



This file picture taken on July 13, 2013 shows lead singer Tom Smith of the British alternative rock band Editors performing at the Optimus Alive music festival at Alges, on the outskirts of Lisbon. —AFP

Elusive British band Editors go electro with 'In Dream'

With their fifth album "In Dream", British band Editors continue to defy categorization, having left behind the energetic guitar rock of their early releases with a journey to disco's darker side. "It's experimental and pop at the same time," singer Tom Smith said of the album, which was made in just over six weeks in an artist's small, isolated house in western Scotland.

Since their debut in 2002, the band have sought to forge a distinct identity, defined by powerful guitars, dark subject matter and Smith's deep voice that recalls Ian Curtis, singer of legendary 1980s Manchester band Joy Division. "We came out at a time with a new wave of British bands, such as Bloc Party, Maximo Park, and they all sounded similar," bassist Russell Leetch told AFP of the 10 tracks, a fusion of organic sounds and haunting strings.

"The majority of pop singers don't have a baritone voice, so it gets moodier, it gets heavier," said Leetch, who cites The Cure and Radiohead as his inspirations. After their first two albums—"The Back Room" (2005) and "An End Has a Start" (2007)—charted respectively at numbers two and one in the British charts, Editors looked set to claim their place at the head of the trans-Atlantic pop-rock scene. Instead, the group began to delve into the world of electronica, using synthesizers and a host of new instruments. Hints of the new sound can be heard on third album "In This Light and on This Evening" (2009), evolving six years later into "In Dream", which threatens a clean break with the past.

A 'happy accident'

It is a break partly caused by the departure of guitarist Chris Urbanowicz. The arrival of two new members and a return to a more classic approach culminated with the release of "The Weight of Love" in 2013. But the band were still keen to experiment, and decamped to the Scottish wilderness to hone their sound.

"It was a very secluded place, 35 minutes away from the nearest town, up in the mountains, very picturesque and always windy" said Leetch. "We didn't go up there to make a new record, we went up there for a writing session. It's a happy accident that it turned into a record," he added. As each new song is dissected and reinterpreted, the classic rock sound of guitar, bass and drums is gradually abandoned. Even Smith's distinctive dark voice swings between bass and treble. The arrival of a new vintage is reinforced by the presence of British singer Rachel Goswell, the first guest artist to appear on one of the band's albums. The next test is to recreate the ambience live during a tour that starts in Britain on October 9 before hitting Europe. "It's always a challenge," said Leetch of the live shows. "Sometimes we have to re-amplify certain songs." —AFP



Amandine Drouet, left, and Jodi Fleck put the finishing touches on Embodied Energy Studio's ArtPrize entry "Current Collections" at Calder Plaza in Grand Rapids.



Ann and Steven Loveless talk after being named the \$200,000 Public Grand Prize winner for "Northwood Awakening" during the ArtPrize Awards.



Kate Gilmore, left, pulls Paul Amenta to the podium to talk after Gilmore was named the \$200,000 Juried Grand Prize winner for "Higher Ground." —AP photos

Michigan, NY artists win grand prizes at ArtPrize

Artists from Michigan and New York each won \$200,000 grand prizes Friday at the seventh annual ArtPrize, a competition that brought 1,550 entries to western Michigan. Textile artist Ann Loveless and her husband, photographer Steven Loveless, won the public vote for "Northwood Awakening," a large photo print and quilt hybrid. It depicts a serene wood-

land panorama. Ann Loveless also won in 2013. The couple lives in Beulah, Michigan. "Once again, reverence for technical skill in two-dimensional work - this time in a stunning combination of large-scale photography and intricate textile - has captured the imagination of the voting public," said Christian Gaines, ArtPrize executive director. Gaines said he's "stunned and delighted"

to have a repeat winner. Separately, a jury of experts awarded a \$200,000 grand prize to Kate Gilmore of New York for "Higher Ground." She transformed a former Grand Rapids convent into performance art with women swinging on swings in open windows. "Kate Gilmore's piece is really kind of magical in a way that we've maybe lost sight of," said juror Dan Cameron of New Orleans.

The event's total purse was \$500,000. Other awards totaling \$100,000 were given to winners in certain categories. There were 1,550 eligible works at ArtPrize from 48 countries and 42 US states and territories. Public votes were cast using the ArtPrize mobile app, online and via text message to determine the grand prize given to Ann and Steven Loveless. —AP



Chloe Goins, a model who claims entertainer Bill Cosby drugged and sexually abused her at the Playboy Mansion in 2008. — AP

Judge refuses to throw out defamation suit against Cosby

A defamation lawsuit brought against Bill Cosby by three women who say he sexually abused them decades ago can move forward, a federal judge in Massachusetts ruled Friday, delivering a legal blow to the comedian as he attempts to defend himself against accusations of sexual assault by dozens of women.

The women claim in their lawsuit that Cosby's representatives damaged their reputations by denying their allegations in sometimes disparaging language. Cosby's lawyers had asked the judge to dismiss their suit, arguing that the remarks were personal opinions protected by the First Amendment and legal declarations made in his defense.

But in his ruling Friday, US District Court Judge Mark Mastroianni rejected Cosby's bid to dismiss the case before it ever goes to a jury. The women - Tamara Green, Therese Serignese and Linda Traitz - have accused Cosby of drugging them and then having unwanted sexual contact with them.

The comments they claim were defamatory range from statements dismissing their accusations as "ridiculous claims" and "absurd fabrication" to longer remarks that sought to discredit the accusers. "As the old saying goes, 'consider the source,'" ended one statement that touched on Traitz's criminal and prison record.

In his ruling, Mastroianni rejects Cosby's

argument that the statements were legal declarations made in self-defense. "The court recognizes that some jurisdictions do apply a version of the conditional self-defense privilege, which allows individuals, in certain circumstances, to publish defamatory responsive statements necessary to defend their reputation. However ... such a privilege does not permit a defendant to knowingly publish false statements of fact," the judge wrote in his 38-page ruling.

Telephone messages left for four attorneys who represent Cosby in the Massachusetts lawsuit were not immediately returned. Cosby has a house in Shelburne Falls, in western Massachusetts. "As we'd expected and hoped, the judge rejected every one of Mr. Cosby's attempts to throw the case out of court and allowed the case to proceed," said Joseph Cammarata, an attorney who represents the three women.

"We will take Mr. Cosby's deposition at the earliest possible moment. My clients look forward to moving the case forward and to restoring their good names and reputations." "Dateline NBC" is airing a special Friday night in which 29 Cosby accusers will be interviewed together about their allegations. Three separate lawsuits have been filed against him. Cosby has never been charged with a crime and he has denied the allegations. —AP

HAMILTON WATCHES EMBARK UPON AN EPIC JOURNEY WITH 'THE MARTIAN'

Hamilton Watches, known for their leading role in the worlds of aviation and cinema, as well as their innovative and precise timekeeping expertise, return to the big screen this fall, in 20th Century Fox's epic adventure, The Martian. During a manned mission to Mars, Astronaut Mark Watney (Matt Damon) is presumed dead after a fierce storm and left behind by his crew. But Watney has survived and finds himself stranded and alone on the hostile planet. With only meager supplies, Watney must draw upon his ingenuity, wit and spirit to subsist and find a way to signal to Earth that he is alive. Millions of miles away, NASA and a team of international scientists work tirelessly to bring the Martian home, while his crewmates concurrently plot a daring, if not impossible, rescue mission. As these stories of incredible bravery unfold, the world comes together to root for Watney's safe return. Based on a best-selling novel, and helmed by master director Ridley Scott, The Martian features a star-studded cast that includes Jessica Chastain, Kristen Wiig, Kate Mara, Michael Pena, Jeff Daniels, Chiwetel Ejiofor, and Donald Glover. The Martian opens in theaters starting October 8th, 2015.

Reliable timekeeping is crucial not only for Hamilton Watches but also for the leading character in the film, scientist Mark Watney. (Matt Damon). Every second counts and time means survival, so the obvious timepiece chosen to fit such a challenging role is the military-inspired Hamilton BeLOWZERO. This pitch black Hamilton timepiece is a helpful tool for Watney to pull off his mission in such extreme and dangerous circumstances. It features four octagonal bold screw tops around the watch case and a sporty black rubber strap with a double-holed buckle, ensuring a secure fit on the wrist. The Hamilton BeLOWZERO's rugged and robust high-tech design strike a perfect balance to Watney's pioneering spirit and need for precision.

The action adventure The Martian also features other signature Hamilton pieces worn by additional cast members: The X-Wind Limited Edition can be seen on the wrist of Rick Martinez (Michael PeOa) and the Pilot Pioneer Aluminum is worn by Commander Melissa Lewis (Jessica Chastain) and Beth Johanssen (Kate Mara). Inspired by Hamilton's earliest timepieces, the pocket watches which were originally designed to meet the needs of US railroad timekeeping in 1892, the Railroad Auto Chrono, is worn by Chris Beck (Sebastian Stan). As the crew plan their incredible mission to bring the Martian home while wearing the above-mentioned Hamilton timepieces, we recognize once again the spirit of precision and reliability, which are great attributes equally shared by Hamilton Watches!

This "starring" role in The Martian is the latest in over



450 movie placements for Hamilton. The first came more than 60 years ago when the brand's watches first appeared in The Frogmen. Since then, Hamilton has worked closely with costume designers and prop masters to supply watches to filmmakers. "Our work with The Martian underlines the essence of the brand - the American Spirit and Swiss Precision. Such attributes are so well reflected by the star-studded cast in their challenging roles, so our timepieces really are the perfect fit for this movie. Furthermore it exemplifies the ongoing relationship we have had with Hollywood over the past six decades and how we've collaborated with many talented behind-the-scenes professionals to help bring their characters to life" said Sylvain Dolla, CEO of Hamilton International Ltd.

Due to its continued involvement with Hollywood, Hamilton recognizes the wide spectrum of opportunities associated to the red carpet. With this in mind, the brand created the Hamilton Behind The Camera Awards, held in both Los Angeles and Shanghai. The awards pay tribute to the brilliant off-screen talent that contribute

to the quality of a motion picture and to the lasting impression it makes on its audience.

