

Katie CAMPBELL

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ROCK, POP & ANYTHING ELSE



Singles

NICO'S ALCHEMY: Fundamental Darkness. This mix of blues-founded instrumentals and 70s-inspired rock is for the purists as Nico Tamburella lets his guitar do the talking – and it sure has a lot to say. The vocals from Candido have that melodic rock warble as Nico ignites his own sense of pyrotechnic semi-psychedelia. As he's the driving force and the four-strong band is named after him, expect plenty of solos. He's been playing since he was 10 and was in his first band just four years later. He and Candido – an Italian – share a love of Deep Purple, Rainbow and Led Zeppelin. You can tell. In the late 1990s Nico lost his musical mojo, but rediscovered it when he discovered Buddhism and Fundamental Darkness is a Buddhist term indicating internal hell. He's over that now.

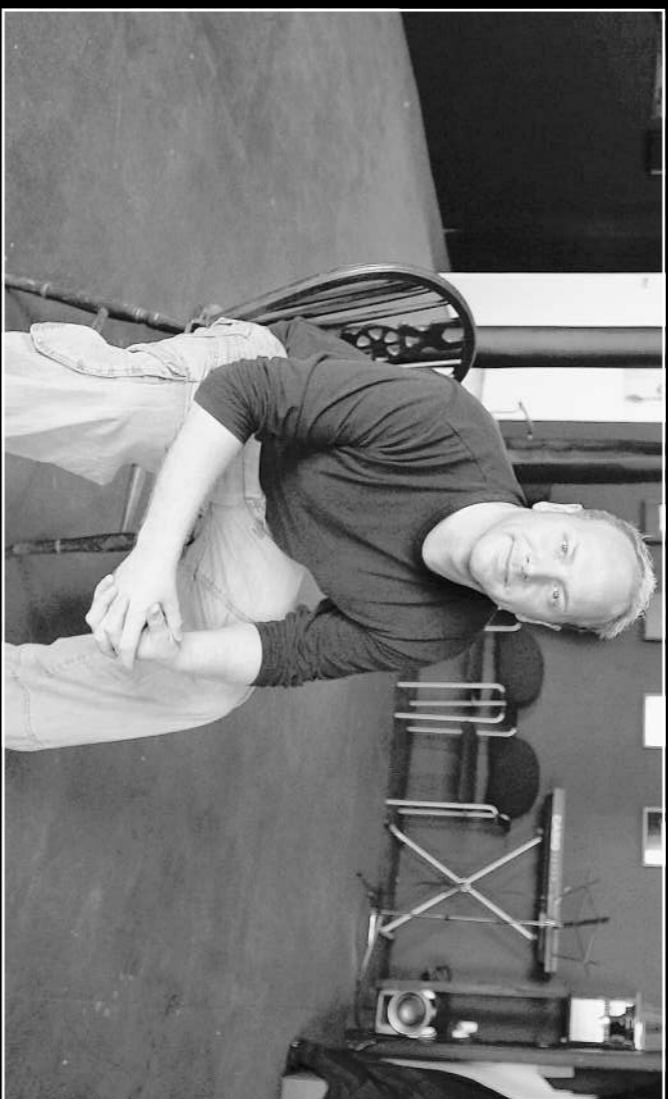
SERGEANT BUZFUZ: High Slang. A mish mash of pop, psychedelia, Celtic folk, punk and rock from the six-piece who now hail from south London yet have Sheffield-born songsmith Joe Murphy at their heart. The songs involve off-the-wall, sad and creepily funny story-telling. Here Come The Popes harken back to popes from the Middle Ages while the subject at the centre of In The Back Of My Cab is, unfortunately, Jonathan Ross – but fortunately without Russell Bland. It sets out to be obscure and succeeds. Radio 2's Mark Lamarr likes them apparently.

RANDOM HAND: Inhale Exhale. Now this is a car crash of an album – bumpy brass ska projecting itself head-on into guttural hip hop and thrash rock. The Keighley band sure has an identity crisis. One minute they're like Madness, the next its total madness. Each band member has brought something wildly different to the party. Surely they won't get on for long.

ERASURE: Total Pop. No less than 40 hits. This isn't the first time the synth duo have had a greatest compilation out and this is hung precariously on a remix of their 1994 hit, Always. There's even a four-disc boxed set out that includes a live disc and a DVD of BBC performances from 1986 to 2005. Devotees only for that one. Andy Bell and Vince Clarke's hits include Sometimes, Oh L'Amour, Star, A Little Respect, Stop!, Stay With Me and covers such as Take A Chance On Me. If you're not on their wavelength it's all a terrible nightmare.

Andy Hirst

Pub drama sets the Benchmark



THEATRE FOR THE PEOPLE: Paul Danby, Artistic Director, of Benchmark Theatre

PUB-BASED play Two is returning to The Parish next month. Two, written by Jim Cartwright, is a bittersweet comedy which tells the story of the regulars of a local, northern pub. It was first performed by Benchmark Theatre at the Kirkgate venue in June last year, as part of their bid to offer alternative events to customers.

The play proved popular with punters and will return on March 29 at 8pm.

Performed in the main bar area, the play itself is set in a pub and featured two actors who transform into 14 characters, including the bickering landlord and landlady, a con artist job and a lonely man who talks to his late wife.

Paul Danby, of Benchmark, said: "Too many people see the theatre as an elitist past time. That's why we like to perform in alternative venues. If some people are put off by the 'theatre', then we will take the 'theatre' to them."

Indie stars hope to be flyings high



Georddie indie-electro stars Suzi Won will be rocking Huddersfield tomorrow night

They will be performing at Flying Circus on Cross Church Street, bringing the house down with their energetic and electrifying set.

Suzi Won are three boys from Newcastle who have been making a name for themselves not only in the north east but across the UK.

They performed on the Carling Academy Live Tour in 2008 and met with a warm reception for their sound, which has been described as 'electro rave rock'.

Suzi Won draw on influences from recent favourite indie acts like the Klaxons but mix these synth-tinged riffs with a touch of rock melody, harking back to the early work of Lostprophets.

They are becoming known as much for their frenzied energy as their bizarre stage style – fluorescent face paints couple with clothes that make them look like a

cross breed of the Mighty Boosh's Vince Noir and Adam and The Ants.

Suzi Won are gigging hard in the run up to the release of their first single, Bleak Ends, which is released on March 9.

You can catch them at Flying Circus from 8pm. For more visit www.myspace.com/suzi_won



HIT MAKERS: Pop duo Erasure

not on their wavelength it's all a terrible nightmare.

Andy Hirst