

# MUSIC

with Helen Clarke



**The Rivers**  
*Love Or Whatever*  
NoCarbon Records  
Download Single  
October 6  
★★★★☆

THEY say time flies by – and if anything is proof of that it's this debut single by Brighton's The Rivers.

This is a band who grew up listening to Razorlight and sound like an impressive tribute band.

Luckily for them, Razorlight grew up listening to the Strokes and the Hives, and *Love Or Whatever* is a good, old-fashioned rock 'n' roll song.

Jaunty, bloke guitar pop about lusting after a girl, it's radio-friendly fun that should propel them from open mic nights to the top 10.

The nation's favourite brit-rockers in waiting.



**Antony and the Johnsons**  
*Another World*  
Rough Trade  
EP  
October 6  
★★★★☆

IT'S BEEN a long wait for those still spooked by Antony and the Johnsons' haunting 2005 breakthrough, *I Am A Bird Now*.

To plug the gap between next year's third album, Antony Hegarty lent his voice to tracks by Bjork, Hercules and the Love Affair, and film soundtracks galore – and now this EP is set to whet fans' appetites in time for the big release.

Just one listen to the title track will remind fans of what they've been missing. It's stark and lonely – just Hegarty's distinctive vocal accompanied by thick, velvety piano. He sounds constantly on the verge of tears and his sadness is infectious.

His is a voice that deserves indulging – he doesn't need or want big instrumentals, instead choosing subtle strings, and echoes of Nico to create a creeping, gothic cabaret.

The remaining four tracks don't quite reach the heights of the opener, but it's a great reintroduction to one of the most unique voices in pop today.



**El Guincho**  
*Alegranza*  
Young Turks  
Album  
October 6  
★★★★☆

VAMPIRE Weekend may be the Afro-pop darlings of the moment, but El Guincho – aka Pablo Diaz-Reixa – looks set to steal their crown.

Not satisfied with steel drums and African rhythms, he's also packed in the sounds of Brazil, Spain and Bollywood to create the global village sound Dee-Lite only dreamed of.

Repetative, hypnotic beats and samples, he plays into the hands of the trend for retro synth fetishism.

A psychedelic, sunshine record that will have you packing your suitcase and heading for the airport.



**WHAT'S ON IN YOUR AREA?**

[www.londoninformer.co.uk](http://www.londoninformer.co.uk)

informer review



**MUSTARD HQ:** Comedian turned magazine creator Alex Musson in the office (above); and (below) the covers of Mustard comedy magazine, now in circulation

## NEW MAG CUTS THE MUSTARD

### INTERVIEW

ALEX MUSSON,  
MUSTARD MAGAZINE

"I'M NOT that sort of person," Alex Musson said to his friend Steve as they sat down at the Comedy Club, seven years ago.

"I'm too old," he continued. "It scares the living daylight out of me!" he pleaded. But his good friend Steve didn't flinch.

Both regulars of the comedy circuit, Steve knew that Alex would be better off on stage than in the stalls.

The deadline for Alex's first try at stand-up was set for his 29th birthday. "We found a seven-minute slot at the Laughing Horse comedy club in Camden and I had a month to prepare," Alex says.

"Steve was the only person I told. It was really scary. The only thing I can compare it to is losing my virginity – baffling at the time, but afterwards it feels great."

Steve was proven right. The MC loved the slot, Alex was asked back, and for the next two years – to his surprise – he toured the country, gigging three or four nights a week. Despite the success, Alex says: "That's how I discovered I was happier behind the typewriter."

Before his stint in stand-up, Alex was already writing, photocopying and distributing a little black and white comedy pamphlet called *Mustard* magazine.

It was just a hobby and only a few hundred copies an issue were made. But last January, at 35, Alex has had another "now or never" moment and 10,000 full colour copies of *Mustard* went into circulation.

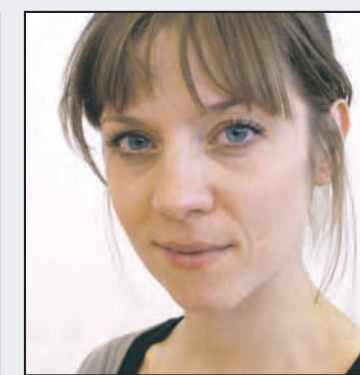
*Peep Show* writers Sam Bain and Jesse Armstrong now feature on the cover of the third issue, with Michael Palin and Graham Linehan (*The IT Crowd*, *Father Ted*) before them.

The king of comic book writers, Alan Moore (*Watchmen*), is also a fan and past interviewee, describing *Mustard* as Britain's answer to the *Onion*, America's top comedy mag. Similarly full of spoof news, funny features, cartoons and comic strips, the popularity of *Mustard* is spreading like a cold at Christmas. Check out [www.mustardweb.org](http://www.mustardweb.org) for news, back copies and the mailing list.

● Best place for hard copies: Gosh Comics, 39 Great Russell St. Open daily 10am-6pm, Thurs/Fri until 7pm. Call 020 7636 1011. Email [info@goshlondon.com](mailto:info@goshlondon.com)

Christian McLaughlin

“THE ONLY THING I CAN COMPARE STAND-UP TO IS LOSING MY VIRGINITY – BAFFLING AT THE TIME, BUT AFTERWARDS IT FEELS GREAT”



THE USUAL SUSPECTS: (From left) Starring in *The Importance of Being Earnest* are Javier Marzan, John Nicholson, Rhona Croker, Richard Katz and Sophie Russell  
Pictures by Christian McLaughlin

# STAGING SURPRISE



### PREVIEW

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST, BY PEEPOLYKUS LYRIC THEATRE

THINGS are never quite what they seem when it comes to comedic theatre group Peepolykus.

Take their name, for a start. Sounds like an ancient Greek god. But visit their website and you discover it's one of their funny tricks – their name should be pronounced "people-like-us".

Then take their latest show, which begins today at the Lyric theatre's main stage.

Its official title, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, is similarly misleading. Under the guise of an Oscar Wilde period drama, this play is in actual fact the story of *Spyski* – a parallel plot-line where the murder of a high-profile Russian dissident is discovered.

Five actors play both sets of characters – and a few more beside – in a *Mission Impossible*-style farce. Having sat in on a rehearsal, I can safely say that it's far less confusing than it

sounds, and even funnier than expected.

Peepolykus founders John Nicholson, Javier Marzan and David Sant have been staging all kinds of outlandish performances during their 12-year history, from pyrotechnics to mime. But comedies such as last year's *West End* hit *The Hound of the Baskervilles* propelled their reputation into the mainstream.

*Spyski*, as we'll call it for now, is penned by the same writing team of John Nicholson and Steven Canny (of feted theatre company *Complicite* – see overleaf) and continues to make you wish you had discovered them earlier.

This is also director David Farr's last show as artistic director of the Lyric. After a stunning three years at the helm, *Spyski* will be the perfect antidote to the twinge of sadness. Come crease up with laughter and cherish the send off.

To see rehearsal footage and an interview with John and Javier of Peepolykus head to [www.londoninformer.co.uk](http://www.londoninformer.co.uk)

● *The Importance of Being Earnest (Spyski)*, by Peepolykus is at the Lyric Theatre, Lyric Square, Hammersmith until November 1. £10-27. 7.30pm. Call 0871 22 117 22. See [www.lyric.co.uk](http://www.lyric.co.uk) and [www.peepolykus.com](http://www.peepolykus.com)



REHEARSALS: John (above) and (top) Rhona, Javier and Richard in scenes from the farce  
Pictures by Christian McLaughlin

LISTEN CAREFULLY: Javier and John in costume for the play  
Picture submitted