

# Caroline:

- The Saturday shift

Although I am not usually a Rock fan, I did go and see Young Guns at the ever lovely Komedia on Saturday arvo. This gig was such a sound attack on the ears, I had to don earplugs like a nana, but damn was it worth it (the gig, not the bleeding drums). To start with, the bass off this outfit is so hardcore it resounds through your tummy lining, whipping you up into a veritable excitement. This is matched and raised by the lead singer who has such a frenetic energy about him that you can't help but be enthused. Whilst he jokes and banters in-between songs like a family entertainer (albeit a swearsy one), when he starts to sing, you know he means business. His voice has the right mixture of volume and hoarse strain to it to give you an experience of true rock, whilst still hitting some impressive high notes when you're least expecting it.

Their music has seams of American rock running through it, and is a must-have for anyone who likes a damn good thrash to work up a musical sweat. The gig was anthem-like throughout, meaning that although this is not to my personal taste, I had enough sense left in my music addled head to recognise that what they do, they do it well. So for a one to watch, (they are currently touring and will be festival-ing this summer) keep your peepers and protected ears on these rather talented gentlemen.

Once I vibrated out of Young Guns gig and got my act together, it was off to Hector's House, down on the Old Steine, after a quick refreshment stop at Audio. There were more bands than you could shake a \*fill in the gap\* at, however I shall limit my gushing to CHIEF and Band of Skulls.

CHIEF are a band entirely made up of delightful dreamboats. Their music has a slightly psychedelic feel to it, that has a

thrumming warmth throughout. In this live set, the mandolin was really exploited to the full, and provided a lush sub-beat style plinking to their music. These guys are delightfully quirky in their music, providing a metal tray as percussion at one point during the set - that shouldn't have worked, but really did. Despite the sometimes despotic percussion, which at times can feel a bit too abrasive over the other instruments, the band have a great feel to them. The overall effect is of a summer afternoon with friends, beer and a paddling pool. The music is by no means slow, or without a lively rhythm, but it is not one to pound to, moreover one to sway to, or just to smile to. As they say (and so they should) in the same titled song 'I feel mighty proud.'

After four hours in a very hot Hector's House, it was only the lure of Band of Skulls that kept me from rolling on out of the joint and melting on the pavement. However, after a 45 minute wait for them to get it together, and a frankly shakey start to the show, got it together they did. This band is like an epic mix of The Kills, White Stripes, and The Black Keys (early stuff). Within twenty minutes there was crowd surfing and a damn kooky mosh pit, with either Mika, or his doppelganger in it. However, with lyrics like 'Hotel, Taco Bell...' it really seems like par for the course. The raw Rhythm and Blues demands a heartfelt head nod affirming their greatness in beat and a stumpy foot to clarify the matter, were there any residual doubt. To be frank, they're fab: as is their website, so do get your digits clicking onto it if you haven't already.

This was an awesome day/night for music and is a great reminder of why we all live in this city.

Caroline Kemp-Harris

# Isaac:

- The opinionated fella on the front line

I started in The Coalition on a grim-feeling Thursday evening, the barely occupied sea-front reflecting this rather bleak start to my festival weekend. The club was pretty packed and it was very difficult to see the stage. Enter White Rabbits. The bio in the guide referred to their 'relentless double-drum...attack' which genuinely excited me, and with the psychedelic-inspired name I was expecting a trippy, thumping performance. Instead New York's fluffy bunnies sounded more like a more excitable 'Scouting for Girls' and I promptly left to suck on a B&H.

Whilst hurriedly smoking I heard a delightfully naive melody coming from Digital, and when inside was met with Daisy Dares You. Their show was a damn sight more energetic and pleasing - not just for the seriously foxy Daisy herself - but the showmanship carried by all members, especially the keyboardist who looked like a cross between a man and 'Clare's Accessories'.

Over at the Corn Exchange however, 'Everything Everything' were different. A truly charming band, their set contained some wonderful songs, including NME Radar featured 'My Kz Yr BF' whose calm opening turns quickly into a gloriously upbeat verse. For a band with only a few released tracks and no album yet, they certainly have a lot of work to do to maintain the excitement that surrounds the group now.

Approaching midnight and Delphic slink onto an electric-blue stage to wild applause. What is there left to say about Delphic? They are what many are calling the perfect modern band; mixing dancefloor based atmospherics and beats with delayed guitar lines and huge sing-a-long choruses to euphoric effect. So far the highlight of the weekend, I left the show feeling pumped-up on ecstasy and totally ready for the final day.

Saturday afternoon and Brighton is struggling. The streets reminded me of what being in the Middle Ages would have been like; the keen stink of piss radiated from the side of most buildings, shrieks and wails filled the air, and the poor Brighton bin men looked on, trying to make sense of it all. Much of this fuss must have been caused by the building excitement of one of the headlining acts that

night, Chase & Status at The Dome. I was struck by the wonderful arena and how good it is as a venue; big, but it still manages to retain some intimacy between the performers and the audience thanks to its circular shape. Before they even appeared on stage the floor was heaving with sweaty-looking teenagers (the gig being 14+), and I believe this to be a great decision for the benefit of the show - making it 18+ would certainly have sucked some enthusiasm from proceedings as only kids can get that excited waiting for a band, while the PA banged out the latest in 'wobbly' dubstep. What was intriguing was the inclusion of a drum kit on stage, as well as roadies tuning guitars. I had only ever seen C&S in previous club and festival appearances, their equipment being nothing more than two decks and an MC, so I was wondering how well it would stitch together as a live show.

Opening with the unstoppable intro of swirling drums and Axel Rose sample of 'Smash TV', Chase & Status had clearly arrived at the final stop of their tour on a Mission. Their 15-track set was built mainly from their album 'More Than A Lot', with a few of their latest tracks included, plus some brand new jams. With previous DJ performances there is the additional treat of hearing tracks mixed together, however tonight we were watching a live band. This meant pauses after every track which although killing the flow, gave their MC a chance to further hype-up a hyped-out crowd. And it was the low bass stabs of 'Saxon' that drew out a fantastic Tempa T from the sidelines, much to the delight of myself and the crowd. He then stayed on for another new dubstep track with him spitting the chorus 'I'M ON A NEXT HYPE!' over the oscillating bassline.

Whilst I'm sure there were more heart-warming and tender performances that closed the other venue's participation in TGE this weekend, Chase & Status certainly blew the roof off. Although their increasing mainstream success is rubbing many hardcore followers up the wrong way, they were a great choice for bringing the event to a close with great energy and passion.

Isaac Bertulis-Webb



Adapt Barbers



A happy crowd



Erland and The Carnival



Photos by Rosie Rogers, Caroline Kemp-Harris and Isaac Bertulis-Webb



Delphic



Chase & Status

## Competition!

Send us your best music related photo, be it of a gig, a band, an instrument, a festival or other related theme. The winner will receive a signed album by local tour de force **Kovak**, and their photo printed as the centrefold poster.

We will also print the best ten photos on the Music pages in the Fresher's issue.

The Editing Team will judge the entries, and the judges decision is final.

Email your entries to [versesound@gmail.com](mailto:versesound@gmail.com)

Don't forget to tell us who you are and which course you're on. Last entry date is **June 30th**.

**Good luck!**