

Spotted



Hip-hop duo Rizzle Kicks (left) and their backing band relaxing with some shisha at M-Dek bar

in Media One Hotel. England rugby union players Chris Ashton and Dylan Hartley looking buff at Sandance. British pop star Leona Lewis at Cavalli Club following her gig at Atelier Live Dance Arena.

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Hot seat Kaiser Chiefs' Peanut

After the Brit indie kings rocked Sandance on April 6, *Rob Garratt* met keyboard player Nick 'Peanut' Baines, 34, to talk ageing, annoying hits and band huddles



Your 2004 single, 'I Predict a Riot', was released seven years before the UK riots of 2011. How bored are you of being asked if you predicted it?

It's nice you put it like that. Lesser journalists are always asking us, 'Did you predict the riots?' Of course we didn't – that song was about a night out in Leeds. It's just a disease of the media world to look for the easiest answer.

Is it true you have a group huddle before every gig?

Yeah. We're like a little football club – for some band members it's more superstition that if we don't something will go wrong and all the strings will fall off the guitars. There's also [another] small ritual, but that will be kept secret forever.

There was a big urban festival called Atelier Live in Dubai on the same night as your gig, yet there were no bands on the bill. Are you fearful for the future of guitar music?

It's not going to die completely, but it is in danger. If you look at the charts, you see two guitar songs in the top 40 – that's sad. I just hope kids don't stop picking up guitars and learning Beatles riffs or Black Sabbath or whatever. I strongly believe in lugging your gear in and out of a van and playing to five people in a pub – it gives you passion.

How was your DJ set at Chi in 2010?

It was great. When you go to a new place far away from home you're always nervous, and I was really worried before we started they wouldn't like the music we played. But it was a really cool crowd.

Kaiser Chiefs' singles collection, Souvenir: The Singles 2004-2012, is scheduled for release in June.

Now the dust has settled on your 'create your own album' concept (2010's *The Future is Medieval*), do you still think it was a good idea?

We invented something new. Bands have crazy ideas all the time, like floating down the Thames or going up in a hot air balloon, and this was a pub idea on the back of a cigarette packet – but it worked and we broke all the rules. We'll always be the first band ever that invited fans to create their own bespoke album.

You've just announced the release of a singles collection. Does that make you feel old?

It definitely changes the way you look at the band: you realise how many songs you've had and how many [songs] people know. It's not that you feel old, but I still feel like I'm

watching a different person and there's this other me that's been in a band for the past eight years.

We heard there was a girl called Ruby who got bullied because of your number one hit, so you met her to say sorry. Is it true?

We invited her backstage to apologise for all the hassle it

'Of course we didn't predict the UK riots'

caused her! It's quite a sweet story. The song itself came from something unrelated. We've kind of left the story of who or what Ruby is to history, but it wasn't about that girl.

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