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The gong show

Saturday December 15, 2007

[The Guardian](#)

Least Likely Rock'n'Roll Offshoot: **The Punkistanis**

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Never mind the burkas, here come the punkistanis! Inspired by a fictional outfit in Muslim punk novel The Taqwacores, bands from Boston to Lahore reminded us that rock'n'roll's primary purpose was to give the disenfranchised a voice and, like, stick it to The Man. What the Kominas and Secret Trial Five (top tracks: Hey, Hey, Guantánamo Bay, Emo-hurram) et al lacked in tunes they made up for in spirit - proving that there's nothing more punk than being Islamic at the disco. **MM**

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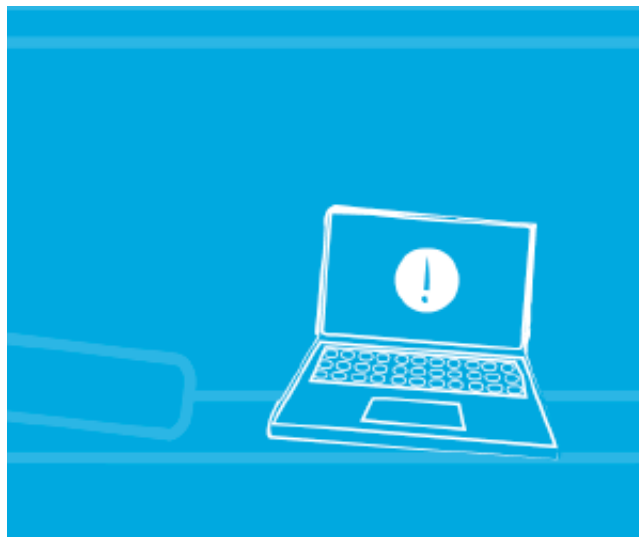
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Musical Whore Of The Year: **Lethal Bizzle**

[CD: Happy Mondays.
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Will rap with any two-bit indie band for food! Runner up:
Mark Ronson **SRich**

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Best "You Mean It's Not The Hold Steady?" Moment:
Bruce Springsteen

[Laura Barton: Hail, Hail,
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A great comeback single made New Jersey's other famous Boss look pretty good again. Reunited with the E Street band after a long time making folk records, Springsteen's Radio Nowhere made him sound young even as the world made him feel old. **JR**

[CD: Celebration. The
Modern Tribe](#)

Most Unlikely Musical Comeback: **Worldbeat**

[CD: Paris Motel. In the
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Gardner asks 'Were Led
Zep any good?'](#)

Damon Albarn rode the Africa Express to Glastonbury but little Afrobeat influence was detected on his The Good, The Bad & The Queen record, despite the presence of Tony Allen. Instead it was left to preppy New Yorkers Vampire Weekend to play highlife guitar and drop lyrical references to Peter Gabriel. Fellow Brooklyn hipsters Yeasayer went one further, channelling Paul Simon's Boy In The Bubble, borrowing Sting's fretless bass and dressing like Aztec acid punks at the 1989 Glastonbury CND festival. Time for The Strokes to dig out those Johnny Clegg & Savuka albums. **SRich**

Best Musical Accessory: **Mockney Accent**

From Kate Nash to Jack Peñate, 2007 was the year that phrases such as Nash's Foundations lyric "You said I must eat so many lemons, 'cos I am so bittahh" entered the Guide's dictionary of Mockney Slang, along with the definition "Shut up you stupid posh oiks and sod off back to drama school". **TJ**

Most Unglamorous Place Immortalised In Song: **Good Shoes - Morden**

In the grand digestive tract that is the London Underground, Morden is the colon, a sad little bunch of bricks sat right down the southernmost end of the Northern line. For a brief moment this year, it gained some small wisp of pop-cultural import by spawning wry indie cherubs Good Shoes. Then they went and spoiled it by writing a song about how it was full of pound shops and drug dealers. Sorry, Morden. **LP**

Best Tribute Band: **Lez Zeppelin**

While 2007 saw an unprecedented number of dreary bands reforming, the most talked about reunion was that of Led Zeppelin. Those who didn't fancy entering a bleedin'

lottery to get their gig tickets, however, embraced the parallel universe genius of Lez Zeppelin, the sass-stacked all woman band who toured the world, slayed it, and recorded an album with Led Zep's producer Eddie Kramer. We know who John Bonham would have been rooting for. **LCp**

Fastest Move From Underground Hit To 'Never Want To Hear It Again As Long As I Live': **Gossip - Standing In The Way Of Control**

To be fair it's doubtful that any song could have withstood 12 months of being aural shorthand for "teen cool" among lazy advertisers and TV producers. Coupled with the queasy spectacle of fashion mags patronising their token lesbian mate, this riotous collision of punk and disco obesity outstayed its welcome after about six weeks. See also: indie hit Young Folks. **JQ**

Best Blog By A Non-Human: **Ghostface Killah Doll**

You could spend your time reading the witless ramblings of blogging idiots, or you could watch the exciting adventures of a doll that wears real 14ct gold jewellery and a plush Hefneresque robe. What scrapes can Ghostface Killah of the Wu-Tang Clan's plastic representative on Earth get up to? As you're not going to buy your own - they're \$499 each - vicarious doll action is probably as close as you'll get. **AE**

Most Stamina: **Prince for O2 season**

Twenty-one nights of diminutive sex-funkery. And he played all the hits, too! **ST**

Graceless Winners Award: **Klaxons' Mercury Music Prize Acceptance Speech**

Klaxons: "We'd like to (sniiiff) thank the Guide for giving us (sniiiff f) this Graceless Winners award... although we totally deserve it, because we're TALENTED ARTISTS BLESSED WITH GENIUS. IN FACT, WE DESERVE TO (gurrnnnn) WIN THE BEST BLOG AWARD TOO AND THE BEST COOKERY SHOW AWARD TOO! BECAUSE WE'RE BETTER THAN EVERYONE! (gurrnnssniiiff)." **TJ**

This Year's No 1 In An Alternate Universe Award: **Battles - Atlas**

In a year dominated by contrived trends, it was somewhat heartwarming to see Battles' seven-minute epic Atlas stomping its way over all kinds of dancefloors. The first

genuine math rock pop hit, it's managed to rack up more Last.fm plays in the last six months than the biggest songs by Britney Spears and Kylie. Searingly improbable on paper, but from its glam rock marching beat absurdity to the sing-song chipmunk vocals, there really is something for everyone tucked away in there. **DM**

Most Mismatched Scrap: **Zane Lowe v Nick Cave**

Zane Lowe: "So Nick, with this album, with Grinderman, you've put on this fantastic persona, kinda like Ziggy Stardust..." Nick Cave: "No. You're wrong. Really, you haven't understood it at all. What I'm doing is sincere." And so on, and so on. Bruce Willis might have fought a plane in the latest Die Hard film, but that scrap was nothing compared to this. **TJ**

Award For Genre Killing: **Never Mind The Panpipes Compilation**

Fancy hearing the Fratellis' Chelsea Dagger reimagined as hotel lobby muzak? No? Note to 2008: no more indie music for a while, please. **TJ**

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