

Something for the Weekend

NEW MUSIC



By JIM GELLATLY

DIALECTS

WHO: Conor Anderson (guitar), Steven Gillies (guitar), Ali Walker (bass), Jonathan Gormley (drums)

WHERE: Glasgow

FOR FANS OF: Mogwai, And So I Watch You From Afar, Maybeshewill

JIM SAYS: Glasgow post-rockers Dialects unleash their debut EP LTKLTL (Let The Kids Light These Lanterns) on Monday.

Instrumental rock isn't always my cup of tea, but these guys deliver big style.

I'm drawn to the subtle vocals that appear on the track Good Luck Felix, but I love the atmospheric textures of the whole EP.

Conor said: "The group vocal refrain towards the end of Good Luck Felix was the only point in any of these songs that we felt it benefited from vocals. It's all about serving the song."

"If we feel a track needs something more, whether it's vocals or additional instrumentation, then we'd consider our options."

"For us, the challenge is to engage people without vocal or lyrical hooks. Layering guitar melodies/harmonies, striving to create weirder and more interesting guitar and bass tones, is crucial for us."

"The last few years have seen a real boom in the type of music we play. With festivals like Arctangent, Strangeforms, Handmade and 2000 Trees, instrumental bands have been given an excellent platform to play their music to a much wider audience."

Dialects formed a couple of years ago after a Christmas party



turned sour. Conor added: "It wasn't so much that the party was bad, more the uninvited company that appeared."

"Myself, Steve and Jonathan were totally bored, so headed down to their practice space and started jamming some ideas I'd been working on. That jam evolved into Spectacular Supernovae, the final track on LTKLTL."

"A few months later Ali moved in with Steve and he joined the band soon after. We spent a few months writing and rehearsing, then started playing live in Glasgow."

I wondered if there was some sort of concept behind the EP. Conor said: "LTKLTL is a collection of five songs that tells the story of a couple from a Utopian world. They travel through a portal to our dimension and begin to change it for the better."

"When they arrive here they're kids again, so get to live a whole other lifetime together."

Sometimes you don't need words to express a mood. The listener can ultimately create their own concept.

I suppose it's like listening to a movie score without actually seeing the film.

Dialects are currently on a UK tour to promote the EP. They've already played Bristol and Manchester, as well as last night's official launch at Nice N Sleazy in Glasgow. Tonight they are in Leeds, and then back in Scotland tomorrow for a date at Drouthy's in Dundee. Sunday they appear at Henry's Cellar Bar in Edinburgh.

MORE: facebook.com/DialectsUK

● Jim presents Drivetime on XFM Scotland, Monday to Friday 4-7pm. xfm.co.uk/jimgellatly.com



By CHRIS SWEENEY

We took long road but are better for it

BANGING rock duo Slaves reckon the key to their unique sound is their attention to detail.

But the Kent lads – guitarist Laurie Vincent and drummer Isaac Holman – have been put through the mill in their bid to get the sound just right.

They couldn't work out why they sounded so good live, but couldn't replicate it in the recording studio, so they stripped it all back and started from the beginning.

Laurie, 22, explained: "It was even down to the weight of strings I use, they're different from when I started."

"All the fine bits – even the plectrums I use. I use really heavy plectrums."

"I was using the thin ones, so I'd never get the sound out that I wanted to get in the studio."

"Before, I just played guitar, now I understand how it all works around it."

"And Isaac is the same on his drums."

After finally nailing it, the boys cranked out debut album *Are You Satisfied?* which is due out on June 1.

Laurie said: "We have taken three years to build up to this point, so we have got to experiment with our sound and our style."

"The ideas we're putting out now are exactly how we want them to be."

"The first music we made wasn't as developed."

'Invest in time and equipment'

"The first time we recorded it was hard. Everyone would always say, 'You sound much better live than you do on your recordings' so our goal was to sound better in recording."

"We've been able to invest in equipment and time to practise."

"This is the first body of music that sounds as good as we wanted it to."

"It was a stressful process but it was only three weeks in the studio."

There has been plenty said and written about Slaves but they have sidestepped

all the hype in their determination to get everything right.

Laurie admitted: "Ours has been an old school build-up."

"We came up through the punk scene."

"We didn't blow up on You-

CAPTIVE AUDIENCE... Slaves aim to bang out the new songs on their UK tour



Tube or Soundcloud. Any band that I've met who've signed a single deal are always dubious about whether it was the best move because the label is trying to capitalise on you way too quickly.

"You need to go round the country and play shows, and build a fan base."

"We took the long road but everything is better for it."

"It's the classic rock saying, you've got to do your two years before getting signed – and we did that."

Now the guys are hitting the road to get the buzz around the album bubbling.

On their UK tour, they swagger into Glasgow's King Tut's on Sunday night.

Most of the shows are sold out already – a world away from when the guys started.

Laurie said: "We've sold out eight of the ten dates. We'll play more new songs but not the whole album."

"You don't want to play lots of new songs to a room."

"You get spoilt when people learn your older songs, so we like playing them."

"We've played King Tut's three or four times before and it's only ever been a quarter full."

"So for us to announce a tour and be selling it out is just crazy. We didn't ever expect that."

"Turning up and knowing your tour is pretty much all sold out is an incredible feeling."

"Whereas when we started, maybe 12 people would be there each night."

"It's non-stop chaos at the moment."

"I just can't wait for everyone to hear the album now."

● Pre-order the album and hear first single *Cheer Up London* now at youareallslaves.com

ONES2SEE

MATINEE have taken the best of British indie and put their own Italian spin on it.

The likes of Carl Barat, Franz Ferdinand and Belle & Sebastian are all fans.

Now the band are over here and giving it a real go – showing what they've got to offer.

And they'll line up at Sneaky Pete's in Edinburgh on July 30 and Glasgow's Stereo the following night. Get all the info at facebook.com/thematineeband

ONES2HEAR

WORCESTER'S finest Peace deserve tons more respect than they get.

The band knock out sophisticated, melodic rock 'n roll.

New single *Gen Strange* is a corker – a definite indie disco party track that hits all the right notes.

The video also features a cheeky cameo from Stoke City footballer Peter Crouch as a rival gang member.

Check it out now at facebook.com/peaceforever-ever



ONE2WATCH