

The Audition: Security impressed by Danny Stevens' bicep

# GIVE IT A NAME

REVIEW

## LONDON EARL'S COURT

### SECOND STAGE

10.05.08

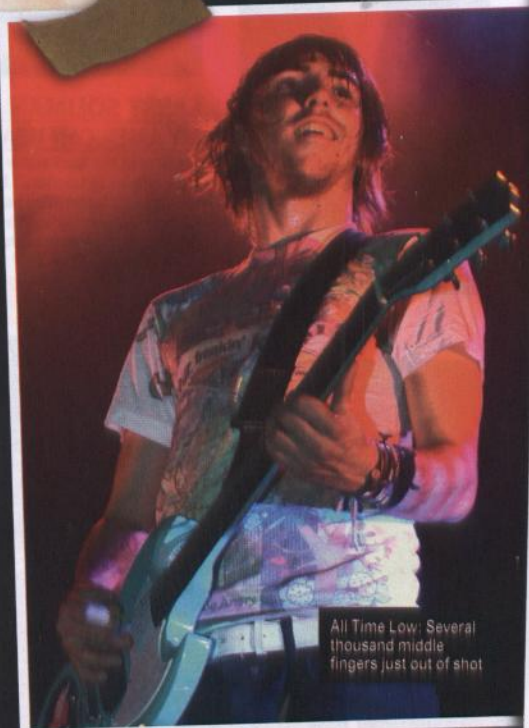
WORDS: EMMA JOHNSTON PHOTOS: NICK STEVENS

**BROADWAY CALLS (K K K K)** are the perfect choice to kick off GIAN 2008. A punchy, punky power trio signed to Billie Joe Armstrong's Adeline Records, they're full of beans, getting the festival off to a flying start with their edgy melodies and infectious enthusiasm. With **MEG & DIA (K K K)** it's a joy to see more women gatecrashing this boys' club. Their prissy, tambourine-toting pop-rock may be too wholesome for some, but simply by being on the stage they're an inspiration to the girls in the crowd.

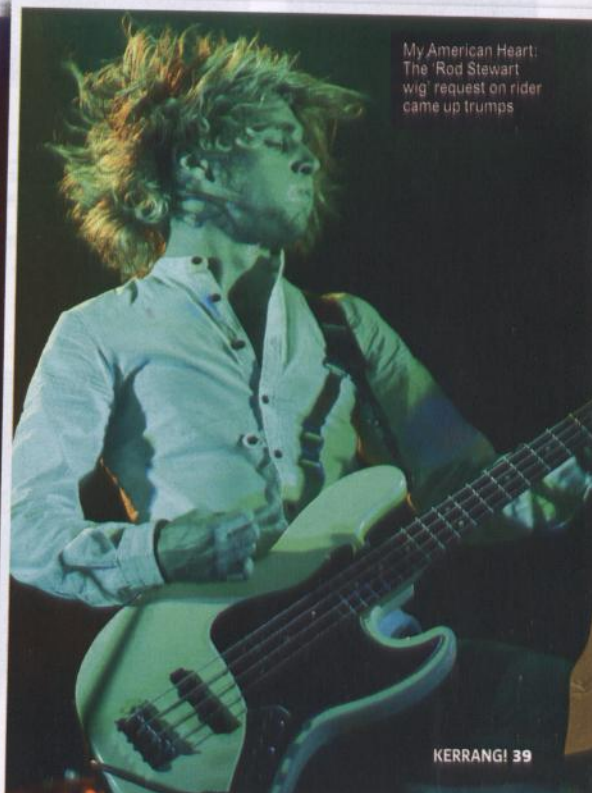
**MAYDAY PARADE (K K K)** mark the moment the rot starts to set in. They are completely unremarkable musically, another clone from the post TBS/FOB/PATD factory (something that will raise its head on this stage with alarming regularity). But Mayday Parade have a confidence and swagger that sets them apart from the rest of the emo blur, and the scream that greets Three Cheers For Five Years suggests that they could be next to break through to the big time.

**MC LARS (K K K K)** stands out as adorably different. He's smart, namechecking Edgar Allen Poe and, with Signing Emo, offering a scathing attack on the dead-eyed record companies battling to cash in. But he does this while whipping up a party atmosphere that has many an arse wiggling. **MY AMERICAN HEART (K K)** just can't compete, falling flat despite their best efforts, and when they take their bland pop-punk down a notch, the thick, swampy ballads suck the energy from the room.

The volley of swearing that heralds **ALL TIME LOW (K K)** is the edgiest thing about them. If they weren't American they'd have been consigned alongside McFly. But they're pretty catchy, so that's presumably their reason for existing. Happily, **THE AUDITION (K K K K)** close the stage on a high. Danny Stevens is a born frontman, dancing for all he's worth and forcing everyone to do the same, while the hooks of Approach The Bench are like a shot of serotonin. As he ends by diving into the crowd, he's all but ripped limb from limb by the mob he's inspired. An uplifting end to a patchy day.



All Time Low: Several thousand middle fingers just out of shot



My American Heart: The 'Rod Stewart wig' request on rider came up trumps