

RECORD STORE DAY UK

June's record shop exclusives to soundtrack the start of summer ☀

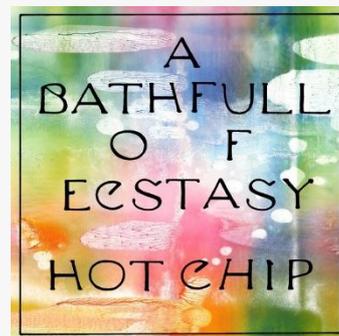
Featuring an interview with **Jon Shuffle** owner of **Intense Records, Essex**



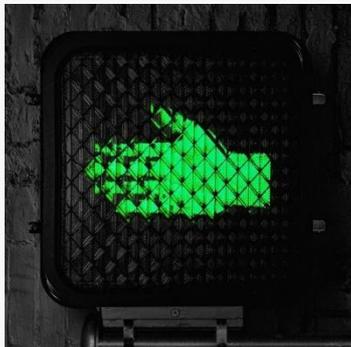
Noel Gallagher's High Flying Birds
Black Star Dancing
(Sour Mash)



Jordan Rakei
Origin
(Ninja Tune)



Vanishing Twin
The Age of Immunology
(Fire Records)



Bastille
Doom Days
(Virgin EMI)



Hot Chip
A Bath Full Of Ecstasy
(Domino Recordings)



Raconteurs
Help Us Stranger
(Third Man Records)

Ceschi
Sad Fat Luck
(Fake Four Inc)

Mattiel
Satis Factory
(Heavenly Recordings)

...And you can find a full list of record shop exclusive releases over on our [website](#).

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Intense Records

33/34 Viaduct Road, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 1TS

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We're finally starting to see that summer weather we've been waiting for which means we need the perfect soundtrack to accompany. Jon from Intense Records has chosen a couple of his favourite releases that he's most looking forward to this month...

Fabio & Grooverider - 30 Years of Rage

Myself and our customers alike are really looking forward to the four-part Fabio & Grooverider presents '30 years of Rage' Albums out this month. Fabio & Grooverider are 2 of my heroes I religiously used to listen to their D&B radio shows firstly on Kiss FM and then they were later headhunted to broadcast the weekly D&B Show on Radio 1. I would record the shows every week on cassette and then listen to them all week as my DJ homework to check out all the latest tunes and get all the gossip. Rage was the event they used to play at, a weekly Thursday party that opened in October 1988 at Heaven, one of the capital's largest nightclubs. Beyond the warehouse parties, countryside raves and pirate radio that fostered the early days of rave, Rage can be held up as the inception point for the birth of Jungle in London. It was there that two unproven DJs by the name of Fabio & Grooverider hit upon a mix of ideas that proved unstoppable.

The album comes in the form of 4 separate LP's and a Double CD version as well. It features all of the seminal classics that made up the parties and the genre including:
Lennie De Ice - We Are IE, Wots My Code – Dubplate, Noise Factory - The Future, Q Project - Champion Sound, Top Buzz - Living In Darkness, Awesome 3 - Don't Go, Landlord - I Like It, The Future Sound Of London - Papua New Guinea

Chase & Status - RTRN II JUNGLE

Also coming this month is the brand new 12" album from Chase & Status entitled RTRN II JUNGLE. After a few years doing more mainstream commercial tracks they have gone back to their roots and returned to their jungle / drum & bass background hence the name of the album. They travelled to Jamaica to work with original reggae artists to make the album even more authentic. This means quite a lot to me personally as I love their music and 10 years ago for the shops 10th birthday we booked these guys just as their debut album was released, the event was a roadblock and I think the best party we have ever done! We booked them again a year after for another roadblock event.

Joy Divison - Unknown Pleasures (40th Anniversary)

On the other side of the arch the staff are particularly excited by this. A limited edition 40th anniversary version of Unknown Pleasures will be released on June 14th, almost forty years to the day after it was originally released. The LP will be pressed on 180g ruby red vinyl with

an alternative white sleeve resembling the original design idea. It's a celebration of one of the most important albums of our time as well as a landmark in music/design crossover history. One of the most significant debuts of all time, the album's legacy continues to endure with NME claiming it to be 'simply one of the best records ever made'.



In conversation with owner Jon Shuffle



Give us the background... when and why did you decide to open your store [Intense Records](#)?

JON: I was always into music as a kid, following my older brother's footsteps listening to bands like The Cure, New Order and especially Prince. As we grew up in the early 90s, my bro and my mates started to embrace the new up and coming dance music scene storm and most memorably 'The Prodigy'.

When I was around 15, my brother gave me an Old Skool Micky Finn rave tape, and that was it, I was hooked, that Christmas I persuaded my parents I needed a DJ set. After a few months I persuaded the school to allow me to DJ the end of year disco, then that summer of 2004 me and my mic controller 'MC Indica' put on our first event 'Midsummer's Night Rave' at the YMCA in Chelmsford.

After leaving school I went to University in Birmingham to study Business Management where I continued to DJ, set up a Drum & Bass Society and started promoting parties. I came up with the name Intense, at the time it was purely the name of the event, but it looked so good on the flyers and I liked the sound of it so much, that when it came to naming the shop, it was an easy decision. The rest, they say is history.

Tell us a bit about your store, what's the vibe?

JON: Intense was born in 1999 after years of DJing and scouring record shops up and down the country, spending every bit of money I had on vinyl, I decided I wanted to set up my own shop. It was purely to fuel my vinyl addiction at first, and to get the best records before the other DJs.

Over the next few years the internet took off in a big way and I noticed online record stores appearing, with the ability to listen and buy vinyl online without actually going to a shop. I thought this was the perfect solution for Intense as I had no actual premises, so I bought the name www.intenserecords.co.uk and proceeded to build the website where you can search and listen to all the tracks before your order and we will ship them to your door anywhere in the world.

In 2003 I set up the Intense Record shop in Viaduct Road, Chelmsford under the arches, selling strictly Drum & Bass and related merchandise. Shortly after, I began to diversify into all other forms of dance music, such as Breakz, Dubstep, Electro, House, Techno, Garage, Grime, Hip-Hop and Old Skool Hardcore to fill the gap in the market and cater for the growing demand.

It's been a good journey and the determination to succeed have kept me getting up each day to push the music we love, I have seen the highs and lows of the record industry and the period between 2009-2014 was very hard with the decline in record sales throughout the country and especially in Essex where I had seen shop after shop close down.

My accountant told me to shut up shop years ago, she said I was crazy, so I sacked her and continued to keep the dream alive. However, thankfully in recent years there has been a resurgence in vinyl and we have been busier than ever. There are a few things contributing towards this, the first would be Record Store Day, the now global celebration of vinyl and independent record stores.

It was a gradual transition but now the shop has been transformed into two sections. Being under the arches of the railway line, we now have 1 arch dedicated to dance music and the

second arch focussing on the alternative styles including Rock, Pop, Indie, Funk & Soul, Reggae, Country, Jazz, Soundtracks and everything in between.

The company was set up 20 years ago in my bedroom as a hobby, and this year marks our 20th anniversary. I never envisaged that 2 decades later I would have my own shop and a globally recognised brand. This year we had our busiest day in history on Record Store Day, and long may it continue... Keep it intense!

Can you remember the first record you sold in the shop? And the last?

JON: I can't remember it, but I will most definitely be a drum & bass 12". This will also answer the last question but with a load of all other records from all genres in the middle.

Do you remember the first record shop you went in to? And do you remember the first record you bought?

JON: The first record shop I remember going to would have been Our Price in Chelmsford High Street, which later turned into HMV I believe. The first record I remember buying is quite embarrassing now, the debut album from 'New Kids on The Block' I had seen it on Saturday morning TV and went out bought it later that day, I was only young lol. However, I do remember when I first started DJing, me and my mates thought we were super cool, smashed that record in disgust and threw it out of my bedroom window.

What is your favourite record shop (apart from your own!) and why?

JON: Before I opened my own shop I would visit shops around the country. My local shop was Vinyl Rhythms underground dance shop where I learnt my stripes with DJ Knuck schooling me. But later on as I got a bit older we would jump on the train to London armed with my paper round money to scour the city's treasures, mainly around Soho area visiting Unity Records, or Razor Records in the basement of Mash Clothing on Oxford St.

My favourite however was Blackmarket Records or BM Soho it was later known as. It was run by some of favourite Drum & Bass DJ's Nicky Blackmarket and Ray Keith. On the ground floor there was House, Techno and other styles but it was the Drum & Bass basement where you would find me. This was the mecca of D&B/Jungle shops where you would meet your heroes and hang out and listen to all the latest tracks on their monstrous sound system.

Through running events I got to book Nicky and Ray and we're now good friends. Sadly all these shops I mentioned have now shut, most of them in the 90s, but when I opened Intense these memories are what I moulded my shop on. Hundreds of dance records behind the counter, a set of turntables to mix on and a massive sound system! The perfect recipe!

What's your most memorable record store experience?

JON: I guess it must be when I met my wife Jen, she used to come in to the shop with her mate shopping for the latest tunes, I thought they were an item so left it at that. A little later I realised they were just friends and over the years we struck up a little romance and then in 2009 we finally got together so it's our 10th anniversary coming up next month, I'm going to take her away, she doesn't know that yet, she will find out when reading this, surprise! 😊

You may know Jen as she runs Get Customised, supplying bands, record shops and labels with their custom merchandise and has even previously supplied the merch for Record Store Day itself, so if you have had a RSD, Sister Ray, BM Soho, T-shirt, Slipmat, Tote or Carrier Bag in the last few years it probably came from Jen. She actually moved the business into the shop for a few years but with her business evolving and record sales on the up she found her

own offices and continues to supply stores around the country. See pic of me and Jen DJing at a local festival!



AND SOME ONE-LINERS TO GET TO KNOW YOU BETTER...

What's the best gig you've ever been to?

JON: Hard question but two spring to mind:

- 1) Prince Wembley Stadium around 1993/94 (the last concert he did as Prince before changing his name to the symbol.
- 2) Homelands (or mudlands as it was later known) watching Roni Size Represent Live in the D&B tent...

What's your all-time favourite book?

JON: Don't read a lot anymore, mostly find me on Netflix. But I did used to love anything by Roald Dahl notably Charlie & The Chocolate Factory.

What's your all-time favourite film?

JON: Tough question but the favourites as a kid:

Star Wars New Hope / Back to the Future / Usual Suspects and every James Bond film with Sean Connery or Roger Moore.

What would make up your desert island discs?

JON: LTJ Bukem -Logical Progression Vol. 1
Prince - Purple Rain / Sign 'O' The Times
Anything and everything ever produced by Calibre #Legend

Who would form your all-time Festival line-up? (past & present)

JON: Prince, Bob Marley, Calibre, Nicky Blackmarket & Stevie Hyper D, The Prodigy, Michael Jackson, Slipmat. Nirvana, Guns & Roses, New Order, LTJ Bukem & Conrad

What's your all-time favourite record?

JON: Joint top 2 that can't be split.
LTJ BUKEM - Horizons + Adam F - Circles



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Remember

- 1) Everything in the newsletter was correct at the time it was sent. *But sometimes things can change*, so double check with your record shop for updates on the releases.
 - 2) Not all shops will have the same titles in. We'd recommend checking in with your local shop in advance to see if they've got the release you're after in stock. They might be able to order it in for you, or you may find it in another shop using the store locator above!
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