

Something for the Weekend

NEW MUSIC



By JIM GELLATLY

THE MOON KIDS

WHO: David Barr (vocals/guitar), Connor Whyte (guitar), Rory Buchanan (drums)

WHERE: Dunfermline
FOR FANS OF: Blur, Aztec Camera, The Beatles

JIM SAYS: After last year's debut EP I had high hopes for The Moon Kids and new single *Strange Thoughts*. On Sunday doesn't disappoint. Singer David Barr told me: "It's a great introduction to our sound. We describe it as 'fairground pop' because we want to elicit the thrills, the bright lights and that sense of excitement with our songs. We want our songs to get your heart beating faster."

A sparkly dose of jangly guitar pop, it's further proof that the Fife outfit are ones to keep an eye on.

Single Of The Week on The Janice Forsyth Show on BBC Radio Scotland this week, it's great to see the band getting the attention they deserve.

They've been grabbing every opportunity that comes along. Their song *Luna Park* recently reached the final stages of the International Songwriting Competition.

David, who wrote the song, said: "To be voted into the final when the judges included Tom Waits and London Grammar was really special. It was an amazing feeling to know that a song I wrote in my bedroom on a rainy Sunday afternoon in Dunfermline



was being heard by artists of that calibre!"

The winning song, *Riptide* from Australian singer-songwriter Vance Joy, has gone on to be a million-seller, including Top 10 status in the UK.

I first saw The Moon Kids live a year ago showcasing at the goNORTH festival (now XpoNorth) in Inverness.

They were also one of the new breed of acts selected to appear on the T Break Stage at T In The Park last year.

David said: "Playing T In The Park was mindblowing for me. To have that dream come true was special."

With this year's crop of T Break acts set to be announced a week today, David reckons the bands are in for a treat.

He added: "It has provided a springboard to acts such as Biffy Clyro, Snow Patrol, Paolo Nutini, Twin Atlantic and The View."

Very much an initiative from T In The Park founding partners Tennent's Lager, T Break celebrates its 20th year at the festival's new site at Strathallan Castle. As one of the selection, I think we are in for a vintage year. I can't wait to share the line-up!

The Moon Kids launch *Strange Thoughts* on May 29 at Edinburgh's Sneaky Pete's. **MORE:** www.themoonkids.com
●JIM presents Drivetime on XFM Scotland, Monday to Friday 4-7pm.
www.xfm.co.uk
www.jimgellatly.com

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

By CHRIS SWEENEY

REFORMED shoegazers Ride smashed headfirst into a wall.

They drove the machine until the wheels flew off in the 90s – but it was always on the cards.

Singer Mark Gardener said: "Ride were always going to crash the car. We were never a career band. We sat on the edge of everything – but that's what made it exciting."

They called it quits in 1996 after four albums, and a wild spell on notorious label Creation Records.

Now they're back on the road after their UK tour sold out in less than 30 minutes.

And the only Scots gig – tonight at The Barrowlands in Glasgow – was supposed to be the first date. But big offers from America put paid to that.

Mark, 45, explained: "The Glasgow show was supposed to be the first gig."

'We want to move it up a level'

"But we got a lot of other offers to play Coachella and other festivals over there once we'd announced the tour, so everything got moved forward by about six weeks."

"We've done the Barrowlands twice before, it was up there with some of my favourite Ride shows. I remember doing it with Supergrass supporting us – it was a crazy night."

"I will never forget that whole floor bouncing."

The band – also including ex-Oasis star guitarist Andy Bell, drummer Laurence Colbert and bass player Steve Queralt – are buzzing about the reaction they've got since coming back.

Mark said: "We've thought about this for the last two or three years. We were aware through social media that people have been calling for it."

"So it's nice we're giving it back to them and they're turning out. But there's always a bit of apprehension to see how it'll be doing it again."

"That quickly went during the first rehearsal – it felt great."

And while there's no pressure to sell tickets or plug a new album, the boys will still be giving it plenty of welly.

Mark added: "The level of shows we've come back to, we've come in at a higher level than we left off – so we had to hit the ground running. And 80 per cent of the audience are new."

COMEBACK...
Ride will make their return to a sold-out Barrowlands tonight

We'll crash the party all over again



HEYDAY... the band were indie darlings in the nineties

They were probably too young the first time around.

"So we can't come out and go through the motions."

"We do feel we've got a lot to prove, we have a legacy."

"We always felt the weight of the expectation to deliver."

"The thrill is not to feel we're repeating what we did – but moving it up a level."

"We were boys back then, we're men now and there's more muscle to what we do on stage."

Mark also hopes Ride can inject some life into today's music scene. He said: "Lots of stuff, I feel, is really bland now."

And it's a bit s*** to sit around and complain. But I can do something about that in Ride."

And Mark reckons his legions of fans could be in for another bumpy trip. He added: "The car is running again. We just don't know where it's going."

"We've no idea about new music, and we like it that way. It's how we work best – we never know what we're doing."

"Who knows what will happen next. Maybe we will crash the car again."

"But for now, it's firmly back on the road."

FREE
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TO celebrate the return of rave pioneers Sunscreen, Clubz asked one of the UK's brightest up and coming dance music producers, Barber, to produce a remix of one of the most upbeat tracks on the album, *Soul*. You can download it online at thesun.co.uk/clubz for free.

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