



"A visionary of synth-pop moods and textures." – Pitchfork

"A blissful experience that effortlessly transcends the language barrier." – The Music

THE TOFF IN TOWN  
TUE 11 OCTOBER

Doors 8pm

\$39

[www.festival.melbourne](http://www.festival.melbourne)  
#melbfest

UK // Music

## GWENNO

With its retro-futuristic synths, breathy vocals and dancefloor-friendly beats, the glittery electronica of **Gwenno Saunders** might seem all sunshine and starships. Behind it all is a deceptively clever, politically charged singer-songwriter, and the Welsh siren's songs are as gently subversive as they are catchy.

A former singer with **The Pipettes**, Gwenno became well known to discerning pop fans worldwide. In 2014, her solo debut album *Y Dydd Olaf* immediately caught the ear of critics and the more keen-eared of audiences, putting her at the leading edge of a new wave of Welsh electro-pop.

Born in Cardiff, Wales to a poet father and a mother who was a staunch member of a socialist vocal choir, Gwenno's solo album saw her follow in her mum's footsteps with a modern protest album that confronted the decline of minority languages.

The album takes its name from Welsh writer Owain Owain's 1976 sci-fi novel about globalisation, in which brain-invading robots overpower humanity – all excluding Welsh speakers, whose thoughts they can't penetrate. Its nine songs confront media manipulation, patriarchy and preserving cultural identity, while the closing track, *Amser*, interprets a poem in Cornish by Gwenno's poet dad Tim Saunders.

Though only a small number of people may understand the sung words, its beguiling melodies and execution saw it widely regarded as one of the best British debuts of 2015, that has shimmered since with a universal magic.

A leftfield performer whose music explores the importance of preserving cultural identity through her sound and native tongue, Gwenno performs at The Toff in Town for one night only.

### MEDIA CONTACT

TATIA SLOLEY M 0403 305 395  
tattia@tspublicity.com.au

EMMA COSTELLO M 0421 201 344  
emma@tspublicity.com.au