

the Sunday MUSIC



NEW MUSIC

By Jim Gellatly

DOGTOOTH

WHO: John Hewitson (vocals / guitar), Craig Morrison (bass), Robert Lang (drums / vocals)

WHERE: Glasgow

FOR FANS OF: Oasis, The Jam, Catfish and The Bottlemen

JIM SAYS: Glasgow-based three-piece Dogtooth have already clocked up over 200 gigs.

All the more remarkable considering how young they are. John and Craig are just 15 while Robert is 17.

They come across as seasoned veterans though, having first got together around 4 years ago.

They call Glasgow home as they rehearse there, but John's from Ayrshire, Craig from Lanarkshire and Robert from Renfrewshire.

John explained: "Craig and I met by chance at the annual Millport Scooter Rally in August 2013.

"I was 11 and Craig had just turned 12. I was playing my papa's old acoustic guitar outside the beer tent and Craig's dad Jim heard me play That's Entertainment by The Jam. Jim later tapped my mum on the shoulder and asked if I was in a band. I wasn't, but it was my dream.

"Jim introduced me to Craig and we hit it off straight away.

"We ended up spending the rest of that night listening to music in his dad's van. We met up every week after that to practise together."

Craig continued: "We started to rehearse in Paisley as that was half way from where we both lived."

They got involved with the Loud'n'Proud youth music programme in Paisley. Tommy McGrory who runs it has been a huge help to the band.

It was Tommy that hooked them up with Robert. After trying out a few drummers, Robert fitted in perfectly. Dogtooth played their first gig just 4 days later!

A year to the day that John and Craig first met at the Millport Scooter Rally on the Isle of Cumbrae, they were back headlining the Friday night gig at the Town Hall!

Bashing out covers in the early days, they've now amassed a fine selection of original songs. The new EP Breakthrough showcases their development perfectly.

It was recorded and produced by Bruce Rintoul, whose credits include Twin Atlantic, Fatherson and Vukovi. Robert said: "The music started off very much mod. Everything was mod. As time has gone on we've broadened our sound, whilst keeping hold of the mod and punk influences. I'd say we are more musically diverse now." Dogtooth head south to headline The Dublin Castle in Camden on June 17.

Back on home turf they support The Vapors, of 1980 hit Turning Japanese fame, at Dobbie Hall in Largs on June 23 and Stewarnton Area Centre in Ayrshire on the 24th.

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

Watch a video of the band playing at: www.thescottishsun.co.uk



ONE2WATCH

by CHRIS SWEENEY

JAKE ISAAC admits he'd never heard of Airdrie — until Sir Elton John asked him to rock their ground.

But he has jumped at the chance to play at the Diamonds' Excelsior Stadium next month.

Soul star Jake said: "I'm a strong believer of any platform you get given, whether it's five people in the middle of beautiful Brixton in South London or in Airdrie, it's still a privilege.

"That's what I've learned from Sir Elton, even at this stage, he still sees it as a massive privilege for people to come out and have a platform.

"That's the key to longevity in any form of art, being grateful for the exposure and the platform — even if you've never heard of it.

"I'm pumped and once I've done it, I can say, I've played Airdrie."

The singer is flying after releasing his debut album *Our Lives* a few weeks ago.

And he's just wrapped up a tour across Europe showing it off. Jake said: "The response has been great, people have been really digging it.

"Someone like Sir Elton, he doesn't have to take an interest in new artists but the fact he does, that is why people still respect him and that's why he's on Beats with his own radio show.

Massive privilege to be playing in Airdrie

"He understands the importance of new music and the generations coming up. He's a genuine musician, he's not in it for the money — he comes across as if he's in it completely for the art."

Jake's rise to the top wasn't a walk in the park. He admits that there was times where he struggled to find his niche.

The Londoner explained: "Being a musician, there's always an issue with money in the background — like any self-employed job.

"But there's also the added pressure, and it can be self-pressure, of making records you believe in.

"I found on my journey that there's a massive temptation to try to make that smash, that big radio record.

"But a lot of the best songs that stick around for years are made from a place of authenticity.

"I had to figure that out big time. It's not about the stats, it's about being genuine and sometimes vulnerable in songs in order to communicate something that you mean, rather than following a formula of trying to make a song with a great hook."

And Jake feels lots of punters don't appreciate how much of a slog it is to the top.

He added: "I didn't start off where I am. It's crucial to be grateful for the journey and the process. It's like Instagram, they see the pictures but that's the

highlight reel — but they don't see what happens in between them.

"Between the posts is what's important and that can be hard if you're on your own, trying to get gigs or figuring out what songs to write.

"But anything worth doing, sometimes you're going to have ups and downs but it makes it even more worthwhile."

As well as hitting Airdrie with Elton, Jake will be back up here at King Tut's in Glasgow on September 15.

He said: "I'm pumped and I'm nervous about playing in Scotland. I've played there a few times supporting people, and doing a headline show at King Tut's is new territory. Scottish people, if something is rubbish — they'll tell you.

And if they like you, they'll tell you too. So I need to make sure I play my socks off when I do get up there."

Despite having a booming voice, Jake admits one of his major influences has been composer Mozart. But he was forced to listen to the composer and still winces at a horrendous long road trip.

He added: "My family, we didn't have a lot of stuff or money but we were happy and content.

"And my dad, bless him, he had two tapes — maybe he wasn't into music and had other things to worry about.

"But they were Paul Simon's *Graceland* and a compilation by Mozart. I remember one day we drove up to Sunderland — Dad

was working up there but he had some time to spend with the family so him, my mum, sister and me drove up there.

"The whole way we listen to Mozart and Paul Simon non-stop.

"It's funny though as listening to Mozart taught me a lot about dynamics and focusing on music that moves you.

"It's not just lyrics that move people.

"I didn't realise at the time, it was teaching me a lot about making music.

"But if I never heard another Mozart record in my life, I'd have died happy that day."

● **GET tickets for Elton John's Wonderful Crazy Nights tour at Airdrie's Excelsior Stadium by logging on to ticketmaster.co.uk/eltonjohn**

Elton show is a diamond gig



ONE2HEAR

HALIFAX trio The Orielles' new single *I Only Bought It For The Bottle* is right out the top drawer.

It's been inspired by some parts of society's obsession with appearance over substance.

And they've worked their hard-hitting lyrics into a storming rock track. It's a touch of class. Hear it now at soundcloud.com/theorielles

ONE2SEE

COUNTRY singer Callaghan swapped Lincolnshire for Nashville.

And the transatlantic switch has paid dividends. She's sold tens of thousands of albums in the US and is now cracking the UK — as Radio 2 have play-listed her last three singles.

She'll be at Edinburgh's Voodoo Rooms on June 4 and the following night at CCA in Glasgow. Go to callaghansongs.com



WIN front row tickets to see Rocket Man perform live

THE Scottish Sun is giving you the chance to see superstar Elton John up close and personal on his Wonderful Crazy Nights tour at Airdrie.

To win a pair of fantastic front row tickets to watch the music legend playing at Lanarkshire's Excelsior Stadium on Saturday June 24, simply answer this question.

What is Elton John's middle name?

1. Angus
2. Zeus
3. Hercules

TERMS AND CONDITIONS: Email your answer, name, address and daytime contact number to win@the-sun.co.uk Please put "ELTON JOHN COMP" in the email subject header. Competition closes at midnight tonight May 28, 2017. Open to UK residents only, excludes Scottish Sun employ-

ees, their families or anyone professionally connected with this promotion. Under 16s must be accompanied by an adult over 21. One entry per person.

One winner will be selected at random from all entries received before the closing date. No cash alternative will be offered. Usual Scottish Sun rules apply. Editor's decision is final. Tickets available for Elton John's Wonderful Crazy Nights tour at Airdrie's Excelsior Stadium at ticketmaster.co.uk