



WHO ARE THE KOOKS?

Named after David Bowie's 1971 tune 'Kooks', British indie upstarts The Kooks landed on the scene six years ago with chart-smashing, quadruple-indie platinum debut *Inside In/Inside Out*, which spawned six hit singles, including über-hummable 'You Don't Love Me', 'Naïve' and 'She Moves in Her Own Way', which helped to define the jangly summer sound of 2006. Just teenagers at the time, they famously fell out with contemporaries Arctic Monkeys and Razorlight, then nearly split when their second LP, *Konk*, failed to reach the giddy heights of the first. Fighting back with last year's *Junk of the Heart*, we're looking forward to hearing the band mature into their mid-20s on stage at Chill Out on Saturday 21. For an interview with The Kooks' lead guitarist Hugh Harris, see next week's issue.



5 MINUTES WITH DE LA SOUL'S DAVE

What's the first record you bought?
Issac Hayes, 'Walk on By'.

And the last?
Sade, 'Soldier of Love'.

If your house was on fire, what's the first thing you'd grab?

My lucky jock strap. No, not really. No idea.

The last record that got you on your feet and dancing?

Gorillaz, *Plastic Beach*.

Your speciality in the kitchen?

Lobster ravioli. No joke.

The best rap you heard in the past 12 months?

Watch the Throne [by Jay-Z and Kanye West] was interesting.

The singer whose vocal cords you wish you had?
Barry White.

One more thing you'd like to accomplish in your life?
Retirement!

The De La Soul record you'd give to a girl you'd never heard of you?

'All Good' featuring Chaka Khan.

The weirdest thing on your rider?

Incense sticks.

The best way to relax after coming off stage?

Sauna, steam room, massage. Works every time.

De La Soul play on Friday 20.

Blur played out their farewell single, 'Music is my Radar', with Damon Albarn repeating the line 'Tony Allen got me dancing'. The two became friends ('he bit my ear off', says Allen) and in 2007 made an album together as The Good, The Bad & The Queen.

Recent years have seen an increasing demand for Allen's Afrobeat sound sparked by *Fela!*, a musical based on Kuti's life that debuted on Broadway in NYC in 2009. But while his former boss's

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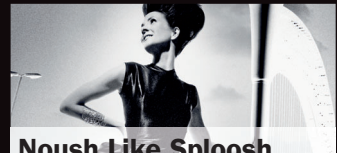
exploits are transformed into after-dinner entertainment, Allen continues to strive for new sounds. His next release will be the debut album from Rocketjuice and The Moon, a funk supergroup with Albarn and Red Hot Chili Peppers' bassist Flea, and vocals from Erykah Badu. He will be bringing a new eight-piece Afrofunk group Black Series ('a criss-cross of strokes from Detroit and Lagos') to Dubai next week.

'I am Afrobeat,' he says, assessing his legacy without irony. 'Drumming Afrobeat is a discipline. You have to feel the music. It's in the mind. It's not in the body. It's the way you feel.' ●

LOCAL ACTS TO CATCH



Employees of the Month Four years after UAE hip-hop collective Diligent Thought split, bandmates Feras Ibrahim, Jibberish and Wriggly Scott get back together with a new outfit. *Friday 20.*



Noush Like Sploosh

The off-the-wall anti-folkster will perform with live backing from UAE-based German video artist Heinz Kahler. *Friday 20.*



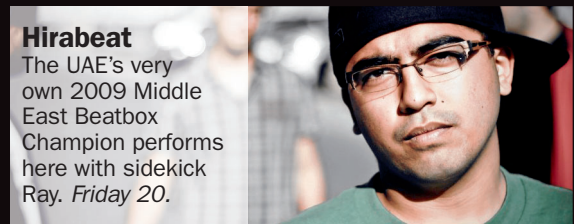
Nikotin

With debut album *Panodrama* set for release within the next month, the UAE rockers are set to go overground. Beat the buzz and hear them here first. *Saturday 21.*



Shelly Frost

The classically trained harpist (and The Fridge founder) plays with Arabic qanun player Khalil Ghadri. *Friday 20.*



Hirabeat

The UAE's very own 2009 Middle East Beatbox Champion performs here with sidekick Ray. *Friday 20.*