

A man with a beard and short hair, wearing a dark jacket, is shown in profile from the chest up. He is looking towards the left. The background is a light-colored wall with dark, circular patterns.

FRED
DEAKIN

A woman with long, wavy hair is shown from the chest up, looking down. She is wearing a light-colored top. The background is dark with some vertical lines.

CHARLOTTE
HATHERLEY

A woman with long blonde hair is shown from the chest up, looking down. She is wearing a dark top. She is holding a guitar. A microphone on a stand is visible in the foreground on the left. The background is a light-colored wall with dark, circular patterns.

ABI
SINCLAIR

A man with short hair is shown from the chest up, looking down. He is wearing a dark shirt. He is playing a white electric guitar with a red strap. The background is dark with some light spots.

STEFAN HUW
DAVIES

INTO THE DARKNESS
FRED DEAKIN AND
THE LASTERS



Synopsis / Video
Cast
Live Screening Event
Credits



SYNOPSIS

Director: Paul Wyatt
 Running time: 85'

Year: 2020

VIDEO

[Trailer Private Link \(0.60s\)](#)

[Screener Private Link \(84'\)](#)

Into the Darkness: Fred Deakin and the Lasters

LOGLINE:

Having sold over half a million records as one half of noughties dance band "Lemon Jelly", what did Fred Deakin do when his teenage dream of being in a group ended? INTO THE DARKNESS chronicles Fred Deakin's "Stratospherically out there" return to the live stage.

SYNOPSIS:

In the early noughties, Fred Deakin had major global success as one half of dance band "Lemon Jelly" who sold over half a million records and were nominated for the Mercury Prize and a Brit Award. Fred Deakin was already known for his work as a DJ as well as creating his own flyers and club night posters. There wasn't a student flat in the whole of Edinburgh that didn't have a Fred Deakin poster blu tacked to the wall in the 80s. By 2008 Lemon Jelly had ended leaving Fred looking for a new project. In 2019 he produced The Lasters a bold and commercially risky concept album, a format that was out of fashion even

at the height of its fashion in the 1970s. Fred began work with Charlotte Hatherley known for her work with Ash, Imelda May and recording with legendary performers such as Ronnie Wood and Bryan Ferry. Along for the ride were newcomers Abi Sinclair and Stefan Huw Davies and music innovator and producer Harri Chambers. "Into the Darkness: Fred Deakin and The Lasters" goes backstage to capture the nerves, excitement and some of the drama of putting on two sold-out live shows ahead of a national tour.



CAST
FEATURING

Fred Deakin

As half of the band, **Lemon Jelly**, **Fred Deakin** headlined stages at almost every major UK music festival (Glastonbury, Bestival, Big Chill, Reading, Leeds, T in the Park etc.) and made three albums.

Fred was also founder and director of ground-breaking London digital design agency **Airside** with Nat Hunter and Alex Maclean which won and was nominated for two **BAFTAs**, nine **D&ADs**, four **Design Week** awards.

Fred is well known for his highly collectable work as an artist and designer which pioneered the vector art-aesthetic.

freddeak.in

Charlotte Hatherley

Charlotte Hatherley is a songwriter, guitarist and soundtrack composer who initially came to prominence as guitarist and backing vocalist for alternative rock band **Ash**. Since leaving **Ash** in 2006, she has pursued a solo career and acted as a touring instrumentalist for **Bryan Ferry**, **KT Tunstall**, **Bat for Lashes**, **Cold Specks**, **Rosie Lowe** and **Birdy**.

(From Wikipedia).

charlottehatherley.com

FEATURING



Abi Sinclair

As vocalist **The Guardian** consider singer-songwriter **Abi Sinclair**'s voice to have "A Florence-y stridency" with "A Scandinavian purity, with some of the idiosyncrasy of Lykke Li". Praise indeed but it's only one side of the story as Abi is also a skilled bass player showcased to great effect as one half of rock group **Bat and Ball** alongside her brother Chris. For six years Abi and Chris caused a stir in the music press with their bold musicality which electrified the London music scene.

londoninstereo.com/bat-and-ball-in-five



Stefan Huw Davies

Singer-songwriter **Stefan Huw Davies** is a live performer and recording artist. Performing under the name **CASTORP** his latest EP entitled **Time (is a Fickle Friend)** is a collection of songs that showcase Stefan's vocal tone and songwriting skill with a collection of songs about the transience of human interactions.

smarturl.it/castorptime

FILMMAKER



Paul Wyatt

As creative director, **Paul Wyatt** worked extensively on campaigns for music artists including **Craig David**, **Natalie Imbruglia**, **West Life** and the **Sugarbabes**.

As filmmaker, Paul's work includes long-form documentaries, TV content, exhibition films & promotional videos. He's worked with **The Design Museum**, **The Royal College of Art**, **Royal Society of Literature**, **The London Design Festival**, **Milan Design Week** and many more.

paulwyatt.co.uk



STREAMING EVENT

Above: Cast and crew from *Into the Darkness* take part in a "Backstage chat" with fans.

FEEDBACK SAMPLE

Friday night well spent with a rare, glittering gem in the gloom of lockdown. Lovely people coming together to showcase their great music and beautiful art in a great documentary - what's not to like?

@owlfacedboy

An awesome evening watching **Fred Deakin** #Lastersfilm documentary and live event - a glorious concept album.

@watersn

Into the Darkness receives a one off screening during the UK national lockdown.

A highly successful one-off screening of **Into the Darkness: Fred Deakin and The Lasters** was streamed in March 2021 during the Covid 19 UK national lockdown. At a time when going to gigs wasn't possible, the screening aimed to bring people together for an evening of great entertainment.

After the film's screening a "Backstage chat" took place with the **Lasters** band, filmmaker **Paul Wyatt**, music producer **Harri Chambers**, animator **Cameron Gleave** and illustrator **Gracie Dahl** who took questions from fans during a post-film zoom webinar.

Fred Deakin was interviewed for **BBC Radio's Afternoon Show** and **The Metro** newspaper to help promote the screening.

Loved watching #lastersfilm tonight with **Fred Deakin** and crew. Listen to the album, see the film. It's a beautiful thing they've made.

@floppy

**STREAMING EVENT
SELECTED COVERAGE**

Right: Fred Deakin interviewed in *The Metro* newspaper.

WEEKEND
Friday, March 5, 2021 | METRO | 33

End of the world as we know it

FRED DEAKIN TELLS ASHLEY DAVIES ABOUT BRINGING HIS APOCALYPSE-THEMED CONCEPT ALBUM TO A SCREEN NEAR YOU

MAGINE if the last gig you went to before lockdown was held in the bowels of London's Waterloo Station, in a space so secret you had to be led there through security, and in an event so specifically designed for superfans that your 'entry ticket' was a t-shirt you'd been sent.

This is how Fred Deakin, co-founder of electronic music duo Lemon Jelly, premiered his crazy-sounding, sci-fi-inspired rock opera, *The Lasters*, in late 2019.

It was originally funded by a Kickstarter campaign, raising 350 per cent of its target, and those who contributed were invited to one of two intimate performances in a space normally used for Network Rail staff's amateur dramatics rehearsals.

The plan had been for the show of the album (*Fred Deakin Presents The Lasters*) to tour in 2020, before the pandemic zapped all that. But now you can get a taster with the online premiere of an ambitious new film, which features footage of those audio-visual gigs. There are plenty of mind-blowing extras, including a chance to see behind the scenes and engage live with Fred and his band.

The album, a real passion project for Fred, is all about last few people left on Earth after the planet has been ravaged by climate crisis, a nuclear holocaust and an over-reliance on technology. Artists featured on the project include Charlotte Hatherley, Abi Sinclair from Bat And Ball and Steffan Huw Davies from Castorp. The film, called *Into The Darkness: Fred Deakin And The Lasters*, has been made by director Paul Wyatt, a long-time collaborator with Fred.

"I've always loved Jeff Wayne's *War Of The Worlds* and massive concept albums so I thought I'd have a crack at one," says Fred, who's adored science fiction since he was a kid, and even did his MA dissertation on Philip K Dick, who wrote *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?* which was made into the cult movie *Blade Runner*.

"Originally, it was just going to be a documentary, then we thought, 'Let's put the full concept out as well, as a hybrid of a documentary and concert.' And I couldn't resist. I commissioned some amazing animation [from up-and-coming illustrator Gracie Dahl] as well. I love collaborating, working in a gang."

Having people engage differently with this work is important for Fred. "The whole thing was always a live record," he explains.

"Lemon Jelly was music you could work to, dance to and hang out to, but this album was definitely something that needed your full attention and was designed to be a live show." Since calling time on the Mercury and Brit-nominated Lemon Jelly in 2008, Fred, who started out as a designer and DJ - in part to justify his obsession with records - has pursued a dizzying array of projects, including art gallery shows featuring music-triggered projection mapping. That sort of visual dynamite plays a big part in this film. "The story is clear in the words if you pay attention, but having visuals of a robot leaving a satellite flying down to Earth before the song *Get The Message Through*, for example, makes it much more clear what's happening."

The film will be online for 24 hours to accommodate people in other time zones, or for others to watch twice if they fancy, but viewing it live will enhance the sense of togetherness - albeit not quite on the same level as that secret gig in 2019.

There will be a live introduction to the film, as well as an after-show session with the band. A large chunk of the film is a live show so it'll be a bit like going to a gig, which is something we're all craving," says Fred. "I might even do a DJ set afterwards." Given that he spent much of lockdown reorganising his vinyl collection (currently numbering around 12,000 records), cracking tunes are guaranteed.

Into The Darkness: Fred Deakin And The Lasters screens tonight at 8.30pm, intothedarknessthebusters.eventbrite.com/freddeakin

FRED ON...

THE IMPORTANCE OF VISUAL DESIGN IN MUSIC
"I grew up in the age of vinyl and my most precious memories are of hanging out at Honky Tonk Records on Kentish Town Road. You would walk in there and they'd have all the sleeves up on the wall and that's when I first understood what my culture was. That was my art gallery. I'd go in and go, 'Wow. Look at these amazing icons.'"

HIS LOVE OF SCIENCE FICTION
"I'm a science fiction nerd. I got it from my dad. When I was a schoolboy I went to the Everyman Cinema in Hampstead and - before *Star Wars* had come out - saw a science fiction film every day after school, about 24 of them. I saw *Solaris* [inset] when I was 13 and it blew my tiny mind. I was quite traumatised. Now it's huge and much more mainstream."

THE APPEAL OF CONCEPT ALBUMS
"Concept albums are a great place to push your art. The challenge was to write songs that also integrate some kind of overall narrative arc. It is also very rewarding as a listener because you get the album experience. Everyone talks about shuffle culture now but what could be more 'album' than a concept album? You literally have to listen to from the beginning to the end."

Stars in his eyes: The project allowed Fred to indulge his lifelong love of science fiction

INTO THE DARKNESS FRED DEAKIN AND THE LASTERS

Filmed, produced & directed by

Paul Wyatt

Special thanks to:

Reel Edit Post Production

Machines Room

Josie King

Craig McLean

Network Theatre

Music and artwork courtesy of Fred Deakin
and used with kind permission



The Lasters Live Show
Recorded at Network Theatre
September 2019

Featuring

Fred Deakin
Charlotte Hatherley
Abi Sinclair
Steffan Huw Davies

Music producer

Harri Chambers

Live camera

Simon Kmiec
Matteo Zenini

Live camera edit

Fred Deakin

Live music editor

Osian Hooson

Live sound mix

Mikko Gordon

Animation

Cameron Gleave
with **Jimi Newport**

Illustrations

Gracie Dahl

