

Homegrown at The Sage Gateshead

Homegrown is an annual event of exclusive performances by Sage employees and their friends and families. Organised by staff from all levels of the organisation, the public can enjoy the three-hour show for only £3, an absolute bargain for music lovers.

Many Sage employees are musicians and artists themselves, who enjoy working with and amongst creative talent. They encompass all age groups and include full-time managers and support staff, to part-time customer service representatives. Homegrown is an opportunity for them to realise their vision of a night of entertainment.

Those that attended Homegrown VI on Saturday were not disappointed.

Six acts performed on the night. They included the Lamontagne-esque James Allen & Co; well-known local trip-hop collaborators Jonstun & Urban Geisha; and Big Red and The Grinners who played bluegrass covers of Paradise City, Walk this Way and Gnarl's Barkley's Crazy.

The finale of Saturday's show was a nameless experimental project promising an interpretation of William Burroughs' controversial 1959 novel, Naked Lunch.

A mysterious five-piece took the stage at 10 pm, led by a bearded man in a mask and priestly robes (a Sage Duty Manager). He was joined by four others in strange costumes, including a Sage Ticket Office Manager, who took a seat at a miked-up typewriter. The band-leader priest stood at a lectern and shouted memorable quotes from the book. His ranting was accompanied by whirling keyboards, distorted guitars, fragmented drums and the insane, never-ending clacking of the typewriter.

Like a mash-up of 70's jazz-rock legends The Mahavishnu Orchestra, Doom Mental icons Earth and Alex Paterson's The Orb, this was a unique performance that was deservedly greeted with cheers and a standing ovation.

Hats off to all the bands and Sage employees for an excellent night.

[A version of this article originally appeared on The North East HUB.](#)