

THE SCENE CLUB MIX



By MARK KAVANAGH

Your essential guide to dance ++

Devotion to quality

ONE of the country's foremost hard-house clubs and record labels is set to crank up a gear in 2011, starting with a party tonight at The Ruby Room in Bray, Co Wicklow.

Devotion boss James Devlin (inset below) will team up with *Clubmix* tonight and will be showcasing his remix of seminal 2000 tune *Bad Boy* for its new release in March.

Up next are his collaborations with Base Graffiti that have already appeared on a Tidy Trax compilation. Tonight's session kicks off at 9.30pm and will be a blend of upfront tunes and all-time anthems.



THE RTE 2fm Electric Disco returns to the centre of the action next weekend with a live broadcast from Horan's in Trale, Co Kerry, on Saturday.

Presenter Jenny Greene — who broadcasts on 2fm every Friday and Saturday night — is renowned for playing some of the best music on national radio.

Her club sets are a top-notch fusion of cutting-edge trance and house with all-time Irish dancefloor anthems.

Her eagerly anticipated live show in the Kingdom next weekend marks her debut at one of the two longest-running clubbing institutions on the island.

Paudi Cronin launched seminal nights such as *Transmission* and *Fresh N Funky* in 1994, and brought young gun Jonno Brien aboard the ship in the late '90s.

The club's eclectic booking policy is the envy of many venues, with its clued-up clubbers feasting on a diverse diet of techno, house, trance, hard dance, dubstep and drum n bass.

Horan's resident Brien has become one of Ireland's most exciting producers in recent years, with support from the likes of Carl Cox and Marco V.

Jonno joins Jenny Greene for the Electric Disco next week, and doors open at 10.30pm. Admission is just €8

JEN IS QUEEN OF KINGDOM



In the mix...

★ THE nomination process for this year's Irish Dance Music Awards is well underway, and you can submit your suggestions to the organisers at idma@slick-dj.com

A panel of DJs, producers, journalists and nightclub promoters will be assisting **Raymond O'Connor** and the Slick team in compiling the nominees.

The nominations will be announced in the coming weeks and public voting commences on March 1.

★ *Clubmix* bids a sad farewell to **Gerry and Craig** at City Discs in Temple Bar, one of the last remaining vinyl and CD stores in Dublin. All titles are currently on sale for €3 or less.

★ **David de Valera's** Podium night welcomes up and coming Italian house DJ Leon to Dublin tomorrow night. Doors open at 11pm

★ Goodgrief main man **Jordan Suckley** jets in to play at The Manor Nightclub in Virginia Co Cavan tomorrow night. Support comes from **Riccocha, Munder, Gerry Power** and **Darren Hall**. Doors open at 10pm.

THE SCENE NEW ALBUMS



THE STREETS: Computers & Blues (Warners) ★★★★★

WITH his fifth and final record, Birmingham rapper Mike Skinner is abandoning his alter ego The Streets to chase films and television.

Skinner described his farewell salute as "ravey" and influences do crop up on tracks such as

Trust Me and ABC. But overall the sound is still firmly urban garage dance.

Although the lyrics seem strained, *Computers And Blues* has sharp observations of modern life.

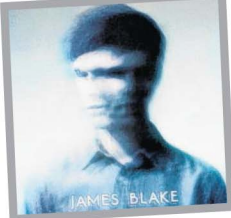
Blip On A Screen focuses on a

foetus scan, *OMG* describes a relationship breakdown through Facebook and *Lock The Locks* recounts leaving a job, which is difficult not to read as an explanation for Skinner's own decision.

Maybe he's right to be calling it

a day when even he only rated this seven out of 10 in a recent interview.

As always, the lyrics are brilliant and the delivery is in his usual bro-ken-up-words style but it's the ideas side of things that's starting to let him down.



JAMES BLAKE: James Blake (Universal) ★★★★★

HE'S been featured on many next big thing lists and for some this is a reason to be cynical — however, James Blake is one artist worthy of the title.

His debut album takes the skittish, ghostly dubstep of his early EPs and cranks it into an inspired brew of glitchy beats, snatches of woody melody and the most unexpectedly soulful vocal.

Limit To Your Love is the obvious radio hit — though it's far from mainstream — but there are memorable moments in every track.



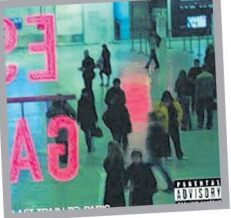
TEDDY THOMPSON: Bella (Decca) ★★★★★

TEDDY Thompson is that rare thing — a British country singer, and a good one.

Son of folk legends Richard and Linda Thompson,

Teddy has ploughed his own furrow with guitar-based timeless country delivered with a voice that's vaguely reminiscent of Bruce Springsteen.

His last album was highly acclaimed and went into the top 10 in the British album charts — and this collection of great songs, some with edgy lyrics, should have no trouble following it.



DIDDY DIRTY MONEY: Last Train To Paradise (Universal) ★★★★★

HE'S one of the biggest names in hip-hop and his latest release goes some way to validating his standing within the genre.

This album sees Diddy working alongside singers Dawn Richard and Kalenna Harper.

While the trio dominate, there are plenty of guest appearances from artists including Grace Jones, Swizz Beatz, Usher, Justin Timberlake and Lil Wayne. Such a line-up does make for an LP full of pomp, but ultimately a quality album.



BRITISH SEA POWER: Valhalla Dancehall (Rough Trade) ★★★★★

THE fourth British sea Power album is a more polished version of its predecessors, with plenty of intricate musicianship, melodies and big riffs.

A myriad of influences (from Kings of Leon to Pulp) are evident as they romp through a blend of sinister ballads and guitar rock anthems.

The raucous *Who's in Control* and the awesome *Mongk II* are two highlights on a superb album that deserves to be listened in one sitting.

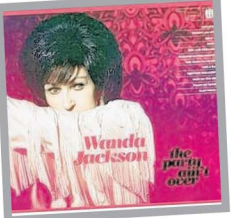


SEEFEEEL: Seefeel (Warp) ★★★★★

BETWEEN 1993 and 1996, Seefeel developed a form of sample-based post-rock that used guitars to generate a sound closer to ambient techno.

Seefeel's self-titled fourth album continues in the same vein and has much to offer despite lacking the otherworldly impact they had in their heyday.

Having released their first new recording in 14 years, *Faults EP*, last September this is an album that occasionally seems out of touch, but on the whole it does work well.



WANDA JACKSON: The Party Ain't Over (Warner Music) ★★★★★

PRODUCED by Jack White at his Third Man studios in Nashville, the 73-year-old Queen of Rockabilly's collection of covers by is a bit of a grower.

Wanda shows she still has plenty of gusto in the vocal cords on fare such as Johnny Kidd's rocker *Shakin' All Over* and a straight-ish version of Amy Winehouse's best song, *You Know I'm No Good*.

Simple but powerful guitars and vintage amps underpin rousing horns and Jackson's big voice superbly.



THE JOY FORMIDABLE: The Big Roar (Atlantic) ★★★★★

IT MAY have been a long time coming, but *The Big Roar* is an urgent album with memorable grunge riffs and punchy pop

melodies. The three-piece band's formula is Muse-like in its simplicity — a basic melody with Ritzzy Bryan's Fighting, Don't Go Breaking My Heart, Tiny heavenly vocals atop, building in intensity to an epic climax. As with Muse, it's almost unthinkable that this band only has three members.

A few more moods would be welcome but ultimately *The Big Roar* is a success.



VARIOUS ARTISTS: Gnomeo & Juliet (EMI) ★★★★★

THIS soundtrack to the animated comedy adventure film, *Gnomeo & Juliet*, features nine new and classic songs by one of pop music's all-time greatest song-writing

teams, Elton John and Bernie Taupin. Among the hits *Saturday Night's Alright For Me*, *Don't Go Breaking My Heart*, *Tiny* heavenly vocals atop, building in intensity to an epic climax. As with Muse, it's almost unthinkable that this band only has three members.

A sensational remake of Elton's No1 hit from 1973, *Crocodile Rock*, sung as a duet with Nelly Furtado, is the highlight track on offer here.