

MUSIC

with Helen Clarke



David Guetta
F*** Me I'm Famous
Ministry of Sound
Album
July 28
★★★★☆

FRENCH house DJ David Guetta releases the second volume of his series based on his night at super club Pacha, in Ibiza.

His latest offering is a double CD compilation follow-up to the 2003 record that went some way to him being crowned best house DJ in the world by countless dance magazines and radio shows.

Already a household name in his native France, his reputation has enticed some of the biggest names in dance to donate tracks and guest DJ. Eric Prydz, Underworld and Fragma get a look in, among a catalogue of the year's clubbing favourites and future classics, just in time for this year's Pacha residency to kick off.

A compilation for the more sophisticated, global house fan – it's got a neatly polished Parisian edge that drags it out of the monotonous hole so many compilations dig themselves into.



Pendulum
The Other Side
Single
Warner
July 28
★★★★★

WHERE did Pendulum come from? Long time underdogs of the underground dance/drum and bass scene, their latest album *In Silico* thrust them into the major league, debuting at number two and earning them a gold disc.

This single from the Australian outfit is more of the same.

An improbable mix of goth/disco clash, with big beats and driving guitars, they've nailed a sound that's truly their own.

In Silico is near flawless so picking a highlight would be tough but this, along with previous single *Granite*, comes close.

One of the most exciting major label releases this year, it's everything a cross-over record should be.



The Saturdays
If This Is Love
Single
Fascination Records
July 28
★★★★☆

POP MUSIC has moved on a lot since the record this track samples was released. When Yazoo's *Situation* first hit the charts, all pop stars needed to hit the big time was a cheesy grin and a spandex jumpsuit to match.

But today's pop fans are a more sophisticated breed – they get their guitar fix from McFly and their smart, addictive tunes from Girls Aloud.

The first single from girl band The Saturdays is a step back in time to the golden days of pop – shiny, polished, over produced... and thoroughly forgettable.

Former members of S Club Juniors – S Club 7 mini-me's – make up two fifths of the group and after a support slot on tour with label mates Girls Aloud, they're bound to have some readymade fans waiting to absorb their take-away pop.



WHIPPED INTO A FRENZY

REVIEW

THE WHIP
FABRIC LIVE
FRIDAY, JULY 18

"THEY do rock, don't they."

Not a question – a statement of truth, post-headline appearance by The Whip at Fabric Live.

Looking unpretentiously more like punters who've hijacked someone's stage, the Mancunian four-piece are dishing out intense, driving electro-rock and the frenzied, euphoric crowd are loving it and wanting more.

The vibe is urgent and electric in the basement club. As the epic *Trash* reaches its frantic, jagged zenith, the dance floor erupts into pogo air-punching unison. I look up, and the band is doing the same. "When we do a gig, we're at the same party," machine/synth man Danny Saville says.

"When we've finished, we want to get down there are have a dance while the other bands are on. There's no separation of 'us band, you audience'."

It's a refreshing take, and it's obvious that The Whip – Danny, vocalist/guitarist Bruce Carter; bassist Nathan Sudders and drummer Fiona Daniels – are more about the music than the bragging rights. Since evolving from the ill-fated indie-electro outfit Nylon Pylon – of which Danny and Bruce were part of – The Whip have been setting clubs alight in their hometown and abroad.

Tonight, they're on fire, as they unleash their new album on the expectant crowd.

X Marks Destination is a more chilled version of what they play live – the club standouts *Trash*,

Fire, *Divebomb*, *Blackout* and *Muzzle #1* ratchet up the tempo.

It's not all synth and plink-plink sounds; nor is it all dirty guitar riffs and rock. The Whip have created a tasty, melt-in-the-mouth mix of both.

Far from being repetitive or primal, it's electro, sans cheese. However you classify it, you can't help but dance to it.

Summer's been a wild ride so far for the Northerners – and it's not done yet.

With festivals under their belt including Glastonbury and Hyde Park's O2 Wireless (where they shared the bill with mates and crossover compatriots Does It Offend You Yeah?) the gigging will be relentless.

Get cracking and see them, now!

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The Whip play the following: V Festival, August 17; Leeds Festival, August 22; Creamfields, August 23; Reading Festival, August 24; and Big Beach Boutique,

Brighton, September 26. For more dates and information, see www.myspace.com/thehipmanchester

Stephanie Rose



OUT OF AFRICA

SHIFTING cultural identity; ethnic tension with Caribbeans; knife crime; ogbono soup and Jollof rice – Africans are finally getting the chance to educate audiences about their culture. But, as we all know from sleepy school-days, for education to work, it has to be entertaining.

That's where three of London's most prominent theatre's come into play: The Royal Court in Sloane Square, the Almeida in Islington and the Arcola in Dalston.

With plays by Bola Agbaje, six commissioned African writers, and Femi Ogunns respectively, never before has African theatre been so prevalent.

Femi Elufowoju, artistic director of the stalwart of African theatre, the Tiata Fahodzi theatre group, says: "Not until now have mainstream artistic directors been prepared to take the

AFRICAN THEATRE HAS NEVER BEEN SO PREVALENT IN LONDON, WITH THREE BIG THEATRES RUNNING PLAYS. CHRISTIAN MCLAUGHLIN DISCOVERS ITS UNIVERSAL APPEAL

chance with African theatre. "It has no tried and tested track record.

"We're doing so well people are accusing us of selling out!" He explains that while the look of the plays is African, their success is because the themes are universal.

"The quality of the work flying

around is going to blow the roof off middle England," says Femi. To see Bola Agbaje and Femi Ogunns discuss their English/Nigerian upbringing; their incredible journey from Foot Locker and Top Shop to top playwrights and the shared themes of their plays see www.hounslowchronicle.co.uk

● *Gone Too Far* is at the Royal Court Theatre, Sloane Square, until August 9. £10-15. Mon-Sat 7.30pm. Call 020 7565 5000. See www.royalcourttheatre.com.

● *Tiata Delights*, featuring plays by Bola Agbaje, Francis Aidoo, Rex Obano, Yvonne Doodoo, Nii Ayikwei and Ade Solanke, is at the Almeida Theatre, Islington, from July 28 until August 2. See www.almeida.co.uk or www.tiatafahodzi.co.uk

● *Torn*, by Femi Ogunns, is at the Arcola Theatre until August 2. See www.arcolatheatre.com

THE QUALITY OF THE WORK FLYING AROUND IS GOING TO BLOW THE ROOF OFF MIDDLE ENGLAND – FEMI ELUFOWOJU, TIATA FAHODZI THEATRE GROUP



AFRICAN PLAYS: Tiata Fahodzi theatre group (left); and scenes from *Gone Too Far* (top and right), which is playin at the Royal Court Theatre, Sloane Square

All pictures (including cover) submitted

informer review