

ISSUE 40 FREE

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TILL DEATH DO US PART

The promoters that don't let music die

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WELCOME

With nearly half of marriages likely to end in divorce, we reckon you're better off getting married to music.

Swap shouting and screaming at your partner for the shrills and thrills of a gig and ditch the in-laws for the extended family of the club circuit. This way, when you do utter the immortal words 'Till death do us part' you'll mean what you say (can you think of a better way to go than gently drifting off to your favourite playlist?)

And while we're on the subject of death, one other thing is certain: Our music scene is not dead. In fact, it's never been more alive. The

standard of music being produced, exported and imported locally is higher than we can recall. Meet the promoters that don't let music die on page 5.

Elsewhere, we read the stories told through Petra Dostálová's visual art and hang with Mr Millerchip's curly haired characters. We hook up with yet more musicians in battlestar galactico Truth and foxy disco maestro Joseph Grand. Plus, we study for a degree (six times over), smoke some weed, go on a date with destiny, and end up in Dumpsville.

Cue soppy music to get us through.

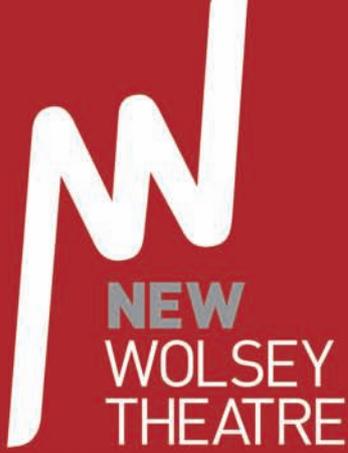
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November 2011



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THE PROMOTERS THAT DON'T LET MUSIC DIE

Sucking Lemons, Mixclique, Deaf Surfer / Reflections: The Premier Pool Club / Rough Trade



SUCKING LEMONS MIXCLIQUE DEAF SURFER

Often overlooked as the middle-men of culture, promoters are actually the lifeblood of the music scene. Without a dedicated venue or focal point for bands and fans in Suffolk, the pulse of youth culture is, to a certain extent, reliant on committed independent labels, groups and individuals putting on quality nights and putting out uncompromising music. *IPI* spoke to some of the newer players in the game to find out more...

Sucking Lemons

Sucking Lemons is a music promotion vehicle that puts on live nights in Bury St Edmunds and the surrounding area. Their objective is to put on quality nights for music fans sourcing talented local bands and the occasional high-profile act.

It all began in late 2009 when three friends from Bury grew bored of the stale local scene and started putting on their own DJ and live music nights. "Originally there were four of us that simply started a blog to write about music we loved," says Lemons co-founder Richard Mutimer. "We never set out with a business goal as such. It was merely a place online where we could write about music."

Sucking Lemons' first event saw Bombay Bicycle Club come to DJ, which caused a big stir in Bury St Edmunds. "Since then DJ sets haven't really proved too profitable," Richard admits. "But fortunately for us a new venue – The LP – opened almost immediately after our first gig."

As a venue The LP offers Bury something that it's never had before, and the success of the



Co-founder of Deaf Surfer Music, Lee Sullivan

place speaks for itself. "We decided to do all our gig/club nights there," says Richard. "They've been growing ever since."

The Lemons are clearly passionate about putting on properly good live events. They do it because they care about creating exciting happenings, and explain that outlook is pretty important towards their success. "It's so important to have ambitions for what you want to do," says Richard. "And of course it helps a lot if you're fanatical about what you do..."

But how does Sucking Lemons actually benefit the local music scene? "Simply by putting local music on at our gigs and being persistent with them," Richard argues. "We promote as much as we can and obviously use the site to write about the bands/artists."

He adds, "We'll happily put the same local act on a few times to support their work too."

In their role as musical and cultural promoters, Sucking Lemons come across a wealth of local talent. "I really like Simon Lucas-Hughes, who I believe is Sudbury-based," Richard tells us. "And Black Sands have just got a new EP too,

which is top dollar...another massively talented bunch."

Now that they're growing, do Richard and Sucking Lemons intend to attract bigger acts down to Bury? "We've never needed to look for bands out of the UK," he says. "We target East Anglian bands mostly, and then we'll try and lure in a new talent from across the country that we like."

suckinglemons.co.uk

Sucking Lemons' first event saw Bombay Bicycle Club come to DJ, which caused a big stir in Bury St Edmunds

Mixclique

Next up is an urban dance/grime/DJ promotion collective Mixclique. Starting out last year, the outfit consists of Neon Beats and DJ Ethic. The idea that they originally had was to promote grime music predominantly online and wherever they DJ'd.



Thumbnails courtesy of White Robot Photography and Sucking Lemons

Deaf Surfer

Our final case study is new kid on the block Deaf Surfer. It's an awesome little independent record label using minimal resources to promote great local acts such as The Cads, James Spankie and Me & The Neck.

Their mission is to be a vehicle for talented local musical acts to reach a wider audience. They care about providing a platform for quality music. "Our general aim is to give our acts the coverage and support they deserve," they say. "And to throw some good parties along the way!"

The guys at Deaf Surfer argue that some of the talent in Suffolk is incredible. "Brooches' EP is very good, he's a real talent," they say.

Our general aim is to give our acts the coverage and support they deserve... And to throw some good parties along the way!

"Likewise with Joseph Grand, Refracture, Three Beards, Black Sands, Gay Keyring, Timmy Booth, Eva Edwards... There are a lot!"

Sadly, the guys acknowledge much of this talent is too often overlooked. "If we can help change that, great," they say.

What venues in Suffolk does Deaf Surfer consider to be the best for live music, including for DJs? "The Swan has an impressive alumni, and The LP in Bury is a good space," they say. "There are some clubs which could be amazing for live music or DJs, but are badly underused."

They agree that the lack of a dedicated venue is an obvious omission from the local cultural landscape, but suggest that it's not the be all and end all. "It would be good if more bands came to the county," they say. "But we'd like to see more young people put on gigs in whatever venue will have them."

Promoters are often the people you forget about, but when you're at a cool local gig or an amazing DJ set in a bar or club, remember it might well have been a music promoter putting everything together for you to have a brilliant night. So the next time you're at one of these events, be thankful there are passionate people around to make it happen!

Since then things have developed somewhat. "We've also started an online TV series," they say. "It follows artists/producers and DJs alike from the scene, with interviews and freestyles."

Basically, Mixclique's passion and overall goal is to prove that even though they are creative musicians and gig organisers based in Ipswich – which is far away from the current underground music scene – Mixclique can still get involved and successfully promote the music they love.

"The most inventive addition to Mixclique was investing in camera equipment where we can capture events, interviews and freestyles with people in the grime scene," they say. "This is because people want to see what is happening with this artist or that producer."

"We have tried to steer away from using typical video techniques or including the same content that other people like us are doing," they say. "From the feedback we have received it seems to be working especially well as people like to find out about DJs and producers as they often don't face the cameras."

So what is Mixclique doing for the local scene?

"We DJ weekly on ICR FM Tuesday nights 7-8.30pm," they explain. "This is where the people around the area can hear the latest music from a scene which has very much influenced the charts today, producing a lot of the 'urban' artists."

They add, "We try to promote other people that are either lyricists or DJs by inviting them on our show to get a chance to jump in the spotlight and make themselves heard."

Along with everyone else, Mixclique points to the absence of a proper music venue as something holding Ipswich back. "What would be good for Ipswich is if there was a single venue that could host the biggest events in the town," they say, "but for a range of ages and music fans."

Mixclique is a fervent, determined collective with a host of ideas, lots of energy and a ton of creativity. What long-term goal drives them? "Our biggest aim is to have a music release on vinyl and digital under our label Mixclique," they say. "Records that we can promote and make available to the public."

mixclique.co.uk

deafsurfer.co.uk



Image: Andrew Laws

REFLECTIONS: THE PREMIER POOL CLUB

Ideals drummer **Ben Ward** looks back on how music promoters and a quality local venue proved to be the inspiration to form a band and pursue the life of a musician.

If I think back to my first real experience of live music in Ipswich, other than the Feeder gig I attended with my mum in 2002, there is one smoke-filled venue that dominates my memories and brings tears of joy to my beady little eyes.

It was a unique place that functioned in a way I have never seen since, a venue where bands lacking any form of talent were met with the same rapturous applause as the few ridiculously high-profile acts that graced the town.

It was a place that served alcohol to literally anyone: they didn't discriminate because of some silly laws, if you looked at least 14 then that was good enough.

The result of this obscene booze distribution was a block lined with paralytic youngsters, either alone, in groups or – for the lucky few in doomed drunken couplings – slung arm-in-arm against a filthy urine-coated wall. (In my experiences the girl was nearly always crying.)

It was the first place I realised I wanted to be in a band, the first place I actually played a real show and the first place I saw most of the faces that I associate with the Ipswich music scene now, either as individuals or as early incarnations of now familiar acts.

It was a place where promoters of all ages could put on a show, flyer the hell out of it around town and be safe in the knowledge that come Friday night there would be a huge queue of people waiting to get in. For many young

people it was a first taste of entrepreneurship, the simple lesson of hard work paying off and the satisfaction of creativity being rewarded. It was a venue that was not even a venue and if you don't know where I'm talking about yet you definitely weren't there.

It was The Premier Pool Club.

The 10-watt amps were silenced a long time ago when the Pool Club eventually closed its doors in 2006. I think back to that short period

If I had stayed in and watched Friday night TV instead of attending the Pool Club then... I might not care about live music.

with joy, and even though in my mind I know if I was to go there now I would be faintly disgusted by the ramshackle of drunken and poorly dressed youths, in my heart I will always smile at the memories of being one.

I want to track down its owners and thank them for what feels like such an essential part of my growing up. If I had stayed in and watched Friday night TV instead of attending the Pool Club then I probably wouldn't have the friends I do now. I might not care about live music. I might not have been instilled with the urge to form a band and therefore probably wouldn't

have the pleasure of playing drums in Ideals.

I could well be living a different life as a different version of myself. If you believe in the Multiverse Theory then in one of the infinite parallel universes there's a Benjamin Ward who never went to gigs and I bet he's even more of a wanker than me.

It might seem strange to consider such a bizarre little venue as so important to me but I believe its significance cannot be overstated. Anyone else who played or attended the Pool Club needs to delve into their memories and take a second to mentally salute the place that for many could be considered the first page in their very long book.

It makes me very pleased to see the torch is still alight. The Swan does Ipswich proud in ways that five years ago would be inconceivable, while the Steamboat remains an old favourite. In Bury St Edmunds it is the newly refurbished LP that wonderful promotions teams like Sucking Lemons use to put on fantastic events. As bands and as audiences we need to show our support as much as possible.

In Ipswich there is no properly dedicated music venue. These places are flying the flags for us while at the same time functioning as great pubs and restaurants. The alternative is often a night at a commercial club, and while downing WKDs until you are drunk enough to dance to Limp Bizkit is kind of fun, I know what I would rather be doing.

ROUGH TRADE

The definitive guide to Suffolk's lesser known music scene, with probably one or two omissions. Sorry if we've left anyone out, but no-one's done this before. From top-selling exports to international rap stars, ethically-run labels to underground parties in village halls, now everyone can go to the right places and follow the right tweets. Look out for the online version with links to all artists, labels, promoters and venues. Plus keep up-to-date via *IPI*'s Twitter and Facebook feeds – Suffolk's richest source of street-level arts and culture news.



Suffolk artists making waves further afield and one or two who are making tsunamis...

DELS has toured Europe with hip hop eccentrics MF DOOM and Yo! Majesty, and played festivals including Glastonbury, Transmusicales and Big Chill. The Ipswich rapper released his debut album GOB in April 2011, touring it across Europe this year.

Ed Sheeran is everywhere. The lad from Fram was voted Best Breakthrough Artist at this year's Q Awards and his album + even made number one in the charts back in September.

Hannah Scott is a singer/songwriter from Ipswich who does both things extremely well. She's not that well known, but this year was a MOJO Magazine New Voice finalist and has also supported Ed Sheeran in the past. Expect a steady rise from her next year.

Henry Homesweet played the 2011 New York Blip festival and the ever-popular chiptune artist jets off again in the new year for the much anticipated EINDBAAS events in Holland. Hardly homesweet home :-)

Ideals are school friends turned band mates turned signed artists to Intruder Records and long-standing indie kings of Ipswich. Their driving melodies, slick music videos and determination have seen them gain success in England as well as in Germany and Holland.

Matthew P is a cute, windswept singer/songwriter from Southwold who played T in the Park, Bestival and V Festival in 2010. This year his most notable success has been the song on the match.com advert, *She Began To Dance*.

Refracture mixes breaks, dubstep and house. The Ipswich producer's unique sound and energy has gotten him support from Jay Cunning (Kiss FM), as well as the BBC and Ministry of Sound.

Ria Ritchie is a singer/guitarist who got spotted on YouTube. From Lowestoft, Ria is currently collaborating with Plan B, while supporting Tinchy Stryder on tour as we write. We expect

her to rapidly climb the food chain next year as she enters a more commercial sphere.



Recent contributions to an increasingly impressive alumni of Suffolk imports...

Gift Of Gab (Blackalicious), Rapsploitation, Mar 2010

Bombay Bicycle Club, Sucking Lemons, Mar 2010

Jeffrey Lewis, UPROCK, May 2010

DELS and Ed Sheeran, UPROCK, Dec 2010

Logan Sama, Curve Bar, Jan 2011

Funeral for a Friend, The Apex, Mar 2011

Savage Rehab, Stay Tuned, Mar 2011

Polar Bear, New Wolsey Theatre, Mar 2011

Tropics, The Swan, Apr 2011

Alix Perez, Liquid, May 2011

Hugh Metcalfe, 'The Lark', Jun 2011

Foals and Seasick Steve, Latitude, Jul 2011

Sic Alps, Horizontal Strand, Aug 2011

The Kooks, Harvest at Jimmy's, Sept 2011

Christian Marclay, Faster Than Sound, Oct 2011

Nitin Sawhney, TEDx, Nov 2011



The lifeblood of Suffolk's music scene is its labels and promoters...

Ambiel Music professes to be 'majorly independent' and consumers of all things music.

Antigen Records represents amongst others Ipswich export Henry Homesweet.

Cave Chorus Records is a new international collective label based in Bury St Edmunds. They represent local electronic three-piece, The Soft.

Deaf Surfer is a self-confessed DIY label representing James Spankie, The Cads and Me & The Neck.

Holy Twist Records is another Bury label representing Radio 1 Big Weekenders Thee Vicars.

Horizontal Strand was set up simply to bring bands to Suffolk, which the duo behind it wanted to see here. So far they have put on some killer gigs.

Mixclique is run by Neon Beats and DJ Ethic, who live, breath and pollinate Ipswich's grime scene.

Peacefrog Promotions was established to reinvigorate the Bury music scene and attract more national acts to the town.

RAMP Recordings was founded by Tom Kerridge. This Stowmarket based specialist hip hop label represents artists including Flying Lotus and Zomby.

Rapsploitation is responsible for bringing the biggest names in hip hop to the humble Swan in Ipswich.

Sucking Lemons is blowing up the Bury scene right now with a host of exciting live nights and numerous side-projects – do these guys sleep? We think not!



Time to change the record? Good music venues do exist in Suffolk...

The Apex is Bury's state-of-the-art new supervenue.

John Peel Centre salutes a musical legend through Stowmarket people power.

The LP is Bury's cool new gig and club space.

The MaltHouse has the capacity to host the touring bands that Ipswich demands.

Old Maltings is Bury's answer to The Premier Pool Club with an unrivalled atmosphere.

Snake Maltings in Aldeburgh is a world-class venue for classical and beyond.

The Swan attracts legendary and up-and-coming artists to Ipswich from around the globe.



Suffolk Young People's Drug & Alcohol Service

Call the helpline: 0808 800 0003

If you want to find out more about the effects of drugs and alcohol or need advice and support, contact The Matthew Project Under 18 Service. We have workers based in Ipswich, Lowestoft and Bury St Edmunds and provide outreach across Suffolk.

Contact us.
call: 01473 230299
text: 07624 818 402
email: U18suffolk@matthewproject.org



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Ringside with Truth

Battle rapping is fast becoming an internet sensation. Type these two words into YouTube and you will be overwhelmed by videos of rappers facing-off like boxers in a ring. But instead of fists flying and broken noses you'll find clever lyricism mixed with mum jokes, fat jokes, short jokes and any other flaws pointed out with razor sharp wit. And all of it rhyming! **Liam Poole** meets globetrotting veteran of the scene, Truth, to discuss puns, put-downs and punching cows!

How would you describe battle rapping?

Some people take it seriously but I find it hilarious. Maybe it's because I've done it for a long time it's less important now.

When did you start battling?

I must have been 16 for my first recorded battle, but I'd battled before then outside clubs and stuff. You don't see that happen so much now.

What's your process leading up to a battle?

I light 37 candles, do press-ups in the mirror and punch a grown cow. A live one. Like Rocky.

Is researching your opponent an important element of battling?

It is for some people. Some people rely on it. Honestly, I don't really do that much. The only person I researched is the guy I battled in Sweden because I didn't really know anything about him.

What are the downsides to researching an opponent?

It gives people too much time to bring personal stuff into it; it's not cool really. Fair enough if you go into a battle and you've got some skeletons in your closet – you can expect them to be brought up, so don't go into it thinking they won't be because they're going to be, that's a part of it.

Do people ever go too far?

When people are bringing each other's families into it, it just looks bad on them. In my opinion, it lowers their integrity. It's shock value. It shows a lack of creativity. If you've taken the time to sit on Facebook to find a funny picture or find out who their mum is or their girlfriend... It's like; you could do something a lot more productive with your time if you're that focussed.

You recently travelled to Sweden to battle Chrome for Basementality. How did that come about?

I met some Swedes in Brixton and told them I'd like to go out there. It's good out there because it's new. The crowds are now catching on. About a year ago you could say "your mum's on crack" and the crowd would go nuts, but now they're becoming a bit more educated so it's interesting.

Battle rapping is now on an international level but is there a local battle scene established?

As far as I know I'm the only person doing it on a national level. There are a couple of hip hop guys battling from Ipswich and I know there's a few grime guys doing things, but they don't do things in Ipswich; they do things elsewhere. As much as we'd wanna do things here there's not the facilities or support, which isn't necessarily

a bad thing, it is just what it is. I interviewed Slum Village a few years ago and they were saying how people love them around the world but back in Detroit no-one cares about the Detroit music. Not to compare Ipswich to Detroit but it holds the same principle.

How much material is pre-written in battles and how much is freestyle?

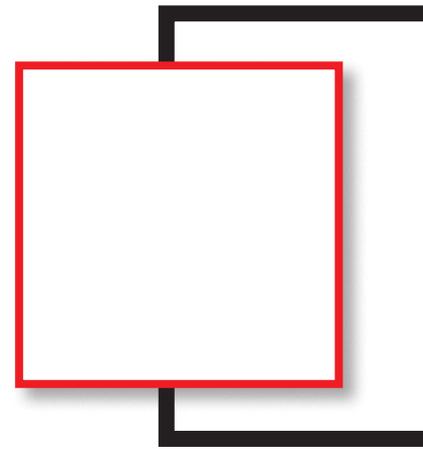
When I was battling in 2006 it was frowned upon to have any written material. If you were writing stuff for battles you were, like, spitting in the face of the art, but now it's pretty much 100 percent written. Which is good because it gives more quality control, but having the ability to freestyle does put you above other people.

Have you ever been offended by something said or has anyone ever been offended by something you've said?

There's nothing anyone's said that has offended me. I don't think I've got that many skeletons in my closet to bring up so I can take it on the chin. You know what they're gonna say about you. Apparently I've got a long neck! I've only ever been disappointed with things that I've said.

[Youtube.com/dontflop](https://www.youtube.com/dontflop)

Meeting Mister Millerchip



Ipswich has become Joel Millerchip's urban canvas over the last few years. His curly-haired black and white characters have slowly infiltrated the town's walls from Upper Orwell Street to St Nicholas Street and beyond. With his work also featuring across various high profile platforms, from the uber cool No Guts No Glory to the commercial world of DK Books, Joel's distinct and playful style is fast becoming a commodity. **Jo Mayhew** finds out more about how the talented working artist makes the art work.



Joel Millerchip has been doggedly plugging away at his illustrative practice for years, and was one of the founders and driving forces behind illustration collective Lielow and Sketch. Together with fellow artist Christian Nunn he set about producing exhibitions that provided the opportunity for local illustrators to showcase their work to an unsuspecting Ipswich public.

When I catch up with him he is fresh out of his first solo show, *Upstairs for Thinking, Downstairs for Dancing*, at The Pure Gallery in Whitely Bay. The fascinating work on display in the show captured a 24-hour period in one character's life.

Lars Arraday is the protagonist of this tale; a street preacher who worships Nostradamus and believes that the world is going to end. He takes it upon himself to spread the word to others. The only problem is no-one listens to him. After a day spent lecturing others in vain he spends the night unleashing dance moves that win him first place in a dance competition and attract the attention, and affections, of a good woman.

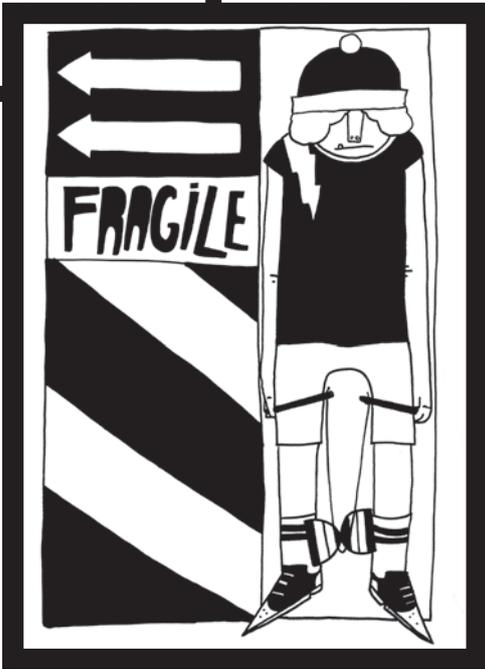
Joel says that he wants to bring an element of 'realness' into his storytelling, and that the narratives within his drawings are "childlike, accompanied by a strong sense of humour."

"I loved the experience of working with the gallery owners to produce the exhibition," Joel says. "I made some new friends and sold some work – it was a win-win situation!"

Joel admits that his artistic output is divided 60/40, with the majority of it being for commercial purposes or commission-based and the other 40 percent being his own personal creative work. However, everything is fuelled by keeping up-to-date with what other people are doing. "It is important to have a network of people to bounce ideas off," he says. "I'm a bit of a geek; I'm always looking at others people's work, as there is so much talent out there."

"Christian and I are always emailing each other different things we have found for the other one to look at."

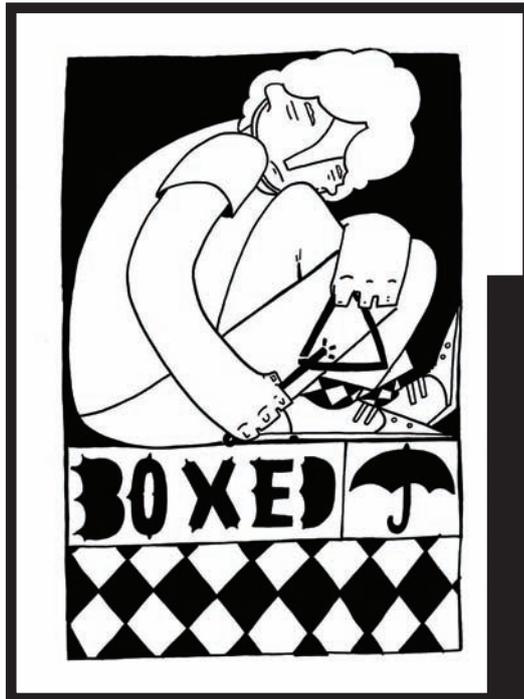
So what advice can this experienced creative



give to any budding illustrators? The good news is that if you have an obsessive compulsion to doodle then there are a few golden nuggets of advice Joel offers. “Don’t stop!” he orders. “If you have the urge to draw then keep working and make sure you are aware of all the opportunities out there. When I first started looking for opportunities it was when the recession hit and people weren’t employing illustrators for jobs.”

With this in mind he went out and approached people for work, making sure that he explored

It is important to have a network of people to bounce ideas off... I’m a bit of a geek; I’m always looking at others people’s work, as there is so much talent out there.



each and every avenue as it pays to be the first person to do something. One of the most important things is having the right attitude. “You have to be able to take rejection from other people and galleries because you will get it,” he says, “and if you get an opportunity straight away then you are lucky.”

He adds, “You also have to appreciate the fact that you have to be a proper grown-up with responsibilities coming first, but then you can push the illustration.”

Joel admits that he wouldn’t be where he is without the support from those around him. “I want to say a big thank you to my wife Louise and son Fred,” he says, “as without their continued support I wouldn’t be able to just get on with it and indulge my compulsion to draw.”

So what does the future hold for Mister Millerchip? The next chance to see his doodling exploits is this December at Ipswich Art School. Fellow Lielow and Sketch member Gareth Bayliss has invited him to contribute to his current exhibition. “GB asked me to take over



a wall in the gallery space for a month, with the brief of doing whatever I want on it,” Joel informs us.

This visual feast for the eyes, entitled *CRAMPED*, will explore the feeling of being boxed in, while giving people the chance to see some out-of-the-box pieces of art.

mistermillerchip.com
ip1zine.com/showoff/profile/36

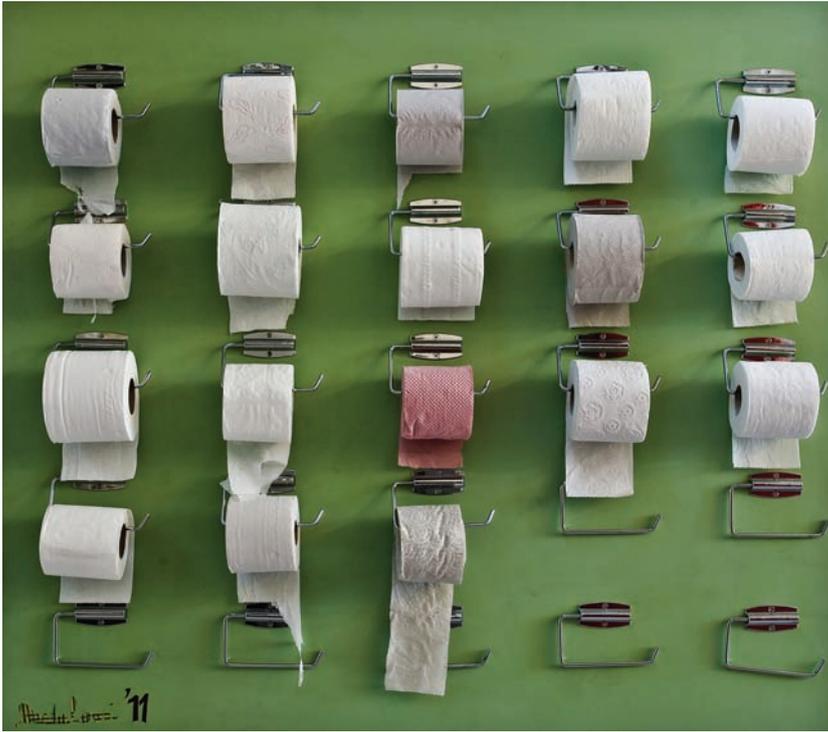




Petronela Dostálová

Petronela Dostálová, 23, is currently studying Fine Art at UCS, before which she completed a Foundation Diploma in Art & Design at Suffolk New College. Her work revolves around storytelling, often focussing on a central character who takes the lead in a piece of work. She works from line drawings, magazine cut-outs and stains, spontaneously building up pieces until a story begins to appear. Petra loves to hear responses to her work before revealing the stories behind them. For her, that is the point of her art.

petroneladostal.carbonmade.com
ip1zine.com/showoff/profile/1276



Opposite Page: Who Has Got The Toy?

This work is a collaboration with Alison Challis. Alison specialises in microchip building and computing. This collage is the last piece in the *Domestic Series* created at the beginning of 2010. The idea for the work came from a little toy figure. I got impressed by toys and miniatures in the past and incorporated elements into my work, for example, there is a little figure hanging on the door. It is a toy figure reminiscent of an Austrian yodeller with a string attached between his legs. When you pull the string he pulls his legs apart!

Above Left: How Rough

This is an ongoing project. I started to collect toilet rolls from around the world. Wherever I went I brought a roll back with me. Whoever was leaving a country; I asked them to bring a roll back with them. I always made sure the rolls purchased were the cheapest ones available. My point is very clear; it is to show how standards at the lower end of the economic spectrum differ according to where you live in the world. I am still on the lookout for toilet rolls, so if you know any people who travel, tell them to get in touch!

Below Left: Decisions Decisions

Decisions Decisions started out of a blue ink stain I created on a wooden board. It was very reminiscent of a human face so I added some eyeballs to it and covered the stain with magazine cut-outs.



Below Right: Untitled

Untitled has not yet reached the point where a story has appeared. This is the way my work progresses. What seems like a completed collage to some, is for me unfinished.



Joseph Grand

To discover new and interesting music you only need to take the slightest of detours from the mainstream. One particular deviation might see you come across Joseph Grand, a Suffolk-based artist making melancholic disco songs. His impressive output and innovative sound might just be accessible enough to encroach upon the typical club scene, certainly according to Tom Robinson (BBC 6 Music) who in no uncertain terms has hailed him 'the most talented musician to ever come from Ipswich'.

"As a kid I knew about samplers, but they cost as much as a car back then. And most paperboys couldn't afford cars."

Intrepid disco meddler Joseph Grand is telling me about how he first got into music. He explains that when ACID came along – the music software, not the drug – it was a real game-changer. "I could sample, record and compose all on one computer," Joseph says. "If it hadn't been for that programme I'm not sure I'd have gone on to play guitar and piano."

Joseph's sound is introspective and full of feeling. What compels him to create such engaging and melodic tunes?

"What compels anyone to create?" he asks. I assume it's a rhetorical reply, but he does go on to answer the question. "Death, ego, escapism?" he responds after a pause. "I've never been compelled to create something specific. I never think to myself, 'right, I want to make this certain type of music.'"



Technology plays a big part in Joseph's direction and he feels very lucky to be making music right now. "If I was born in a different era I probably wouldn't be able to make the music that I do," he admits.

Joseph is something of an enigma. I wonder if he does all his stuff solo or whether he likes to collaborate with others. "The Joseph Grand stuff is just me," he says. "I'm lucky to have a few friends whose opinions I really value, so I often seek their views." He explains that he doesn't always *listen* to their views but that he thinks it's important to seek a bit of counsel sometimes if you're working on your own.

To use vocals or not to use vocals? For dance-genre related music it can be a question, and I'm interested where our disco hero stands on the issue. "I like a lot of instrumental stuff, but for me there's something about vocals that centre everything," he argues. "They get your attention."

Has he considered using other vocalists on his songs? "I'd like to slow down a load of old hardcore and jungle tracks to the original speed of the breaks and have Tom Waits sing over them, but that's not going to happen."

And it's a shame, too. Joseph's musical vision combined with grizzled and gnarled Waits vocals would be a winning combination. Still, it raises an interesting area of discussion: are collaborations integral to music diversity? "No," he answers assuredly. "Technology, youth culture and immigration probably have a greater influence on music."

But he adds, "Collaborations are a good thing though. Once my first record is done, I might work with some other people."

With such an intriguing sound I'm keen to know about Joseph's process when working on his music, what his approach is. "There is no process," he explains, simply. "People that want

to streamline their workflows are in trouble – leave that for the engineers."

But surely there is a process for the melody on the tracks. How does he compose music, physically? "I use a lot of real instruments and the software stuff is mostly played in real-time rather than programmed," he says. "You have to be careful with computers, as it's easy just to 'fix' everything, but a lot of the magic is in the nuances. People have been trying to perfectly replicate traditional instruments, but for me it's much more exciting when things are a bit off, a bit wrong."

A bit *wrong*?

"I'm always inclined to get in there and mess it up. I'll often play something an octave down and then pitch shift it back up just to get that warped effect."

A man and his laptop is rarely a thrilling live spectacle. Will we be seeing Joseph playing live

I'd like to slow down a load of old hardcore and jungle tracks to the original speed of the breaks and have Tom Waits sing over them

anytime soon? "Joseph Grand won't be playing live in the near future," he states emphatically. "Not as a band or whatever, but we will see what happens after the first record."

He adds, "I'd like to do something communal, but, yeah, the 'man and a laptop thing' is not going to cut it."

But surely performing live is essential to promoting his music, or are there enough media outlets and DJs to create a stir and get his music noticed?

"I think the consensus at the moment is that if you're in a band, you've got to play live," Joseph says. "If you make dance tracks, you need them played in clubs. And if you make any type of music, then you need radio play. But I wouldn't worry too much about this, it's better to spend time on your music."

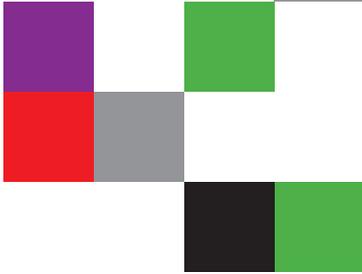
And what about labels? Does he ever contemplate being signed, even to an independent one like Deaf Surfer? "Most labels, especially at the edible end of the food chain, are made up of people that are mega passionate about music," he says. "Why wouldn't you want to work with guys like that?"

On the subject of local music, have there been any Suffolk artists that have impressed Joseph? "I've just remixed a song by Me & The Neck," he says. "Some of them are from Suffolk and their EP is great. Deaf Surfer is putting out some great stuff; anything they're involved with is worth a listen. How can you not enjoy The Cads or The B. Goodes?"

He adds, "DELS' album is also great and really stands up. They're not for everyone but These Are End Times are exceptional. I'd love to remix any, or all, of the above."

Finally, what ambitions does our man have for the near future? "I've nearly finished an EP and I'm going to put this up on the internet for download with no barriers," he says.

Joseph Grand's EP will be available to download in January 2012, in addition to a limited run of CDs.



Winter Listings

It's winter. It's cold. So here's a load of 'cool' stuff to do inside where it's warm. Oh, and one thing to do outside. Brr-ap!

Nov 20: St Peters Street Festive Market, Ipswich

If you're looking for interesting and unique Christmas presents, make sure you head down to the latest street market organised by quirky craft outfit I Make Fun Stuff for another collection of beautiful craftwork, vintage clothes, original art and lovely food. If wallets made from comics and cushions that look like cupcakes are your bag, this is definitely the market for you. Make sure you get there early so you don't miss out on the best stuff!
imakefunstuff.co.uk

Nov 21: Ed Byrne, Regent Theatre, Ipswich

Fresh from appearances on shows like *Mock the Week* and *Have I Got News for You*, comedian Ed Byrne is stopping in Ipswich on his latest nationwide tour. Byrne is a hilarious and hugely likeable stand-up, and his powers of observation may well have you chuckling long after the show's over.
ipswichregent.com

Nov 24: Dorkbot Anglia: seven, CSV Media Clubhouse, Ipswich

Dorkbot Anglia is for nerds who enjoying doing strange shit with electricity. They are cool nerds though so it's okay. Expect talks on everything

from electronic music to launching probes into the stratosphere and beekeeping. Everyone is welcome and admission is free. But only if you're a nerd.
dorkbot.org/dorkbotanglia

Nov 25 – Jan 15: Dick Whittington and His Cat, Theatre Royal, Bury St Edmunds

Christmas just wouldn't be Christmas without a traditional panto, it would be like skipping turkey – unthinkable! And there really is no better place to get all festive than in the intimate Regency playhouse, Theatre Royal. The story is hardly important, the whooping '*it's behind you*' and acting like a big kid is really all you need, but in case you were wondering, Dick Whittington is an epic struggle between boy, cat and rat, so it should be quite gripping.
theatroyal.org

Nov 30: Kevin Pearce Album Launch, The Apex, Bury St Edmunds

Long standing *IP1* favourite, Kevin Pearce, launches his new album at Bury's impressive new venue. Expect tender, folksy melodies with the odd upbeat twist. The Apex is rumoured to have the best acoustics around so Kevin should sound even better than usual.
theapex.co.uk

Nov 30: ULTRAZANG November Benefit, McGinty's, Ipswich

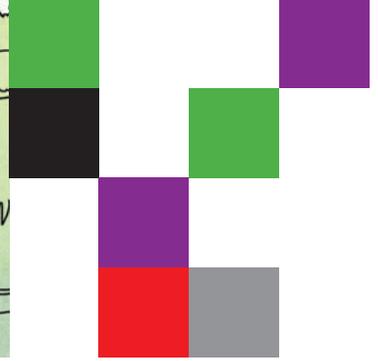
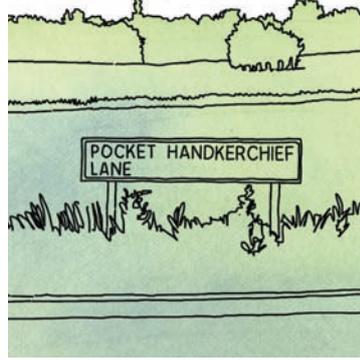
Have you ever wondered what Wednesday nights are lacking? ULTRAZANG has the answer: Moustache bearing indie/rock bands with a passion for men's health awareness. This special charity night will see four local bands (Jackknife Horsebox, Varma Pilots, Dear Sleeper and Butterfly) play and unveil their attempts at splendid facial hair. Entrance is £3 and it's all donated to charity. Hoorah!
ultrazang.co.uk

Nov 30 (and every Wednesday): I-Pop, Bettys Bar, Ipswich

I-Pop is a brand new club night in Ipswich on a mission to bring the F-U-N back to clubbing! A night of unashamed pop, cheese and those tunes that you secretly love but are just too scared to tell anyone about! Selected drinks just £1. You can't go wrong!
facebook: i-pop

Dec 1 – 3: Passion, New Wolsey Young Company, New Wolsey Studio, Ipswich

The latest of the New Wolsey's *To Be Confirmed* projects, this double bill of performances from the New Wolsey Young Company offers some wonderfully fiery political drama.



Starting with the CND-commissioned *Passion* (Edward Bond's short railing against the greed, corruption and hypocrisy of the 1970s) and moving on to the young team's own devised response to the stark political themes encompassed by the work, this promises to be an evening of truly challenging theatre.

wolseytheatre.co.uk

Dec 1 – Jan 2: CRAMPED, Ipswich Art School, Ipswich

Featured this issue, Mister Millerchip is given free rein of a wall in the display space at Ipswich Art School. Expect MM's signature black and white curly haired characters stretched from floor to ceiling. Works are also on sale at affordable prices giving you the chance to become the proud owner of a MM masterpiece.

mistermillerchip.com

Dec 2: Rough Cuts: Darren Ellis, Jerwood DanceHouse, Ipswich

Following the success of his previous Rough Cut, Associate Artist Darren Ellis returns with his latest work, *Long Walk Home*. A moving exploration of the lives of four female dancers at various stages in their careers, *Long Walk Home* is a deeply hypnotic and nostalgic performance.

danceeast.co.uk

Dec 3: Always in Tune, John Peel Centre, Stowmarket

Screamo/hardcore frenzy courtesy of audio piranhas Everything a Reason, Welcome to Purgatory, High Hopes and Standing Tall. Guaranteed mosh pit action, with all money raised from the gig going towards the completion of this fantastic new music venue.

Facebook: John Peel Centre

Dec 3: Deaf Surfer vs UPROCK, The Swan, Ipswich

This is new label Deaf Surfer's first big night. Expect some great live acts as well as mad good DJing. The night launches James Spankie's breathtaking new EP and also on the live bill is slick new post punk outfit Me & The Neck. We reckon it's going to be a super cool night out and be pretty packed, so prepare to sweat it out with the masses.

Facebook: Deaf Surfer Music

Dec 7: Jeru the Damaja, The Swan, Ipswich

In their most audacious coup yet Rapsplottation Sessions has rustled up a

legend from a gilded canon of rap, Jeru the Damaja. Flawless credentials – he's on the DJ Premier/Gang Starr axis – are matched by raw, technical delivery. It's first-come-first-serve and a guaranteed draw, so dilly-dallying is to be discouraged! In fact, tickets might already have sold out.

Facebook: Rapsplottation Sessions

Dec 9: This Boy Wonders Album Launch Party, The White Hart, Boxford

TBW were chosen by BBC Introducing Suffolk to play at Leeds and Reading this year. Find out why at this launch party for their new album. The band has promised CDs, posters and Mk2 T-shirts, plus the night is in their home village of Boxford, which is a lovely place to go anyway! Make it a day-come-evening trip combining a nice winter walk with a pub gig to round it off. We're just sayin'.

thisboywonders.co.uk

Dec 10: Zeeb? – The come back!!!, The Steamboat Tavern, Ipswich

A trad Ippo night of punk rock from Zeeb?, (think The Eighties Matchbox B-Line Disaster crossed with Turbonegro), and the one-off reformation of The Devil Rides Out. Probably better than Christmas itself.

thesteamboat.co.uk

Dec 18: SwitchTeen Winter Wonderland, The MaltHouse, Ipswich

Suffolk's biggest under 18s club night is back at The MaltHouse. Town 102 DJ Dave James will be playing dance and RnB party anthems, but this is not just your regular DJ night. Expect plenty of bling with festive snow cannons, £50 note giveaways and VIP limo rides. Sip on authentic mocktails all night long and there is also a prize for the best Christmas fancy dress. Sorry oldies, this is strictly under 18s and ID will be required!

switchteen.co.uk

Dec 21: The Great White Silence, New Cut, Halesworth

Remastered by the BFI from the original footage *The Great White Silence* is a documentary about the Antarctic Terra Nova basecamp filmed by Herbert Ponting, the official photographer and filmmaker for Captain Scott's disastrous expedition to the pole. Poignant and beautiful.

newcut.org

Dec 22: Sucking Lemons Presents, The LP, Bury St Edmunds

A key Xmas party night to pop in your Filofax. Although the line up is still TBC you can expect top quality bookings from these guys, who have hosted the likes of Bombay Bicycle Club, The Cads and Ideals in the past.

suckinglemons.co.uk

Dec 30: Friday Night Live & Soapbox, The MaltHouse, Ipswich

If you put anything in your diary/phone/memory make it this night! Featuring some of the area's most exciting bands – The Cads, Ideals, Fick As Fieves and James Spankie – it's set to be a blast, plus your adv ticket price of just £5.50 includes an after party from 11.30pm till you drop! Finally, a proper music venue for Ipswich with drinks at pub prices.

getonthesoapbox.co.uk

Jan 12 & 26: Rough Cuts: Gecko, Jerwood DanceHouse, Ipswich

Another Rough Cut, this time from acclaimed physical theatre company Gecko. *Missing* is a dark, incisive analysis into the things we find are missing in our own fractured psyches. Set to disturb and uplift in equal measure with its movement based rendering of the depths of the human soul.

danceeast.co.uk

Jan 21: Poetry Bash, John Peel Centre, Stowmarket

Following sell out shows at Edinburgh to huge critical acclaim, some the region's best performance poets come together in aid of the John Peel Centre. A quartet of sets from John Osborne, Luke Wright, Molly Naylor and Tim Clare.

Facebook: John Peel Centre

Feb 11: Faster Than Sound: I Burn for You, Britten Studio, Snape

The next FST really is set to be an eerie, operatic corker! *I Burn for You* is an atmospheric new music theatre work inspired by Bram Stoker's legendary vampire novel *Dracula*. It brings together an astonishing line up of performers including the Hungarian death metal vocalist Attila Csihar in the vampyric role. I don't know about you but death metalists, vampires and Snape on a misty evening sounds like a lot of scary fun. We're in!

aideburgh.co.uk

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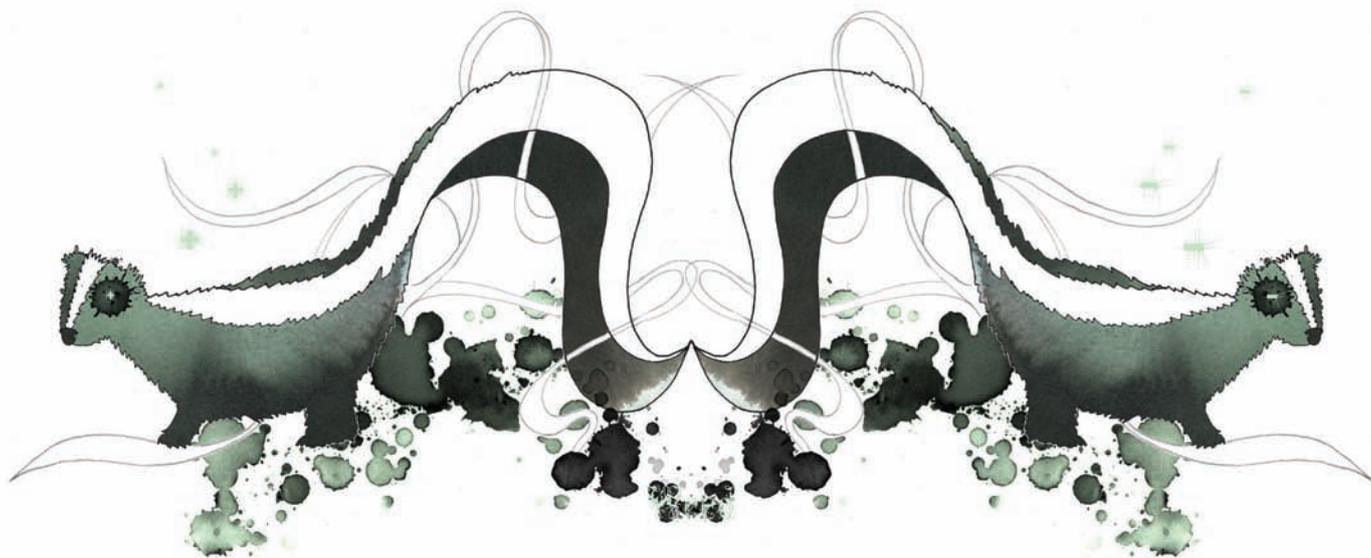
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CANNABLISS?

Weed, marijuana, pot (if you're American), grass (if you're stuck in the 90s), peng (if you're super cool) – whatever you call it, cannabis is the drug you take when you want to rebel in a more dramatic way than sipping on an alcopop, but in a less harmless fashion than injecting. It's a drug that carries no risk and is pretty harmless, right? **Holly Barker** investigates which side of the grass is greener.

It's easy to picture the pro-weed group. You know the ones: bong in one hand, petitions for legalisation in the other, mumbling and laughing about how they're sure that the world would be a much better place if world leaders were sent a few tons of green.

But the anti-weed brigade thinks differently. They'd probably tell you that as soon as you take your first toke of a joint you'll die, or at least get an incurable illness of the worst kind imaginable.

In truth, the effect that weed has on people differs. Some may have a few puffs and sit wide-eyed wondering why that man outside wants to kill them or spend the night throwing up in a bin then refill their stomach with endless amounts of Pringles. Others may have a few spliffs and simply contemplate the hilarity of their elbow. It varies considerably.

But first let us start off with a fact: cannabis has never killed a person directly. Its common associates, stuff like tobacco and cake, can have negative physical effects, but studies have found that cannabis does not. It would, however, be naïve to think that cannabis does not affect you mentally, because the very purpose of taking the drug is to alter your mind in some way.

But are there really as many negative effects from smoking a few joints as the anti-weed people think?

One negative effect that people commonly talk about is paranoia. But could this paranoia be simply because you're doing something that's illegal and you're scared of getting caught?

Chris, a 26-year-old progressive pothead, thinks that there may be a link. "I've experienced that levels of paranoia differ depending on the

**I'd like a king-size
with extra greenery
please.**

potency of the marijuana," he says, "ranging from none to 'holy shit, what's that banging?'"

He adds, "You can experience anxiety and states of paranoia when purchasing or carrying marijuana before use, especially in public. This mindset could be the ignition for the more severe paranoia link to marijuana."

Daniel, a 21-year-old past pothead, does not agree. "The paranoia wasn't about being caught, it was about people talking bad about

me and finding me dull," he says. "I used to think bad things would happen all the time."

So why do people smoke it, if it makes you paranoid?

Kane, a 21-year-old habitual hashmeister, describes why he smokes the green stuff. "It ends up as more of a routine," he admits. "It feels like some weight has been lifted off your shoulders. If you are with mates you can have a wicked conversation about anything. Films and TV are better too."

Rob, a 21-year-old infrequent igniter, agrees. "Weed is a sharing drug," he argues. "Everything can be enhanced and an otherwise boring night can be changed."

So it seems that weed can enhance your social life and make everything a whole lot more fun. This sounds good. I'd like a king-size with extra greenery please. And ship some to that Cameron bloke too.

But Rob isn't finished. "When I was really on it I found myself not being able to have a good time unless I was high," he says. "I was constantly on edge. I'd shy away socially and found it really hard to make an effort in conversations."



Oh, cancel that order please. It seems that weed actually does the opposite. But how can it do both?

Cannabis contains a chemical called THC – or Tetrahydrocannabinol, if you want to get all scientific – which can make you feel relaxed in the short-term, but anxious and paranoid in the long-term.

Amy, a 27-year-old health professional, says, “You feel chilled out and calm, you get creative, but it then increases anxiety which you treat with the cannabis again, so really it can be just a vicious circle.”

The strength of cannabis has increased over time. Skunk – marijuana with at least 15 percent THC – has taken over the market completely and is soon to be reclassified as a Class A drug in Holland.

Dave, a 29-year-old student stoner, was a smoker in university 10 years ago and has had the odd spliff since. He’s noticed how weed has changed over the years.

“Weed has definitely got stronger,” he says. “At uni you could smoke and smoke and get a bit giggly and relaxed. Now if you smoke a bit of skunk you get completely spaced out.”

So is skunk dangerous? A lot of the anti-weed group say that THC can cause mental illness. Amy gives us her professional opinion, saying, “About 90 percent of our patients use cannabis. We don’t know what comes first: the illness – mostly schizophrenia and bipolar – or the

cannabis. There is no tangible or chemical way to prove that cannabis is linked with mental health, but most health professionals would say that there is a direct link.

“The trouble with cannabis is that it leads on to other drugs so just isolating what cannabis does to you is quite hard.”

It makes you fine with being bored

This is the ‘Gateway Drug’ theory, which suggests cannabis can lead onto harder drugs that carry serious physical, psychological, financial and socially negative side-effects.

The theory has been discredited by many commentators and experts, but others argue in favour of it, and Daniel provides his personal expertise. “Personally, I think it opened the door to other drugs,” he says. “I would have the high and wonder what the other drug effects would be like. It sort of sparked my interest.”

The truth is that weed is not going to give everyone who takes it a mental illness or lead them on to crack. However, if the risk is not zero then there is still a risk to be taken when using cannabis. So, though there is no actual conclusive proof that weed can cause mental illness, it is likely to be a factor in some cases.

Chris talks about an effect that cannabis definitely has: laziness. “The major problem with marijuana is it makes you fine with being

bored,” he admits. “During these times of boredom it would be much more useful to learn a new skill and to generally be more productive with your time.”

So who is right about weed, then?

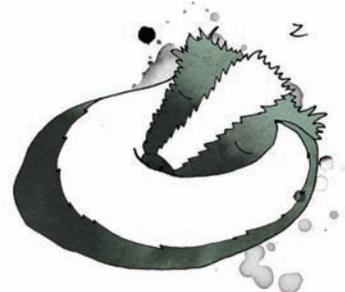
Pro-weed people tend to be heavy smokers and are therefore not in a ‘normal’ state of mind, as 30 percent of the THC that enters your body when smoking a joint is still present in your body a week later. This means that they are permanently under the influence, so of course they’re going to have quite abstract views on life.

Anti-weed people tend to have never smoked cannabis or have smoked it and have had a bad experience, making them biased.

Really there are fundamental flaws in both arguments and neither is right: Weed is not completely harmless, but it is probably not going to do severe damage to the majority of people that use it either.

Basically, everyone should just chill out a bit. But I guess that’s how all of this got started in the first place...

talktofrank.com



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students

On Wednesday September 7th 2011 we started back at Suffolk One, a centre of learning for 16-19 year olds. This year for the first time, a BTEC level 3 in Enterprise and Entrepreneurship has been offered to students. Suffolk One is one of the few colleges throughout the UK offering this course which is equivalent to two A levels. The full-time course which lasts one year is unique and has given many opportunities to the 14 up-and-coming young entrepreneurs. We are the talk of the college due to our business attire and have our very own enterprise suite with an executive board room table.

Suffolk One is working closely with the Eastern Enterprise Hub in order to enhance our business knowledge.

“The Enterprise course is interesting and different. We spend one day a week at the Eastern Enterprise Hub, and have already started thinking about our micro businesses”, says Elise Grenfell-Smith.

We go to the Eastern Enterprise Hub every Tuesday where they offer students a unique learning environment that takes us away from the average classroom. We are lucky enough to meet many successful entrepreneurs during our time at ‘The Hub’ who have all enhanced the business economy in more ways than one; whether that be in the food and drink industry or being a part of a social enterprise, which specialises in the support of disabled children who are underprivileged and often overseen in day-to-day activities. The people we call our ‘Superstars’ are willing to take time out of their busy schedules in order to help us students to

develop our business ideas, and guide us with our coursework. Tuesday is also an opportunity to begin networking and build up a contact list for future reference.

Days at the Eastern Enterprise Hub have been tailored by ‘The Hub’ team to co-ordinate with

“We spend one day a week at the Eastern Enterprise Hub, and have already started thinking about our micro businesses.”

our syllabus. Recently ‘The Hub’ organised a team-building sailing trip for us. The team-building exercise consisted of a workshop on the Monday and the sailing trip on the Wednesday. We enjoyed it thoroughly and gained a lot from putting everything we had learnt throughout the course into practice.

We spend three days a week at Suffolk One carrying out

coursework and meeting deadlines. The course includes 12 units over the year covering every aspect of starting up and running our own micro business.

Completing the course doesn’t necessarily depend on the success of our businesses, it is more about how we adapt and learn from our successes and failures. This gives us an insight to the real business world, unique from any other course.

“The Enterprise and Entrepreneurship course is fun and enjoyable because it gives us a chance to learn business with practical and theory elements combined”, says student Tom Chinery.

Written by Charlotte Adams and James Race

WELCOME TO DUMPS VILLE



No-one's died, nothing's physically broken and you haven't technically lost anything, yet getting dumped can be one of the most painful emotional experiences you can go through. Sometimes a whole life you've mentally planned with someone can unravel in the space of one horrible conversation. It sucks, basically. **Hayley Buckle** takes a tour around one of the darkest places on Earth and gets some real life stories from people who've been there...

There comes a moment in everyone's life where you will find yourself standing there, your stomach in knots and that sense of impending dread as you wait with baited breath to hear the most feared words in the English language: 'It's not you, it's me.' And just like that, your life is over.

Welcome to Dumpsville, population: you.

There are no guidelines on how you're supposed to exit Dumpsville. One reason for this is because it's an existential analogy and not an actual place. Another is because the road map leading out is different for everyone. Some of us can bounce back and put a smile on our face. The rest of us can only cope by unleashing our inner Bridget Jones, weeping into a tub of Ben & Jerry's whilst howling along to Adele's *Someone Like You*.

Being the emotional wreck I am I sway towards the latter. I was 16 when I first had my heart broken. I was on the cusp of a whirlwind MySpace romance. I was young and believed I was in love. Even to this day, I'm still not sure how our nine-month stint came to an end. No doubt it was a combination of distance, the ignorance of youth and perhaps something to do with my abusive drunken antics. Either way, our relationship fizzled out and the whole thing sparked my hatred for all social networking sites.

I wouldn't say I was upset that it ended, exactly, more at how it ended so abruptly. How, as in any break-up, you go from being so close to someone to not even talking at all. Strangers. That's what hurts the most: losing that connection.

First love is not always as blissful as everyone makes out. It can be a harsh taster of the bittersweet reality of relationships, as Lorna, 19, found out during middle school.

"I was in Year Eight and my crush asked me out," she explains. "However, five minutes later he told me I had 'more rolls than a bakery' and dumped me."

Childhood romances and dumpings can be dramatic, and as you travel through your teen years that doesn't go away. Adolescent trysts, however brief, can be fiery, intense and can end equally abruptly – sometimes for bizarre and amusing reasons.

Jon, 20, says, "I met this girl whilst I was in sixth form. There was mutual affection and we started seeing each other a few times a week. The break-up had to happen after an incident involving her mum."
– What happened?
"To put it bluntly, she groped me."

Unable to live with the potential threat of mother-loving, Jon decided to end the relationship and lie about the reasons for the break-up. It was effectively a forced dumping due to his position as a boyfriend becoming untenable.

"I mean, how well would that story really go down?" he asks. "Would she even believe me? I felt horrid afterwards for lying to someone I had no ill feelings towards. Of course, it was still the right decision, but I regretted it for a while as we never really got our chance together."

Since the evolution of the internet, breaking up is as simple as texting, emailing or changing your Facebook relationship status. But despite the zeitgeisty pain and digital humiliation of being dumped on a social networking site, traditional dumping media can be just as traumatic.

"She dumped me by writing me a letter, and then watched me read it," explains 23-year-old Guy. "In this letter, she said that she wasn't sure how she felt about me and that she had feelings for someone else."

It was all over. Except it wasn't. "We got back together for about two months, and then she started saying that she wasn't sure again," he explains. "She said, 'I don't like you in that way anymore, but I want the relationship to continue'. Which is kind of like saying 'I don't like pepperoni pizza anymore but I want to eat lots of pepperoni pizza.'"

– Surely that was the end of the dumpathon?
"Not quite," says Guy. "That was the second time. I took her back again, and she said, 'It's going well, I think the relationship's getting better.'"
– Brilliant! What happened?
"She dumped me the next day."
– Oh.
"She said, 'I said the relationship was getting better, not how I feel about you.' That was the last straw!"

Clearly, the older we get the more complex relationships – and consequently break-ups – become. When two people grow apart as adults, the simplicity of 'you're dumped' vanishes and you are left with that tough decision of whether you can stay friends or not.

It took Chris, 22, four years to finally build up the courage to speak to his ex-girlfriend after they parted. It was a somewhat complicated relationship.

"It was after university," he says, "and the most intense and heartbreakingly devastating relationship I have ever experienced."

After a passionate loving phase the arguments became more frequent, and they both realised things couldn't go on.

"Neither of us actually said the relationship was done," Chris explains. "Not that we had to, but that technically means we never broke up, we're just on an indefinite hiatus!"

They did break up, though. It was a mutual dumping. But at least now Chris and his ex enjoy some kind of friendship after their reconciliation. "It is nice to have her in my life again as a friend. She was a massive part of it and it would be wrong of me to sever any connection I had and make her sound irrelevant."

It's proof that with time relationships can begin to heal and friendships can be reformed.

The final thing to mention is that sometimes it can be just as hard being the dumper. Although sometimes the roles get reversed even as the dumping is happening, which makes everything infinitely more complicated.

I was in Year Eight and my crush asked me out... five minutes later he told me I had 'more rolls than a bakery' and dumped me.

"Although technically on this occasion I was the dumper, I think I must have rapidly regretted the decision and changed my mind," says 21-year-old Vicky. "My ex was pretty bummed out, but having none of it, so then I guess he became the dumper. The more tragic it all became, the more alluring I believed myself to be," she confesses.

"But now I'm older I appreciate having been a beast, because it allowed me to lay the hysterical woman in me to rest, to grow older and get a job and become a normal person."

Dumpsville is, like Luton or Stoke, ultimately a terrible place to find yourself. It's painful, bleak and sometimes farcical. But just as Luton has the A6, there's a road out of Dumpsville for everyone. It's called time.

Time nurses our emotional wounds, heals our heartfelt pain and, finally, absolves our mistakes. You might never forget your epic or tragic dumping experience, but you will eventually be able to get over it and leave Dumpsville forever.

Which is more than can be said for people living in Stoke.

Diary of a reluctant hipster

Not everyone at *IP1* is a rock 'n' roll trend-setter. **Daisy Jones** is more comfortable drinking tea, watching *Antiques Roadshow* and knitting hats for her cat than doing typical edgy youth stuff. So we challenged her to act her age and be 'young, fun and cool' for a week. She said she'd keep a diary of it. Will it change her? Here is the result...

Monday

I thought I'd start off slow, so I went to Starbucks for a coffee. Starbucks! It felt wrong, like watching *The Only Way Is Essex* without shame. Plus I accidentally ordered a double espresso, and proceeded to roam Ipswich on an insane caffeinated high.

I came across a boy on a skateboard. Sensing the chance to do something cool I asked for a go. The boy shrugged, handed the skateboard over and started texting someone.

I actually wasn't that bad at skateboarding. I felt fearless, careless, reckless! And then I crashed. I hurtled into an unsuspecting and cute pedestrian and landed on top of him. It was like a dodgy romcom, but with physical pain.

I wanted to believe he was alright, but the look of agony on his face told me he sort of wasn't. It was typical, really; the one day I talk to a cute guy, I maim him.

Turns out skateboard boy had captured the whole thing on camera. Now it's on YouTube. The last time I checked it had over 2,000 views. Brilliant.

Tuesday

The consequences of yesterday were a twinge in my leg, a thumping caffeine hangover and a gnawing sense of shame. I wasn't up to much today, so I made an effort to at least look young and cool, and came into college in a sun-yellow maxi dress.

Problem was, I'm quite short – Frodo-short – and I had to hold up my long skirt like a medieval maiden daringly flashing my ankles. Then I accidentally stood on it and the entire skirt ripped off at the bottom,

turning my maxi dress into a mini dress. Another triumph.

Wednesday

I've always enjoyed *Strictly Come Dancing* so today I thought I'd try dancing. Street dancing. I found a class and merrily strolled up to the community centre in my ill-advised leg warmers and leotard.

I spent most of the lesson trying not to look self-conscious while thrusting and shimmying around the place. Then I got paired with a tall gung-ho guy called Max for the partner work, and duly clung onto him like King Kong climbing up the Empire State Building.

I felt stupid, but must have done okay because the teacher invited me to a dance flash mob on Saturday. Trepidation ensued.

Thursday

I shall skim over the events of today. Just know that squid is very chewy and you can easily end up with tentacles sticking out of your mouth, like Davy Jones. It's not a good look.

Friday

My friends cornered me at college this morning and told me I was coming out tonight. Once I realised they wanted me to go partying and not make a statement about my sexuality, I put on the ex-maxi dress and joined them.

Going out on the town isn't really that dreadful. That street dance class even paid off on the dance floor, but the lighting was quite dim and I accidentally hit someone behind me – the same cute guy I'd ploughed into on Monday!

The rest of the evening was really quite fun. Turns out I'm great at the limbo, and I take cute guy's willingness to do the cha-cha slide with me to mean 'apology accepted'!



Saturday

Today was my great dance debut. I was so worried about looking like an idiot that I missed my bus and got into Ipswich late.

But the flash mob actually went pretty well. The street dancers were brilliant, and I was... well, alright. I guess I didn't dance much, just got hurled around by my dance partner Max. Afterwards everyone clapped and cheered.

Then Max hugged me and said I was awesome.

'Ooooh!' the street dance kids chorused.

Sunday

And on the seventh day I rested. Despite various misadventures I think I've proved that I can be young and fun – I've been street dancing, skateboarding, partying and become a YouTube star!

Now the week's over, I'll still watch *Antiques Roadshow* as usual. But I'm also going to keep dancing, keep partying, and skateboard boy is going to teach me how to actually skateboard. And I have a date with Max.

So maybe things *have* changed. A little...

A DATE WITH DESTINY

In the days before role playing games on the Xbox people had to read books. It wasn't all bad, though, because with some books you could choose how the story would develop, a bit like a RPG. Continuing our series of features in the style of these classic quest tales, **Andrew Tipp** presents a choose your own dating adventure...



SECTION 1

You are single. For too long you have shunned the company of women in favour of your own erotic companionship. Your evenings revolve around computer games, TV box sets, microwavable lasagne and online pornography. Things need to change. Luckily, you have friends. One of them knows a girl. You remember girls exist in real life, and are tempted by meeting one that isn't pixelated, reciting lines or faking sexual fulfilment. They tell you this one is keen, normal, and suggest fixing you up on a date. Your first decision is suddenly upon you.

If you decide to go on the date go to Section 2

If you decide to give it a miss go to Section 3

SECTION 2

Congratulations! You've taken a big first step on the road to finding love. Possibly. There are many challenges ahead. In a nearby bar you meet Kerri, a twentysomething brunette of moderate attractiveness and seemingly agreeable character. And she seems to like you. You start mentally +1ing the evening. You have a couple of cocktails then Kerri suggests getting some food. She wants to go Mexican. Mexican food makes you sick. But she casually mentions she's "anyone's" after a few tequilas. Should you brave potential ill health for the possibility of sexytime?

If you agree to go Mexican head to Section 4

If you suggest somewhere else go to Section 5

SECTION 3

Fail. You are condemned to a life of bachelorhood. Not the charmingly licentious kind but the kind where you die unloved, unhappy and utterly alone. Eventually you run out of games and box sets and the internet somehow breaks, leaving you nothing to do but sit in your room and regret not going on that date – your one last hope of relationship salvation.

GAME OVER

SECTION 4

You are immediately in trouble. You try and get away with plain nachos, but Kerri insists on sharing her burrito and daring you to eat jalapeños. She is three tequilas down, but without showing any hint of the promiscuity she promised. Your insides churn with spice and fizzy beer. Eventually you must leave the table to throw up. The toilet is nearby, but engaged. Feeling the faint, cold and prickly onset of sickness you dash outside to relieve your poorly stomach.

Just as you are about to bring everything up Kerri appears beside you, concerned. Startled, you turn to her...and vomit. A lot. When the dust settles her face is full of tears, tortilla chips and regurgitated refried beans. The date is over. And so are your chances of ever finding happiness.

GAME OVER

SECTION 5

At your suggestion you go Italian. The food is bland, starchy and safe. Your stomach feels calm and settled. You breathe a sigh of relief; you can concentrate on getting to know Kerri.

Kerri is boring. Probably the dullest girl you've ever met, let alone dated. After 23 minutes all possible conversation has been exhausted. The starters bring some brief respite but afterwards you both stare out of the window and speculate on whether it might rain. A whole night of vapid pleasantries followed by zero pay-off beckons. It's time to consider your options.

If you decide to knuckle down and grind out the date go to Section 6

If you excuse yourself and sneak out the emergency exit go to Section 7

SECTION 6

Bad move Casanova. Kerri mistakes your fortitude for genuine romantic interest. After this long underwhelming evening you somehow agree to further dates to avoid hurting her feelings. After that follows cohabitation, and then you propose marriage to falsely reassure her she didn't just waste six years of courtship. To be polite, you get hitched and spend 52 years of misery together. All because you chickened out of leaving the pizzeria before the spaghetti carbonara turned up. Well done.

GAME OVER



SECTION 7

Good move. Sure, Kerri will tell everyone you're a dick, but you saved yourself a lifetime of marital tedium and you scored a free bruschetta and half a bottle of Chianti. You begin drafting a witty Twitter update with the hash tag #greatestscape.

But the night is still young, and after the cocktails and wine you're half-cut and full of misplaced confidence. You see an alternative-looking pub next to a chavvy bar. Both are sure to host some single women. What direction should the night take?

If you decide to hit the pub go to Section 8

If you try your luck in the chavvy bar go to Section 9

SECTION 8

The pub is friendly and relaxed. The music is cool and the crowd seem your kind of people. You spy a pretty girl with red hair, a stripy jumper and pink Converse trainers drinking whisky by the bar. You summon the courage to talk to her and find that she is called Leanne and is completely lovely. You share half a bottle of whisky and drunkenly stumble back to her place. You are both super horny but still barely know each other. What should our hero do?

If you try and force love go to Section 10

If you decide to call it a night go to Section 11

SECTION 9

The chav bar is a sweaty meat factory. The air reeks of hormones and cheap perfume. Sleazy men circle the dancefloor of Katie Price clones like predators trying to identify the most vulnerable of the herd. You sink consecutive double rum and cokes and hit the tiles, armed with yet another drink. You gravitate towards some kind of life-size 19-year-old Barbie and recite some lines you once heard on an ITV game show when you turned over by accident. Amazingly, she is impressed. You take her

home and have a drunken night of joyless, unprotected and instantly forgettable sex. In the morning she leaves you with her number and an STI. You never call her. And never find love.

GAME OVER

SECTION 10

You both decide that tonight is the night and stumble into an awkward sexual liaison. Owing to excessive alcohol your peak 'form' deserts you, and after two false starts you finally manage to seal the deal around 4am. But by this point all spontaneity has been replaced by a resolute shared determination to simply 'get the job done'. It's all mechanics, no tenderness.

By dawn you both feel like strangers and embarrassment causes you to never speak to Leanne again. Your life ends in a puddle of regret and despondency.

GAME OVER

SECTION 11

Too tired and boozed up to take things further tonight, you tuck Leanne up in bed and pass out on the sofa.

In the morning she kisses you on the cheek, says you were the perfect gentleman and suggests you go for a drink again some time.

Dates proceed, love blossoms and a lifetime of happiness ensues.

YOU WIN!



ip1zine.com/showoff

Some bands don't just write great songs, they team up with slick directors to produce MTV style music videos. Check out three that we've reviewed this issue, alongside five other cool uploads cherry-picked from the pile. Got a creative bone in your body? Upload the x-ray at ip1zine.com/showoff.

Featured ShowOff

Trippin on Speed

SummerIsle Studios / Never a Hero

This slick, contemporary music video combines the mildly disturbing imagery of a Slipknot promo with the bright beach setting of a surfer movie like *Point Break*.

Except this isn't California. It's Southwold. And Never a Hero are firing out some high-octane punk-rock. And swimming. And running. There's actually quite a lot happening; the concept for the video is basically the band taking part in an Ironman triathlon. With masks on.

But the key to making a good music video is creating imagery and a narrative that compliments the song rather than overpowering it, and here our heroes have adhered to the principles of video art. The imagery on display is striking, but the tune stands up with compelling visuals, unsettling lyrics and a strong hook.

This is an accomplished effort from SummerIsle Studios and Never a Hero, and we look forward to further dramatic videos for future singles, as well as, of course, a full-length collection of songs. **AT**

What other ShowOffs say

"Rock, sweat and tears. I love the adrenaline and drama you've captured on this film." (Leah)

ip1zine.com/showoff/media/5152



To see more of SummerIsle Studios' work go to:
ip1zine.com/showoff/profile/1182



giant coats
Sarah H

Us folks at *IP1* love Sarah H. We interviewed her back in issue 29. Nearly three years on and she's still brilliant. *giant coats* is a cute, quirky piece. A simple image created with black ink on white

paper, it's unassuming, unobtrusive, unfussy. The sketch is part of a new collection Sarah's working on called *All Thumbs* – and if you look closely, you can see the thumbprint upon which the character is drawn. The almost childlike simplicity of the piece gives it an understated feeling of innocence and naivety that makes it utterly charming. Despite this, the little man has a bucket load of personality. With his hooked nose, bald head, bandy legs and oversized duffle coat, he could well be a character from a children's story book. According to Sarah her "main aim is to make as many people smile as possible" and this piece has certainly brought a smile to our faces. **DJ**

What other ShowOffs say

"I like Mr thumb man, he reminds me of snow and warmth all at the same time." (Holly)

ip1zine.com/showoff/media/5196



Altar
Ideals

Every time you get the opportunity to witness something new by *Ideals*, easily the most striking thing is how wonderfully polished the whole thing feels. *Altar* is no exception. The visuals of this new video are

lush in the extreme, their polish a perfect match for the high standard of production on the band's music and proving that Mark Gill's direction is an excellent match for their sound.

A story of betrayal and revenge the video is stark, the high contrast shots largely clipped in at the actors' faces. Every detail of the film is luscious from the dark brooding locations to the exquisite makeup of the female lead. *Ideals'* music perfectly accompanies this story of passionate rage and consequence, their rhapsodic song offering a redemptive edge to the visuals you are watching and setting the tone for the regret that tinges this otherwise dark and unforgiving video. **JR**

What other ShowOffs say

"I really like this song. It's dark, airy and well produced." (Emmanuel)

ip1zine.com/showoff/media/4996



A poem inspired by a painting I once saw
frann.

frann.'s A poem inspired by a painting I once

saw is as mysterious as it is intriguing. By dint of its title it conjures all manner of mental pictures as the reader tries to locate the source of the poem's inspiration – its use of language incredibly precise and yet managing to hint at something magical. frann.'s poem uses pointedly biblical imagery to communicate her meaning; its use of the symbolism of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden plays heavily on the sexual metaphors of the myth, and at points almost verges on a tender sensuality. Whilst clearly a personal poem, challenging us with the unknowability of its original subject, *A poem inspired by a painting I once saw* seems to communicate both a love and a sense of condemnation with perfect clarity. **JR**

What other ShowOffs say

"Every word feels like it's been chosen with care and purpose. Really like it." (Andy)

ip1zine.com/showoff/media/5062



Miniluv
Timmy Booth

He's a one man electro-indie band who divulges isolated and desolate lyrics, yet

his tracks possess a poetic beauty that convey a sense of humanity and optimism.

Miniluv wouldn't be conventionally labelled upbeat; the term 'refreshing', although clichéd, would not be misplaced. There are elements of house rhythms and a funk groove that not only drive this song but also revive the track from mistakenly being dubbed melancholic; the repeating central riff of the mellow keyboards gradually builds until it is totally infectious.

Booth's music is comparable to a stripped down LCD Soundsystem, whilst still retaining the same gradual built-in intensity and dynamics the band use and provoke. When the song enters its final phase, you become fully aware of how many extra sounds were introduced and of the texture they provide.

Off-kilter pop from an exciting new face. **CF**

What other ShowOffs say

"I love this! Really infectious tune man, the way

it builds is great." (Tinny Buffnell)
ip1zine.com/showoff/media/5207



Why?
Danielle Scharpf

At first *Why?* seems like an ominous title for a song, a rhetorical question that

opens up all manner of thoughts. However, within her first breath Danielle Scharpf immediately sets the mood of the song, that of pain and heartbreak.

Her lyrics read like extracts from a diary: personal, emotive and ultimately raw. Scharpf admits herself that she writes from her deepest feelings, making every word believable and allowing others to relate to the experiences communicated through her music. The listener is taken on an emotional journey of the pain of losing someone you love, growing apart and not knowing why.

This contemporary ballad highlights not only Scharpf's vocal talents but her piano skills too, her flowing melody producing the perfect accompaniment. Hailing from California, the gifted Danielle has always impressed people with her confidence in music. Hearing this makes it easy to see why! **HSB**

What other ShowOffs say

"Wow what a lovely song, beautifully played and sung, and already playing over again in my mind." (Jonanice)

ip1zine.com/showoff/media/5098



The Last Blow Out
Kevin Pearce

The Last Blow Out is a wonderful, timeless song married with a happy, moving

and poignantly dated short film.

The song itself has a folk/indie feel with hints of MGMT and is instantly likeable and recognisable from the very first stylophone-like note. The film – sourced entirely from original 8mm video tape – seems to be a home video of a party in the 70s. There are people dancing on a heavily patterned carpet with permed hair and big glasses. It brings a vintage feel to the song and enhances the feeling that the lyrics are portraying: friendship, memories, nostalgia. It fills you with intrigue: Who are the people in the

film? What are they celebrating? Who is Pearce singing about?

Put simply, *The Last Blow Out* is beautifully composed and wonderfully produced. Pretty much perfect. **HRB**

What other Showoffs say

"Beautiful video which really makes this song come alive. Excellent work." (Howard)

ip1zine.com/showoff/media/5114

This isn't California. It's Southwold. And Never a Hero are firing out some high- octane punk-rock.



Under
Barnaby Kent

Barnaby takes pictures of his everyday life and puts a surreal edge to them

post-development. Not so surreal that they feature in your sleeping hours but just surreal enough to give them that unusual, unique quality that a piece of art should have.

Under is definitely a work of art. It displays a colourful underwater life with a mermaid-like mystical figure swimming peacefully amongst the beauty. It pours out calm and absolute freedom onto the viewer. And what did Barnaby use to shoot this incredible photo?

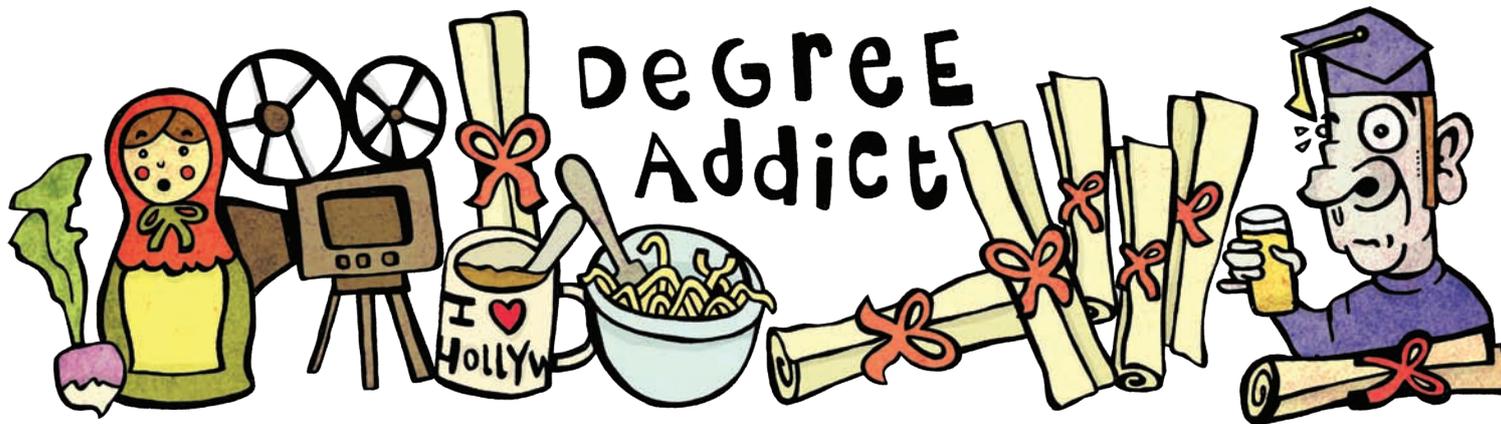
"*Under* was taken on an underwater disposable camera from Boots," he says. "I shot the picture in Montenegro, not really expecting it to turn out like it did."

'Wow, pretty lucky' I hear you say. But *Under* is no fluke. The photographer has been recognised internationally and he is being featured in an exhibition by *Dazed & Confused* in Amsterdam this winter. Well done, Barnaby! **HRB**

What other Showoffs say

"Reminds me of Nirvana and Deftones artwork, amazing!" (Hayley Buckle)

ip1zine.com/showoff/media/4959



Name: Lucas Poynton **Age:** 39 **Occupation:** Student **Favourite band:** The Three Degrees

Mr Poynton. Hi there.

Privyet, tovarish. Kak dela?

Excuse me?

It's Russian. I'm currently studying it, so I need to keep practicing.

You just keep your commie moon-speak out of my ears, Boris. Now, about those studies. According to my notes you've completed six undergraduate degree courses since you left school, and are currently working on a seventh. Explain yourself.

Well, I guess I just never figured out what I wanted to do with my life.

Don't take this the wrong way, Lucas, but you're kinda running out of life.

I know, I know. I think this time I've really got it nailed though. I swear I just need this one last degree, then I'm off it forever. Cold turkey. Done.

My cousin often says something similar.

Except about, y'know, meth.

Uh, well, this is nothing like that. I just... yeah. Heh.

So, you said you had it nailed with this latest degree. Do you want to be a professional Russian when you grow up?

Actually, I'm taking a mixed Russian/agriculture course.

What?

I plan to move over to Russia and start my own turnip farm, then export the produce to the West. It's actually an extremely shrewd move, given our current global economic situation. You'd know that if you had a BA in Linguistic Speculative Business Studies from the University of East Woodbridge.

If you say so. Your list of qualifications is certainly an... interesting read. What previous career plans did you have?

A few years ago, I wanted to become a filmmaker. That's why I took Film Production at Leeds Trinity.

Cool. Why didn't you pursue that?

I guess because I was able to spend one summer working on an actual film set. It wasn't quite what I was hoping for.

Oh? Which film?

Bloated GunJustice. A direct-to-DVD release starring Steven Seagal.

Is that the one where he fights all the cartoonish terrorists who kidnap the vice president's goldfish?

No, I think that was *Groinwrecked by a Hairpiece*.

Of course. So what was so bad about working for the illustrious Mr Seagal? I mean, I know he's a ridiculous self-parody at this point, but it still sounds like valuable experience.

My job was getting the coffee for the guy who gets the coffee for Steven Seagal's stunt double's hairstylist's coffee-getter.

Again, that sounds like an accurate representation of the Hollywood system.

Maybe, but it wasn't for me.

Fair enough. If I may ask, how exactly are you paying for all of this delicious education? You've been a student since 1990, and you don't ever seem to have been employed. I'm pretty sure Student Finance would've stopped giving you loans by now.

I had a rich uncle. He made it big in the early days of the computer industry, but he died young. Left me a pretty hefty inheritance.

A self-made, forward-thinking go-getter, eh?

Sounds like you could learn a lot from this dead man.

I did mention my turnip farm, didn't I?

Oh yeah. I suppose that's on par with pioneering a new technological medium. Let's discuss your lifestyle a little, shall we? In your 21 years as a student, have you ever learned how to cook?

Nah, I've never had the time. I mostly just live off beer and beef Super Noodles. Have done for years.

That would explain the healthy grey tinge to your complexion. And also why your breath smells like a drunken cow angrily spitting at its own vomit.

I'm comfortable with the way I am.

That's the important thing. Oh, here's a good one: you attended the University of Lower West Side McDonald's in Bradford between 1996 and 1999, where you studied something called 'Ultra-Humanities'. If I may quote the internet, "lolwut?"

Oh yeah. Well, back then, I wanted to do a humanities degree because I thought it would round off my education nicely. It seemed like the perfect accompaniment to the courses I'd already done.

You mean 'Pseudo-Germanic Art History' and 'Comic Book Architecture'?

Yes.

And the 'Ultra' part?

It, er, turned out that was just something they stuck in the title to trick idiots into taking it.

Idiots like you?

Look, I have to go. I've got a lot of studying to do.

I'll let you get back to it then. After all, bright young students like you are the future of this proud nation.

Do svydaniya, comrade.

Hey!

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