

Something for the Weekend



BY CHRIS SWEENEY

ONE2WATCH

STRIKING Matches have sparked the country music scene into life back home in the US.

But they can't get enough of playing over here.

The Nashville duo – Sarah Zimmermann and Justin Davis – rocketed to the top of the charts with debut album Nothing But The Silence earlier this year.

Justin raved: “You always hope it's going to go well, but it's been amazing to see how quickly it's caught on.”

“You really hope somebody likes it and for that to become a lot of people, so for that to happen on our first album is

gratifying.” The pair are part of the country explosion.

Justin admitted: “I've no idea why it's happened, but it feels so cool to be making this music when it seems to be exploding around the world.”

“There's a scene over here in the UK that feels like a secret club. It seems all the

fans know each other and they come to the shows together. It's cool to be a part of it.”

Keeping the momentum going, Striking Matches are touring the UK and play Glasgow's Oran Mor on Wednesday night. And they expect a cracker.

Justin said: “I remember our

very first show in Glasgow in that venue. The energy was so high.”

“It was one of the most intense shows we've ever played.”

While it's been a jam-packed year, The Matches aren't taking a break.

Sarah added: “We've got all kinds of stuff next year. We'll

be on the road a bunch and back here, but we've also been writing, so we'll be in the studio.”

“We've got a lot of new songs – we're going to keep on going and keep working hard.”

● To get tour tickets and download the album, go to striking-matches.com

HOT STUFF . . . Striking Matches have been a hit with their country music sound



CAPITAL FM's One To Watch is down to the final three acts – and you can help get one of them a slot at this month's SSE Scottish Music Awards.

Glaswegian electro duo Apache Darling, Edinburgh four-piece Indigo Velvet and Single By Sunday, from Glasgow, are all in the running. And this Wednesday, the three contenders will be giving it lalady at ROX's Thrill Room in Glasgow's Argyll Arcade.

Cast your vote by tweeting #CapitalOnetoWatch and then either #ApacheDarling, #SBS or #IndigoVelvet. The winner will be announced on November 23.

● For more details see capitalfm.com/scotland

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NEW MUSIC By Jim Gellatly

THE VAN T'S

WHO: Hannah Van Thompson (guitar/vocals), Chloe Van Thompson (guitar/vocals), Joanne Forbes (bass), Shaun Hood (drums/percussion)

WHERE: Glasgow

FOR FANS OF: The Jesus And Mary Chain, Honeyblood, Wolf Alice

JIM SAYS: Having only heard their early acoustic demos, I was in for a surprise when I first saw The Van T's live at King Tut's in Glasgow at the start of the year.

Expecting a chilled folk vibe, I was greeted with electric guitars and a sound mashing up 60s girl bands with grunge. Their rough and ready take on Phil Spector's Wall Of Sound wasn't quite there yet.

Considering they'd only just picked up electric guitars though, it was a fine start and I was captivated by what they had to offer.

Initially formed by Renfrewshire twins Chloe and Hannah Van Thompson, The Van T's have developed considerably in this past year.

They made their festival debut at T In The Park in July, as one of the acts selected to play the T Break Stage. They soon became one of the hits of the summer.

Blistering performances at the Wickerman Festival and Electric Fields saw them take further strides in their short career. Hannah said: “We loved playing Wickerman despite being really hungover for our show! We'd probably have to say T In The Park takes the cake. It felt

really cool playing a festival that we've been going to for years.”

The band unleashed their first EP, Fun Garçon, through Shoot The Moon Records in March, gaining some glowing reviews.

The Ravechild blog commented: “This is a remarkable EP. Who knows exactly what happened to the acoustic-folk duo of two years ago, but when the new Van T's sound is this good who cares?”

Their latest release, Laguna Babe, is a further progression, packed full of fuzzy guitars and glistening harmonies.

Previously hooking up with Native Publishing (Model Areoplanes, Vukoki, Vigo Thieves), the EP is out through Bloc+ Music.

Hannah explained: “Yvonne from Native Publishing put us in touch with Halina, who works with Bloc+ Music and runs the Podcart blog and podcast. She really liked the music we released earlier this year and it all escalated from there.”

The Laguna Babe EP is released today, with a launch gig tomorrow night at The Hug And Pint in Glasgow. The Van T's also appear at the Strange Behaviours Festival at the Tolbooth in Stirling next Friday alongside the likes of Admiral Fallow and Man Of Moon. They round off the year with a free Bloc+ Music showcase at Bloc+ in Glasgow On December 8.

MORE: facebook.com/TheVanTs

● Jim presents a weekly showcase of New Music on Amazing Radio Sundays 2-4pm. amazingradio.com/jimgellatly.com



Watch video of band at: thescottishsun.co.uk