

CHANNEL M'S ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTER,
STEPH ELMORE, CATCHES UP WITH THE MAN BEHIND
 THE MUSIC AT THE CITY'S TOP MUSIC DIVE, MOHO LIVE...

DANNY BOY

EMBRACE frontman Danny McNamara is all set to celebrate the first birthday of his legendary *The Aftershow* at Moho Live and he says he's feeling pretty cool about it.

"The initial aim was to provide a platform for some of the best unsigned acts in Manchester, and the response has been fantastic," he said. "We've had some brilliant new bands performing way before anyone had heard of them, including The Ting Tings, Twisted Wheel and Delphic."

One year on, the night has gone from strength to strength and Danny's taken *The Aftershow* to bi-monthly spots. "Manchester's on fire, man," he said. "It hasn't been this way since the Stone Roses and the Happy Mondays. And that was the idea: to find 50 of the best new bands on the scene. By November last year I'd unearthed 700 in Manchester alone. Any other city would have just a fraction." I wondered why Danny, who along with his own band has notched up numerous top 10 hits and No 1 albums, needs to take the career u-turn from being a singer in a band to promoting them?

He said: "People think I'm fu**ing mental but I love it. Every time I put a night on it's one big party."

And his ability to discover the cream of Manchester is unquestionable. Ever since

he booked the unsigned and unknown Ting Tings he's been constantly offered jobs from record companies, but he's not keen. "As if, f**k that man," he said. "They want me to tell them who's good and who's not. I'm not clocking in and out, get a grip."

Over the past year *The Aftershow*'s seen plenty of legends pass through its doors from Howard Marks to Peter Hook and Johnny Marr, but Danny isn't phased. "There's no VIP treatment and no VIP areas," he said. "One time I was sitting in a London bar with some mates. Someone had just bought a bottle of £300 vodka and the staff kicked us out of our seats. It's like the reverse of Robin Hood. Steal from the poor and give to the rich."

It was after this that Danny was adamant his nights were just about the music, and with the first birthday party line up to include Twisted Wheel, The Metros, Kid British and Gideon Conn he's standing by his word.

You could say Danny McNamara has Embrace-d our music talent. Good on him. So who's gonna get him that £300 bottle of vodka?

The Aftershow's first birthday party is on Friday September 12 at Moho Live on Tib Street in the Northern Quarter.

Tickets are priced at £5 in advance. For information go to www.theaftershow.net, www.ticketline.co.uk or www.seetickets.com. Call 0871 424 4444 or 0870 264 3333. ■

Wednesday

100% Salsa: Dance lessons followed by a disco. *Copacabana Latino Bar*, £4.50, 0161 237 3441

Latin Night: Shake your booty to live music courtesy of Chicada. *Zar Bar*, free, 0161 227 7550

Thursday

Agenda Suicide: Allegedly, this new club night is going to keep the party feel in the sometimes too cool for school Northern Quarter. *The Bay Horse*, free, www.myspace.com/agendasuicidemcr

Romp: Midweek hip hop beats. *One Central Street*, £5, www.onecentralstreet.co.uk

Friday

Seductive: Sensual sounds at the exclusive night club. *Ampersand*, £5 before 12am, www.theampersand.co.uk

Indulge: DJs Lemmie and Vinnie B put on a night of debauchery and indulgence. *Sugar Lounge*, £5, www.sugarlounge.co.uk

Galaxy Presents Friday: The superclub puts on yet another clubbing classic that's broadcast across the Galaxy network.

Pure, £6/£8, www.pure-manchester.com

Northern Funk: Vintage soul and funk at one of Manchester's coolest night clubs. *One Central Street*, £4, 0161 211 9000

All Back To Ours: An independent offering in the middle of chain-club boulevard. *Atlas*, free, www.allbacktoours.com

Saturday

Clint Boon's Disco Rescue: Friend of the people Mr Clint Boon spins kitsch classics. *South*, £7, 0161 831 7756

Disco Outcasts: Quirky basement tunes and top disco tuncage. *Purple Pussycat*, free, www.purplepussycat.co.uk

Opus Saturdays: Chart classics with a bit of RnB, hip hop and funky house thrown in for good measure. *Opus*, £6-£9, www.opusmanchester.com

Sunday

Buff Bang Pow! Agent Ribbons and Arcadian Kicks join the line-up at this wicked club night. *Ruby Lounge*, £6 in advance, www.buffbangpow.co.uk

Out Of The Gloom: Forget all about the credit crunch, the rising cost of petrol and falling house prices at this chillout favourite. *Dry Bar*, free, www.outofthegloom.co.uk

Monday

Vodka Island: Forget Love Island, this is the only bit of land to be stranded on. *Tiger Tiger*, £4/£4.50, www.roughhill.co.uk

Up The Racket: Want to hear what's going to massive sometime soon? Get yourself to student favourite Joshua Brooks. *Joshua Brooks*, £4, www.myspace.com/uptheracket

Tuesday

Best Indie Night Ever: Find out if it lives up to its name. *42nd Street*, £3, www.42ndstreetnightclub.co.uk