

# ST. JEROME'S LANEWAY FESTIVAL 2013

Before Laneway hit our shores in 2011, alternative music aficionados in Singapore could never, in their wildest dreams, imagine seeing so many of their revered indie musicians from around the globe in a single setting, in a single day, right here at home. Three years on, Laneway has exploded into a much celebrated festival, attracting thousands of like-minded friends from around Southeast Asia over to the charming Gardens by the Bay, where our iconic Marina Bay Sands Hotel stands ever-so-grandly in the backdrop, and as Eirik Glambek Bøe from opening band, Kings of Convenience, so idyllically put it, like a huge ark waiting for a giant wave to wash over it.

It was in this picturesque setting where the Norwegian duo opened to a hearty and eager crowd. They got Laneway into the swing of things with delicate and mellow acoustic favorites like, "Cayman Islands" and "Homesick", before transiting into a livelier performance by bringing out their band and performing their hit single, "I'd Rather Dance With You", where Erlend Øye's geeky charm and nifty dancing got the sweaty crowd moving to the upbeat chorus. Poliça swiftly followed up with tender vocals above a deluge of dreamy electronic synths and two impeccable drummers, before indie supergroup, Divine Fits took to the stage and, albeit some technical difficulties, maintained an amazing stage presence that we wish could have lasted longer.

Of Monsters and Men, the indie folk five-piece band (and our cover stars this month!) equipped with a trumpet and three guitars, brought about a renewed wave of energy four hours into the festival, getting people off their tired butts and into the vast crowd forming up in tumultuous support. And disappoint they did not, opening with "Dirty Paws" and punctuating their euphoric set with blissful trumpet solos and loud sing-alongs, culminating in their anthemic hit, "Little Talks".

**Text** Zachary Tang  
**Images** Dawn Chua, Glenn Yong,  
Ryan Chang, Nina Sandejas, Aloysius  
Lim c/o Chugg Entertainment

SUNBURNT, OF  
NO CONCERN





Cloud Nothings and Japandroids were both highly anticipated acts given the stunning rock aesthetic of their recent albums, and both sure made it a point to tear up the joint with uncommon ferocity. The latter hollered with strong riffs that were complemented by throaty, old-school punk vocals and seemingly messy (but actually spot-on) guitars – encouraging a hoard of delirious die-hard fans to mosh during hits such as “The House That Heaven Built”. Underrated act (but a personal favourite of ours since we last caught him in Sonar last year), Nicholas Jaar followed and would be sure to gain some new fans after showcasing a tightly contained live house set, abundant with light-hearted, sax-y down-tempo beats rousing the crowd into some sun kissed, slow dancing.

Indie’s own diva, Kimbra, then came on, looking all dainty in her flashy dress with hues of blue and purple, inducing gazes of adoration – but not even her cray confetti skirt could outshine Kimbra’s colourful exuberance. Her rendition of “Warrior” brought about deafening roars and anyhow, and we do have to credit her insanely tight backing band for stealing a bit of the spotlight as well. Real Estate pulled off a mellower but no less enjoyable performance soon after, mixing up hits from their two critically-acclaimed albums with brand new material, served up as special previews for the lucky Laneway faithful.

Mercury Prize-winners, Alt-J tessellated their way onto stage next, looking to drown us on their awesome wave just as the sun set. And indeed, the crowd was building its way into a frenzy before a downer of a technical fault hit for a good 10 minutes. But the glitches were just as

quickly forgotten as lead vocalist, Joe Newman brandished his malleable vocals over and over, always coming close to sounding disorienting but still managing to be pitch-perfect beneath electronic-heavy synth riffs. They closed with “Taro”, a hauntingly beautiful moment sure to be etched beneath our skin.

Yeasayer and Tame Impala were nothing short of fantastic, with trippy tunes that kept tired feet tapping and sore voices singing, but they definitely deserved longer than a sparse 50-minute set to showcase their talents. The celestial Natasha Khan of Bat for Lashes took Singapore by storm, looking ravishing in an angelic all-white outfit ensuring that all eyes were glued to every part of her throughout. The single most entrancing moment of the day belonged to “Laura” – a brief four minutes where everyone present believed they were superstars.

Headliner Gotye brought the night to a close with an interactive set augmented by a cinematic display of mesmerising visuals. De Backer quickly established, through a few engaging songs, that he was no one hit wonder, though that one hit duet, “Somebody I Used to Know”, with Kimbra did bring about one last wave of wondrous applause, bringing the festival to a fitting end. With throbbing hearts, aching calves and sunburnt skin, we all made our way out of the gates and onto the Zouk dancefloor for the official after-party, if only to keep that happy rush going for a couple more hours. Till next year, Laneway! **J**

**JUICE is proud to be the official magazine of St Jerome’s Laneway Festival – Singapore 2013!**



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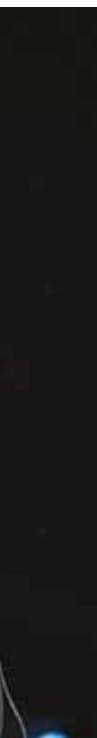
# OF MONSTERS AND MEN

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**THE MOMENT YOU'RE THROWN HEADFIRST INTO THEIR ADVENTURE-THEMED MELODIES, CLOUD-SHATTERING TRUMPETS, AND COLLECTIVE "HEY"S, YOU'LL UNDOUBTEDLY REALISE THAT THIS IS INDEED A BAND OF MONSTER PROPORTIONS.** BUT THEIR OVERPOWERING IDENTITY IS ANYTHING BUT A MONSTROSITY. IN FACT THIS IS A BAND THAT IS MORE MAN THAN MONSTER. BENEATH THE MOUNTAINOUS LAYERS OF SOUND IS A TOUCHING UNIT OF BEST FRIENDS, PASSIONATE COMMITMENT, AND CHEEKY HUMILITY. WITH ENCHANTING ANTHEMS LIKE "LITTLE TALKS" AND "KING AND LIONHEART", WE ASKED OF MONSTERS AND MEN ABOUT THE IMPETUS BEHIND SUCH GRAND SOUNDS, THE PLANS FOR THE BAND'S GLOWING FUTURE, AND WHY MALE VOCALIST RAGGI WISHES HE COULD BE A TIGER. HERE'S OUR COSY CONVERSATION WITH RAGGI DURING OMAM'S LANEWAY STAY IN SINGAPORE.

**Text** Kevin Ho  
**Main image** Universal Music Singapore  
**Image** Dawn Chua, Glenn Yong, Ryan Chang, Nina Sandejas, Aloysius Lim c/o Chugg Entertainment





**Since winning the Battle of the Bands competition back home in Iceland, the band sure has come a long way, touring all over the world. What's been the most exciting moment for the band on the road?**

That'd probably be Lollapalooza in Chicago. I had this moment where I looked at the crowd and went, "What the hell am I doing, this is crazy". The crowd was going mental and it was just one of those moments where I felt very proud.

**And what about the most awkward experience you've encountered?**

Well, there was once our former pianist and accordion player fell off his chair while standing on it. That was probably awkward for him. I've yet to be awkward. I'll probably do it on this tour.

**We hope he wasn't badly hurt! Why did your accordion player leave the band?**

Arni was one of the founding members. However touring wasn't really his thing, it didn't really suit his lifestyle. He's a really great musician and one of my best friends. But he wanted to go back to school and study more. He chose that over touring.

**That's a real shame. We wish him all the best. Is the rest of the band in the same situation with school?**

I was actually studying Fine Arts and I had two semesters left and I walked out on that. And everyone else who was in school just quit, basically. I think the five of us that are left, we're all focused on this and school will happen if this adventure ever stops. School will just have to wait for now.

**We have loads of respect for that. My Head is an Animal is a masterpiece of an album and every song is an anthem. What inspired the band to make such songs of immense scope?**

We actually started out acoustic. In the beginning that was the idea, we didn't even have drums. But then we started writing songs with bigger arrangements. And the thing is in Iceland, you play in bars and there are lots of people who are chatting while you're playing and we eventually wanted to overpower those people. We were sick of that and we wanted to be louder than the crowd. When we started recording the album the

sound just developed into a very big sound, but not really on purpose. It's hard to say how it happened. It just grew!

**Favourite song to perform live and why?**

I guess my favourite songs are those where I get to sing loud. For me, my favourite would be "Six Weeks" and maybe "Yellow Light".

**How are decisions made with a band of so many members? That can't be easy. There must be a million of administrative and logistical difficulties.**

It's probably harder when you have less people. But usually we just talk about it as a group; we haven't had any real problems with decision-making because we all listen to each other. If someone has a particularly strong idea we'll just follow that.

**Sounds like a happy family! There is this general impression of an 'Icelandic sound'; this mystical and fantasy vibe. People here associate this sound with bands like yourself, Sigur Rós, and Björk. Do you think there is indeed a uniquely Icelandic sound?**

I do think there's a certain sound to Icelandic bands. It's hard to put your finger on it. But I feel there is something there that's different. There is some kind of ambience in our sound. The atmosphere of Iceland definitely affects the way we write our songs to say the least.

**So what's next for the band? Can we expect the sound to get even bigger?**

Yeah we're touring till the end of August, no breaks really. After that I think we'll start the processing and arranging for our next album. Hopefully we can get it out by Christmas! We're also open to incorporating even more instruments into our sound.

**If you could transform into an animal, what would it be?**

Can it be extinct? \*pauses\* This is hard... maybe a tiger? I don't really know why I just thought of it. I'm in Denmark now and there's this tiger in the zoo here and it looks really cool. J

[www.ofmonstersandmen.is](http://www.ofmonstersandmen.is).