

By CHRIS SWEENEY

SANDI GETS 'CHAIR'

POP star Sandi Thom gets the electric chair in her new video — and admitted she LOVED it.

The chart-topper suffers the death penalty in prison which is for Aberdeen hip-hop duo Shy and DRS' breakout single The Love is Gone.

It was released on Monday and is riding high in the iTunes hip-hop charts.

Adding to the madness, the song's tune is 80s smash hit Kayleigh — penned by Dalkeith rocker Fish and band Marillion.

But it's Sandi who takes the starring role as the rappers shackle her feet and hands, put her in a convict's jumpsuit, place a hood over her head then cold bloodily execute her.

Spooky

Sandi, 31, revealed: "The death penalty scene was a lot of fun to film.

"I've not had any nightmares since although it was pretty spooky sitting in the chair."

And the Banff-born babe revelled in being part of the unusual Scottish collaboration.

She said: "I thought it was a great idea. Kayleigh has such a recognisable riff and I thought it was great to have three Scottish artists from three different genres collaborating on a song together.

"The boys asked me to sing on their record a couple of years ago now, I

really liked their vibe and their tenacity so I agreed to work with them.

"Since then I took more of an interest in their career and when I heard the album in its completed form I thought: 'This is brilliant' and I wanted to do everything I could to help them."

Backing that up, Sandi — who shot to fame in 2006 with No1 hit I Wish I Was a Punk Rocker — signed them to her own label Guardian Angels and is tipping them to make it big.

The lads — real names James and Darren Scott — are twins who've been grafting away for years looking for their break.

Shy said: "The song was written about both our recent ex's at the time where we'd both just come out of relationships. It's about the concept of having your partner suddenly change.

While talking with Sandi before recording it, she came up with the idea of having the song be like a conversation.

"So the chorus is the female point of view and the comeback to the verses. It worked really well and the guitar lick on the Marillion sample is totally complemented by Sandi's vocals.

"It was the first proper collaboration we did so it felt amazing to work with such an experienced and established artist."

● Download the single and watch its video at shyanddrs.com



ELECTRIC THRILL... Sandi in death scene

ONE2HEAR

BIG Kids are the stereotypical odd couple.

It's Mr Hudson, the talented singer and pal of Kanye West — and Bill Oddie's daughter Rosie Bones.

The pair have released debut album Never Grow Up — and play Glasgow's King Tuts tomorrow night.

● Listen at bigkids-music.tumblr.com

ONE2SEE

OXJAM is taking over Dundee in some style.

There are gigs lined up by local bands in a church, car park, kitchen and other odd venues and it's all kicking off this weekend.

Details are released a few hours before each gig, with all proceeds going to Oxfam.

● Keep track at twitter.com/dundeejam

DEADLY... rappers Shy & DRS with Sandi



Punk shocker

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Something for the Weekend

We're not selling out, we ARE a pop band

By CHRIS SWEENEY

MOST people see electro boys Hot Chip as way left of centre.

But to them — they're playing it dead straight.

The band admit they have to keep themselves in check.

And that they do try to milk it for the mass market.

Synth player Felix Martin revealed: "In our minds that's what we do try and do.

"We're trying to make pop records that are commercial.

"Not that we're attempting to sell out, but we see ourselves as a pop band.

"If we're not selling records and tickets to gigs, then we're not doing what we want to do.

"We're definitely all capable of making music that is a lot more esoteric and weird, and not suitable for a mass audience."

"But we keep that in check when we make an album."

And Felix also admitted that even he can't work out how they all come together to make music that has chart success.

He said: "If we are sitting on the bus listening to music, it will be all over the place, from Ray Charles to techno.

"But somehow it all hangs together in our minds.

"It someone laid out the formula and our background, I would think it was unlikely that this band would have success.

Confidence

"But the core is good song-writing, that's what people respond to and keeps us relevant."

The band are riding high now. Recent album In Our Heads — which came out back in June — not only sold well, but it was a hit with the critics.

Felix, 32, said: "This one is the best album we've made.

"It's more interesting and just has better songs all round.

"There was a real confidence in the songs. As long as keep going in the direction then you're allowed to release music.

"The fans and people who come see us seem to have really warmed to it. When we've been playing live, a lot of the new songs have been getting a really good reception."

"We're just really happy. It's our fifth album and people are still finding new things to enjoy about us."

Right now, the boys are on a big European tour — which has kicked off with the UK leg.

And prior to hitting the road, they were locked away in cold storage working on the set.

As they like to keep things dynamic on stage.

Felix said: "It does take a while. We put the hours in to prepare, we had a really long rehearsal period this time as we're trying to dip into quite a bit of our back catalogue.

"We use a lot of instruments and different arrangements for each song — there is no standard



set-up with us all doing the same thing.

"There's a lot of swapping around and working out who's going to play what on each song. It takes a fair amount of preparation as there are seven people on-stage.

"That's what we take inspiration from, that's what keeps it interesting for us and helps us stand out from the crowd. We do change things around. We

have more songs that we are able to play in one night, so we fiddle about with the set list.

But once we get into a groove and rhythm, we go for it."

The only Scots date on the run is tonight at Glasgow's O2 ABC.

And the band — who're also singer Alexis Taylor, percussion man Joe Goddard, bass player Owen Clarke and guitarist Al Taylor — are bang up for it.

this time, we're bringing along records and will play some of the second-hand stuff we've got.

"As that was a big part of our musical experience growing up, buying cheap second-hand ones from places like Oxfam.

"So we're giving something back from somewhere that helped us.

"It's a good organisation and worth supporting if you can."

Felix said: "We're really looking forward to coming up to Scotland."

"Honestly, it's where some of our best gigs ever have been.

"It's something on the tour where you always know it's going to be a highlight basically.

"It's a longer set for these shows too. We're doing the new album but we've tried to cover all the old songs.

"We're not ones for ditching stuff because we're sick of playing it, it's part of our DNA."

One thing Hot Chip have had since their debut album Coming On Strong in 2004, is the cool tag. But again that's not something they really understand.

Felix said: "It's nice to hear it. But I don't know who our typical fan is and what they're into."

"We're into quite a lot of different music, so in order to like us you need to be open-minded — and that helps anyone who's a fan of music rather than a particular genre, to get us."



CALM AS THE COLOUR

WHO: Darren Roy (vocals), Kris Smith (guitar), Phil Cook (bass), Michael Roy (drums)

WHERE: Markinch, Fife

FOR FANS OF: Oasis, Stone Roses, The La's

JIM SAYS: Local scenes need on-the-ground supporters, be it press, blogs, podcasts or radio.

It's all about exposure, and these grass-roots platforms for new music are vital in lighting that first spark. Bands like Calm As The Colour have benefited from coverage by Kingdom Cuts, until recently Kev Quinn's weekly slot on Kingdom FM.

Phil from the band told me: "Kev's been great. He's a genuine fan and believer in our music. He's done so much for all the bands around Fife."

Though Kingdom Cuts was dropped by the radio station last month, it's thankfully found a new home online with the launch of Dunfermline-based Existence Radio. The first show is due to be broadcast on Monday via existenceradio.co.uk.

Even better is word that the new show, rather than the 12 minutes allotted by the old station, will be a full hour, taking in artists' interviews and sessions.

It may be a very small cog, but it all helps build the profile of an act. Where better to do that than on your own doorstep?

For Calm As The Colour it gave them a launch pad which led to national attention on BBC Radio 6. Darren said: "Tom Robinson has played us six times in the last year. He has a soft spot



for Fife bands mainly because of Fence Records (King Creosote's label) and he's a big fan of our music, which is incredible.

"The BBC6 music team have promoted our music all over the country and we are so grateful for their help."

"Tom says we have gems for songs and are a band that will be knocking on the door of record companies next year."

Praise indeed from the music legend-turned-broadcaster.

They've also been featured by Steve Lamacq on Radio 2, and have a further fan in former Inspiral Carpets singer Tom Hingley. Phil said: "We supported him a few months back. He promotes our music on the internet."

"That's amazing considering we formed the band through influences such as the Inspiral Carpets."

Playing jangly indie-pop with a summery feel, Calm As The Colour have released 2 EPs, and have just posted a great video for their track Sometimes, produced by Edinburgh creatives Little City Pictures.

Calm As The Colour are currently working on a third EP and hope to release their debut album next year. They also have their sights set on slots at the major Scottish festivals like T In The Park and RockNess.

MORE: calmasthecolour.bandcamp.com and indemandscotland.co.uk. Jim will play Calm As The Colour on In:Demanded Uncut this Sunday at 7pm on Clyde 1, Forth One, Northsound 1, Radio Borders, Tay FM, West FM and West Sound.