

dan sultan

Singer-songwriter Dan has rocked his way into the hearts of many. He tells us about his third album Blackbird, released this month

TELL US ABOUT BLACKBIRD.

With past records I feel like I haven't been able to fully express myself; I was always collaborating a lot. The nature of collaboration is compromise. With this record, although there were co-writes and collaborations, I felt like it was more me than any other thing that I've done. I wanted a bigger sound and I wanted things to be more rock 'n' roll.

TELL US ABOUT ONE OF YOUR SONGS.

Some songs take as long to write as it does to sing them, and some songs take a long time. I went into this writing process

with a lot of ideas that I had come up with a long time ago. One song in particular I started about 10 years ago, and we only got it ready for the record a couple of days before we went into the studio. It's one of my favourite tracks. It's a song called "High Street Riot".

WHO HAS INSPIRED YOU?

I grew up listening to a lot of Jimi Hendrix. A lot of Australian bands too: Warumpi Band, No Fixed Address, Midnight Oil, The Angels, AC/DC. I was a young kid who just wanted to play electric guitar as loud as

I could in a rock 'n' roll band! I guess in a lot of ways I haven't really moved past that.

WHAT IS ESSENTIAL FOR GOOD ROCK?

A lot of confidence and a bit of bravado. It goes hand in hand with good performance, as well as humility. I think fun is also pretty essential.

Rock 'n' roll has always been about breaking out and having fun with your mates. It can't be fun all the time – it's a lot of work – but it's good when it is.

WHAT ARE YOU LISTENING TO NOW?

There's a song Daft Punk have done with Julian Casablancas [lead singer of The Strokes] on their latest record called "Instant Crush". It's really doing it for me at the moment.

For more information about *Blackbird*, and for tour dates, visit dansultan.com

DAN RECOMMENDS:

Emma Donovan:

"She's done a lot, toured a lot and she's about to break out and do her own thing with her own record."
emmadowan.com

