

TIME OUT

Taupe are raring to shake up Tolbooth

THE first Strange Behaviours show of 2017 starts with an immediate tangent into the left field with free-jazz/math rock trio Taupe.

An instrumental three-piece (guitar, sax, drums) who blend math rock flavours with moments of free jazz and noise, Taupe are all subtlety and flow. Think tight jazz grooves descending into freeform tailspin, only to steer it out in perfect sync to float headily on soundscape/noise textures til you finally come to and realise your mouth has been hanging open the whole time.

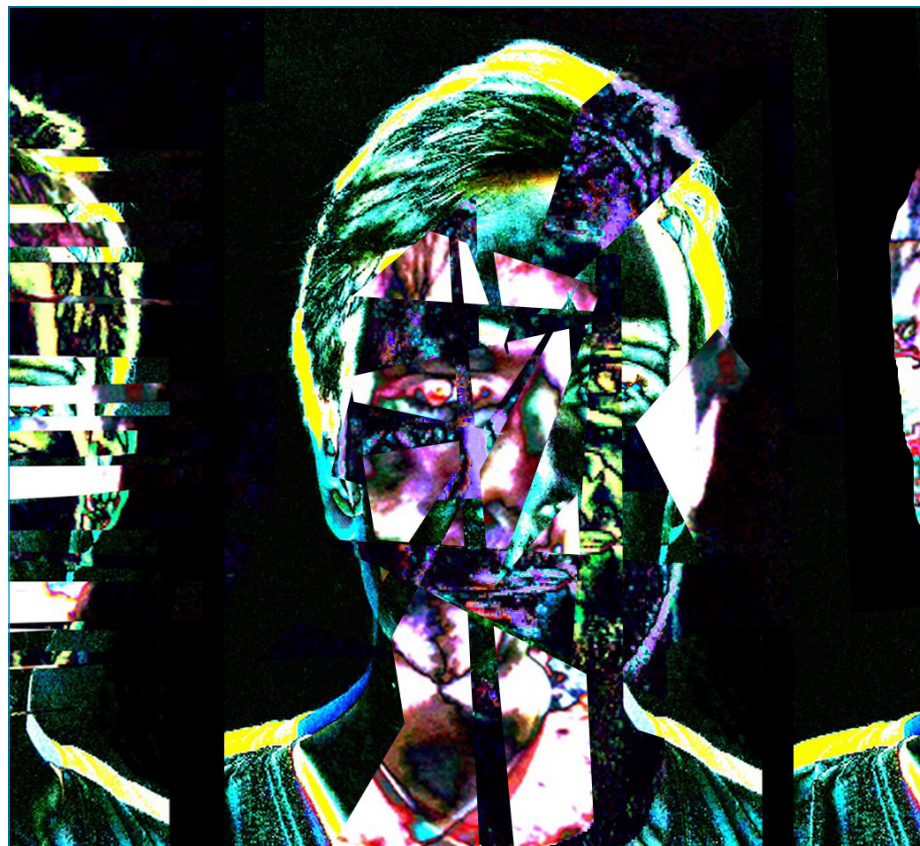
With members spread between Edinburgh and Newcastle, the band are touring off the full endorsement of their adoring public, with a successful Kickstarter campaign allowing them to record and release the album they'll be playing at this show.

A jaw-dropping and utterly engaging live band, their approach is built on blurring the line between carefully constructed rhythmic compositions and explosive group improvisation. Taupe thrive on the danger of this ambiguity, deconstructing their music in real time to weave fresh and dynamic paths through their material with each performance.

In support are Glasgow's Yolo Manolo, a band blending elements of indie pop with shoegaze dynamics and meandering, hypnotic bass grooves. The band have played just a handful of shows around their home city, with their debut EP garnering a reputation for bittersweet melodies and instrumentation leaning on the best of 90s US indie subculture.

Completing the line-up is Niamh Baker, a relative newcomer both to the Stirlingshire music community and gigging in general. A sweet voice obscured behind brash electric guitar and a burning energy, her songs are soaked in melancholy and guarded aggression.

Kenny Bates, music development officer at the Tolbooth, said: "Really excited to be



bringing Taupe through to Stirling. I used to put monthly shows on with bands like Taupe through in Glasgow and these guys were one of the special ones which made you stop in your tracks and watch in awe and silence.

"Yolo Manolo is another really original and compelling band, and Niamh is an excellent songwriter, so it's going to be a spe-

cial one.

"We're even setting out the auditorium space in a whole different way to accommodate it, should be fun."

The gig will take place on Saturday, February 25. Tickets are available from the Box Office on 01786 274 000 or via culturestirling.org/tolbooth

Ode to Panic Prevention by Calum Loudon

HOUSE parties to street binges, bad break-ups to first loves, cities to suburbs, and every messy mistake that comes with being caught up in the hedonistic side of British culture as a youth.

Post millennial British youth culture has never been encapsulated as well as in Jamie T's debut album.

Ten years ago Panic Prevention burst into the UK charts, and it made people stand up and notice.

Jamie Treays had just turned 21, and you couldn't find a better placed person to guide us through these tales of alcohol and drug abuse, first loves and teenage angst.

The album combines all the tracks to make a frightening mix of rap, indie, reggae, folk and punk. Made in his bedroom and pushed on by his mates, the album tells tales of British youth that take place in his home town of Wimbledon.

Some of the tales are heart-warming, such as Back in the Game, talking about a person finding positivity after a break up, or heart breaking, such as 'Sheila', three stories with tragic ends about working class youths in London.

All the songs on the album have their own stories to decipher - hidden underneath the slang lyrics - yet the songs were all deep with richness and depth, underlined with Jamie's own passion.

Jamie has managed to still stand the test of time to remain as relevant as ever, and has even shown the innovation to change his styles the older he gets.

After the buzz of the first album, Jamie T went on to create another two hit albums, before going out the limelight for a while. Fans were concerned, and his presence was definitely being missed.

However in 2014, he came back with a bang, releasing hit single Don't You Find and playing massive UK festivals such as T in the Park, Glastonbury, Reading and Leeds.

His comeback shows and album received acclaim all round, with critics praising his adaption to change his style to a more mature sense.

His ability to tell a story through his music remains as fresh as ever.

Jamie T was a voice for the younger generation, those who didn't get a chance to get their stories told. Panic

Prevention will certainly still be being listened to in another 10 years' time.

Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom ready to make moves



YOUNGSTERS can receive their regular dose of fairy-tale magic when Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom comes to Dunfermline this month.

The acclaimed stage show, from the creators of the Peppa Pig theatre tours, will arrive at the Alhambra Theatre on February

25-26.

Fiery Light Productions have brought all the magic of the show on the small screen to the stage in a visual delight for preschoolers.

Ben and Holly have fun and games helping Gaston clean up his messy cave; they go

on a trip to The Big World with tooth-fairy Nanny Plum; and still have time to plan a surprise for King Elf's birthday party, complete with an unplanned jelly flood.

For booking information, visit alhambra-dunfermline.com or call the box office on 01383 740 384.

