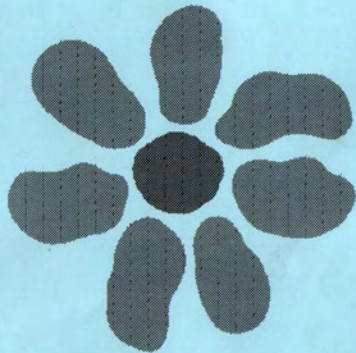


Black Hole 'Zine



A James Fanzine Issue 1

Contact blackhole_zine@hotmail.com

Black Hole 'zine



Issue 1 £1

Hi James fans everywhere!!! We are 4 girls from Folkestone who've decided to put our considerable amount of spare time to some use. This is the first issue of our first fanzine, so please bear with us if it's rubbish, we will get better, honest! The basic purpose of Black Hole is to provide news, enable fans to express their feelings and opinions about the band and to answer questions. Some features may be continued, it depends really on whether you think they're amusing or just stupid! We're always open to contributions, be they gig reviews, opinions, stories, whatever, really. Basically, we're desperate for any material! Anyway, hope you enjoy our ramblings, and if you'd like to contribute anything, the various addresses are at the back.

Stephanie Harrison, Lucie Hodges, Ishbel Whitehead, Merinne Whitton

Black Hole Production Team

The opinions expressed in this fanzine are not necessarily those of the Black Hole 'zine production team, and are not those of James, their record company, management, distant cousins, pets, etc. We accept no responsibility for any loss of life or limb incurred through reading this fanzine.

www.geocities.com/blackhole_zine

New James album and single

James' new album is complete, and was presented to Mercury in March by producer Brian Eno, who described it as "the best they've ever made." Tracklisting is undecided, but the album should contain most of the songs previewed on the autumn tour, including "Coffee and Toast," "Junkie" and "The Shining." The title is also undecided, but early ideas are "Space" or "We Want Our Money Back."

The provisional release date for the album, announced by Mercury on 11th April, is July 2nd 2001, with a single to precede it provisionally pencilled in for June 18th. The title of the single has not yet been decided.

Summer Festival Appearances

Nothing definite has been confirmed as yet, but it is rumoured that James will be playing the V festival, as they have in '98 and '00, and possibly Reading.

Strange Dancing: The Early Years

Legal clearance is still being sought for this compilation of James tracks from their years on Sire. It may also contain Jimone and James II, their two EPs released on Factory. The provisional release date is May or June, but this seems unlikely.

B-sides Compilation

The tracklisting for this compilation of James' b-sides whilst on the Mercury label has been finalised, but not yet presented to the record company. The release is still scheduled for this year, but after the new album.



My first James experience

When my friends at school first told me to listen to James and said that I would find the music brilliant, I thought O.K I'll try it but I doubt I will like it. At the time I was very much into David Gray and found his music very inspiring. In a lot of David Gray's songs I could relate to what he was saying I found that if I had had a bad day I could drift away and put them on. Now my tape collection consists of my favourite songs from James the Best of as well as others. I was brought up by my mother on music that some have not heard of. A mixture of country and western artists such as Kenny Rogers to 1970's like Fleetwood Mac and the Eagles, so I have always kept quite an open mind when it comes to music. When it came to James though I found that I did not have to pretend or try to like their music as I do with some but I actually found myself singing (out of tune) along to some of the tracks.

I found that James did vary in styles of music. Some tracks like Say Something and She's a Star I class as being soft music, music to dance to in a manner where you have time to get into a dance routine. Songs such as Laid and Come Home I found to be louder, the kind of music that you can really let your hair down to. I would say that this is what I like about James; their music is not a set style. They are different, you cannot generalise the way they write and perform their music.

I know when I truly love a song as many of you can, it is a song that you listen to for the first time and find that you cannot get the tune out of your head. For me Laid had to be that song. I found the words both humorous and yet very true, the music I found quick and lively and this is definitely a song that makes a bad day have a bright side.

So yes, I admit my friends have converted me into a James fan, what are you going to do, lock me up! As I said to my friends the next James concert I don't care where it is or how much it is I am going and that is final!

Tips to Survive the Average James Concert

It's the highlight of any James fan's year: **the concert**. After months of sitting around, wondering when the next album will be released, hoping the general public will suddenly see the light and make James number one in the charts, and praying they perform near us, it comes. The concert. Unfortunately, we then tend to spend all the time until the next concert recovering from the injuries we sustained at the previous one. After just this experience (injuring my ribs quite badly at the last concert, and getting well and truly ratted at the previous one) I have compiled some tips to help you survive the next concert with minimal injury! Hope it helps!

Lets start with basics like **transportation**. It's always important to organise this early. The main problem is if you travel to a large town like London. If you intend to use trains, allow yourself around one hour to travel across London, even if the concert is just outside the station. Don't forget, you're not the only one trying to get home, 7000 other James fans are too! Also, if you are driving, consider where you are parking. It might be closer to the venue, but is it really a good idea to park in rougher areas of inner cities, such as Brixton? It might not seem so sensible when you come back to find your car with no wheels, or even worse, no car at

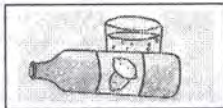
all. Don't leave to early, arrive between 4 and 5pm for a front row place.

Do things get easier once you get inside, I hear you ask? Well, no. Try to avoid bringing too much with you - it'll get **lost, broken or both**. Think about the essentials, half it, then throw away a lot of what's left to get the correct amount of stuff. Lighters, whether you smoke or not, are always needed, for waving and for lending. Girls, this is where you can get lucky! It has come to my attention that bras are a brilliant place for nick-nacks like lighters, lippies, etc. However, lighters are hot, so unless you want to spend the rest of your life having your boyfriend tell you "It's not that bad," your best bets are lighters on string. Buy them from hippy/indie shops or make them yourself, and wear them over your shoulder. They're life/boob savers.



As is the tradition with concerts of all types (except possibly S Club 7 concerts, but then do they even count?) **alcohol** tends to be running freely all night. It is important to know your limit before you hit the bar. Try not to spend too much time in the pub beforehand, just have a couple of drinks to keep you warm outside, as it is invariably freezing outside concert halls, whether it's 35 degrees centigrade elsewhere or not. You'll need to wear lightweight clothes for the actual concert however or you'll boil. However, girls, always trousers! Otherwise your skirt **WILL** ride up and there'll be hands on your bum all night. Try not to bring a good jacket as it will get trashed if you're standing.

Anyway, back to alcohol, don't forget that concert halls will charge you double the price of an off licence, so be prepared for drinking to cost you. And, whatever you do, stop drinking when your friends tell you to. If they say you're too drunk then you probably are. If you're drunk and your friends aren't, you'll only resent each other later for spoiling each other's fun. And never use anything more than fags or booze if you're down the front - no-one will notice if you're ill, and even if they did, most will be too excited about James to care.



There is a more immediate problem that comes with drinking. I'm sorry to lower the tone (ok, there is no tone to lower but that's not the point!) but it has to be said - **toilets**. Getting out of the crowd, particularly once the support act is drawing to a close, is nigh-on impossible. Your best bet is to go to the concert with at least two friends, and while you go to the toilet they can hold your place in the crowd, and then you can swap so you can all go. Once the support act is done, you're basically stuck.

Finally, **respect those around you**. Get to know the people behind you and on either side - you'll have much more success stopping late-comers stealing your place that way. If the people around you appear to dislike smoking try to avoid lighting up, or ask permission first. If someone is hurting you, push him or her gently out of the way, don't start a fight.

Finally, jump, scream, dance and shout as much as you can. Have fun, it's James!

**A James Lullaby: Reprinted with kind permission
of Justhipper**

www.geocities.com/SunsetStrip/Studio/9446

Jimmy, Paul and Gavan were 3 best friends who lived in a little town called Manchester in England. They liked to play football, and write songs on their guitars and to walk in the park near the University. They loved to play in the park and chase after the faeries in the woods. Once while they were frolicking in their favourite park they saw a fragile little faerie trapped under a large branch. "Rescue me," she said, "And you will receive marvellous gifts." So they lifted up the branch and she flew into the sky. She stopped and said to them, "You will meet a marvellous dancer, one who has also been kind to me, and together, with him, you will find success and happiness, if your path be true." And she disappeared.

Now, Jimmy, Paul and Gavan thought this was a bit weird, and Paul even went so far as to call her a "daft, silly creature." But sure enough, the next time they were in the park there were lots of students around listening to music and dancing. They saw boy, with really curly hair, who was twirling and twirling in circles. Jimmy thought it was the most amazing thing he'd ever seen.

"I wonder how he twirls around like that," said Jimmy. "I wish he'd come do that while we write songs!"

"Well why don't you go ask him?" said Gavan. "I think it's neat too."

So Paul, who was the brave one, went up to the boy and asked him how he danced liked that.

"I don't know," said the boy. "One day I was playing in my mum's garden, and I saw a rainbow and so I ran along the rainbow trying to find the end and I came across a faerie. And she was stuck under a rock which some children had thrown at her, and she told me that if I rescued her I would be given magical powers. And so I lifted up the rock, and she waved her wand at me, and she said as long as I was as

pure of heart as I was on that day then I would be able to dance like the faeries and they would protect me from harm."

"Wow," said Jimmy. "I bet if you came and danced like that when we play then millions of people would want to come see us. What's your name?"

"Tim," said the boy. "But I've never danced for an audience before."

"That's ok," said Paul, "we've never played for one. But we write songs, and they're ever so good, and they would be so much better if you helped us."

So Tim went along with Jimmy and Paul and Gavan to their house and he listened to their songs and he danced until one day he had an idea. "I wonder if I could write poems to sing with your songs?" he said.

"Wow!" said Jimmy. "That would be ever so nice!"

So Tim started writing poems and singing along and soon lots of people wanted to come see the band with the strange singer who could dance like the faeries and they named the band James.

But deep in the brooding depths of Manchester was a wicked witch named who had once been scorned by the faeries and she was jealous of James and of the singer's magical faerie dancing and she was determined to stop them. That wicked witch disguised herself as a beautiful maiden and she approached Paul after a show one night and told him that she was lost and asked if he would help her find her way home. Paul was a nice boy who always wanted to help other people so he let her into his car and drove her to her house. When they arrived, she told Paul that she was the daughter of a great magician and that she wanted to reward him. So she gave him some powder and said that if he swallowed the powder that he would have magical powers of music and that when he played the guitar he would be able to mesmerize anybody who heard him. So Paul thanked her and took the powder and swallowed it down and went home.

To be continued next issue

Space

James' winter tour 2000 was used to preview songs for their new album, with 12 new songs unveiled in total. The crowd response wasn't always good, regardless of the high quality of the new material. James have now presented the album, called "Space," to Mercury, and this is what we think of the new songs, and which ones we think could be singles.

Work it all Out: This song opened every gig on the tour. It's a fairly quiet, slow song that really grows on you, and slowly eases the crowd into the atmosphere of the concert.

Stand: This is a very memorable song with a singalong chorus that will stick in your mind. The bassline and drums are exceptionally good, and the catchiness makes this song a potential single.

Senorita: This song, along with Junkie and Swell, was first played at the MTV Five-Night Stand. Presumed to be a love song for Tim's fiancée Kate, it has proved a favourite with the fans and is almost guaranteed to be on the new album.

Daniel's Saving Grace: A very upbeat, catchy song, which the audiences loved, and should make a good single. The standout line "Drink like Richard Burton, dance like John Travolta" is one that everybody remembers.

Junkie: Another slow-paced song about addiction, with a lovely contribution from the string quartet. First played at the 5-night stand, Saul declared it to be his favourite song at the time.

The Shining: The best of the new songs. A memorable, epic ballad with lots of sonic layers, and a "big" chorus with a lyric about weathering "uncharted oceans, though the map reads lost at sea." Not a single, but a stand-out album track.

English Beefcake: A mid-paced song, with a rocking bassline, and, if you listen out for them, fantastic keyboards. Features a falsetto lyric from Tim and Michael mid-song: "I've nothing to say, I get in the way, unable to break obsession."

Pleased to Meet You: Another slow, epic song, with a lovely, emotional chorus, as Tim and Michael sing together "Pleased to meet you, where you from and what's your name?" over and over. These lines alone give it huge crowd appeal

Swell: Played at the 5-night stand, but neglected on the winter tour, which in our humble opinion is a great shame. A slow-paced song with a lyric digging at an un-named "Face of the year."

Coffee and Toast: This song, first played at V2000, has a simple sing-a-long chorus that makes it an obvious single, but somehow it lacks the unique James sound. The verses bear an uncomfortable similarity to Blondie's "Sunday Girl," which could create legal problems for the band.

Scratchcard: This upbeat, poppy song is the fans' choice for the first single. The words tell the tale of a person trying to better himself by taking drugs with the rich and famous, and the catchy "Oh Lordy" chorus will stick in your mind.

Gaudi: This song has a hard, rocky tune, which is unfortunately hampered by the incomprehensible lyrics. The chorus would be sing-a-long if we could understand the words!!!

Give it Away: Otherwise known as First on the Tape. A simple, mid-paced, fairly quiet song, it is a classic mid-album track.

Provisional Release Date: 2nd July!

My First Live James Experience – Guildford Festival 99

I got very, very lucky when it came to my first musical experience. Years and years of listening to my parents old Beatles records, and a brief, painfully embarrassing prepubescent fling with teen-pop in the form of (blush) the Backstreet Boys was all I had had in the way of musical interest when a friend of mine dragged me with her to the Guildford festival, 1999 – she had a spare ticket she had won, and didn't want to go all alone. She apparently was desperate to see some band called James. I had barely heard of them at that point, except for her fervent declarations that they were God incarnate divided by seven. As we stood at the front of the stage, elbows already beginning to get crushed from either side, I was still sceptical. This lasted for all of about two seconds after James came on stage.

The first thing I noticed, to be totally honest, was multi-instrumentalist Saul Davies. He had so much stage presence I was blown away (it had nothing to do with the fact he was totally fit and wonderfully gobby, honest!); the whole band was like that, in a slightly less abrasive way, and it was that attitude I fell for in James – spontaneous, honest, *almost* can't-be-bothered - but full of joy and genuine enthusiasm for what they were doing. Jim Glennie noticed us dancing at the front and waved – little things like that make James real people to me.

I can remember desperately trying to sing along with a bunch of songs I had never heard, but which were so catchy, so clever lyrically, so well executed musically I wanted to be part of them. I practically deafened the people around me belting out the chorus to 'Sometimes', and 'Top of the World' reduced me to tears. I had been told by my friend that this band had been around all my life and beforehand – I could hear a little voice inside me saying 'where in hell have you BEEN?' I loved the old stuff everyone else was singing to; I loved the new material from the as yet unreleased Millionaires ('Crash', with all its spirit and clueless mad defiance, is still a huge fave); I loved Booth's chaotic dancing. It was the best ⁹king day of my life.

However, my most treasured memory from that first fantastic gig is one I am going to get very smug about. In spite of only being a James

fan these past two years, I can make the increasingly rare claim that I have been part of the monumental unity song that is 'Sit Down'.

Anyone who tells you 'Sit Down' is overrated, lies, or has never been at a gig where it was played. I knew this song, every single lyric, though I'd always thought it was by The Verve or someone (don't laugh!) I was shouting along with everyone else, when Saul started motioning down with his hands. Soon everyone was sitting down on the field, or at least on whoever was behind them sitting down on the field. I at the front clung onto the railings and leaned backwards and down, watching with absolute joy as Booth came down off the stage smiling and climbed onto the barrier, where he sat down with us.



I hadn't given a crap about this band that morning; and here I was, squatted on the ground, and part of a sea of desperately upstretched arms trying to grab hold of Tim's hands as they came out to us. I know it's been said before, but this is how religion ought to be. I forgot it would ever have to finish in those few minutes.

I read the magazine reviews for James' performance at Guildford. All the usual nasty deprecating remarks, which I have become slightly used to now, shocked and puzzled the hell out of me then. 'What?' I thought, remembering every member of the audience screaming applause as the band returned for their encore. 'Weren't you there?'

James at Brixton Academy: November 8th 2000

Setlist: Work it all out, Stand Stand Stand, Senorita, Daniels Saving Grace, Say Something, Sometimes, Tomorrow, Johnny Yen, Someone's Got It In For Me, Everyone's a Junkie, The Shining, English Beefcake, Pleased To Meet You, Born Of Frustration, Destiny Calling, She's A Star, How Was It For You, Stutter / Top Of The World, Laid, Ring The Bells / Come Home

Throughout the autumn James tour, anyone on the official website would have heard the tales of sets filled with eight or nine new songs. By Brixton, the last night of the tour, we were all waiting eagerly and impatiently to hear them.

The first new song was Work it all Out, a thoughtful, mid-tempo number, a lovely song but a curious choice to open the set. The real eye-opener of the new songs was Stand Stand Stand, the one that grabbed the audience's attention and incited the first jumping and shoving of the night. The chorus "I've been dwelling on doubts and failures, I've been striking the band..." wedged itself in my head for days afterwards. Senorita followed, changed a lot since we first heard it, with "hullabaloo" somehow or other finding its way into the lyrics.

After four new songs, sections of the audience were becoming slightly bored, and the chatter was even beginning to disturb the band. As Tim said, "If the person next to you is chattering inanely and annoying you, punch 'em!"

The first familiar song of the night was Say Something, and it was truly amazing. As the audience sang the chorus and Tim, right on the edge of the stage, sang "reach out, you're not alone in this world..." you felt it could last forever, it was one of those truly unifying moments that James concerts are all about. Unfortunately it could not last forever, and the next big moment was Johnny Yen, as the extro turned in to a bizarre tale of a man who first gave away his little finger, then his whole arm, until nothing was left, before Tim and the crowd alike whipped themselves into a dancing frenzy.

After Someone's Got it in For Me, it was back to new songs, and we were treated to two of the most beautiful, mind-blowing songs of the night. The Shining was a soaring ballad, a "big" song in the best possible way. And Pleased to Meet You was five minutes of James at their thoughtful emotional best, and I know for certain I'm not the only one who wanted to pour out to Tim my whole life story as he sang.

We then moved back to "more familiar ground" as Tim tried to coax the audience into joining in with the war whoops in the intro to Born of Frustration. He had little success, and gave up with the comment "too many cowboys, not enough Indians! A mini Best-of set followed, as the audience sang along to every word. Then the main set came to an end with Stutter, which for me was the song of the evening. Stutter is THE live James song, and as the strobe lights flashed the whole audience danced like maniacs till the stage lights went down.

For the encore we were treated to the always-tear jerking Top of the World, the crowd-pleasing Laid, and a wonderful six-minute Ring The Bells, as fifteen fans invaded the stage, trying (and failing) to dance like Tim. And then it should have been over. But as the audience's relentless cry of "we want more" rocked the auditorium, the slightly bewildered-looking band returned at give us a stomping version of Come Home, before we drifted slowly out of the door on a wave of adrenaline.



Mmm...Mike...Chocolate Cake

1 Mike

For cake: 500g each butter, brown sugar, 300g black treacle, 8 eggs, 600g self-raising flour, 100g each cocoa, dark, white and milk chocolate

For butter cream: 100g orange chocolate bar, 300g butter, 700g icing sugar, Grated rind and juice of 2 ¼ oranges.

For chocolate coating: 500ml evaporated milk, 30g butter, 500g chocolate of choice, Smarties

1. Take your Mike, tie down to keep on table.
2. If Mike is secure, you can begin.
3. Cream together butter, sugar and ¼ treacle until soft and light. Spread rest of treacle over toes and lick off slowly.
4. Gradually beat...in the eggs and add a little sieved flour if things begin to curdle.
5. Melt dark, white and milk chocolate, allowing each of you 1/4 of a bar each.
6. Fold in...chocolate, sieved flour and cocoa.
7. Put into a greased and floured or lined tin (the cake, Mike won't fit) and bake for as long as it takes...to become cooked.
8. Test by pressing firmly on top.
9. Allow to cool.
10. Cream butter and icing sugar for butter cream. Mix in orange chocolate and orange rind and juice.
11. Then split into 3 layers, putting butter cream in between each layer.
12. Coat with apricot jam.
13. Heat milk and butter for coating and stir in chocolate of choice.
14. Pour chocolate...over cake (if you want) and leave to set for a few minutes.
15. Sprinkle with flake, and use the Smarties however you want.

A Story of Meeting James by Fidelma Bourke

I was lucky enough to meet Tim, David and Saul outside their MTV 5 Night Stand 2000 show at Shepherds Bush, so I'm going to tell you about my brief meeting with our lovelies!

Just half an hour after I arrived, Tim appeared and I asked him to sign my "Millionaires" CD. The pen didn't work very well and his signature looks like a snail trail, he was really sweet and said "Never mind, it'll..." and either "have a really cool effect" or "look really nice" (a friendly tout said the other thing), to be honest I was too busy thinking "F**k! This is TIM BOOTH!!!" to care what he was saying! Then he left in a taxi (with his wife?). A little while later David came out of the stage door, (carrying a tray for someone!). As I was walking up to him, I was looking at him and thinking "He lives along the road from me, I'm gonna make such an arse of myself," but he saw the CD and smiled, so I got him to sign it. I also got a photo with him, but the film wasn't properly loaded in my camera, so I guess you could say I didn't get a photo with him! I waited for nearly two more hours until there was any more excitement. That came in the (perfect) form of Saul! He was incredibly sweet. His hair was dyed yellow and was fluffy (yeah, I know, anyone who saw the show knows it was spiky, but it looked fluffy to me cos he's my favourite!). He is so beautiful in life too. When he left, I found myself jumping around hugging the CD! I was nearly hysterical, but no-one seemed to know who he was. A tout even asked me who he was! (I was like "He's my favourite!"). I left a little while later, completely and utterly happy.

James also have helped me through so many bad things, they always seem to cheer me up and make me realise that what ever my problem is, it is usually a pointless one! They're a very gentle band, Tim, David and Saul were so sweet and nice when I met them, that if they weren't already one of my favourites, they would be now!

By Ishbel Orla Whitehead

You may be wondering why this is in a James Fanzine, well it's because it was inspired by Booth and the Bad Angel. I think the storyline's quite good, although I have a severe disadvantage writing it down given that I can't. Write well that is. If it's confusing, then good. You should try living a life being that confused. Oh, and any resemblance to any persons, places, animals, remote bits of sky are completely on purpose, and if you want to sue me, try. I have no money to give you anyway. I also wish I could have had the parts named after the songs in the right order, but I think it's their order that's screwed, not mine.

Part One: Rising

My name is Freya. I can remember that. Throughout all the confusion, the one piece of knowledge I held onto. My one name. I am Freya. I am free. And this is my story. Freya's story.

I look in on the world from outside at last. Now the agonizing choice to make. I look back at my life. My life, Freya's life, my story. The cold from the mortals inside echoes around my small cell. My cell of truth. I know. The mortals don't, why would they. Mortals cannot stand to know, the few that do become mad, musicians, poets or archeologists. I could have been mortal. I was mortal. My mortality could be my end, as it is the end of those creatures outside the cell.

The hunger wells inside me, I know my choice. I will never know who I am, except that I am Freya. This is what I know, and my choice must be based on this. I am the only one who can tell Freya's story, and so tell it I must.

Freya was born. I think. I obviously cannot remember it, but others claim it happened. I didn't need to be born, my father wasn't, but Freya didn't know that at this stage. She may not have been born, but I somehow ended up the mortal world, and it's the only world I can remember knowing, so I arrived. Freya arrived, and no one came to

meet her. Many have said I wasn't born. That I was created by some Warlock, called up from the Devil. Many have said worse.

Freya grew. She did the only thing open to her, and guaranteed to make her an outcast for her life, she read. Her mother died. She was mortal, and like most mortals found that the very meaning of her existence was that she should die. It wasn't in a dramatic accident, or a slow, painful illness. I know that she was disposed of, the world's need for her gone, she had created Freya. Freya did not know this. I know this well, I have taken part in other disposals.

Her father left her. Everyone wanted to leave Freya, she made them uncomfortable with her stark, aubergine eyes and knowledge of exactly what was at the front of their minds. I can read minds. It isn't hard, not if you actually use your senses. So many mortals think that the only way of listening is with your ears, and the only way of seeing is with your eyes. Telepathy isn't a sixth sense, it's just proper use of the other five. It would sound dramatic to say that Freya grew up alone, and in many ways she did, but no, she grew in love, in the love of a mortal woman who believed Freya to be her daughter. No love from a mother, no love from a father, and yet Freya knew more about love than most.

She knew love was willing to die for itself, it was forgiving, but required work. She knew that love was precious. It could be easily given away, but so hard to gain. It was easy to lose, but hard to stop loving. She loved family, friends, men, women, boyfriends, girlfriends. Love was easy to Freya. I find it easy to hate love. And hard to trust love. Love is fickle, but love is the most steady and unbreakable thing in the mortal world.

To be continued in Issue Two

Website Review: Official James Website
www.jamestheband.com
Run by: Laurie Russinko

This site is the online home of the James community, with a chat room and message board where people meet to discuss all things James (and quite a few things that are totally irrelevant, but mostly James). Run wonderfully by Laurie Russinko (who has not paid me to say this!), this site is always first with the official James news.

Besides the many facilities for fans to communicate, the website also has a host of James information, past and present. Perhaps the best features are the reams of excellent photos from more recent tours, and several live videos from the 1999 December tour. The site also offers article archives, gigographies, and the answers to many frequently asked questions that have bugged James fans for years.

The site obviously benefits from its official status, as well as the fact that Laurie knows the band, which, lets face it, kind-of helps! Band members occasionally turn up for chats in the 40-capacity chat room, most recently Tim Booth in January. Other contributions from the band include a tour diary written by Jim Glennie, and a review of the writing of Millionaires from Mark Hunter.

As the place for James information, the site also offers a wide variety of links, to other James pages, to the sites of some of the major music mags, and, perhaps best of all, to Blue Grape merchandising company, supplier of all your James clothing needs!

The site currently has a smart-looking, blue, Millionaires-based background. It remains to see whether this shall change with the arrival of the new album, but you can be certain that you will receive all the news on the new release here!

See, very flattering isn't it. Laurie, that's a fiver you owe me!

James Quick Quiz

- 1: Egoiste is a B-side to which James song?
- 2: In what building in Eccles did the embryonic James play their first gig?
- 3: What is the date of Tim Booth's birthday?
- 4: Who originally recorded the song "So Long Marianne?"
- 5: "So you fell on your sword again." What song is this from?
- 6: How many new colours are there in the rainbow?
- 7: Two of Jim's brothers are in Exit52. What are their names?
- 8: What year was James' triumphant Alton Towers gig?
- 9: How many people have played guitar for James?
- 10: Does Tim Booth have:
A: A pocketful of lemons
B: A sack full of satsumas
C: A case of sour grapes?

Answers: 1: Runaground 2: British Legion 3: 4/2/1960
4: Leonard Cohen 5: Surprise 6: Four 7: Pete and David
8: 1992 9: five (Paul, Larry, Saul, Adrian, Michael) 10: A

Any suggestions for future quizzes are welcome: Write or email to the address at the back of the zine!

Black Hole 'zine

Black Hole 'Zine
51 Shorncliffe Crescent
Folkestone, Kent
CT20 3PF

Email: Blackhole_zine@hotmail.com

Credits: To everyone out on the James message board and chat room, really, for all your enthusiasm/nagging that finally convinced us to get this finished. And to James, of course, otherwise there'd be no fanzine. The photos in the Guildford and Brixton reviews belong to Sam Uzzell (www.stateofbliss.co.uk) and must not be reprinted without her permission.

A Plea!!!

As you have probably realised, unless you're one of those odd people who starts reading things from the back, this is very much an experimental first issue of this fanzine, and we're still not entirely sure what to put in it. So, any comments/suggestions and especially CONTRIBUTIONS would be welcome! Tell us what kind of articles you'd like to see and we'll see what we can do (of course, what we'd all like to see is an exclusive interview with James, but let's be realistic!) We are thinking of setting up a fans' forum, where we can try and answer your questions, help you search for rare James recordings, advertise for penpals, whatever. But, once again, to do that we need you to send us your questions. So, email or write to the addresses above, or, if you are ever in the chat room on the official site, give your suggestions to either Vulpina (Stephanie Harrison) or Mez (Merinne Whitton) and we'll probably tell you to stop hassling us at the time, but later we'll see if we can help you! Ok, that's it until the next issue, thank you for buying this one. Goodbye!