

Something for the Weekend

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GAMES BOOKS COMEDY

BY CHRIS SWEENEY

POP babes Oh My! are on the road to stardom — after starting out mastering harmonies as they rattled along the M1.

The two girls — Alex and Jade — are off to a flyer with their edgy debut single *Dirty Dancer*. But they're actually professionally trained dancers who met at college in Leeds.

Alex, 19, said: "I used to give Jade a lift down the motorway at the end of every week.

"So we'd be going down the M1 together singing Kidding Solo to keep ourselves entertained. That's how it all started."

Now they've ended up being mentored by man of the moment Example.

He notoriously hates most pop stars — routinely slagging off Alexandra Burke, Cher Lloyd and The Saturdays.

Alex explained: "We knew he was very opinionated and we met him down at the studio when he popped in to see our producer.

Schools

"Straight away he was giving us the mouth — but we just gave it back to him.

"I think that's why we get on so well. We're not the type to sit there timidly and not say anything.

"He seemed to like the chemistry we had together.

"He's turned into a bit of a mentor. We always describe him as an older brother giving us advice and tips of the trade."

Together with Example, the girls have penned six tracks.

Along with their own stuff, they're overloaded with material for next year's album release.

Jade, 21, said: "It's about trying to pick ones that are going to be suitable.

"We've just come off a schools tour — we'd spent a long time in the studio before that. It was a mixed run as it just depends on the kids and what time of day it is — whether they've had their lunch or some sweets.

"If they've got an exam, they're a bit quieter, and if it's lunchtime, they just want to eat. But if you get them out of a lesson then they love it."

Next up is a much more high profile task — they're the chief support act on The Saturdays'

ONES 2 WATCH

ONE 2 SEE PRESTON has come full circle — he's reformed old band The Ordinary Boys. They're on a UK tour, which reaches The Lemon Tree in Aberdeen on December 3 then the following night at King Tut's in Glasgow. See ticketmaster.co.uk

ONE 2 HEAR STADIUM rockers Young Guns know how to make an anthem. New single Learn My Lesson is a proper, powerful tune. It's off their new album Bones. Check out the single and video at younggunsuk.tumblr.com

BY TOM CHURCHILL

A Vital night out

1 PRESSURE @ The Arches, Glasgow, tonight: It's a who's who of big-room techno as Scotland's premier event turns 13. Heading the bill is the mighty Vitalic, pictured, who's delivering one of his formidable live shows. Also playing live are The Black Dog — showcasing their new Liber Dogma album — while Chris Liebing, Radio Slave, Sebo K and Surgeon take to the turntables, as well as the Slam and Animal Farm DJs.

It'll be massive, so get down early if you haven't already got a ticket.

2 TRANSMISSION @ Metro, Saltcoats, tonight: This legendary Ayrshire trance night returns after a seven-year break with a new home and fresh new line-up.

3 HEAVY GOSSIP & ULTRA-GROOVE @ Green Room/ Below Stairs, Edinburgh, tomorrow: Norwegian nu-disco favourite Todd Terje hits the capital for a headline set alongside Gareth Sommerville and Nick Yuill.

Expect the finest deep house and electronic disco grooves from one of the masters of the scene.

4 HOW'S YOUR PARTY? @ Sub Club, Glasgow, tonight: Heavyweight dubstep manoeuvres as the mighty Benga returns to the Sub.

One third of the chart-bothering, festival-conquering outfit Magnetic Man — alongside Skream and Artwork

— Benga is also one of the scene's original pioneers, with a mighty impressive discography.

He's got MC Youngman in tow — it's going to be immense.

5 ALEX CORTEX @ La Cheetah, Glasgow, tomorrow: Second part of the venue's second birthday celebrations, featuring a rare live appearance from Alex Cortex.

The German producer is one of the most revered on the underground scene and has a unique sound. Support comes from Dan and Kenny Monox.

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

CLUBBING

TOP 5 NIGHTS

NEW MUSIC
BY JIM GELLATLY

ESTRELLA

WHO: Paul Gunn (vocals), Luke Gunn (guitar), Nathan Gunn (bass), Leo McPherson (drums)

WHERE: Thurso

FOR FANS OF: Van Halen, Def Leppard, The Darkness

JIM SAYS: Perhaps it's no surprise Estrella hail from Thurso — I've always thought the further north you go, the harder they rock.

Formed in Caithness by brothers Paul, Luke and Nathan Gunn, and joined by another Highland native, Leo McPherson, they're now based in rural Aberdeenshire.

Big riffs, big hair and killer tunes — it's pretty much a tried and tested blueprint.

With bands like Deep Purple, Def Leppard and Mötley Crüe coming to Scotland in the next few weeks, there's still a huge market for classic rock.

Estrella, still all in their 20s, freshen up the sound without losing its timeless quality. Guitarist Luke said: "We're hoping, with the current trend of rock bands from the Seventies and Eighties making a comeback, there will be more of an acceptance for rock bands to crossover into the mainstream in the UK."

Set to release their debut album Come Out To Play in March, they managed to

recruit some rock heavyweights for the recording, including John T. Sinclair — Ozzy Osbourne's keyboard player for more than 15 years.

He also played with The Cult, plus session duties with acts like Jefferson Starship and Spinal Tap.

Ashley Howe completed the album's final mix. His CV features many household names including Queen, Led Zeppelin and Stevie Wonder.

I was unsure about the whole thing at first, but I tested the water on my show on Amazing Radio.

The anthemic pop-rock stomper Party may sound like it's from any of the past four decades, but it was one of the freshest tracks I played that week.

Estrella have the seeds in place for worldwide success. Whether the UK takes the bait remains to be seen.

They play Glasgow's G2 on December 1, the former Rock Radio DJs' Xmas Party at Glasgow Cathouse on December 16 and Thurso's Skandis on December 29.

MORE: facebook.com/estrellarocks

● Jim'll be playing Estrella on In: Demand Uncut — Sunday 7-10pm on Clyde 1, Forth One, Northsound 1, Radio Borders, Tay FM, West FM & West Sound FM. See jimgellatly.com

SMITH & BURROWS meets SFTW

The best Christmas songs have sadness in them too

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

By CHRIS SWEENEY

ODD couple Tom Smith and Andy Burrows admit they're playing Russian Roulette with their pricey indie credibility on their CHRISTMAS album.

What started as the pals messing about in the studio earlier this year has turned into festive album Funny Looking Angels, which is released on Monday.

But Tom, frontman of chart-toppers Editors, and Andy, ex-Razorlight and now the drummer in We Are Scientists, haven't gone for the usual Crimbo snowmen and knitted jumpers.

Tom said: "You could obviously make a complete t't of yourself writing Christmas songs — it's something that's slightly delicate."

"This record is a Christmas album but it's not a Jingle Bells type thing — it's sad and a different take on Christmas compared to the traditional songs we normally all hear."

Cheesy

"Lots of them are cheesy, but the ones I love aren't — my favourite Christmas song is Fairytale Of New York by The Pogues. I don't think that's cheesy."

"The best Christmas songs have sadness in them too, so we tried to embrace what we felt was important about Christmas and that kind of communal togetherness of being with friends and family."

"We're also nodding our head to the things in life that are a bit s*** but, at Christmas time, you come together and look forward in the hope next year will be better. We tried to focus on that rather than being cheesy."

The boys admit the dreary British weather did them a FAVOUR as they had to make all the songs during the summer — meaning they had to get into the zone mentally.

Tom, 30, explained: "We made it over the course of a year so it's been a long time coming. We did it in very short spurts — a day here, a day there."

"We didn't have this idea to make a Christmas record or whatever you want to call it, we just wanted to do something together. It started off with us doing some covers and it just grew from there."

"The songs definitely felt a bit wintery and festive, then I guess it got serious and we started to write our own Christmas songs."

"So we didn't have this burning desire — it evolved that way. It was summer when we were recording, so you just have to remove yourself and think about what Christmas is to you and what you're trying to write about."

"It wasn't a particularly hot summer, so I'd look out the window and it was a grey, rainy day — so there wasn't too much mental exercise needed to put myself somewhere else."

"It wasn't like we were sat in Jamaica on the beach."

Both lads have had massive success with their respective bands — releasing smash hits and headlining festivals.

But they admit that this album could be their biggest achievement yet, as it could be around after they've gone.

Tom said: "That's one thing me and Andy know, when we're sat in a pub chatting years from now and working out what the hell we have been doing with our lives, the idea of having an album that becomes part of the fabric of people's Christmas is a dream."

"We'd love these songs to be the type that resonate with people and connect with them year on year."

"If people play it sitting with their family over Christmas, that's unbelievable and really amazing."

"I definitely couldn't keep writing Christmas songs."

"I think you've only got a couple in you — and it would get too hard to keep on going and going."

"This record wasn't hard

but if you had to keep on treading that festive path you'd end you killing yourself. We won't be doing any more."

The album's ten tracks — which include covers of Yazoo's Only You and Black's Wonderful Life — don't feature any of their famous rock star mates.

Instead they enlisted a rag-tag gang of part-time session players to add some spice.

Tom admitted: "As it was the first thing we'd done together, there wasn't really any expectation."

"With Editors, there's the weight of what we've done before — but because this was new and fresh, it was more fun for me."

"And I'd never had people come to play different instruments on records I've been involved with."

"We got these session musicians who crawl out the woodwork, they spend half their time playing the saxophone or mandolin — then go off and be painters and decorators as a job."

Battle

"They all had interesting faces and yellow-stained fingers from rolling tobacco, all wearing Dr Martens — real old punks and cool guys."

"I just loved having them come into the studio."

Right now they're about to start a short European tour, with only one UK date in London lined up.

But there's plans for a bigger tour next year if people get into it.

While both of them want to see the album do well, they admit they'll have a battle to crash the pop charts.

And Tom — who lives with Radio 1 DJ Edith Bowman and their son Rudy — admits he won't be cranking it out when he sits down to his turkey with them.

He said: "Of course we hope it charts and does well."

"But if you listen to the radio at the moment, I don't quite know where our little album fits in."

"I think if it did really well in the charts it would be a Christmas miracle to be honest — but it's not the be all and end all. We're very proud of what we've made."

"Will I be playing it at my house on Christmas Day? Probably not, that's a bit odd."

"Traditionally, I've always got music for Christmas — records and all that."

"So I'm normally sitting listening to whatever I've been given around Christmas dinner time."

"Putting on me and Andy's record would be too odd."

● Pre-order or download the album now at smithandburrows.co.uk. You can stream the album at thescottishsun.co.uk