

LUXURY STRANGER

BAND BIOG

LUXURY STRANGER is a progressive post-punk rock band influenced by the music, and stylings of alternative and 'classic' rock, 70s glam, 80s post-punk, soul / Motown, and 90s indie music. The band aim to create an atmosphere, playing songs with dark connotations – while still retaining a commercial edge.

The project was started in August 2006 by frontman / singer-songwriter Simon York when, after coming away from a major record deal and taking a five-year period away from the music industry, he wrote and recorded the *Desolation* album. After Simon had put together the first live band line-up, Luxury Stranger played its first show on 5th September 2008. The band has continued to tour extensively across the UK and in Europe, building a loyal and obsessive fan-base, while recording and releasing music when possible...

In the studio, Luxury Stranger is a 'music scientist' whereas live on stage, Luxury Stranger is a wild animal putting out a raw and honest emotive energy that is rarely seen... Luxury Stranger has been referred to as *"one of the UK's stand-out dark alternative acts"* (Sphere Magazine) who would be able to hold their own playing alongside the likes of U2 or The Stones! Simon York has been referred to as a diverse and 'universe-class' singer-songwriter, and is considered *"easily one of the finest voices in the UK"* (Reflections of Darkness Magazine).

As well as gaining critical acclaim, Luxury Stranger music has featured in television and film, and is a melodic wall of sound that gives a majestically slick and regimented cushion for Simon's vocals. With comparisons to the quality and likes of David Bowie, Pearl Jam, Scott Walker, Rush, Depeche Mode, Nirvana, The Police, Editors and U2 – Luxury Stranger is a band with longevity, and a will to refuse to stay down when it falls...

Between 2020 and 2025, the band has suffered some personal traumas but work hasn't stopped while on the road to recovery. Luxury Stranger is currently working on a new album, *Above And Below*. The band went back out for long-awaited live shows in summer of 2025 to air new material and remind fans that the band will never leave them. The band celebrates its 20th anniversary from August 2026 with some special shows, with more to come...

LUXURY STRANGER IS:

Simon York – Lead voice and guitar (and other instruments)

Martin Valentine – Bass and live backing vocals (and other instruments)



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“...we have nothing against Editors, why should we, but these three Brits actually are at least as good as them”
(Luminous Dash magazine)

“...they just do the song thing so well...” **(Mick Mercer)**

“Though the scene has had a feast or famine existence recently, the city[Nottingham]’s hard working Luxury Stranger has done more than most to keep the flag flying” **(Neil Anderson, Vive Le Rock magazine)**

“Think of early U2 when they were still good. This is of that calibre.” **(Penny Black Music magazine)**

“It’s about emotive immediacy, twice-underlined by the vocals, which apparently come not from a teaching book but straight from the bones...” **(Reflections of Darkness magazine)**

“...certainly a thing of beauty... a band that’s hard to pigeon hole, and you know that their influences are as extensive as they are eclectic, and a whole range of influences can be heard throughout their music from the chameleonic Bowie to the anthemic Echo and the Bunnymen, and everything that’s cool inbetween – and they do this whilst retaining their own individuality and style. Quite an achievement.” **(Lyric Lounge Review magazine)**

“...picking us all up in one mighty swoop and bludgeoning us all into oblivion with the powerhouse that is Luxury Stranger. Once again it is apparent that this is no ordinary band.” **(live review, Penny Black Music magazine)**

“Devoid of any pretension and heart breakingly sincere, “Take my hand, I can save you now” sings Simon, meaning every word. It feels like trespassing into a broken man’s psyche.” **(live review, Left Lion magazine)**

“York’s voice with its raucous timbre reminded more of the one of a rock singer. But it also gave the song a bolshie appearance... proof that York’s voice could shine even brighter on atmospherically calm songs.”
(live review, Reflections of Darkness magazine)

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