

Something for the Weekend

GEORGE KEEPS KYLE STRAIGHT

ROCKER Kyle Falconer has got a new mentor — 80s legend Boy George. And The View frontman has been told to cut down on the boozing by the former Culture Club singer, *below*, who famously beat heroin addiction.

The unlikely pairing have become close pals as part of chart-topper Mark Ronson's band The Business Intl and Kyle, 24, admitted he enjoys taking more of a backseat.

He said: "It's not really difficult switching between doing gigs with The View as I need to chat s***e all the time on stage with the band to the fans, but with Ronson, I let him to do all that and I get on with playing."

"I only come on to sing two songs and Boy George is in the same boat as me, he only does one song so we wait about backstage together."

"He's sound as f*** and is a good mate of mine now. He's always telling me to watch out for the bevvie and keeping me on the straight and narrow."

"He's a really nice person, dead easy-going and really chatty — it's been about a year I've been doing gigs with him, so I've got him know him quite well."

But reformed hellraiser George, 50 — who lined up with Kyle and Ronson last weekend at the Solidays Festival in Paris — avoids going out after shows with the wee man from Dundee, who's notorious for his rock 'n' roll lifestyle.

Kyle added: "We kick about together at the gigs but whenever I'm going out at night afterwards, he goes back to the hotel. So me and a few of the other guys go rampaging on our own."



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SFTW meets HURTS

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POP duo Hurts have racked up more air miles in the last 18 months than they've had hot dinners.

It's been a rollercoaster ride for the Manchester band, which has seen them conquer Europe and Asia. And it's all down to their stunning debut album *Happiness*, which was a revelation and broke into the top ten in ten countries.

Singer Theo Hutchcraft said: "We never expected anything, we were just two lads on the dole for five years."

"Now we've ended up in the bizarre position where it's taken us around the world."

"We've gone to Taiwan, Israel, Dubai, Russia and Ukraine."

"Everywhere we go, people really seem to have taken to it."

"But you can't think about that too much, you've just got to drink through it, enjoy all the women and hope it never ends."

The band's travels saw them headline the first ever major rock festival in Bulgaria last week.

That and a mad trip to Siberia stand out.

Theo, 24, raved: "They'd never had anything like that before in Bulgaria."

"What an amazing privilege to headline it but it's because we've gone there, and why wouldn't you?"

"Eastern Europe has the best in the world."

"China was great but they confiscated all our equipment at the airport and refused to give it back — but we still did the gig."

"We played on the beach in Bali with a load of surfers watching us, that was bizarre, especially when

By CHRIS SWEENEY

you're a band who only wear black and they're all standing there with no shoes or shirts on."

"We also went to Siberia, it was a seven-hour flight from London to Russia and then another two-hour flight from Kazakhstan."

"It was the final place we got to, no one ever goes there."

"It was in this big 5,000 capacity venue and the last band to play was Deep Purple."

"I was talking to the local promoter and asked him when that was, and he said, '18 months ago'."

That blows your mind."

So what's behind their global success?

Theo said: "It's perhaps the emotional content in our music, we poured a lot into the album — that's what translates."

"It's what music is, it's a performance."

"It's called showbusiness for a reason — I don't understand why people go see bands who look like four guys down the pub."

"I never liked music for that reason, I like it for the escape and to entertain people."

The pair — the other half of the team is synth player Adam Anderson —

have also been enjoying their lives outside of music, which are unrecognisable to when they played their first gig in February 2010.

Theo said: "You do get very used to the lifestyle and you run on adrenaline every day as it's so exciting, especially for us as we never dreamed this would happen."

"We enjoy it but you do need to watch yourself, if you don't then it catches up with you."

Now the pair have their eyes firmly on T In The Park when they play the King Tut's Tent next weekend after going down a storm with their performance last year.

Theo said: "Last year was great, I think it's one of the best British festivals — as the crowd are so, so receptive."

Biggest

"Our album wasn't even out, we had one song out but the people went for it, the tent was full and we'll always remember that."

"The biggest problem is having two tour buses and a lorry, it's like we're f***ing Pink Floyd or something when we arrive. It's really embarrassing."

"There will be 12 people on stage, which is the biggest the show has ever been."

And while some bands rush out the follow-up to a successful debut, Hurts are doing the opposite.

Theo admitted they're not ready to start and are in no rush.

He added: "We spent a long time on the first one, we were meticulous as we didn't want to f*** it up."

"We know we have to do the same with the second, as long as we do our best we'll always be happy."

"We're still learning about music, we've only been doing this properly for two years."

"There's no rush, by the end of the year we'll start."

"We need to take it all in, on the first album all we had to write about was how miserable we were and that was it."

"This time, we've got a whole world of experience at our fingertips."

● Hurts play King Tut's Wah Wah Tent next Sunday.



1 WEEK TO GO



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PREVIEW AND WIN LAST TICKETS



BY JIM GELLATLY

NEW MUSIC

DEAD BOY ROBOTICS

WHO: Gregor McMillan (vocals, bass, synth, percussion), Mike Bryant (vocals, guitar, synth, percussion), Paul Bannon (drums)

WHERE: Edinburgh

FOR FANS OF: Primal Scream, Crystal Castles, Depeche Mode

JIM SAYS: I do love my pop music, but then my definition of pop music is pretty broad.

My favourite pop music tends to be of the noisy variety. As long as it's got a great tune desperately fighting for air, I'm happy.

Under those criteria I class Dead Boy Robotics as my ideal pop band. Through the beats and electronic noise comes some wonderful melodies.

Dark and joyous at the same time, the Edinburgh trio are one of Scotland's most exciting bands right now. They've been floating around for a few years now, and played the T Break Stage for new acts in 2009, but it's only recently I had my first taste of Dead Boy Robotics live.

Bursting from a curtain of smoke and lights at Glasgow's Nice N Sleazy venue came this wonderfully edgy brand of electronica.

Debuting with their Tale Of The Winter Kids EP last year, they've just completed their first album, set for release late 2011. Meanwhile, their current single, Ever



— a split release with fellow Capital band The Machine Room — is a wonderful introduction to what's in store.

Available on iTunes or 7" orange vinyl, it's the first release on Edinburgh's Tape Studio singles club (tapestudio.com).

Another single, Gatherer On The Threshold, is set to precede the album, and continue to raise the profile.

MORE: myspace.com/deadboyrobotics
● Jim presents In-Demand Uncut, Sunday 7-10pm on Clyde 1, Forth One, Northsound 1, Radio Borders, Tay FM, West FM & West Sound FM — jimellatly.com

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