



ROCKETEER

What's the origin of that swashbuckling name?

Well, it's a lovely word. It rolls off the tongue and sticks in the brain. Benny, our drummer, came up with it one day and it was a real Eureka moment, as you can imagine. We like to think we are "blasting off" in a new creative direction.

What genre of music do you consider your work to be?

It is a distressing side-effect of today's mass mediated society that bands are forced into tiny brackets and then written off after one album. We want to develop and experiment with different sounds over time. Our main influences are bands who refuse to be pigeonholed and continue to subvert popular music norms. Bands like The Decemberists, Nick Cave, King Crimson and Pink Floyd. Cracking stuff.

What inspired you to make music together?

The band was formed back in 2005 by Hugh and Benny. They brought in their cousin Francis on lead guitar, and their friend Tom on keyboard and trumpet. They played together for a while then met Felix and promptly asked him to join the band on bass and lead vocal duties. We played many chaotic gigs in London, crammed onto tiny stages in backrooms and coffee bars and sweaty, sticky pubs. An appearance on the John Peel Stage at the 2008 Glastonbury festival galvanized us into action and we embarked on a rigorous campaign of wonderful gigs, headline festival appearances and recordings that leads us up to now: our venture into The North.

Tell Object of Dreams a little about your songs.

About half the songs are written by Felix (usually the more whimsical ones: Josephine, Burning Spires, Last Toy Soldier, for example), and the other half are written by the band. Felix draws a lot of inspiration from various exciting and traumatic events in his own life, and enjoys illustrating these events through allusion and metaphor. Josephine is about falling in love with an ageing, inner-city prostitute.

What do you think of the Liverpool music scene?

What's really good about northern towns as opposed to London is the smaller number of venues. We are particularly fond of Man Get Out, who are doing some very interesting and wonderful things. We also like Ed Feery and his band The Seven I's, who are doing some truly miraculous things and should be taking over Liverpool very soon.

What are you up to right now, music-wise?

We're always writing, and we've a particularly interesting project in the pipeline involving a famous ship, but we're keeping a lid on that for now. Hopefully we will be going back into the studio following the single to record some more new tracks that we've been gigging. Our big news for the moment is that we're releasing Troubadours soon.

For all the latest on Rocketeer visit www.myspace.com/rocketeermusic



Fundraising @ 'Object Of Music'

The object was to introduce Object of Dreams to Liverpool. The object was to raise funds for the first limited edition print run of the mag. The object was music. Yes, siree.

Six popular beat combos had signed up to regale a near 200-strong crowd, upstairs in the generously accommodating Bar Hannah (near the bombed-out church) – and they didn't disappoint. Well, one did by pulling out at the last minute. But, other than that, a frankly unexpectedly amazing night was had by all, surprising the nervous-but-relieved organisers Dina Karim and Louise Dalrymple.

"It was stressful!" said Dina. "There were lots of little things I hadn't thought about. But, people were so happy! And they seem to want what we're trying to achieve with Object of Dreams."

"With launching the magazine, people just came forward to volunteer. Same with the bands night. It just snowballed. That's the thing about Liverpool. There's so many people wanting to get involved and make something happen."

First on the bill were the accomplished acoustic stylings of Tom George, joined on stage by an unnamed ethnic drummer. The duo bathed the room in lyrical musings on "the human condition" no less, sweetening an already sweet pill with dreamy melodies.

The room began to fill, sucking randoms in from the street to join the assembled cognoscenti, as the night swerved into punk with Sheepy (a.k.a. Luke Jones) taking the stage for a stripped-down acoustic set snaffled from the repertoire of his band, Dirty Both Sides.

From punk we took a detour down that well-trammelled avenue called "Aggrieved Country Punk Rock" (as Jimmy Lightfoot and The Disciples so imaginatively pigeonhole their sound). ACPR's finest played a hugely entertaining set of ol' school rock'n'roll covers and self-penned anthems, seething all the way in their tempestuous mixing pot of bile, dark humour and desire.

With electric stage presence and eclectic set, Man Get Out got everyone to get down, abetted by a lively contingent of fans who sang and danced to old faves. The band's all-consuming array of influences include The Police, Muse and Ray Charles (pun fans will find a clever one buried in that last sentence. If there were such a thing as a pun fan.)

The BIG success of the night – yeah, CAPITAL LETTERS BIG – was Rocketeer. In their first foray beyond the capital, the five-piece turned in a polished, professional performance, right from opening chord to closing, um, chord, blasting the evening to a fitting finale and the end of five hours of fine live music. (For more on Rocketeer, see our interview on the next page).

And so ended the first Object of Music night. Organiser Dina Karim promises more for the coming year. "At first they will be bi-monthly, then hopefully monthly," said Dina.

"We'll be looking not just for bands, but to promote other local talent on the same bill, things like slam poetry, perhaps an artists and designers exhibition. We want to empower people in the community to create."

Photos: Owen Wassell



Man Get Out



**Jimmy Lightfoot
and The Disciples**



Rocketeer

