

The Best in the Brizness

Oscar Ross rounds up the city's best emerging acts

Oscar Ross
First Year, History

With Bristol's large and diverse nightlife, it can often be difficult to see through the drum and bass and Bed Mondays flyers that circulate the city. However, Bristol is home to some of the most exciting artists in the UK, including Massive Attack, Idles and more recently acts like Pink Pantheress. As such, any artist you see listed on Headfirst or hidden in the small print of a Crofter's Rights poster could be the next big thing. Epigram Music is here to provide our picks for some of the best emerging acts that are just the tip of Bristol's music iceberg.

Danny Chaska

Making laid back guitar and sample beats, producer-rapper and multi-instrumentalist Danny Chaska broke into the UK underground rap scene with his debut single 'Madrid' together with rapper Hal

Shallo. Having recently moved to Bristol after the release of his first album with Shallo, VICETOWN, Chaska is a promising young artist with the best of his career ahead of him. In interview with The Breakroom magazine Chaska commented on the nature of the UK's underground rap scene stating that 'It can be annoying because underground is good vibes, but no one wants to stay underground'. With Chaska eager to get off the ground in the rap scene, his progress in Bristol will be one to watch.

Implicit

Another emerging rapper in Bristol is Implicit, who featured on VICETOWN track 12, 'Capri'. Implicit spits sharp minded lyrics with twisting rhythmic flows reminiscent of artists such as Verb T. Speaking to Epigram about his upcoming projects, Implicit was sad to relay that: "I was meant to have an EP coming out next month but

my laptop with all my work on it got water damaged". "Should have backed it up... awful", Implicit continued, however the rapper remains hopeful for future projects stating that "I've got another single coming out with a nice video next month and then something else to follow very soon after". After his smooth-talking debut single 'Demeanour' feat. Pitch 92 released earlier this year, Implicit is one to watch out for if you're looking for prime rhymes and flows in Bristol.

FELIX

If rap isn't quite your style, Bristol has a huge range of singer songwriters ranging from indie rock, soul, folk and everything in between. Emerging act FELIX has recently been making waves in Bristol's indie scene with stunning vocals, heartfelt originals and driving acoustic guitar. Speaking to Epigram on Bristol's music scene, FELIX described the "welcoming, and at times forgiving

crowds" he has played, ranging from "open mics at Golden Lion to sweaty gigs at the Louisiana". FELIX is eager to return to his favourite venue "so far", The Crofter's Rights on the 1st of June, supporting another featured artist in this article, Part Time Models (see below), as well as another gig at The Louisiana on the 30th of May. FELIX is one not to miss with his new full band sets bringing his already atmospheric acoustic songs to the next level.

Shannon Flynn

You don't need to go further to find more amazing artists in Bristol than FELIX's fellow singer-songwriter, Shannon Flynn. A smooth and soulful singer songwriter, Flynn's rich voice perfectly complements her own songs, writing about all the twists and turns of growing up and learning how to love. Flynn also puts new spins on old classics with

her covers, playing her own stripped back versions of 'Young Hearts Run Free' and 'September', providing the full energy of the songs with just her voice and a guitar.

Bible Club

A wild card in this Bristol mix of rappers and indie rockers, emerging heavy rock band Bible Club spoke to Epigram music about how they are finding the Bristol scene. "It's really welcoming" commented Bible Club, speaking on the lack of pretention in some of Bristol's "iconic venues".

Bible Club are excited about upcoming gig at The Lanes on the 28th of May as well as their second single coming out soon which they are "really looking forward to", following their Idles-esque atmospheric banger of a debut single 'Mr Lizard'.

A longer version of this article is available online.



War Child take on the O2 Academy

The charity put on a one-off performance to raise money for communities facing conflict

Jake Paterson
First Year, English

Can't anybody see? We've got a war to fight' Portishead's Beth Gibbons slowly croons to the crowd on their set closer 'Roads', a song that proves despite being separated by war, persecution, or social isolation, there's unity in the fact that we can, at least for one night, come together under the lights and change things for the better.

The one-off event at the O2 Academy that raised £90,000 for refugees and children affected by the war in Ukraine brought together almost everything that Bristol had to

offer. Local legend Big Jeff occupied his usual place in the crowd, whilst Massive Attack's Robert Del Naja created artwork especially for the event and other local artists including Katy J Pearson and Willie J Healy played a set. As the tickets were allocated through a raffle system, with the event also being livestreamed worldwide, everyone present in person felt a huge sense of gratitude to be there.

One of the few bands still operating that appeared on the influential first War Child 'HELP' Album from 1995, Portishead's announcement for the fundraiser was met with astounded reverence, having last played a show in 2015 and disappearing seemingly into the ether.

Playing five songs taken from 1994's masterpiece 'Dummy' and 2008's 'Third', every breath that passed through the microphone felt essential: at once rapturous

and quiet. Gibbons came off as an introspective performer, whilst she was not singing she walked to the back of the stage and faced the curtain, turning to us only to deliver haunting lines and to briefly thank the crowd at the end, bottle of Corona in hand. She traversed 'Wandering Star' and 'The Rip' with precision that would suggest that her voice had not aged a day in the thirty years since their debut was released.

This performance was perhaps so captivating due to its momentary feeling. I have never heard the O2 so filled with sound than when the band took to the stage or finished any one of their songs. That adoration and respect was most clearly communicated through IDLES' frontman Joe Talbot in exclaiming that he 'never wants to go on after my heroes ever again'.

But IDLES still arrived with a head on assault. As soon as the

band launched into 'Car Crash' from of their latest album 'CRAWLER', a large shift in the night took place - from respect and adoration to letting go entirely and falling into a wall of sound. Their set was classic IDLES, jumping between classic tunes before sharing the stage with Portishead's Adrien Utley for 'The Beachland Ballroom'. Talbot kept reiterating that the fight against persecution was "our cause", returning to the IDLES tenet of unity and community in that we all contribute to the ecosystem of

modern society. This culminated in a performance of 'Danny Nedelko', with the Ukrainian frontman of band Heavy Lungs with the same name joining the band for a crowdsurf and ride on Talbot's shoulders.

The night was rapturous and celebratory, united against a singular cause, closing with the "anti-fascist song for anti-fascist folk", 'Rottweiler', carrying itself through the bodies and minds of everyone in person and watching from home.

