

**ONE2WATCH**  
by CHRIS SWEENEY**CALFORNIAN pop rockers Hey Violet can't get enough of our crap weather.**

The Los Angeles band hit Glasgow's ABC this Tuesday night as part of a big European tour.

It's also six years since they played T in the Park – under old name Cherrri Bomb on the Radio 1/NME Stage.

Lead singer Rena Lovelis, 19, admits: "We haven't been to the UK since 2015, so we're excited to finally be back."

"It's nice to get a change from the constant sunniness in California and get a little rain – we like the rain."

"I remember at T in the Park having to wade through all the mud in our wellies in the rain and everyone seemed to be drunk except for us."

"It was a real fun thing to be around and we got to experience that so young."

"It was a whole new world to us."

**'There's a lot of pop – but a rock influence'**

The group formed in high school but have rebooted as Hey Violet – with guitarists Miranda Miller and Casey Moreta, drummer Nia Lovelis and bass player Iain Shipp.

And now they've opted for less of a rock sound, shown on last single Break My Heart.

Rena says: "Our album is available now for pre-order and everything is finally done."

"If you've heard any of the EP or the single, a lot of it is a similar sound."

"That's the direction we wanted to go in. There's a lot of pop stuff but a little bit of that rock alternative influence."

They've also encountered much less interest in their gender – a big change from the past when it was a major talking point.

Rena explains: "At first it was really cool to be female artists, but now it's so common."

"When people bring it up now I'm like 'What century are you living in?'"

"What comes up more often is that people are impressed we play our instruments."

"We do have some playback which we use, but that just adds to what we're already playing."

"We're perfectly capable of playing our instruments."

"Miranda is really playing and Casey is playing his guitar too."

"The fact that three of us are girls doesn't come up much more, as our genre has changed. In the



# We loved T's mud... California's sun is so boring

rock scene when we began, sometimes they'd ask if we were the girlfriends of someone in a band.

"I'd be like, 'No, we are the band'."

One massive shot in the arm is that Hey Violet have signed to pop kings 5 Seconds of Summer's Hi or Hey Records.

The Aussie stars have already taken Hey Violet on the road with them too, and are technically their bosses.

Miranda says: "We never treat it that way, though. They respect us and we respect them. We have this

friendship thing – we show them our music and they show us theirs.

"They took us on tour and that was an amazing opportunity."

"We've joked that they're technically our bosses and we're the employees."

**'If you're an artist you have to take risks'**

"But we're all musicians going through the same thing and we're the same age, so it never feels that way."

The band are pumped to be out

on the road. And they can't wait to let punters hear the new music live for the first time.

Rena adds: "Some of the fans have seen videos online of some of the new songs from other shows."

"But we'll actually play them live for them, so it's going to be a lot of fun."

"We love travelling. We do get jet-lagged, but it's all worth it."

Despite being so young, the group have taken a lot of risks by changing their sound and taking control of their own destiny.

Miranda, 21, says: "All you really

can do is put yourself out there. People are going to like you or they're not going to like you."

"If you're an artist you have to take risks and be vulnerable. You're forced to do it, whether you like it or not."

"That's who you are, you feel things deeply – and that's both a blessing and a curse."

● You can pre-order Hey Violet's album *From The Outside* – released on June 16 – and get tour info at [www.heyviolet.com](http://www.heyviolet.com)

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**ONE2HEAR**

**SOUTHEND** ravers Nothing But Thieves are back with their second album.

First single Amsterdam is a hefty tune. It's a full-on track that smacks you in the face. The band's statement said: "It was inspired by our love of direct, guttural choruses. It's like Conor is spitting the words in your face."

Catch them live at Edinburgh's La Belle Angele on May 28. See [nbthieves.com](http://nbthieves.com)

**ONE2SEE**

IT'S not often you get acts from India jetting over here.

But Kolkata duo Parekh & Singh are to play The Hug and Pint in Glasgow on May 25 – on their first UK tour.

They're riding high after last year's debut album *Ocean* went down a storm.

They've got an old school American sound to them, with crystal clear vocals really showing off their dreamy lyrics. See [parekhandsingh.com](http://parekhandsingh.com)

**THE MOTION POETS**

**WHO:** Jonah Stead (vocals/guitar), Struan Nelson (guitar/vocals), Morgan Smith (bass/vocals), Euan Lyons (drums/vocals)

**WHERE:** Edinburgh

**FOR FANS OF:** The Strokes, Circa Waves, Arctic Monkeys

**JIM SAYS:** I was bowled over when I stumbled across The Motion Poets at The Priory in Glasgow back in March. They had that certain spark that suggested great things ahead.

The indie rockers have well and truly delivered with their debut single *One Too Many*, which came out on Friday. Jangly guitars and a great hook, it's a brilliant introduction.

Hailing from across the UK, the guys bonded instantly when they started Edinburgh Napier's Popular Music course in September 2015.

Struan, from Helensburgh, explained: "In the first week, all the students were put into bands to write original tracks to perform at a showcase at the end of the week. One of these bands contained myself and Euan. Another with Jonah and Morgan."

"From watching each other's performances, I think we kind of impressed each other. It was pretty clear that the four of us in particular wanted

**NEW MUSIC**  
By Jim Gellatly

to work together." Struan and Paisley boy Euan, along with Jonah, from Orkney via Leicester, were soon jamming together.

Struan said: "We didn't have any big plans in the beginning. We just wanted to play and write with each other as good friends. The basis for many of our songs, including *One Too Many*, did come out of this period though."

Morgan, originally from Swansea but more recently living in Aberdeen, came on board early last year.

Struan added: "With a full line-up we were able to begin sculpting a sound. We grew tighter as a band and as songwriters. It was then the band took on the name The Motion Poets." Jonah reck-

ons studying music has helped them progress as a band. He said: "I think it forces you to engage with the writing process. I find myself thinking through songs more. It's taught me to spend time ironing out the details."

"I would say mostly though it's about the experience playing together and hard work. You don't need a university degree to be able to do that."

Struan agreed: "The inspiration comes from another place rather than from our studies. There's still an omni-present DIY punk attitude to The Motion Poets."

Coming from all over the place has its benefits. Struan told me: "The biggest advantage is probably the network it has set up. We know people from all around Scotland."

"It's as easy for us to pull a crowd in Glasgow as it is Edinburgh. Also, having a lead singer with an English accent makes us stand out, especially when it's mixed in with Scottish backing vocals!"

The Motion Poets support *Album* at Opium in Edinburgh on May 27.

**MORE:** [facebook.com/themotionpoets](http://facebook.com/themotionpoets)  
Jim presents a weekly showcase of New Music on Amazing Radio Sundays 2-4pm.

[www.amazingradio.com](http://www.amazingradio.com)  
[www.jimgellatly.com](http://www.jimgellatly.com)



Watch a video of the band playing at: [www.thescottishsun.co.uk](http://www.thescottishsun.co.uk)