

## “Feels like a boy’s club”: Wet Leg

*Kritika Gogte*

Amidst brewing controversy regarding the noticeable lack in female nominees for Best Artist, indie rock band Wet Leg swept nominations in multiple categories and won two awards at the Brit Awards on Saturday.

Winning awards for Breakthrough Artist and Best British Group, the Isle of Wight band threw a jibe at fellow nominee Arctic Monkeys. “That rock’n’roll eh? Just won’t go away,” quipped frontwoman Rhian Teasdale, quoting the acceptance speech made by Arctic Monkeys lead singer Alex Turner when they won the same award in 2014.

When asked by BBC Newsbeat whether having fewer female nominees could ‘tarnish the reputation of the Brit Awards’, Teasdale said, “Yes, of course.” Harry Styles, Charlie XCX and Ellie Goulding were amongst fellow nominees who pointed out the unbalanced gender scales of the nominations; with Styles adding that he was ‘very aware of his privilege’ in his acceptance speech.

The band has already won two Grammys and is the third female led band in a row to have won ‘Best British Group’, following Wolf Alice and Little Mix. As her bandmates expressed surprise in their acceptance speech at the recognition and the fame; Teasdale added, “It’s great being on telly, but feels like a boy’s club”.

Prior to heading off stage, the band’s guitarist Joshua Omead Mobaraki, was seen grabbing the mic and laughingly quipping ‘F\*\*\* the Tories, cheers’. Although hastily censored by ITV, the comment sparked a flurry of social media discussions which had an effect on the band’s popularity as well as, not surprisingly, the ratings of the Brit Awards. “I was finding Wet Leg rather irritating, then one of them said “Fuck the Tories” and now I love them. Now really annoyed that ITV edited it out,” [tweeted](#) one user in response.

However, despite the accusations of misogyny, the Brit Awards featured lively performances by multiple female artists including Lizzo, Adele, Becky Hill, Ella Henderson, as well as Wet Leg; who performed their hit debut single ‘Chaise Longue’, which was released in June 2021.

Since its conception in 2019, the band has maintained its non-conformist stance through their music, with their debut album being full of boldly provocative and outwardly feminist lyrics. Their debut album ‘Wet Leg’ includes songs with titles such as ‘Ur Mum’, ‘Wet Dream’ and ‘Oh no’. “You can be as serious or as unserious as you like, at any point, I guess. That’s the thing with music. There’s not many rules,” said Teasdale as reported by the Rolling Stone.

Following their win and live performance at the Royal Albert Hall in London in March, fans can now look forward to a second album release, which the band has revealed is ‘in the bag’.

**Word count: 446**

**Target publication:** Rolling Stone