

Something for the Weekend

Panic Stations

BY CHRIS SWEENEY

LAS VEGAS pop punks Panic! At The Disco aren't a new band — they just feel like one.

Two of the gang have been kicked out and the band has now slimmed down to a duo — drummer Spencer Smith and frontman Brendon Urie. The pair battered out third album *Vices & Virtues*, released earlier this year. And they loved it because it meant they could finally act like total **GEEKS**. Brendon, 24, said: "We're very proud of the last record — it was a totally new experience just being the two of us and being able to free up our creative demons."

"This feels like a new band for us, which is really exciting. So we wanted to do something new, otherwise it just becomes boring."

"Our record label wanted us to play it safe, but this time we wanted to record in a different way — if it's not fresh then it becomes mundane."

"We spent a lot of time figuring out the production ideas, asking the producers why does this sound happen, or why do we use this microphone and not the other one?"

"All that geeky, nerdy stuff, but for us, that's the most fun part."

"It's like you have a sound in your head, but it's trying to figure out how to get that down in the studio — and it's been so rewarding to do it."

The lads' creative spell nearly went too far when planning their current European tour.



ONES 2 WATCH

ONE 2 SEE

THE Big Figure have already bagged an early Christmas present, hitting the road with Jools Holland in December. But now the Glasgow band's focus is on debut album *Laugh Like Clowns*, launching at the city's Buff Club on Sunday. For more info, check out thebigfigure.com

ONE 2 HEAR

ELECTRO mavericks *Alpines* have got a real underground following. Now signed to Polydor Records, they're gunning for the masses and debut single *Cocoon* might just do the trick. It's a creepy, haunting track that sucks you in. Give it a listen at alpin.es

NEW MUSIC

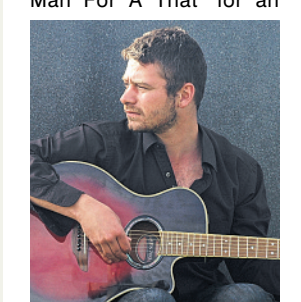
BY JIM GELLATLY

LITTLE FIRE

WHO: Jamie McGeechan (vocals/guitar)
WHERE: Ayr
FOR FANS OF: Damien Rice, John Martyn, Newton Faulkner

JIM SAYS: I'm forever going on about Ayrshire as one of the hottest places for new music and Jamie is one of the area's finest musical ambassadors. When not performing, he can be found promoting live nights at Ayr's Su Casa, and he writes a music column for a local paper. But it could have been so different. Jamie revealed: "I was all set to join the Royal Navy until I won the Burns And' A' That battle of the bands competition in March last year. "It kick-started my confidence and I decided I really wanted to get out there and pursue a music career."

Like Burns, Jamie's poetry has also won acclaim. In 2007 he won a National Poetry Competition on the Ras Kwame show on Radio 1 and was flown down to perform at the Latitude Festival, where he supported Damien Rice. More recently he became an official ambassador for the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum in Alloway and was invited to record an adaptation of A Man's a Man For A That' for an



installation in the museum alongside performance pieces from Eddi Reader and Brian Cox. The 25-year-old was also nominated for Best Unsigned Act at this year's Young Scot Awards, was a finalist in Glasgow Airport's Airplay competition and has been on STV's The Hour as well as clocking up plays on national radio. Boasting wonderfully-crafted songs, neat guitar parts and a voice that fits both traditional and contemporary compositions, he is very much an all-rounder. One of my favourite tracks is *Fire Me Up Now*, which he has also recorded with a band, giving it a whole new dimension. If anyone deserves to breakthrough, it's Jamie — his passion for the Ayrshire music scene is a joy. He said: "Communication between the musicians has been key to us working together and being supportive of each other rather than seeing each other as competitors. Music should never be a competition." Interesting words from a lad who has won so many competitions! **MORE:** littlefiremusic.com ● **Hear Jim** on In-Demand Uncut — Sunday 7-10pm on Clyde 1, Forth One, Northsound 1, Radio Borders, Tay FM, West FM & West Sound FM — jim.gellatly.com

SFTW meets RUMER

I put in the same effort no matter if 200 or 200,000 fans are watching

Soul queen Rumer has sent out an appeal to the Dunkeld massive to join her for an all-night booze up.

The Brit-nominated singer shot out of nowhere with last year's smash album *Seasons Of My Soul*. She played the Royal Albert Hall and Glastonbury while landing celeb fans like Elton John and Burt Bacharach. But now it's back to basics on Monday night, playing the Perthshire town's 200-capacity Birnam Arts Centre. It's being billed as her *Off The Beaten Track* gig, after her fans got the chance to suggest a venue and location anywhere in the UK. Rumer, 32, said: "We got about 500 suggestions — there was all sorts of places from church halls to pubs to front rooms. "I put them all in a hat, no matter how ridiculous they were. "We pulled out about five but we eliminated them one by one as the first one had closed, the next one had become a Wetherspoons — and the third one was Dunkeld. "I was trying to get someone up there to print off posters and put them up in the pub and post office. "I used to be a local live music promoter and it's awful when there's no chance of locals getting tickets. So if anyone lives there and can't get in I'd like them to email me as I hate the idea of people not being able to go to their own village show. "I'll try and get as many as people from Dunkeld in on the guest list as I can. "Also if they could give me a pub recommendation as we are all going drinking afterwards, so I need to know what is the happening place. "The locals need to know about after-show drinking. I've heard they might close at 11pm, so I need to get a lock-in arranged. "Maybe I could make the pub landlord the honorary guest at the show in exchange for staying open till 4am."

The one-off gig is costing a small fortune, so Rumer — whose album has sold 500,000 copies — had to sweet-talk the boss of Atlantic Records. She said: "It was one of those 'she's doing what?' moments. "I went to the record label boss with my cap in hand saying 'I want to do this — it's only 200 people but it will be really fun'. "And it doesn't matter if it's 200 or 200,000 — I'll still put on the same kind of performance and make the same effort."

● **If you live in Dunkeld and want to go to the gig or recommend a pub to Rumer, email her at rumerletters@gmail.com**



Tiesto Gets 'em in a Spin

BY TOM CHURCHILL

CLUBBING

1 CLUB LIFE BY Tiesto @ Royal Highland Centre, Ingleston, Edinburgh, Sunday: They don't come any bigger than Tiesto, pictured — the Dutch trance superstar voted No 1 DJ in the world in DJ Magazine's influential poll for three consecutive years. It's the only Scots date on his world tour and the audio-visual show is bound to be absolutely spectacular. Rising star Hardwell is on warm-up duty and there's a staggering **FIVE** other arenas with a host of trance, house and hardcore talent.

2 MUSIKA & SUGAR-BEAT @ Cabaret Voltaire, Edinburgh, tonight: Two of the capital's biggest nights team up for a party to bring the curtain down on the Fringe. Top of the bill is Canadian techno/electro star Tiga, making his Edinburgh debut with a three-hour set. Elsewhere Utah Saints, Kev Wright, Derek Martin and many more keep the three rooms rocking.

3 KILLER KITSCH @ Sub Club, Glasgow, tonight: Electroclash pioneers Black Strobe jet in from Paris for a DJ set at the legendary Subbie. They've remixed everyone from Röyksopp to The Rapture, and they're sure to tear up the club. You can also catch former member Ivan Smaghe at Optimo in the same venue on Sunday night.

4 JACKHAMMER @ The Lane, Edinburgh, tonight: It's a monster Festival special for this long-running techno bash, with Sandwell District and former Altern-8 star Mark Archer heading a line-up that also features 15 of Scotland's finest DJs spread over three rooms.

5 HEAVY GOSSIP @ Green Room/Below Stairs, Edinburgh, tomorrow: London house veteran Phil Asher hits the capital for a guest spot at this always-excellent party. There's also live keys and vocals from Soul Renegades' Ricky Reid, while Craig Smith and Nick Vuill warm up the decks. ● **Email your news and listings to tom.churchill@the-sun.co.uk**



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