

# Oxford's Music Magazine

**Free every  
month.  
Issue 187  
February  
2011**

## Blessed are the chic

# JONQUIL

## Oxford's pop mavericks on Blessing Force and overdue acclaim



**Office: 01865 457009**  
**Mobile: 07917 775477**  
22 Oxford Road, Abingdon OX14 1AB

[www.thekdpc.com](http://www.thekdpc.com)  
[info@thekdpc.com](mailto:info@thekdpc.com)



Water Repellent, Scratchproof  
 and UV Protected CD and DVD  
 Disc Duplication

## CD/DVD DISC DUPLICATION

Oxford Duplication Centre are an all service professional disc copying centre running in-house duplication machines and thermal/inkjet printers, turning around orders of upto 400 units per day.

### Services:

- CD/DVD Duplication
- Stock (discs, packaging etc)
- Colour Booklet Printing, Inlays, DVD Wraps
- Video Conversions and Editing
- FREE Basic Artwork Setup



Recommended by: Prospekt, Hot Tix Shreddy, Bordenvic, Tunari Audio, Nick Cop, English Software and Reggae Dubs, Desert Storm, The Records, Why, Half Beat, Locomotion

**NIGHTSHIFT: PO Box 312, Kidlington, OX5 1ZU. Phone: 01865 372255**

## MAPS &amp; ATLASES

with support from GALLOPS + NAIROBI

WED 02 FEB - THE JERICO

[www.myspace.com/mapsandatlases](http://www.myspace.com/mapsandatlases)

## The Phantom Band

THURS 03 FEB - THE JERICO

[www.phantomband.co.uk](http://www.phantomband.co.uk)

## I LIKE TRAINS

+ NAPOLEON B + CAT MATADOR

SUN 06 FEB - THE JERICO

## SPARKADIA

THURSDAY 10 FEBRUARY  
THE JERICO[www.myspace.com/sparkadia](http://www.myspace.com/sparkadia)TEDDY DAVID FORD  
THOMPSONFRI 11 FEB - O<sub>2</sub> ACADEMY 2 OXFORD[www.teddythompson.com](http://www.teddythompson.com) [www.davidfordthompson.com](http://www.davidfordthompson.com)

## LITTLE COMETS

WED 16 FEB - THE JERICO

CO-HEADLINE SHOW

Richard Walters  
DOLOREAN

FRI 18 FEB - THE BULLINGDON ARMS

[www.richardwalters.co.uk](http://www.richardwalters.co.uk) [www.dolorean.co.uk](http://www.dolorean.co.uk)

## WOLF PEOPLE

FRI 18 FEB - THE JERICO

[www.wolfpeople.co.uk](http://www.wolfpeople.co.uk)

IMELDA

Friday 18th February  
Southampton Guildhall

## JAMIE WOON

SATURDAY 19 FEBRUARY  
THE JERICO[www.jamiewoon.com](http://www.jamiewoon.com)DEAD  
CONFEDERATE  
VS.TUES 22 FEB  
THE JERICO

WHIGS

[www.thepop.com/whigs](http://www.thepop.com/whigs)THE  
NAKED +  
FAMOUSTHURS 19 MAY - NEW DATE!  
O<sub>2</sub> ACADEMY OXFORD  
[www.thenakedandfamous.com](http://www.thenakedandfamous.com)ALL ORIGINAL DATE TICKETS VALID  
UPGRADES TO NEXT SHOWING

## LA SHARK / A.HUMAN

THURS 24 FEB  
THE JERICO[WWW.LASHARK.COM](http://WWW.LASHARK.COM)

## TROPHY WIFE

THE CELLAR  
TUESDAY 01 MARCH 2011[www.myspace.com/atrophywife](http://www.myspace.com/atrophywife)

## F FLATS

+ PHANTOM THEORY  
+ DEAD JERICOS

MON 07 MAR - THE JERICO

[www.myspace.com/flatslive](http://www.myspace.com/flatslive)

## Caitlin Rose

TUES 08 MAR  
THE JERICO[www.caitlinrose.co.uk](http://www.caitlinrose.co.uk)BENJAMIN  
FRANCIS  
LEFTWICHWED 09 MAR  
THE JERICO[www.benjaminfrancisleftwich.com](http://www.benjaminfrancisleftwich.com)

## KING CHARLES

THE JERICO  
THURSDAY 10 MARCH[www.myspace.com/kingcharlesk](http://www.myspace.com/kingcharlesk)

"A phenomenal record" - New Orleans - Radio 1



## AIDAN JOHN MOFFAT

HUMAN DON'T BE ANGRY  
(Human Reaction)THE JERICO  
FRIDAY 11 MARCHSATURDAY 12 MARCH  
O<sub>2</sub> ACADEMY OXFORD

## MONA

[www.monatheband.com](http://www.monatheband.com)THE HALF  
RABBITSSAT 19 MAR - THE JERICO  
EP LAUNCH SHOWERLAND &  
THE CARNIVAL

THURS 24 MARCH - THE JERICO

[www.myspace.com/carnival](http://www.myspace.com/carnival)ESBEN AND  
THE WITCHSATURDAY 02 APRIL  
THE JERICO[www.myspace.com/esbenandthewitch](http://www.myspace.com/esbenandthewitch)FRIDAY 13 MAY  
THE JERICO[www.belleruche.com](http://www.belleruche.com)

Belleruche



# NEWS

**Nightshift: PO Box 312, Kidlington, OX5 1ZU**  
**Phone: 01865 372255 email: [nightshift@oxfordmusic.net](mailto:nightshift@oxfordmusic.net)**  
**Online: [nightshift.oxfordmusic.net](http://nightshift.oxfordmusic.net)**

**TRUCK FESTIVAL TICKETS** go on sale exclusively from the new Truck Store on Cowley Road at 6pm on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> February. This year's festival takes place over the weekend of **22<sup>nd</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> July** at Hill Farm in Steventon.

**CORNBURY FESTIVAL** has had its licence approved for this year's event, which takes place at the new location in the grounds of the Great Tew Estate, near Charlbury. Keeping the name Cornbury Festival, organiser Hugh Phillimore has teamed up with 3A entertainment, promising more big name acts while keeping the festival's renowned family-friendly atmosphere. This year's event takes place over the weekend of **1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> July**. Early bird tickets are due to go on sale soon at [www.cornburyfestival.com](http://www.cornburyfestival.com).

**OXFORD FOLK FESTIVAL** returns for the weekend of **15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> April** promising more acts and venues than in previous years. This year's headline acts are award-winning duo Spiers & Boden, traditional Irish folk supergroup Dervish and Ade Edmundson's folk-punk outfit The Bad Shepherds. Other acts confirmed include Peatbog Faeries, Coope, Boyes & Simpson, Hut People, Reverenzas, Mabon, The Shee, Magpie Lane, Torivaki and Karavei. As well as live music from bands from around the UK and Europe, there will be the usual array of workshops, parades, ceilidhs and family activities taking place at Oxford Town Hall, St Michael's Church, The Newman

Rooms and the Castle complex. Visit [www.oxfordfolkfestival.com](http://www.oxfordfolkfestival.com) for updated news and ticket information.

**KLUB KAKOFANNEY** is set to celebrate its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary later this year and hosts Phil and Sue are looking for any acts who have played the monthly club night to get in touch for the chance to join in the celebrations. The first ever Klub Kakofanney took place in 1991 at Ruskin College and featured live sets from Tin Tin Tin, The Honkies and Sue's Blister. Bands can call 01865 721277 or email [frei@freizinger.demon.co.uk](mailto:frei@freizinger.demon.co.uk).

**RICHARD WALTERS** is set to release his new album in April. 'Pacing' is the follow-up to 2009's 'The Animal' and sees Richard taking on a poppier, more electronic style. Speaking to Nightshift he hoped fans would like the new record, despite its change of musical style: "If I'm honest I found it tough to make, and I have mixed feelings about the recording experience, but I'm very proud of the record now its all done. I've started on recording the next one now, so that should be finished up in the next few months and hopefully out this year too, fingers crossed."

**LEE CHRISTIAN FROM SMILEX** and Richard Ramage of The Relationships have teamed up to record a download album in aid of Oxford homeless charity Oxhop. 'Refuge For Homeless Prose Volume 1' features music created by Lee and narratives by Richard that he wrote



**FIXERS** launch their new single, 'Iron Deer Dream', with a headline show at **the Bullingdon** on **Friday 25<sup>th</sup> February**. The local quintet recently signed to the legendary Vertigo imprint, home also to The Killers, Noisettes and The Rapture, and the label that was previously home to Kraftwerk, Black Sabbath and Aphrodite's Child in the 60s and 70s. An EP, apparently to be themed on the band's fascination with UFO-based religions, is due later in the year. Fixers singer Jack Goldstein said he was "Enlightened" by the deal, adding, "we've found our Apollo ship and now we're going to sail on a sea of scientology and smoked-out witchdances to uncharted waters. We are all incredibly excited, nervous and looking forward to a busy 2011". 'Iron Deer Dream' is released on London-based indie label Young & Lost Club. Support for the Bullingdon show comes from Sealings and Girl Sweat.

in the 1970s. The album is available to download at [refugeforhomelessprose.bandcamp.com/album/vol-1](http://refugeforhomelessprose.bandcamp.com/album/vol-1).

**MARK CROZER** has two of his old solo albums re-released by Planting Trees Records this month. 'Shining Down On Me' was originally released in 1999, while 'Unnatural World' came out in 2002. The Jesus & Mary Chain guitarist and International Jetsetters frontman has a new solo EP out this month, with a new album to follow later in the spring.

**THE REGAL** launches a new monthly local unsigned showcase night this month. The launch night on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February features Matt Winkworth & The

Winkworthers Originals, The Freemantle and Nairobi, plus an open mic session in the upstairs bar. Things kick off at 6pm. Any local bands wanting to play at the Regal should email Katie Stevens at [katie@the-regal.com](mailto:katie@the-regal.com).

**A NEW ELECTRONIC MUSIC NIGHT** starts at the Port Mahon in March. Run by Jericho Tavern sound engineer Andy and Tim from PMT, the new club is looking for any laptop or electro-based acts to play. Email Tim at [highscores@me.com](mailto:highscores@me.com).

**AS EVER**, don't forget to tune into BBC Oxford Introducing every Saturday 6-7pm on 95.2fm. The local music show is also available as a podcast at [bbc.co.uk/oxford](http://bbc.co.uk/oxford).

**COWLEY ROAD** will get its own independent CD and record shop again this month as Truck team up with Rapture in Witney to open a new **TRUCK STORE** on the site of the old Videosyncratic store, which closed down early last year.

With the new shop set to sell Oxford releases alongside a wide range of stock, plans are to make it a new hub of the local music scene, with live sets planned instore.

Truck founder Robin Bennett and Rapture owner Gary Smith explained why they are undertaking such a welcome but risky venture.

Robin: "We tend to do things because there's something missing in the area that we think would work - and Oxford is certainly missing an independent record store. Although the mass closures of traditional record stores been much publicised, Rough Trade East has pointed the way for a different breed of shop. Truck have always wanted a physical location of some kind, and we've always enjoyed working with the guys from Rapture on the merchandise stall at our events. They were keen on the idea of trying an Oxford store so we're working on this together, along with Jon Spira who ran Videosyncratic; he'll be stocking his comics in the store too. So, as well as records and CDs you'll be able to buy comics and Truck tickets and memorabilia too.

"It seems crazy that, since Fopp, Polar Bear and Avid closed, HMV is the only place in Oxford you can buy music. Although Oxford is a small city,

the combination of a strong music scene and a large student population mean there is surely a need for somewhere to buy offbeat and up-and-coming music, and for a hub of local music and culture. We intend the Truck Store to be a destination as well as a shop. Time will tell whether it's sustainable; we believe it is and our test run during OX4, when we opened our guerrilla record store for three days and had the Magic Numbers play instore, was very promising. We plan to construct a special stage area for instore performances, to create that festival feeling. Of course, it will depend on the support of local people."

Gary: "We did the OX4 mini-festival, which included a lot of workshops and gigs around the Cowley Road, and opened a shop as part of that just for one day. We had a really great response - lots of people were saying they wished we were here permanently, so we said we would look into it. It is very exciting. We will be using our experience and contacts and relationships with record companies that we have built up with the two stores we have got. It is a real shame with Oxford's musical history and legacy, and with the current crop of bands based in and around the city, that there is no decent independent shop. It is a risk, but when we opened in Witney six years ago, people said it was a risky business back then, but we are still going strong."

**Truck opens early February. Local bands can email [drew@thisistruck.com](mailto:drew@thisistruck.com) to organise selling their releases, or drop into the store at 101 Cowley Road.**

# a quiet word with Jonquil



**“I THINK IT IS VERY IMPORTANT FOR** people to have a sense of community amongst your contemporaries, and so many artistic scenes have evolved through this; it’s tried and tested. Blessing Force was simply us putting a name to our own little community, and is never really intended as more than anything other than something that we can all identify and unify with.

**HUGO MANUEL, FOUNDER AND CENTRAL** figure of Jonquil, is extolling the virtues of Blessing Force, the self-styled community of musicians and artists brought together by mutual friendship and a desire for mutual help which has lately catapulted Oxford’s music scene into the national press in a way not seen since the mid-1990s. Double-page features in *NME* and regular references everywhere from *The Guardian* to numerous online blog sites have made Blessing Force a serious talking point, but more importantly, helped introduce the bands involved to a far wider audience than they might otherwise have managed left to fend for themselves. The likes of Trophy Wife, Pet Moon and Fixers are being raved about in the press and courted by record labels. And amid all the furore, Jonquil are finally getting the attention they have long since deserved.

**IT’S SOME FOUR YEARS SINCE JONQUIL** were described by one Nightshift reviewer as “The best band in Oxford”, and almost three years since we featured the band on the front cover. In different circumstances they could have faded away, another cult local favourite to file next to myriad others. But with this increased attention, coinciding with the release of a new mini-album, ‘One Hundred Suns’, on New York-based indie label Dovecote Records, perhaps Jonquil’s time really has come.

A cause for celebration then, and judging by the mood of the new record, Jonquil have got in there early. Jonquil’s debut album, ‘Sunny Casinos’, pretty much a solo project for Hugo after the disbanding of his old band The Modern, was bleached-out lo-fi psychedelia; its follow-up, ‘Lions’, was a warm, folksy mood piece, full of longing and dreams of escape. But ‘One Hundred Suns’ finds the songs fuller, more rhythmic, almost joyous in their upbeat vibe.

**MUCH HAS CHANGED IN JONQUIL’S** world since we last interviewed them in the wake of ‘Lions’ release. For starters, half of that lineup has departed; Jody Prewett, Kit Monteith and Ben Rimmer have formed Trophy Wife, leaving singer and keyboard player Hugo to continue with bassist and trumpeter Sam Scott and guitarist Robin McDiarmid. The new Jonquil are a leaner, more cohesive unit. Talking to Hugo, we wonder first how the split affected the band.

“They had been recording songs as Trophy Wife for a while before they left, and then leaving was quite an easy decision for everyone; there are no bad feelings. We all have other things going on and Jonquil is, in a way, quite a loose collective of sorts, in that we don’t all play on every song, and we use ourselves sparingly, but to each of our strengths. When it came to deciding how to do the band without them we never really had any other idea other than that we wanted to just replace Kit, so that we could size down, for musical and monetary reasons!

“We called up our old friend Dom Hand, who we knew from the band Great Eskimo Hoax, with whom we played loads of shows and it had just so happened that this coincided with Great Eskimo Hoax breaking up, so it seemed like fate. Also Andrew Halford from GEH now plays live with Trophy Wife, so it all comes full circle. Dom is a

very different drummer to Kit, so things have changed, although we are still in the early stages of writing new material with him for the album.”

**‘ONE HUNDRED SUNS’ IS OUT IN THE** States now; how different was the writing and recording process compared to ‘Lions’?

“The process was very different; on Lions we wrote as we recorded, in Hugo’s bedroom, layer by layer, rarely all in the same place at the same time. It was all about experimenting with sound and textures rather than songwriting, I always think. On ‘One Hundred Suns’ we wrote every song together, in a practice room with the intent to create a fun, exciting live show. We always felt in the old days that our live show was a bit of a disappointment to people who had heard the records, as the subtleties and instrumentation were lost, and also that our records were a disappointment to people who had seen our rather loud, full-on live show. So our idea now is to create less of a blur between the two, but to be honest we are all such studio geeks that we always end up layering countless things on top when we’re recording.”

What would you say are the main differences between the two records? Tracks like ‘Fighting Smiles’ and ‘Get Up’ on the new album sound far more celebratory than the more wistful, questioning moods of ‘Lions’.

“The differences to me are huge, the two records sound like separate bands. The idea that every track is actually a song on the new record rather than an idea or ditty stands out to me; we tried to give everything structure and direction which I think is a product of having written as a group. The singing is also very different: more falsetto and more character. I suppose ‘Lions’ is the sound of a young band still finding their feet and taking their first steps, whereas ‘One Hundred Suns’ sounds far more like a mature, fully-formed band.”

Back in 2008 you said that ‘Lions’ was you trying to be a pop band but not committing properly. Is ‘One Hundred Suns’ your full-fledged pop album?

“We’ve certainly learned more about how to write a pop song but full-fledged pop wasn’t the commitment either. It feels like a compilation of a period of writing for the band because there was never a focused ‘this is all for a record’ mindset and some songs were written over a year apart. The next record will be more poppy still, but will hopefully convey a greater range, as we are writing as ‘an album’, from track one to the end.”

There seem to be stronger influences from African, the Caribbean and South American music on the new album. How much have your influences, and what you’re listening to in general, changed in the past couple of years? Previously you spoke enthusiastically about acts on Kranky Records, as well as the likes of Animal Collective and Akron/Family. Is that stuff you still feel inspired by?

“All of us have fairly rapidly changing taste in music. When we first started to change the sound of Jonquil I had become totally obsessed with Soukous music from central Africa, and that also I think influenced a lot of Robin’s guitar lines as well



as the rhythms and general celebratory style. Akron/Family were in fact a band that turned me on to African music, themselves having also moved away from a folksy sound to more worldly sounds. Similarly with Animal Collective; these are bands that have moved in vaguely similar directions, and I think it shows how it is just natural for a band as independent as ourselves. Major label bands aren't allowed to do what we have done, and I think that our past has become such an important part of what the band is now, that we couldn't exist if we hadn't been this experimental folk band in years gone-by."

**THE SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN STYLE AND mood of the new album is typical of Jonquil's manner, a constantly shifting musical force; does Hugo think he is creatively restless; is there a conscious desire to move things on, musically?**

"For sure. Take influences all you want but always endeavour to create something new. I would say that we often think too fast, and get bored too fast. We need to let our ideas sink in before we move on to new ones."

You've always been a band who have evaded any attempt to stick you in a genre or pigeonhole, and been able to play alongside all manner of different acts; is that important to you?

"We don't want to play shows with bands that sound just like us but it has been pretty tiring constantly playing with either folk outfits or fiddly math bands. For understandable reasons, these are only kinds of bands people seem to associate us with, to a large extent."

'One Million Suns' is released on Dovecote, a label in the States. How did you hook up with them?

"They are an indie label based in New York and they release a few British bands over there, like

The Futureheads and Ed Harcourt. They approached us through hearing us fairly randomly, as far as I know. It's exciting for us because it means a new frontier yet again for Jonquil as they are giving us an excuse to come over to The States. We are currently planning our trip to SXSW and we'll have a couple of shows in New York with our friends Bombay Bicycle Club beforehand."

#### ALONGSIDE JONQUIL, HUGO ALSO HAS

his Chad Valley solo project, a more dance-orientated act with heavy echoes of chilled-out Ibiza house and 80s-inspired summer pop. Was there initially an attempt to incorporate what you're doing with Chad Valley into Jonquil's sound or did you always see it as a completely separate entity?

"I have been a lifelong fan of a lot of dance music. One of the main reasons I started Chad Valley was to get back into doing stuff on my own on the computer since Jonquil had become more of a live-based band. The influences are obviously the same to a large extent, because it's still me. But with Chad Valley I'm more aware of the conventions of dance music, not that I adhere to them all the time. I realise that the two are not completely removed, but I like it like this... it gives the fans more music to enjoy, after all."

What happens next for Jonquil, and for Chad Valley? Do you do the year-long touring slog, or are their more recordings to come?

"We are deep in the writing and recording of our third full album for the Autumn, and getting ready for playing shows in the States for the first time, and some festivals. 'One Hundred Suns' was only meant as a taster for the album, and as a clearing-the-slate for us. So when the album finally comes around we'll be doing a hell of a lot more touring."

#### NO-ONE WHO HAS FOLLOWED THE

Oxford scene for the past few years can deny that Hugo fully deserves the attention he's getting, both with Jonquil and Chad Valley. Whether newcomers, locally or nationally, can see past the Blessing Force tag matters little at the moment; its existence is proving fruitful for all involved. Hugo seems happy that the collective has worked so well for him, and while he's not being over-confident about the future, he seems hopeful that it will continue to benefit all the acts involved.

"Of course we knew that by doing this we would potentially get more exposure, because it makes everything a little but more palpable and it is a little like spoon-feeding journalists, telling them what to listen to. I know that you had some reservations about being part of a scene, and that it is a little like shooting yourself in the foot, but these scenes always seem so much bigger in retrospect. It is nice to make things out to be more important than they are, but in actual fact they have little, or no affect on what happens to your band. Lots of people don't read *NME* or whatever blogs have featured us and I don't think that it has any effect on people's perception of us other than for them to maybe check out the other Blessing Force bands, which is the whole idea! The best thing I've seen is people in other cities saying on Twitter 'I'm going to start my own Blessing Force in Cardiff...' or wherever. I hope people do that."

*'One Hundred Suns' is out now on Dovecote Records. Jonquil and Chad Valley play at the Blessing Force weekender at the Old Bookbinders on Green Street over the weekend of 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> February. Visit [www.myspace.com/jonquiluk](http://www.myspace.com/jonquiluk) to hear tracks.*

# MOGWAI

PLUS GUESTS

**THE TWILIGHT SAD + DJ KONX-OM-PAX**

**WEDNESDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2011**

## OXFORD THE REGAL

[WWW.MOGWAI.CO.UK](http://WWW.MOGWAI.CO.UK)

TICKETS FROM [KILLIVE.COM](http://KILLIVE.COM), [WEGOTTICKETS.COM](http://WEGOTTICKETS.COM) & USUAL OUTLETS

A KILIMANJARO PRESENTATION BY ARRANGEMENT WITH ART + INDUSTRY

FIXERS  
SEALINGS  
GIRLS SWEAT

february 25th  
the bullingdon  
oxford

tickets available from [wegottickets.com](http://wegottickets.com)

# THE WHEATSHEAF

Live Music February 2011

Wed 2<sup>nd</sup> Moshie Present  
**ANTON BARBEAU + THE CELLAR FAMILY** Doors 8pm / £5

Thu 3<sup>rd</sup> The Spin Jazz Present  
**SNAKE DAVIS & THE SPIN TRIO** Doors 8pm / £6/£8/£10

Fri 4<sup>th</sup> Klub Kataplan Present  
**NOT TOO SHABBY + ECHO BOOMER + INVISIBLE VEGAS** Doors 8pm / £5

Sat 5<sup>th</sup> Barred In Smoke Present  
**PROSPEKT + THE CRUSHING + AGNESS PIKE + MUTAGENOCIDE** Doors 8pm / £5

Thu 10<sup>th</sup> The Spin Jazz Present  
**ALEXANDER HAWKINS & NICK MALCOLM** Doors 8pm / £5/£8/£10

Fri 11<sup>th</sup> Moshie Present  
**JUNKIE BRUSH + ELEROS + SMALL MACHINE** Doors 8pm / £5

Sat 12<sup>th</sup> Alex behind Logic Present  
**THE SHAKER HEIGHTS + THE ROCK OF TRAVOLTA + JUNE** Doors 8pm / £5

Thu 17<sup>th</sup> The Spin Jazz Present  
**JAMIE O'DONNELL** Doors 8pm / £5/£8/£10

Fri 18<sup>th</sup> Daisy Rodgers Present  
**THE BLACK HATS + REDTRACK + VERY NICE HARRY** Doors 8pm / £5

Sat 19<sup>th</sup> Alex behind Logic Present  
**THE INSULT + KAMIKAZI AFTERPARTY** Doors 8pm / £5

Thu 24<sup>th</sup> The Spin Jazz Present  
**NICHOLAS TENOR** Doors 8pm / £5/£8/£10

Fri 25<sup>th</sup> Three Blind Mice Present  
**BANDS TBC** Doors 8pm / £5

Sat 26<sup>th</sup> Gappy Touch Industries Present  
**LISTING SHIPS + THE OSCILLATION + VILESWARM** Doors 8pm / £4.50

Every Monday... **The Oxford Imps Comedy**... Every Thursday... **The Spin Jazz Club** [www.spinjazz.com](http://www.spinjazz.com)

Contact us @ [mbi productions@gmail.com](mailto:mbi productions@gmail.com) or [www.myspace.com/wheatsheaf\\_music](http://www.myspace.com/wheatsheaf_music)

The Wheatsheaf, 129 High Street, Oxford, OX1 4DF (Tel: 01865 721156)

# RELEASED

Sponsored by

**TRUCK STORE**   
101 Cowley Road, Oxford

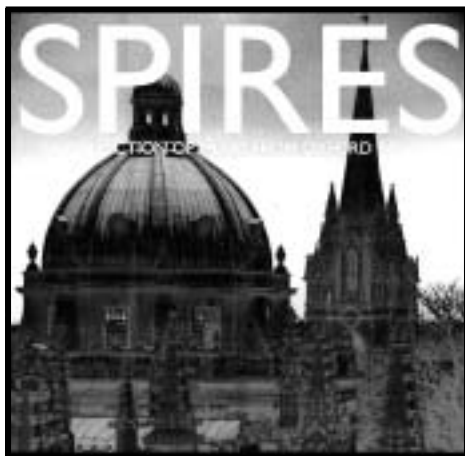
## VARIOUS ARTISTS

### 'Spires'

(free download compilation)

For the most part, twenty-first century culture leaves us enraged or mordantly amused, provoking spittle-flecked rants that paint us as some unholy cross between David Mitchell and Travis Bickle. But, when Aaron Delgado from Phantom Theory decides to get some of his favourite local acts together for a free download compilation celebrating Oxford music you'd have to say that this is what the internet age is all about: the album is free, effortless, and was all round the world in the time it must have taken the curators of the old 'OXCD' album to investigate the cover printing costs. And what's more, it's actually damned good too.

From the opening trio of tracks that could be subtitled "the riff in Oxford", there's a pleasing variety to the selections, and there are even a few eyebrow raisers for jaded Oxford cognoscenti – we were pleasantly surprised that The Winchell Riots could ease off the bombast with the affecting 'My Young Arms', and gratified that



Spring Offensive's sprawling epic, 'The First Of Many Dreams About Monsters', works in bijou edited segments. Also, Secret Rivals' 'It Would Be Colder Here Without You' is a lovely chirpy ditty with fluffy vocals which is like being on a bouncy castle made of cappuccino froth, and goes some way towards eradicating the effect of some woefully slipshod live sets.

Every listener will have their own favourites,

but our highspots are Alphabet Backwards' 'Collide', whose dual vocals and tinny guitar sounds like two siblings singing along to their favourite pop song, recorded by holding a tape player up to *Top Of The Pops*, and 'Filofax' by Coloureds, a stutterjack dance track which is like a fax machine mauling a ZX Spectrum to the sound of Korean synth pop.

Only Vixens, with their clunking off-the-peg indie rock and stodgily portentous TK Maxx goth vocals, let the side down. 'The Hearts They Cannot Love'? Nor these ears, son. It's also a pity that Dial F For Frankenstein's demise means that the record is already one step away from being a scene sampler, but 'Thought Police' is a decent valediction, like a Mudhoney dirge retooled for maximum amphetamine effect by The Only Ones. In some ways, the greatest tribute we could give Oxford music in 2011 is that we love this LP, but it's not the compilation we'd put together, which only goes to show how many good bands are currently working in the city. And if you don't like it? Well, it's the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: there are lots and lots of other things you could be doing. Pity they're all shit, really.

**David Murphy**

## JONQUIL

### 'One Hundred Suns'

(Dovecote Records)

Jonquil are, of course, one of that handful of flag-bearers whose endeavours in 2011 will mean there's a keen critical eye being cast on this city's music, so it's fitting that they should kick off proceedings with a mini-album that really doesn't sound like much else that's out there – their own prior output included.

The hallmarks of the 2011 version of Jonquil are pretty straightforward: twinkly, high-end arpeggios, reverb-drenched, hooky vocal lines and splashy, capricious drum patterns. Their own definition of 'tropical pop', arch as it may seem, is pretty much on the money – it's such undeniably summery music that to be listening to it on a freezing January evening just feels misplaced. At their best, they're somewhere between a more straightforward 'Merriweather Post Pavilion' Animal Collective and one of the Vampire Weekend crew of intellectual pop outfits wearing their Talking Heads influences proudly on their sleeve. At their worst, they can still come across as insubstantial and overly whimsical. I have an up-and-down relationship with opener 'Fighting Smiles' already. The opening synth melody is children's-TV-theme-annoying, but singer Hugo Manuel has such a way with vocal melodies that the song pulls itself up into a joyous climax: the final run-through of the chorus is a triumph.

Elsewhere, 'Get Up' comes across like a Jonsi track with all the glacial cool stripped out, as if he'd spent more time in St. Lucia than Reykjavik, and the space and building synth burbles of 'Sunday Night' recall La Düsseldorf updated for 21st-century rural Oxfordshire.

'One Hundred Suns' is interestingly poised – it simultaneously does its own thing, without a care in the world for whatever horrible 80s-tinged electro-pop is doing the popular rounds right now, yet with its particular combination of influences feels poised to make great waves this year.

For once, I'm pleased to be able to say that I could easily hear this being played in Topshop, and not mean that as an insult.

**Robert Hansen**

overseeing a Take That reunion that came about when Robbie, Gary and the rest bonded over a giant spliff and a copy of Mercury Rev's 'Deserter's Songs'. It's got sleigh bells all over it, which in February feels slightly perverse, but it makes you feel happy because you know that next Christmas isn't that far off and we've got a glorious Californian-style summer of surf to come in the meantime. Really, what's not to love?

And just to really keep you on your toes, Fixers add the oddball 'Egyptian Aberration' as b-side, off on a completely different tack altogether, spaced-out Detroit techno by way of Future Sound Of London. Perverse you see. Brilliantly so.

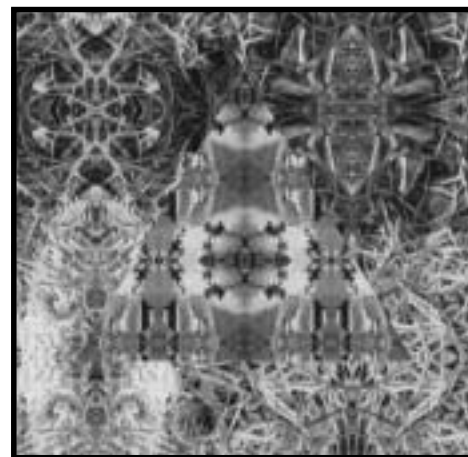
**Dale Kattack**

## FIXERS

### 'Iron Deer Dream'

(Young & Lost Club)

February is way too early to be talking about singles of the year, right? But why the hell not, eh? Fixers' new single, for London indie label Young & Lost Club, is so awash with mad ambition, you'll be hard pressed to unearth much else around that can match it. The vision that was all too apparent even in their early gigs here feels fully realised as the band trade multi-part vocal harmonies over crashing, euphoric psychedelia, sounding like Brian Wilson



**TRUCK STORE**   
101 Cowley Road, Oxford

# **THE ORIGINAL RABBIT FOOT SPASM BAND**

## **‘Year Of The Rabbit’**

*(Own label)*

Arriving wrapped in a yellowing page from a 1966 copy of *The Oxford Mail* and accompanied by a cute pin badge, there’s something magically lost in time about The Original Rabbit Foot Spasm Band’s debut album before you even get to the music.

Born of a love for jazz’s lost soul and fire, The Rabbits have been tearing up local venues for the past couple of years, converting confirmed hipsters and rock die-hards at every turn with a live show that’s pure, unadulterated fun – a non-stop one-night-only trip back to a 1930s New Orleans speakeasy where whisky and sweat lubricate the party til the last man drops.

The big question of course is, can an album work the same magic as the band’s live show? Without the raw performances, drunken onstage humour and bonhomie and a seriously up-for-it packed house to add vital party ingredients to the mix, the music is left to stand on its own two feet (something some of the band are often incapable of). Here the band’s authenticity comes into its own. Listen to ‘If I Had A House’, with Bunny Eros’ sweet vocal croon over the band’s loose swing and you could be tuning into a genuine period piece. ‘I’m The Taxidermy Man’ is part war-years American-Italian funeral party, part Louis Armstrong



slam-down, while ‘Grandpa’s Shed’ is simple, raw jump-up jive.

The whole album carries a yobbish disregard for good manners – something the smooth operators and freeform virtuosos too quickly lost sight of. If The Original Rabbit Foot Spasm Band are nothing more than torch bearers for a lost age of jazz, so be it: they still have a big part to play. Every cool kid who comes away from one of their bacchanalian gigs with a copy of this album stuffed in their pocket to remind them of the night the haze of booze and dancing would otherwise erase will maybe realise this is some hot shit and then their musical journey will really begin.

Incidentally, *The Oxford Mail* from September 1966 reports a downpour at Thame Show and a fire in a shed in Didcot. No mention of a jazz riot. That’s what this album’s for, obviously.

**Dale Kattack**

## **KOMRAD**

### **‘Cowley Necktie’**

*(Own label)*

Featuring former-Suitable Case For Treatment guitarist Jimmy Evil, Komrad are almost as much of a square peg in a round hole as far as heavy rock goes, less dark and twisted perhaps, but similarly convoluted and musically confrontational, coming on, as we’ve stated before, like a Mike Patton experiment to remould King Crimson in his own image. ‘Cowley Necktie’ references Big Black’s ‘Colombian Necktie’ and Jimmy’s sheet-metal guitar attack pays due respect to Steve Albini, although the song’s diversionary breakdown moves them closer to Pink Floyd’s more spaced-out moments or even – gulp – Spinal Tap’s Stonehenge song.

‘Melancholy’ is anything but – initially a four-to-the-floor hardcore chug with one-time Underbelly vocalist James Green bellowing militantly before it throws itself down the nearest flight of concrete steps by way of some fantastic tom-heavy drumming and a guitar solo that sounds like it’s being played by a wayward box of fireworks.

If there’s the merest hint of Killing Joke about that song, ‘Staring Through Leonard’ is less equivocal, a bullish industrial grind until, like its predecessors, it takes a detour through proggy contemplation and then into a slow-burning post-punk fizz, proving once again that music can be both contrary and fun.

**Ian Chesterton**

THE  
OXFORD GUITAR GALLERY  
LIMITED

9 SOUTH PARADE, SUMMERTOWN, OXFORD OX2 7JL  
01865 553777 • WWW.OXFORDGUITARGALLERY.COM

# GIG GUIDE

## TUESDAY 1<sup>st</sup>

**JOAN AS POLICEWOMAN: O2 Academy** – Gorgeous, ethereal soul-pop from the New York siren, on tour to support her third album, 'The Deep Field' – *see main preview*

**JAZZ CLUB: The Bullingdon** – Free weekly live jazz club, tonight featuring funky keyboard-led ensemble The Howard Peacock Quintet.

**BARE YOUR BONES: Café Tarifa** – Weekly acoustic and semi-acoustic night.

**OPEN MIC SESSION: The James Street Tavern**

**OPEN MIC SESSION: The Port Mahon**

**MEDITATE: The Cellar** – Afro-futurism, garage and dub.

### *Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup>*

## JOAN AS POLICE WOMAN: O2 Academy

From in-demand backing singer to cult pop heroine in her own right, New Yorker Joan Wasser's rise and rise under the guise of Joan As Policewoman might have seemed as smooth as it was deserved but hers is a career borne on the wings of sadness. Armed with a sublime voice, sweetly soulful with a jazz heart, akin to Nina Simone with just a hint of Dusty Springfield, she's sung emotive eulogies to her mother, who died of cancer just as Joan was making her big breakthrough, while an ode to the loneliness of being an orphan was as heartbreaking as it was musically striking. Having started out working as back-up to Lou Reed, Rufus Wainwright and Anthony Hegarty (with whom she duetted on her debut album, 'Real Life'), before being championed by the likes of Elton John and supporting The Guillemots, her spectral, almost funereal jazz torch songs (she calls it punk r'n'b) have seen her compared to Billie Holiday and Joni Mitchell but she's often as close to Shostakovich, with her strong classical tendencies (helped by being a talented violinist), and her new album, 'The Deep Field', continues to showcase Joan as the siren in the darkest corner of the cocktail lounge.

## FEBRUARY

### WEDNESDAY 2<sup>nd</sup>

**MAPS & ATLASES + GALLOPS + NAIROBI: The Jericho Tavern** – Pop-friendly technical rocking from Chicago's cult faves, drawing elements of folk and pop into their maths grooves, earning themselves a tour support to Foals in the process. Errors-style electronics mixed with Mogwai-inspired post-rock drama from Wrexham's Gallops in support.

**ANTHON BARBEAU: The Wheatsheaf** – Moshka club night featuring psychedelic folk-pop troubadour Anton, in the mould of Robyn Hitchcock and Syd Barrett.

**PHAT SESSIONS: The Cellar** – Live jam session, plus DJs playing funk, hip hop, drum&bass and more.

**ACOUSTIC LOUNGE: Fat Lil's, Witney**

### THURSDAY 3<sup>rd</sup>

**THE PHANTOM BAND + FOUND: The Jericho Tavern** – Glasgow's Chemikal Underground-signed robo-folk rockers The Phantom Band brew up a heady mix of TV On the Radio, Clinic and Johnny Cash in their brooding, atmospheric sound, where menacing electronics meets gloomy country-folk; they're out on tour to promote their acclaimed second album, 'The Wants'.

**SPIN JAZZ CLUB: The Wheatsheaf** – Smooth and soulful jazz from saxophonist Snake Davis, best known as a session player who has worked with the likes of George Michael, Pet Shop Boys, M People, Ray Charles and – oh yes – Motorhead.

**ZEM + YELLOW FEVER: The Bullingdon**  
**TAMARA PARSONS-BAKER: The Port Mahon** – Dark-hearted, melodramatic acoustic folk-pop from the local songstress.

**CATWEAZLE CLUB: East Oxford Community Centre** – Oxford's longest-running, and best, open-mic club night continues to showcase local singers, musicians, storytellers and poets every week.

**REIGN UPON US + VENTFLOW + APPARITIONS OF THE END: The Hobgoblin, Bicester** – Monstrous death-thrash from Bicester's Reign Upon Us at tonight's Jambox rock night.

**OPEN MIC SESSION: The Half Moon**  
**BLUES JAM: The Jack Russell, Marston**  
**OUT LIKE A LION + DEER CHICAGO + CRACKER DUMMY: Fat Lil's, Witney**  
**WORDPLAY: The Cellar** – Hip hop, dubstep, reggae and drum&bass with DJs Geenee and Kid Fu.

### FRIDAY 4<sup>th</sup>

**WE THE KINGS + VERSA EMERGE + ALL FORGOTTEN + I SEE STARS: O2**

**Academy** – Punky power-pop from Florida's We The Kings, playing a headline tour ahead of their forthcoming third album, following tour supports to The Academy Is... and You Me At Six in recent times.

**KLUB KAKOFANNEY with INVISIBLE VEGAS + ECHOBOOMER + NOT TOO SHABBY: The Wheatsheaf** – Approaching their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary and merrily showing no sign of acting grown up, Klub Kak continue to plough their own very individual furrow, tonight in the company of rocking roadhouse bluesers Invisible Vegas and indie power-pop types Echoboomer.

**ANNERO: The Bullingdon** – Brutal death-thrash in the vein of Meshuggah and Pantera from the local heavyweights.

**SKYLARKIN SOUNDSYSTEM: The Cellar** – Reggae reggae party time with Count Skylarkin, playing a mix of reggae, rocksteady, dancehall, hip hop and dubstep. There's a live set from Intensified, playing authentic 60s-style rocksteady and reggae, having backed Prince Buster, Dennis Alcapone and the late, great Alton Ellis. One third of Daddy G's Bristol Hi-Fi Mr Benn is also on hand with his mix of reggae grooves and hip hop beats.

**DESMOND CHANCER & THE LONG MEMORIES: The Port Mahon** – Gutter blues and jazz from whisky-voiced crooner Desmond and co.

**ZZ TOPS: Fat Lil's, Witney** – Tribute band.  
**COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN + BEARD OF DESTINY: The Chester Arms** – Cajun-tinged country'n'western from Country For Old Men.  
**FUNKY FRIDAY: The Bullingdon** – Classic soul, funk and r'n'b every Friday.  
**FOUNDATION REGGAE: East Oxford Community Centre** – Roots and dub every week.

### SATURDAY 5<sup>th</sup>

**THE ORIGINAL RABBIT FOOT SPASM BAND + THE LONG INSIDERS + INFLATABLE BUDDHA: The Jericho Tavern** – Album launch gig for Oxford's very own hot jazz combo, keeping the raw, whisky-fuelled spirit of classic 30s jazz alive, tonight in the company of rock'n'roll and garage-surf heroes The Long Insiders and ever-entertaining gypsy-dance outfit Inflatable Buddha.  
**YOOF! with TRIBES + SWANTON BOMBS + DEER CHICAGO: The Cellar** – Yoof! continues to showcase rising indie stars, with Camden's nu-grunge outfit Tribes paying due homage at the altar of Cobain, but mixing in some T-Rex-style pop along the way. London's Strokes-y garage-rock duo Swanton Bombs support, alongside local indie newcomers Deer Chicago, coming in somewhere between Explosions In The Sky and Death Cab For Cutie. Afterwards there are DJs sets from Radio Clubfoot's Wil Gilgrass and Progressively Less Elephant.





**PROSPEKT + THE CRUSHING + AGNESS PIKE + MUTAGENOCIDE: The Wheatsheaf**

– Buried In Smoke club night with a quartet of local metal talents. There's epic, technical progging metal from Prospekt, plus theatrically-executed classic thrash from The Crushing and monstrous metalcore from Agness Pike

**TAKING DAWN: O2 Academy** – Glam-tinged metal from Las Vegas' Taking Dawn, recent support to Kiss, as well as Dragonforce and Airbourne.

**BLACK POWDER + DAISY & THE UNSTEADIES + CARETAKER + HALF NAKED: The Port Mahon** – Classic thrash-punk noise from Black Powder.

**PROPAGANDA / TRASHY / ROOM 101: O2 Academy** – Indie superclub Propaganda in the main room every Saturday, plus kitsch pop,

*Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 13<sup>th</sup>*

## **BLESSING FORCE WEEKENDER: The Old Bookbinders**

The emergence of Blessing Force is a cause for celebration; the collective has seen Oxford bands being talked about in the national media to a degree it hasn't for many years and cements the city's reputation far and wide. Rather than a secretive clique it is an extension of the mutual-support system that has existed in Oxford for years. Most importantly the acts involved are both varied and talented and this weekend warehouse party, in association with Truck, is a great way for people to discover more about the music, video and art involved. Amongst those playing live are this month's Nightshift cover stars **Jonquil**, whose wider acclaim is long overdue, as well as frontman Hugo Manuel's solo dance project **Chad Valley** (pictured). Joining them are **Pet Moon**, the new project from Youthmovies singer and guitarist Andrew Mears; erratic math-techno crazies **Coloureds**; an acoustic set from the superb **Fixers**, reimagining Brian Wilson's psychedelic dream by way of Detroit techno; melodramatic art-rockers **Ute**; innovative string quartet (with drummer) **Rhosyn**; ex-Tired Irie people **Sisterland** and ambient electro-glitch from **Neon Pulse**. Beyond the music there's art illustrations from Foals illustrator **Tinhead**, video artist **Dave Ma** (who's worked with Foals and The Horrors) and sculptor **Seb Thomas**. A celebratory weekend then, and with many of the acts involved set for far bigger things over the next year or so, a great chance to explore it all for yourself early on.



glam and 80s upstairs at Trashy and metal and rock at Room 101.

**CABARET CLANDESTINO: East Oxford Community** – Music, cabaret, comedy and art in one, with live sets from Matt Winkworth, Alamakota, and Oxford Belles.

**VAUDEVILLE RAVE: The Regal** – Retro costume dance fun as the Regal revisits its Vaudevillian rave party, with live acts, cabaret and DJs.

**HAIRFORCE 5: Fat Lil's, Witney** – 80s hair metal covers, from Bon Jovi to Van Halen.

**THE PETE FRYER BAND: The Standard, Headington** – Eccentric blues-rocking.

**REIGN UPON US + LEATHER PIG + MASK OF JUDAS + HERA: The Wheatsheaf, Banbury** – Jambox metal night.

**WHO DO YOU LOVE?: The Duke, St. Clement's** – DJ night playing alt.rock, 60s garage, punk, pop, and electro.

**SIMPLE: The Bullingdon** – House and techno club night.

### **SUNDAY 6<sup>th</sup>**

**C.W. STONEKING: O2 Academy** – Delta-style blues and jazz from the Melbourne singer and guitarist.

**ILIKETRAINS + CAT MATADOR: The Jericho Tavern** – Leeds' iLiketains continue to be one of the UK scene's most consistently underrated bands, never achieving the commercial success of Editors or British Sea Power, but equal to both in the brooding, drama-fuelled pop stakes. From sprawling ten-minute epics documenting the assassination of British prime minister Spencer Perceval, to pop songs about the Beeching Report and odes to chess champion Bobby Fischer, they take the funereal moodiness of Dead Can Dance and Joy Division and marry it to shoegazing atmospherics and a heavy hint of goth and create music that is unabashedly melodramatic. They're out on tour to promote new album 'He Who Saw The Deep'. Local support comes from similarly dark-minded and dramatic pop types Cat Matador.

**DARREN LESTER + SAM & KARL + RYAN MITCHELL: The Hobgoblin, Bicester** – Jambox acoustic and open mic night.

**BEARD OF DESTINY + THE NEW MOON + MIKE ABBOTT + DAVE & JEREMY: Donnington Community Centre** – Free acoustic session.

### **MONDAY 7<sup>th</sup>**

**BAYOU BROTHERS: The Bullingdon** – A rare UK showing for Louisiana's Cajun and zydeco-infused blues outfit, long-time favourites on the southern states festival circuit.

**HEAVENLY RECORDS SHOWCASE: The Old Bookbinders, Green Street** – Truck hosts an evening of Heavenly Records artists, headed by Sacramento singer-songwriter Julie Ann Baenziger, better known as Sea Of Bees, a geeky freak-folkster partway between Joanna Newsom and Cat Power.

### **TUESDAY 8<sup>th</sup>**

**JAZZ CLUB: The Bullingdon** – With a live set from jazz singer Alison Bentley.



*Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup>*

## **THE GO! TEAM: The Academy**

Go! Team's existence should bring a warm feeling to the hardest of hearts. From underground thrill-givers, riding a reputation for some of the most life-affirming live shows in the country, to national recognition and a Mercury Prize nomination, they've remained the sound of eternal summer. In Go! Team's supercharged pop world, it's always sunny and it's always time for a party (no doubt fuelled by lashings of strawberry jelly and fizzy pop). Their 30-minute, ultra-compact, fun-packed 2004 debut album, 'Thunder Lighting Strike', set the scene and this month they release their third opus, 'Rolling Blackouts', proving that the party has never stopped since. The Brighton crew's good-time mash up of old school hip hop, cheerleader pop, northern soul and NYC punk remains decidedly simple and slightly ramshackle but all the better for that, the mood of unbridled childlike glee more important than production values. Fronted by a girl simply called Ninja, The Go! Team (even the name bleeds positively) hark back to the glory days of uplifting, slightly mischievous hip hop, like Salt'n'Pepa and Neneh Cherry, but updated by way of The Avalanches' bamboozling sampladelica. 80s US TV themes mingle with sweet strings and children's voices and any urge to resist the temptation to dance will be roundly mocked.

**BARE YOUR BONES: Café Tarifa**  
**INTRUSION: The Cellar** – Goth, industrial, darkwave and EBM club night.  
**OPEN MIC SESSION: The James Street Tavern**  
**OPEN MIC SESSION: The Port Mahon**



### **Bare Your Bones**

Live music every Tuesday night @ Cafe Tarifa  
We are looking for acts to perform acoustic / semi-acoustic sets.

Please send demos to:  
**Bleedingeyes79@yahoo.co.uk** or drop them in to  
Café Tarifa, 56-60 Cowley Rd, Oxford.



*Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup>*

## MOGWAI: The Regal

The Regal feels like it was built for gigs like this. Few acts are as suited to its grand, ornate and expansive interior as Glasgow's post-rock overlords Mogwai. They dislike the term post-rock but few bands have helped defined a genre so strongly: Mogwai's astute grasp of dynamic contrast has been much copied but never bettered and 15 years on from their debut, only Sonic Youth and My Bloody Valentine can claim to have influenced so many bands in the alternative rock field. That Mogwai themselves have evolved while retaining pretty much the same line-up for their duration is exceptional in itself and while their sound is now familiar, they remain pioneers, whether exploring new levels of musical austerity, championing challenging new bands on their own Rock Action label or retaining their confrontational and humorous edge in a genre too often renowned for po-faced indulgence. After last year's live album and film, the band release their seventh studio album this year. Entitled 'Hardcore Will Never Die, But You Will', it sums up their sound and attitude to perfection.

### WEDNESDAY 9<sup>th</sup>

**FREE RANGE: The Cellar** – Hip hop and drum&bass from Iration Steppas, DJ Fu, Count Skylarkin and Zeitlin.

**ACOUSTIC LOUNGE: Fat Lil's, Witney**

### THURSDAY 10<sup>th</sup>

**SPARKADIA: The Jericho Tavern** – After a fair amount of critical and commercial success as a fully-fledged band, Sydney's Sparkadia is now just main man Alex Burnett, relocated to London and hoping to build on the cult success earned supporting the likes of Elbow, Death Cab For Cutie and Jimmy Eatworld on tour.

**UNDERSMILE + KOMRAD + TRIDEM: The Bullingdon** – Sludgy slow-core and no-wave grind from Undersmile, plus technical hardcore from Komrad.

**SPIN JAZZ CLUB: The Wheatsheaf** – Experimental, improvised jazz tonight from pianist Alexander Hawkins and multi-instrumentalist Nick Malcolm.

**DEDLOK: The Port Mahon** – Super-heavyweight thrash-core from Dedlok, mixing Boltthrower-style grind with hardcore punk.

**AMBET SUIT: Fat Lil's, Witney** – London-based indie rockers.

**CATWEAZLE CLUB: East Oxford Community Centre**

**OPEN MIC SESSION: The Half Moon**

**BLUES JAM: The Jack Russell, Marston**

**MEAN POPPA LEAN: Wahoo** – Funk rock from the Brighton outfit, plus DJ Zappa spinning a selection of swing, jive, funk, soul and rock'n'roll.

**HOUSE OF ROOTS: The Cellar** – Reggae, dub and roots.

### FRIDAY 11<sup>th</sup>

**TEDDY THOMPSON + DAVID FORD: O2 Academy** – Teddy Thompson returns to Oxford with his poppy take on folk and country, having earned his dues playing live with his dad, Richard, and producing his mum Linda's comeback album. Steeped in classic folk-rock, his solo material is closer to the sound of Jackson Browne and Crowded House.

**JUNKIE BRUSH + SPANGLE + SMALL MACHINE: The Wheatsheaf** – Righteous punk rock anger from Junkie Brush, melding American hardcore with UK street punk into a sloganeering musical attack dog at tonight's Moshka club night.

**PPC & THE QV + THE LEG: Modern Art Oxford** – Experimental pop in the gallery's basement this evening with London-Berlin outfit Blanket's new project PPC & The QV alongside Edinburgh's 'anti-song' outfit The Leg.

**SWITCH 60: The Bullingdon**  
**THE RELATIONSHIPS + MOIETY + NIGEL BROWN + STUART BOON + GYPSY FOX: The Hollybush, Osney** – Free gig in aid of this summer's Wittstock festival. Tweedy psychedelia from The Relationships atop the bill, plus whimsical acoustic pop from Moiety and more – fans can donate towards the festival on the door.

**ACHTUNG BABY: Fat Lil's, Witney** – UK's longest-running U2 tribute act.

**NEEDLE IN A HAYSTACK: The Port Mahon**

**FUNKY FRIDAY: The Bullingdon**

**FOUNDATION REGGAE: East Oxford Community Centre**

**BOSSAPHONIK: The Cellar** – Dancefloor Latin, Balkan beats, world breaks and nu-jazz club night featuring a live set from Brighton's reggae and ska band Samsara.

### SATURDAY 12<sup>th</sup>

**BLESSING FORCE WEEKENDER: The Old Bookbinders, Green Street** – First day of the BF warehouse party – *see main preview*

**SHAKER HEIGHTS + THE ROCK OF TRAVOLTA: The Wheatsheaf** –

Rootsy indie rocking from Shaker Heights, plus orchestral electro-rocking from The Rock in support.

**JACK'D OFF: The Regal** – Chase & Status return to town after their sold-out show at the Academy for a DJ set at tonight's urban music extravaganza, which also includes live sets from Ms Dynamite and Tempa T, as well as appearances from Modestep, Maverick Sabre and Grifta.

**WELCOME TO PEEPWORLD + THE NEW MOON + MARK PAVEY + JACK HARLEY BOURNE: The Port Mahon** – Acoustic pop night.

**PORK CHOP EXPRESS: Fat Lil's, Witney** – Hard rock covers.

**PROPAGANDA / TRASHY / ROOM 101: O2 Academy**

**RELOAD THE RADIO + WE'RE NOT MEXICANS + KAPTAINS: The Centurion, Bicester**

**THE MIGHTY REDOX: The Bear & Ragged Staff, Cumnor** – Psychedelic blues-rocking and festival funk from the enduring local faves.

**DUBSTEP CLUB NIGHT: The Bullingdon**  
**BASSMENTALITY: The Cellar** – Hip hop, ska and reggae.

### SUNDAY 13<sup>th</sup>

**BLESSING FORCE WEEKENDER: The Old Bookbinders, Green Street** – Second day of the weekend party – *see main preview*

**CHARLY COOMBES & THE NEW BREED: The Bullingdon** – Raw, 70s-style rock'n'soul in the vein of Little Feat from the singer and keyboardist and his band.

### MONDAY 14<sup>th</sup>

**THE ADAM BOMB BAND: The Bullingdon** – Return to The Famous Monday Blues for LA's big-haired glam-metal axe hero, who, as well as supporting Chuck Berry and Johnny Thunders during his career, has also auditioned for Kiss, shared an apartment with Izzy Stradlin and jammed with Eddie Van Halen. His is an old-school form of heavy rocking, with nods to Hanoi Rocks and The Sweet along the way.

### TUESDAY 15<sup>th</sup>

**THE GO! TEAM: O2 Academy** – Brighton's lo-fi pop cheerleaders bring the party – *see main preview*

**GRINSPOON + JETBLACK + PHANTOM THEORY + SMILEX: O2 Academy** – Ballsy, anthemic stadium rocking from long-time Aussie chart stars Grinspoon, over for a UK tour to promote their 'Six To Midnight' comeback album, now plying a poppier sound after their early grunge-inspired noise. Local support comes from heavyweight riffmeisters Phantom Theory and enduring live favourites Smilex.

**JAZZ CLUB: The Bullingdon** – With The Howard Peacock Quintet.

**BARE YOUR BONES: Café Tarifa** – Faringdon's emotive acoustic singer and guitarist Trev Williams plays Tarifa's weekly unplugged night.

**OPEN MIC SESSION: The James Street Tavern**

**OPEN MIC SESSION: The Port Mahon**  
**ON THE OFFBEAT: The Cellar** – Funky breaks, nu-funk and old school funk club night.

## WEDNESDAY 16<sup>th</sup>

**LITTLE COMETS + THE BIG SLEEP: The Jericho Tavern** – Sunderland's guerrilla gigsters get set to release their debut album, 'In Search Of Elusive Little Comets' for Universal this month, adding a few pinches of hip hop and Afrobeat into their sharp, airy indie pop sound, with nods to Mystery Jets and Vampire Weekend along the way.

**PHAT SESSIONS: The Cellar**

## THURSDAY 17<sup>th</sup>

**ROCKINGBIRDS + DREAMING SPIRES + THE MARMADUKES: The Bullingdon** – The reformed pioneering alt.country heroes come to town, playing songs from their cult classic albums, 'The Rockingbirds' and 'Whatever Happened To The Rockingbirds?', having split up in 1995 before getting back together in 2008. Local support from Band and Flying Burrito Brothers-inspired country rockers Dreaming Spires and folksters The Marmadukes.

**HALF NAKED + THE DACOITS: The Port Mahon** – Punk-pop in a Blink 182 and Green Day vein from local youngsters Half Naked, plus PJ Harvey-inspired rockers Dacoits in support.  
**SPIN JAZZ CLUB: The Wheatsheaf** – London-based alto-saxophonist Jamie O'Donnell

*Thursday 24<sup>th</sup>*

## LA SHARK / A.HUMAN: The Jericho Tavern

A superb double dose of theatrically-minded electro-pop tonight as La Shark follow on from supporting Paloma Faith and Maccabees on tour to head out under their own steam, no doubt having disconcerted fans of their previous tour-mates with their decidedly oddball fusion of vaudevillian cabaret, skewed and squelchy electro-pop, hysterical prog and quirky French chanson. Like our own Borderville La Shark have a finely-honed sense of both drama and gothic camp, and if a wider audience can get its head round their peculiar musical theatre, chart and club success should duly follow. Vintage synth aficionados A.Human returned to action last year with one of the most critically-acclaimed albums of 2010 in 'Third Hand Prophecy', a sleek, silicon fusion of New Order's electro-dance, Kraftwerk's linear grooves and DFA's disco-soul. From Glastonbury Festival to an Ibiza residency, via tours with Metronomy, Shy Child and Art Brut, they proved you can be coolly clinical and waywardly expressive at the same time.

is tonight's guest player.

**ADAM BARNES + SPRING OFFENSIVE: Fat Lil's, Witney** – Soulful acoustic pop from Mr Barnes, with support from angular alt.popsters Spring Offensive.

**THE CAPER + HOT CITY SYMPHONY: The Hobgoblin, Bicester** – Roustabout good-time rocking from Banbury's Caper at tonight's Jambox night.

**CATWEAZLE CLUB: East Oxford Community Centre**

**OPEN MIC SESSION: The Half Moon**

**BLUES JAM: The Jack Russell, Marston**

**WORDPLAY: The Cellar** – Hip hop, dubstep and more with US MC Homeboy Sandman.

## FRIDAY 18<sup>th</sup>

**WOLF PEOPLE: The Jericho Tavern** – Like Jagjaguar labelmates Black Mountain, Bedford's Wolf People seem to exist in a separate time and space, somewhere between 1969 and 1972, where they can be found mixing up Black Sabbath's metal riffery with Fairport Convention's rustic electric folk-rock and copious amounts of multi-part harmonies. It's an authentic period piece and monstrous good fun.

**DOLOREAN + RICHARD WALTERS: The Bullingdon** – Double headline show for local singing star Rich Walters, set to release his second album this spring, and Portland, Oregon's psychedelic indie-folksters Dolorean.

**BLACK HATS + REDTRUCK + VERY NICE HARRY: The Wheatsheaf** – Daisy Rodgers monthly music club night, which means one of tonight's acts gets voted to play a bizarre cover version. Headliners are moddisch power-pop trio and recent Nightshift cover stars Black Hats. They're joined by Essex pop-punk outfit Redtruck and local indie-rockers Very Nice Harry.

**MUNDANE SANDS: The Chester Arms** – Folk-rock in the vein of Mark Knopfler and The Oyster Band.

**MATT WINKWORTH & THE**

**WINKWORTH'S ORIGINALS + THE FREEMANTLE + NAIROBI: The Regal** – First night of the Regal's new monthly Regal Unsigned showcase, featuring local and out of town bands. The ever-entertaining Mr Winkworth headlines with his mix of burlesque piano pop and lyrical wit.

**THE STONES: Fat Lil's, Witney** – Rolling Stones tribute

**RELOAD THE RADIO + SPIRAL DRIVE + CARAVAN OF WHORES + AGE OF MISRULE: The Wheatsheaf, Banbury** – Jambox rock night with pop-punk outfit Reload The Radio coming in from the New Found Glory, Alkaline Trio and Ataris side of things, plus stoner-metal from Caravan of Whores and bluesy grunge rock from Age of Misrule.

**FUNKY FRIDAY: The Bullingdon FOUNDATION REGGAE: East Oxford Community Centre**

**WE ARE ELEMENTS: The Cellar** – Hip hop, house, ragga, soul and soca with Alexander Nut.

**PROGRESSIVELY LESS ELEPHANT: Baby Love**

## SATURDAY 19<sup>th</sup>

**CARL BARAT: O2 Academy** – The sometime Libertine fella unleashes his inner James Blunt on his introverted recent eponymous solo debut.



*Thursday 24<sup>th</sup>*

## ROLL DEEP: O2 Academy

After the disappointment of Wiley's cancelled show here at the end of 2010, hopefully the man will make it this time with his East End grime crew, one that he started way back in 2002 when grime looked like the future for urban music and dubstep was still a twinkle in someone's eye. Having previously counted Dizzee Rascal and Tinchy Stryder as members of its rolling cast of characters, and having enjoyed Number 1 hits with 'Good Times' and most recently 'Green Light', Roll Deep feel like they should have enjoyed more mainstream success than they actually have, though it's not for trying – they've worked with Alesha Dixon and there are plans to collaborate with The Saturdays, but perhaps the answer lies in being just a tad too gritty and grimy for pop acceptance, but too commercial for the underground cutting edge. Their strength lies in the rapid-fire interaction between their myriad rap talents and they're best when they keep it down and dirty, but the big r'n'b hooks, Kanye-style rap techniques, acoustic soul and catchy electro all add to the collective's variety.

**BEN MONTAGUE: O2 Academy** – Slick power-soul balladry from the Kent singer-songwriter.

**JAMIE WOON + GHOSTPOET: The Jericho Tavern** – Sultry electro-soul and dubstep from the singer and producer behind 'Night Air' and tour support to fellow BRIT School graduate Amy Winehouse.

**MESSAGE TO BEARS + RUE ROYALE + SAMUEL ZASADA: St Michael's Church, Cornmarket** – Another chance to enjoy contemporary music in the grand, atmospheric setting of St. Michael's, where Message To Bear's delicate, ambient chamber pop should shine at its brightest; similarly Samuel Zasada's gloomy, emotionally intense folk-pop and Anglo-American acoustic duo Rue Royale, drawing on Fleetwood Mac, John Martyn and Doves for inspiration.

**THE SATURDAYS: The New Theatre** – Hey, The Saturdays are playing on a Saturday! What are the chances of that? They're still shit, mind.

**AUDIOGRAFT: Modern Art Oxford** – An evening of sound art and contemporary music curated by the Sonic Art Research Unit at Brookes University, including a duo performance by internationally-renowned sound artist Max Eastley and contemporary harpist Rhodri Davies, plus the Automated Noise Ensemble's





*Friday 25<sup>th</sup>*

## RAY LAMONTAGNE: The New Theatre

While the Stateside drifter-turned-troubadour enjoyed a Top 5 UK hit with his debut album, 'Trouble', back in 2004, Ray LaMontagne is now a bona fide star in his home country, recent fourth album 'God Willin' and The Creek Don't Rise' reaching Number 3 in the national charts, bringing with it a slew of Grammy nominations; a sure sign of mainstream acceptance. And yet the man remains the most reluctant of stars, refusing even to take centre stage in his own band. The quiet, uncommunicative songmaker prefers to let his songs do the talking, mining a deep seam of sumptuous melancholy and regret, delivered by way of stark, rootsy country blues and his smoky, rasping vocal style that's drawn comparisons to Van Morrison, Tim Buckley and Hank Williams. Ian Duncan Smith might not have been a winner with the slogan, "do not underestimate the determination of a quiet man", but it's a maxim that seems to be doing Ray here no harm at all.

electro mechanical mischievousness; improvised live electronics from composer Paul Whitty and artist Stephen Cornford, and an experimental DJ relay programmed by Shit, I can DJ!

**COCAINE COWBOYS + YELLOW FEVER:**  
**The Port Mahon**

**BRICKWORK LIZARDS:** **The Cellar** – 1930s swing with Arabic folk and hip hop from Tarik Beshir and chums.

**PROPAGANDA / TRASHY / ROOM 101:** **O2 Academy**

**AGE OF MISRULE + REFUGEES OF CULTURE + MOTHER CORONA:** **The Folly Bridge Inn** – Grungy blues-rock from Age of Misrule, plus bluesy psychedelia and hard rock from Refugees of Culture and sludgy, groove-led metal from Mother Corona.  
**PHISH:** **The Bullingdon** – 90s retro tunes.

### SUNDAY 20<sup>th</sup>

**BEETROOT JAM:** **The Port Mahon** – Live bands and open jam session.

### MONDAY 21<sup>st</sup>

**THE BLACK ATLANTIC + PHIL McMINN + PAUL AXL ASKEW:** **The Jericho Tavern** – Minimalist melancholy and ambient acoustic pop from Dutch singer-songwriter Geers van der Velde, previously frontman for ferocious metalcore outfit Shai Hulud, but now drifting wistfully closer to The Beach Boys, Bon Iver and Fleet Foxes with his new band. Great support from local songsmith Phil McMinn, frontman with The Winchell Riots and possessed of a startlingly fragile voice.

**EUROPE:** **O2 Academy** – Return to the O2 for Joey Tempest and the gang, banging out 'The Final Countdown' alongside their retinue of classic power-rocking.

**THE BILLY WALTON BAND:** **The Bullingdon** – Virtuoso electric blues-rocking from the New Jersey axeman who has played alongside Springsteen, Gary US Bonds and Double Trouble, inspired by Hendrix, Stevie Ray Vaughan and Eric Clapton.

### TUESDAY 22<sup>nd</sup>

**FRANKIE & THE HEARTSTRINGS:** **The Cellar** – Sunderland's new stars in waiting recall the literate jangle pop of Orange Juice and the rousing, footstomping soul of Dexy's, equally emotional and satirical and fronted by the foppish, bequipped Frankie Francis, an indie heart-throb in waiting, already compared to Morrissey and Edwyn Collins.

**THE WHIGS + DEAD CONFEDERATE:** **The Jericho Tavern** – Kings Of Leon's favourite band and regular tourmates play a low-key headline show, out on tour with Athens, Georgia neighbours Dead Confederate ahead of the release of their new album, 'In The Dark', kicking out a raw, rootsy brand of post-grunge rock that's also seen them tour with Black Keys, Black Rebel Motorcycle Club and The Kooks.

**JAZZ CLUB:** **The Bullingdon** – Live set from The Hugh Turner Band.  
**BARE YOUR BONES:** **Café Tarifa**  
**OXFORD IMPROVISERS:**

**Folly Bridge Inn** – Launch gig for keyboard virtuoso Pat Thomas' new album, 'Four Compositions

For Orchestra', featuring contributions from Thomas himself alongside Jon Segroatt, Trevor Taylor, John Russell and Stefan Keune. The improv collective also bids a fond farewell to bassist Dominic Lash, who is moving to the States.

**OPEN MIC SESSION:** **The James Street Tavern**

**OPEN MIC SESSION:** **The Port Mahon**

### WEDNESDAY 23<sup>rd</sup>

**MOGWAI:** **The Regal** – Suitably ornate surroundings for the post-rock behemoths – *see main preview*

**THE STREETS:** **O2 Academy** – And so Mike Skinner prepares to release his final album, the dark, futuristic 'Computers & Blues', although whether this spells the end for The Streets forever is still open to debate; certainly Skinner himself seems sick of the whole thing. Perhaps it's just a part of his life that's run its course, but it's a part that has helped redefine UK hip hop, from the epoch-making 'Original Pirate Material' onwards, his influence is everywhere and 'OPM' and 'A Grand Don't Come For Free' will stand as classics for years to come. Tonight's show is already sold out.

**THE NAKED & FAMOUS + WOLF GANG:** **The Jericho Tavern** – New Kiwi starlets on the block head for the big time – *see main preview*

**ACOUSTIC LOUNGE:** **Fat Lil's, Witney**  
**FREE RANGE:** **The Cellar** – Drum&bass with Sigma, Need For Mirrors and Conrank.

### THURSDAY 24<sup>th</sup>

**ROLL DEEP:** **O2 Academy** – Wiley brings his grime collective to town – *see main preview*

**LA SHARK + A.HUMAN:** **The Jericho Tavern** – Theatrical electro-pop double bill – *see main preview*

**BLACK SKIES BURN + MUTAGENOCIDE + RISEN IN BLACK:** **The Bullingdon** – Skeletor's monthly metal night showcases uber-heavy death-thrash monsters Black Skies Burn, plus thrash, death and industrial noise from the mighty Risen In Black, inspired by In Flames and The Haunted.

**SPIN JAZZ CLUB:** **The Wheatsheaf** – With tenor saxophonist Julian Nicholas.

**CAT MATADOR + WE AERONAUTS:** **The Cellar** – Dark-hearted and delicate new wave pop from Cat Matador, with support from expansive folk-rock collective We Aeronauts in support

**CARMENTA + K-LACURA:** **The Hobgoblin, Bicester** – Jambox metal night with frenzied metalcore outfit K-Lacura.

**IN THE POCKET:** **Fat Lil's, Witney** – Indie club night and bands.

**CATWEAZLE CLUB:** **East Oxford Community Centre**

**OPEN MIC SESSION:** **The Half Moon**

**BLUES JAM:** **The Jack Russell, Marston**  
**HOUSE OF ROOTS:** **The Cellar**

### FRIDAY 25<sup>th</sup>

**FIXERS + SEALINGS + GIRL SWEAT:** **The Bullingdon** – Single launch gig for Fixers as they release the superb 'Iron Deer Dream' on the Young & Lost Club label this month. Channelling Brian Wilson's psychedelic sunshine pop dream through Animal





Collective's wiggled-out mutant pop and a hefty slice of Detroit techno, Fixers are going to be the Oxford band to watch in 2011. Great support too from lo-fi duo Sealings, taking dour to new extremes with their machine beat-led guitar noise, coming in like very early Mary Chain and Sisters of Mercy.

**RAY LAMONTAGNE: The New Theatre** – The Stateside drifter-turned-troubadour come to the UK to promot recent fourth album 'God Willin' and The Creek Don't Rise' - *see main preview*

**FRANCESQA + DANGEROUS SUMMER: O2 Academy** – Emotive power rock out of Newbury from the recent tour support to

Aiden, following on from supports to the likes of Canterbury and The Broadcast.

**PRISM REUNION: O2 Academy** – Classic rave tunes at tonight's one-off reunion night for the legendary Oxford acid house and trance club. Old hands Keiran, Marty P and Osprey will be on the decks.

**FAUX FIGHTERS: Fat Lil's, Witney** – Puntastic tribute to The Foos.

**DENNY ILETT Jr + JUNE + THE NEW MOGMATIC + KILL CITY SAINTS: The Port Mahon** – Local guitarist Denny plays tribute to Led Zeppelin.

**FUNKY FRIDAY: The Bullingdon FOUNDATION REGGAE: East Oxford Community Centre**

**HQ: The Cellar**

**THREE BLIND MICE PRESENTS: The Wheatsheaf**

*Saturday 26<sup>th</sup>*

## THE OSCILLATION / LISTING SHIPS / VILESWARM: The Wheatsheaf

Having had their Winter Warmer mini-festival destroyed by snow last month, Gappy Tooth Industries return to action with possibly their strongest regular gig line-up. London's The Oscillation were the undisputed highlight of last year's Audioscope, mixing krautrock rhythmic intensity, shoegaze dreaminess and electro-ambience into a simultaneously hypnotic, icy and enervating whole that recalls elements of Silver Apples, Spacemen 3, Neu! and The BBC Radiophonic Workshop and should provoke a mass outbreak of zonked-out head-nodding amongst the gathered throng. Joining them tonight, and playing their debut gig, are Listing Ships, the new band formed by former-members of Sunnyvale Noise Sub-Element, Witches and From Light To Sound, continuing to explore the outer reaches of instrumental synthscapes. The darker reaches of your nightmares is where you'll find openers Vileswarm lurking, with their eerie, toxic sludge of noise. Which is exactly what you'd hope for from a collaboration between Euhedral and David K Frampton, both purveyors of dark-edged electronic sound, together putting voices, harmonica, bows and guitars through an unholy array of processors and effects.



### SATURDAY 26<sup>th</sup>

**GAPPY TOOTH INDUSTRY with THE OSCILLATION + LISTING SHIPS + VILESWARM: The Wheatsheaf** – Kraut-psych grooves aplenty at tonight's Gappy Tooth show – *see main preview*

**SHAKIN' STEVENS: O2 Academy** – The rockabilly troubadour opens up the green door once again for a run through 80s hits like 'Oh Julie', 'This Ol' House' and, erm, 'Green Door'.

**SENSES FAIL: O2 Academy** – New Jersey's emo and post-hardcore veterans.

**DAVID'S LYRE: The Jericho Tavern** – Fulsome folk-cum-dubstep with a flourish from Manchester's Paul Dixon, thus far better known for his cover of Ellie Goulding and remixes for Marina & the Diamonds and Everything Everything than his own material, but with recent single 'Tear Them Down' pointing to an exotic pop talent in waiting and admiring comparisons to Jack Penate and Wild Beasts under his belt, his own talents look set to come to the fore sooner rather than later.

**THE CELLAR FAMILY + AGE OF MISRULE + GENERALS & MAJORS: The Port Mahon** – Dirty, angular, uptight post-punk from The Cellar Family, plus grungy blues-rock from Age Of Misrule.

**SPRING OFFENSIVE + ADAM BARNES + BROTHERS WELSH: The Cellar** – Spiky, convoluted math-folk-pop from Spring Offensive, plus soulful emotive acoustic pop from Adam Barnes in support.

**PROPAGANDA / TRASHY / ROOM 101: O2 Academy**

**DUB POLITICS: The Bullingdon**

**VON BRAUN + TAMARA: The Stocks, Crown & Thistle, Abingdon** – Skittle Alley club night with post-rock and indie noise from Von Braun, plus local songstress Tamara.

**THE MIGHTY REDOX: The Chequers, Headington Quarry**

**FREEFALL: Fat Lil's, Witney** – Rock covers.

### SUNDAY 27<sup>th</sup>

**LO COR DE LA PLANA: Chipping Norton Theatre** – Oxford Contemporary Music kicks off its spring season with a show from Marseilles' male vocal ensemble.



*Monday 28<sup>th</sup>*

## KILL IT KID / HUCK & THE HANDSOME FEE: The Jericho Tavern

There's no shortage of young British acts trying to sound like old American ones but few do it as convincingly as Bath's Kill It Kid. Having started off semi-accidentally working with producer John Parish as part of a college project, the resulting demo earned them a deal with One Little Indian and subsequently found them working in Seattle with Ryan Hadlock, whose previous credits include Foo Fighters, The Strokes and The Gossip. The result of that collaboration was one of the critically-acclaimed surprises of last year, the band's eponymous debut album. Like the old Deep South masters, Kill It Kid utilise traditional instrumentation like slide guitar, fiddle and najo, but it's Chris Turpin's gruff, wide-ranging voice that's the star of the show, giving it all an authentic layer of grime, leavened slightly by pianist Stephanie Ward's sweet-natured harmonies. They cover Delta blues, Cajun, country, bluegrass and rockabilly with all the energy, passion and drive you'd hope for, boisterous but melodically strong and easily capable of selling coals to Newcastle. A new album, produced by Steve Albini, is due soon. Suitably raw, downbeat blues support from local faves Huck and the Handsome Fee.

**BLUES JAM: Fat Lil's, Witney (3pm)** – Open blues jam with in-house band.

### MONDAY 28<sup>th</sup>

**KILL IT KID + SCOUNDRELS + HUCK & THE HANDSOME FEE: The Jericho Tavern** – Delta blues, Bath-style – *see main preview*

**DANI WILDE BAND: The Bullingdon** – Rocking blues, soul and piano-led power ballads from the Brighton singer at tonight's Famous Monday Blues.

*Nightshift listings are free. Deadline for inclusion in the gig guide is the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month - no exceptions. Call 01865 372255 (10am-6pm) or email listings to Nightshift@oxfordmusic.net. All listings are copyright of Nightshift and may not be reproduced without permission*



Sponsored  
by

hmv get closer

## SHITMAT / P45 / COLOUREDS

### The Cellar

Tonight's excellent Audioscope line-up essentially constitutes a free-party in a pub; so the only drug of choice available is good old taxable booze. Still, the old adage that you don't need drugs to have a good time definitely applies tonight.

First up are Coloureds, who, for the uninitiated, were members of phenomenally brutal and much-missed metal types Xmas Lights. Despite expectations, Coloureds take on hard-edged electronic music is actually reasonably accessible. Get past the spectacle of those primary-coloured gimp masks (which at least provides some kind of visual stimulus) and they clearly want to bring the dance tonight rather than confound with visceral noise.

Hunched over the central command post of their laptop they manipulate their way through a startlingly comprehensive history of electronic dance music. Quirky glitches, false starts, and swelling bass patterns fill the room, but at the heart of it is their ability to use inventive bass-drum patterns to inspire movement rather than have it pound the audience into submission.

P45 is at an instant disadvantage. For a start he doesn't have a fucking cool mask, which means that he looks isolated centre stage like an IT desk support worker. Still it's not all about visuals, it's about connecting with the innate need to dance, and sadly, it just doesn't quite work tonight. Surprisingly, his set tonight feels more inaccessible than Coloureds; moreover, it's less inspired. Even dropping the intro to Radiohead's 'Street Spirit' doesn't do the trick, and rather than utilising it as a jumping off point, he just shifts the tempo around a bit.

After a slow start Shitmat really gets things moving; it kicks off as



Shitmat photo: Sam Shepherd

soon as he drops the first jungle beat into the mix. He might look like he's defragging his hard-drive but all around him people are losing their heads as he fills his with beer and drops a mash-up of Thomas the Tank Engine and Dancehall twat Snow's 'Informer'. He spends

the majority of his set dismantling 25 years of the dance scene, banging a metaphorical V-Snare and injecting a health dose of humour via a series of mash-ups, knowing samples (*was that Bad News? Yes it was....*) and enormous hardcore beats. It's a clever combination,

which gently takes the piss, critiques the pomposity that at times exists within the dance fraternity and yet still makes people dance like there's no tomorrow. Shitmat is about as good as it gets.

**Sam Shepherd**

hmv Oxford supporting local music  
hmv Oxford 43/46 Cornmarket Street  
get closer to the music, films and games you love



# EQUITRUCK

## O2 Academy

Organised to mark the equidistant point between Truck's main summer festivals, Equitruck is more low-key event, providing a snapshot of the sort of local acts you'd expect to see on the main event's stages; in today's case revisiting many of the bands who played at Truck last summer.

**Cat Matador** bring a little chirpiness, quirkiness and freshness to the early part of the day, but it's a shame to see a half-empty venue bobbing their heads shyly in response. Regardless, their performance is acute, raw and fulfilling with an angular identity all of their own.

I seem to be alone in seeing what the hype about **Dead Jerichos** is. Their set feels flimsy, disconnected and nervous. They sound like a band that still needs to perfect their sound; the gaps are clearly perceptible in the songs, like droplets of naivety that are being shifted aside through attitude and high chins. Sorry, I'm not convinced.

Thank the Lord, then, for **Ute**. Last time I saw them was two years ago and today's performance is a blissful surprise. Ute have managed

to embrace the good, the bad and the ugly to reconstruct their individuality as psychedelic circus troubadours and nostalgia twisters in one go. Dirty, smoking swirls of rock and roll, heavy bass and big guitar riffs intermingling with acute tenderness are key to their successful delivery. Here is a band to keep an eye and both ears on.

**Fixers** are the pearl in the oyster; a pearl everyone dreams to own. The pearl however is oblivious of its own beauty and value because it has not been polished, handled or manipulated yet. Fixers have been described as 80s disco, surf dance, eclectic psychedelic, experimental... but what is clear is that it is as rare, beautiful and delightful as any gem can be. Animal Collective, MGMT, Brian Wilson, Van Dyke Parks... whatever their influences they manage to make the whole room dance and sway in total release, and all this at the strike of the first note. Fixers are gold headlining material for festivals larger than this. Watch out for them in the upcoming months, they'll be neon glowing.

*Liane Escorza*

## BIRTHMARK / UTE

### The Jericho Tavern

Tonight's a night for having your wordy, interpretative, even lysergic, head on, as two musically challenging bands test a JCR-minded audience that is, to put it mildly, all too ready to start talking amongst itself.

Ute are slowly beginning to leave their Radiohead-inspired cocoon and explore a more labyrinthine, Borderville-like narrative. Theirs is a set of progressive abstract folk, of battering intensity, that includes a curious paean to the Queen, who has her photograph on all the guitars, and culminates in everybody and his dog, howling like coyotes during the murderous, drunken merry-go-round epic of the 'Innocent Tailor'. Primal therapy on a stick.

Birthmark, in a studio in Urbana, Illinois, is just multi-instrumentalist Nate Kinsella. Birthmark, at this, their first ever UK gig, is Nate, his wife on keys, and a couple of musical pals, who as a band at the end of each song, like the Mad Hatters Tea Party, all move one seat to the left and change instruments.

Each song is chosen for its diversity to the last one, but all have that bearded, serene softness of Eels, as lo-fi as its possible to get, while occasionally blooming into a Flaming Lips-style poppy garden before fading back into murmuring introspection. The violin looped dream-dub of 'Fossil Record' sits well next to the bossanova rhythms of 'Looking For Flights To Tokyo', which itself transports you, via a three-note xylophone, to a gentle, Japanese koi pond atmosphere in 'The Layer'.

The talking out front troubles Nate not a jot, as he is not only overwhelmingly modest and grateful, but has a Mr Magoo-like otherworldliness about him, where music is an all-enveloping myopic lifestyle rather than a tool to anything greater. He's even sweet and unknowing enough to think he's being followed by a headline act, as the Jericho band running order pinned on the wall near him, ends with; Curfew: 11.50pm. Here, people, is one contented guy.

*Paul Carrera*

# BEAT SEEKING MISSILES

## The Cellar

No post-Christmas lull for Count Skylarkin's Big Ten Inch club night tonight, as a heaving crowd turns out early for the regular mix of soul, ska and other unexpected musical gems. The Long Insiders have cried off, citing intestinal issues, but there's a palpable buzz surrounding the debut performance of Beat Seeking Missiles.

Bass player Mick Quinn from Supergrass, now with added beard, may be the most high profile player onstage, but frontman and songwriter Sir Bald Diddley is a tireless veteran of numerous local bands, as well as a well-known DJ. Along with Kid Wig on second guitar, drummer Bash Brand from conceptual artist Billy Childish's bands The Headcoats and The Milkshakes completes the lineup. A few first-night nerves are in evidence but dissipate fast as we soon learn that the name was not chosen idly. Their own description, a garage surf beat punk combo, sums matters up nicely, with maybe a bit more emphasis on the garage than the surf. Baldy's guitar dominates the sound with chainsaw-

like intensity, the emphasis more on power than subtlety. 'The Hooded Claw' conjures images of Bo Diddley or even early Captain Beefheart in collision with The Buzzcocks, and is one of many tunes with chorus crying out for a football terrace singalong. The crowd respond as if they know every note by heart and, though variety may not be their middle name, the pace and the dancing never flag till they finally run out of songs.

My mind keeps wandering back to catching a very early Supergrass show at the East Oxford Community Centre, and the thrill of being there at the start of something truly special. Whether Beat Seeking Missiles are likely to follow such a meteoric path is anyone's guess: The accepted wisdom is that nowadays a musical career relies on live performance rather than selling records, and if so this band are clearly destined to be a success. As Count Skylarkin launches in to another live mash-up on the decks the future's looking rather bright.

*Art Lagun*

## WHITE NOISE SOUND / THE BRAINDEAD COLLECTIVE

### The Bullingdon

By all that's rational and reasonable, The Braindead Collective should an embarrassment. Imagine it, Seb Reynolds, ex-Sexy Breakfast and Evenings keyboard player, being smug enough to convene a loose improvised collective based around whichever of his old scenester chums is around on a given night. But in actuality they're excellent, not only a surprisingly well-controlled unit, but also one that can balance awkward noise with alluring melody better than many bands that have practised twice a week since the fourth form. They start with an eerie, reverby pulse of a piece that sounds like Pink Floyd's 'Astronomy Domine' left out in the rain for six months, and develop a balance between Chris Beard's chiming vocals and oscillating keys. Over all this Seb spills reverby sax trills and Jimmy Evil throws in some ornery guitar figures that were left over from Suitable Case For Treatment. The reading from William Burroughs might be sophomoric, but in other ways the band is highly original, irrational, unreasonable, and rather great.

White Noise Sound's drone rock owes a fair amount to Spacemen 3, although the unexpected synth chugs also recall Add N To (X). While the simple music might sound as though it just fell out of bed into a bigger bed, the material is actually carefully thought out, and it's rare to find a band with three guitarists that can so effortlessly control the texture of a piece. The emphasis on song structure makes them come off a little like Black Rebel Spacehip Club, and this is what lets them down a little. Nothing wrong with any of the vocals, but tracks stop because the song has finished, when it sounds like the music is just warming up. The final two pieces are comfortably the best, a pair of longer instrumentals that use the humming guitars as a launch pad for hypnotic repetition, rather than a peg on which to hang three verses. It's not often you see a band, and wish they'd done half as many tracks in twice as much time, but if this is space rock, it helps to give it some space.

*David Murphy*



162 Cowley Road Oxford  
01865 244516

# February

Every Monday

## THE FAMOUS MONDAY NIGHT BLUES

The best in UK, European and US blues. 8-12.

7<sup>th</sup> **BAYOU BROTHERS (USA)**

14<sup>th</sup> **THE ADAM BOMB BAND (USA)**

21<sup>st</sup> **THE BILLY WALTON BAND (USA)**

28<sup>th</sup> **THE DANI WILDE BAND (UK)**

Every Tuesday

## THE OXFORD JAZZ CLUB

Free live jazz plus DJs playing r'n'b, funk and soul until 2am

1<sup>st</sup> / 15<sup>th</sup> **THE HOWARD PEACOCK QUINTET**

8<sup>th</sup> **THE HUGH TURNER BAND**

22<sup>nd</sup> **THE HUGH TURNER BAND**

Thursdays

3<sup>rd</sup> **ZEM / YELLOW FEVER**

10<sup>th</sup> **UNDERSMILE / KOMRAD / TRIDEM**

17<sup>th</sup> **THE ROCKINGBIRDS / DREAMING SPIRES / THE MARMADUKES**

24<sup>th</sup> **SKELETOR** presents **BLACK SKIES BURN / MUTAGENOCIDE / RISEN IN BLACK**

Every Friday

## FUNKY FRIDAY

Funk, soul, boogie and R&B. 10.30pm-2.30am; £2.

Early Friday shows

4<sup>th</sup> **ANNERO** / support

11<sup>th</sup> **SWITCH 60**

18<sup>th</sup> **DELOREAN / RICHARD WALTERS**

25<sup>th</sup> **FIXERS / SEALINGS / GIRL SWEAT**

Includes entry to **FUNKY FRIDAY** afterwards

Saturdays

5<sup>th</sup> **SIMPLE** – House & techno

12<sup>th</sup> **DUBSTEP**

19<sup>th</sup> **PHISH** - 90s retro

26<sup>th</sup> **DUB POLITICS** – Dubstep

Sunday

13<sup>th</sup> **CHARLY COOMBES & THE NEW BREED**

Join us on Facebook: Backroom @ The Bully

## DR SHOTOVER: Dear Doctor Shotover

Dear Dr Shotover, I am sick and tired of people having a go at the Blessing Force bands... Just because they all went to school together and know Yanniss personally surely does not mean that they should not be listened to? Toffs have feelings too! Lord Ffowles, North Oxford

Dear Lord Ffowles, I know exactly what you mean... I went to school with their grandfather, but that does not stop me from thinking they are a talentless bunch of Posh Young People with a couple of borrowed Talking Heads riffs and too much parental money. Dr S, East Indies Club (PS I was kidding about knowing exactly what you mean)

Dear Dr S, I am a Grime Fan with a Problem! How can I get rid of my recurrent spots? I have tried the Nightshift Message Boards, but they were no help at all. In fact, my skin became worse after reading the interminable ramblings of [letter becomes illegible here]... Please help! Mr I. Podd, Cowley  
Dear Mr Quite Odd, Pharmacists used to stock a skin preparation called PhisoHex when I was an urchin, but now it has been withdrawn from the shops due to doubtless unfounded health-scare rumours... Have you tried sawing your own head off? Or indeed, that of [letter becomes illegible here]...? Dr S, East Indies Club

Dear Dr S, I think you were really really unfair about the Blessing Force bands...

NEXT!

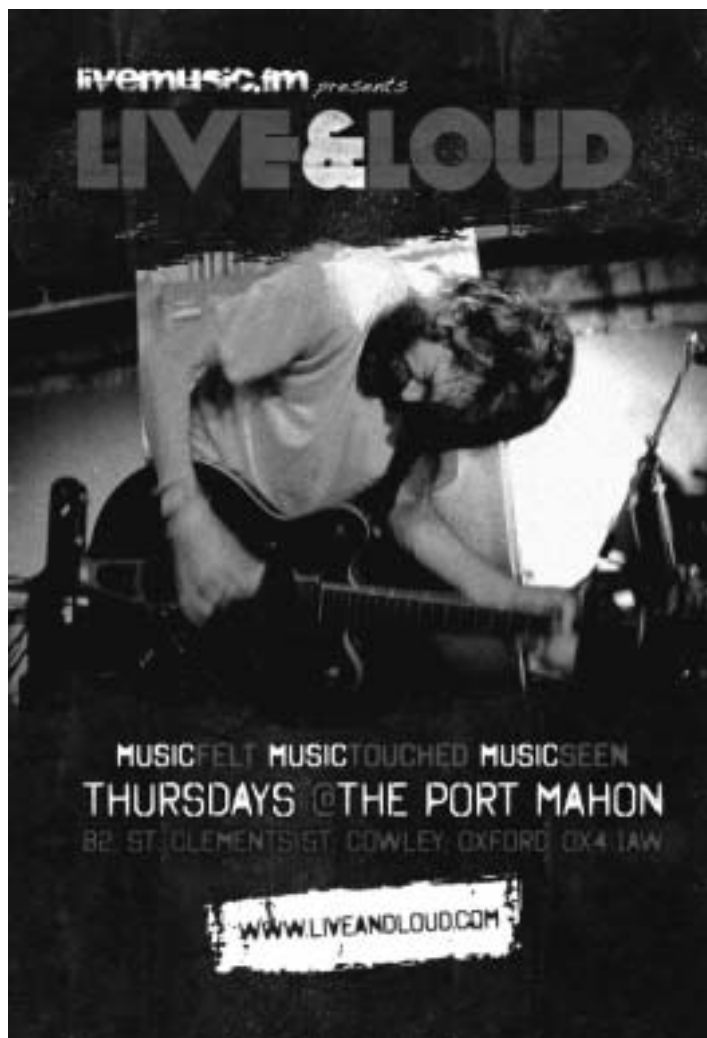
Dear Doctor Handsome, I am a Karen Gillan look-alike and I would treasure the opportunity of buying you a drinkie in the olde-worlde tavern of your choice while putting the complete works of Dr Feelgood on the jukebox. Please make a lassie's dream come true... Pretty please? Miss D. Meanour, Headington

I say! Now THAT's more like it... Hmm, that reminds me - I really need a drink! [Dr S puts down his pen and wanders off towards the bar, humming "Milk and Alcohol" by Dr Feelgood]

Next month: "Ian Gillan Karen Gillan's Dad" Shock!



DR S's LETTERS PAGE - All enquiries of an embarrassing personal nature will be dealt with in strictest lack of confidence...





# INTRODUCING....

*Nightshift's monthly guide to the best local bands bubbling under*

## PET MOON

### Who are they?

Pet Moon is the solo project of former-Youthmovies singer and guitarist Andrew Mears. As frontman of that band and a founding member of Foals, Andrew is one of the most influential local musicians of the past decade, while as the central figure in the Blessing Force community, his influence and adherence to the DIY ethic remains as high as ever. As he explains himself, "After eight years I needed to do something completely different from Youthmovies musically and logistically. I wanted to be as self-sufficient as possible; able to travel light and write and record without consideration for other people. It's felt like coming out of a long-term relationship and wanting to be single for a while." Pet Moon played their first show at the Bullingdon late last year before heading off to support Foals on tour. An album is already recorded and Andrew has already received enthusiastic press coverage. He is set to release a book, 'Songs Without Restraint', chronicling his experiences of the music industry.

### What do they sound like?

After the highly-technical but visceral rock thrills of Youthmovies, Pet Moon finds Andrew drifting into more minimalist electronic territory, with a heavy r'n'b influence, taking in 80s pop, euphoric electronic psychedelia and acoustic balladeering, the emphasis still on complexity and innovation and with a restless creativity that keep you guessing. Or, in Andrew's own words, "Theatrical, processed, tuneful, confident, ultraviolet, overwhelmingly sexual, self-hyped hipster bullshit."

### What inspires them?

"People who get shit done."

### Career highlight so far:

"Being given the platform to talk-up Blessing Force artists. It's pleasing to see things *you* believe in getting shown the same belief elsewhere."

### And the lowlight:

"On tour with Foals I got "fuck off, Boy George" and "Foals! Foals! Foals! Foals! Foals!"; I like heckling though, it galvanises you."



### Their favourite other Oxfordshire act is:

"Coloureds. Go see them."

### If they could only keep one album in the world, it would be:

"'Vespertine' by Bjork: it's ambitious but never at the expense of its purity; lyrically perfect; full of incredible vocal melodies, and completely unique to its creator. It's a timeless record from a self-defined artist."

### When is the next gig and what can newcomers expect?

"The Blessing Force warehouse party on Green Street over the weekend of February 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. Expect it shoved in your face."

### Their favourite and least favourite things about Oxford music are:

"The wealth of musicians is unbelievable. I'm from Brighton originally and the scene is nowhere near as diverse. That said, the in-fighting here nails me. I'm pleased for any band who makes a go of it outside the local scene. The drive to make music is a parasite that clings into your stomach; it ruins your relationships, bank balance and self esteem. If I could I'd probably have it cut out. Since we all have the same problem we should show each other support."

### You might love them if you love:

Tears For Fears, Prince, D'Angelo, Foals, Jonquil.

### Hear them here:

[www.myspace.com/apetmoon](http://www.myspace.com/apetmoon)

# RAY LA MONTAGNE

and the  
PARIAH DOGS

PLUS GUESTS SECRET SISTERS



FRIDAY 25 FEBRUARY  
OXFORD NEW THEATRE

0844 847 1585 | 0844 811 0051 | [GIGSANDTOURS.COM](http://GIGSANDTOURS.COM)

A Metropolis Music presentation by arrangement with CAA  
[www.raylamontagne.com](http://www.raylamontagne.com)

# FAT LIL'S

Presents The World's Best Tribute Bands

ZZ Top	Friday 4th Feb ZZ TOPS <a href="http://www.thezztops.com">www.thezztops.com</a>
U2	Friday 11th Feb ACHTUNG BABY <a href="http://www.achtungbaby.co.uk">www.achtungbaby.co.uk</a>
Rolling Stones	Friday 18th Feb THE STONES <a href="http://www.thestones.co.uk">www.thestones.co.uk</a>
FOO FIGHTERS	Friday 25th Feb FAUX FIGHTERS <a href="http://www.myspace.com/fauxfightersuk">www.myspace.com/fauxfightersuk</a>
OZZY	Friday 4th Mar OZZFEST OZZY & MOTLEY CRUE TRIBUTE
T. REX	Friday 11th Mar TOO REX <a href="http://www.toorex.com">www.toorex.com</a>

FOR FURTHER INFO ABOUT TICKETS ETC VISIT  
[fatlils.co.uk](http://fatlils.co.uk) [facebook.com/fatlils.witney](http://facebook.com/fatlils.witney)

**APPLETREE STUDIOS** 

64 TRACK DIGITAL / 24 TRACK ANALOGUE

**21 YEARS OF QUALITY RECORDINGS**

- \* HIGH QUALITY / LOW RATES
- \* FULLY STOCKED WITH ALL THE LATEST GEAR
- \* GREAT LINKS WITH MAJOR AND INDIE RECORD COMPANIES
- \* GOOD SIZED LIVE ROOM, CONTROL ROOM & VOCAL BOOTH
- \* GREAT LOCATION WITH PLENTY OF PARKING
- \* FREE USE OF DRUMS, KEYBOARDS, GUITARS AMPS AND BASSES
- \* ALSO CASSETTE / C.D DUPLICATING & REHEARSAL FACILITIES

**FOR ALL YOUR RECORDING, MASTERING AND DUPLICATING NEEDS**

**01844 237916**

[www.appletreestudios.com](http://www.appletreestudios.com)

**Warehouse Studios**

24 Track HD Digital Recording  
Full Production & Rehearsal Studios

Oxford 01865-736411

[www.warehousestudios.com](http://www.warehousestudios.com)

\*\*\* Special Local Band Rates \*\*\*

**coldroom studios**

we give you **quality** recordings all budgets

practice makes **perfect** fully equipped rehearsal rooms

[www.coldroomstudios.co.uk](http://www.coldroomstudios.co.uk)  
call JAMIE on 07917685935

**Records, CDs and DVD Fair**

**OXFORD TOWNHALL**

**SATURDAY 5<sup>th</sup> March**  
**10.30am-3.30pm**

ROCK-POP-DANCE-GOLDEN OLDIES-INDIE-SOUL-TECHNO-HIP-HOP-JAZZ-LATIN-REGGAE-DRUM&BASS-GARAGE—R&B-DISCO-1950s-2000s. Brand new back catalogue CDs £4 - £7

**RADIATE**

**A NEW MONTHLY BAND NIGHT**  
**THE JERICHO TAVERN, OXFORD**

**band submissions :**  
[radiatebookings@gmail.com](mailto:radiatebookings@gmail.com)

*No covers bands, please*  
[www.radiatepromotions.com](http://www.radiatepromotions.com)

# DEMOS

## DEMO OF THE MONTH

### UNEK

The latest starlet to emerge from Ark-T's excellent Young Women's Music Project, mentored by Baby Gravy's Zahra Tehrani, teenage rapper Uneek may be that rarest of things locally, a female MC, but there's nothing tokenistic about her as she displays a giddy, skittish delivery with an easy flow across ten tracks here, at her best when she's speeding along, potty-mouthed and spouting teasing sexual politics, a squelchy electro back-up with a fulsome production adding an assertiveness to tracks like 'Glow', or the sparse electro-funk stab of 'Shivers', with its vocal chant reminding us of M.I.A. at times. The likes of 'Marijuana Madman' find Uneek slowing it down and sounding less comfortable, although even here the churning industrial backing gives her rhymes some authority. She also benefits from trading rhymes with the characteristically soulful Asher Dust, particularly on 'Role Rehearsal', and Silecta on demo highlight 'Soul Destroyer', which comes with a great chorus hook, the pair's duelling carrying some serious bite. Perhaps ten tracks is pushing it a bit for such a new, young artist, but Uneek's talent is all too apparent, and makes her emergence on to the local scene even more welcome.

### BUG PRENTICE

Bug Prentice is the new band fronted by singer and guitarist Ally Craig, a man who, like former musical collaborator Rebecca Mosley, seems to be on a mission to find the ugliness in the prettiest of tunes. Quoting Thelonious Monk and Deerhoof as primary influences, Ally and co. proceed to stab, strangle and generally bully their songs into nasty, twisted shapes, notably demo opener 'Ceilidh Dancer', which forever sounds on the verge of collapse as they take a Fugazi-style post-hardcore toolbox to what might, beneath the cacophony, be a delicate wee jazz-pop melody, Ally's fragile, slightly strained vocal delivery accentuating the dissonance around him. By contrast 'Chicago Baxters' is sparse and introverted, rocking oh-so gently on an easy jazz groove before being impolitely punctured by stabs of guitar noise. The mood of the demo darkens and subsides as it progresses, so 'Nebraska Admiral' is a contemplative acoustic reverie where Ally's vocals work best and fully demonstrate his ability to pen and execute a pretty bucolic folk-pop song and only 'Lovitz Vs Dick' sounds laboured, sinking into something approaching despair, coming across as clumsy even as it closes with a typically calamitous finale.

### CUBIQ

Featuring two members of last month's Demo Of The Month winners Wild Swim, Cubiq similarly take on myriad cool influences but perhaps take them to a less unique place. This is good stuff, no doubt about it, but tracks like 'Ideas' don't stray too far from what Orbital and Future Sound Of London were doing back in the 90s. Still, it makes for a pleasantly spaced-out trance trip, four tracks over 35 minutes based on deep house beats and some Ibiza-style chill-out moments, with 'Ninyo' a glitchier and more minimal diversion, lacking the sumptuous feel of the earlier tracks on the CD, like 'Claustrophobia', with its stoner ambience. Best of the lot is the slightly daft 'Keep It Simple', a lean rhythm-based trip featuring broadcaster Peter Jay narrating a journey through a drum kit.

### SMILE

With Yuck currently leading the charge of late-80s/early-90s indie revivalism, here come Smile to join the party, even going so far as to name themselves after an old Ride release. Harking unapologetically back to Teenage Fanclub, Pavement and Ride themselves, they bury their songs in good-natured layers of guitar fuzz and froth, vocals half-buried in reverb and heavily-effected guitar noise so they sound like they're harmonising beneath a blanket of fog. Like those bands they so obviously draw upon for inspiration, Smile take a lo-fi battering ram to late-period Beatles, 'Karma Comedian' flitting past with its copy of 'Revolver' tucked under its arm, although 'Nightlife' is closer to Ride covering Ben Folds Five's 'Underground'. 'Swim' opts for a noisier approach, coming on like a lost Dinosaur Jr piece, and while the whole thing offers precious little by way of anything particularly new, it's all cheerily messy fun while it lasts.

### CRYSIS

Metal time again. Relative newcomers to the local scene, Crisis seem to have been gigging all over the county in the last few months and it's made for a tight old ship here as they grind through the usual litany of breakneck riffage, breakdowns, pummelling blast beats and ogre-ish vocals, screaming and roaring at the twin altars of Lamb of God and Pantera. So what, you say, Nightshift reviews at least one new demo of this ilk every month. And yes, it's true, but by God, every month it makes us very HAPPY!. Because we get a brief break from trying to think of interesting, philosophical stuff to write about music and just bash our heads repeatedly against the wall while scaring the neighbours. And if you think we're just nice about every metal band in a fifty-mile vicinity, check out the review of Dead Man's Crossing below to see how badly this stuff can sound when it's done wrong.

Hard, fast and nasty – that's the right way to do it and Crysis do it right. Now, if you've quite finished asking stupid questions, we've got a brick wall to punch holes in and this makes the perfect soundtrack.

## MY PRESERVER

Introducing themselves as old mates of Dial F For Frankenstein, My Preserver's band name makes them sound more like a favourite aunt with a penchant for jam making than a bunch of gnarly old rock warriors, but gnarly old rock warriors is very much what they want to be, proffering an epic type of distorted indie-inclined rawk on 'Loose Change' that initially at least seems to be aiming for Primal Scream's more ballsy outings, or that moment in time when Depeche Mode started fancying themselves as stadium rock gods. Hell, there's even a bit of Queen in there, although Freddie and the gang could hardly be accused of being grizzled rockers, what with all that prancing about and the like. We're starting to think maybe My Preserver are a sort of less effective kid brother to Domes Of Silence, whose strength lies in sounding like their songs could really crush your house without caring too much about it, but the more the singer emotes earnestly and the more epic the guitars get and the more fancy electronic bits they try to tag on the sides, the more the uncomfortable truth hits home that maybe they're just trying to be a Muse tribute band. A shame since 'King Jesus' points to a more productive future path, angry and angular, with better use of electronics, until it fades out prematurely.

## DEAD MAN'S CROSSING

Oh Christ. Praise for Dead Man's Crossing that accompanies their press blurb centres on word like "Solid", "Proficient" and "Meaty", all of which might be more appropriate to a League 2 centre-half than an artistic endeavour, but then not everyone can aim for the stars or discover a cure for cancer. Some fucker still has to collect the trolleys in Sainsbury's car-park. With so much great metal around, we wonder why anyone still feels compelled to cling to dated old bollocks like this. 'Neon Lights' is solid (bing!) grungy hard rock fronted by an overwrought Eddie Vedder impersonator, the odd stolen Iron Maiden riff the only respite from its turgid lifelessness and tediously obligatory guitar solo. 'Ashes' serves only to emphasise Dead Man's Crossing's musical proficiency (bing!), while they get on with the job of sounding windswept and, y'know, deep and meaningful, instead of saying, "fuck it all," and just making a nice big hellish racket. We do learn, though, that war is, like, y'know, A BAD THING as the song chugs and churns in meaty (bing!) fashion for several weeks

without respite. 'Tears of a Dead Man' finds them getting even more serious and, y'know, deep and meaningful, which only makes us want to point at them and laugh and then pay small urchins to follow them home and point and laugh some more and throw stones at their windows and it all comes to an inglorious head with the supposedly apocalyptic 'Orpheus', which is about the end of the world and stuff but sounds as mad and evil as a never-ending sleepwalk around a multi-story carpark that smells strongly of old urine. Great metal bands can recite their shopping lists and make it sound like Ragnarok. The closest Dead Man's Crossing are likely to come to The Final Battle is accidentally bumping a stack of those shopping trolleys into someone's 4x4, the ~~useless fucking wankers~~ silly old sausages.

## THE DEMO DUMPER

### THE PORN ISSUE

Pardon us if we're staggeringly wide of the mark, but isn't funk meant to be... well, funky? Something to get your feet and hips a-moving? Not a tired, turgid trail of moaning, groaning old sludge that drags itself along the floor like a toddler with an overfull nappy, leaving a foul-smelling residue in its wake? Still, what else should we expect from a band who quote Jamiroquai as inspiration and claim, amid one of the most gut-heavily awful press blurbs we've ever had the misfortune to trawl through, that they "dip their toes into a broad spectrum of musical styles". Blimey fellas, don't hold back there will you? Give those toes a good old dip. Fuck it, dive right in; with any luck you'll drown and spare us the torture of having to sit through any more of this crippled tenth-rate Hendrix-cum-Neil Young dung in a bucket, with its chain-rattling vocal horror show that positively screams 'Provincial Band Competition Runners-Up'. 'Space Beyond Space' (like, hey, man, that's almost like philosophy. Or maybe astrophysics. Or possibly just wanky old hippy guff) is a half-speed 'Rocking In The Free World' with all the hooks replaced by lazy guitar soloing; the week-long 'My Disguise' sounds like an outtake from one of the *Saw* sequels – the bit where the victim lies bleeding slowly to death after having several limbs and his private parts removed with a blunt object. According to that riveting press blurb we were on about before, The Porn issue "leave much in reserve for future releases". Presumably that'll be the tunes, energy, soul and sense of fun. Here at Nightshift we keep a little something in reserve for demos like this. It's called a car battery attached to a pair of electrodes. Come round and collect your prize any time, chaps.

Send demos for review to: Nightshift, PO Box 312, Kidlington, Oxford, OX5 1ZU. Or email MySpace link to [nightshift@oxfordmusic.net](mailto:nightshift@oxfordmusic.net), clearly marked Demo for review.

**IMPORTANT:** no review without a contact address and phone number. No more than four tracks on a demo. If you can't handle criticism, please don't send us your demo.



Interzone House  
74-77 Magdalen Rd  
Oxford OX4 1RE

For bookings and enquiries please phone

**01865 715705**

drum kits available to hire,  
good location + vending machines.  
Rehearsals from just £24 for 3 hours  
Recording £100 per day (mon-fri)

## THE COURTYARD STUDIO

PROTOOLS HD2, MTA 980 CONSOLE 32/24/  
24, OTARI MTR90 MK2 24 TRACK TAPE  
MACHINE, 2 TRACKING ROOMS, SUPERB  
CONTROL ROOM WITH GOOD SELECTION  
OF MICS & OUTBOARD GEAR, + MIDI  
FACILITIES (INC LOGIC AUDIO, AKAI  
S1000, OLD SKOOL ROLAND ETC.)

Residential facilities included.

[www.courtyardrecordingstudio.com](http://www.courtyardrecordingstudio.com)

PHONE PIPPA FOR DETAILS

ON 01235 845800

**shonk  
studios**

Recording Studios  
Protocols on Mac  
Great Sound  
Rates For Local Bands

Phone - 01865 203922  
or  
07878960286

[info@theshonk.com](mailto:info@theshonk.com)

[www.theshonk.com](http://www.theshonk.com)

**TURAN AUDIO.co.uk**  
Professional, Independent CD mastering



Artists mastered in the studio last month include;  
JAYALICE, BAD MANNERS, DAVID ESSEX, TITANS,  
MADNESS, HOT RED DRESS, HEAVEN AND HELL,  
THE VOXX, PAULSOUNDS, BEAR RESPONSE  
TEAM, NAZARETH, OWEN TROMANS, RABBIT  
FOOT SPASM BAND, SUZI QUATRO.

01865 716466

[tim@turanaudio.co.uk](mailto:tim@turanaudio.co.uk)

**decibel studio**  
.co.uk

email & enquire about  
2hrs FREE rehearsal

**loud is better**

Chalgrave, Oxon 01460 221541

07774 228440

[studiodecibel@aol.com](mailto:studiodecibel@aol.com)

Weds 26th Jan 2011 • £7.50 adv  
6.30pm - 10pm

## Funeral Party + Dead Jerichos

Sat 29th Jan 2011 • £6 adv  
6.30pm - 10pm

## MMG Oxfordshire Battle of The Bands - The Final

Sat 29th Jan  
10.30pm - 3am • over 18s only  
FREE Advance Tickets sold out /  
remainder available on the door  
from 10.30pm

## Skins Tour at Propaganda

ft. The Wombats (Live)  
+ DJ Dan + Trophy Wife (Live)  
+ The Good Natured (Live)  
+ Trashy + Room 101

Tues 1st Feb 2011 • £15 adv

## Joan As Policewoman + James Vincent McMorrow

Tues 1st Feb • £7 adv  
9pm - 2am • over 18s only  
**Itchy Feet**

Fri 4th Feb 2011 • £12.50 adv  
6pm - 10pm

## We The Kings

+ Versa Emerge  
+ All Forgotten + I See Stars

Sat 5th Feb 2011 • £10 adv  
6pm - 10pm

## Taking Dawn

+ Taste My Eyes + Dedilok

Sat 5th Feb 2011 • £19.50 adv  
6.30pm - 10pm

## Francis Rossi

CANCELLED - refunds available  
from place of purchase

Sun 6th Feb 2011 • £10 adv

## C.W. Stoneking

Fri 11th Feb • £13.50 adv  
6.30pm

## Teddy Thompson & David Ford

Fri 11th Feb • £3 adv

## Underground Rebel Disco Official After Party

Sat 12th Feb • £5 adv / £6 on door  
£5 NUS / £4 NHS

10.30pm - 3am • over 18s only

## My Big Fat

Trashy Wedding  
+ Propaganda + Room 101

Tues 15th Feb • £10 adv

## Grinspoon + Jettblack + Phantom Theory + Smilex

Tues 15th Feb 2011 • £12 adv

## The Go! Team

+ Banjo Or Freakout

Sat 19th Feb 2011 • £14.30 adv  
6.30pm - 10pm

## Carl Barat

Sat 19th Feb • £8 adv  
6.30pm - 10pm

## Ben Montague & Leddra Chapman

+ The Lake Poets + Jess Hall

Mon 21st Feb 2011 • £17.50 adv  
**Europe**

Weds 23rd Feb 2011 • SOLD OUT  
6.30pm - 10pm

## The Streets

Thurs 24th Feb 2011 • £11.23 adv  
6.30pm

## Roll Deep

+ Platinum + Mz Bratt  
+ Angel + TJ Lyrica

Fri 25th Feb • £7 adv  
6.30pm

## Francesca

+ Dangerous Summer

Fri 25th Feb • £6 adv  
11pm - 4am • over 18s only

## Prism Reunion

ft. Kieran, Marty P & MC Osprey  
The original residents  
and special guests

Sat 26th Feb • £10 adv  
6.30pm - 10pm

## Senses Fail + Man Overboard

Sat 26th Feb 2011 • £20 adv  
6.30pm - 10pm

## Shakin' Stevens

30th Anniversary Tour  
Rescheduled show • original tickets valid

Tues 1st Mar • £7 adv

## Glamour of the Kill

+ Shadows Chasing Ghosts

Thurs 3rd Mar • £14.50 adv

## Reel Big Fish + Skints

Fri 4th Mar • SOLD OUT  
6.30pm

## Example

+ Starsmith + Neon Hitch

Fri 4th Mar 2011 • £10 adv  
6.30pm - 10pm

## The Smyths

Fri 4th Mar • £14 adv  
11pm • over 18s only

## Metropolis + Free Range

ft. Andy C & MC Go  
+ Rusko + Zinc & MC Script

Mon 7th Mar 2011 • £10 adv

## Beardyman

Tues 8th Mar 2011 • £7.50 adv

## Futures

Fri 11th Mar • £8 adv  
11pm • over 18s only

## TradeMark Grime

## Launch Night

ft. Logan Sama  
+ Rude Kid + DJ Vectra

Sat 12th Mar • £7 adv

## Mona

Sat 12th Mar • £5 adv / £6 on door  
£5 NUS / £4 NHS

10.30pm - 3am • over 18s only

## Propaganda ft. Greg James

+ Trashy + Room 101

Thurs 17th Mar • £10.21 adv  
9pm • over 18s only

## Jaguar Skills

Weds 23rd Mar • £14 adv  
6.30pm

## Stiff Little Fingers

Thurs 24th Mar • £13 adv

## Zodiac Mindwarp

+ Desert Storm + K-Lacura

Sat 26th Mar • £7 adv  
6.30pm - 10pm

## Holy Grail + Revoker

Sat 26th Mar • £12 adv  
6.30pm - 10pm

## Boot Led Zepellin

Tues 29th Mar • £13 adv

## The Blackout

+ Swellers + Hyro da Hero

Sat 9th Apr • £8.50 adv  
6.30pm

## Definitely Mightbe

(Oasis Tribute)

## + Changing Man

(Paul Weller Tribute)

Sun 10th Apr 2011 • £20.43 adv

## Big Country

Weds 13th Apr • £13 adv  
6.30pm

## Bowling For Soup

An Acoustic Evening with  
Jaret & Erik + People on Vacation  
+ Erik Chandler & the Mulberry  
St Socialites + Linus of Hollywood

Mon 18th Apr 2011 • £17.50 adv  
6.30pm

## Magnum

Weds 20th Apr • £10 adv

## Metronomy

+ Connan Moccasin  
+ Keyboard Choir

Fri 29th Apr • £12 adv  
6.30pm

## Katy B

Sat 7th May • £9 adv

## Brother

Fri 13th May • £12 adv

## Warpaint

Sat 14th May • £10 adv  
6.30pm

## Guns 2 Roses

Tues 17th May 2011 • £15 adv

## The Alarm

30th Anniversary Tour

Sat 21st May • £5 adv

## Upstairs + The Launch Edition

Sat 21st May • £5 adv / £6 on door  
£5 NUS / £4 NHS

10.30pm - 3am • over 18s only

## Propaganda

ft. Huw Stephens

+ Trashy + Room 101

Sat 28th May • £8 adv  
6.30pm

## Misstallica

All Chick Tribute To Metallica

Sat 4th June • £8 adv  
6.30pm - 10pm

## Cash (Johnny Cash Tribute)

Sat 17th Sept • £12.50 adv  
6.30pm - 10pm

## The Jamm



**Propaganda**  
THE UK'S BIGGEST INDIE NIGHT  
**EVERY SATURDAY**  
O<sub>2</sub> ACADEMY  
OXFORD

M R	PROPAGANDA	R	TRASHY	R	ROOM 101
A O	THE BEST NEW	O	KITCH GLAM	O	ROCK
I O	CLASSIC INDIE	O	POP AND	O	METAL &
N M	ALTERNATIVE	M	GUILTY	M	PUNK
	MUSIC	2	PLEASURES	3	ANTHEMS

**£5 ADMISSION, £5 NUS/MEMBERS, £4 NHS**  
**10:30PM-3AM, DRINKS FROM £1.95**  
WEEKLY PHOTOS, MORE INFO & ADVANCE TICKETS:  
[WWW.THEPROPAGANDA.COM](http://WWW.THEPROPAGANDA.COM)

Tickets for Saturday night shows include free entry to Propaganda / Trashy / Room 101 (or £6, £5 NUS / members, £4 NHS on the door)