

AIM Board Nominees

JEN ANDERSON – KING TUTS RECORDINGS

Biography

At 22 I am already the label manager for the famous Glasgow venue's record label, King Tuts Recordings, I also run my own record label Euphonios which releases singles of the best new bands to get them recognized and to teach them about the industry. I deal with A&R decisions, Catco, manufacturing and distribution. I also work as an assistant booker at DF Concerts and manage three UK bands.

Statement

I have a good understanding of the recorded and live music sectors as well as the issues facing both of these. I am still quite young and learning a lot however this means that I am constantly on top of new happenings and new companies. I am also based in Scotland which is sometimes forgotten in the grand scheme of recorded music. I would like to learn from some of the established labels but also provide a voice for the smaller independent labels that have some great ideas. I also believe I can provide a link between the recorded and live music sectors.

BILLY GRANT – 2POINT9 RECORDS

Biography

Billy began working on compilations at Telstar Records in 1994 before switching to A&R and promotion of artists such as Craig David & Mis Teeq. In 2003 he set up label and management company 2Point9. Described as the "Def Jam for British Asian Music" by the Guardian, created international superstars out of Jay Sean, Juggy D & Rishi Rich. 2007 saw 2Point9 refocus their business more mainstream, charting the follow up album from Jay Sean 'Me Against Myself' at No 6. Billy was cited in a Guardian newspaper 'Media Power List' in the Top 30 most important ethnic minority figures

Statement

I joined the music industry for the same reason most people do - because I loved music. I felt it was still possible to embrace creativity and commerciality without necessarily "buying success" if you were clever and thought outside the box. Idealistic maybe! But sometimes you've gotta dream.

Fourteen years on I've wised up a tad. The industry still excites me though. And with music far easier to get to the punter than ever before, improvements in technology coupled with non-traditional ways of running your business will become key factors in having success. I believe the future is very bright for independents and I am hoping as a member of the AIM board I can contribute to help make the independent sector even stronger whilst maintaining the creativity that makes it special.

KERRY HARVEY-PIPER – RED GRAPE RECORDS

Biography

My background is in marketing for the media and not-for-profit sectors, and I ran my own PR & marketing company for many years. For several years I was part of the development team for an early online social networking site for musicians. In 2006 I set up Red Grape Records with my partner, musician and producer Calum MacColl and we now have 5 artists on the label.

Statement

I believe I will bring a different perspective to the Board. As a woman in my forties, married to a musician and with five teenage children (of whom two are already gigging musicians) I have an artist-centric personal approach that I combine with my business experience. I came into the industry relatively late, and with virtually no funding and precious little experience I set up a label from scratch and am making it work through a combination of enthusiasm, idealism and sheer hard work. I share many of the characteristics of AIM; a passion for the music, a single-minded determination to keep going, an ability to get a job done and a healthy disregard for time wasting. AIM is a ground-breaking organisation and since I have no preconceptions about the 'right' way to do things, I believe my experience of 'making it up as you go along' will be invaluable to both the Board and the members.

KATIA ISAKOFF – HAIRPIN RECORDS

Biography

Katia Isakoff is a singer, songwriter, music producer and is currently MD of Hairpin (Records, Production & Management) and The Altersonic Sound Company). She has worked with record companies such as Mute & EMI, notable collaborations have included ADD N To (X) Loud Like Nature (composing, performing & producing) and singing for Barry Adamson (Magazine; Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds). In partnership with producer Steve D'Agostino UNIT20 recording & productions have worked with clients such as: ADD N To (X) (Avant Hard); Thurston Moore (Root); Heaven 17 (Retox, Detox) and John Foxx (various).

Statement

I am extremely passionate about music. The freedom and democratisation which has occurred as a consequence of greater access to recording equipment and the internet, has been liberating and empowering for the independent - the icing on the cake? Being a member of AIM! As a Director of the MPG (Music Producers Guild) and editor for ARP (Art of Record Production), I would like to encourage more collaborative networking events and ventures between independent music producers and record companies. Equally, I wish to contribute to AIM's ongoing mission to help shape and guide the future towards new business models, opportunities, and supporting its members.

GILEAD LIMOR – GILEAD LIMOR

Biography

Gilead Limor has been working as a recording artist, producer and engineer since 1981. Residing in Israel until 1999, he produced recordings freelance and at Keshet Recording Studios which he built in 1988. Since moving to England, Gilead has worked with classical and contemporary musicians, and produces recordings regularly for Sir Peter Maxwell Davies. Gilead has established Seven Cedars Music - a label focusing on Period Performance and Contemporary Music. Gilead is a director on the board of the APRS.

Statement

Although I am relatively new on the scene as a record label, I have become involved in the music industry through the APRS, as a producer and as a trade association representative. I believe that I can apply my experience to AIM, and help it spearhead the independent music industry to define the music industry rather than just adapt to it. The independent music industry holds the key to the future of quality musical output in the UK, and I uphold high standards to this goal. I'd call for an emphasis on membership, and the organising of events and symposia which focus on relevant industry issues.

SIMON RAYMONDE – BELLA UNION

Biography

Born 1962 in London, son of Ivor Raymonde, writer and arranger for Dusty Springfield, Walker Brothers, etc joined Cocteau Twins in 1983 and released 10 albums till the split in 1997. Started Bella Union same year. Producer of many great albums: Clearlake and James Yorkston for Domino Records, the Duke Spirit (2 albums), mixed Lift to Experience. Fionn Regan's Mercury Prize-nominated debut, Stephanie Dosen's acclaimed 'a lily for the spectre'. Supports spurs. Two sons.

Statement

In the ten years since starting the label as a cocteau twin, with no initial intention to ever sign any other bands, it's been at times an overwhelming experience. Working closely with bands like Midlake, Fleet Foxes, Explosions in The Sky, Dirty Three, Laura Veirs, Fionn Regan, Lift to Experience, Beach House and Stephanie Dosen continues to be both rewarding and enriching. Coming from the same background as most of my artists, I am able to empathise with situations they may find themselves in. This 'artist' perspective is unique in today's independent label sector. I can't think of too many other artist-run labels. This gives me an insight that may be useful to the board.

JEFF THOMPSON – FAT NORTHERNER RECORDS

Biography

I've worked with Fat Northerner Records for around three years. It is a small team, so like most Indies, I am involved in pretty much everything the label does - I like to think I am the diplomatic one. The ethos of the label is what inspires me. We do what we believe in, regardless. We love what we do, and it is always worth the risk. We are proud of the music we put out.

Statement

We believe Jeff could make an exceptional contribution to the AIM board. First of all, because of the nature of Fat Northerner Records, he has an excellent grasp of the issues facing small and DIY labels in the current climate. Moreover, he is playing an active role in trying to find solutions and alternatives for labels such as ours, and as technology 'levels the playing field', this will be increasingly relevant to all of AIM's members. We also think Jeff will provide an important insight for the board, particularly with regards to issues facing labels in the regions. He is also an eternal optimist.

BEN WATT – BUZZIN' FLY RECORDS

Biography

Started out as a solo artist during the heyday of London indie, Cherry Red in 1981. Most famous for his subsequent 15-year nine-album career as a recording artist with Tracey Thorn in alt-pop band, Everything But The Girl. For the past 10 years he has been a leading international club DJ. He co-owned and ran music policy for two major West London nightclubs before quitting in 2003 to set up his award-winning independent label Buzzin' Fly Records specialising in house, electronica and techno. In 2006 he launched its sister imprint, Strange Feeling Records, focusing on alt-indie. His radio show goes out weekly on Kiss. He lives in London with his long-time partner Tracey Thorn and their three children.

Statement

Since 1981 I have seen the industry in depth from all sides - as both an indie and major label artist, as both an underground and radio DJ, as both a promoter and a label boss. To my mind, the bedrock of talent is rooted in the independent sector, but it is often hampered and undone by lack of awareness and understanding of how the business works. I believe that to bring such talent to fruition, you need to understand the history of music, demystify the business and recognise the future, and then join these dots for people with articulacy, honesty and unstinting enthusiasm.

JULIE WEIR – VISIBLE NOISE

Biography

I have been passionate about music my whole life and have been lucky enough to have been working with it in some form or another since university, when I was involved as music reviews editor for the Uni Magazine. On graduating and moving to Leeds, I worked in an indie record shop, ran a club (Asylum) and worked on the magazine for the now sadly defunct Dutchess of York. I was offered a British Academy Scholarship to do an MA in Film and Media in 1994 and so moved to London, where I completed the course with distinction and went on to find work in the music industry. Being taken on by Cacophonous Records as Merchandising Manager in 2005 I worked with a number of Underground and Black Metal Artists (Cradle of Filth, Dimmu Borgir etc) until 1998 when I set up Visible Noise, then an incubator label for UK talent - now in its 10th year having had a number one album, platinum sellers, festival headliners and sold out stadium tours!! I am happy to be associated with a lot of great homegrown talent with a lot more to come...

Statement

I have been working in the music industry for 13 years and have seen a lot of changes take place. I have worked up from a tiny underground independent to a now sizeable established and accomplished label that takes a very hands on view to the way our bands and affairs are dealt with and presented. I enjoy the industry and would like to learn more... maybe even change a few things!!

