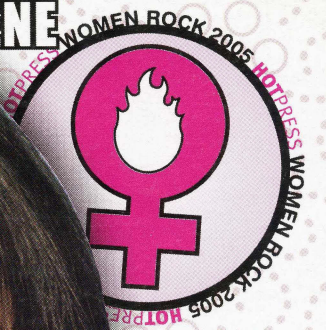


PLUS: NEW GIRLS ON THE BLOCK – THE HOTTEST YOUNG TALENT ON THE SCENE



HOT PRESS



THE WOMEN'S ISSUE

STARRING: ANDREA CORR, ALANIS MORISSETTE, CECELIA AHERN, IVANA BACIK, SINÉAD O'CONNOR, SHAKIRA, LEIGH ARNOLD, ORLA BARRY, CHARLOTTE OF THE SUBWAYS, LILI TAYLOR, ANTONIA CAMPBELL HUGHES, JULIE FEENEY, SÍLE NÍ BHRAONÁIN, PJ HARVEY... AND MORE!

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WORLD EXCLUSIVE Dolores O'Riordan Readies Debut Solo Album



Dolores O'Riordan is close to completing her debut solo album, which she describes as "the most personal record I've ever made." Talking exclusively to HOTPRESS in Dublin, the Cranberries singer reveals that the as-yet-untitled collection will emerge in late spring/early summer 2006 and be accompanied by a worldwide series of live shows.

"I've just finished a week's worth of recording in Dublin's Pulse Studios, which is the third or fourth session we've done," she says. "Other parts of it were recorded in LA, and Metalworks in Toronto. I'd start the songs off at home on piano and then bring a programmer to the house to take care of the Pro-Tools side of things. Once I had three or four songs like that I'd go into a bigger studio with my musicians."

Who include ace Kilkenny drummer Graham Hopkins (My Little Funhouse, The Frames, Therapy?) and bassist Marco Mendoza (Ozzy, Whitesnake, Ted Nugent).

"Before you ask, no, I haven't gone heavy metal," Dolores laughs. "Graham I love for his energy and Marco, who's been friends with my husband for 15 or 20 years, creates the most amazing sounds. He's a Mexican dude, so he's got that Latin rhythm thing going on as well as the rock. The main guitarist is Steve Demarchi, who used to do live session work with the Cranberries."

It's not just Dolores' method of working

that has changed since the Cranberries.

"There's a very intricate and eerie song on the album, 'The Black Widow', which is about watching my husband's mum die of cancer," she explains. "You might think, 'Oh, that's the same singer', but otherwise it's completely different to the Cranberries. Lyrically too, I wouldn't have written something as dark and personal as that with the boys."

"There's another one, 'Letting Go', which leaked on to the internet and made me realise how out of control this piracy thing's got. The CD's encoded so you can trace it, but what's the point when it's already out there?"

In addition to completing her record, Dolores is heading to Rome in December for the annual Vatican Christmas Concert.

"It's my third concert and second Pope! There are about a thousand people on stage, including the Vatican Orchestra, so the vibe's amazing. I tend to stick to the traditional Latin Gregorian songs I sang in school, but I imagine The Black-Eyed Peas, who are also playing this year, will dance things up a bit."

Does Dolores think that the new Pontiff is as rock 'n' roll as the last one?

"John Paul used to work the crowd a bit whereas Benny's only new in the gig," she laughs again. "He probably needs a few lessons and a pair of shades from Bono!"

We'll have more — much more! — from Dolores in the next issue of HOTPRESS.

News Justin



Expect all manner of pomp rock frivolity in February 2006 when The Darkness crank it up to '11' and possibly beyond at the Dublin Point (4) and Belfast Odyssey (5).

The Lowestoft Branch of the Queen Fan Club will be plugging *One Way Ticket To Hell...And Back*, their sophomore album, which commences with the sound of panpipes and somebody snorting half of Colombia.

Given what he said this week about the U2 singer, let's hope that Justin Hawkins doesn't find himself in any dark alleyways with Bono.

"I hate people being holier than thou," Hawkins fumes. "Like Bono getting an audience with the Pope, was all for Bono's ego."

There were harsh words too for Chris Martin. "Calling your child Apple? He's terribly vain. I think he has a narcissism complex. He wants to be Bono, but he bleats in interviews about worrying about being ubiquitous. Make your fucking mind up. If you want to be a household name, be a household name."

Corrs Honoured By The Queen

The Corrs went to the British Embassy in Dublin last week to receive an Honorary Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE) from the British Ambassador, Stewart Eldon.

Made by the Queen, the award is in recognition of the band's "outstanding contribution to the music industry and of their charitable contributions."

Says the Ambassador: "I'm delighted that The Corrs' immense musical contribution has been highlighted in this way. I'm sure their many fans around the world will be delighted to hear that they're getting the recognition they so richly deserve."

Along with the small matter of selling 30 million albums, The Corrs have played fundraising shows for Freeman's Hospital in Newcastle, victims of the Omagh bombing, the Prince's Trust, AIDS awareness, and

Nelson Mandela's 46664 campaign. They also got to meet Her Maj in 2002 when they played the Jubilee Party At The Palace. Proceed immediately to page 28 for an exclusive in-depth interview with Andrea Corr.



The Corrs and their proud dad, Gerry, at the British Embassy

For Whom The Belles Toll

The winsome pop band that other winsome pop bands call the Guv'nor, Belle & Sebastian, nip over early next year for shows in the Ambassador, Dublin (February 5 & 6) and Ulster Hall, Belfast



It's all systems Glasgow for Belle & Sebastian

The visit coincides with the release of the Glaswegians' first studio album since 2003's fab *Dear Catastrophe Waitress*.

In the meantime, fans should check out the track, 'The Eighth Station Of The Cross Kebab', they've recorded for the *Help: A Day In The Life* album. You can find physical copies in the shops, or download the individual songs you want from www.warchildmusic.com

Also announcing Dublin dates this week are woolly-hatted Canadian Daniel Powter who plays the Village on December 23, and The All-American Rejects who'll be wowing the skate-punk fraternity in the Temple Bar Music Centre on February 2.

Frames Confirm New Year's Eve Show

The Frames' love affair with the Irish public shows no sign of abating with their Point Theatre show last week a complete sell-out. If you weren't there, fear not, because the whole shebang was filmed by Ned O'Hanlon's Solo Two company for future DVD release.

There was an added bonus for fans when Damien Rice took to the stage for an unannounced set, which, not surprisingly, almost took the roof off the gaff.

Says our man in the front-row Peter Murphy: "There was no fanfare or introduction. Damien sauntered on stage, guitar in hand, and proceeded to dominate the cavernous environs of The

Point, inspiring a rush from the foyer. In soaring vocal form, he was joined by Lisa Hannigan for a seething 'Volcano', swiftly followed by an epic and overwrought 'Blower's Daughter'. Job done, he sauntered off again presumably in search of some fresh razors."

You can read Mr. Murphy's whole review of the night on page 81.

Currently beavering away in the studio on the follow-up to *Burn The Maps*, The Frames bring 2006 to a close with a New Year's Eve show in the INEC, Killarney.

Tickets go on sale on Friday November 18.

Westlife Re-Write The Record Book



Westlife have made history by becoming the first Irish act to simultaneously top the UK single and album charts.

'You Raise Me Up' sold 58,175 copies to fend off Arctic Monkeys' 'I Bet You Look Good On The Dancefloor' while *Face To Face* dislodged Robbie Williams' *Intensive Care* by shifting a whopping 216,879 units during its first week of release.

The quartet are also 3/1 favourites to land the Christmas number one with their Diana Ross-assisted version of 'When You Tell Me That You Love Me'.

Meanwhile, the chaps have confirmed visits to the Odyssey, Belfast (April 3); Millstreet, Cork (7 & 8); and The Point, Dublin (11 & 12).

Snow Patrol Record New Tracks For Charity

Fresh from meeting the President, Snow Patrol have recorded two tracks for inclusion on fundraising albums.

The first, a cover of Ricky "Brother of Kim" Wilde's 'I Am An Astronaut', is earmarked for a children's charity record that's being put together by fellow Glaswegians Belle & Sebastian.

"This was recorded when he was 10-years-old in the '70s," Gary Lightbody explains.

"He went on to write most of her hits including 'Kids In America'. It has the line 'I am a polar bear' in it so I guess it's appropriate — not that I'm actually a polar bear. It should be out next year."

As devotees will know, Polar Bear was the band's original name before they changed it to Snow Patrol.

They've also done a version of John Lennon's 'Isolation' that will appear on an Amnesty International charity album.

As for how their own record's going, Gary reveals that, "We got loads done last week including a very new song, which is called 'Make This Go On Forever' and sounds gigantic. We've also recorded two of Nathan's songs which are marvelous."

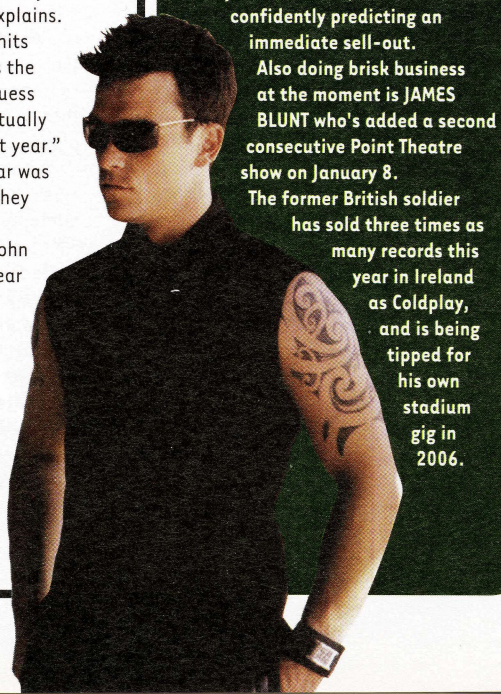
Robbie Confirms Dublin Visit

ROBBIE WILLIAMS has confirmed that he's bringing his 2006 World Tour to Croke Park in Dublin on June 8.

Tickets go on general sale at 8am on Friday November 25, with insiders confidently predicting an immediate sell-out.

Also doing brisk business at the moment is JAMES BLUNT who's added a second consecutive Point Theatre show on January 8.

The former British soldier has sold three times as many records this year in Ireland as Coldplay, and is being tipped for his own stadium gig in 2006.



Arctic Monkeys & Maximo Park Double-Up For Irish Dates

HOTPRESS can exclusively reveal that the 2006 NME Brats Tour is coming to Dublin and Belfast in January.

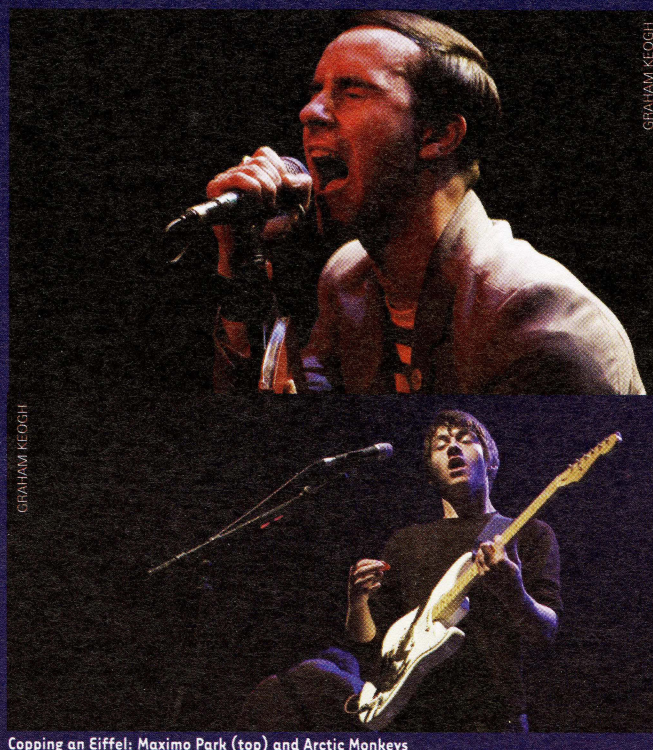
The news was imparted to us by Lukas Wooler, keyboard player with Maximo Park who are co-headlining the trek with Arctic Monkeys.

Wooler says they're also looking to organise their own nationwide tour, and mentions Kilkenny and Galway as two cities that will be included in the itinerary.

The chinwag happened backstage at Le Cigalle in Paris where the Maximo boys were appearing on the same bill as Kaiser Chiefs, Hard-Fi, Futureheads and The Subways.

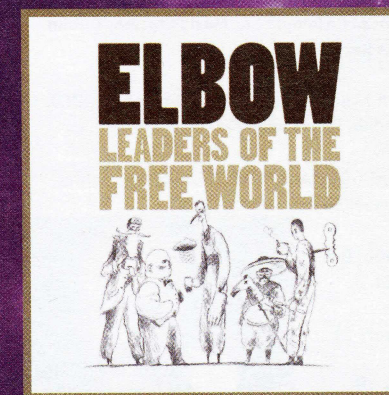
Also braving the riots were the aforementioned Arctic Monkeys who played the following night in L'Olympia with Editors, Devendra Banhart and Antony & The Johnsons.

We'll have a full photo-report for you in our Christmas issue, out on Thursday December 1.

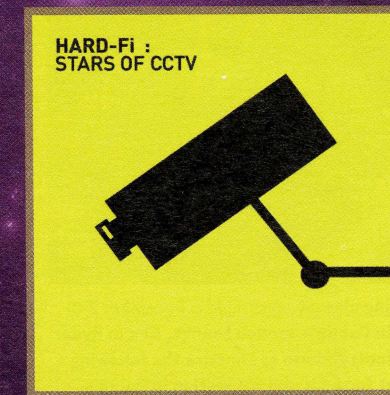


Copping an Eiffel: Maximo Park (top) and Arctic Monkeys

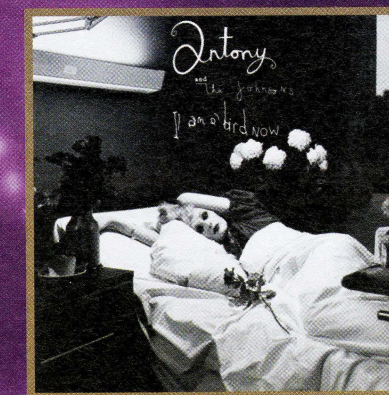
Top Dog for Christmas Gifts



Elbow
Leaders Of The
Free World



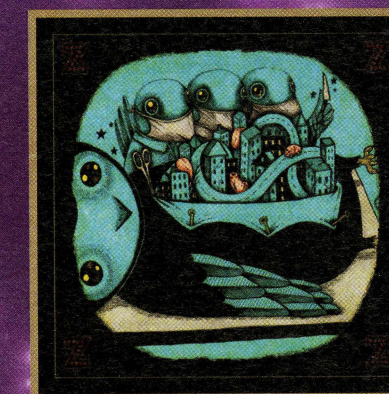
Hard-Fi
Stars Of CCTV



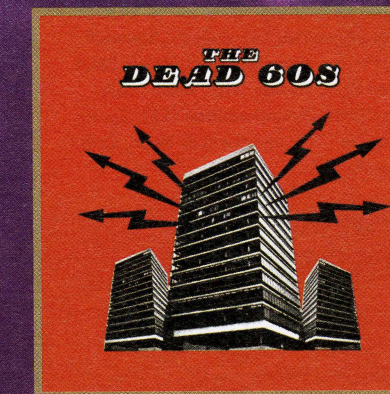
Antony And The
Johnsons
I Am A Bird Now



Black Rebel
Motorcycle Club
Howl



My Morning Jacket
Z



The Dead 60s
The Dead 60s

Titles are subject to availability while stocks last at participating stores.



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