

BAND'S IMAGINATION SPARKED WITH NEW ALBUM

ROCK ON . . . Jon, centre, and his fellow Fratellis Barry, left, and Mince, right, have sold out Glasgow gig on their UK tour



by **COLAN LAMONT**

ROCKER Jon Fratelli is made up with his new album — after working out how to make stuff up.

The Fratellis burst on to the scene in 2006 and frontman Jon has been trying to improve on each record since then.

New album *In Your Own Sweet Time* is the band's fifth and Jon — real name John Lawler — claims his life is so boring that he had to take inspiration from elsewhere and use his imagination.

The 38-year-old says: "I don't really write from personal experience.

"If you had a camera in my house over a 24-hour period, people would be disgusted at how little I really do.

"It means I really have no everyday experiences to write about — and I've never found that type of

writing interesting. I'm attracted to some level of fantasy so lyrically that's evident on this record.

"But the way you write changes. I used to listen to lots of music and read a lot of books, but I've not done that in a while.

"Now it's coming from pure imagination and this whole record has been written that way."

The band — also including bassist Barry Fratelli (real name Barry Wallace) and drummer Mince (Gordon McRory) — won British Breakthrough Act at the Brits in 2007 after debut album *Costello Music* reached No2 the previous year.

Their breakthrough single *Chelsea Dagger* also reached No5 and is now used by football teams around the world — such as Juventus, Perth Glory and Montreal

Impact — when the home team scores.

But Jon says this album is better than any of their previous work — and it may surprise a few fans.

He adds: "This is the first record we've made where I can't pick many holes in it.

"That is the place you want to get to, where you can sit and listen and not pull it to pieces.

'We are always looking forward to playing live'

"I've been doing the same thing since I was 19 — which is really spending all day playing around with music — so I have had 18 years of doing that.

"I suspect this one is kind of different to what people might expect from us." With their fifth

studio album about to be released, the Glasgow band will also travel the country with their new material.

Ahead of a UK tour, the singer says performing live is something they will always do well.

He says: "We are always

looking forward to playing live. If nothing else, we know how to go out and do that, it's our bread and butter.

"The other side to that is we are in a state of constant gratitude that we are able to go out and play to people.

"We know both sides of the coin — we have been at gigs

Fratelli vision

when we were in bands people weren't interested in."

One of the lads' headline shows is a sold-out date at Glasgow's Barrowland on March 31.

Jon admits playing there is special for the group — as it is proof that you have made it as a band.

He adds: "The Barrowland is one that never gets dull. Growing up, there were certain places that always seemed like if you got to play there, you had won. I looked at the Barrowland more than the SECC. That sounds crazy because the SECC holds 5,000 more people but it's true."

Since gigs like these mean so much to them, Jon admits they will never take them for granted.

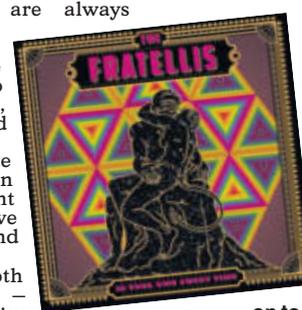
He says: "We treat every year like it could be our last.

"You've got no idea if you will get a tap on the shoulder to say you've had your time.

"It gives you a sense of appreciating it."

● **THE Fratellis will play an acoustic in-store performance at HMV in Argyle Street, Glasgow, on March 16. For tickets to their tour shows log**

on to thefratellis.com

**OH!RIO**

WHERE: Dundee.

WHO: Declan Millar (vocals/guitar), Sean Millar (guitar), Andy McBeth (bass), John Adamson (drums).

FOR FANS OF: Fatherson, Interpol, The Xcerts.

JIM SAYS: With three stunning tracks already out, Dundee newcomers OH!RIO are really exciting me at the moment.

Only formed nine months ago as a three-piece they decided after just one gig that something was missing. In came frontman Declan's brother Sean, previously a session musician in London, to add an extra dynamic with a second guitar.

Drummer John told me: "The bare bones and potential were there before Sean joined. His input and experience has taken us to a whole new level and I feel our songs are more complete."

I'm also glad I asked Declan about the band name. Seems I may have been saying it wrong on the radio. He revealed: "OH!RIO from the lyrics in the Duran Duran song. We struggled initially to find a name for the band so used OH!RIO just to have a name. It often gets mispronounced as the biscuit Oreo, but we have embraced it."

With that cleared up, I asked the group about

**NEW MUSIC**
By Jim Gellatly

their latest release *Colours*. Following the tracks *Lucky* and *Run*, it's their strongest yet.

Like the other two it has a hook that just drags you in. The perfect blend of alt.rock and pop, it's a song they kept from the first incarnation of the band.

Andy explained: "When we started out we had no idea what direction we wanted to go in. The songs sounded all right but not great. When Sean joined we went to a whole new level songwriting wise. I think only *Colours* and our song *Closer* made the cut when we decided to cull our set."

Dean added: "Each release has had a bigger and bigger response — we are picking up more

radio play and the crowds are getting bigger. It's all very exciting."

The band have taken on board the success of other Scottish bands.

Declan said: "We all have different music tastes which I feel only adds to our sound.

"Although we are all influenced by Fatherson and inspired by what they have achieved, I would say my biggest influence is The Twilight Sad. I've been obsessed with them for years.

"I love the atmosphere that they create. The intense melancholic lyrics are a massive inspiration for me."

OH!RIO's next performance is a heat for the Westfest Battle of the Bands at Church in Dundee on April 13. It's one of 13 heats split between Church and The Green Room in Perth.

A main stage slot at Westfest's Big Sunday on Dundee's Magdalen Green is up for grabs. I'll be along hosting the final at Church on June 2 — the eve of the event itself.

More: www.facebook.com/ohrioband
● 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