

Don't Go Gentle: A Film About Idles

Director: Mark Archer

DOC 'N' ROLL

An origins story for Bristol's breakthrough screamers, and a new punk attitude.



"I don't wanna be progressive," says Idles frontman Joe Talbot early in this 75-minute bio-documentary,

"I wanna rip people's fucking faces off." By being as progressive as they are powerful, though, Idles have ripped people's hearts out too.

Mark Archer's *Don't Go Gentle* does a fine job of tracing the band's struggle from amateurish Bristol obscurity and (in pant-clad guitarist Mark Bowen's case) naked performances at Glastonbury's Strummersville to last year's chart-topping third album *Ultra Mono*, but the film is just as much about the community and compassion they've inspired along the way by challenging the machismo of masculinity and the brutal separations of society.

Understandably, the band's emotional journey is as spotlit as their (intertwined) musical one, as the death of parents summons the fury of breakthrough track *Mother*, and the loss of Talbot's daughter in childbirth prompts a brave and heartbreaking episode of on-tour soul searching and band brotherhood. Such values are ingrained into their inclusive hardcore rages, and prove inspiration and impetus for a hopeful new generation of hug

punks. "With compassion and open-mindedness," Talbot argues, convincingly, "the ideologies of a nation can be changed in a week."



Mark Beaumont