

# Something for the Weekend

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BY CHRIS SWEENEY

## SONIC Boom Six have got the wrong name.

They've never been at warp speed — in fact, they have the pace of a **TORTOISE**.

But the Manchester band's slow and steady march is finally paying dividends. Frontman Barney Boom rapped: "For us, it's a case of the tortoise versus the hare."

"We've never been the hotly-tipped band or the best musicians. "But we've always had the discipline and passion to work hard."

That dedication has seen them grind away on the underground since 2003.

They are three albums deep, but it's only now that they're troubling TV and radio stations.

And current single *For The Kids Of The Multiculture* is the reason.

The political edge and powerful video — a play on this summer's riots — has grabbed some serious attention.

Barney, 30, explained: "It was written in reaction to some of the comments David Cameron made in Munich this year about the failure of multicultural Britain."

### Energetic

"I thought we could put a counter-argument to that and say multi-cultural Britain **IS** working."

"Then, with the events that happened this summer, there are a lot of parallels — about judging people by their appearance and putting blame on groups of society, rather than dealing with problems."

"We just want to promote some discussion — these are large issues that aren't going to be solved by a rock band, but we think it's important to make music with a message."

While that theme is important, it hasn't helped their cause.

Some punters are bodyswerving them for fear of being bored to death by political diatribes.

Barney is keen to set the record straight. He insisted: "All preconceptions will be shattered, hopefully, if people come and see us."

"Our shows are very energetic and exciting."

"There is a very positive party atmosphere, it's not mean and moody."

"It's not militant, we're not political firebrands standing on stage."

"The message in the music will hopefully come through but the gig is

# BOOM TIME

Sonic single puts them in limelight at last



### ONE2SEE

GLASVEGAS might not have a record label anymore, but they're still grinding away.

And they're playing their final show of 2011 at Glasgow's ABC on Halloween.

After that the lads will be getting their heads down as they bash out their third album. Tickets are up for sale now at glasvegas.net

### ONE2HEAR

UNICORN Kid has gone from shy Edinburgh schoolboy to bonkers electro guru in 12 months.

But the madness is working — even with his dodgy purple hairdo. New single *True Love Fantasy* made it onto the Radio 1 playlist. It's well worth a listen.

Download it for free at unicornkidmusic.com



## NEW MUSIC BY JIM GELLATLY

### SHY & DRS

**WHO:** Mark James Scott (SHY — MC/Producer), Darren Robert Scott (DRS — MC)

**WHERE:** Aberdeen

**FOR FANS OF:** Eminem, Jay-Z, Kanye West

**JIM SAYS:** Ten years ago, a hip hop duo from Dundee set out on a mission to conquer the music world.

As Scottish rappers they weren't taken seriously, so adopted American personas. As Californian outfit Silibil N' Brains, Gavin Bain and Billy Boyd bagged themselves a major record deal, a story that is brilliantly documented in Bain's book *California Schemin'*.

Now another pair from the north east are now ready to take the scene by storm, but this time they've been proudly playing up the Scottish thing — and Aberdeen twins Mark (SHY) and Darren Scott (DRS) have picked up early support on American and Canadian radio.

An unofficial Akon remix they produced found its way to the multi-million selling R&B star himself, and they soon found themselves with a North American record deal. Though that deal is history, the pair have got some impressive backing as they approach next year's



release of their debut album, *Before Too Long*.

They are managed by Midge Ure and former major label press and A&R man Ronnie Gurr, their debut single was a brilliant collaboration with Sandi Thom, and the current track *Relapse* features former X Factor contestant Luke Bingham.

The album contains plenty of surprises, including legendary 70s File rockers Nazareth!

SHY revealed: "Our dad is their biggest fan! We were sampling a lot of stuff, and we'd sampled Journey, but didn't think we'd get clearance."

DRS added: "We wanted to produce an original rock-style track, and Steve Colton, our lawyer, used to work with Dan McCafferty of Nazareth's lawyer. "We sent them a track idea and they were up for it, so we went out to Germany to get the tracks done. Highlight of our career so far!"

Eminem's band D-12 also make an appearance on the album, and another track featuring Bizarre from D-12 will be issued as a stand-alone track.

There's a lot of brilliant underground hip hop coming out of Scotland at the moment, but SHY & DRS might just take it all to a new level. They have the potential to be massive.

**MORE:** facebook.com/SHYandDRS

● **Jim will be playing SHY & DRS on InDemand Uncut — Sunday 7-10pm on Clyde 1, Forth One, Northsound 1, Radio Borders, Tay FM, West FM & West Sound FM. See jimgellatly.com**

ONES 2 WATCH



BY TOM CHURCHILL

# Peach perfect

**1 DEATH DISCO @ The Arches, Glasgow, tomorrow:** Canadian electro sensation Peaches, pictured, tops another bulging DD line-up with one of her only UK dates of the year.

She's one of the most shocking and confrontational artists around — from her explicit lyrics to risqué outfits and stage shows — so it's sure to be a night to remember.

Electronic duo Plaid — who have just released their new album *Scintilli* — also perform live, and there are sets from Justus Kohnke, Hard Ton and Optimo's JG Wilkes as well as the resident team.

**2 LUCKYME @ Stereo, Glasgow, tonight:** Scotland's coolest electronic music collectives join forces to host the launch party for

Rustie's astonishing debut album. Released on the legendary Warp Records, *Glass Swords* is earning the Glasgow-born producer serious plaudits and is one of the most talked-about releases of the year.

He's joined behind the decks by Numbers mainstay Spencer and The Blessings from LuckyMe.

**3 HEAVY GOSSIP & ULTRA-GROOVE @ Green Room/Below Stairs, Edinburgh, tomorrow:** The HG/UG collaboration goes from strength to strength as they celebrate 12 years of deep house institution Ultragroove this weekend. Joining Gareth Sommerville and Nick Yullis is James Hillard from infamous London disco collective Horse Meat Disco, plus Craig Smith, Colin Cook and 78 Edits.

**4 JACKHAMMER @ The Lane, Edinburgh, tonight:** Full-strength techno from two scene veterans — James Ruskin and Neil Landstrumm. James, who runs respected underground label Blueprint, will be showing off his DJ skills while Edinburgh-based Neil will be bringing out his machines for a full live set.

Support comes from Dave Cymbol, Keyte and Hammy.

**5 RETURN TO MONO @ Sub Club, Glasgow, tonight:** Queen of the Berlin scene Cassy joins the Slam team behind the decks for a house and techno workout.

From her residency at Panoramabar to her production on labels including Perlon and Playhouse, Cassy has a knack for rocking dancefloors and is sure to deliver the goods.

● **Email your news and listings to tom.churchill@the-sun.co.uk**



## WIN boat party tickets

**THREE** of Glasgow's longest-running club nights — *Optimo*, *Subculture* and *Melting Pot* — have teamed up for a special Captain Morgan's Spiced Rum and Sub Club boat party on the famous Waverley paddle steamer tonight.

JD Twitch, JG Wilkes, Harri, Domenic, Andrew Pirie and Simon Corinder all take to the decks for the sold-out spectacular, which sets sail at 8pm sharp and includes an after-party at *Chambre 69*.

If you missed out on tickets you could be in luck — the organisers are giving away the last **THREE** pairs to Scottish Sun readers.

To be in with a chance, just email your name and contact details to tom.churchill@the-sun.co.uk by 3pm today with **SUN COMP** in the subject line.

● **Winners will be chosen at random. Usual Scottish Sun rules apply. Over-18s only. See drinkaware.co.uk**

CLUBBING

SFTW meets THE RIFLES



## EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

# We do feel like a band of the people

## INDIE heroes The Rifles had it all — then the fairytale turned into a nightmare.

But now they're back in dreamland thanks to their loyal army of supporters.

The boys from Chingford, North London, grafted for years before landing the holy grail of a big-time record deal.

Now they've just released their third album *Freedom Run* on their own and are **GLAD** no "men in suits" were involved.

They'd ended up completely scuppered after feeling like they were on a production line.

Guitarist Luke Crowther fizzed: "It's bizarre. When you're starting out, all you care about is getting that record deal."

### Sacked

"Then you get it and you're loving it, but the truth is, you need to be one step ahead of the game."

All a record deal really means is that someone is going to spend money for you, so you have to realise that, ultimately, you need to pay it back. It's not as big a fairytale as what you think in the beginning.

"We've had two really bad experiences. The first one was with Sony. Just before the album came out, the guy in charge got sacked. Two weeks before the release we were left feeling everything had been pulled out from underneath us. That was not a nice experience."

"The same thing happened on the second record when we signed with Warner. In the studio, you can be spending £900 a day. That's where your

money is going, on making then marketing the album.

"At the start you're just thinking of having a big video and spending all this money, then you get to the second album — even if you're a bit successful, you need to pay all your money back to the record company."

"It's a funny thing and it's always clearer in hindsight."

Despite the behind the scenes turmoil — both albums stormed the pop charts. But they proved it wasn't big label influence as *Freedom Run* also crashed into the top 40 last month.

Luke, 30, said: "We weren't even thinking of getting in the charts because they've changed so much since our last album."

"People playing real instruments don't seem to be doing so well at the minute."

"You can only do what you can do, you can't please everyone. We just tried to knuckle down and write some good songs — everything comes around anyway."

"I'm sure in the not-too-distant future, bands will be back up there. You can't run from the times, but you have to be aware of them. You have to do what you do and crack on."

"We knew where we stood doing this album. We had X amount of money to do a bit of marketing and stuff like that — enough to get the word out."

"We've done it very grassroots, we're distributing it through EMI so they're the only main outlet involved and

it's worked well. It's definitely been a more pleasurable experience than the other two."

But the boys — Luke, frontman Joel Stoker, bass player Lee Burgess, drummer Kenyon Shinn and keys man Dean Mumford — know that success is down to their massive fanbase. They pull in bigger crowds than lots of acts with higher profiles.

Luke said: "We do feel like a band of the people. Basically, the fans have been incredible and it's such a difficult thing at this point and time to get a strong fanbase that will stick by you."

"It's been key to us surviving."

"You've got to be real and honest — that's all we've done."

"We're not plastered everywhere or stuck in everyone's faces."

"We've not been manufactured or forced down the public's throats."

"So people have genuinely found us from their mates really or someone they trust who's said to check us out. Then they find out for themselves, so it's a feeling of discovering us and they take it on in a different way."

"If you're forced down people's throats, they might have it for six months but they'll move onto the next thing that's being pushed."

Longevity and integrity are the keys for the band.

And it's no surprise that their mentor, Paul Weller, has both in bucketloads.

He let them use his Black Barn studio and is always on hand with advice. Luke —

whose mum is from Glasgow — explained: "He's an amazing guy and has really taken us under his wing. It's a nice and healthy friendship as we appreciate where he is now."

"We sat down a few weeks ago and listened to each other's new records — the stuff he's coming out with now is a hell of a lot more inspiring than an old Jam record."

"It's great to have someone with that wealth of experience to share with you. If anything pops up I can ring him."

"There are not that many people around who are so fearless, and deliver what they feel, as Paul. Some people hate it, some love it."

### Artificial

"But at the end of the day it's being true to who you are and that's so important with music — especially now, as everything is artificial."

The Rifles are buzzing about being back on the road. The UK leg of their European tour gets going in a few weeks.

They're at PJ Molloys in Dunfermline on November 4 before hitting The Garage in Glasgow the following night.

Luke said: "Playing Glasgow is close to my heart. Out of anywhere else, apart from London, it's the big one for me."

"We'll mix it up, I hate when you go see a band and they never play songs from their last albums and you're thinking, 'Throw us a bone'."

"We'll do stuff from the first two and throw in about six or seven new songs. It's a good solid set."

● **Download *Freedom Run* and get tour tickets at therifles.net**