

Rob Scott's Top ten

Books

CHILDREN'S BOOKS deserving of a place on Santa's list this Christmas include *Stephen Fry Presents Oscar Wilde's Stories For All Ages* (Harper Collins, £12.99, ISBN 978-0-0-734245-7), which includes his most famous stories — *The Selfish Giant* and *The Happy Prince* — as well as nine other fairytale-like ones, and the award-nominated *Ralph Is (Not) A Superhero* by Corinne Davies and Eleanor Ashfield (RAL Publications, £5.99, ISBN 978-0-9556905-1-8), which follows in verse his adventures after a dream seems to turn into reality. Go to www.ralphisnotasuperhero.com for more.

Variety

THE MAGIC OF SCOTLAND at The Pavilion Theatre, Glasgow, is a traditional Scottish variety show now in its fifth year and features The Alexander Brothers, Alastair McDonald, Mary Cameron, John Carmichael and his band and many more. It's on at 7.30 pm on Thursday and Saturday, plus Friday and Saturday at 2 pm. ☎ 0141 332 1846 or go to <http://tinyurl.com/y13x5wm> for more info.

Gang

THE EDINBURGH GANG SHOW celebrates its Golden Anniversary this year with a cast of more than 200 local youngsters in a dazzling modern revue at the city's King's Theatre from Tuesday till Saturday at 7 pm plus a Saturday matinee at 2.15 pm. ☎ 0131 529 6000 or go to <http://tinyurl.com/c2f3m5>

CD

JAMIE CULLUM'S new album *The Pursuit* should be another massive hit with his fans as it brilliantly mixes a couple of jazz standards with songs he's written in the four years since his last solo release. As always full of verve, passion and top-notch playing, it's just out from Decca/Terrified Records.

Art

SNAP UP original art from as little as £75 at the fifth Edinburgh Art Fair at the Corn Exchange from Friday till next Sunday, 11 am till 6 pm (5 pm Sunday). Includes a complimentary wrapping service. ☎ 01875 819595 or go to www.artedinburgh.com for full info.

DVD

THE SIMPLICITY of Al Reinert's 1989 Apollo missions film *For All Mankind* is its greatest strength — consisting of only the 16mm films the astronauts shot, their voices recounting their journeys and the score by Brian Eno. Twenty years on the new high-definition version being released on DVD and Blu-ray by Eureka Entertainment tomorrow is just as powerful and moving as ever. The packs also include lots of extras and a booklet.

Play

GRASSIC GIBBON by Jack Webster follows the Scottish writer from his struggle for recognition in his youth to his success and then premature death at 34. It's at Edinburgh's Festival Theatre tonight at 7.30 pm. ☎ 0131 529 6000 or go to <http://tinyurl.com/yjnmh8r>

Family

AS FAMILY comedies go, *Outnumbered* is top of the form as it perfectly captures the highs, lows and chaos of family life. Series 2 is being released on DVD by 2entertain tomorrow for £19.56. Prepare to laugh till your sides ache.

Musical

CHICAGO, THE award-winning musical about murder, greed, corruption, exploitation, adultery and treachery, is at His Majesty's Theatre, Aberdeen, from tomorrow till Saturday at 7.30 pm (8.30 pm Saturday) with Gary Wilmut and Emma Barton in the lead roles. ☎ 01224 641122 or go to <http://tinyurl.com/yd6yrt7> for full info.

Business

BUSINESS BOOKS are growing in popularity and Will King's well-timed and readable *How To Build A Great Business In Tough Times* (Headline, £14.99, ISBN 978-0-7553-1998-5) explains how he created his successful King of Shaves brand.

JLS took the charts by storm after losing TV contest

They didn't want to enter The X Factor

THIS has been an amazing year for boyband JLS.

Since coming second to Alexandra Burke in last year's *X Factor*, they've gone on to become one of the biggest pop success stories of the past 12 months, with chart-topping singles and a huge-selling debut album *JLS*.

Greeted by mass hysteria everywhere they go, it's a massive lifestyle change for the lads who were brought together by band member Oritse just over two years ago.

Rhythm section

by Kevin Bridges

The boys took a major hand in the writing and recording of their album, which has just been released.

"It's all been so crazy, happened so quickly and such a drastic change for us all," JB tells me. "We're still learning as we go.

"When we came out of the show the first two songs were written for us because we were so busy touring.

"We did a club tour, then *The X Factor* tour and then we toured with Lemar, so there was no time for us to write. Everything had to be done on a quick turnaround.

"After that we managed to write nine of the 13 songs, a rare thing to be allowed to do on a first album. The label is a great partner because we're allowed a lot of input into everything."

The band has a whole bunch of celebrity fans such as Pet Shop Boys and Tinchy Stryder but they were stunned to discover none



■ JLS were thrilled to meet Dame Judi Dench and discover she's a fan of theirs.

other than Dame Judi Dench also loves their music.

"We met her at the premiere of the Bond film *Quantum Of Solace*," JB explains. "She told us she was a fan and that all her family was supporting us. We were blown away by that — she's movie royalty."

Despite having *The X Factor* to thank for their stardom, the fact they were a fully-formed band beforehand meant they initially had doubts about entering the contest.

Hard work

"We were quite against the idea of going into it. We thought that through sheer hard work we could get there — it was about creating our own path.

"We'd arranged photo shoots of our own and we were doing paid gigs by the time we entered, doing our

own management meetings, organising our showcases. We had stylists and photographers working with us for free."

It was the global success of Leona Lewis that persuaded the boys the show could lead to a huge career rather than just a couple of UK hits. Now they're very proud of their *X Factor* journey and are still huge fans of the show.

"We catch it whenever we can and my mum records episodes if I'm going to miss them."

"When Danyl was in the bottom two I told him he had to understand that didn't mean anything — it just gives you the opportunity to work harder. If it's a week that doesn't suit your voice — like a rock week, for example — you still have a second chance to consolidate your fans and the truth will out."

JB is also quick to point

out that, even if you don't make the final, it doesn't mean you've failed.

"If you go out in Week 5 or whatever there are still so many things you can do, like TV. There are so many different opportunities that can come from the show."

The lads have always had a strong work ethic and they say the weeks they spent on *X Factor* gave them a crash course in what it's like to be a star.

"We expected we'd have to work hard but the show is a real shock to the system — 24 hours a day, seven days a week for 12 weeks.

"It's not just the show itself — every day there are rehearsals and the Press to deal with. It's fantastic preparation for what you have to do afterwards."

The crazy lifestyle means the guys' diaries for next year are already filling up.

"We don't get many days off as it is," smiles JB. "My next one isn't till December 19, when I'm going to test drive a car and then watch Arsenal play.

"It's tough there isn't enough time to spend with friends and family. Sometimes you just want to go home and sleep."

Glasgow

The band is looking forward to next year and their tour which takes in a date at Glasgow's Clyde Auditorium on February 21.

"We're going to put on a fantastic show and try to thank the fans for being so supportive. We'd also like to go to America some time next year. We want to go everywhere in the world."

JLS may not have emerged the winners of *The X Factor* but they're grabbing victory from the jaws of defeat.

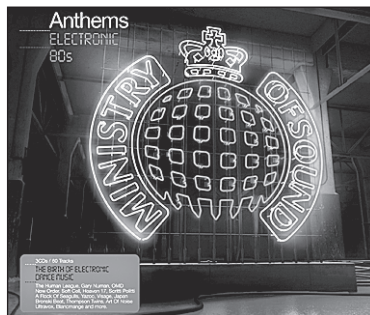
ELECTRONIC DANCE music may be all the rage right now but its roots go back to the 1980s when synthesisers and computers were mastered by a new generation of musicians who made some of the most exciting music of the era.

In celebration of their achievements *Anthems Electronic 80s* is a superb triple-CD collection featuring the cream of the acts who became household names with their new computerised music.

Top names

If you're thinking British electronic '80s it's no surprise the compilation kicks off with Ultravox's brilliant *Vienna* before moving neatly on to Gary Numan's *Cars*. Other great tracks included come from top names such as Yazoo, Soft Cell and Orchestral Manoeuvres in the Dark. The era wouldn't be fully represented without hits from Duran Duran and Human League too.

WIN 3 CDs of '80s synth hits



Scots favourites Simple Minds are also there with their track *Promised You A Miracle* while Heaven 17 are represented by their epic *Temptation* and Spandau Ballet make an appearance with their early hit *To Cut A Long Story Short*.

You'll also find songs from Go West,

Scritti Politti, Blondie, Bronski Beat, Sparks, Tears For Fears and Kim Wilde plus many more that should trigger great musical memories.

My standout tracks from this epic compilation include New Order's *Blue Monday*, Pet Shop Boys' *West End Girls* and David Bowie's *Fashion*.

Inspiration

Once you've listened to all these tracks you'll see why so many of today's stars are looking to '80s electronica for inspiration.

Keen to get yourself a copy? The good news is I have 10 copies of this superb collection to give away this week.

To have a chance of being one of the lucky winners, send in the answer to this question —

■ The album contains the big 1980 hit from Visage. Was it —

- a) *Fade To Black*
b) *Fade To Green*
c) *Fade To Grey?*

Write your answer on a postcard or back of a sealed envelope only, along with your name, address and daytime phone number, and post it to Anthems Electronic 80s Competition, The Sunday Post, 144 Port Dundas Rd, Glasgow, G4 0HZ.

Or email your answer and contact details to rhythm@sundaypost.com, marking the subject as "Anthems Electronic 80s Comp". First 10 correct entries drawn on Friday, November 20, win a copy each.

Employees of D.C.Thomson & Co. Ltd, and their close relatives, may not enter. The Editor's decision is final. This is a joint promotion between The Sunday Post and Ministry of Sound.