

# Something **the Weekend**

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**NEW MUSIC**  
By JIM GELLATLY

## THE TOI

**WHO:** Paul Healy (vocals/guitar), Andy Carr (bass/vocals), Steven McLay (drums/vocals)

**WHERE:** Glasgow  
**FOR FANS OF:** Queen, The Darkness, The Rolling Stones  
**JIM SAYS:** Classic Rock usually fills me with dread — hairy old men pulling out all the rock 'n' roll clichés. I saw Whitesnake a few years ago, and thought I was at a pantomime. David Coverdale made a fine dame mind you.

So by rights The Toi are exactly the sort of band I should hate. But despite taking their lead from a lot of the names that defined the genre, there's a freshness to their music. The trio sound like a band moving forward rather than one stuck in a timewarp — and their passion shines through.

Singer Paul said: "Music written and played from the heart is always relevant. If it's melodic and catchy then it's likely to stick. The songs that always get people up are the cheesy anthems. Be it ABBA, Queen, Bon Jovi or Whitesnake. We're not interested in following trends or re-writing songs to fit what's 'now'. We make music that we'd like to hear others make. Hopefully others enjoy it!"

Perhaps The Darkness are the best reference point for The Toi. I saw the modern-pomp rockers play a handful of people at the Glasgow



Barfly in 2002 and two years later they were headlining T In The Park. What should have been an unfashionable band became one of the hottest tickets around. And The Toi could do the same.

In fact, Darkness guitarist Dan Hawkins in one of their biggest fans. Paul said: "The Darkness were doing a record with Nick Brine producing and he listened to some demos we had done. When he passed them on to Dan they were both really keen to help bring out the best in the songs we had written."

"The Darkness were a band I used to play guitar along to when starting out. All of a sudden their songwriter is in a studio in the Gorbals asking you about how to play your songs... that's cool!"

The trio have just recorded their debut album at Rockfield Studios in Wales with Nick and Dan co-producing.

Paul said: "Nick has done an amazing job. It's very full sounding whilst keeping a live vibe. The mastering was handled by Pete Maher who's worked with The Rolling Stones, Katy Perry, U2, Linkin Park... it sounds killer!"

Hopefully the album will emerge soon and The Toi's debut single Get On It is out now. It's an absolute banger! **MORE:** facebook.com/thetoiofficial

● Jim will be playing The Toi on InDemand Uncut this Sunday from 7pm on Clyde 1, Forth One, North Sound 1, Radio Borders, Tay FM, West FM & West Sound FM. He's also got an exclusive interview with Kings Of Leon on the show.

**Sun** Watch the band at thescottishsun.co.uk

STATUS QUO meets **SFTW**

**EXCLUSIVE**  
By CHRIS SWEENEY

**THEY were once Britain's most hardcore rockers, leaving a trail of drug and booze-fuelled carnage on the road.**

But now Status Quo are tamed animals.

Former wildman guitarist Rick Parfitt would rather watch Strictly Come Dancing than smash up a hotel room.

And singer Francis Rossi admits that he is now hit by **STAGE FRIGHT** and even had to be dragged onstage for a show.

It's hard to believe these are guys who have sold a staggering **130MILLION** albums.

Something For The Weekend met up with them on their European Tour at Brabanthallen in Den Bosch, Holland — the last night before a 10-day break.

Then it's back on the road in the UK, with the guys playing The SSE Hydro in Glasgow on December 18.

But livewire Francis isn't exactly looking forward to the build up to the UK tour.

He admitted: "Someone always asks me am I looking forward to some show I'm doing next year, they want me to say, 'Yeah, I can't wait'. But the answer is no.

"As I'm going on, I'm saying to



the crew, 'Don't make me go on, please don't make me'. One time they actually had to push me to get me on stage.

"I'm an insecure little show-off. There is a fear of it going wrong."

"Over the years, there's been the odd gig pulled. When that happens I'm shouting, 'F\*\*\*ing great' and the pressure goes."

"But you get half an hour away on the bus and think, I wished we'd played tonight."

And for Francis it will never stop. He said: "I'm 64 and been chasing a carrot on a stick since I was 12 years old — but what happens if I get it?"

Rick, 65, is also torn about

life on the road too — and is happier being a dad to young twins Tommy and Lilly.

We interrupt him during a Skype call with third wife Lyndsay at their home in Marbella about the kids' tennis lesson.

He explained: "I will continue to do what I'm doing as I love it — but maybe not as frequently and cut down touring."

"I'm so enjoying seeing these kids grow up. In the bad old days, off-tour I'd hit the coke and the booze — I was an ogre. Now I can't wait to get home, see the kids get in from school and we do a bit of sword fighting."

From the poster boy for rock hell-rai-

ers, Rick is now in his own words "a bore".

He said: "If Lyndsay says so-and-so has invited us out, I say, 'Do we really have to go?'"

"She has to drag me out."

"My mum and my dad would sit watching Come Dancing when I was younger, with the numbers on the back and the guys in tails."

"I'd be going, 'Mum, Dad, what the hell are you watching?'"

"Now I'm totally hooked. I have this series taped and I've avoided all the results."

But don't think Status Quo are toothless. They weren't happy with their Glastonbury 2009 appearance being branded a nostalgia gig.

Rick snapped: "When we did Glastonbury, some people sort of said, 'Well, it's nice to have them here'. F\*\*\* off."

"We are still a hard-hitting rock



# We were all drugs and late nights but now it's Strictly and stage fright

band and we'll tear any audience up we get in front of."

And they went for a whole new audience with movie Bula Quo, a rollercoaster adventure which sees the pair chased by gangsters after witnessing a gang killing in Fiji.

Yep, it's a Quo action movie — but Francis reckons it's just all part of the industry.

He said: "There is something very strange about rock 'n' roll musicians. We like to think we're in music and not show business."

"Well, if you're not in show business, stay home."

"And to be honest, a true musician is boring as f\*\*\* as they spend all their time studying it."

And he's equally frank about making the movie.

He said: "The movie was good apart from the initial s\*\*\* my pants as it's outside my comfort zone."

"We'd be up at 5, out of the hotel for 6, on set for 7 until 6.30 at night. F\*\*\*ing hard work."

"Things that come up in our career, sometimes they are really good moves and other times they are suicide. I'm not saying the movie's wonderful but I've seen greater piles of s\*\*\* sell."

If the movie — out now on DVD and Blu-ray — seems bizarre, a track on the next album inspired by Russell Brand, pictured far left, might just tip it to the title of Strangest Quo.

Francis caught the stand-up comic in full political flow with Jeremy Paxman recently. He said: "I don't like Russell Brand for

whatever reason. Probably jealous that all the women want to shag him, not me. But I'm watching and I'm going, 'Go on son, tell him, tell him.' So I wrote this chorus thinking about Brand."

Quo have no intention of slowing down, despite curbing the excesses of their youth.

And they weren't surprised to hear about X Factor winner James Arthur, pictured left, taking time off due to exhaustion, after just a year in the spotlight.

Rick said: "Acts now won't have gone where we went with how we lived. With something like X Factor, you are catapulted into the spotlight."

"It is very easy to have a good time. You need good management to make sure you go to bed."

"It's like a f\*\*\*ing meat market out there now."

Francis added: "The thing this band is good at is we're slick, a well-oiled machine."

"When we first started I said to one of our roadies, 'We're having trouble getting gigs, all I want to do is work'."

"That's what I got."

● Get tickets for The SSE Hydro and more info on Bula Quo at statusquo.co.uk

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**Sun** See the interview at thescottishsun.co.uk

## CELEB JUNGLE 'WASTE OF TIME'

RICK could be in the Aussie jungle right now alongside reality show star Joey Essex, pictured — but the no-nonsense axeman reckons he has better things to do with his time.

ITV bosses have asked him several times to appear on I'm A Celebrity Get Me Out Of Here.

But every year, Rick has refused to budge on what appear to be pretty reasonable conditions for him to go up against a host of less-well-known people scoffing parts of kangaroos you'd rather forget while being covered in cockroaches.

He said: "My criteria was could I take my guitar, they said no. I take my pillow everywhere and they said no to that too. So we couldn't agree."

"Not wishing to insult the show, but I've got better things to do than sit in a f\*\*\*ing jungle for three weeks."

Meanwhile, The Quo have also issued a come and get me plea to T in the Park bosses.

Rick hadn't heard of the huge annual Balado bash — but after getting the lowdown from The Scottish Sun he wants the band on the bill.

He said: "I've never heard of it."

"Is that every year?"

"I can't believe I don't know about it."

"But from what you're saying, it sounds ideal for us."

"We'd be right up for coming up there and tearing the place up."



**WIN**  
tickets to see Calvin at the Hydro

SCOTLAND'S new home of entertainment, The SSE Hydro, will host superstar DJ/producer Calvin Harris along with Tiesto on December 23. The Scottish Sun and SSE Hydro are giving five of our lucky readers the chance to win a pair of tickets to this unmissable show in Glasgow. To be in with a chance of winning, just tell us which song Calvin Harris and Tiesto previously collaborated on?

**HOW TO ENTER:** Please email your name, address, daytime contact number, date of birth & answer to win@the-sun.co.uk making sure you put the competition name SSE HYDRO - CALVIN HARRIS & TIESTO in the subject heading. Over 18s only, excluding any employees and their families or anyone professionally connected with this promotion. Competition closes midnight Friday, December 6, 2013. The prize is five winners each receiving pair of tickets for Calvin Harris & Tiesto on December 23 at The SSE Hydro. The promoter reserves the right to substitute any prize with one of equal or greater value. Five winners will be selected at random after the closing date from all correct entries received. Usual Scottish Sun rules apply. Editor's decision is final. Scottish Hydro terms and conditions available on: <http://www.hydro.co.uk/AboutUs/Sponsorship/SponsorshipTermsAndConditions>

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