

The Independent Bloggers Guide to SXSW

2015 MUSIC PREVIEW



MARCH 17-22, 2015

SXSW.

MUSIC

AUSTIN, TX

Intro

SXSW is difficult to describe, and I am often asked what draws people to the event. I've come to the conclusion that there's one motivating force that attracts our registrants, no matter which aspect of the event they're attending. That force is "discovery."

This year, we asked some of our favorite tastemakers to highlight the acts they're most excited to see at SXSW. We couldn't be happier with the results. The participants all chose artists within this spirit of discovery.

In the following pages you will find acts who aren't household names. It's likely that the majority of these musicians are going to be new to you. Some you may recognize, as they've been working hard just below the radar and are starting to poke their heads into the spotlight. Artists such as these are the heart and soul of SXSW.

Remember, this is just the tip of the iceberg. There are nearly 2000 acts performing at SXSW this year. We just thought we'd start your homework for you.

A warm thanks to Disco Naivete, Pitchfork, Consequence of Sound, Brooklynvegan, Noisey, Indie Shuffle, Line of Best Fit, Control Alt Delight, Best New Bands, Cruel Rhythm, Metal Rules, Nordic By Nature, Austin Town Hall, Nylon, Alt Citizen, All Things Go, Pigeons and Planes, Remezcla, Rollo Grady, Tiny Mix Tapes, Operation Every Band, Metal Injection, We All Want Someone, Wild Honey Pie, All Hip Hop, Korean Indie and Resident Advisor.

James Minor

General Manager of SXSW Music Festival

Band Index

Allegaeon	019	Mantar	092
Alvvays	006	Marian Hill	011
Bee Caves	088	Marie Davidson	054
Ben Aqua	008	Matthew E. White	056
Big Data	010	Meat Market	057
Big Phony	015	Mick Jenkins	069
Black Milk	046	Milo Greene	072
BRONCHO	022	Natalie Prass	083
Børns	016	Natural Child	071
Catfish and the Bottlemen	014	No Brain	058
Cathedrals	027	Noveller	076
Chevy Woods	079	Odesza	062
Christine and the Queens	023	Part Time	045
Cold Fronts	017	Pharmakon	013
Compass (Mexican Institute of Sound featuring Toy Selectah)	065	Rangleklods	053
Courtney Barnett	059	Raury	075
Daniel Wilson	091	Ryn Weaver	084
Diarrhea Planet	032	San Fermin	036
Dizzy Wright	020	Scotty ATL	093
Doughbeezy	042	Seinabo Sey	060
Elliphant	026	Shura	101
Elvis Depressedly	037	Sicko Mobb	081
Fallujah	073	Slothrust	009
Felix Martin	063	SOPHIE	099
Flesh Lights	082	ssleeperhold	090
Futurebirds	028	Suicideyear	031
Girlpool	024	Sunflower Bean	012
GoldLink	029	Talk in Tongues	061
Halsey	068	Teen Flirt	067
Hannah Diamond	044	Tei Shi	074
HEO	066	Tessela x Untold	089
Hiatus Kaiyote	055	The Barberettes	098
Hinds	035	The Districts	062
HO9909	034	The Shivas	100
Houndmouth	039	The Stone Foxes	086
Hundred Visions	030	The Well	048
IBEYI	041	Thee Oh Sees	080
Institute	007	Tove Styrke	078
Jack Garratt	033	Tuxedo	085
James Bay	005	Twin Peaks	043
Joe Kay	087	Twin Shadow	025
Joseph	021	Ultimate Painting	018
Juan Wauters	070	UNiiQU3	096
JUCE	051	Unlocking The Truth	095
Kate Boy	077	Until The Ribbon Breaks	064
Klangkarussell	040	Veil of Maya	094
Leon Bridges	047	Vérité	004
Little Simz	050	Weedeater	097
Luluc	049	Weyes Blood	102
Lydia Ainsworth	003	Years & Years	038



LISTEN TO: HOLOGRAM

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[Ellie Herring](#)

[Hundred Waters](#)

[Brolin](#)

[Yellerkin](#)

Lydia Ainsworth

Toronto, Canada

The Toronto-based electronic composer and singer-songwriter Lydia Ainsworth completed graduate school in 2012: She studied with Joan La Barbara at NYU and composed a score for a 50-piece orchestra at McGill. She taught herself cello at the age of 10 and cites Verdi's Requiem, Bulgarian folks music, and Bernard Herrmann (along with Ace of Base and Art of Noise) as influences. But while her

haunting dark pop feels smart and carefully pieced together (think Bat for Lashes stoked on Philip Glass), it's never overly academic. Ainsworth released her assured, orchestral debut album, *Right From Real*, on Arbutus last year, and has since covered Chris Isaak's *Wicked Games*. If David Lynch hasn't taken notice yet, he should.

Brandon Stosuy, Pitchfork

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[Kevin Garrett](#)

[Zella Day](#)

[Ryn Weaver](#)

[Halsey](#)



LISTEN TO:
STRANGE ENOUGH

Vérité

New York, NY

VÉRITÉ is a New York City native, but you wouldn't guess it from her hauntingly innocent voice. In October, she debuted *Echo*, a brilliant EP that unravels modern romance with a soft sincerity. With a moniker derived from an art form soaked in honesty, VÉRITÉ delivers an unfiltered glimpse into her own experiences. Paired with the unparalleled depth that producer and cowriter Elliot Jacobson brought to the EP, VÉRITÉ is groomed to join the ranks of pop royalty. With her first headlining tour set to kick off in early March, VÉRITÉ will add her own breed of energy and authenticity to the party here in Austin.

Nate Cover, All Things Go

We caught James Bay at The Hotel Café in Los Angeles. The lanky 23-year-old emerged on the tiny corner stage of the cozy breakout venue and was welcomed by coos and shouts from the crowd. When James began to sing, however, the audience was silenced. The crowd hung on his every word. Paired with his rich raspy voice, he rips his chest open to completely expose his heart with yearning on songs like “Hear Your Heart”

Bay is a strong addition to the new wave of folksy men gaining quick and loud buzz, after only releasing three EPs. He is a must see.

Ariela Kozin, BestNewBands.com

James Bay

Hitchin, England

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[Laura Marling](#)

[Luke Wade](#)

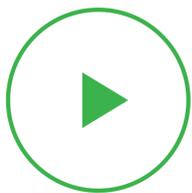
[Cody Simpson](#)

[Zeke Duhon](#)



Alvveys

Toronto, Canada



LISTEN TO:
ARCHIE, MARRY ME

Toronto outfit Alvveys captivated the hearts of many last year with their delightful debut album, a full on delivery of swoon-worthy indie rock jams with its eye set towards pop perfection. It wasn't just one of the best debut albums of the year, but one of the best, period. Any album featuring a song with "Archie, Marry Me" won't be forgotten anytime soon.

Will Oliver, *We All Want Someone To Shout For*

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[Honeyblood](#) [Lowell](#) [Freedom Fry](#) [Chastity Belt](#)

Austin, TX

Institute



LISTEN TO: SALT

Though the Austin punk scene is perhaps best known for its more garage leaning acts, over the past few years a number of groups have managed to stand out by virtue of their embrace and enhancement of the weirdest qualities of the first wave of British post-punk bands. One of the most potent of these upstarts is Institute, who released their Salt EP at the tail end of last year on hip New York label Sacred Bones. A startling collection of rugged rhythms, shrapnel sharp guitar and vocals that forgo lyricism and melody in favor of mush mouthed murderous rants, Salt commands attention, forcing ears to perk up in curious horror. Institute aren't some post-punk throwback, they're a monstrous mutation.

Morgan Davis, Ovrlid

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[Publicist UK](#)

[JoyCut](#)

[The Pop Group](#)

[Viet Cong](#)



Ben Aqua

This Austin producer is at the epicentre of the online underground. It's a virtual realm where there are no rules and anything is possible, a place where genres are more suggestions than steadfast rules. His productions are catchy and often out-there, and his DJ sets touch on all kinds of music—including stuff it's impossible to classify. Aqua is behind the influential #FEELINGS net-label, which has put out music from the likes of Lotic and Rabbit, giving young artists in a crowded internet world some crucial exposure. It's become a reliable source of weird and exciting new music.

Andrew Ryce, Resident Advisor



LISTEN TO:
RESET YOURSELF

Austin, TX

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[Hitchhiker](#) [Meishi Smile](#) [Skullcaster](#) [EPROM](#)

Slothrust

Brooklyn, NY



LISTEN TO: CROCKPOT



YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[Bully](#)

[Wavves](#)

[Residual Kid](#)

[Made Violent](#)

Take the technical prowess of blues, the loud-quiet back and forth of grunge, and the angst of modern day life and you start to unravel the magic behind Slothrust. Keyword: start. Based in Brooklyn, this smart, punchy trio is deft at creating melodies that will keep you and your ears guessing. Their songs – unpredictable and raw – blend together genres and styles that are easily overlooked or have, for one reason or another, been labeled dead, and in doing so they've created a sound that is both nostalgic and fresh. Soft acoustic lullabies turn into raucous throwdowns in an instant and vice versa, and somehow it always makes perfect sense.

[Nasa Hadizadeh, Alt Citizen](#)



YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[Priory](#)

[Joywave](#)

[Yip Deceiver](#)

[Le Galaxie](#)

Big Data



LISTEN TO:
DANGEROUS,
FEATURING JOYWAVE

The duo of Big Data are no strangers to music: Daniel Armbruster built a career as lead singer of Joywave and as a widely sought-after producer; Alan Wilkis has collaborated with Childish Gambino and knows how to make a mean remix.

The band made their debut in August of 2013 with a song titled “Dangerous.” The first few seconds of the single hooked listeners with a catchy bass riff, and the rest is history: the track now has more than 2 million plays on SoundCloud and has spawned many remixes. The guys aren’t just one-hit wonders, either: subsequent releases have garnered praise from countless blogs, hype that will no doubt set the band up for an exciting SXSW.

Jason Grishkoff, Indie Music Shuffle

Brooklyn, NY

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LISTEN TO: ONE TIME

Philadelphia, PA

Philly duo Marian Hill stripped down r&b to its bare essence and added a whole lot of quirky goodness, resulting in a very fun & fine thing of twerk&b that's destined to have you dance. On their debut EP *Play*, they fittingly played around with taking the bare essence to this place its never been at, resulting in some rough gems - follow-up *Sway* however delivers that perfect sway, song after song, as if they've found the magic formula. Speeding up those BPM's every minute, Samantha (vocals) and Jeremy (production) are destined to have you lose those extra SXSW-calories with every set they play while convincing you sleep can wait for another hour playing jams like *Got It* and *Wasted*.

Jarri Van der Haegen, Disco Naïveté

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[Dark Waves](#)

[X Ambassadors](#)

[Milk & Bone](#)

[Tobias Jesso Jr](#)

Marian Hill

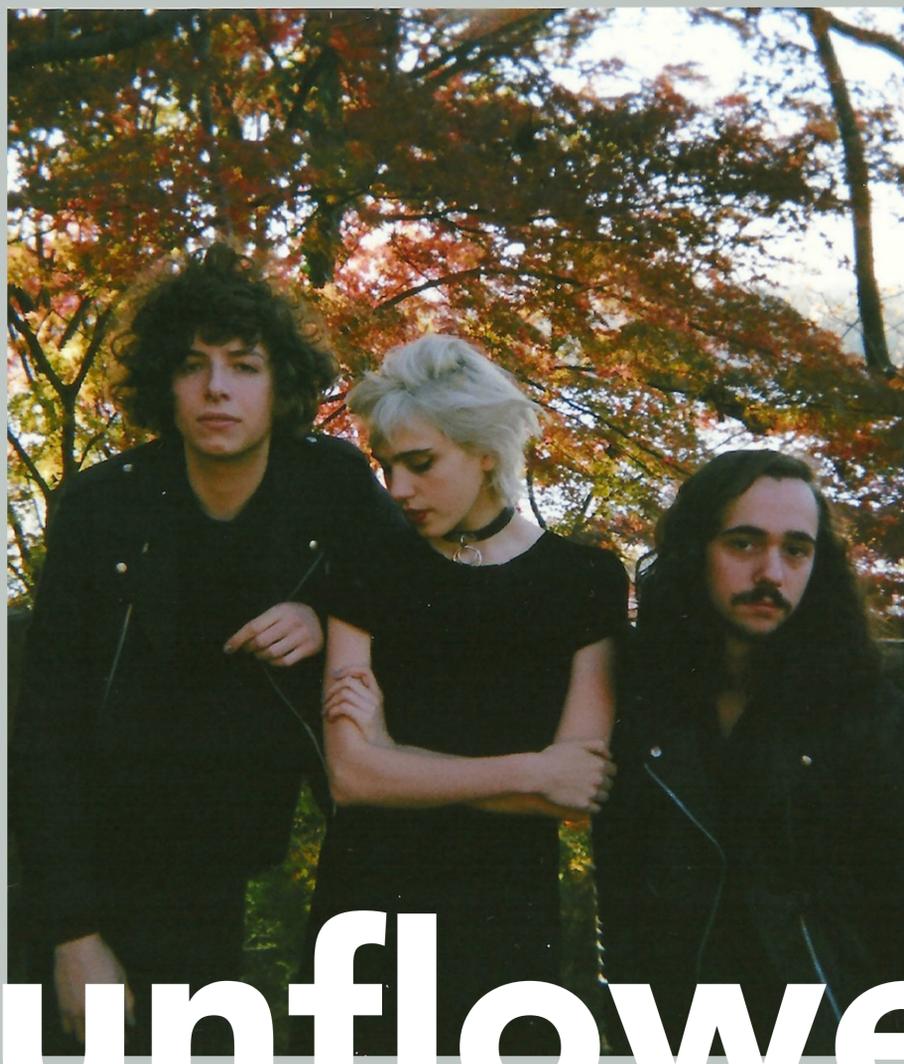
YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[Hag Face](#)

[Gustave Tiger](#)

[Cardiel](#)

[CAMERA](#)



Sunflower Bean

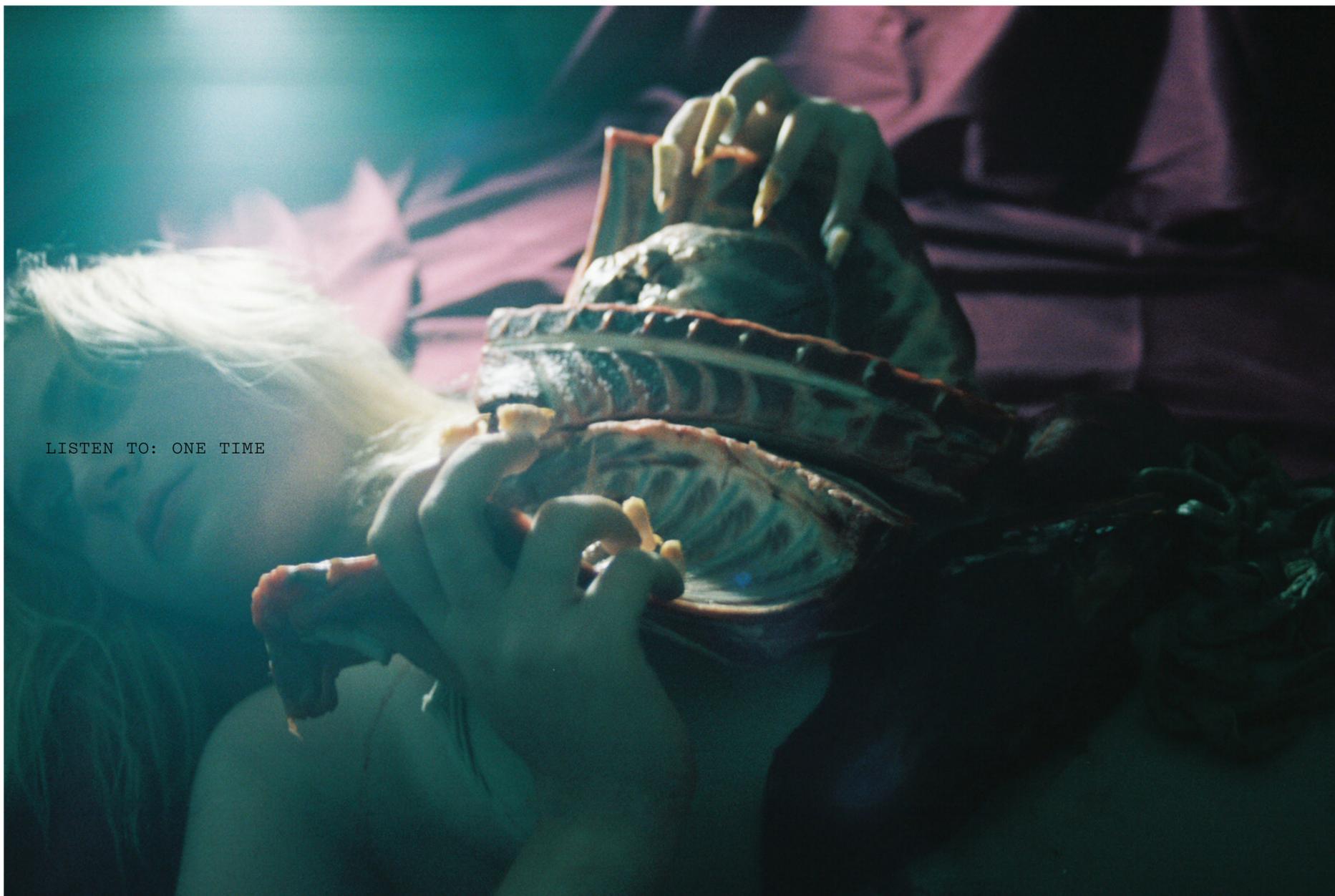
New York, NY

Equal parts dark rock, garage punk, and hallucinogenic slime, as cliché as it may sound, Sunflower Bean seems to fall in a genre of its own. (The trio themselves have described their sound as “neo psychedelic for the digital age.”) The media has attributed much of the band’s hype to the fact that they’re teenagers—and while it’s certainly impressive to have such a fine-tuned sound before legally being able to

down a PBR can on stage, that’s not what’s really appealing about the New York-based band. What is, however, is how they simultaneously arouse a longing nostalgia for past music scenes and create a newfound sound that doesn’t technically have an allegiance to any decade. If you haven’t already listened to their new EP, *Show Me Your Seven Secrets*, do so now.

Yasmeen Gharnit, **NYLON**

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LISTEN TO: ONE TIME

Pharmakon

New York, NY

Walk by Pharmakon's merch table and you'll find a t-shirt featuring a full-frontal photo of Iggy Pop. It's the ideal image to represent Margaret Chardiet, a New York City artist with an approach to noise-making that's as primitive and as stripped down (figuratively, at least) as the godfather of punk's. Pharmakon continued to make waves last year with her *Bestial Burden* LP; though written from the constraint of a hospital bed, she incredibly alchemized the first-hand frailty of the human body into one of 2014's fiercest, most uncompromising releases. Chardiet's ability to replicate this energy nightly results in a live show that commands attention. Expect oppressive decibel levels, audience confrontation, and a large piece of scrap metal with a microphone taped to it.

Jansen Cumbie, Tiny Mix Tapes



LISTEN TO:
BODY BETRAYS ITSELF

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[Bestial Mouths](#)

[Uniform](#)

[Tanya Tagaq](#)

[Vision Fortune](#)

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Llandudno, Wales



LISTEN TO: KATHLEEN

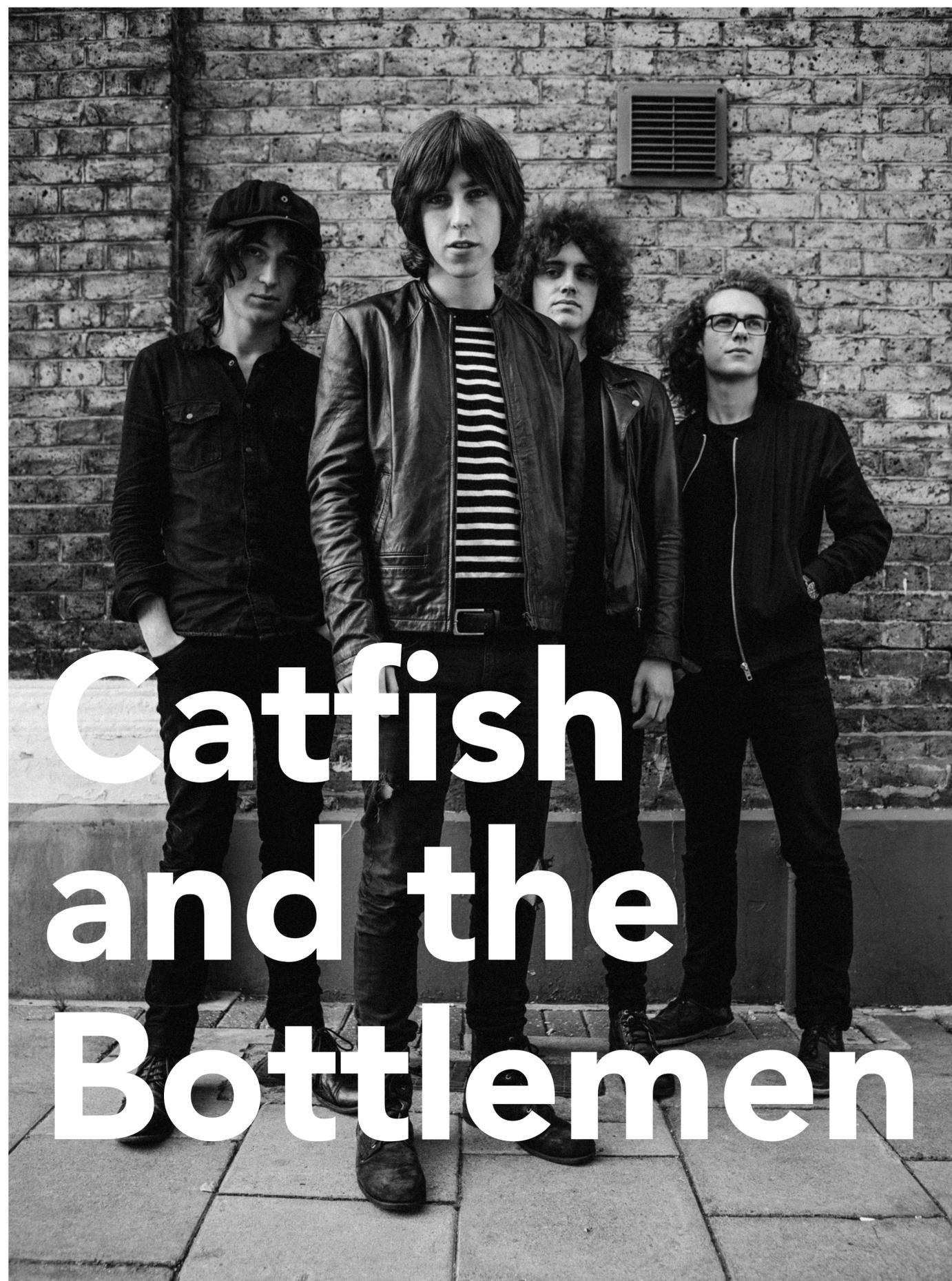
YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[Summer Moon](#)

[Palma Violets](#)

[Circa Waves](#)

[Gengahr](#)



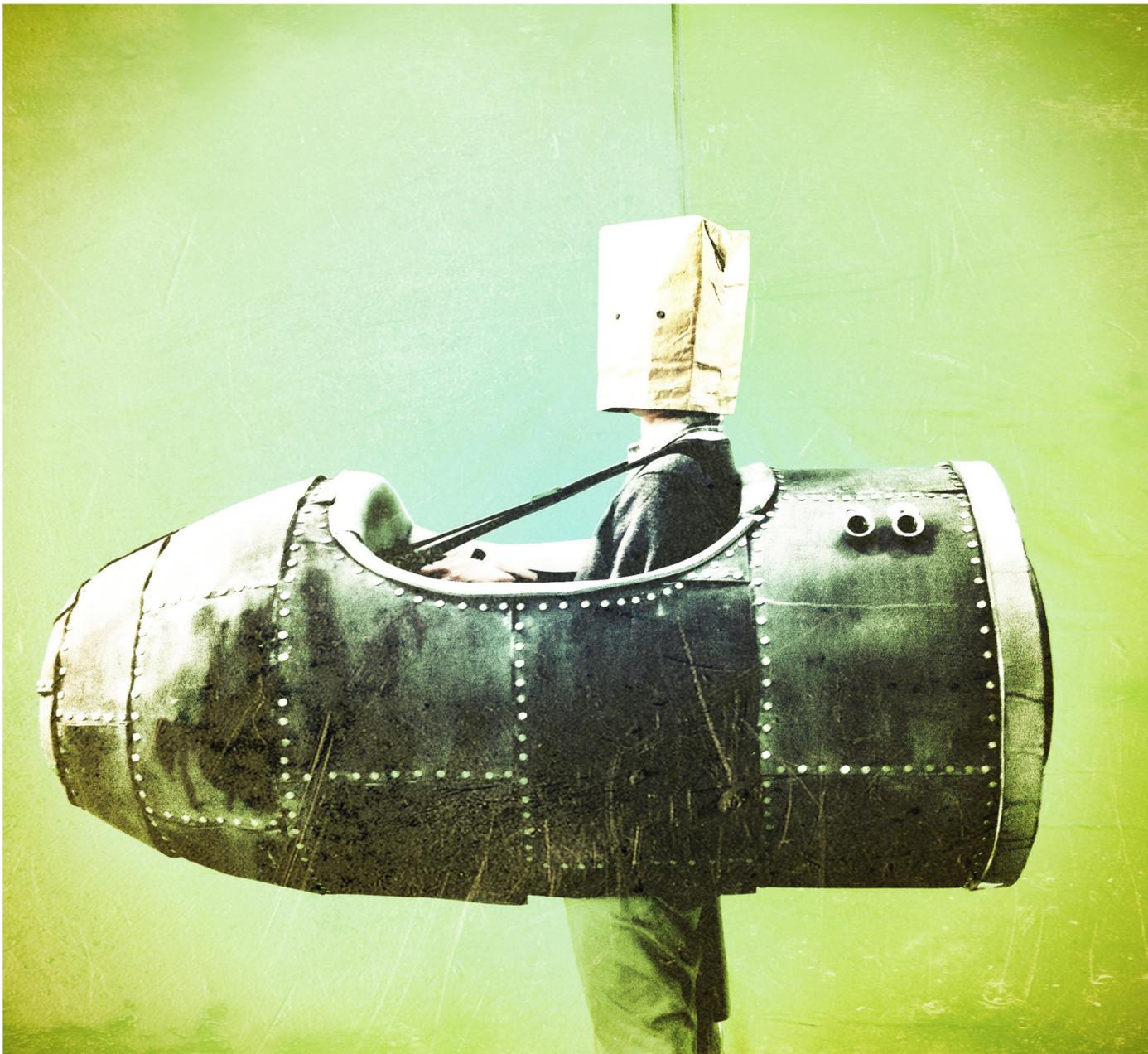
The Welsh band Catfish and the Bottlemen are ready to take the U.S. by storm! The indie garage rockers recently released their debut album *The Balcony*, performed on Late Show with David Letterman, and soon will be kicking off a North American headlining tour.

Since they were teenagers, Van McCann (lead vocals), Johnny Bond (guitar), Benji Blakeway (bass), and Bob Hall (drums) have

been working hard to make their dreams a reality, and it seems these small-town boys are finally starting to gain the recognition they deserve. They may not be playing stadiums yet, but considering they signed with Island Records, won the BBC Introducing Award at the 2014 BBC Music Awards, and have been topping charts around the world, it's safe to say these U.K. lads are making it big!

[Sarah Hess, BestNewBands.com](#)

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Big Phony

Located in South Korea, but with stays in New York and Los Angeles; Big Phony gathers fans with his casual and polite nature. Honestly, he's the nicest person most people will meet. You can also watch him as an actor in Ktown Cowboys.

While his motto of "I Hate Big Phony" still lingers, it's hard not to get entranced by his voice and self-deprecating humor. His latest releases, Bobby and Long Live The Lie, showcased two separate voices. Bobby retained his recognizable low-key, singer-songwriter style. Long Live The Lie was produced with the help of Enik Lin of IAMMEDIC and resulted in an amazing 80s New Wave album.

Chris Park, Korean Indie

Seoul, South Korea



LISTEN TO: I LOVE LUCY

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

Orenda Fink

Reuben Hollebon

Fraser A. Goreman

Ramesh

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Los Angeles, CA

Børns

It must be the views from the treehouse he inhabits on the outskirts of LA that give Michigan transplant Garrett “BØRNS” Børns so much room in his soaring, electric debut EP, “Candy.” Take a bit of glam rock, heavy hand on the electro, a hit of folk, and a leaked Twitter DM from Taylor Swift for sweetness and extra buzz, and you’ve got BØRNS. Giddy riffs and circling, persistent production catch each other like a virus, have you table-drumming, seat-dancing, falsetto-humming before you can stop yourself – do you even want to? Come for the collectively effervescent highs of “Electric Love,” stay to get lost in “Past Lives.”

Fiona Hanly, All Things Go



LISTEN TO:
10,000 EMERALD POOLS

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[Holychild](#)

[Young Rising Sons](#)

LISTEN TO: HIT ME



Cold Fronts

Philadelphia, PA



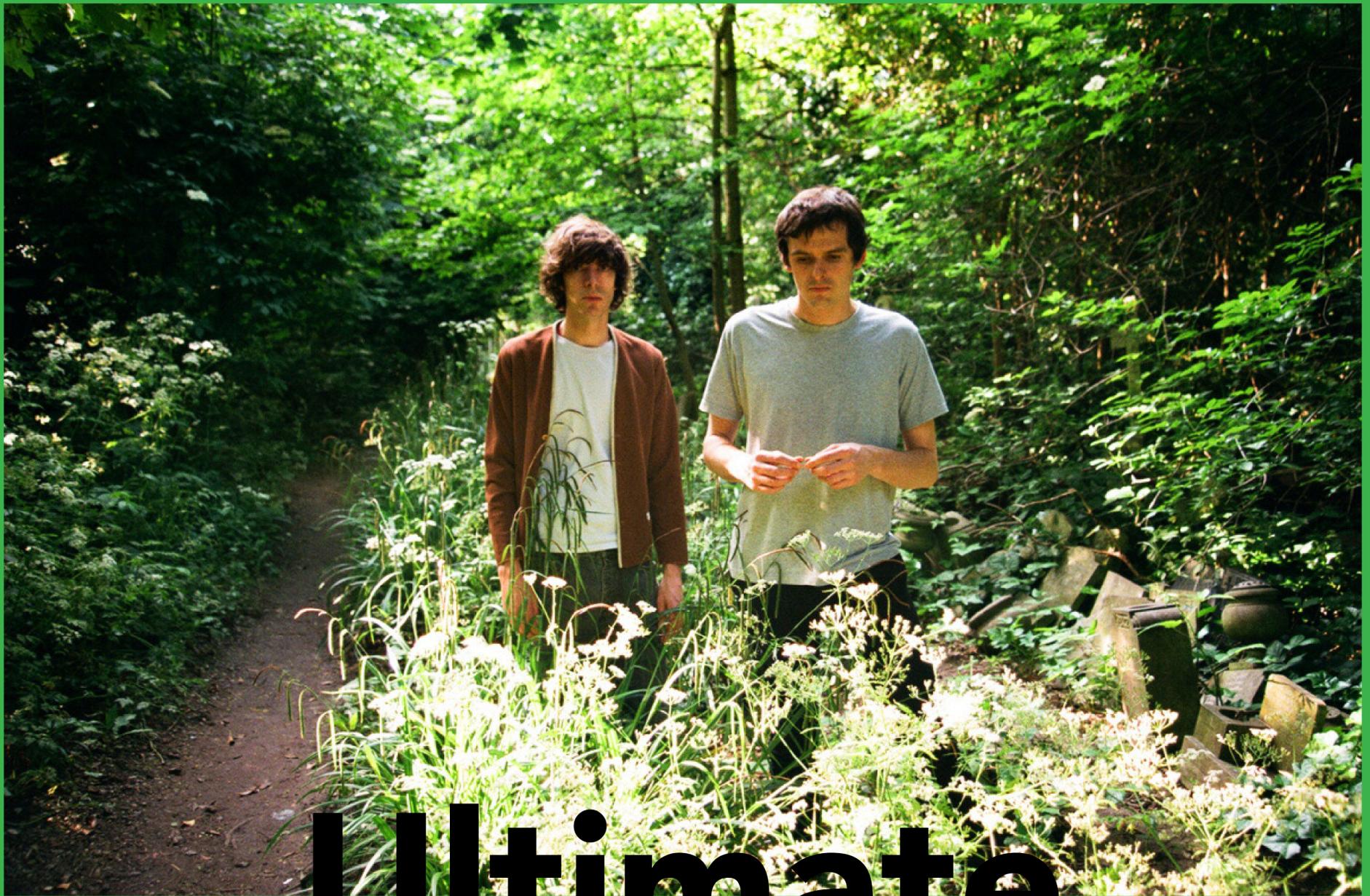
The late '90s and the early aughts seemed to be overridden with certifiably catchy, infectious not-quite-pop rock. They produced the types of records suited for solo road trips along the coast and house parties where you *finally* shared a dance with your longtime crush. But as music lovers became more self aware, this breed of damn good

music seemed to fall to the wayside. Luckily, Philadelphia-based Cold Fronts is here to bring it back. If it wasn't already evident from their latest EP, *Forever*, the four-piece is going to infect movie scores and pool party playlists across the continental U.S. pretty soon. Get ready.

Yasmeen Gharnit, NYLON

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[Fort Lean](#) [Colony House](#) [Rubblebucket](#) [The Black and The White](#)



Ultimate Painting

London, England

Ultimate Painting is perhaps one of the most intriguing acts on the SXSW list, as far as the indie tiered bands go. It's a group comprised of Jack Cooper (Mazes) and James Hoare (Veronica Falls) who've each opted to step away, momentarily, from two already impressive acts in order to form this new one. They seemingly trade tracks throughout their debut LP, sometimes referencing classic pop tropes, while other times they pull in that famed Flying Nun guitar sound. It keeps the entirety of your listen refreshing, giving tasty tidbits to every one. If you wanted to sum up the group's sound, you'd easily be able to call it chilled out slacker pop, if that slacker had really good taste in music.

Nathan Lankford, Austin Town Hall



LISTEN TO:
ULTIMATE PAINTING

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[Happyness](#)

[Spirit Club](#)

[Wand](#)

[Girl Band](#)



Allegaeon

Hailing from Fort Collins, Colorado now comes Allegaeon, a five-piece technical death metal outfit with sci-fi lyrical themes and apparently a sense of humor also, judging by the band's over-the-top, tongue in cheek "Threshold Of Perception" and "1.618" music videos. With three full-length albums under their belts for Metal Blade Records the band's sound could best be described as harmonic seven-string virtuosic shredding with guttural metal-core vocals and a surgically precise rhythm section.

Robert Williams, METAL-RULES.COM

Denver, CO



LISTEN TO: 1.618

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[Ditch Witch](#)

[Protex](#)

[Massive Scar Era](#)

[Power Trip](#)



Dizzy Wright

Las Vegas, NV



LISTEN TO:
EVERYWHERE I GO

It's easy to see why Funk Volume member Dizzy Wright cracked Billboard 200, he earned it. Releasing a steady stream of heat from *SmokeOutConversations*, *The Golden Age* to his *State of Mind* EP, he's made his presence felt. Now the Vegas emcee continues to make a name for himself, proving he's no fluke.

Steve Raze, AllHipHop

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[Hopsin](#) [CJ Fly](#) [Joey Fatts](#) [Deniro Farrar](#)

Joseph



LISTEN TO: [CLOUDLINE](#)

Portland, OR

Sisters make the best folk groups. The harmonies are always the tightest, most gorgeous things in the world and these three sisters from the Pacific-Northwest are the latest to prove the rule. There is so much energy in the songs that even on the first listen of their album *Native Dreamer Kin* they blow you away. While the songs are a lovely mix of folk styling with some propulsive indie rock behind it, what really cemented Joseph as one of my new favorites is when I saw them live. It was so energetic, so engaging and so entertaining that I told people about it for weeks after. It was the kind of show that you don't forget.

[Hannah Angst, The Wild Honey Pie](#)

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[Pirates Canoe](#)

[Jess Williamson](#)

[Good Harvest](#)

[Ryan Bingham](#)

BRONCHO

Norman, OK

Oklahoma three-piece BRONCHO have a very deep bag of indie-rock tricks. With a live set that shifts from catchy licks a la ‘Class Historian’ to huskier bass lines via the grungy ‘Taj Mahal’ and the effortlessly cool ‘I Don’t Really Want to Be Social’, they can satisfy nearly every craving of the live instrument aficionado.

Their sophomore album “Just Enough Hip to Be Woman” came out on Dine Alone Records in September 2014 and clearly exemplifies their talent. An effective meshing in of modern pop-punk elements shows they are growing with the genre-bending times while still keeping true to their foundation of fuzzy garage rock.

Ali Jafari, Control+Alt+Delight

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[CIKATRIS](#) [Dirty Fences](#) [Pujol](#) [Cloud Nothings](#)



LISTEN TO:
CLASS HISTORIAN

Christine and the Queens

Nantes, France

Born in France but musically raised by the London drag queen scene, Héloïse Letissier pays tribute to that very same scene as Christine and the Queens. On her debut full-length *Chaleur Humaine* (French for Body Heat), la chanteuse brings Pop Chique with a French twist and is certain to heat up that body of yours. With Europe bowing to her Queen Christine, thanks to the singles charting high and her highly entertaining live performances, it's just a matter of time before the rest of the world catches on. You could consider teaching some French *avant de venez danser avec nous*, you however *will* book some classes after Christine mesmerized you.

Jarri Van der Haegen,
Disco Naïveté



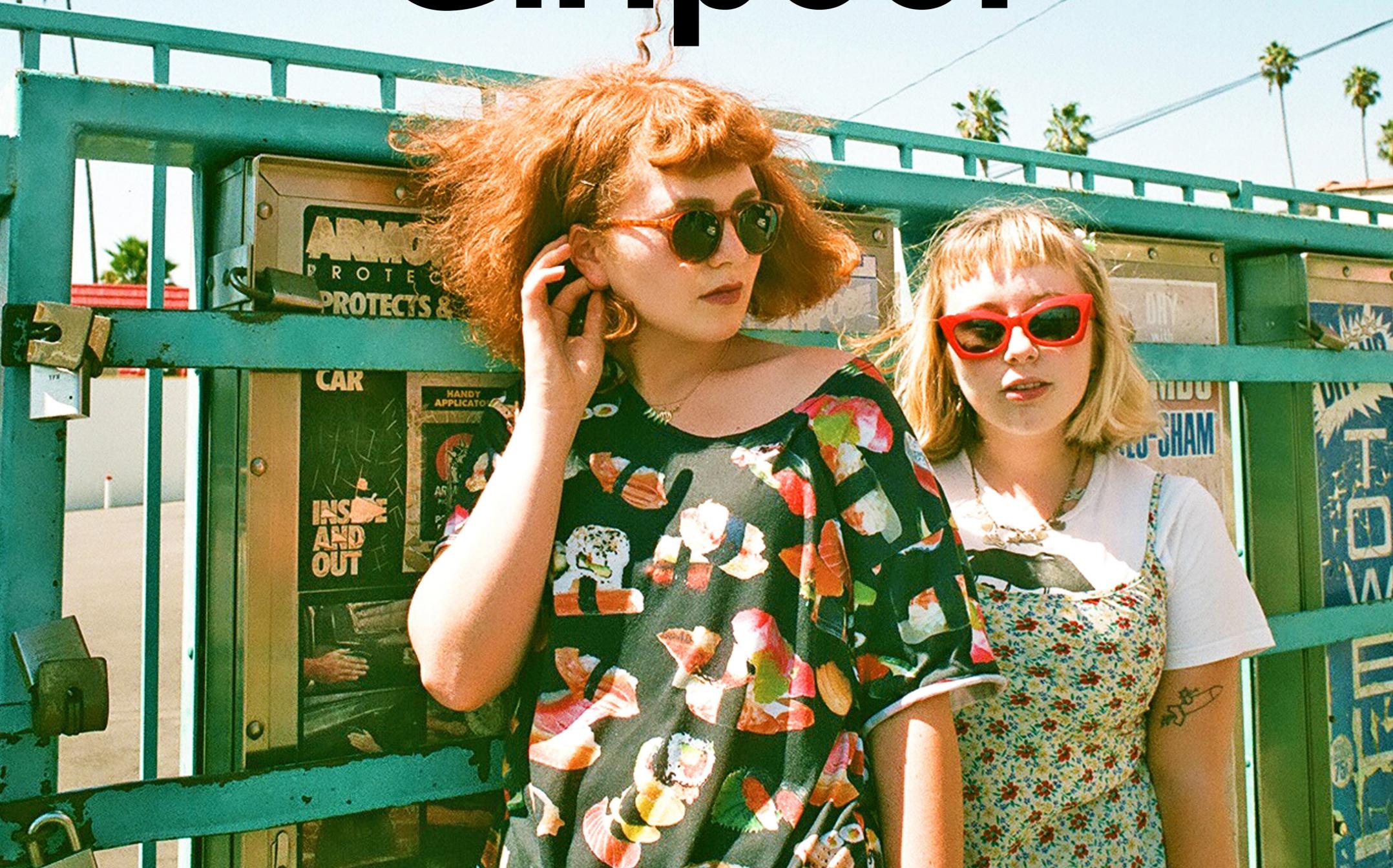
LISTEN TO:
SAINT CLAUDE

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[Got A Girl](#) [SKYROADS](#) [ASTR](#) [Cleo T.](#)

Los Angeles, CA

Girlpool



Sometimes you just gotta tell people how you really feel, and LA's Girlpool does just that. Made up of Cleo Tucker and Harmony Tividadis, Girlpool is an unapologetic guitar-and-bass duo who has no problem shrieking their personal problems right in your face. Which isn't to say that these two ladies can't get down with a good harmony -- far from it. This heart-on-your-sleeve pair teeter in that sweet spot between lo-fi charm and abrasive punk, making Girlpool the empowering answer to the call for more uncensored voices in the music industry.

Nasa Hadizadeh, Alt Citizen

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[The Prettiotics](#)

[GAL PALS](#)

[The Gooch Palms](#)

[Agoraphobia](#)

Brooklyn, NY

Twin Shadow

Los Angeles-via-Brooklyn synthpop musician George Lewis, Jr. is ready for his band Twin Shadow to step into the light. After a pair of lauded indie releases, Lewis signed to Warner Bros. for his major debut, *Eclipse*. Although both its physical and label homes may have changed, the music remains as indebted as ever to the sounds of '80s cool. Far from a bout of nostalgia, however, the songs pulse with new wave synth hooks and sky-reaching choruses that wrap the styles of the past in a modern-cut leather jacket. Lewis delivers an abundance of lovelorn crooning as well as stadium-sized anthems with earnestness. It's all demonstrative of a revitalized confidence the artist has uncovered in his music, something that had been slowly chipped away over the cycle of his first two full-lengths despite their warm receptions. Now, once again comfortable in the skin he wears and with a fresh creative drive, Lewis and Twin Shadow are gunning towards the top.

Ben Kaye, Consequence of Sound



LISTEN TO: [I'M READY](#)

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[Brolin](#)

[Dinner](#)

[Gemini Club](#)

[Future Islands](#)

Stockholm, Sweden



Elliphant

Last year, swedish pop artist Elliphant hit the music scene as if she was the Cara Delevigne of Pop. Diplo and Skrillex are her BFFs, sometimes she gets shit-faced with her buddy MØ, and back in L.A. she is usually working with Dr. Luke (Know the guy? He's just the chart-topping mega-producer behind Katy Perry, Ke\$ha and Britney). Although being often compared to popstars like M.I.A. - solitary, badass,

smart - Elliphant's style is quite exceptional: The swede flirts with different genres from Hip-hop to Dubstep and Dancehall, her lyrics are dead serious, her beats are dirty, not to speak of some brilliant MC skills. No wonder that woman rapidly earned respect of the world's top tastemakers, like Pitchfork and NME.

Anne Tetzner, Nordic By Nature

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[Frida Sundemo](#) [Boyfriend](#) [Kehlani](#) [Victoria Monet](#)

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[Hanne Kolstø](#)

[Zella Day](#)

[Basecamp](#)

[Charlotte OC](#)



LISTEN TO: 000 AAA

Cathedrals

San Francisco, CA

Cathedrals are the San Francisco-based duo of Brodie Jenkins and Johnny Hwin. The twosome traffic stylistically in R&B-influenced rhythm and song construction blended with modern indie and dark pop elements. Cathedrals released their debut EP last year on Neon Gold Records and tracks like slow burner “Want My Love” and infectious “Harlem”, which are both buoyed by Ms. Jenkins’ affecting alto and forward-thinking production, indicate a band with both terrific potential and a tremendous penchant for pop songwriting.

Troy Meyer, [blahblahblahscience](#)

Futurebirds



Athens, Georgia-based Futurebirds are a badass live band that have brought fresh, energetic and original southern-rock to such festivals as Bonnaroo, Forecastle, Austin City Limits and Outside Lands. The band's unique vibe is founded upon the fact that Thomas Johnson, Daniel Womack and Carter King all provide strikingly original vocals that demonstrate their stylistic versatility. Their 2013 album "Baba Yaga," released on Fat Possum Records, defies categorization as it combines experimental, ambient soundscapes with alt-rock foundations and mellow harmonies. Their new album, recorded in 2014, will be released later this year. Their set at SXSW will feature classics and new offerings. Futurebirds, like the mythical Phoenix, rise from the ashes every year with exciting, cutting-edge and truly innovative material.

Carter Smith, Rollo Grady

Athens, GA

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[Heartless Bastards](#)

[Water Liars](#)

[Berkshire Hounds](#)

[The Sheepdogs](#)

Washington, DC



GoldLink



LISTEN TO: BEDTIME STORY

When Virginia rapper GoldLink started buzzing online last year, not much was known about him. He came out of nowhere, but a few SoundCloud streams took off and before anyone even knew what he looked like, he was racking up hundreds of thousands of plays. That kind of rapid ascent can be dangerous. Would he be ready to live up to all the hype? Was he prepared to get on stage in front of kids who screamed along with

every word to his songs? Is GoldLink a performer, or just a good rapper who got lucky with some early attention?

Since then, he's traveled around the world, opened for SBTRKT, performed in front of André 3000, and caught the attention of Rick Rubin. The internet yields a lot of manufactured blog buzz and unwarranted hype. But every now and then, it reveals true star potential.

Jacob Moore, Pigeons and Planes

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[Kaytranada](#)

[Vic Mensa](#)

[Vince Staples](#)

[Tory Lanez](#)



Hundred Visions



LISTEN TO:
YOU'RE GOING TO CUT
ME LOOSE

Austin, TX

On their newest album *Spite*, Austin's Hundred Visions can't seem to make up their mind about what they want to be. Are they grimy garage revivalists? Menacing horror punk? Or Brit Pop nomads lost in the deserts of Texas? For some bands, that dissociative identity disorder would be a setback, but Hundred Visions own it, and in the process *Spite* becomes one of the most invigorating albums you're likely to hear all year, a frenzied mix unified by the band's innate ability to understand the devastating power of a good hook and a strong arrangement. But if you don't believe us, then just take one listen to "I'm Inoculated" and see if you can withstand its charms.

Morgan Davis, Ovrd

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

Jad Fair

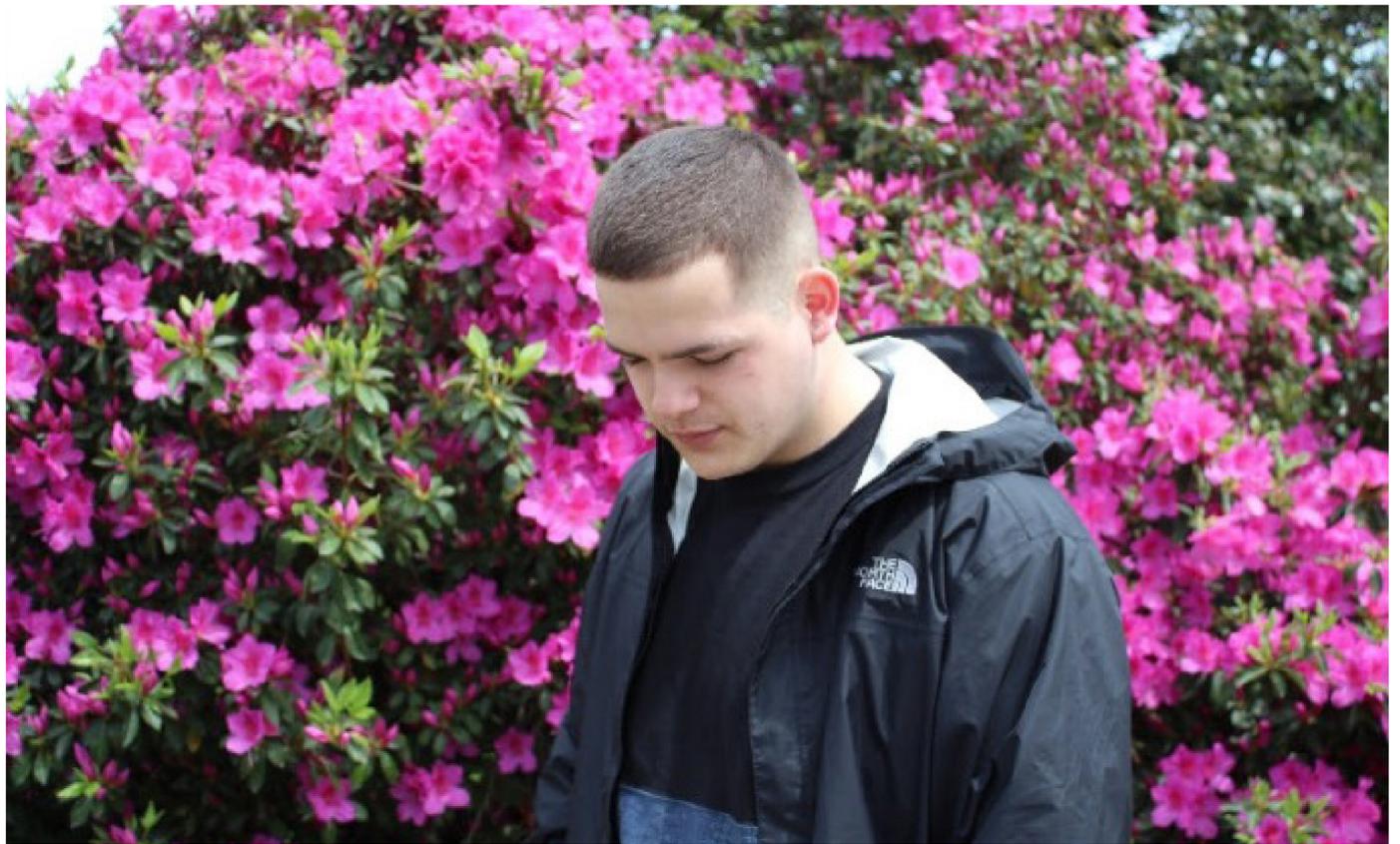
Chris Catalena and

The Native Americans

Fotogramas

Vision

Baton Rouge, LA



Suicideyear

Hailing from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, James Prudhomme is a bit of an outlier when it comes to his home state's often-raucous hip-hop scene. As Suicideyear, he takes a cerebral approach to trap and rap production, tempering his booming basslines and snapping drums with a soaring but melancholy sense of melody. He's had a handful of solo records—including his standout mixtape, *Japan*, and last year's stellar *Remembrance*, which was released via Oneohtrix Point Never's Software label—and also soundtracked Swedish rapper Yung Lean, whose starry-eyed wonder matches Prudhomme's majestic beats to a tee.

Andrew Ryce, Resident Advisor



LISTEN TO: REMEMBRANCE

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[Akka](#) [Torus](#) [SPF666](#) [Blind Prophet](#)



Diarrhea Planet

Nashville, TN

Despite their moniker, “silly” and “excessive” are two words that mean very little to Diarrhea Planet. This Nashville six-piece has no qualms about who they are, and it doesn’t take any audience long to brush aside any misgivings of their own. The band’s pop-punk brashness is as captivating as it is gratifying; you can’t look away, but why would you even want to? Far from simply being ear-splitting shredders -- though they are that -- the songs are constructed with thoughtful

pop sensibility and grounded lyricism. It’s a sound that’s 1000% each of hooks, bombast, and plain joy. Joy is the name of the game for their live shows as well, smiling, sweaty experiences which bring out all the giddy feelings that make you love rock ‘n’ roll in the first place. For those who like their music loud, their musicians frenetic, and their shows unforgettable, we give you the four-guitar assault of Diarrhea Planet.

Ben Kaye, Consequence of Sound

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[Terry Malts](#) [Warm Soda](#) [Grape St.](#) [Rat Fist](#)



Jack Garratt

London, England

Jack Garratt is the 22 year old Buckinghamshire UK voice behind breakout tracks “Worry” and “The Love You’re Given”. Garratt, who released last year his “Remnants” EP to critical commendation on both sides of the Atlantic, blends pop fidelity and anthemic melodic writing with progressive and particularly creative choices in instrumental and production. “Worry”, Jack’s first track to capture attention of blogs, merges a James Blake-styled musical quality with an almost Sheeran-esque level of accessibility melodically; revealing Garratt to occupy the particularly special nexus between artfulness and potentially very broad appeal.

Troy Meyer, blahblahblahscience



LISTEN TO:
THE LOVE YOU’RE GIVEN

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

Laura Welsh

SAFIA

Foreign Fields

SOAK

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HO99O9

Newark, NJ

Rap, punk, and the macabre collide in HO99O9, a fierce and uncompromising duo from NJ. With an eye for fashion and an ear for gritty hooks, Eaddy and the O.G.M have crafted a uniquely visceral presence and sound. Their shows have been known to get physical and weird, from the expected rowdiness of crowdsurfing and pits to their own unrestrained heckling of press photographers (and the occasional flashing, of course). They like it when you're uncomfortable — in fact, they thrive off of it — so if you can get down with a little skin crawling, HO99O9 is a definite must-see.

Nasa Hadizadeh, Alt Citizen



LISTEN TO: [BONE COLLECTOR](#)

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[Moodie Black](#)

[YC The Cynic](#)

[Rome Fortune](#)

[O.T. Genesis](#)

Madrid, Spain



LISTEN TO: BAMBOO

Hinds have come out of an intensely creative bubble in Madrid's DIY guitar scene. They're different to a lot of the other bands playing psych and C86-ripped garage indie in that they're closer to the likes of Mac DeMarco than Nuggets. Four girls with this awesome sincerity and a live set that - even in its most ramshackle moments - is a reminder of the visceral, unpretentious and binding joy of music.

They seem unfazed by anything and their gang mentality is all encompassing, generously bleeding into every part of their music and personalities. For me, it's the one show above all that anyone coming to SXSW this year should check out.

Paul Bridgewater, *The Line of Best Fit*

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[Carl Barat and The Jackals](#) [The Parrots](#) [Moon City Boys](#) [The Aquadolls](#)



Hinds

Brooklyn, NY

San Fermin

San Fermin's 2013 debut was just about perfect, equaled in execution as intent. Needless to say, Ellis Ludwig-Leone and company's sophomore record Jackrabbit, due April 21, is one to be front-of-house for a preview at this year's SXSW. Lead single "Parasites" and its dark, orchestral tone is an intriguing sign that San Fermin will once again deliver an adventurous folk-rock symphony of shock and awe. The title track is even more grand, taking an indie pop vocal and surrounding it with swelling strings and horns. Charlene Kaye takes lead on "Jackrabbit", one of three vocalists (soprano, tenor and baritone, naturally) that rotate into San Fermin's ambitious and borderless template.

Kevin McStravick - Operation Every Band

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

- [Mother Falcon](#)
- [The Family Crest](#)
- [The Eastern Sea](#)
- [Hey Marseilles](#)



LISTEN TO: SONSICK



LISTEN TO: N.M.S.S

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[Alex G.](#)

[Solids](#)

[Triathlon](#)

[Surfer Blood](#)

Elvis Depressedly

With the return of that dirty three letter word, emo, we have to look at the acts that are taking aim at providing truly emotional music to listeners. Mat Cothran and his project, Elvis Depressedly, are doing just that, be it in name or in the lo-fi bedroom pop that he's creating. Typically, his songs are gentle and quiet, coated by a ridiculous amount of warble and feedback in the mix, creating a subtle oddity to his songwriting. It's music of the singer-songwriter genre with a true power to pull at every heart string. Imagine sitting in your room after a miserable week. You need something spiritually uplifting and personal; the music of Cothran and his cohorts is one of those rarities that truly has the power to heal all wounds.

Nathan Lankford, Austin Town Hall

Asheville, NC



Years & Years

London, England

Victors of the coveted BBC Sound of 2015 Poll, English trio Years and Years are among the most anticipated artists to see at this year's SXSW conference. Their brand of infectious synth pop has is a bit of a familiar sound, but it's their well-executed melange of hooks and songcraft that elevate them beyond their peers. Plus they've played only a small handful of shows thus far in the States which only stirs the pot of anticipation to catch these much lauded lads in action.

Mike Clemenza, blahblahblahscience



LISTEN TO:
TAKE SHELTER

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[Clean Bandit](#) [Gorgon City](#) [Young Ejecta](#) [Cathedrals](#)

New Albany, IN

Houndmouth



Indiana four-piece Houndmouth bring that Midwestern grit to their music, with plenty of classic rock and folk influences to go around. Their debut album was an impressive offering, and this year they look to follow that up in a big way with *Little Neon Lime-light*. They're as good of a time as you can expect to find live, always bringing the house down on their own terms.

[Will Oliver, We All Want Someone To Shout For](#)

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[Delta Spirit](#)

[Jamestown Revival](#)

[Jared & The Mill](#)

[The Last Bison](#)

Fronted by Tobias Rieser and Adrian Held, Austrian duo Klangkarussell rocketed to fame in June of 2012 with the release of an incredibly catchy song titled “Sonnentanz.” While the band faced some initial skepticism due to its heavy use of sampling on the track, they fired back with an equally successful vocal version of the song featuring Will Heard in August of 2013.

Roughly one year, the band unveiled their much anticipated debut full-length *Netzwerk*. The album stands out as one of the best electronic releases of the year, setting the producers up for a worldwide tour that includes American stops at New York’s Webster Hall, SXSW and Ultra in Miami.

Jason Grishkoff, Indie Music Shuffle

Salzburg, Austria

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[Fritz Kalkbrenner](#)

[Fred Falke](#)

[Paradise](#)

Klangkarussell

Ibeyi

Paris, France

The duo of French-Cuban sisters Lisa-Kaindé and Naomi Díaz is one of spare instrumentation and chill-inducing vocals that evoke sensuality, nostalgia, and even the supernatural. Ibeyi sing mostly in English, but some of their songs are peppered with chants in Yoruba, reaching to the tradition of Santería. Musically, they do their own take on modern R&B, with some acoustic instruments and pinches of electronics in key moments, courtesy of their label boss, XL Records head Richard Russell. Hot on the heels of their *Oya* EP from last year, they are presenting their eponymous long player, and with it, a chance for audiences to get enchanted by their earthly mysticism.

Marcos Hassan, Remezcla

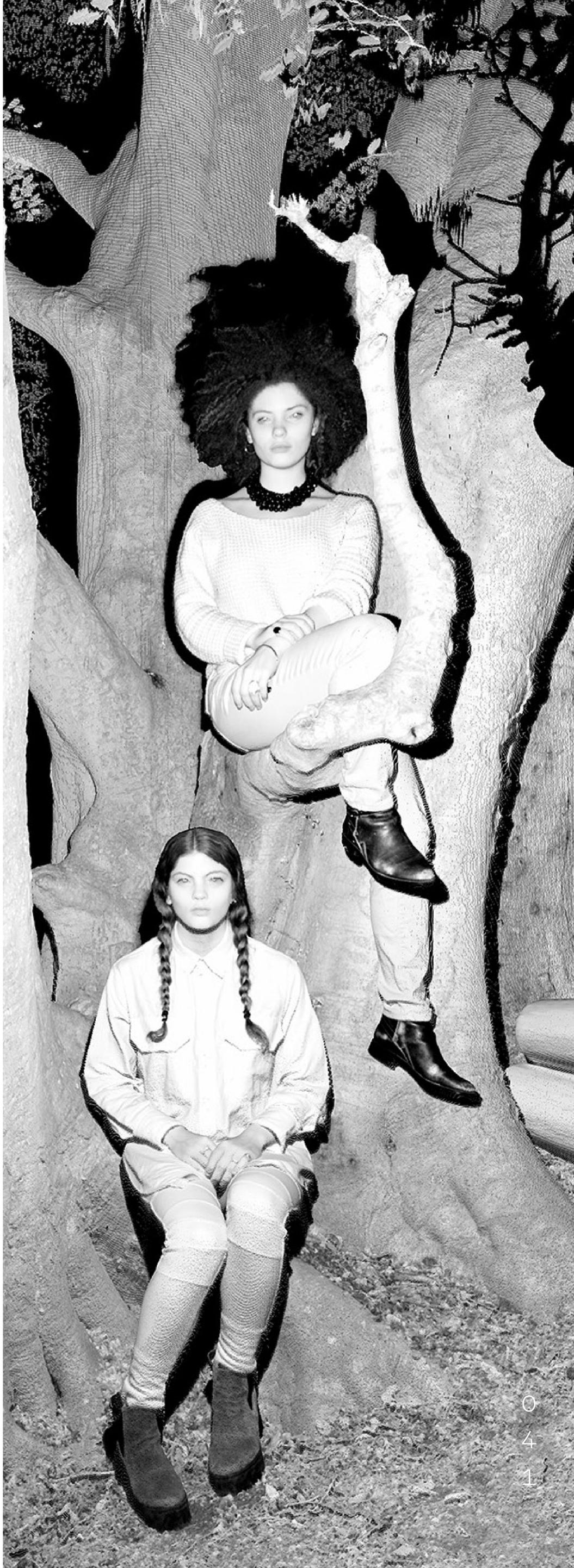
YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[Son Lux](#)

[Autre Ne Veut](#)

[Twin Shadow](#)

[Shamir](#)





Houston, TX

Known throughout Houston as the “Southeast Beast,” Headwrecka front man Dough Beezy has been making waves throughout Texas as the ferocious spitter has come up through the ranks of the city’s booming underground. Still riding high off his *Footprints on the Moon* project, he’s poised to emerge as one of the leaders of Houston’s new school of emcees. Already in regular rotation on MTV and more, it’s easy to see what all the fuss is about.

Steve Raze, AllHipHop



LISTEN TO:
I’M FROM TEXAS

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[DeLorean](#) [Propain](#) [Maxo Kream](#) [Roosh Williams](#)

Dough Beezy



Twin Peaks

Chicago, IL

Chicago rockers Twin Peaks have been touring steadily for the past year, proving that they are a band to keep a watchful eye on. They're young, which means they'll only get better. Which is hard to imagine. They already have established themselves a solid fanbase, which they look to expand over the next few months. They don't take themselves too seriously, which helps make their youthful guitar rock that much more of a delight.

[Will Oliver, We All Want Someone To Shout For](#)



LISTEN TO:
[I FOUND A NEW WAY](#)

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[A. Sinclair](#)

[Wolf Alice](#)

[Catfish and The Bottlemen](#)

[Merchandise](#)

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Hannah Diamond

London, England

When it comes to PC Music, we all suddenly become imaginative storytellers, bending the net label's impossibly pristine imagery and distorted dance tropes into theories on gender, futurism, and the hyperreal gestures of hypothetical subjects. But in the process, we somehow become skeptical of the most gorgeous earworm melodies, complex pop arrangements, and luxurious sound designs. Here, where chin-stroking comes damn close to being the lamest dance craze, we are witness to the emergence of Hannah Diamond, whose forever #trending status and towering presence comes from just a handful of singles. We say Hannah's not "real," that she's a construction -- a mere vessel. But I say phooey: Hannah Diamond is real with real agency, and she'll show as much when she performs — alongside A. G. Cook, GFOTY, Kane West, and other PC Music-related artists — in front of a crowd shouting along with every lyric.

Marvin Lin, *Tiny Mix Tapes*



LISTEN TO: EVERY NIGHT

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

Kero Kero Bonito

Felicità

Tei Shi

QT



Part Time

Los Angeles, CA

Electronic music can often turn mundane, unless you're David Loca. The San Franciscan behind Part Time has worked effortlessly for the last several years trying to guarantee his songs are more than your average fare. You'll hear airy synth stabs and tight jangling guitars, yet you'll be wrapped up in the warmth of David's voice. There's a quality of cool and nostalgia that doesn't seem like it's merely being rehashed. Instead, you'll be transported into a dingy smoke-filled club, enraptured by the performance that lays in front of your eyes. These are electronically-influenced songs that beg listeners to put their heads down, sway from side to side, only to look up and see the best show of their lives being performed in the most personal manner; you'll have no choice but to fall in love.

Nathan Lankford, Austin Town Hall



LISTEN TO:
I WANNA TAKE YOU OUT

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[JAILL](#) [Heyrocco](#) [Clubz](#) [Turbo Fruits](#)

Detroit, MI



LISTEN TO:
GOLD PIECE
FEATURING BUN B



Black Milk

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[Beatking](#)

[Big K.R.I.T.](#)

[lamsu!](#)

[Travi\\$ Scott](#)

I am absolutely a latecomer to Black Milk, but since hearing him a few months ago I've not been able to get it out of my head. He offers up some of the most interesting, creative hip hop I've heard in a long, long time. There's A Hell Below is an astonishing piece of work that sounds completely timeless, yet so vital to the time we're in now. It's the kind of sounds that people will be listening to for years to come and always trying to imitate. I've yet to see him live and I will wait in whatever line I have to in order to make it happen.

[**Hannah Angst, The Wild Honey Pie**](#)

Leon Bridges

It's been too long since the sounds of thrown-back soulful pop have felt as genuine as they do from Fort Worth, Texas native Leon Bridges. With only a couple of songs shared to date, via his own Soundcloud, the young Bridges has set the tastemaker blogosphere and music industry afire with his soothing croon, low-touch production, and Motown-era friendly harmony. Bridges is sure to be a do not miss at SXSW this year, if you can get into the show.

Mike Clemenza, blahblahblahscience

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[Charles Bradley & His Extraordinaires](#)

[The California Honeydrops](#)

[Elle King](#)

[The Suffers](#)

Fort Worth, TX





The Well

Austin, TX

Austin, Texas based up and coming psychedelic doom/stoner metal three-piece The Well have amassed two self-released EP's and a full-length album in just three short years of existence as a band. On "Samsara" the band's debut full-length for RidingEasy Records, deep fried, fuzzed out seventies inspired guitar tones, pulsing and pounding bass and drums and hauntingly woeful vocals rule the roost. Coming across as convincing as they are dedicated to the craft, The Well are both practitioners and devotees kneeling before the altar of doom metal.

Robert Williams, METAL-RULES.COM

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[United Fruit](#)

[My Ticket Home](#)

[Father Sky](#)

[Amplified Heat](#)



LISTEN TO:
MORTAL BONES



Melbourne, Australia

Luluc

LISTEN TO:
WITHOUT A FACE



Australian folk duo Luluc quietly released one of the best albums of 2014 with *Passerby*, the band's sophomore record. Their mix of confidence and contemplativeness is just perfect and *Passerby* way beyond a surface, singer-songwriter performance. The melancholic nature of Luluc's music is palatable as well - *Passerby* is a sad record, but a relatable sad that is a stage of life, not a downward spi-

ral. Vocalist Zoe Randell has a deep and rich, smooth-as-molasses voice that draws you into the beautiful stories she weaves. Steve Hassett provides tender, understated accompaniment that perfectly pairs with Randell's mysterious and intriguing voice. Minimal, pretty, but always in the foreground, Luluc consistently commands with quiet majesty.

Kevin McStravick - Operation Every Band

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[The Dove & The Wolf](#)

[Count This Penny](#)

[Demi Louise](#)

[Zookeeper](#)

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Little Simz

London, England

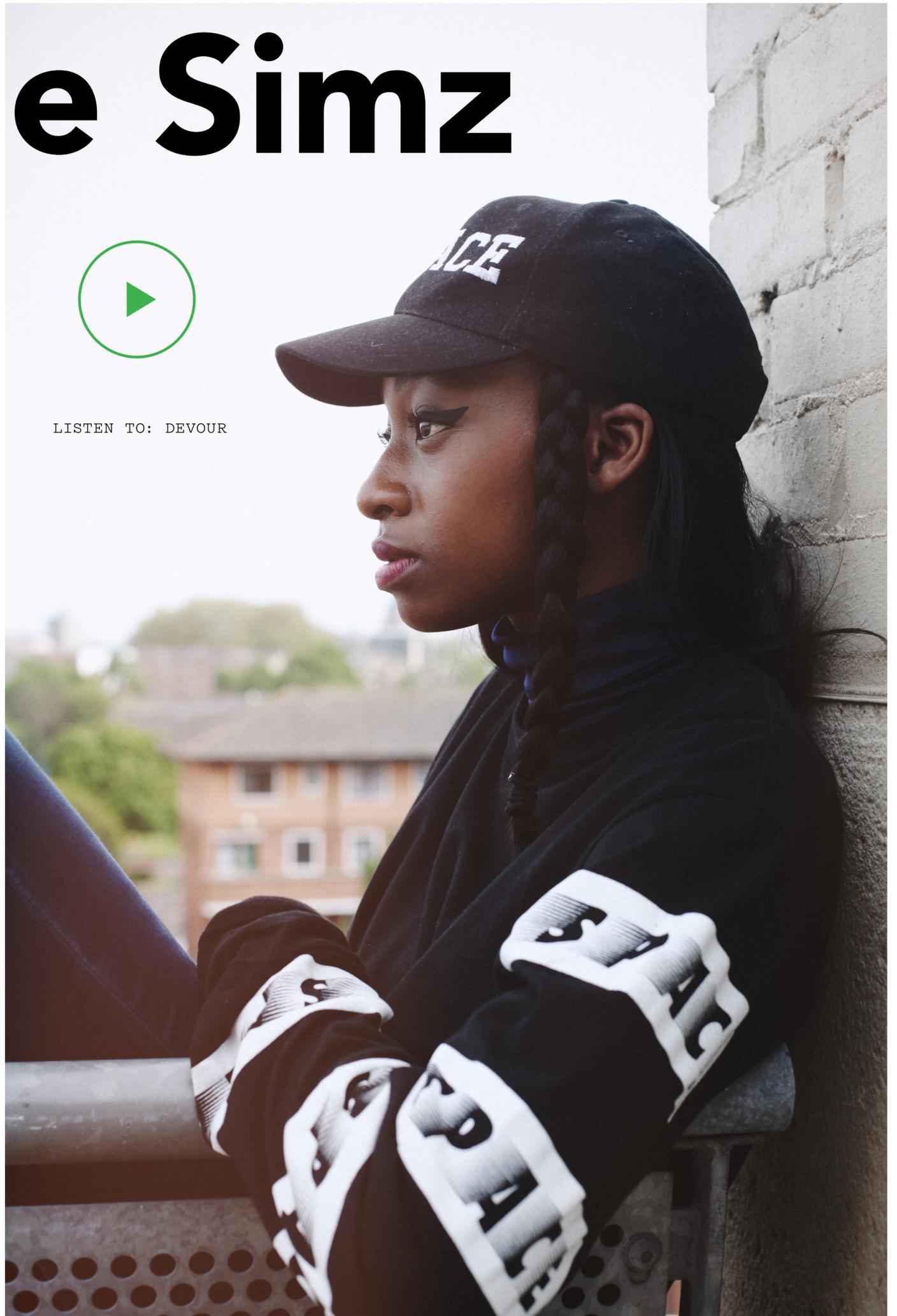


LISTEN TO: DEVOUR

It's been too long since a British emcee was dominating the critical buzzsphere. The Streets has faded from view, Lady Sovereign quit before she even began and Theophilus London spends more time crafting outfits than albums. But there is hope on the horizon in the form of Dizzee Rascal protégé Little Simz, who isn't even old enough to drink stateside yet but has already garnered acclaim from Jay-Z's *Life+Times* and a

support slot with Schoolboy Q. Simz's acting career makes it tempting to call her the British Drake but her flow is far more dexterous and her taste in beats connects her to the trip-hop scene that gave us Tricky. Few artists in any genre have shown so much promise at such an early age, and there is no sign that the hyper ambitious Little Simz will let up anytime soon.

Morgan Davis, Ovrld



YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[Snow Tha Product](#)

[Amber London](#)

[Lyric Michelle](#)

[DeJ Loaf](#)



London, England

JUCE



LISTEN TO:
CALL YOU OUT

Are you looking for the 2k15 DIY-equivalent of the late '90s/early 2000s greatest girl groups - think TLC meets Spice Girls meets Sugababes meets everything else you secretly listened to in the privacy of your bedroom plus a whole lot of modern-day *cool*? Look no further and enjoy a sip of JUCE, three London girls bringing you that priceless pop in a contemporary band-jacket. Georgia, Chalin & Cherish deliver tune after tune, providing an almost guilt-free guilty pleasure whilst putting on a swirling, dance-routine filled and energetic live show destined to take you back to those golden years.

Jarri Van der Haegen, *Disco Naïveté*

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[Clean Bandit](#) [George Maple](#) [Prinze George](#) [Photay](#)



Noveller

Austin, TX



Noveller is the moniker of the Brooklyn-based guitarist and filmmaker, Sarah Lipstate. She's released a bunch of material over the years, and was a member of Parts and Labor for a time, as well as Cold Cave, but her newest record, *Fantastic Planet*, is her strongest work so far. I recently booked her at a show in Brooklyn, and shortly before her set, she tweeted a photo of a jam-packed pedal board with the words "These are the tools I'll be using to make yr ears ring tonight." On *Fantastic Planet* she creates cinematic soundscapes with plenty of volume-- her instrument sound less like a guitar and more like a series of snowdrifts-- but if your ears end up buzzing, it'll be in the most soothing way imaginable.

Brandon Stosuy, Pitchfork

LISTEN TO: [NO DREAMS](#)

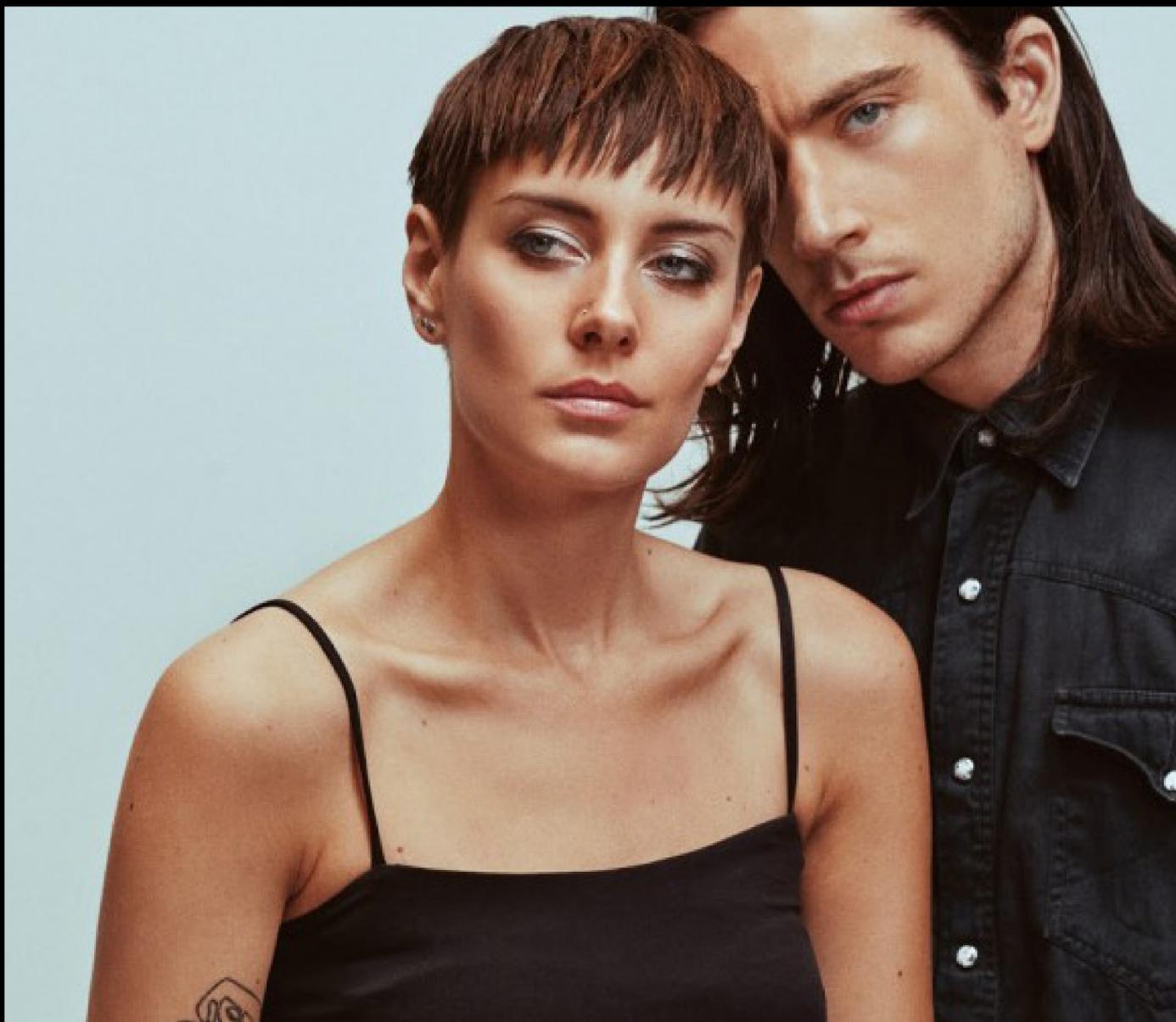
YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[Sleep ∞ Over](#)

[Bonnie Mercer](#)

[Oso Leone](#)

[Group of The Altos](#)



Rangleklods

Copenhagen, Denmark



LISTEN TO: LOST U

Excessively dancing teenager girls; head-nodding associates of the music industry; wasted regulars of Berlin's *Berghain* and raptured connoisseurs of the electronic music scene - what do those people have in common? Amongst many things, it's probably the act of staring at Esben Nørskov Andersens a.k.a. RANGLEKLODS face while he is performing his hypnotic chant to brilliantly produced synthpop masterpieces. After spending crazy times in Berlin with his partner Pernille Smith-Sivertsen, the musically gifted Danish couple decided to team up not only in songwriting but also on stage. RANGLEKLODS are well known for their hard-hitting performances full of euphoria and pulse, and their impressive live show is definitively worth a visit.

Anne Tetzner, Nordic By Nature

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[Bob Moses](#)

[Silent Diane](#)

[NIHILS](#)

[Kirin J Callinan](#)



Marie Davidson

A prolific member of neo-noir acts throughout Montreal, Marie Davidson's biggest splashes have come under her own banner. The sexual spark in a post-apocalyptic world, Davidson creates uncomfortable moments within her stark dark-wave melodies, embracing the impure thoughts we all have at the end of the world. It's an urge that's only grown stronger on each of her solo releases, to the point where her upcoming album, *Un Autre Voyage*, forces it to explode. Davidson is often on another voyage, but her sensuality may be of a forgotten recess of time and space, where Puritanical restraints have been broken.

Justin Spicer, Tiny Mix Tapes



LISTEN TO:
BALADE AUX USA

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[Natasha Kmeto](#) [BOAN](#) [The Horrorist](#) [Palmbomen II](#)

Hiatus Kaiyote

Melbourne, Australia



Signed to Salaam Remi's Sony imprint Flying Buddha, this Australian quartet are everything but ordinary. Having released their debut album 'Tawk Tomahawk' in 2013 Hiatus Kaiyote are gearing up for a sophomore LP that is hopefully just as jam packed with the beautifully intricate neo-soul/jazz fusion as the first. Wildly colourful production is balanced against delicate harmonies and complex lyrical structures to brilliant effect. Having attracted fans such as Flying Lotus and Prince with their utterly unique brand of electronic R&B, the music being created by this Melbourne band is exciting and nothing short of incomparable.

Jamila Scott, Cruel Rhythm



LISTEN TO: [FIRE/LAPUTA/MOLASSES/ATARI](#)

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[BADBADNOTGOOD](#)

[Hypnotic Brass Ensemble](#)

[Redinho](#)

[The Seshen](#)



Richmond, VA

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[The War on Drugs](#)

[Dry the River](#)

[Public Service Broadcasting](#)

[Giant Sand](#)

Matthew E. White

In 2011, Matthew E. White founded Spacebomb Records in Richmond, VA with the express purpose of forming a label with its own houseband. It's the sort of thing Motown did with The Funk Brothers or Stax Records did with Booker T & The M.G.'s, but a trend that hasn't been followed much as of late. White wants to cultivate a culture of sound akin to those legendary labels, something that results in music bigger than a single name on an album cover. As such, White is extremely delicate in the arrangements of his own material, a blend that honors his avant-jazz roots along with

a deep respect for Americana, gospel, and soul. Weeks of preparation will go into any particular horn section or guitar refrain, with White relying as much on the Spacebomb musicians as his own desires and ideas. In a live setting, the music is beyond enrapturing, a swirl of warmly nuanced compositions and a whispery baritoned frontman backed by choral harmonies that lift the spirit in big, big ways. White is crafting a sound that's at once timeless and progressive, and it's paying impressive dividends.

Ben Kaye, Consequence of Sound

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Meat Market

Oakland, CA



This Oakland-based band is one of the festival's top unsigned acts. They started off playing house parties in Santa Cruz, and now they're spreading good vibes to larger audiences. They play high-energy punk rock that's difficult to pin down, which is always the best kind. "Too Tired," their 2013 single, generated positive national press from *Spin Magazine* and *Vice*.

Carter Smith, Rollo Grady



LISTEN TO: BIG COOKIE

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[Guantanamo Baywatch](#)

[La Luz](#)

[Walter TV](#)

[Chief Scout](#)



LISTEN TO:
YOUR CRUSH ON ME



No Brain

Seoul, South Korea

Korean rock evolved over the years, but No Brain were there from the beginning. Formed in 1997 and still playing today, No Brain are the standard for Korean rock music. In 2013, they toured the United States and gained a lot of new fans. They released the song “Soju Shot,” in February 2013 and had started promoting the song on Korean music shows, but decided to stop and come to North America.

No Brain’s long history is impressive and their recent split with Crying Nut “96” paid tribute by each band covering the other’s songs. They may have grown older by default, but their live energy doesn’t change from small clubs to festivals.

Chris Park, Korean Indie

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[JEFF the Brotherhood](#) [SPELLS](#) [Peelander-Z](#) [Berri Txarrak](#)



YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[Peter Bibby](#)

[The Saturday Tea](#)

[Sarah Bethe Nelson](#)

[Torres](#)

Courtney Barnett

Melbourne, Australia



Courtney Barnett is an Australian singer, songwriter, and fret-mangling guitarist. I became aware of her in 2013 via “Avant Gardener”, a great rock song that mixed self-deprecating, smart-assed lyrics with impressive playing and her half-stoned slacker drawl. Her new album, *Sometimes I Sit and Think, and Sometimes I Just Sit*, comes out at the end of March. It features 11 of these sorts of gems, but with sturdier backing instrumentation, more swagger from the frontwoman, and way more shredding. The video for the first single, “Pedestrian at Best,” features Barnett dressed as a pathetic clown and features the line: “I think you’re a joke, but I don’t find you very funny.”

Brandon Stosuy, Pitchfork

LISTEN TO:
PEDESTRIAN AT BEST

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Seinabo Sey

Stockholm, Sweden

From the depths of Scandinavia comes Seinabo Sey, one of those rare Big Voices that effortlessly blurs the borders between pop, soul and what-not. Paired with super-producer Magnus Lidehäll (Britney Spears, Kylie Minogue), Seinabo makes something that can be described as Tina Turner f*cking with GoldenEye: grand and ominous, ice-cold but full of soul. Attendees at her recent London show included Frank Ocean and James Blake, so be sure to look around when you see her live - that could be quite the task though, as she'll easily transfix you as soon as she opens up that troath of hers. Don't wait around to jump on the Seinabo Sey-train, cause you ain't getting any younger, younger, younger, are you?

Jarri Van der Haegen, Disco Naïveté

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[Tove Lo](#)

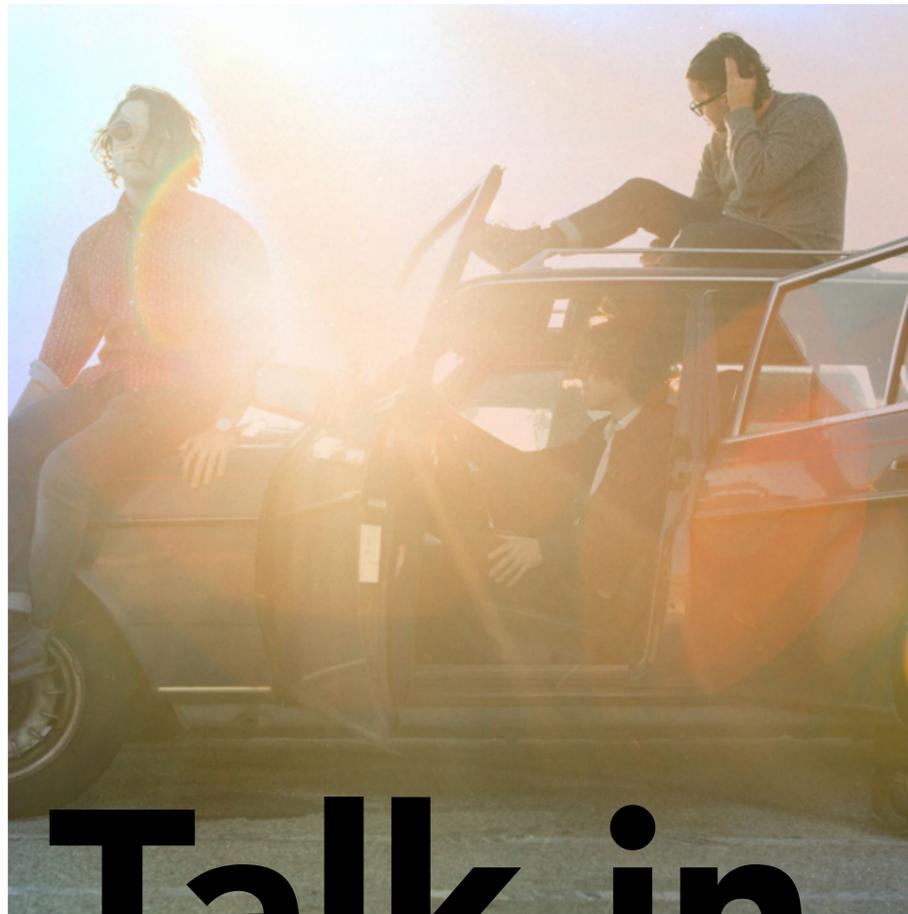
[Elle Varner](#)

[Wild Ones](#)

[The Knocks](#)

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Los Angeles, CA



LISTEN TO:
DON'T SEEM TO CARE

Talk in Tongues

Los Angeles-based Talk In Tongues is one of the most promising new bands appearing at this year's SXSW festival. This relatively unknown four-piece ensemble fuses several strands of psychedelic music, from Syd Barrett-era Pink Floyd to their contemporaries, Tame Impala and Temples. The freshness of "Still Don't Seem to Care" was apparent when it debuted online to rave reviews. Their uniqueness comes from the fact that each band member was a refugee from other

bands that just weren't meshing. The result is a powerhouse group that features collective songwriting efforts and honest and inspired tunes. What really sets Talk In Tongues apart from the crowd is the fact that each member of the group is a multi-instrumentalist capable of creating vast soundscapes. The band recently recorded its debut album at the legendary Sound City Studios. It's due out this spring on Fairfax Recordings.

Carter Smith, Rollo Grady

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[Avers](#) [Black Linen](#) [Breakfast in Fur](#) [Gateway Drugs](#)



The Districts

Philadelphia, PA

The Districts may not be old enough to drink, but their music will make you want to buy them one anyway. They make playing soulful rock look easy, and impressive feat that proves the Philadelphia boys are on the way towards an exciting career. Their debut album *A Flourish And A Spoil* has a lot of people excited, and they should be. Rock and roll needs more bands like The Districts in its bloodstream.



LISTEN TO:
4TH AND ROEBLING

Will Oliver, We All Want Someone To Shout For

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[The Mynabirds](#)

[Blank Range](#)

[Marmalakes](#)

[Reuben and The Dark](#)



LISTEN TO:
ELEVEN DRUMS

Felix Martin

Los Angeles, CA

Chances are you've never seen a musician like Venezuelan-born guitarist Felix Martin before. A graduate of the Berklee School of Music, Martin chooses to play 14 and 16 string guitars, as opposed to the usual five or six strings and he and his solo band create beautiful passages of music together that transcend the genre of heavy metal, instead being it's own unique entity. Part jazz, part world, part Latin fusion, Martin is making his second consecutive appearance at Metal Injection's showcase this Thursday night, because last year he left the crowd absolutely speechless.

Robert Pasbani, Metal Injection

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[KEN Mode](#)

[Cancer Bats](#)

[Excessum](#)

[Elder](#)



Until The Ribbon Breaks

If you're an avid YouTuber, chances are you've seen Until The Ribbon Breaks' amazing, self-made music videos. If not, you've got some YouTubing to do!

The U.K. band recently released their highly anticipated debut full-length, *A Lesson Unlearned* (Kobalt), in the U.S. Music critics fell in love with UTRB when the trio released their *The Other Ones* EP a little over a year ago. The threesome – comprised of singer and multi-instrumentalist Pete Lawrie Winfield, drummer Elliot Wall, and bassist and keyboardist James Gordon – blends various genres, creating avant-garde electro-pop, similar in style to Massive Attack and James Blake, while still managing to be fresh and innovative. We can't wait to see them live.

Sarah Hess, BestNewBands.com

Cardiff, Wales

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[George Maple](#) [The People The Poet](#) [LOLAWOLF](#) [Shura](#)



Compass

(Mexican Institute of Sound
featuring Toy Selectah)

Mexico City, Mexico

Compass is the union of two great talents in the Mexican scene: Toy Selectah is a Mad Decent-signed producer and remixer, as well as the guts of Mexico's prime hip-hop superstars Control Machete. Camilo Lara has made a career as the Mexican Institute of Sound, making a fusion of cumbia, salsa and the like with an electronic foundation that has taken him to some of the biggest stages in the world. For Compass, the duo

traveled the world over and assembled a cast of 80-plus musicians who contributed to the album, due in early 2015. From Boy George to Jamaican session aces Sly and Robbie, to Japanese experimentalist Cornelius, to former Sepultura drummer Igor Cavalera; the results are anchored by exotic beats that bridge honest to goodness groove with a palette of worldwide flavors for a unique mix.

Marcos Hassan, Remezcla

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[Kinky](#) [Bomba Estereo](#) [La Sabrosura Dura](#) [60 Tigres](#)



HEO

Seoul, South Korea

Musicians are always exploring and experimenting and HEO is no different. Structure, his second full length, is a departure from his previous work and offers a somber and emotional display of his talent. A mixture of electronic and rock, Structure is a dense album. In the five years between albums, HEO said, “my perspective on music has changed from ground up.” There isn’t a band that can easily be compared to HEO because of his unique style and signature to the music he creates. HEO uses every beat to its fullest adding and subtracting melody and samples resulting in tight and powerful songs.

Chris Park, Korean Indie

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[Young Ejecta](#)

[Golden Fable](#)

[East India Youth](#)

[Icky Blossoms](#)



LISTEN TO: LUNA



LISTEN TO:
WELCOME HOME



YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[SLKTR](#)

[Daniel Maloso](#)

[SETI X](#)

[Bronze Whale](#)

Teen Flirt

Monterrey, Mexico

Fueled by a wave of pure sentimentality, the music made by Monterrey, Mexico's David Oranday doesn't just refer to loss and melancholia; it also has a sexual energy that works in tandem with the evocative nature of his instrumentals. One of the brightest producers in the Mexican scene, Teen Flirt is also prolific, releasing tracks, a mixtape series titled *Essential Guide To Modern Love* and an album called *Welcome Home*, featuring a marriage of breathtaking sonics and hooks in tracks like "Her Fake Name Is Sophia" (featuring Denise Gutiérrez from Hello Seahorse! on vocals). Teen Flirt is a regular fixture on his home country's festival circuit, and deserves to be a regular worldwide as well.

Marcos Hassan, Remezcla

New York, NY



Halsey

Quite similarly to Charli XCX, 20-year-old Halsey, née Ashley Frangipane, has discovered an almost foolproof formula for making foolproof dark pop. Her EP, *Room 93*, seems to encapsulate the displaced 18 to 22-year-olds at the moment, who float somewhere between Gen Y and Z (her single “Ghost” starts “I’m searching for something that I can’t reach”). It’s a cross between dream and electro pop, with a tinge of unapologetic apathetic angst. If you’re looking for female-empowering, addictive jams, well, Halsey’s your go-to.

Yasmeen Gharnit, **NYLON**

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

Paperwhite

Dylan Gardner

San Cisco

Nova Rockafeller

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YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[Vic Mensa](#)

[Lil Herb](#)

[Alex Wiley](#)

[Lil Bibby](#)

Chicago, IL

Mick Jenkins

Mick Jenkins is a rapper from Chicago, on his newest mixtape, *The Water[s]*, water is a central theme on the album's 15 tracks. Instead of using thirst as a metaphor for sexual desire or similar lazy comparisons, Mick focuses on water's value and scarcity. It's not all introspection, Mick also raps with chest thumping bravado and dazzling intricate flow, dropping mind blowing lyrics with ease. *The Water[s]* features an amazing cast of young Chicago musicians. Producers ThemPeoples and On Gaud provide tracks while rappers and singers theMIND, Jean Deaux, and NoName Gypsy lend their voices, giving the album an eclectic vibe. *The Water[s]* stands out as one of the most cohesive albums of 2014 giving hip-hop fans a lot to drink in.

Nathan Headden - Operation Every Band



LISTEN TO: WATER

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[Twерps](#)

[Gap Dream](#)

[Homeshake](#)

[Speedy Ortiz](#)



It's difficult to discuss the musical work of Juan without first noting that his music is inspired by his move to the US from Uruguay, following his father. Lost and lonely, Juan turned to poetry and music, inevitably finding the two to perfectly overlap in a world of imaginative creation. His earliest works found him fronting The Beets, but he's now stepped outside that project to offer a more introspective vision on the world he sees around him. His debut solo LP, *North American Poetry* gives listeners a glimpse into the lives of a young immigrant, while still offering up something wholly personal and relatable. It's one of the many reasons you'll find watching a live Juan Wauters so inspirational, and ultimately endearing.

Nathan Lankford, Austin Town Hall

Juan Wauters

NEW YORK, NY



Natural Child

Natural Child's song, "Let the Good Times Roll," embodies this Nashville trio's sunny approach to music and life. Over the past five years, Seth Murray (vocals, guitar), Wes Traylor (vocals, bass) and Zack Martin (drums) have amassed a dedicated fanbase with their relentless touring schedule and prolific album releases. Their self-described "Sweat-Drenched, Beer-Soaked, Country-Fried" take on Southern rock 'n' roll draws on garage, punk, soul, blues, and country influences to create a unique, but familiar and eclectic combo. In 2012, the band released two of the best albums of that year, *Hard In Heaven* and *For The Love of Game* on Burger Records. Several of the songs sound like echoes from a '70s-era Stones album. Their raw riffs and no-nonsense, take-no-prisoners approach to rock-infused country music is what makes this band exciting, innovative and unpredictable. Make sure to catch one of their late-night shows, as they tend to get out of hand...in a good way.

Carter Smith, Rollo Grady

Nashville, TN



LISTEN TO: [BABY](#)

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[Lee Bains III &](#)

[The Glory Fires](#)

[JEFF the Brotherhood](#)

[Reptar](#)

[King Tuff](#)

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Milo Greene

Milo Greene is an LA-based indie pop quintet with not a single member with that name. (The band created the fictitious character years' ago to help them approach concert promoters). The group, which includes Robbie Arnett, Graham Fink, Andrew Heringer, Curtis Marrero, and Marlana Sheetz, recently released their sophomore album, *Control*. A darkly synth-pop resonance encompasses the newest effort. Their luminous, 2012 self-titled debut was influenced by 70s soft rock and contemporary indie pop. It exhibited a deep catharsis as well as pastoral and rustic style which led to an incredibly laidback listen from beginning to end. *Control* was released on January 27 via Elektra Records.

[Sean Kayden, BestNewBands.com](#)



LISTEN TO: [LIE TO ME](#)

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[Avid Dancer](#) [Cold Mailman](#) [Family of The Year](#) [The Lighthouse and The Whaler](#)



Fallujah

San Francisco, CA

SXSW was made for a band like Fallujah. These Bay area technical death metal wizards have a lot of hype surrounding them after their monstrous 2014 release, *The Flesh Prevails* and they are riding that hype train to their first appearance at SXSW during MetalSucks' Wednesday night showcase at Dirty Dog. Fallujah is the type of band that you discover and immediately have to tell your friends about because there is nothing else on the bill like them. At points nasty death metal and at points purely atmospheric, the music will take you on a spiritual journey to discover heavy metal is alive and breathing.

Robert Pasbani. Metal Injection



LISTEN TO: LEVITATION

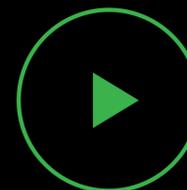
YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[Archspire](#)

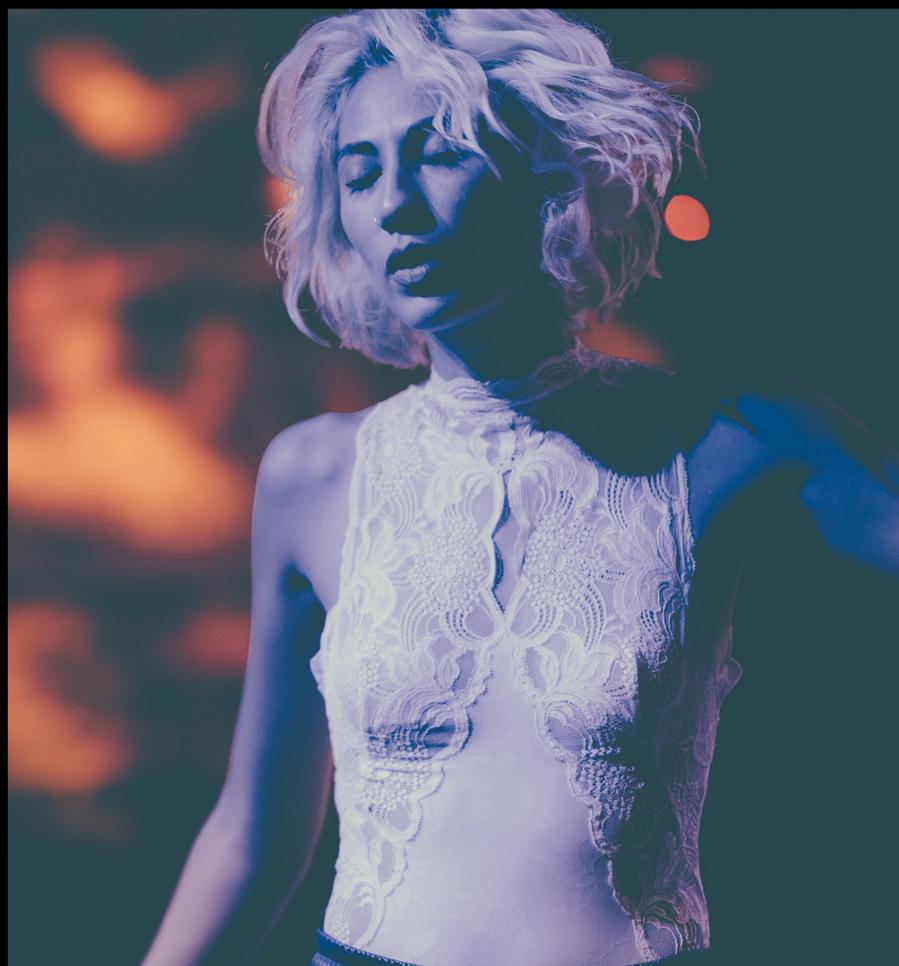
[Victim Mentality](#)

[Venomous Maximous](#)

[King Parrot](#)



LISTEN TO: BASICCALLY



Tei Shi

Vancouver, Canada

Indie pop sensation Tei Shi caught my attention last year with her exceptional single “Basically.” Seeing her perform the track live with graceful emotional power last year made me realize that she’s the real deal. The rare case of an artist who is able to create mega-pop jams, as well as ballads, and perform both well in the live setting. She’s got a bright future ahead of her, you’d be wise to join her on it.

Will Oliver, We All Want Someone To Shout For

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[Yumi Zouma](#) [GABI](#) [Fielded](#) [Sevdaliza](#)



Raury

Atlanta, GA

There's nobody else out who sounds like Raury right now. He raps, but calling him a rapper would be grossly inaccurate, and at only 18 years old, this kid's sound is more ambitious than most artists who have been in the game for years. But what really makes Raury special is his energy. He's a young creative with a rabid following, and to really understand what he's all about, you need to experience him live. You might see a "Smells Like Teen Spirit" cover, or he might take on Queen or Kid Cudi. Whatever he does, it's a safe bet that it will be something special. He's not out to do his job and get paid—he's out to change the world. It may sound cliché and far-fetched, but once you see how the crowd reacts, you'll understand.

Jacob Moore, Pigeons and Planes

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[Father](#)

[Key!](#)

[Rome Fortune](#)

[Ka\\$h Akbar](#)



Odesza

Harrison Mills and Clayton Knight first began making together as Odesza after finishing their senior year of University. In September of 2012 they released an album titled “Summers Gone,” putting them on the map as a band worth paying attention to. While their debut LP saw the duo gain a good deal of attention within the blogosphere, it wasn’t until their sophomore album “In Return” (released in September of 2014) that the Seattle they came into their own. The resulting 12 tracks made for an incredible listening experience -- it’s no wonder they earned the well-deserved accolade of being one of 2014’s most-blogged artists.

Jason Grishkoff, Indie Music Shuffle

Seattle, WA



LISTEN TO:
SAY MY NAME
(FEATURING ZYRA)

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[Shlohmo](#)

[Kodak to Graph](#)

[Hermitude](#)

[Hudson Mohawke](#)

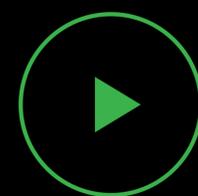
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KATE BOY

Not much is yet known about the electro-pop collective KATE BOY, except that it is consisted of three Stockholm-based members (vocalist Kate Akhurst from Australia, and Markus Dextegen and Hampus Nordgren Hemlin from Sweden). However, that mysteriousness may add to the fact that the trio produces the perhaps sexiest synth-pop of northern latitudes. Take some high class dance pop of Kylie Minogue, mix it up with classic 80's sounds à la Kate Bush, add the coolness of The Knife's avant-garde opera, and voilà: KATE BOY's sound is ready-baked, and it comes with a classic black-and-white imagery containing an obvious faible for androgynous figures. Go grab a bite!

Anne Tetzner, Nordic By Nature



LISTEN TO:
NORTHERN LIGHTS

Stockholm, Sweden

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[Urban Cone](#) [MS MR](#) [ASTR](#) [BRNS](#)



Tove Styrke

Stockholm, Sweden

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[Elliphant](#)

[Laleh](#)

[Kate Boy](#)

[Tove Lo](#)

What is it with Sweden? Every year we see an influx of new talent from the Scandinavian country, and this year it seems to be Tove Styrke's time to shine. She's been making infectious pop music for years, but now she's signed with RCA Records, gearing up for her first proper U.S. release, and her latest songs—like “Ego” and “Borderline”—don't disappoint. Even better, her live show is incredible. She's a natural performer, beaming with confidence and a fun, youthful spirit. She's got a slightly off-kilter stage presence that fans of Björk, MØ, and Grimes will fall in love with, and the live versions of her songs are even better than some of the recordings. If you're looking to dance, smile, and be blown away by a pop artist made for the spotlight, don't miss out on Tove Styrke.

Jacob Moore, Pigeons and Planes



LISTEN TO: BORDERLINE



LISTEN TO:
STICC TO THE PLAN



YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

Tuki Carter

JR Donato

JUNE

Chevy Woods

Pittsburgh, PA

Taylor Gang is known for having fun, potent weed, and a roster of hot spitters. Pittsburgh native Chevy Woods has earned his stripes with his *The Cookout and Gangland Series* mixtapes. Chevy wrapped up his own tour with Kevin Gates proving he can stand on his own outside the success of Wiz and Taylor Gang which makes him one of those emcees that time is this very moment.

Steve Raze, AllHipHop



Thee Oh Sees

Los Angeles, CA

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[Heaters](#)

[Mystery Lights](#)

[The Damned](#)

[Self Defense Family](#)

Thee Oh Sees have been a pivotal -- not to mention prolific -- force in garage and psych scenes since the late '90s. With their combination of propulsive energy, sonic experimentation, and striking stage visuals, Thee Oh Sees have amassed a cult-following among art-inclined circles. Lucky for us, their proposed hiatus (announced back in 2013) didn't last all that long, and since returning with their 2014 LP *Drop*, this noisy San Francisco-based outfit has been busy touring all across the states. You definitely don't want to miss this essential West Coast act.

Nasa Hadizadeh, Alt Citizen



Sicko Mobb

Chicago, IL



LISTEN TO: FIESTA

By the time hip-hop wunderkinds Sicko Mobb released last year's debut mixtape, *Super Saiyan Vol. 1*, the duo's hooks had long since infiltrated their hometown of Chicago. Their 8-bit synth loops and warp-speed drum patterns helped define the city's bop movement as a sugar-soaked mutation of the drill style forged by Chief Keef's Glo Gang. Sicko Mobb's Lil Trav and Lil Ceno transplant Keef's syllable stretching and auto-tune exploitation into their own strain

of playful speed-rap, channeling motor-mouth god Twista. When Twista himself turns up on *SSV1*, we witness the torch's passing, while recent work with A\$AP Ferg, DJ Nate, and producer supergroup Future Brown finds them comfortable in higher-profile collabs. At SXSW, expect nothing less than mayhem: a proper mob onstage, with the duo bopping at the center, pouring syllables into the mic in step with spiraling limbs.

Maxwell Allison, *Tiny Mix Tapes*

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[A.Dd+](#) [Main Attraktionz](#) [OCD](#) [The Outfit, Tx](#)

Austin, TX



YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[OBN IIIs](#)

[Metz](#)

[The Zoltars](#)

[Single Mothers](#)

Flesh Lights



LISTEN TO: I WAIT

Austin's Flesh Lights have finally hit the top! They combine furious riffs, pummeling drum beats and a knack for pop sensibility, making rock n' roll feel cool all over again. Their recent effort, *Free Yourself*, hit upon the band's touchstones, nodding towards hardcore punk and power pop, though they upped the ante quite a bit in comparison to their first record; the LP sounds huge. Put it on your speaker, turn it up loud. You'll either get complaints from your most hated neighbor or make a brand new friend for life. Regardless, you're not going to find a more furiously entertaining three-piece on this year's SXSW bill.

Nathan Lankford, Austin Town Hall

Natalie Prass

Nashville, TN



LISTEN TO:
WHY DON'T YOU
BELIEVE IN ME?

Before she released her eponymous debut, the 28-year-old Nashville-based songwriter Natalie Prass played keyboards in Jenny Lewis' backing band. Listening to the lush collection—Prass' classic 70s-sounding voice backed with piano, strings, horns, and harp produced by Matthew E. White and Trey Pollard—you wonder how she managed to stay in the shadows so long. She's said Dione Warwick is a major influence, but when I first heard these classic-sounding songs, I thought about Amy Mann's work for Paul Thomas Anderson's film, *Magnolia*, or maybe a surprise Dolly Parton/Jon Brion collaboration. Whatever the case, it's not surprising that shortly after the album was released, her label, Spacebomb, partnered with Columbia imprint Startime.

Brandon Stosuy, Pitchfork

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[Elle King](#)

[Wild Child](#)

[Hamilton Leithauser](#)

[COIN](#)

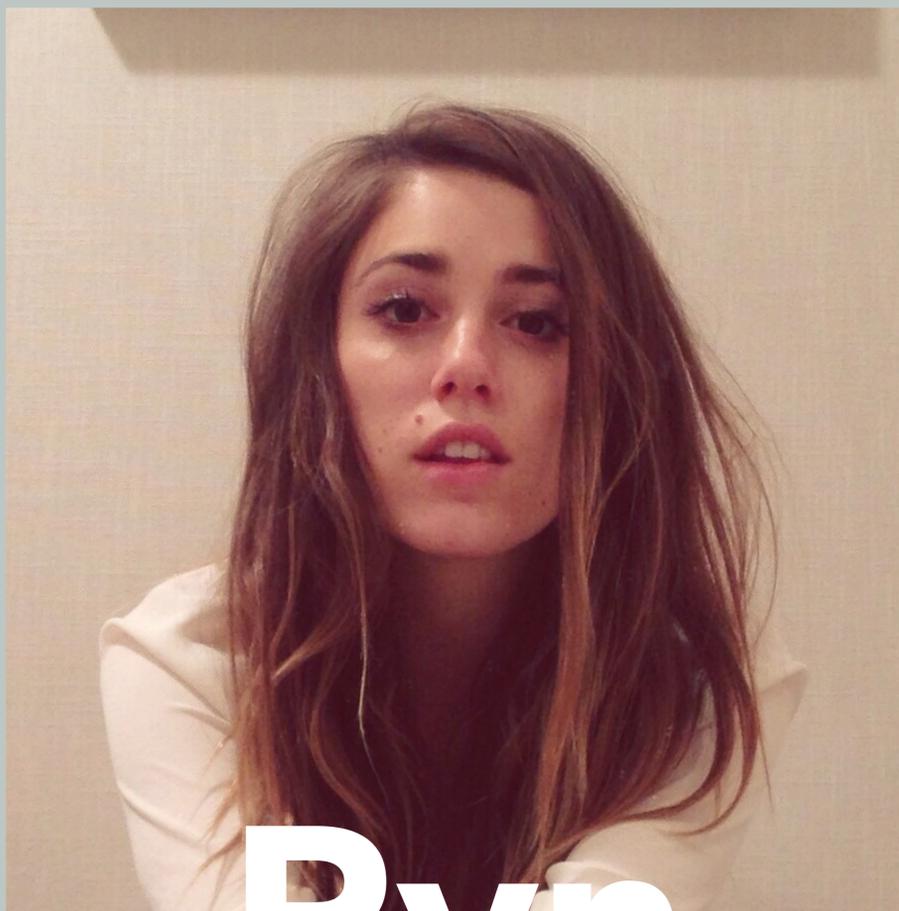
YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[Laleh](#)

[Lowell](#)

[ELEL](#)

[Bleachers](#)



LISTEN TO: OCTAHATE

New York, NY

Ryn Weaver

Actress turned singer-songwriter Ryn Weaver's first single 'OctaHate' overloaded the blogosphere in June of 2014 with its fierce attitude likened to Beyonce and poetic sensibilities similar to Ellie Goulding. It further hinted at an emotionally charged live affair with unmatched pop-stylized production and catchy hooks for danceability's sake.

Follow-up EP, Promises, cemented her capabilities and highlighted more of her unique voice and heartfelt lyricism. With production support from greats like Benny Blanco, Cashmere Cat, and Michael Angelakos, vocal support from Charli XCX, and a promised Coachella appearance in less than one year of being known, it wouldn't be overly drastic to argue that Ryn is in the running for pop-sensation of the decade.

Ali Jafari, Control+Alt+Delight



LISTEN TO: SO GOOD



Tuxedo

Los Angeles, CA

Multi-facted musician Mayer Hawthorne and hip-hop producer Jake One are the soulfully funktastic duo that is Tuxedo. If Mayer Hawthorne's live performances are any indication, then Tuxedo's live set promises to be a rather classy affair of 'throwback' boogie combined with the desirousness of 90's R&B.

Tuxedo surprised the blogosphere with a sultry and synth-heavy disco sound in early

2013. Their self-titled debut came out earlier this month on Stones Throw Records, and it holds true to R&B, soul, and disco-funk standards. While the duo doesn't do anything too out of the ordinary on it, their combined efforts add just the right amount of sexy to warrant the adage: 'if it ain't broke, don't fix it'.

Ali Jafari, [Control+Alt+Delight](#)

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[Stwo](#)

[Pomo](#)

[Nx Worries](#)

[Homeboy Sandman](#)

San Francisco blues rockers The Stone Foxes are coming up on a decade of existence as a band. Through three albums and countless touring hours, they've poured gallons of sweat into a stomping, twanging rock 'n' roll mix that's equal parts good ol' boy warmth and saloon swagger.

They refuse to let up, and in fact, they're doubling down and going for broke. Newly expanded to a six-piece, the Foxes are in the midst of their #FoxesFirstFriday singles campaign, releasing a new free song on the first Friday of each month. At the end of the year-long cycle, the 12 tracks

will be compiled as *Twelve Spells*, alongside more new material and live recordings. The approach isn't so much a savvy publicity strategy as it is playing towards the band's own strengths. The Bay Area boys belong on the stage, where rasping yowls, bluesy harp riffs, and pummeling rhythms beat life into the tunes while the musicians' fluid rotation around mics and instruments demonstrates how utterly the sounds fill their veins. Who needs a record when it's the show that captures the songs in their most earnest form? Do it live.

Ben Kaye, Consequence of Sound

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[Not In The Face](#)

[Gary Clark Jr](#)

[Olivia Jean](#)

[Black Joe Lewis](#)

San Francisco, CA



LISTEN TO: LOCOMOTION

The Stone Foxes



Joe Kay

Los Angeles, CA

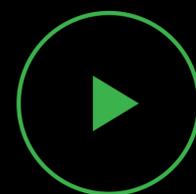
Every once and awhile, an artist or a group comes together to change the tempo of the music industry; whether it be because of their dissatisfaction with the current state or truly believing in a new style or sound that would push boundaries. Well, after JOE KAY co-founded a record label and culture SOULECTION, he has been grinding out four years worth of weekly radio shows and supporting artists that matched what he believed to be The Sound Of Tomorrow™.

JOE KAY spends most of his time tirelessly searching through tracks to DJ into his weekly three-hour radio show on rinse.fm (London). His radio shows have gained a cult following and recently hit the 200th edition earlier this year. What you can expect from his sets are exclusive, unreleased material, and simply the best future beat and hip-hop in the world.

Ali Jafari, Control+Alt+Delight

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

IAMNOBODI ESTA. Jay Prince Peanut Butter Wolf



LISTEN TO:
RUNNING HOME TO YOU

Bee Caves

Austin, TX

There's something that sounds distinctly mysterious in the music from Bee Caves' debut EP *Animals With Religion*. From the cross-pollination of modern and rustic in "Black Mason Hills" to the surprisingly glitchy and subversive beats in "Animals With Religion" and heart-stopping percussion in "Running Home to You", the band never settles for one particular genre, instead dipping their toes boldly but deftly into multiple pools. After catching their live show during CMJ, a short, no-frills set that perfectly translated the EP's tone, I was even more excited to see what they would bring to the table.

Lauren McKinney, *The Wild Honey Pie*

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[Moon Honey](#)

[Angel Olson](#)

[Jack Ladder & The Dreamlanders](#)

[Avid Dancer](#)



LISTEN TO: SING A LOVE



Tessela x Untold

London, England

Tessela and Untold are two of the England's most intriguing dance producers. The former has helped to lead the pack of powerful, drum breaks-driven music that looks back towards the UK's history of hardcore and jungle. The latter is a dubstep pioneer constantly heading in darker, techno-influenced and experimental directions, and

whose Hemlock label has helped to chronicle the on-going evolution of UK music over its post-dubstep period. With a shared love of hard-hitting percussion and a tendency to surprise, there's a good chance that a collaborative set between the two will be both face-melting and unpredictable.

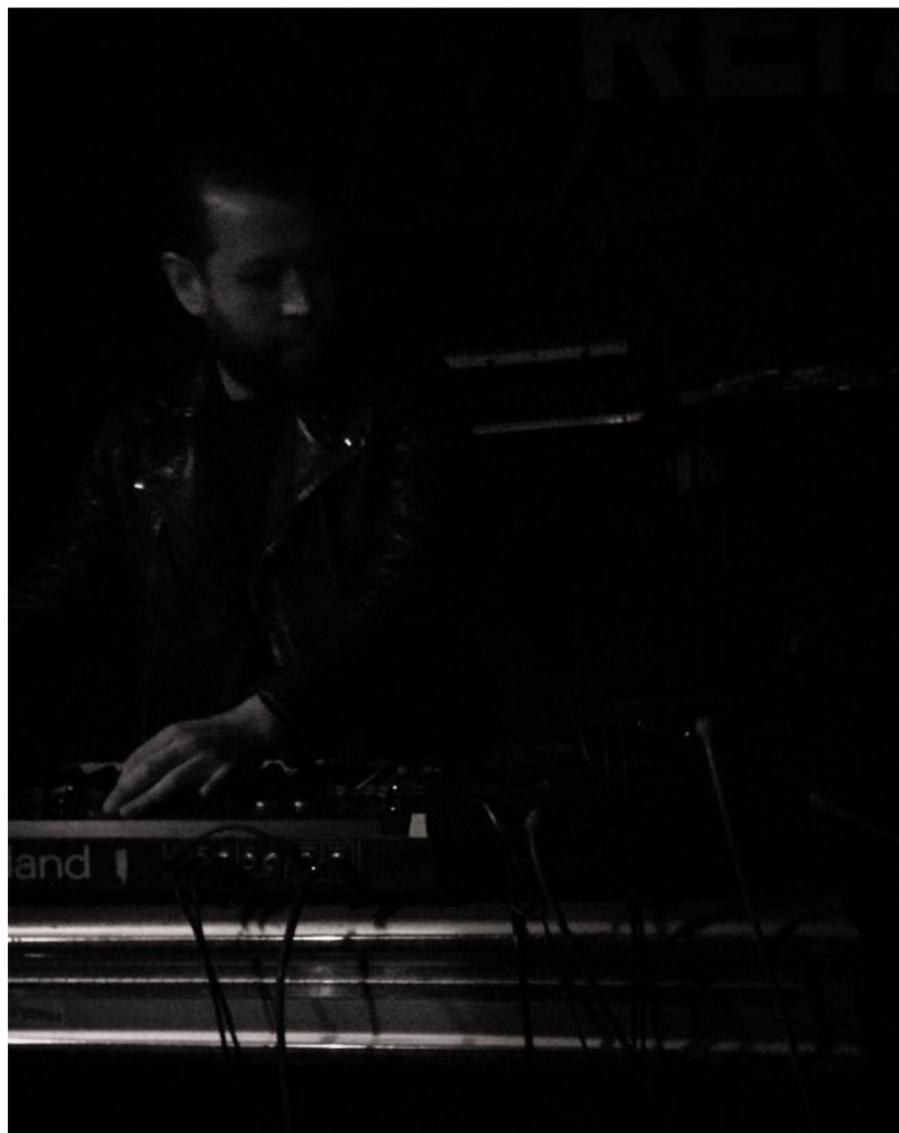
Andrew Ryce, Resident Advisor

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[Celestial Trax](#) [TX Connect](#) [Ikonika](#) [Elias Mazian](#)



LISTEN TO: RULETH



ssleeperhold

Austin, TX

As exciting as it was to hear the news that John Carpenter would be releasing his “debut” album this year, the master’s thunder was arguably stolen by Austin’s secret synth weapon ssleeperhold. The LA expat’s LP *Ruleth* might as well as been a collection of lost themes all its own, containing enough emotion to make a computer cry but also maintaining a distant,

haunting mood not *unlike* Carpenter’s iconic *Halloween* score. Dark yet paradoxically warm, *Ruleth* marked ssleeperhold as a unique new talent in the international synth scene and anyone looking for a glimpse at the possibly post-apocalyptic future of electronic music would be wise to keep an eye on him.

Morgan Davis, Ovrld

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[SURVIVE](#) [Flatliner](#) [Silk Rodeo](#) [TRANS-X](#)

Detroit, MI



Daniel Wilson



LISTEN TO:
HEARTBREAKER

With influences ranging from Nina Simone to Freddie Mercury, Michigan native Daniel Wilson packs one heck of a punch on his latest EP 'Boy Who Cried Thunder', released through indie label Zap Records. Wilson's androgynous voice flutters over tales of love, heartbreak and fantasy as he guides you into his genre-less technicolour world. A decade of gospel choir combined with a love of Kate Bush creates something ethereal and something especially emotional in the layered electronic production found in Wilson's music. He manages to combine his tastes in music to create a sound that is refreshing and uplifting but still tugs heavily on those heart strings.

Jamila Scott, Cruel Rhythm

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[Jack + Eliza](#) [Safia](#) [Jack Garratt](#) [Smallpools](#)

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[Full of Hell](#)

[Moon Tooth](#)

[Byzantine](#)

[The Skull](#)



LISTEN TO: SPIT

Mantar

Hamburg, Germany

Mantar are a two-piece wrecking crew hailing from Hamburg, Germany who you can count on to deliver noisy, feedback drenched, sludge metal with gritty, abrasive vocals as witnessed on their recently released debut full-length offering “Death By Burning”. Lone band members Erinc (Drums, Vocals) and Hanno (Guitar, Vocals) are completely uninterested with the latest trends in heavy music (and apparently the bass guitar as well) ultimately resulting in a pretty unique sounding dynamic-duo of drudgery.

Robert Williams, METAL-RULES.COM

S P A G H E T T I J U N C T I O N



LISTEN TO: CLOUD IX

Scotty ATL

Atlanta, GA

It's a serious mixture when your music is fire, swag is on 10 and a following that memorize, scream and party to your lyrics. Scotty ATL is one of those rising stars that has a following because of his style and sound that has the A a buzz with his music.

Steve Raze, AllHipHop

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[Migos](#) [Sy Ari Da Kid](#) [Sean Falyon](#) [Jarren Benton](#)



Veil of Maya

Chicago, IL

Chicago's Veil of Maya are making their return to SXSW after a four year absence. A lot has changed for the band in that time.

They've continued to tour the world and mature their sound. They have a new vocalist, Lukas Magyar, who will be making his SXSW debut. One thing remains consistent – their riffs will force you to uncontrollably bang your head. The band are purveyors of groove and will bring that groove to their headlining gig this Thursday night at the Dirty Dog bar. They also recently completed a new album, no doubt showcasing some new tunes at their headlining gig.

Robert Pasbani. Metal Injection

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[Felix Martin](#)

[Talkshow](#)

[Troller](#)

[Mantar](#)

Unlocking The Truth



Three African American junior high school students showed up to Times Square in New York one random afternoon, instruments in toe. They played a passage from another metal band, Chelsea Grin to the passers by. One person stopped and actually filmed the band and uploaded the video to YouTube. The clip went viral, amassing millions of hits, and eventually landing the band a million dollar record contract at Sony. But they aren't rich just yet, they are going to have to prove themselves before they get to see that money. The trio have opened for bands like Guns N Roses, Metallica and Queens of the Stone Age. SXSW is as large a proving ground as any and they hope to prove themselves Tuesday at the Dirty Dog.

Robert Pasbani. Metal Injection

New York, NY

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[Dead Earth Politics](#)

[Dillinger Escape Plan](#)

[Ceremony](#)

[Castle](#)



UNiiQU3



LISTEN TO: HULA HOOP

Newark, NJ

Cherise Gary is a member of Jersey club's foundational Brick Bandits crew. Along with DJ Slink, she's become one of the Newark scene's worldwide ambassadors, and she's part of a new wave of artists helping to get fast-paced Jersey club music international attention. UNiiQU3 separates herself from the pack with a more polished take on the genre, as well as her tendency to look beyond the genre's template. She chops up big radio songs like Tinashe's "2 On" and makes her own tracks, showing off local talent and internationally-known artists like Brenmar. Her sets bridge the gap between Jersey club, footwork, Baltimore and other styles.

Andrew Ryce, Resident Advisor

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[Nadus](#) [DJ TiGa](#) [Slink](#) [Brenmar](#)



Weedeater



LISTEN TO:
GOOD LUCK AND
GOD SPEED

Wilmington, North Carolina sludge metal three-piece Weedeater have been aurally intoxicating audiences since their inception in 1998. Initially formed by bassist and vocalist “Dixie” Dave Collins following the split of Buzzoven, Weedeater have previously established themselves in the doom/stoner metal community through cult indie label recordings for labels like Southern Lord Productions and Crucial Blast Records. Now signed to French label Season of Mist, expect the band to preview some new material from their upcoming LP during their live set.

Robert Williams, METAL-RULES.COM

Wilmington, NC

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[Ken Mode](#) [Cancer Bats](#) [Tear Dungeon](#) [Allagaeon](#)



The Barberettes

It's hard to imagine 1960s Doo-wop being a genre in South Korea, but The Barberettes captured a lot of attention with their cover of The Ronettes "Be My Baby." When asked why they chose that sound, they replied, "it's the genre of music that has no haters."

The Barberettes recognize they're not reinventing anything, the music they make is a mixture of past and present. "It is Korean Doo-wop done in 21st century."

Among bands in South Korea, The Barberettes stand out as unique because regardless if there's a backing band or just a single guitar, the three voices combine together and create something familiar, but different.

Chris Park, Korean Indie

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

[Got A Girl](#)

[Bloods Band](#)

[Shivery Shakes](#)

[Crayon Pop](#)



LISTEN TO:
WHEN IT'S RAININ'

Seoul, South Korea



SOPHIE

London, England

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LISTEN TO: **HARD**

Just over a year ago British producer SOPHIE seemingly crash landed onto Earth from some hyper real planet made of candy floss and bubble gum with the polarising 'Bipp'. Released on the ground breaking label Numbers the tone for this project has always blurred the lines of fun with innovation. In the twelve or so months since dropping his first tracks on Soundcloud,

he's worked with Diplo on Madonna's album, made the jump to J-Pop and warped sonic boundaries with his intensely bright electronic pop on tracks like 'Lemonade'. More than just a producer, almost impossible to compare, pigeon hole or predict SOPHIE's dayglo soundscapes are not to be missed.

Jamila Scott, Cruel Rhythm

The Shivas

Portland, OR

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LISTEN TO:
YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO

The last several years have seen an explosion of garage, surf and psychedelia into the mainstream of all indie genres. But, no one out there is combining them all as seamlessly as The Shivas. They've got tracks that border on psychedelic freak outs, yet they'll turn around and offer you a smooth ditty that has you tapping your toes whilst dreaming of the California sun. The past few years have seen them release two successive albums on the heralded K Records, each one showing an incredible ability to throw some imagination into a genre that's grown increasingly stale. We all need a reminder as to why this musical resurgence came about, and perhaps it's best if we start with those doing it best, like The Shivas.

Nathan Lankford, Austin Town Hall

Shura

London, England



LISTEN TO: TOUCH

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Shura turned in the best debut single of last year in “Touch”, a taut left-of-centre breakup anthem flecked with a genuine lyrical universality and the kind of honeyed vocal that would have mid-80s Janet Jackson and Madonna checking their backs. A lot of the music we’re into right now - whether it’s indie or major-signed -

is characterised by an individuality, quirk and contradiction that’s being allowed to develop with interference. Shura’s got that special thing you don’t fuck with or you’ll never see it blossom.

Paul Bridgewater, *The Line of Best Fit*



Weyes Blood

From first listen, it's obvious that Natalie Mering, a.k.a. Weyes Blood, isn't concerned with making the same old Top 40 music. Inspired by literature (her name is an ode to Flannery O'Connor's debut novel *Wise Blood*) and gothic horror films (her latest album, *The Innocents*, takes its name from Henry James' *The Turn of the Screw* '61 film adaptation), Weyes Blood evokes powerhouse '60s and '70s folk and distorts it with unexpected rifts, delays, and electronica. It's a sound so alienesque and strange that you can't help but be intrigued (and pleasantly surprised).

Yasmeen Gharnit, NYLON



LISTEN TO: [HANG ON](#)

NEW YORK, NY

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