# sarah records 

 is proud to announce its last ever release!
and a: party to celebrate starring

# heavenly blueboy 

the orchids/the wake boyracer secret shine
\& special guest performances from harvey williams. brighter

August 28th (August Bank Holiday Monday) The Thekla, Bristol

That's right; it's over. Because how could the best ever record label ever do anything but end in the best ever way - 100 perfect releases and then POP!!! Gone. No fizzling out or fading away or selling-out or straying from what was originally intended, but just - stop. End. Before it gets to be just this-is-what-we-do-because-it's-what-we-do-and-we-don't-really-think-about-it-anymore.

So there's this party. To mark SARAH reaching 100 and to celebrate everything that's been SARAH over the past 8 years and the fact there won't be any more of it - and to say goodbye, of course. And you're all invited. Of course. So, it's in Bristol, because that's where we live, and it's on The Thekla, because nowhere else is as nice; but we'll have the upstairs "cafe bar" open this time too, I think, so you can watch the boats and not the bands if you prefer. August Bank Holiday, the 28th - the day after the Reading Festival. But, hey, Bristol's only 77 miles from Reading so, even if you have been tempted by Soundgarden, it'd only take an hour or so to hitch here down the M4 after... and there's regular coaches and trains... there's even a canal... if you wanted to barge in at the last moment...

8pm-1am, with HEAVENLY, BLUEBOY, BOYRACER, SECRET SHINE, THE ORCHIDS (with Caesar from THE HAKE on bass), HARVEY (ex-ANOTHER SUNNY DAY) and, for one night only, a specially reformed BRIGHTER. Maybe other things too. Definitely balloons. Perhaps we can even tempt Jessica to do her famous party-piece, Impersonations of Cats of the Great Philosophers - her one of Freud's little Burmese kitten Betsy is especially impressive, even if it does somehow always remind me of my mother. Hey, it's fun destroying a record label - you should try it sometime. There's lots to choose from.

Most importantly, though, this is your last chance to see these bands play together under the Sarah Banner (which I must dig out and wash before the big day, remind me); not to mention your last chance to give us both a huge hug and tell us how much you loved us really and how you truly didn't mean all those things you said. Yes, it will be a night to remember. And, as it'll be August and Bristol is the U.K.'s loveliest city, we recommend you make a day of it. Maybe go for a ride on the ferry - it's only $£ 1.80$ for a round trip. Climb Cabot Tower. Have a wander round the Arnolfini remembering not to touch. Play with the medieval pigs in Castle Park. And when you've had enough, don't forget that The Ostrich, on the opposite bank of the harbour, has lots of tables out by the water and can be extremely pleasant when it's sunny; unlike me, I'm afraid - too much sunlight always turns me into a complete grouse. Er, as in grumpy person, not as in plump game bird; that'd just be weird and you'd have read about me in the papers.

Yup. Eight years.
Or 7 years 9 months 11 days come August 28th if you want to be pedantic. And yes, maybe in some ways we've failed - no Top Ten hits, no NME front covers, no complete restructuring of Society along authentic Socialist lines... $70 \%$ of you buy lottery tickets, $41 \%$ of people between 18 and 25 don't bother to vote, and the number 53 still doesn't run to Highridge after 7pm on weekdays. But maybe we were just expecting too much???


And yes, you're right, we've still not told you what SARAH 100 is.
Well - what we wanted, you see, was one final fantastical flourish of such swaggering style and extravagant vision that the mere mention of it would for years thereafter silence drawing-rooms up and down the country and see small children being hastily packed off to bed before they heard things that might upset them. Which was a problem because we genuinely couldn't think of anything we could do which would be more exciting than SARAH 50, our board-game SAROPOLY. We even toyed with doing another one we were going to do SARAH Cluedo, with the scenario that SARAH had had to come to an end because we'd been murdered by one of our bands at an unspecified indie nite-spot, and now the other bands were travelling round the country in hired Sierras (which have ample room in the back for a drum-kit) being indie supersleuths and asking questions to find out who'd done it and what the murder weapon was, e.g. was it BRIGHTER at the Derby Dial with the bucket of water and the dodgy amp lead, or GENTLE DESPITE at The Duchess of York with the falling PA stack... or were we necklaced with burning tambourines by HEAVENLY upstairs at King Tut's, or did our heads explode when ST.CHRISTOPHER handed us some headphones and with a strange smile asked if we'd mind checking the reverb, or - but then we decided maybe it was all a bit too near the knuckle. And anyway, nobody would ever believe in the existence of a secret passage from behind the bar at the Hull Adelphi to backstage at the After Dark (but it's true... how else do you explain the vast number of breathless Dutch sailors at all BLUEBOY's home-town shows?). So we scrumpled that one up and fed it to the pig.

And, in the end, we've gone for something which I suppose is a little predictable, and you'll probably just tell us we've got our heads stuck on backwards but - basically, ever since we started, we've wanted to stop and do a retrospective thingy called "There And Back Again Lane" - because it's always been our favourite Bristol street name, not least because it's such a great long sign for such a short little street and, with a title like that, it really couldn't be anything but a retrospective thingy. So that's what it is: reams and reams of rum rhapsodic ramblings, red-blooded reminiscences and riotously recollected raptures ranged right alongside remorseful reports of ruined reputations and retrospectively regretted rampant rock'n'roll revelry in half the world's capitals, including Cardiff - things like that. "Our Booze And Drugs Hell: The Early Years"; the sex, the violence, the laundry-bills - we confess all and leave nothing to your imagination, because we've made that mistake too often in the past. The Sarah Story, beginning, middle and end - though not in that order, of course, because it certainly didn't happen in that order, as I remember.

Sadly we're well aware that, in these post-literate times, such a scholarly tome would sell at most half a dozen copies. So, it comes with a CD soundtrack featuring various moments selected from the past 8 years. Which is actually quite a nice thing to have anyway - something that, in years to come, can stand for what SARAH was. Because this really is IT we're NOT going to do a Postcard or a Factory or a Rough Trade and resurrect SARAH in 5 years time because that's pathetic. The master-tapes aren't for sale and the label name's not for sale and we're not for sale (although the cat says she's open to all sensible offers, especially those involving sardines and Carnation milk) and we want the end to be The End. And there's a picture of the Clifton Suspension Bridge on the sleeve because we always said we'd put the Suspension Bridge on our last ever release and we're not ones to go back on something as important as that.

And now you'll all be wondering what we're going to do with ourselves once we don't have a record label anymore. Well, one major reason for us wanting to stop was, of course, that we both wanted to spend more time with the cat. Unfortunately, when we told her the good news, she shuffled awkwardly and said that, al though that was very sweet of us and everything, she'd actually just that very afternoon decided to return to Florida and
resume her zero-gravity training programme because, although she might have let herself be waylaid by the wonders of pop these past few years, and although we weren't for one minute to think that she hadn't enjoyed herself or that she didn't still love us and respect what we stood for, she had to confess that, deep down, she'd always known that her heart belonged amongst the stars, and it was still her ambition, as it had been ever since she was a kitten, to become the first cat on Mars. She says that space-travel's in her blood and there ain't nothing she can do about it, oh no. NASA are, she adds, busy devising a new helmet to take account of her ears. I sometimes worry about the cat. She lives in a complete dreamworld.

So, spurned by our pet, we've decided not to turn our backs on pop entirely... it's in our blood, after all - we've had the tests, and both come up positive - so, yes, there is going to be a new label, but it won't be Sarah Part 2, because we want to do something new. Not quite sure what just yet, but it'll be fun figuring it out. All we can tell you is that it's called METROPOLITAN. Meanwhile, if anyone's now incandescent with rage having just subscribed to 4 more newsletters, can I just say don't worry, all that's in hand. There'll also be a post-SARAH issue to remind you what's happened and re-assure you it's not all been a horrible dream.

Now, those of you with a conscience are almost certainly wondering what's going to happen to all our poor orphaned bands. Well, the answer is that we're taking them all down the vet's the day after the party.

Fortunately, it's the wrong answer. A better one is that we hope to maybe carry on working with one or two of them in our Metropolitan guise, but obviously that's all a bit (to quote God) without form and void at the moment, so we'd quite understand if, in the meantime, they wanted to flash their stocking-tops at any other labels that might come crawling past in their big black executive indie-limos so... we shall see.

What we can tell you is that BLUEBOY, having finally released the superb "Dirty Mags" EP in June, have lots of new songs written and will be doing some recording soon, probably for a new LP. They should also be doing some gigs (N.B. that's aimed at the band, not you). HEAVENLY also have 4 or 5 new songs written but, that aside, their only real news is that that Spanish Festival in August in Benicassim is now definite - they play on the Saturday (25th) with the Marychain and Carter USM. Plans are also afoot for them to visit both Thessaloniki (Greece) and Bremen (Germany) in September or October, the latter with BLUEBOY.

ABERDEEN, we must tell you, have had a sex-change, with Jenni being surgically removed and replaced by Ben. Things are naturally still a little tender, but they used him for the first time on Saturday night and Beth says he worked just fine. And this new testosterone-packed line-up should be downing 6-packs, going huh-huh-huh at pictures of naked babes and making nasty sweaty smells in studios in LA sometime very soon, with a view to a debut mini-LP. More immediately, they have a couple of things coming out on Sunday (er, the record label, not the day after tomorrow): a 7" featuring a cover of They Go Boom!'s "I Think I'm Falling" is out in July, and then a Bee Gees tribute LP featuring their version of "How Deep Is Your Love?" (to which the smart answer is, of course, Well honey, how long is your trowel?) is out sometime later. They also say please stop writing to the address on the records as they don't live there. Instead, write to: 10021 Mountair Ave, Tujunga (bless you), CA 91042, U.S.A. Imagine living in a road with 10021 houses on it... abroad must be a really weird place.

Staying Stateside, EAST RIVER PIPE's new mini-lp "Even The Sun Was Afraid" (10"/CD, SARAH 407) is now out and, bizarrely, has journalists actually queueing up to review it and interview them - lots of play from Mark Radcliffe too, especially for "Here We Go" (though "Marty" and "Sleeping With Tallboy" are better). We've done something right at last.

BOYRACER, meanwhile, have been contemplating large advance cheques from big U.S. corporations - nothing's been signed yet, so I'd better not be too specific - but hopefully they'11 remember us in years to come when they're selling out 3 nights at the Houston Astrodome and we're living with an imaginary cat in a shabby bedsit in Balham having sadly gone a bit dotty. Our friend John from Huddersfield (as he is known in saloon bars across The North) also points out the disturbing number of kids in Leeds currently to be seen around town wearing oven-gloves in homage to Stewart, in much the same way that Morrissey devotees in Manchester used to affect hearing-aids and glasses. Scary scary scary. Of course, stripy oven-mitts aren't quite as stylishly outré as, say, Michael Jackson's single long white glove, but then Michael Jackson probably wouldn't last long serving baked potatoes on Briggate, especially if he kept telling everyone to just Eat It! every time they complained about the coleslaw being too runny - and then jerking his head and doing that funny shuffly dance - oh, come on, you've seen BOYRACER at The Duchess, you know the one I mean...
[N.B. the stall's actually on Commercial Street, not Briggate, but Stewart's asked us not to give the exact location because he doesn't want people harassing him for autographed potatoes when he's trying to work. Opposite Boots. I meant photos.]

Oh, and NORTHERN PICTURE LIBRARY have split up...
No news from the ACTION PAINTING! camp... last time we spoke, Andy had just finished a modelling assignment for Italian Vogue, who were running a piece on the Brighton mod-scene. Not quite sure where ACTION PAINTING! fit into the Brighton mod-scene, but they obviously liked the cut of his jib. Which ought to please him, as he cuts it himself.

Finally, SECRET SHINE and IVY are the two bands who most have reason to hate us, because both wanted new singles out and we just wanted to get to 100 and stop. But IVY now have a new EP out on Noisebox called "How Do You Know It's For Real?", and SECRET SHINE are doing some demos with a view to a new single. They did have some interest from Sire, but it seems they don't move around enough on stage. The stupid thing is that the new songs they're writing are far and away the best things they've done, but that's life. There's also a Peel Session coming hopefully.

SECRET SHINE were also very impressive supporting the Marychain at Sound City, as you'll know if you heard the couple of tracks broadcast on Radio 1. Even more impressive was Jamie and Kathryn's calmness in the face of adversity when we were interviewed by HTV for a late night documentary special. And if having to do a TV interview doesn't sound that dreadful, maybe I should point out that, for artistic reasons, it involved a 7 am trip across the Bristol Channel to a CD plant in Cwmbran - which, CD plants being highly sterile places, meant the whole thing had to be done wearing white lab-coats, white plastic hats to keep our hair in place, and with elasticated white plastic bag galoshes on our feet. At the time of writing, it's still not been shown, but we've had to sign forms giving them the right in perpetuity to broadcast it throughout the known universe. Which is a shame, as I'd hoped you wouldn't be able to pick it up much beyond Gloucester. The band have also asked us to point out, for the benefit of anyone tuning in half-way through this paragraph, that this is NOT their normal stage-wear. OR off-stage wear. Except possibly Scott.

Finally, just to confuse you, there's actually another SARAH compilation out on July 17th. This is "Battery Point", the latest and last of our 16 track round-ups of recent singles, SARAH's $86-99$ in this particular case, bringing us neatly through to the close of play and the drawing of stumps, to use an unpleasant medical metaphor. SARAH 359. With a picture of the 359 bus to Portishead (which is where Battery Point is) on the labels. God, sometimes I think you never understood us at all...

An apt thought on which to end. Um... I don't know if we're supposed to get all soppy and reflective at this point... ramble on about how much everything's changed, how CDs and fax-machines used to be a joke and yet now we couldn't live without them, or about how we used to have a portable typewriter and now we have an Amstrad PCW for which you can no longer buy the discs, or about how a $7^{\prime \prime}$ single used to be a pop record not a limited edition marketing tool, or how one of us used to be a teenager, or...

Nah, you don't want to read all that stuff.
So all we'll say is this: thank you, to anybody who's ever written or phoned or whatever, thank you because - well, at the risk of sounding like twerps (note to foreign readers: twerps, oil-based solvent used for cleaning paintbwushes), it really is all that - all the, um, heck - the, um, well - YOU - that make it all worthwhile. And even if it's true that most of those who used to write to us when we first began have, over the years, gradually disappeared, wandered off into... what... jobs, marriages, babies, the backstreets of Naples - it doesn't really matter, because you were there at the time and - well, we've still got all your letters, because we never were very good at throwing things away. So there. Most of all, we'd like to thank all those for whom English is not a first language - your letters have given us hours of entertainment as we read them out to each other in silly accents across the kitchen table.

Oh shucks. See you on the 28th.

## SARAH MAIL ORDER

For all singles up to SARAH 68, please refer to the discography in the centre pages, but note that ONLY the following catalogue numbers are still for sale:
$15,20,26,27,29,33,34,35,36,37,38,39,42,43$, $45,46,47,48,51,52,53,54,55,56,58,59,60,61$, $62,63,64,65,66,67,68$, all of which are available as $7^{\prime \prime}$ ONLY except:
38 which is available as $10^{\prime \prime}$ ONLY
42 which is available as $12^{\prime \prime}$ ONLY
66 which is available as $7^{\prime \prime}$ or CD.
For singles after SARAH 68, the following formats are available:

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- BRIGHTER: Disney EP 10"/CD
- SECRET SHINE: Loveblind 7"
- THE SUGARGLIDERS: Ahprahran 7"/CD
- ACTION PAINTING!: Classical Music 7"/CD
- BLUEBOY: Meet Johnny Rave 7"/CD
- EAST RIVER PIPE: Helmet On 7"/CD
- BOYRACER: B is for Boyracer 7"/CD
- THE SUGARGLIDERS: Trumpet Play 7"/CD
- EAST RIVER PIPE: She's A Real Good Time 7"/CD
- EVEN AS WE SPEAK: Blue Eyes Deceiving Me CD
- BLUEBOY: Some Gorgeous Accident 7"/CD
- HEAVENLY: P.U.N.K. Girl 7"
- HEAVENLY: Atta Girl 7"/CD (CD includes SARAH 81)
    - THE SUGARGLIDERS: Will We Ever Learn? 7"/CD
- THE HARVEST MINISTERS: If It Kills Me 7"/CD
- THE HARVEST MINISTERS: If It Kills Me 7"/CD
- THE SUGARGLIDERS: TOD 40 Sculpture 7"/CD
- ACTION PAINTING!: Mustard Gas 7"/CD
- BLUEBOY: River 7"
- SECRET SHINE: Greater Than God 10"
    - THE HIT PARADE: Autobiography 7"/CD
- IVY: Wish You Would 7"
- IVY: Avenge 7"
    - ABERDEEN: Byron 7"/CD
- NORTHERN PICTURE LIBRARY: Last September's
    Farewell Kiss 7''/CD (CD includes SARAH 94)
- BOYRACER: Pure Hatred 96 7'/CD
- ABERDEEN: Fireworks 7"/CD
- SHELLEY: Reproduction is Pollution 7"/CD
- BLUEBOY: Dirty Mags 7"/CD
00 - THERE AND BACK AGAIN LANE: booklet + CD
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MID-PRICE LPS
403 - ST.CHRISTOPHER: Bacharach 10" LP
404 - BRIGHTER: Laurel $10^{\prime \prime}$ LP/CD/MC
405 - EAST RIVER PIPE: Goodbye California $10^{n}$ LP/CD
406 - HARVEY WILLIAMS: Rebellion $10^{\prime \prime}$ LP/CD
407 - EAST RIVER PIPE: Even The Sun Was Afraid $10^{\prime \prime}$ LP/CD
602 - THE WAKE: Make It Loud LP/MC
608 - THE SWEETEST ACHE: Jaguar CD/MC
609 - THE SEA URCHINS: Stardust compilation LP/CD
610 - HEAVENLY: Le Jardin de Heavenly LP/CD/MC
612 - BLUEBOY: If Wishes Were Horses LP
614 - EVEN AS WE SPEAK: Feral Pop Frenzy LP/CD
615 - SECRET SHINE: Untouched LP/CD
619 - THE SUGARGLIDERS: compilation LP/CD
623 - HEAVENLY: The Decline \& Fall of Heavenly LP/CD
376 - TEMPLE CLOUD 16 song compilation LP (15-28)
501 - GLASS ARCADE 16 song compilation LP/CD/MC (29-40)
583 - FOUNTAIN ISLAND 16 song compilation LP/CD (41-53)
628 - ENGINE COMMON 16 song compilation LP/CD (54-69)
530 - GAOL FERRY BRIDGE 16 song compilation LP/CD (71-85)
359 - BATTERY POINT 16 song compilation LP/CD (86-99)
FULL-PRICE LPS
605 - THE ORCHIDS: Unholy Soul LP/CD/MC
607 - THE FIELD MICE: For Keeps LP/CD/MC
611 - THE ORCHIDS: Epicurean compilation LP/CD/MC
616 - THE HARVEST MINISTERS: Little Dark Mansion LP/CD/MC
617 - THE ORCHIDS: Striving For The Lazy Perfection LP/CD
618 - THE WAKE: Tidal Wave of Hype LP/CD
620 - BLUEBOY: Unisex LP/CD
621 - EAST RIVER PIPE: Poor Fricky LP/CD
622 - THE HIT PARADE: The Sound Of The Hit Parade-LP/CD
All prices include p\&p - make cheques/POs payable to SARAH RECORDS. If writing from abroad, please make sure all Eurocheques/bank-drafts/money-orders are in POUNDS. Cash is sent at your own risk - please add extra to allow for bank charges if you must send foreign currency!

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| 7" (if ordering 10 or more) | £1.00 | $£ 1.50$ | £2.00 |
| CD SINGLE or $10^{\prime \prime} / 12^{\prime \prime}$ SINGLE | $£ 3.25$ | £4.25 | £5.00 |
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| FULL-PRICE LP [vinyl/cassette] | £6.50 | £7.00 | £9.50 |
| FULL-PRICE CD | $£ 9.00$ | £10.00 | £12.00 |
| SARAH 100 | $£ 10.00$ | £11.00 | \$12.00 |

