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# NME

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behind cult sensation  
The OA

+

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# NME

## Hello...



IF YOU GOOGLE THE word 'refugee', what comes up isn't 'parasite, criminal and the likely cause of all of your problems', but 'a person who has been forced to leave their country in order to escape war, persecution, or natural disaster'.

The poisonous spaff being dribbled out by pricks like Nigel Farage and Donald Trump (views that are being legitimised in the mainstream by inglorious bastards like Piers Morgan and Paul Dacre) is turning vulnerable people into demons. It's important in times like these to not only see through the lies and misdirection, but also do whatever you can – however small – to fight negativity with positivity.

Which is why at this week's NME Awards we'll be proud to give a platform to the newly pulled together indie supergroup Bands 4 Refugees as they raise money for the work being done by Help Refugees, a charity that funds projects in refugee camps in Greece, Paris, Turkey, Syria and Lebanon. Please watch their performance on NME.com or Facebook Live on February 15, and please give what you can. A quote from Dr. Seuss on the Help Refugees website says it all: "Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not."

**MIKE WILLIAMS**

Editor-in-Chief

@itsmikelike

Big Sean p26

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Detroit rapper ready to prove he's so much more than Kanye's mate

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# NME

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# AGENDA

WHAT EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT THIS WEEK

## Hello, stranger...

The trailer for *Stranger Things* series two aired at the Super Bowl and was almost as exciting as the epic sport. Here are the headlines

### ELEVEN WILL BE BACK

We don't see much of Eleven – besides a blink-and-you'll-miss-it close-up of her face – but it confirms that she might be back in the show sooner than expected.

### THE KIDS ARE ON THEIR BIKES AGAIN

They couldn't drop the bikes, could they? Dressed in their *Ghostbusters* outfits, we see what looks like Mike, Lucas and Dustin cycling pretty fast once again. But away from what?

### THE KIDS ARE EMBRACING 1984

As reported, the new episodes are set in 1984 and the kids are seen embracing the phenomenon of the year in some tidy little *Ghostbusters* outfits.

### HOPPER COULD BE IN TROUBLE

In another quick cut, we see beloved sheriff Jim Hopper caught up in what looks like an explosion – in a place that appears very similar to either the Byers' home or his own.

### WILL'S STRUGGLING

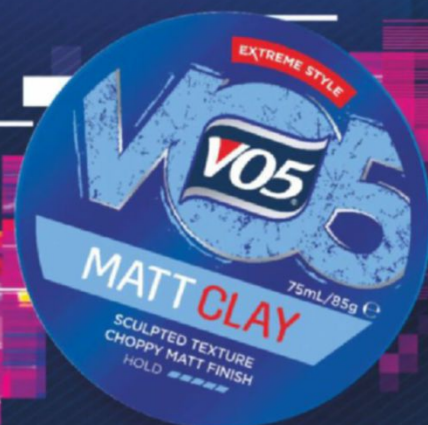
Towards the end of the clip we see Will hooked up to several machines, being examined by various shady looking people. Is it because of his traumatic experience in series one? Or has he, perhaps, gained the same powers as Eleven?

### THE NEW MONSTER

The show's creators said series two would be "bigger and darker" than the first – and judging by the monster, they're telling the truth. First we get a glimpse via a sketch. Then, during a lightning strike, the massive spider-like thing becomes visible. Consider us well and truly spooked.

*Stranger Things* series two arrives on October 31. Head to [NME.com](http://NME.com) for updates until then







# Winter comes for Circa Waves

*Game Of Thrones'* Bran Stark is in the Liverpool band's new vid. Let them tell you all about it

## KIERAN SHUDALL

Circa Waves frontman

### THE WHOLE BAND DIG *GAME OF THRONES*

"We all watch it. We all gather around the laptop and hold each other on the tour bus, hoping that no one else gets killed but secretly hoping that everyone does."

Circa Waves and Isaac Hempstead-Wright (centre) filming the 'Fire That Burns' vid

### THE VID IS A THRILLER WITHIN A THRILLER

"We wanted to make a video where we're not playing, then the director came back with this concept of it being like old giallo horror movies, shot in the sort of '80s film style. The concept was a thriller within a thriller. I love anything that's shot on film."

### THEY WANNA WORK WITH BILL MURRAY

"I'd love to do, like, a bank robbery video, but I don't have his number so I can't. I hope he's reading this..."

## ISAAC HEMPSTEAD-WRIGHT

Bran Stark

### IT ALL BEGAN ON TWITTER

"I saw them live and I've been a big fan ever since. Then I got a Twitter notification saying that Circa Waves had followed me, which was cool. Later on in the day a message popped up asking me to be in their music video. I was like, 'Why the hell not?'"

### THE VID IS DARK, JUST LIKE THE TRACK

"It's central to the name and theme of the track about this fire burning within someone that may or may not be for the best. There's this dark undertone and it adds to the whole atmosphere. It's a really neat idea with this whole B-movie thing going on."

### CIRCA WAVES COULD ROCK UP IN WINTERFELL SOON

"We've had Coldplay and Sigur Rós, so nothing is ever really out of the question."

### HE WANTS TO WORK WITH THE LIBERTINES

"I've always been a massive Libertines fan. I went through a long period of being obsessed with Pete Doherty. They have such a great sound and they're so poetic."

'The Fire That Burns' is out now. New album 'Different Creatures' is out March 10

Isaac as Bran Stark

## AGENDA



### RIHANNA

Shared the first pictures from *Ocean's Eight*, in which she stars.



### THE CRIBS

A new art exhibition, held in their beloved hometown of Wakefield, will pay homage to the old fellas.



### TRAVIS SCOTT

The rapper took an epic tumble off stage at Drake's show at The O2 in London.



### KYLIE JENNER

She lost a legal battle with pop queen Kylie Minogue to trademark the name 'Kylie'. She should be so lucky...





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# Return of the Mac

Indie's favourite slacker, Mac DeMarco, on the creation of third album 'This Old Dog'

**You moved to Los Angeles in the middle of making this album. How do you think that affected its creation?**

"I guess it just made it take a little bit longer. A lot of people have been asking, 'Does it have that LA sound?' Maybe, I don't know. It's just like going from a bedroom in New York to a bedroom in LA."

**There's that cliché of LA changing people. Have you found that to be true?**

"Ah, that's a funny thing. The lifestyle is completely different here. But for me, I was already kinda living the LA lifestyle in New York, but without the sunshine. It just kind of feels like maybe there's some energy here right now, so I thought I'd check it out for a little while."

**What are the main differences between previous album 'Salad Days' and 'This Old Dog'?**

"I think it's a little more personal, about my family and the way my life is going right now. There's a lot of substance on it. I've been looking at things under a more mature microscope. Being alive is really crazy and the world is a really strange place."

**And sonically?**

"You know, you look at other bands and they'd say, 'Third album – got to switch it up and make a huge hit.' I don't want to do that weird third album, I just want to do the third album, and then I'll do the fourth. It's not like you have to go out and change. I guess that's why they call me the slacker."

**'This Old Dog' is released on May 5**

**"The world is a really strange place"**

## AGENDA



### Yannis Philippakis

**The Foals frontman's got a side project on the go**

**What have you been up to lately?**

"I've been writing with Tony Allen, Fela Kuti's drummer. I started doing some tracks with him last year and then I was on tour. So I went back to finish them in Paris."

**What was it like to work with such a legend?**

"It was awesome. He's 76. He smokes hash all day. He drinks whiskey. He basically invented a genre with Fela Kuti. He's like an octopus on the drum kit – he's an incredible drummer."

**What does this mean for Foals?**

"It's been nice just to be creative. I really want to have a bit of a break before we start writing for Foals, so it's the perfect cross point. When I'm in my house and I'm not writing anything I start to go a bit mental."



# “I wouldn’t waste my art on Trump”

As the seminal *Girls* comes to an end after six series, we catch up with creator Lena Dunham to reflect on 10 years of fearless telly

**It’s the final series of *Girls* – what do you think the show’s legacy will be?**

“Ask me in 10 years! No, I’ve been thinking about this a lot and I’d hope that one of the things it did was advance women towards a space where there’s no place that isn’t safe for them to go on TV.”

**Is there anything else you feel was important?**

“Yes, it was really important to us that everybody looked liked people. It was cool to have a cast where people’s teeth weren’t capped.”

***Girls* sparked conversation about female bodies...**

“Yes. And not just about my body. Jemima, Zosia, Allison – they’re by no means overweight but they don’t have obsessively worked-out bodies. Jemima had two kids during the course of the show and she let her body reflect that. She didn’t give a s\*\*t if she was breast-feeding or had gained 20 pounds from having her baby or lost 20 from starting to work out again. And it wasn’t as though every man on the show had a perfect body either.”

**The show’s known for its brutally honest sex scenes – was there one that spoke particularly strongly to you?**

“The scene in season two, episode nine, between Adam Driver and Shiri Appleby, where he goes off the wagon as an alcoholic and becomes physically dominating and some might say violent. I found [it] particularly resonant because I think many women have had experiences of being in situations where we weren’t being assaulted but

we felt uncomfortable with what was happening.”

**You’ve talked in the past about feeling as though you have imposter syndrome...**

“I still do sometimes. Some days I come to work and I’m like, ‘I know what I’m doing, I’m a killer,’ and some days I come to work and I’m like, ‘How did I end up here? Someone please come do this job for me, I want to go home.’ I think that’s something we all feel our whole lives. That feeling of standing in the too-big adult shoes.”

**Having campaigned for Hillary Clinton, were you tempted to add references to her or Donald Trump into this season?**

“Ha, no. The show’s always looked at the weight of expectations placed on women by society, but you’re definitely not going to see a Hillary Clinton/Donald Trump storyline. I wouldn’t waste my art on that guy.”

**But in the opening episode of the new season you do have a joke about Canadian prime minister Justin Trudeau...**

“I have a huge crush on Justin Trudeau so I wrote a line into the script in the hope that he’ll see it and invite me to something.”

***Girls* returns to Sky Atlantic at 10pm on February 13**



## Lessons we all learned from *Girls*

Five ways Lena Dunham’s show told it like it really is

**SEX ISN’T ALWAYS GREAT**

*Girls’* unflinching sex scenes were all too real. In the show, sex was banal, brutal, awkward and steamy, often with one person ending up highly unsatisfied.

**DRUGS AREN’T ALWAYS AWFUL**

*Girls* didn’t speak down to its audience. Drugs were a fact of life, whether it was Lena Dunham’s Hannah doing cocaine ‘for work’ or the time Shoshanna accidentally smokes crack.



Girls (l-r:) Shoshanna, Marnie, Hannah and Jessa

## Last W33K IN NUMBERS



# 10m

'Likes' for the Instagram post announcing Beyoncé's pregnancy, making it the most popular ever.



# 4

Years since *The Simpsons* depicted Lady Gaga flying above a stage, she did just that at the Super Bowl.



# £140,000

Worth of jewellery stolen from Nicki Minaj's house.

On the plus side, she's mates with Drake again.



# £2.4m

Amount Johnny Depp paid to have author Hunter S. Thompson's ashes fired from a canon. Standard.

### FRIENDSHIP RULES

The four women at the core of the show shared the ultimate love/hate relationship. For all the boys, art openings, pieces of experimental theatre and stints in rehab, *Girls* was a show about navigating relationships with your mates in the 21st century.

### WORK IS HARD

Proof that you need drive as well as dreams, Hannah's attempts at becoming a freelance writer veered from the tragic to the hilarious. After a failed bash at a creative writing course, she found her calling as a teacher.

### STYLE IS WHAT YOU MAKE IT

Jessa's boho chic and Wu-Tang T-shirts, Shoshanna's quirky take on preppy style, Marnie's safe take on all-American girl-next-door glamour and Hannah's thing for hotpants – *Girls* was spot-on in its representation of the fast-changing fashion taste of modern twentysomethings.





## Bands 4 Refugees to play the awards

Harry from Peace is putting together a band for a very special cause

LAST YEAR, A HANDFUL OF indie's finest gathered in dingy east London venue Kamio to play three shows of cheesy pop covers. The gigs, which featured members of The Vaccines, Peace, Slaves, Years & Years, Wolf Alice and more, weren't just a bit of pre-Christmas fun. As Bands 4 Refugees, they were raising money and awareness for Help Refugees, which is trying to tackle the refugee crisis in Europe. Bands 4 Refugees will unite once more at the VO5 NME Awards 2017 at London's O2 Academy Brixton on February 15. Peace frontman Harry Koisser has taken over the organising while Wolf Alice are in LA working on their second album. He told us about the future of the project and what to expect from the night.

**You were a part of the covers nights in December. What was that like, and why did you get involved?**

"It felt like there was a real collective consciousness – there are a lot of people in bands who want to be more active in helping out and making a change. We did something for

Help Refugees with Paloma Faith [in 2015] so when I heard they were doing a covers night with Wolf Alice, I was like, 'I'm definitely getting involved.'"

**Is bands speaking out about issues like this something that's missing from music right now?**

"Yeah, everyone's been saying that. Obviously the state of the world has been getting more and more f\*\*ked up over the last few years. It's like a pan – it simmers and then it hits boiling point and suddenly everyone's like, 'Now is the time we get involved.' [Bands 4 Refugees] is growing – there are more people getting involved."

**So this is something that will continue beyond this performance?**

"One hundred per cent. The opportunity to do something at the awards is really big. If we can pull in more people, hopefully that will be a catalyst for bigger artists with louder voices getting involved to shout about it. The refugee crisis isn't over. I worry that people might have forgotten that it's still going on, but it's worse and we need to get involved."

Harry Koisser will be joined by Olly from Years & Years, Izzy from Black Honey, Ozzy from Swim Deep and more

### HOW DO I WATCH THE VO5 NME AWARDS 2017 LIVE?

Stream it via Facebook Live on [facebook.com/NMEmagazine](https://facebook.com/NMEmagazine). Keep an eye on NME.com and our Twitter, Instagram and Snapchat for all the backstage craziness.

### HOW DO I BUY TICKETS TO THE VO5 NME AWARDS 2017?

Go here: [NME.com/tickets](https://NME.com/tickets). Tickets are on sale now, from £29.99



## The nominations The good and the great who are battling it out

### BEST BRITISH BAND

Supported by **ZIG-ZAG**

Wolf Alice

The 1975

Bastille

Years & Years

The Last Shadow Puppets

Biffy Clyro

### BEST BRITISH FEMALE ARTIST

Dua Lipa

Adele

Charli XCX

M.I.A.

Kate Tempest

PJ Harvey

### BEST BRITISH MALE ARTIST

Supported by **PILOT**

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Zayn Malik

Kano

Jamie T

Michael Kiwanuka

Richard Ashcroft

### BEST INTERNATIONAL BAND

Supported by **Austin**

Tame Impala

Kings Of Leon

Green Day

Metallica

A Tribe Called

Quest

Tegan And Sara

### BEST INTERNATIONAL FEMALE ARTIST

Supported by **VOS**

Sia

Lady Gaga

Beyoncé

Solange

Christine & The Queens

Tove Lo



CHRISTINE & THE QUEENS

### BEST INTERNATIONAL MALE ARTIST

Supported by **VOS**

Kanye West

Drake

The Weeknd

Frank Ocean

Kendrick Lamar

Chance The Rapper

### BEST NEW ARTIST

Supported by **TOPMAN**

Blossoms

Zara Larsson

Sunflower Bean

Christine & The Queens

Dua Lipa

Anderson .Paak

### BEST LIVE BAND

Supported by **Nikon**

Bastille

Slaves

The 1975

Bring Me

The Horizon

Christine & The Queens

Wolf Alice

### BEST ALBUM

Supported by **hmv**

'The Life Of Pablo'

Kanye West

'Konnichiwa' Skepta

'I Like It When You Sleep,

For You Are So Beautiful

'Yet So Unaware Of It'

The 1975

'A Moon Shaped Pool'

Radiohead

'Wild World' Bastille

'Lemonade' Beyoncé

### BEST TRACK

Supported by **hmv**

'Cool Girl'

Tove Lo

'After The Afterparty'

Charli XCX feat.

Lil Yachty

'Man' Skepta

'Good Grief' Bastille

'Somebody Else'

The 1975

'Tilted' Christine

& The Queens



GLASTONBURY

### BEST FESTIVAL

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V Festival

### BEST TV SERIES

Supported by **Domino's**

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Fleabag

Game Of Thrones

Black Mirror

Humans

People Just Do Nothing

## NME PROMOTION

## Win a guitar signed by Biffy Clyro

In partnership with **PILOT**

**S**INCE FORMING IN 1995, rock titans Biffy Clyro have worked tirelessly to become one of the biggest and best British bands in the game. They've headlined Reading & Leeds twice in the last four years and ended their run of gigs in 2016 with a massive arena tour, including a phenomenal show at London's The O2.

As a very, very special treat, last month the Kilmaronock boys returned to a venue that's positively tiny by their standards for the Nikon Presents the VO5 NME Awards 2017 Nominations Party. Performing at London's

Omeara for just a few hundred lucky fans, they put on a special stripped-back set, featuring acoustic reworkings of some of their best tracks, like 'The Captain' and 'Mountains'.

If you weren't there, don't worry, because you can win a piece of the night to treasure forever. We grabbed Simon, Ben and James backstage before the show and asked them to use Pilot's new Permanent Marker 100 to scrawl their autographs on a guitar, which one lucky NME reader will win.

All you have to do to be in the running is answer this very easy question on the right. Good luck!



## What is the name of Biffy Clyro's debut album?

- A** Midnight Sky
- B** Blackened Sky
- C** Cloudy Skies

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# ON THE RECORD



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THIS WEEK

## Dolly Parton is the hero America needs right now

FIFTY YEARS AGO ON February 13, 1967, a smiling 21-year-old from the Tennessee backwaters released her debut album. 'Hello, I'm Dolly' announced the glorious arrival of Dolly Rebecca Parton to the world. A ferocious talent who grew up in dire poverty alongside her 11 siblings in a tiny two-room shack, she became – and remains – a powerful entertainment force, as well as a quietly but subversively political one.



Sure, there are the 43 albums, seven Grammys, global record sales of over 100 million, stints as an actress and author and even her own theme park, but she's also an LGBTQ icon and renowned philanthropist, putting money back into her beloved community and endorsing a whole host of charitable causes. Her theme park, Dollywood, isn't just a hillbilly Alton Towers; it was

built to bring industry to the area she grew up in and create jobs in one of the poorest parts of the United States. Her Imagination Library project has helped to promote child literacy since 1995 by giving over a million free books to kids across the world.

She's often to be found calmly dishing out wisdom as well as her regular boob and barnet jokes, like last year when she spoke out against the transgender bathroom ban with grace and humour. "I don't judge people and I try not to get too caught up in the controversy of things," she said. "I hope that everybody gets a chance to be who and what they are. I just know if I have to pee, I'm gon' pee,

**"Now there's a new peroxide bimbo on the scene"**



Dolly would have Americans feeling the love

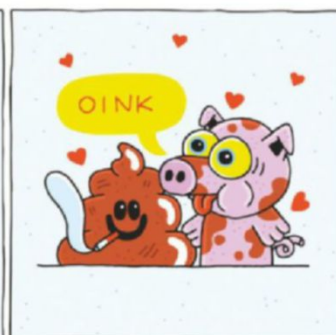
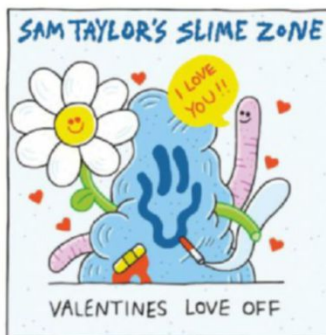
wherever it's got to be." Quite.

With a heart as big as her 'hive, Parton has achieved greatness through hard work, decency and warmth, unlike another American currently making headlines. She might have sung about being a 'Dumb Blonde' half a century ago on that debut album, but now there's a new peroxide bimbo on the scene. Both Dolly Parton and Donald Trump were born in 1946, but apart from their age and a shared taste in hair dye, they couldn't be more different. Parton is accepting, open and kind, where Trump is prejudiced, shut off and mean. In fact,

Dolly Parton is just the kind of woman who should be in charge of America right now. Imagine how great that would be – think of the excessive public use of glitter, the mandatory cowboy boots and the love and respect that would shine out of the States.

Although Dolly didn't publicly endorse any political candidate for the 2016 US election (in fact, she said "I think they're both nuts" of Trump and Clinton), she did comment: "I personally think a woman would do a great job." Well, so do we – especially if her name was Dolly.

@leoniemaycooper







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## THINGS WE LIKE

VALENTINE'S DAY SPECIAL

### THIS WEEK'S OBJECTS OF DESIRE



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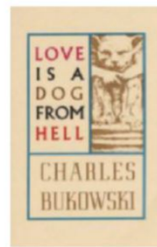
**Eye opener**  
Too Faced and Kat Von D's cosmetics collab features this heart-shaped eyeshadow kit.  
£46 [debenhams.com](http://debenhams.com)



**Edible emojis**  
Met on Tinder? Then celebrate your digital love with some emoji chocs.  
£10 [choconchoc.co.uk](http://choconchoc.co.uk)



**Heart strings**  
Pen an ode to your lover – or crush – on this cherry red Les Paul.  
£699 [gibson.com](http://gibson.com)



**Bad romance**  
Charles Bukowski knows the score. His 1977 classic *Love Is A Dog From Hell* is raw AF.  
£9.98 [amazon.co.uk](http://amazon.co.uk)



**Think pink**  
Eden Mill's Love Gin uses rose petals to create a rather romantic spirit.  
£29.95 [31dover.com](http://31dover.com)



**Modern love**  
There are nine different Bowie-themed Valentine's designs in this card pack.  
£11.25 [mlinehamart.com](http://mlinehamart.com)



**Satin chic**  
Not sure how you feel about V-Day? Then grab this Mixed Emotions satin bomber.  
£120 [shoptuesday.com](http://shoptuesday.com)



**Message on a bottle**  
Personalise a bottle of this whisky cocktail with a special message to your bae.  
£40 [etcheddrinks.com](http://etcheddrinks.com)



**Light of your life**  
This neon light should bring a little love into your home.  
£65 [urbanoutfitters.com](http://urbanoutfitters.com)



**Pucker up**  
The Kiss lip gloss will prepare your pout for some seasonal snogging.  
£5.95 [lush.com](http://lush.com)



**Bag it**  
Wear your heart on your hip with this loved-up leather satchel.  
£90 [drmartens.com](http://drmartens.com)



**Heaven scent**  
Give the gift of smelling delish with this rose-scented Diptyque mini candle.  
£20 [libertylondon.com](http://libertylondon.com)



**Trucking on**  
Vans' neat heart-print trucker cap gives a casual nod to Cupid.  
£25 [vans.co.uk](http://vans.co.uk)



# VO5 NINE AWARDS 2017



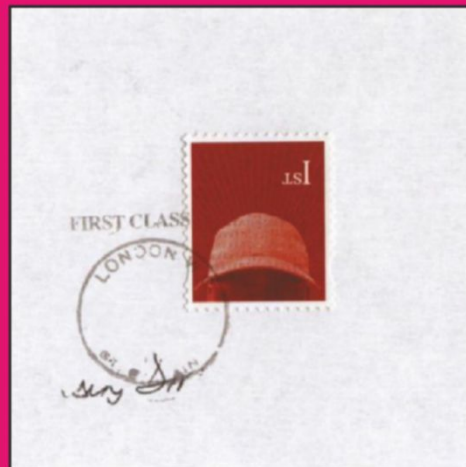
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The 1975 - I like it when you sleep, for you are so beautiful yet so unaware of it



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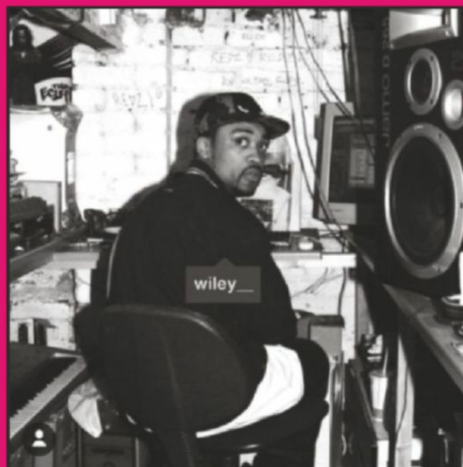
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YOUR TOWN. YOUR MUSIC. YOUR STYLE

# What's ON your Headphones?

THIS WEEK

## Shrewsbury



### < SAM JEWELL 26, marketing

Listening to:  
**JO HARMAN**  
*Worthy Of Love*  
"Beautiful soul, blues and gospel."

**Wearing:** Tommy Hilfiger coat, Howick jumper, Topman jeans and hat, ASOS boots, Risdon & Risdon bag.  
**Best thing about Shrewsbury:** "It's great for independent food and shops."

"It's great for independent shops"



### LEA LENDAKOVA > 24, restaurant supervisor

Listening to:  
**DENNIS FERRER**  
*The Red Room*  
"It reminds me of partying in Greece."

**Wearing:** ASOS coat, Zara jeans, River Island shoes.  
**Best thing about Shrewsbury:** "Go to CSONS for lunch and get the salt beef focaccia."



### < LOTTIE DORRICOTT 22, waitress

Listening to:  
**THE STONE ROSES**  
*This Is The One*  
"I was at the Etihad Stadium gigs."

**Wearing:** Vice 84 hoodie, Marks & Spencer jeans.  
**Best thing about Shrewsbury:** "Breakfast, lunch and dinner at Number Four restaurant."

### JAK WRIGHT > 25, data analyst

Listening to:  
**J. COLE**  
*4 Your Eyez Only*  
"The guy's got talent. He raps about real issues, not just girls and money."

**Wearing:** River Island jacket and boots, Hera London jeans, Topshop scarf.  
**Best thing about Shrewsbury:** "House of the Rising Sun. The vibe is great and the food's unreal."



PHOTOS: ANDY HUGHES



BRIT MARLING

**BRIT**

**DON'T**







# QUIT

After years of hard graft, **Brit Marling** has struck gold with *The OA*, the most talked-about TV show of the year so far. **Charlotte Gunn** catches up with the pioneering writer and actor to talk escapism and conquering "the Wild West of TV"





Brit as Prairie  
in *The OA*

## You got the moves

A series of magic movements are at the heart of *The OA's* story. Want to have a go yourself? Here's how to reach the next dimension



### STEP 1

Get your diamonds in the sky. Except don't, just push them out in front of you and toss your head back in total and utter abandon.



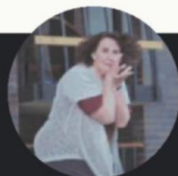
### STEP 2

Bare your teeth like an angry cat, flip your Illuminati sign around and make a pair of grabby pincers with your hands. Wiggle your fingers. Hiss a bit.



### STEP 3

Make the charades sign for 'It's a song'. Except start with your hand shoved in your mouth. Simultaneously lollop about like a raggedy doll.



### STEP 4

You're fielding in a cricket match but don't want a ball in the chops. Hold your hands up to your mouth ready to catch and hunch over while twisting, ready to shout "Out!"



### STEP 5

This one's a bit MJ. Stand up straight. A look to the right; a look to the left; arms outstretched and palms downward in time.



### STEP 6

Raise your arms and double fist-bump your chest like a college bro. Then hold them out to the side, jumbo jet-style.



### STEP 7

Press your arms together in prayer. Look to the sky. Open your hands out like a beautiful, blooming flower. Jelly legs take over. Wobble to the floor.

**B**RIT MARLING – co-writer, executive producer and star of *The OA* – is currently experiencing what happens when you unleash a little magic into people's lives. "People approach me with a kind of *urgency* to talk about *The OA*," she says, on the phone from LA. "Largely, the sentiment has been so unusual and beautiful, whether it's them saying they cried at the ending or it blew their minds or that they're overwhelmed by it, there's a lot of passion and emotion that I haven't seen before."

On-the-street adulation is new for the 34-year-old, mostly known for her roles in independent films prior to *The OA*. A Netflix original series, it introduces the viewer to the world of *Prairie*, a missing blind girl who reappears after seven years with her sight restored. It has elements of '90s Nickelodeon favourite *Are You Afraid Of The Dark*, cult horror-fantasy *Pan's Labyrinth* and – crucially – more than a hint of *Stranger Things*. And it's the most addictive show since the Demogorgon was triumphantly struck down – the type that sees you delving into the depths of Reddit fan theories the moment it finishes.

A strong female lead is just one of the ways in which *The OA* invites comparisons with *Stranger Things*, the nostalgia-packed sci-fi smash that *NME* dubbed the TV highlight of 2016. That show's creators, the Duffer brothers, along with Marling and writing partner Zal Batmanglij – brother of Vampire Weekend's Rostam, who provides the theme tune – are among a new vanguard of young screenwriters pushing the boundaries of what television means in the age of streaming. "It's funny, because *The OA* isn't really a TV show," says Marling. "It's got basically

nothing in common with TV other than it's longer than two hours. Writing is truly unfettered now. It feels like we're in the Wild West of storytelling again, and I have to credit the Duffer brothers in that too."

Do the *Stranger Things* comparisons get a little tiring? "No, I think it's an awesome example of the power of the collective unconscious," she says. "We're drawing from the same ether: young people making things around the same time from the same generation, feeling similar sentiments about the importance of friendship, or the idea of a young girl – an outsider – coming in with something to offer a group of boys. I don't think it's an accident that there's a convergence in themes. I think it's actually quite beautiful – it means we're all hunting around the same thing. The more people that are in that mix, the better."

For Marling, venturing behind the camera was a result of being frustrated with age-old Hollywood gender stereotyping. After coming to acting "super-late" (actually her mid-twenties) and working hard to secure a role – any role – to get some experience, she found herself on the LA audition circuit trying out for parts like "cute blonde" in a horror movie. It was then she took a moment to re-evaluate what it was that mattered to her. "I realised: gosh, even if I got any of these parts that I was desperate to get, they're all roles that I would feel somewhat ashamed to have done. If I later had a daughter, I wouldn't want her to see that representation of a woman – so what was I doing wanting to play one? At that point, I felt an imperative to write, and I don't know that I would have felt that as a young man. If you're part of a group that hasn't had as loud a voice, there's a sort of need to help eke out that voice."

Speaking to young women was



an important part of the writing process for Marling, who spent time visiting schools and talking to pupils about their view of the world. Connecting with that generation, growing up in an uncertain world, proved an eye-opening experience. "I think the most surprising thing was just the amount of pain I saw – it just felt like a crisis," she says. "It didn't feel like the classic coming-of-age troubles I had when I was at school, and I think a huge part of it is technology. If I got picked on, I could go home and I'd have friends and family outside of school, but these kids are on social media 24/7 and it's such a literal accounting of popularity that the oppression is out of control. You feel the kids snapping under the weight of it. It felt to me that they were really overwhelmed and there was a great feeling of yearning for a way out."

**E**scapism and disenfranchisement are at the core of *The OA's* story. A transgender teen, a lonely school teacher, a misunderstood troublemaker and a straight-A student with an alcoholic mother come together to find their voice and purpose in a world that's cast them out. It builds up to one of the most controversial TV finales we've seen in some time – and one that has left fans desperate to know if there'll be a second series. "If we wrapped everything up in a neat little bow, we wouldn't get to keep telling the story and we'd very much like to keep telling the story," Marling teases. "I hope we do [get another series], but I don't know for sure yet."

For now, Marling's taking some time out, still considering the impact

## Strange but true

Five things *Stranger Things* and *The OA* have in common



A girl befriends a group of strangers



No one knows where she's from



The girl has unexplained powers



But they make her nose bleed



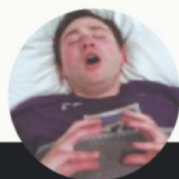
In the end, it's about friendship



With Jason Isaacs as Hap

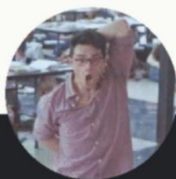
of creating a world visited by millions across the globe, particularly in today's climate. The political reality of 2017 is something that's weighing heavily on her mind given the fact that literally while we're speaking, Donald Trump's inauguration is happening in Washington DC. "I've noticed something happening recently," she says. "Strangers are getting together in rooms more, sharing ideas and telling each other about ways they can get involved in their local community. That's at the heart of this show. When you strip it all away, it's really about people in trauma healing each other by talking, listening and making profound friendships they didn't think were possible. The American Dream has unravelled, but by just showing up and getting together, that's what will make a change. If we don't, nothing is going to move forward." **NME**

**"The OA is about people healing"**



### STEP 8

You went to your nan's on the weekend. She made a massive Swiss roll. Illustrate its size to your friends, keeping them in suspense by slowly widening your hands to demonstrate just what a huge, cylindrical cake it was.



### STEP 9

The reverse Vogue. Channel Madonna, but bust those angular moves behind your head. Oh, and make an 'ooh, aaah' noise with your mouth, because you don't look weird enough already.



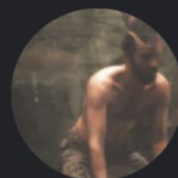
### STEP 10

Imagine your heart's on the right side of your body. Convulse like it just beat right through your chest and you're pulling it out with miniature puppet strings.



### STEP 11

You swallow an apple whole. As it hits your chest, you let one off. To avoid embarrassment, you wave the stench away quickly with a quick fan of your left hand.



### STEP 12

Do your best gorilla impression, jumping backwards with both feet in sync.



### STEP 13

Make a V sign, covering your eyeballs, with your left hand. Put your right hand across your left. Step forward menacingly.

### STEP 14

Slowly pull down the V with your right hand. Act like you snuck a crisp in there when your teacher wasn't looking. Pull your sex face. Prepare to reach another plane.



# TV TO GET YOUR TEETH INTO

Like *Stranger Things* and *The OA*? Here are 10 more mind-bending mystery series you can watch *right now*



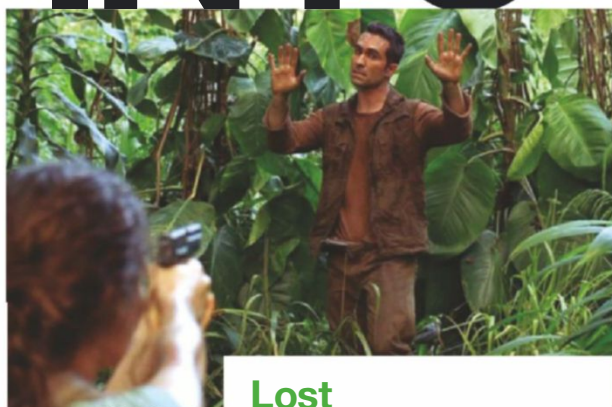
## The Leftovers

**PREMISE:** Years after the disappearance of two per cent of the world's population, a small US community continues to struggle with the after-effects.

**WHY YOU SHOULD WATCH:** The unresolved mystery makes tensions compellingly fraught. It's an HBO show, so think *The Wire*, *Game Of Thrones*.

**STATUS:** Began in 2014; the third and final season arrives in April.

**WATCH ON:** Amazon Video



## Lost

**PREMISE:** Plane crash survivors investigate the seemingly sentient island they're stranded on.

**WHY YOU SHOULD WATCH:** The most talked-about TV show of the noughties, *Lost* was as brilliant as it was baffling.

**STATUS:** Ran for six seasons from 2004 to 2010.

**WATCH ON:** Amazon Video

# 2

## Sense8

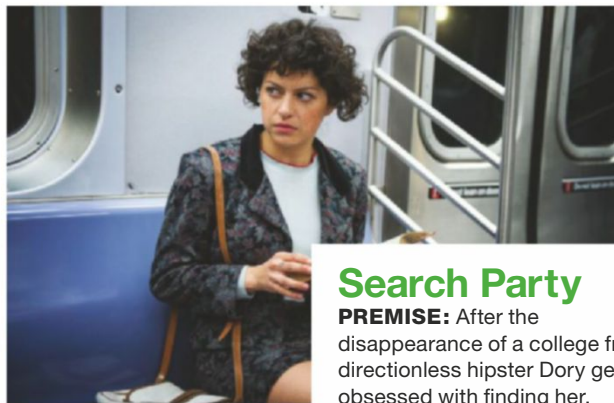
**PREMISE:** Eight telepathically connected people share thoughts and skills, but face persecution from a mysterious threat.

**WHY YOU SHOULD WATCH:** Created by the Wachowskis (*The Matrix*, *Cloud Atlas*) it's a huge, beautiful and progressive show with a mad premise.

**STATUS:** Began in June 2015 and season 2 arrives in May.

**WATCH ON:** Netflix

# 3



## Search Party

**PREMISE:** After the disappearance of a college friend, directionless hipster Dory gets obsessed with finding her.

**WHY YOU SHOULD WATCH:** For its post-*Girls* humour, NYC setting and massive plot twists. And because *Arrested Development*'s Alia Shawkat (Maeby Fünke) stars.

**STATUS:** First aired in November 2016, recently renewed for a second season.

**WATCH ON:** All 4

# 4



5

**Orphan Black****PREMISE:** A con artist discovers she's one of multiple clones, all of whose lives are in danger.**WHY YOU SHOULD WATCH:**

Sure, it explores the ethics of human cloning, but mainly it's Tatiana Maslany's performance that makes it so great. She won an Emmy for it last year.

**STATUS:** The fifth and final season is due in April.**WATCH ON:** Netflix**Les Revenants (The Returned)****PREMISE:** In an isolated French town, dead people return, seemingly alive and well, to their community.**WHY YOU SHOULD WATCH:**This dark fantasy world is so elegant and intoxicating it makes its hulking undead peer *The Walking Dead* look like goofball comedy *Shaun Of The Dead*.**STATUS:** Began in 2012, ended after two seasons. Don't bother with the second.**WATCH ON:** Netflix, Amazon Video

8

**Awake****PREMISE:** In one reality Michael Britten's wife survived a tragic car accident; in the other his son did. But which reality is, erm, real?**WHY YOU SHOULD WATCH:**

As well as its central mystery, this show's also a great police procedural drama and the performances – especially from Jason Isaacs – are top-notch.

**STATUS:** Ended after one season in 2012.**WATCH ON:** Amazon Video

6

**The X-Files****PREMISE:** FBI agents Mulder and Scully investigate freaky supernatural cases.**WHY YOU SHOULD WATCH:**

The theme tune, the relationship between superstitious Mulder (David Duchovny) and cynical Scully (Gillian Anderson), and the out-there plots.

**STATUS:** After 14 years, it returned for a 10th season in 2016.**WATCH ON:** Amazon Video

7

**Fargo****PREMISE:** Based around the Coen brothers film, this anthology series mixes organised crime and mystical philosophy with super-cute North Dakota accents.**WHY YOU SHOULD WATCH:**

The last two seasons have been about good people doing terrible things, turning domestic tedium into a taut thriller with significant supernatural elements.

**STATUS:** Season 3 is due in 2017.**WATCH ON:** Netflix, Amazon Video**Mr. Robot****PREMISE:** Cybersecurity expert Elliot Alderson leads a double life as a hacker, working to destroy a conglomerate he calls Evil Corp.**WHY YOU SHOULD WATCH:**

Rami Malek's dour portrayal of Alderson will have you questioning if any of what he tells you is real.

**STATUS:** Season 3 is due in summer 2017.**WATCH ON:** Amazon Video

9

10

**Three upcoming mysteries to watch out for****STRANGER THINGS 2****What it is:** Hit '80s nostalgia trip about monsters and evil scientists.**When it airs:** October 31, on Netflix.**What we know so far:** Sean Astin (*Lord Of The Rings*) is joining the cast. The show's creators say season 2 is about "the struggle to regain normalcy, and maybe the impossibility of it."**TWIN PEAKS****What it is:** Seminal, surreal murder mystery revived for a third season after 26 years.**When it airs:** May 22, on Sky Atlantic.**What we know so far:** Joining the cast are *Jurassic Park*'s Laura Dern and *Scott Pilgrim* himself, Michael Cera.**DARK****What it is:**

Supernatural saga about two missing children in a German town, set in the present and in 1986.

**When it airs:**

2017 on Netflix.

**What we know so far:** It's the first NetflixOriginal from Germany and is made by the producers of the Oscar-winning *The Lives Of Others*.**NME**





**BIG  
DEAL**



**Big Sean is about to blow up, thanks to fourth album 'I Decided', his strongest, most complete and "meaningful" work to date, says Luke Morgan Britton**

### HE DOESN'T CONFORM TO EXPECTATIONS

In the chorus of lead single 'Bounce Back', Big Sean does a thing not many rappers would dare do: he straight-up admits defeat, detailing how *"last night I took an L"* (a loss), *"but tonight I bounce back"*. Learning from your mistakes is a stark and unusually honest premise for a rap hit, but it perfectly exemplifies how its 28-year-old author appears right now: wiser, more self-assured and with a new-found sense of purpose.

### HE'S NOT JUST ABOUT THE HITS

Sure, he's bagged six platinum singles and had another six certified gold, but on this album Sean's vision was about the bigger picture. "I've seen people have the biggest song in the world," he says, "and then next year they're nowhere to be found. So I don't really concentrate on that. I focus on just bringing something that people can hold onto, appreciating in a different way, as opposed to just being massive on the radio and stuck in your head." Sean adds: "I feel like that's what separates good from great."

### HIS ALBUM'S CONCEPT IS PRETTY PROFOUND

He describes the album as being a "rebirth" and about "second chances", with its cover art depicting a young and old Sean. He explains: "The album is broken up into four sections – four acts, if you will. It's about the mentality of going through life and failing at everything, and then at the end of your life somehow being able to go back and do it all right, with the intuition and the wisdom of your older self. Sometimes you would do the same things twice, sometimes you would make different decisions, but I think in 2017 we need that mentality."

### HE GIVES BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

The rapper's Sean Anderson Foundation helps local Detroit kids and he recently raised \$100k for the nearby Flint water crisis. Does he feel a responsibility to give back? "Yeah, it's kind of second nature for me to care about where I'm from. I guess it's the way I was raised. My grandma would always donate, and that's stuck with me. And I feel like that's not just with money, but with time, with happiness, with inspiration. All these things that can help change somebody's life. It's how I've always looked at things."

### HE'S PROUD OF WHERE HE'S FROM

Detroit has a rich musical history, from Motown to Eminem, and Sean argues that the sense of strife often associated with the city is what spurs people on. "I see why Detroit has a bad reputation, especially when I was growing up. It was dangerous. I'm not saying it's not a dangerous place anymore either, but what I'm seeing is that the renaissance of Detroit is happening right now. Detroit is so special – we've been through the best, we've been through the worst as a city. But on top of that, when you go through those type of things, I think it breeds a certain type of person. I think it's the underlying spirit of something in Detroit that's just creative and I'm just happy to be adding, you know, what I can bring to the table for the city of Detroit musically, and anywhere else I can."

### HE'S RECONNECTED WITH HIS OLD PAL EMINEM

"Me and him did a song together previously called 'Detroit Vs Everybody', which was a major moment for me," says Sean. "When we were in the studio working on that, it was cool to see how much he respected me back. Obviously I respect him as one of the greatest to ever do this. I mean, Eminem is the biggest rapper of all time. I remember reaching out to him [for new track 'No Favors'], knowing that he was really busy. He really appreciated me reaching out and told me that I was one of the most dangerous MCs. We played the album in London and I didn't say Eminem was on that song – I just played it. So everyone was like, 'Oh s\*\*\*!' You know, it was definitely a surprise."

### KANYE IS STILL A SUPPORTER

West appears only once on the album, contributing backing vocals to 'Bounce Back', and takes more of a backseat role this time around as executive producer. He doesn't need his "hand held", Sean says, but even the smallest of inputs from Kanye can

be strongly felt. "I feel like he trusts me creatively to know that I can be an artist on my own. The advice he gives is great and the suggestions that he brings to the table I always consider. Sometimes I take his advice, sometimes I don't. That's with anybody. But the advice he does give is usually pretty right."

### HE'S GOT SOME ON-POINT TRUMP MATERIAL

On 'No Favors', Eminem describes Donald Trump as a "b\*\*\*h", while Big Sean himself played a Hillary Clinton campaign concert late last year. So what does he think of the President's controversial first few weeks in office? "To keep it honest, it's crazy just to see what's going on," he says. "That's one of the reasons why I wanted to deliver this album with this sentiment, because it's really about being the best version of yourself. With all the craziness, if you're not in tip-top shape there's no way to survive. I feel that's very important for people in these moments where Donald Trump is President."

**NME**

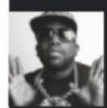
### Big, bigger, biggest

#### Ranking the 'Big' rappers



#### #4 BIG KRIT

Recently parted ways with Def Jam after two albums. He has a way to go to reach the levels of former label-mate Sean.



#### #3 BIG BOI

One half of Outkast, a solo artist in his own right and owner of a successful dog-breeding business in Atlanta. Now that's what you call multitasking.



#### #2 BIG SEAN

He was recently handed a Roc-A-Fella chain by Jay Z. How many of the others can say that?



#### #1 NOTORIOUS B.I.G.

Sorry Sean, but there was no way you were ever going to top this list. Biggie is the sole reason for that.



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**RORY WYNNE**

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SAT 18 MAR	SOLD OUT	TON DOME	WED 29 MAR BIRMINGHAM O2	ACADEMY	
MON 20 MAR LINC	SOLD OUT	INE SHED	THU 30 MAR LEEDS	SOLD OUT	ACADEMY
TUE 21 MAR EXETER LEMON GROVE			FRI 31 MAR NEWCAS	SOLD OUT	ACADEMY
THU 23 MAR LOND	SOLD OUT	HOUSE	SAT 01 APR GLASGO	SOLD OUT	ACADEMY
FRI 24 MAR BRIS	SOLD OUT	ACADEMY			

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# RADAR

MUSIC, FILM, TV & MORE – THIS WEEK'S ESSENTIAL NEW RELEASES

**BEST FOR  
HITTING  
THE GYM**  
**FUTURE ISLANDS**

*Ran*

The cult Baltimore band do their propulsive, up-tempo thing to perfection on this comeback single. Put it on your workout playlist and you'll be a cert for the 2020 Olympics.

**BEST FOR NOT  
GOING TO BED**  
**TEENGIRL FANTASY**

*Star-Rise*

This is the kind of lilting, luscious electronica that's best listened to when you're feeling fragile but still want to know where the party's at.

**BEST FOR  
ROCKING OUT**  
**MASTODON**

*Show Yourself*

The US metallers' upcoming seventh album 'Emperor Of Sand' is all about mortality and will feature this heavy but nicely melodic riff-fest.

**BEST FOR  
SERIOUS  
DANCING**  
**LIV DAWSON**

*Searching*

Produced by Disclosure, this deep disco tune comes from one of 2017's most interesting young vocalists, British teenager Liv.

**BEST FOR  
CHILLING**  
**MAC DEMARCO**

*This Old Dog*

The title track of the slacker king's next album – out in May – is a super-relaxed, finger-picking delight. The very definition of laid-back.

## Best NEW tracks

*And when to drop them*



STORMZY

**BEST FOR  
BEING  
THE BEST**  
**STORMZY**

*Big For Your Boots*

The first track from his long-awaited debut album, this sees the Croydon grime MC slaying the competition with humour, style and ballsy bars, shouting out to everyone from Adele to his mum.

**BEST FOR  
GETTING  
WEIRD**  
**SUMMER MOON**

*Happenin'*

Nikolai Fraiture from The Strokes' other band. This bass-and-drums-heavy psych rocker sounds like something found in the back of Tame Impala's garage.

**BEST FOR  
1970S TIME-  
TRAVEL**  
**BNQT**

*Restart*

A supergroup featuring members of Franz Ferdinand, Midlake, Grandaddy and Band Of Horses, this is a decidedly bearded offering, all vintage synths and groovy guitars.

**BEST FOR  
TENDER  
MOMENTS**  
**JARVIS COCKER  
& CHILLY GONZALES**

*Tearjerker*

Any song that features the line "You don't need a girlfriend / You need a social worker" is in our good books. This collaboration between the Pulp legend and piano man Gonzales is as pretty as it is witty.

**BEST FOR  
GETTING  
POLITICAL**  
**DEPECHE MODE**

*Where's The Revolution*

Electro-goth forefathers Depeche Mode tackle the world's ills on this heavy, heady tune.

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# MUSIC

## Junkyard blues

Rory Graham's debut album is at once modern and classic, fusing blues, hip-hop and vintage sounds with a pop attitude

### RAG'N'BONE MAN

Human



BLUES TATTOOS VINTAGE



ALBUM  
OF THE  
WEEK

RORY GRAHAM HAS BEEN honing his craft for 15 years, from his teens as rapper Rag'n'Bonez in his native Uckfield to open mic hero in nearby Brighton, where he began busting out one of the strongest modern blues vocals to ever shake the south coast.

That it's taken him this long to release his debut seems strange, but in many ways Graham's story is similar to that of Paloma Faith – another homegrown talent who spent a decade knocking about with a 1950s-styled garage covers band, the Penetrators, before breaking through into megastardom. Although it took Faith a few albums to be noticed by the Brit Awards voting panel, Rag'n'Bone Man has already scored his first gong, the 2017 Critics Choice Award, following in the footsteps of James Bay, Sam Smith and Jack Garratt.

'Human' references all three artists, from the sleek pop nous of Smith and the vintage nods of Bay to the experimental looping of Garratt. The heady title track melds all three, mixing up beats, blues and moody production, but it's the brute force of his vocals that carries the record.

When it comes to big, belting choruses backed with equally sizeable orchestration, Graham doesn't muck about. 'Grace' brings Memphis majesty into the mix and 'Arrow' smacks of Amy Winehouse at her sassiest, while 'Be The Man' has the easiness of an Ed Sheeran melody. 'Die Easy', a fully a capella track, is full of Delta Blues clichés that seem out of kilter with a guy from East Sussex, but Graham's powerful voice just about manages to override the irony.

Leonie Cooper

FOR FANS OF



AMY WINEHOUSE



SAM SMITH



# Drive time

London duo want you to “have faith” in their debut album of heart-on-sleeve lyrics and soft rock tunes

**TEN FÉ**  
Hit The Light



SOFT ROCK EMOTIONS

FOLLOWING THE RAMPANT success of The 1975, it's natural that other bands will follow in their wake. London duo Ten Fé, named after the Spanish for

“have faith”, are front of the queue.

Recorded in Berlin, Ben Moorhouse and Leo Duncan's debut has one eye on the radio-friendly soft rock of The 1975, the

other on the on-the-road rock of cult US group The War On Drugs. And generally, it works. Sure, there are tracks on this wistful collection of electronic rock 'n' roll that sound like drive-time classics, ripe for a *Top Gear* compilation pressed for Father's Day. On occasion, though, the album hits a sumptuous sweet spot between the rugged emotion of Bruce Springsteen, the synthy swirl of Jagwar Ma and the lightness of The Cure.



Take standout song ‘Elodie’, with its rolling piano refrain, sighed backing vocals and yearning lyrics such as, “*The feeling has gone / I know I’m no longer the one*”. Those opening piano notes are irresistible, new yet familiar, as fragile as the bruised ego that the words convey. Elsewhere, ‘Twist Your Arm’ is an electronic banger, all pounding percussion and lilting slide guitar, before it contracts into a hand-clapped campfire singalong. By the time it's back into its full-blooded, full-bodied chorus, you could be convinced that this intermittently thrilling album has come to offer you nothing short of salvation.

Yet the next track, ‘Another Way’, sounds like The 1975 but with the louche sex appeal and clever-clogs wordplay dialled down. A combination of washed-out keys and slinky guitar, it could be described as an anaemic cousin to ‘Paris’ by Matt Healy and pals. ‘In The Air’ sees Ten Fé claim that they’re “*not through with love / But through the pain*”, the kind of earnest statement that's rife throughout the record.

If the band suffer from anything, it's being too serious for their own good, but the sheer propulsive nature of the majority of the record makes it undeniably attractive. Their melodies are catchy as hell. You might not have heard of Ten Fé yet, but once you hear one of their better tracks, it'll be hard to shake from your skull. **Jordan Bassett**

Ten Fé (l-r):  
Leo Duncan and  
Ben Moorhouse

**STRANGE & TRUE**

Ten Fé have recorded a cover of ‘Born Slippy’ by Underworld. The song choice was suggested to them by a stranger in a bar in Hamburg.

PHOTOS: PEROU, IMOGEN LOVE



## The dork knight

The beloved brick brand pokes fun at superheroes

### THE LEGO BATMAN MOVIE

U Will Arnett, Rosario Dawson, Michael Cera, Ralph Fiennes



GAGS LESSONS META FUN

YOU HAVE TO GO BACK about 20 years – to the George Clooney days – to find a live-action Batman that isn't sociopathically macho. Recent portrayals have refused to let the orphan-turned-superhero be anything but dark, stormy and brooding. *The Lego Batman*

*Movie*, on the other hand, finds fun in the idea of a grown man fighting crime in a cape.

Our story begins with Batman (*Arrested Development*'s Will Arnett) single-handedly saving Gotham City for the umpteenth time and relishing the shallow love it earns him from its citizens. But new commissioner Barbara Gordon (Rosario Dawson) decides the city's reliance on him is unhealthy and cleans up the streets. This forces Batman – an incorrigible loner, prone to working out in the gym as a way

of escaping his emotional problems – to spend his time with his accidentally adopted son Dick (Michael Cera) and butler Alfred (Ralph Fiennes), until a new threat emerges to bring the lot of them together.

If you wanted, you could read *The Lego Batman Movie* as a parable about the importance of unity in a divided America – or a blockbuster about mental health, in the same way that 2015's *Inside Out* was – but it'll make you laugh so much that you'll barely notice any kind of message being hammered home. The torrent of gags commences in the opening credits, with a nudge-nudge voiceover from our gravel-throated Batman. It's a similar

start to *Deadpool*, and this film channels the self-aware humour of that 2016 Marvel smash throughout. Many of the LOLs will sail over kids' heads – a triumphant "I did something!" from rubbish villain Killer Croc; a cheeky dig at last year's much-criticised *Batman Vs Superman* – but there's plenty here for younger audiences too, thanks mostly to the enjoyable childishness of Lego's Batman.

Perhaps *The Lego Batman Movie* should come with a warning, because it'll be near-impossible for viewers to take Ben Affleck's Batman seriously as he scowls his way through the forthcoming *Justice League* after this. **Larry Bartleet**

PHOTOS: REX FEATURES





Michael Keaton as Ray Kroc, the man who made McDonald's massive



# Fast food for thought

A darkly humorous look at the history of McDonald's, with Michael Keaton playing a small-time businessman with a big-time dream

## THE FOUNDER

12A Michael Keaton, Nick Offerman, John Carroll Lynch



BIG MACS BIG DREAMS BIOPIC

WE'VE LONG KNOWN THE story of how McDonald's burgers are made, thanks to documentaries like *Fast Food Nation*. This jaunty biopic tells how McDonald's itself was made. As with the food, the recipe here is one that includes making mincemeat of the unsuspecting, a lot of cheap cuts and more than a little unappetising crap.

When we first find Ray Kroc (Michael Keaton), in the 1950s, he's trying to sell milkshake makers to restaurants, mostly unsuccessfully. He's a quick-talking, eager, mildly tragic grafter. Kroc has the ambitions of a big-time businessman, yet none of the ideas. His life is comfortable but he always wants more. So he does what anyone in pursuit of the American Dream does if they don't have

a billion-dollar idea of their own: he takes someone else's.

When one restaurant, McDonald's, orders several of his machines, Kroc goes to find out why they're so busy and discovers a restaurant that's reinvented fast food. And he wants in. Although credited as the man who started McDonald's, Kroc actually just sneakily wrestled it from Dick and Mac McDonald (Nick Offerman, John Carroll Lynch), taking something small and wholesome and cheapening it for the masses.

Robert D. Siegel's script,

directed with a big smile and a dark sense of humour by John Lee Hancock, chooses the more interesting side of this story. The McDonald brothers' tale of being bullied out of their own business might have been the obvious centre to the story, with Kroc as the villain, but by choosing Kroc as the protagonist the film gives itself more to play with.

Keaton is perfect for the role, his natural devilish charm making Kroc not a bad guy but someone who sees potential in an idea and knows how to make it better but doesn't know when to stop. Kroc becomes rich beyond all his dreams, but he can never feel sated. In *The Founder's* telling, the man who sold the world on the idea that instant gratification was everything never got any of his own, no matter how long he waited.  
**Olly Richards**

FOR FANS OF



SUPERSIZE ME



JOY



# Under THE RADAR

YOU HEARD IT HERE FIRST

## Rhodri wears:

T-shirt, Topman, £16  
Jeans, Topman, £30  
Boots, Dr Martens, £120  
VO5 Ultimate Hold Hairspray, £3.62

## Tali wears

Top, Toga Pulla at Harvey Nichols, £705  
Jeans, Topman, £30  
Shoes, Topshop, £72  
VO5 Miracle Illuminator, £4.39

Estrons (l-r): Steff,  
Rhodri, Tali, Toby

## Steff wears:

Jacket, AllSaints, £345  
T-shirt, Levi's, £65  
VO5 Dry Texturising Spray, £4.39



**Toby wears:**

Shirt, Topman, £20

Jeans, Topman, £30

Boots, Dr Martens, £115

VO5 ReWork Spray, £4.39

# Estrons

**Fiery and empowering  
Slaves-endorsed 'heavy  
pop' from West Wales**

"IT'S LAZY JOURNALISM to call us a punk band," says Estrons singer Tali Källström, long before *NME* has got its slack arse in gear to call them anything at all. "I'd call us a heavy pop band." If you've heard their empowering songs of sexual dominance and male ego deflation, seen their breast-feeding artwork or caught a shoe in the face at one of their gigs (rubs arm bruise), you'll know that 'heavy pop' band Estrons thrive on confrontation, on hacking away at the cultural guy ropes, upending stereotypes and finding wonder in life's clashes.

Their bio reads like a rock agitator's handbook. Welsh-Canadian Källström met guitarist Rhodri Daniel on an Aberystwyth beach in 2013, and together they conceived Estrons (Welsh for 'misfit') as a revolving collective of oddball strangers representing the multi-language West Wales melting pot. Daniel came up with their garage-pop 2015 breakout song 'Make A Man' while standing between two sound-clashing rooms in a Berlin nightclub; Källström wrote the lusty lyrics as an attempt to bring the forthright sexuality of female rappers like Missy Elliott into the rock sphere. Last summer's single 'Drop' was conceived in a police cell and, having gone through a break-up the afternoon before their first gig outside of Cardiff, Källström had a minor shoe-based meltdown onstage. "I drank five shots of tequila one after another and cried onstage," she admits. "I took off my shoes and threw them into the crowd. My fiery personality when things go wrong – you can hear a lot of that in Estrons' music."

With Källström's impetuosity and sprawling love of every genre from rap to opera clashing with Daniel's "militant, logical and scientific" approach, causing heated but constructive arguments, it took several years, relentless touring (including a stint with Slaves) and about 12 fleeting members for Estrons to find a fixed line-up and a definitive sound. "I didn't want to be another rock band that looked and sounded like something else that had existed before," Källström insists. "These bands must be lying when they say, 'We all just met and it was all fine and we liked the same music and now we write this.'" Estrons, then: where misfits finally click. **Mark Beaumont** ●●●

PHOTOS BY ZOE MCCONNELL

STYLED BY KYLIE GRIFFITHS

HAIR STYLED BY VO5



**Steff wears:**

T-shirt, Topman, £16  
Jeans, Topman, £30  
Boots, Dr Martens, £120  
VO5 Dry Texturising Spray, £4.39

**Rhodri wears:**

Jacket, Topman, £35  
T-shirt, Topman, £16  
Jeans, Topman, £30  
VO5 Matt Clay, £4.39

**Toby wears:**

Top, Topman, £15  
Jeans, Topman, £30  
Boots, Dr Martens, £115  
VO5 ReWork Putty, £4.39

**Tali wears:**

Top, Urban Outfitters, £39  
Jeans, Topman, £40  
Shoes, Topshop, £72  
VO5 Miracle Illuminator, £4.39





# FOR FANS OF STRANGE & TRUE

LIKE THIS? TRY THIS!

## Best track



METRIC



YEAH YEAH YEAHS

Their self-released debut EP 'Whoever She Was', which featured a cover shot of Tali breast-feeding her newborn child, became a "secret EP" when all existing copies were stolen in Tunbridge Wells.



### HONEYBLOOD 'Honeyblood'

As with Estrons, no s\*\*t is taken from the bulls\*\*t artists swarming Stina Tweeddale on the debut album from this rock band.

### I'M NOT YOUR GIRL

Estrons' latest single is an itchy hip-hop squall tackling possessive, egotistical boyfriends. "It's about bringing down egos and that sense of ownership," says Tali.

#### Tali wears:

Jacket, AllSaints, £575

T-shirt, Obey, £30

VO5 Ultimate Hold Hairspray, £3.62





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# live

THIS WEEK'S BEST TICKETS AND GIGS

## Going Gaga

The Joanne world tour will bring killer tunes and countless costume changes to three UK stadiums

THE SEVEN MOST-WATCHED TV broadcasts in US history have all been the Super Bowl. The event's enormous viewership hasn't dipped below the 100 million mark since 2010, and it was here, straight after her theatrical half-time extravaganza, that Lady Gaga announced her Joanne world tour last Sunday.

For this year's Super Bowl half-time show she put on an iconic spectacle, but unlike almost every actor so far this awards season, Gaga didn't use her platform to talk politics directly, instead boshing out a 13-minute medley of stone-cold hits such as 'Born This Way' and 'Bad Romance' alongside choreography and costume changes that channelled

both the post-apocalyptic heft of *Mad Max* and the showy glitz of *Cabaret*.

Here are just three of the brilliant things that went down: she got illuminated drones to form the American flag behind her; she got an actual human man to hold her mic for her while she played keytar; she flew, flying-squirrel-style, through the air on a wire. Sure, her recent fourth album 'Joanne' might have suggested that things are going to get more low-key, but that doesn't mean her stadium performances will be anything less than utterly watchable. The Super Bowl was more than enough proof enough of that.

PHOTO: REX FEATURES

ON SALE  
NOW

### LADY GAGA

She's pretty famous, yeah?

#### OCTOBER

Mon 9 The O2, London

Sun 15 Barclaycard Arena,  
Birmingham

Tue 17 Arena, Manchester

**TICKETS:** £55, on sale 9am,  
February 10





**ON SALE  
NOW**

## **SUPERFOOD**

**Brummie indie band  
prepped for glory**

### **MARCH**

**Fri 17** O2 Academy, Oxford

**Sat 18** Leadmill, Sheffield

**Sun 19** King Tut's, Glasgow

**Mon 20** Sound Control,  
Manchester

**Tue 21** Brudenell Social Club,  
Leeds

**Wed 22** The Welly Club, Hull

**Thu 23** Think Tank?,  
Newcastle

**Fri 24** Arts Club, Liverpool

**Sat 25** Sugarmill, Stoke

**Mon 27** O2 Academy,  
Birmingham

**Tue 28** Rescue Rooms,  
Nottingham

**Wed 29** The Haunt, Brighton

**Thu 30** Thekla, Bristol

**Fri 31** The Dome, London

### **APRIL**

**Sat 1** Clwb Ifor Bach, Cardiff

**Mon 3** Oh Yeah, Belfast

**TELL ME MORE:** These labelmates of The 1975 have injected tons of synth into the mix for their new single 'Double Dutch' – more curveballs await at these gigs.

**TICKETS:** £10-£13.20





## JORJA SMITH

Teenage BBC Sound  
Of 2017 runner-up

### APRIL

**Sat 01** O2 Academy, Birmingham  
**Sun 02** Haunt, Brighton  
**Mon 03** Village Underground, London  
**Wed 05** Belgrave Music Hall, Leeds  
**Thu 06** King Tut's, Glasgow  
**Fri 07** Gorilla, Manchester

**TELL ME MORE:** Drake and Stormzy are fans of this laconic soul singer from the West Midlands, who sampled 17th century composer Henry Purcell on her 2016 track 'A Prince'.

**TICKETS:** £11.55-£11.81



## SHE DREW THE GUN

Dreamy Merseyside  
psych group

### MARCH

**Thu 23** The Horn, St Albans  
**Fri 24** Oslo, London  
**Sat 25** Library, Liverpool  
**Sun 26** The Cluny, Newcastle  
**Tue 28** Komedia, Bath  
**Wed 29** Exchange, Bristol  
**Thu 30** The Deaf Institute, Manchester  
**Fri 31** The Trades Club, Hebden Bridge

**TELL ME MORE:** The four-piece won Glastonbury Festival's emerging talent competition in 2016.

**TICKETS:** £8.80-£10.45



## THE VIEW

Scottish indie stalwarts

### MAY

**Thu 4** Barrowlands, Glasgow  
**Fri 5 & Sat 6** Garage, Aberdeen  
**Sun 7 & Mon 8** Ruby Lounge, Manchester  
**Wed 10** The Garage, London  
**Fri 12** Tramshed, Cardiff  
**Sat 13** Hangar34, Liverpool  
**Sun 14** Foundry, Sheffield  
**Tue 16** Old Fire Station, Carlisle  
**Wed 17 & Thu 18** Liquid Rooms, Edinburgh  
**Fri 19** Barrowland, Glasgow

**TELL ME MORE:** Expect 'Same Jeans' singalongs on this tour celebrating 10 years of the Glasgow band's debut 'Hats Off To The Buskers'.

**TICKETS:** £16.50-£20



## CAMERON AVERY

Expectation-defying  
bassist from Tame Impala

### APRIL

**Tue 11** King Tut's, Glasgow  
**Wed 12** The Deaf Institute, Manchester  
**Thu 13** Dingwalls, London  
**Fri 14** Brudenell Social Club, Leeds  
**Sat 15** Haunt, Brighton

**TELL ME MORE:** Known for his psychedelic basslines, Avery is surprising everyone with his Frank Sinatra-influenced debut solo album, 'Ripe Dreams, Pipe Dreams'.

**TICKETS:** £13.20-£15.40







## THE WEEK'S BEST GIGS

### BLOC PARTY

Fri 10 & Sat 11  
The Roundhouse, London

### BOXED IN

Fri 10 Clwb Ifor Bach, Cardiff  
Sat 11 Bierkeller, Exeter  
Mon 13 Village Underground, London

### CATHOLIC ACTION

Sat 11 The Roundhouse, London  
Mon 13 The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham  
Wed 15 The Joiners, Southampton  
Thu 16 The Horn, St Albans

### DISCIPLES

Sat 11 SWX, Bristol

### ESTRONS

Fri 10 Komedia, Brighton  
Sat 11 The Cellar, Oxford  
Wed 15 Parr Street Studios, Liverpool  
Thu 16 The Crofters Rights, Bristol

### FIELD MUSIC

Sun 12 Milton Court Concert Hall, London

### FUFANU

Tue 14 Gullivers, Manchester  
Wed 15 Oporto Bar & Restaurant, Leeds

### HANNAH WANTS

Fri 10 SWG3, Glasgow

### INHEAVEN

Fri 10 The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent  
Sat 11 Brudenell Social Club, Leeds  
Wed 15 West End Centre, Aldershot

### IZZY BIZU

Tue 14 Academy, Manchester  
Wed 15 O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire, London

### KATE NASH

Sat 11 Rescue Rooms, Nottingham  
Sun 12 O2 Institute, Birmingham  
Mon 13 O2 Academy, Oxford  
Tue 14 Thekla, Bristol  
Thu 16 Phoenix Arts Centre, Exeter

### LADYHAWKE

Fri 10 Brudenell Social Club, Leeds  
Sat 11 Academy, Manchester  
Mon 13 O2 Institute, Birmingham  
Tue 14 O2 Academy, Oxford  
Wed 15 KOKO, London

### LITTLE COMETS

Fri 10 Komedia, Bath  
Sat 11 The Wedgewood Rooms, Portsmouth  
Sun 12 Concorde 2, Brighton  
Tue 14 Junction, Cambridge  
Wed 15 O2 Institute, Birmingham  
Thu 16 Saint Luke's, Glasgow

### LITTLE SIMZ

Sun 12 The Roundhouse, London

### LOYLE CARNER

Sat 11 Waterfront, Norwich  
Sun 12 Motion & The Marble Factory, Bristol  
Mon 13 The Hub, Plymouth  
Wed 15 Engine Rooms, Southampton  
Thu 16 O2 Institute, Birmingham

### MENACE BEACH

Fri 10 The Magnet, Liverpool  
Sat 11 The Deaf Institute, Manchester  
Tue 14 Broadcast, Glasgow  
Wed 15 Sneaky Pete's, Edinburgh  
Thu 16 The Cluny, Newcastle

### MIKE SKINNER

Sat 11 Unity Works, Wakefield

### THE NAKED & FAMOUS

Sun 12 Liquid Rooms, Edinburgh  
Mon 13 Academy, Manchester  
Tue 14 O2 Forum, London

### OPEN MIKE EAGLE

Wed 15 The Jazz Café, London

### PAWS

Mon 13 The Victoria, London  
Thu 16 The Tooth & Claw, Inverness

### POND

Tue 14 Moth Club, London

### RAG'N'BONE MAN

Tue 14 Clapham Grand, London

### RICHARD HAWLEY

Thu 16 Union Chapel, London

### SIGALA

Tue 14 O2 Ritz, Manchester  
Wed 15 UEA, Norwich  
Thu 16 KOKO, London

### SLØTFACE

Mon 13 The Castle Hotel, Manchester  
Tue 14 Oporto Bar & Restaurant, Leeds  
Wed 15 Nice N Sleazy, Glasgow

### SPRING KING

Sun 12 The Bullingdon, Oxford  
Mon 13 Engine Rooms, Southampton  
Wed 15 Clwb Ifor Bach, Cardiff

### SUNDARA KARMA

Sat 11 The Rainbow Complex, Birmingham  
Sun 12 O2 Academy, Liverpool  
Mon 13 Leadmill, Sheffield  
Wed 15 Northumbria University Student Union, Newcastle  
Thu 16 Albert Hall, Manchester

### TEGAN & SARA

Mon 13 The Roundhouse, London  
Tue 14 Albert Hall, Manchester  
Wed 15 O2 Academy, Bristol

### TINIE TEMPAH

Tue 14 O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire, London

### TOUCHÉ AMORÉ

Wed 15 The Haunt, Brighton

### TWO DOOR CINEMA CLUB

Fri 10 Alexandra Palace, London

### VANT

Mon 13 The Roundhouse, London

### YONAKA

Tue 14 Sticky Mike's Frog Bar, Brighton  
Thu 16 The Shacklewell Arms, London



### V5 NME AWARDS 2017

Wed 15 O2 Academy Brixton, London





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BOY BETTER KNOW

A TRIBE CALLED QUEST

JESS GLYNNE

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FATBOY SLIM

DAMIAN 'JR GONG' MARLEY

LONDON GRAMMAR

FLYING LOTUS

GEORGE EZRA

CHAKA KHAN

CARL COX

ERIC PRYDZ

ANDY C

DJ EZ

ABOVE & BEYOND

JAMIE JONES

SETH TROXLER

THE MARTINEZ BROTHERS

RAG'N'BONE MAN

ANDERSON .PAAK & THE FREE NATIONALS

ZARA LARSSON

LITTLE DRAGON

WILEY

SAMPHA

GIGGS

MURA MASA

ELROW PRESENTS FAR WEST

DANNY BROWN

ADAM BEYER

JOSEPH CAPRIATI

DIXON

OLIVER HELDENS

HANNAH WANTS

MAYA JANE COLES

DUSKY

TORIS VOORN

DAVID RODIGAN

HOT SINCE 82

JACKMASTER

KÖLSCH

BICEP

PATRICK TOPPING

PETE TONG

SKREAM

ARMAND VAN HELDEN

FLOATING POINTS SOLO LIVE SET

JON HOPKINS DJ

JAGWAR MA

RATBOY

NAO

LOYLE CARNER

TOM MISCH LIVE

LEVELZ

MOODYMANN

THE BLACK MADONNA

FATIMA YAMAHA

GOLDIE INFLUENCES

YUSEF

RICHY AHMED

WILKINSON DJ

NOISIA DJ

TODDLA T & COCO

SOLARDO

GERD JANSON

MIDLAND

HUNEE

MIND AGAINST

REJTIE SNOW

J HUS

CRAZY P LIVE

AJ TRACEY

WAZE & ODYSSEY

ARTWORK

MONKI

HYPE & HAZARD

MY NU LENG

P MONEY

MICK JENKINS

JOE GODDARD LIVE

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JAPANESE HOUSE

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HORSE MEAT DISCO

ROMARE LIVE

DJ CRAZE

NASTIA

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NORTH BASE

VENUM SOUND

RICH REASON

KRYSKO

GREG LORD

PIRATE COPY

JONNY DUB

WILL TRAMP

ZUTKEH DJS

PETE ZORBA

JAMES ORGAN

HACKETT

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# SOUNDTRACK OF MY LIFE

## Huw Stephens

VO5 NME Awards host and Radio 1's new music champion



### THE FIRST ALBUM I EVER BOUGHT

**CROWDED HOUSE**  
*Together Alone*

"I bought this on the big supermarket shop with my mum, on cassette. Supermarkets were the ultimate hipster spots – they had cassette charts! This Australian band wrote some beautiful, melodic songs and I thought they were the coolest people, along with Alanis Morissette, in the whole world."

### THE SONG THAT CHANGED MY LIFE

**TYSTION**  
*Gwyddbwyll*

"This is a Welsh rap track that I heard when I was 15. It woke me up to the possibilities of music. You didn't have to be in a band that went through the motions, you could sing in your own language and reflect your life, not just some stereotype."



### THE FIRST SONG I REMEMBER HEARING

**THE HOUSEMARTINS**  
*Caravan Of Love*

"This is an a cappella cover by the band featuring Norman Cook – AKA Fatboy Slim – and Paul Heaton, who went on to form The Beautiful South. This stands out as an early memory, as my older sisters were really into them."

### THE FIRST SONG I FELL IN LOVE WITH

**QUEEN**  
*Radio Ga Ga*

"This was on the 'Live At Wembley' album that came out when I was five. I remember hearing about Freddie Mercury on the news and this live album just sounded amazing. Everything musical belonged to my sisters at this point, as I have three who are older than me."

### THE FIRST GIG I WENT TO

**BON JOVI**  
*Cardiff Arms Park*

"A boiling hot day in June. Support from '80's legends Van Halen. Bon Jovi wore leather trousers, so to me they looked like a rock band. They even did a secret gig on Queen Street in town on the bandstand before the main event. All very exciting."

### THE SONG THAT MAKES ME DANCE

**MEIC STEVENS**  
*Y Brawd Houdini*

"This is a Welsh classic and Meic was friendly with Jimi Hendrix back in the day. It's Welsh Language Music Day on February 10 so I'll be playing this loud."

### THE SONG THAT REMINDS ME OF HOME

**COLORAMA**  
*Dere Mewn*

"This is a song about going home, and it's the most laid-back, melodic and beautiful song. It was produced by Edwyn Collins. Colorama's music is very special."

### THE SONG I CAN NO LONGER LISTEN TO

**DAFT PUNK**  
*Harder Better Faster Stronger*

"I downloaded an app to learn how to play this song yourself. I love Daft Punk, but I've played this so many times myself, pretending to be them."



### THE SONG I WANT PLAYED AT MY FUNERAL

**FLAMING LIPS**  
*Race For The Prize*

"A euphoric song that sounds so good when played loud. This reminds me of seeing them play in Belgium with my wife. But to be honest, anything will do at my funeral. Put the iPod on shuffle."

### THE SONG I DO AT KARAOKE

**BEASTIE BOYS**  
*Intergalactic*

"'Hello Nasty' was a big album for me – it all sounded so incredible. I'd listen to their rhymes and tightness over and over, and the production is awesome. I loved their humour and playfulness."

### THE SONG I CAN'T GET OUT OF MY HEAD

**JAIN**  
*Makeba*

"Jain is French, toured with Christine And The Queens, and found these wonderful samples to sing over. This is a real earworm, so when I play it on my radio show it's properly lodged in my head all night."



The wisdom of the NME archives

THIS WEEK  
**ANDRE 3000**

*Outkast*

February 14, 2004

"I like that in England you call pants knickers. Knickers is such a cool word. I always call my pants knickers now."



STREAM THE VO5 NME AWARDS LIVE VIA OUR FACEBOOK PAGE ON FEBRUARY 15 FROM 8.15PM



**"WE DON'T KNOW WHY NO ONE'S THOUGHT OF THIS BEFORE"**

**TIME OUT CRITICS CHOICE**

**"A QUALITY COMPETITION"**

**LONDONIST**

**"SASSY"**

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