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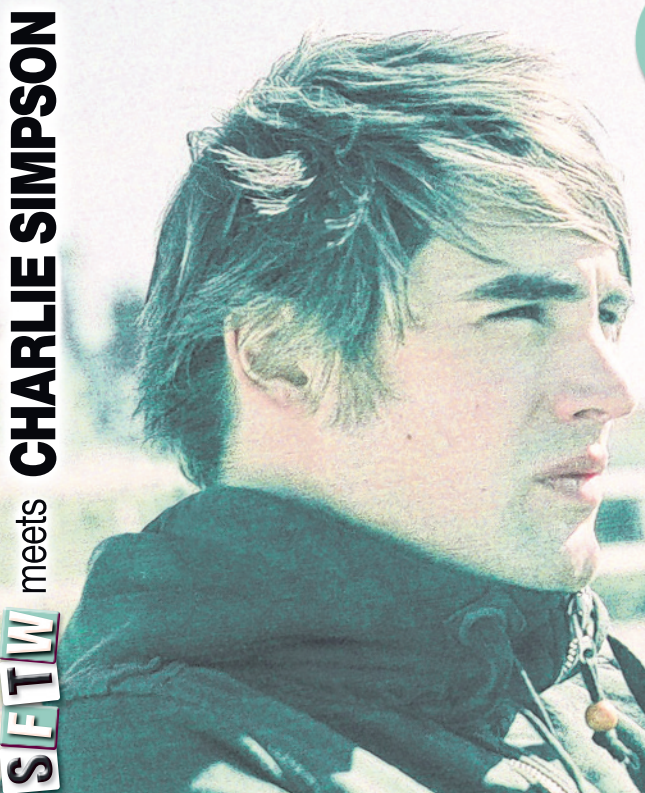
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Something for the Weekend

CHARLIE SIMPSON



SFTW meets

I don't want
to be tagged
as the dude
from Busted
trying to
go solo

EXCLUSIVE

INTERVIEW

CHARLIE SIMPSON was a floppy-haired teen pin-up long before Justin Bieber came along — but he's grown up fast.

The wee boy from Busted broke a million young girls' hearts when he left to become frontman for rockers Fightstar.

Now, after three great band albums, Charlie is on another huge learning curve with his first solo album *Young Pilgrim*.

And he's kicking off a UK tour at Glasgow's King Tut's.

He said: "This is a small tour, basically to get the fans to know the tunes.

"But once they've lived with the album for a while we'll be hitting the road again in October.

"I love Scottish audiences and I knew kicking off the tour in Scotland would set the mood for the rest of the dates.

"It's a chance to play Tut's, which I've only played once.

"It's a great place but I'm still not sure how we're going to get me and my six-piece band on that tiny stage.

Alive

"The funny thing is I went to school with one of the guys who now plays in the band. Coming back and playing together all these years later is brilliant.

"Scotland has some terrific bands. Frightened Rabbit are great friends of mine and we try to hang out as much as we can.

"I love Twin Atlantic as well. Their song *Free* is one of the best songs I've heard in ages.

"The music scene is so alive in Scotland and I hope we can catch up with some friendly faces."

The 26-year-old from Suffolk reckons the new album is the way forward for him.

Charlie insisted: "The timing of the writing of the record and its release was perfect with the world so it was time to chill out for a bit. We decided to take a break at the start of 2010.

"We haven't split up — we just burnt out. Not with each other — we burnt out as in what we were all producing as a band. We speak all the time.

"I hadn't felt ready to do a solo record before. I think you have to prepare yourself for the responsibility of being out there alone under the spotlight.

"If I'd done this album before *Fightstar*, I'd have the tag of the dude from Busted trying to go solo. Now I can put it out there on its own merit and not have any tags or labels to it."

He added: "The single *Down, Down* is a great representation of what is to come.

"People kept asking me what kind of road I was going down with the solo stuff and all I would do is play that song — it's a great taster.

"It's more instrument-heavy, this album, with a real mellow feel to it.

"I've been in my own studio working on this for ages now and getting to finally play it live is just going to be the best thing ever.

"I did my first solo show a few weeks back and getting to play my songs live for the first time was surreal but amazing at the same time.

"I've been working on this material for a year now and I've been itching to get on stage.

"People are going to enjoy the upbeat and light-heartedness of my solo album live."

With over ten years of working in the music industry under his belt, the husky hunk is now widening his horizons.

He said: "I've learned so much about the business side to things and I wanted to have my own label operating.

"I registered this album to my label that I've called Charlie Simpson Music Records — or CSM Records for short.

"Anything I do in the future will be under that name so it's basically starting a whole new chapter of my career with the solo record as well as the label."

● **Catch Charlie Simpson at King Tut's on June 29. Young Pilgrim out on August 16. For more info visit charliesimpsonmusic.com**

BY JIM GELLATLY



NEW MUSIC

FRIDGE MAGNETS
WHO: Steven Winton (vocals), Campbell Nelson (synth/programming), Laurie Sanderson (guitar), Ciaran Pasi (bass), Chris Philip (drums)
WHERE: Glasgow/Aberdeen
FOR FANS OF: Calvin Harris, Pendulum, The Prodigy
JIM SAYS: With the scene awash with indie rock bands and folk-tinged outfits, Fridge Magnets really are a breath of fresh air.
Specialising in epic dance rock built for stadiums, it's a genre that can trace its roots back to pioneers like New Order.
Regrouping with a fresh line-up, including a couple of former members of popular Aberdeen rockers Kashmir Red, 2012 could well be the year that they break.
With their second single, *Death Of Rock'n'Roll*, the band have moved up a gear, and it's got to be a contender for my single of the year so far.
Showcasing their sound at Rockness and T In The Park last year, they emerged with their debut single, *Miss Right*, in January.
Unlike some music from the dance field that relies mostly on the beats, Fridge Magnets are still very much song-based.
Strip back the huge-sounding production and you've still got great songs.
This isn't music to be shoved in some convenient pigeonhole.
They would sound as much at home performing at a massive club as on a rock platform.
It would just be wrong if Fridge Magnets were confined to smaller venues. They need to be playing in front of thousands to get the full effect.
It's very much mass market stuff that appeals to all sorts — as the best pop music should be.
MORE: facebook.com/thefridgemagnets
● **Jim presents In: Demand Uncut, Sunday 7-10pm on Clyde 1, Forth One, Northsound 1, Radio Borders, Tay FM, West FM & West Sound FM — jimgellatly.com**

BY TOM CHURCHILL



CLUBBING

1 SUBCULTURE @ Sub Club, Glasgow, tomorrow: The mighty Andrew Weatherall, pictured, returns to Glasgow to rock its most famous club.
A true giant of the UK dance scene, he's been one of the most in demand DJs on the circuit since producing Primal Scream's landmark *Screamadelica* album 20 years ago, and he's still at the cutting edge today.
2 LET'S GO BACK @ Stereo, Glasgow, tomorrow: Rave legends Shades Of Rhythm come out of retirement for this ever-popular old-school night.
The trio — who scored chart hits in the early 90s with tracks like *Frequency* and *Extacy* — will be performing a live PA alongside residents Bosco and Rob Mason.
3 CREME @ La Cheetah, Glasgow, tomorrow: Super-cool Dutch label Crème Organisation host a showcase with boss TLR taking to the decks and Glasgow-born Marco Bernardi playing live.
Expect Detroit-style electro, jacking house beats and raw synths aplenty.
4 HEAVY GOSSIP @ Green Room/Below Stairs, Edinburgh, tomorrow: Deep house and disco session featuring Aussie producer Tomado Wallace and the return of resident Craig Smith, whose 6th Borough Project album has been going great guns.
5 SUITE SOUL @ Foxbar Hotel, Kilmaronock, tomorrow: London veteran Terry Jones and Lanarkshire legend Colin 'Sid' Wilson join Bob Jeffries behind the decks for a celebration of all things soulful, from vintage classics to contemporary grooves.
● **Email news and listings to tom.churchill@the-sun.co.uk**

STAGESTRUCK BY BON JOVI



By EMMA JACKSON

LUCKY Euan Campbell enjoyed a once-in-a-lifetime experience this week — when he spent the day working as a **ROADIE** for rock legends Bon Jovi.
The Scottish Sun reader's prayers were answered when he got the call to say he had won our brilliant competition and would get to see his heroes in action at Murrayfield Stadium.
Euan, 18, from Kirkcaldy, Fife, said: "My mum and dad are **HUGE** Bon Jovi fans and I grew up listening to them.
"I was so excited when I was told I had won."
It was hard work from the word go for Euan — who has just finished an HND in Sound Production at Adam Smith College — under the watchful eye of head roadie Mike Rew. Euan added: "I arrived at the stadium at 10am and it was straight to work, sorting out passes.
"In the afternoon, I got a tour backstage and I was allowed to go on the stage — that was a surreal moment. Seeing all the guitars lined up was incredible.
"I also got a look at the mixing desk — that's what I want to do for a living."
And it got better . . . after clocking off, Euan got to watch the gig in the VIP area.
He revealed: "I never thought I would get to watch them so close. The gig was amazing."
Mike added: "Maybe one day Euan will be working with us setting up these huge stages."

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