

Something for the Weekend

NEW MUSIC



By JIM GELLATLY

MT. DOUBT

WHO: Leo Bagerly.
WHERE: Edinburgh.
FOR FANS OF: Bon Iver, Frightened Rabbit and Ben Howard.

JIM SAYS: Scotland seems awash with great singer-songwriters at the moment.

A lot of artists start out on the thriving open mic scene, but I'm not sure Edinburgh's Mt. Doubt has actually performed his songs live yet. That certainly adds to the intrigue.

The 21-year-old first caught my attention at the end of last year when he forwarded his debut single Feathers. Sticking a few songs on Soundcloud and gaining traction from music blogs, he's steadily been building his profile online.

He said: "Mt. Doubt is a relatively new concept. The project started at the tailend of 2014 as a consolidation of what I had been doing by myself for quite some time. I felt the songs lent themselves to being part of one collection."

The result is the stunning debut album *My Past Is A Quiet Beast*, set for release next week. It was recorded with prolific producer Mark Morrow, who seems responsible for most of the emerging acts that I'm listening to at the moment (including his own band The Winter Tradition). Mt. Doubt is very much just Leo, though



when it comes to live shows he plans to bring in more players.

The album stands out from other singer-songwriters in that it does have the feeling of a band, despite some very personal songs. Leo said: "It's an album which has been heavily, heavily influenced by my teenage years and the strange transition into whatever I am now."

"It ties up all the strange feelings of regret and lust, confusion and panic that really fuel those years."

There's a lot going on the album, with some lovely instrumentation. I love how it veers from delicate textures to more full-on sounds.

Some tracks have a Springs-teen feel, while others are more akin to The Twilight Sad. Once he starts performing the songs I'm sure we are in for a treat.

Mt. Doubt plays a launch gig for *My Past Is A Quiet Beast* at the Mash House in Edinburgh on June 26. Twenty per cent of all album sales will be going to The Rock Trust Charity, supporting young people in Edinburgh and the Lothians who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

MORE: facebook.com/MtDoubt

● Jim presents Drivetime on XFM Scotland, Monday to Friday 4-7pm.
xfm.co.uk
jimgellatly.com.



TAM'S ON HOLIDAY.
SCOFF THE BALL RETURNS
ON JUNE 19

By JACQUI SWIFT

"DEATH is nothing we ever get used to. It never gets easier to lose someone great," says Bono.

Backstage at Vancouver's Rogers Arena, the U2 singer is talking about losing loved ones.

There have been huge losses to deal with at the start of their *Innocence + Experience* tour.

Drummer Larry Mullen Jr lost his dad, and had to fly back for the funeral in Dublin as the band continued with rehearsals.

Then news came, just ahead of their second show, that legendary guitarist BB King – who U2 had worked with on their 1988 *Rattle And Hum* album – had died after long-term health problems.

And on Tuesday, just two weeks after SFTW's chat, the band's long-standing tour manager Dennis Sheehan died at 68.

He was found unconscious in his hotel room at Los Angeles' Sunset Marquis Hotel, just hours after U2 played their first of five LA shows.

In a statement Bono said: "We've lost a family member, we're still taking it in. He wasn't just a legend in the music business, he was a legend in our band. He is irreplaceable."

The plan was for a more intimate affair

On Wednesday night the band paid tribute to Sheehan at their second LA Forum show.

With a huge photo displayed on the venue screen, and as Bono introduced Iris (Hold Me Close), a song written about the death of his mum when he was just 14, he said: "What a privilege to share the stage with these brothers of mine and to share this evening with you who have given us everything."

"U2 is kind of family and our extended family is very, very important to us. We look after each other and it takes a lot to put on a show like tonight."

"Last night we lost a member of our family. Dennis Sheehan was his name. He was U2's tour manager for 33 years."

Earlier he also told the crowd: "A lot of U2 songs over the years were written to fill a void, an absence, a hole in a heart left by a loved one. With the loss of Sheehan, U2 has such a wound."

SFTW had been lucky enough to join the band at the start of the tour – and see just how close the U2 team are.

At a special party in Vancouver's Diamond bar, Bono thanked the tour team for making the show a success.

"Being in U2 is not just about the four of us in the band," Bono told me earlier in one of their many dressing rooms.

"There's a huge team we've worked with for a long time. So when Larry returned home for his dad's funeral, we stayed getting ready for the first night. But Larry had a peace about him, he had made peace with his father."

U2's *Innocence + Experience* shows arrive four years after their 360° tour – the biggest-grossing tour in history with £481million from ticket sales.

The plan was to scale things back for *Innocence + Experience* and make it a more personal, intimate affair for fans.

But after watching U2 soundcheck, I tell Bono it's the biggest "scaled back" show I've ever seen. He laughs:



Wine, men and song



Bono's lightbulb moment



Adam's fashion statement

I'm lucky to I met when



"The magic trick with this one is that it feels at times like we've shrunk the place."

"How many shows have you been to where you are in the back and can't see anything? It kind of sounds good but with this we want it to be total immersion."

"The reviews have been amazing. It also shows that the Apple experiment really worked for us because we've had a younger audience who know all these tunes and they've been listening to them a lot. That is a thrill for us."

The first half of the show is centred around their latest album, opening with The Miracle (Of Joey Ramone) and includes Cedarwood Road, Song For Someone and Raised By Wolves. It is all

accompanied by state-of-the-art technology designed by long-time set designer Willie Williams with help from award-winning designer Es Devlin, known for the London 2012 Olympic closing ceremony.

Later that week, with a few more shows under their belt and now in Phoenix, Arizona, The Edge tells me: "It's all about responding to the audience – we never want to feel like the show is on train tracks."

'We're on a bit of a wave at the moment'

"Some nights we will stick to the setlist but we will probably think of a couple of changes. Some nights we will deviate and go on a different direction."

"Noel Gallagher came to one of the shows and he was so generous with his praise. I think he is a huge fan anyway, but he really went out and said it was the best thing he'd seen for ages. We are

on a bit of a wave at the moment and feeling really good about it."

The tracks on *Songs Of Innocence* are some of the most personal songs of U2's career and Bono says writing has been a form of therapy.

"Everyone has those first experiences," he says. "The street they grew up on, a house, a bedroom, a window they looked out of, a first love."

"And I was trying to answer the question, 'Why did I want to be in a band in the first place?' When I was an angry teenager I was sent to see somebody. I must have bored them after a few weeks because they were like, 'Ah, you are fine, get out of here.'"

"Music has always been my therapy and, in a band, people are so close that you can't really hide anything from each other."

"I think everyone in U2 has these sore things. You can't be alive, you can't go through life, without some cuts and bruises."