

By  
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Features Writer

**SINGER Nick Mulvey admits he had found it tough to balance his blossoming career with home life as a new dad.**

The former Mercury Prize nominee told how this summer took its toll as he toured festivals while baby son Inka and wife Isadora stayed at home.

And there is no end in sight as Nick, 32, starts touring this month to support the release of new album *Wake Up Now*.

Nick says: "It's bloody hard juggling fatherhood with gigs and an album launch."

"I don't pretend to have all the answers and it's humbling me."

"I had a busy balance after my son was born while I was making the album but then the summer was very intense going out and doing festivals."

"I know it is all part of the job and I am not complaining but it seemed quite hardcore."

His UK tour brings him to Edinburgh Liquid Rooms on October 11 and the O2 ABC in Glasgow the following night.

And he can't wait to meet the Scots crowd.

He adds: "It's incredible to be in the same room as the people who love my music."

"I remember doing a gig in Edinburgh before and it was so vibrant and on the edge, in a good way."

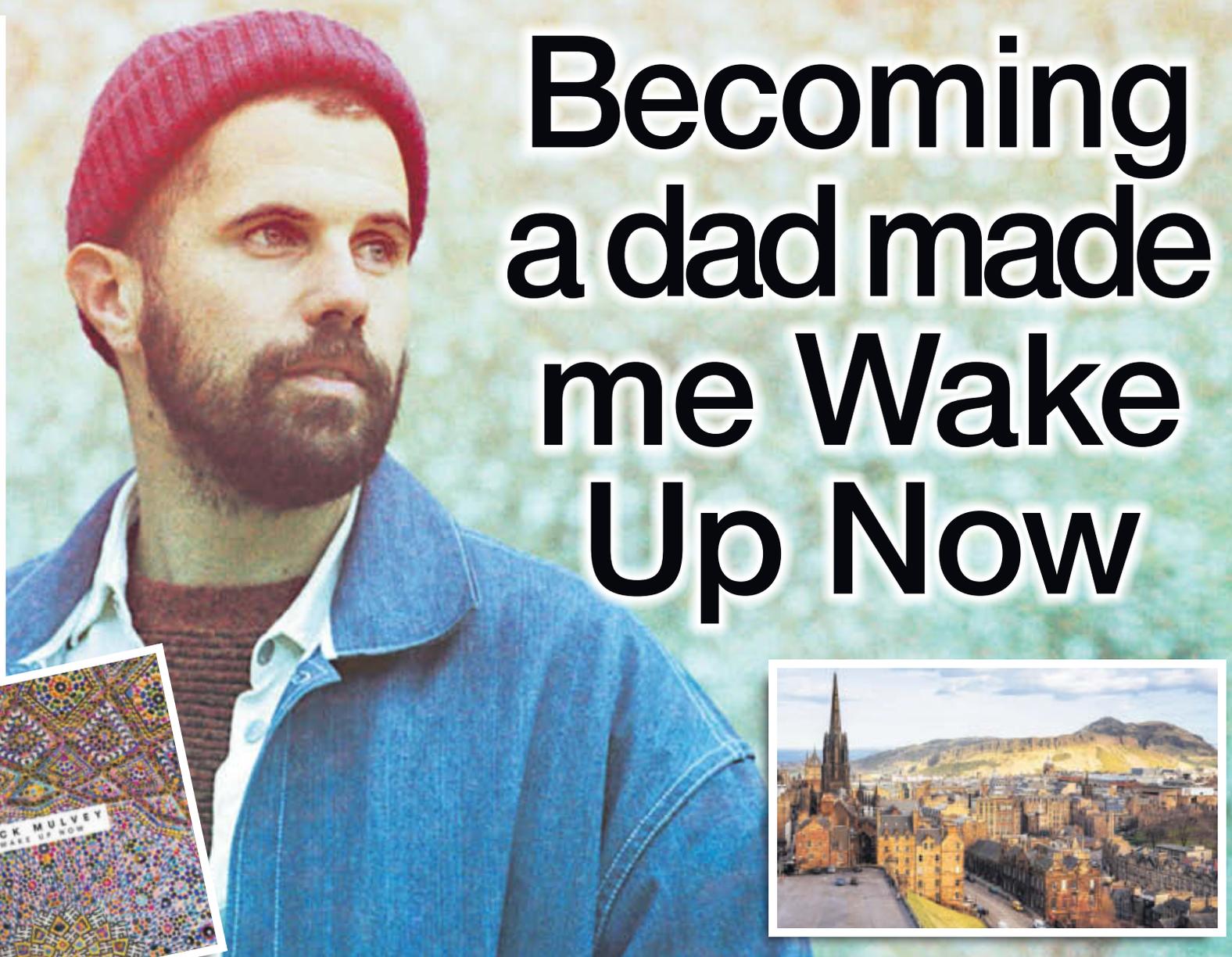
"So I am really looking forward to getting back there – and if I can do two nights I jump at the opportunity."

Nick rarely gets to visit any tourists spots in the cities he performs in but he'll never forget a Hogmanay trek up Arthur's Seat.

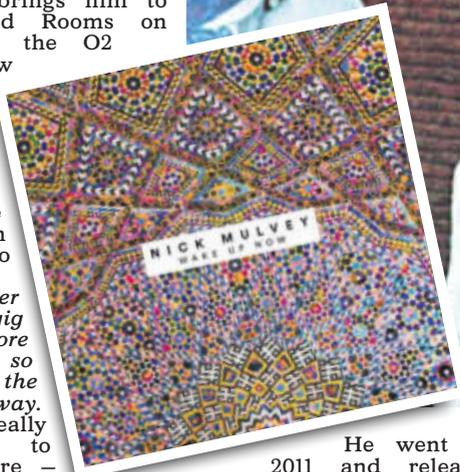
He said: "I climbed Arthur's Seat on New Year's Day once with some mates and that's always stuck with me."

"It wasn't a sober climb as it had been a very festive New Year's Eve."

Nick started out in instrumental band Portico Quartet which was nominated for a Mercury Music Prize in 2008.



# Becoming a dad made me Wake Up Now



He went solo in 2011 and released his debut album *First Mind* in 2014 – which again saw him gain a Mercury nod – but he confesses he still finds it strange to be running his own show.

And Nick, from Cambridge, didn't want the new album to feel like a follow-up to his acclaimed debut.

But it started out as just that before he made the conscious decision to create something totally different.

Nick explains: "It can be difficult when you have had some success in the past."

"I got into it though and there is a real process of making an album – some of it is romantic

but other parts are about problem solving and research."

"It then becomes fun and interesting and something else entirely from what I have done before."

Nick wrote his new album while his wife was pregnant and the experience influenced the tracks.

He says: "Impending fatherhood is a wake-up call and of course it was going to impact my song writing."

"As my wife prepared for the birth, I felt an urge to take care of our surroundings – our home set-up, you know, putting in the dimmer switches, gathering our people together, getting everything ready. I think that

this urge extended much further beyond just my own home."

"I began to feel a new responsibility towards the world we are creating, the world in which my son will grow up."

"I knew it would be impossible for me to write a batch of new songs that weren't useful, that didn't speak in some way to what's happening in the world."

But the new album was a bit of a struggle for Nick, who admits to becoming obsessive in the studio.

He said: "I was finding it difficult to put the project down and it got really intense."

"Other people have the same problem in whatever they do

but I had to learn to not obsess about it, to leave it in whatever state it was that day and come home and be a dad and husband."

*First Mind* went to No10 in the charts and he has been hailed by DJs such as Annie Mac and Lauren Laverne but he is determined to keep his feet on the ground.

He says: "I am so lucky to be doing this."

"When you are so absorbed by something it can be easy to take things for granted."

"But I stay connected to what it means to sell out a tour or have an album in the charts and try to stay mindful of it."

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## HUXTABLE

**WHO:** Jordan Yates (vocals/guitar), Marc William Brown (drums/vocals)

**WHERE:** Kilmarnock

**FOR FANS OF:** Foo Fighters, Royal Blood, Death From Above 1979

**JIM SAYS:** Huxtable got off to a flying start a few years ago when they won a competition to open for fellow-Ayrshire band Biffy Clyro.

As winners of Relentless energy drink's Here To Be Heard in 2014, they secured the slot at The Troxy in London. Jordan had been following Biffy since the early days and remembers first seeing them at Burlington Bertie's in Kilmarnock as part of a 5-band local bill. He said: "They weren't headlining and it was only a pound to get in. If they can do it, anyone can! That lit a fire under us I think."

Jordan's known Biffy twins Ben and James for a while, and was even in a band with their younger brother in his teens. He continued: "Being able to watch them grow from local band to international behemoth has been incredible. Seeing 4,000 going mad for them in London was incredible. I'd never really met Simon (Biffy Clyro singer) before so I was a bit nervous. The only thing I could think to say to him when we posed for a



## NEW MUSIC

By Jim Gellatly

photo was 'Our grans were bridesmaids at each other's weddings'. It's true, but still a very weird thing to say! I promise not to fan-boy myself into a puddle of nonsense again."

The lads are set to unleash their brilliant new EP *Change Shape Future* on Friday. It's packed full of big riffs and monster melodies. They took a different approach on the advice of Sucioporro's JP Reid. Jordan explained: "Before we started writing what would become *Change Shape Future* we recorded with JP producing. We'd previously just thrown about ideas in a practice room until we had something that resembled a song. JP ripped what we went to him with apart and

built it from the ground up. I was furious. But I realised that this was incredible advice from someone I looked up to. Not many people get that opportunity and I'm so grateful that we did. It changed how we approached songwriting, composition, instrumentation, everything."

With a stash of 27 songs they'd been working on they decided to concentrate on five for the EP rather than going down the album route just yet.

Jordan said: "These songs sat well together and could tell a bit of a story. Themes are threaded through it, musically and lyrically. It was recorded and co-produced with Mark Morrow."

"We would love to do a full album. We've got more than a full album pretty much ready to go, so never say never."

Huxtable's *Change Shape Future* EP is launched on Friday with a gig at King Tut's in Glasgow. The band are then at the Drouthy Cobar in Elgin on October 13 and The Tooth & Claw in Inverness on the 14th. After dates in Newcastle, Hull, Darwen and Bolton, they play Edinburgh's Banshee Labyrinth on October 21.

**More:** [www.facebook.com/wearehuxtable](http://www.facebook.com/wearehuxtable)  
**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)