

Advance

MC SOLAAR is young, gifted, black – and Francophonic. Push reckons this won't stop him getting through to an English-speaking audience

MC SOLAAR does not conform to the rap stereotype. Not by a long chalk. His voice is soft and his manners are from another age. He even stands up when a lady enters the room. He also smiles a lot. And he raps entirely in French.

Born in Dakar, raised in Cairo and a resident of Paris since his early teens, MC Solaar is the hottest name in France. His debut album, "Qui Seme Le Vent Recolte Le Tempo" ("Who Sows The Wind Will Reap The Beat"), has spawned four Top

20 singles and sold over 200,000 copies in his adopted country. It's now about to be released in the UK on Talkin Loud. And hopes are high.

"Yes, I believe it is possible for me to be successful artist in Britain," says Solaar. "But I don't want people to buy the album because they think it will be trendy to have a French rap record. I want them to buy it because it's a good record."

"Qui Seme Le Vent Recolte Le Tempo" is actually better than good. The music, which comes courtesy of Parisian DJ/

producer Jimmy Jay, is a vibrant blend of funky beats and jazzy samples. Gang Starr asked to remix the title cut after hearing it just once. Solaar's deliveries are way cool, too: the French language is obviously ideally suited to jazz-rap.

Nevertheless, there is still the problem that most people on this side of The Channel aren't going to understand a word of Solaar's rhymes. It really is a shame, not least because of the bold subjects he tackles. One song tells of a middle-aged man who loses his job, his family and his home and ends up dying in a psychiatric hospital. Another is about Tiananmen Square.

"They are sad stories but there

is humour in the songs too," says Solaar. "All of my lyrics have different levels, different depths, and it is impossible to translate the word play and language tricks. But it's still possible for English people to find meanings in the music and the way my voice is used."

"My inspiration comes from poets like Baudelaire and Jacques Prevert, and rappers like Big Daddy Kane. I am also a fan of *Les Ouvroir De Literature Potentielle*, a group of writers who used language in a special way. One, Georges Perec, wrote a novel without using the letter E once. It's amazing."

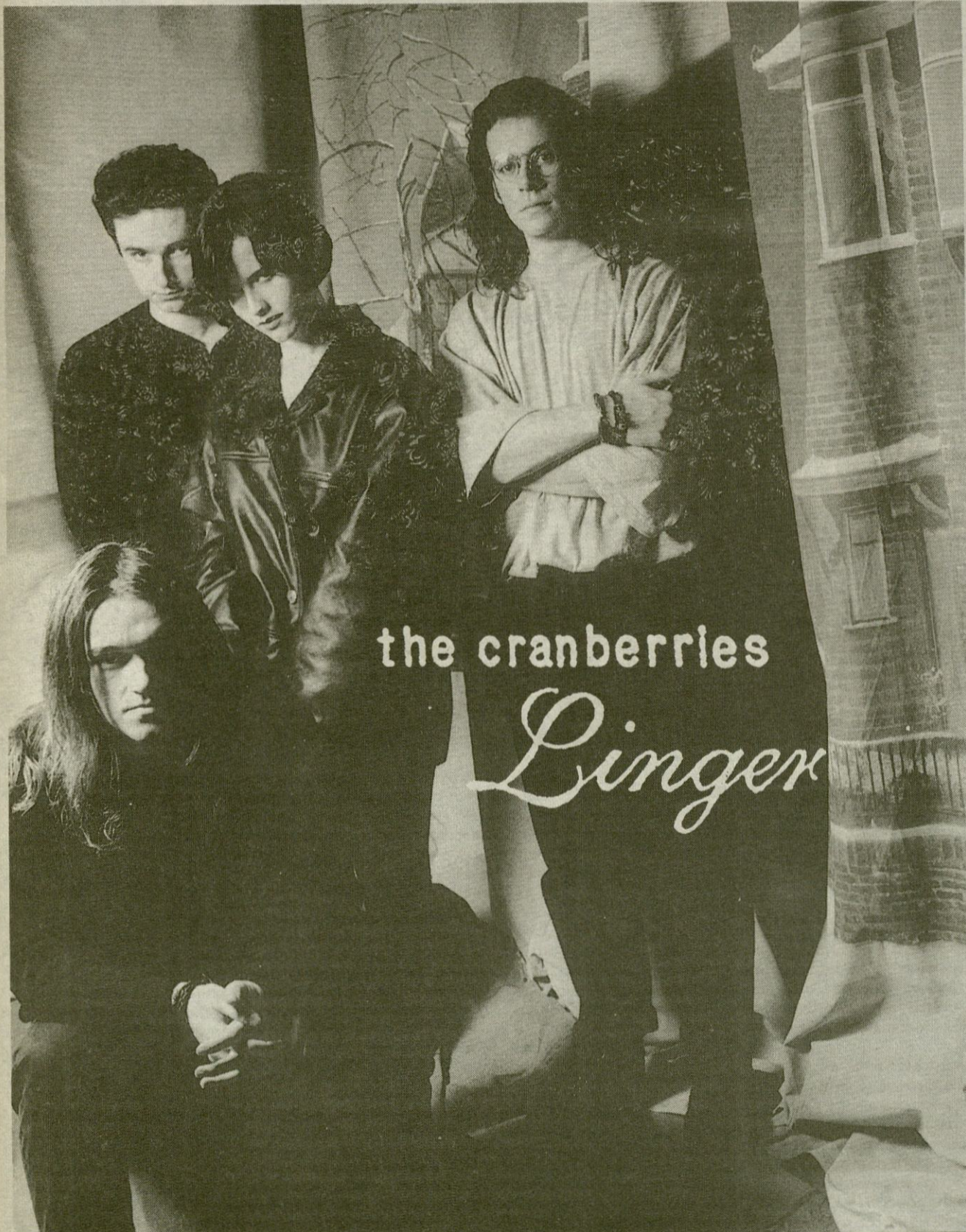
As is the rise of countless French rap acts in the last three

solaar so good

years. Although none have been as successful as MC Solaar, it may not be long before UK hip hop fans are familiar with names like IAM, Supreme NTM (it stands for *Nigue Ta Mere* – work it out),

Soon-E, Fabulous Troubadours and Daddy Yod. *Maintenant: écoutez et repetez.*

'*Qui Seme Le Vent Recolte Le Tempo*' is out now on Talkin Loud



the cranberries

Linger

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ON TOUR WITH BELLY IN FEBRUARY

WED 10 MANCHESTER • UNIVERSITY THUR 11 LIVERPOOL • CRAZY HOUSE
FRI 12 LEEDS • IRISH CENTRE SAT 13 WOLVERHAMPTON • WULFRUN HALL SUN 14 LEICESTER • UNIVERSITY
TUES 16 HULL • TOWER BALLROOM WED 17 NEWCASTLE • RIVERSIDE FRI 19 GLASGOW • QMU SAT 20 SHEFFIELD • LEADMILL
SUN 21 MILTON KEYNES • WUGHTON CENTRE TUES 23 PORTSMOUTH • PYRAMIDS CENTRE WED 24 CAMBRIDGE • JUNCTION THUR 25 LONDON • ULU



BLAG!

**WIN
SUPERCHUNK
VIDEOS**

Those premier paragons of post-punk pre-pubescence, known to an adoring public as Superchunk, can now be adored by the public in the privacy of its own home. The reason: their new video, "Take The Tube". Recorded at ULU on last year's tour, "Tube" features oodles of brattish, guitar-twanging mayhem just like mother used to make, and we have 15 copies to give away to eager Chunkies, as their fans are no doubt known. Yow and, dare we say it, sa!

Write to: "Take The Tube" Competition, Advance, BLAG Vol 2 No 7, Melody Maker, 26th Floor, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS

WED FEB 17

BIRMINGHAM Moseley, Jug Of Ale... 449-1082. Weird's War + Jonis Butterfly... BRISTOL Fleece & Firkin...

LONDON Camden, Falcon, NW1, 071-485-3834: Appleberry Crescent + Tumblefoot... HASTINGS The Croyer Radio Moscow...

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THU FEB 18

ABERDEEN Pelican Club, The Bhandu Boys... ABERYSTWYTH Rosie O'Grady's Duddy... BATH Males, 0225-333423: Surreal + The Pier...

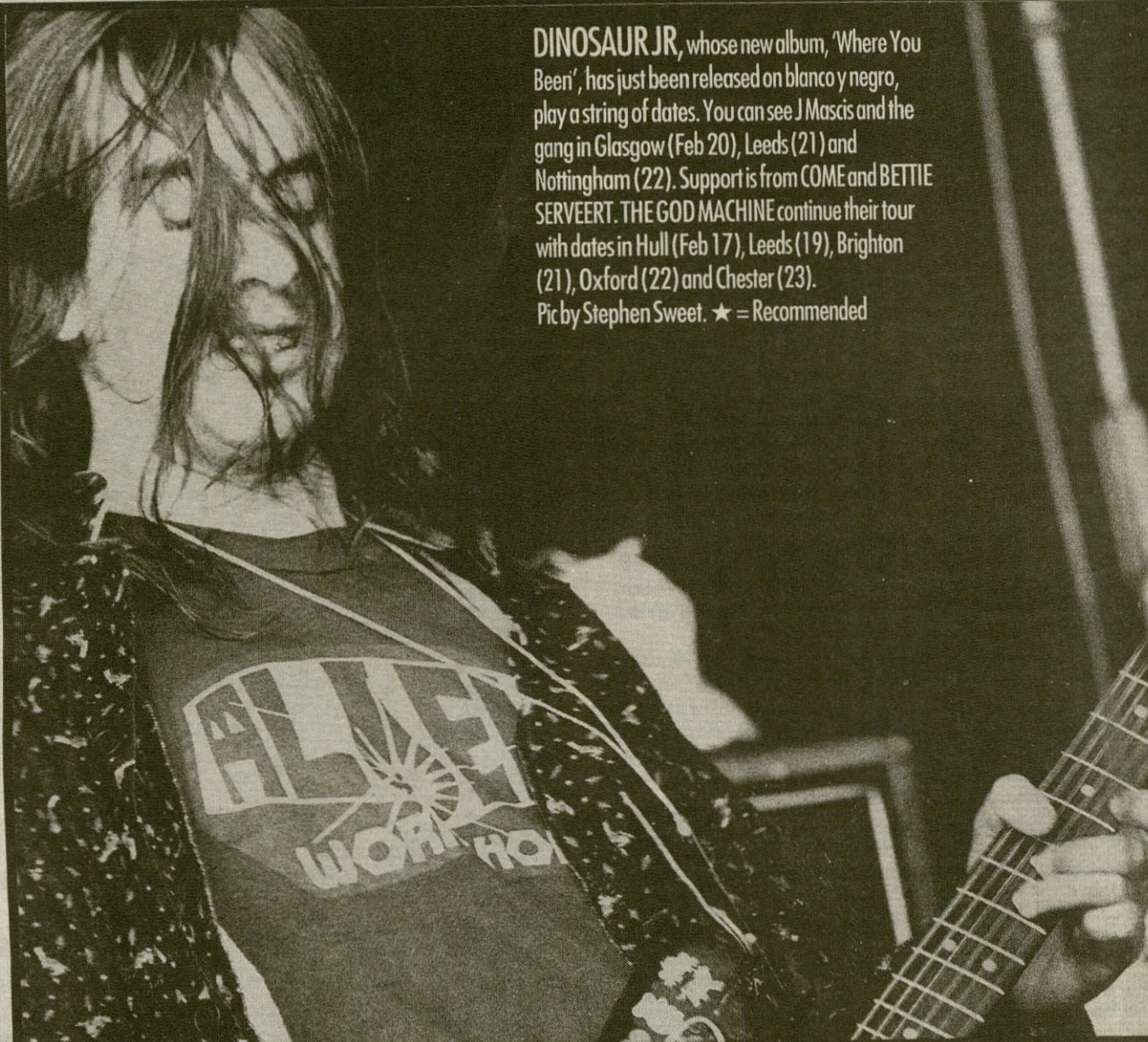
GIG GUIDE

CALLING ALL VENUES AND BANDS - ALL LISTINGS ARE FREE!

Please try and ensure that all info is in 12 working days before the issue hits the streets.

Addresses and phone numbers essential!

Zane, Gig Guide, Melody Maker, 26th Floor, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, LONDON SE1 9LS



DINOSAUR JR, whose new album, 'Where You Been', has just been released on blanco y negro, play a string of dates...

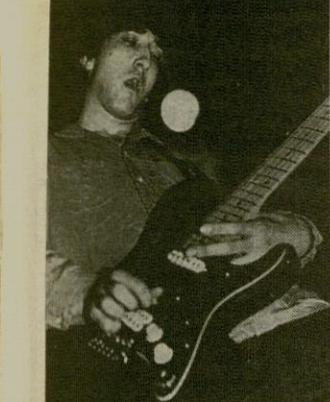
SAT FEB 20

* BARROW IN FURNESS Forum 28: The Wirefrogs + Sidi Bou Said + Submarine... * BATH Males, 0225-333423: Sunshot...

* BATH Males, 0225-333423: Sunshot... * BRISTOL Maurotania, 0272-265148: Airbus + Rosewood + Burst... * BRISTOL University, 0272-735035: 808 State + Moby...

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MEDICINE (Derby) Wherehouse, Feb 17) are from LA and grabbed our attention with their debut, eponymously titled EP...

* SHEFFIELD Leadmill, 0742-754500: Belly + The Cranberries... * SHEFFIELD Leadmill, 0742-754500: Belly + The Cranberries... * SHEFFIELD Leadmill, 0742-754500: Belly + The Cranberries...

SUN FEB 21

* BRIGHTON Richmond: The God Machine + The B-52's... * BRIGHTON Richmond: The God Machine + The B-52's... * BRIGHTON Richmond: The God Machine + The B-52's...

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MON FEB 22

BIRMINGHAM Edwards No 8, 021-643-5835: Diesel... BIRMINGHAM Inshute: 808 State + Moby... BIRMINGHAM NEC, 021-780-4133: Simply Red...



WISHLANTS (London) Kenish Town Bull & Gate, Feb 19) are a new act from Northampton who recently signed to China, home of The Levellers...

* MORTVILLE + DATEDO + THE JOGO Fulham, King's Head, SW6, 071-371-0347: Word 4 Word + Lies Inc... * MORTVILLE + DATEDO + THE JOGO Fulham, King's Head, SW6, 071-371-0347: Word 4 Word + Lies Inc...

* MORTVILLE + DATEDO + THE JOGO Fulham, King's Head, SW6, 071-371-0347: Word 4 Word + Lies Inc... * MORTVILLE + DATEDO + THE JOGO Fulham, King's Head, SW6, 071-371-0347: Word 4 Word + Lies Inc...

TUE FEB 23

* BATH Males, 0225-333423: Hug + Sloan... * BATH Males, 0225-333423: Hug + Sloan... * BATH Males, 0225-333423: Hug + Sloan...

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TWILIGHT ZONE

The Maker's guide to Britain's essential clubs

WEDNESDAY 17 FEBRUARY LEEDS: DIC Arcadia, Marrian Street... 9-2am. With M71.

THURSDAY 18 BOURNEMOUTH: TRANCEFORMATIONS Paradise Club, 24-26 Holdenhurst Road, Lansdown, B88 8AD. 0202-292824... 9-2am. ES, Resident DJ Edge and PH1.

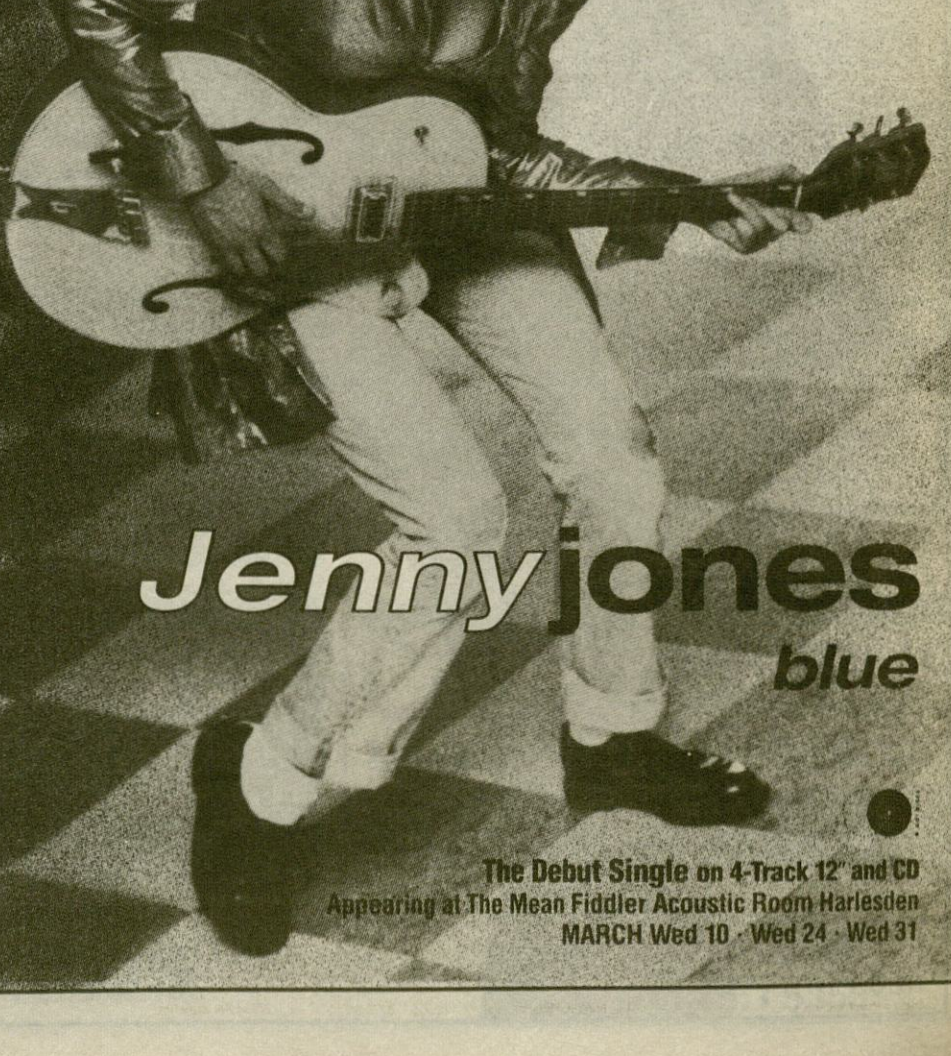
FRIDAY 19 ABERDEEN: SOUND SYSTEM Pelican Club, With Dean Thatcher. BRISTOL: FISH DUPE Lakota, Upper York Street, Lido Loud, Nancy Noise, and Brandon Block.

SATURDAY 20 BIRMINGHAM: NEW RELIGION The Dignoth Institute, 021-643-7788. 9-30am. E7. Harmony Promotions present Nancy Noise, Pete Heller from Boy's Own, and Tim Slav.

SUNDAY 21 MANCHESTER: HOOCHIE COOCHIE Dry 201, 7-10.30. FREE! Regular Sunday nighter with the Hoochie boys. SEDGFIELD: TO THE MANOR BORN Hardwich Hall, County Durham. With Hacienda's Graeme Park.

TUESDAY 23 LONDON: THE PINCH The Gardening Club, 4 The Piazza, Covent Garden, WC2. With Chris & James and John Nelson from Tag Records.

THIS WEEK'S FLOORFILLER: D-Code: 'Odyssey-Lion Rock mix' on It. D-Code has previously remixed The Source and Ekimosis & Egypt. Their name is NASA's digital message sent into deep space in the pursuit of contact with alien intelligence.



The Debut Single on 4-Track 12" and CD Appearing at The Mean Fiddler Acoustic Room Harlesden MARCH Wed 10 - Wed 24 - Wed 31