

THE CRITICAL LIST*Pick of the Week***Joe Strummer and the Mescaleros**

He won't countenance a Clash reunion, yet he's been only too happy to play as many old Clash numbers as new Mescaleros songs in recent gigs. Still, consistency was never his strong point.

Rock City, Nottingham, Mon; Town and Country Club, Leeds, Tue; Astoria, WC2, Thu; UEA, Norwich, Sat

Beth Orton

The folky vocalist of choice for anyone from the Chemical Brothers to Madonna's producer, William Orbit, Orton begins her first tour for some time.

University, Manchester, today; Octagon, Sheffield, Mon; Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, Tue; Grand Opera House, York, Wed; University, Southampton, Fri; University, Exeter, Sat

The Auteurs

Frontman Luke Haines is often described as the best songwriter in the country. The darkness of his vision explains why he's more revered than successful; but his recent pastiche 1970s rock is his most accessible incarnation yet.

Vicar Street, Dublin, Mon; King Tuts, Glasgow, Tue; Hop and Grape, Manchester, Wed; LSE, WC2, Thu

Mark Edwards

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**Rock**

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