

# Best of THE GREAT ESCAPE

The Verse went to The Great Escape to see what all the fuss is about. They got their paparazzi rock socks on and made the most out of the festival weekend to tell you all about it. Here are our three festival goer's diaries...



Hurts



La Shark



Wolf Gang



Gold Panda



## Rosie:

- Our non-stop girl about town

Kovak @ The Foundry: Don't miss our Kovak competition, see page 11 for details

Despite being recently voted by NME as the UK's best festival, I still can't figure the Great Escape festival out. In the last 5 years it has been running I have attended three and will admit I find it hard work. The festival requires much planning, a central crash pad, a deep wallet and very comfortable shoes. The line-up is so overwhelmingly unknown to even the moderately clued up you can be at a loose end. But is why it this is a great escape; it's all about freeing yourself from what you know and discovering new music. The bands that blow you away are the ones that you had no idea about before the festival. Three days and 19 bands later, my body is aching and my mind whirling from all the fantastic music I have discovered.

My weekend started with Chateau Marmont aided by Digital's light show, all together providing a futuristic dystopian horror soundtrack. Komedia proved to be the perfect venue to be romanced by The Dodos, before I settled in for a (slightly) drunken night at the Source vs. Recommender party, featuring Mirrors, Foreign Office, The Agitator, King Charles & Pope Joan; where better a place to celebrate the end of my final exams?

Friday started a little fuzzy, but was rectified by the blissful Japanese inspired beats of Gold Panda, but unfortunately Life didn't do him or the sardined crowd justice. Slightly roomier instead was Wolf Gang at Coalition followed

by Hurts, after which I settled at Moshi Moshi Records' after party at New Hero with everyone's favourite boy-next-door James Yuill.

Already missing out on a variety of daytime gigs due to deadlines and hangovers, Saturday was mission day and I was determined to check out the Alternative Escape and the various street gigs, the first of which was Fenech-Soler. Adapt Barbers shop hosted a gig so intimate the crowd were feeling each other up, complete with free Mohawks and facepainting. At the Foundry, catchy Kovak and their No Doubt-esque stylings (check out our competition!) turned Brighton into sun drenched California for the day and hosted a little dance-off between them, after which I dashed back to Adapt Barbers to catch one of my favourite local bands Kinema with their geektastic homage to all things electronic.

After a quick visit home to recharge my batteries, I stopped by Komedia to check out the eerily familiar Erland & the Carnival who make music for a lonely road trip across no-man's land made for heart-breaking. Prince Albert hosted the psychedelic oddities of La Shark and the orient other that Is Tropical. I ran to catch the end of The Phenomenal Handclap Band, before my body gave in and told me to go home, no after parties for me...

Rosie Rogers

Photos by Rosie Rogers

### The Album you must

buy next: *The Dodos - Visiter* [sic]

Echoing on the familiar sounds of indie folk that have been doing the rounds on the blogs thanks to bands like Yeasayer and Grizzly Bear, this experimental San Francisco 3-piece took me back to the those adolescent days where I would listen to Jeff Buckley on repeat, but with much needed oomph and guts. Percussion is where the wonder lies; wowing the crowd by playing a glockenspiel with a violin bow. Their most recent album is reminiscent of The Shins, but check out the debut *Visiter* [sic] to go on a mesmerising lovesick walkabout that dreams of a happy ending.

### The next big thing: Fenech-Soler

If the 'it' factor consists of pop-tastic catchy songs, barrels of energy, beautiful faces and spangly costumes, these guys have got it in spades. Add to that their ability to make a remix so stunning it could get your Grandma doing the twist, and you have the recipe for something as hot as Cut-Copy and Friendly Fires. They even had a dancing flash mob and a confetti explosion for their relentless street gig - which was one of four they played at the weekend.

### The next band to see live:

*The Phenomenal Handclap Band*

Playing rather appropriately at the refurbished Jam, this 70's infused psychedelic-rock yet retro-funk band screams summer with style. Their energy so was infectious there wasn't an um-bopper in the house. Everything about this 8-piece was so hot, my camera spontaneously combusted and I just had to give in and dance into a sweaty stooper like everyone else. Their record doesn't do this band justice; they are one to be seen live to be believed, loved and worshipped.



Fenech-Soler



The Dodos