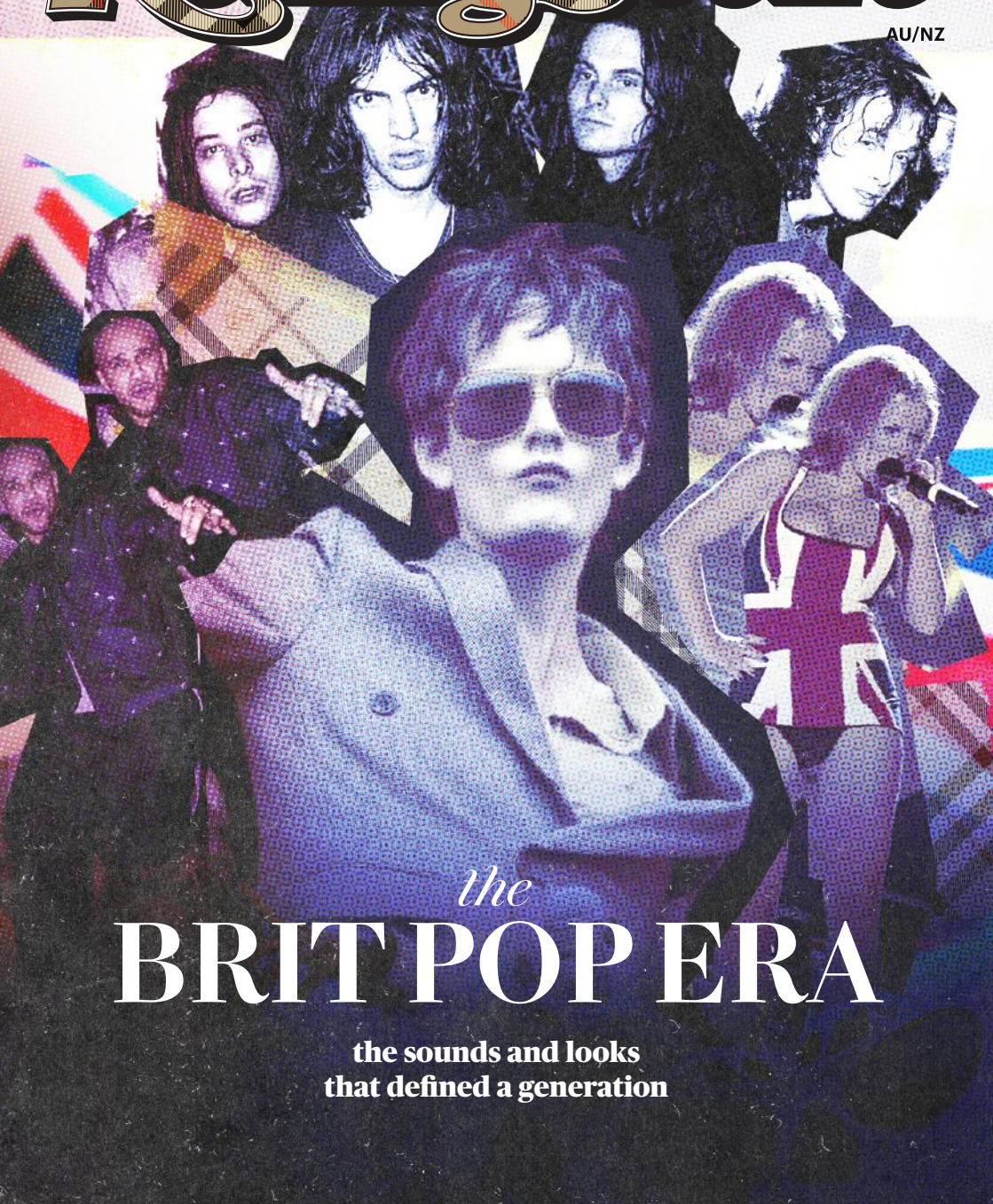


FESTIVAL FIELD GUIDE • COOL BRITANNIA 2.0

JULY 2025  
LIMITED EDITION ZINE

# Rolling Stone

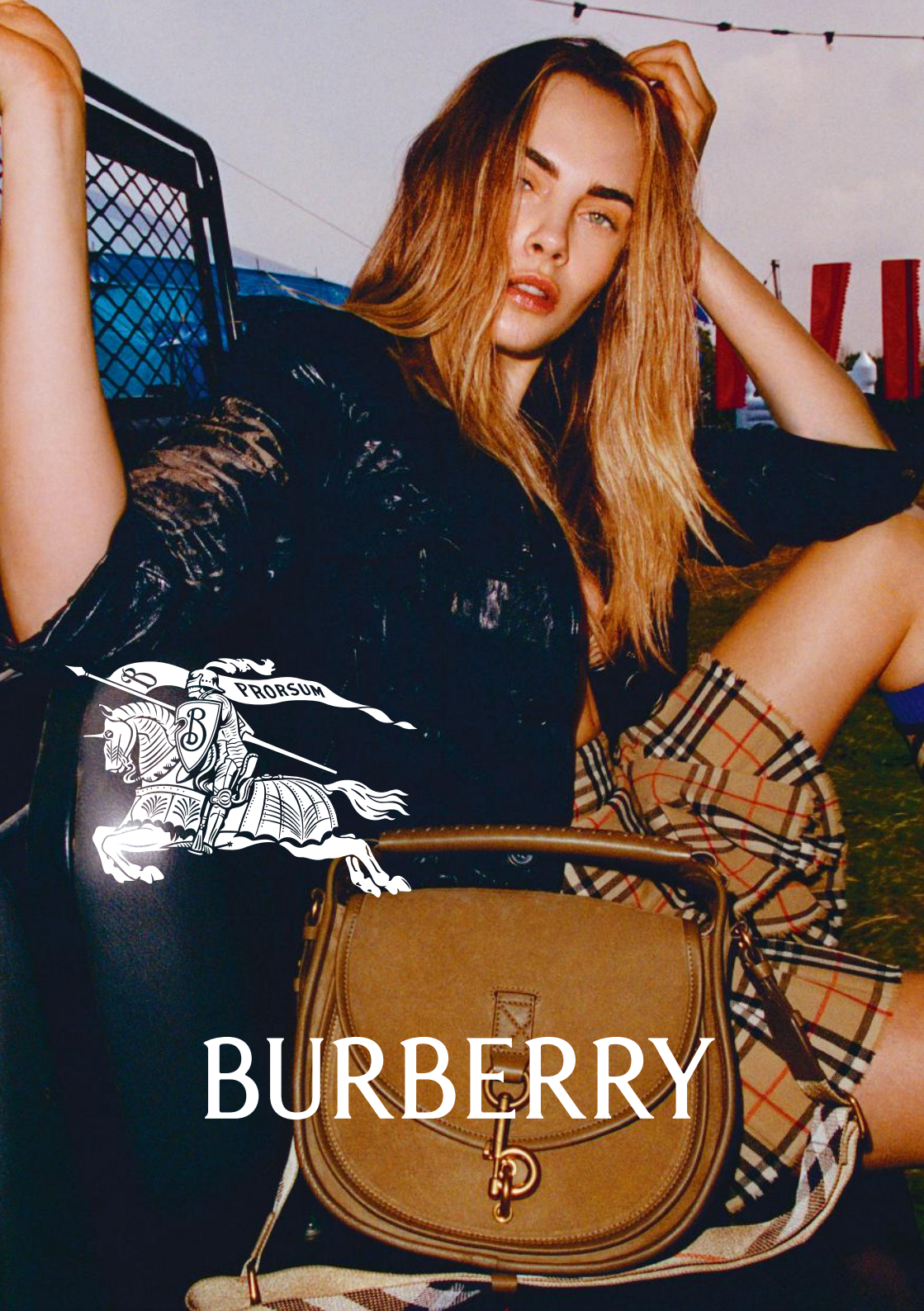
AU/NZ



## *the* BRITPOP ERA

the sounds and looks  
that defined a generation





BURBERRY



## RETROGRADE RHAPSODY

**F**estivals have never just been about the music. They're cultural checkpoints, part runway, part riot, part religious experience. And nowhere is that more evident than in the legacy of Brit Pop.

*What started as a sonic rebellion became a full-blown aesthetic movement. Bucket hats, parkas, pin badges, and purposeful swagger—these weren't just looks, they were identities. Today, those style codes echo through the fields, reimagined by a new generation blending nostalgia with innovation, attitude with artistry.*

But this isn't about costume—it's about culture. The events, looks and moods captured in these pages aren't replicas, they're reinterpretations. They nod to the past while marching confidently forward, worn by those who understand that self-expression doesn't wait for a headliner. Whether it's a glint of metallic mesh, a trench reimagined for the dance tent, or a pair of wellies that scream subversion, festival style is still where fashion dares to be loudest.

In this zine, we deep-dive into the festival, musical and wardrobe revival of the era that changed everything. We explore how festival fashion continues to evolve without losing its edge. A visual mixtape for a new generation. A love letter to the clash of sound and style. A reminder that when the music hits, what you wear matters just as much as what you hear.

See you in the pit.

**ROLLING STONE AUSTRALIA**





# THE DIY FESTIVAL REBELLION

As Australia's mega-festivals fall silent, a new wave of grassroots gatherings is making noise. Born in backyards, pubs and paddocks, these DIY festivals are restoring the heart—and grit—of the live music scene.



**W**hen Groovin the Moo pulled the pin on its 2024 tour, it wasn't just another festival cancellation—it felt like a warning siren for Australia's big-stage music scene. Lost Paradise, Splendour in the Grass, and even Falls Festival have all grappled with shrinking line-ups, changing crowds, and the hard realities of post-COVID economics. But while the giants falter, something leaner, louder, and infinitely more loyal is rising from the dust: the return of the DIY music festival.

Forget inflated ticket prices and hour-long lines for warm beers. The new breed of grassroots festivals are raw, real, and unapologetically local. One stage. A handful of fiercely curated acts. And a crowd that's there for the music, not the Instagram story.

These aren't just parties—they're lifelines. In the absence of major platforms, DIY festivals are offering emerging artists a place to play, punters a reason to travel, and communities a reason to celebrate.

### **The Collapse of the Colossus**

Let's rewind. In the 2010s, the Aussie summer was stacked with blockbuster line-ups—Coachella by way of Byron Bay. But post-pandemic, the cracks widened. Logistical costs soared. Insurance premiums ballooned. Audiences, spooked by last-minute cancellations or streaming fatigue, became pickier.

By 2024, Splendour was a shadow of its former self.

Groovin the Moo cited "high operational costs" and "supply chain issues" for its cancellation, though insiders pointed to deeper structural flaws—reliance on international headliners, over-saturation, and a disconnect from

## **WHAT YOUNGER CROWDS ACTUALLY WANT: INTIMACY AND AUTHENTICITY.**

### **Enter the Underdogs**

Where the majors lost their mojo, the DIY crowd found theirs. Take OK Motels, the boutique Victorian roving festival born out of a literal country motel in Charlton. What began as a nostalgic nod to Aussie road culture has become a cult favourite—intimate, weird, and deeply community-driven. Its founder, Kate Berry, books artists that feel like friends and treat punters like neighbours.

In Northern NSW, Strawberry Fields has carved out a space as one of the most artistically daring small festivals, blending electronic music, visual art, and a strong community ethos on the banks of the Murray River. What started as a bush doof has become a cornerstone of the alt-festival calendar.

Meanwhile, the Hunter Valley's Dashville Skyline has carved

out a space as one of the most artistically daring small festivals, blending alt-country, folk, and blues with a strong community ethos. Held over the October long weekend, the festival offers a laid-back camping experience, complete with vintage cars, food trucks, markets, and workshops. It's a celebration of music and community under the stars.

### **Built on Community, Not Capital**

What binds these events together is their grassroots DNA. Artists sleep in swags. Festivalgoers pitch in. The marketing runs on word-of-mouth and gritty Instagram reels, not LED billboards in Sydney's CBD.

DIY fests also serve as incubators for emerging talent. When a big-stage festival needs to guarantee ticket sales, they default to global names. But smaller stages champion the local, the weird, and the next-big-thing. Think Floodlights shredding at OK Motels, or Teen Jesus and the Jean Teasers finding early fans at Yours & Owls before hitting the national circuit.

### **Barriers and Breakthroughs**

Running these events isn't easy. Permits can be a nightmare. Weather is unpredictable. And without corporate sponsors, it's a financial tightrope. But that's the point. There's freedom in curating a moment.

It's also a response to the changing way audiences engage with live music.



Young punters, priced out of mega-fests, are hunting for real experiences in unexpected places—gravel carparks, shearing sheds, coastal ovals. Anywhere that feels like it matters.

### **The Road Ahead**

The DIY boom isn't just a trend—it's a recalibration. As major promoters rethink their models (or bow out entirely),

the new lifeblood of Australia's festival scene might just be a dusty ute, a long extension cord, and a crowd of 200 who know every lyric.

In a landscape where the spectacle is fading, the spirit of the scene is shining through—one backyard, one paddock, one stage at a time.

### **Get Your DIY Fix**

From bush beats to coastal jams, here are four festivals not to miss this year. Your festival soundtrack starts here.

#### **Dashville Skyline**

📍 Lower Belford, NSW  
October 3–5, 2025

#### **Strawberry Fields**

📍 Tocumwal, NSW  
November 21–23, 2025

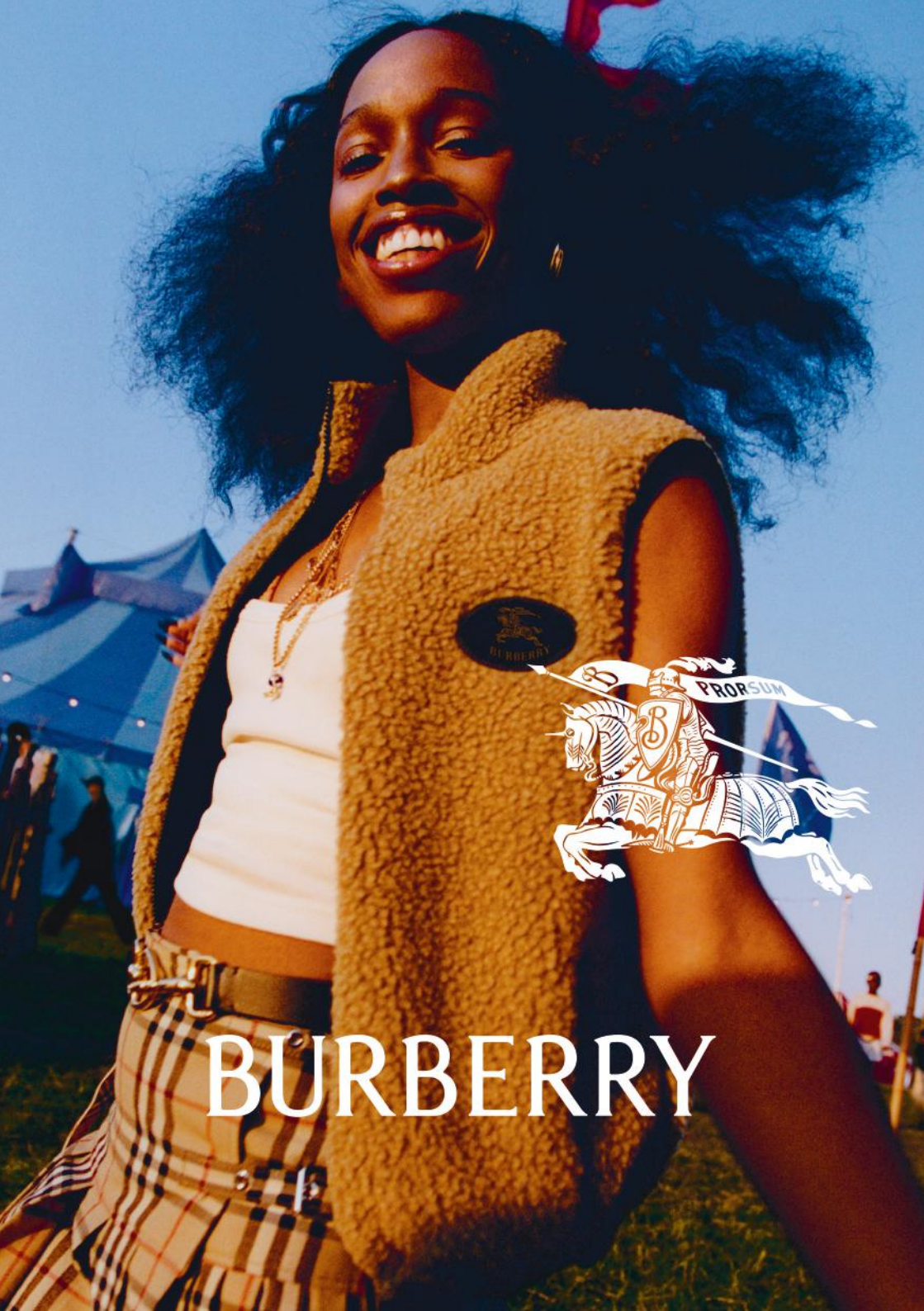
#### **Queenscliff Music Festival**

📍 Queenscliff, VIC  
November 28–30, 2025

#### **Wild Horses Festival**

📍 Carapooee West, VIC  
November 13–16, 2025





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# F I E L D T E S T E D, FESTIVAL APPROVED

WELCOME TO THE ROLLING STONE FIELD GUIDE TO FESTIVAL FASHION. FROM DESIGNER TRENCH

COATS TO DIY RAVECORE, THESE ARE THE BEST NEW STYLE TRENDS TO WEAR WHILE DANCING,

SWEATING, AND LIVING YOUR BEST MUSIC-LOVING LIFE.

*Disco's  
NOT DEAD*

There was a time when festival fashion meant denim cut-offs, flower crowns, and whatever glitter you could smuggle past security. Not anymore. In 2025, the music is loud, but the fashion is louder. The style on the ground is now as curated as the line-up, blending luxury pieces with second-hand finds, genderless silhouettes, and gear that looks as good in the pit as it does on Instagram.

This season, we're seeing fashion's biggest players crash the campsite (Burberry, we see you), with looks built to brave sun, dust, and sudden downpours—all while looking like a damn headliner. From sculptural outerwear to space-cowboy chic, here are the trends to get around before the gates even open.

#001

*Iconic*



## THE BURBERRY TRENCH REBORN

Yes, the trenches are coming to the field—and they've never looked hotter. Think heritage tailoring meets weatherproof utility. Whether belted over bike shorts or worn open with cowboy boots, Burberry's iconic outerwear is the unexpected MVP of 2025's festival fashion. Practical, stylish, and just dramatic enough to make an entrance.

#004



## STUDIO 54 MEETS THE OUTBACK

Disco's not dead—it just moved to the paddock. Festival-goers are leaning into high-shine fabrics, sequinned sets, and vintage glam silhouettes styled with rugged boots and oversized shades. Impractical, iconic, and completely unforgettable.



#002

**DESERT TECH**

Inspired by Burning Man minimalism and Mad Max fantasy, this trend is all about form-meets-function. Utility vests, ripstop fabrics, hydration packs, and reflective detailing keep you cool while turning heads. Add tinted goggles or a hooded scarf for that post-apocalyptic mystique.

#003

**COWBOY 2.0**

Yeehaw is back—again—but this time with a futuristic twist. We're talking iridescent chaps, studded boots, rhinestone mesh shirts, and Stetsons worn with metallic eyeliner. It's country if it were remixed by Grimes and played on a side stage at midnight.

#005

**UPCYCLED & UNHINGED**

In 2025, the hottest thing you can wear is whatever you made yourself. Customised denim, patchwork, hand-painted accessories, and Frankenstein fits made from old band tees are dominating. It's not just fashion—it's fan art. Bonus: you're guaranteed to be original.

#006

**BURBERRY GOES MUD PUNK**

Forget your dad's gumboots—Burberry's rubber wellies are stomping into the festival circuit with serious attitude. Styled with tartan minis, slouchy socks or oversized trenches, these high-fashion boots are equal parts mosh-pit armour and runway flex.





# UNION JACKED

## THE FASHION THAT DEFINED A GENERATION

**R**evisit the unforgettable looks that defined the Britpopera — and the legacy of effortless cool they left behind.

Britpop wasn't just a sound — it was a swagger. A half-smirk with a pint in hand and a parka slung over the shoulders. From Camden pubs to Top of the Pops, the movement gave us more than just chart-topping anthems. It gave us a style blueprint: part mod revival, part rave afterglow, all attitude.

Born from a post-grunge, post-Thatcher cultural reset, Britpop arrived with a middle finger in one hand and a Fred Perry shirt in the other. The bands that defined it — Blur, Oasis, Pulp, Suede, Elastica — didn't just battle on the airwaves. They clashed in wardrobes. And in doing so, they redefined what it meant to look like a rock star in the 1990s.

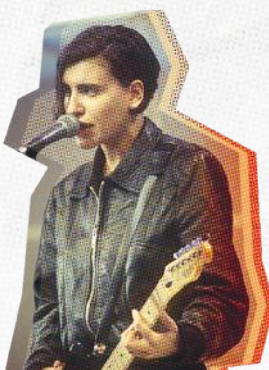


### **Matty Healy and the new gaurd of Britpop**

Charismatic, controversial, and one of the true British rock stars of his generation — The 1975's Matty Healy is carrying the Union Jack for a new era of Britpop iconoclasts. Armed with sharp pop hooks and wry, self-aware lyricism, Healy wears his references proudly, recontextualising a swooning, stadium-ready UK sound into something postmodern, emotive, and undeniably danceable. Whether in a vintage leather jacket or a simple black suit, his style channels the timeless swagger of Britpop's golden age — with just enough irony and self-awareness for a generation brought up on the internet.

### **Damon Albarn: The Art-School Lad**

If Liam was the bruiser, Damon Albarn was the art-school poster boy. With his vintage tees, wide-leg cords and floppy fringe, Albarn's look fused suburban nostalgia with a postmodern wink. Think polos with pinstripe trousers, or a schoolboy blazer thrown over a singlet. His vibe said, "I'll drink you under the table, but only after I've discussed Tarkovsky." Blur's Parklife may have soundtracked the decade, but Damon's thrift-store cool set the aesthetic tone for every indie band that followed.



### **Justine Frischmann: The Britpop It Girl**

Before the term was even coined, Elastica frontwoman Justine Frischmann had the look down. With her sharp cheekbones, thrifted blazers, and cigarette-slim jeans, she embodied a punky minimalism that cut through the lad culture of the time. Often photographed in a leather jacket or crisp white tee, Frischmann didn't dress for the male gaze — she dressed like she was already ten years ahead of the boys in the room. Which, musically and sartorially, she often was.

### **Jarvis Cocker The Thinking Man's Dandy**

Jarvis Cocker was never interested in blending in. His lanky frame draped in velvet blazers, high-waisted trousers and thick-rimmed glasses, the Pulp frontman looked like a substitute poetry teacher on acid. But make no mistake — Cocker's awkward, louche fashion sense was entirely calculated. In a sea of Britpop blokedom, he offered something different: ironic sex appeal. His rise from Sheffield misfit to Mercury Prize-winner proved that brains, wit, and corduroy could still sell out stadiums.


### **Melanie Blatt & The All Saints Effect**

Though not technically Britpop, the minimalist, streetwise style of All Saints (and to a degree, the Spice Girls' Sporty and Posh personas) filtered through the same 90s filter. Melanie Blatt's low-rise cargo pants, cropped tanks, and bomber jackets helped rewrite the fashion playbook for British women in music — grittier, sportier, and cooler than anything coming out of the States. Britpop may have been a boys' club, but these women made it look good.



Today, you'll still find the DNA of Britpop in modern streetwear, from the resurgence of vintage to the endless rotation of Harrington jackets on runways. It's in the music too — from Arctic Monkeys to Fontaines D.C., every band with a sneer and a strong side part owes a debt to the era that made fashion loud, proud, and unmistakably British. Britpop didn't just sound like rebellion. It looked like it too.





From indie rock royalty to genre-bending R&B and chart-shifting rap, a new generation of British artists are reshaping the global music scene. These are the names making noise—and doing it in style.

There was a time when British music's cultural exports were defined by a few key genres—punk, rock, Britpop. But today's sound of the UK is less about categories and more about charisma. Whether they're serving ladcore meets luxe fashion or dropping poetry-laced bars over genre-melting beats, the new wave of British artists are rewriting the rulebook and soundtracking a new era of global cool.

These are the artists pushing sonic boundaries and redefining what it means to be a British icon in 2025. Their common thread? Style, swagger, and songs that slap.

# cool britannia 2.0



## **Little Simz**

Little Simz is a force. Part philosopher, part street poet, she blends confessional lyricism with cinematic production. She's Mercury Prize-certified, Kendrick-approved, and fashion-forward in a way that feels totally effortless. Simz isn't just rapping—she's scoring the complexities of modern identity with every bar.

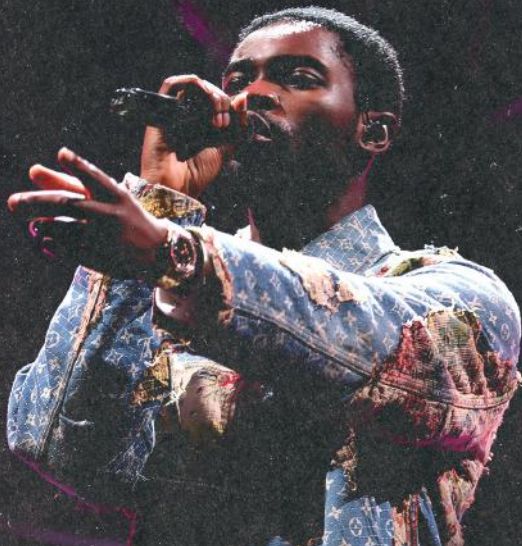
## **Raye**

Once the industry's best-kept secret, Raye is finally front and centre—and she's unstoppable. Her debut album *My 21st Century Blues* fused jazz, pop, and hard-hitting storytelling into a soul-purging triumph. Now independent, Grammy-nominated and in full control, Raye embodies modern British cool: vulnerable, defiant, and sonically fearless. She's part Billie, part Amy, all Raye.

## **Arlo Parks**

Soft-spoken but soul-punching, Arlo Parks is a poet laureate for the lo-fi generation. Her Mercury Prize-winning debut *Collapsed in Sunbeams* made indie kids cry (in a good way), while her follow-up, *My Soft Machine*, saw her lean further into layered vulnerability and sonic experimentation. With Gen Z sensitivity and vintage style, she's the patron saint of introspective cool.





### **slowthai**

Notorious, political, and unpredictable, slowthai embodies the chaos and brilliance of modern Britain. Blending grime, punk, and pure energy, his music swings between the riotous (Nothing Great About Britain) and the introspective (UGLY). He's more than a provocateur—he's a portrait of a generation caught between apathy and rage. Style-wise, he's normcore meets anarchist, a walking contradiction that just works.

### **Wet Leg**

Hailing from the Isle of Wight, Wet Leg's viral rise felt like a fever dream. Their self-titled debut exploded with wit, distortion, and a kind of detached charisma that made their irony-laced tracks instant anthems. But behind the humour is clever craftsmanship and serious chops. They're part Britpop revival, part slacker-rock renaissance—and undeniably cool.

### **Dave**

If Kendrick Lamar had a cousin raised in Streatham, it might be Dave. One of the UK's most important rap voices, Dave pairs intricate wordplay with blistering honesty, turning tracks like "Black" and "Lesley" into emotional epics. He's not just a rapper—he's a generational thinker. Whether it's a six-minute piano-backed verse or a chart hit with Central Cee, Dave is always calculated, conscious, and cool.

### **Charli XCX**

Charli XCX is the queen of controlled chaos. A pioneer of hyperpop long before the mainstream caught up, she's shapeshifted through club anthems, underground glitch-pop, and now, with her 2024 album BRAT, a raw and rave-ready sound that's both nostalgic and futuristic. She's Gen Z's pop antihero—bratty, brilliant, and unapologetically herself. Whether she's headlining Coachella or soundtracking fashion week, Charli doesn't follow trends—she bends them to her will.

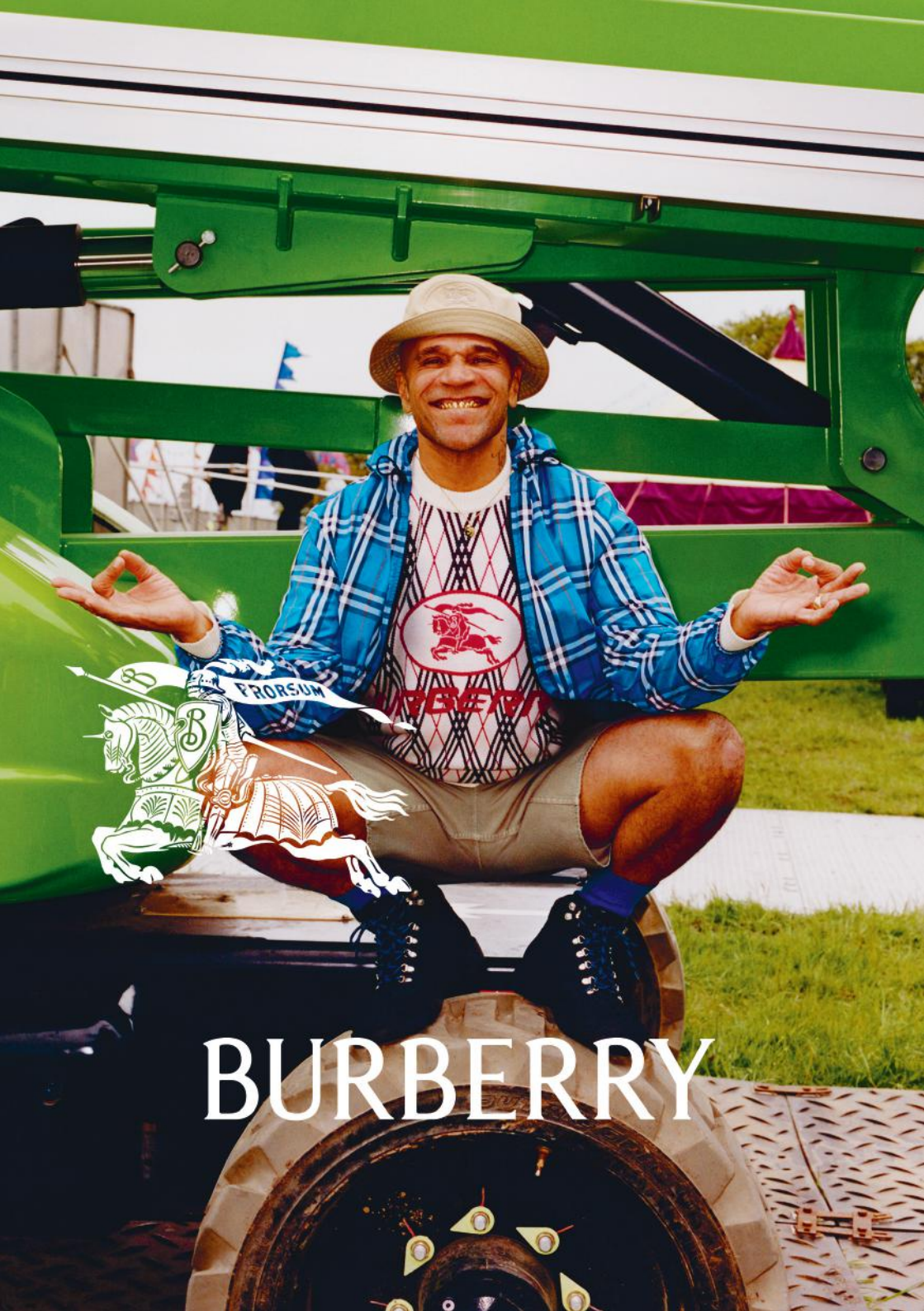
### **PinkPantheress**

Part bedroom popstar, part UK garage revivalist, PinkPantheress is a genre all her own. With breathy vocals laid over sped-up breakbeats and nostalgic 2000s textures, she's perfected the art of saying everything and nothing in under two minutes. Her debut Heaven Knows distilled heartbreak, youth, and Y2K-era angst into addictive micro-anthems. And with her mysterious persona, anime aesthetics, and viral hits, she's become Gen Z's most elusive—and influential—icon.

### **Yard Act**

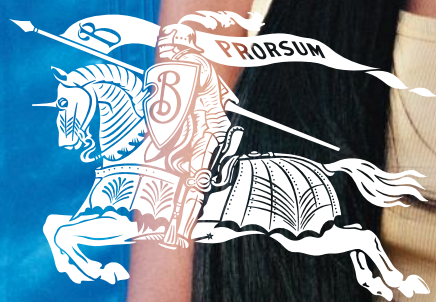
From Leeds, Yard Act inject post-punk with satirical, spoken-word swagger. Think Arctic Monkeys with a political degree. Their style is dry, wiry, and weird—in the best way. If post-Brexit Britain had a house band, it might be these guys.





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