

Nick Cave gets honorary degree

Musician, novelist, actor, film score composer and screenwriter Nick Cave was presented with an honorary degree from Monash University late last month.

The honorary degree of Doctor of Laws was conferred by vice-chancellor Professor Richard Larkins and chancellor Dr Alan Finkel.

Cave studied for a Diploma of Art and Design (Fine Art) at the Caulfield Institute of Technology in 1977 and '78, in what is now the Faculty of Art & Design on the Caulfield Campus of Monash University. He left his studies,

which were primarily in painting, to successfully pursue a music career.

Professor Larkins said Cave was one of Australia's most successful and prominent artists with a near 30 year career spanning music, novel-writing, acting and screenwriting which has had a major impact on contemporary "alternative" culture.

"Nick Cave's substantial achievements in the creative arts and in raising Australia's profile internationally make him a worthy candidate for recognition by Monash University.

"In addition to his musical contributions, Nick Cave has shown


an outstanding ability to contribute to writing and acting – he is truly an extraordinary creative talent," Larkins said.

"His reputation and popularity crosses age and culture barriers. As an Australian largely based out of London, and previously in Sao Paulo, Los Angeles and Berlin, Nick Cave has been successful in increasing the profile of Australia internationally, particularly in terms of our nation's creative and artistic capabilities."

Finkel, congratulating Cave on his honorary degree, said:

"Nick is a now a proud part of the Monash community. The University is Australia's

largest research-intensive university, with more than 55,000 students, 200,000 alumni, a presence on three continents and a proud history of going boldly onto the world arena in both creative and scientific endeavours."

In the 1980s, Cave was one of the first Australian musicians to achieve considerable international prominence. As the front man for bands including The Birthday Party and Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds, Cave has released more than 20 albums. His unique musical style has been attributed with influencing countless other bands. 



Insomniatic

Aly & AJ
EMI

In the two years since their initial debut album, Aly & AJ have grown – and so has their music. *Insomniatic's* central theme is relationships, both the ups and the downs, and it lyrically demonstrates female self-empowerment and vulnerability as only Aly & AJ can.

Insomniatic begins with Aly & AJ's first single *Potential Breakup Song* which adds a distinct rhythmic element to their signature rock/pop sound. In *Bullseye* the girls' voices are both slinky and sneering as they wrap around near thrashing guitar jams reminiscent of The Runaways.

In *Division* Aly's crystalline and angelic voice segues into AJ's booming bluesy voice seamlessly. The album offers a softer side of the sisters as well, in songs like *Silence* and *I'm Here* to which Aly & AJ added piano and strings.



You Have No Idea What You're Getting Yourself Into

Does It Offend You Yeah?
EMI

As the album title has it, you have no idea what you're getting yourself into. What does that mean? Does it confuse you, yeah? It shouldn't. It's fairly straightforward. The debut album by Reading-based four-piece Does It Offend You, Yeah? is a big, swaggering mash-up of eighties-lovin', future-livin' techno-rock with fuck-off pop-bells on.

Thriller reimagined by a Thames Valley Daft Punk. A John Hughes film soundtracked by a noughties prodigy. Council-house house music battered out on battered computer-game consoles. Moshpit mentalism with armpit intimacy. Chuck all that in a decibel-friendly blender, sieve out the lumpy bits, keep in the squelchy bits, and whip into a rafter-rattling funstorm.



Return to the Playboy Mansion

Dimitri From Paris
Stomp.

Dimitri From Paris, teams up with the pinnacle of sexy chic, Playboy, bringing a seductive mix of sexy disco and soulful grooves. Famed for his infinite knowledge of classic and contemporary records Dimitri From Paris has put together a stunning two CD mix of sublime disco, house, retro funk and soul.

Born in Istanbul in the 60s, yet raised in the French capital, he developed his sense of style during those initial years in his adoptive city.

His love of vintage tailoring and classic dance sounds dates from that time, and while rivals have altered their style, Dimitri prefers to stay true to his chic, discofied roots.



Rockferry

Duffy
Universal

Born and raised in Nefyn, North Wales, Duffy may be an unlikely contender for the stage, but that's exactly where she belongs. Evocative of the music that raised her yet thoroughly modern, her soulful sound combines a nostalgic, scratchy blues feel with the rustic sound of modern life. Influenced by Doris Duke, Bettye Swann, Scott Walker and Richard Hawley – Duffy just could be the most distinctive voice you've heard in ages.

Spotted by Richard Parfitt (60 Ft. Dolls) and Owen Power (Catatonia) in 2004, 22-year-old Welsh native Duffy came to the attention of Rough Trade's Jeannette Lee – now her manager, co-writer and mentor. Rough Trade pointed Duffy in the direction of Bernard Butler in London's Crouch End. The fruit of their first musical session is *Rockferry*, the Radio 1 single of the week, which set the tone and musical direction of the album.