

WOW 24/7 MUSIC

Leo wins final of The Factory



By DAVID JACKSON
Email: davidtjackson@outlook.com
Twitter: @davidtjackson

LEO Robinson will play on the main stage at this year's Northampton Music Festival after winning the final of The Factory at the Roadmender on Saturday.

The rapper saw off competition from six other acts to take the top spot of the annual contest which seeks to champion young talent from across the county.

Robinson joined Seafarer, Robyn Wilson, James Pitman, Y-Fi, Lake Acacia and Victoria Rose who had all made it through last year's heats and a semi-final in February.

All performed on the venue's main stage before a winner was chosen by a panel of judges, with audience mem-

bers also casting votes at the end of the night which helped contribute to the overall decision.

Speaking shortly after being announced as this year's winner, Robinson said: "It feels amazing to have won. I've been trying for three or four years to win this competition.

"The first two years, I didn't make it to the finals so to be here now is amazing and also to be the only rap act here and to have won.

"I was part of the Northampton Music Festival last year on the Introducing stage and now I'll be performing on the main stage. My ambition was to be on that stage in three years and I've done it quicker than I hoped."

Robinson is working on a new EP with his DJ Charlie Borthwick, who performed

with him at the Roadmender.

The Factory is hosted by Northampton Music 365. It was started by Rotary Beckett in 2004 and was formerly known as the Y Factor.

Project director Jo Burns-Russell said: "It was great to see so many incredibly talented young people perform. The professionalism on show was amazing.

"Leo is a hugely deserving winner. What's great is that he's been involved for three or four years now."

Second place went to Y-Fi with Victoria Rose taking third.

Project manager Yoshe Watson said: "All the bands who performed were excellent, the way they have worked together and the way they have worked with us and developed through the showcases."

Acts play to raise funds

OHBOY!, An Army Of Lights and Fox Chapel will be helping to honour the memory of Viola Beach at the Roadmender tomorrow night.

The four-piece indie act from Warrington were due to play Stalkers Night at the venue but, along with their manager, were killed following a crash in Sweden, in February.

Tickets cost £5 in advance or £6 on the door.

Proceeds will be donated to the families of Viola Beach.

Advance tickets are available via www.stalkersstudio.bigcartel.com

DMA's to headline Craufurd

A limited number of tickets remain for DMA's who return to the region this month.

The Aussie trio released their debut album *Hills End* in February. The LP is packed with songs influenced by 90s alternative.

Following a sold out tour in March, the band are back in the UK and play The Craufurd in Wolverton on Thursday, April 28, ahead of playing the Live At Leeds festival. Doors open at 7.30pm, tickets cost £8.80.

For details visit www.thecraufurdarms.com