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NME

Hello...

THE EDITOR
IS AWAY...

HERE ARE, WITH NO context whatsoever, the 14 zingiest lines from this week's issue of NME.

"They took him in as a kid and he'd ride or die for his boys"

"All to the sound of squealing pigs"

"Add orange icing to the creepy clown hair"

"Only if we could go wearing a giant nipple costume"

"Straight out of a Satanic special of *Grand Designs*"

"It's so peaceful"

"We've always hated each other"

"You can't ruin my day, 'cos I look good"

"Really, zombie movement comes back to that thing about your body dying"

"Singing the praises of the hottest person in the club"

"I'll tell you exactly what you need to know about sex"

"Don't let that intimidate you... unless you're made of scissors"

"I wrote to Dolly Parton and asked her if I could translate it into Italian"

"I don't exist"

I hope you have an outstanding time reading it.

TOM HOWARD
Deputy Editor
@tomahoward

The scariest films
of the '70s p8

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Stranger Things 2

"Darker. Scarier. More intense." Sounds ideal.

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Stefflon Don

UK hip-hop's funnest, filthiest and most fabulous

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How to be a zombie

For Halloween. But for other times too, if you like

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AGENDA

WHAT EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT THIS WEEK

Ready for take-off

Flight Of The Conchords are touring the UK in 2018

FLIGHT OF THE CONCHORDS HAVE announced their return with a massive UK arena tour next year. Along with their hugely popular HBO show, Jemaine Clement and Bret McKenzie have released two albums: a 2008 self-titled effort and 2009's 'I Told You I Was Freaky'. In June, the comedy folk duo also revealed they were considering ideas

for a potential film. "We've got a few things up our sleeves," Clement said. "We've done a little work on some of those ideas. The ideas we have are quite different to the TV show. It's still music, still a couple of idiots and another idiot and some music."

Tickets are on sale now

The dates

MARCH 2018 Mon 19 & Tue 20
Eventim Apollo, London. Thu 22
Genting Arena, Birmingham.
Fri 23 Arena, Manchester. Mon 26
SSE Hydro, Glasgow. Tue 27 First
Direct Arena, Leeds. Thu 29 O2
Arena, London.
APRIL Sun 1 Echo Arena, Liverpool

L-r: Bret McKenzie,
Jemaine Clement

Their five best tunes

INNER CITY PRESSURE

(Season 1, episode 2)
A moody synth banger about the urban sprawl's daily grind. It's an anthem for Generation Rent, also doubling up as a perfect parody of Pet Shop Boys' 'West End Girls'.
Best line: "No one cares, no one sympathises / You just stay home and play synthesizers".

BUSINESS TIME

(Season 1, episode 5)
Nobody does seduction quite like Jemaine, who gets steamed up and excited about "the Wednesday night where we make love".
Best line: "Then you sort out the recycling / That isn't part of the foreplay process, but it is still very important".

NOT CRYING

(Season 1, episode 1)
Think James Blunt's biggest hits were a bit sappy? You've heard nothing yet. Jemaine and Bret get ultra-emotional after a torrid break-up.
Best line: "These aren't tears of sadness because you're leaving me / I've just been cutting onions, I'm making a lasagna for one".

ALBI THE RACIST DRAGON

(Season 1, episode 7)
A touching, trippy tale of a bigoted beast who finally sees his ways. Truly, a lesson for *Daily Mail* commenters everywhere.
Best line: "Albi cried a single tear, which turned into a jelly bean all the colours of the rainbow / And Albi wasn't racist anymore!"

TOO MANY DICKS (ON THE DANCE FLOOR)

(Season 2, episode 5)
Gone clubbing, Bret and Jemaine find their quest for love halted when they realise they're among an army of other blokes. Nobody likes a sausagefest.
Best line: "It ain't no good if there's too much wood".



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COUNTDOWN

Suggested use of the word 'gobshite', experienced brief but intense rise in popularity.



LOUIS THEROUX

Tweeted this Christmas jumper, went viral. Dashing Theroux the snow, etc.



ARCTIC MONKEYS FANS

Couldn't even handle it that Storm Brian came to the UK to mess up their T-shirt and tie combinations.



MIKA

Guest-judged *The X Factor*, no one knew who he was. *Googles it...*



L-r: Billy (Lucien Laviscount), Albert (Luke Pasqualino), Lotti (Phoebe Dynevor), Charlie (Rupert Grint)

Adapted for the custard and jelly

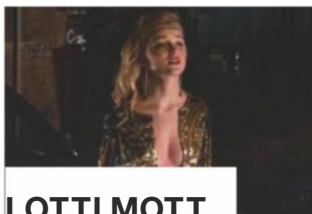
Snatch, Guy Ritchie's 2000 fast-paced cockney crime-thriller, has been made into a gritty TV drama with new characters and a new cast



ALBERT HILL

Played by: Luke Pasqualino

"He's East End London-born and the son of infamous gangster Vic Hill. Really he just wants to keep his head above water and help his mum out with the bills. But he ends up getting into some right capers with his trusty mates Billy Ayers and Charlie Cavendish."



LOTTI MOTT

Played by: Phoebe Dynevor

"Lotti's the girlfriend of mobster Sonny Castillo (Ed Westwick). Soon she meets the other boys and they make a sort of family together. She's a live wire and a bit of a femme fatale. Lotti's a total badass and nothing frightens her."



'HATE 'EM ALL' HENRY

Played by: Tamer Hassan

"'Hate 'Em' is Vic's pet Neanderthal. They meet in prison and become really close, like brothers. He'll do anything for Vic. Through the whole journey he just wants Vic, he doesn't need anyone else. Alex [De Rakoff, creator] based him on a real person who was doing a life sentence for multiple murders with the Kray twins. He'll love you until you cross him and then he'll pick you up and snap your neck."



CHARLIE CAVENDISH

Played by: Rupert Grint

"Charlie's a weird character. It took me a while to work him out because he's not someone you meet very often. He comes from an aristocratic background, but has no money. His parents are hippies with weird sex partners and the dad grows weed in the basement. Charlie just wants to escape that."



VIC HILL

Played by: Dougray Scott

"Vic Hill is a villain from the East End. He's been banged up in prison for 15 years since he was set up on a gold heist by a dodgy copper. From prison he is able to control his criminal empire via FaceTime with his wife. Another robbery takes place on the outside and he has no idea his son's involved. His interest is piqued because he thinks it might be the gold he lost 15 years previously."



BILLY AYERS

Played by: Lucien Laviscount

"He's Billy 'F**kin' Ayers, the ragamuffin of the group. His heart is in his fist. He's the son of a gypsy and a punk rocker who found love and family in the Hill household. They took him in as a kid and he'd ride or die for his boys."

Snatch premieres Tuesday, October 31 at 10pm on AMC on BT TV



The 7 scariest films from the golden age of horror

Mess yourself up with some '70s classics this Halloween

HALLOWEEN (1978)

The archetypal teenage slasher flick, John Carpenter's breakout screamer – inspired by Hitchcock's *Psycho* – saw Michael Myers embark on a shuffling stab spree around Haddonfield, Illinois. It instigated an entire genre of masked nutters with knives lumbering slowly around small towns, capable of surviving multiple bullets to the face and body, long falls, stabbings, explosions, being run over repeatedly with a massive truck and at least one beheading.

Scariest moment: When Myers comes flailing through the door of the closet where Jamie Lee Curtis is hiding, like a gormless, grunting Jack Nicholson in *The Shining*.



CARRIE (1976)

Brian De Palma's take on Stephen King's innocent, telekinetic Carrie taking the ultimate revenge on the school where she was bullied is a slow-burn (no pun intended) classic, a coming-of-age horror with a legendarily chaotic split-screen climax at the world's s***ttest prom. You've never sympathised with the monster more.

Scariest moment: Carrie's cruel bullies pull a rope to drop a bucket of pig's blood over her as she's crowned Prom Queen. Bad idea. Really bad.



DON'T LOOK NOW (1973)

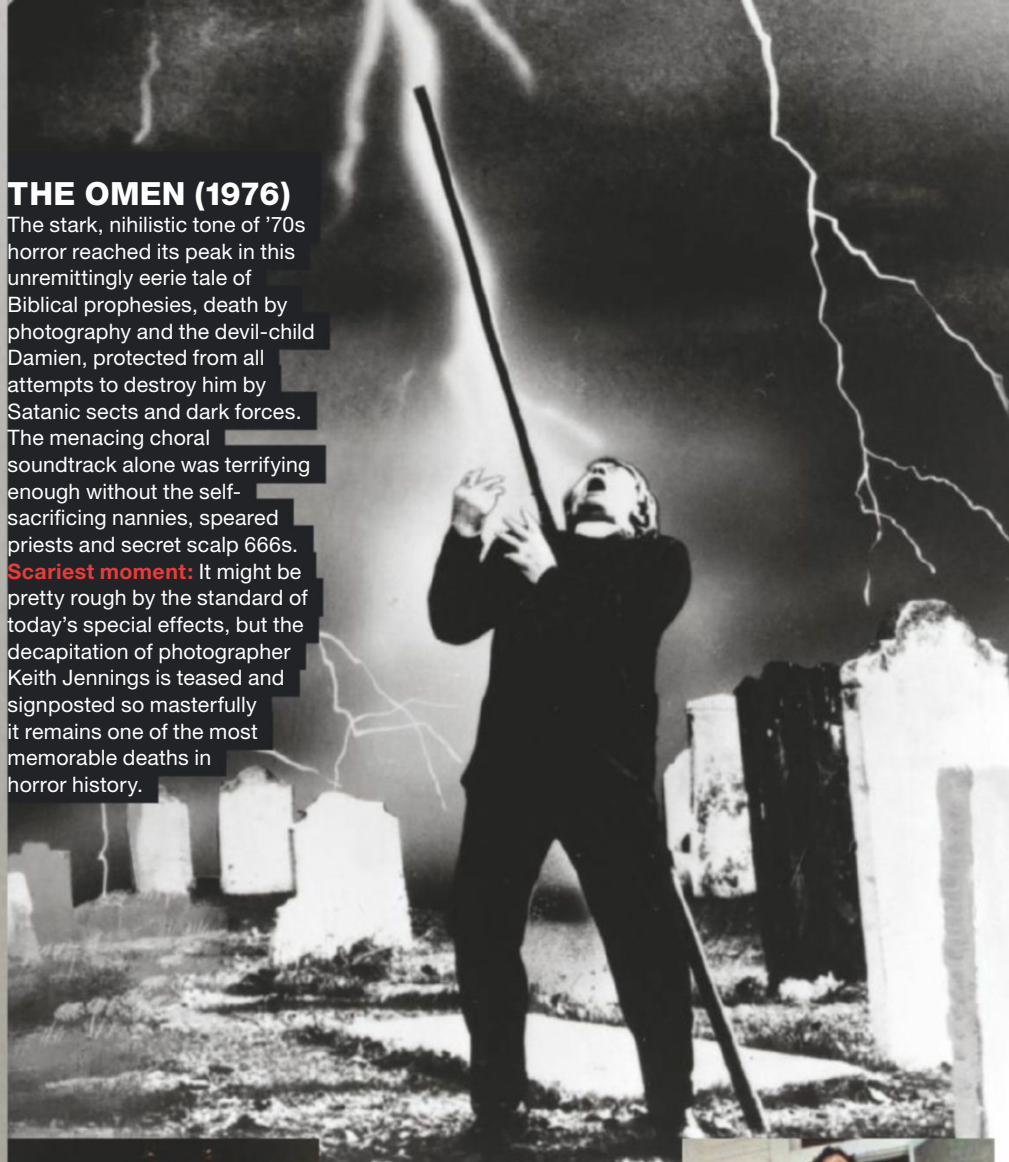
A serial killer on the loose around ancient Venice, a mourning couple – Julie Christie and Donald Sutherland – seeing visions of their dead daughter in her red coat wandering the alleyways, a blind clairvoyant making ominous premonitions. Forget all the foot-licking sex, *Don't Look Now* is best remembered as one of the creepiest occult horrors of the '70s, culminating in a scene that, sorry Freddy, really is the stuff of nightmares.

Scariest moment: Sutherland chases a small figure in a red coat through Venice at night, convinced it's his dead daughter. Let's just say, it's not.

THE OMEN (1976)

The stark, nihilistic tone of '70s horror reached its peak in this unrelentingly eerie tale of Biblical prophecies, death by photography and the devil-child Damien, protected from all attempts to destroy him by Satanic sects and dark forces. The menacing choral soundtrack alone was terrifying enough without the self-sacrificing nannies, speared priests and secret scalp 666s.

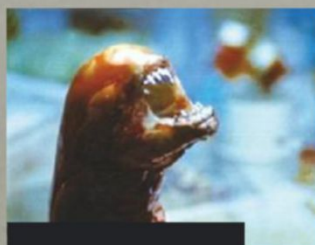
Scariest moment: It might be pretty rough by the standard of today's special effects, but the decapitation of photographer Keith Jennings is teased and signposted so masterfully it remains one of the most memorable deaths in horror history.



THE EXORCIST (1973)

William Friedkin's controversial possession flick – in which a young Linda Blair (playing Regan) degenerated into a foul-mouthed, goop-puking, head-spinning demon's plaything – cut so close to the bone that some cinemas provided vomit bags. The home video was effectively banned in the UK for over a decade.

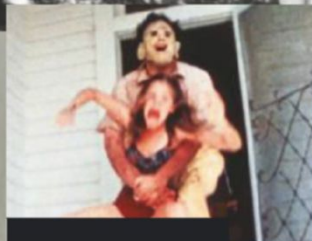
Scariest moment: Regan stabbing herself in the groin with a crucifix while her head spins around, swearing like Shaun Ryder in pain, is still one of the most shocking scenes in cinema.



ALIEN (1979)

The slow stalking and slaughter of the crew of the Nostromo by a slimy alien git with deadly piston-penis teeth is arguably cinema's greatest ever masterclass in ratcheting tension and less-is-more gore. In space, everyone now worries about indigestion.

Scariest moment: Hunting the alien through the Nostromo's duct system with only a Pac-Man dot tracking the creature's location and the flamethrower on his rifle to see by, Captain Dallas takes the wrong ladder, turns round and – bosh! – he's xenomunch.



THE TEXAS CHAIN SAW MASSACRE (1974)

The epitome of the '70s video nasty and the origin of the hulking masked psychopath, *The Texas Chain Saw Massacre* is surprisingly low on gore, but its grainy realism and sheer intensity as a bunch of young chainsaw-fodder fall foul of Leatherface and his cannibal family sparked *Empire* to call it "the most purely horrifying horror movie ever".

Scariest moment: Leatherface popping up in a doorway, clubbing Kirk to the ground and slamming the metal door shut behind him, all to the sound of squealing pigs.

And 3 of the creepiest soundtracks

To pop on the decks at your weird-ass party

THE WICKER MAN (1973)

Robin Hardy's pagan horror, revolving around a creepy community living on a remote island, is soundtracked by weirdy-beardy folk music. And so, Paul Giovanni and Magnet's score is made up of tracks such as 'Corn Rigs', an intricate, acoustic song that begins, "*It was upon a Lammas night / When corn rigs are bonny*". The key tune is 'Willow's Song', sung by the landlord's daughter (Britt Ekland) while trying to seduce Edward Woodward's puritanical policeman. It's taken on a life of its own and has been covered by artists as diverse as The Mock Turtles, Sneaker Pimps and former Belle And Sebastian member Isobel Campbell.

DAWN OF THE DEAD (1978)

On which zombie maestro George A. Romero worked with Italian prog-rock band Goblin, who soundtracked Dario Argento's 1977 movie *Suspiria*, to provide the krautrock-influenced sounds for this 1978 classic. Moving from motorik beats and whirring synths to ominous drones, there's menace in this music.

ERASERHEAD (1977)

The soundtrack to David Lynch's surrealist horror film *Eraserhead* only contains two pieces of music. One is snatches of organ music by Fats Waller. The other is 'In Heaven (Lady In The Radiator Song)', which was written for the film. It's a simple song, with a slow and steady organ line droning under the lady in the radiator singing "*In heaven, everything is fine / You got your good things and I got mine*". It's as intriguing as the film itself. Check out the Pixies version for ultimate doom vibes.

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San Miguel have been exploring the world since 1890. Throughout our journey we have discovered more legacy makers like Takashi who share our thirst for exploration, creativity and new experiences. This unique collection of inspirational people form the San Miguel Rich List. Discover who they are at SanMiguel.co.uk/RichList



**EXPLORING
THE
WORLD
SINCE
1890**



JK DENIM Inventor of the Pennywise cake

Favourite reaction to the cake?

"Most of my audience on YouTube are young, and I think I made it too scary. A lot of them are like, 'Please don't make another one of these'."

Why Pennywise?

"Because I loved the movie. I loved how his eyes were going in different directions. I love the pointed smile. And his laugh is terrifying."

Is this one of your best?

"Yeah, because I'd never really carved a face before, and that was daunting, because you have to get so many of the features correct. I'm really proud of it."

Do you practise before you bake?

"Oh man, no! That's the beauty of YouTube. You don't have the luxury to do things multiple times."

Other Halloween cakes currently in the works?

"I wanna do Annabelle the doll, and a ghost and a pumpkin. I don't want to terrify my audience. I want to give them something to look forward to."

What's your favourite cake so far?

"This might be it. Most of my other character cakes were all flat, because I was too scared to take on a realistic form, but now I'm constantly thinking about how I can create something three-dimensional."



Monster munch

JK Denim, AKA baking vlogger Koalipops, is a cake genius. He's done Beyoncé. He's done Baby Groot. And he's done this deliciously evil Pennywise from *It*, for your pleasure

How to make JK's evil clown cake:



1 Start with a red velvet cake base, because blood. Probably just buy one.



2 If you *didn't* buy a ready-made cake: cut in half, fill cake with buttercream.



3 If you *did* buy a ready-made cake: trim into the shape of Pennywise's head using a template.



4 Etch out his facial features. Denim had to go out for two walks while doing this because it scrambled his head. Making scary clown cakes ain't easy. Add white fondant icing and mould into creepy clown hair and creepy clown grin.



5 Add orange fondant icing to colour the creepy clown hair, and pink for Pennywise's "juicy bottom lip".



6 Create the eyes, hair and mouth using edible paint.



7 Finally, add some creepy homemade fondant eyes.

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Last W33K IN NUMBERS



61

Number of tattoos Justin Bieber now has, after revealing this monster on Instagram.



\$50,000

Worth of goods nicked from Mariah Carey's mansion last week. All she wants for Christmas is NEW STUFF.



11

People KFC follow on Twitter: all five Spice Girls, six men called Herb. Eleven herbs and spices. Genius.



£20 million

Amount Adele's reportedly been offered for a year-long residency in Vegas. Hello.

Line-up announced for CineJam Manchester

NME and Zig-Zag
present CineJam
Manchester, an evening
of music and film

ON TUESDAY DECEMBER 12, NME and Zig-Zag present CineJam will take over the Manchester venue Band on the Wall for an evening of music and film.

There'll be a screening of Michael Winterbottom-directed cult film *24 Hour Party People*, starring Steve Coogan as Manchester music legend Tony Wilson.

This will be followed by



live performances from ones-to-watch False Advertising and local art-pop heroes Everything Everything. It's gonna be mega.

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Higgs, Alex Robertshaw,
Jeremy Pritchard



Steve Coogan and
Shirley Henderson
in *24 Hour
Party People*



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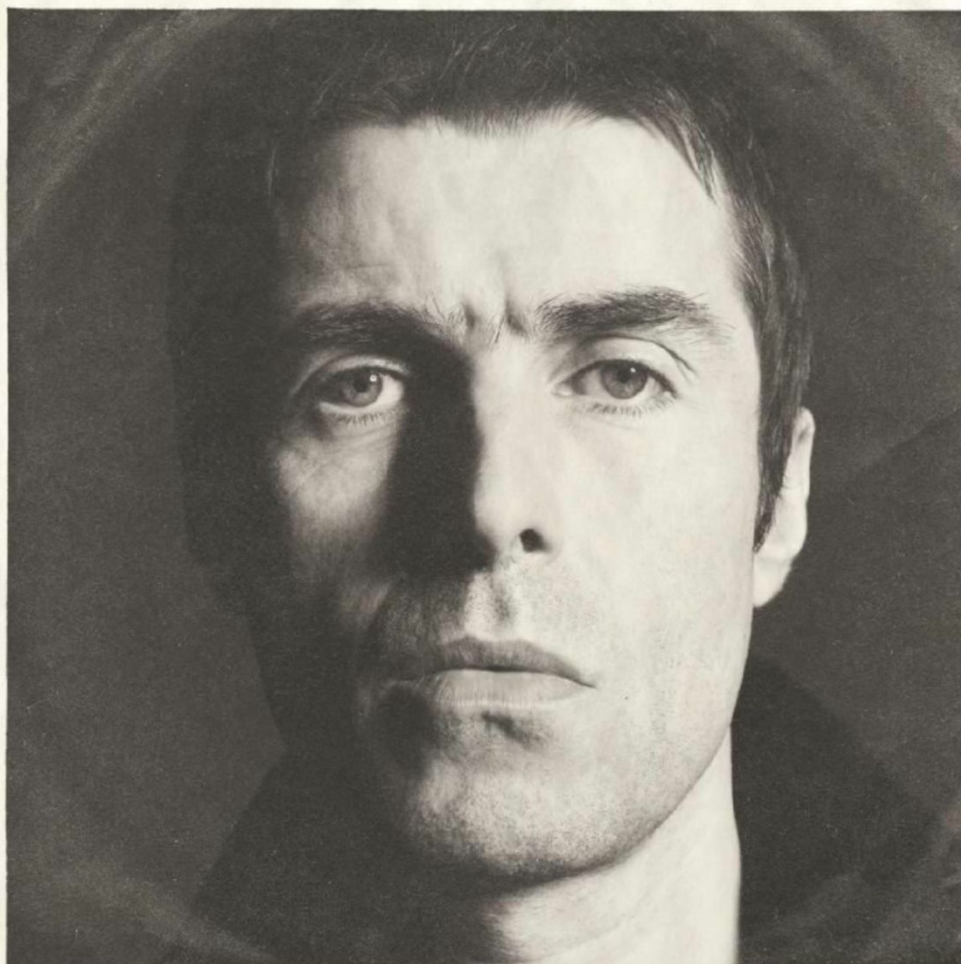
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- Get yourself heard by the NME team
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THIS WEEK

#JusticeForJanet is further proof the entertainment industry is sexist AF

DOES IT EVER FEEL LIKE you're banging your head against a brick wall? Like nothing you say or do is seen, heard or even, like, vaguely noticed in passing? Well then welcome to 2017, the year in which sexual harassment and double standards are as widespread as avocado toast on brunch menus. Following the Harvey Weinstein revelations and the devastatingly prevalent #MeToo hashtag comes news that Justin Timberlake will be headlining next year's NFL Super Bowl halftime show in the US. It might not seem immediately obvious what this has to do with all-pervasive sexism, but blow the misogyny-ridden dust off the surface and it shows us yet another serious flaw in the way the entertainment industry sees and deals with women. Justin Timberlake, you see, was the falsetto-singing, sharp-suited man responsible for Janet Jackson's infamous 'wardrobe malfunction', after he

ripped off part of her top and exposed her nipple during the pair's 2004 Super Bowl show. The NFL has denied reports that Janet was given a lifetime ban – but it's Justin who's been invited back for seconds, with the red carpet well and truly rolled out, and Janet having nothing to show for it bar a #JusticeForJanet hashtag.

Women's bodies are battlegrounds. When they're not being overly sexualised on and off the screen in Hollywood, they're being harassed on streets, public transport and in homes and offices throughout the world. Then, such as in the case of Janet Jackson, they're shamed for what happened to

"What's so offensive about the female nipple anyway?"



Janet Jackson's 2004 'wardrobe malfunction'

them, as well as being the victim. It doesn't seem *entirely* fair, does it? Who knows if Janet Jackson even *wants* to go back to the Super Bowl, but the fact that one of the biggest artists in the world has seemingly been shunned – they did the same to fellow XX chromosome-owner M.I.A. for flicking the finger back in 2012 – shows a severe bias against one sex in particular. It's the owner of the breasts that must be punished, rather than the person whose action caused one of them to momentarily pop out.

As the 'Free The Nipple' gender equality campaign so sensibly pointed out when it launched in 2012, what's so

damn offensive about the female nipple anyway? Roughly half the world's population has them, they provide food and nutrition for babies as well as pleasure and places to hang bits of jewellery from for grown-ups. In fact, nipples are so awesome that in an ideal world there'd be giant shrines to the nurturing, magical things that they are. However, this is very much not an ideal world. People on Twitter are calling for the balance to be redressed and for Janet also to be invited to perform at 2018's halftime show. If we were Janet, we'd only do it if we could go wearing a giant nipple costume. @leoniemaycooper

PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

SAM TAYLOR'S SLIME ZONE NUMBER ONE HUNDRED! IT'S PARTY TIME!



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The fight for equality is far from over. Whatever you do and however you do it, it's time to come out in support of LGBT. Join us. Search #ComeOutForLGBT.



THINGS WE LIKE

HALLOWEEN SPECIAL

THIS WEEK'S OBJECTS OF DESIRE



Feet first
Stance's 'Michael Jackson's Thriller' collection of socks features this spooky pair.
£14.99 selfridges.com



Lantern love
Get super-seasonal with this bright orange pumpkin pal that's a pendant.
£35 tattydevine.com



Demon doll
The Conjuring's Annabelle Pop! Vinyl bobblehead is just as freaky as the original.
£14.99 *in-store and* hmv.com



Spider snack
Krispy Kreme's seasonal doughnuts include a cobweb-covered chocolate nom-fest.
£1.90 krispykreme.co.uk



Clowning around
Grab your official *It* and Pennywise garms from the NME Merch store.
£15.95 nmemerch.com



Bone yard
Rock'n'roll jewellers The Great Frog have been making sick skull rings since 1972.
£110 thegreatfroglondon.com



Vamp stamp
Go full goth this Halloween with this epic Victoriana lace collar.
£32 regalrose.co.uk



Devil design
This pentagram shelf is straight out of a Satanic special of *Grand Designs*.
£94.95 disturbia.co.uk



Child's play
Scare yourself silly with *Cult Of Chucky*, out now on DVD.
£6.99 amazon.co.uk



Kiss of death
Urban Decay's Vice lippy in Blackmail is a must for the creepiest night of the year.
£15.50 harveynichols.com



Rum deal
The Kraken black spiced rum will add a tasty bit of doom to your drink.
£23.50 tesco.com



Glow show
Glow-in-the-dark skateboards are perfect for trick-or-treating.
£89.99
pennyskateboards.com/uk



Here's Johnny
The Pop! Vinyl figure of *The Shining's* Jack Torrance comes with its own axe.
£14.99 *in-store and* hmv.com



Silk style
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IN PARTNERSHIP WITH INSTAX

What's ON your Headphones?

THIS WEEK

Bristol

< SPENCER HITCHINGS

22, barrister's clerk

Listening to:
QUESTION MARK & THE MYSTERIANS
Midnight Hour

"It's got an organ, a keyboard, it's '60s rock'n'roll – exactly what I love."

Wearing: Coat from eBay, Modclothin suit.

Best thing about Bristol:

"There are always good bands playing here."

If you could take an instax of any musician, who would it be?

Joe Strummer

< OLIVIA TAYLOR-ABREU

26, project manager

Listening to:

LSB

Content

"I'm a drum'n'bass head through and through."

Wearing: Marks & Spencer jacket, Primark top and trousers, Lowe Alpine bag, Vans trainers.

Best thing about Bristol:

"It's the drum'n'bass hub of the UK."

If you could take an instax of any musician, who would it be? DRS

JEROME GAMBLE >

24, guitar teacher

Listening to:
DANIEL CAESAR FEAT. KALI UCHIS
Get You

"His vocal range is pretty amazing."

Wearing: Zara jacket, Topman shirt, trousers from a charity shop.

Best thing about Bristol:

"It's got all of the amazing diversity of London condensed into a walkable distance."

If you could take an instax of any musician, who would it be?

Anderson .Paak

JENNIE HARRIS >

20, bartender

Listening to:
HINDI ZAHRA
Ahiawa

"It's so peaceful. It fixed my hangover."

Wearing: Urban Outfitters jacket, Topman jumper and trousers.

Best thing about Bristol:

"It's colourful and it's home."

If you could take an instax of any musician, who would it be?

Jimi Hendrix

"Good bands play here"

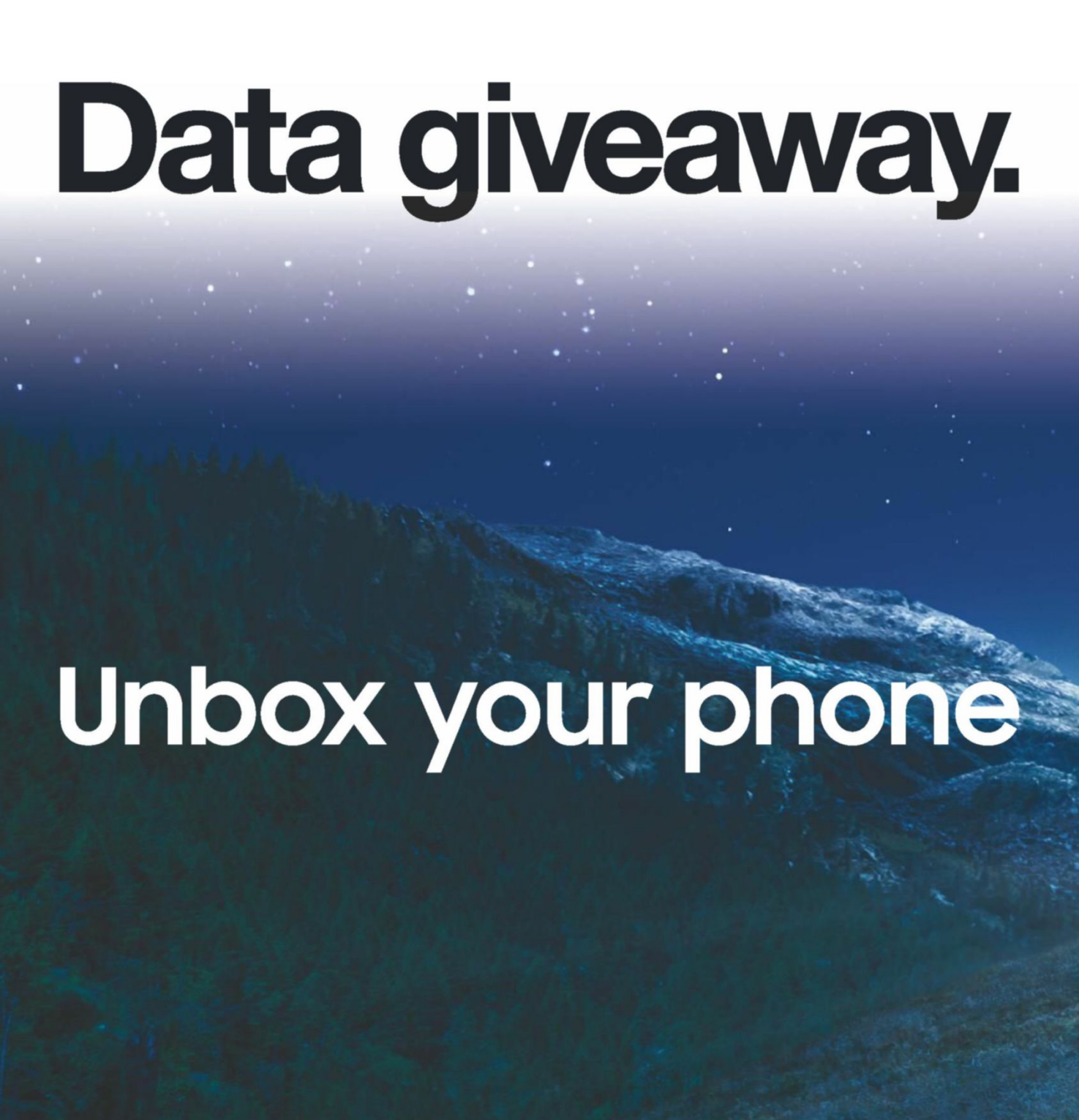


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STRANGER THINGS 2

Life

episode

with

Stranger Things made megastars of its young cast. As *Stranger Things 2* hits screens, Larry Bartleet meets them to talk fans, filming and the “wonderful disaster” of their friendship



L-r: Noah Schnapp (Will), Finn Wolfhard (Mike), Gaten Matarazzo (Dustin), Caleb McLaughlin (Lucas)

THERE'S WATER everywhere, and an illuminating tiff is unfolding between three of the stars of *Stranger Things*. We've just sat down in a central London hotel, and Caleb McLaughlin (Lucas) is pouring some San Pellegrino for the four of us – but he's goofing around, spilling it everywhere and splashing his co-stars. "I'm drenched!" yells Noah Schnapp (Will). Gaten Matarazzo (Dustin) sighs, a fistful of napkins in hand; mopping up the spillage, he grasps his own glass and smiles to Caleb, "Thank you, I appreciate you making this terrible mess." I ask about the first day they met each other, and Gaten deadpans, "We've always hated each other."

The three of them act like brothers: the tight dynamic between them is as

authentic in real life as it feels on screen. Noah is wide-eyed, eager; Gaten authoritative and wry; Caleb a fidgety joker. We're here to talk the spooky nostalgia-trip of *Stranger Things* 2 – out today on Netflix – but it's September, and spoilers are on lockdown. Even Caleb's parents don't know the details – though that's more a sign of how much their lives have changed in the past year with the success of the show. "For season one they were more hands-on reading the script," he says. "For season two they were too busy booking flights to different places."

Mixing Stephen King scares and Spielberg wonder, *Stranger Things*' magical debut season told the tale of an unknowable alien force appearing in a 1983 Indiana community and changing its future forever. With the show's runaway success, life has imitated art for the 'Stranger Things kids', as they're collectively known: fame has knocked their lives for six,

making them the most globally recognisable group of child actors since *Harry Potter And The Philosopher's Stone* was released.

In the past year, they've rapped at the Golden Globes, sung 'Uptown Funk' at the Emmys, starred in a video by Katy Perry, and dabbed in the White House. Between them they've got 12 million Instagram followers – more than Madonna or Pharrell. A publicist informs me that the night before we speak, Caleb swapped shoes with London mayor Sadiq Khan at the GQ Awards, as part of a stunt called Strangers' Things. "Who?" Caleb asks.

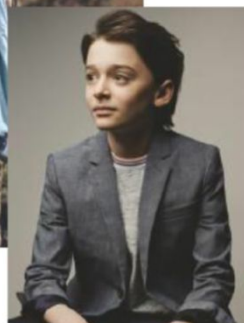
Though clearly loving the ride, they're equally wary of fame's perils – not least Gaten. "We're kids," he says. "We can't grow up too fast. We gotta remember how old we are and where we come from, so our heads don't get bigger than our bodies."

To that end, they go to ordinary schools outside





On the set of *Stranger Things 2*



"People see how much fun we have onscreen," he says, "and we are having fun filming because we love to work. But they think we have, like, waterslides on set." Reader: they don't.

The discussion turns to *Stranger Things 2* and, as expected, there's plenty of secrecy. "It was more intense," Noah offers. "Darker. Scarier. There's more of a story with Will – you learn a lot more about how the Upside Down affected him, and how he's dealing with his family and friends." Poor Will, missing for most of the first season, just wants things to be the way they were – and they most definitely aren't.

In an email, Millie highlights the surreal feel of their first day back: "It was a read-through: we were all together, and it was the craziest thing to think that our show is popular and people know who we are, compared to the first read-through for season one, when we didn't know what the show would become."

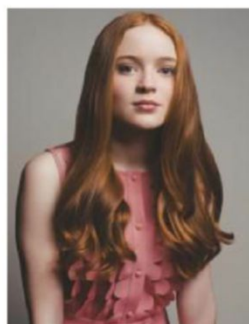
Down the line from Vancouver a couple of weeks later, Finn Wolfhard (Mike) agrees, but notes that season two felt immediately familiar, too. Shooting felt "like coming back to summer camp," he says – though he's quick to add that "the performances are so much better because everyone's grown so much".

Like the others, Finn's glad to still be in school – "You get a sense of reality, which is great for your personality," the 14-year-old jokes – and in his spare time he's formed a band called Calpurnia. "It's so much creative

freedom," he says, "the biggest creative outlet ever. It's the best." Elsewhere he's directed a music video for Californian band Spendtime Palace, performed onstage with Mac DeMarco, and is preparing to produce his own mockumentary series about a wannabe YouTuber. Basically, his ambitions are sky-high. "I wanna do both music

of filming, where Caleb is accosted for *Stranger Things 2* tidbits and Gaten gets grossed out by his very teenage classmates. "I find myself talking to the teachers more, because I just have better conversations with them," he says. "At lunch with the kids, one kid would say something and I'd be like, 'What is *wrong* with you? What is going on in your brain?' Teenagers are gross."

When they're apart, the kids talk about "dumb stuff" on a group chat called Stranger Texts, and during filming they're together constantly. Three teachers manage the six kids' various school curricula between shoots, and filming itself is a blast, they say. It's worth rewatching the first episode's *Dungeons & Dragons* scene to see them struggling through their giggly first day on set. "We could not talk for anything," Caleb recalls. "Literally every line was stifled laughter. You can see our faces were..." Noah finishes:



"Fans have got the wrong idea. They think I'm a bad guy"

SADIE SINK

"Tensing." Kids-only scenes are the funniest, then? "All of us together is like a disaster," says Caleb. Gaten corrects him: "A wonderful disaster."

A particularly wonderful disaster – or disastrous wonder, perhaps – is one of the pranks executed by Noah and Millie Bobby Brown (Eleven) during season one's filming. Noah tells a toe-curling story about the pair of them pranking a costume designer and saying her wedding venue had been double-booked. "She started freaking out," he says. "Her face got all red and she was about to cry so we went up to her and told her." Gaten is indignant: "It's sadistic. Terrible. The worst thing you could ever do. Oh my goodness gracious."

There's not much practical joking on the set itself, though, says Caleb. "The set isn't a pranking area, because it's work." He's tired of the perception that their job is an unending Catherine wheel of zany distractions:

"Stranger Things 2 is darker. Scarier. More intense"

NOAH SCHNAPP



"Shooting Stranger Things 2 was like going back to summer camp"

FINN WOLFHARD

The story so far...

A recap of season one

WILL DISAPPEARS, ELEVEN ARRIVES

A monster nicknamed the 'Demogorgon' kidnaps Will Byers in a dimension known as the Upside Down, just as a mysterious, telekinetic girl named Eleven arrives in his hometown of Hawkins, Indiana.

EVIL SCIENTISTS COVER UP THEIR MISTAKES

Murderous lab scientists are on the hunt for Eleven; it is revealed that she grew up in their care, after being born with powers. They forced her to make contact with the Demogorgon, in doing so unleashing it on Hawkins.

THREE TEAMS FORM

They are: Police Chief Hopper and Will's mum Joyce; older teens Nancy, Jonathan and Steve; plus Eleven and Will's friends Lucas, Mike and Dustin. Each group tries to rescue Will and conquer the Demogorgon.

ELEVEN TAKES DOWN THE DEMOGORGON

Eleven defeats the monster in the school and disappears into the Upside Down. It's suggested that she may not have gone for good. The now-rescued Will coughs up a slug-like creature.

and acting," he says, "and I also want to direct and write and stuff." In addition to all that, Finn recently appeared in the horror smash *It* – and he says it felt even bigger than *Stranger Things*.

"There was already a set fanbase," he says, "so... a lot more people to please."

Sadie Sink would probably disagree with this last point. In a separate call from New York, the 15-year-old – a brand new addition to the *Stranger Things* cast – reveals fans on social media have given a decidedly cool reaction to her character, Max, without having seen her in a single scene. "Fans have got the wrong idea," she says.

"They think I'm going to be a bad guy or something, but they just need to chill and wait. I think she's cool."

Max is a suspicious redheaded skater who's just moved to the fictional town of Hawkins, Indiana, and who becomes drawn into the kids' circle. For now, that's all Sadie can say. "It's excruciating," she says. True, it's not much to go on, but haters should take it from Millie: "It's really nice to have another girl on set and in the group."

Like Finn, Sadie compares the set to summer camp. "You're with each other every day, you form these incredible bonds," she says. "You can't match that experience." After joining the cast last October, Sadie has seen her co-stars' intense rise to fame firsthand. She explains, "During filming, all the awards shows were going on. The kids were travelling everywhere. I was like, 'Wow, I guess that's what it's going to be like.' It's prepared me for what's to come. Maybe at Halloween I'll see a few tacky red wigs and skateboards..."

As we touch on the topic of fame back in London with the others, Gaten says, "I don't like the F-word." Musing on the nature of celebrity itself, he continues, "You're called a celebrity, but that's just an unnecessary label for a bunch of completely different lines of work."

He's right, but that doesn't lessen their fame. At school, their celebrity has resulted in them regularly being asked for selfies, and in Gaten's case, getting offered first place in the



"We didn't know what the show would become"

MILLIE BOBBY BROWN

lunch line. "That made me want to go to the back of the line," he says. "I don't get why people think that we deserve more than them."

Then there's the overwhelming whirl of fan interaction at Comic-Cons globally, where people dress as their characters. "I see a lot of Dustins," says Gaten – whose character inspired even comedian Amy Schumer's Halloween costume last year. "I really appreciate it, but it's weird talking to someone who's dressed up as you,

man." Caleb's experience has been different. "There's always a rare Lucas. I've never said this, but it almost makes me want to cry sometimes, because it's like, 'Wow, people are really dressed up as my character.'"

In some ways the fame is great, Caleb thinks. "People that are the same colour as me say, 'You give me inspiration,' like there could be people like them onscreen. That's how I used to feel. I never thought any African-American people or people of colour could be on TV. It's cool to be here." For Gaten, his celebrity gives him the opportunity to spread awareness about his condition, cleidocranial dysplasia, which is mentioned in the *Stranger Things* pilot, and affects development of teeth and collarbones in about one in a million people. He's an ambassador for CCD Smiles, a charity that gives people with the condition access to medical help. "I respect the Duffer Brothers for letting me talk about it on the show," he says.

For Noah – the youngest of the lot, at 13 – fame has provided huge pinch-yourself moments. Watching the cast's acceptance of the Best Ensemble Award at the 2017 SAG Awards, it's not hard to believe him when he calls it "the best night of my life". He continues, "It didn't feel real. I thought I was in a dream. I was speechless. You're on the stage in front of these huge celebrities who have been acting their whole lives, and they're world phenomena. I couldn't fall asleep. I was so happy. It was like a smile you can't get rid of." Finn says the same: "We were in



"All of us together is a wonderful disaster"

CALEB MCLAUGHLIN

New kids on the block

Get to know the characters joining *Stranger Things* 2



MAX

15-year-old Sadie Sink stars as this redheaded tomboy. She's just moved to Hawkins from San Diego and ruffles the kids' feathers.



BILLY

This wild character is played by 22-year-old Dacre Montgomery. Billy, Max's step-brother, starts up a douchebag rivalry with Steve.



BOB

Lord Of The Rings' Sean Astin plays Joyce's kind, nerdy new boyfriend, who runs the local RadioShack. Chief Hopper isn't a fan.



"We can't grow up too fast. We gotta remember how old we are and where we come from, so our heads don't get bigger than our bodies"

GATEN MATARAZZO

front of all of our heroes, and they were all applauding and cheering. It was nuts. That's when I knew. I was like, 'Oh man – this is big.'"

The enormity of the show makes the intimacy of its young cast truly remarkable – but one couldn't really exist without the other. "We're like a big family," Caleb says, "like brothers and sisters. We argue, we give each other a hug, we make fun of each

other. I think that's the best part." Gaten puts it differently. "My best friends are really the kids in the show right now. We understand each other. A lot."

Depending on what Netflix decides, the kids think the show could run for up to five seasons. "I don't want to start pulling for straws if we go on too long," says Caleb, "but you never know – the Duffer Brothers are great writers." However long it lasts, though, these kids will be in it together, having the time of their lives.

NME

Stranger Things 2 is on Netflix now

STEFFLON DON

“I want to make
women feel
beautiful about
themselves”



MILLION DOLLAR BABY

Beloved of her peers, Stefflon Don just signed a huge record contract and is working on an album that captures her fun, filthy and fabulous personality in all its glory. Leonie Cooper meets her

THE FIRST TIME *NME* tries to interview the UK's great hip-hop hope, it doesn't quite go to plan – she's two-and-a-half hours late thanks

to a hold-up with her "glam team".

After a swift rescheduling, Stephanie 'Stefflon Don' Allen's timekeeping is vastly improved – in fact, she even skipped out on A\$AP Rocky's party the day before because of work commitments. "I had 10 interviews yesterday and I couldn't make it," she explains, after swishing into the *NME* office with superstar swagger.

Boasting an immaculate manicure, freshly dyed red hair and a tracksuit made for looking fabulous in rather than 30 minutes on the cross-trainer, she looks a million dollars – which is appropriate seeing as that's how much she just signed her record deal with Universal for. Well, a million *pounds*, to be exact. "It's one of the biggest deals done in the UK for a long time," says the east London-based artist with a chuckle. "Since I was 19 I've said, 'I'm gonna sign for a million.'"

Now 25, she's got her wish – and she has the rap world at her feet, with a host of huge collaborations behind her and in the pipeline, including a November release with one of grime's biggest names plus Canada's biggest Anglophile, Drake. "We haven't actually been in the studio together [but] it's gonna happen," she says. "We're gonna make fire bangers." Currently working on her as yet untitled debut album ("I've got a lot of great songs!"), mooted for release next year, she's

already released one of the singles of 2017, the French Montana-featuring 'Hurtin' Me', a slab of soulful dancehall which actually sees her singing rather than rapping, placing herself in the shoes of her man's wounded ex. "I was

a singer before I was a rapper, but I was shy. If you're shy when you're singing, that's the worst combination."

No longer shy, she's definitely not prudish either – in fact, she has an admirable dedication to rudeness. 'Tight Nooki', on last year's 'Real Ting' mixtape, is blush-worthy in its explicitness. "I used to be worse, when I just started rapping, before anyone really heard me!" she explains with a grin. "It would be like, 'Damn!' Everyone in the studio would look around like, 'Did she just say that?!'"

It's refreshing to hear a woman being so outspoken about how sex and female empowerment runs deep throughout her music and world view. "I feel like there should be someone to stick up for women and make them feel good and beautiful about themselves," she says. "I feel like a lot of

men are not taking that role any more and just degrading us. If you can look for love within yourself and also from another female artist, that's sick. You don't need it from a male artist."

That attitude runs to her shows too. At this summer's Wireless Festival she was joined by 50 women from the crowd, creating a booty-shaking safe space for her female-strong fanbase. "I just say, 'Girls, get onstage,' and they all just start running at me and climbing over stuff. It's a lit moment."

With her own record label imprint courtesy of Universal ("They knew I wasn't signing, so they tried to just throw me anything!"), Steff also directs all her own videos, including for '16 Shots', which sees her own mother kidnapped. "She loved it! She loves to be the star. When I do a song I can automatically see the video and see what needs to be happening."

Her forthright image has got her a lot of love online, but also her fair share of haters too. In fact, she's just been on a blocking spree, but her good friends Gucci and Versace act as her armour in the endless battle against the trolls. "When I'm dressed up I feel confident – no one can't tell me anything," she says. "I feel good, it doesn't matter what anyone says – you can't ruin my day 'cos I look good!" Haters be warned – Stefflon Don is tough, talented and ready to take over.

Don and dusted

Steff's biggest features so far

'AFTER THE AFTER PARTY (VIP REMIX)'
Charli XCX feat. Raye, Stefflon Don, Rita Ora

Steff shines on this star-powered remix of Charli's ode to a very big night indeed.

'INSTRUCTION'
Jax Jones feat. Demi Lovato and Stefflon Don

A carnival-ready tropical smash. Steff's verse injects some rowdy roughness into the glossy tune.

'LONDON'
Jeremih feat. Stefflon Don and Krept & Konan

The US R&B artist brings in the Brits for some help.

Steff's on racy form, singing, "You haffi marry the nana-na-na / Before mi ride the banana".

'BETTER'
Lil Yachty feat. Stefflon Don
Steff gets all romantic on this beach-y lovers' rock ballad.

HOW TO BE A ZOMBIE FOR HALLOWEEN

The Walking Dead is back, just in time for Halloween. Larry Bartleet flagged down professional zombie teacher Carl Rackham of Events2Scare for advice on becoming a TV-grade walker for the big day

THE LOOK

SHRED YOUR CLOTHES

Zombies are known for shabby chic. The style is easy to achieve – if you're willing to destroy your outfit

Carl says: "Use wet teabags to stain your clothes and make them look sweaty. Use a cheese grater in the areas where they would naturally start to fray and decay, such as the hems and seams."

WEAR FREAKY LENSES

Colourful contacts will make your eyes pop

Carl says: "Special-effects contact lenses come in a variety of forms. You can get plain white iris ones, full-mesh blind ones and what are called scleral ones, which cover the entire eye – but they're really hard to get in. They make your zombie look really good, white ones especially – they're just so ghostly looking. We always use a company called Hunt Or Dye."

DECAY YOUR FACE

Liquid latex and specialist make-up will make you look undead – but make sure you check for allergens

Carl says: "You don't want Rice Krispies stuck to your face. Don't cover yourself in talcum powder and jam and tomato sauce. That really doesn't make a zombie. We use prosthetics, but I wouldn't advise anyone getting hold of those – you'd be looking at about £60 or £70 worth of kit. Plus, with the adhesive we use, you could quite easily glue your eye shut! Instead, liquid latex is great to use: you can get it from a lot of retailers on eBay. Just liberally apply it with cotton wool, let it dry and then you can rip it and create wounds and gashes and bites with it. Colour-wise, a lot of people make the mistake of going for greens for zombies whereas in reality it would be more flesh tones and greys. Try special fancy-dress and make-up shops for the right sort of make-up."

An Events2Scare zombie after some brains

Dead good

Four unmissable zombie films and TV shows

**28 DAYS LATER (2002)**

Cillian Murphy stars as a coma patient waking up 28 days into zombie chaos in Danny Boyle's bleak post-apocalyptic drama. The USP? The zombies were British – and fast.

**SHAUN OF THE DEAD (2004)**

Referencing *Dawn* heavily, the first film in Edgar Wright, Simon Pegg and Nick Frost's 'Cornetto' trilogy is gritty but sweet, and shows you that vinyl records are a decent defence against zombies.

**DEAD SET (2008)**

Charlie Brooker's chilling TV drama imagined the *Big Brother* house as a safe zone amid a zombie outbreak.

**THE WALKING DEAD (2010-present)**

Based on Robert Kirkman's hugely popular comic book series, this epic show finds communities navigating the various challenges of the zombie apocalypse.

THE MOVES

SHUFFLE LIKE A DRUNK

Slow, unsteady movement is key to looking like a proper zombie

Carl says: "Being too stiff in movement is a common mistake. You want very loose arms, as though the muscles aren't actually working but they're still moving. Another classic mistake is having the arms right outstretched in front of you, the classic zombies-cum-Frankenstein move. Really, zombie movement comes back to the thing about your body dying. As a zombie, your body would be shutting down. Your muscles would be wasting away. If you can imagine it, everything's painful when you're a zombie – it's almost as though rigor mortis has set in. Perhaps your arm has broken, so it's swinging freely. Bending your leg, it feels quite stiff. It's that kind of thing. Just get that entire dead feeling in your body."



BREATHE DIFFERENTLY

You need to sound undead

Carl says: "You don't want to be groaning loudly. You want a very restricted airways-style noise. Gurgly. As a zombie, your lungs would be collapsing. It would be really hard to breathe. For this, I always do a gasp for breath, but I exaggerate that so it becomes more of a screech."



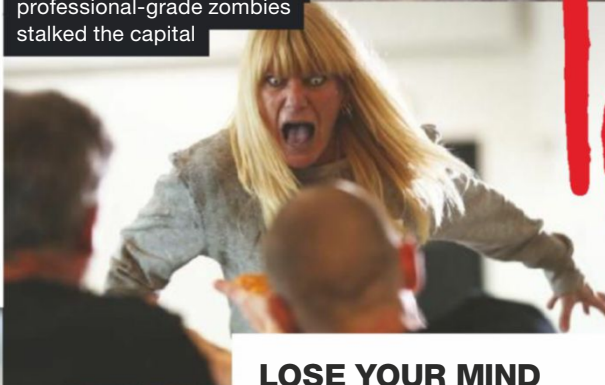
Volunteers audition for *The Walking Dead*'s 'Walkerloo' stunt last Monday, when 100 professional-grade zombies stalked the capital

LOSE YOUR MIND

Being a zombie is all about letting yourself go. Focus on the wants and feelings of your zombie

Carl says: "As a zombie you want a very vacant look – a lot of staring and tilting the head as though the zombie brain is trying to understand the environment around it. Completely shut down any external feelings. Focus on what you think the actual character of a zombie would be feeling. Zombies have a basic instinct of survival and feeding. So when I'm zombie-acting that is literally what I do: I switch off to everything else. When I'm doing it, everybody is a potential meal to me." **NME**

The Walking Dead season eight airs Mondays on FOX





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RADAR

THIS WEEK'S ESSENTIAL NEW RELEASES

Best NEW tracks

And when to drop them

BEST FOR GOING GOTH

MGMT

Little Dark Age

MGMT go all Depeche Mode on this icy, 1980s synth song.

BEST FOR THE EX FILES

LIAM PAYNE

Bedroom Floor

The One Directioner gets tropical with an upbeat ode to a broken relationship.

BEST FOR DARK DAYS

TOM WALKER

Leave A Light On

Ed Sheeran meets James Bay on this bombastic, emotive look at the darker side of life.

BEST FOR FEELING FUNKY

LOW ISLAND

The Lines

Sad about Wild Beasts splitting? Then get your ears around Oxford's Low Island and their sultry electro-indie.

BEST FOR GETTING SPOOKY

TRENT REZNOR

John Carpenter's Halloween

The Nine Inch Nails man has reworked the iconic horror film theme just in time for October 31st.

BEST FOR CRUSHING OUT

TAYLOR SWIFT

Gorgeous

Taylor embraces her latest topic of unrequited love, singing the praises of the hottest person in the club over bouncing beats.

BEST FOR GETTING ROMANTIC

FRANK TURNER

There She Is

The first track from Frank's upcoming 2018 album, this open-hearted love song sees the songwriter on tender form.

BEST FOR APOLOGISING

NF

Let You Down

Like Eminem with a millennial twist, this US chart-topper is about to be massive.

BEST FOR ROAD TRIPS

BRIAN FALLON

Forget Me Not

The Gaslight Anthem frontman turned solo songwriter does his rollicking Americana to perfection on this new album teaser.

BEST FOR MOODY NIGHTS

CONNIE CONSTANCE

Let Go

Lush, piano-driven soul from the up-and-coming vocalist, who's channelling Sade at her most laid-back.



FOR MORE NEW MUSIC,
GO TO NME.COM

MUSIC



\$o-\$o

This sequel to the hot-shot producer's 2012 mixtape has its moments, but doesn't quite reach its potential

TY DOLLA \$IGN *Beach House 3*



SEQUEL TRAP MATURITY

TY DOLLA \$IGN has a reputation: he's the ace writer and producer (credits include a co-write on Rihanna, Kanye and Paul McCartney's 'FourFiveSeconds') whose own output – crisp hip-hop with a pop gloss – is fantastically filthy in its preoccupation with sex and promiscuity. The 'Beach House' franchise started with a well-received 2012 mixtape and the 32-year-old reckons that this second sequel (there was also 2014's

standalone spin-off 'Beach House EP') is more mature and, naturally, "way better" than its predecessors.

The album opens with a curveball. 'Famou\$' is built around lilting acoustic guitar, over which the singer laments those who seek overnight success but "*ain't worried 'bout who they steppin' on*", showcasing honeyed tones and a falsetto that would see him fast-tracked to judges' houses on *The X Factor* if he were more

inclined to short-cuts. The careerist theme continues on 'Lil Favorite', a more conventional Ty track on which our randy hero vows to give his prolific romancing

a rest and "*focus on my life*".

Most of the album's 20 tracks (many of which exploit the \$ symbol with admirable gusto) stick to a formula – languid yet pounding bass, trap beats and woozy autotuned vocals – and his commitment to this sound can render 'Beach House 3' a little exhausting. The result

is that even Future's compelling appearance on the hooky 'Don't Judge Me' loses impact and, despite the presence of heavyweight guest vocalists Pharrell Williams and Wiz Khalifa, 'Stare' sounds like business as usual.

Ty Dolla \$ign's potential is clear on the occasional track, such as '\$o Am I', a reggae-influenced bop produced by Skrillex (sadly not credited as Skrillex) and with Damian Marley on vocal duties. Elsewhere, the impressive 'Me\$\$age In A Bottle' is a melancholic waltz through booze-fuelled regret. Lyrically, 'Beach House 3' is a step away from the musician's satin-sheeted comfort zone, but we may have to wait for 'Beach House 4' to see him truly come of age. **Jordan Bassett**



TY DOLLA \$IGN Rapper, producer, lover

Tell us about your new album, 'Beach House 3'.

"It's my best work to this date. It's about my life right now and, no, it's not as vulgar [as my previous work]. I'm growing up and the music's growing up. The lyrics are getting way better. My daughter's definitely paying attention, so I had to boss it up. Hopefully it'll cross over to the people and they'll love it too."

What was it like, working with Skrillex on '\$o Am I' (featuring Damian Marley)?

"I sampled Skrillex and [his collaborator] Zedd on 'My Cabana'. So that was the sample of Skrillex; now it's the real Skrillex production. It was dope working with him. I've got a lot of respect for him because I work with a lot of producers and you'll find out later that they had somebody else playing the keys, or even did the whole track and just put their name on it. But he does the beat, makes the edits, mixes and masters the record – the full s**t. Much love and respect to Skrillex."

It's at this point in an interview that you're usually asked something about sex...

"People often ask me about sex and I think that comes from my music. I have a lot of sex music, a lot of music that people have sex to. S**t, man, I'm your guy. I'll tell you exactly what you need to know about sex."

FOR FANS OF



KANYE WEST



FUTURE

Endless summer

Two decades after hitting pop-punk stardom, these geeks are still chasing the same sweet highs

WEEZER

Pacific Daydream



NOSTALGIA NERDS ANTHEMS



IT'S 23 YEARS SINCE Weezer gave geeks a voice with awkward anthems 'Buddy Holly', 'Undone - The Sweater Song' and 'Say It Ain't So'. As such, they could easily have passed by the current generation of pop-punk fans. For them still to be at it, daft as ever, brings to mind the meme-friendly Steve Buscemi 30 Rock scene, where he crashes a high school in a backwards baseball cap and greets pupils with "How do you

do, fellow kids?"

In their heyday, Weezer managed to distil the spirit of adolescence, and 11th album 'Pacific Daydream' sees them achieve the same feat. Opener 'Mexican Fender' perfectly captures their knack for sounding unforced and refreshingly unpretentious. 'Summer Of '69' for millennials, it's the ultimate Weezer rush of nostalgia, where frontman Rivers Cuomo explains how he became the poster boy for nervous guys who come to fix the printer, but could actually shred like Brian May.

Beyond that, they cover the full, colourful spectrum of pop, viewed through the prism of emo - from the West Coast hip-hop bounce and EDM hooks of 'Feels Like Summer' to the late-'90s R&B swagger of 'Happy Hour'. Nerd anthem 'QB Blitz' is another highlight, standing out like a Bieber-

stamped ballad, only one about algebra. While it's missing the one true moshpit unifier that they tend to excel in, 'Pacific Daydream' is packed with pleasures that never feel guilty.

Age clearly hasn't wearied Weezer. While they remain an institution of college rock, they're not burdened by any of the baggage that comes with it. 'Pacific Daydream' is all carefree, expertly crafted pop, free of irony and all the better for it. Lock the doors, crack open a cold one, and enjoy an endless summer with Weezer.

Andrew Trendell

Best track

'SWEET MARY'

Getting by on a Brian Wilson-style, sweeping charm, this is up there with Weezer's most heartfelt moments.

ALBUM
OF THE
WEEK



L-r: Brian Bell, Patrick Wilson, Rivers Cuomo, Scott Shriner

FILM

La dolce vita

Call Me By Your Name is a towering love story set in '80s Italy

CALL ME BY YOUR NAME

15 Armie Hammer, Timothée Chalamet



LOVE DOUBT COMING-OF-AGE

A CLIP FROM THIS intoxicating '80s romance recently went viral: it finds Armie Hammer's character losing himself to The Psychedelic Furs' 'Love My Way', but Twitter users edited it to show Armie dancing to everything from Lorde's 'Green Light' to Queen's 'Bohemian Rhapsody'. It's a total joy, and the film is filled with perfect moments just like it.

Adapted from André Aciman's 2007 novel of the same name, *Call Me By Your Name* is a coming-of-age story detailing the first love of one Elio Perlman (Timothée

Chalamet). Elio is a precocious 17-year-old whose parents own a villa in Italy; each summer they welcome a new grad student, and in 1983, that student is a 24-year-old American dreamboat named Oliver (Armie Hammer). Everyone falls in love with him immediately – but not Elio.

Under Hammer and Chalamet's superb central performances, we see Elio's attitude towards Oliver develop from dislike to infatuation; before their affair can begin he inevitably falls victim to frustration, overthinking and the reanalysis of his own prejudices. The film goes on to suggest that

the pair are soulmates, but the one-sided portrayal of Elio's experience up to this point makes for an immersive, resonant thrill: it's ecstasy bound inextricably with torment.

Director Luca Guadagnino unfurls the relationship with a tantalising slowness, plenty of tracking shots and a heady setting that shrugs at its own richness. You can almost smell the aroma of August's overburdened Italian orchards.

Though a strangely touching scene involving a peach will be for many the film's most memorable moment, its true climax is in a conversation between Elio and his father (Michael Stuhlbarg). It stresses the beauty and worthiness of love even in the face of loss – and all without a hint of schmaltz. A towering achievement. **Larry Bartleet**



L-r: Elio (Timothée Chalamet), Oliver (Armie Hammer)



Laugh until your ribs are Thor

The funniest Marvel movie so far

THOR: RAGNAROK

12A Chris Hemsworth, Tom Hiddleston



MARVEL COMEDY

the more impressive that Marvel took a gamble on something as bizarre and downright daft as *Thor: Ragnarok*. Dumping the rule that each superhero sequel must be darker than the last, *Ragnarok* has opted to turn the brightness up to maximum. It's the most fun Marvel movie yet.

That it's so weird is down to the bold choice of director. Taika Waititi's (*What We Do In The Shadows*, *Hunt For The Wilderpeople*) lack of action experience shows a bit in *Ragnarok*, which has several fun sequences but nothing to top past Marvel films. It doesn't matter, because the film is so, so funny. It's much more a big-budget buddy comedy than a traditional superhero movie.

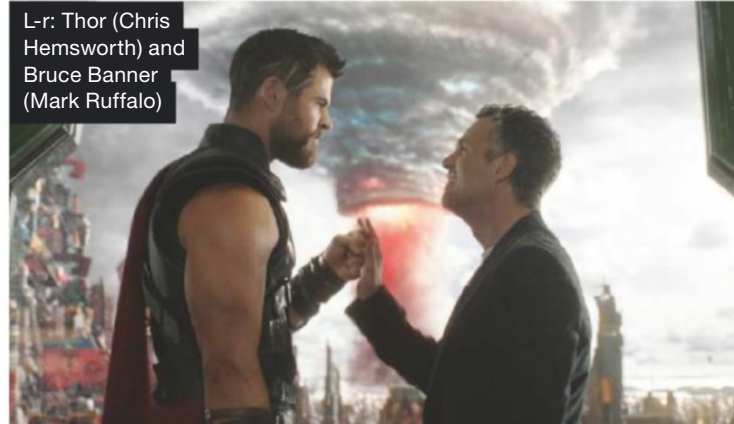
Plot details are variations on the usual: Thor (Chris Hemsworth) has to stop the goddess of death, Hela (Cate Blanchett), from destroying his

home planet, but he's trapped on a junk planet run by Jeff Goldblum. It's the treatment that's different. Waititi makes Thor's quest an absurdist lark packed with jokes. One character introduces himself as "a being made of rocks, but don't let that intimidate you... unless you're a being made of scissors". Nearly every scene has a solid laugh in it. Waititi embraces the silliness of Marvel

without making fun of it.

The change in tone asks a lot of Hemsworth, who has to pivot Thor from a semi-brooding hero to a vain, but still capable, doofus. He nails it, showing expert comic timing. Honestly, it's hard to imagine anyone coming out of this movie without a big grin on their face. If this represents a new era of Marvel taking insane chances, bring it on. **Olly Richards**

L-r: Thor (Chris Hemsworth) and Bruce Banner (Mark Ruffalo)



Under THE RADAR

YOU HEARD IT HERE FIRST

FOR FANS OF



HALSEY



KESHA

Best track

'BELLYACHE'

A twisted tale with trappy, pop beats – who knew a song about death could make you feel so alive?

STRANGE & TRUE

Her full name is pretty lengthy, but totally gnarly: Billie Eilish Pirate Baird O'Connell.

DETAILS

From: Los Angeles, USA

Social: @BillieEilish

Buy: 'Don't Smile At Me' is out now

Live: O2 Academy Islington, London (Nov 2)

Billie Eilish

Pop prodigy poised to be the next Lorde

BILLIE EILISH IS MAKING us all look really bad. Aged just 15, the LA-born pop star has already dropped her bold debut EP 'Don't Smile At Me' and is just kicking off a world tour that rolls into the UK next week. Not exactly loitering in parks, being *really* bloody lazy, like most of us were as teens. But the whole thing must be pretty daunting, right? "The attention doesn't scare me. Nothing really scares me, to be honest," she says.

Ever since she dropped her breakout viral song – the

swooning pop ballad 'Ocean Eyes' – in November 2016, that fearlessness has been infectious and blatant. Luckily it was no fluke: she and older brother and co-writing partner Finneas O'Connell (as seen in TV show *Glee*) were raring to go with a string of singles, each of which teases a performance out of Eilish that allows her to stand out from the pack.

Take 'Bellyache', for example, a trappy, mysterious anthem that's far darker than what meets the eye – which is just how she likes it. "That song is about killing people and being bipolar, but if you think

about it, there's a lot of different meanings in that song," she explains. "I'mma let you think exactly what you want that song to be about. Whatever you think it means, that's what it is."

Despite being just 15, Eilish is proving she's mature way beyond her years. She was home-schooled for most of her

teens, but is now graduated and as a result has gladly excused herself from high school's toxic faux-drama. "I spend a lot of time with adults now and sometimes I think, 'Oh my god, I need to be around teenagers'. Then I hang out with teenagers and realise 'Eew, you guys suck'."

Eilish's charismatic persona and take on the world is what makes her EP so damn intriguing. This is never more obvious than on one of her finest moments to date, the hip-hop-infused 'Copycat', a middle-finger to those who are trying to piggyback off her success. "Sometimes it's flattering when people copy you, but sometimes it gets to a breaking point," Eilish says. But it's pretty clear from the off: we've not seen anything quite like her before.

Thomas Smith

The future of music

Highlights from the innovative and inspiring Levi's Music Project in Manchester and Birmingham

LEVI'S JEANS HAVE GRACED iconic album covers including Ramones' self-titled debut and Bruce Springsteen's 'Born In The USA'. But now the brand is offering a (denim-clad) leg-up to the next generation of music stars. The Levi's Music Project corrals together some of the world's most exciting artists to provide access to music and education in communities. At last year's launch, grime titan Skepta opened a youth music studio in his hometown of Tottenham, London, and mentored 12 aspiring musicians, culminating in a live performance at the V&A. Benefiting hugely from the experience, these participants have now gone on to attain success in their own right, with Keedz even supporting Boy Better Know on tour. While the Tottenham studio remains firmly in place, the innovative scheme widened its reach, moving to the second cities of Manchester and Birmingham. In Manchester, local Mercury-nominated band Everything Everything (who released their fourth album 'A Fever Dream' in August) were keen to show how music can unite not only individuals but also communities. An existing community centre (Z-arts in Hulme) was equipped with a studio – which will remain in place in order to

benefit those in the neighbourhood who may never have had access to such facilities before – while the group imparted the secrets of their success to the fledgling young musicians. In Birmingham, MOBO-nominated rapper Mist was enlisted to help propel another group of budding artists onto the next step of their career with the help of community centre The Pump. Understanding the role local music projects play in the development of new scenes and the emergence of talent, these studios will remain in place and – with any luck – may just give birth to the next Skepta or Ramones. Here's the story of what went down.

Learn more about the Levi's Music Project at levi.com/supportmusic

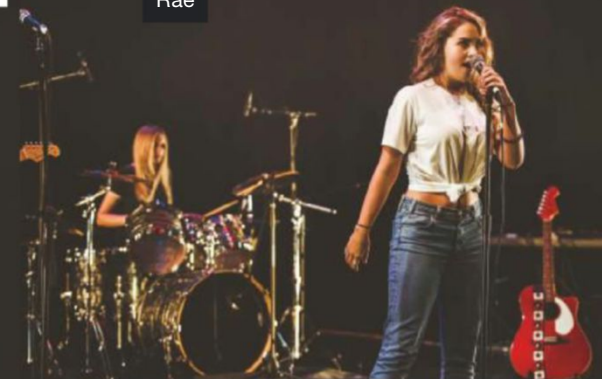


LEVI'S MUSIC PROJECT, MANCHESTER

Neda



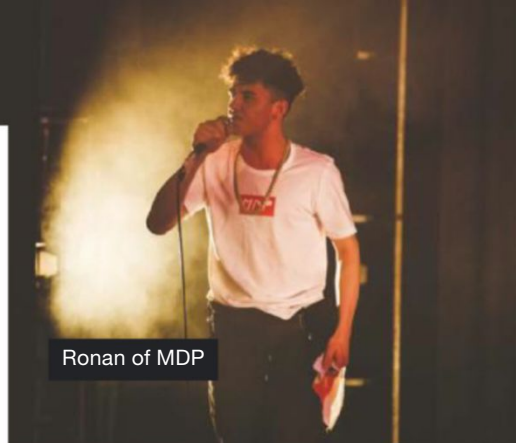
Rae



Annalise



Ronan of MDP



MDP and Talique



Harry



Everything Everything



LEVI'S MUSIC PROJECT,
BIRMINGHAM



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William the conqueror

The younger Gallagher brother is taking over north London's Finsbury Park next June

LATE LAST MONTH, LIAM Gallagher tweeted his full name – William John Paul Gallagher – and sparked an outpouring of disbelief online. In fact, so many fans doubted the truth of the Oasis man's first name that Liam replied, "Breaking news Bob Marley's real name is Robert Nesta Marley sit down you bunch of drips".

Like his withering sense of

humour, Liam's ability to sell records is in the ascendant. Released earlier this month, his solo debut 'As You Were' has already hit the 100,000 sales mark and comfortably jumped to the top of the UK Album Chart in its first week. Crammed full of Oasis-style anthems such as 'Wall Of Glass' and 'For What It's Worth', it's bound to have all of Finsbury Park roaring along when he plays there next June. The supporting line-up for the one-day event has yet to be announced, but expect rock stars aplenty. As you were.

LIAM GALLAGHER
Hilarious rock icon

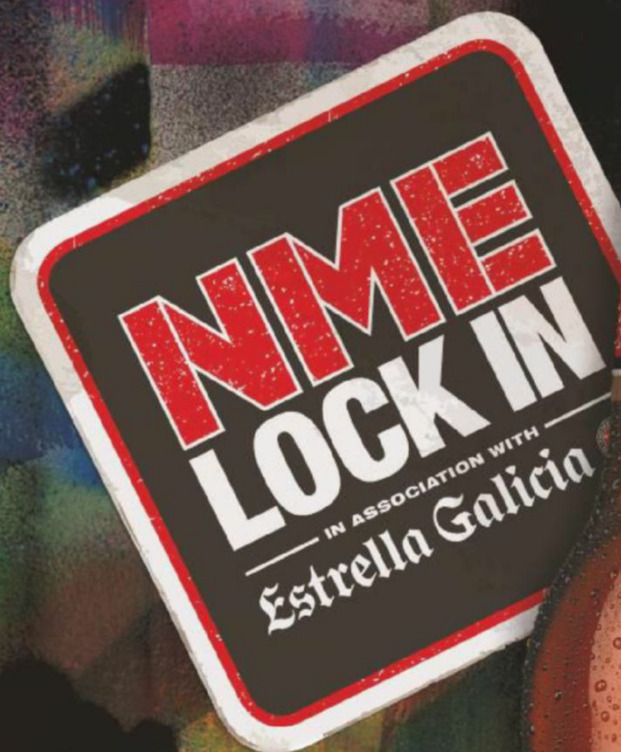
JUNE 2018
Fri 29 Finsbury Park,
London

TICKETS: £52.50-£75

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RAY BLK

BBC's Sound of 2017

DECEMBER

Sat 2 O2 Institute, Birmingham. Sun 3 Band on the Wall, Manchester. Mon 4 O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire, London.

TELL ME MORE: This south London singer has collaborated with Stormzy and Wretch 32.

TICKETS: £18.15-£22

ON SALE NOW



JULIEN BAKER

Soul-baring Tennessee songwriter

NOVEMBER

Mon 6 Colston Hall, Bristol. Tue 7 Brudenell Social Club, Leeds. Wed 8 CCA, Glasgow. Fri 10 Union Chapel, London.

TELL ME MORE:

The 22-year-old hit a new vocal peak with her latest single 'Turn Out The Lights'.

TICKETS: £16.50-17.60

ON SALE NOW

KHALID

19-year-old Calvin Harris collaborator

FEBRUARY 2018

Wed 14 & Thu 15 Eventim Apollo, London. Sat 17 Academy, Manchester. Sun 18 O2 Academy, Glasgow.

TELL ME MORE: The R&B singer went double platinum in the US with debut single 'Location'.

TICKETS: £27.50-£31

ON SALE NOW

THE WEEK'S BEST GIGS

!!! (CHK CHK CHK)

Sun 29 Brudenell Social Club, Leeds. Tue 31 Stereo, Glasgow. Wed 1 Gorilla, Manchester. Thu 2 Electric Ballroom, London.

ACTRESS

Thu 2 XOYO, London.

AJ TRACEY

Fri 27 Waterfront, Norwich. Sun 29 Academy, Manchester. Tue 31 Concorde 2, Brighton. Thu 2 O2 Institute, Birmingham.

BAYWAVES

Fri 27 Belgrave Music Hall, Leeds. Mon 30 The Joker, Brighton. Tue 31 The Old England, Bristol.

BICEP

Fri 27 Hope Works, Sheffield. Sat 28 Canal Mills, Leeds.

BIG THIEF

Wed 1 Thekla, Bristol. Thu 2 Hare & Hounds, Birmingham.

BUGZY

Malone Fri 27 Motion, Bristol. Sat 28 O2 Institute, Birmingham. Thu 2 O2 Forum, London.

CLEAN BANDIT

Sun 29 Barrowland, Glasgow. Mon 30 Corn Exchange, Cambridge. Tue 31 O2 Academy, Bournemouth. Thu 2 Eventim Apollo, London.

FATHER JOHN MISTY

Wed 1 Usher Hall, Edinburgh. Thu 2 O2 Academy, Glasgow.

FRANCIBOLLO

Fri 27 Record Junkee, Sheffield. Sat 28 King Tut's, Glasgow. Sun 29 Gullivers, Manchester. Wed 1 Bodega, Nottingham. Thu 2 Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham.

GHOSTPOET

Sat 28 Stereo, Glasgow. Sun 29 The Plug, Sheffield. Mon 30 Brudenell Social Club, Leeds. Tue 31 The Rainbow Complex, Birmingham. Thu 2 Junction, Cambridge.

GIRL RAY

Mon 30 Heebie Jeebies & EBGBS, Liverpool. Tue 31 Headrow House, Leeds. Wed 1 Gullivers, Manchester. Thu 2 Broadcast, Glasgow.

GOAT GIRL

Thu 2 Heebie Jeebies & EBGBS, Liverpool.

GOLDFRAPP

Tue 31 O2 Academy, Glasgow. Wed 1 O2 Academy & Underground, Leeds.

THE HORRORS

Sat 28 Attenborough Centre for the Creative Arts, Brighton. Sun 29 KOKO, London

J HUS

Wed 1 O2 Academy, Bristol.

JOEY BADASS

Fri 27 Liquid Room, Edinburgh.

KEVIN MORBY

Tue 31 Electric Ballroom, London.

KOJEY RADICAL

Fri 27 Deaf Institute, Manchester.

LIAM

Gallagher Mon 30 SSE Arena, Belfast. Wed 1 Metro Radio Arena, Newcastle.

LITTLE

Dragon Fri 27 & Sat 28 The Roundhouse, London. Mon 30 O2 Academy, Bristol. Wed 1 O2 ABC, Glasgow.

LOGIC

Tue 31 O2 Academy Brixton, London. Wed 1 Academy, Manchester. Thu 2 O2 Academy, Birmingham

LUCY ROSE

Wed 1 St George's, Bristol. Thu 2 Phoenix, Exeter.

MOSES

Sumney Mon 30 Komedia, Brighton. Tue 31 Islington Assembly Hall, London.

MUNA

Tue 31 Heaven, London.

NOGA EREZ

Fri 27 The Blue Moon, Cambridge. Sun 29 Esquires, Bedford.

OMD

Sun 29 Empire Theatre, Liverpool. Mon 30 Colston Hall, Bristol. Wed 1 Cliffs Pavilion, Southend-on-Sea. Thu 2 Regent Theatre, Ipswich.

THE ORIELLES

Fri 27 The Angel, Nottingham. Sat 28 Brudenell Social Club, Leeds. Tue 31 Sticky Mike's Frog Bar, Brighton. Wed 1 The Lexington, London. Thu 2 The Owl Sanctuary, Norwich.

PERFUME GENIUS

Thu 2 The Art School, Glasgow.

PHOEBE BRIDGERS

Fri 27 Unitarian Church, Brighton.

PIXX

Mon 30 The Green Door Store, Brighton. Tue 31 Bodega, Nottingham. Wed 1 Soup Kitchen, Manchester. Thu 2 The Crofters Rights, Bristol.

SUPER HANS

Thu 2 The Waterfront, Norwich.

TINCHY STRYDER

Fri 27 The Assembly, Aberdeen. Sat 28 Church, Dundee.

VANT

Fri 27 Clwb Ifor Bach, Cardiff. Sat 28 Central Station, Wrexham. Thu 2 University SU, Newcastle.

VEVO HALLOWEEN: RAG'N'BONE MAN, JP COOPER, YUNGEN

Sat 28 Victoria Warehouse, Manchester.

YONAKA

Fri 27 Hy-Brasil Music Club, Bristol. Sat 28 Muthers Recording Studio, Birmingham. Mon 30 The Wardrobe, Leeds. Tue 31 Camden Assembly, London.

ZARA LARSSON

Fri 27 Guildhall, Portsmouth. Sat 28 Cliffs Pavilion, Southend-on-Sea.

ZOLA JESUS

Sun 29 The Haunt, Brighton. Tue 31 Saint Luke's, Glasgow. Wed 1 Band on the Wall, Manchester. Thu 2 Belgrave Music Hall, Leeds.

SOUNDTRACK OF MY LIFE

Katherine Jenkins

Mezzo-soprano extraordinaire

THE SONG I WANT PLAYED AT MY FUNERAL CALON LÂN

"It's a Welsh hymn, which means to sing with a pure heart. I think I'd have a male voice choir belt that one out for me."

THE SONG THAT I CAN NO LONGER LISTEN TO IDINA MENZEL

Let It Go

"I've got a two-year-old daughter, and [*Frozen* is] such a 'girl power' film, and the song is awesome, but I've listened to it back to back! It would be nice to have a break from that."

THE FIRST SONG I CAN REMEMBER HEARING

SISTER SLEDGE
Frankie

"I was very young and I remember learning the words myself, and getting my girlfriends in my class at primary school to be in my little girlband. We'd sing it all of the time in the playground."

THE SONG I DO AT KARAOKE

JAY-Z FEAT. ALICIA KEYS
Empire State Of Mind

"It's not an obvious choice for me, but I really like to do the Jay-Z part because nobody ever guesses it, so it's my trick to shock people!"

THE SONG THAT CHANGED MY LIFE

HEN WLAD FY NHADAU
(The national anthem of Wales)

"My first big thing I did when I signed my record deal when I was 22 was to sing at the England vs Wales rugby match at the Millennium Stadium. It was absolutely terrifying; I don't think I've ever been so nervous. Somehow I got over it and tried to enjoy the moment because it was something that I'd dreamed of for a very long time."

THE SONG THAT MAKES ME WANT TO DANCE

SISTER SLEDGE
We Are Family

"It's like the Jenkins family anthem. When I won my first Classic BRIT Award we were all at the after-party – my mum had bought a coach with her from Wales so there were all the aunties and uncles there. We were all spread out and 'We Are Family' came on and suddenly there was a stampede of about 50 people because everybody knows it's our calling to get on the dancefloor."



SISTER SLEDGE

THE SONG THAT MADE ME WANT TO PERFORM

WHITNEY HOUSTON
I Will Always Love You

"I was really inspired by strong, powerful voices, and Whitney Houston was one of those, and I loved her version of the Dolly Parton song 'I Will Always Love You'. Never will anyone be able to sing it anywhere near close to Whitney's vocal, but I always remember wanting to do a classical version of it. So I wrote to Dolly Parton and asked her if I could translate it into Italian and to have an orchestral accompaniment, and she granted me the permission to be the first person in the world to do it in a foreign language!"

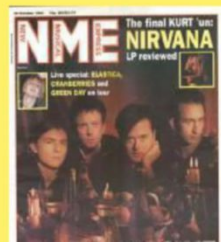
Katherine Jenkins begins her UK tour on December 1



The wisdom of the NME archives

THIS WEEK
BRETT ANDERSON
Suede
October 29, 1994

"I don't exist. Tap my head and it sounds like metal, I walk across the sun and cast no shadow."



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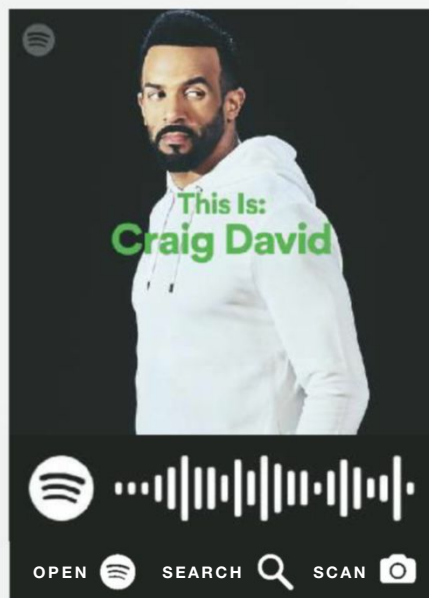


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