

V Festival goes off



Duran Duran



Smashing Pumpkins

The Smashing Pumpkins co-headline V Festival 2008 along with pop chameleons Duran Duran.

Having last toured Australia a decade ago and freshly reformed, The Smashing Pumpkins remain the kings of elegiac, accomplished, ambitious alt-rock, with their best-selling albums *Siamese Dream* and *Mellon Collie and The Infinite Sadness* remaining the soundtracks for a generation.

After some years pursuing other musical paths, founder members Billy Corgan and James Chamberlain burst back onto the scene with last year's Top 10 album *Zeitgeist*. Joined on the road by Jeff Schroeder (guitar), Ginger Reyes (bass) and Lisa Harriton (keyboards) The Smashing Pumpkins have performed the world over with true vigour, described by the *Los Angeles Times* as an "enveloping epic force".

With a stunning light show and

a set bursting with manic intensity, The Smashing Pumpkins will not disappoint.

Duran Duran return to Australia to co-headline V Festival 2008. With an illustrious career spanning more than 25 years, a dozen studio albums and over 30 hit singles to their name, Duran Duran have remained a constant and relevant tour de force in the collective global pop consciousness. Bona fide smashes such as *Planet Earth*,

Hungry Like The Wolf and *Ordinary World* have been paired with groundbreaking music videos and the band (founding members Simon Le Bon, Nick Rhodes, Roger Taylor and John Taylor remaining at its core) became synonymous with the jet-set lifestyle.

Their new album, the highly anticipated *Red Carpet Massacre* features contributions from some of the hottest names in pop today, including Justin Timberlake and

Timbaland. As a live concern Duran Duran are still one of the world's most in-demand and highest grossing bands.

Check out the huge support line-up and get your tickets from www.vfestival.com.au \$131.70 + booking fee.

Saturday April 5
At the Melbourne Showgrounds,
Epsom Road, Ascot Vale



Unfamiliar Faces

Matt Costa

Universal

When Matt Costa sat down to write what would become *Unfamiliar Faces*, the follow-up to his 2005 debut full-length *Songs We Sing*, the singer/songwriter took his most treasured belongings and put them on a shelf – then stared at them and just let the memories flow. "That way I could see everything that I loved," he explains (the collection included his favorite books, a giant wooden pipe, and a box of old 45-speed records from the late 1950s). "I let my imagination wander. Regular life isn't as exciting as an imaginary life."

From spunky piano-driven opener *Mr Pitiful* and the country-tinged acoustic *Never Looking Back* to the textured *Bound* and jangly power-pop of *Emergency Call*, *Unfamiliar Faces* finds Costa wrapping his appealing melodies in increasingly ambitious packages that recall the Shins, Spoon and Ben Folds.



Seventh Tree

Goldfrapp

EMI

"It was a tree with the number seven on it. It was a very beautiful tree, with big branches, swaying, a bit like seaweed underwater. And I woke up in the morning and decided that's it, that's the name of the album." Alison Goldfrapp looks faintly embarrassed as she describes the christening of Goldfrapp's fourth album, *Seventh Tree*. Will Gregory, her partner in crime, smiles reassuringly: "If Alison dreams it, it's fate."

The last time we saw Goldfrapp, they were the consummate disco beasts, wielding the subversive sound of stylised seventies glamour with a whipcrack of erotica and a lick of British humour that they had distilled over the course of three albums.

Now they return with *Seventh Tree*, an album that confounds all that went before; warm and sensual and shimmering, it is the sound of a very British delirium.



Saturnalia

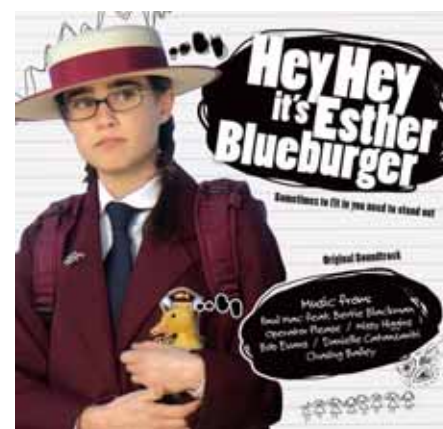
The Gutter Twins

Stomp

Comprised of what Pitchforkmedia.com proclaims are "two of alt-rock's greatest front-men, Saturnalia is the first album from The Gutter Twins, the collaboration forged in late 2003 by Mark Lanegan (Screaming Trees, Queens Of The Stone Age) and fellow maverick singer-songwriter Greg Dulli (Afghan Whigs).

Saturnalia finds the pair going even deeper into the shadows than they ever have before. It is produced by Dulli and Lanegan along with the band's unofficial third member Mathias Schneeberger.

Saturnalia's eerie modal swirls trap the listener in each song's atmosphere; simultaneously evoking everything from Indian sitars to Appalachian folk and Delta grit, the drones inadvertently create narcotic hooks.



Hey Hey It's Esther Blueburger

Soundtrack – various

EMI

The soundtrack to the new Australian movie *Hey Hey It's Esther Blueburger* features many new and original Australian songs including the lead track *The Only One*, written by Paul Mac specifically for the film featuring stunning vocals from Sydney songstress Bertie Blackman and the Sydney Children's Choir. The video for the song was shot at film director Cathy Randall's old high school – Sydney Girls High.

The movie itself is a smart, rueful and dead-on portrait of life's unending quest to fit in, and the girl who solves it by completely breaking out. It introduces a feisty outsider hero unlike any other seen on screen. Esther Blueburger's (Danielle Cantanzariti) quest begins when she escapes from her Bat Mitzvah party and is befriended by Sunni, the effortlessly cool girl.