



NEW MUSIC
By Jim Gellatly

APACHE DARLING

WHO: Stefanie Lawrence (vocals), Andrew Black (keyboards/vocals), Charlotte Printer (bass/vocals), Danny Kelly (drums/vocals)

WHERE: Glasgow

FOR FANS OF: Chvrches, Eurythmics, Paramore

JIM SAYS: With the video for its title track Buble gum going viral, electro-popsters Apache Darling have just unleashed their debut EP.

The video really gives a flavour of what they are about. Some dark images that reflect their edgy pop sound, and incredibly, all done in one shot — culminating in a mini fireworks display.

Singer Stefanie, pictured above, said: "Because it was a one take, unedited video, we had to run it a good few times before we went for the real thing."

"We filmed it in Charlotte's mum and dad's house, and we only had three chances with the fireworks, so the whole thing had to be rehearsed before we could go for a proper take. We created a version of the song at double-speed, and I had to lip-sync to the sped-up version to make the timings work in slow-motion."

"The video is our tribute to the high-school parties we were never cool enough to go to, so we wanted to make our own."

The breakthrough has been a long time coming — initially formed as a duo with songwriters Stefanie and Andrew around four years ago, they made the T Break Stage at T In The Park in 2015. Along the way they've supported many of their heroes, including Howard Jones and Simple Minds.

Stefanie said: "Since we started writing songs, we feel like we've really formulated our own sound, especially with the addition of Charlotte and Danny."

"We've gone from being more or less fully electronic to having a more raw and distinctive live sound. The Buble gum EP reflects this, and we're really pleased with the balance we struck between pop production, songwriting and performance."

They are not ashamed to be "pop" but reckon there is more to what they do. Stefanie added: "We are 'alternative pop'. We write pop songs that we think appeal to the masses but have heart and honesty — and sometimes a fair bit of anger — behind them."

Across the EP we get to hear different sides of the band. From the explosive title track to the beautiful Don't, it's hard to find a weak link.

Stefanie said: "Musically, we feel like this EP has taken the best bits of our previous tracks and run a marathon with them. Analogue synths are very much at the front of our sound, and we've gone all out with crazy bass sounds and heavy drums too. There's a lot of energy happening!"

Apache Darling play the free Burnsfest family festival at Rozelle Park in Ayr on Saturday, along with Hipsway, Chesney Hawkes, Carol Laula, The Hur, Brownbear, Anna Sweeney and Katee Kross & The Amberjax.

MORE: apachedarling.com

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

amazingradio.com
jimgellatly.com



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

Rock-it Scientists still have chemistry



"I learned hard way birthday shots are a slippery slope"



INDIE rockers We Are Scientists worked out the equation to music success a long time ago.

Singer Keith Murray and bass player Chris Cain burst onto the scene in 2008 with hits After Hours and Chick Lit.

The New York based-duo are now on their sixth album and will be showcasing Megaplex in Glasgow this week — on Keith's 41st birthday.

And he is already preparing himself for a massive hangover after the gig at The Garage.

He said: "Chris and myself both have our birthdays in May."

"Our records always seem to come out in the spring and somehow we always end up in Glasgow at the same time."

"And we always end up in the city's Nice 'n' Sleazy club and it always tends to go pretty late."

"We have lots of friends in Glasgow, so it always becomes a particularly boisterous and dangerous place."

"I learned the hard way that I'll have to rebuff many offers of birthday shots as that's a dangerous slippery slope."

"However, I'm firmly anticipating having a very bad second day of my 42nd year when I wake up in the morning."

After a dummy run of new shows around the UK, the band feel great about



by COLAN LAMONT

touring with new material. Keith also reckons their songwriting is improving as the years go by.

He said: "I think we just get better and better at writing music. It gets more exciting with every record. We finished recording the new album in November."

"It was something we were plugging along with for the last few years while touring. It crept up on us as we didn't realise we had a full album on our hands."

"We stopped touring and realised we had all these awesome songs so started



PARTY... Keith could celebrate at Nice 'n' Sleazy

recording. I've heard this album many times now so it feels like I've lived with it forever."

"It's weird to realise nobody else has heard it yet."

"It's having people at the shows being excited about the songs that make them really fun."

"People get psyched when the songs begin and that makes it fun to be in the room making people enjoy themselves."

"It's also exciting because Scotland specifically is somewhere we always love going because people are so enthusiastic."

In an attempt to be as energetic as possible on stage, vegetarian Keith admits he avoids eating before he performs.

Keith adds: "One of the unfortunate aspects of touring for me is that I'm vegetarian so it's often pretty hard for me to enjoy any local specialities."

"When I'm in Glasgow I have veggie haggis — which makes no sense at all."

"It's really just a big pile of lentils but it's fun for me to pretend I'm having it."

"I don't eat before I play because I need to be as light on my feet as possible. But usually by the time we're done every restaurant has closed so I'm left high and dry food-wise."

"For some reason I've always tended to have days off in Glasgow so try to find some awesome places."

● We Are Scientists play The Garage on Thursday, May 10