



RECORD of the DAY

ISSUE 405 / 2 DECEMBER 2010

You were so smart then, in your jacket and coat

TOP 5 MUST-READ ARTICLES

See inside for links...

- ▶ Virgin Media has launched a new set top box which will allow users to access Twitter and YouTube from their TV.
- ▶ Today's hottest musicians don't understand is that the secret of a long career is a decent back catalogue – and their indifference is killing the music industry.
- ▶ Beggars Group chairman Martin Mills says he would have to think twice about carrying on in the music business without iTunes.
- ▶ Eminem leads the Grammy nominations with 10 nods including album, record and song of the year.
- ▶ The Pirate Bay's co-founders lost their appeal against convictions for encouraging illegal filesharing, and have had their collective fine increased by £1.3m to £4.1m.

record of the week

Gay Pirates

Cosmo Jarvis

25th Frame/SSL

Stephen Fry's [tweet](#) linking to Cosmo Jarvis' [video](#) for *Gay Pirates* last week helped push it to 70,000 views over the weekend alone, placing it in the top 5 most viewed YouTube music videos in the UK (and the top 75 worldwide). The poignant and rousing track is the first single from the new Cosmo Jarvis album *Is the World Strange or am I Strange?*, due out next year. We first [featured](#) him earlier this year with *Crazy*

Screwed Up Lady. This song presents a striking development of Jarvis as a lyricist. When Brian Eno is singing your praises, as he did recently on 6Music - "(he) is a very interesting example to me of a new kind of person; a new kind of artist"- you must be doing something right. Radio support has come from a host of 6 Music shows including Chris Hawkin, Tom Robinson, Steve Lamacq and Lauren Laverne, with XFM plays from John Kennedy. "It's vivid, violent and the most tragically moving love song we've heard all year" - Dan Martin, NME. Cosmo Jarvis is available for records and publishing.

Released: January 23



P2 RotD awards



P8 Compass

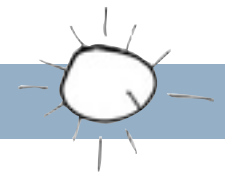


15 Records of the Week



CADIZ MUSIC

WORLDWIDE SALES MARKETING AND DISTRIBUTION



We're just recovering from our seventh awards, and it's gratifying to see them growing in importance each year. The number of people attending isn't likely to grow considerably – unless we expand to other areas of media/ broadcasting - but for those in our world, we aim to deliver a must-be-at event. There's a few who think it's only worth attending if they stand a chance of winning, which is a shame, as we hope it's as much about catching up with old friends and even paying a little respect to those Outstanding Contribution recipients.

And while we know it's a very sociable event, the level of talking during the show remains disappointing. We know you're catching up with friends, but even so, please show a little respect for the winners. This year Matt Everitt (in whom we think we've found the perfect host) didn't need his air-horn, so maybe things are improving.

We followed the same route for selecting the winners as usual. Longlists were published to give suggestions to voters. Twitter played an ever increasing part of nominees attempts to hustle for votes. We had a relatively short voting window this year, but still a record number of votes. We've found since year one, although we try and make it the readers' votes count as much as possible, and making ourselves mere conduits for those votes, there are points where we have to step in and

Listen to an interview with some of our winners in the audio piece on our awards page. Made by Eric Whelan

override. We look at the quality of voters and the comments from them in coming to our decision. One complaint that we perhaps leave ourselves open to is the narrow world we reward each year – and I'm sure there are publications and PRs that aren't on our radar – we can only try for a more inclusive offering next year.

The self-interest and nominations from outside the industry have to be given consideration, otherwise we'd end up with some laughable results. We don't always agree on the eventual winners, not least amongst ourselves, but we work hard to get a fair result. We've had gripes about The Guardian or Alexis Petridis winning too often, and indeed, from any award organiser's perspective, it's healthier to have a rotation of winners, but that's who you voted for. We wonder how much chance some writers have, if they're tucked away in the "wrong" publication, but that's not our fault. We deliberately introduced the 'feature of the year' to replace 'feature writer' to give a writer a chance to shine with a single piece. The Times' content going behind a paywall had some effect, but not as much as we expected – although Caitlin Moran's winning feature first went up just before the paywall.

Last year's student writer winner found himself fast-tracked to success with various publications, and we will work with this year's winner to get her started in her career. Unsurprisingly, there was some disquiet from the blogging community over the Best Blog, but it's hard to imagine harmony. In many ways, we'd be more concerned if there was consensus in the blogging community, given

Outstanding Contribution to Music Journalism

Wilko:

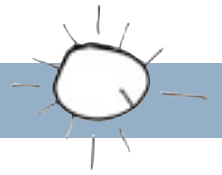
The first time I met this guy, he started telling me how I'd been putting different pick ups on a Gibson guitar. I didn't know what he was talking about, but he is a musician and a very good one, and tonight we salute him for his writing.

Charles Shaar Murray:

It's also a great honour to be presented with this award by someone who's not only a friend but a hero and influence of mine. The legendary Wilko Johnson, one more time. I realise that there's a free bar, you guys have a short attention span, I'm going to make this fast. Chalk this up as one more for the NME, it's good to know that my former alma mater is once again cool after a long time of not being so. I also owe this one to all the great editors who taught me my craft when I



was starting out: at Oz magazine Richard Neville, Jim Anderson and Felix Dennis, at Cream Bob Houston and Charlie Gillett, both of whom are sadly no longer with us. At the NME, Alan Smith, Nick Logan, Tony Tyler, Ian MacDonald and Neil Spencer. I've just one thing to say about music writing - if music writing is ever going to be any damn good, it's got to be about more than just the music. It's got to be about what the music's about, it's got to be about the space in the world culturally, socially, politically and spiritually where the music exists. Thank you very much for this people. Just goes to show if you stick around long enough and you stay alive, you get your props. Stay with it people, peace be upon ya, live long and prosper, thank you.



that they are supposed to be the anarchic disruptive force of music journalism.

It was a delight to see Simon Price win live reviewer. He's normally in the shortlist, so getting his award after a year where we have particularly enjoyed his work feels right. Some people have a good year, so it's downhill from here, Simon.

Krissi Murison was a popular choice of editor of the year in the voting, having sneaked into the top five last year, despite then only having been recently appointed. We've been loathe to have some 'publication brand' award instead of magazine, but at a time when most magazines are seeing drops in circulation, we get a sense that NME was voted for for its overall importance rather than just the printed paper itself. Krissi has made the magazine seem 'new' again, and no doubt that's what appeals to voters. We'd like to see more recognition for the, predominately rock titles, that hold or increase their sales figures, but it's the more general publications that pull the most votes.

In the PR stakes, no-one complained to us about the award for Tinie Tempah's PR campaign. We bumped into Janet Choudry after the winners were decided and she told us how much she loved working with him, and loved her job in general. It was pleasing that the wider industry recognised the job she did, along with the newly re-energised EMI Artist Publicity department.

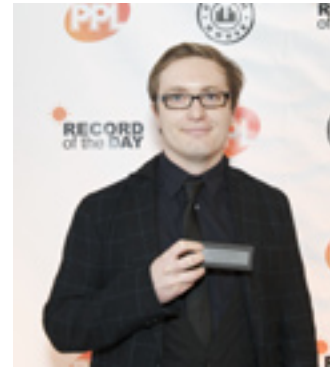
This year we reintroduced standalone online categories for both independent companies and in-house PR departments. Though we feel we may have dropped the ball by not singling out the online PRs who had a hand in the winning campaigns for Plan B and Tinie Tempah, we strive to give a fair recognition for digital campaigns.

Hopefully before #rotd2011 comes around, we'll have kept tabs on the most important PR campaigns on the pages of this magazine. We also hope that we'll have had a chance to meet as many great music PR people in person as possible, to get a sense of what we should be rewarding.

Many congratulations to the winners, and thank you to all of our attendees for making our awards an important and fun night in the calendar.



RotD contributor Nicola Slade and 6Music's Matt Everitt



Drowned in Sound's Sean Adams



Peter Robinson



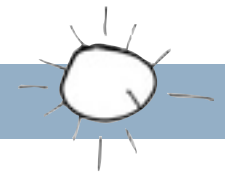
Michael Hann



Ollie Russian

Caitlin Moran





Alexis Petridis

Kate Etteridge of LD



Ruth and Beth Drake of Toast



Team EMI Artist Publicity



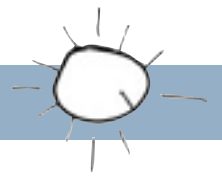
Peter again



Record of the Day Awards for Music Journalism and PR 2010

- Student writer (voted by a panel of journalists) - Kate Allen, Reading University
- Best Publication (voted by students) - Drowned in Sound
- Best Writer (voted by students) - Peter Robinson
- Best Blog - My Band1s Better Than Your Band
- Best PR Campaign for a Breakthrough Act - Tinie Tempah (Janet Choudry, EMI Artist Publicity)
- Live Reviews: Writer of the Year - Simon Price, The Independent on Sunday
- Best PR Campaign for an Established Act - Plan B (Ruth and Beth Drake, Toast Press)
- Record Reviews: Writer of the Year - Alexis Petridis, The Guardian
- Best Music Coverage in a Newspaper- The Guardian 'Film & Music1 Digital Publication of the Year - NME.com
- Best In-House PR Person - Janet Choudry, EMI Artist Publicity
- Best In-House PR Department - EMI Artist Publicity
- Best In-House Online PR - Stuart Freeman, EMI Artist Publicity
- Breaking Music: Writer of the Year - Peter Robinson, Popjustice
- Feature of the Year - Caitlin Moran for 'Lady Gaga' in The Times
- PR Reputation Management - Cheryl Cole (Sundraj Sreenivasan, Supersonic)
- Best Independent PR Person - Nikki Wright-McNeill, Global
- Best Independent PR Company - Dawbell
- Best Online PR Company - Anorak
- Best Reissue PR Campaign - Rolling Stones 'Exile on Main St' (Kate Etteridge, LD Communications)
- Editor of the Year - Krissi Murison, NME
- Magazine of the Year - NME

- Outstanding Contribution to Music Journalism Award - Charles Shaar Murray
- Outstanding Contribution to PR Award - Terri Hall
- Outstanding Contribution to Music Photography Award - Mick Rock



Best Independent PR
Company - **Dawbell**

Rich Dawes

The awards are recognition from your peers and some of the people you speak to every day. It's a great chance to see everyone and catch up.. we've been going 14 months and set up a company with our savings, so (to win would be) great.



Best Independent PR Person
Nikki Wright-McNeill,
Global

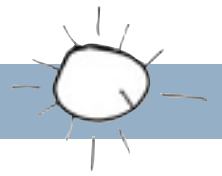
It's a really lovely feeling after being in the industry for 14 years to finally be recognised for your hard work and know that people do actually respect and appreciate you. It's also amazing to see how large the major record label PR departments are and what you're competing against.



Editor of the Year /
Magazine of the Year/ Digital
Publication of the Year
Krisi Murison, NME
Winning best editor is amazing, especially when you consider who votes. It's a load of music journalists and music PRs, so literally the most cynical people in the world in one room and the fact that they voted me best editor is very special. I wish everyone had been here so we could have all got on stage together.



Live Reviews: Writer of the Year
Simon Price, The Independent on Sunday
It's the first award I've won since I was 12 years old. I won the English prize, which I pissed myself laughing about, since I'm not even English. I'm very very proud, even though I don't use many pencils. I'm sure it will make a good hair accessory of some sort. I've been bitching for weeks about how I probably wasn't nominated. Winning the award will hopefully give me some bargaining power. I've been doing this job for 10 years and I was on the same wage when I started and it wasn't big in the first place, let me tell you. I hope I can barge into the editor's office tomorrow morning brandishing this metal pencil and say 'give me more money', and if they say 'no' I can at least attempt to gouge their eyes out with the sharp end - who knows? But I'd like to thank the Independent On Sunday for giving me the platform to do this, of course...



Paul Stokes, Krissi Murison & Tim Chester



Stuart Freeman of EMI



Lucius and Tasha of Anorak



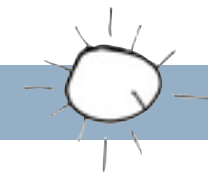
Janet Choudry of EMI

Team NME



Terri Hall

rotd awards



Charles, Mark Ellen and Debra Geddes



Paul Scaife and Lexy Topping



Team Cadiz



Caitlin and Mark

Live shows never run smoothly: Paul Scaife apologises for being on the phone to Tinie Tempah's manager – not a good look at an award show! We ran a bit ahead of schedule and Tinie never got to present to Janet Choudry.

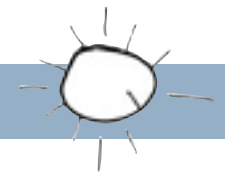


James Brown, son and Terri Hall



Nick Hasted and David Sinclair





#rotd10 Tweets We Liked

[Partisanpr](#)

Thanks to anyone who voted us into the Top 5 Best Breakthrough Campaigns at ROTD for Rumer. Mum's multiple email accounts clearly paid off.

[KrugerMike](#)

ROTD awards.... what a hilarious popularity contest. Love it!
(Editor's note: Mike was voted Best Editor in 2009)

[davidcbalfour](#)

Some one standing near me really needs a wash. I would like to assure you it isn't me.

[Matt6Music](#)

@adrian_read @caitlinmoran Don't drag me into your petty "I got an award"/"I don't care" spat. Music was the real winner last night.

Caitlin Moran: @matt6music @adrian_read The REAL winner was whoever can ripped of Paul Scaife for those pens, Matt

[missladylee](#) (Annette Lee, 4AD)

Also, we were robbed! Beggars press gang united regardless.

[TheLilacTime](#)

Could anyone point me towards the traditional pictures of award winning @alexispetridis in a state of befuddled deschevele?

[SamuelHextall](#) (Six07 Press)

I feel like I'm on a comedown. I reckon a rival pr spiked my drink yesterday or someone just wanted to date rape me.....ovo

[RozzerM](#) (Roz Mansfield, Atlantic Records)

Back from #ROTD10. Great chats, ending in brilliant conversation with taxi driver about life & death, morals & karma, general philosophy

[SeanHarwood](#) (Idea Generation)

so i didnt win anything but I think there should have been a special award for getting #rotd10 all the free bud. not bitter or anything.

[DorcasDarling](#)

ROTD awards a loveable shambles. Well done Caitlin Moran, best feature for the Gaga piece. Groucho for tea now. Old school.

[@NeilMcCorm1ck](#) (not Neil McCormick):

At the ROTD awards. I do believe I am being presented with lifetime achievement by none other than The Edge. I think!!!!

[simon_price01](#)

For someone who cultivates a 'sulky outsider' image, it was weird feeling like a peer-approved, backslapped insider for a night...

[caitlinmoran](#)

At the ROTDAwards last night,my proudest moment was making WORD

editor Mark Ellen try to re-open the bar with the words "I KNOW TONY BLAIR!"

[GdnFilmandMusic](#)

My Record of the Day award - a mechanical pencil - is already broken, because @caitlinmoran dropped it. It worked for 27 seconds.

[mrjamesfoley](#)

I cannot believe I turned down a ticket to Elton John at Union Chapel for #rotd10 - still, well done to those who won!

[ConorMcNicholas](#)

Am about to watch Elton John at the Union. I couldn't be more excited if Lindsey Lohan was about to sit on my face.
(Editor's note: Conor was voted Best Editor in 2006)

[BenUrdang](#)

Everyone's so "ROTD Awards chitchat love-ins". Just because I went to see ELTON JOHN it's like MY LIFE IS OVER. Soalone.

[SammyShowbiz](#) (Samantha Wood, X Magazine)

Still in my dress from last night's ROTD awards. Your fault, @Popjustice @beccanicholson @samwolfson @morwennastar @issssy

[SeanInSound](#)

If DiS did PR, we'd totally be biking every journalist a bacon buttie and a cinnamon muffin this morning...
#rotd2011votecanvassing

Best Student Writer: Kate Allen, Reading University

What course are you studying at the moment?

I'm in my second year of an English Literature degree at Reading University.

Have you told anyone on the course of your award win?

What have they made of it? The editor of Reading's student paper (Spark) is thrilled that one of the editorial team is getting some national recognition. Plus a few of the music writing team saw news stories about the awards and passed on their congratulations. Other than that, I keep myself to myself.

People would have you believe that both the music industry and print media are in terminal decline. Why choose music journalism? My music-orientated family household and want to write creatively but informatively have always been behind my want to be a music journalist. I think the music industry and print media are having a hard time of it, but they will survive because they have to. I don't think the kudos of music magazines will ever be replaced as they are the physical, glossy products of original ideas

and writing. Hopefully the humble CD will undergo a renaissance sometime soon; clicking 'buy' is a very unromantic existence for music fans.

Last year's winner went on to work for The Fly, NME, AOL and The Quietus - are there any publications that you particularly admire?

I've been religiously buying NME since I was 15, but my other favourite titles are Q, Uncut and Rolling Stone. I miss Smash Hits a little bit though.

What would be your ideal commission? To investigate the inner-workings of Michael Jackson's estate and find out what kind of archive material they have hidden away.

Thank you to PPL and Jonathan Morrish for supporting this award





The hottest unsigned acts of the moment

The Staves

We understand that the trio, sisters Emily, Jessica and Camilla Staveley-Taylor from Watford, have been signed to Atlantic. Recent packed London gigs and previous praise for their their EP 'Facing West' led to label and publisher interest.

Contact:

thestaves@gmail.com



Dry The River

London five-piece Dry The River's recent London gigs have been busy with A&R, as plans form for the band to release a 7" on Transgressive early next year – they have already recorded demos for Atlantic. Offers from majors are expected on this band soon. Currently on a big nationwide tour which included support slots with Paloma Faith and Plan B.

Contact: stephen.budd@record-producers.com / al@comeondieyoung.co.uk

Jagga

Featured on RotD this week. Jagga, signed to EMI for publishing is attracting interest from a variety of labels. Gold Dust gig last week had A&R attending

from majors and indies alike. Another London show at XOYO has been announced for December 15 with other acts tipped for success next year: Sunday Girl, The Milk and Talking Pictures.

Contact: will@northpolemanagement.com / paul@northpolemanagement.com

Alex Winston

21 year-old Detroit-born, New York-based singer working with production duo The Knocks. Already had syncs on Entourage, Drop Dead Diva and One Tree Hill; with some commercial licenses of tracks in the pipeline. Among the gigs

lined up for next year include an NME Awards Show night in February.

Contacts: rene@blackmathmusic.com

Ed Sheeran

19 year-old from Suffolk, managed by Todd Interland, who has performed with a variety of artists including, Nizlopi, Scorchers and Example (who he supported on tour). About to finish collaborations project with Sway, Wretch32, Random Impulse and Skepta. Has showcased for Universal Republic recently in the US and interest is still strong from labels here. Check out recent coverage in [The Sun](#).

London gigs this week.

Contact: info@wabbie.com

Buzzing under: **Kayne Raime, The Knocks, Ben Earle, IO Echo, Tribes,**

News

Ninja Tune's publishing imprint Just Isn't Music has signed Sam Shepherd aka **Floating Points**.

Geffen signing **Brother** sign to EMI Music Publishing, as does Island signing **Mona**.

Kobalt Music Australia has signed a worldwide administration deal with local act Art vs Science – the first by the company since opening two months ago.

Martin Kierszenbaum, Chairman of Cherrytree Records, President of A&R, Pop & Rock, Interscope Records & President of International Operations for Interscope Geffen A&M has been A&R'ing the new album for **FrankMusik** and has co-written a number of songs. The new single for the upcoming release is called 'Fear Inside', which is co-written by Kierszenbaum. (A&R Worldwide)

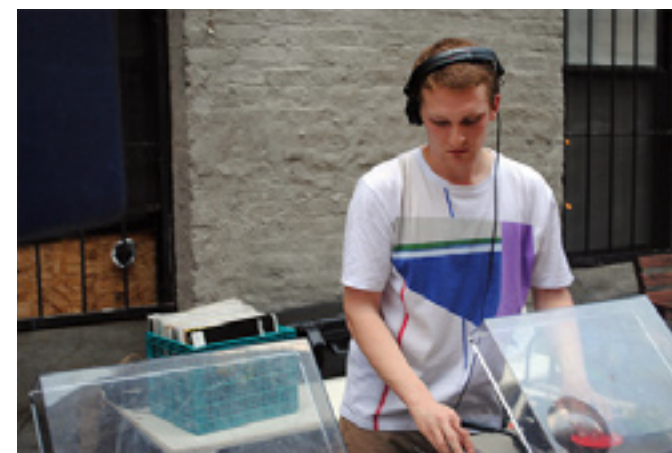
BMG Rights Management announced that it has signed an administration agreement with Blue Noise Limited and Sonic Seduction Limited. Under the terms BMG will oversee the rights to **Orchestral Manoeuvres in the Dark (OMD)** related to their latest album, History of Modern. (A&R Worldwide)

Sony/ATV Music Publishing has announced the signing of **Fraser T Smith** to a worldwide publishing deal.

The new agreement will see all of Smith's new works effective March 2011 forward being with Sony/ATV Music Publishing. Previously, Smith was signed with Chrysalis who were acquired by BMG Rights Management last week. (A&R Worldwide)

Def Jam Rapstar and Atlantic Records UK to offer a record deal to the winner of a nationwide search, through the video game, for Britain's best new rapper. ([story](#))

Floating Points





◉ We really don't have a problem with Jack White auctioning off the limited edition vinyl on his Third Man label. His point is plenty of others will buy the singles with the sole intent of reselling them so why shouldn't he, and the artist, have that money. We don't know if the tracks are available as a download or stream, but that would be the obvious strategy to placate fans that were left out. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/music/2010/dec/01/jack-white-ebay-auctions>

◉ On a similar note, we immediately pre-ordered two copies of the David Lynch vinyl single, featured as a Record of the Day this week. And no, no plans to sell either off for a profit, tempting though it may be.

◉ Ayi Jihu was reported to be the 'Chinese Madonna' in the British press this September. It's now suggested by China Music Radar that she isn't really a global superstar but a PR hoax by none other than Quite Great

Communications, home to campaigns including Sandi Thom.

◉ One wonders if Steve Lamacq would be quite so free in his opinions about Geffen signings Brother if he still had a Radio 1 show?

◉ If we thought the lead up to the awards was busy, post-event has seen little let up, so we're still a bit light on reporting on the week past. However, with Arcade Fire, Janelle Monae, Vampire Weekend, Leftfield and a couple of parties coming up, we should have plenty to say next week.

◉ We loved these [letters](#) featured on the Letters Of Note blog during the week. Two notes written by James Brown, one a break-up letter to a woman, another to someone who owes him royalties for sampling his work. We can but wonder what a handwriting analyst would make of it all.

◉ NME's [choice](#) of These New Puritans' album 'Hidden' as their album of the year marks a return to a more contrary and

less obvious decision. The Angular/Domino release will deservedly get a revisit from critics and fans alike, unlike recent winners Arctic Monkeys, Klaxons, MGMT etc, which had already had a good outing before the end of the year

◉ Robbie Williams' merchandise [site](#) features some very bizarre items. Travel set of candles anyone?

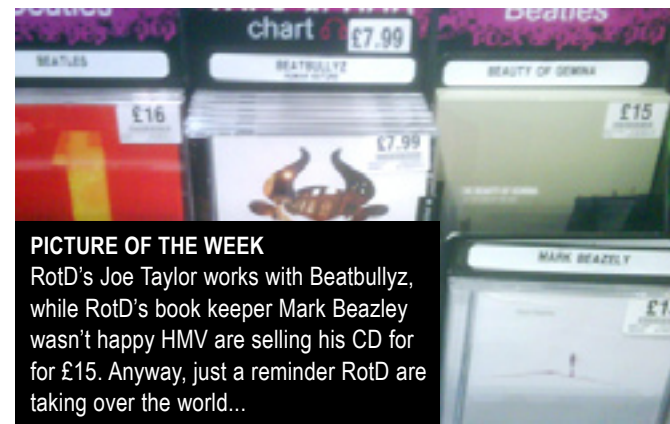
◉ Mirror's 3am today had a bit on the stars who have come out saying 'Michael' is an inferior product. The line from the piece headlined 'Will raps new album': will.i.am, who once recorded with MJ believes it is 'disrespectful'. Except that above that line was a picture not of will.i.am, but his BEP bandmate apl.de.ap. Nice of The Mirror to be so respectful to the people they're quoting as to know who they are.

◉ A radio controlled car that is powered once around the track for each text sent to Radio 1 while Justin Bieber chats to Fearne Cotton? Do the Audio and Music

Interactive team at the Beeb have a lot of time for projects like [this](#), then?

◉ We're seeing the widely-tipped Clare Maguire more often in the evenings these days than we're seeing our own family and friends. The latest being yesterday's announcement of HMV's Next Big Thing festival, where she braved the pain of her two broken ribs to perform. The evening was also special, as Simon Fox noted, it being 25 years since Head Of Press & PR Gennaro Castaldo joined the company. Here's to the next 25!

◉ We have ears all over the awards venue: Whose acceptance speech was followed by his colleagues saying "Don't make a speech"? Which formerly victorious publication were shamed into silencing their sniping at rivals by Mongrel shooting them a dirty look? Which writer had to be asked to restrain himself after having a go at a much-loved PR? We couldn't possibly say...



PICTURE OF THE WEEK

RotD's Joe Taylor works with Beatbullyz, while RotD's book keeper Mark Beazley wasn't happy HMV are selling his CD for for £15. Anyway, just a reminder RotD are taking over the world...

Tweets We Liked

[petepaphides](#) Waitrose Taramasalata Supreme is the Suede with Bernard in to the Suede without Bernard of Waitrose normal taramasalata.

[robinturner](#) Why oh why oh why did no one tell me that the Pigalle's NYE party is a one off night with Mitch Winehouse??? #cancelallplansever

[jamesjammcmahon](#) When future generations ask me "where were you when Wagner got kicked off X Factor?" I will reply "in a Boston aquarium looking at newt"

[eddychemical](#) Really could a few more people let me know what their top ten albums of the year are..so fascinating

[MySpace_Tom](#) Hello? Hello? So this is where you all got to. I am glad I have found you all again. I was so alone.

[wearevillagers](#) Why the fuck are The Script soundtracking the finale of the march in Dublin?!

[fleetfoxes](#) Been working for nine months on something that will sell for 3.99 on Amazon MP3. That's about the price of a whoopie cushion.

[Johnny_Marr](#) David Cameron, stop saying that you like The Smiths, no you don't. I forbid you to like it.

[ClareMaguire](#) My life has just been made complete - I was just played on Corrie!! Ahh! Kev, Sal, Tyrone!



Ollie Russian blogger
My Band's Better Than Your Band

If you had to tip one artist to break through in 2011, who would you back?

Is saying Clare Maguire too obvious? I seriously hope that The Vaccines smash it in 2011, it's about time the UK got back on track with producing and supporting the best bands in the world. Other notable mentions would be Mona, Brother, Naked & The Famous, Yaaks, Trophy Wife, The Knocks...

Is there a band or track that you were first to feature in the blogosphere that you are particularly proud of?

There are a load of things in the last year that I've had exclusives on that I'm really grateful for the bands providing. I'm pretty chuffed to have been able to post some great exclusive tracks from Chad Valley back in July though!

What's your day job?

My day job is the blog and a whole variety of musical pies including co-running Back To The Future a weekly club at the Borderline and DJing like a demon across the UK!

What would be your dream job in music?

It would be nice to have my own singles label!

Do you make any money from the blog or do you have any plans to try and make money?

I don't make a penny from the blog. For 2011 I'm hoping to give the site a bit of an overhaul and make it a bit more professional. I don't think it will ever make me money in itself, although I would love to launch a singles label off the back of it and I have plans to launch a monthly night in the New Year focussing on acts bigged up on the blog.

Do you still go to record stores and buy vinyl/CDs?

I honestly can't remember the last time I bought a CD. I guess having worked in the industry for so long I'm used to blagging music, which is terrible. Most of the music I listen to is new stuff I tend to find online. I actually find it quite scary the amount of free music that is available on the web, in one afternoon I can easily download 75+

tracks from acts (signed and unsigned) completely legally - just from blogs alone. If kids can get all that music legally and so easily is it any wonder that record sales are on the decline?

Have you got any tactics to help you stand out from other music blogs?

I'm not a music journalist. I'm very aware of my shortcomings as a writer, so I tend to just keep things lighthearted and try and focus on the best new music I can find. I don't see the point of any blog waxing lyrical about a piece of music and going to great lengths to describe it, when all that anyone needs to do is simply download the track and listen to it. MBBTYB is meant to just focus on great music as well as being funny, sarcastic, rude and in some cases just offensive. I'd like to think that people actually read the bog rather than just scroll down to grab the free tunes!

If you received a leaked album by your favourite band way ahead of release date, would you post it?

No, never. And I don't think Menswe@r are releasing any more albums anyway... Seriously though, the blog is built on getting great music from a variety of sources, either scouting myself or from tips through my industry contacts. I wouldn't want to jeopardise any relationships by posting something that I shouldn't and ultimately it only ends up doing the band damage. Saying that, I'd maybe leak an album by a band I hated.

Have you faced any legal issues over posting music?

I've never had any problems on the legal front, which I'm actually quite surprised about. I've had a couple of emails from people asking me to stream a track rather than allow it to be downloaded, but nothing heavy!

Do you ever post music you don't like?

Sometimes, maybe. I think

having worked as a radio plugger and for a major label, I can see the reasons why something can be blog worthy, even if it's not to my particular taste. If there is a super-hot new band that everyone is talking about, then I may well feature them to reflect that.

What are your favourite mp3 blogs?

I love Fucking Dance, Illegal Tender and The Recommender. All three are fantastic UK based blogs that are really on it and always find the best new acts.

Do you read traditional music magazines and papers? Which ones?

I skim NME every week, I actually think it's the best it's been in years since Krissi took over. I read the Fly and Word and that's about it.

How much influence do you think you have? Is your influence growing?

MBBTYB is growing all the time, over the last few months I've been on panels at In The City and gusted

Where are you based?

Based in London, just off Holloway Road, near the prison for the bad ladies.

What made you start a blog?

Basically I left Atlantic Records at the end of 2009 and decided that writing a blog about all the great new music I find was the best way to keep myself in the game! It was nice to finally be able to tell everyone about new acts I'd found, rather having to keep it all secretive.

Who are your three favourite artists?

At the moment I'm loving Sissy & The Blisters, the best unsigned band in Britain, Peers from Reading are very young and very exciting, and I'm a big fan of The Vaccines!

media spotlight

on Amazing Radio and HypeMachine Radio, all of which have been great platforms to spread the word about the blog. I'm also about to launch a fortnightly radio show called MBBTYB on Shoreditch Radio which is a new online station that's about to start. I think the blog is one of the most widely read UK music blogs, especially in terms of the music industry itself. I know that if I post an unsigned act then very quickly they will have a flurry of emails from music industry people wanting to find out more. I think anyone in A&R, management or PR who isn't checking out the site on a weekly basis really isn't doing their job properly.

In a more general sense, how do you think music blogging has developed over the past few years? Has it managed to establish its own place in the music press?

I think music blogs are the modern day equivalent of fanzines but with a much bigger audience and potentially a much bigger

influence. Obviously over the last few years PRs have really started to take note so I guess what was once a lot more DIY and simply for the love of music has now evolved to be a genuine media platform in itself. Blogs are hugely important now, a few years ago if you were a new band the first thing you'd do would be to try and get your debut single or demo played on the radio, you'd be running straight to Lamacq or John Peel. Now the majority of acts have to approach the blogging world first to get that initial exposure. The traditional music press and specialist radio is very led by what is going on in the blog world, although I do think that sometimes the influence of the Hype Machine (which I LOVE) can create a slightly skewed version of what is actually going on.

What's the best way to send music to you?

Best way to get music to me is to drop me an email: ollieurussian@gmail.com

business



Chrysalis chairman Chris Wright said "I think it's very hard to really say there's a sustainable business model for a record company" on a [Sky News](#) interview. (Thurs)

BMG Rights Management has agreed a deal to acquire Chrysalis for £107.4 million. (Sat [Mail](#), [Independent](#), [Telegraph](#), [Guardian](#), [FT](#), [Billboard](#)) The offer price of 160 pence per Chrysalis share represents a 46% premium on the closing share price on October 29 (when Chrysalis disclosed it was in talks).

Chrysalis chairman and founder Chris Wright has been invited to join the supervisory board of BMG and to become non-executive UK Chairman of BMG.

Billboard Q&A: Chrysalis' Chris Wright & BMG's Hartwig Masuch. The Chrysalis chairman and the BMG CEO discuss the deal, the prospect of overtaking one of the major publishers and the EMI offer that got rejected. (Sat [Billboard](#))

A round-up of music

company earnings in the third quarter. (Weds [Billboard](#)) "Music companies stumble, Apple stuns".

Mute is setting up a management company to sit alongside its record label and publishing arms, following its return to independence two months ago. (Tues [Music Week](#))

Future, publisher of Metal Hammer and Classic Rock, posts a 9% rise in profits, but says the outlook for 2011 remains 'cautious'. ([Standard](#))

Alex MacNutt has been appointed Head of Compilations at Warner Music UK, having previously worked at Telstar TV and consulted for Ministry of Sound and UMTV. (Fri [RotD](#))

Britain's biggest nightclub chain Luminar is testing a scheme that will introduce karaoke booths in a number of their biggest nightclubs. (Tues Times) They've also announced the launch of Ministry of Sound club nights and deals with acts like Calvin Harris and Basshunter.

Mike Stock, songwriter and record producer, is bringing his pop musical Go!Go!Go! Show back to Leicester Square Theatre.

Tell us about the show – what does it do that's new?

We started the show with a run in July and August, and I think we're hitting the mark. I know we're not driving sexual images into the heads of kids, we're trying to be entertaining without resorting to sexuality. Simon Cowell says 'sex sells', it was a mantra of the entertainment industry – but it doesn't mean nothing else will.

Comparisons to Glee! and High School Musical are probably inevitable, is there anything to set Go!Go!Go! apart from those?

I don't mind being compared with High School Musical or the first few episodes of Glee. Since then though, Glee have introduced relationships and sexual themes, and turned it into a marketing campaign. But I wanted to write songs that were not condescending to kids, and that mums and dads wanted to take their kids to and enjoy, as opposed to something like the Wiggles. The principle behind it was U-certificate pop entertainment.



The show's got a feature-packed website and its own YouTube channel, are they doing good numbers?

They are. And well, you know what YouTube is like in other areas, it's pretty awful. But our website and YouTube channel are completely safe, and parents know that.

Outside of ticket sales, how is the show generating revenue? The website has a shop section – but no CD on sale...

Merchandise is doing pretty well, but we're not going overboard in terms of flogging t-shirts. You put the shows on, you sell the tickets, you break even – we don't really have to sell merchandise at the moment. The show in summer was a soft launch, and since then we've made a few changes based on feedback from the audiences. At the moment we're concentrating on driving people to Leicester Square, but we want this to go national and then international. People are asking me why we're not stocking a CD – but we're not ready for it yet. But it's not about releasing records, it's about bringing families in to enjoy pop music.

Have you a timeframe in mind for taking the show national and then international?

We're going to tour the country next year, maybe early Spring or around May. We've already had a request to take the guys out to Australia and also South Africa, but we're growing in a British way, an organic way. We'll see how it goes.

You hit the headlines earlier this year after comments about the sexualisation of pop – are those comments you stand by?

Absolutely. Sure, Elvis wiggled his hips, and the Beatles made the girls swoon, but back then you didn't have a digital world of pop being thrown in your face – and the charts were a mixture of the old stuff and the new stuff, there was a balance: I saw Jimi Hendrix beside Engelbert Humperdinck on Top of the Pops. Now if all you got was Elvis wiggling his hips, that would be a different story – but that's what we get now with pop. And it isn't all about wearing short skirts and selling make-up to five year olds.

Can you think of any potential remedies to the current problems facing the record industry?

Well, the industry could go either way, but I think you have to stop giving music away. As it is it's free with your Sunday papers, you can get it in petrol stations, in supermarkets, everybody's selling it – it's silly. The first job would be making a download off iTunes cost £1.50 minimum, that values music where it should be. If people think music is cheap and disposable, they treat it that way, that's why Limewire and other sites flourish.





Music Week

- BMG Rights Management will spend the next year focusing on developing and investing in new talent after its acquisition of Chrysalis. (P1)
- Mute is setting up a management company to sit alongside its record label and publishing operations. (P1)
- Sunday Best have signed up David Lynch for a worldwide single deal with an album likely to follow. (P2)
- The Swedish Court of Appeal has upheld the ruling in the Pirate Bay case that the founders of the filesharing site are guilty of facilitating mass copyright information. The IFPI general counsel Jo Oliver has said this sends a strong message that torrent sites' days are numbered. (P2)
- Fraser T Smith has signed a worldwide publishing deal with Sony/ATV that will cover all of his works from March 2011 on. (P3)
- Music Week has launched the first in a series of monthly podcasts based around the Breakout live music event. (P3)
- The acquisition of Chrysalis by BMG Rights is a major prize for the publisher, who

continues to grow at an impressive rate. (P4)

- Take That's most determined international push since they reformed is expected to result in high chart debuts in a number of key European markets this week. (P4)
- HMV's Next Big Thing Festival is set to show its expanded reach when it returns in February 2011. (P4)
- OCC MD Martin Talbot believes that an album could pass half a million digital sales in the UK in 2011. (P5)
- Martin Mills of Beggars Group says iTunes has been fantastic for independent labels like his. (P5)
- Bauer Media will show off the strength of their local radio network in January, with up to 6m listeners expected to tune in for a Kings of Leon gig broadcast across Big City stations. (P6)
- Cost of festivals will increase further in 2011, thanks to the rise in VAT and a proposed hike in the PRS for Music tariff for live music. (P8)
- Secondary ticketing has been thrust back into the limelight after organisers of the Concert for Killing Cancer warned resold tickets will be turned away at the entrance. (P8)
- MusiXMatch is a new lyrics search engine that hopes to become the world leader in what is one of the most searched for categories online. (P9)
- Viewpoint: Lee Henshaw on how the UK is leading the way in online marketing. (P9)
- Ninja Tune's publishing outfit Just Isn't Music is looking to tap into the classical and jazz background of its newest signing Floating Points to encourage the artist to create bespoke compositions for use in syns. (P10)
- The rise in the number of re-records in UK advertising campaigns has seen an unexpected syncs windfall for publishers. (P10)
- The seasonal ad campaigns started in October this year, gaining attention for the music used earlier than ever. (P11)
- Uearthed: Jessie J (P12)
- Feature: Major record labels are investing more in TV promotion of long-standing music compilation series than previously. (P13)
- Feature: Downloads are providing a shot in the arm for plenty of classic Christmas hits - a trend set to continue this year. (P17)

Television & Radio

Friday

Radio
19.00 6 Music
Tom Robinson:
Billy Bragg
21.00 6 Music
Tom Ravenscroft:
Dark Dark Dark

TV

17.00 ITV1 Alan
Titchmarsh Show:
Alesha Dixon
22.35 BBC1
Graham Norton
Show: **Justin
Bieber**
00.15 Channel 4
Mercury Prize
Sessions: **The
Coral**
00.30 Channel 4
Originals: **Plan B**
01.00 Channel 4
On Track: **Clare
Maguire**

Saturday

Radio
13.00 R1 Jo
Whiley: **Pulled
Apart By Horses**

TV

13.20 BBC2 The
5:19 Show:
Alesha Dixon
20.25 BBC1
National Lottery
Draws: **N-Dubz**
22.25 ITV1 This Is
Michael Bublé
23.40 ITV1
Simply Red: For
The Last Time

Sunday

Radio
10.00 6 Music
Cerys Matthews:
Peter Wolf Crier
11.00 R2
Weekend Wogan:
**Katherine
Jenkins**

TV

10.00 BBC2
Something For
The Weekend:
**Manic Street
Preachers**
12.35 Channel 4
**Cheryl Cole T4
Special**
12.55 Channel 4
Album Chart
Show: **N-Dubz**
21.00 ITV1 The
Nation's Favourite
Abba Song

Monday

Radio
19.00 6 Music
Marc Riley:
Marnie Stern
20.00 R2 Mark
Radcliffe and
Stuart Maconie:
Pet Shop Boys

TV

8.00 ITV1
Daybreak: **Justin
Bieber**
17.00 ITV1 Alan
Titchmarsh Show:
Susan Boyle
23.35 ITV1 **Kings
of Leon:** Excess
All Areas
00.30 Channel 4
360 Sessions:
**Manic Street
Preachers**

Tuesday

Radio
13.00 6 Music
Nemone: **Black
Rebel Motorcycle
Club**

TV

8.00 ITV1
Daybreak: **Annie
Lennox**
10.30 ITV1 This
Morning: **Shane
McGowan and
The Priests**
22.35 BBC1
Imagine...**Bruce
Springsteen:**
Darkness
Revisited

Wednesday

Radio
19.00 6 Music
Marc Riley:
Soundcarriers
20.00 R2 Mark
Radcliffe and
Stuart Maconie:
**Belle and
Sebastian**

TV

8.00 ITV1
Daybreak: **Manic
Street Preachers**
10.30 ITV1 This
Morning: **Isabel
Suckling**
00.50 Channel 4
Mercury Prize
Sessions: **The
Coral**

Thursday

Radio
9.30 R2 Ken
Bruce: **Russell
Watson**

20.00 R2 **Taylor
Swift** In Concert

TV

10.30 ITV1 This
Morning:
**Katherine
Jenkins**

RECOMMENDED LONDON GIGS

Friday

Janelle Monae (w/ Vampire
Weekend), Alexandra Palace
**Ed Sheeran + Dot Rotten
+ Joel Culpepper**, The
Victoria, E3
Bright Light Bright Light,
Koko NW1

Sunday

Janelle Monae, O2
Shepherd's Bush Empire W12
Catherine AD (w/ Dar
Williams), Union Chapel N1

Monday

**cocknbulldid + Dominique
Young Unique + Visions Of**

Trees, XOYO EC2

Melanie Fiona, Scala N1

Tuesday

Mona + Flashguns, Hoxton
Square Bar & Kitchen N1
Jessie J, Scala N1

Wednesday

**Those Dancing Days
+ Stricken City + Dead
Models**, Lexington N1
**Films Of Colour + The
Chakras + Heathers + Edei**,
Proud NW1

Thursday

Thomas Dybdahl, The
Lexington N1



The least banal stories from the week's pop press

The Cure and Brian Wilson have been confirmed to headline 2011's Bestival. (Thurs [Standard](#)) The Foo Fighters are to headline T In The Park. (Thurs [BBC](#), [NME](#))

Filming will start next year on a movie based on the recording of The Clash's London Calling. (Thurs [Standard](#))

The Beatles will be reunited onstage thanks to digital technology, as Sir Paul McCartney and Ringo Starr play a charity gig in August next year. (Thurs [Star](#)) Images of John Lennon and George Harrison will be digitally added to the stage of the Hollywood Bowl.

An attorney for the father of Michael Jackson filed a new wrongful death lawsuit against the doctor accused of involuntary manslaughter in the singer's death. (Weds [Billboard](#))

Cheryl Cole has landed a £3m deal to be a judge on the American version of the X Factor. (Tues [Sun](#), [Mirror](#), [Mail](#), [Star](#), [Express](#)) She's rumoured to be weighing

up quitting the British show to concentrate on breaking America.

Cheryl Cole's assault conviction from 2003 could scupper her chances of appearing on the US version of the X Factor. ([Star](#) p4) Cole is reportedly still in talks to become a judge on the US version of the show, after being offered up to £3m to appear. (Weds [Standard](#), [Weds Metro](#), [Guardian](#))

Nelly has tweeted his disappointment with his record label Universal/Motown over poor sales of his latest album. (Weds [STL Today](#))

Handwritten lyrics to Bob Dylan's The Times They Are a-Changin could fetch \$300,000 at auction next week. (Weds [Guardian](#))

Lily Allen has slammed reports that that she was going to get married in the New Year, saying there was 'a time and a place' for stories like that to appear in the media. (Mon [Metro](#), [Star](#), [Express](#)) The original story had claimed that Allen

would marry her boyfriend as she continued to get over the recent loss of her baby. ([Mail on Sunday](#))

Lily Allen is taking legal action against the Daily Mail for an online article that featured pictures of her home. (Tues [Guardian.co.uk](#))

The Spider-man Broadway show, with music by Bono and The Edge, suffers technical problems on preview night, and fails to impress. (Tues [Guardian](#))

The Black Eyed Peas are to perform during the interval at the Super Bowl next year. (Mon [BBC](#))



From Music Editor James Foley and Music Consultant Joe Taylor

[Traktor](#) [Wretch 32](#)

Ministry Of Sound/Levels

Released: January 16

Jermaine Scott aka Wretch 32 has had underground success - the North London MC has sold an estimated 15,000 copies of his mixtapes. Arriving complete with praise from Professor Green, Devlin and Example, who all praise his wordplay, Wretch32 has collaborated with Chipmunk, Mike Skinner and Wiley and appeared live at Glastonbury and BBC's One Big Weekend. Now signed to Ministry imprint Levels Recordings, *Traktor* is his first official single. Described by Paul Lester at The Guardian as 'instantly, insanely infectious stuff', this feels like a crossover hit for early 2011. *Traktor* is already racking up plays on national radio, with Radio 1 support from Annie Mac, Zane Lowe, Mistajam and Nick Grimshaw. His first album due to be released by Ministry of Sound/Levels Recordings later next year. [Video](#).



[Treehouse](#) [Gold Fields](#)

unsigned/ Young & Lost

Released: December 6

Singles label Young & Lost release the first single from Melbourne band Gold Fields who are picking up label interest in the UK now. Having been together for little over three months, Australian radio station Triple J are keen supporters of their early demos. The release of the sublimely melodic *Treehouse* comes after some key London shows, including a spot at YoYo in Notting Hill Arts Club, The Line Of Best Fit's [night](#) at The Social and a support slot with The Naked And The Famous. They tour with Crystal Castles during a break from Australia's Big Day Out festival in January next year. In addition to this promising debut, we encourage you to check out their demos [here](#). A Val D'isere remix of *Treehouse* is available free [here](#). Gold Fields are available for records and publishing.

[Losing Composure](#) [Transfer](#)

unsigned

Released: Out Now

The 'Faces of 2011' feature in this month's Q magazine proclaims San Diego four-piece Transfer as ones to watch for next year, as will upcoming pieces in Clash Magazine and The Sunday Times. Losing Composure is the band's first UK release, which follows recent UK club shows and support dates with Brandon Flowers, with whom they are now on the road in the US. Sporting a sound which shows flashes of both the stadium-sized zeal of The Killers and the earnest lyrics of the likes of Band of Horses, Transfer are currently available for records and publishing. [Video](#)



[Good Day Today](#) [David Lynch](#)

Sunday Best

Released: download out now/ CD and vinyl in January

The story goes that David Lynch's solo electronic musical outing was at first mistakenly credited to Underworld by Jason Bentley when he gave this track its radio premiere on his KCRW show in Los Angeles, causing a debate over the artist's identity to rage on the Underworld website and message boards. Bentley put the record into the hands of [Sunday Best](#) director Ben Turner at the International Music Summit in Ibiza. Turner and label head Rob da Bank then signed the track for the world soon afterwards. The coverage since then (a page in both The Guardian and LA Times included) has recognised *Good Day Today* as a striking composition by anyone's standards and further reiterated Lynch's status as a renowned master of the avant-garde, and one still capable of surprising us. Made available through iTunes after the news broke yesterday (along with double A-side *I Know*), deluxe vinyl and CD packages complete with remixes will be released in January.





The Piper's Song

Gypsy & the Cat

RCA

Released: December 13

Australian duo Gypsy & The Cat will release this as their second single later this month. An Aeroplane remix has already reached no1 on The Hype Machine after widespread online coverage, from an initial [feature](#) on Neon Gold to a recent Popjustice [Song of the Day](#). This release follows on from the Young & Lost release and Kitsune Maison 9-featured track, *Time to Wander*. Since the original unsigned demos (which we first [featured](#) to a fantastic reaction 15 months ago), they have worked with David Fridmann (MGMT, Flaming Lips) and Rich Costey (Muse, Mew and more) on finishing their record *Gilgamesh*, which is due to come out, along with another big single on RCA in early 2011. *The Piper's Song* is just a hint of what's to come, it's all gorgeous nostalgia-tinged dream-pop. They are featured as 'About To Break' artists on the Radar pages of this week's NME. Radio play has come from Fearne Cotton and Rob Da Bank at Radio1 and Eddy Temple Morris on XFM.



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The best of the Record of the Day messageboard this week

London's Smaller Venues

● Last year I called on Feargal Sharkey to tell the government to organise a "Bail out" for live music especially small venues or we would see a raft of closures in 2010.

Sad to say there were many who said I was talking rubbish - but the proof of the argument is that we are seeing venues go down like dominoes now.

Already the Barfly chain has been reduced to 1 venue from 10. We have seen loads of independent venues go including the LUMINAIRE announcing just this week that it is going.

For instance are you aware of how many venues are on the VERGE OF CLOSING?

Take a look at [this](#) - one of the most iconic venues in the world is under threat.

But it is not just London - even smaller local venues are closing [this week](#) and important regional venues are closing this week especially those that have mixed programmes like [this](#) important Edinburgh venue.

Even legendary venue JB's which is home to the

Wonderstuff and Neds is about to close (and don't believe the spin in [this article](#) that the Town Hall can replace a full time venue). Local authority venues which took the strain in the 70s and 80s and 90s recessions this time [may not be around](#).

So I am calling on everyone (Record of the Day - LIVE UK - Pollstar - The Government - PRS) to unite and campaign for a bail out for small venues under 500 seats/standing as follows :

1. NO VAT on tickets for all venues sub 500.

2. TAX RELIEF for all venues under 500.

3. CHEAP LICENSING SCHEME for Cultural Venues (not clubs) that put on live music or theatre. For their bars. They have less violence than the "Nightclubs" in towns and cities.

4. ARTS COUNCILS GRANTS of £50,000 for regional leading venues under 500 seats including London Boroughs.

5. INTEREST FREE LOANS from Business Link for Small Venues because Banks wont lend to music or theatre venues at present

thus cutting them adrift.

I am sure if everyone comes up with ideas on here then the ideas can be presented by RotD etc to the Government in some format.

The more ideas the better - some will be unworkable. But sitting with our heads in the sand while the UK industry goes down the toilet means WE will all be out of work within the next 12 months and dont laugh - you did that to my post saying this was the future 12 months ago. Now I am back and saying what the next 12 months will be like IF we dont work together to save our industry.

The corporates will continue, I realise that - but even they are under pressure and we will see cutbacks and closures in that sector next year.

Rocker -- Thurs 25/11/10 14.58

● Maybe we'll see an increase in the overall quality of acts as a result....
Mister Writer -- Thur/25/11/10 16:09

● You may have pointed out the problem in an earlier post too Rocker, that "only acts

that appeal to old people now sell". The venues are closing because no one is going.. it's too expensive to get in for a start - why don't they make it free? (split bar takings / give artist tokens to indicate their fans are buying the booze or something similar)

It's also a crisis for the festivals - think I've pointed this out before too - where are the headliners of tomorrow going to come from? There are only so many heritage bands (Pulp, Blur, even The Libertines) that can be coaxed out of retirement.

We are all doomed.

Festival Worker -- Thur/25/11/10 18:06

● Some music venues in London have put up the price of booze to offset a downturn in door takings.
SA -- Thur/25/11/10 21:59

● Said it before and I will say it again: Good Riddance. Sadly, as ever, you are talking about Rock Music and that my friend is dead as a door-nail. Mark my words, Rihanna, GaGa, Tinchy, Dizzee, Tinie, they are the next headliners at Glasto,

not Kasabian.

The unholy alliance between brewers and promoters deserves to die a painful death. A new model will evolve and people will pay to watch quality artists rather than those with a rent-a-mob.

Tomorrows headline acts will come from where it comes from now, word of mouth, radio play and the odd TV show and probably all from the US. I don't suppose any of the above mentioned slogged round the Good Charlotte or The Purple Turtle.

And while festivals like Guildfest continue to sell slots to bands that can sell tickets regardless of quality then frankly they can fuck off too.

tour manager -- Fri/26/11/10 09:39

● Start the lobbying. Will lobby my local MP - and Culture Secretary - Jeremy Hunt MP. Good Point on VAT on tickets. Places like the ACM Guildford have 1200 full time students A YEAR. Thats a lot of musicians/ teachers/managers looking for a career in the music business, and without

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regional independent venues there are few places to get a gig without making it up a step.

pkhpaddy -- Fri/26/11/10 12:57

● Well this is the problem that I have with "pop" music colleges and courses... there isn't the work there. I appreciate that they can't be completely honest and realistic with students and tell them that, but all that you're seeing coming up from a lot of those courses is students leaving the course and going into teaching.
SA -- Fri/26/11/10 13:49

● Maybe the likes of ACM, BIMM (1300 students), ICMP etc should all be doing more to get their students out gigging at these smaller venues. The venues should

your shout



form closer partnerships with the colleges for sure.

Gary -- Fri/26/11/10 14:35

How long will it be before an Abramovich character comes into the music industry and basically kills it dead for anyone outside of their imprint? SA you're right, music is quickly becoming a hobby for many and will end up being a hobby business or one more typical of the arts whereby its funded on handouts and grants or sponsorship.

At this stage I am not sure whether this is a good thing or not. It is too early to say but from our perspective we are pretty much looking at other interests that can benefit from the exposure that music can often bring. I think the label of the future may well be an ad agency. Wasn't there one that tried to launch a pop act? Ahead of their time I think, but my 'FuturSpecs' showing me a tie in with an ad agency will become huge as will a label/artist funded by a benevolent billionaire.

Mariah anyone ?

mrfuturistic -- Sat/27/11/10 02:03

Great idea Gary - some are doing this but not enough.

Rocker -- Fri/26/11/10 22:33

I think it's a bad thing. I also think you'll be seeing product placement in songs as a means of sponsorship aka procuring income. I'm seriously convinced that Ke\$ha already has some kind of deal like this with Jack Daniels, seeing as she mentions the drink in most of her songs.

SA -- Sat/27/11/10 14:04

MySpace

Are any other acts thinking of quitting MySpace due to the collapse in traffic and the terrible redesign, which has ruined all the old designs we spent so longer over and depersonalised the site?

Corporate Voy -- Wed 1/12/10 14:17

I can't bear using MySpace now. it crashes then freezes up my whole laptop...and everyday in the office it is constantly cursed. They can't on like this...

fantasticsarah -- Wed 1/12/10 15:01

We've left the sites running, but not updated them... unbearable design now.

Any music links from off our main sites we link to Soundcloud now, because it's neat and adequate.

Martin k -- 2/12/10 09:55

the word on...



A round up of the week's reviews

Duffy
Endlessly
A&M

► [Guardian](#) – 3* Will Dean

"Albert Hammond Sr's production and Duffy's sweet voice make the LP a pleasant listen, but even the catchier moments – like the twinkling *Girl* and the possessive disco of *My Boy* – lack an emotional tug. A nice garnish for mum's stocking, if nothing else.

► [Standard](#) – 3* Pete Clark

"The better tracks are those with a bit of vim, such as *My Boy*, *Lovestruck* and *Well, Well, Well*. When Duffy gets her tonsils in full vibration, the results are songs like *Breath Away*, *Keeping My Baby* and the title track, which are simply not quite as good as the classics of which they are naggingly reminiscent."

► [Times](#) – 4* Will Hodgkinson

"The result is an album that is jam-packed with classic pop, which also stretches Duffy's musical template. Where once she kept to a Sixties sound, now she includes the Seventies too. There is everything you need for your office party to go with a bang."

► [Independent](#) – 4* Andy Gill

"Endlessly does exactly what is required by ratcheting up Duffy's sophistication without sacrificing the immediacy of *Mercy*. The latter is successfully covered by *Well Well Well*, with *The Roots* furnishing infectious groove behind the title hook, and opener *My Boy*, where club ambience gives way to gently strutting bass and staccato organ."

► [Observer](#) – Kitty Empire

"*Endlessly*'s classicism is more strait-laced and – too often – hackneyed. Don't Forsake Me is a slowie whose cosiness holds little charm; *Breath Away* is just featureless muzak. With its vinyl crackle and acoustic guitars, the title track tries hard to stoke up warmth, the single quality that, more than anything else, this misfiring follow-up lacks."

► [Sunday Times](#) – 2* Mark Edwards

"The problem is that [Albert Hammond Sr's] forte is the melancholy ballad, whereas Duffy has a voice that is perfect for belting out the retro girl-group pop that made her name, but frankly inadequate when asked to stretch out and emote over a slower number."

► [Financial Time](#) 3* Ludovic Hunter-Tilney

"The screechy sub-Winehousey of *Well, Well, Well* is the solitary misfire; the rest is handsome balladry and catchy brisker numbers. Duffy overdoes the vibrato in a bid to convey emotion but otherwise sings with clarity, as in standout track *Hard for the Heart* in which she sweetly croons the very Duffy-esque sentiment 'I'm looking for safety.'"



features



Some artist features this week

It's often vital for new artists to be seen as 'indie'. But this label has little to do with how independent they are, and it never did. (Thurs [Guardian.co.uk](#) - Wendy Fonarow)

"I always felt like an outsider." Caleb Followill of Kings of Leon talks to Neil McCormick about their struggles with success. (Thurs [Telegraph](#))

Elisa Bray hears the record Michael Jackson never got to complete. ([Independent](#))

Touted as the future of rock, the Vaccines are playing pub backrooms and ignoring the hype. Will they survive when reality bites? (Fri [Guardian Music](#) - Dave Simpson)

Suddenly the race for Christmas No 1 is exciting again, says Thomas H Green as he profiles the possible winners. (Thurs [Telegraph](#))

What next for Robbie Williams? (Thurs [Billboard](#))

Today's hottest musicians are too busy making movies and selling perfume. What they don't understand is that the secret of a long

career is a decent back catalogue – and their indifference is killing the music industry. (Weds [Independent](#) Newspaper - Paul Gambaccini)

"We were never a typical rock 'n' roll band." Roxy Music talk about having tea with Salvador Dali, wearing over the top outfits and the rifts that have affected the band over the years. ([Mirror](#))

Ayi Jihu was reported to be the 'Chinese Madonna' in the British [press](#) this September. But is she really a global superstar or a PR hoax? (Weds [China Music Radar](#)) Quite Great Communications handled the campaign.

"I'm looking at people fighting and nearly rioting on TV and it breaks my heart." The Script talk about their guilt at becoming global successes as Ireland goes through crisis. (Thurs [Telegraph](#) - Neil McCormick)

Industry veteran Peter Asher is set to appear in a one-man stage show: A Musical Memoir of the 60s and Beyond. (Tues [Hollywood Reporter](#))

"An all right bloke who's a bit of a problem for society." John Lydon on how he sees himself, the Sex Pistols and Public Image Limited. (Tues Times2 - Tim Teeman)

Behind the music: Motown – a pop factory with quality control. (Mon [Guardian.co.uk](#) - Helienne Lindvall)

As bands join forces with Topman to promote CTRL clothing label, the Futureheads, the Mystery Jets and Frankie and the Heartstrings talk about how they style their look. (Thurs [Metro](#))

"In a way we were closet electronica fans." Pendulum talk about dealing with criticism of their changing sound and why they won't lose touch with their musical roots. (Fri [Independent Arts](#) - Gillian Orr)

"We won't be focusing on street slang so much as looking at it from a philosophical angle." Akala explains what his British Library events will analyse about hip-hop. (Fri [Independent Arts](#))

news



Ray Davies will be artistic director of the 18th Meltdown Festival next year. (Fri Times, [Billboard](#), [NME](#))

Reports have circulated that London's famous 100 Club has found a sponsor and will stay open until January at least. (Fri Standard)

PRS for Music has confirmed that B&Bs with three bedrooms or fewer will no longer be asked to pay for a PRS for Music Licence. (Fri [RotD](#)) Although some conditions apply, VisitEngland have said it is a 'fair outcome'.

The Pirate Bay's co-founders lost their appeal against convictions for encouraging illegal filesharing, and have had their collective fine increased by £1.3m to £4.1m. (Fri [Paid Content](#), [Billboard](#), [TorrentFreak](#))

EMI has released a Top 20 of the most popular Beatles songs on iTunes, and it reveals that Let It Be is by far the most downloaded. (Sat Times) Second is Here Comes The Sun, followed by Hey Jude.

MasterCard has renewed its sponsorship of the Brit Awards for another three years, taking the relationship up to 15 years. (Mon [RotD](#)) The show will be broadcast live on ITV on 15 February.

OCC MD Martin Talbot says 2011 will see an album reach 500,000 digital sales. (Weds [Music Week](#)) Kings of Leon sold 250,000 digital in 2010, while Take That reached more than 79,807 digital sales in the first week of release for Progress.

UK Music's Feargal Sharkey and Brian Message of the Music Managers Forum will give evidence to the Business, Innovation and Skills Select Committee inquiry into finance and assistance to industry today. (Tues [RotD](#)) They're expected to tell the committee that amongst the barriers facing the music industry is difficulty access the finance needed to help growth.

Beggars Group chairman Martin Mills says he would have to think twice about carrying on in the music business without iTunes,

which has been "fantastic" for independent labels like his. (Tues [Music Week](#))

Eminem leads the Grammy nominations with 10 nods including album, record and song of the year. (Thurs [Billboard](#), [Grammy](#)) Bruno Mars, Jay-Z, Lady Antebellum and Lady Gaga also feature heavily. Florence & the Machine, Mumford & Sons, Sade, Elton John, Gorillaz, Jeff Beck, Susan Boyle, Goldfrapp, La Roux, Chemical Brothers, Groove Armada, Rod Stewart, Eric Clapton, Paul McCartney, Robert Plant, Joss Stone, Muse, Ozzy Osbourne, Iron Maiden, The Beatles and Blur are among British acts receiving a nomination.

Bad weather disrupts some tours, particularly in the north of England and Scotland. (Thurs [Billboard](#))

RapidShare is given a €150,000 copyright infringement fine. (Thurs [TorrentFreak](#))

Digital

- ▶ News Corp has moved a step closer to selling MySpace, with senior executive Chase Carey admitting they would have to 'think about' any offers that 'made sense.' (Weds [Mail](#), [Telegraph](#) Business, [Billboard](#), [Independent](#)) Merging the site with another media company such as Yahoo or AOL is also a possibility, but Carey indicated there would need to be developments soon.
- ▶ Mike Jones has been named CEO of MySpace, having been promoted from President. (Tues [MySpace](#))
- ▶ Old media is setting its sights on the booming tablet computer market, but the challenge for the likes of Rupert Murdoch and Richard Branson remains producing something distinctive. (Mon [FT](#))
- ▶ Virgin Media has launched a new set top box which will allow users to access Twitter and YouTube from their TV, as well as record up to 4,600 hours of music and movies. (Thurs [Mirror](#), [Mail](#), [Telegraph](#) Business, [Guardian](#), [Independent](#))
- ▶ Spotify has announced a "major rework" of the look and feel of their Android app. (Thurs [Hypebot](#))
- ▶ Tubeify launches a "mashup of Last.fm, Billboard and YouTube", to make a music video jukebox. (Thurs [TorrentFreak](#))
- ▶ Sony Music has launched PopMarket, a site that will allow members to avail of daily special offers and deals. (Thurs [PopMarket](#)) Albums, boxsets and memorabilia will be offered for up at special rates for a limited time.
- ▶ Only 22% of We7's library of 6.5m songs is listened to each month, says CEO Steve Purdham. (Thurs [HypeBot](#)) He argues that if artists and songs aren't in the public consciousness, the Long Tail model doesn't apply.
- ▶ Google is having trouble getting its ambitious digital music service off the ground in time for the crucial holiday shopping season. (Thurs [NYPost](#)) One big concern is that users will store pirated as well as legal downloads in their 'digital locker'.

- ▶ Apple is now barring all single-station radio applications from the iPhone and iPad saying it "will no longer approve any more radio station apps unless there are hundreds of stations on the same app." (Thurs [Register](#))

Publishing

- ▶ Peter Robinson is leaving X Magazine at Christmas. (Tues [RotD](#))
- ▶ Smash Hits is to return for a third one-off special today, dedicated to "the biggest pop star in the world today", Lady GaGa. (Weds [Press Gazette](#))
- ▶ [NME](#) has named These New Puritans' Hidden as its album of the year and Foals' Spanish Sahara as its top track. Separately, Paul Weller's Wake Up The Nation was judged the best album by [Uncut](#) magazine. (Weds [RotD](#))
- ▶ Get Involved are to handle the PR for NME Awards 2011, including the Awards Tour, the Big Gig and the ceremony itself. (Tues [RotD](#))
- ▶ Daily Mail & General Trust, owner of the Daily Mail, announces a return to profits despite a fall in revenues.

(Fri [FT](#), [Telegraph](#) Business, [Independent](#), [Times](#), [Mail](#))

- ▶ The Daily Mail's website MailOnline is set to expand, with journalists and commercial staff being hired in the US. (Fri [FT](#)) Martin Morgan, chief executive of Daily Mail & General Trust, said that it made sense to keep the site free, but it would charge subscriptions for digital apps.
- ▶ The Guardian continues to make a loss, but its investment income will be key to funding it over the next few years. (Sunday Times - James Ashton)
- ▶ A deal has been done on Time Out, but what does the future hold for other listings magazines in the digital age? ([Observer](#))
- ▶ Elton John guest edits today's [Independent](#) newspaper. Today is World Aids Day. (Weds [Standard](#))
- ▶ The BBC has called in experts from commercial radio to advise on cost-cutting at its biggest radio stations: Radio 1, Radio 2, 6 Music and 1Xtra.

([Sunday Telegraph](#)) Former GMG Radio boss John Myers will spend the first three months of 2011 undertaking the review.

- ▶ Absolute Radio is to launch a new digital spin-off station, Absolute Radio 00s, featuring artists such as Coldplay, the Killers and Eminem. (Mon [MediaGuardian](#))
- ▶ Government ministers have indicated privately that the digital radio switchover will be delayed until 2017 at earliest. (Tues [Mail](#)) Low levels in take-up of DAB radios and opposition from fans of FM are said to be behind the concession.

▶ Chris Evans is to host his Radio 2 breakfast show from the Archbishop of York's house on December 23. ([Guardian.co.uk](#))

▶ Radio 2 DJs are said to be angry at the decision to give Vanessa Feltz an early morning slot on the station. (Fri [Mirror](#)) Presenters including Jeremy Vine are reported to be unimpressed at the move.

▶ "Digital radio, more to love" says the official BBC-backed

Christmas advertising campaign for digital audio broadcasting (DAB) radio. But commercial operators who have doubts about the new technology are planning a rival campaign telling listeners: "A DAB radio may be for Christmas but might not be for life". (Thurs [Guardian.co.uk](#))

▶ Former GMG Radio CEO John Myers is returning to the radio industry as the chief executive of The Radio Academy, replacing Trevor Dann. (Thurs [Radio Today](#))

▶ Absolute Radio is to stream an exclusive Elton John show from Union Chapel in high-quality audio. (Fri [NMA](#))

TV

▶ MTV's shortlist for this year's Brand New: For 2011 features The Vaccines, Far East Movement, Jessie J, Wretch 32, Ruff Diamondz, Mona, Jamie Woon, Labrinth, Clare Maguire and Willow Smith. (Thurs [MTV](#)) Viewers will vote on their favourite next month.