

MUSIC

with Helen Clarke



Esser
Satisfied
Single
Transgressive
November 17
★★★★☆

Esser's latest single sounds like an odd mash up of the past year in pop. Part 60s melodies, part dancehall reggae and part quirky indie, he's taken a thousand sounds and created one of the weirdest, most interesting songs of the year.

Satisfied sees the singer/songwriter ponder the age-old problem of how to please his woman – apparently even buying her all the shoes in the world doesn't satisfy her – and the sound is as timeless as its subject.

Reminiscent of one-hit wonder Whitetown's 1997 track *Your Woman*, it's got an eerie, crackling vintage sound, which plays alongside calypso drums and a cool, laidback vocal that sounds like a US RnB giant.

One to watch out for next year.



Friendly Fires
Paris
Single
XL
Out Now
★★★★☆

WE MIGHT have pretended that the dance/indie cross-over happened in the mid 90s with the likes of The Prodigy and Massive Attack, but they still catered for entirely different genres; you wouldn't have heard either at an indie disco.

But, thanks to Block Party, Foals, Late Of The Pier and co, an entire scene has emerged in the past couple of years that manages to truly blend the two.

Add to that list latest pretenders to the electro throne, Friendly Fires, whose latest release marks a turning point in the movement. No longer concerned with being 'innovative' or 'breaking barriers', Friendly Fires have released a throwaway single. A simple blast of far away, Kele Okereke-esque vocals, over blissed-out but frantic electronic noise, it's a romantic vision of an adventure in the French capital that proves that more of the same isn't necessarily a bad thing.



Moby
Last Night Remixed
Album
Mute
★★☆☆☆

AS A DJ, Moby's lent his hand to countless remixes over the years.

From The Prodigy to The B52s and Michael Jackson, anyone who's anyone has had their music tweaked and re-worked by the king of the decks.

Following 2006's *Go – The Very Best Of Moby Remixed*, the best of the new generation of DJ talent have been recruited to give his most recent album, *Last Night*, a going over.

This record shuns the tech/house feel of the previous remix albums, in favour of a more euphoric electro/disco sound.

Disco-punk outfit Holy Ghost's take on *I Love To Move In Here* is a highlight, but on whole it's an album for club fanatics and Moby obsessives.

WHAT'S ON
IN YOUR AREA?

www.london
informer.co.uk

informer review



Online goldmines and picture houses

DOCFEST, Sheffield's annual documentary film festival, is a national treasure. But don't despair if you missed out last week – London's got plenty of options.

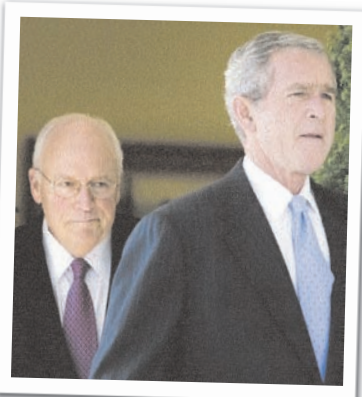
Take the new website, www.joiningthedots.tv – an online, pay-per-view library of documentary films. Brainchild of Portobello-based movie distributor Mercury Media, the site already houses more than 80 hand-picked documentaries for a little as £1.50 a viewing.

"This way you don't have to wait around for the doc to get on TV," says Mercury Media's Kas Basma, "and if it does make it to the box, it doesn't disappear straight after."

With more documentaries being made than TV slots and cinemas will take on, the surplus now has a home. But for those addicted to big screen, the group also collaborate with Picture House cinemas to reveal the pic of their roster every six weeks.

Next up is *I.O.U.S.A.*, a timely and scarily precise breakdown of the US's \$8trillion debt fiasco.

Thanks to a spend-now-think-later policy in the Bush era, get the facts



PEEKING AT POLITICS:
I.O.U.S.A. featuring Nixon (top), George Bush (above right) and Dick Cheney is at the Clapham Picturehouse

on the bill Obama (and the rest of us worldwide) are left to pay.

● *I.O.U.S.A.* screens at the Clapham Picture House, 76 Venn Street, SW4, on Monday, November 16, at 6.30pm. £8.50/6.50 members. Call 08717 042 055. See www.picturehouses.co.uk and www.joiningthedots.tv

An edgy ghetto tale

NINE years in the making, *Zoned In* is another gem to trickle down to London from last week's Sheffield's DocFest.

'Sukie' aka Daniel Nartey, was spotted by director Daniela Zanzotto when he was 15 and studying in a notorious state school of New York's South Bronx.

Both of Daniel's older brothers were in prison and were it not for unrelenting determination, his fate seemed similarly sealed.

His success story that ensues, with Daniel winning a full scholarship to Ivy League university Brown, is thankfully more complex than it would appear.

Brown may be a way out of the ghetto, but Daniel's heart remains there. Watch and learn as an extremely talented young man's life unfolds.

● *Zoned In* screens at The Flea Pit, 49 Columbia Road/Bia Road, E2, on Wednesday, November 19, at 8pm. £5. Call 020 7033 9986. See www.thefleapit.com



LIFE STORY: *Zoned In* is at The Flea Pit

OUT OF THE

BOX

LOVE YOUR DOCUMENTARIES? FROM MOVIES STARS TO POLITICS, THERE'S PLENTY ON OFFER IN THE CAPITAL, SAYS CHRISTIAN MCLAUGHLIN

CLICK ON THIS!

FREE ONLINE DOCUMENTARIES

● *Century of the Self*, by Adam Curtis. Powerful four-part series on the history of propaganda in the 20th Century from BBC2. Find on Google videos.

● *Toxic*, by Vice TV. Chapters 1, 7, 8, 9 and 10 show the damage plastic is doing to our water systems by taking a trip to the middle of the Pacific. Warning: contains strong language. See www.vbs.tv/shows/toxic/garbage-island/

Tune in to Euro art

WHAT'S Art Doc? It's a season of brilliant European art documentaries at venues near you. Here's a peek at some of the highlights, but for the full listings go to www.europe.org.uk/artdoc

52 PERCENT
Entrance exams to the famous Russian Waganowa Ballet



Academy in Saint Petersburg are extremely difficult. 52 per cent is an ideal ratio of legs to height, anything else and you're coming up short.

● *52 Percent* (above) screens at Institut Français, La Médiathèque, 17 Queensberry Place, South Kensington, on Tuesday, November 25, at 7.30pm. £3. Poland, 2007, 19 mins, cert. 12A. Call 020 7073 1350. See www.institut-francais.org.uk

ADDICTED TO ACTING

What if acting and becoming an actor is all that matters to you? Director Andres Veiel follows four protagonists through a seven year rollercoaster of emotions.



● *Addicted to Acting* (above) screens at Curzon Soho, 99 Shaftesbury Avenue, Piccadilly, on Saturday, November 29, at 3.45pm. £5. Germany, 2003, 108 mins, cert. 12A. Followed by conversation between Andres Veiel and Edward Kemp, artistic director of the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts. Call 08717 033 988. See www.curzoncinemas.com

CLARA B



The imaginary life of Clara B, a female photographer, created through real photos and archive materials. A docu-fiction, reflecting on memory and archives.

● *Clara B* (above) screens at the Austrian Cultural Forum, 28 Rutland Gate, Kensington, on Thursday, November 20, at 7pm. Free. Romania/France, 2006, 52 mins, cert. 12A. Call 020 7225 7300. See www.austria.org.uk/culture

VSPRS SHOW AND TELL & BALLETS DE CI DE LA
See Alain Platel's dance group perform what *The Stage* magazine called 'the weirdest, most shocking and provocative dance performance you will ever see', followed by an intro to 20 years of the troupe's personalities.

● *VSPRS Show and Tell* screens at the ICA, The Mall, on Monday, December 8, at 6.45pm. £5. United Kingdom/France, 2007, 72 mins, cert. 15. Followed by Q&A with director Sophie Fiennes. *Les Ballets de Ci de La* screens at 8.45pm. £5. Belgium / France, 2006, 110 mins, cert. 12A. Call 020 7930 3647. See www.ica.org.uk

MARCELLO, A SWEET LIFE
Ten years after his death, the name Mastroianni still evokes memories of an era. Excerpts from films, behind-the-scenes footage and comments from his daughters, fellow film stars and friends reveal what was hidden behind that knowing smile.



● *Marcello, a Sweet Life* screens at the Italian Cultural Institute, 39 Belgrave Square, Chelsea, on Wednesday, November 19, at 6.30pm. Free. Italy, 2006, 98 mins, cert. U. Followed by Q&A with directors Mario Canale and Annarosa Morri. Call 020 7235 1461. See www.icilondon.esteri.it

PICASSO'S WOMEN THROUGH SEVEN WORKS



Picasso's turbulent relationships with the ladies is examined through seven works painted in France between 1907 and 1957.

● *Picasso's Women Through Seven Works* (above) screens at Instituto Cervantes, 102 Eaton Square, Chelsea, on Thursday, December 4, at 7pm. £3. Spain, 2005, 96 mins, cert. 12A. Followed by Q&A with director Eva Bosch. Call 020 7235 0353. See www.londres.cervantes.es

WORLDSTAR



Miroslav Tichy lives the life of a hermit in a small town in the Czech Republic. Suddenly, his photographs make him a reluctant 'art-world' celebrity. ● *Worldstar* (above) screens at the Goethe-Institut, 50 Princes Gate, Exhibition Road, on December 1, at 7pm. £3. Germany/Czech Republic, 2007, 75 mins, cert. 15. Followed by Q&A with director Natasa von Kopp. Call 020 7596 4000. See www.goethe.de/london