

**Tune Up**

■ The Brownies will continue their run of summer success this weekend with an appearance at the Offset Festival. The Norwich alternative punk-indie band were specifically chosen by in-the-know music mag *Atrocker* to play the main-stage at the festival in Hainault Forest, in Essex, as part of a bill that also includes The Horrors, The Slits, Metronomy and Wild Beasts. "It has been a great year," said lead singer Sophie Little, "but this is the icing on the cake, I really can't believe it." The band have already this year played major festivals such as The Camden Crawl, The Great Escape, Latitude and completed their first three week UK Tour. In June the band released their debut album, *Ourknife Yourback*, prompting *Atrocker* to enthuse: "It's shouty-faced pop punk that's pocketed Riot Grrr!'s bite, and been trapped under an avalanche of glowing pop hooks on the escape." The band's new single, *Dance Romance*, will be out next month.



[www.myspace.com/thebrownies](http://www.myspace.com/thebrownies)

■ Also gracing the Offset stage will be Norwich's finest art-punks Bearsuit, who will be taking a breather from the studio, where they've been holed up working on new tracks. It should make up for the last minute cancellation of the Woolfite Festival at which they had been due to appear.

[www.bearsuit.co.uk](http://www.bearsuit.co.uk)

■ Former Beccles band Plan Nine, who are making serious headway in the London music scene, are currently in preliminary talks for a deal with Apple iPhone, which could see them play a large concert with Jamiroquai.

The four-piece, who recently returned to play their home town at the second Harvest Moon Festival at Beccles Quay, originally had a 70s-influenced rock sound, but they've lately become all together funkier, drawing more on the work of artists such as Prince. "It's a bit funkier and our songs are shorter now," said Will Vaughn, lead singer and rhythm guitarist. "It's much more single material. We've grown out of long indulgent rock songs, it's more about having fun."

[www.myspace.com/plannineband](http://www.myspace.com/plannineband)

■ The Garage, in Chapelfield, hosts another Slam Night promoting the talents of young beatboxers, breakdancers and body-poppers tonight. The event, from 7.30pm, will include performances from acclaimed beatboxer MC Subminor (pictured) and Jody Schroeder, a professional breakdancer whose skills have landed him several major film-roles. It will also boast guest appearances from Future Projects in-house MCs; Encore, Sheringham's very own Slam crew and a whole host of talented local young people eager to share their creative talent. A popular set of the night is the 'scratch round' - where performances can be anything from breakdancing to poetry, each act lasting just two minutes and are open for anyone to perform.



A voting system allows the audience to select their favourite and the chosen act is then invited back to perform a guest spot at the next Slam Night. Tickets are £3, available on the door.

[www.thegarage.org.uk](http://www.thegarage.org.uk)

■ Local band, music and gig news can be emailed to [goingout@archant.co.uk](mailto:goingout@archant.co.uk)

# From sunny Melbourne to London... and now Norwich

Having appeared at Latitude earlier this summer, the release of their debut album sees Australian indie four-piece The Temper Trap return as part their first UK tour. **ROB GARRATT** spoke to drummer Toby Dundas.

Two years after they released their initial EP in their native Australia, The Temper Trap have been whipping up a storm at various festivals this summer, including a storming set at Latitude in July.

The Melbourne quartet produce an atmospheric, captivating sound, created using grand guitars, pulsating rhythms and yearning vocals.

Their debut album, *Conditions*, full of chiming guitars, sweeping crescendos, and cherubic falsetto vocals, was helmed by renowned British producer Jim Abbiss, who has previously worked with Arctic Monkeys, Adele, Björk and Kasabian, and who flew down under especially to work with them.

"They're about to return to this region as part of their hotly anticipated debut full UK tour."

**You must be thrilled to have the album out.** It was quite something. It's been a really long process - the band's been going almost five years and indirectly we've been working on it for three years, writing songs, recording, and playing lots of gigs. Making a follow-up will be a daunting thing.

**You've picked up quite a buzz already.** We've had a few little hicks that are going to need more work, but for a small band from Australia we've been surprised by the response we've had.

**How did you guys meet?** Me and Dougy [Mandagi] worked in a clothes shop where we attempted to sell jeans to people and together we wanted to start a band. We had a few jams with some friends. Johnny [Aherne] came in a few weeks later because a guy who was supposed to show up didn't. Dougy taught him a bit of guitar and a bit of bass and then we started writing songs and playing shows. Lorenzo [Sillitto] and me were friends already and when his band broke up he came in. That made us four.

**And how did you go about crafting your sound?** We never really did covers. Dougy had songs at the start and we started off playing them. It developed and we added things as we got more confident on our instruments, we started using samplers and it got to the stage where we needed another person on stage.

**What about song writing?** Dougy writes all the lyrics and in the beginning he was the main music writer. It just depends on the song, sometimes people will come in with an idea, other times it's more developed. A couple of times they've come out of jams.

**How are audiences here compared to back home?** The UK audience are very similar to Melbourne, they're very music-savvy and have a bit of a folded-arms attitude, 'come and impress me'. There's so many great bands here you've really got to put in the effort to stand out from the crowd. In Europe they're really up for having a good time, you don't have to work as hard.

**You made some of the album over in London too.** We did 90pc of it in Melbourne, but we came in and added a few bits here and did some B-sides, that sort of thing.

We worked with Jim Abbiss an English guy, and he came out to Australia for most of it so it made sense for us to come over here the next time.



**Jim is a big name, working with the Arctic Monkeys, Editors, Kasabian...did you ask for him or did he find you?** His manager saw us play a show in Australia and thought Jim would want to work with a band like us. Jim and his wife were driving across the country listening to a big pile of CDs and we came on and, so the story goes, they looked at each other and had a moment, and he said to her "you want me to produce this band, don't you?" It took eight months to get him to Australia before we could hit record.

**A lot of people compare you to bands like Radiohead and Arcade Fire. What do you say to that?** Radiohead are certainly a band that we've admired for a long time and have been a great influence.

■ **Temper Trap play Norwich Arts Centre on September 18.**

■ **Further listening:** [www.myspace.com/thetempertap](http://www.myspace.com/thetempertap)

## Live previews: The return of Magoo



**Magoo**  
Norwich Arts Centre, September 4

Norfolk-based Peel favourites Magoo make a long-awaited return to the Norwich Arts Centre tonight, previewing material from their forthcoming sixth studio album, due out early next year.

The band have enjoyed a two-year break from performing to concentrate on writing and recording the latest long-player at their newly-expanded studio, The Sickroom, deep in the heart of the Norfolk countryside.

Originally formed in the early 1990s by multi-instrumentalist and producer Owen Turner and singer-songwriter Andrew Rayner, the band has constantly striven to widen the narrow confines of mainstream pop.

The band have had no fewer than 15 musicians involved in various projects over the years. Currently, the line-up has been modified by the hiatus of Jenny Heagren, their long-time bassist, encouraging Owen to strap on the bass for the live performances and Dave Lake, lead guitarist with former local heroes, Kaito, coming on board.

Support comes from the sensual sounds of The Middle Ones and the more urgent statements of Cruiser Chimps with Elsub's own Artful Roger spinning discs in the bar.

■ **Further listening:** [www.myspace.com/magoouk](http://www.myspace.com/magoouk)



**Average White Band**  
Waterfront, September 7

Widely regarded as one of the best soul and funk bands around, the Average White Band are perhaps best known for their timeless instrumental classic *Pick Up The Pieces*.

However the band's strength actually lay in their consistently accomplished song-writing, stretching across several gold-selling albums and multi-Grammy nominations for the legendary Atlantic Records.

Somewhat incongruously, given their Scottish roots, the six-piece took the influences of their R&B heroes - people like Marvin Gaye, James Brown, Donny Hathaway and others - and developed their own 'authentic' sound which was eagerly adopted by black audiences in the US and elsewhere.

While songs such as *Cut The Cake* and *Let's Go Round Again* attracted chart action as hit singles, many other album tracks, like *Schoolboy Crush* and *Stop The Rain* became much sampled and turned into 'rare' grooves. The current line-up of the band - this time with noted US recruits augmenting founder members Alan Gorrie and Onnie McIntyre continue to record and tour around the world to critical and audience acclaim. The band's latest release *Times Squared*, a 13-track live CD recorded in New York City, came out in March.

■ **Further listening:** [www.myspace.com/theaveragewhiteband](http://www.myspace.com/theaveragewhiteband)



**They Came From The Stars, I Saw Them**  
Norwich Arts Centre, September 7

Since forming through necessity and a series of accidents in 1999, this unfeasibly long-titled band have passed through many incarnations, going from the sublime to the ridiculous.

In that time they've playing a one note song in 1/1 time for a whole month, released Christmas disco records and 25-minute long prog epics, caused the odd riot, started a few discos, several custard pie fights and played everywhere from public toilets to the Queen Elizabeth Hall. Along the way they have picked up celebrity fans including Jarvis Cocker, who put them on at his Meltdown festival bill.

Last year's hooky single, *(It's always) Boomtime*, Part One, saw a pop video featuring cameos from Autechre's Sean Booth and none other than Dexty's wild-hearted frontman Kevin Rowland spiriting the band to their next adventure in a helicopter.

Although there have been up to 25 members in the past, the band currently numbers four, and they've honed their sound down to a big pop party.

Support comes from Norwich band Tell Me How.

■ **Further listening:** [www.myspace.com/theycamefromthestarsisawthem](http://www.myspace.com/theycamefromthestarsisawthem)

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# Bank holiday Brickfest fun

## music notes with Kingsley Harris

It was a cracking Bank Holiday Monday at the Brickfest; 30 local music acts and the correct guess from the Met Office. What more could you ask for?

When I arrived it was packed inside and out. I settled in at the acoustic marquee for **DOG DAYS OF SUMMER**, an ole time bluegrass folk outfit incorporating banjos and mandolins, playing covers such as Queens' *Fat Bottom Girls*, in a soggy bottom boy's style.

Next up was **RORY HILL** from The Kabeedies with his solo set, pointing out that it's not cool to like Leo Sayer; followed by Luke Palmer (ex-Tenex) and guest, for some lightweight strummed pop, a cross between Darius and, if you can remember him, Craig McLachlan. It's not my cup of tea but it was well executed.

I move inside to the originals stage and stumble on **BONEYARD REVOLT**, an eclectic mix of musicians churning out a crossbred genre of classic punk and psychobilly. It's raw and infectious. One of my highlights was their final number *Singing In The Streets*.

Moving through to the covers stage I find my low tolerance of covers bands continues. I'm listening to **IN RAPTURE**, a



**ED SHEERAN**  
newish band. However, I feel justified in saying this band were awful. It's as though they've never heard the tracks that they were covering. All the musicians were individually competent at one time or another but didn't click together at any point.

I returned to the acoustic marquee for the evening finale, with great sets from **SLIGHTLY OFFENSIVE STEVE**, who ironically is the least offensive person I've ever met.



**FORTUNE ROOKIE**  
His version of Tenacious D's *Hug Her Gently* was tastefully edited. It's all tongue-in-cheek stuff but as Ed Sheeran pointed out, the fun is watching those who don't get his act at all.

The magnificent **JESS MORGAN** played a selection from her forthcoming album before leaving **ED SHEERAN** to mop up the remaining applause. Ed's single for Island Records is due out next February and if there's any justice it should attract a lot of good attention.

Back inside I forgo a return to the covers stage in favour of seeing the remaining original acts. Rock-based **FORTUNE ROOKIE** were unlucky in 2007 in their quest for title of the region's Next Big Thing. Probably one of the most

technically gifted bands, they back it up with good songs; downside to this band for me is their name.

**TIN MAN** are always a joy, another set of talented musicians writing in a poppier, late seventies early eighties New Wave style.

**THE BARLIGHTS** are proving a bit of a live force at the moment, a 300 strong crowd witnessed their album launch earlier in the year although tonight their luck deserted them with guitars and amps deciding not to work. It was a truncated set with a few unexpected treats thrown in to paper over the disintegrating back line. It was amusing to watch, as I've never seen so many things go wrong in one set but it was light hearted and all for charity so nobody minded.

## sounds in the city

**September 4**  
**Magoo** (indie) — Arts Centre  
**Pure Passion** (rock) — Brickmakers  
**Mary Jones Scandal** (rock/punk) — King Edward VII  
**Mollyhawk** (Irish) — Cider Shed  
**The Planks** (R&B) — Blueberry  
**Mr Pink** (rock/funk) — Heartsease Pub  
**UB Marley** (reggae/ska) — Mustard Pot

**September 5**  
**Fei Comodo** (metal) — Arts Centre  
**Jim Bob** (indie) — Marquee  
**Adriano Trindade** (Brazilian) — Café Brazil/St Gregory's Centre  
**Tendahooks** (rock) — Brickmakers  
**Rawkus** (rock/R&B) — Blueberry  
**Andy Robinson Band** (blues/rock) — King Edward VII  
**Nitrous X** (rock/blues) — Lakenham Cock  
**Eastern Underground** (drum n bass/jungle) — The Regal  
**Johnny Jump** (R&B) — The Nelson

**September 6**  
**Keno Kings** (blues) — King Edward VII  
**Jugsout** (punk) — Marquee  
**The Harvs** (acoustic/folk) — Cider Shed  
**The Citizens** (indie) — The Stanley  
**Lee Vases Big Band** (12pm) — Brickmakers  
**Steve Pyarotti** (singer) — Mustard Pot

**September 7**  
**Average White Band** (soul/funk) — Waterfront  
**They Came From The Stars, I Saw Them** (indie) — Arts Centre  
**Branded By Fate** (hardcore) — Marquee  
**Jazz Jam** (jazz) — Blueberry  
**Darkside** — Marquee  
**Rampant Horse Collective** (folk) — Rumsey Wells  
**The Sessions** (open mic) — Brickmakers

**September 8**  
**Storm** (rock) — Brickmakers

**September 9**  
**Cold Hands** (indie/rock) — Marquee  
**Trio 73** (jazz) — Arts Centre  
**The Session** (Irish) — Cider Shed  
**Pure Acoustic** (open mic) — Brickmakers  
**Blues/Rock Jam** — Blueberry

**September 10**  
**Juliet Turner** (Irish/folk) — Arts Centre  
**Rules of Romance** (rock) — B2  
**i-Band** (rock) — Brickmakers  
**Against The Grain** (R&B) — Blueberry  
**The Rum Brothers** (Irish/country) — Rose Tavern

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