

soundcheck

Issue 47 | October 2025 | FREE

Reading's FREE live music guide

SKIN HAWK

+ live gigs for October



RUNNIN' BLUE PRESENTS

TRUST ME THIS IS GOING TO HURT

NEW ALBUM!

the DeRELLAS

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GLAM STOMPING PUNK N' ROLL



The Amazons
 Readipop Fiesta, Reading SU, 13.09.2025
 Photo: Steve Axtell

The Readipop Fiesta was a giggle, then – above and beyond the stuff I knew I'd bought a ticket for. The Borough's whole performance was watched very closely by 'The Man' – complete with black suit, shades and a clipboard – which made their set ending with an alarm going off and everybody having to evacuate the building seem like an entirely appropriate chunk of live interactive theatre.

At one point, I wandered into a room hosting 'Hip Hop Karaoke'. Not three words I would normally run towards but, a few pints in, it seemed like the most

joyfully, heroically ridiculous thing I'd ever seen in my life and I struggled to tear myself away.

Hopefully, somebody at the SU will have chalked the whole event up as a success in a massively under-used space so that maybe we can see more of it. Like in the past. I saw Spiritalised in there once, you know. Cue, some of you reading this and going, "That's nothing. I saw... la la la..." We can but hope.

In the meantime, here's a truckload of gigs to get to everywhere else in town this month. See you there.

– RiCH

Cover photo: Kayleigh Fryer

[f /soundcheckreading](#)
[i /soundcheckrdg](#)



SKINHAWK

Words: Ennaya Shehzad
Photos: Kayleigh Fryer

I saw Skinhawk headlining at the Turtle. I'd been feeling pretty run-down that night but by the time they played Not My Problem, I was transfixed by the incredible presence and rousing delivery. They had clearly won over everyone else in the room, too. And cos I've done this interview twice (bit clumsy with my phone!) I can also say with chest they are really interesting, decent people and I will be seeing them play whenever I can.

Nikki (vocals) and Jez (bass) have known each other for a long time. Working together, listening to a lot of punk and talking about starting a band a lot. Nikki does all the T-shirts and animation for Tape It Shut, so "we'd always be hanging around bands and it made us realise we really wanted to do that. So, ok, got to actually find the other members."

Lauren was a friend of a friend who they were told played a string instrument – which turned out to be ukelele.

She'd also "been in a shit cover band, and I sang, so guitar is new but I just knew if I didn't say yes, I'd regret it."

Archie: "...and here she is now! Pretty much learned to play guitar to play us."

Jez: "It was sick! We auditioned one guitarist and got one guitarist!"

Jez met Archie on a game design course. He recounts being "sat with Archie in the game design lab saying 'We need to find a drummer. Do you know anyone?' Archie sort of goes 'Ah, if only I knew someone who played drums!'"

INSPIRATIONS?

Jez: "The dreaded I word – IDLES"

Nikki: "Dead Kennedys, Minor Threat, Restraining Order, Pizza Tramp, Teen Mortgage, Distillers... and other punk bands."

Lauren: "I've got my Riot Grrl stuff..."

Archie: "We are nerds! It's a combination of political and nerdy that we try and fit into all out music."

Nikki: "Me and Jez worked together and lived together, and D&D – we try to bring that into a lot of it."

Of course, Jez and Archie met on their game design course – yeah, they're all nerds!

Nikki does all their artwork, "heavily inspired by Brett Parson (who did Tank Girl!) and the Skinhawk creature itself is inspired by his Zombies series."

Nikki wrote their first song (Oh Shit, It's The Skinhawk, "which will never be recorded") during a D&D sesh, which explains the lyric "Oh shit, I rolled a two."

The Castle Tap is their favourite place in Reading to play.

Jez: "...and the Turtle because the sound guy Steve is the BEST."

Archie: "Best guy ever. Always makes me sound very good on the drums."

Nikki: "Castle tap is the best for vibes and intimacy... community... you're basically playing in the crowd, and you've got everyone in here with you. It's amazing."

GOALS FOR THE BAND?

Archie: "We've got a single coming out..."

Nikki: "...soon. When I do the artwork. And talk to Chris about the mixing. We're working on our ep, 'Man Made Horrors'."

A quick look at the tracklist looks like this:

'Blazcovicz': "Our zombie killing song."

'Gits and Gammon': "About that red-faced motherf@*ker that drinks too much lager in the pub... The guys we used to deal with working in bars."



Nikki: "Then 'Comfort food' is about my old job, working in a jean shop. It's a grungey one I wrote when I went to work with the flu, cos I needed the money. I stood in the stock room and wrote 'Comfort Food' about how much I didn't wanna be there, and I'd rather be at home watching TV and eating pasta."

"And then 'No Songs' is the paradox. It's the one that's about feelings. It's funny cos it's one of our dancier songs but..."

"I woke up last winter, on the anniversary of the death of a friend of mine whose funeral I missed cos I went to a lecture instead – just automatically got up at 5 am like 'Cool, time to go to a lecture'. I was thinking, people that are in bands write songs about people that they've lost. There's tons of shit like that for every band, and I was thinking 'I'm doing a lot better now but I've not always been the healthiest person in the world, I've had a lot of troubles, I sofa surfed for a long time... I hope none of my mates ever have to write a song about me.'"

"So instead, I wrote a song about me! Sort of to say, like, you've gotta keep living. You've gotta keep moving forwards, you've got to keep sane, going, staying alive."

"I've been listening a lot to 'Before Everything Hurts', by a band called Skinhead, and the last song is just the singer recounting the summer before seventh grade. It's not the world's most wholesome story – it's a lot about growing up and the weirdness about being a teenage boy, and the weird shit you experience when you're that age."

Sneeze Jez: "Sorry, I'm allergic to talking about feelings."



Nikki, continues: *"I really like that sort of vibe that it creates, and I'd love to do something similar, on the end of an album – to talk about how everything's good now but there were the times when things were a lot more unstable. But with the message of 'things do get better'."*

"Most of the people that come to our shows are in their mid 20s, but you do get the occasional person who's 18 or whatever – people I knew from work and whatever, and I hear them talk a lot about 'Oh, I've just been through this relationship with this shitty person' for the first time, I'm suddenly having to pay bills and I've got no money' for the first time, and I kind of wanna do that spoken bit for them, and for me. Like, this shit happens, but we're all going through it. It happens to all of us, and we're all ok."

*"Ah f@*k, emotions! Let's go back to how much I like violent video games, and punk music."*

Archie: *"Zombies!"*

Nikki: *"We, as a band, do not condone violence to any human beings, though."*

Lauren: *"Music is a good form to lean in the nerdy with the political."*

Me, laughing: Gitz and Gammon?

Nikki: *"Well, that is just not subtle. But there are things you can't really say outright, and the music gives us this... just some plausible deniability. That 'Do you bite your thumb at me sir?' 'I do, Sir', what punk's all about."*

ANY INDIVIDUAL GOALS?

Nikki: *"I wanna play Fishstock so bad. I've just really wanted to since a couple of years back when our mates, Tape it Shut, played it and Kane (the bassist) sent me a picture of a T-shirt I made next to one from another band we really admire. That really made the whole band thing real for me."*



Broader, just play in more situations where I meet more bands and sort of expand the network, that's the goal. I don't really care if we maintain the same level of 'popularity' or 'fame' or whatever. What I care about is if we make more 'band friends' cos then if we make more band friends, we make more gigs with them, and more people we can sort of get to know.

Lauren: *"It's a nice community. That's the most important thing for me. Ah everyone's looking at me now."*

"I sort of want to keep working on guitar, cos I sort of learned guitar for this and I wanna keep working on that, keep improving, try and write some stuff."

"There's a festival in my hometown that's called Darwen Live. I think it's like the UK's biggest free music festival and I sort of grew up going to it, so that'd be like an amazing one for me, personally."

Jez: *"Cos I do the majority of the writing for at the moment, just get better at writing music, and write more songs that make people wanna punch each other in a consensual manner, basically."*

"Well, there's goals! The most concise answer we've had to the question so far."

You can catch Skinhawk on Halloween, here at the Castle Tap. It'll be "us, our mates Halloran and Tape it Shut."

Then...

7th November at the Facebar with Nuke Cucumber
2nd November, Castle Tap with Our Lives in Cinema
And they'll have their annual January gig at the Castle Tap, with Two Time Machete, Halloran, and Dead Sheep ("as soon as they get back to us.")
'Man Made Horrors' will be out in late November or early December. But Not My Problem is out now!
Go listen!

On Spotify they are SKINHAWK! Not the other one.



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Every Wednesday

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gigguide

WED 1 OCT

PURPLE TURTLE

Skeeta Sounds

Oyama + Ota + Kiosk

Free | 8pm | 18+

THU 2 OCT

PURPLE TURTLE

**FIEP + The Dazed Minded
+ Marta Vega**

Free | 8pm | 18+

FRI 3 OCT

SUB89

Misty In Roots

+ Pama International

£44 | 7pm | 16+ (U18 w/adult)

THE BUTLER

Please Ban Music #12

**The Borough + Sundaughter
+ Mystery Biscuit**

£5 otd | 7:30pm

PURPLE TURTLE

Rosedale

FREE | 8:30pm | 18+

SAT 4 OCT

THREE TUNS

Within The Blood

Free | 8pm

CASTLE TAP

Old Goat presents

Queen of Between

+ Aztec Death Whistle

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. Websites refer to where to get tickets.

bf = booking fee otd = on the door
adv = advance tbc = to be confirmed

ST MARY'S, PURLEY ON THAMES

Village Concerts

Emma Stevens

£16.50, £11 (14-17yrs) | 7pm | 14+

wegottickets.com

SUN 5 OCT

PANGBOURNE JAZZ CLUB

Jazz@PJC presents

**Chloe du Pre with Terry
Hutchins Quartet**

£14 | 7:30pm

skiddle.com

PURPLE TURTLE

The Sunday Sessions

Flight Path + Tommy

Thompson + Impulse

+ Post Modern Fantasy

FREE | 3pm | 14+ (U18 w/adult)

MON 6 OCT

PURPLE TURTLE

Turtle Underground

Cedar

Free | 7:30 | 18+

Three bands, every Monday.

WED 8 OCT

PURPLE TURTLE

Heavy Pop

Lipworms + WING!

+ My Liberal Pony

Free | 8pm | 18+

THU 9 OCT

PURPLE TURTLE

Bison + Underpass

+ Pink Walrus

Free | 8pm | 18+

FRI 10 OCT

PURPLE TURTLE

Big Audio Twynamite

FREE | 8:30pm | 18+

UP THE JUNCTION BAR

Monday	closed
Tuesday	5pm - 2am
Wednesday	5pm - 2am
Thursday	5pm - 2am
Friday	5pm - 3am
Saturday	5pm - 3am
Sunday	5pm - 2am

(Last entry 1:30am)

Licensed to 3am, 7 days a week for private hire. DJs, live music, launch nights, comedy, parties... get in touch: upthejunctionbar@hotmail.co.uk

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Puma Theory
Readipop Fiesta, Reading SU, Mojos
13.09.2025 Photo: Alex Marlow

Turtle
UNDERGROUND
 3 BANDS EVERY MONDAY
 7.30PM FREE ENTRY

CLUB RECKLESS
 STRAIGHT INTO
 PUNK, EMO, ROCK, METAL
 10PM TO 3AM FREE ENTRY

Blackstar
 AMPLIFICATION

Purple Turtle
GOVE GUY

THE SUNDAY SESSIONS
 05 OCT 2025
 3PM TO 6PM - FREE ENTRY 14+ / ID REQUIRED
 UNDER 18S MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT

FLIGHT PATH
 POST MODERN FANTASY

EMPIRE
 TOMMY THOMPSON

CEDAR
 UK TOUR 2025

MON 6TH OCT
 8PM FREE ENTRY / 18+ ID REQUIRED

HOOFF

LIPWORMS
 WEDS 8th October
 wing!
 8pm FREE ENTRY 18+ ID Required

HEAVY OP
MY LIBERAL PONY

BISON
 @BISONBANDUK
 1ST READING GIG FOR 2025
THURSDAY 9th OCTOBER
 WITH **underpass** + **Pink Valves**
 8PM FREE ENTRY / 18+ ID REQUIRED

FACTOR 50
 Bristol

WEDNESDAY 15th OCTOBER
 8PM FREE ENTRY / 18+ ID REQUIRED

SLOTH

AQUALINE
 19th November
Sleep + piece
 When you hear the sound
 8pm FREE ENTRY 18+ ID Required

WHO ATE ALL THE CRAYONS
 + **DEVA ST. JOHN**
 SOUTH UK TOUR 2025
SATURDAY 18 OCTOBER
 7:30pm // FREE ENTRY // 18+ ID Required
 tickets from.... whoateallthecrayons.com

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK FROM MIDDAY - PURPLETURTLEBAR.COM

Skeeta Sounds Presents

OYAMA (Iceland)
OTALA
KIOSK
1st October
 8pm // Free Entry // 18+ ID Required

ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND
 Early Career Promoter Fund

FIEP
 @veerlefiep
 "energetic and charismatic power-pop"
 AMSTERDAM - NETHERLANDS
THURSDAY 2ND OCTOBER
The Deved Minded with **MART★VE★**
 8PM FREE ENTRY / 18+ ID REQUIRED

ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

Th DA Freak
 with **doops + pej**
Thurs 16th October
 8pm FREE ENTRY

PUBLIC CIRCUIT USA
SUNDAY 19th OCTOBER
 with **Heavy Wild**
 Matinee Show 3pm - FREE ENTRY

AGENCY SHOWCASE
SKY VALLEY MISTRESS
 Spaghetti-Western Garage-Rock (London)
UGLY MOTHERS
 Grunge-Infused Alt-Rock (Milton Keynes)
Thursday 23rd Oct
 8pm // FREE ENTRY // 18+ ID Required

NATIVE SUN (NYC USA)
SUNDAY 26th OCTOBER
 with **THE CERTS** + **TBC**
 3pm to 8pm // Free Entry 14+
 18s must be accompanied by an adult

TheDharmaChain AUSTRALIA
 with **FLAVOURS** Support TBC
THURSDAY 6th NOVEMBER
 8PM - FREE ENTRY - 18+ ID Required

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SUNDAY 23RD NOVEMBER
 3PM FREE ENTRY 14+ 18S MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT

The Purple Turtle is supported using public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England

Purple Turtle



Rose Rey
Readipop Fiesta, Reading SU, Mojos
13.09.2025 Photo: Alex Marlow

PROGRESS THEATRE
Jazz in Reading
Chris Biscoe's
Profiles Quartet

£20, £18 conc, £10 U16 (+bf) | 7:30pm
Chris Biscoe; saxes and alto clarinet,
Alcyona Mick; piano, Larry Bartley; bass,
Winston Clifford; drums
jazzinreading.com

FACE BAR
Thunder Hammer
£13.45 | 7pm | 16+
skiddle.com

FLAMINGOS VINTAGE
Glimmer Records
White Label + tbc

£5 | 8pm
Release show for White Label's debut

EP 'Good For You', in-store at Flamingos
Vintage, Queen Victoria Street RG1 1SY.
eventbrite.com

RAILWAY TAVERN
Within The Blood
FREE | 8pm

SAT 11 OCT

SOUTH ST ARTS CENTRE
Heavy Pop
The Wave Pictures
+ Damien A Passmore
£23.50 | 7:30pm | 14+ (U18 w/adult)
heavypop.co.uk

FACE BAR
Stonegarden
£8.80 | 8pm | All ages (U16s w/adult)
gigantic.com

SOUTH STREET - STUDIO
High Vibes #12
Structure Een + Christopher
J Marshall + Dritëro Demjaha
+ Los:Urizen

£8adv, £10otd | 7:30pm | 14+
whatsonreading.com

CASTLE TAP
Rocket Kings
+ Burghfield Uncommon
FREE | 7:30pm

ALAN CORNISH THEATRE
Stuart Henderson, Michael
Wilkins & the Mike Goff Trio
£17.50 | 7:45pm
Performing the music of Nat &
Cannonball Adderley
ticketsource.co.uk

THE BUTLER
Rigsby
Free | 9pm

Email listings info to
copy@sound-check.co.uk

SUN 12 OCT

MILK
The Will McCrea Trio
£4, £2.50(NUS) | 7pm | 18+
milkreading.co.uk

SUB89
Dodgy
£27.50 | 7pm | 14+ (U14 w/adult)
pinkdottlive.co.uk

WATLINGTON HOUSE
Readifolk
Culverake
£10otd (cash only) | 8pm

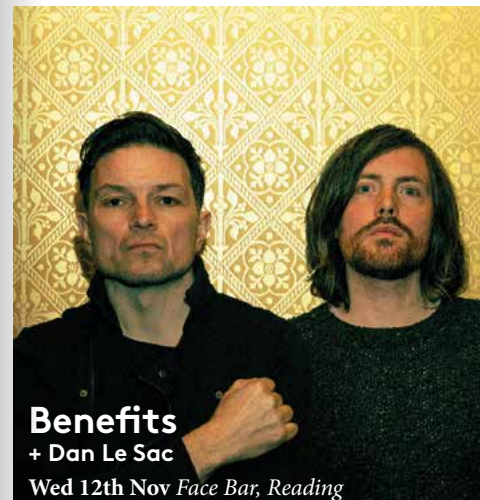
MON 13 OCT

PURPLE TURTLE
Turtle Underground
Free | 7:30pm | 18+

WED 15 OCT

PURPLE TURTLE
Factor 50
Free | 8pm | 18+

HEAVY POP



Benefits
+ Dan Le Sac
Wed 12th Nov Face Bar, Reading

Heavy Pop are Independent Reading-based live music promoters organising gigs across the South East, as well as Reading's annual Are You Listening? Festival and Down at the Abbey Festival.

LIVE MUSIC

READING & OXFORD SHOWS

Nerina Pallot
+ Kah'Nya

Thu 16th Oct Jericho Tavern, Oxford

Pale Blue Eyes
+ Sundaughter

Fri 17th Oct South St Arts Centre, Reading

The Golden Dregs
+ Sophie Jamieson + Lichen(solo)
Sun 16th Nov Jericho Tavern, Oxford

Jessica Hoop

Wed 26th Nov Jericho Tavern, Oxford

Gnod

+ João Pais Filipe
Tue 2nd Dec Face Bar, Reading

For full gig listings and tickets: heavypop.co.uk
Contact: info@heavypop.co.uk

f x @ heavypoppromo

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Liquid Dogs
Purple Turtle 08.09.2025
Photo: Steve Axtell



THU 16 OCT

READING BISCUIT FACTORY
Super Connected 2025
The Tim Arnold Company

£8.99 | 7pm | 14+

Is it time to break up with our phones?
The stage adaptation of the critically acclaimed album by Tim Arnold, 'Super Connected' is an art rock Black Mirror-esque show fusing film, live music, and theatre about the ticking time bomb of social media, screen addiction and the impact of Big Tech's power over human life.

readingbiscuitfactory.co.uk

PURPLE TURTLE
Th DA Freak + Doops + pej
FREE | 8pm | 18+

FRI 17 OCT

THE BUTLER
Friday Night Blues
Burning Rope
£17.60 | 8pm | 18+
wegottickets.com

SOUTH STREET - THEATRE
Heavy Pop

Pale Blue Eyes + Sundaughter
£19 | 7:30pm | 14+
whatsonreading.com

PURPLE TURTLE
Defintely 90s
Free | 8:30pm | 18+

SOUTH STREET - STUDIO
Robb Johnson & Roger Watson
£18.50 | 8pm | 16+ (U18s w/adult)
whatsonreading.com

FACE BAR
Play for Ukraine
The Highwasters
+ The Echo + Brick Top
£10^{otd} | 6:30pm
Fundraiser for Reading Ukrainian community centre.

SAT 18 OCT

PURPLE TURTLE
Who Ate All The Crayons +
Deva St. John
FREE | 8pm | 18+

CASTLE TAP
Shadow Promo presents
Pook's Skacore Birthday Bash
Po-lice + Hell Death Fury
+ Bandits + Ill Gotten Gains
FREE | 6pm

OAKFORD SOCIAL CLUB
Twin Sun + Alive By Night
Free | 8pm | 18+

Celebrating Ten Years of Twin Sun with a special night of music and friends.

SUN 19 OCT

THE BUTLER
Shadow Promotions DIY x Repulsed
Not Without Punishment +
Bitewound + Broken Lungs +
Prey + Frail
£6.60 | 2pm | 16+
wegottickets.com

WATLINGTON HOUSE
Readifolk
Maggie Holland
£10^{otd} (cash only) | 8pm

PURPLE TURTLE
Public Circuit + Heavy Wild
FREE | 6pm | 18+

MON 20 OCT

PURPLE TURTLE
Turtle Underground
Free | 7:30pm | 18+

TUE 21 OCT

FACE BAR
Future Transmissions
Los Fastidios + Juliet & the
Raging Romeos
£15.40 | 8pm | 14+ (U16 w/adult)
Powerful, melodic, multi-lingual streetpunk mixing classic 80s British Punk-Oi! sounds with a lot of skanking, rock'n'roll and hardcore rhythms.
wegottickets.com

THU 23 OCT

SOUTH STREET ARTS CENTRE
The Magpie Arc
£25 | 8pm | All ages (U14 w/adult)
whatsonreading.com

FRI 24 OCT

PURPLE TURTLE
Daft!
FREE | 8:30pm | 18+

SOUTH ST - THEATRE
The Gymkhana + One Sided Horse

£12.50 | 7pm | All ages (U14 w/adult)
whatsonreading.com

SAT 25 OCT

THE LYNDHURST
Steve Morano Band
Free | 8:30pm

THE TURKS HEAD
Turkish Deadlight!
Free | 9pm

MON 27 OCT

PURPLE TURTLE
Turtle Underground
Free | 7:30pm | 18+

SUN 26 OCT

PURPLE TURTLE
Native Sun
FREE | 3pm | 18+

Blending the raw energy of early punk & garage rock with the melodic sensibilities and depth of art rock.

CASTLE TAP
Captain's Beard
Free | 7:30pm

FRI 31 OCT

RISING SUN ARTS CENTRE
Future Transmissions
Puma Theory + Baby Maker
+ Belizaire
£7.20 | 8pm | All ages
Future Transmissions are back with their annual Halloween show!
wegottickets.com

CASTLE TAP
Halloween Spooktacular
Tape it Shut + Skinhawk
+ Halloran + tbc
FREE | 6:30pm
Punk, Emo, Hardcore and messy Halloween vibes. And, yes, of course you can dress up!

PURPLE TURTLE
Rob and The Retros
Free | 8:30pm | 18+

SAT 1 NOV

THE BUTLER
Dapper Events presents
The Magical Mystery Four
£8.80^{adv}, £10^{otd} | 8pm
14+ (U18s w/adult)
wegottickets.com

OAKFORD SOCIAL CLUB
Day of the Dead '25
feat. Missing The Scene
FREE | 6pm | 18+
Mexican-style Day of the Dead party promising an all-night party with Mexican regalia throughout the venue, film screenings, a secret altar and games and prizes, as well as the band! Fancy dress is encouraged. Obviously.

SUN 2 NOV

WATLINGTON HOUSE
Readifolk
Four Gone Confusion

£10^{otd} (cash only) | 8pm

FACE BAR

4 Play Prog Fest IV
Spriggan Mist + Kindred
Spirit band + Mother Black
Cap + EBB + Mountainscape
+ A Bit On The Side

£22 | 2pm | 14+ (U18 w/adult)
seetickets.com

MON 3 NOV

PURPLE TURTLE
Turtle Underground
Free | 7:30pm | 18+

THU 6 NOV

PURPLE TURTLE
The Dharma Chain
+ Flavours + tbc
FREE | 8pm | 18+

"Succumb to the wall of sound & drown in the fluttering harmonic delays." – Psychedelic Baby Magazine

sound-check

To advertise in Sound-check,
email rich@sound-check.co.uk.

Prices and ad specs are all at sound-check.co.uk. We keep it as cheap as we can to just cover the cost of keeping this thing alive.

Reasonable efforts are made to ensure that all info in Sound-check is correct at time of going to press. If you're worried, though, please check with the relevant venue.

Designers: Rich Lucas, Mike Parker

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www.sound-check.co.uk

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FUTURE

TRANSMISSIONS

SHOWS AT THE FACEBAR READING 2025/26

OCT 11TH - DISORDER * HEALTHY JUNKIES
LADY RAGE TAPE IT SHUT

OCT 21ST - LOS FASTIDIOS * JULIET & THE
RAGING ROMEOS

OCT 26TH - DAY RAVE - LAB-4 Tims
CYBERNAUT TASHAKP

NOV 7TH - BON GIOVI

NOV 14TH - THE OGRETONES * DAMIAN PASSMORE

NOV 30TH - CULTURE SHOCK * ILL GOTTEN GAINS

DEC 4TH - SCOTT LAVENE * BABY MAKER

DEC 7TH - BEANS ON TOAST

DEC 11TH - JOHN OTWAY FULL BAND

DEC 12TH - MIKI BERENYI TRIO * THE GO GO CULT

DEC 18TH - DEMENTED ARE GO * IN ASSOCIATION WITH GOOD WRECKING TONIGHT
UNCLE PEANUT

FEB 20TH - GHOST DANCE * GOTH LEGENDS
CLAYTOWN TROUPE
THE GO GO CULT

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