

NME

**MUSIC
FILM
STYLE**

**WHAT 2017
REALLY
TAUGHT US**

HOLLY-BACK GIRL!

**HOW GWEN STEFANI
DOES CHRISTMAS**

**PLUS!
CHRISTMAS
TELLY**

**AND...
NEW YEAR
INSPO**

NME

Hello...



THIS IS THE LAST ISSUE of NME of 2017, so indulge me as I reveal my personal highs and lows. Readers, I give you The Mike Williams 2017 S**t Sandwich...

There was so much good music. I spent six months insisting that 'Lust For Life' by Lana Del Rey was better than 'Green Light' by Lorde, and just at the point I changed my mind, along came 'Loving Is Easy' by Rex Orange County. And so many great films too. Blade Runner 2049 was the finest, and anyone who tells you otherwise is not to be trusted. On any matter (ever).

Unfortunately the biggest stories to come out of entertainment were the sexual assault allegations against some high-profile men. It's been dark reading, but hopefully the world is going to be fairer because of the people that have spoken out.

2017 wasn't without its darkness personally too. RIP Sandra Williams, my total badass mum who got me into music in the first place. And on a global scale, f**k you Donald Trump, the legit face of privilege and oppression.

But to end on a high, it's been a beautiful year for NME. We didn't just discover a load more amazing music that changed all of our lives, we also played a major role in this year's general election, and alongside you guys who registered and then voted, changed UK politics forever. It's the thing I'm most proud of (ever), and only in 2017 could it have been possible.

MIKE WILLIAMS
Editor-in-Chief
@itsmikelike

The NME review of *Star Wars: The Last Jedi* **p33**



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VO5 NME AWARDS 2018

Wanna come to a party?

It's on January 17. It's in London. The Big Moon are playing. You are 100% invited

SINCE NOVEMBER 17, YOU lot have been voting in the first round of VO5 NME Awards nominations, deciding who should make the shortlist for each category. The open vote closes on January 10, and to say thanks, celebrate and announce the nominees, we're gonna have a really ridiculously

excellent party. Best of all, it will feature a performance from the absolutely mega London indie trio The Big Moon who'll play tunes from their debut album 'Love In The 4th Dimension' which, according to bassist Celia Archer, brings "joy in a time when everything's going to s**t". Perfect.

The details

WHEN

Wednesday, January 17

WHERE

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TIMES

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...like Harry from Peace, who told us who he's voting for



BEST BRITISH BAND

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FOALS

"They're my Beatles. They've had such a gigantic effect on guitar music that it's resonated out into pop music."

BEST TRACK

SUPPORTED BY



THE KILLERS 'The Man'

"I overheard someone talking about it in a pub: 'He's singing about being the man but he sounds like a f**king girl.' Like, exactly, that's why it's so f**king brilliant."

BEST COLLABORATION

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WOLF ALICE AND

THE FANS "Every night of their tour, Wolf Alice got a female fan onstage to play guitar in 'Moaning Lisa Smile'. I think a band collaborating with a fan is genius."

BEST INTERNATIONAL BAND

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LEMON TWIGS

"It doesn't feel faddy, which is groovy. They're going to be massive and headline Glastonbury."

BEST BRITISH SOLO ARTIST

SUPPORTED BY



DECLAN MCKENNA

"It's been exciting to see everyone get excited about his music. People are like: 'Yeah, he speaks for the new generation, blah blah blah.' Well, he actually does."

Head to awards.NME.com to vote

ON THE RECORD

BIG OPINIONS. NO FILTER.



THIS WEEK

Do Christmas your way – but don't be a d**k

EVERY YEAR I LIKE TO have exactly the same meal for Christmas dins. Not a turkey, not a nut roast, not a big glossy ham with some steamed sprouts, cranberry sauce and roasties on the side. There are no Nigella Lawson-endorsed seasonal spreads for me. Instead I have my own festive menu, one that consists solely of a jacket potato smothered with baked beans and grated Cheddar – the greatest meal of all time. It's this dish which truly means it's Christmas Day in the Cooper household. Sure, I'll have the occasional mince pie (and advent calendar chocolate is a must throughout December) but when it comes to the main event on December 25, it's a simple three-ingredient job and I don't care who knows it.

Christmas is about traditions, and not just the ones everyone does – I'm totally down for people creating their own. The NME office is full of them. I give you writer Jordan Bassett, whose grandma saves up Tesco

vouchers all year round and takes the extended family to "blow the bloody lot at Bella Italia on Boxing Day – you have never seen so many Mini Dough Bites in your entire life." There's writer Larry Bartleet, whose mum and sister spend an inordinate amount of time making a 'kissing bough' – "and swearing a lot, because it's quite fiddly," he says. Or there's Dan Stubbs, our Commissioning Editor, whose dad writes a poem or panto to be read out each year over Christmas dinner. "It was 'Dan Whittington And His Cat' the year I moved to London," he says. He has no cat.

Christmas is about having a chill, peaceful time and what better way to have a chill, peaceful time than by having some special 'treat yourself'

"The main meal is a three-ingredient job and I don't care who knows it"



An non-traditional – but still totally delicious – Christmas dins

time? So watch your favourite Christmas movie (even if it's *Die Hard*, which is definitely not a Christmas movie) and eat your favourite food (even if it's a burger). But remember that Christmas should also be about giving something back. You can go big or go small, but even if you're not volunteering for an awesome charity such as Crisis at Christmas, there are other ways you can make a difference. You can drop a box

of dried food off at a local food bank (look up the Trussell Trust if you want to know how), donate warm clothes you don't wear anymore (or those toasty socks your aunt gave you) to a Christmas shelter in your neighbourhood, or go and drop by the house of an elderly relative and surprise them with a box of chocolates. Or – even better – a jacket potato with baked beans and grated cheese. @leoniemaycooper

PHOTO: ALAMY

Last W33K IN NUMBERS

357

Number of times one individual watched *Bee Movie* on Netflix this year, says the service. We see you, Jerry Seinfeld

4 million

Vinyl records sold in the UK this year – an all-time high since data started being collected in the early 1990s

70

Age of Iggy Pop, who is currently featuring butt-naked in an exhibition at London's Royal Academy

3

James Blake's got three new tunes! He played them in California and they sound good

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What's ON your Headphones?

THIS WEEK

SantaCon

Annual fancy dress pub crawl in London with many, many Santas



"It brings some much-needed fun to London"

< **CECE MUL**
30, Santa

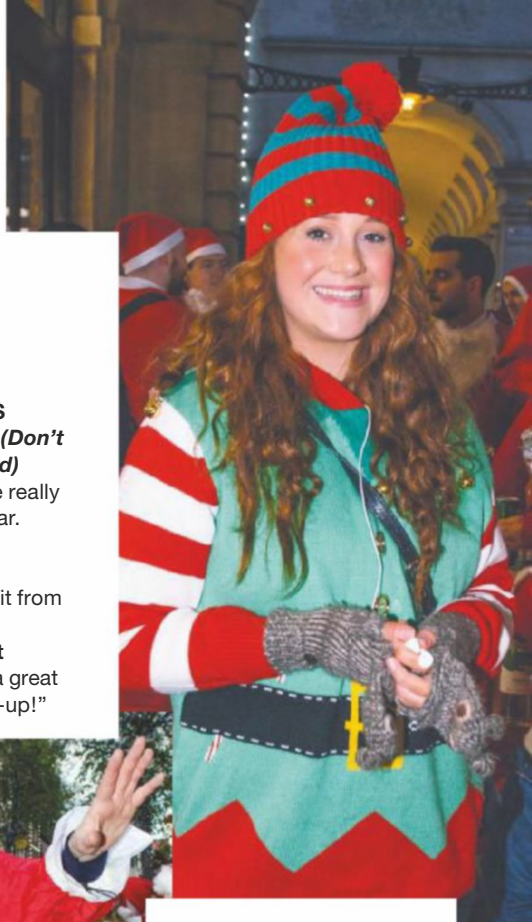
Listening to:
BOBBY HELMS
Jingle Bell Rock
"It spreads the Christmas cheer."

Wearing: Santa costume from Amazon.
Best thing about SantaCon: "It brings some much-needed fun to London this time of year."

ROBYN WILSON >
24, elf

Listening to:
THE DARKNESS
Christmas Time (Don't Let The Bells End)
"The one with the really hard electric guitar. I love it!"

Wearing: Elf outfit from Primark.
Best thing about SantaCon: "It's a great excuse for a piss-up!"



< **MARK KINDRED**
43, Santa

Listening to:
LOU MONTE
Dominick The Donkey
"This is the greatest Christmas song of all time."

Wearing: Santa costume from Tesco, Snowman trousers from eBay.
Best thing about SantaCon: "This is my second time. It's pure, self-indulgent hedonism."



PADDY CONNELLY >
31, Santa

Listening to:
SLADE
Merry Xmas Everybody
"We were listening to this earlier. Good times."

Wearing: Jacket from Amazon, Sports Direct hoodie and hat, trousers from eBay.
Best thing about SantaCon: "Thousands of Santas drinking - what's not to like?"

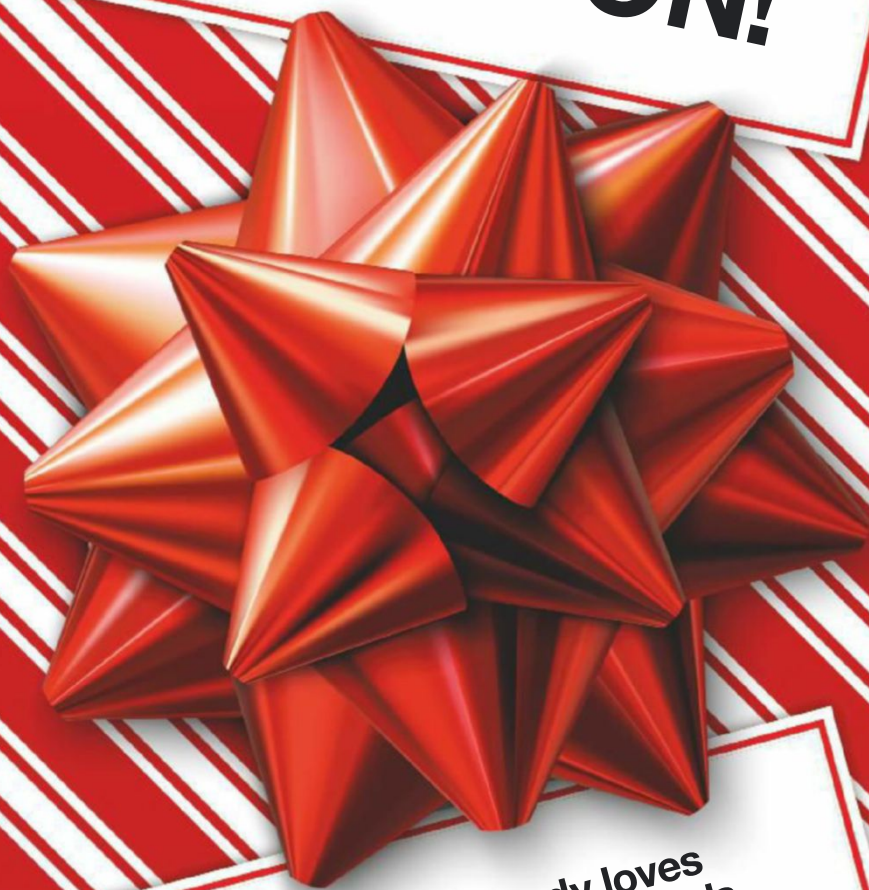


PHOTOS: LAURA PALMER

GWEN STEFANI



HOW GWEN GETS HER JINGLE ON!



Gwen Stefani bloody loves Christmas – so much so she's put out an album, 'You Make It Feel Like Christmas', to celebrate. Leonie Cooper talked about the perfect Christmas with California's most festive woman

PHOTOS BY JAMIE NELSON

THE MUSIC

When Gwen's in charge of the Christmas tunes, it's golden oldies galore. "I like a lot of the Motown stuff and all of the classic Christmas songs – the Andrews Sisters and things like that," she says. Her favourite festive album of all time, though, comes from country-folk queen Emmylou Harris. "It's a gorgeous record and probably one of my greatest albums of all time, let alone just Christmas," she says of 1979's 'Light Of The Stable'. "It's the record my parents would play and that's the one that gives me that nostalgic feeling." Wham!'s 'Last Christmas' – which she covers on her 'You Make It Feel Like Christmas' album – will also make it onto the party playlist, as will 'A Charlie Brown Christmas'. "It's so good! So, so good!" she says, grinning.

THE FOOD

"Your Christmas is different – your stuffing is different," says Stefani, slightly concerned about how we do Yule in the UK. "You guys weirdly put sausage in there – what the hell! You've got meat inside of a meat inside of a meat!" We mention the mythical bird inside a bird inside a bird that the Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstalls among us might attempt at this time of year and she looks unimpressed. In fact, in the Italian-American Stefani household you're more likely to get lasagna on Christmas Day. "Last year we did everything – homemade gnocchi and my mum's lasagna and manicotti for the vegetarians." The last time a turkey was attempted it almost ended in disaster. "Blake [Shelton, Stefani's country music star partner] had a turkey in one of those smokers and he went out to check on it and the entire thing was on fire. We saved them – we put them in the oven and they turned out really good – but the house almost went down!"

THE BOOZE

If you're expecting a massive piss-up at Gwen's, then you're out of luck. You'll need to pre-game. "My parents didn't drink at all. I know you guys are like, 'whaaat?!'" Indeed we are. "They were super-strict and conservative, but now we do [drink]. We all drink wine mainly, but we also do this one drink, I don't know what they're called, but my friend that's English turned me on to them. It has mint and prosecco and this liquor that goes in it." Intense Googling could not uncover what the hell Gwen was talking about, but we think it's a Hugo. If you do know this delicious-sounding drink, please tweet us using the hashtag #gwensmysterybooze.



"You put sausage in stuffing – what the hell! You've got meat inside of a meat inside of a meat!"

THE FILMS

"Elf with Will Ferrell is my favourite ever," says Stefani. "I love him. He's the greatest thing ever." She's also a fan of the classics, with *It's A Wonderful Life* and *Miracle On 34th Street* her childhood faves.

THE DECS

For Stefani, it's a case of go hard or go home when it comes to Christmas decorations. "My old house was 1928, Spanish and the Christmas there was so gorgeous – there were candles everywhere, it was very romantic," explains Stefani. "My [current] house is quite modern and full of colour, so I struggle with my Christmas decorations. I went out and I got all these pink and yellow trees but they look like Dr Seuss trees. I just go big."

THE SANTA QUESTION

Asked when she stopped believing in Santa, Stefani looks at me like I've just run through the local garden centre torching their entire stock of Christmas trees. "I don't want to put that in the interview!" she squeals. "What if somebody reads that? You're gonna ruin the whole thing. She's trying to ruin Christmas! Where's your Christmas spirit?"

GIVING PRESSIES

Gwen has some advice about giving the best gifts. "I have so many people to buy for because I am so blessed by all the people I work with and my family, everybody, so what I've done – and I think this is a really good idea – is to have something made," she explains. "You can do it without having to spend tons of money these days, because there's Etsy and a lot of ways to do custom personalised things." Stefani's all about getting people a custom-made sweatshirt. "Nobody's seen it yet but I'll tell you what it is because it's so f**king good – it says 'Anaheim Hillbillies' on the front in Olde English [font] and on the sides it says 'love is old school, truth is gangster'." Alternatively, impress your mates by bundling together some twigs from the local park, which – bonus – is totally free. "This year I also gave a lot of live Christmas wreaths – people really love that," confirms Stefani.



RECEIVING PRESSIES

When we ask about the best Christmas gift she's ever received, Stefani's eyes light up like the Blackpool Illuminations.

"I got a horse saddle from Blake – that was pretty shocking!" This wasn't just any old horse saddle. "It was crazy but so beautiful – it looks like something a unicorn would have. It's sparkly with colours and fringe." Do you use it regularly? "Yeah, [but] I fell off my horse – I don't know if you can see the scar, but this whole hand was torn up," says Stefani. "I can't believe I didn't get smashed underneath her."

Xmas albums that don't suck

Gwen's doesn't, and none of these

A MOTOWN CHRISTMAS (1973)
Who: The Jackson 5, Stevie Wonder and The Supremes.
Why doesn't it suck? Soaring soul and unfettered joy. Lil' MJ singing 'Santa Claus Is Comin' To Town' – what's not to love?

CHRISTMAS ON DEATH ROW (1996)
Who: Death
Row Records' finest, including both Doggs – Snoop and Nate.
Why doesn't it suck? Because a grooving G-funk Christmas is the best kind of Christmas.

A VERY SHE & HIM CHRISTMAS (2011)
Who: Zoëy Deschanel and M Ward's easy listening project.
Why doesn't it suck? It plugs into a time when Christmas was free of cynicism and it always snowed on December 25. As smooth as your mum's bread sauce.

THE GAMES

There's only so much eating, drinking and rampant consumerism you can get through on December 25 before you start to feel just a little bit sluggish. This is where the games begin. Kinda. Stefani's kids might be into Monopoly, but she's more reticent about getting her hands on the old boot and popping a spanking new hotel on Park Lane. "I hate board games – I've always hated games my whole life," she says. "It is fun to do with the children, so I've started to try to get into it, but I'm very non-competitive." Best to keep Gwen out of your post-Queen's Speech game of Pie Face, then.

THE TRADITIONS

Your family tradition might be based around the annual attempt to get your drunk Uncle Gary out of the house before he starts saying something Tory, but things are a little classier in the Stefani household. "We have a really cool thing that we do," she says. "My parents are amazing and every Christmas morning we'd wake up and all four of us would be in the hallway. The archway going into the living room would be completely gift-wrapped and we'd crash through it. I think it's awesome." Get to Poundland now and put in a bulk order for wrapping paper if you wish to recreate this idyllic scene.

AND A FINAL MESSAGE FROM GWEN ON THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS

"When you really look back, all you have is your memories. You don't realise that at the time, but now that I'm older and I have children you realise that it's about making memories. The holidays is an interesting time – it's a time that you reflect on yourself, on the year, what you have done, what do you want to do, your dreams. There's a lot of reassessment, there's a lot of pressure and pain and joy."

NME

Gwen Stefani's 'You Make It Feel Like Christmas' is out now

Secret Santa

We asked Gwen what she'd buy these muso types



GARBAGE'S SHIRLEY MANSON
"I'd probably give her some make-up – we're both make-up girls."



GREEN DAY'S BILLIE JOE ARMSTRONG
"Oh my gosh – the last time I saw him I would have probably given him some manners, because he was out of control!"



MILEY CYRUS
"She's an animal lover so I'd give her one of my chickens."



TAYLOR SWIFT
"I would get myself something – I would want to write with her, she's such a talented songwriter."



EMINEM
"He would be really hard, he seems very particular. But he is a Detroit man, like my dad, so something to do with Michigan."

20 THINGS WE KNOW NOW, THAT WE DIDN'T KNOW LAST CHRISTMAS

ILLUSTRATIONS BY SAM TAYLOR

So this is Christmas, and what have we done? Another year over and a new one... Well, it's not quite begun yet, and before it does, Joe Madden looks back on 2017 and works out what this bummer of a year contributed to the history books

2 'DESPACITO' WAS EVERYWHERE AND WE DIDN'T HATE IT

WHAT HAPPENED? Every summer needs an earworm megahit that soundtracks your every moment: it's there as you queue in Asda, Uber to the gig, split up with that one, cop off with the next one. This year's champ was Luis Fonsi and Daddy Yankee's 'Despacito', which managed to be hooky as hell without driving you insane when you heard it the 50th, 100th, 500th time.

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Bieber's remix rocketed 'Despacito' even further into the stratosphere, its trajectory unaffected by the video of Justin singing the Spanish sections as "blah blah blah". What is he like?

WINNERS? With 'Despacito' hitting Number One in 47 countries, those'd be Luis Fonsi and Daddy Yankee.

LOSERS? Ya boy Sheeran, whose 'Galway Girl' was denied the honour of being 2017's Undisputed Song of the Summer. If only he'd cack-handedly co-opted Hispanic culture, things coulda been different.

1 JAY-Z IS SORRY, SO VERY SORRY, OH GOD WHAT HAVE I DONE

WHAT HAPPENED? On '4:44', Jay-Z finally addressed the what-were-you-thinking adultery that had inspired Beyoncé's fearsome 'Lemonade', and his self-lacerating honesty made him sound more vital and engaging than he had in years.

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Jay later revealed that he and Bey had recorded a post-affair joint album in an attempt to heal their marriage. And no, we'll never hear it – but can you imagine?

WINNERS? Beyoncé. Beyoncé is always the winner. C'mon.

LOSERS? For all his mea culpa-ing, it's hard not to think a little less of Jay-Z. Wharra twonk.

3 BEYONCÉ'S TWINS BROKE THE INTERNET

WHAT HAPPENED? In February, Queen Bey announced she was pregnant via a typically low-key Instagram post; in July, she followed up with a similarly just-hangin'-out pic unveiling her one-month-olds. Super-casual!

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? February's post became Instagram's most-liked of 2017; July's, the fourth most-liked.

WINNERS? Rumi and Sir Carter, who already rule social media before they can walk.

LOSERS? Your meticulously planned, carefully executed selfie up at Glastonbury's Stone Circle (two likes, one spam comment – oof).



4 WHAT IF HARRY STYLES RELEASED A SOFT-ROCK ALBUM AND IT WAS GOOD?

WHAT HAPPENED? Harry Styles released a soft-rock album.

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? It was good!

WINNERS? Harry Styles, who released a soft-rock album that was good.

LOSERS? People who were mad that A) Harry Styles (boo!) had released a soft-rock album (how dare he!) and B) it was good (gaaah this is all wrong!).

7 TAYLOR SWIFT AIN'T NOTHING TA F**K WIT

WHAT HAPPENED? "I'm sorry, the old Taylor can't come to the phone right now. Why? Oh, 'cos she's dead!" And with that, Swifto mutated from Goofball Prom Queen to Scowly Mean Girl. "I don't trust nobody and nobody trusts me". Brrr.

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? 'Look What You Made Me Do' was 'allegedly' about Tay's long-running, hugely entertaining feud with Kanye West. We're still awaiting his lyrical response, which'll undoubtedly be as gracious as it is high-minded.

Turns to camera, raises eyebrow

WINNERS? Taylor Swift tbh. The most surprising thing about her heel turn is how chillingly convincing it's been.

LOSERS? Kanye. Let's call it 3-2 to Taylor at this point - your move, Yeezy.

5 'AQUIESCE' LIED TO US - TURNS OUT LIAM DIDN'T NEED NOEL AT ALL

WHAT HAPPENED? Liam ends 2017 with a well-received solo album under his belt and full-blown 'national treasure' status, thanks to a series of sublimely bananas interviews that revealed a Zen-like and politically progressive new outlook on life. And Noel? Well, months of grumpy-rich-guy pronouncements were enough for N*g'l F*r*ge to label him a "legend". Mate.

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Guess who'll be receiving the Godlike Genius Award at the 2018 NME Awards? ("About f**king time as far as I'm concerned," says the man himself.)

WINNERS? Liam, clearly.

LOSERS? Noel, sadly.
(For now, at least...)

6 A TWINKLY-EYED 68-YEAR-OLD WAS THE YEAR'S ABSOLUTE BOY

WHAT HAPPENED? In a year short on heroes, Jeremy Corbyn offered a glimmer of hope to millennials and Gen Xers. Jez was hoisted aloft by UK pop culture like no other politician in living memory: there was #Grime4Corbyn; the "Oh, Jeremy Corbyn" chant to the refrain of 'Seven Nation Army'; and a Glasto slot buzzer than any of the headlines'. A few sick bars over a Skepta banger and Corbz coulda been Number One all summer long.

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? The #youthquake, upending a 'foregone conclusion' general election and shaking the Tories to the core.

WINNERS? Although Jeremy technically lost the election, he kinda sorta won it.

LOSERS? Aaand reverse the above for Maybot.





8 IF YOU'RE A SLEAZEBAG, YOU ARE DONE

WHAT HAPPENED? As Harvey Weinstein's stomach-churning behaviour came to light, women (and a handful of men) across the film and TV industries recounted their own experiences. Previously untouchable men watched their worlds implode as the horrifying extent of sexual misconduct in the entertainment business – and, by extension, society at large – was laid bare.

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? With the music industry now cleaning house – Def Jam's Russell Simmons and Crystal Castles' Ethan Kath are among the first named-and-shamed – you can expect this bonfire to keep burning well into 2018.

WINNERS? In 'revenge is a dish best served cold' terms, at least, the winners here would be the newly validated victims.

LOSERS? Louis CK, Steven Seagal, Dustin Hoffman, Kevin Spacey – the list goes on (and on, and on).

9 RICK AND MORTY SUPERFANS ARE WACK AF

WHAT HAPPENED? Rick And Morty's third season featured a storyline that revolved around Rick's obsession with a Szechuan sauce McDonald's briefly offered back in 1998. With the tragic over-eagerness of an uncle idly asked about his CD collection, McDonald's reissued the sauce for one day only, in woefully insufficient quantities.

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? The worst element of Rick And Morty fandom – entitled, cellar-dwelling 4channers – lost their s**t when they were unable to get hold of their hero's fave condiment. We're talking full-on toddling – screaming, crying, the works.

WINNERS? Nobody covered themselves in glory here.

LOSERS? Non-d**thead Rick And Morty fans, forced to conceal their true selves for fear of being lumped in with the screechy babymen.

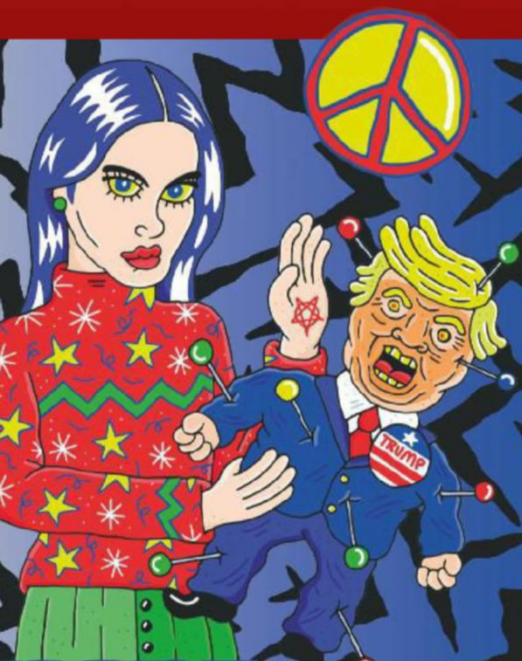
10 LANA DEL REY DID THE BAD MAGIC ON TRUMP

WHAT HAPPENED? Back in February Lana Del Rey encouraged her Twitter followers to join her in performing a series of occult 'binding' rituals that would, she hoped, remove Donald Trump from office. "Your thoughts are powerful things," she later explained to NME, "and they become words, words become actions, actions lead to physical charges."

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? The president's blackened heart exploded live on Fox News.

WINNERS? Lana (we wish).

LOSERS? Trump (we wish).



11 MEME OF THE YEAR: DISTRACTED BOYFRIEND

WHAT HAPPENED? A boyfriend in a stock photo is distracted by another woman.

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Meme-makers use it to describe infinitesimal ménages-à-trois between people and things.

WINNERS? Salt Bae, Roll Safe and Disbelief Guy deserve honourable mentions.

LOSERS? Distracted Boyfriend's girlfriend. Dump his ass, gurl!



12 THE MANY MOODS OF WINONA ARE AS VARIED AS THEY ARE FLEETING

WHAT HAPPENED? Taking the stage alongside her Stranger Things castmates at the 2017 Screen Actors Guild Awards, Winona Ryder – for reasons known only to herself – ran the full gamut of human facial expressions in under 30 seconds.

Mesmerising scenes.

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? One of the year's great memes was born.

WINNERS? Winona, for making the truly inexplicable seem adorable.

LOSERS? David Harbour (Jim Hopper), whose acceptance speech was upstaged into next week.



13 MP3 (1993-2017)

WHAT HAPPENED? In May, the Fraunhofer Institute, inventors of the MP3, announced they'd no longer be licensing the 24-year-old format, thereby effectively reading it the last rites.

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Sainsbury's announced it was setting up a boutique vinyl-only record label. What the f**k even was 2017, honestly.

WINNERS? The MP3, eventually, when it's ironically resurrected by hipsters in 2029.

LOSERS? Your lovingly curated noughties iTunes library just took one step closer to obsolescence.

14 MILLENNIALS DISCOVERED THAT NATALIE IMBRUGLIA'S 'TORN' IS A COVER

WHAT HAPPENED? Shock.

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Despair.

WINNERS? Imbruglia, whose version rocketed up streaming charts as a result.

LOSERS? Imbruglia, who'll struggle to get anyone under 35 ever to trust her again.

15 FYRE FESTIVAL LOL

WHAT HAPPENED? Bored

rich kid Billy McFarland and his mate Ja Rule decided to throw an ultra-luxurious festival, for the worst people in the world, on an obscure Bahamian island.

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? As business journalist Bryan Burrough observed, "It's tempting to say nothing went as planned, but that would assume actual plans had been made."

WINNERS? Ha! Nooo.

LOSERS? The traumatised attendees, the social media giants who promoted Fyre Festival – including Bella Hadid, Kendall Jenner and Emily Ratajkowski – but most of all, McFarland and Ja Rule, now up to their eyes in s**t-scarey lawsuits.

16 BEEF IS BACK (AND IT'S DELICIOUS)

WHAT HAPPENED? Feuds, glorious feuds! Father John Misty vs Ryan Adams! Nicki Minaj vs Remy Ma! Marilyn Manson vs Justin Bieber! Noel's kids vs Liam's kids! Woool!

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Snide subtweets, lyrical sideswipes and the occasional buried hatchet.

WINNERS? Look, it's not about who 'won'. Let's try and elevate the cultural discourse, yeah?

LOSERS? Minaj defo lost her one, though.

17 IT'S SURPRISINGLY TRICKY TO CGI A MOUSTACHE AWAY

WHAT HAPPENED? 1) Henry Cavill grows a voluminous 'tache for Paramount's Mission: Impossible 6. 2) Cavill is required to nip off and reshoot scenes for Warner Bros' Justice League; Paramount forbids him from shaving. 3) Warner Bros CGI Cavill's 'tache away. Very very badly.

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Everyone laughs at Superman's weird-ass new face.

WINNERS? Sniggering Paramount execs.

LOSERS? The DC superhero movie franchise, an ongoing calamity of bozo-brained decisions.

18 GAME OF THRONES WENT THERE

WHAT HAPPENED? Game Of Thrones has pushed every boundary imaginable, but surely it wouldn't eroticise auntie-on-nephew incest – would it?

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? It would.

WINNERS? Well, Daenerys and Jon seem happy enough, the dirty gets.

LOSERS? We can imagine the icky awkward family-gathering GoT viewing parties.

19 YOUR REPUTATION IS ONLY AS GOOD AS THE LAST PERSON YOU KICKED IN THE FACE

WHAT HAPPENED? This year has seen a staggering number of public figures hit the self-destruct button on their reputations, with Josh Homme among the most disheartening. There he was, riding high with a well-received QOTSA album and a charming appearance on CBeebies' Bedtime Stories...

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? ...before inexplicably kicking photographer Chelsea Lauren in the face during a gig in LA, at which he also dubbed the audience "retards". Why, Josh? Why though?

WINNERS? Common decency: Homme's first excuse, about being lost in performance, was derided as nonsense, forcing a more contrite response.

LOSERS? Rocking toddlers: another two Homme-fronted CBeebies stories have been shelved by the BBC.

20 ED SHEERAN IS A SINISTER GENIUS

WHAT HAPPENED? We're not saying Sheeran cynically engineered 'Galway Girl' to be the all-conquering lowbrow cash cow it was, but shortly before its release he did say this: "There's 400 million people in the world that say they're Irish, even if they're not – and those people are going to f**king love it."

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

They f**king loved it.

WINNERS? Ed's bottom line.

LOSERS? Ed's artistic integrity, and the good people of Galway, who did nothing to deserve this.



RADAR

THIS CHRISTMAS'S ESSENTIAL NEW RELEASES

MARCHING CHURCH

BEST FOR ROLLING HOME ON CHRISTMAS EVE PISSED

MARCHING CHURCH
Christmas On Earth
Danish post-punker Elias Bender Rønnenfelt channels Shane MacGowan on this rollicking, rowdy anthem. A present for your ears.

BEST FOR ABSTAINING FROM FESTIVE NOOKIE

CATHOLIC ACTION
No Angels
"You can't have sex at Christmas," starts this jangleastic tribute to eating, drinking, watching TV and seeing your libido vanish.

BEST FOR NECKING HOT CHOCOLATE

SIA
Santa's Coming For Us
Pop queen Sia dabbles with the devil's genre – electro-swing – for an upbeat ode to the man in the red suit. That's Santa, not Satan, btw.

BEST FOR SNOOZING AFTER LUNCH

WOLF ALICE
Santa Baby
Wolf Alice's lush take on this festive fave is stripped back and subtle. We like.

BEST FOR GETTING SMASHED ON CHOCOLATE LIQUEURS

LA WISE MAN
All I Want For Xmas Is Rock & Roll
LA Priest becomes LA Wise Man for a down-and-dirty one-off that's a little bit Bowie and whole lot glam.

BEST FOR SLEIGH CHASING

KELLY CLARKSON
Christmas Eve
"I've waited all year, baby / Just to see those reindeer," belts out pop diva Kelly. One for the Rudolph fanboys.

BEST FOR STAYING UP FOR SANTA

TOM CHAPLIN
Midnight Mass
The Keane frontman goes for piano tinkling – and a solid Rufus Wainwright impression – on this low-key twinkler.

BEST FOR ROCKING AROUND THE TREE

THE CHRISTMAS CARDS
Oh Santa Claus!
Excellent lo-fi jangle in praise of everyone's favourite mince pie muncher.

THYLA

BEST FOR GIFT-WRAPPING

THYLA
Christmas Wrapping
Thyla's take on The Waitresses' cult Christmas tune ups the pace and brings the funk. Neat.



CATHOLIC ACTION

KIM WILDE AND
LAWNMOWER DETH

BEST FOR GETTING RID OF ANNOYING RELATIVES

KIM WILDE AND
LAWNMOWER DETH

F U Kristmas

1980s icons unite for an anti-Xmas headbanger. Play it loudly to empty out your house before Doctor Who starts.

BEST FOR GETTING EMOTIONAL OVER SPROUTS

AMY MACDONALD

This Christmas Day

Written to remember Amy's late nan, this tune is a compassionate seasonal tribute.

BEST FOR SMOOCHING UNDER THE MISTLETOE

GWEN STEFANI

My Gift Is You

Gwen's having a smoochy Christmas, with a loved-up, doo-wop-inspired smash.

BEST FOR LEAVING THE MINCE PIE OUT FOR SANTA

PHOEBE BRIDGERS

Have Yourself A Merry

Little Christmas

NME's fave new LA electric folkie plucks on the heartstrings with a tender, utterly gorgeous version of the Judy Garland classic.

CHARLY BLISS

BEST FOR DECIMATING THE CHEESE BOARD

CHARLY BLISS

All I Want For

Christmas Is You

NYC indie types do Mariah Carey justice, turning her hit into a post-dins treat.

BEST FOR UNREQUITED FESTIVE LOVE

GIRL RAY

(I Wish I Were

Giving You A Gift)

This Christmas

Jingle bells abound on this seasonal song so sweet that it's basically aural brandy butter.

BEST FOR SINGING WITH YOUR SIBLINGS

HANSON

Finally It's Christmas

The Hanson brothers are so psyched that it's December. They've decided to celebrate by writing an Elton John-style glam-rock. Good for them.

BEST FOR GETTING THE BAILEYS OUT

GREGORY PORTER

The Christmas Song

Greg does Nat 'King' Cole's glorious Yuletide smash proud with his faithful croon.

BEST FOR MAKING IT SNOW

CALUM SCOTT

White Christmas

The Britain's Got Talent star offers up a traditional take on an iconic number.

BEST FOR BEING A CHRISTMAS EMO

CREEPER

Same Time Next Year?

Featuring a chorus bigger than Santa's sack and some super-relatable seasonal sulking. Ace.

BEST FOR ACCIDENTALLY SEEING YOUR MUM SNOG SANTA

NICK JONAS AND

SHANIA TWAIN

Say All You Want For Christmas

Nick and Shania's duet might be maximum cheese, but this is the time of year to celebrate sonic Stilton.

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Revival



Sam Smith
The Thrill Of It All
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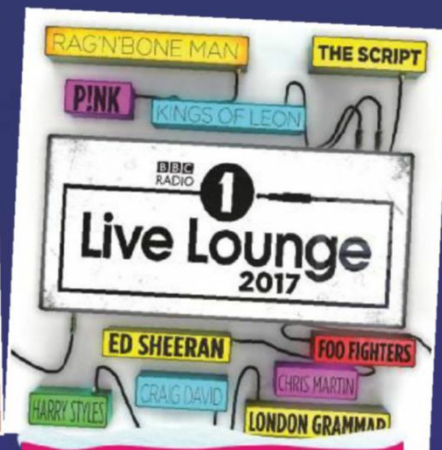
Rag'n'Bone Man
Human
also on vinyl



P!nk
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3CD



Various Artists
BBC Radio 1's Live Lounge 2017
2CD

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Christmas Wrapped Up



The best Christmas telly specials

You're at your parents' house, having made the annual pilgrimage, and they're watching TV. Yep, actual *live* TV. But don't despair – there are some proper Christmas crackers to look forward to



L-r: Vic Reeves, Bob Mortimer

VIC & BOB'S BIG NIGHT OUT

BBC Two

December 29, 9pm

SURREALISM NONSENSE STICKS

LONG BEFORE SHOOTING Stars there was Vic Reeves Big Night Out, a bonkers, surreal variety show revived after more than 25 years off the air.

Why watch? Matt Lucas, who worked with the duo on Shooting Stars, is also set to appear in the half-hour episode.



THE LEAGUE OF GENTLEMEN

BBC Two

December 18, 19 & 20, 10pm

FREAKY FUNNY NOSTALGIC

THE GROTESQUE residents of Royston Vasey are back on telly for three new episodes, marking the 20th anniversary of the show's debut on BBC Radio and 15 years since it came to an end on TV. **Why watch?** Plot hints are thin on the ground, but reports say there's a threat to Royston Vasey – and that means hilarious carnage will undoubtedly ensue.

TOP OF THE POPS

BBC One

December 25, 12.20pm

POP BOPS NON-STOP

AN ABSOLUTE STAPLE OF Christmastime viewing, which presenter Fearne Cotton describes as "one of my Christmas highlights".

Why watch? Performances this year come from chart-toppers including Dua Lipa, Ed Sheeran and Clean Bandit.



DOCTOR WHO: TWICE UPON A TIME

BBC One

December 25, 5.30pm

DALEKS SCI-FI WHO

THIS ONE-OFF EPISODE shows the meeting of two Doctors: Peter Capaldi, in his last episode, and David Bradley – AKA Harry Potter's Filch. **Why watch?** The episode will also give viewers their first glimpse of the 13th Doctor: Jodie Whittaker.

ALAN PARTRIDGE: WHY, WHEN, WHERE, HOW AND WHOM?

BBC Two

December 27, 9pm

NORWICH COOGAN AHA!

IN WHICH THE ORIGINS of Steve Coogan's entirely un-self-aware character are explored, 25 years on from Knowing Me, Knowing You With Alan Partridge.

Why watch? AP naysayers will have the chance to get to know him; fans can sink into nostalgia's sweet embrace.



NILE RODGERS & CHIC'S NEW YEAR FIREWORKS

BBC One

December 31, time TBC

BANGS FLASHES GOOD TIMES

IF YOUR AMBITION IS TO see in January while Chic's 'Le Freak' is played live – well, 2018 is your year. Nile Rodgers will be playing the Beeb's annual show in the run-up to central London's NYE fireworks display. **Why watch?** The BBC is calling it 'an unmissable music and firework spectacular', which translates as, "It's either this or Hootenanny, b*****s."



MCMAFIA

BBC One

January 1 & 2, 9pm

RUSSIA CRIME MOODY

BASED ON A 2008 NOVEL by journalist Misha Glenny, this eight-episode crime drama has been touted as 2018's answer to The Night Manager. It's about the British-raised son of Russian exiles with Mafia ties "trying to escape the shadow of that criminal past".

Why watch? To see how Bond-rumoured actor James Norton will handle a thriller following critically acclaimed stints in War And Peace and Happy Valley. **Larry Bartlett**

L-r: Rey (Daisy Ridley), Luke (Mark Hamill)



The Force is strong

Relax: the new *Star Wars* is great. And it's not just a rehash of *The Empire Strikes Back*, either

STAR WARS: THE LAST JEDI

12A Mark Hamill, Carrie Fisher, Daisy Ridley, Adam Driver



LIGHTSABERS | AWESOMENESS

FUN AS IT WAS, THE Force Awakens was Star Wars by the book. It replayed the plot of A New Hope, with enough tweaks and loveable new characters to come off as affectionate homage rather than big ol' rip-off. It was a safe but highly successful reintroduction to the galaxy. The Last Jedi blasts the rule book to pieces, sending the Skywalker saga in unexpected directions. Not all

its risks pay off, but its biggest wins outdo anything in the previous film. For fans, there are many, many moments that will leave you cheering or weeping, possibly both at once.

After a feature-length tease, Jedi brings Luke (Mark Hamill) to the fore. Rey (Daisy Ridley) is trying to cajole him into training her in the ways of the Force, but Luke is resistant, after his failure with Kylo Ren (Adam Driver). Hamill slides back into his defining role like he's never been away: angry, funny and still with traces of the whiny farm boy. He gets to shine in a way he never did when he was in Han Solo's shadow. Elsewhere, Leia leads the dwindling Resistance, which is rapidly being picked off by the First

Order. As a goodbye to Leia, director Rian Johnson does the late Carrie Fisher proud. She's a wise, quiet leader and occasional action hero. One of her final scenes is the most emotional in the entire series. It's not a neat end to the character, or the one deserved, but a respectful farewell.

The one story strand that

doesn't land is that of new character Rose (Kelly Marie Tran), a plucky engineer. Tran is terrific, but she's stranded in a dreary side plot with Finn (John Boyega) on a casino planet, which has the stale whiff of the prequels. The flatness of those scenes is not enough to derail an otherwise thrilling instalment. Johnson conjures astonishing space battles, fills his script with genuinely excellent jokes and deepens the characters significantly (special mention to Adam Driver, who has helped make Kylo Ren the series MVP). With all the surprises here, we've honestly no idea how this trilogy will conclude, but the wait to find out is already too long. **Olly Richards**

STRANGE & TRUE

For secrecy purposes, new star Kelly Marie Tran had to lie about being in the film, telling everyone she was filming an indie movie in Canada. To prove it to her parents, she brought some maple syrup home.



NME AWARDS SHOWS 2018

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THE GUN**

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**The
Sherlocks**

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ESKIMO DANCE NYE

Boxpark, Croydon

TELL ME MORE: Wiley, Ghetts, D Double E, P Money and a secret guest: grime fans can't go wrong with this banging line-up – and that's before you add the comedy crew Kuru FM.

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Sat 30 Sub Club,
Glasgow.
CASSIUS
Fri 15 Egg, London.
**CATHOLIC
ACTION**

Sun 31 Nice N
Sleazy, Glasgow.
THE CRIBS
Sat 16 ULU Live at
Student Central,
London. **Fri 22**
Brudenell Social
Club, Leeds.

DUTCH UNCLES
Fri 15 Irish Club,
Manchester. Sat 16
Moth Club, Belfast.
GIRL RAY
Sat 16 Summerhall,
Edinburgh.
HONEYBLOOD
Mon 18 Thekla,
Bristol. **Tue 19**
Rescue Rooms,
Nottingham.
Wed 20 Gorilla,
Manchester. **Fri 22**

O2 ABC, Glasgow.
IMELDA MAY
Wed 20 Waterfront
Hall, Belfast.
JAYKAE
Fri 15 O2 Institute,
Birmingham.
J HUS
Fri 15 Invisible Wind
Factory, Liverpool.
KING KRULE
Fri 15 SWG3,
Glasgow.
MADONNATRON

Fri 15 The Windmill,
London.
MOGWAI
Fri 15 O2 Academy
Brixton, London.
Sat 16 SSE Hydro,
Glasgow.
NILUFER YANYA
Sat 16 Jazz Café,
London.
THE PRODIGY
Fri 15 The Dome,
Doncaster. **Sat 16**
Pavilions,

Plymouth. **Mon 18**
O2 Academy,
Glasgow. **Tue 19**
Wolves Civic,
Wolverhampton.
**Thu 21, Fri 22 &
Sat 23** O2
Academy Brixton,
London.
REN HARVIE
Sat 16 Arts Club,
Liverpool.
SKREAM
Thu 21 Sub Club,

Glasgow.
SOULWAX
Fri 15 & Sat 16
Roundhouse,
London. **Sun 17**
Academy,
Manchester.
THE WHOLLS
Sat 16 Esquires,
Bedford.
**WILL JOSEPH
COOK**
Fri 22 Forum,
Tunbridge Wells



NYE AT CANAL MILLS

Canal Mills, Leeds

TELL ME MORE: Superstar DJs at this Leeds show include Hannah Wants, Danny Howard, GotSome, and Sonny Fodera.

TICKETS: £22.50



BASS JAM

Victoria Warehouse,
Manchester

TELL ME MORE: Bringing 'Fester Skank' to Manchester's enormous club venue is headliner Lethal Bizzle, with support from DJs Chris Lorenzo, Tom Zanetti & KO Kane – not to mention comedy legend Big Shaq, the character behind this year's viral hit 'Man's Not Hot'.

TICKETS: £20



HOGMANAY '18

Princes Street Gardens,
Edinburgh

TELL ME MORE: Rag'n'Bone Man is set to fill the historic gardens of Edinburgh with the bluesy pop of his debut album 'Human', at this Hogmanay celebration topped off by an awesome fireworks show.

TICKETS: £60

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SOUNDTRACK OF MY ~~LIFE~~ CHRISTMAS

Robbie Williams

Pop star and chilled-out entertainer

THE BEST SONG FOR 'AVIN' A MAD ONE ON CHRISTMAS EVE

THE POGUES

Fairytale Of New York

"That's the go-to song because I've been there and done it. I haven't had a drink for 18 years, so when I did drink, 'Fairytale Of New York' was indicative of very boozy nights in a pub in Stoke-on-Trent.

[Sobriety] is a double-edged sword, isn't it? I do miss 'avin' it (without the H), but only occasionally. It's like four seconds of, 'Aw, it would be good if could get off my head', but then it disappears."

THE BEST SONG FOR REFLECTING ON THE YEAR

ELBOW

One Day Like This

"Am I a reflective person? I dwell on resentments and that's about it. I've got quite a few of those, but I try to get myself out of that thinking as quickly as possible. I'm practising that, because I'm 43 and I realise that those sorts of things have to be dropped or you carry them around with you for the rest of your life."

THE SONG I WIND DOWN WITH

FRANK SINATRA

My Way

"It's the song that I finish every show with. It's a good trick because it's like, 'I'm going now to have some cheese and pickle sandwiches.'"

THE BEST SONG FOR ACTING OUT AT CHARADES

DANNY KAYE

How Could You Believe Me When I Said I Love You When You Know I've Been a Liar All My Life?

"This used to be the longest song title that ever existed; I'm not sure if it still is. If you give somebody that, they're f**ked."

THE SONG TO DROWN OUT YOUR RELATIVES

RAGE AGAINST THE MACHINE

Killing In The Name

"'F**k you, I won't do what you tell me!' says everything, doesn't it? People say that you become stunted at the age you were when you became famous. I was 16, so that says it all really. And I've had kids!"

THE BEST CHRISTMAS SONG EVER

THE POGUES

Fairytale Of New York

"This goes in twice because it's not just the best Christmas song ever – I think it's one of the best songs ever, full stop. You're never going to hear this song at four in the morning. When that song plays, it's around 11 so you're in good spirits. Nothing good ever happens after half three in the morning."

THE BEST SONG FOR STUFFING THE TURKEY

THE SPICE GIRLS

Spice Up Your Life

"I once said, 'I am the only man who can say he's been in Take That and at least two members of the Spice Girls.' I do my best to downplay it, but I always end up adding fuel to the fire, adding an extra bit that gets me in trouble with the husbands. I genuinely love the Spice Girls, but I have to hide from them in TV stations."

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THE BEST CHRISTMAS KARAOKE SONG

MARIAH CAREY

All I Want For Christmas Is You

"I'm a sucker for a Christmas song. I never get bored of them and I love nearly all of them. This was the first one I heard this year. It's a banger. I hated Christmas for a long time. Christmas with me was: instead of buying two grams, you bought six. So Christmas signified me making a mess of things. But my wife is American and she goes in a great deal for the holidays. She's imbued with the spirit of Christmas and it's catching."

Robbie's second official biography, *Reveal*, written by Chris Heath, is out now



The wisdom of the NME archives

THIS WEEK

NICK VALENSI

The Strokes

December 17, 2005

"This year I'm hoping Santa will bring me a boob job."



NME **AWARDS** **ROAD TRIP** **WITH**

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THU JAN 18
HUW STEPHENS
CARDIFF: CLWB IFOR BACH

SAT JAN 27
THE AMAZONS (DJ SET)
LINCOLN: THE ENGINE SHED

FRI JAN 19
THE VACCINES (DJ SET)
BIRMINGHAM: O2 ACADEMY

FRI FEB 2
FRANK TURNER (DJ SET)
GLASGOW: O2 ABC

SAT JAN 20
THE VACCINES (DJ SET)
LONDON: ELECTRIC BALLROOM

SAT FEB 3
IDLES (DJ SET)
BRISTOL: THE FLEECE

THU JAN 25
THE AMAZONS (DJ SET)
CHELTENHAM: MOOMOO

SAT FEB 10
MARMOZETS (DJ SET)
LEEDS: THE WAREHOUSE

FRI JAN 26
THE AMAZONS (DJ SET)
CAMBRIDGE: FEZ CLUB

SAT FEB 10
BASTILLE (WOODY DJ SET)
LONDON: ELECTRIC BALLROOM

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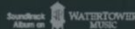
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