

# Something for the Weekend

BY CHRIS SWEENEY



ONES2WATCH

## The Brits was a great night for our music

- WRETCH 32

**WRETCH 32** has started 2011 like a house on fire.

His debut single smashed into the pop charts and he was also the star turn at the War Child post-Brits party this week – hitting the stage alongside Mark Ronson and Boy George. But mixing business with pleasure is something that the Tottenham rapper is used to. Wretch – real name Jermaine Scott – said: “There’s been a lot of parties recently, but I’ve been working hard. “With me, the partying doesn’t affect my next day. If I get in at 6am, I can still wake up at 7am – I programme myself. Right now, it’s fun times, so why not go out and shake a leg?”

### Scene

“The Brits party was great. It was inspirational performing with Mark, especially doing his track and my tracks – it was the best night I could have asked for. “At the actual ceremony, when they said Tinie Tempah’s name when he won, I got goosebumps. “It’s incredible to know that being a rapper he came through and did that – and Plan B is from our scene, too. “It was a great night for UK music in general.” The surprising thing about Wretch’s step into the mainstream is that it was via hard-hitting debut single Traktor – shooting into the top five last month. Wretch, 25, said: “It has a harder, edgier sound we just threw that out there to test the waters. “Every week something new was happening on the internet, then it went to radio – we kind of knew it could be something special but I didn’t expect a top 10 never mind a

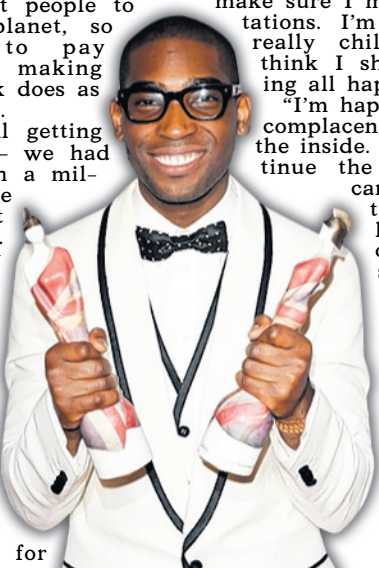
top five single.” Now that he has made the breakthrough, Wretch knows what he wants to do next. He says: “I’m just staying focused. I really can’t stress how important it is for me to just continue making music – and hopefully everything else happens. “People have been calling me the new this or that, but I just want to be Wretch 32. I don’t want to be the new guy – I just want to be the guy.” Keeping the momentum going, Wretch’s next single *Unorthodox* – out on April 17 – sees him teaming up with his mate Example. The track samples The Stone Roses’ classic anthem Fools Good. Plus they’ll be performing it on their joint tour this month at Glasgow’s Barrowland on February 27 and 24 hours later at The Picture House in Edinburgh.

Wretch said: “We know the single is a great track and we want to make the best out of the sample. “The Stone Roses are some of the coolest people to touch this planet, so we want to pay respect by making sure the track does as well as it can. “It was hell getting it approved – we had to go through a million and one people to get to one person. “Eventually we got through to Ian Brown and he thought it was pretty cool, so he let us go with it – I was like thumbs-up, man.” After that, the plan is for

Wretch to release his debut album in the summer. He has almost finished it but plans to keep adding songs until the last possible minute. And Wretch wants everything to be pitch perfect – after grafting away for years to get his chance to shine. He said: “I’m talking seven years of spending my own money on my own videos – they cost thousands of pounds. “You’ve got to spend it and you won’t make money back as it’s just for promotion. Your studio bill is £200-a-day – it’s a lot of time and effort. “People might look at you like you’re wasting money and time – I could have ended up stopping and getting a job. “In the early stages, every four or five months you’re worrying if you’ve progressed. “Without that you’re in the same place. “I always made sure I took baby steps and then we took a big step to get here – but there’s so many steps to go. “I know what I’m capable of talent-wise and I want to make sure I meet my expectations. I’m laidback and really chilled – people think I should be looking all happy. “I’m happy but I’m not complacent – I smile on the inside. I want to continue the journey. You can’t be winning the race and looking back or smiling, someone is going to catch you. You’ve got to keep going.”

● For four tickets and more information, check out [wretch32.com](http://wretch32.com)

WINNER... Tinie Tempah



### ONE2HEAR

**ELECTRO** outfit The Bullitts have tossed the rulebook in the bin. On new single *Close Your Eyes*, they have picked a bizarre guest, Charlie’s Angels star Lucy Liu – but she’s not singing, just talking away throughout the track. Joining her on the song is rapper Jay Electronica, who adds a stunning verse. It’s one of those songs you’re going to either absolutely love or hate. Watch the video now at [thebullitts.com](http://thebullitts.com)

### ONE2SEE

POP punks Man Overboard have that classic sound, only made in garages by feisty American teenagers. And right now they’re on a European tour and roll into Glasgow’s O2 ABC on Tuesday night. They’re on the road with fellow US rockers Senseless Fall, so it should be a sweat-soaked gig packed full of rebellious adolescent attitude. Get tickets from [ticketweb.co.uk](http://ticketweb.co.uk)

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BY TOM CHURCHILL



## Jumping for Joy

**1 NUMBERS @ Stereo, Glasgow, tonight:** The crew’s second party of the month sees back-to-back sets from two of the UK’s brightest talents – Glasgow’s Jackmaster and London sensation Joy Orbison, pictured. Numbers co-founder Jack was named Best Breakthrough DJ at last year’s DJ Magazine awards, and releases the latest instalment of London superclub Fabric’s mix CD series next month, while Joy scored a giant club smash with his debut record, *Hyph Mngo*, in 2009 and has kept up the quality ever since. The warm-up comes from Deadboy, whose massive *If U Want Me* track was the first release on the Numbers label.

**2 2MANYDJS @ The Arches, Glasgow, tonight:** The infamous Belgian brothers return for their only Scottish date of 2011. Whether behind the decks in their 2manydjs guise or playing live as electro outfit Soulwax, David and Stephen Dewaele always rock it, and this will be immense. As if that wasn’t enough, Death Disco is on at the same venue tomorrow night with The Magician, Renaissance Man and Blondes.

**3 MIXED BIZNESS @ Art School, Glasgow, tonight:** Garage genius MJ Cole is back in the game after producing some of the scene’s biggest tunes in the late 90s – including Mercury-nominated album *Sincere*. He takes to the decks alongside Hint from Tru Thoughts and Solid Steel’s Benny Boom.

**4 SENSU @ Sub Club, Glasgow, tonight:** Romanian tech-house sensation Raresh returns to Glasgow after rocking last year’s Wee Chill mini-fest. He’s played alongside everyone from Richie Hawtin to Ricardo Villalobos and now he’s stepped out from their shadow to be a formidable force in his own right. **5 KIDOLGY @ The Store, Edinburgh, tomorrow:** This massive London night starts a new residency in the capital, kicking off with a guest slot from DJ Mikalis. Expect uplifting house vibes. ● You can email news and listings to [tom.churchill@the-sun.co.uk](mailto:tom.churchill@the-sun.co.uk)

CLUBBING



BY JIM GELLATLY

### Dot JR

**WHO:** James Reeves  
**WHERE:** Stornoway  
**FOR FANS OF:** Daft Punk, Chase & Status, Mr Hudson  
**JIM SAYS:** Hailed as “the future king of pop” and likened to a “Scottish Justin Timberlake” in blog [thepopcop.co.uk](http://thepopcop.co.uk), this lad from the Isle of Lewis is certainly going places. I first met James when he was bass player with indie rockers Our Lunar Activities, so this is some transition. He formed Dot JR (J.R. being his initials) as a vehicle for his songwriting in 2007 and the band I introduced on stage at the RockNess festival the following year was very much an acoustic folk outfit. It was always clear he was an accomplished writer, and one of the songs from that set, *Where*

*Stars Fall Down*, fits in perfectly with his new sound. He performed the track at a showcase recently as he debuted his new sound. Anthem *Top Of The World* was evidence that he has a wealth of hits in waiting. While some acts doing the rounds rely very much on the production to create a sound, Dot JR appears to focus on the songs. Pumping beats coupled with massive choruses create a sound that’s going to be all over the nation’s dancefloors within a few months. His stock is set to rise with his official remix of Tinie Tempah’s new single *Wonderman* ft. Ellie Goulding. He signed to Polydor Records last month – it’s yet another step towards the big time. **MORE:** [myspace.com/DotJRMusic](http://myspace.com/DotJRMusic) ● Hear Jim on *Amazing Radio*, Sunday 3-4pm (DAB digital radio & online). Visit [jimgellatly.com](http://jimgellatly.com)



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