



Events

BUG 23

BUG title sequence

Director: Miland Suman
Music: Matthew Reay
Original Illustration: Paul Greeno

The Shoes – Stay the Same

Director: Daniel Wolfe
Production Company: Somesuch & Co.
Record Company: Greencard Union Music
UK/France 2011

Bonjay – Stumble

Director: Sammy Rawal
Production Company: Revolver Film Co.
Record Company: Mysteries of Trade
Canada 2010

Arcade Fire – The Suburbs

Director: Spike Jonze
Production Company: MJZ
Record Company: Mercury
USA 2010

UNKLE – Runaway (Pointman Re-edit)

Director: John Nolan
Production Company: Streetlight Films
Record Company: Surrender All
UK 2010

Darwin Deez – DNA

Director: Miles Crawford
Record Company: Lucky Number Music
USA 2010

The Key

Hauschka – Children
Director: Jeff Desom
Production Company: n/a
Record Company: Fat Cat
Luxembourg/Germany 2010

Selected works of Andreas Nilsson including:

Fever Ray – If I Had a Heart
Peter Bjorn & John – Nothing to Worry About
MGMT – Flash Delirium
Miike Snow – Rabbit
Yeasayer – Madder Red

A Fly Trapped in a Jar: An Alien Musical

Modest Mouse – Fly Trapped in a Jar
Director: The Saline Project
Production Company: The Saline Project
Record Company: Epic/Sony Music
USA 2010

Plan B – Love Goes Down

Director: Daniel Wolfe
Production Company: Somesuch & Co
Record Company: Atlantic Records
UK 2010

Scissor Sisters – Invisible Light

Director: Nicolas Mendez
Production Company: Partizan
Record Company: Polydor
USA/Spain/UK 2010

Klaxons – Twin Flames

Director: Saam Farahmand
Production Company: Partizan
Record Company: Polydor
UK 2010

Happy new year, welcome to the first BUG of 2011 and our latest presentation of the very best in new music video creativity. As always, Adam Buxton is your guide to the BUG team's latest attempts to define the Evolution of Music Video: highly original, cutting edge, sometimes outrageous vids, and a lot more besides, including the very finest examples of 'YouTubery' Adam can find. We're talking about the comments, of course.

We have a diverse selection of work for you, incorporating gritty narrative, experimental dance, astonishing visual effects and gratuitous nudity. Furthermore we are delighted to welcome a very special guest to tonight's show. Swedish director and artist Andreas Nilsson is one of the most distinctive talents working in music videos today – and that's only one of the things he does. His off-the-wall sensibility and deadpan wit has graced increasingly high profile videos for the past few years. We'll be showing some of those and Adam will talk to Andreas about his work later in the show.

But we begin with the latest video by Daniel Wolfe – a very intense, enigmatic work for the French DJ outfit The Shoes' new single *Stay the Same*. The director scooped numerous awards for his outstanding series of promos for Plan B last year – including best director at the 2010 UK Music Video Awards – and is establishing a formidable reputation for storytelling in the tradition of gritty British cinema. Here the focus is a man on the brink, played with unflinching brilliance by Johnny Harris (best known for his work in *London to Brighton* and *This Is England '86*). It's a mesmerising performance.

Next comes the video for Canadian dance combo Bonjay's *Stumble* by Sammy Rawal – or rather one of two vids for the track. The Toronto-based photographer-turned-director separately shot two dancers performing the same dance routine, choreographed by Dana Michel, which combines traditional dancehall style with contemporary dance. And this is the 'Addy' version – performed by Addy Chan.

We return to an enigmatic narrative for Spike Jonze's video for the title track of Arcade Fire's acclaimed third album *The Suburbs*. Described as a short film project by the band while it was being shot last summer in Austin, Texas, a bunch of ordinary happy-go-lucky suburban 15 year olds, become increasingly embroiled in the realities of a new, very frightening America. But there is another disconcerting element – the shorthand way this coming of age story is told. Jonze plays with the conventions and this gets under your skin.

After our first break comes a work by John Nolan, whose brilliant viral smash Nolan's *Cheddar*, featuring an unforgettable animatronic mouse, featured at BUG last year. A VFX expert who has worked on numerous features and TV, his first music project is a collaboration with James Lavelle for an UNKLE-curated exhibition in London last year: the Pointman character from the first UNKLE album was built as a real functioning robot, shot to new music from Lavelle. It's another showcase for the director's animatronic-building talents, with a flavour of Chris Cunningham – with whom he has been recently working.

That's followed by a new video for Darwin Deez, an artist who has become something of a regular on BUG. However, Darwin's distinctive jerricurled locks are entirely absent from the video for *DNA*. Instead this video, apparently shot for \$100, captures the spirit of another top song from DD's superlative debut album through the medium of dance. It was directed by Miles Crawford – filmmaker, dancer and sometime Darwin Deez drummer – who shot it as an unofficial project, but it now has been adopted as the official video.



BUG thanks...

Adam Buxton www.adam-buxton.com

Andreas Nilsson
Blink Productions
www.nixonnoxin.com

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SAATCHI & SAATCHI

BUG is curated by David Knight & Phil Tidy
david@bugvideos.co.uk
phil@bugvideos.co.uk

For general information about BUG, contact
Louise Stevens louise@bugvideos.co.uk

THE BUG TEAM:
Chris Blakeston, Stuart Brown, David Knight,
Louise Stevens, Miland Suman, Phil Tidy

For regular updates, check out
www.bugmusicvideos.com
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Forthcoming events:
BUG: Royksopp Special – Feb 11th
BUG @ Leicester Comedy Festival – Feb 18th
BUG #24 – March 24th and 25th.
Ticket sales for BUG #24 will open in early
February.
Check www.bugmusicvideos.com for details.

Then comes a short film cum video for experimental German pianist Hauschka by Jeff Desom, a London-based filmmaker who originally hails from Luxembourg. The pair has worked together before, most notably when the director made the award-winning video for the track *Morgenrot*, with the abiding image of a smoking upright piano falling from a skyscraper in 1930s New York. In *The Key*, the upright piano is back, but this is actually an exquisite silent comedy, featuring actress Summer Shapiro, battling to transport the piano through the breathtaking scenery of Jeff Desom's home country. Apart from anything else, you will (perhaps for the first time) be deeply impressed by Luxembourg.

Then we welcome our special guest Andreas Nilsson to the stage. Andreas comes from Malmo (in southern Sweden), and although originally an artist, he has been making videos for about a decade, progressing from a rough and ready, slightly demented video art to something much more visually refined and commercial – but in terms of content, still demented. Having worked with The Knife and Jose Gonzalez and other Swedish acts, Andreas then became artistic director of Karin Dreijer Andersson's non-Knife project Fever Ray in 2008/09 and directed the brilliantly brooding video for *If I Had a Heart*. His reputation has gone from strength to strength ever since, with a steady stream of excellent videos for Röyksopp, Peter Bjorn and John, MGMT, Miike Snow, Yeasayer and more. Adam will be finding out more about the man from Malmo and exploring his dryly witty, wacky work.

We're back with the main programme with a video that has suffered a torrid history over several years in its painful gestation. This work for Modest Mouse's *Fly Trapped in a Jar* by New York-based direction/animation team The Saline Project brought opprobrium down on the directors' heads when a version crept out onto the internet a couple of years ago without the band's approval. Now revised, reworked, and endorsed by Modest Mouse frontman Isaac Brock – who also appears in the video in part-animation form – it has been finally released as *A Fly Trapped in a Jar: An Alien Musical*: a part-CGI performance video with Isaac backed by a fluctuating line-up of identical aliens, all played by Saline Project member Adam Toht.

Then comes our second video by Daniel Wolfe in tonight's show – the latest episode in his now-epic series for Plan B's concept album *The Defamation of Strickland Banks*. This actually fills in an important gap in the story previously told of the Banks' character's fall from grace. In fact, it chronicles when it starts to happen – at a TV pop show, where the action takes place both in front and backstage and a drama is played out where Vicky McClure (another leading actor in *This Is England '86*) plays a key role as Strickland's long-suffering wife.

At BUG 22 we featured El Guincho's *Bombay* by Nicolas Mendez of the Barcelona-based directing team Canada, a saucy blend of surrealism and eroticism that got noticed. It's led to a new video by Mendez for the Scissor Sisters' *Invisible Light* that, if anything, is an even more compelling compendium of non-sequitur imagery, apparently taken from a gloriously over-the-top seventies movie. It's absolutely dazzling and a remarkable achievement (and Sir Ian McKellen is on the soundtrack).

No prizes for guessing the inspiration for Saam Faharamand's latest video for his old sparring partners Klaxons – the grossout climax of Brian Yuzna's cult horror-satire *Society*. But if anything, Saam takes things further – this deeply bizarre tableau of attached bodies is stunningly executed, particularly in one extended tracking shot. And it's a jawdropping way to end this edition of BUG. We hope you enjoy and come back many more times in 2011.