

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

By CHRIS SWEENEY

RAUNCHY rap babe Iggy Azalea has forgotten more about twerking than pop pretender Miley Cyrus will ever know.

But she **WON'T** be busting it out at the MOBOs on Saturday night. Because she doesn't want "to take kids to the strip club". Iggy will be one of the show's performers, appearing live on the BBC at the bash beamed from The Hydro in Glasgow. The blonde bombshell hails from tiny Australian town Mullumbimby. But she went to the US at 16 to make it — going all over the Southern States pining her dues, before hitting it big. Now she's a serious player in the rap game thanks to smash singles Work, Bounce and Change Your Life. Their initial success was powered by the hardcore hip-hop scene accepting her, and it's from that she's well clued up on twerking.

'I find it hard to keep a secret'

Iggy, 23, said: "When I was performing to adults in underground clubs, you can do things like that, but I won't be twerking on Saturday. My dancers might do a little version but it will be more stylised. I don't want to take 12-year-olds to the strip club." Iggy's career is off to a flyer. And underlining it, she's been nominated in the Best International Act category at this year's MOBOs. But her album isn't even out and it's been pushed back now until 2014 due to record company politics. She said: "It's frustrating. Whenever I have a surprise for someone, I find it hard to keep a secret. I feel like that with the album. I just wish I could leak it." Iggy has some serious competition to win the award. She's battling the likes of Justin Timberlake and Jay Z. But whether she wins or not, she's gearing up to steal the show. Iggy explained: "We're going to have some crazy fire and all sorts going on. It should be a lot of fun." Mega star Beyonce has signed up Iggy to appear on her Mrs Carter Show World Tour. Due to the MOBOs, Iggy will miss her first gigs back home in Australia since she made it big. But the awards nomination is a big deal, and has topped off the amazing reaction she's received in Britain. She said: "The reception I got has surprised me. There is always a perception that pop music is humungous here and there's no room for hip-hop or rap music. But that's not true. Though you gotta tell them out there, I need as many crossed fingers as I can get for Saturday to help me win this."

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I don't want to take kids to the strip club



BIG RIVALS FOR GONG

IGGY is up against a host of superstar names for Best International Act at the MOBOs in Glasgow tomorrow — including Jay Z, below left, Kanye West, below centre and Justin Timberlake, below right. She's also facing competition from the likes of Robin Thicke, Kendrick Lamar and Jason Derulo. US singer Miguel, R&B babe Ciara and Grammy-nominated hip-hop star J.Cole are also nominated for the award.



BLOOD RELATIVES
WHO: Anna Meldrum (vocals / guitar), Callum Wiseman (guitar / vocals), Alan Langdon (bass), Nick Roan (drums)
WHERE: Glasgow
FOR FANS OF: Frightened Rabbit, Camera Obscura, Regina Spektor
JIM SAYS: I actually wrote about these guys in my first ever New Music column in The Scottish Sun, some three years ago.

They were then called Kitty The Lion. In May I saw them play possibly their last gig under that name. It was a blistering performance at the ABC in Glasgow for the Stag & Dagger festival. I was prompted to tweet on the night "Wow! Kitty The Lion sounding totally rocking." Much as I'd loved their earlier sound, it now seemed to have more of an edge. A few weeks later they were rechristened Blood Relatives and I caught them with another storming set, in Inverness for the goNORTH Festival. Anna explained: "We decided to change the name for a few reasons. The band has gradually changed and developed over the years. "We've had some line-up changes, and our sound has become more mature. We felt that 'Kitty' didn't really fit us anymore. We also wanted to indicate that we are very much a group, as opposed to a solo artist with backing, which the old name kind of implied." Anna's swapped her acoustic for an electric guitar, and



adding keyboards has created a fuller sound. It still has folk elements, but is dare I say it, "less twee". Anna told me: "By and large the response to the name and new material has been really positive! A few folk were a bit sad we weren't 'Kitty' anymore, but everyone seems to be looking forward to hearing the album!" The debut Blood Relatives album Deerheart, also the name of their current single, is set for release on October 28. Packed full of indie-pop gems, it's surely a contender for next year's Scottish Album Of The Year Award. Anna said: "I've kind of given up writing about love, so the album is largely about other things. There are songs about body image, about anxiety and insecurity, about family resemblance and ageing. "It's also a bit of a zoo, with an evil crow, some gluttonous ducks, a herd of deer and some crustaceans kicking about in it. And there are lots of dismembered body parts. "But overall, we wanted to write a real bunch of ear-worms, so hopefully you'll be left with some songs stuck in your head by the end." The band play the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh on November 8 for the RBS Museum Late series. You can also catch them supporting Stornoway at Glasgow O2 ABC on November 29. **MORE:** blood-relatives.com ● Jim will be playing Blood Relatives on InDemand Uncut this Sunday from 7pm on Clyde 1, Forth One, Northsound 1, Radio Borders, Tay FM, West FM & West Sound

SFTW meets THE CHARLATANS



Jon would want us to carry on... he'd laugh at us struggling

BY TIM BURGESS

TONIGHT The Charlatans play A Night For Jon Brookes at London's Royal Albert Hall to celebrate the life of their drummer who died of brain cancer in August, aged 44.

The line-up will include Liam Gallagher, Manic Street Preachers, James Dean Bradfield, members of The Vaccines, Mumford & Sons and New Order, and there will be a DJ set from the Chemical Brothers. Here singer Tim Burgess tells JACQUI SWIFT about his bandmate and friend. ● Tonight Charlatans fans can expect a really special night for someone who touched their lives. Jon loved being in the band so it's a night for us all to remember him. In terms of music, we've got Liam Gallagher teaming up with (ex-Oasis guitarist) Bonehead for the first time in a long time. I'm in a band with Gillian (Gilbert) and Stephen (Morris) from New Order, Freddie (Cowan) and Arni (Arnason) from The Vaccines and Winston (Marshall) from Mumford & Sons. James Dean Bradfield will sing a few songs too. We've also got a couple of surprises up our collective sleeves. The Charlatans are playing, too, but that's no surprise — it's our first gig since we lost Jon. He brought determination from the back to the band, like Roy Keane did for Manchester United. We all grew together and bought and sold each other's traits. He had all my best bits and I picked up all (Charlatans bass player) Martin Blunt's worst. We all grew up together over the life of the band and went through a lot. We are family to each other and there's no bond

stronger than that. I will remember Jon as a brilliant drummer and a courageous man. I told him how brave I thought he was at our show in Edinburgh last year. He just told me to hang tight and make the show a great one — it was the best I had ever seen him drum. Jon and I fought the most out of anyone in the group. We had full-on punch-ups. Sometimes he won and sometimes I did — it was just band stuff. But walking in to our first practice together seems like yesterday. Jon had an injured hand after climbing into a zoo the night before! One memory that sticks with me is when he'd come to one of my solo gigs and we went out for a curry. Jon had been through a couple of ops and I told him I was going to be a dad. The next time I saw him, he was in hospital. But he still smiled and said: "How's that boy of yours?" However rough things ever got for him, he always had time for everyone else. With the line-up, we asked a few acts to play but Liam called us himself. I tweeted Ed (Simons) from the Chemical Brothers and things just happened. The whole night will be emotional but sometimes tears are what you need. It's the measure of what someone meant. I'll just picture Jon's grin — if only he knew we were playing the Royal Albert Hall for him. We're raising money for The Brain Tumour Charity, too. I'm sure The Charlatans will continue. We carried on after Rob (Collins, the band's keyboard player who was killed in a car crash in 1996) died but we were much younger then — though Jon kept kicking us up the a*** if we stalled. Jon would want us to continue but he would giggle at us struggling. ● For more about the charity, see thebraintumourcharity.org.

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SMART SCOTS GIVE IT ALDI

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