

soundcheck

Issue 27 | October 2023 | FREE

Reading's FREE live music guide

This month's headliner

strangers in transit

+ live gigs for October

19 SOMETHING FESTIVAL 2023

IN AID OF
Reading
age UK

SATURDAY 4TH NOVEMBER 4PM TIL LATE
THE FACE BAR AMBROSE PLACE READING RG1 7JE

LINEUP:

TRAMPOLENE
GEMMA ROGERS
she's in parties
MADDIE ASHMAN

JACK VALERO
THE MEZZ
TIGER MENDOZA
DOOPS
ASH THE AUTHOR
THE PINK DIAMOND REVUE
JOPY
HOOPY FROOD
COLOURS & FIRES
MORE ACTS TBC

DJS:
BAILO & EAMES
(PUTGD & THESOCIAL)

MATT LE BLEND



LINEUP SUBJECT TO CHANGE. UNDER 18'S MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT
PROOF OF AGE MAY BE REQUIRED)
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Sound-check #27



Two things on my mind, this glorious autumnal print deadline day. Firstly, I've noticed the return of the cover version out there! I've been casually wondering 'Why don't bands do covers any more?' for ages now; nothing to do with Sub89's endless supply of 'dressing up' bands, but the fine art of choosing the right song, taking it apart and putting it back together your way, just to see what happens.

B-sides and radio sessions were the prime place for it, once upon a time, which might be why they kind of stopped happening, but in the basement of the Turtle, recently, I've seen old Bo Diddley and Little Willie John songs dropped seamlessly into the middle of sets and it's just really cool.

As a band, you can learn a lot from the right cover, you know – by which I mean you can nick bits, obviously.

The other thing I have to tell you quickly, is that BBC Introducing for Berkshire has recently been amalgamated with Oxfordshire and, somewhere in the resulting melée, I got a phone call! Yours truly is going to be on the radio regularly now and getting them to play tracks from our side of the Thames. Like it or not, though, I can only play tracks that have been sent to BBC Introducing, which you can do here: www.bbc.co.uk/introducing. Just so you know.

– RICH

Last month, when it rained loads but was weirdly still warm, I headed off to meet up with Strangers In Transit at The Dairy.

If you don't know the place, it's part of the Uni – cross the road from the not-the-Murco and, before you get to MERL, it's hiding on the other side of the big wall.

Unsurprisingly, given the price of a pint in there, it was packed so we went to do the interview outside where it promptly started raining. I'm telling you this because the result was this lot suggesting "we could do it in L29". I'm already way off my home turf here in student country so, yeah... what the hell. Whatever the hell an L29 is, let's do that!

It turns out L29 is a beige corridor with loads of doors either side, looking just like any corridor in any soulless office complex anywhere in the UK except, with this one, I can hear a violin coming from somewhere and the door these guys choose to go through leads into a teeny, tiny room half-filled with a full drum kit and a piano. L29 is kind cool.

Now in the dry, and perched on a piano stool, a drum stool and some random chair-ish things I've got four 'Strangers'; Adi, Alex, Matt and Simon –

two guitarists, a bass player and a drummer – which kind of informs my first question. You see, if you watch any of their live videos online, there's a sax player, but only sometimes, and when I saw them a few days ago, there was a violinist. Is this variable lineup deliberate?

Adi says that's "in the spirit of the whole thing."

"Something we originally discussed was the notion that the music remains and the musicians change around it. It sounds like a snotty thing to say but it is part of the underlying ethos."

Drummer, Matt, is a big jazz fan and he says he views Adi's songs like "jazz standards".

"It's true. We know the tunes, but we interpret them differently with different combos and we interpret them differently each night, you know... or each rehearsal. It's fluid music, man!"

"That's what turned me on to the idea when Adi first brought it to me... I'm from San Francisco and so I grew up with this huge part of me that's inspired by the 60s, by the Dead, by Airplane, Big Brother & the Holding Company... all these incredible San Francisco bands that just mixed... all these bands having this musically, kind of, incestuous lifestyle."

Don't misunderstand this, though. It's not

unrehearsed, self-indulgent, directionless jamming. These guys are all highly-skilled and very 'musical' players who play together a lot, in different variations and are very in touch with what they collectively want the end result to be. They feed off each other on stage, waiting to see who's going to trigger the next section. Like Matt said, it's like jazz, but with some other stuff in it, too.

When I saw them at the Turtle a few days prior to this interview, there was a moment when, after a certain period of a gradually building, almost Velvet-like drone thing going on, Matt just doubled up on the snare and the whole thing shot off into Can territory.

I mentioned this moment, because I bloody loved it and, apparently, that was a new thing from the last rehearsal. A direct result of what Matt had been listening to that day which is, now, how the song goes. For now.

As with jazz standards, there's a core to all this. A theme, a tune... godammit, it's a song! The one with the songs which it all hooks on to, is Adi but ask him about songwriting, he finds it difficult to answer.

You see, Adi doesn't have many "recognisable influences" he can discuss with musician friends.



Words and pictures: RICH



Curtis Mayfield
Super Fly

We have had a large collection of wonderful vintage Soul vinyl at Oxfam Music.

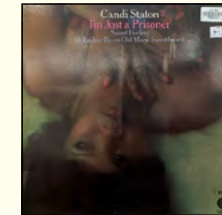
The film is ok, the soundtrack LP is a must have!



Loleata Holloway
Love Sensation

Perhaps the pinnacle of Disco. A euphoric, ethereal symphony to stimulate the heart and feet. Written by Dan Hartman, produced by Norman Harris with the cream of American musicians at Sigma Sound and

Muscle Shoals studios. I can't praise it highly enough! Later heavily bowdlerised as 'Ride On Time' by Black Box



Candi Staton
I'm Just A Prisoner

Debut LP by a singer with an amazingly eclectic career. From 'Nights On Broadway' with the Bee Gees via *Young Hearts Run Free* to the house über classic 'You Got The Love'...



The Isley Brothers
Go For Your Guns

The Isley Brothers are a band with so many wonderful incarnations. This album is the height of their funk rock period, propelled by younger brother (and pupil of Jimi Hendrix), Ernie's wild guitar work.

'Footsteps In The Dark' had a second life in the 90s, sampled for Ice Cube's G-funk classic 'Today Was A Good Day'.

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We are always very grateful to receive any musical items. Vinyl, CDs, tapes, 78s hi-fi, instruments, sheet music and comics or graphic novels. We can arrange home collection if required.

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"Usually people will be like 'You don't know...XYZ?!?' and that's because so much of my influence comes just from growing up in India."

At the Turtle show... "I hadn't done it before but the intro vocal section I was singing before we actually all got into it, was a Hindu prayer for auspicious beginnings."

It turns out, the rest of the band didn't know that at the time and they love it!

"So much of the language of how I write is influenced by just being Indian, if that makes sense. I remember having a conversation with Matt early on about two songs that have quite syncopated drums that made complete sense to me but, from a more Western perspective... well...they don't..."

At this point Matt jumps in to help out explaining what "they don't".

He's doing this interview from behind a drum kit, remember. So, I've now got a drummer from San Francisco, hepped up on jazz and The Grateful Dead, giving me a live demonstration of the intricacies of working with his mate's syncopated Indian rhythms!?! That doesn't happen every day! I'll remember this.

"One of those songs, 'Crier's Dance', is very much influenced by the tribal music of where I'm from. The song is about the celebration, almost, of death and life in that culture. It's me growing up in a village in South India and having some dude show up every three days in the town centre and tell you the news. This was the early 2000s; we didn't have the internet back then. We had newspapers (but not many people could read) and 'news guy', singing it:

"Somebody died..." -jidijy-jidijy-jing... 'someone else was born...' -jidijy-jidijy-jing..."

Given the organic, shifting nature of Strangers In Transit's live show, I'm curious to know how they've gone about even trying to record anything. Or if they'd even want to.

It turns out, Simon got them the perfect opportunity recently to record at SAE Studios.

"We had four hours in total, including set-up. I said to everyone, let's use this as a challenge. We know we do everything live very fluid, let's see how much we can get through and just treat it like it is."

"We did just two retakes and no overdubbing of anything. The sound of everything there is absolutely incredible and I loved the fact that we only had four hours."

Given all of the top-notch equipment and all the time in world, it would be easy to get nothing done but a high quality recording done in small window of time sounds like just the thing.

"This thing will come out and it's going to be a weird representation of what we do live but also it's going to let people take a step back from how intense the live stuff is."

That SAE recording session should be out next month.

All through this interview, we can hear that violin I mentioned. It turns out, that's Manos – the guy that played with Strangers In Transit earlier in the week. He's from Greece and his violin was soon overlaid by the sound of another rehearsal, on a piano, in a different room. It turns out 'L29' is a really productive hub of musical experimentation, collaboration and just... work. The perfect breeding ground for this band/project/idea. Find them online in all the usual places but, especially, go see them live and keep your eye out for that recording. It could be a belter. ■



/strangersintransitofficial



/strangers.in.transit

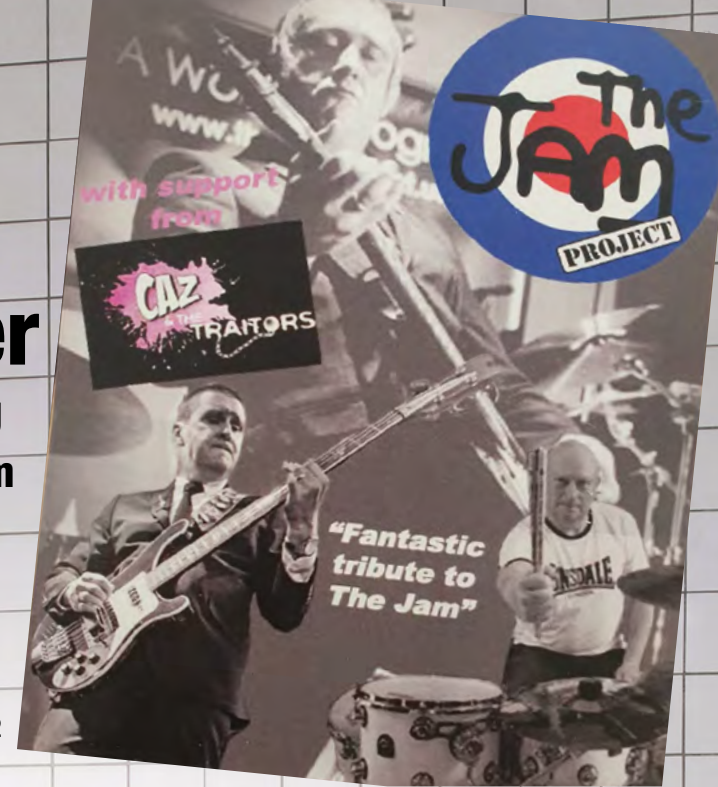


Saturday 21 October

The Facebar, Reading

Doors open @ 7:30pm

Tickets £11 in advance
including booking fee at:
www.ents24.com/reading-events/the-facebar/the-jam-project/6844602



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gigguide

SUN 1 OCT

SUB89

Municipal Waste

£25.80 | 7:30pm
14+ (U16 w/adult)
premier.ticketek.co.uk

WATLINGTON HOUSE

Readifolk

Singers Night

£30td | 8pm

MON 2 OCT

THE FACE BAR

Heavy Pop

Jealous Nostril + Eat Daddy Eat

£11 | 7:30pm
14+ (U18s w/adult)
Garage rock band formed
by Razorlight frontman,
Johnny Borrell, last
summer.
gigantic.com

PURPLE TURTLE

Groove Cult Shindigs

Nuke Cucumber + Barrelhaus + Coppermouth

Free | 7:30pm 18+

THU 5 OCT

21 SOUTH STREET

Heavy Pop

An evening with Kristin Hersh

£27 | 7:30pm
Influential songwriter
and multi-instrumentalist
Kristin Hersh, leader of the
indie rock band Throwing
Muses and the noise rock
power trio 50 Foot Wave
returns to South St.
whatsonreading.com

THE FACE BAR

Runnin' Blue

Supersuckers + The Warner E. Hodges Band + Boss Caine

£22 | 7pm | 14+ (U16 w/adult)
wegottickets.com

THE BUTLER

FSJB present

Phil Braithwaite and Friends

£70td | 8pm
Soul, RnB and funk: Phil
Braithwaite, guitar; Niquet
Goldson, vocals; Liam Tillyer,
bass; Ed Williams, drums.

FRI 6 OCT

THE BUTLER

Shadow Promotions

Filthy Militia + Tape It Shut + Baldhead & the Dreads + Prey + Launch Control

£6adv, £80td | 6pm | 18+
wegottickets.com

PROGRESS THEATRE

Partners in Time: Stuart Henderson & Karen Sharp

£19, £17(conc), £10(U16)
Celebrating the historic
trumpet/saxophone
partnerships of jazz.
jazzinreading.com

CASTLE TAP

Beggar's Buttons + Rootweave + Atom Radio

Free | 7:15pm

THE HEXAGON

The Hollies

From £34.50 | 7:30pm | 14+
whatsonreading.com

CULTUREMIX ARTS

Reading Reggae Collective

£7.50adv | 8pm |
Reading Reggae Collective,
live; open mic; showcase
performances, DJs.
eventbrite.co.uk

SAT 7 OCT

CASTLE TAP

Steve Morano

Free | 8pm

THE BUTLER

Mississippi Queen

Free | 9pm

THE RETREAT

Fusion 6

Free | 8pm | 18+

SUN 8 OCT

WATLINGTON HOUSE

Readifolk

Johnny Coppin

£80td | 8pm

MON 9 OCT

PURPLE TURTLE

Groove Cult Shindigs

Turtle Underground

Free | 7:30pm 18+
Live music every monday in
the purple turtle dungeon.

TUE 10 OCT

THE DRIFTERS

£32 | 7:30pm |
whatsonreading.com

To list your gig here, for
free, just email all the info to
copy@sound-check.co.uk.

Info is correct at time
of going to press.
(At least, I've tried very hard.)

Websites refer to where
to get tickets.

bf = booking fee

otd = on the door

adv = advance

tbc = to be confirmed

THU 12 OCT

SOUTH STREET

The Pawnbroker & South Street



Alison Cotton + The Pawnbroker + Dom James

£10 | 8pm

Alison Cotton uses viola,
voice, percussion, recorder,
omnichord, shruti box
and piano to create eerily
arcane tapestries of
supernatural beauty.
Praised by *The Wire*, *The
Guardian*, *Mojo*, *Uncut*,
6Music, *BBC* and the
Quietus for both her albums
and live performances, The
Pawnbroker are bringing her
back to Reading.
whatsonreading.com

SAT 14 OCT

THE BUTLER

The Highwasters

Free | 8:45pm | 18+

THE HEXAGON

From The Jam + Skids

£34.50 | 7pm
'ALL MOD CONS' The 45th
Anniversary Tour
whatsonreading.com

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OCT 28TH - BENNET **SOLD OUT!**

NOV 1ST - DSM IV / ELLIS-D

**NOV 3RD - THE DERELLAS + EAT DADDY EAT
KILLER KOWALSKI**

NOV 9TH - VISION VIDEO

NOV 11TH - EDDIE & THE HOTRODS

NOV 17TH - DISCHARGE

NOV 26TH - MOZART ESTATE
LAWRENCE FROM FELT/DENIM

NOV 30TH - PET NEEDS + GLITCHERS

DEC 8TH - JOHN OTWAY (FULL BAND)

SUN 15 OCT

SOUTH STREET



Big Sky Tour with Kathryn Williams & Polly Paulusma

£18 | 6:30pm
whatsonreading.com

MON 16 OCT

PURPLE TURTLE
Groove Cult Shindigs

Turtle Underground

Free | 7:30pm 18+
Live music every monday in the purple turtle dungeon.

THURS 19 OCT

SOUTH STREET
knifedoutofexistence + geheimnisknecht + Lingua della Strega

£8 | 8pm
A night of experimental art noise with the hardest working and premier noise act in the UK.
whatsonreading.com

FRI 20 OCT

THE BUTLER
Rev John H & the Revelations

Free | 9pm

THE FACEBAR
Morass Of Molasses + The Two Ton Shoes + Sabres

£5adv, £7 otd | 8pm | 14+
Morass Of Molasses play a hometown show as part of their 10th Anniversary Tour.
eventbrite.co.uk

SAT 21 OCT

THE BUTLER
Rigsby

Free | 9pm

THE FACEBAR
The Jam Project + Caz & The Traitors

£11 | 8pm |
ents24.com

SUN 22 OCT

WATLINGTON HOUSE
Readifolk

The Foxglove Trio

£8otd | 8pm

MON 23 OCT

PURPLE TURTLE
Groove Cult Shindigs
Turtle Underground

Free | 7:30pm 18+
Live music every monday in the purple turtle dungeon.

WED 25 OCT

THE FACE BAR
Heavy Pop
The Bug Club + SUEP
gigantic.com

THE LYNDHURST
Jazz Singers' Night

Free | 8:00pm
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THU 26 OCT

FACEBAR

Club Velocity & New Mind

The March Violets

£22 | 8pm

All ages (U14 w/adult)

Founder-members Rosie

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are joined again by William

Faith (Faith & the Muse,

Conflict and The Bellwether

Syndicate) back in the

studio and back on tour.

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PURPLE TURTLE

Ding Dong Daddios

Free | 6:30pm | 18+

FRI 27 OCT

RIISING SUN ARTS CENTRE

Club Velocity



Jessica Lee Morgan

+ WolfNote

+ Alan Caruso

£8.80 | 8pm | All ages

wegotickets.com

SAT 28 OCT

THE HEXAGON

Haircut 100

+ support

from £34.50 | 7pm

Yep. Haircut 100. Really!!!

whatsonreading.com

FACEBAR

Club Velocity/New Mind.

Bennet +

Mark Lyons

£13.20 | 8pm | 16+

wegotickets.com

MON 30 OCT

PURPLE TURTLE

Groove Cult Shindigs

Turtle Underground

Free | 7:30pm 18+

Live music every monday in

the purple turtle dungeon.

TUE 31 OCT

HEXAGON

Level 42

From £36.50 | 7pm

whatsonreading.com

WED 1 NOV

FACE BAR

Club Velocity/New Mind

Double-headline Show

The DSM IV

ELLIS•D

£8.80 | 8pm

14+ (U16s w/adult)

Formed by Guy McKnight of

The Eighties Matchbox B-Line

Disaster, The DSM IV has a

dark sound blending noise-

rock, synth-pop and industrial.

Cacophonous and epic!

Ellis D is best known as

the manic drummer behind

garage-psych outfit, Strange

Cages, and spent ten years

flailing his limbs across

the tattered kits of UK and

Europe's basement scene

before starting out his solo

project in 2021.

wegotickets.com

THU 2 NOV

HEXAGON

The Manfreds

£38.50, £36.50 | 7:30pm

Pioneers of UK Rythm &

Blues celebrating 60 years.

whatsonreading.com



THE BUTLER

FSJB presents

P'Jam

£5adv, £7otd | 7pm | 18+

Jazz quartet fronted by

Annie Parker on flutes

with Phil Craddock, piano;

Marianne Windham, bass;

Jim Wade, drums.

fsjbmusic.uk

FRI 3 NOV

FACE BAR

Club Velocity & New Mind

The DeRellias

+ Eat Daddy Eat

+ Killer Kowalski

£8.80 | 8pm | 16+

Your fave UK glam punks!

www.wegotickets.com

THE BUTLER

Chubby La Touche &

his Band of Whores/

The BJ Bevy +

Jimmy the Dog

£8adv, £10otd | 8pm | 18+

Three fantastic bands

bring an eclectic mix of

raucous rock 'n' roll and

swamp blues.

fsjbmusic.uk

SAT 4 NOV

FACE BAR

19 Something

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Parties, The Mezz, Maddie

Ashman, Jack Valero, Tiger

Mendoza, Doops, The Pink

Diamond Revue, Ash The

Author, Jopy, Hoopy Frood

and Colours & Fires

+ DJs: Bailo & Eames (The

Social) and Matt Le Blend –

all in aid of Age UK Reading.

eventbrite.com

THE BUTLER

Hard Times

Free | 8pm

SUN 5 NOV

WATLINGTON HOUSE

Readifolk

Calum Gillighan

£8otd | 8pm

MON 6 NOV

PURPLE TURTLE

Groove Cult Shindigs

Turtle Underground

Free | 7:30pm 18+

Live music every monday in

the purple turtle dungeon.

THU 9 NOV

FACEBAR

Club Velocity/New Mind

Vision Video

+ West Wickhams

£11 | 8pm | 14+(U16s w/adult)

Goth-Pop Post-Punk band

from Athens, Georgia.

wegotickets.com

FRI 10 NOV

PROGRESS THEATRE

Jazz in Reading

Music Is:

Chris Biscoe Plays

Mike Westbrook

£19.60 | 7:30pm

Celebrate the music of Mike

Westbrook, one of the most

important composers in jazz.

ticketsource.co.uk

SAT 11 NOV

FACEBAR

Club Velocity/New Mind

Eddie & the Hot Rods

+ The Deckchairs

+ Hot Flab

£17.60 | 8pm | 14+

wegotickets.com

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Wednesday 25th October, Face Bar



THIS IS THE KIT

+ GINA BIRCH (The Raincoats)

Friday 10th November, St. Laurence Church

PERSONAL TRAINER + CONGRATULATIONS

Tuesday 14th November, Face Bar

A CERTAIN RATIO

Tuesday 16th November, Face Bar

THE AMAZONS + SWIM SCHOOL

Thursday 14th December, 3Sixty - Reading Uni

PIP BLOM

Sunday 4th February, Sub89

JOHN

Friday 1st March, Face Bar

For full gig listings and tickets: heavypop.co.uk

Contact: info@heavypop.co.uk

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FRIDAY
19TH JANUARY
2024



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