



Embargoed Until 00:01 Monday 17th March

CRYSTAL CASTLES HEAD UP TOPMAN NME NEW NOISE TOUR 2008

Friendly Fires, Team Waterpolo and White Lies also set for new talent showcase

Canadian electro twosome Crystal Castles are to headline the very first Topman NME New Noise Tour this May. Klaxons' labelmates will be joined by St Albans punk-funkers Friendly Fires, Preston upstarts Team Waterpolo and west London synth-poppers White Lies on the nationwide jaunt, which begins in Oxford on May 2.

The NME new music tours first introduced the likes of Maximo Park, Blood Red Shoes and The Cribs to the indie world. And this year the New Noise Tour brings together four of the most exciting new bands tipped for success in 2008. Kicking off in Oxford, the tour will visit Bristol, Norwich, Brighton, Nottingham, Birmingham, Glasgow, Newcastle, Manchester and London before climaxing in Stoke on May 15.

The success of previous new music tours and the calibre of the bands who have performed on the tour in the past places these bands in the epicentre of new music. Some have been in the NME consciousness for a while, Crystal Castles were asked to DJ at the Shockwaves NME Awards Indie Rave Tour last year but couldn't because of funds. Plus brand spanking new openers White Lies, whose debut on the tour will be only their FIFTH time playing live EVER, means the bands will all give NME readers and new music lovers an insight into the new noises which will be coming out of your stereo in 2008.

Speaking to NME about the tour Crystal Castles' Ethan Kath explained: "I'm surprised that NME invited us back. Last time we couldn't even afford the flights. So thank you, NME, for sticking with us. We're very excited."

NME Editor Conor McNicholas said: "We feel that each of the bands on the Topman NME New Noise Tour is going to push music forward over the next year. This is the NME putting its money where its mouth is and pulling together a tour which will bring the very best in new music to the people of Britain. There's nothing like the thrill of discovering a new band and it's the NME's job to pass that onto music fans."

Full list of dates :

May 2nd Oxford Carling Academy

May 3rd Bristol Thekla

May 4th Norwich Waterfront

May 5th Brighton Concorde 2

May 6th Nottingham Rescue Rooms

May 8th Birmingham Carling Academy 2

May 10th Glasgow The Arches

May 11th Newcastle Carling Academy 2

May 12th Manchester Academy 2

May 14th London Astoria 2

May 15th Stoke The Sugarmill

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For tickets log on to WWW.NME.COM/GIGS

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