

FLARE

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EDITOR:
ELIO IANNACCI

next

Fritz Helder & the
Phantoms with
Lights (far right)
at Circa in Toronto

INTRODUCING POP MUSIC'S
COOLEST CLASS OF 2008
PHOTOGRAPHY BY ISHI

HAIR: LUISA DUBAN, WWW.ARTISTGROUPLIMITED.COM (FRITZ HELDER); EARL SIMPSON, MARC ANTHONY, JON ON THE PHANTOMS; HAIR AND MAKEUP: LUISA DUBAN, WWW.ARTISTGROUPLIMITED.COM (LIGHTS); MAKEUP AND GROOMING: PHILIP LOVELL (THE PHANTOMS); FASHION DIRECTOR: ELIZABETH CABRAL, ON DIEGO; JEAN, BLANK, ON SILK; HELDER: JEAN, FIDELITY DENIM, BEET, BRAVE BELTWORKS, ON LIGHTS; NECKLACE: JAMIE GALINDO.

THE NUUS CHOOOL

When the two words “Canadian” and “music” are strung together in a sentence, they often bring to mind visions of alt rockers such as Broken Social Scene and Arcade Fire sporting dirty Levi’s and distressed T-shirts. Thankfully, 21-year-old Timmins, Ont.-born pop singer Lights (near left) and Toronto-based electro band Fritz Helder & the Phantoms are intent on kissing that grungy Canuck cliché goodbye.

Boldly going where few Canadian acts have gone before—specifically, in a chicer direction that *doesn’t* acknowledge plaid as a pattern or oatmeal as a colour—these Technicolor-clad talents are changing the face and sound of our home and native land. Exhibit A: Both Lights and Fritz and his Phantoms sharply styled *themselves* before walking into Toronto’s hippest headquarters—Circa nightclub—for their first photo shoot with *FLARE*. Channelling looks that match their musical preferences (’70s-meets-’80s, neon over Nirvana), all parties involved helped to create an image that was strictly rolling VIP.

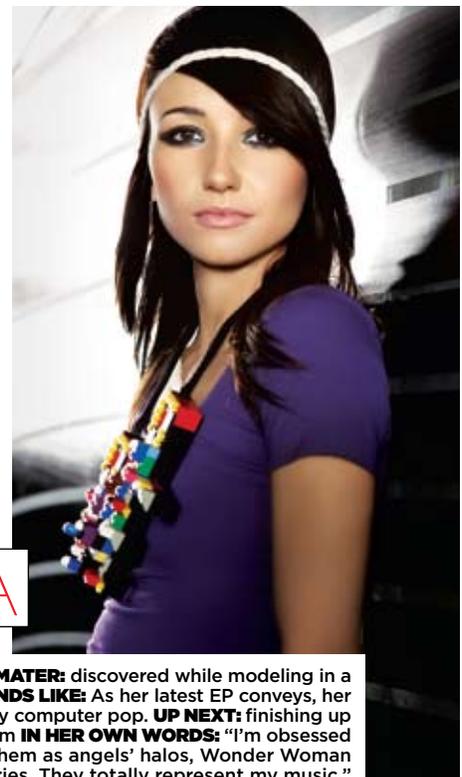
If their vivid vision doesn’t raise an eyebrow, a quick listen to the Phantoms addictive new single, “Lagerfeld Lady”—which pays tribute to Chanel mastermind Karl Lagerfeld in its lyrics—definitely will. (For more proof, search YouTube for the song’s accompanying video and see Fritz’s crew dash through the streets of Paris in designer labels.)

Equally as snazzy are the sights and songs found on Lights’ MySpace page—a virtual home base for all things quirky and cool. A haven for those who prefer street style to high street, Lights’ web page is an indie-pop paradise where American Apparel headbands always trump designer “it” bags and the soundtrack to happiness is Lights’ freshly arranged latest single, “Drive My Soul.” —E.I.

next



NAME: Fritz Helder & the Phantoms
ALMA MATER: Founding members Fritz and Pastel Supernova previously toured with Nelly Furtado. **SOUNDS LIKE:** Prince, *Vogue's* André Leon Talley and Grace Jones adopted five club kids and taught them how to sing and dance. **UP NEXT:** a new single off their debut album, *Greatest Hits*, and a world tour **IN FRITZ'S OWN WORDS:** "Our group represents every music style. [Guitar/keyboard player] Silk Helder is our glam-pire—a mix of gothic and glam rock. [DJ] Fierce Helder is our KGB disco diva. [Singer/dancer] Pastel Supernova is our beautiful pin-up pop girl. [Singer/dancer] Diego is our blueblood royalty who loves dance music. And I play the chameleon who changes the most but loves funk."



CANADA

NAME: Lights **ALMA MATER:** discovered while modeling in a Wal-Mart commercial **SOUNDS LIKE:** As her latest EP conveys, her sound is a parfait of catchy computer pop. **UP NEXT:** finishing up her first full-length album **IN HER OWN WORDS:** "I'm obsessed with headbands. I think of them as angels' halos, Wonder Woman tiaras or '60s accessories. They totally represent my music."

(Clockwise from left) Diego, Silk Helder, Fierce Helder, Pastel Supernova and Fritz Helder

GLOBAL GROOVE

More trendsetting pop outfits from around the world

NAME: MGMT, a duo from Brooklyn whose latest album, *Oracular Spectacular*, heavily influenced Frida Giannini's Spring '09 menswear line for Gucci **SOUNDS LIKE:** psychedelic electronica haunted by Jimi Hendrix and Janis Joplin

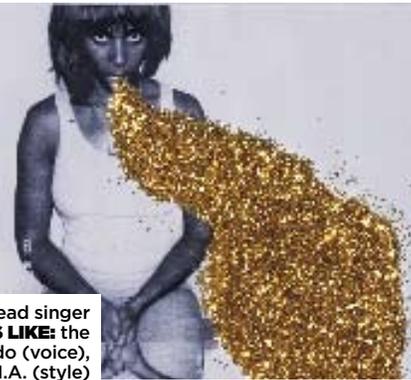


NAME: Santogold, which consists of lead singer Santi White and her band **SOUNDS LIKE:** the perfect new wave blend of Nelly Furtado (voice), Neneh Cherry (music) and M.I.A. (style)

NAME: Lady GaGa **SOUNDS LIKE:** The type of sugary dance-pop that Mary-Kate and Ashley would be partying to in a Lower East Side lounge in Manhattan. Case in point? GaGa's current single, "Just Dance."



NEW YORK CITY



NEW ZEALAND



NAME: Ladyhawke, whose current single, "Paris is Burning," is smoking hot **SOUNDS LIKE:** synthesizers, drums, guitars and Stevie Nicks-esque notes (and aesthetic) with a kick of disco —E.I.

AUSTRALIA

NAME: Cut Copy, a Melbourne-based glam band whose latest album, *In Ghost Colours*, has us hooked **SOUNDS LIKE:** an updated, relaxed, indie-fied version of Duran Duran, complete with playboy crooning and backed by a smooth mix of pop, dance, folk and rock influences



PHOTOGRAPHY: ISHI (FRITZ HELDER & THE PHANTOMS, LIGHTS), ON FRITZ HELDER, JUNK DE LUXE, ON PASTEL SUPERNOVA; BRACELETS, CC SKYE.