

QUEEN OF HEARTS

The new queens of alternative rock, **Track Not Found** may be making headlines due to Emma Thomas their outspoken drummer, but **TEMPO** sits down with her to find out what's rocks' hottest star is really thinking.

Emma Thomas sits alone in a brightly lit room backstage at the O2 arena. She's dressed in all black, with a plaid blue shirt peeking out from under her leather jacket and a beanie hiding her hair. Her band, Track Not Found, are just about to play their first show at the infamous London arena yet she seems calm and composed, almost as if she's played here multiple times.

"It's just like any other stage," she says, "Except this time it's a capacity of 20,000 rather than the 2000 we were playing last year." She's not exaggerating either. Track Not Found's rise to the forefront of the alternative rock scene has been something of an overnight roller coaster. Hailing from the small island of Guernsey, whose greatest export in recent years has been tennis player Heather Watson, nobody was expecting the band to make it to their first album let alone headlining the O2.

"It's one of those things every band has on their bucket list, you sign a record deal, you play Reading and you headline the O2," explains Emma. So did the star ever expect to tick the item off her list so soon? "I just wanted to play Liverpool!"

The band's latest success has undoubtedly come from the release of their 2nd EP 'Sensational Expectations.' The album rose to the top of the charts and hasn't let up since with it being awarded gold status in the UK. "When we were making it [the album], we knew it was really, really good but we weren't expecting this kind of success."

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It's an exciting hard-rock, screamo record with inspirations being taken from a variety of genres, with the band openly admitting that they very rarely listen to the genre itself. "I love rock but I also have a soft spot for Die Antwoord, while Grace listens to K-pop constantly." It's this variety that sets the band apart from the other generic run of the mill groups that the genre has been plagued with in recent years.

Their success has also been due to the girls refusal to shy away from politics and social issues, often having short speeches littered throughout their performances.

"I've always loved making my opinions heard," admits the star. The band made headlines when they started a petition to allow students to have creative freedom over their looks. "That angered me as a kid, some schools would even tell you off for having a certain haircut. That's wrong, especially when you're just a kid trying to find who you are."

Thanks to the band the topic came back to the forefront of discussion and schools are already deciding to ditch the uniforms in favor of a more relaxed dress code. "I never meant to stand for something other than myself, but self-expression is something I'm passionate about so if I have to be the face of the issue then so be it."

A security guard enters the room and beckons Emma onto the stage. Her calm personality disappears in an instant, replaced by the extremely loud and intense drummer of the worlds hottest band. Track Not Found may be hell-bent on taking over the world, but they might just do it

Catch Track Not Found out on tour this December with support from Decade and Fort Hope. Tickets can be bought at www.TrackNotFound.com.



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