

FOR THE RECORD

EXPOSED MUSIC WRITER NICK HARLAND PREVIEWS SOME OF THE BIG RELEASES HEADING OUR WAY...

THE VACCINES PICK-UP FULL OF PINK CARNATIONS - 12 JAN

Although Vaccines hit worldwide fame in recent years, things haven't quite hit the same heights yet for the South London four-piece. Maybe 2024 will finally be their year, as they return with their addictive brand of radio-friendly indie bangers. Expect killer riffs and catchy choruses – but sadly still no vaccine-based songs. It's never too late to reference a substance that stimulates the production of antibodies in one of your songs, lads.

FUTURE ISLANDS PEOPLE WHO AREN'T THERE ANYMORE - 26 JAN

It's almost 10 years to the day since Future Islands appeared on The Late Show with David Letterman, where frontman Samuel T. Herring delivered one of the most staggering/amazing/terrifying performances you're ever likely to see on live TV. It led to overnight success for the Baltimore group, and three albums later their soulful synth-pop is no less enticing than ever.

THE LAST DINNER PARTY PRELUDE TO ECSTASY - 2 FEB

Arguably the most famous dinner party since Jesus Christ, The Last Dinner Party were catapulted to fame off the back of debut single 'Nothing Matters', and now their debut album will follow in early 2024. Expect theatrical choruses, baroque stylings and more than a nod to a certain Kate Bush (y'know, that person who had a song on the Stranger Things soundtrack).

HELADO NEGRO PHASOR - 9 FEB

Things don't get much more chilled out than Helado Negro's blissful blend of hazy electronica and acid-fuelled psychedelia. The Ecuadorian-American will return in 2024 with 'Phasor'; his 8th album of a prolific 14-year career. It'll be the perfect pick-me-up to the self-loathing you'll inevitably feel after renegeing on all of your new year's resolutions by February.

IDLES TANGK - 16 FEB

It's not the best name for an album, and I've never been overly keen on the name Idles either. But don't let that put you off – TANGK was co-produced by Radiohead collaborator Nigel Godrich, and features guest contributions from LCD Soundsystem. Judging from early singles 'Dancer' and 'Grace', it should make for a fascinating departure from IDLES' well-established post-punk fury.

YARD ACT WHERE'S MY UTOPIA? - 1 MARCH

Leeds quartet Yard Act aren't messing about, following hot on the heels of their breakout year in 2023 with sophomore album 'Where's My Utopia?' Early indications suggest it finds the band questioning whether that rock'n'roll life is all it's cracked up to be. But before your eyes start completely glazing over, check out pre-album single 'Dream Job' to get an idea of Yard Act's clever spin on age-old lyrical tropes (with a devilishly funky backing track thrown in for good measure).

THE LIBERTINES ALL QUIET ON THE EASTERN ESPLANADE - 8 MARCH

An album name with a not-so-subtle reference to a literary classic? Check. Songs with England or Albion in the title? Check. Esteemed indie producer at the helm? Check. Look: all I'm saying is that you probably shouldn't expect a massive departure from The Libertines' playbook here. And I'm absolutely fine with that. All aboard the good ship Libertine!

CHANCE THE RAPPER STAR LINE GALLERY - TBA

It has been a quiet few years in the music biz for Chancelor Johnathan Bennett, who has shifted his focus from music to TV since the release of the genuinely dreadful 'My Big Day' in 2019. But he's back next year, and although details remain scarce, if Chance hits the heights of 2013's 'Acid Rap' and 2016's 'Coloring Book' then you can expect one of the year's finest releases. Just don't quote me on that (unless it actually turns out to be one of the year's finest releases).

DUA LIPA TBA - TBA

You can never predict who's going to headline Glastonbury, but I am going to (fairly) confidently predict that a certain Dua Lipa will be top of the bill at Worthy Farm in 2024. She has a new album in the pipeline before then, with first single 'Houdini' suggesting a shift away from the disco and club-infused sound of her previous album 'Future Nostalgia.' And since I'm now in the business of making potential-egg-on-face predictions, I also predict that it will be a total banger.

ANTONY SZMIEREK TBA - TBA

Given that Antony Szmierek hasn't actually announced a new album, this one is more out of hope than expectation. The Manchester poet-cum-spoken word artist had a stellar year in 2023, going from underground word-noodler to appearing live on Jools Holland and being named as one of BBC 6 Music's artists of the year. I'm desperate to hear more from him – let's hope he also reveals how to pronounce his surname when his first full-length finally arrives.