

s f t w**MUSIC****ONES TO WATCH**Edited by
CHRIS SWEENEY**HOT TRACKS**

ALESSIA CARA: Wild Things. Following the phenomenal success of Here, Cara comes out with another piece of refreshingly intelligent pop. Her pure, effortless vocal and confessional lyrics could make her a worthy rival for T-Swizz. ★★★★★

RAT BOY: Move. 19-year-old Jordan Cardy combines a Nineties sound reminiscent of Cornershop or Fatboy Slim with frenetic speaking on this nifty earworm. ★★★★★

ANNE-MARIE: Do It Right. Going it alone after collaborations with Rudimental, Anne-Marie has oodles of personality and a lovely warm tone to her voice. This laid-back track is excellent. ★★★★★

BRYAN ADAMS: Do What Ya Gotta Do. The Beatles and Stones influence can be heard on this retro track from Adams's 13th album Get Up. ★★★★★

FOALS: Birch Tree. Classy indie-pop which maintains a breezy momentum from start to finish. ★★★★★

JACK GARRATT: Worry. The Brits Critics' Choice winner shows off his impressive falsetto on this emotionally raw track from first album Phase. ★★★★★

LAURA MVULA FT. NILE RODGERS: Overcome. A brilliantly atmospheric return for Mvula, made all the better by Rodgers' masterful contribution on guitar. ★★★★★

MARKUS FEEHILY: Sanctuary. Mark (of Westlife fame) gives it his all on this soulful ballad. The track features a sample of Clannad's Theme from Harry's Game. ★★★★★

NOTHING BUT THIEVES: If I Get High. Conor Mason's beautiful voice is a dead ringer for Jeff Buckley's. This guitar-led ballad is crisply produced and tingling with atmosphere. ★★★★★

THE WEEKND: Often. The verse blends seamlessly into the chorus on this tight R&B track. Watch out for the X-rated lyrics. ★★★★★

POPPY COSYNS**METAL CORNER****INVERLOCH**

Distance | Collapsed

THESE doom-mongers from Down Under definitely take their time releasing records – just as they do performing on them.

As spiritual successor to cult Aussie death/doom band Disembowelment who split in 1993 after just one album, Inverloch keep the sinister slow-motion formula firmly intact.

Crushing atmospherics take centre stage for most of the 40 minutes, punctuated by bursts of death metal riffage and Ben James' incoherent black metal rasps. Exquisitely dark, beautifully produced and disturbingly intoxicating – this is extreme metal done extremely well. ★★★★★

ROB LEWIS

It's beer-soaked mayhem at every one of our shows

ACTION hero Jack Bauer has competition from Bath rockers Bare Knuckle Parade.

Bauer may have prevented all sorts of disasters in just 24 hours, but the band recorded their debut album, including smash single Diamond Eyes in the same time – but they did need an awful lot of **COFFEE**.

Frontman Jamie Beale explained: "We didn't have enough money to make the full album, and the guy we were working with was in Devon."

"He said he liked what we were doing and suggested staying up all night. We managed to do it."

"He's a coffee connoisseur, so he loaded us up with that and we cracked on."

"The conversations got wacky but the recordings stayed on track."

"Diamond Eyes actually was the song we went in to record. We finished it and then he mentioned doing the album."

Really getting their money's worth, they also shot a music video while laying down Diamond Eyes.

Overwhelmed by the reaction so far

And despite the rush job, it's all going down a storm.

Jamie, 21, said: "We've been overwhelmed by the reaction so far. We've had a lot of really, really nice messages. To be honest, we didn't expect any of that."

Low expectations are normal for BKP. They formed during a boozy night out and earned a fan base from the start.

Jamie said: "It seemed like a good idea at the time. I'm sure a lot of people have said it on a night out."

"But we followed up on it, we decided the name that night."

"We realised we'd gone too far, when our third show ever sold out."

"It was a pub in Bath, we set up the instruments and went home to get microphones."

"We drove back and by then, it was packed and everyone was facing the stage."

"Apparently they were there to see us. We looked at each other and thought, 'Oh s***'."

The lads hit Edinburgh on April 29



at Henry's Cellar Bar. It's their first proper gig north of the border.

Jamie said: "We don't do it as much now, but we used to tour around the country and busk in the streets."

"We've done that in Edinburgh on a street corner."

"But this is our first actual show in a venue in Scotland and we're looking forward to it."

The plan is to get the album out in late summer but they have no real plan of action on any of their tours.

They are more off the cuff – that's how they operate.

Jamie admitted: "We pride ourselves on being unpredictable, loud and untamed."

"We started off playing a lot of our songs aiming towards drinking and drunk people."

"As we developed as a band, we tried out other stuff."

"But every show we do is beer-soaked, sweat-dripping pandemonium. There are a lot of bands who have

a plan every time they go on stage and that's cool."

"I've seen a lot of them do it extremely well. It makes the show in a lot of cases."

"But for us, we all do the classic pre-gig ritual of banging our heads on the walls and pacing about."

"No one really knows what's going to happen."

"We always like to try new things."

"One of us will get a crazy idea to climb up on the venue, but we don't tell the others."

"So we all just see someone doing something wacky and play off it."

"That's the way we like to do things. We thrive when we're on a stage."

●Watch the video for Diamond Eyes now at bareknuckleparade.com

**ONE 2 DO**

T IN THE PARK had a few ups and downs last year, but the unsigned stage T Break shone through.

And the 2016 campaign is off and running. I'm on the judging panel again and we're looking for the best talent all over the country to give it a shot.

Just remember to upload your best work. There's thousands of entries, so the competition for the 16 spots in July is fierce.

Head of Sponsorship at Tennent's Lager, George Kyle said: "I was delighted with last year. As always there were highlights like Tijuana Bibles and Gerry Cinnamon."

"I always say it, but it's down to the bands and the individuals who want to be part of it." To enter, go to tennants.com/tbreak

Band Russells up some Universal appeal

**NEW MUSIC**

By Jim Gellatly

UNIVERSAL THEE

WHO: James Russell (vocals/guitar), Lisa Russell (vocals), Robin Spivey (guitar), Andrew Perrie (bass), Albie Clark (drums)

WHERE: Edinburgh

FOR FANS OF: Pixies, Pavement, Weezer
JIM SAYS: Much as I'd like to claim Universal Thee for my home town of Dundee, they actually hail from Edinburgh – except for latest recruit Albie. They did first cross paths while at uni in Dundee.

Fronted by husband-and-wife duo James and Lisa Russell, the band debuted in 2010, with an album Back To Earth emerging in 2014. They've just released their second



album All Watched Over By Machines Of Loving Grace. I've pretty much had it on repeat.

I just love the pairing of James and Lisa's vocals, backed with edgy indie-pop.

It's their harmonies that really make the songs stand out, but they've created an accomplished sound.

Andy said: "The first album was raw, rough around the edges. After a delay in releasing it due to line up changes and differences of

opinions with some producers, we just wanted to get it out there. We knew it had real quality to it. If anything it was an explosion of ideas. Perhaps too many!"

The new record seems more focused. It has the sound of a complete album rather than a few stand-out tracks bulked up with fillers.

Lisa said: "Sonically, we have changed quite substantially from the first album. We're

much more collaborative when writing. The sound moves slightly from the American influences to our Scottish influences, a point which has been picked up in early listens from those in the industry."

After Speaker, and the free taster track Hounds, their latest single Keep Falling is released today. They should be unveiling the video for it soon.

Universal Thee play Sneaky Pete's in Edinburgh on March 26, and are looking to secure some summer festival slots.

James said: "T In The Park would be great. We like to take it one goal at a time."

MORE: universalthethe.com

●Jim presents a weekly showcase of New Music on Amazing Radio Sundays 2-4pm. amazingradio.com/jimgellatly.com



Watch video of band at:
thescottishsun.co.uk