

## Tune Up

■ Norwich Oxjam Takeover takes place this Sunday with more than 40 bands playing at six different venues as part of Oxjam's annual month-long fundraiser that is the UK's biggest musical festival. The Norwich event is part of a national



fundraising drive which since 2006 has seen more than 36,000 musicians play to over 750,000 people at almost 3,000 gigs – raising in excess of £1m to fight poverty. The full Norwich line-up has now been announced is pretty much a who's who of upcoming local talent. Below is the run down. There is something for every taste, so pick your favourites or better yet move from one to

another. Like a pub crawl with music.

■ Norwich Arts Centre (8pm-11pm): Django Django, 2 Hot 2 Sweat, The Woe Betides.

■ Mustard Lounge (8pm-2am): Fever Fever, The Delaney, The Vegas Fame Index.

■ The Puppet Theatre (6pm-11pm): The Loyal Few (pictured), Alloy Ark, The Interpreters, Altum Schema.

■ Dragon Hall (2pm-11pm): Alex Sheppard, Tommy Twist and the Why Thinkers, The Pony Collaboration, Chad Mason, Caomhe, Axel Loughrey, Oakwood Juniors, Adelaide's Cape, YumYunVoi, Milly Hirst.

■ Dragon Hall Gallery (2pm-11pm): Mavericks of Love, My Visor, The Unremarkables, All Mighty Whispers, Phantom Players, Apollo 101, The Fuzz, Four Days in May, The Library Suits.

■ The Birdcage (4pm-10pm): Girl in a Thunderbolt, King Laconic, Jenny Didn't Like to be Photographed, James and the Magic Shoe, Terlei Tea.

■ The Marquee (5pm-10pm): Lonely the Brave, Centaurs, Claw of Panther, Paris Like This, The Dirty Tricks. [www.oxjameast2009.co.uk](http://www.oxjameast2009.co.uk)

■ Have you ever been surrounded by hundreds of people all dancing and singing but apparently no music? It's a club night like no other. The Waterfront tonight hosts A Silent Disco. Instead of using a traditional speaker system in a nightclub, the unique event sees everyone given a set of wireless headphones to listen to the music through instead. Two DJs will play music at the same time on two different channels — so if you don't like the first just flick the switch and listen to the other. Altogether now ssshhhhhhhh!

■ The Kabeedies finally released their eagerly-awaited debut album, Rumpus, with a Tilting Sky promoted launch party at the Waterfront on October 29. The infectious indie-pop outfit who have enjoyed a tremendous summer are sure to be on fine form. They predict: "Expect to dance, waltz, sing and generally go nuts to a sound so infectious it should carry a government health warning!" Support comes from Vanilla Kick who are influenced by the likes of Radiohead and Bloc Party, Ed Sheeran, who, along with being the current holder of the coveted Next Big Thing award is also a unique and captivating live performer, and The Loyal Few.

[www.myspace.com/thekabeedies](http://www.myspace.com/thekabeedies)



■ Local band, music and gig news can be emailed to [goingout@archant.co.uk](mailto:goingout@archant.co.uk)

# From Guns and Revolver to a Loaded life for Duff

A founding member of global megastars Guns n' Roses and one-fifth of rock supergroup Velvet Revolver, now Duff McKagen is coming to Norwich with his self-titled Loaded. **ROB GARRATT** spoke to him about rock'n'roll excess and his weekly economics column.

After the career Duff McKagen has had, you would forgive him for laying down his bass guitar and putting up his feet.

Selling more than 100 million albums with Guns N' Roses – a band that defined the very idea of rock n' roll to a whole generation – he then went on to significant success with ex-band mates Slash and Matt Sorum in Velvet Revolver.

But between those two major label successes, in the late 1990s he found time to form his own band Loaded.

Now with Velvet Revolver in limbo, Duff is back with a new streamlined incarnation of Loaded – that features him on six rather than four strings.

"It's a good bunch of guys, and I include myself in that," Duff tells me from a "secret hideout" in his native Washington state. "We have a great time."

"Maybe that's because we're not a huge band in business terms – that drives wedges between people as it does in any workplace. It's a lot of fun and I look forward to going on tour. I can't say that about every band I've been in."

It was reported to be "business" that pulled apart Guns N' Roses, who released their first album in 15-years Chinese Democracy last year – notable for featuring just one founder member, notoriously egotistical lead singer Axl Rose.

But despite selling a record to one in every seven Americans with Guns N' Roses, McKagen denies his motivations behind their epic tours and knocked-off LPs was ever financial.

"It's never been about money for me," laments McKagen. "People assume that ever since Guns N' Roses had a hit record me and Slash and Axl made so much money it was ridiculous. We've generated a lot of dough, a shed load of dough, but the amount we actually took home – you'd probably be surprised."

Perhaps that's why the rocker, who suffered a pancreatic burst in 1994 following years of drink and drug abuse, enrolled in business school and now writes his own finance column for Playboy magazine, titled Duffonomics. It deals with "breaking stuff back down so you and me can understand it," as McKagen explains it.

Born in Seattle in 1964, the youngest of his seven siblings, Duff started gigging at age 14 in a string of punk bands, making the move south to California at 19 where he met guitarist Slash, and out of the ashes of various fruitless rock projects Guns N' Roses were born.

The band's debut album, Attitude For Destruction, was a revelation, sticking two fingers up firmly at both the synthetic eighties pop establishment, and watered-down rockers like Bon Jovi and Motley Crue.

By the time of its follow-up in 1991 though – the ambitious and indulgent Use Your Illusion I and II sets, spread across eight sides of vinyl – constant touring, drugs, and infighting was pulling the band apart.

Drummer Steven Adler was asked to leave in 1990, while guitarist Izzy Stradlin



– the man behind many of their best riffs – left on the eve of the 30-month Illusion promotional tour.

A question quivering on many people's tongues, does Duff really think Loaded hold up to his work in Guns heyday? "What other people enjoy or make is of no consequence to me and my life," snarls Duff. "I have always done it for the same reason, it's what I get out of it."

"It's just a different artistic group, when I play with Slash and Matt [Sorum] it's a different thing. I don't think it's fair to compare band against each other."

Largely out of the public sphere after Guns' mid-90s disintegration, the rock press was jerked alive with anticipation when rumours broke out early in this decade that ex-Gunners Duff, Slash, Izzy Stradlin and Matt Sorum were jamming together.

In 2004 Velvet Revolver's Contraband was released – minus Stradlin – to fair acclaim and sales. But after touring the 2007 follow-up Libertad the band fell apart messily, with lead singer Scott Weiland making no bones about his dissatisfaction with the group.

Today McKagen is enthusiastic about a reunion, without Weiland, and says he and Slash are hoping to audition new singer next year. "If it happens its meant not happen, if it doesn't it doesn't," he offers philosophically.

For the time being it is Duff himself that is taking the mic in Loaded, a role he has flirted with on and off throughout his career, singing G N'R tunes including Use Your Illusion II's So Fine and a number of tracks on their 1993 punk covers LP The Spaghetti Incident. It was his debut album of the same year, entitled tellingly Believe in Me, that introduced the public to his distinctive vocal style.

"I made a record back in 1993 where I singing and playing everything pretty much," says Duff. "And I was screwed up. I was snorting cocaine, my voice sounds horrible in some places."

"I have been singing since I was 14 and now I don't care what anybody thinks." At 46 – twice the age that he was thrown to stardom – he seems to have made his peace with his notoriety, and the subsequent public interest that goes with it.

"It's kind of been my ideology since I was 23," says Duff of fame. "The six months where I went from being just me to being completely upside down – going into a supermarket and people flipping out – and you're just you. You don't know how to deal with it."

■ **Duff McKagen's Loaded play the UEA with Black Stone Cherry tonight.**  
■ **Further listening:** [www.myspace.com/loaded](http://www.myspace.com/loaded)

## Live Previews

### Basshunter

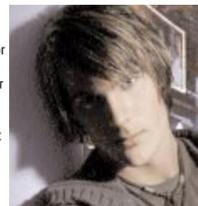
**UEA, October 25**  
Banging tunes – or euro-trance, depending on your point of view, is promised by this Norwich live debut by Basshunter – aka Swedish DJ Jonas Alberg. His bangin' brand of Eurodance may not be to everyone's tastes, but his Now You're Gone album still managed to go platinum in the UK after spawning a handful of chart-conquering singles. Twelve months on, the DJ is back and he's just unleashed his more melodic-sounding follow-up album, Bass Generation. What's the secret of his success? "Now You're Gone is a very simple song and it's easy to take to an audience," he says. "The music video has such success on YouTube. It's a mixture of everything. The girls on the video might help a bit."

"This show is a huge production," he adds. "We have all put a lot of energy and effort into making it really wicked. I'm still planning a lot of things. I am very spontaneous, so it's going to get crazy. All the audience will be a part of this concert."

■ **Further listening:** [www.myspace.com/kidbritishmusic](http://www.myspace.com/kidbritishmusic)

### Kid British

**Waterfront, October 25**  
Kid British couldn't be more upfront about their late-1970s ska influences if they tried – they have even sampled Madness just in case you were unsure. You could argue their timing is perfect. Two Tone has been going through one of its periodic returns to fashion this year, thanks mainly to the reunion of The Specials and return to form of Suggs and the gang. The mixed-race London band have a taste for choppy ska rhythms, with a punk undertow, just likes their heroes. The band's sound also adds in a slice of Hard-Fi's Clash-lite reggae-inflected dance



rock and a sliver of northern-accented Arctic Monkeys social realism. Their debut, It Was This or Football, is pretty good if a little patchy. They are not dissimilar to The Dead 60s who had similar ideas of resurrecting ska, then promptly disappeared.

■ **Further listening:** [www.myspace.com/kidbritishmusic](http://www.myspace.com/kidbritishmusic)

### Eagles of Death Metal

**UEA, October 28**  
Two of LA's electric boogie specialists, Josh Homme (yes, of Queens of the Stone Age) and Jesse "The Devil" Hughes, grew up together in the deserts of Palm Springs. Since the age of 14 they bonded over music and other teen distractions. Fast forward 20-years and the duo are still great friends, and behind the super charged energy of Eagles of Death Metal. Their most recent Heart On album follows 2003's major label release, Death by Sexy, but where the latter relied on a powerful mix of garage jams and classic rock riffs, this time they are pedalling a more artful exploration by comparison.

"A lot of the songs on this album go back as far as



eight years," says Homme. Jesse Hughes has built a reputation for being one part 70s porn star (with the help of that provocative moustache) and two shakes rock'n'roll lover with all his hip-grating stage moves. "He's had a moustache since he was seven," Homme deadpans. "Jesse is the real deal."

■ **Further listening:** [www.eaglesofdeathmetal.com](http://www.eaglesofdeathmetal.com)

### Nerina Pallot

**Waterfront, October 25**  
Said to be working with Kylie on the diminutive Aussie's new album, singer/songwriter Nerina Pallot (the 't' is silent) is a Jersey-bred, ex-boarding school lass who was strongly tipped in 2005. Nearly four years after the gold-selling Fires, she returns having shaken up her sound, shrugged off the spectre of singer/songwriter and produced an album of clever, classy pop.

The Graduate has piano-driven songs high on happy pills, woozy electronics and beefed up bass. Where guitars would once have swooned, now they swagger and there is a new-found feistiness to Pallot's emotive vocals. Occasionally, the Brit and Ivor Novello-nominated singer strays so far from the haunting sound of her former hit singles, she is almost unrecognisable. Self-produced in the studio she shares with her husband, Grammy-nominated producer Andrew Chatterley, The Graduate should shake off the comparisons with Joni Mitchell and Carole King. Probably no Kylie previews though.

■ **Further listening:** [www.nerinapallot.com](http://www.nerinapallot.com)



Want your gig review published on this page. Email [goingout@archant.co.uk](mailto:goingout@archant.co.uk) for free tickets.

# One week and 18 bands



## music notes with Kingsley Harris

I don't know about you but I always think it's been a good week if you have to refer back to your diary to remember all you've done. The week kicked off on the not so scary Tuesday the 13th at the NAC for part two of Twee-Off's Hell Yes festival. Up first were electro pop duo 2 Hot 2 Sweat. This is not everyone's cup of tea but I really like the gel of electronic beats and keys with distorted rock laden riffs and falsetto backing vocals. Welded together it sounds like a pop mash-up, and it is, that's the fun of it. Check out Karmarama on their site. It's all about that workmate you don't get on with, very funny.

First main headline act are Invisible, not literally but Mercury-nominated The Invisible. I haven't been a big fan of this soundscape pop but it's increasingly growing on me with bands like Wave Machines etc. The album is good so have a listen and let me know what you think. The Night finished with London based three-piece Micachu, who are happy under the label of hardcore lounge but for anyone that remembers bands like Our Daughters Wedding and The Mobiles, it's just off kilter electronic.

■ **Check out Turn Me Well on their Myspace, the interference is deliberate.**  
On Friday it was a choice of Howback Hum at Take5 or Dudley's Allsorted?! Night at B2. I opted for the latter as it included another performance of The



Check out Turn Me Well on their Myspace, the interference is deliberate. On Friday it was a choice of Howback Hum at Take5 or Dudley's Allsorted?! Night at B2. I opted for the latter as it included another performance of The

Barlights, The Brownies, pictured, and exclusive preview of material from Violet Violet's new album, plus a blistering opening set from Death Of Discotheque, who feature ex Ray Brower contingent: charismatic frontman Jay and Whitley on guitar joined by the delectable Roz on keys and Ian on percussion. They reminded me of The Stogges meets PIL.

The week ended with the first semi final of the Next Big Thing competition. You may or may not remember I was highly critical of this event last year, feeling its organisation and impartialness had gone astray.

This year so far has been much better, with serious thought and participation going into revamping the selection panels. The heat featured Alloy Ark, NDX, Fever Fever, Neme, Kairos and Hair Traffic Control: a massive diversity of styles from a very proficient six acts, who really impressed the judging panel. This Sunday is semi final number two at B2, shenanigans start at 7.30 sharp. I'm not sure if 18 bands and a karaoke session in one week is a personal best, I'm sure in my younger days that would have been a slow week but all the same I can honestly say we have some real talent out there.

## sounds in the city

### October 23

Black Stone Cherry/Duff McKagan (rock) — UEA

Dananananaykroyd (indie) — Arts Centre

Depth (pop/punk) — B2

Ramon Goose Band (blues) — Cider Shed

Emma Hall Band (soul/funk) — Brickmakers

Rock Doctors (rock) — King Edward VII

In Rapture (rock) — Boundary

Polaris (rock) — Trowel & Hammer

Hayley Moyses & The Forum (bluegrass) — Garden House

The Good Times (rock/reggae) — Blueberry

Night Flyers (blues) — Walnut Tree Shades

■ **October 24**

Zoo (rock) — B2

Vanilla Pod (punk) — Marquee

Floating Greyhounds (rock) — Blueberry

To The Last (rock) — King Edward VII

Leopard Trio (rock'n'roll) — Boundary

Flying South (rock/pop) — The Stanley

Whole Lotta DC (tribute) — Brickmakers

Knight Moves (rock/pop) — Lakenham Cock

■ **October 25**

Basshunter (dance) — UEA

Ladysmith Black Mambazo (world) — Theatre Royal

Kid British (indie/ska) — Waterfront

Next Big Thing (semi-final) — B2

Sun of Cash (tribute) — King Edward VII

No Fixed Abode (folk) — Cider Shed

Lee Vasey Big Band (12pm) — Brickmakers

■ **October 26**

Bring Me The Horizon (metal) — UEA

Stiff Little Fingers (punk/rock) — Waterfront

Ralph McTell (folk) — Playhouse

The Ruined (rock/punk) — Marquee

Testosta Tones (acapella) — Puppet Theatre

■ **October 27**

Amon Amarth (metal) — Waterfront

Howbackhum: feat. Rory McVicar + more (indie) — Arts Centre

Gameplan (rock) — Brickmakers

The Hectors (indie) — B2

Musically Stacked (acoustic) — Rumsey Wells

■ **October 28**

Eagles of Death Metal (rock) — UEA

Nerina Pallot (rock/pop) — Waterfront

Twilight Sad (indie/rock) — Arts Centre

Helen Welch (jazz) — Rackheath Green Man

The Session (Irish) — Cider Shed

■ **October 29**

Funeral For A Friend (metal) — UEA

The Kabeedies (indie) — Waterfront

Console Wars (indie) — Marquee

One Last Laugh (rock) — Blueberry

Ocean Upon Us (metal) — B2

Pinky Umbrella (folk/bluegrass) — Rumsey Wells

Worlds Apart (rock) — Walnut Tree Shades

## Your band in the spotlight

If you want some FREE publicity for your band, email your details with jpeg images to [simon.parkin@archant.co.uk](mailto:simon.parkin@archant.co.uk) and email your up and coming gig list to [goingout@archant.co.uk](mailto:goingout@archant.co.uk)