



**MANIC STREET PREACHERS ANNOUNCED AS SHOCKWAVES NME AWARDS
GODLIKE GENIUS 2008!**

**IN ANOTHER STROKE OF GENIUS – MANIC STREET PREACHERS TO HEADLINE
THE BIG GIG WITH KAISER CHIEFS, BLOC PARTY, KLAXONS AND THE CRIBS**

NME is proud to announce that the recipient of this year's **Godlike Genius** accolade is **Manic Street Preachers**. Delighting and antagonising the world with a constant succession of classic, politically charged rock'n'roll songs, and eight stunning studio albums under their belt, legendary Welsh rockers **Manic Street Preachers** have well and truly earned the **Godlike Genius** status which will be awarded to them at the **Shockwaves NME Awards 2008** on 28th February.

The Manics have been delivering era-defining music to the masses for over two decades, inspiring both unconditional love and hate, but never anything in between. From their beginnings as mess-of-eyeliner-and-spraypaint punks, to their stadium filling 'Everything Must go' era, to last year's stunning 'Send Away The Tigers', they're a band who have - and always will – matter.

The band will also headline the first ever **Shockwaves NME Awards Big Gig** which will take place in the O2 Arena immediately after the **Shockwaves NME Awards** in the IndigO2 on February 28th. **Kaiser Chiefs, Bloc Party, Klaxons** and **The Cribs** will complete the **Shockwaves NME Awards Big Gig** line-up making it one of the best gigs to hit the O2 so far. The massive line-up will see the best of the Shockwaves NME Awards Tours performing with the reigning Godlike Genius to provide the ultimate after party to the awards.

The **Godlike Genius** award forms the pinnacle of the NME Awards. Chosen by the NME, it honours those music icons that have shaped the music landscape over the years and previous winners include, Ozzy Osbourne, New Order, The Clash, Ian Brown and Primal Scream who won the 2007 crown.

Nicky Wire of Manic Street Preachers said: 'It feels like the best one because the NME's what I grew up with and for all its faults it still means a lot to me. I think it's something that we should be happy that we've got it because there's no other country in the world's got a weekly music paper. It's so fucking brilliant, honestly.'

STRICTLY EMBARGOED UNTIL 00.01 TUESDAY 18TH DECEMBER 2008

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It's really made me feel fantastic, and I don't know. If you'd told me about out it this time last year I would've never believed you. But it's wonderful, it really is wonderful.'

NME Associate Editor, Dan Silver said "The Shockwaves NME Awards Big Gig has one of the most exciting line-up's the O2 arena has ever seen. With the awards taking place at indigO2, February 28th in the O2 is going to be one of the most memorable nights for the arena yet. The Manic Street Preachers are such deserving winners of the Godlike Genius title and to have them headlining the first ever Big Gig too is just amazing"

Manic Street Preachers got together in the mining town of Blackwood, South Wales in 1986. Hugely inspired by their surroundings and the current political climate, **James Dean Bradfield, Nicky Wire, Sean Moore** and **Richey Edwards** fought their cause and released their debut album **Generation Terrorists** in 1992.

The second Manics album **Gold Against the Soul** was released in June 1993, followed by their 1994 masterpiece **The Holy Bible**, which documented the despair of band member Richey Edwards.

1995 saw the devastating disappearance of Edwards, but by May 1996, The Manics had released their comeback album to critical acclaim – **Everything Must Go** went double platinum and yielded four top ten singles: **A Design For Life**, the title track, **Kevin Carter** and **Australia**. **This is My Truth Tell Me Yours** and **The Masses Against The Classes** followed, as did a controversial and career defining performance for Fidel Castro in Cuba and 6th studio album **Know Your Enemy** in 2001.

The Manics returned in 2004 with the album **Lifeblood**, preceded by the single **The Love Of Richard Nixon** and the band's eighth and current album **Send Away The Tigers** is yet another example of the genius that is **Manic Street Preachers**.

With the ability to keep capturing the hearts of fans and critics alike and still creating headlines 20 years down the line, Manic Street Preachers are the stuff that legends are made of...they are infact **God Like Genius!**

Tickets for The Big Gig are available exclusively from NME.com until 21st December. Book now at www.nme.com/bigbig or by calling 0871 984 0002

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www.nme.com/awards

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Notes to editors:

About Shockwaves:

Shockwaves, UK's favourite range of hair stylers, has 29 fantastic products that create workable, wearable looks for guys and girls. The easy solution to getting the latest trends, the new line up of creams, mousses, waxes, gels and sprays guarantee striking styles to attract. RRP from £2.79.

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