

## Sparks Release New Single/Video, '[Drowned in a Sea of Tears](#)' And Announce North American 2025 Tour

**New Album, *MAD!*, Out May 23rd Via Transgressive Records**



Photo credit - Munachi Osegbu

"Ron and Russell Mael advance the quiet Sparks renaissance with *Mad!* . . . with a new suite of maverick pop set pieces." - *Pitchfork*, The 50 Most Anticipated Albums of Spring 2025

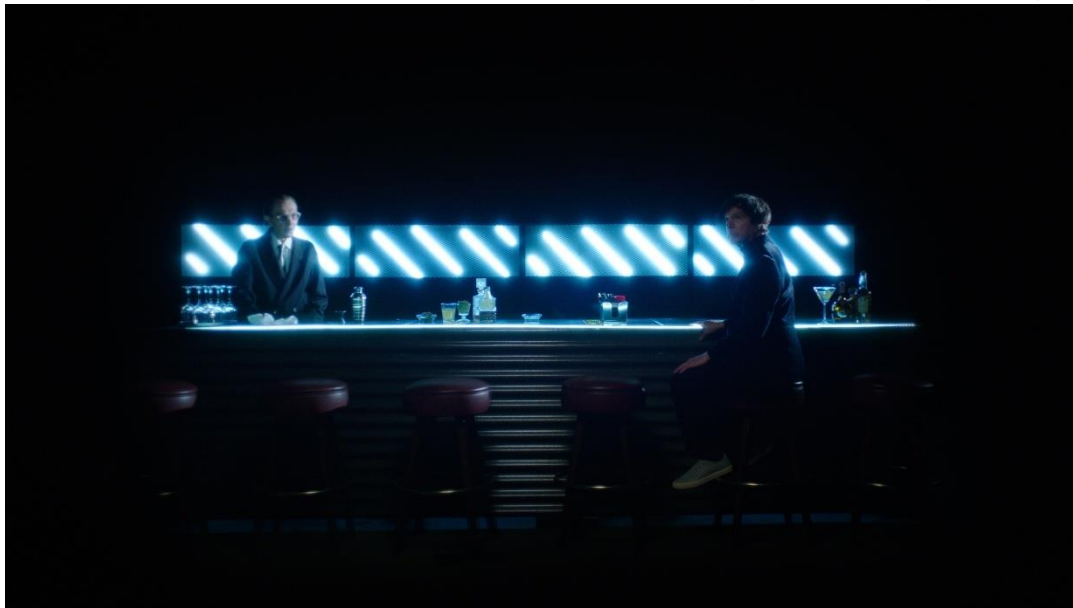
"One thing is certain: Sparks walks their own road, untouched by trends, unmoved by expectation." - *Post-Punk*

April 2, 2025, 5pm UK - **Sparks**, brothers **Ron and Russell Mael**, release '[Drowned in a Sea of Tears](#)', the new single from their upcoming album, ***MAD!***, out **May 23rd** via **Transgressive Records**. Having recently added more dates to their European tour they now announce the **North American leg of the *MAD!* tour** in September, culminating at the Greek Theatre in

their hometown of Los Angeles. A full list of dates with on sale details is below with tickets and further information available [here](#).

On the heels of the “sweeping, theatrical breakup tune” (*Stereogum*) ‘JanSport Backpack’, ‘Drowned in a Sea of Tears’ is a minor key mini-tragedy about the perils of emotional continence, of the stiff upper lip, of keeping it all in. The protagonist keeps her emotional landscape guarded behind high walls, and the narrator is unable to be her saviour. Unusually, for a Sparks song, there is no punchline, no twist in the tale. The accompanying video is a visual theater piece about a woman succumbing to her tears of grief.

[Watch the Video for ‘Drowned in a Sea of Tears’](#) – premiere at 6pm today



Despite the efforts of Edgar Wright's superb 2021 documentary *The Sparks Brothers*, which introduced the duo to a wider audience than ever before, the exact creative dynamic between Ron and Russell Mael remains inscrutable, as mysterious and unknowable as their private lives.

The one thing we know for certain is that Ron Mael is one of our most acutely perceptive observers of social mores. In a different discipline – dramaturg, cartoonist, novelist, cineaste, chronicler – he'd be a Moliere, a Hogarth, a Fitzgerald, an Altman, a Swift. He just happens to work within the medium of popular song. His brother Russell Mael has the asset of a talent to put those observations across in a uniquely arresting manner, captivating as a frontman and gifted with a countertenor voice of extraordinary range. The alchemy between Ron on keys and Russell on vocals is simply what they do. And they've rarely done it better than on *MAD!*.

*MAD!* finds Ron and Russell examining cultural phenomena such as branded backpacks, tattoos, performative devotion (whether to a God, a lover, a celebrity or a sports team), the hegemony of banter, and the rise of influencers. The satire is never on-the-nose, always retaining enough ambiguity for the listener to fill in the blanks. And the exquisitely unusual

lexicon (you won't hear the word "epistemology" on many other albums this year) and cultural references leap out on every listen.

Musically there are nods to New Wave, Synthpop, Art Rock and Electronic Opera – all genres Sparks had hands in pioneering, or straight-up invented. When you hear echoes of other artists, from Air to Shostakovich, you remind yourself that they're all people who Sparks influenced in the first place. (Well, maybe not Shostakovich.) Ultimately, however, *MAD!* is a modern record, which belongs in, and speaks to, the modern world. Which is all the more remarkable when you consider the vintage of its creators.

Further information on *MAD!* and background on Sparks is [available here](#).

[Pre-order \*MAD!\*](#)

[Listen to 'Drowned In A Sea Of Tears'](#)

[Listen to 'JanSport Backpack'](#)

[Watch the video for 'Do Things My Own Way'](#)

***MAD!* Tour Dates:**

(New Dates in Bold)

Sun. June 8 - Kyoto, JP @ ROHM Theatre  
Tue. June 10 - Osaka, JP @ Zepp Namba  
Thu. June 12 - Fri. June 13 - Tokyo, JP @ EX Theater  
Wed. June 18 - Thu. June 19 - London, UK @ Eventim Apollo  
Sat. June 21 - Sun. June 22 - Manchester, UK @ O2 Apollo  
Tue. June 24 - Glasgow, UK @ Royal Concert Hall  
Thu. June 26 - Haarlem, NL @ PHIL Haarlem  
Sat. June 28 - Brussels, BE @ Cirque Royal  
Mon. June 30 - Paris, FR @ La Salle Pleyel  
Tue. July 1 - Cologne, DE @ **Live Music Hall (venue upscale)**  
Thu. July 3 - Copenhagen, DK @ The Koncerthuset  
Fri. July 4 - Stockholm, SE @ Grona Lund Tivoli  
Sun. July 6 - Berlin, DE @ Uber Eats  
Tue. July 8 - Milan, IT @ Teatro degli Arcimboldi  
**Sat. July 12 - Bilbao, ES @ Bilbao BBK**  
**Tue. July 15 - Dublin, IE @ National Stadium \***  
**Wed. July 16 - Dublin, IE @ National Stadium \***  
**Fri. July 18 - Edinburgh, UK @ Edinburgh Playhouse \***  
**Sat. July 19 Wolverhampton, UK @ The Halls \***  
**Fri. Sept. 5 - Atlanta, GA @ Tabernacle \*\***  
**Mon. Sept. 8 - Philadelphia, PA @ Keswick Theatre \*\***  
**Tue. Sept. 9 - Washington, DC @ Lincoln Theatre \*\***  
**Thu. Sept. 11 - Boston, MA @ Berklee Performance Center \*\***  
**Fri. Sept. 12 - Brooklyn, NY @ Kings Theatre \*\***  
**Sun. Sept. 14 - Columbus, OH @ The Athenaeum Theatre \*\***

**Mon. Sept. 15 - Cleveland, OH @ TempleLive at Cleveland Masonic \*\***

**Wed. Sept. 17 - Toronto, On @ Queen Elizabeth Theatre \*\***

**Sat. Sept. 20 - St. Paul, MN @ Fitzgerald Theater \*\***

**Tue. Sept. 23 - Vancouver, BC @ Vogue Theatre \*\***

**Wed. Sept. 24 - Seattle, WA @ Moore Theatre \*\***

**Fri. Sept. 26 - Portland, OR @ Revolution Hall \*\***

**Sat. Sept. 27 - San Francisco, CA @ Golden Gate Theatre \*\***

**Mon. Sept. 29 - El Cajon, CA @ The Magnolia \*\***

**Tue. Sept. 30 - Los Angeles, CA @ The Greek Theatre \*\***

\* Tickets on general sale Fri April 4, 9am. Fan Club presale Wed April 2 9am (local).

\*\* Tickets on general sale Fri April 11, 9am. Fan Club presale Wed April 9 9am (local).

[Download hi-res press images of Sparks](#)



*MAD! Album Artwork*

### ***MAD! Tracklisting***

- 1 Do Things My Own Way
- 2 JanSport Backpack
- 3 Hit Me, Baby
- 4 Running Up A Tab At The Hotel For The Fab
- 5 My Devotion
- 6 Don't Dog It
- 7 In Daylight
- 8 I-405 Rules

- 9 A Long Red Light
- 10 Drowned In A Sea Of Tears
- 11 A Little Bit Of Light Banter
- 12 Lord Have Mercy

**[Pre-order MAD!](#)**

**MAD! physical formats**

CD

Cassette

Black vinyl LP

Lenticular gatefold sleeve with blue vinyl LP

Deluxe triple gatefold edition with red vinyl LP and CD (exclusive to [store.allsparks.com](https://store.allsparks.com))



**Sparks Online:**

[Official Website](#) | [Instagram](#) | [YouTube](#) | [Threads](#) | [Facebook](#) | [X](#)