

The Times  
16 May 2009

(16)  
PLAYLIST

## Music

### Rock and pop

Critic's  
choice



#### Pete Paphides

##### 1 NME Radar Tour: La Roux

Under the *NME* banner, Brixton's emerging synth siren La Roux takes to the road. **KOKO, London NW1 (www.koko.uk.com 0870 4325527), Tues**

##### 2 Morrissey

Mixing up solo and Smiths highlights with songs from his latest opus *Years of Refusal*, Morrissey spends the week of his 50th birthday at the coal face of his fans' adoration. **Hull Arena (01482 325252), Tues; Apollo, Manchester (www.livenation.co.uk 0870 4018000), Fri & May 23**

##### 3 James Yorkston

"Singer-songwriter" barely does justice to the spell that James Yorkston's tender Fife burr is apt to weave with his four-album canon. **HMV Picture House, Edinburgh (www.mamagroup.co.uk 0844 8472487), Tues; Tolbooth, Stirling (01786 274000), Thur**

##### 4 Friendly Fires

The clamour for the lose-yourself factory funk in which Friendly Fires specialise shows no sign of abating. **53 Degrees, University of Central Lancashire, Preston (www.53degrees.net 01772 893000), Fri**

##### 5 Graham Coxon

*The Spinning Top* sees Coxon embrace the arcane tunings of folk guitar legends such as Bert Jansch and Davy Graham with frequently breathtaking results. **The Cluny, Newcastle upon Tyne (www.headofsteam.co.uk 0191-230 4474), Mon; The Rescue Rooms, Nottingham (www.rescuerooms.com 0871 3100000), Sun**

ROBERT VOS / PHOTOSHOT