

Something for the Weekend

FILMS MUSIC DVDs
GAMES BOOKS COMEDY

HOT GIGS KINGS OF LEON – tonight, O2 Shepherds Bush Empire; MARTHA WAINWRIGHT – Mon, Picture House, Edinburgh; BAT FOR LASHES – Tues, O2 Shepherds Bush Empire; CRIBS, Thurs, Garage, Aberdeen.

BOOK NOW WILL.I.A.M – Dec 3, Phones 4 U Arena, Manchester; JESSIE J, JLS, THE WANTED, LABRINTH, NAUGHTY BOY, A*M*E and more – Aug 31 and Sept 1, Fusion Festival, Cotton Park, Birmingham.

IT felt like a genuine piece of history when the Stones emerged on to a stage festooned with fake trees framing giant screens.

As a sweltering July day gave way to a balmy evening, the band were back in Hyde Park, London, for the first time since the fabled free concert of 1969.

Today, Mick, Keith, Charlie and Ronnie may be getting on a bit but their timeless songs are for the young at heart.

It is clear from the first familiar staccato notes of Start Me Up that youthful fire is still burning in the titans of the music scene for the past 50 years.

For those who were there and for those who

ROLLING STONES
Hyde Park Live

wish they had been, the Stones have released a live album through iTunes, comprising the best bits of the two new Hyde Park shows. (You'll have to hurry as it's only available until August 19.)

The good news is the recordings sound great... lively, sharp, atmospheric and emphatically capturing the moment. Of course, the set list is pretty predictable with all the band's big hits present.

Yet there is room for a couple of less-expected gems, such as Jagger's

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tender reading of Ruby Tuesday or Richards' turning into an old delta blues man for his lead on You Got The Silver.

Even obligatory new song Doom And Gloom strikes a chord. But it's the home stretch of Jumpin' Jack Flash, Sympathy For The Devil (with crowd ooh-oohs), Brown Sugar, You Can't Always Get What You Want (with choir) and Satisfaction that really proves why we all love this amazing, enduring band.

Logic tells us they won't be around for ever. Yet I suspect, on this evidence, this isn't the last we'll hear of the Rolling Stones. SC



NEW MUSIC
By JIM GELLATLY

LEON T. PEARL

WHERE: Edinburgh
FOR FANS OF: The Streets, Frank Ocean, Disclosure
JIM SAYS: One of my favourite new tracks is the glorious debut single from Leon T. Pearl. Blending electro, garage and soul, with an infectious hook, Take You To Market is a perfect introduction to the 24-year-old.

It's released through chart-toppers Disclosure's Method label, Leon said: "When Disclosure released Tenderly/Flow a year or two ago I thought it was the most interesting dance music I'd heard in a long, long time."

"Then when industry people started appreciating my work Method got in touch. 'The lads that run that label are exactly on my page.'"

The London-born singer and producer started learning classical piano when he was eight, becoming interested in electronic music in his early teens. He added: "I got an 8-track and a synth when I was about 14 and became addicted to producing."

"Towards the end of university in 2011 I started thinking properly about producing and sharing my work."

The rising star has spent time crafting his art in Tokyo and New York. He said: "I was always intrigued by the culture and aesthetic of Japan. The music of Ryuichi Sakamoto and Yellow Magic Orchestra was always a big inspiration as well. So I took a



By JACQUI SWIFT

ON their third album Big TV, trio White Lies have really come of age.

"We grew up a lot making and touring the first two albums and that has definitely informed the songwriting and sound of this record," singer and guitarist Harry McVeigh told us.

"I think we've reached a point where we understand the sound of our band and we are happy to deliver music that is pure White Lies rather than to try and reinvent. We are confident with ourselves and our sound."

"We have a very dedicated fan base and we love playing our music to our fans all over the world, so we certainly felt that delivering a record that they would enjoy and we would enjoy playing live was very important."

Here Harry, drummer Jack Lawrence-Brown and bassist Charles Cave tell SFTW how they've moved on, the concept behind Big TV and how much they are looking forward to playing it live.

HOW have you moved on from previous album Ritual?

Harry: We learnt a lot from both our first two records, but we have no regrets. A record is all about capturing a moment in your life.

Although we don't love all of the songs on Ritual, now they will always take us back to that time. We wouldn't have made Big TV, and been so happy and confident about it, without the experience of the second record.

It's a concept album. What themes run through it?

Charles: It's an album made up of a fragmented narrative. There is a story running through it, and simply speaking it's a story of a girl looking for something better in life, love and everything.

She moves from a small provincial town to a big city hoping to slot into the modern life she has seen in films and magazines.

It comes from a lot of different personal experiences and anecdotes that people have told me.

Tell us about the song Big TV?

Charles: Big TV has come to represent the vacuous ambition this girl has. It sits totally out of place with her small, humble home in this new city.

It's a superficial badge of achievement or success that is as empty as the black screen on its face. It's disposable and will be outdated soon, possibly like the city. The album is a story of empty hope in many ways or at least the mortality of satisfaction. At one point or another you'll just want to change the channel.

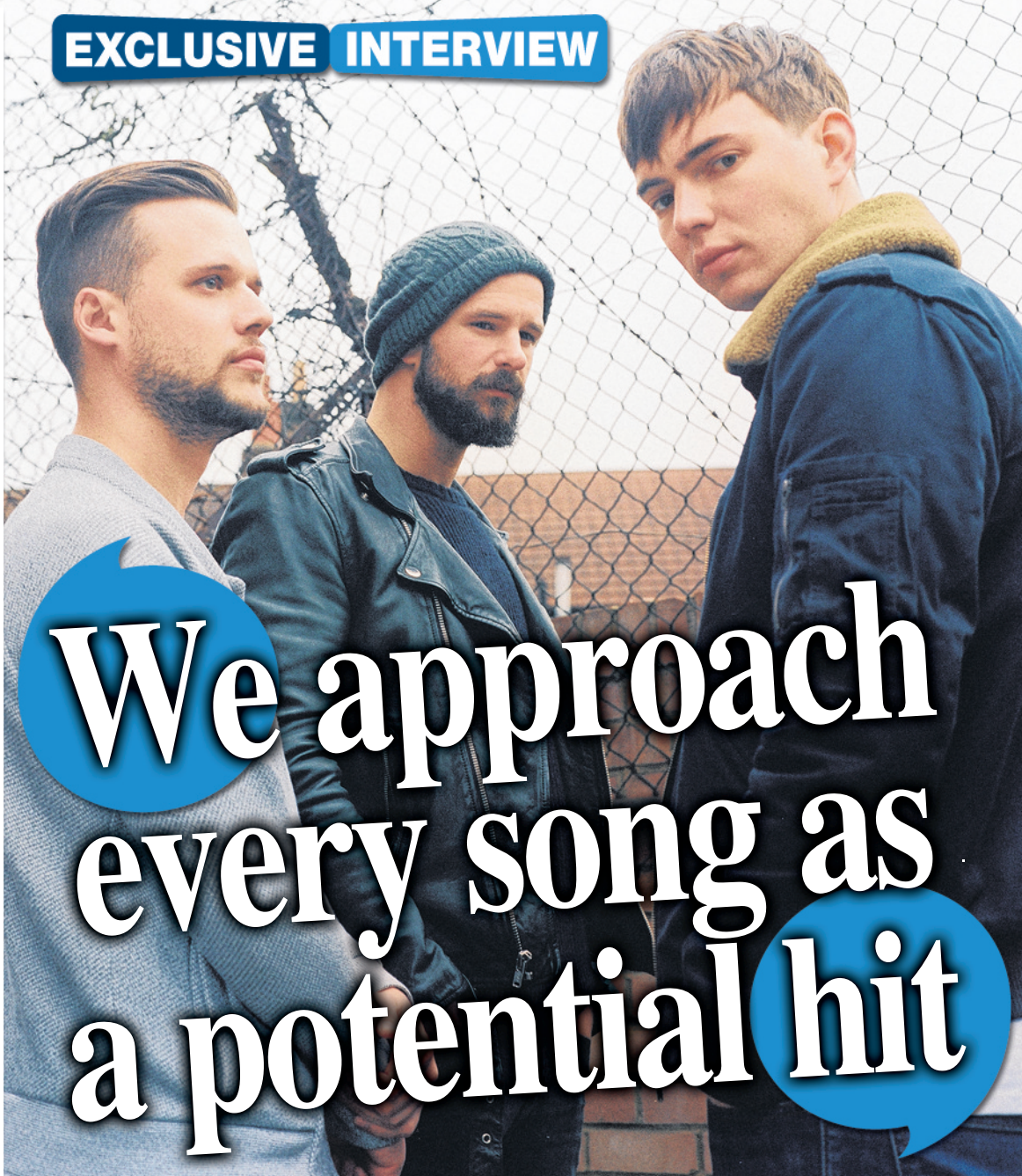
You've said you've been influenced by heavy metal on this album. In what way?

Harry: Charles and I are big fans of metal music and we certainly listened to it a lot while we were writing this. So who knows, maybe some of it found

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

We approach every song as a potential hit

4 WHITE LIES Big TV



plane to Tokyo, and booked myself into a language school for six weeks so I could get by.

"I went out to clubs and just spoke to everyone who was interested. I made a bunch of incredible Japanese pals and crashed on their floors for the next six months."

"In 2011 I lived in New York for four months working with the electronic producer Nicolas Jaar. I love New York and the vibe is pretty unique. I absorbed a lot and the experience gave me confidence and got me motivated."

Back home in Scotland, he also engaged with the scene.

He added: "Being brought up in Edinburgh has had a huge impact."

"My songs are very autobiographical and so Edinburgh was often the setting, along with plenty of ridiculous Glasgow nights as standard."

"The passion that many Scottish people have for a Sam singalong is vital."

"Not to mention the sarcastic Scottish humour that filters through a lot of my lyrics. I'm excited for the future of this place."

Leon T. Pearl plays Sneaky Pete's in Edinburgh next Friday. Take You To Market is available to download from Sunday.

MORE: facebook.com/leonpearl

● Jim will be playing Leon T. Pearl on InDemand Uncut this Sunday from 7pm. Check it out on Clyde 1, Forth One, Northsound 1, Radio Borders, Tay FM, West FM & West Sound FM. www.indemandscotland.co.uk.

SFTW meets PASSENGER

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

IF you think that Mike Rosenberg. aka Passenger, looks familiar, it is probably NOT because you have watched him on TV.

It is more likely you have seen him busking on your High Street.

Because that is what the mysterious singer-songwriter – who is the breakthrough success of summer 2013 – has been doing for years.

Mike formed a five-piece band, also named Passenger, in his teens, but their single Walk You Home hit just 134 in the charts.

He admits the band was a "struggle" most of the time, but has now gone on to massive success with the same name – albeit without his former bandmates.

In a huge turnaround, his debut single Let Her Go – currently charting at No8 – has been No1 in 16 countries.

The video has a jaw-dropping 76million views on YouTube and the album All The Little Lights is at No3.

"I guess the story behind Passenger is a bit of a crazy one," laughed Mike on the phone from Chicago. "It's certainly one of DIY and hard work."

"I never dreamed I'd ever have a hit record. But the last six months have been getting crazier by the day. Let Her Go has blown me away. To see this success in the UK means the world."

'We just weren't right as a band'

Brighton-born Mike, now 29, started Passenger after dropping out of school aged 17.

Influenced by Bruce Springsteen and Paul Simon, Passenger was made up of Mike and friend Andrew Phillips as co-songwriters "and a few mates joined us to play bass, keyboards and drums".

Debut album Wicked Man's Rest was released in 2007, but Mike confessed: "It was a struggle most of the time. Bands are complicated" and Passenger wasn't right as a band.

"Everyone was pulling in different directions and wanted different things though I'm still really good mates with all the guys from the band."

"When we split after Andrew left in 2009, I didn't plan to carry on as Passenger – it just happened."

"I had a credit card debt to pay so I thought I'd try some busking while I figured out what to do next, never realising that would be the start of things."

With no cash or a record label, Mike ventured out to the streets of Brighton.

He explains: "Busking is a brilliant way of getting your music out there. It's really amazing how much people want to listen."

"I started busking in Brighton but soon I was travelling around the country, staying in youth hostels and busking by day and playing pubs by night."

"On good days I'd make quite a bit of money and on a bad day it would rain or I'd be moved on by the police."

"The worst thing to happen would be kids stealing my busking money. But busking was a real learning curve."

Mike found that it was not just busking that was earning him an income – he had started to sell CDs.

"I'd written a bunch of acoustic songs," explains Mike. "I recorded them in five days at my friend's."

"I pressed up 500 copies to begin with but some days I was selling nearly a hundred a day! Over the years I've sold 30,000 albums just from busking."

He then spent six months in Australia, with Sydney as his base, and it was there that Passenger as the solo singer-songwriter started to take shape.

"I'd decided I really wanted to carry on with music. When the band broke up there were so many male singer-songwriters. I thought, 'How am I going to stick out?' So I kept Passenger because it adds a bit of mystery."

Mike has put out four albums: Wide Eyes Blind Love in 2009, Divers And Submarines and Flight Of The Crow in 2010 and his breakthrough, All The Little Lights, released in February 2012.

He added: "I don't really see them as proper albums until All The Little Lights. And then Let Her Go started getting lots of airplay in Holland. That was when life changed."

Mike owes his success to two things – Let Her Go and touring with close friend Ed Sheeran. "I've known Ed for years," said Mike. "And he's been so generous getting me out there. I can't thank Ed enough for that opportunity."

'I try to be nice first and foremost'

The success of Let Her Go still has not sunk in with Mike, who said the first time he heard his song on the radio – in a taxi in Holland – he just started giggling. Mike added: "I didn't think it would ever get on the radio. It's taken me ten years of hard work to have a hit – and now it's huge."

The song, written about a painful break-up, has connected with people across the world. Mike explained: "I remember playing it on stage and seeing everyone sing it back. It was mindblowing. It's a simple song about loss and falling out of love so we've all been there."

Passenger is now set to release Holes, another cut from All The Little Lights.

Mike said: "Let Her Go has gone so well, we thought we had better release another song. Holes is a live favourite."

"The video was filmed in Brighton with mates. I've been all over the world and now people are getting to know me. I want to show how proud I am to be from the UK and Brighton."

"I will never change. I've struggled for ten years so I will never have any airs and graces with this new fame."

"Someone told me that it was more important to be a successful human being than to be a successful musician. I just try to remember that every day."

"I try to be humble, generous and a nice guy first and foremost. That won't change, however many records I sell."

● Passenger's new single, Holes, is out on September 23.

TRACKLIST

1. Things That Stop You Dreaming
2. Let Her Go
3. Staring At The Stars
4. All The Little Lights
5. The Wrong Direction
6. Circles
7. Keep On Walking
8. Patient Love
9. Life's For The Living
10. Holes
11. Feather On The Clyde
12. I Hate