

MIDNIGHT + THE LEMON BOYS .. 2

MARCUS; We were really busy. (They did 94 gigs last year)

SIMON; We bought a van and a load of gear, but we still lost about £2,000.

Q; What about the money side of it?(profit etc.)

SIMON; Making money isn't a sin...ripping people off is.

MARCUS; As far as money goes I'd like to think I'm pretty realistic about it now. I might have been different a year ago, I might have said 'We're the kids, we'd really like to do gigs free,' but after seeing it a bit more, it is a business like everything else. I mean as far as the band goes, you write your songs and you really believe in what you're doing- you're doing what you want to do and you're making as much money as possible-that's great- that's what it should be like. But I mean take that Cinescene gig where the tickets were really expensive, there was no bar and you couldn't even smoke downstairs - that is what I call a rip-off and we were almost going to pull out of that, but unfortunately people had bought tickets so we thought it would be even worse to pull out. It all comes down to what we're in it for - we're in it doing the best we can, and doing what we believe in, and certainly making money out of it.

Q; Are you at all wary of signing with a major label ?

MARCUS; Never used to be ... take an example.. CBS, they're a very big company and you get a lot of money from them, but they're just a total machine, like most big record companies. Take the Photos, they're just an out and out pop band, but the thing that's happened to them now is that because they haven't been able to sell records, because they're with a major company, they can't change. A big record company doesn't give you the leeway to take a few risks and change and maybe experiment and go into something else. What's happened now with the Photos is that CBS have got so much pressure on them that they won't let them change. In other words CBS are just saying if you can't sell records...fuck off. But now they might leave CBS and go down to a smaller label. Although that won't mean so much money, it'll mean a lot more creative control. So the point I'm making is I think it's better in the long run, unless you're really sure about what you're doing and you know you're going to sell, to go with a smaller company and use that to experiment and to see what sells records, and know what you're doing, and then maybe go up to a major label.

Q; Have you actually done any recording that you could release?

CJ; Not that we're happy about.

MARCUS; The thing is that in a studio we'd like to be a little bit more experimental.

SIMON; All the stuff that we've done is of a quality that could be released...a lot of it's on 24 track.

CJ; It would be acceptable to a lot of people, but it's not acceptable to us.

SIMON; With 24 tracks you get a very clinical feel to it, it comes out a bit too clean and a bit too contrived, it doesn't sound very natural, I don't think.

CJ; All these people that have 'produced' these tapes that we've done have gone for big production whereas we'd really like to get it down to a minimum - a live sound.

END OF PART ONE (part two's a lot more interesting)

Midnight + the Lemon Boys

PART
TWO
FOLKS

MARCUS; The last 9 months has been really quiet for us...

SIMON; Nick slipped a disc before Christmas and he's been having treatment for it up the hospital...traction...

NICK; Yeah traction...

SIMON; It's serious because it takes a long time to get better, so we thought we could do it as a three-piece, but that wasn't really practical, so we decided to get a stand-in and we thought the best person would be Tony Maybery (ex of The Vandells).

Q; What are the lyrics about in general?

NICK; ...well they're about a lot of different things...all the songs are very different - they've all got different atmospheres and different moods. The words and music go together to create an atmosphere.

SIMON; Nick writes continuously - just wakes up in the middle of the night, thinks of something and writes it down. He has loads of bits of paper all over the place, and when he feels like he's got enough, he gathers them all together and sees if he's got any basis for an idea.

Q; Is the band at all political?

MARCUS; Chris (CJ) says we're apolitical, I'd probably go along with that in that there's nothing directly political in the songs, although they do question things. So there's no definite political philosophy, but on the other hand we've all probably got our own political things as well.

SIMON; There's nothing political in the lyrics really because Nick's more concerned with what is to come rather than what is now. It's a lot more mental than material.

Q; What about the Brighton music scene?

MARCUS; To tell the truth, I'm not knocking anything, I just don't find any of what I've seen of it particularly interesting.

NICK; I think the only good band is This Colour.

CJ; Yeah.

NICK; They're the only band that can be called anything near original.

Q; You say they're the only good band but have you seen bands like, say, Birds With Bars...

SIMON; They're shit.

Q; ...Carved To A Noise...

SIMON; They're shit.

Q; ...Death Rides A Horse?

SIMON; They're shit. Hear that interview they did on the radio? How arrogant! 'We're the only band doing anything serious in Brighton.'Birds With Bars were a lot better two years ago.

CJ; I don't mind bands like Daddy Yum Yum because they know what they're doing's not serious and they don't take themselves seriously, I don't think.

SIMON; The thing is that everybody in Brighton is afraid to knock anybody else in case they get knocked themselves. I don't actually play in a band, but I don't care what anybody cares or says about what I do.

The band say that they used to be almost a good band before they became Midnight and the Lemon Boys.

MARCUS; Our music's just changed into something else, it's just not like that anymore and we get a different pleasure out of playing quality songs that mean a lot more to us rather than just going out and being energetic.

and to finish, Marcus tries to describe their music.

'There's a lot of different influences, I think just the fact that we've been together so long and we're, like, so enclosed in what

well, go on then

...More MIDNIGHT

we're doing that I don't think it's directly like anything else at all, so I couldn't say it sounded like something. I think there's a lot of influences in there...we listen to a lot of Velvet Underground, we were about a year ago really into the Only Ones, and we've got to have been influenced by U2 because we were on tour with them for such a long time. Another thing that people have said, this was towards the end of last year, is that we're vaguely psychedelic, and that was one that really puzzled us for a while, cos at that time I didn't even know what psychedelic was. It was only when I thought 'what is psychedelic?' that I found out it's supposed to be flowery shirts and sort of monkey's music, so in that sense we're not at all psychedelic, but in the other sense, if you actually look up the definition, it's like music trying to affect the mind in some way or create images, I'd say we were psychedelic.

So basically we get our style, which we think we've got now - a sort of pretty definitive sound from a lot of different influences, but when it comes to actually writing the songs, we try and use our style to make the songs sound in the right mood.

by john.

GIGS

THURS. 24TH SEPT: BLURT + BIRDS WITH EARS - XTREEMS, NEW REGENT
EYE TO EYE + RED SQUARES (?) - CONCORDE

SUN. 27TH: TOUCHÉ - KENSINGTON (EVENING)

TUE. 29TH: CRUSH THE CLOCKS - ROYAL GEORGE, BURGESS HILL
TONY ALLEN, ABA - RICHMOND

WED. 30TH: CRUSH THE CLOCKS - NEW REGENT

THURS 1ST OCTOBER: TONY ALLEN, BRIGHT GIRLS - RICHMOND

CARVED TO A NOISE - BASEMENT

OK JIVE + IN STEP - XTREEMS, NEW REGENT

* SAT. 3RD: JEWEL SHINES DARKLY + IN STEP - 1000 MONKEY CLUB, PAVILION THEATRE

THURS 8TH: MODERN ENGLISH + DEATH RIDES A HORSE - XTREEMS, NEW REGENT

SAT 10TH: LIFE SIZE MODELS + JOE DASH - ALHAMBRA

THURS 15TH: STIMULIN - XTREEMS, NEW REGENT

SAT 17TH: DADDY YUM YUM + THE STARBEATS - 1000 MONKEY CLUB, PAVILION THEATRE

SUN 18TH: CRUSH THE CLOCKS - LAHER'S HOTEL, REDHILL.

TUES 20TH: CRUSH THE CLOCKS - RICHMOND

WED 21ST: THE FALL + SUPPORT?! - XTREEMS, NEW REGENT.

THUR 22ND: AZTEC CAMERA + NEW MOON THROUGH GLASS - XTREEMS, NEW REGENT.

SUN 25TH: (LUNCHTIME) CRUSH THE CLOCKS - KENSINGTON.

SAT 31ST: FUNK NIGHT with HIPNOSIS - 1000 MONKEY CLUB, PAVILION THEATRE.

* 7TH, 8TH & 9TH OCTOBER - CRUSH THE CLOCKS, BALMORAL, WORTHING.

ALSO: THE STARBEATS HAVE A RESIDENCY AT THE PEDESTRIAN ARMS,
EVERY SUNDAY EVENING.

SEND ANY BAND INFO TO 61 NORTH ROAD, PORTSLADE