the front row," he says. "My whole life, I hate watching people get bullied and so, in a manner of speaking, you turn and you try to bully the bully. I have done that many times. I'm the only

20



shirt-wearing Queens Of The Stone Age frontman Homme is prowling around the band's backstage compound at Leeds Festival, hammering tequila

with dapper producer Ronson, who's

responsible for the Californian rock

titans' latest album, the up-tempo,

groove-ridden 'Villains'. It's release

day and the band are celebrating by playing not-so-very-secret sets at both

Reading and Leeds Festivals on the

- and drinking a whole lot of booze.

A helicopter emblazoned with the

same day (August 25) - the first band

ever to attempt this cross-country feat

band's name is ferrying them first from

one with a mic so I think sometimes. it perhaps looks like I'm bullving somebody - and I actually am." The band have long attempted to cultivate a progressive and supremely awesome fanbase. "I think I've always been trying to prune our audience [of] racist, homophobic, misogynistic assholes," states Homme with intent. "The idea is to have our audience be an openminded group of individuals. I think that's why even picking Ronson initially [was] to chase people away." Indeed, bringing in the 'Uptown Funk' producer to help bring a touch of perky chartfriendly gloss to the new record might have pissed off many a purist, but Homme is the kind of auv who doesn't just like f**king with people - he's the kind of guy who relishes it.

swirling mass of contradictions, Homme is the rock star who doesn't listen to rock music. preferring instead to kick back to the sweet sounds of an online radio station called Dreamboats And Petticoats which plays 1950s and 1960s deep cuts by classic crooners like Marty Wilde and Gene Pitney. I ask if Queens are a pop band. "Yeah, I think so. I think we're an art band... There was a fire at the paint factory and all the colours mixed together and blew up. I think that the whole point is not to blend in. I think we've always had I this element of art and pop, heaviness and darkness. There is a certain goofiness to it all too." He enjoys more mainstream music as well. "I don't

have any guilty pleasures because I don't feel bad. I don't care if it's Britney Spears or if there's some f**king good Katy Perry songs."

He's also the hard-drinking, foul-mouthed tough guy who, the day before Reading & Leeds, recorded an episode of CBeebies' Bedtime Stories, information he reveals to NME with a huge grin on his face. A father of three, he was recently spotted playing at a local school alongside his wife, musician Brody Dalle, and Garbage's Butch Vig. rattling through Cheap Trick covers for a bunch of giddy 11-year-olds. When asked what he thinks he might be doing were he not a worldconquering musical force, he pauses for a second. "I have forgotten to play that hypothetical game because it has been so long. I used to think, like, 'Damn, what am I going to do?' and I never really got to answer it." Another pause. "I mean, at this point, if I didn't do this. I would love to help kids." Did he know he was a kid guv before he had them himself? "No, in fact I was sort of like, 'You should probably keep your kids away from me because I don't wanna touch them in case they aet high or something'." Whether it's reading bedtime stories,

working with Lady Gaga (he played guitar on four songs on her 2016 album 'Joanne') or randomly appearing in cult television comedies like *Portlandia* and *Toast Of London*, Homme is all about surprising people. "I think going where I'm not supposed to go just feels good," he explains, gold tooth glinting

"It's like two doctors talking" The Homme-Ronson bromance explained

"Mark Ronson asked me to come and listen to his Lady Gaga record. We'd met a number of times already but he's a bit shy sometimes – it's his British half. That was the irst time we sat down alone and talked for an nour. It's difficult in life to be understood, but we're using the same glossary and terms and having the same interest in talking about who recorded this, where it was done and how it was done. I think that sort of sparked something. It's like two doctors talking. Over the years you get known for doing things in an odd manner, so I think ne was curious to see our recording drums and things that are probably boring to other people! I was the same for him.







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as he smiles. But despite the fame. the critical accolades, the recent stint touring with his idol Iggy Pop, playing in Them Crooked Vultures with Dave Grohl, the seven majestic Queens Of The Stone Age albums under his belt and the handmade Hedi Slimane leather jacket on his back, Homme - who was raised in hot and dusty Palm Desert, California - still suffers from imposter syndrome. "I've always thought that someone would come in, turn off the lights, pull the rug and tell us to leave," he says. "It's odd; I often just feel like a kid from the desert that's not supposed to be here. I still feel like someone is going to go, 'Go! That's it!""

ormed by Homme from the ashes of Kyuss - the band he and friends started as teenagers that defined the atmospheric stonerrock sound - Queens Of The Stone Age released their debut album in 1998. With the 20-year anniversary on the horizon, will they be celebrating with any special shows? The answer is a definite 'f**k no'. "I'm not really nostalgic in that way," Homme shrugs. "I think I probably get a bit more melancholic with that than anything else." How about, then, a solo Josh Homme album, following his well regarded acoustic show as part of the Meltdown Festival in London back in 2014, where he sat on a stool, quaffed red wine and regaled the adoring crowd with smooth Dean Martin tunes and an embryonic 'Villains Of Circumstance', a beefier version of which has found itself a home on the new record? "I mean. I have always had the opportunity - but then you're all alone. I like the friction of collaborations. I could do [a solo album] but I haven't had the desire yet." Does the idea of being alone make him feel uneasy? Homme shakes his head. "I'm alone enough, already. I do think that the sparks fly from interacting with someone - it's wonderful. I mean, the first album is basically solo, I play everything apart from the drums."

Over two decades down the line and Queens Of The Stone Age are a finely tuned rock machine made up of serious pros, all of whom have fully signed up to Captain Josh's manifesto. "I just wanted to play in a place where it would be OK to understand that someone could come in and maybe be there for a year or two then maybe go somewhere else. It was kind of a bit like a pirate ship, I suppose. Where you would come, take a journey and I'd put you back on dry land and go off." The current incarnation of the band seem to be sailing on the longest journey yet, with guitarist Troy Van Leeuwen on

board since 2002, guitarist Dean Fertita and bassist Michael Shuman just celebrating their 10-year anniversary with the band ("They got each other rings," jokes Van Leeuwen) and drummer Jon Theodore bashing out the beats since 2013.

After another 45-minute chopper ride, the band touch down in Reading for the second show of the day. Sat by the band's dressing room, Shuman praises the Leeds crowd for getting involved with their "brunch set" while Van Leeuwen brands the current incarnation of Queens "the most badass vet." Mark Ronson is strolling around in a white vest, and suddenly Skepta's here too, meeting Homme for the first time after sampling Queens Of The Stone Age's early single 'Regular John' last year on 'Man', winning an Ivor Novello Award for Best Contemporary Song in the process.

The Reading show is even more of a triumph than Leeds, a 35-minute masterclass in controlled rock'n'roll chaos, with propulsive narcotic roll-call 'Feel Good Hit Of The Summer' and 'If I Had A Tail' oozing sass and swagger. New songs like 'The Evil Has Landed' slither and slide, adding fresh opportunity for hip-swinging into an already danceable back catalogue. Who knows where album eight will take us - but Homme isn't thinking about that yet. "I think there's no need to care about that now because we have found our answer for today and that will do. vou know?" But what he does know is that he's in this for the long haul. In a David Bowie-worthy move, he wants to go out on a high - no, not that kind of high. "I want the best album of my life to be the one before I die," he states. "Hopefully I'll make something beautiful and fragile at the very end." We don't NME doubt him for a second.

"We've always had this element of art and pop"



Three things to know about new QOTSA IT AL

Has Landed'.

IT'S PRODUCED BY
MARK 'UPTOWN
FUNK' RONSON
Mark Ronson was
brought in to produce
after Homme heard
one of his kids playing

'Uptown Funk' and wanted to replicate its dry, tight sound.

unfortunately didn't

quite tick. Worth a try,"

explains Josh Homme



How do you ensure you always look good at a festival?

I always keep a little slick brush with me to keep my hair in place, as well as a mini product like VO5 Instant Volume Powder to touch up during the day. I use waterproof mascara and a heavier foundation to ensure my face looks fresh all day. I usually carry a rain mac in a sexy colour like orange or yellow in case the weather turns – this way I still look cute but avoid getting soaked.

What would your advice be to first time festivalgoers?

The best experiences come out of a well-planned day or night, seeing all the acts you hoped for. Always factor in that extra time between stages too (to grab a bite or pop to the loo). But most of all, be safe, and have fun!

Do you have any festival DOs and DON'Ts?

Plan which bands you want to see and check the time they're on stage. Take baby wipes. Wear as much glitter as you possibly can, and stick it in place with VO5 hair gel. Remember to charge your phone fully. Stay hydrated! Explore, get lost, make friends, use the bins. Don't forget your sun cream. Don't take valuables. Don't put your tent close to the loos, or at the bottom of a hill.

Save this number on your phone

And the website, while vou're at it.

We all like to forget reality and go wild at a festival, but sometimes things don't go to plan and you end up in a right old pickle. Overdone it with drink and drugs? Had a bad experience? Need advice on how to cope with a problem?

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How do you plan which bands or artists you want to see at a festival?

I look at the line-up as soon as it's announced, then decide based on who's playing whether or not I want to go... When I get there, I figure out who's playing at what time and organise my treks between stages with my pals. Sometimes we split up to go and see our preferred artists then link up later at the bar.

Which festivals are you eyeing up for next year?

If you've overdone it

your tips?

attention.

at a festival, what are

Drink plenty of water, find

somewhere relatively quiet

to sit down for 20 minutes, breathe deeply, and if you feel sick get medical

Wireless because it's always great fun, Lovebox for the acts and vibe and V Fest as I've never been before and heard it's really good. But the ultimate festival I really want to tick off my bucket list is Glasto! It's not on next year but I really want to experience it... Can't wait to go some day!



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THIS WEEK'S ESSENTIAL NEW RELEASES

BEST FOR GEEKING OUT

BECK

Dear Life

The Ben Folds Five era comes to us all, and Beck hits his here, with the odd dash of 'Magical Mystery Tour' thrown in. A psych-ragtime cracker.

BEST FOR EMBRACING DARKNESS

WILLIAM PATRICK CORGAN

Aeronaut

The Smashing Pumpkins vampire-in-chief returns with a surprisingly succinct piano and strings lament resembling a mournful Aerosmith night at the Proms.

BEST FOR ROLLING POTENT ONE

KING KRULE

Czech One

Smoky, hallucinogenic jazz from Archy Marshall, returning as King Krule after spending some time releasing music under his birth name.

BEST FOR LEISURELY **KNEES-UP**

THE RHYTHM METHOD

Something For The Weekend

Like a laid-back disco 'Parklife', The Rhythm Method strut funkily around the suburbs halfrapping about getting a haircut, while someone who either is Neil Tennant or really wants

to be whines the chorus.

Best NEW tracks Best For Alding Demolition Work Metz Mess Of Wires Brutal noise-rock Savagery anlenty from



the Canadian sadists, who appear to be beating seven shades of grunge goo out of Nirvana's 'In Utero'.

BEST FOR FATHOMING OUT THE ALBUM OF THE YEAR

WOLF ALICE Beautifully

Unconventional

First we had sweary punk, then dream-hop, now cranky funk-pop - just how beautifully unconventional will Wolf Alice's second album be?

BEST FOR FINDING LOVE

WFF7FR

Mexican Fender

You know how it is - you go in for a new guitar and come out with a bombastic emo-pop epic about falling for the shop assistant's girlfriend. Typical Rivers Cuomo.

BEST FOR DEEP CHATS LCD SOUNDSYSTEM

Tonite

TAYLOR SWIFT

Look What You

Taylor turns her sass up

on this diss track aimed

at a certain someone

with a "tilted stage".

Made Me Do I

"I never realised these artists thought so much about dying," muses James Murphy, considering mortality and ageing in hi-NRG dance-pop. 'Staying A-woke', basically.

FOR MORE NEW MUSIC, GO TO NME.COM

TO MARS

Walk On Water

Jared Leto's pop rockers blow their chance of a White House invite with this gospel epic dissecting the political horror show that is America 2017.

"Bloodlust and a holv war", apparently. Erk.







A film to make you feel good



JOHNNY (JOSH O'CONNOR) is a man of extremely few words, or even facial expressions. On a struggling farm on the Yorkshire Moors, he toils from morning to night, doing the work his sick father (Ian Hart) can't. At night he gets drunk. He occasionally picks up men for sex, but kissing and conversation are off the menu. Johnny's mood is as

low and dark as the storm clouds that seem to follow him around. Debut director Francis Lee has made the story of this quiet, unhappy man into a romance that shakes with warmth and feeling.

The agent of change in Johnny's life is Gheorghe (Alex Secareanu), a Romanian migrant who comes to the farm to help with lambing season. Johnny treats Gheorghe as he does everyone else, as if he's barely there, until they're sent off into the hills to tend to the sheep. After bickering a bit, Johnny attempts a rough seduction. He just wants sex in the mud. Gheorahe challenges him to actually feel something.

Lee draws this faltering romance without sentiment

but with a full heart. The men get to know each other mostly by watching - Johnny standing by, trying to suppress a smile while Gheorghe gently coaxes a dying lamb back to life - rather than talking. With exquisite performances and a patient pace, dialogue isn't needed to know that feelings are growing.

It's tempting to make comparisons to Ang Lee's Brokeback Mountain. Both



chart a romance that develops between one man who speaks his mind and one who barely speaks at all, when they're sent away on a farming job. Both are equal parts anger and tenderness. Sheep feature heavily. This film, though. isn't about love suppressed in fear of society but in fear of connection. Homophobia isn't pervasive in this tiny village. It's Johnny's fear that his life is

a dead-end that makes him shy from relationships, not his sexuality. Lee steers away from obvious story beats we think are coming and never allows himself an easy emotion. In his world, living is hard and loving is harder, but, says this wonderful film, the challenge is worth facing. Olly Richards





IF THERE'S ONE RULE IN music, it's that you don't say no to Madonna. Unless you're Rejjie Snow, that is. The Dublinborn rapper was handpicked to support her on tour in 2015, but initially declined. "I didn't want to do it because I didn't have any big enough singles out," he says. "But then she gave me a call and said, 'We really want you to come to Prague.' I was like, 'What the f**k? I'd be an a**hole to turn this down.'"

Madge isn't the only one who's fallen for the rising star. In the last four years the 24-year-old has gigged with Kendrick Lamar ("incredible"). lunched

with MF Doom ("my idol") and shot a music video with Lily-Rose Depp ("amazing"). An impressive roll call, but music wasn't always his career choice.

Alexander Anyaegbunam was born in Dublin, where he was spotted for his nifty football skills. Picked out by US scouts, he was awarded an athletic scholarship by a Florida academy at 17. He went on to study film and design at a top college in Georgia, but dropped out. "I didn't feel happy there," he admits. "I wanted to pursue music and it didn't make sense to be at school." He moved back to Dublin for six months,

but still felt creatively stifled.
"It was hard. I was networking,
figuring out how to do my thing.
But there wasn't much around
so I moved to London, which
was a real eye-opener," he says.

Sleeping on indie hero and now-pal King Krule's sofa, Snow spent the next few months meeting people and perfecting his woozy brand of electro-hiphop. Finally everything clicked and in 2013 his jazzy, self-released debut EP 'Rejovich' hit Number One on the iTunes hiphop chart, dethroning Kanye West's 'Yeezus' in the process. Things went up a notch in 2015 when 'All Around The World'

 his first official single – racked up half a million YouTube streams in its first week. He signed a record deal and a sold-out UK tour soon followed.

Complacency isn't an option, though. Debut album 'Dear Annie' is expected this month, and he's constantly working on his sound. "I want to explore more genres. I grew up listening to all kinds of music and it'd be a shame if I didn't investigate those too," he says. "Maybe I'll write a great pop song next." With a track record like his, you wouldn't bet against him nailing just about anything he puts his hand to. Alex Flood













Margate
Wed 6 O2 Academy,
Bournemouth

ALV VAYS

Sun 3 O2 Institute, Birmingham Mon 4 Rescue Rooms, Nottingham Wed 6 The Bullingdon, Oxford Thu 7 Gorilla, Manchester

THE AMERICAS

Fri 1 The Magnet, Liverpool Sat 2 Jimmy's, Manchester Thu 7 Transport Club, Cardiff

BAND OF HORSES

Tue 5 De La Warr Pavilion, Bexhill-on-Sea

CASSIUS

Fri 1 Egg, London

CHASTITY BELT

Mon 4 The Dug
Out, Margate
Tue 5 Brudenell Social
Club, Leeds
Wed 6 Star & Garter,
Manchester
Thu 7 The Cluny,
Newcastle

CRAIG DAVID

Fri 1 Mayflower Theatre, Southampton

THE DISTRICTS

Sun 3 The Portland Arms, Cambridge Tue 5 Bodega, Nottingham Wed 6 Gorilla, Manchester Thu 7 Clwb Ifor Bach, Cardiff

GHOSTFACE KILLAH

Wed 6 Salt Box, Nottingham

GIRLPOOL

Wed 6 Thekla, Bristol Thu 7 Village Underground, London

HARE SQUEAD / LAST NIGHT IN PARIS

Thu 7 Ultralounge @ Selfridges, London

H. HAWKLINE

Tue 5 Bar Abbey, Sheffield Wed 6 The Crofters Rights, Bristol Thu 7 Brudenell Social Club, Leeds

INTERPOL

Fri 1 Alexandra Palace, London Sun 3 Albert Hall, Manchester

JESSIE WARE

Mon 4, Tue 5 & Thu 7 Islington Assembly Hall, London

LITTLE MIX

Fri 1 South of England Showground, Haywards Heath Sun 3 Earlham Park, Norwich

THE MAGNETIC FIELDS

Fri 1 Colston Hall, Bristol Sun 3 & Mon 4 Philharmonic Hall, Liverpool Thu 7 Dome, Brighton

NITE JEWEL

Thu 7 Camden Assembly, London

OMNI

Sun 3 The Louisiana, Bristol

PAWS

Thu 7 DIY Space For London, London

PET SHOP BOYS

Sat 2 & Sun 3 Sage, Gateshead

REJJIE SNOW

Thu 7 Dr Martens Boot Room, London

SAM WILLS / CAMERON BLOOMFIELD MAAD

Wed 6 Ultralounge @ Selfridges, London

TY SEGALL

Fri 1 The Coronet,

WAXAHATCHEE

Mon 4 The Garage, London Tue 5 The Deaf Institute, Manchester Wed 6 Brudenell Social

Club, Leeds **Thu 7** Komedia, Brighton



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Oliver Proudlock

He was made in Chelsea, now he's making clothes

THE SONG THAT REMINDS ME OF HOME

NEIL YOUNG My My, Hey Hey (Out Of The Blue)

"When I was growing up, my brother – who is a little bit older – would spend a lot of time in the States. He was really into his music and he loved Neil Young. He took over one of the rooms at home and he painted it all... The one track that stands out is 'My My, Hey Hey (Out Of The Blue)'. I love that track."

THE SONG THAT MAKES ME DANCE USHER

Yeah!

"I mean, when that comes on in the club, I occasionally get a little crazy. Back in the day, I liked to think that my moves were sort of like Justin Timberlake."

THE FIRST SONG I REMEMBER HEARING

VAN HALEN

Jump

"My dad always used to sing along to it. He loved The Beatles, The Beach Boys and a little bit of Rod Stewart. Dad had long hair and was always wearing flares. He genuinely thought he was in The Rolling Stones."



THE FIRST ALBUM I BOUGHT

OASIS (What's The Story) Morning Glory?

"At school I used to spend a lot of my time cruising around the corridors singing and people always knew when I was coming because I'd be singing 'Champagne Supernova' – that was my favourite track off the album."

THE FIRST GIG I WENT TO

BLACK EYED PEAS

"I didn't actually really start going to gigs until I was around 16. I remember that gig really well as I went with a best friend. As we were leaving he fell up the stairs and cracked his front tooth off, which was hilarious at the time."



THE SONG I CAN NO LONGER LISTEN TO

PSY

Gangnam Style

"It just got so overplayed and it really is an awful song. I'm not gonna lie, I pulled out the moves occasionally when it came on, but that song was really, really stretched."

THE SONG I DO AT KARAOKE

DR DRE FEAT. EMINEM

Forgot About Dre

"I like to do something that people can get involved with. People can start rapping, getting involved – you have to bring it in when Eminem comes in. You have to get mad, start getting all hype to it."

THE SONG I WANT PLAYED AT MY FUNERAL PETER GABRIEL

Solsbury Hill

"I just find it the most uplifting track. It is my morning go-to if I just want to put on a track and feel great about life and just feel really positive. I think that's the most important thing to take from a funeral – you want people to feel good about life."

THE FIRST SONG I FELL IN LOVE WITH GOO GOO DOLLS

Iris

"When I listen to songs I get really obsessed.
When I was 11 or 12 one song that I loved was 'Iris'. I used to spend a lot of time staying at my grandmother's place. I used to sleep in the spare room and I used to just spend a lot of time in there, playing that song a lot."

Oliver runs fashion label Serge DeNimes oliverproudlock.com

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THIS WEEK

BJÖRK Icon

September 3, 1988

"I don't understand why people find me so childish. It's just the way I am. There might be reasons... I'll figure it out one day."



ONIE COOPER. PHOTOS: DANNY BALDWIN, GETTY IMAGES, REX FEAT