



RUTH BAILEY

TOP 10 ALBUMS

- Manners **PASSION PIT**
- Conditions **THE TEMPER TRAP**
- Fantasies **METRIC**
- La Roux **LA ROUX**
- I Am Sasha Fierce **BEYONCE**
- The Fame **LADY GAGA**
- It's Not Me It's You **LILY ALLEN**
- It's Blitz **YEAH YEAH YEAHS**
- Wolfgang Amadeus **PHOENIX**
- Alpines **SCHOOL OF SEVEN BELLS**

TOP 5 SONGS

- 'Gimme Sympathy' **METRIC**
- 'Sweet Disposition' **THE TEMPER TRAP**
- 'Fences' **PHOENIX**
- '22' **LILY ALLEN**
- 'Hysteria' **YEAH YEAH YEAHS**

TOP 5 ARTISTS OF THE YEAR

The Temper Trap; Passion Pit; Beyonce; Metric; Whitley

TOP 5 INTERNATIONAL ARTIST GIGS

- The Ting Tings @ Big Day Out, Gold Coast
- Pharell @ Future Music Festival
- The Killers @ V Festival
- M83 @ V Festival
- Beyonce @ BEC

TOP 5 AUSTRALIAN ARTIST GIGS

- Art vs Science @ Splendour in the Grass
- Tame Impala @ The Hi-Fi
- Tim Finn @ Bluesfest
- Whitley @ The Zoo
- Paul Kelly @ QPAC

TOP 5 LOCAL BANDS

Art Vs Science; The Temper Trap; Tame Impala; Oh Mercy; Ladyhawke (if we're allowed to claim her as Australian)

TOP 5 RADIO SHOWS/PODCASTS

- 2009 (Richard Kingsmill and Zan Rowe) (Triple J)
- Radio FunkTrust (Triple J)
- Review Show (BBC's Radio One) (podcast)
- Tom and Alex (Triple J)
- Adam and Joe (BBC's Radio 6) (podcast)

TOP 5 ONLINE DESTINATIONS

- www.mog.com
- www.bbc.co.uk
- www.pitchfork.com
- www.myspace.com
- www.ruthbailey.com.au

TOP 5 MOVIES

This Is It; *500 Days Of Summer* (the soundtrack really helped this film)
 (I've only seen two movies this year worth mentioning)

TOP 5 TV SHOWS

Entourage; *Gossip Girl*; *Glee*; *Rage*; *Video Hits*

THE EMPEROR'S NEW CLOTHES AWARD (MOST OVER-HYPED)

Everything that is: Rihanna

HIGHLIGHT(S) OF THE YEAR

- Moving back to Paddington
- Experiencing M83 twice in one week
- Meeting Tori Amos
- Splendour in the Grass, Byron Bay
- My Madonna themed Birthday Party
- Fleetwood Mac Touring
- Red and White Christmas Dee-lite Party
- Paul Kelly's recognition as an Australian Music legend - via Triple J

QUOTE OF THE YEAR

"I'm a single girl. I like to have a good time. I just sleep with the guys in the band all the time because it's easier."
 Lady GaGa (source: www.theinsider.com)

BEST MEDIA MOMENT

The ARIAs televised

PREDICTION FOR 2010

Daft Punk will do another world tour

TOP 10 ALBUMS OF THE PAST DECADE

- Alive 2007 **DAFT PUNK**
- Hot Fuss **THE KILLERS**
- Since I Left You **THE AVALANCHES**
- Silent Alarm (The Remixes) **BLOC PARTY**
- Seventh Tree **GOLDFRAPP**
- Before The Dawn Heals Us **M83**
- Oracular Spectacular **MGMT**
- Transatlanticism **DEATH CAB FOR CUTIE**
- Santogold **SANTIGOLD**
- Version **MARK RONSON**

TOP 5 SONGS OF THE PAST DECADE

- 'Heartbeats' **JOSE GONZALEZ**
- 'We Own The Sky' **M83**
- 'Live At Dominoes' **THE AVALANCHES**
- 'Banquet' **BLOC PARTY**
- 'Human After All' **DAFT PUNK**

FEEDBACK



PHOTO BY STEPHEN BOOTH

TAME IMPALA @ THE HI-FI

TAME IMPALA, JONATHAN BOULET, THE LAURELS THE HI-FI: 02.10.09

Sydney four-piece **The Laurels** bring an unusual yet melodic drone to West End's **The Hi-Fi** as they open proceedings tonight, delivering a sonic wall of sound, albeit through triptastic-guitar and shoegaze anthems. Although each song melds into the other, the journey is characterised by a cathartic outpouring until the reach of individual song's climax. 'Art Song Girl' and 'A Rival' stand out amongst their set-list, the intimate crowd seemingly overawed and shot with a rush of "warm and fuzziness" for what they've just been privy to. A satisfying sample of their instrumentation which sets an appropriate tone for the remaining two acts.

The steady stream of people flowing into the bar continue to do so, just in time for second act, **Jonathan Boulet** and his band, and they're treated to a gleeful set from this talented Sydney "skate rat" who is an interesting complement to the other two, more psychedelic rock acts chosen for tonight's line-up. Modular labelmates with tonight's headliners, Boulet errs instead on the folky-pop side of the 70s music gamut. 'North To South East You' is a highlight as is his current single 'Community Service Announcement' from his self-titled debut, which he of course decides to close with.

As the red velvet curtain opens to reveal the four long-haired, tight-jean clad lads of Perth's **Tame Impala**, the expectant crowd, heaving at capacity, is hushed. Barefoot (as usual) lead vocalist Kevin Parker greets the two-tier arena with

a shy-sexy salute and salutation, launching quickly into a guitar-heavy malaise of musical wonderment. The band's comprehension and resulting ability to own their genre – psychedelic rock – is best exemplified when they bust out 'Half Glass Full Of Wine' and 'Desire Be Desire Go'.

The current tour is aptly titled after their recent single 'Sundown Syndrome', and it's this track which positions Parker in the company of those attuned to his ilk, Jim Morrison and John Lennon, transcending to the imagined smoke haze days of "living in the 70s". Proving they're no longer the new kids in the playground, a blissful display throughout 'Skeleton Tiger' – in particular guitar/bass cohesion from Parker, Dominic Simper and Paisley Adams, as well as an outstanding drum solo from Jay Watson – gives guts to this, their crescendo.

Overall tonight's is a polished live set, the lads demonstrating that they've perfected nuanced, psychedelic reshaping when they end the show with their new favourite cover of the early 90s original by Blue Boy, 'Remember Me'.

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LADYHAWKE, THE SWISS THE TIVOLI: 05.11.09

As the thundery clouds roll complete with unearthed lightning strikes, support act **The Swiss** arrive on **The Tivoli** stage preparing tonight's crowd for main performers. An overpowering bass drum stands out about the trio. Sporting mono-synth and guitars, the lack of vocals means the crowd could be forgiven for thinking they're aboard the deck of a '70s cruise ship. Playing tracks from their debut EP *Movements*, moments of precision are outweighed by those of imitation (namely Air and Weather Report), however the overall feeling is that the lads are unripe to muscle into the jazzy-house cacophony they are looking to establish themselves amongst.

Pip Brown, aka **Ladyhawke** quickly assumes a centre stage position. Wearing her Nirvana sleeveless tee, blonde mane strategically framing her face (very Deborah Harry meets Stevie Nicks) she opens the set with current single 'Magic'. Launching quickly into 'Oh My', her petite stature forces heavy leaning forward to catch the mic. She strikes power-chords on her guitar and unfortunately the heavy bass' all but drowns her small voice. During 'Dusk



LADYHAWKE @ THE TIVOLI

Till Dawn' the nostalgia of an '80s synthesiser is unleashed, aided by the blue neon backlighting. A rare b-side (one of her first ever tracks) 'Danny And Jenny' strutted and the band supporting Lady H are realised worthy of their place on stage.

Focused more on the songs ahead than interacting with the crowd a very shy Pip appears nervous, as she charges her way through this evening's playlist – predominant tracks from her 2008 self-titled LP. 'Back Of The Van' the midway turning point and serves as the moment where she manages to set the crowd alight. The single that brot her stardom, 'Paris Is Burning', is next, and capitalises fans' visible enjoyment for her songs. At track end, the synthesiser laced with guitar (so popular in an unknown yet-not-forgotten era for many of the young revelers) proves that it is here to stay for a little while yet.

The weakest aspect of tonight's set is Ladyhawke's choice in covers – admitting adoration for both Split Enz a Patti Smith as a girl growing up is cute and fitting of her '80s-retro image, but her attempts at both 'Message My Girl' and 'Free Money' by these artists respectively are the most yawn-worthy part of the evening. She recovers well enough belting out the song everyone is waiting to hear – 'My Delirium'.

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CALVIN HARRIS

Ready For The Weekend (Sony)

➔ RUTH BAILEY

Young Calvin Harris may have rediscovered the vox but he's applied it without any supporting brilliance in musical craftsmanship on his latest offering *Ready For The Weekend*, instead settling on an overproduced, far too simple sounding record which won't trouble many dancefloors.

It's a somewhat disappointing outcome given that the two singles already taken from it – the extra-terrestrial 'I'm Not Alone' and his Dizzee Rascal collaboration 'Dance Wiv Me' – promised much in the lead-up to his second record's release. These dancefloor anthems remain the only two songs of note on *Ready For The Weekend*, with the rest of the record coming across as slightly one-dimensional. It's almost like he stood in front of a keyboard and set it on autopilot (should there be such an option), because aside from the background high notes all the songs follow a well-worn formula, one familiar to anyone with a passing knowledge of commercial house circa 1996.

Harris openly admits that "words are not his strong point" but still, someone needs to take the young man aside and tell him it's not enough to rhyme successfully – he might have ramped up the synth sounds but the lyrics are lousy, with 'Relax' is just one glaring example.

Some might go so far as to suggest that Harris insults the listener with the abysmal assortment that is *Ready For The Weekend*. There is neither precision to his art demonstrated here, nor any imagination in creative lyrics or musical composition for that matter. Whilst his listeners are all too ready for the weekend, Harris should remain packed away on the shelves and in the dark.

LIVING THE DREAM BAG RAIDERS



Hot on the heels of their live performance at this year's Splendour in the Grass, dynamic DJ duo, Bag Raiders, are back to wow Brisbane.

A sweeter side to the Sydney lads has been borne thanks to their current hit single: 'Shooting Stars' and having recently signed to electro label maestros Modular, Bag Raiders look like stars on the rise themselves.

Amidst the syrupy-synth underlying 'Shooting Stars', Jack (one half to the duo) assures their forthcoming album (currently in production) will feature the diversity their fans appreciate.

"On the album there will be songs like 'Shooting Stars', at the same time there is going to be some club music on there, we haven't left that behind."

The two classically trained musicians understand the gamut of music production: DJing, live performance and studio, but for Jack there is one love.

"I love DJing and playing live is fun too, especially with a great crowd, but I really love the studio. We started DJing on the back of what we did in the studio so that was sort of number one for us – most important and most enjoyable."

Jack is tight-lipped on the styling their debut



album (due for release in February), possibly because he confides he and Chris aren't working at full-throttle towards its completion.

"Where we are now we sort of have lots of drafts, we're kind of working really slowly an hour a day, two/ three days a week, not trying to exert ourselves too much," he laughs.

"Our original plan was to get heaps of guests vocalists in, make it like a producer's album. We're both singing on the album now - so there's going to be fewer collaborations."

The practicality of performing live is another consideration.

"It can turn into a real problem when you want to do it live. The more we thought about it the more it sort of made sense for us to sing on it, Chris can sing really well. I can sing a little bit," he jokes.

Jack readily confesses to be living the dream and looks forward to what lies ahead for the duo. They return to Asia in October and Europe in November and what of their upcoming live shows?

"We'll try and keep most of it under wraps, we'll play a few things here or there but it's not like we'll be playing our whole album or anything."

Ruthie B

Bag Raiders play Elsewhere. Gold Coast August 27. and Empire. Brisbane Aug 28.