

s f t w

meets

BIFFY CLYRO**NEW MUSIC**
By Jim Gellatly**RORY BUTLER****WHERE:** London.**FOR FANS OF:** Ben Howard, John Martyn, Paolo Nutini.**JIM SAYS:** The music scene may be awash with singer-songwriters at the moment, but Rory Butler is a cut above most. My jaw dropped when I first heard his track Window Shopping last year. A beautiful song with a timeless, classic feel.

Raised in Dumfriesshire and Leith, Rory headed south after studying English at uni in Glasgow. The move to London was prompted after reading a book about one of his heroes.

He explained: "The decision to move to London really stemmed from reading the John Martyn biography *Some People Are Crazy* by John Neil Munro. The story of him going down to London from Glasgow and soon ending up playing in his bare feet with the likes of Davey Graham, John Renbourn and Bert Jansch played out like fairytale in my head. When I moved here I did feel like I was in the footsteps of great musicians. I got a buzz out of that."

Dreams sometimes do come true. Rory told me: "A year ago I found myself jamming with Danny Thompson (legendary bass player for John Martyn and Nick Drake back in the 70s) in his house in London. My bass player at the time, Jenny Hill, is a friend of his and hooked me up with a total hero. He invited me to his 75th birthday jam in Putney to support Richard Thomp-

son a month after. A moment shared with the greats. Danny and I played John Martyn's *May You Never* together. Unforgettable. And I was playing a John Martyn guitar!"The 25-year-old has hooked up with former Longpigs frontman Crispin Hunt, these days a successful songwriter with credits including Florence and the Machine, Newton Faulkner and Jake Bugg. Crispin said: "I recorded his first demo tracks in my London studio, which got played by Annie Mac on Radio 1 and have just produced his debut single *Black And Blue*. It's a stripped-back, raw and honest introduction to Rory's dark, wry, haunting, political and acid fresh music."Grabbing himself a major publishing deal with BMG, Rory's also been writing and recording with Daniel Merriweather, as well as Snow Patrol and James Bay collaborator Iain Archer. Fresh from the release of *Black And Blue*, Rory heads out on his first solo UK tour next month, kicking off with a date at Sneaky Pete's in Edinburgh on September 9. The following night he's at Ullapool's The Arch Inn before playing dates in Nottingham, Leeds, Manchester and London.**More:** www.rorybutler.com

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

www.amazingradio.comwww.jimgellatly.com

PIC: Sandy Butler



Watch video of Rory at:

thescottishsun.co.uk

Summer Sessions will be sun-thing special

**BIFFY Clyro have vowed it'll be 'taps off' rock 'n roll at the biggest ever gig of their career tomorrow night.**

The Ayrshire lads will play to a sellout crowd of 35,000 at Glasgow's Bellahouston Park as part of the city's Summer Sessions.

And they've promised to bring a ray of sunshine with them.

Drummer Ben Johnson said: "Biffy have a history of bringing the sunshine."

"Even at festivals, if it's been p***ing down all day, when we hit the stage the clouds break."

"So let's see if we can make that happen on Saturday."

The band – also including singer Simon Neil and bass player James Johnston – are coming into the gig off the back of last month's smash Nol album *Ellipsis*.It was the follow-up to *Opposites*, which sold bucketloads and included big single *Black Chandelier*.

Ben admitted they had to rubber-ear the money men around them and just do their own thing when it came to how the new album would take shape.

He said: "It's the music business after all. People are putting money into you to make a record. So they'd like an *Opposites II*, as that would sell fine and everybody would be happy."

"But the band wouldn't. We've got to be turned on by what we do, or we can't go out there and put on a show."

"You can see it in our eyes. We've got to be enjoying it."

"This band works best when it's the three of us making the decisions. And that's that happened on this record."

Ellipsis' success shocked the group. They didn't plan on it being commercially accepted.

Ben said: "We expected it to split opinions. That's because we're a band who like to evolve a lot and like to challenge ourselves. We're not a band who don't

By CHRIS SWEENEY

realise how lucky we are to get that sort of thing to happen to us. So for it to go to the Nol spot is unbelievable."

While Biffy have played to bigger crowds at festivals, like topping the bill at T in the Park, Bellahouston Park is **THEIR** show.

Ben, 36, said: "It's going to be a fantastic night. It is our biggest headline date so far. There couldn't be a better place to do it than Bellahouston Park. I hear it's magic playing there."

Some fans have given the boys pelters for performing fully clothed. They experimented with boiler suits and even appear in the zany video for current single *Howl* in smart tuxedos.

But it'll be old-school Biffy tomorrow.

Ben said: "For the video it's OK. You're



miming so you don't quite put in the effort you would at a gig."

"When we've done the odd thing like Jools Holland and other telly stuff, you tend to keep your shirt on."

"James bought this really nice boilersuit in L.A. I got a cheaper one somewhere else. We tried it for a bit. It was fun but it didn't feel like a gig. And James started getting stick for not having his t'ts out. So we've reverted back to the classic Biffy – trousers and no tops. That's how we'll be at Bellahouston."

Los Angeles has become the recording home for Biffy. And it looks like staying that way.

Ben added: "We do like sunshine. We love Scotland and that's where we live – and we plan to continue that. But when you're away working and you're looking for that motivation, the sunshine helps. It puts a smile on your face. It makes you want to grab the bull by the horns."

"We enjoy life in LA, we have friends there now and we always come back healthier. And they've got great studios. "But you can't beat Scotland. It's where we cut our teeth and get the best singalongs."

● Biffy Clyro play Glasgow's SSE Hydro on November 29 and Aberdeen's GE Arena on November 30. Tickets go on sale on September 2 from www.gigsinscotland.com or by calling 08444 999 990.

**GLASGOW
SUMMER
SESSIONS**