

Party Day



A 3-piece from Barnsley who have just released their 1st single 'ROW THE BOAT ASHORE'/'POISON' on their own Party Day label. They have been described variously as a thrash band & 'like the Danse Society', though neither is anywhere near the mark.... Unfortunately Mike, the drummer, couldn't make it to the interview. He was out celebrating his birthday last week & fell on his head. At the time of typing he is still in hospital with concussion. Anyway, enough of the intros & the excuses, here's the interview.....

LEN: Obvious question first, where did you get your name from?
 MARTIN: Well, we had a song called Party Day which we wrote about 12 month ago, & so we took it from there. We didn't have a name for 6 months.
 LEN: You've been going since 1981....
 MARTIN: Yeah, we were 'The Further Experiments' to start off & then we split & reformed minus the guitarist & so I took over on guitar &...
 CARL:we tried various new members.....
 MARTIN:yeah..
 CARL: ..keyboards, but they didn't fit in...
 MARTIN:no-one good enough!
 CARL: ...in Barnsley anyway.
 LEN: So you're staying a 3-piece?
 MARTIN: Yeah.



LEN: I never heard of you till recently. When did you start doing gigs?
 MARTIN: We did lots when we first started, as the 'Experiments', more based round Barnsley, & when we got on our feet we branched out. We've now played in Sheffield, Leeds, York, Manchester, Wakefield.....
 LEN: What's Barnsley like, to get going in, as a band?
 MARTIN: Hard really, a lot of people don't want to see a band,.....they just like to go & get pissed up, that's it. But we've got quite a good following there now, in Barnsley. We did our first gig at the Civic Hall & lost a load of money....we'd fill it now though I reckon.

LEN: Do you feel stuck in the local set-up, like a lot of bands?
 MARTIN: I think the way to break out is this single, it should bring us more attention & publicity, bookings....
 CARL: That's it, it's like Catch 22...
 MARTIN: We tried to get on at the Rock Garden, in London. We sent them a tape & they said very good ,like, but we'll not put you on because nobody's heard of you. And how can anybody hear of us if we can't play there?
 LEN: John Peel does all he could possibly do though.
 MARTIN: Yeah, well John Peel, that's it. We've got a single & it's just got to get plenty of radio time. Peely played it last week, & he's playing it Tuesday.
 LEN: Now for the usual cliché question....who do you listen to, or what are your influences? Everybody who reviews you likens you to someone else!
 CARL: We all like the same kind of music, Banshees-type, but we don't base our music on them.
 MARTIN: We've been going 3 years now, & after that you're not influenced really. We know what to do, & we don't think 'oh I'll play the guitar like that' cos I play it the way I want to play it, he plays it the way he plays it, & so on. We listen to all kinds of bands...any music we can appreciate....we've been likened to The Comsat Angels, The Cure, Siouxsie, but we're not like them at all...



LEN: What about reviews? You've had some good ones in Leeds.....

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MARTIN: We sent our tape to Melody Maker & they reviewed it, but they went on about how they wouldn't say they liked or hated it, or why. See, we're at the point where nobody knows whether to let us go on or hold us back—but they'll not stop us now anyway—we're gonna plough straight through 'em....
 (stunned silence, then laughter all round)

LEN: You had a tape, 'Opium Gathering', 'Tin Sky' & whatever the other one was...The single is more alive & a bit more manic than the tape.

MARTIN: That was a conscious effort. We wanted to get a more live sound in the studio. We could have done it like we did the tape....

CARL:when we did the tape Martin wasn't playing his own style. We've developed now & he's playing his own style. He's just opened up (laughs)!

LEN: What about ideas in songs?

CARL: We don't write about anything in particular. We're not into politics of any kind. It pisses me off basically.

MARTIN: It's not that we're not into. There's a lot of bad going on, but the audiences don't need to be told that. I mean, why go on about it? After the news, & the political bits in the NME (!) & so on....the sort of politics we go on about are relationships. We're big fans of Leonard Cohen!
 (hysterical)
 Brilliant!