

Something for the Weekend

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BY CHRIS SWEENEY

Megastar

MAVERICK READY TO SHINE IN SPOTLIGHT

KOOKY popster Megan Washington is a real maverick.

She's Papua New Guinea's only chart star and uses **KNITTING NEEDLES** and **CAR KEYS** as instruments.

Her debut album *I Believe You Liar* was a smash in Australia, selling truckloads and topping the charts.

It's only just come out in the US and is released here on November 7 – but that has meant she's been stuck on the road.

Megan, 25, said: "I don't really live anywhere right now and I haven't for almost two years, I've been back-packing with a keyboard which is a very inconvenient way to do it."

"It doesn't have the same romance as jumping on a train with an acoustic guitar.

ONE2SEE
REGGAE lad Natty is just back from a US trip with Ziggy Marley.

ONE2HEAR
TEENAGE sensation Jess Hall hails from the unlikely outpost of Swindon, but who cares – she has some cracking pop tunes.

First single *Play Shy* is a total gem.

Give it a listen now at jesshallmusic.com

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NEW MUSIC
BY JIM GELLATLY

LIGHTGUIDES

WHO: Mark Cowan (guitar/vocals), Martin Murray (guitar), David Cowan (drums/vocals)
WHERE: Glasgow
FOR FANS OF: Jimmy Eat World, Biffy Clyro, Twin Atlantic
JIM SAYS: It's funny how a name change can freshen things up — but I suppose *We Hung Your Leader* might not be the sort of moniker that suggests superstar status.

Somehow *LightGuides* seems more palatable. It's a couple of years since this Glasgow pop-punk trio switched, so it's well and truly confined to history.

LightGuides was the name of a *We Hung Your Leader* song.

Originally formed while at school, brothers Mark and David and mate Martin have been crafting their art since graduating from uni.

They followed their debut mini-album with a bunch of high-profile support slots, and secured a place on the T Break Stage for emerging acts at T in The Park in 2010.

Now they are looking beyond our borders.

Signing to Oxford label Alcopop! has certainly put them in the shop window down south.

Mark told me: "Alcopop! approached us after we sent



BY TOM CHURCHILL


Dice games

1 PRESSURE @ The Arches, Glasgow, tonight: It's techno heaven as Loco Dice, below — resident at Ibiza's notorious DC10 — headlines the back arch, with local legends Slam warming up behind the decks.

In the front arch, Swedish label Drumcode celebrates its 15th birthday with founder Adam Beyer, Joseph Capriati and Harvey McKay — and the Slam lads also head through to play a live set.

It's a high-octane weekend at the venue — tomorrow night trance superstar Eddie Halliwell brings his *Ed-It* live show to the stage.

2 JACKHAMMER @ The Caves, Edinburgh, tonight: A double dose of heavyweight



out album demos in January. They signed us before seeing us live which we always joke about, but Jack and Kev are the most ambitious and encouraging guys the band have ever been involved with.

"We're very lucky to be part of the Alcopop! family."

"It's home to some amazing bands like Jumping Ships, Stagecoach and Johnny Foreigner."

The latest *LightGuides* mini-album *Samba Samba* has been picking up some great reviews.

Inevitably compared to Biffy, they add another dimension to Scotland's diverse rock scene.

On one side of the coin they can rock as hard as anyone, but they pull it back with ease to lay down some beautiful melodies.

Currently planning a special show in Glasgow for Christmas, plus some European dates in the New Year, and with more new material in the pipeline, the future looks exceedingly bright for *LightGuides*.

MORE: lightguidesmusic.co.uk

● Jim will be playing *LightGuides* 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

SFTW meets

ALICE COOPER

I'd love to take my albums to Broadway

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

By ERIC MACKINNON

ALICE COOPER'S CV lists movies, millions of album sales and even penning an episode of *The Simpsons*.

But the shock rocker has one burning ambition to realise before he hangs up his mic — treading the boards of **BROADWAY**.

The 63-year-old rock icon is floating the idea of taking his 1975 classic *Welcome To My Nightmare* album and recent *Welcome 2 My Nightmare* follow-up to the theatre.

Alice, who is set to haunt and thrill Glasgow's SECC on Halloween with his legendary live performance — littered with his 'normal' props of guillotines, electric chairs and snakes — said: "I would like to see *Welcome To My Nightmare* parts one and two as one Broadway show."

"We could do all of WTMN as act one, an intermission and then all of W2MN as act two, then do an encore with all the hits like *School's Out*. It would be brilliant to do a month on Broadway with just that show."

"You could have some of the seats rigged for shocks, smell-o-vision could attack all the senses. I am sending this idea out

there because I think I'd need a sponsor and someone to come in and really put it together."

"I think you'd need somebody who was experienced on Broadway to tell us what's doable and what's not."

"The only thing I'd insist is we'd not water down any songs."

"A lot of shows go onto Broadway and suddenly become all orchestra. I'd insist there be a rock band on stage."

"The funny thing is I don't have to play Alice. Somebody else could do that and I could direct him. I could still play Alice but

15 years from now somebody else could play the role."

The veteran shock-rocker is currently touring *Welcome 2 My Nightmare*, which boasts some surprising guest artists including pop-rapper Ke\$ha.

Alice explained: "I thought, 'let's go back and pull in some of the themes from the original album'."

"At the same time I wanted to write songs which would give Alice a brand new nightmare."

"We had to think about what Alice's nightmare would be 35 years later?"

"I think disco would still be a nightmare for Alice so we did a really cool disco song — and technology would be a nightmare too."

Diva

"I also thought if Alice was going to meet the devil in his nightmare who would that be? Originally I thought Christopher Lee would be great but it would make Alice far more anxious if the devil was a pop diva."

"That's where Ke\$ha came into the picture. She did a great job. We wrote the song *What Baby Wants* and it turned out one of the best songs on the album."

Alice reckons Ke\$ha, along with Lady GaGa, shows more 'rock' tendencies than most rock bands.

He said: "I met Lady GaGa and really liked her a lot."

"We got on very well and I think both her and Ke\$ha are the two most rocking of all the girls out there."

"It's interesting now in rock 'n' roll that all the young guy bands are wimpy and it is the girl bands with all the image. Everybody's so PC right now."

Monday's gig will be the first time Alice has spent Halloween with his Scottish fans — and he wants a night to remember.

He added: "It's going to be fun on Halloween... there are a lot of ghosts in Glasgow."



BIRDY: People Help The People. 15-year-old Jasmine Van den Bogaerde's pure and silvery voice is little short of perfection on this stirring cover of Cherry Ghost's original. The song's universal themes and poignant melody make it perfect for someone yet to sit exams. **3.5**

BORN BLONDE: Radio Bliss. A modern take on Britpop, with a twinkly backing track that lives up to its blissful title. **3.5**

CHER LLOYD FT. MIKE POSNER: With Ur Love. A vast improvement on her painful and gimmicky debut, this is cutesy R&B with a fairly average cameo from Posner. **3**

KELLY ROWLAND: Down For Whatever. Another clubbastic dance track from the X Factor judge, in which she explains her undiscerning approach to socialising. **3**

SEAN PAUL FT. ALEXIS JORDAN – Got 2 Luv U: This synth duet marks a decent comeback from the Get Busy rapscallion, aided by Jordan's honey-vocalised chorus. **3**

DOG IS DEAD – Hands Down: Youthful indie pop in a similar ilk to Bombay Bicycle Club — this is gentle and palatable, but is at times suspiciously similar to Keane's *Somewhere Only We Know*. **3**

ARCTIC MONKEYS – Suck It And See: Alex Turner et al provide their fans with what they expect on this gently-paced number which features their trademark jangling guitars and wryly delivered lyrics. **3**

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★★★★★ FROM THE USA ★★★★★

The FOUR TOPS

REACH OUT I'LL BE THERE ★ WALK AWAY RENEE LOCO IN ACAPULCO ★ IT'S ALL IN THE GAME
STANDING IN THE SHADOWS OF LOVE ★ BERNADETTE

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MY GIRL ★ PAPA WAS A ROLLIN' STONE

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WHODUNIT ★ MORE THAN A WOMAN
DON'T TAKE AWAY THE MUSIC ★ ONE STEP AWAY

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