

the cut.

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Welcome
to
**Hybrid
London**

The Heritage Issue

Riz, Dels and Sofi

Leaders of the Nu- Skool

New music with

Crazy Cousins, Giggs,
De Tropix & the hottest
new female talent

Young Comedians

Slanguage

A.I.N.T

Secret Style Histories

The Art of Chirpsing

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She said...

This issue is all about Heritage and what it means to you. The Cut is put together by individuals from a mixture of different backgrounds and cultures so it was a topic that got us thinking. We wanted to know what it really means to be British today, which is explored in the feature Global Kingdom. Read our Slanguage piece- are you up-to-date with your street vocab? Check out Secret Style Histories to find out more about the heritage of some of this seasons top trends. The jam packed music section features interviews with Crazy Cousins, Kyza and we meet 5 new female artists to add to your play list. Enjoy this issue and get involved!
Ronnie Grebenyuk



He said...

What's really good? I cannot believe it, here we present to you our third issue! The theme this time round is heritage, and we represent nations united together as one. With interviews with talent from across the board, UK rapper Giggs, Entrepreneur Tim Campbell, Riz Ahmed, Sofi Donuts and Dels surely you will be jumping in your shoes to find out what they have to say. We also have a new Real Life section featuring my personal favourite the 'Chirpsing' debate, so boys you can learn new skills on how to chat up girls. Join us while we learn to Ski for this Issues 50:50, and check out our star studded 'Football XI' it. Read it, spread the word it and enjoy Go on www.thecutnewspaper.com to check out all the latest news.
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The Cut Rates

Kevin Ralph Hardy Akpobi One of the most talented and vital individuals we've come across in time! Kevin not only co-edits Profresh Magazine but is also writing a book called The Pencilcase with unbelievable flair and steez.

Check out his blog at www.ralphhardy.wordpress.com

Get Connected!

Get Connected is a new, free helpline service for young people. Whether you need a listening ear, a referral, or help finding a safe place to stay for the night, it offers a whole range of support. Get in touch: call their free helpline on 08088084994, open from 1pm-11pm everyday or join in on the webchat from 7pm-10pm everyday.

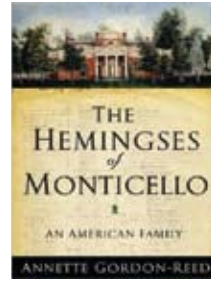
www.getconnected.org.uk



Soulbrew Karaoke

Say the word Karaoke and thoughts of 50 year old pensioners singing Marvin Gaye's Lets get it on definitely comes to mind. Although Soul Brew Karaoke is here bringing flavour to the table. Every last Friday of the month, there's a new thing to get stuck into. With song choices ranging from Beyonces Crazy in Love to some good ol' Thriller. It's a night for fun and entertainment indeed. So grab a couple mates and get down to Soul Brew Karaoke. P.S. Don't forget your I.D

www.soulbrew.com



The Hemingses of Monticello

With all the interest in President Obama, check out the surprising story of President Jefferson. Back in the day, Jefferson fathered 7 mixed race children with slave sally Hemings and his closest decendents are mixed race.

The Hemingses of Monticello: An American Family by Annette Gordon-Reed, is currently available at your local library or for sale through most major retailers.



The Business of Fashion

Are you a fashionista or fashionmista? Want to design your own clothes? And possibly sell them? Then come to The Business of Fashion workshops at the Stowe Centre, 258 Harrow Rd, W2 5ES. Where you can do exactly that...for free!

Workshops run every Monday and Thursday, 6.30 to 9pm at the Stowe Center, 252 Harrow Road . For more info or to register either visit us, call us on 0207 266 8220 or email michael@pdt.org.uk



Pablo the drug mule dog

Voiced by David Mitchell of Peep Show, Pablo may be employed by Talk to Frank but he's getting enough fans to leave the drug trade for a career in showbiz!

Join pablo's facebook group www.facebook.com/pages/Pablo-The-Drug-Mule-Dog/



Awaydays

Awaydays tells the story of Paul Carty, a teenager growing up on the outskirts of Liverpool in the 70's, who falls in with The Pack, a crowd of Tranmere Rover football hoolies. Look out for debuts from young actors Nicky Bell and Liam Boyle and some serious casual steez.

Awaydays is coming to a cinema near you this spring. www.awaydaysthemovie.com



Future Mobility

Visit the Science Museum's new Japanese Car Exhibition, to see some of the quirkiest car designs on the planet! This is definitely not one to be missed!

Japan Car: Designs for a crowded Globe, is on at the Science Museum in London until April 19th 2009

www.sciencemuseum.org.uk
Image Nissan PIV02



Happy Birthday Grimepedia

The 'Wiki' Grime project celebrates it's first birthday this month. The site is run by Grime Digital, a non profit organisation. Having received over 5.6 million hits in its first year, the site has proved its worth in bringing together a large community of talented artists, producers, DJ's, bloggers, designers and other hard working youngsters who have used their skills in a positive way to document the entire history of a music scene.

www.Grimepedia.co.uk

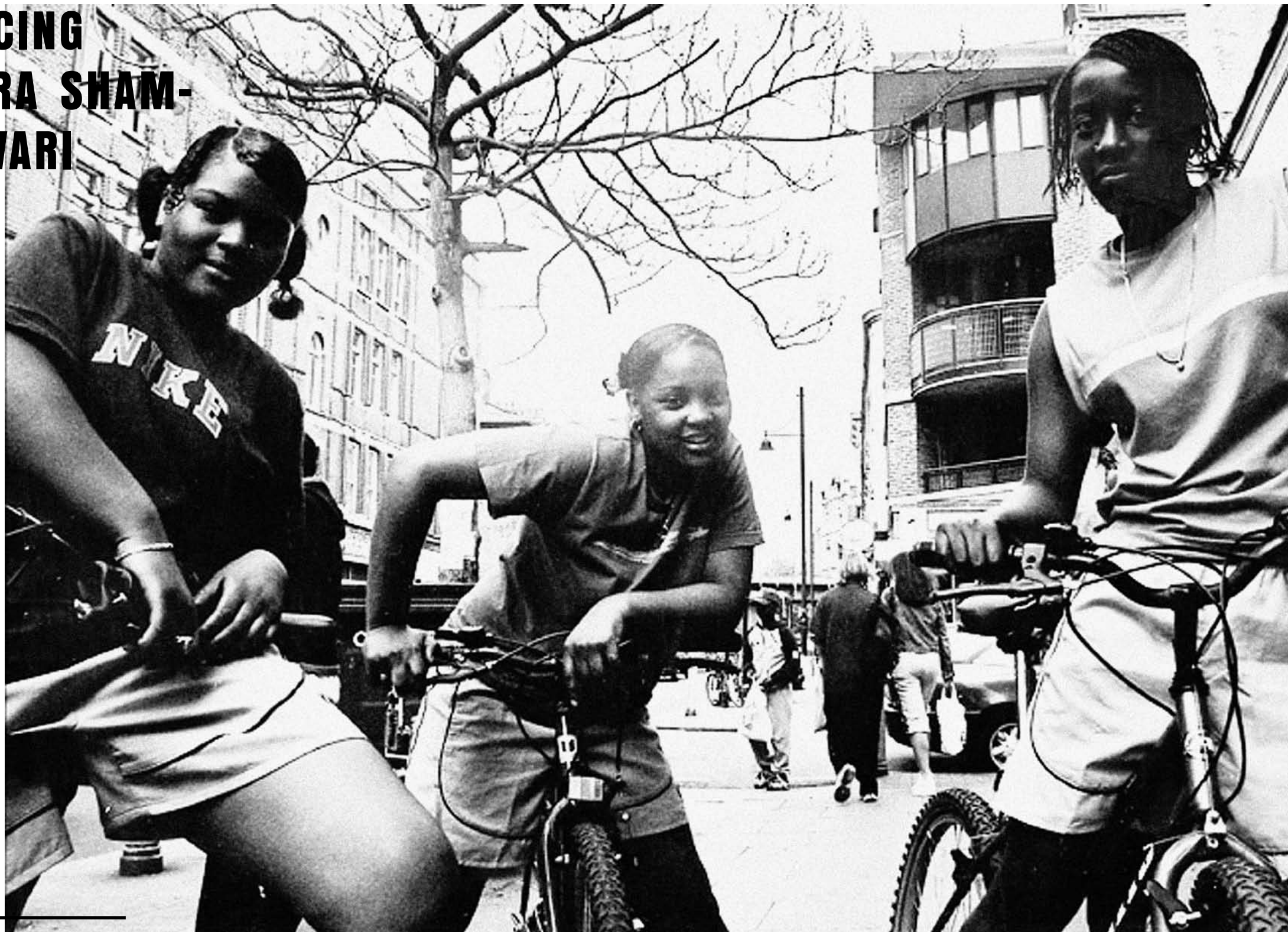


Dont Cha Know!

Bashy has had remarkable success in 2008, now he's back with new mixtape Bashy Dot Com and it's definitely the llamas spit. With tracks like Man @ Home using Kanye's Love Lockdown to his intellectual flow on Sam Sparro's Black and Gold. The lyrical content and wordplay is enough to excite any Scrabble contestant. Although Bashy tells us, People do not get it confused, this is not the album. The album is set to be released mid 09, so be ready. The Chupa Chups King is about to take over!

www.bashy.com

INTRO- DUCING SARA SHAM- SAVARI



Everyone's a 'street' photographer these days. With the glut of style blogs and party snappers, it's easy to try and stake yourself a place in the photobook hall of fame.

But in our image saturated culture, how many of these images will stand the test of time? Young photographer Sara Shamsavari's has been building a portfolio to stand

her in good stead. This might be down the fact that she sees photography as more than just a fashion accessory; she is adamant that it 'has a major role to play in influencing social change and changing

public perceptions.' Its because of this that she chose Topshop's Flagship Oxford street store for her most recent exhibition 'Beauty Untold', 'the reason I wanted to have the show at Topshop was because its a public place. A lot of people are too intimidated to go into art galleries'. Although she's also shot fashion for numerous magazines, including Touch, i-D and Graphotism, her stand out work is her raw but beautifully composed documentary shots of everyday Londoners. You can't help but wonder what these people's stories are? What's going on beneath the surface? As it turns out the photographer has a story of her own. Born in Iran during the revolution, at just 16 months old Shamsavari was diagnosed with cancer of the kidney, and flown to England for refuge and treatment at Great Ormond

"If you can change the way someone feels you can change the world. The arts can move people."

Street Hospital. It comes as no surprise to hear this has had an affect on her work. 'I feel I have a very strong purpose in life, growing up here, being in the minority, I definitely grew up feeling that I was very different. It's more mixed now, its better now but i used to get called Paki everyday'.

Looking at her photos, it's obvious they're taken by a Londoner who loves her city, but where does she call home? 'I've always said I was Iranian, but when you get out there in the world, you're British. I always tell people where I'm from, but also where I grew up and both of those places have had an influence on me.'

Shamsavari's story is testimony to the belief that if you are brave enough to put your work out there the people who you seek respect from will give it. 'My favourite photographer of all time is Jamel Shabbazz. I wrote him an email. I didn't expect any response, but 2 hours later, he wrote me an email saying he was touched by my words and that he loved my work.' Shabazz has been a mentor to Shamsavari ever since, inviting her for her first international show Danny Simmons Gallery in New York. 'If you can change the way someone feels you can change the world. The arts can move people'. Shamsavari asserts 'It's only been in this age that people think art is all about the individual. If you go back in history art had a purpose. What I'm talking about is nothing new'.

See her work as part of the 'I Feel Exposed' Group Show, London College of Communication 17th - 27th February 2009.

Text by Nina Manandhar

INTRO- DUCING CHARLIE CROCKETT



Move over world— this hot young designer A.IN.T reppin’ nothin’ but London

up everything we’re trying to convey’. Now, after two years of hard graft and networking, the label’s been seen on Lily Allen, Seb Chew and Jaime Winstone and one of London’s best kept secrets is ready to leak out.

Past collections have drawn on everything from circuses, to horror comics. ‘It was people with axes sticking out of their heads. It was cult, and it was cool, no one else was doing it. We just twisted it with some nice bright colours. I guess I like twisting things...’. Don’t expect more of the same though ‘One of the reasons we loved Art In Transit was that transit means motion, it’s not fixed. It doesn’t get stagnant and it’s not tied to anything. So there’s a lot of freedom: I might do fluoro pink shirts and the next day do a tweed shirt and it will always be A.IN.T.’

Most of all though, the label is inspired by London. ‘I never leave this city, it’s something I very much enjoy,’ says Charlie. ‘I get disheartened sometimes when I see kids who couldn’t get more London, but they’re wearing a cap with NY on it, or a T-shirt with Oklahoma Rangers and you think - you’ve never been to Oklahoma! You get all these other American or Hong Kong brands, and they massively promote their culture. I thought it would be quite refreshing to have a brand from here and promote its culture.’ This love for the big smoke comes through in subtle references dotted throughout the label’s designs. ‘It might be a certain coat of arms that I’ve seen on an Army barracks in Knightsbridge, that I just thought looked sick. Or I’ll be looking through a kids’ book and I’ll see something

“I get disheartened sometimes when I see kids who couldn’t get more London, but they’re wearing a cap with NY on it.”

written there and I’ll be like, that’s a brilliant little phrase, that is so English. So I do gather around me, but it might not always be noticeable as a British reference.’

British heritage also features across collections. ‘For this season I’ve done everything loosely based around crowns. So I’ve got a picture of Slick Rick, with loads of bling on, in a crown. And I’ll have an old Royal Mail thing I found in a book and I’ll use that with totally different lettering.’ Of course, these royal designs have a unique A.IN.T twist to them too. ‘The Edwardians and Victorians put stuff linked to the monarchy everywhere, everything was stamped with “as purchased by her Majesty the Queen Victoria”... It was like a big marketing push and I like that, the idea of, “does this put me any closer to the queen?” No, not at all! The whole idea of linking yourself to the establishment, to money, and wealth - it’s quite tongue in cheek putting that on a T-shirt.’

A.IN.T is a brand to watch in 2009 because the clothes are hot, plain and simple. More than that, they’re clever. Most of all though, A.IN.T represents London. To roll up in Tokyo, New York, L.A or Hong Kong in an A.IN.T shirt would be to take a little bit of London out there. To roll deep in A.IN.T shirts would be like London staging a mini global invasion. In fact, Charlie’s plans for the label aren’t far off world domination. ‘Eventually I’d like to take it to the level that Stussy took it to. It took them 15 years but they must turn over ten million a year.’ It looks like 2009 is the beginning of a long road for Art in Transit.

Text by Jenni Barnes
Photography by Jamal Joseph

INTRO- DUCING BENOIT PIOULARD



The Cut meets the Michigan boy who draws inspiration from both his European heritage and immediate environment to create haunting music.

“We didn’t actually burn down that house. We had a hard enough time even getting permission to film inside!”

his native Michigan, but it didn’t hurt that he was already a big fan of White Rainbow and Valet, both Portland-based musicians and now labelmates on Kranky.

A graduate in film and comparative literature, Tom draws inspiration from cinema, particularly the work of directors Terrence Malick, Harmony Korine and Werner Herzog. This has fed into a series of impressive music videos, the latest of which is Ragged Tint from his most recent record Temper. He made that ‘on what turned out to be the last two really nice days of summer. It was filmed on Sauvie Island, which is a little bit north of Portland and has some amazing rural scenery.’ The film shows Meluch sprinting through long grass at sundown before stumbling upon an abandoned house.

‘I don’t want to give away any of the movie magic, but we didn’t actually burn down

that house. We had a hard enough time even getting permission to film inside!’

Tom has been fascinated with Europe from a young age and he learnt the French language early on. ‘I reckon that plays a part. I’ve also got German, Finnish and Russian blood, so that knowledge has always contributed to an affinity for things on that side of the ocean.’ He admires ‘the sense of history co-existing with the present in Europe in a way that doesn’t really happen in America,’ and cites Boards of Canada, Broadcast, Autechre, Fennesz, Nick Drake and Kraftwerk as some of his favourite artists.

The Benoit Pioulard sound is incredibly organic. ‘In certain pieces I’ll accentuate the tape hiss of some part, and in other cases I won’t have any control over the background levels or certain incidental sounds. It seems right to allow my environment its say in things.’ Tom describes the way the songs follow on from each other as like entering different rooms of a house, producing an ethereal quality. ‘I like to have songs play into one another. That continuity is something I value in the interest of creating a cohesive piece of work. I’m not really interested in studio sheen, as I would rather not attempt to portray myself as being so flawless.’

That artistic form requires an unconventional approach to performing live. ‘It’s a rare occasion when I do, but each time I enjoy creating a set unique to that performance. It’s not usually like the recorded material created from drone and ambience, tape loops and guitar motifs that is hard to reconstruct on demand. He finds it almost awkward to perform. ‘Each song I record is very strongly attached to its context, at least in my mind. It seems odd to try and recreate that inspiration on a stage in front of a crowd and with fewer tools to do so.’

www.pioulard.com
www.myspace.com/pioulard

Text by Hollie V Robson
Photography by Jim Duthie

INTRO- DUCING EMILY CUMMINS

"People in the developed world should help people in the developing world."



The Cambridge based designer is motivated by the desire to help people in less fortunate situations. 'I don't believe in designing luxury items such as a large TVs or fridges with built in iPod speakers but designing products with a real purpose. How many more versions of an MP4 or an UGG boot can we have? After all they all have the same function!' As a young child Emily used to emulate her grandfather's creative skills by making toys in his shed. Since then she has made a water carrier for use in Kenya and a sustainable refrigerator. Her designs are groundbreaking and have received wide recognition and praise. When asked about what underpins her creative talents she says, 'Firstly, I identify a problem, but in an area that I am passionate about. I then spend months researching

the specific area to gain as much information as possible.' Emily's research has allowed her to spend time in Africa in order to work directly with her target audience and learn more about their lifestyle. 'I saw how resourceful people were. We should be learning from them, not them learning from us.' Clearly headstrong and driven with a passion for helping people, Emily first became interested in sustainable design through the Sustainable Design Award, a project that was active in her high school. Grateful that she was involved with the project, Emily believes that the award should be more widely available. 'I don't believe that there are enough sustainable projects out there. If the SDA was introduced in more schools then there will be more young people thinking about sustainability too!'

"How many more versions of an MP4 or an UGG boot can we have? After all, they all have the same function!"

As one of the most influential young women in her field, Emily has a suitcase of awards and achievements under her belt and has been named as a Save the Planet Pioneer in Cosmopolitan's Ultimate Women of the Year Awards. The future looks bright for Cummings and the world a better place for her designs and innovation!

What tips does Emily have for those who wish to be the next big thing in design? 'The lesson is, think outside of the box. Go through your day to day life without necessarily trying to force opportunities. If you find something you struggle with or you feel is a niche in the market then most likely others will have a similar need. Once you have identified an opportunity then think of ways to solve it.'

If you have a creative idea or feel that there is an issue that needs to be addressed you can contact Emily Cummins at www.emilycummins.co.uk

Text by Adrienne Mckenzie
Photography courtesy of Emily Cummins

INTRO- DUCING DE TROIPIX

Originally from St Vincent and Grenadines, the singer songwriter moved to London to pursue her music and performing arts career. It was here she hooked up with multi-talented DJ, producer and beat maker Damon aka Instinct and De Tropix were born. With an eclectic sound that draws on everything from Soca to Grime to House and even a slice of Ska, the De Tropix hybrid has a little something for everyone, as long as you know how to skank out that is. We caught up with Cherry B and Damon to find out how they keep it tropical in LDN.

Cherry B, I've read you moved to London to work on your music career, is London the place for you now?

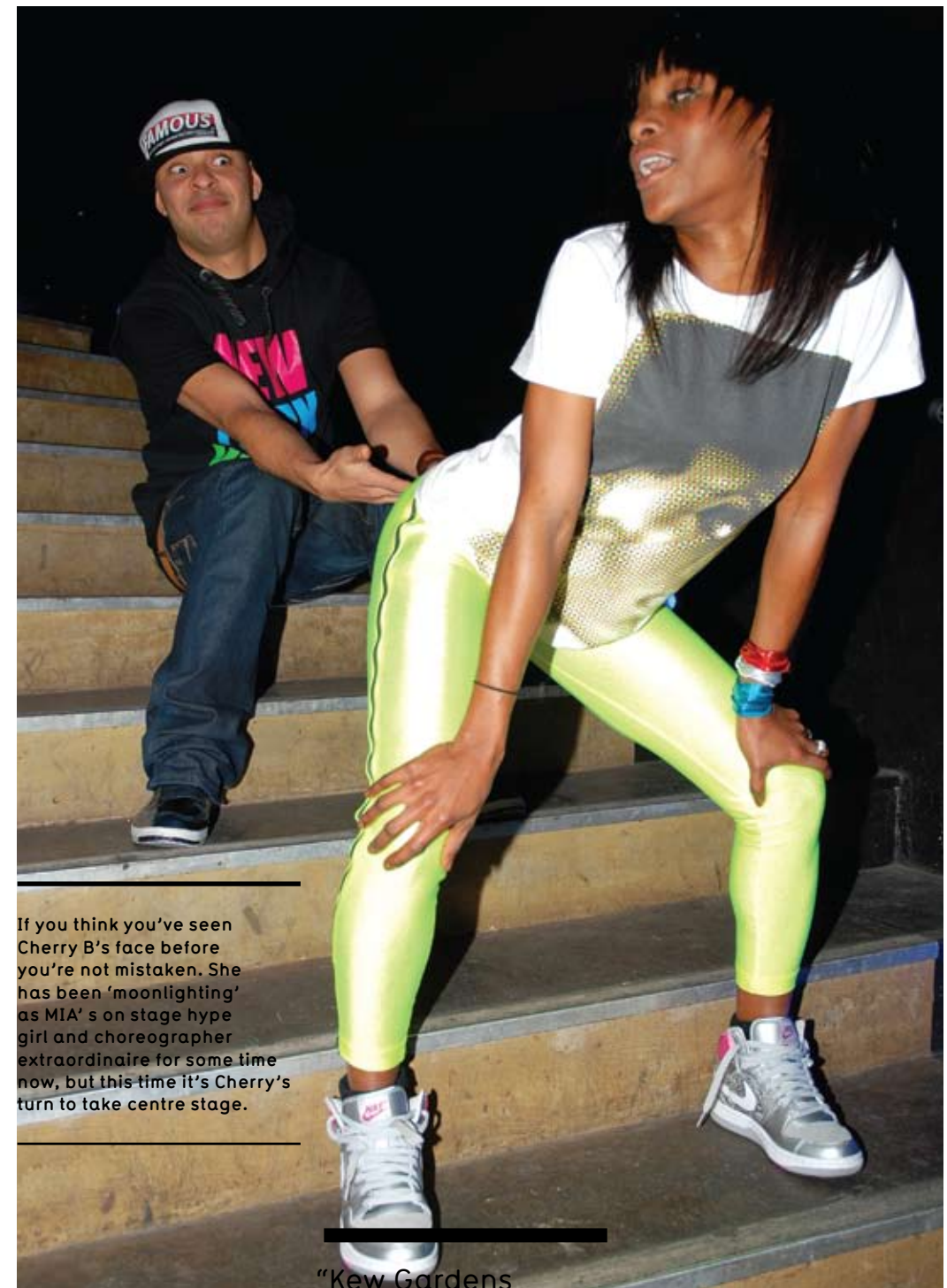
C: Yes man, it's my second home and half the people we work with are based here, so we are spreading De Tropix vibes to the masses.

How does living in London influence your lyrics?

C: I've only been here for four months this time so its hard to say but I do feel that my lyrics are about all the experiences I've had from all over the globe and London is a big part of that. And for real, cold, credit crunch, and broke-ness, brings out the creative side.

What's your favourite part of London?

D: Richmond Park in the summer is amazing, there are deer walking around, horses, it's a great escape from the hustle and bustle of the city.
C: West side baby!! Cause that's where I live for right



If you think you've seen Cherry B's face before you're not mistaken. She has been 'moonlighting' as MIA's on stage hype girl and choreographer extraordinaire for some time now, but this time it's Cherry's turn to take centre stage.

"Kew Gardens is my tropical haven away from home, it shares a huge History with the Islands!"

now and I can get breadfruit on the corner. Kew Gardens is my tropical haven away from home, it shares a huge History with the Islands!

What's your favourite tropical fruit drink?

D: Ju-C, a soft drink found in the Caribbean. When I first went to St Vincent, I popped a bottle of this stuff and I was hooked. It's real bad for the teeth though, so so sweet!
C: Soursop, it's deliciously addictive (Gunabanara).

How do you keep it tropical in the cold weather?

D: Keepin' it tropical is the easy bit, its in our blood, so even if we were in the North Pole, we'd still make some ice cold tropical riddims.

As they say in Shameless, 'the most vital necessity in this life is they know how to throw a PARTY!' And De Tropix sure do, so check them live before they blow.

The A Dey Hey EP is out now
www.myspace.com/detropix

Text by Kerry Mayhew
Photography by Tom [Ts74]

INTRO- DUCING DAMIEN O'BRIEN

"I'm not a typical magician. I don't wear suits and I don't pull rabbits out of hats either."



Move over David Blaine, young magician Damien O'Brien has a few new tricks up his sleeve.

When did you realise magic was your thing?

I learnt some magic when I was 13, a few card tricks and some sleight of hand too. I found out which shops to buy equipment from and I just went from there. I love the look on peoples' faces when you perform magic - it's the best thing you can ever do

What would you say makes you stand out from other magicians? I'm not a typical magician. I don't wear suits and I don't pull rabbits out of hats either. You always see

me at gigs wearing a New Era cap or a pair of Nike trainers.

I've read that your career sparked off by your blagging your way into an exclusive club... I heard there was a party in the West End, so I took a chance and headed down to the venue. When I got there the bouncer asked for my invite and I said I was the magician booked for the evening. He loved magic and so I did a few tricks for him and he handed me a VIP pass from his pocket. I was free to roam the party, doing magic

for bunch of Big Brother stars and footballers. It was a good night and to top it all, I met people who wanted me at their own events and parties.

You perform a lot of your magic to celebs, who have been your best and worst? The best person still to date is Nelly, he was just really respectful and appreciated what I did. He started to tell me how he goes off to Vegas to watch the magic acts... Nelly is great guy and we have become good friends. The worst person was some

Big Brother reject. I can't remember her name, but she was awful, rude and arrogant.

What's your favourite trick? When I cough and a Rubiks cube just appears, mixed up on all sides. I throw the cube in the air and when I catch it, it is solved on every single side.

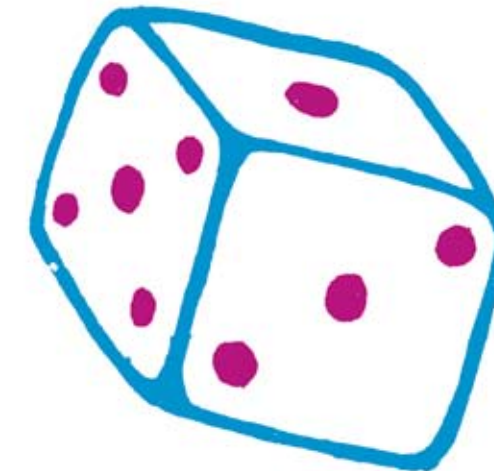
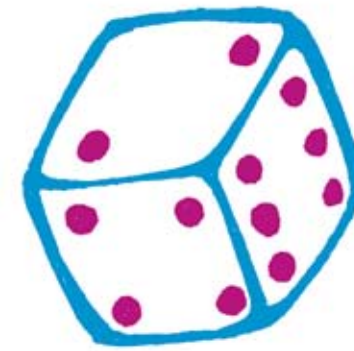
What were your highlights of 2008? My TV show Magic Party, performing in Jamaica and Dubai, going backstage at events like O2 Wireless, the Mobos and the Nickelodeon awards, meeting Nelly, getting endorsements from Nike, New Era, Money Clothing and Storm, and knowing that a lot more people got to see what I can do.

So what plans do you have for 2009? I have bunch of gigs already lined up in Barcelona and Paris, plus I'm in talks to do a DVD and film some more TV shows.

Where do you hope the magic to take you? If I'm honest what I want out of magic is to just show the world what I can do. If it makes me money and gets me celeb status, wicked, but I just wanna share my gift with the world.

www.damienobrien.com
www.myspace.com/damiensmagic
Text by Ronnie Grebenyuk
Photography courtesy of Damien O'Brien

THIS IS REAL LIFE THE YOUNG GAMBLER



How did you get yourself into gambling and why?

There was no reason why really. I came to London in 2001 to live with my brothers. One day out for dinner with my cousin we decided to go the casino after, it was just opposite the restuarnt. I had never gambled before. We went to a roulette table and started playing. I placed £50 bets on my lucky number 9 and I won £1800, I couldn't believe I'd won that amount of money for my first time and was very exctied. The next day I bunked school and went on a

mad shopping spree with my cousin. I had some money left over and didn't know what to do with it so I went to gamble again, sometimes I'd lose, sometimes I'd win money and that's how I got addicted.

In the evenings I used to go buy phones and sell them, and make like £50 every day out of it. I would use that money to go gambling with.

Where did you get the money from for gambling? I used to make money from my part time business. It wasn't enough though because I lost it so

I started borrowing money from my family and friends.

How did gambling affect you personally? I lost out on my education. I used to be really successful at school and get good grades but that all changed. I lost the trust of my friends and family and I lost trust in myself too.

What was the worst thing that happened to you as a result of gambling? Sometime in January 2007, I thought of gambling big. I had £400 of my own, but lost it on, so I borrowed £1500 from a couple

Many of us have gambled at least once in our lives - you might have had a go at online poker or placed a bet on the FA Cup final. But for one young student, gambling was more than just a bit of fun. It ended up taking over his life. Sagar Khanna, aged 20, tells The Cut how he got caught up in gambling and the mess he got into as a result.

of my friends and £1000 from my brother for gambling. Altogether That's £2900 I lost it all in one day. I was very scared and didn't know what to do, so I just left my home without telling anyone, no one knew were I was. I stayed at my friends house for 15 days. Then I called my dad, told him the whole story, begging him and saying sorry. Luckily he came to pick me up and took me home.

How did you get yourself out of gambling? I started working in my brothers shop in East Ham, made money and payed back every single person that I owned money to in about two months.

How has gambling changed the way you see things now? After paying everyone back I realised it was bad what I did with the money, so I decied to return to my country and help my dad with his business.

What do you do now? Now I'm a director of a limited firm called DESIRED AIRWINGS LIMITED. It's a complete travel house, I enjoy it a lot. I work hard and make money the right way.

What advice do you have for other young people who might get into a similar situation? I'm very happy with life now and would advise other people not to get yourself into gambling. It's a big time waster and it can result in you losing family and friends. Focus on what really matters.

Text by Ronnie Grebenyuk
Illustration by Liliam Liem

THIS IS REAL LIFE CHIRPSING

'Yo B, you got Myspace?'
'Psst!'
'Oi, sexy!'

Any of these chants sound familiar? Getting chatted up, or 'chirpsed', is part of day-to-day life the whole world over. For females however, being approached in certain ways often feels more like a hassle than a pleasure. So how has the chirpsing game changed? What do guys think about getting chatted up by girls? And why are some boys so aggressive when their advances are rejected? We asked a group of young people to discuss the topic, and found that many of them held rather traditional views.

The panel

Joel, Ali, Drew, Hayley, Lisa, Wasan, Roxanne, Nadine.

Why do you think girls allow boys to talk to them in a demeaning way?

Joel It's about girls not having respect for themselves, and some boys don't have respect for girls in the way that they approach them
Lisa How do you know if it's about having no self-respect? A lot of girls have low self esteem and they don't think of it as demeaning. They just think someone is paying them attention.
Drew Why do you think some boys talk to girls in a demeaning way?
Joel They think they have the right to.
Hayley Because they have been allowed to in the first place.

As a girl, how would you like to be approached?

Hayley I don't like it when a guy approaches me, and I'm not even looking at them, like, 'Yo B, you got Myspace?' Some boys just don't have respect for the girls. I was walking down my road and some guy was whispering at me out of a window - what is that all about? I don't like that. Or a boy coming straight at me. I like a guy to meet me face-to-face or get eye contact. It is welcome attention and we can then talk and go for coffee or ice cream or something! If I look away that means I am not interested.
Drew So are you saying it's all about looks?
Lisa It's not all about looks, and even if it was you can't blame someone for being attractive. Guys approach girls that they like, so why can't a girl accept them if that's the reason they're approaching us?

"If you see a pretty girl on the street, wearing clothes that show her cleavage, she must expect some attention."

I've heard stories about boys being violent to girls because they won't give out their number? Have you ever experienced this?

Roxanne One time we had eggs thrown at us. We were walking down the road, dressed up nice going to a party. Some boys were standing by a shop and starting trying to chirpse us. We ignored them and they followed us. When we continued to ignore them they got angry and started chucking eggs. I don't know where they got the eggs from but we had to get on a bus and get out of there!
Joel How were you dressed?
Lisa There seems to be a suggestion that if you are wearing certain clothes you are a 'ho' or inviting disrespect. Regardless of what women wear there is no excuse for

violence because of rejection.

Joel If you see a pretty girl who knows she's wearing clothes that show her cleavage, she must expect attention. Plus if she has a boyfriend she isn't representing him by wearing those clothes. If you are stopped you must expect that.
Hayley It's also about body types. If you have larger breasts why should you cover up to the neck? You don't want people coming up to you. People wear clothes that suit them and are not looking for attention.
Lisa If you are wearing things with everything hanging out, then that's going too far, but I am not a nun and will wear clothes that I like and that suit me.
Joel But if I take you home to meet Mum, you're going to be judged by your first impression.
Hayley Of course first impressions count, but it works all ways. I wouldn't want a guy who is thugged out around my house, never mind meeting my Mum.
Lisa But that's different. You dress differently with your peers.

"I like a guy to meet me face-to-face, make eye contact with me. Then we can talk."

What do you think of girls approaching guys?

Hayley If you like the guy then why not? Then there are no complications about it if the guy really likes you or if she is just stringing him along.
Drew As a boy I think that it is unattractive. I don't think that it should be done by girls as it takes away my pride.
Joel It depends on how she does it.
Lisa If you go to a guy it's like you're begging. You might as well be naked. It's always different for a man.
Ali Where I come from we never chirpse girls. It's against the traditional culture.

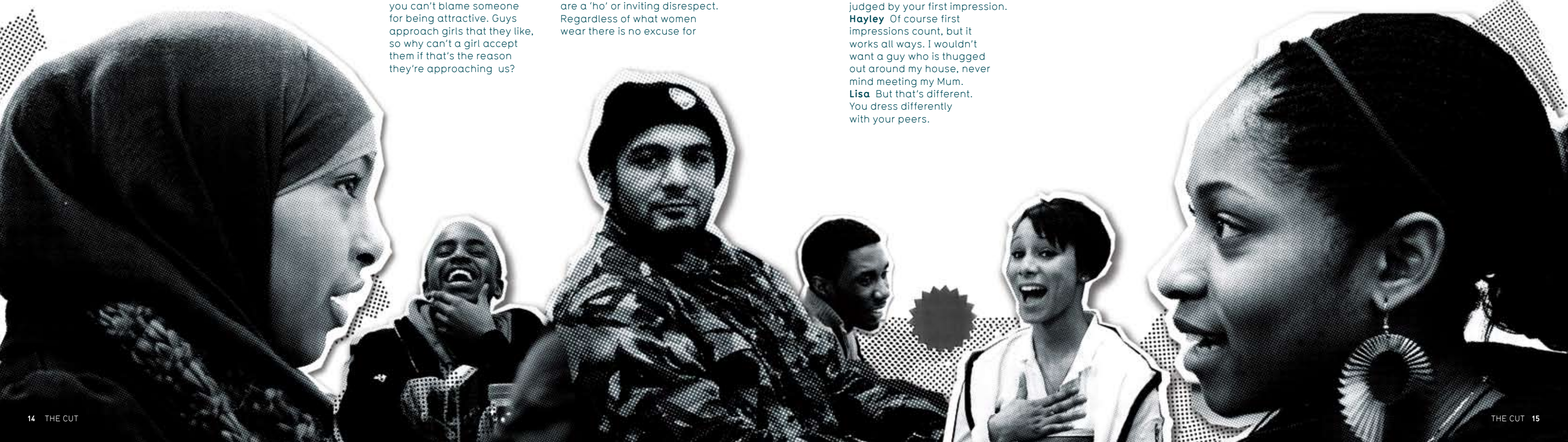
What do you think of chirpsing people online?

Nadine I met my boyfriend of four years on MySpace!!
Drew I think that chirpsing people online is cheating and it takes away from the approach.
Joel You could be talking to anyone; people that approach people online must be weirdoes.
Hayley I wouldn't trust it, because people can act and pretend to be whatever they want to be over the internet.
Drew I think that it is pointless. It is not really going to go anywhere.

TO ALL THE MEN
A guide to chirpsing
by the girls themselves

1. None of this 'OI!' business
2. If you don't know me, don't touch me.
3. Talk to me normally, not like 'Yeah, B, what's goin' on?'
4. Don't put on a front; be sincere.
5. Don't approach girls in groups.
6. We're not interested in bad boys.
7. Show us some respect.
8. Show us you have a sense of humour.
9. Never become violent.
10. Don't be too full on; if she says no, back off.

Photography by Edward Kagutuza



THIS IS REAL LIFE ENTERPRISE



If you are aged between 16-30 and have a business idea, but have no means of starting it up, Tim Campbell the first winner of The Apprentice, may just be the man to help you. Campbell is the brains behind the Bright Idea's Trust, which aims is to create successful young entrepreneurs across the UK. The Cut caught up with the Apprentice winner at the launch of the scheme in Hackney, East London.

How did the Bright Ideas Trust come about? Working in Amstrad I used to get a lot of people asking me for advice about business, and I thought there must be a need out there not being met. By being taught by Sir Alan (Sugar) how business works, I realised how the power of mentors can really help people. I also saw how he could do good and do it through business. So I sought out an accountant, got some advice and guidance from experts, put the proposition together, built up a fantastic team of people around me. Now it's all about us finding young people who are really passionate about certain areas and certain things and giving them the expertise and start up capital to get their businesses off the ground.

What characteristics do you look for in a young person who wants to join the Bright Ideas Trust? When we are looking for young people, the first thing we look for is real passion. We're not looking for the cleverest or the richest, we are saying to young people if you have the passion and the drive and you have a good idea that can make some money we'll help you get that off the ground.

How do you try to entice young people to join the Bright Ideas Trust? I think that young people are sick of being preached to about how they are a lost generation. We don't believe in any of that. We believe that young

people are the powerful next generation and they should be allowed with advice, guidance and money to follow their aspirations through. I'll use the success of the beneficiaries of the Bright Ideas Trust to really highlight why young people should be a part of our initiative.

What do you think young people have to offer that older people don't? Young people have a unique insight into their own world. They know about new technology, or what's going to be the new way of talking to each other. They are going to come up with the new ideas of tomorrow.

They say that it's better to start a business whilst young because it's the time when you have the most energy you've got no fear and you're not afraid to take risks. These are all of the qualities of an entrepreneur.

With the issue of the credit crisis a lot of youth schemes are getting closed down due to the lack of consistent funding. Where do you think the Bright Ideas Trust will be in the future?

The Bright Idea's Trust is structured in the way that we don't rely on government-backed bodies that could potentially back out due to a credit crisis. What we've done is partner with well-established companies such as Bank of America, which are robust enough to

"We believe that young people are the powerful next generation."

cope with these situations, to help us deliver our message of business.

Is the Bright Ideas trust only going to be in Hackney? This is a London wide initiative. We want to help anybody from within London at the moment. Hackney is just the first borough that we're partnering up with. Eventually over the next 2-5 years, we want to spread this over the whole of the UK. We want to be like Starbucks, every street corner you see one of us, and we'll do that via a franchise model, just like the coffee shop.

We want to get people who understand what we want to try and achieve, who have access to people in the local community. I don't want to own everything, this is not about me. This is about young people who want to start their businesses.

How can young people like me get involved in the Bright Ideas Trust? If you are a young person who has a good idea that can make money and needs support and guidance with, contact us at www.brightideastrust.com and fill out the online application form.

For the full version of Alpha's interview with Tim Campbell, check out Charge on the Community Channel. www.communitychannel.org/charge

Text by Alpha Gougasa

£1000 FOR YOUR BUSINESS

WOULD £300-£1000 TO SPEND ON YOUR BUSINESS GIVE YOU THE BOOST YOU NEED?

DO YOU NEED CASH TO HELP SET UP YOUR BUSINESS IDEA?

WE ARE HOLDING A WESTMINSTER DRAGON'S DEN EVENT TO OFFER YOU THIS OPPORTUNITY.

YOU HAVE TO BE AGED BETWEEN 13-24 AND LIVE IN WESTMINSTER BUT THE IDEA CAN BE AS CREATIVE AS YOU WANT TO MAKE IT. ANYTHING FROM GETTING YOUR OWN MYSPACE DESIGNED PROFESSIONALLY, TO ORDERING STOCK OR PRESSING UP YOUR FIRST CD.

THE CUT AND THE YOUTH ENTERPRISE TEAM AT STOWE YOUTH CENTRE ARE OFFERING YOU THE CHANCE TO PITCH YOUR IDEA TO A PANEL OF DRAGONS, LIKE IN THE BBC2 SERIES. THIS PANEL WILL BE MADE UP OF SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS PEOPLE FROM THE CREATIVE AND BUSINESS INDUSTRY.

WE HAVE A NUMBER OF BIG CASH PRIZES TO AWARD TO EXCELLENT PITCHES WHICH SHOW US A SIMPLE BUSINESS PLAN AND GIVE AN IDEA OF WHAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SPEND THE CASH ON. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A BUSINESS PLAN IT IS STILL WORTH COMING ALONG AND PITCHING TO THE DRAGONS. YOUR PITCH WILL BE JUDGED ON THE STRENGTH OF YOUR IDEA AND THE DIFFERENCE WE CAN MAKE. WE ARE NOT LOOKING FOR THE FINISHED PRODUCT, ALTHOUGH IF YOU HAVE ONE WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE IT. WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOUNG PEOPLE WITH A SERIOUS IDEA OR DREAM TO PURSUE.

CONTACT: INFO@THECUTNEWSPAPER.COM

the
cut.

THIS IS REAL LIFE SMACKING

The voice of an angry parent cuts through the air; "Look at what you have done now... how many times have I told you about this!"... suddenly you hear a thudding sound impacting on the face, back, arms and leg of a child. Ten seconds later, the sound of the child can be heard crying and screaming in pain.

Many people believe that through smacking, the younger generation will respect their elders; they believe that it teaches them the difference between what is right and what wrong. On the other hand, there are critics who feel that this is unacceptable.

Last year Parliament decided to limit a parent's right to slap but not to put an outright ban on it. We hit the streets of London to find out how young people felt about a possible ban and if smacking had played a prominent part in their own lives.

Survey done in October 2008 by Nicholas, Akwasi, Kiran and Ronnie. Photography by Akwasi Tawia Poku.



AMY, 19
No I don't think smacking should be banned but certain levels of punishment should be applied.



RICKY, 20
Recently in New Zealand they passed a bill which said you can't smack your child anymore but honestly I don't think they will stop.



AMY, 17
I don't think it should be banned but should definitely have limits.



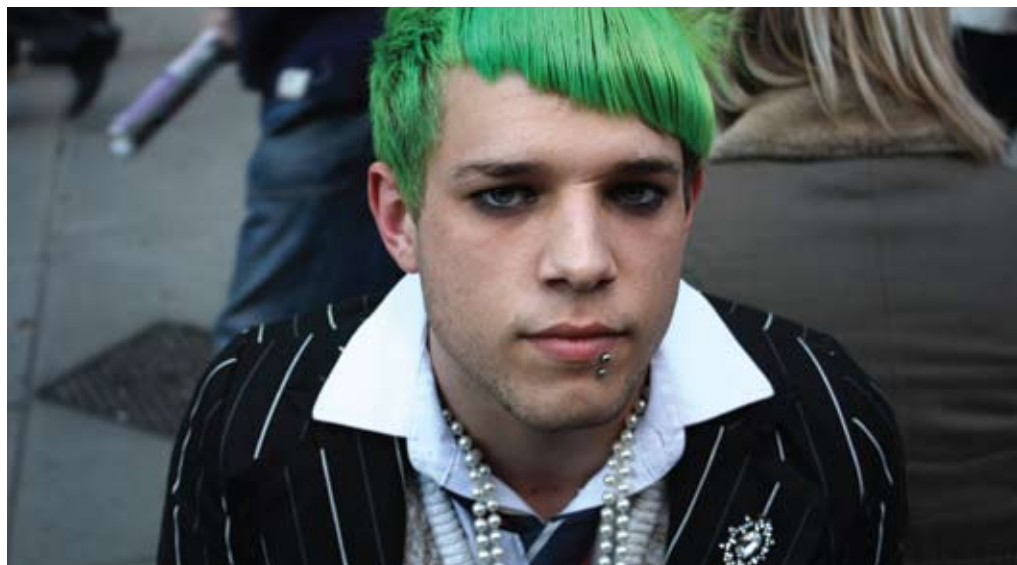
RAUL, 18
People who smack children obviously have problems themselves and were probably smacked when they were younger. I think it should be banned.



MARLON, 19
My opinion on smacking children is that if they are bad then you need to discipline them and by disciplining them you need to smack them.



TARA, 20
I think its acceptable when children are small. Smack them on their bum where it's not going to hurt so they can learn and be disciplined. But up to a limit because you don't want them to grow up with that fear.



EVI, 18 I think it should be done because kids are well out of line, kids need discipline a good kick up the arse will do.'

THIS IS REAL LIFE CAREERS

If there is one man who continues to be on top of his game and a perfect example of professionalism, knowledge, passion and love of sport it is the Voice of Sport, Rodney Hinds.

Rodney Hinds' 25 year career in journalism stretches back to his time working on West Indian World. He has been the sports editor for The Voice since the year 2000.

Despite the many advances since those early days there are still too few black sports journalists and Hinds along with others have developed an initiative to ensure that the path they blazed will be taken up by more black talent in the future. 'What I've found from doing this job is that I want to share it with anyone because it's so exciting. I go and talk in schools and colleges, I think I'm in that kind of position where I can pass on experience'.

His advice to aspiring journalists is clear; 'Using your initiative is key, show initiative, show hunger, show some drive, be prepared to learn and be prepared to make mistakes. Always have a thirst for knowledge'.

Hinds has great difficulty naming the highlights of his career telling us we would need at least two hours!

'One was definitely meeting world record holder Usain Bolt in Jamaica. I mean no-one has ever done what he's done before and I met him. Also meeting Thierry Henry, going to the World cup in 1998 and 2006, the cricket World cup in 2007. The fact I used to go to Highbury as a kid and stand on the terraces and now I go to the Emirates for every home game to cover Arsenal

games is something I find hard to believe. I'm there for free looking at my heroes'.

A highlight for Hinds over the past year has been Lewis Hamilton winning the Formula One World Championship a topic which he was very enthusiastic about, 'I've been following Lewis' career since the day he started carting when he was seven... Now, I'm not an emotional guy but I really wanted to cry. I thought this young black kid after just two seasons has won the World Championship but what the feeling was for me was I know how hard he has worked, I felt very emotional I can tell you that'.

Hinds was also supportive of another successful Briton from the last year as he cautiously backed Olympic boxing medal winner James Degale's decision to turn professional rather than defending his gold medal at London 2012. 'I think it's a common sense approach, I guess he has to put food on the table and I think if he can get it right he will be very, very wealthy. But if you look at Amir Khan, he won silver at the Olympics everything was going well for him and then he got knocked out against Prescott and he's almost had to go back to basics. Sport is a lot like life, sometimes you're up sometimes your down'.

Tips for getting into sports journalism

Amongst the tips I would give to young and aspiring journalists would be:

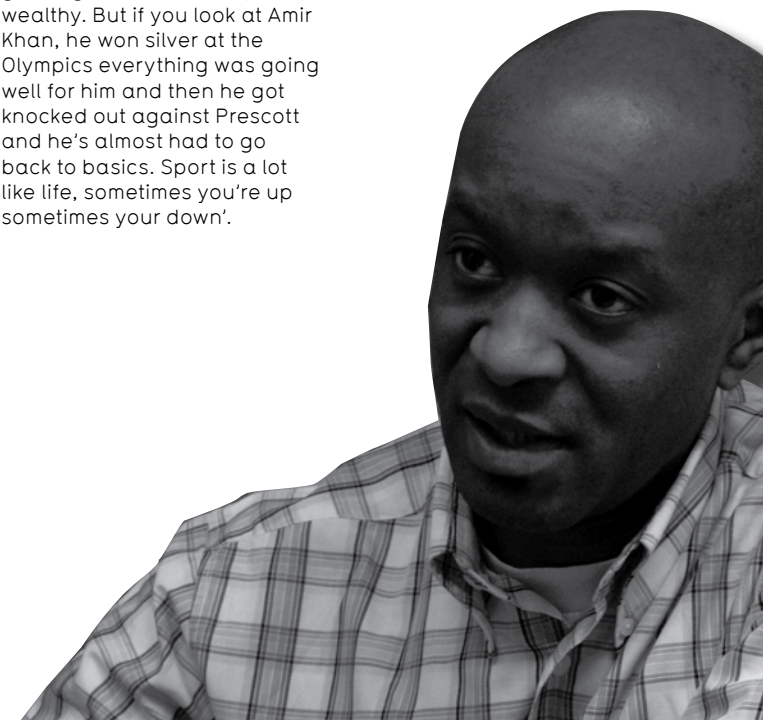
Be passionate and focussed and always be prepared to go the extra mile. It is important that you read as much as you can be it magazines or newspapers and listen and watch radio and television. Make yourself an expert in your area.

Be persistent and don't let knock backs put you off. Keep on pitching.

And finally **get advice** from those more experienced, always ask questions and show willingness and enthusiasm! Good luck!

Words by Drew Mark
Photography by Askwasi Tawia Poku

"Show initiative, show hunger, show some drive, be prepared to learn and be prepared to make mistakes."



Dels wears t-shirt by Second Son, jeans models own and trainers by Nike. Sophie wears t-shirt by A.I.N.T., plaid shirt by Gold Coin at Global Sports. Riz wears cardigan by Sam Greenberg, jeans by People's Market and shoes by Vans.

Thanks to Fiaz, Ishmael and Nadia at Global Sports, Nash, Justin, Emily, Terry Burgess, Debbie at Spin and Charlie Crockett.

SELF-POSSESSED, SWEET-TOOTHED & SHAKING THINGS UP

Styling by Jenni Barnes. Make up by Rosie Broad. Photography by Akwasi Tawia Poku, Kiran Nijjar and Rasharna Hylton.

Young, imaginative creative artists with an unconventional vision of the world are feeling a new kind of optimism. These individuals are drawing from the world around them like magpies and scrimping what little money and training they have to turn their aspirations into a self-made career. In the US, they call it living the American Dream; here in the UK, our parallel to that dream is a new found self-possession. Here, we present Riz, Dels and Sofi Donuts; three individuals who are muddling genres, throwing out the rulebook and soaking up inspirations like a sponge.





“Don’t listen to anyone who says you are too young. Being young is the way forward!”

Sofi~DONUTS, AS SHE IS AFFECTIONATELY CALLED, HAS BUILT up her own fashion store Donuts in Bristol which blasted her into the 2009 Courvoisior’s Top 100 business people in the UK at the tender age of 23. Dressed like a collision between new wave and b-girl; like the perfectly joyful iced donut she so often alludes to, Donuts the shop is a celebration too, of clothes and people that she loves.

What made you want to start up your own business? It all happened really quickly, we were sat in a bar and someone told us that they had a space available for rent. We went and viewed it, within the next few minutes we were like, right lets make our own store. It was literally that quick. I co-own Donuts with two of my best friends. We had all worked together before and we valued our jobs and the opportunities that came with them, but sometimes there comes a time in life when you just have to do things for yourself and luckily at that point I wasn’t alone in feeling that way.

What advice would you give to young people that want to run their own business or a business similar to yours? It was so fast that I guess we didn’t talk about money too much or where we would find the money so my first piece of advice would be that if you wanna start your own business just take a little bit of time to plan and save some money. The more thought and time you put into a venture, the more you will care about it and want to make it a success so don’t worry if you have to wait a little, because the planning bit is so fun and exciting!

We spend all our time promoting Donuts and spreading the word. Always be as passionate about your business as you were the day you first started. When you make something from nothing it becomes pretty special. You get the support from friends and family, then nationally, then worldwide and it just keeps you going. Never give up on what you want to do when the going gets tough (because it does get tough), that is my other piece of advice, I always say life is what you make of it. Oh and don’t listen to anyone who says you are too young. Being young is the way forward, you have energy, ideas, you get inspired, you aren’t weighed down by debt and worries. Just be careful, think things through and always ask for advice from like minded people.

Could you tell us a bit about your club nights? The night is the same vibe as the store, we book anything that we like, as well as supporting our friends such as Oneman, Tomb Crew, Spiney who are our residents. Check out our Myspace page (www.myspace.com/donutsdances) for regular updates.

How do you feel about the British tag? What do you think it constitutes to be British these days? Is it a tag that you feel comfortable to be associated with? I love being British, tag me as British as much as you like! Although I was born in Cornwall and grew up there, I am definitely a city girl. I’m blessed to live in Bristol with such a vibrant nightlife but also blessed to be able to spend so much time in London, they hustle and bustle of a city is a comfort to me.



Dels~IS A MORE THOUGHTFUL KIND OF RAPPER.

Discovered by Joe of Hot Chip on Myspace, their two and a half year collaboration has led to much applauded single Lazy on Moshi Moshi. You’re just as likely to find him watching My Neighbour Totoro (the 20 year old masterpiece of Japanese animation about a flying catbus and forest spirits) as blogging on cult webspot, atribecalldnext.com. With lyrics throttling you from a psycho-analysis textbook for Myself Malfunction to Manor Enterprise where he refers to his hometown of Ipswich as ‘Ips’. He’s got talent in abundance and 2009 is the year he’s going international.

So how did the collaboration with Hot Chip come about? I was at university still studying when Joe found me on Myspace and said I really wanna work with you. I didn’t believe it at first, I thought it was a lie and then I thought ah shit, this is actually happening! So I went to his studio sat down and chatted and he gave me the Lazy beat. Basically how it works, he’ll make some mad beat and send it to me via email. I’ll write to it, record it at my friend Eli’s house, take it to Kentish Town where he records and just make it like that.

What music inspires you? I’m inspired by a lot of things, not even just music. By films or just everyday things or conversations. I love Biggie, there are so many rappers that I love, Andre3000, Nas but there are also lots of different types of artists that I like too. I like this band The Animal Collective and they don’t really show their face that much but that’s what I quite like about it. One of the members is called Panda Bear and he makes amazing music. He’s almost like the Che Guevara of indie music. He’s from New York and I would love to make a record with him one day...not a whole record but one song.’



John Peel once enjoyed listening to a baby-faced Dels, performing in a cafe. But Dels appreciation for the indie scene don’t see him hankering for obscurity or any kind of underground elitism. Some people say UK rappers sell out too easily. **What do you make of the scene?** I don’t think it’s bad making something commercial. With Dizzee, the media likes to box it in and call it grime but in my eyes it’s hip hop. Just because it’s so different from when he started with Boy in Da Corner, that was more grime. Now he’s got more hip hop influence and that’s why he’s getting a little more exposure in America. It’s not a bad thing that he’s trying to make his music more accessible. If he’s only gonna make Boy in Da Corner for another six albums then it’s only going to reach a certain audience. It’s just broadening the scope. All the greats did that. Look at Biggie, Jay-Z, Kanye, they’ve all done that.

So what’s your hometown like? I’m from Ipswich, Whitton Estate. Sometimes it reminds me of here but obviously London’s a lot more populated. Within Ipswich there’s not many opportunities. That’s one of the reasons why I wanted to come to London for university to study. I went to study Graphic Design at Kingston, so I was there for 3 years and the plan was to go to the Royal College of Art after that but I got into the music stuff.

What are you up to at the moment? At the moment I’m performing at loads of different festivals around Europe, I’d like to go to Japan. I’ve got this song called Shapeshift. It’s just me turning into random objects.

“I’m trying to break down the barriers. I’m aware of the obstacles ahead, but I also love a challenge.”

Riz~AT 26 IS BREAKING THROUGH THOSE BOUNDARIES usually impenetrable for Asian actors on film: he is the main romantic lead in Dead Set, Charlie Brooker’s gripping zombiefest, with lead role in the hotly tipped feature film Shifty and with new single Radar out, performing as MC Riz he’s already toured America.

How much has your background influenced your career choice? I don’t know if it has really. I’ve become an actor and musician for the same reason as most people, they want to communicate with people, they want to be heard, they enjoy it and maybe they are just natural born performers. I guess I’ve got an awareness of how powerful it can be to be in the public eye and its good to be able to write songs for people to listen to I have an awareness of how powerful film and music can be and I don’t take them lightly. There are responsibilities that come with those mediums but recognising that has not come from my ethnic background.

The roles you tend to get are of Muslim characters, are you afraid of being typecast? I think that it is inevitable that if you’re a black /Asian/Muslim actor, then you’re gonna get roles as black/Asian/Muslim characters. The thing I’m really excited about and the thing I want to break through in my career is changing that and start playing characters that are characters first. I’ve come into the acting business at a time where there was a lot of post 9/11 stuff around, where the characters are Muslims first rather than just people. I did Road to Guantanamo and Britz, both films with Muslim characters, but the fact that they were Muslims was central to the storyline. However the audience related to them as people first and that’s what is really important to me, not that they just become, ‘that Muslim guy’. That’s the next step for multiculturalism, for me as an actor and for the industry to be a colour-blind place.

Do you think that ethnic minority actors are typecast? I think there’s a massive tendency towards that but its hard now because people are trying to eat and there’s work out there. Its unlucky in a way because I’ve got music as well so it means that every time I take an acting role it means I’m not gigging for a month or two. If I’m acting then its has to be something I really wanna do, so if someone wants to typecast me, chances are I don’t really wanna do it. In that sense I’ve been able to pick and choose the stuff that I’m excited about. I’m trying to break down the barrier. I’m aware of the obstacles ahead but I also love a challenge.

I thoroughly enjoyed Shifty, it felt fresh and vibrant and hopefully will be a big hit on its release in April, can you tell our readers what it’s all about? Shifty is a day in the life of a friendly neighbourhood drug dealer. There’s generally a lot racial stereotyping in these types of films and just stereotyping in general. I think a lot of times when you get a portrayal of that world, it’s in a very stereotypical way – a glamorous way or a slit your wrists, depressing kind of way. This guy is a guy first and foremost. Shifty is trying to be realistic and just show that this guy is a guy first. He’s a dude and that happens to be what he does and I think that will appeal to people. That will resonate because I think people are tired of being patronised with cartoon characters. Shifty was a low budget movie, part of Microwave films. We were given £100,000 and worked for next to nothing. I even donated my jeans after the scene where I fell off the bike. It feels good to know it’s going down well. It’s exciting; it’s a film that’s close to everyone’s heart. People believed in this film and it’s paid off.

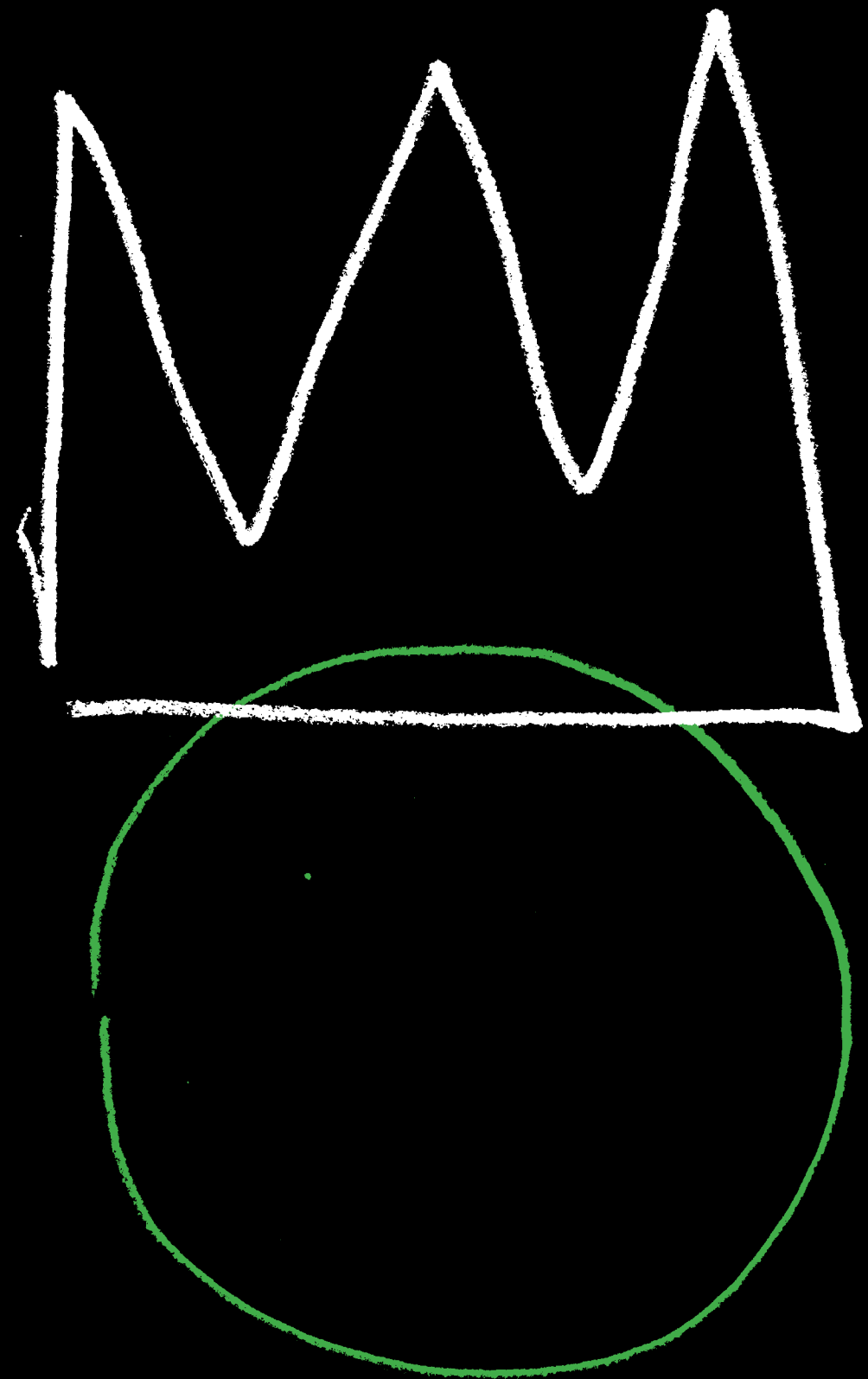
And the future? I’m focused on releasing an album. Music isn’t just something I dabble in outside of acting; it’s a part of me. My new single is Radar, hope you like it!

Interviews
Sofi by Shona Harvey, Dels by Shamz Le Roc and Riz by Adrienne McKenzie

GLOBAL KING DOM

Text by Ronnie Grebenyuk
Illustration by Bob Brody

According to the historian David Starkey, 'a British nation doesn't exist.' Is this really true? Britain today is a multi-cultural, multi-faith society. You can hear different types of music, different languages, and eat a variety of cuisines on any UK high street. But if different decisions had been made when migrants were coming over from British colonies, things may have been very different.



According to the historian David Starkey, 'a British nation doesn't exist.' Is this really true? Britain today is a multi-cultural, multi-faith society. You can hear different types of music, different languages, and eat a variety of cuisines on any UK high street. But if different decisions had been made when migrants were coming over from British colonies, things may have been very different.

So, what does it mean to be young and British today? The Cut carried out a survey of 147 young people aged between 16 and 24 to find out more about their heritage and what it means to them.

When we asked 'What does being British mean to you?' there was a mixture of reactions. Many simply responded 'nothing'. We found there was a big resistance among those we surveyed to describing themselves as British, even those who had been born and brought up in this country. One of those surveyed wrote, 'No matter where you are born, you tend to follow where your parents are from.' Others were equally hesitant to label themselves, while still acknowledging some more positive aspects: 'Personally I hate being British at the moment; all I hear is bad news in the papers. But apart from our sketchy politics, I think most people like the opportunities this country has, which is why so many people from all around the world come here.'

'I don't consider myself British even though I've lived here all my life.'

Of the 68% who were born in the U.K, only 58% of those surveyed said that they consider themselves British. Many of the others feel that their roots are elsewhere, but feelings on these subjects are often mixed. 21% of the young people we surveyed said that they party considered themselves as British: 'I consider myself as a British citizen but I am Ghanaian' or 'I do consider myself British as I have blended from one culture adopting another in Britain.'

Despite this ambivalence about Britishness, many of the Londoners we talked to were perfectly happy to describe themselves as being from London first and foremost. Shona answered that 'London is in Britain and to me that's the best city in the world. That's why I would say I'm proud to be from here.' Others suggested that the sheer diversity of the city made it easier to identify with. 'What's good about London is that it's not just black people or just white people, it's a big mix. It allows you to interact with other kinds of people and get a better take on life.' On the other hand, some of those we

surveyed felt that their difficulty with being able to identify as British was a result of Britain no longer having a strong identity of its own. Katy wrote that 'Being British to me just means I am in a country like everyone else. Britain has lost a lot of its own original culture and is now a mix of pretty much everything, especially in the major cities such as London'. Not everyone feels this way, though, and there were some much more positive responses. 'Being British means I can do things that I wouldn't have been able to do in my home country. I feel very privileged that I've been given the chance to

be British.' Other responses we received included words like 'freedom' and 'power, which came a surprise to some of us.

"Being British means I can do things that I wouldn't have been able to do in my own country. I feel privileged that I've been given the chance to be British."

Despite many of our respondents thriving on the diversity of cities like London, an overwhelming majority said that they value heritage as an important part of who they are. A typical response was that 'Heritage gives me my identity. It helps give me an understanding of my roots and what I am' and the majority we spoke to gave similar answers. The young people we surveyed clearly felt that their heritage was an important part of their lives in helping them understand more about themselves and where they had come from. 'I have been influenced by my heritage and family to become who I am today. I was brought up in two different societies and inherited different aspects from both worlds.' Only three out of the participants who took part claimed to have no heritage. Maybe they just like doing things their own way or didn't know enough about their heritage to be influenced by it. Britain has always made a cultural impact worldwide, particularly musically. Bands like The Beatles, Queen and

The Rolling Stones will live on forever. Although there has been a lot of influence from America in recent years, music is still viewed as an area Britain excels in and also something which plays a major role in integrating cultures. Some of the young people we surveyed believed that this is due to the fusion of races in major cities. Nick argued that 'Music from Africa and the Caribbean has influenced the whole music scene. If you look at the growth of Soca and Bashment, that's affected mainstream music, especially at the moment with funky house'. This also seems to work the other way round, with the music scene changing how different cultures are perceived too. 'Being British African only kind of became cool kind of recently because of artists like Sway and Tynchy Stryder.' Although it is often a victim of bad publicity, the Grime movement is still something many of you see as an example of 'real' British youth culture. 'I don't think it's necessarily to do with countries. I just think its people expressing themselves because they were kind of outcast in the music scene. They're making their own new scene and sound.'

'If you're living in Britain you should be proud of being British.' Perhaps this respondent is right - shouldn't we be more proud? Again, one of the themes that came up over and over again was the embrace of mixed cultures: 'When I go back to the Ukraine, everyone is all the same, I prefer it here where there is a mix.' This wasn't just about racial diversity, but embracing other kinds of diversity too. 'I think the British can be quite deep. When I went to L.A to visit my grandma you literally couldn't get past first impressions. They judge you a lot and the British have a rep for being eccentric.' Most of you felt that on the whole, race relations were a lot better than they used to be. 'I think the ignorance has gone down, and people have learnt more about other cultures. Even if there is still a bit of racism, we are still learning from each other.'

There was also a noticeable optimism about being British in the future. 'I think its going to be cool to be British very soon, with the Olympics. People are going to start to see who they are, and everyone is going to be here. People are British and they don't like to accept that, hopefully 2012 will bring people together.'



Young Londoners are clearly proud to call it this city their home. The Cut caught 5 minutes chat with our Mayor, Boris Johnson, to get his views on the significance of Heritage today.

How important do you feel culture is to the way in which a young person is raised? Do you think it influences their behaviour outside of the home?

So many of us are lucky in our childhoods. We grow up with parents who love us, discipline, a sense of right and wrong and ambitions for the future. Too many children are growing up in London without ambition and without boundaries. They lack respect and self-respect, and though they seem to lack shame, their cockiness often masks a fragility and anger that no one has taken the trouble to give them discipline or give them hope.

It is this minority of children that is tempted or bullied into the crime, which destroys their lives and the lives of those around them. I have seen the tragic effects of knives and guns on those families who have lost their sons and daughters in violent attacks in London. My youth action plan 'Time For Action' aims to support and provide opportunities to help these youngsters, before their lives go irretrievably wrong.

What was your initial reaction when you heard that Barack Obama won the election? Do you think that Britain will see someone from an ethnic group becoming Prime Minister in the future?

Obama deserved to win because he is talented, compassionate, and because he offers the hope of rejuvenating the greatest country on earth in the eyes of the rest of us. All of these reasons led me to desire his victory.

And then there is the final, additional reason, the glaring reason, and that is race. Obama winning showed black people the world over how a gifted man has been able to smash through the ultimate glass ceiling. I see no reason why somebody from a Black or Asian background can't achieve the same success in the UK.

Interview by Alpha Gougsa



BARE JOKES

There's always a joker in the pack, but these young Londoners are taking it to the next level on London's comedy circuit. The Cut meets the funnymen and women who are at the forefront of London's young comedy scene. Guaranteed to crack you up? Read on and see for yourself.

Text by Chloe Forde
Photography by Ibrahim Fazal

LITTLEMAN

Lee is the Littleman who hails from Hackney. He is a new kid on the block, but don't let that fool you; he has been making a name for himself by performing up and down the country.

How did you get into comedy? I went to a see a show and thought to myself, this is actually boring me! I could do this. So I hollered at Kojo and he gave me a five minute set at his Sunday

comedy club which actually turned into an 10 minute set where I impressed the likes of Estelle and Kojo himself.

How did you get the name Littleman? Well it's stuck from back in the day, that's what everyone used to call me. But now Littleman is kind of like my alter ego. Lee is the quiet reserved me and Littleman is when I'm ready to perform. I used to hang out with the hood boys and the sweet boys so I decided to create the character Littleman who is a bit of both.

You know ladies love a bad boy, well Littleman is just that except a little smoother around the edges - YOU DUN KNOW!

What does heritage mean to you, and do you think its important in comedy? Yeah, heritage is everything; it's your foundation, your platform for the future. Comedy and heritage work hand in hand. They mix like chicken and rice to create that wonderful taste!

Facebook - Lee Littleman Vassell



JAMIE HOWARD

Jamie hails from Bloomsbury - not to be confused with Holborn or Kings Cross! At just 21 he has been performing for 18 months and has managed to build up quite an impressive CV.

How did you get into comedy? I was working front of house at the Gielgud Theatre, where One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest was on, and all the cast were stand up comedians. One of the actors was a guy

called Stephen K. Amos, and he told me about this night that takes place at the Comedy Store called King Gong. Three people in the audience are given red cards, people get up on stage, and if you last five minutes without the red cards going up you go through to the final. I went on stage and lasted four minutes with no material, and from there I decided I wanted to do comedy.

How do you deal with stage fright? I now have an, 'I don't care' attitude when I go on

stage, I am not on stage to make friends, or say all the right things. When I go on stage, all my PC attitude goes out the window. I am there to provoke a reaction from people, and as long as I make myself laugh that is the most important thing. When it comes to stage fright, my two good friends Jack and Daniel are always there to help me out.

Being a white comedian who often performs for a predominantly black crowd, do you feel your heritage acts

as a help or a hindrance to your success as a comedian? When I first started out, there was a lot of talk about me, cause I was a brave little white boy breaking the mould, but after a while people get used to it. I can no longer rely on the fact I am white. It all comes down to what I talk about and hopefully people would find me funny if I was black, purple or green.

Find him on Facebook - Jamie Howard



MEL MYERS

Mel Myers is a 23 year old comedian who is going to take London by storm in 2009. Being a woman in a predominantly male scene isn't going to stop this girl, who says she'll just 'shout a little louder'.

What inspires you when creating new material for your shows? Damn! More like what doesn't! I get inspiration from anything and everything

that happens in my life from situations with friends, family, work, my childhood and my surroundings.

At a lot of shows, comedians ask people to 'rep their countries' and spend a lot of time finding out where there crowd comes from. Do you think heritage is important to a lot of people, and is your heritage important to you? Most definitely, I think your heritage is the thing that shapes you as a person. It determines where you've

been and will definitely influence you wherever you go in the future. Comedians talk about their heritage as it is a good way of getting an audience to relate to you or gives others a humorous insight to who you are.

What does 2009 hold for Mel Myers and what can audiences expect? I am very enthusiastic about getting into presenting at the moment so I am working on that. I will be working on some sketches with some other

comics that I know and you can also catch me down at the comedy improvisation show - Caught In The Act - that I do every month with my good mates JCX and Slick. I am also in the process of creating my own quirky line of unisex accessories so you can watch out for that.

www.myspace.com/majeztic1



KEVIN J

Kevin J hadn't even seen a live stand up show up until a year ago but now, in just 10 months, he has managed to make himself one of the comedians that your friends will tell you, 'you just have to see'

There are a lot of young comedians at the moment, is it a competitive business? Since I started comedy, lots of young people have become comedians, which makes

it a hustle to get your face out there. But competition is healthy; all it does is make me write harder and up my game. As long as I'm being booked, I know I'm doing well.

Where do you draw inspiration from for your new material? My main inspiration for new material is life! I am a very observant person and I believe this is reflected in many of my jokes, there is no limit to the amount of jokes you can write when it comes to life, people and the way we live! I don't get

on public transport very often, but when I do, there are so many jokes just waiting to be written. Personally, I don't think there many places funnier than being on a bus in the morning!

Does 2009 hold anything exciting for Kevin J aside from comedy? I'm looking to sell out Wembley and the O2 Arena on the same night! I don't really know what the future holds, but I'm in good hands, so all should be well. As I mentioned before I'm also model, so hopefully I'm going

to be a success in that field too and will be coming to a shop window near you! I have an audio comedy CD entitled Kevin J Comedy - The Mixtape Vol.1, which will be available early 2009 (aka 2000 & mine!).

 Facebook - Kevin J Comedian
www.myspace.com/kevinjcomedy

Slanguage



phrases, accents and countless words have been created and fused together across the capital in recent years – influenced largely by Black and Asian culture – to form a new dialect which is being dubbed as ‘multi-ethnic youth vernacular’ by academics and linguists. This modern-day lingo has had such a phenomenal effect on society and culture there is suggestion that it could potentially replace what used to be known as the Queen’s English!

According to language and innovation consultant Tony Thorne, gone are the days when young people used to abandon their own special slang and quirky made-up languages for ‘standard’ or official English in front of parents, teachers or because of demands of the workplace. ‘Most authority figures, like the government and schools, have very little authority, so if people want

to go on using ‘bad’ language or exotic words, who’s going to stop them? The other important thing is that for multi-ethnic young people who may speak languages or dialects other than ‘standard English’ at home and in clubs and in school playgrounds, ‘standard English’ is not their shared language, slang is!

Thorne also believes that youth slang is so popular these days that adults might wish to appropriate it in the near future. ‘Youth is something that everyone wants a part of nowadays, even ageing baby boomers like me. So the language and styles of youth is likely to have a far greater influence in the future on everyone. Unless – and this is possible – there’s a backlash; in other words, a wave of Puritanism and a return to the values and rules and regulations of the class society we used to have.’

So watcha sayin? A slanger’s guide

We canvassed a cross section of the team here at The Cut and defined just a handful of words and phrases which represent the most common slang around.

Bredrin Noun

Another expression obtained from Caribbean culture, which is used to refer to a friend, usually among males. ‘Bredrin’ is a modern alternative for ‘brethren’, which is a Biblical plural form of brother.

Example
‘Oh you know Liam too? He’s been my bredrin from school times.’

Stoosh/Stush Adjective

To some it denotes a good looking, well-dressed and ‘proper’ female; to others it is an adjective used to describe girls with stuck-up, unfriendly and pretentious attitudes. Stoosh/Stush females are deemed to be unapproachable and difficult to ‘move to’.

Example
‘That girl is bare stush, don’t even bother moving to that bruv!’

Swagger/Swagga Noun

Refers to how a person presents his or her self to their peers, in the way that they walk, talk and dress. Swagger/Swagga is shown from how a person handles a situation. Ironically, if the term is shortened to ‘swag’, an opposite definition is formed: rubbish.

Example
‘Her swagger is on point!’

Skank Noun/verb

Originating from Jamaican culture, to ‘skank’ was to pedal a bicycle from a standing position. Nowadays, it is recognised as a derogatory term to describe females suggesting ‘loose’ behaviour and poor hygiene. It is also acknowledged as a popular dance style associated with the Ska, Grime and Funky House music genres.

Example
‘I can’t believe you’re linking Heather, she is one loose skank!’
or
‘That choong ting over there knows how to skank hard!’

Gay Adjective

This is an example of a word that traditionally had a positive meaning but has since developed a new and controversial translation. The term originally was used as an adjective meaning jovial or good-spirited. From the early twentieth century, it began to be used as a substitute for homosexuality. It has since been adopted by youths to become an established playground insult, usually referring to something stupid or lame.

Example
‘What do you mean you’re not coming out tonight?! You’re gay man!’

Chav Noun

A well-known expression that could have originated from Romani Traveller culture. A stereotypical ‘chav’ is an aggressive, white working-class young person, who is often involved in petty crime and assumed to be unemployed. Chavs embrace tacky branded sportswear and lack social decorum. The term had such an effect on modern British society that in 2005 it appeared in a number of mainstream dictionaries, including the Collins English Dictionary.

Example
‘Some stupid chav was giving me grief outside the corner shop earlier.’

Wagwarn Exclamation/noun

Basically translates as “what’s going on”; a well-known greeting which is part of Jamaican Patois dialect, although it is also believed to have originally evolved from the language of African slaves who were taught to speak English by the British in Jamaica during the peak of sugar plantations.

Example
‘Wagwarn fam, what’s really good?’

Nang Adjective

Positive adjective that describes something that is good or cool. ‘Nang’ is widely believed to have originated from Hackney, and was initially thought to be derived from a Bengali word for a naked woman. After being adopted by Bangladeshi youths in Hackney and Tower Hamlets, it later became popular with other ethnic groups across the capital.

Example
‘This tune is nang you know!’

Duppy Noun/verb

A term derived from old Jamaican folklore, meaning ghost or spirit of a dead person or animal. It has since formed a very different modern meaning, where it is often used to describe someone getting beaten up or as an insult to white people!

Example
‘I’ll make a duppy of you!’
or
‘I think there’s a duppy in the house!’

BYCK TO SOLE SOLE

Photography by
Rasharna Hylton,
Shannara Hylton and
Kiran Nijjar; Styling by
Chloe Forde and Kirby
Howell Baptiste; Hair &
Make Up by Jaime Lee
and Anna at CBMA





Previous page
Edmond wears white jeans by Peoples Market; t-shirt by 1937; jacket by 1937; cap by New Era; shoes by Converse.

This page from top
Eabha wears red head band, skirt and braces by Primark; green top by Franklin and Marshall; tights stylists own. **Calvin** wears green cap by New Era; purple cardigan by New Look; green shorts by 1937; watch by Black Dice; t-shirt models own. **Eabha** wears green cardigan by New Look; head band, belt, vest and leggings by Primark; shoes by Converse; earrings by Freedom at Topshop.

Opposite page from left
Calvin wears grey slacks by Primark; purple cardigan by New Look; puffa jacket by Franklin and Marshall; striped belt by Franklin and Marshall. **Eabha** wears green polo neck, purple dress and grey socks by Primark; shoes by Office; watch and gold chain stylists own. **Edmond** wears black jumper by New Look; red and black shirt by Primark; white jeans by Peoples Market; rucksack by Atticus.





This page
Calvin wears grey slacks by Primark;
puffa jacket by Franklin and Marshall.

Opposite page
Edmond wears jacket and bag by
Franklin and Marshall; black jeans
models own.

Style Secret Histories

Street fashion today is all about mixing it up, donning ghetto gold with an Eskimo hat, or an African print tops with old skool denim. But what are the origins of some of the iconic garments we are wearing this season? The Cut dig a little digging to bring you some secret style histories.



ESKIMO HATS

If you're not rocking an 'Eskimo' hat this winter, then you're not serious. Otherwise known as 'trapper' hats or 'ushankas', this style of furry head gear first originated in Russia to protect the nation's heads and ears from its renowned frosty winters. Adored by former Soviet soldiers and Skepta.

THE ARAB SCARF

The Kaffiyeh (pronounced kuh-FEE-yeh) is the correct name for what is known to most as simply the 'arab scarf'. It is a traditional desert Arab head dress, which evolved from turbans in ancient times. Once a symbol of Palestinian nationalism and class struggle, now you can find a whole range of colourful kaffiyehs in mainstream fashion stores like Topshop and H&M.

BACK TO THE MOTHERLAND

African inspired prints are creeping their way on to the catwalk with designers such as Oscar De La Renta and Matthew Williamson. The high street is also picking up on the trend with huge brands such as Topshop dedicating an entire section to the African cloth inspired print and calling it Zanzibar. However this look dates back hundreds of years. The most famous African print is Kente cloth, which originates from Ghana. All the print and all the colours of Kente cloth have different meanings.

Text by Chloe Forde and Shona Harvey
Photography by Kiran Nijjar and Rasharna Hylton

GHETTO GOLD!

In your face gold jewellery has been a big trend. But it's a trend that started on the streets and trickled up to the cat walk. The 80's and 90's saw the birth of the BLING and everybody wanted a piece. The gold heart earrings were being rocked on the streets of Brooklyn at least a decade before they hit your pretty ears! Now the ghetto gold look is everywhere: Lily Allen, London fashion week, new rave kids, grime kids, dancehall queens and I'm sure you have some of your own fabulous Ghetto gold!

THE HEADSCARF

Oh this wonderful headscarf... what can I say? THE QUEEN, VERA DUCKWORTH, AMY WINEHOUSE, DOLCE AND GABBANA! What a wonderful mini-trend this scarf is as it hits every corner of the nation! Go get yours girls!

GEEKY CHICY

The geek look was once sniggered at in corridors of schools all across the world. Now we are left a little red-faced ourselves as it seems the geeks were on to something; even Kanye West is rockin' the look. These huge glasses can sit bang in the middle of the geeky chicy style. Just throw in a piece off tape round the middle and call yourself Erkel.



LYLE & SCOTT

The brand from the small Scottish Borders' town of Hawick with the iconic golden eagle has become almost synonymous with modern youth culture and a must-have in the fashion world in recent years. Back in the 1960s, Lyle & Scott busied itself with clothing some of the world's greatest sport personalities.

HITCH THAT WAIST BAND UP

Shorts, skirts, jeans, trousers – Right now we are going crazy for everything high-waisted. Well this is a trend that dates all the way back to the 1700s, again in the 1970s and now in 2009 every shop is stocked with a variation of the high waist!

COUNTRY GENT



FOR A WHILE NOW WE HAVE BEEN DONNING THE COUNTRY GENT AND LADY LOOK, WORKING WITH WHAT'S IN OUR GRANDDAD'S WARDROBES IS THE WAY TO GO TO FINISH OFF THIS WINTER. I WONDER IF THE GOOD OLD BARBOUR WILL EVER GO OUT OF FASHION?



Get the look
Feather pin £6, Beyond Retro; Socks £14, Hackett; Skywalkers, I Dream of Wires £40; Blazer £65, Topman.

WRAP IT UP



SPRING IS STILL A WHILE OFF, SO WHILE WE AWAIT THE BLOSSOM, WRAP UP WARM IN OVERSIZED THREADS. ITS ALL ABOUT THE LAYERS! GRUNGE IT UP LIKE IT WAS 1990 ALL OVER AGAIN.



Get the look
Oversized Blazer £45, Topshop; Stripe tassel scarf £12.71, River Island; Striped Cotton Cashmere Carigan £24.99

Photographs by Katja Hentschel from www.Glamcanyon.com; Photographs with blue underline by Lillian Ampo; Styling by Patricia Williams www.pc-williams.blogspot.com

MUSIC

LIPS TO THE MIC

BORED OF WINEHOUSE, ALLEN, AND ADELE? THEN LOOK NO FURTHER. THE CUT MEETS THE NEW BREED OF FEISTY FEMALE SINGERS WHO ARE BUSY CARVING A NICHE FOR THEMSELVES IN THE MUSIC WORLD FOR 2009.



Charlotte O'Conner
Hometown: Blackburn

As an up and coming artist, how would you describe your sound for those who may be unfamiliar with Charlotte O'Conner? I would say that its more like if you've got music on at home, kind of like beach music or something you would listen to when you are around the bonfire if that makes sense, overall I would class it as acoustic/folk/soul music.

What song by another artist would you say best describes you and which of your songs best describes you? I actually had it on today, the one by Alicia Dixon the Boy Does Nothing, but for me the Girl

Does Nothing because I'm really lazy! And one of my own songs which I wrote entitled Steady Shark which just came from the heart, its all about a guy that I really liked who was my boyfriend. The song is called Steady Shark as his name was Edward and I called him Steady Eddy and he looked like a shark! He was a bit of a player and I didn't think that I would get him but in the end I did and then I got dumped which was a little upsetting!

In an industry increasingly concerned with the American market, how important is it to sound British? It is important but its not a definite to sound British because I'm not fully British so I can just do

what I really want to and be whoever I want to be, I think because I'm a Northerner I wouldn't try to or put on another accent as you can hear my real accent coming through when I'm singing.

What does Britishness mean to you? The queen is the first thing that comes to mind, nice cups of tea and the British flag!

Your heritage is half African and half English, how do you think this influences your identity? When people see me they don't know what mix I am. I think heritage is cool as it makes you who you are and makes your life a little more special and exciting.
And finally, how do

you survive the cold winters in Blackburn? I don't know! I guess a nice cup of tea. I've recently discovered Berroca, apparently it's me on a good day. It tastes like salty orange but I quite like it. Big cups of tea get me through the day and peanut butter and jam sandwiches. The weather really does affect my mood. I want summer back!!

www.myspace.com/charlottesoul
www.charlotteoconnor.t83.net

Interview by Kiran Nijjar
Photography by Kiran Nijjar



Calista
Hometown: London

Much more than a Big Brother housemate, Calista Robertson is the sensational voice behind the smash hit single Bongo Jam. For some the 19 year old Kings College music student is the new female voice behind the rising scene of UK House music. With her Japanese and Jewish Russian/Romanian ancestry, Calista embodies the diversity and talent common among so many young people in Britain today.

How would you describe your music? My music is like a new genre of classy pop. I always prefer to make my own music from scratch rather than sampling someone else's. For me nothing compares to something you've made from scratch, There is something endearing about samples, but I'm not a producer.

Did having parents who are both classical musicians meant you ever felt pressured to get involved with music? No, not at all. I have an older brother and sister and neither of them do music. It was always my choice to train as a classical pianist and to study at the Royal Academy of Music. Music was always something that I've enjoyed and having both parents as

classical musicians helped. Music is all I've known really. Most kids get taken to Spain or something like that on their family holidays, where as my family went to music camp and explored each other's musical souls and like hugged trees. I loved it.

How did you end up doing Bongo Jams? It was Luke that came up with Bongos, it was a studio vibe late at night and completely random. It is literally about having fun. It's a tribal beat, the guy who fronts it, bongo man; he's basically this crazy African man who is in the video wearing like tribal gear. We made it as a joke, then when I went into Big Brother after being hijacked they asked to use it on my entrance video and it just blew up. It's been a complete surprise and has been so much fun.

And the future? I'm working on my first solo album, alongside bongo jams; nowadays it's really nice you can do all these different things. The follow up single to Bongo Jams is out now.

www.myspace.com/calistaonline

Interview by Alpha Gougas
Photography by Edward Kagutuzi and Kiran Nijjar

Ava Leigh
Hometown: Chester

Could you describe your music style? Slightly old skool, got a bit of lovers rock and sometimes ska as well. No-one seems to know why a girl from Chester would do reggae or even know what reggae is. but my mum used to be a big lovers rock fan and that's why I got introduced to the music. It started from there I kind of fell in love with it and discovered that there was so many different styles of reggae like ska, roots, lovers rock, ragga, dancehall.

What's been your most memorable moment so far? Going to Jamaica. A few months after I got signed I went to Jamaica to record with Sly and Robbie over there who's amazing. I got to stay in Strawberry Hill which was where Bob Marley retreated after getting shot. It's just paradise up there.

You're performing with Carol Thompson! How did that come about? About a month and a half ago we arranged a session to write together. I love Lovers Rock so I love Carol Thomson! We put together some really cool tracks, me and Carol are on the same page, we like

the same stuff and say the same things. She's lovely.

What makes you unique? I guess the most obvious thing is that I'm doing a style of music that not many other people are doing. A lot of people think 'I bet the record company told her to sing reggae because it works, you're a little white blonde girl from Chester' but I've always been passionate about reggae so I guess that will set me aside from everybody else.

What do you predict for music in 2009? I'd like Ska punk to replace Indie... I just want good music to be produced. I like writing a song from the beginning and having melodies like the 50's or the 60's I just hope people start doing that. It's good because people are going a little retro now so people are starting to go backwards, which is good news because music was better then.

www.avaleigh.co.uk
www.myspace.com/avaleigh

Interview by Adrienne McKenzie
Photography by Akwasi Tawia Poku



“There are a lot of big things in store for British music... people are being inspired by us all over the world.”



MPHO
Hometown: Soweto

MPHO is a distinctive name, what is the meaning behind it?
Mpho (pronounced Mm'poh) actually means 'gift' in Soweto, a South African name.

Describe your heritage and upbringing? I was born in South Africa and my parents are mixed, when I was four because of the apartheid I moved to the UK and grew up in South London. So I'm a mixed South African, South Londoner!

Musically which artists would you say influence your sound? Prince, Andre 3000, Kate Bush, I'm influenced in song writing by various people that I've listened to as a kid, all kinds of Pop music from Whitney Houston, Depeche Mode to Adam and the Ants.

What would you consider as your favourite musical era? Wow! I would have to say the 80s because it was a time when artists were coming from live music across into

electronic and you could hear the music fusing between the two, so artists such as Prince who plays guitar, keyboard and piano were starting to experiment with synths and drum programming and so you could hear the mixture of the two things. But I also love the 70's with all the instruments, string arrangements and big dramatic style I love Hip Hop as well!

In an industry increasingly concerned with the American market, how important do you feel it is to sound British? I don't ever really think about it like that, I just do what I do. I'm from here so it's inevitable that I will sound like me. I don't necessarily feel like I am someone who wants to run around waving the British flag. I don't feel I need to prove I sound British; I feel its part of who I am. I don't even feel that defines me completely as I wasn't born here. I am influenced by American music but I have also been influenced by Jazz and African music, I would rather think of myself as an international and

universal artist who takes from wherever I go and whatever I experience. I am yet to travel the world and see much more.

When I mention the word Britishness, how would you define this? No matter where I go in the world or where I've been in the world whether it be Japan, America or Africa the one thing that I can't get anywhere else like I get here is a proper cup of tea. It doesn't matter where you go but to have a proper builder's cup of tea, good tea bags, made with milk and not no lemon and sugar like they do in America, where the tea is so strong and you can taste it.

Where do you think British music is heading? I think there is a lot in store for British music, from what I'm hearing around at the moment and from an artist like myself who isn't prepared to be limited by a title of British or Hip Hop or Black music. A lot of places in the world are taking from the way that Londoners have been so cosmopolitan and have mixed and fused so many different

things culturally. When I travel, what I notice with other places is they don't mix in the same way that we do here, so it's harder to get that kind of broader, wider sound in other places of the world. There's a lot of big things in store and people are being inspired by British music elsewhere in the world which is exciting.

The Art of Pop by MPHO is available to download now!
www.myspace.com/mphosounds

Interview by Kiran Nijjar
Photography by Jamal Joseph, Ibrahim Fazal and Amit Cholera

Mor Karbasi
Hometown: Jerusalem

Your music has been described as "Spine tingling Gypsy Music". For someone who may not have heard of you before describe your sound and style of music?

The Ladino songs from every country sound very different and the only thing they have in common is the language. The songs have many influences from the various countries. With the traditional songs I try to make them closer to their origins soundwise but bring in our own influences such as Flamenco guitar and Western influences. The album is a blend of traditional and modern. In three words I would describe my sound as a mixture of styles.

Most of your songs are in Ladino as well as Spanish and Hebrew, why do you choose to sing in Ladino?

Ladino is a language, style of music and culture, which comes from medieval Spain. I choose to sing in Ladino as since I was little I was always drawn to anything to do with Spain. My grandfather was sure that we originally came from Spain, he told me 'the blood doesn't forget'.

Do you think this restricts your audience, as those who are not familiar with the language or culture may not connect or understand your music?

It shouldn't do. I always get messages from fans saying they don't know anything I am saying but they feel the music and know exactly what I'm singing about. Music is the

language of the heart; where it goes straight from one heart to another heart; where it has no barriers of language or culture inbetween. I bring this music not just as a Jewish girl; the subjects are relevant to anyone and for those who love music in general.

Not many songs still survive from 1492, how do you revive and adapt the 500 year old style into the 21st century?

I'm a 22 year old and when I sing these songs I have my own interpretation to them, instrumentwise we have electric guitar, flamenco guitar, bass player, percussionist as well as traditional drum used in flamenco music and an Oud (ancient Middle Eastern Lute string instrument). When I sing these songs I make them relevant to today, the main thing is that all the songs are new.

You were born in Jerusalem and moved to London, was this a big culture shock for you? How did this effect or influence your music?

If London had better weather it would be perfect, but musically it is perfect in terms of the opportunities and the openness of people. London is so multicultural with musicians from everywhere and the musicians I have worked with are from various parts of the world and they bring their own rhythms and styles.

www.myspace.com/morkarbasi

Interview by Kiran Nijjar
Photography by Akwasi Tawia Poku



Valentina
Hometown: London

How did you get into music?

I started out with my mum putting me into dance classes and theatres and stuff like that, she was really encouraging, and then I played the flute which I was really bad at. I just sort of found that I could sing and haven't stopped singing since then.

How would you describe your sound? The heart of it is soul; I just want it to be a great soul/pop record. I want people to be able to listen and recognise it in 20 years time.

According to your Myspace, you've become a big hit on Milwaukee Radio; tell us how that came about?

I kept getting people contacting me from Milwaukee saying 'I've heard your song' and I thought I haven't given out my songs to anyone. Somehow the Milwaukee Radio got hold of my song and loads of people were in to it. I got such a big response so I might move there. Ha-ha.

How important is it to sound British?

The most important thing is to stay true to yourself. Keeping your own identity and if that's

a British sound then stick with it. Knowing what you want and how you want to sound.

What inspires your song writing? Everything, I'm a nosey person. I watch people on the tube, listen to their conversations. I'll often have a big heart to heart with people around me and so I've written songs about my friends and their situations and sometimes they don't even know about it. I've written about my own highs and lows. It's just the only thing were I feel like when I've written a song it's fully off my chest and can forget about it for now.

Would you say writing songs comes naturally to you?

Yes. I think it has to. But you can always get better with song writing. That's why I love it because you constantly are influenced by other music.

What song would best describe you? Ooo that's really hard. Probably one of my own songs called Making Memories.

www.myspace.com/valentinamusic

Interview by Ronnie Grebenyuk and Nicholas Asamoah. Photography by Patrick Owlolabi and Kiran Nijjar

MUSIC

FRESH OFF THE CHIP

as CalmDownKidder and Kittenrock have brought the music to a wide underground audience, and as lo-fi music begins to achieve popularity, it's about time people checked out its roots.

RECOMMENDED UK CHIPMUSIC

Magazines and blogs have been singing the praises of the '8-bit punk' music peddled by media friendly bands Crystal Castles and Heartsrevolution for some time now. However, the most innovative, interesting and downright awesome music to be made using old video game technology has been made under the public's noses for some time - and much of it in the UK.

For those unfamiliar with 'chipmusic', it is music made utilising sounds created on the sound chips of old home computers and video games consoles, classic examples being the Nintendo Game Boy or Commodore 64, although more obscure hardware such as the MSX and Amstrad CPC are also used. Technically, Crystal Castles, who use modern software to recreate retro sounds, do not make 'proper' chipmusic. Although music made with old sound chips may sound primitive in theory, chipmusic is surprisingly accessible. Much of it can even be downloaded for free, as most musicians working with this equipment retain a staunchly independent attitude to the music industry.

A large proportion of internationally renowned chipmusic is made by UK based artists, many of whom can be caught on the live circuit. Some of these artists, like David E. Sugar and Firebrand Boy, have even achieved a degree of mainstream recognition, and their music is very much worth seeking out. UK based netlabels such

The Phatt Demo by gwEm

One of the pioneers of chipmusic in the UK, gwEm makes distinctive Atari-punk music, with guitars and rapping over the beats laid down by his Atari ST. This album was created to demonstrate the uses of MaxYMiser, a music program of his own creation, although it also contains some of the best chipmusic to come out of the UK in general. Available (mp3) at www.preromanbritain.com/phattdemo

Greatest Bits by Syphus

Sold on the Chiptune Alliance tour, a UK tour featuring some of the most popular chiptune artists, this album compiles Syphus' best songs, making for an ideal starting point into not just Syphus' music but chipmusic as a whole. Creating music on a variety of consoles, his melodic approach to music has gained him a cult following in the underground scene. Available (CD/mp3) at www.syphus.untergrund.net

From Grandma With Love by Jellica

Recently released on renowned German label Retinascan, this 3" CD by one of the UK's leading figures in 8-bit music pushes the limits of the Game Boy's sound chip, producing some intense electro music in the process. Available (CD) at www.retinascan.de

Fresh Off The Chip by David E. Sugar

Although now respected in



the electro-indie crowd, for his support slots for the likes of Hadouken! and releases for Kitsune Maison, David E. Sugar began his career making drum and bass on his Game Boy under the name Logicbomb. This release, for the well-regarded American chipmusic label 8bitpeoples, balances dance floor friendly 8-bit electro with strong songwriting, and remains one of the definitive statements of the UK chipmusic scene. Available (mp3) at www.8bitpeoples.com

Songs For Cake by Firebrand Boy

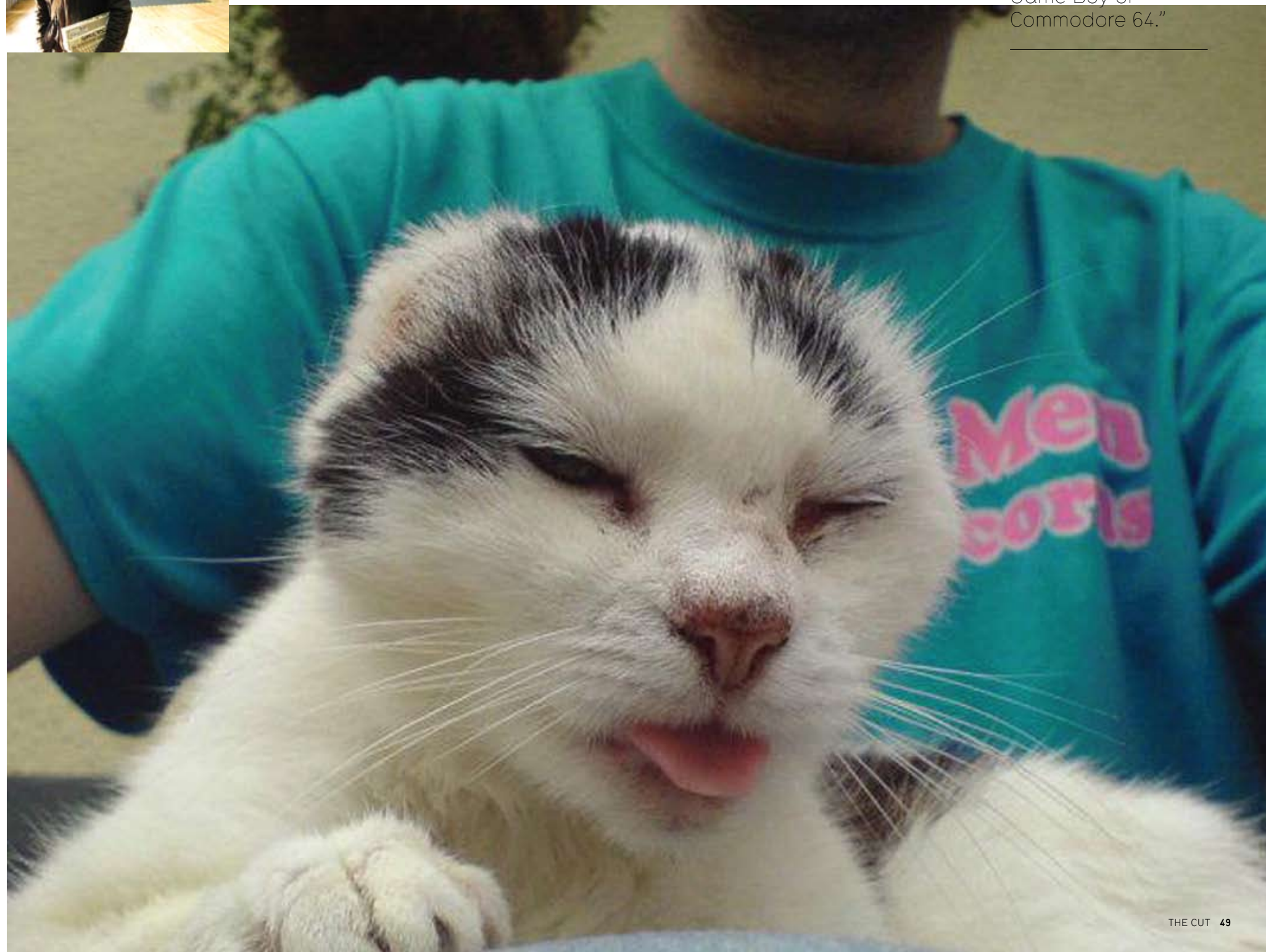
Another 8bitpeoples release, this time from the Scotland based Firebrand Boy, Songs For Cake places the sounds of old computers on a whole new context - making lush sing-along pop music with them. It is no wonder that Firebrand Boy has established a strong reputation for his live performances. Available (mp3) at www.8bitpeoples.com

The author has represented Chip Music at BFI events and abroad.

Text by Gus Loban

Images from top left Photo courtesy of gwEM, photo by James Mooney; photo courtesy of Jellica.

"Chipmusic is created through the sound chips of old computers and consoles such as the Nintendo Game Boy or Commodore 64."



MUSIC

CRAZY COUSINS



In the clubs we're listening to funky house. It's blowing up, there is no rave without it so we caught up with Crazy Cousins front man Flukes for a little chat about what makes funky so infectious.

Tell me about the Crazy Cousins name.

Paleface and I are cousins, so that's kind of self explanatory. There's two other members as well, Kodi and Play.

So how long have you been producing for?

I personally have been producing for about 6 years, Crazy Cousins is new to a lot of people, we've only been around for a year now. Crazy Cousins is the collective and we decided to collaborate on funky house, we've had a great response from people.

When was the first time you heard one of your tunes in a rave? What was it like for you?

I can't even remember the first time I heard it but I know it was a great experience. Not many people would play my stuff in the clubs

because I was making rhythm and grime, the kind of stuff you'd hear on the radio. So, to hear bongo jam was a great experience for me.

So where did the concept for Bongo Jam come from?

It was spontaneous, it just happened. I was in the studio at about five o'clock in the morning and the melody came into my head. The words didn't really make sense at the time but at the same time it worked. Then there was help from Calista. She really liked the track, which lead to it being used on Celebrity Big Brother. Before we knew it, it was an anthem!

I heard you're on the track?

Yeah, the male vocals are me, at first I used to deny it because as Flukes I like to stay in the background. I like to keep low key, I like people knowing my music more than my face but it was definitely a good thing to do everything yourself since you don't have to rely on other people. When we do PAs I use a guy called 'Bongo Man'.

Do You Mind? It's funky, but a bit slower, who wrote it?

Do You Mind? is a remix, the original was produced by Paleface, my cousin, and it was a bass line track so I slowed it down and made it a bit more funkier. It was written by Paleface and Kyla.

What are the three key elements to making a funky house track?

The drums are key in funky house, they need to be uplifting and vibrant. Decent catchy vocals that people can relate to. The third would be a decent mix down. A lot of producers are making tracks at the moment that doesn't sound finished. So getting your mix down right and mastered after the tune is complete is definitely essential.

OK, let's switch it up. Would you rather be a one-legged Ostrich or a noseless pig?

I'd rather be a one-legged ostrich you know because I don't like pigs and I don't eat pork.

So, girls who wear peep toe shoes and their toes hang over the edge...

Do you know what, I have such a big problem with that. I hate it! It's like a claw foot or something and I think it's a big issue because a lot of people talk about that. I personally hate feet, my friends say to me I have a phobia of feet, I just don't like anyone's. I don't think it's attractive at all. It's a definite no no for me, I don't like to ever see that and I think girls should wear shoes that are the right size for them.

What's worse? A girl with straight weave but the roots are afro or a girl with puddles under her armpits?

Definitely the puddles, ... Sweaty girls are not happening for me.

'Do You Mind' by Crazy Cousins ft. Kyla is out Feb 2. The Crazy Cousins album, 'This Is Funky - Volume 1' is out Feb 23.

Words by Shamz Le Roc
Photography by Akwasi Tawia Poku

MUSIC

KYZA

Established as one of the sickest MCs in the UK hip hop scene and a former Terra Firma member, Kyza Smirnoff is back once again after the success of his critically acclaimed first solo album The Experience. With a new mixtape and album in the pipeline, The Cut team decided a catch up was needed with Mr Sayso himself.

The theme for this issue is heritage, therefore we want to know - what's yours? I'm half Jamaican, half Kryptonian.

Umm right... really, what is your heritage? I'm a black British Jamaican.

Do you feel British? Yes of course I do, I was born here. It's a very touchy issue though. I'm third generation Windrush, I was born on English soil. My heritage is not traditionally British obviously, but I still class myself as that. I think it's stigmatised to a certain extent because of the whole colonialism thing... it's down to opinion and what you consider yourself to be.

So do you feel that your heritage influences who you are and your music? Oh most definitely, that is the embodiment of who I am. I rap with a tinge of a Caribbean accent, and when I chat, it's reminiscent of the old 'toasters' from the sound systems. I inspire myself to be honest. I look at myself from an outsider's point of view, almost like I'm having an out of body experience. It's like I'm watching a movie, and it's like OK, let's turn on the Kyza show and see what's happening today.

What about living in Ladbroke Grove - does that influence you?

Oh yeah straight up and down. I mean I don't do it as much now as I used to back in the first days of Kyza's virgin notepad. I used to do a little thing on the street, get into badness with my homeboys, write about your typical 'crackheads on road'... a million and one MCs talk about that so you don't need me to narrate that part of the story. I'm not on the street no more so I don't rap about it.

What music did you grow up listening to? 80s pop and soul, old 90s reggae, ragga, jungle, garage. I didn't really get into hip hop properly until about 1994. Before that I was straight chart and pop music.

What brought you into it?

Actually you know what, I was into the hip hop culture. The rapping side came to me late, but I used to graff up the walls with my little brother and beatbox with my older cousins and brothers - I was swag!

Obviously I'm considerably better now. And I was never really a big fan of Biggie or Tupac, the clichéd stuff. I was more into A Tribe Called Quest, KRS One, Eazy-E and NWA.

Where do you think the UK hip hop scene is at the moment? Why is it not more mainstream?

(Laughs) I didn't want you to ask me this. How about lack of vision, foresight, funds, talent, proper lyrics, support, heart, business sense, decent radio DJs to play your music, fairness... I could go on all day. I don't want to bitch but I'll answer it same way. There's certain stuff people are putting out there that's intolerable. I'm not hating, I'm just being real. It's not cool to rhyme about stabbing someone in the face when you're not living that life, or going to the shop and getting a £1.50 box of chicken. It's funny for a hot minute, but please, you're making the rest of us look bad and you're making yourself an easy target. You think because you're known in the hood or one part of London or a couple of cities, you've made it. No you haven't! I know I haven't made it and I've been doing this for years. I don't get gassed when people see me in the street and recognise me because I know I still need to get to a certain point and even then I'll still be humble about it. You know, people always try to justify stupidity with 'ah, he's doing his thing, he's getting his paper' - so?! If I went out on the street tomorrow and I got a record deal based on me farting into in a microphone, will people hate me? Because if they was to hate me, I could say so?! You can hate but at the end of the day, I'm 'doing my thing, I'm getting my money'. If you're a black man, you should know what time it is in this world. Don't give them any excuse to say anything to you. Know yourself and know who you're representing.

www.myspace.com/saysoseddso

Words by Shona Harvey
Photography by Akwasi Tawia Poku



"It's not cool to rhyme about stabbing someone in the face when you're not living that life"

MUSIC

GIGGS

Who is talking the hardest? Giggs burst onto the rap scene with the famous, club banger freestyle Talking the Hardest. From there on Giggs has been the one everyone is talking about. With his unique rapping style and his extreme lyrics, he is determined to change the face of UK rap. Giggs passed through our studio to tell us what he is really about.

What's going on Giggs? I've just won the BET award and got the album Walk in the Park out now, in all HMV stores. The Sn1 mixtape coming was out December and Sn1 clothing line is out there now, lock on to the MySpace, the hardest T-shirts around.

So, the name Giggs - when people think of it, they think of Ryan Giggs the Manchester United footballer, how did you come up with it? I used to be called giggler when I was younger and I just wanted

to shorten so I shortened it to Giggs, that's it really.

Everyone knows you for your flow... My flow? I don't really know what to say - I just take a little segment out of the day write it down that is how it is, innit?

How do you want your lyrics to influence young people? I don't really talk about a lot of positive stuff, there's a few negative stories I have been through. I am not telling anyone to go out there and do anything, but I write about what's going on around me at the moment, you get me? It's me expressing my pain in a positive way though. It's taking me out of that mad little life, but in a positive way, turning negative into positive.

Tell me about back in the school days- how was your popularity? You might not want me to answer that (laughs). I got kicked out of school.

"Youths might think, Giggs got kicked out of school, and he is doing alright you get me?"

Youths might think, Giggs got kicked out of school, and he is doing alright you get me'?"

So you didn't have any favourite teachers? No, and I don't think I was no teacher's favourite either.

Talking the Hardest - everyone is hype when that tune gets played. Everyone knows the lyrics, but what's the message behind them? There is no message, it's just a quick run through a few years in my life. I started it in the parties, I did not even know it was going to get that big, it was just a freestyle ting. I was just rapping on the beat, and everyone went mad about it.

What do you think of the UK grime scene, Chipmunk, Stryder, and Kano? I don't know, the music's different. If they wanted to do a rap song, then maybe, yeah. There are heavy rappers in the endz, obviously I work with the team Sn1, but if they are on it then I will be happy to work with them.

What were you doing in America? Networking and performing at shows. Meeting with labels, it was positive.

What do you feel about Obama being elected? That's a good look man, it made me feel positive, I feel like saying I can definitely get in there, you get me!

So we might see you becoming the next Prime Minister? I would leave it (laughs)... I would get licked down.

Plans for this year? This year I'll be in America.

www.myspace.com/trapstargiggs

Words by Nicholas Asamoah
Photography by Akwasi Tawia Poku

ART

SARAH MAPLE



Sarah Maple, the 23 year old artist from London quickly became one of the most talked about people of 2008. A painter and photographer Maple's works are strongly influenced by her heritage and her culture. Brought up as a Muslim, Maple's works portray her beliefs of what it is like to be a Muslim and a woman in the Western world. I caught up with Sarah Maple to talk about her heritage and her recent success.

Maple enters the room looking very quiet yet humble, a large contrast from the image some headlines have painted of her. She begins the interview by talking about her expressive art style and influences. 'My mum was born in Nairobi in Kenya and my dad was born here. My mum's Muslim and she brought me up as Muslim and so my work is influenced by that mixture of cultures. What else influences me? Friends and family, TV, music everything not just art. I just mess around doing stuff if I like it'.

Some of Maple's work is an implicit expression of her views on society, whereas her work regarding religion or feminism can be quite unequivocal. She uses the human body and the hijab features a lot in her work. Maple also creates work incorporating celebrities. 'My work, is very humorous, tongue in cheek and witty. It talks about me and my cultural background and my cultural identity. It's



also got a lot of sort of pop culture imagery and a lot of the work is pictures of myself.'

Other paintings by Maple, one of which feature the former Prime Minister, are deemed as taunting and offensive. Haram, Maple's most infamous piece which was on display at LaSalon Gallery in Notting Hill, has elevated Maple into the centre of almost every tabloid. In this self portrait Maple is wearing a Hijab and

cradles a pig, a prohibited animal in the Islamic religion. 'There was a lot of response because people found it quite controversial so some of it was quite negative but also a lot of positive as well. A lot of people found it really interesting. There's a lot of debate going on about it.' Controversial works like this might have caused a ruckus but they have also helped to launch the start of a promising career for her.

Maple is set to start off 2009, exhibiting her work in New York City, 'In New York is a lot of excitement there. They're really interested and I haven't had a major show over there so there's a lot of buzz at the moment about it.'

www.sarahmaple.com

Words by Adrienne Mckenzie
Photography by Rasharna Hylton
Image courtesy of Sarah Maple



PHOTOGRAPHY

BACK IN DAYZ

THE YEAR
1984

Gavin Watson takes us back to when he took this iconic image, and talks in his own words about photography as an incidental part of his life as a Skinhead.

When I took this, I was just hanging around, it's of one of my best friends, Barry. If there was a guy you ever want to interview he's the man. He was into hip hop but he was a mainly a skinhead.

People see the beautiful pictures, they are like why are there no pictures of fighting? Because I was part of it! It never crossed my mind -these were people I loved. If I was sat here with a camera right now and my friend got punched in the face I would never even think to take a photograph. I didn't think here comes Gavin the photographer, I'd think here comes Gavin the pain in the arse, if there was trouble I'd go off and leave the darkroom and help my mates. It was very separate, in a way, being a skinhead with my friends was more important to me that taking photos.

These photos were created for no reason at all, they were worthless, people thought we were worthless, the whole thing was worthless, until

1994. Before that we were filth. Everyone thought we were just working class filth. If I thought about taking pictures or a career that meant photographing babies to put in Christmas cards. I never even got to show it to anyone. It was just really instinctive.

I've stayed very true to doing what I do and that is photographing people I find human beings very interesting and I am a great believer in the microcosm, my life represents my life, represents a part of humanity. I photograph what's around me instead of searching after parts of humanity. I find people interesting. We give ourselves a hard time in this country but we've had a mass of immigration and we've basically got by. England's a great country, not great politically run but it's a magical place and magical things happen here, when you go to parts of Europe and they say the word nigger as if its just nothing you realise that we are not a bad country at all.

Skins & Punks is out now. Published by Vice. Image courtesy of Gavin Watson/PYMCA. Prints are available from www.pymca.com. Interview by Nina Manandhar



News from the year 1984



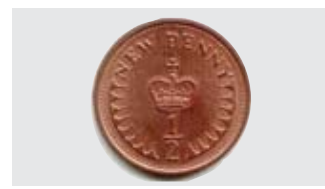
Coal not dole

All over the north of England Miners stage strikes against mass pit closures.



The original Dancing On Ice

Torville and Dean mania captures the nation, after they win gold for ice dancing in the Sarajevo winter Olympics.



Bye bye halfpenny piece

The one pound note and halfpenny piece is taken out of circulation.

"People thought we were worthless, the whole thing was worthless, until 1994. Before that we were filth.."

ILLUSTRATION

MARTIN COLE

So do you collect anything in particular? I collected lighters with naked ladies on for a while, so when my friends would go home for Christmas to Madrid, Cyprus or Italy or go on holiday they would make sure to pick me up a lighter. The thing about these is they are so tacky, which is fantastic in my eyes. Also if someone asks for a light I either get a dirty look from the girls or a laugh from the guys and the cool girls. I also made 10 jumbo nude lighters as tall as my leg for a recent project. I'll be exhibiting them at my next show if you'd like to see them.

What are you working on at the moment? I'm doing some editorial work for SuperSweet Magazine, DUFF magazine which is a really cool Japanese arts magazine, Foundation magazine which is an American hip-hop mixtape magazine and I'm working on an exhibition in Berlin called Surrender Dorothy which is going to be crazy. I'm collaborating with this guy called Philippe Comtesse who is a fantastic designer/artist. This is going to be so good, I can't wait. We have a couple of other artists that have contributed to the exhibition too, Bevis Martin and Charlie Youle who did the Hot Chip album art work with all the modular block and couple others...gonna be good. I'm also doing a collaboration with these three french guys called the 4th, really cool guys.

That's a packed schedule. What do you like doing when you're not busy working? I love music and feel that creative visuals and audio have a synergy. I love music, and I DJ now and again at house parties, 93 Feet East, Corsica Studios and last year did a set at the Tate Modern.

www.myspace.com/highbrowstuff
www.myspace.com/4thfourthdimension
Words by Nendie Pinto-Duschinsky

"I love music and feel that creative visuals and audio have a synergy."



REVIEWS

CLUBS



Hardknock Wife

Weekday raving, cheap drinks, free entry all night and good vibes – sound appealing to you? Then make sure you head down to Hardknock Wife, an ongoing monthly club night in the heart of central London organised by producer/rapper/singer GoldieLocks. Hardknock is dedicated to the cool peeps that don't know that they're cool, and bangs out a genuine mix of untainted underground music, guaranteeing a jumping crowd and a buzzing atmosphere.

The much anticipated Xmas iPod battle took place last month at Little Portland Street's Social. Teams including Nucking Fang, Urban Nerds and RWD magazine squared up with their iPods to determine who would be able to create the most hype and noise on the night. Up for grabs were a trunkload of prizes and goodies from

the likes of Fenchurch, Nike ID and Trapstar. As GoldieLocks explains, the event was originally set up to build her fanbase. 'It didn't really have any purpose. I was just going to play a live set at each one so that people could hear my new material, but after a few months I realised that it had become a good platform for up and coming underground artists and that it had developed quite a loyal crowd. That's when I recognised it could help out more careers than just my own'.

A hugely entertaining and hilariously funny Illaman was the special host for the evening, and after a heated final showdown, the Croydon Girls took the winner's crown after going head to head with previous champs Urban Nerds. A hard night not to be missed! **SH**

myspace.com/goldielocksmusic

MUSIC

Foals

Olympic Airways

A track to get lost in: jittery guitars fade in and out over sliding string sounds and tight bass under barely-there vocals about escaping to fantasy lands of your own making. Light but punchy production + lyrics on sunsets and birdhouses = white hott electric indie for bus journey daydreamers. **JB**

Bryn Christopher

The Quest

The Quest starts off with a really catchy and good beat, which I got hooked on immediately. But as soon as the voice came in I was shocked as I expected something different from looking at the cover, which has a calm low vibe compared to the song. I think he made a bad decision opening the single with this song. I much prefer B Side My Kind of Woman. It's got a nice slow beat to it, it is also quite heart warming, a song which is soothing and meaningful would go well with a night in and a glass of wine. His voice easily shows off his talent in this song and I feel his emotion pulling me in. With its catchy lyrics, 'sunny that you gave to me your all and all know I feel ten feet tall' and simple repeated tune. Overall I would recommend you to listen to both. The slow songs are something you can jam to on rainy day. Bryn Christopher is very sexy and I would buy his music just for that! **RH**

Million Dan

Inner City Got Plenty Cases

Inspiration defines this song. 'Have a nice weekend baby', intertwining with the soft melody of the instruments goes perfectly with the roughness and style that Million Dan brings. The song highlights the dangers of teenage pregnancy and encourages the youth dem to follow their dreams instead. **NA**



Laurel Collective

International Love Affair

Heartwarming, headspinning, handclapping, International Love Affair is a solid gold indie love letter. Light, choppy guitars gather speed under lovelorn vocals conjuring up images of sundrenched dashes across oceans to see illicit sweethearts. Or, for the less romantic among us, a tight, light guitar track for girls. **JB**

Jelluzz

Hold On

Hold On is the terrific new single from rapper and producer Jelluzz. This kid has got style. I was just flicking through the music channels on TV and I spotted a new song on Channel U. I thought it would be just another Channel U kid trying to make it big. The next day his single just happened to fly onto my desk and it's big. This kid is all over the place, watch out for him. The Cut's got our eye on him! **PTO**

Kid British

Leave London

Kid British are a Manchester born band known for their variation of fruity sounds and vocals. I was impressed the songs from the Leave London EP sounded very diverse and each painted a different picture. After listening to a few more of their tracks I was drawn in and was left wanting more. I was slightly phased by the genre but still think it is a good experience overall. **EK**

BOOKS



Hot Shots

by Kevin Meredith

For any aspiring photographers this handy compact book is perfect. It provides detailed and precise descriptions on how to experiment with an array of photographic techniques combined with inspiring examples of photographs taken by the author Kevin Meredith. These descriptions include how to take the image, technical details and why the shot works, all written in an understandable way. Any technical terms that you may not be familiar with are fully explained and there's a category key system for each image specifying what factors are involved when taking that specific shot. As well as two approaches to lighting, subject matter and composition, other sections include the fundamentals of photography with explanations of available functions on various types of cameras. The different types of film processes, are fully explained in depth in a glossary of terms as well as the processes that take place once the images have been taken such as image editing and management. If you own any type of camera and want to develop your photography skills further then this can be achieved with this insightful and clear-cut book. Without needing sophisticated equipment, by following the simple steps you can develop your skills whilst taking photos. If you're a budding photographer then you should check this book out and feel inspired. **KN**

FILM

Slumdog Millionaire

A few months after being booted out of Channel 4's teenage sitcom Skins, Dev Patel has landed himself in a new territory, as the star of the award winning film Slumdog Millionaire. This amazing film tells the story of Jamal Malik's eventful life, his relationship with his closest friends and family and how he is able to fight his way to the jackpot of the classic television show Who Wants To Be A Millionaire, with the knowledge from his life experiences. Based loosely on a true story this emotional film is expected to receive an Oscar award for such a great storyline, and has already received four Golden Globe awards and five Critics' Choice awards. With some comedy elements such as Jamal's fall into a septic pit. Slumdog Millionaire kept me engaged, but it also featured some touching moments that made me think twice about what I have. Although this film quite long at two hours, it is a feel good hit and a great British film. The soundtrack features music by stand out UK artists M.I.A and Dizzee Rascal. Plus the cinematography and the clarity of this film (shot in HD for my fellow techies) will mean that I will definitely be making space for this film in my Blu-Ray collection! **ATP**



Reviews by Shona Harvey, Jennifer Barnes, Rasharna Hylton, Edward Kagutuza, Akwasi Tawia Poku,

Patrick Thomas Owolabi, Kiran Nijjar and Nick Asamoah. Club photos by Gabriel Green.

GAMES



Call of Duty 4: Modern Warfare

The success of Call of Duty has led to the release of the newest edition, Call of Duty 4: Modern Warfare. This war zone brings you to the depths of hell - trust me. It is even more daring, grittier and far more explosive than the previous collections. The explosions are more intense, the enemies are more aware and the weapons are even more lethal, which gives you the urge to beg for more action. The storyline gives you such a feeling of suspense, it is very difficult to keep your hands off the pad.

Critics had their doubts if the makers of the Call of Duty games could match up to the standard of their recent competitors Rainbow Six and Ghost Recon. Well, all I have to say is they did not just bring it to the plate but they took it several levels higher. The game takes elements from a World War II and brings in modern day affairs, which complement each other in the game fantastically well. Modern Warfare gives you the chance to battle for both Britain's SAS and the US Marines in a single storyline. The story revolves around stolen Russian nukes and Middle Eastern terrorists who are hell bent on killing you and your grandmother. Some of the storyline will give you a real sense of shock and disbelief. You know what, I am going to stop spoiling the game for you - go out there and buy it, it is well worth the money. **NA** Available on Playstation 3, PC, Nintendo DS, XBOX 360

TOP TEN HERITAGE FOODS

In the mixed up city that is LDN you're guaranteed never to be without a new type of international food to tickle your palette. Challenge yourself to tasting our Top 10.

1. Fish and Chips

The traditional British Friday night feast of choice is still a winner.

Try it: Faulknors, Dalston High Street

2. Chicken Tikka Masala

This Anglo Indian/Bangladeshi dish is the now officially the nations favourite.

Try it: Tayyabs, Whitechapel

3. Shish Kebab

Forget the Doner Kebab, for those in the know it's all about the Shish, which has its origins in the Middle East.

Try it: SHISH, Old Street and Willesden.

4. Jerk Chicken

If you like spice you will love Jerk Chicken. Best eaten at Carnival time.

Try it: Mr Jerk, Wardour Street, Soho

5. Eel Pie and Mash

Get a taste of Victorian Cockney London with this traditional dish.

Try it: Manzes, with eateries in Peckham, Tower Bridge and Sutton

6. Special Fried Rice

Special fried rice is a western adaption of Chinese Egg Fried Rice.

Try it: Head on down to Chinatown

7. Falafel

Falafel is made from fava beans or chickpeas or a combination of the two.

Try it: Falafel Hut, Shepherds Bush Market

8. Teriyaki Don

Teriyaki Don, Chicken, Beef or Salmon, comes in a special Bento box.

Try it: Taro, Brewer Street, Soho

9. Smoked Salmon Beigels

Popularised by Jewish immigrants who settled in the East End in the early 20th century, though the fillings are no longer kosher.

Try it: Brick Lane Beigel Bakery

10. Pad Thai

Thai food has become the evening switchover for greasy spoons cafes all over the city. Its an odd combo but it seems to work.

Try it: Turnham Green Thai, Chiswick

ROAD TRIP TO SUCCESS

I recently returned to the UK after 5 months of working and travelling around the US. Now, I've been to the US a couple of times before but this time was different. Despite going through the worst economic crisis since the Depression, many Americans felt hopeful and positive about what the future had to hold. The reason? One man—Barack Obama. Not only did the notion of Obama's presidency bring hope (his campaign slogan) for the future, it also brought some small sense of closure to the past.

I touched down in Atlanta, Georgia in early June, it was hot and humid but the talk was not about the heat or last nights TV, no, it was political and highly charged. There were no fence sitters, everyone had an opinion. My five days in Atlanta were amazing, I saw things and heard things then set off on the next leg of my journey feeling that little bit more enlightened.

My next stop was Starrucca, Pennsylvania (close to Scranton, Joe Biden's home town). Naturally, working at a summer camp the conversation was less government, more gossip. Apart from the brief chat I had in a bar with an ex-soldier, who told me he would love to vote for Obama, but wasn't just not sure if he could because of his policies on Iraq. Politics was not on my mind. The next time I thought about the campaign was at lunch one day, when the American camp counsellors had to fill out payment forms. When it got to the part of the sheet marked tax, someone snorted, 'Vote for Obama if you want your taxes raised, that's what he wants to do'. The remark was met with sighs and rolled eyes and for me, that was that.

The next leg of my US tour led me to the West Coast. First stop San Francisco. California is well know for its radicalism and its liberal mentality. It was at the forefront of the 60s hippie movement and still

in the 21st Century it retains its free spirit and individuality. But make no mistake, though California is full of laid back souls and beach bums, it also has one of the largest voting powers in the whole of the US. San Francisco was probably the most politically charged environment I had been in. Everywhere you looked people were sporting Obama T-shirts, badges, stickers and if they weren't wearing it, they were talking about it and if they weren't talking about it, they were definitely thinking about it. I saw a plethora of slogan t-shirts ranging from 'Hope' and 'Change' to 'Obama for you mama' and 'Barack Obama is my home-boy'. I was in a left wing cocoon, and as far as San Francisco was concerned, Obama could do no wrong. A brief walk on Haight Ashbury (a popular area because of its involvement in the free love movement) and it was very clear this was a Democratic State.

I spoke with people who loved Obama for his policies, I spoke with people who loved him for his charitable past, I even spoke with people who simply loved him because he was 'so damn hot'. Obama had the West Coast in the bag, people of all ages, all creeds and all colours were going to do everything in their power to ensure he would become the 44th President of the United States.

Next stop, Hollywood. Now as an aspiring actress this is a place that I have dreamed of going to. Talk of the election was replaced by talk of the film industry. Hollywood is a world within itself, with its own economy, its own politics and its own way of life separate to the rest of the state. Its politics did not involve the white house, it involved the playboy mansion. Instead of selling stickers, people were selling their talents. There were street entertainers every five feet and concerns about the future President were second to concerns of their future agent.

Memphis was the next stop. Home of the blues, B.B King and Elvis. Memphis, like San Francisco has a huge political history. Not only is Memphis home to the National Civil Rights Museum, It was a key state in

the civil rights movement and the place that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated. With this in its blood I knew Memphis was a state to see first hand. It had been three months since I was last in the south and I was keen to see how or if attitudes had changed. In Memphis I stayed with a friend at Rhodes College. Rhodes is one of the top schools, in the South, it is also largely right wing, a far cry from anywhere I'd been so far. Obama supporters were few and far between, something I learnt quickly. One night at dinner, being the novelty British person, I was enduring the

"People of all ages, all creeds and all colours were going to do everything in their power to ensure he would become the 44th President of the United States."

usual foreign grilling. When asked about my least favourite aspect of the US, I quipped Sarah Palin, a joke that soared like a lead balloon. I was greeted by a sea of confused 'It must be a British thing' faces. Something that I did not fail to notice, was although there were less Obama supporters at Rhodes, they seemed to be doing more than the McCain followers. Obama had much a more visual presence (again I saw enthusiastic followers selling badges and T-shirts), whereas, like McCain, his supporters seemed all talk and no action. The Obama campaign was heavily proactive echoing the movements of half a decade ago. The feelings on the streets of Memphis did not reflect those at Rhodes. Again I saw T-shirts but they were not always worn with the same optimism that they had been in California. It seemed, like much of the US, the South especially had been hit hardest by the current economic crisis. Many people not only wanted Obama, they needed him. Despite this desperation I was not

surprised that McCain took the Tennessee vote. Many of the Obama supporters could vote with their tongues but not with their feet due to social circumstances. Memphis was a place of mixed feeling, but like Sam Cooke I was sure 'change was gonna come'.

I landed in New York on a sunny day in October, 2 weeks before the most talked about election in US history. D-day was coming, and as I sat in a hairdressers in Brooklyn and watched senator Obama on TV I felt hopeful. I was in New York City once again, not only at an exciting time in US history but also at an exciting time in my life as I was hitting the big-21.

Back to reality. Heathrow airport. October 30th, 11pm, and although it was the end of my US tour it was by no means the end of my election obsession. By the time I had recovered from my jet-lag we were just a couple of days away from the polls opening. On the 4th of November live coverage began on the election and state polls, and although I was ready for bed at 12am, I didn't sleep for another 7 hours. Watching the results file in, I felt less like I was watching the Presidential race and more like I was watching an athletic one. I was gripped. At 1 am John McCain was leading, I said a prayer, crossed my fingers and sat on my bed watching with cautious optimism.

Around 2.01 am things were looking up. 4:24 am, and it's clear Senator Barack Obama will be the 44th president of the United States of America as he effortlessly clears the 270 winning post, with 5 States still waiting to be counted.

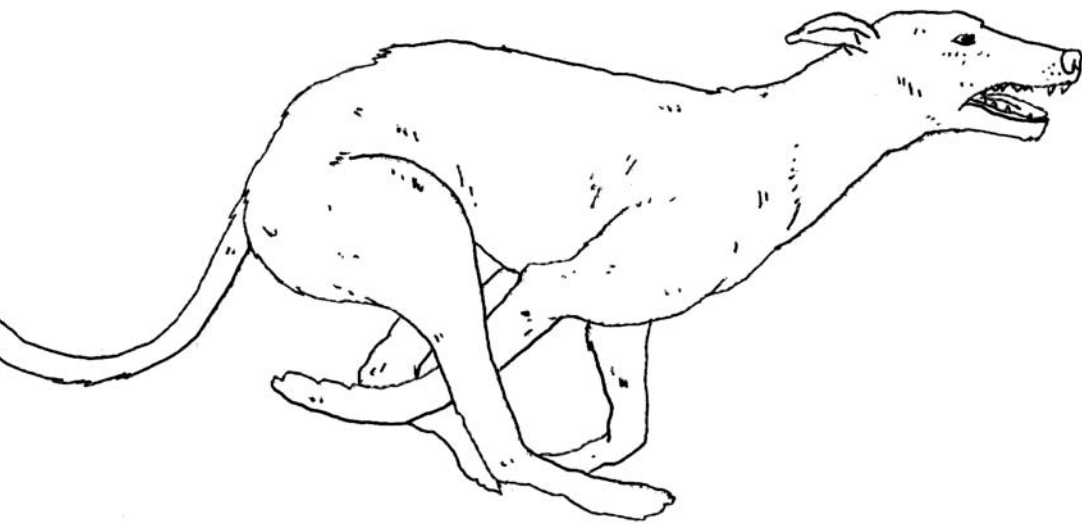
Jubilation from Kent to Kenya. Worldwide, the streets, bars, community centres, and parks are teeming with Obama supporters. Suddenly a park in Chicago seems like the only place in the world to be.

And the end results?

Obama and the Democratic party won 365 votes, with McCain and the Republican Party winning only 173.

Text by Kirby Howell Baptiste



GOING TO
THE DOGS

Whether you know much about it or not for many greyhound racing is one of those traditional and quintessentially British sporting past times. After the recent closure of the Walthamstow dog track to developers, Wimbledon is now the only remaining venue in London. So, it's only natural to question - is greyhound racing a dying sport? Is it appealing in any way to the younger-technology obsessed generation of today and its potential saviours of tomorrow? The Cut team headed down south to find out more.

A freezing cold Tuesday evening held little promise when after a long journey we finally arrived at the Wimbledon greyhound stadium, the last of its kind in London. After initially being asked if we were there to

dine - dining at the dogs?! - we made our way to the correct entrance and were warmly greeted by the staff and management. The aim was to speak to pretty much anyone at the event and get a genuine insight into the world of greyhound racing. Soon enough we were taken for a grand tour around the stadium by one of the stewards. I was surprised at what surrounded me - for a supposedly dying sport, the crowd numbers didn't seem too sad and by around 9pm, there was quite a bit of a buzz in the atmosphere, especially during the actual races. What didn't surprise me was the type of people in attendance: mainly old and grey-haired working-class men. I could see straight away that attracting young people to the game would be no easy feat. Eventually we were taken to one of the commentary

boxes and introduced to Mark Sullivan, a human encyclopaedia of greyhound racing if there ever was one. His highly impressive knowledge of the game firstly gave us insight into the history and past popularity of the sport.

'Greyhound racing started in the 1920s. It went through a period of just building up its status in the post-war years, and years after the Second World War was when it became very popular. It wouldn't be unusual to have a crowd of 80,000 in a derby final at the White City stadium, and there were around a 100 tracks in the UK.'

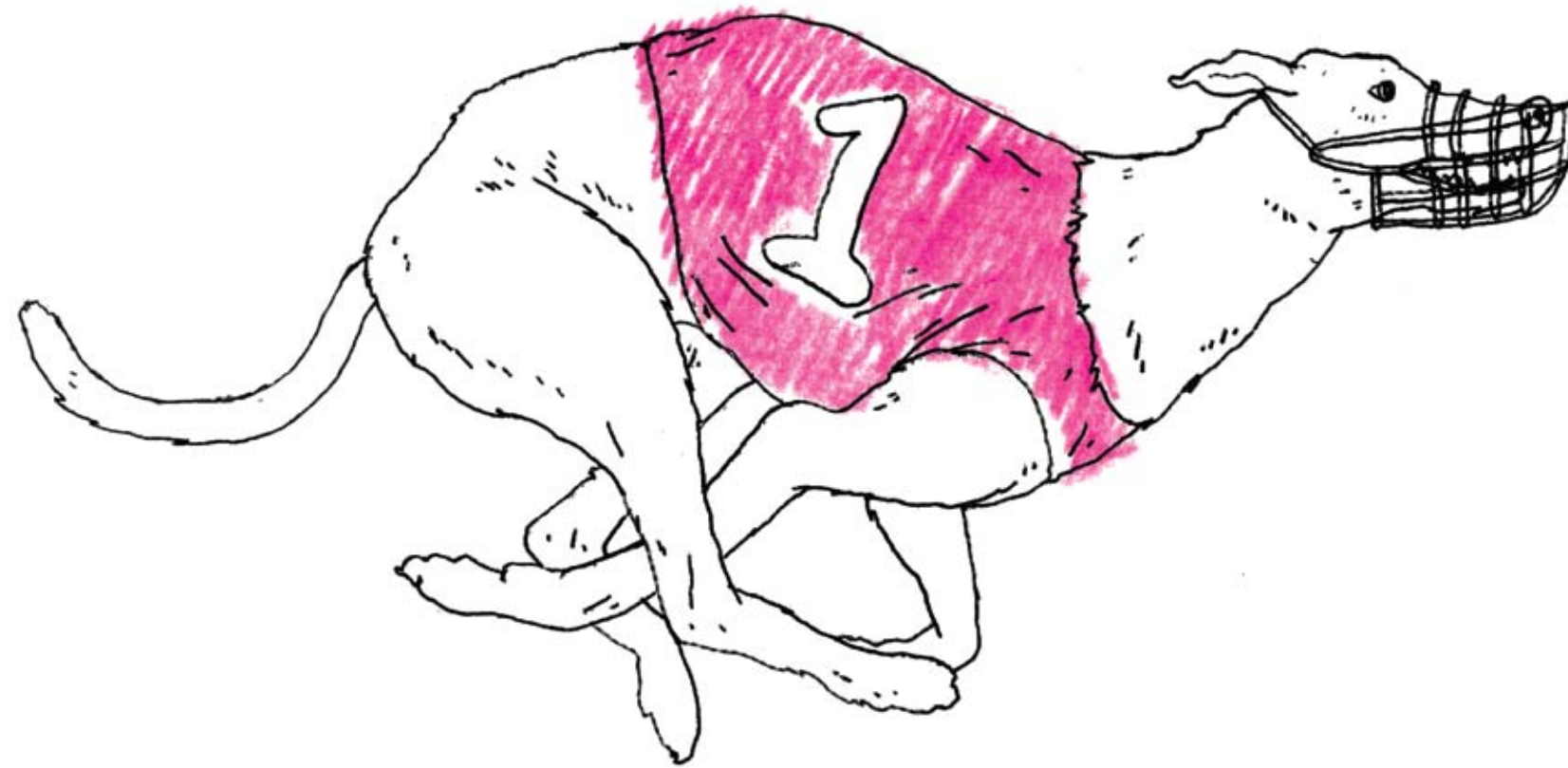
Sullivan partly blames the legalisation of betting shops for the beginning of the sport's troubles and its gradual decline in popularity.

'In 1963, betting shops were legalised and up until then it hadn't been actually possible to place a bet in a betting shop - they didn't exist. So people could only place a bet by coming to the track itself. Once punters were able to go to betting shops, the crowds started to dwindle away and consequently, the number of tracks began to decrease. We've arrived at the position we're in now where the tracks really run for the bookmakers. They actually control the sport now because most of the tracks are reliant on bookmaker funding to stay open.'

Sullivan doesn't think that the game will ever die but does believe that it will change dramatically into a sport for the bookmakers not based in inner cities, where land values are too great, which was the case with Walthamstow.

'I think it will always exist because dogs are very reliable performers. They run 200ths of a second every time they go

"There's something for everybody at this game. It used to be very popular in White City; 20,000 people at the races and 160 bookmakers."



round here - they do the same time every time, which makes them a very reliable betting medium. What punters look for is reliability and that's why bookmakers will always want greyhound racing in the shops. In terms of it being a social night out, I don't think it will ever reach the heights it had, although it's more popular in the countryside and the game is now shifting north. It might well be a case of something coming to a natural end.'

Next on the agenda was to get information from some of the dog owners but they seemed too lost in concentration to approach, so we headed outside to watch some of the races and speak to the bookmakers instead. Watching a race in person proved to be more exciting than I'd imagined. To see the greyhounds bolt around the track at such a rapid pace

right before me was quite captivating and you could sense tension amongst the crowd as the punters screamed for their backed winner.

Bill Cook - a bookmaker for 60 years - talked to us about the appeal of the game and how he became involved.

'I've worked at it all my life. Prior to going into the army, I used to love going to the dogs with my father, who was an owner, and when I came out I decided to go into the game.'

Bill's perspective on whether greyhound racing is a dying competition seemed to me more cutting yet arguably more realistic in comparison to Mark's.

'Unfortunately the game now is not what it was. Around thirty years ago, there were fifty bookmakers here, and in the 1950s there was a hundred. Now you can see there are four! You do get people that come here to have a night

out and a meal, which is nice but generally speaking, the 'down-to-earth punters', as we like to call them, are on the decline all the time.'

So, what kind of people still come to the racing?

'All walks of life! From cockneys to kings to servants! There's something for everybody at this game. It used to be very popular years ago - in White City there used to be 20,000 people and 160 bookmakers. Unless you were there, you just can't imagine the difference, it's amazing. I can't suggest anybody come to the game (laughs) but I still get a kick out of it.'

Ultimately, it seems that a combination of bookmakers controlling the sport, the rising land values of inner city grounds and the phenomenal change in technology in recent years have all made it a hard battle for a traditional

sport like greyhound racing to keep going in the future. It's fair to say that the game now largely appeals only to its original supporters and those who were there to witness the glory days of an 80,000 attendance at White City stadium, rather than the young people of today. On that Tuesday evening, I wondered how long the sport had left until it completely died out. I asked Bill what he thought and I was taken aback, and slightly saddened by his abrupt response.

'10 years, at the most. I hope I'm wrong! That's how I feel, I'm sorry to say. It's a dying game.'

Words by Shona Harvey
Illustration by Chris Graham

UNDER 21s DREAM TEAM

The Under 21 league is where so many of the nations greatest footballers started their careers, and year after year it is bursting with new talent. Here at The Cut we have been watching our favourites closely to put together our Dream Team for this season. Could these 11 faces be household names of the future? Remember where you saw them first.

Text by Drew Mark and Nicholas Asamoah



Rhys Taylor
18 years old
Goalkeeper
Chelsea

Rhys Taylor, the team's safe pair of hands, has played for the Wales under-21 team and had his first appearance at the age of just 17.



Solomon Shields
19 years old
Midfield
Leyton Orient

Shields has been at Leyton Orient since he was 12 years old and is the club's number 15. He has made one brief appearance for the first team from the bench during the 2006/07 season and since then has been named as a substitute on a couple of occasions.



John Bostock
16 years old
Midfield
Tottenham Hotspur

A South London born Midfield teenage prodigy playing for a North London club. He made his league debut for Crystal Palace on 29 October 2007 at the age of 15 years and 287 days, making him the clubs youngest ever player.



Elliot Omozusi
20 years old
Defender
Norwich City

Omozusi is a former England Under-19 international; he is now on loan at Norwich City where he has made 19 appearances. He has also made 8 appearances for Fulham.



Victor Moses
18 years old
Midfield
Crystal Palace

Nigerian born English Under 19 international has made 28 first team appearances for Crystal Palace scoring 4 goals after getting his first chance in the first team at the age of 16 in the 2007/08 season. Highly rated by club and country he is known for being a quick, powerful, skilful player.



Darren Ebsworth
18 years old
Defender
Millwall

This upcoming Millwall defender hasn't had a lot of first team appearances but is a reserve team regular.



Freddie Sears
19 years old
Forward
West Ham United

Sears, who's nickname is 'Searsy' is a fan of former West Ham player Paolo Di Canio. Sears made his debut for the club on the 15th March 2008 scoring his first goal for the club in the meantime.



Gavin Hoyte
18 years old
Defender
Watford

Gavin Hoyte is now on loan at Watford until the end of the season but was the Arsenal Reserve team captain.



Jonjo Shelvey
16 years old
Midfield
Charlton Athletic

Youngest ever Charlton player at 16. He has only been playing 59 days but scored 14 goals in 23 games for the Under-19 squad. Shelvey then became the Charlton's youngest ever scorer after scoring against Norwich City in the FA cup 55 days before his 17th birthday.



Ross Montague
19 years old
Striker
Brentford FC

The young, tall first team striker made his debut in April 2007 but since then he has been loaned out to other sides and used sparingly in the Brentford first team.



Matthew Connolly
21 years old
Defender
QPR

Connolly is the squad's veteran- he's the oldest player even though he's only 21. Matthew Connolly is a former Arsenal player who plays in the centre back position.



SPORT

50/50 SKIING



Now is the time of the year many of us will be dreaming of skiing holiday on the mountain slopes of Italy, Austria, and southern France. However, here at The Cut our budget would not stretch to foreign climes. So on a cold and wet Sunday morning in December we set off to Bromley Ski and Snowboard Centre where first time skiers, Shona and Nick, were about to take their first skiing lesson. Let's see how they got on.

NICHOLAS

What did you think of your experience?
It was an absolutely great experience. I was completely

surprised with how good it was even though it was raining and cold.

What did you expect?
I thought when we got there, it would be in a big cliff with lots of snow, but it was nowhere near that. Even though it was cold, the surface was a slippery metal and unfortunately there was no snow to throw at the skiers. I am not going to lie, at first I regretted coming along but after participating my morale was boosted.

What did you like?
One woman dropped a few times, at the time it was not funny but when you review it

again, it was jokes. The taxi driver coming home was very funny but I would not disclose the type of things he said. Actual skiing was too good.

What didn't you like?
Dropping twice lol... it wasn't painful though.

Would you go again?
Yes, I am planning on taking up a course soon and you will soon see me on telly. Watch out for the name... Nicholas Asamoah!

Do you think that more people should go dry skiing?
Yeah trust me... if I was fascinated you would be. It is definitely a new experience

worth trying. I want to say thank you to Bromley Skiing Arena for letting us try out something new.

SHONA

What did you expect?
For some reason, I expected the skiing to take place indoors, I was a bit surprised when I saw everything was going to take place outside. I wasn't looking forward to falling over - regularly, onto a hard and wet surface, especially after having had less than two hours' sleep the night before!

What did you think of your experience?
I actually enjoyed myself and the lesson wasn't as physically demanding - or painful - as I had imagined. I didn't fall over once, which was another bonus, unlike Nicholas - sorry!

What did you like about it?
I liked the feeling of skiing itself, and I also liked the friendly cab driver who took us back to the station who provided us with hilarious stories about the area.

What didn't you like?
Nothing apart from the cold, wet weather we had to ski in and the fact I stupidly forgot to bring my own gloves!

Would you go again?
Before I went on this trip, I had no intention of ever making an effort to go skiing. But now I can definitely picture myself going back for another lesson.

Do you think that more young people should go dry skiing?
All young people should grab the opportunity to go skiing if they can. It's fun and challenging to take part in and a cool thing to experience.

Text and photography by Adrienne McKenzie

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OUT AND ABOUT



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