

**THE ALLENDER BAND**

● Although eluding widespread success as part of the charmingly named Azalea City Penis Club, Robin Allender soon found it with critically adored shoegaze combo Gravenhurst, and is now courting acclaim from all quarters with this, his own solo-plus-band project, which sees his silvery twining of delicate fingerpicking and tender-hearted folk backed by guitarist Alex Wilkins, bassman Sam Tarbuck and drummer Dave Collingwood. Their debut EP 'In the Grip of Light' (Dreamboat Records) is out now.

FFI: WWW.MYSPACE.COM/ROBINALLENDER

**GET THE BLESSING**

● Despite scooping a gong for Album of the Year at the BBC Jazz Awards, anyone who's caught this astonishing foursome live will know they're not really jazz (or not in the conventional sense of the word anyway), throwing together great tumbling drum tattoos, vampish bass and a squalling free-range incandescence of brass and sax that's as much about dirty funk and improv-rock as it is about beard-strokey jazz noodling. Comprising Portishead's rhythm section (Clive Deamer and Jim Barr) plus saxmeister Jake McMurchie and trumpeter Pete Judge, they're on the absolute up: spine-melting, rump-shaking, great. That award-winning album 'All is Yes' (Cake/Candid) is out now.

FFI: WWW.THEBLESSING.CO.UK

**C-FROO**

● Having taught himself bass by playing along to his dad's dub records, Kingswood-hailing mic-wrecker C-Froo branched out through "dubby psychedelic shit" with former band Moqsha before devoting all his time to rhyme. His lively, light-hearted take on hip-hop is big on bounce and instrumental invention, working in a cavalcade of local musicians to back his vaulting vernacular styles.

The launch of his debut album is imminent: in the meantime, enjoy money-worry anthem 'Financial Times' on the CD – plus a Bristol namecheck-packed hidden track recorded especially for the album. Check it.

FFI: WWW.MYSPACE.COM/CFROO

**PHANTOM LIMB**

● More hotly tipped than the devil's own spam javelin, the Limb make an unusual meld of shimmering, heart-on-sleeve acoustica and soul-bathing gospel, simultaneously intimate and vast, with a who's who of local musical movers and shakers providing deft accompaniment to the mighty, molten-chocolate voice of Massive Attack-collaborating wonder Yolanda Quarty. Their eponymous debut is out now on Naim Edge records.

FFI: WWW.MYSPACE.COM/PHANTOMLIMBROBOT

**TRASHY PEARLS**

● Foxy Bathonian babe trio Trashy Pearls bring a bit of ra-ra skirted tongue-in-cheekery to Venue The Album with their teenage crushalong 'Oh Johnny', but their mainstay of knowing, close-harmony chick-pop showcases seductively sugary skill in spades. Their debut EP 'Frivolous Purchase' is available via the Trashy website.

FFI: WWW.TRASHYPEARLS.COM

**PINCH**

● In chemical engineering, 'pinch' is the point of maximum constraint or minimum flow – not so in the bass-bin rumbling world of dubstep, in whose dark and vaulted catacombs we find DJ Pinch, master of the throb and clip school of rib-rattling low-end, as evidenced on his numerous releases from shithot Brizzle-based imprint Tectonic Recordings.

FFI: WWW.MYSPACE.COM/TECTONICRECORDINGS

**RSVP**

● Putting the bang back in bhangra, this seven-strong gang of happy-go-lucky fun-raisers have become firm favourites on the festival circuit with their irresistible 'danceadelic bhangra' – a mix of playful showmanship and serious musical accomplishment, bringing whirling danceability to the fore with a blend of classic Indian and western styles and a huge instrumental range, from oud, mandola and tenor banjo to violin and trombone, all driven along by the big bad beats of the dhol.

FFI: WWW.RSVPMUSIC.CO.UK

**TREEHOUSE BURNING**

● Fast, happy rock with big guitars and an uncomplicated sense of optimism is the stock in trade of the industrious Treehouse three, favourites of Radio 1's Huw Stephens and stalwarts of the Bristol live music scene. Full of 'bubblegum riffs tripping over themselves with excitement', TB's third EP 'Three' (Shakeshake Records) is available now via their MySpace.

FFI: WWW.TREEHOUSEBURNING.COM

**I AM THE MIGHTY JUNGULATOR**

● Self-professed hyperdelic space munt stuporgroup IATMJ do something that's not easy to explain, but that, in layman's terms, involves various musical sounds being 'captured and instantly shaped into glistening electronic textures' by a cunning electronic audio engine (the 'Jungulator' that gives the band their name, described as 'the sonic philosophers' stone' by Future Music magazine). The end result can sound like anything from smiley jazz flute to anal rape in space, all sugared with a nutjob ambient bonghead vibe, or in their own words: "death ambience, end-of-the-pier techno, folked up glitchy-witchy weirdness and found sound fuckery". They've toured Europe and baffled crowds everywhere from the Bath International Music Festival to the Victoria and Albert Museum. It's brainy and bonkers, in a nice way. Latest LP 'Die or Get Rich Tryin' is slated for release later this year.

FFI: WWW.MYSPACE.COM/IAMTHEMIGHTYJUNGULATOR



**EMILY TEAGUE**

● One of Bristol's ever-expanding family of sensitive singer-songwriters, Emily Teague does the one girl and her guitar thing better than most, managing to tiptoe the tricky tightrope between heartfelt and cloying with wide-eyed aplomb, frequently adding lush three-part harmonies, slide guitar and violin to her live sets, evoking 'faded polaroids of summers past' according to a recent review in these here pages. Recently signed as a guest artist to Jelli Records, Emily's 'You' EP is out now.

FFI: WWW.MYSPACE.COM/EMILYTEAGUEMUSIC

**BEN WESTBEECH**

● One of our hotter exports, this Bristol boy done good has now upped sticks to the big smoke, the better to market his upbeat white boy funk 'n' soul. It was the very track featured on Venue The Album #1 that first shot him into the spotlight, after a friend played it to Gilles Peterson, who swiftly signed the young hopeful to his Brownswood label. Before long Westbeech was touring the world and rubbing shoulders with Paul McCartney and Bjork on 'Later with Jools Holland'. His debut album "Welcome to The Best Years of Your Life" is an unfailingly chipper cocktail of shiny futuristic soul, fuzzyfelt funk, chart-friendly pop and jazzy hip-hop.

FFI: WWW.MYSPACE.COM/BENWESTBEECH

**ROSE KEMP**

● A dark and sinister jewel in Bristol's musical crown, Rose Kemp makes a shudderingly brilliant noise that struts wild-eyed between sweetly curling folk and thunderous, soul-churning rock, tinged with blackened prog metal. Her recently released long player 'Unholy Majesty' (One Little Indian) flung our reviewer helplessly into fevered hyperbole: 'It is overpoweringly good, especially Kemp's unearthly voice, conjuring white horses on a black, black sea, wind-whipped clouds across a murderous moon.' The lone track gifted to you here gives only the merest glimpse of her devilish, otherworldly talent.

FFI: WWW.MYSPACE.COM/ROSEKEMP

