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MUSIC

with Jade Wright

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PART Johnny and June, part Sonny and Cher, The Big House's Candie Payne and Paul Molloy blend soul, folk and west coast rock and roll. It's tied together by the Liverpool duo's evocative close harmony singing and shared lead vocals.

Now they're preparing to release their first single, with a launch at the Kazimier next weekend and an instore performance at the Music Consortium's Vinyl Emporium on Bold Street tomorrow.

Candie explains: "We're releasing this single on our own label, Bearcub Records, so we have just been working really hard on everything behind the scenes, as well as rehearsing the set with the band and all the guest musicians."

"We'll be doing an afternoon acoustic set at The Music Consortium's Vinyl Emporium as well, which is a lovely intimate space so it will be a nice contrast to the Kazimier show."

With a handful of carefully selected shows over the last few months including support slots for the likes of John Grant, Erland and the Carnival, The Kooks, and CW Stoneking, the pair have been showcasing songs that hint at influences from The Lovin' Spoonful to The Miracles via The Byrds.

The duo began perfecting their craft by spending several months learning Everly Brothers, Beatles and Simon and Garfunkel songs before taking on the task of writing much of their own material.

"The first thing we had to do was make sure our voices were tightly blended so it would be second nature for us to lock in vocally when it came to arranging the harmonies on our own songs," explains Paul.

"We learnt a huge amount from putting in that time and hard work in early on."

A couple on and off stage, Candie and Paul first began working together as their relationship began to blossom.

"At first we were reluctant to put so much pressure on our relationship but in the end we would rather have the intensity and emotion that goes with the territory than be apart," says Candie.

Their obvious chemistry and instinctive understanding of one another is one of the most intriguing elements of the duo's on stage performance

The limited edition two track CD features the woozy west coast rock and roller Canyon Home in the Sun and the foot stomping, horn driven Caught Up and will only be available to those buying the first 250 tickets for the show.

"The single is a double A side, it's a limited edition CD and it's only available with advance tickets for the launch show on June 30, says Candie.

"It's always great to play in Liverpool, and we are particularly excited to be putting on our show at The Kazimier. I don't think there is a another venue like it."



The Big House launch their debut single

They will be supported by Emily and the Faves and The Flamin' Mammies.

"The Flamin' Mammies are an amazing all girl group who play a mix of rag time, blues and western swing," says Candie. "They have tremendous voices."

Their style, like Candie's, gives them a distinctive stage presence. But how does Candie put her style together?

"I love the 30s and late 50s early 60s style," she says. "I love off duty

Marilyn Monroe and Audrey Hepburn. I wear a lot of vintage. I think overall I suit pretty simple un-fussy shapes and colours so I go with that. I hate feeling uncomfortable or un-able to walk.

"I try to be more adventurous but I always ending up changing five minutes before I go anywhere, or at least taking off all the accessories I've piled on.

"But I wish I could be more like Ginger Rogers with feathers flying everywhere."

Her most treasured possession is a ukulele called Little Pal.

"Paul bought it me for Christmas a couple of years ago," she smiles. "Just because I can't play it yet doesn't mean I don't treasure it."

As far as her most treasured memory, Candie picks one close to home.

"My favourite memory is Macca playing at Anfield with The Zutons supporting," she says.

"I sang at Stella McCartney's catwalk show earlier in the day with

LABOUR OF LOVE: The Big House play The Music Consortium's Vinyl Emporium and The Kazimier Photo by Mark McNulty



SHAKING THE FOUNDATIONS: Kate Nash

My brain is always ticking and I want to do so much

BACK in 2007 Kate Nash was one of the biggest names in new music. And then suddenly, it all went quiet. So, where has she been and what's she been up to?

Well, she's acted in two feature films out later this year, and, shocked by the lack of British female songwriters (only 14% of songwriters in the UK that receive Performing Rights Society payments are women), she launched Kate Nash's Rock 'n' Roll for Girls After-School Music Club as a platform to inspire teenage girls to start songwriting and making their own music.

She is also one of the founders, along with Billy Bragg and Blur's Dave Rowntree, of the Featured Artists Coalition, which provides a voice for artists at a time of change in the music business.

She's also put together the Faster Pussycat Run Run Tour, a series of intimate shows that include a show at the Zanzibar this week.

"I've always loved Liverpool and have a

couple of friends up there so it should be a fun night," says Kate.

"My friends Claudine and Phillip got married there and their wedding was really fun. They had a photo booth and afro wigs and some yummy Irish soda bread.

"I also got my favourite Beatles anthology tape there. I remember a pretty wild night with a friend who went to university in Liverpool a few years ago at that bar Korova which I heard isn't around anymore, it's a shame because I liked that bar. It was where I saw (Arctic Monkeys singer) Alex Turner in person for the first time ever."

Kate says she's feeling pretty inspired right now. "My friends and family are getting me inspired," she grins. "Plus strong women, empowerment, being sent packages in the post, riding my bike, the desire to be happy, knowing that other people go through s*** too."

"Then there's honesty, loyalty, my dogs and my bunny rabbit!"

Kate says her rider for the show is fairly simple. "Yeah, hummus mainly. And beer, vodka, rice cakes and Berocca."

"On the tourbus I have Lindt dark chocolate intense orange flavour, Marshall headphones, my laptop, a cosy jumper, Anchorman on DVD, and a cup of Yorkshire Tea."

After the tour is over, Kate has big plans.

"My brain is always ticking and I want to make so many things and eat so many things and hug so many people," she laughs.

"I'm turning half of 50 soon, releasing my third album. I have a couple of movies coming out sometime this year, touring around the world, re-decorating my flat, a lot of travel, my cousin is getting married."

"I'm going to a lot of weddings this year, and I want to go to Brazil again and stay there for a long time."

Kate Nash plays The Zanzibar on Wednesday June 20. Tickets are available from <http://kate.nashtickets.sandbag.uk.com>

Album of the Week

Skinny Lister Forge & Flagon

THIS debut album from the London-based folk five-piece brings almost immediately to mind the Pogues, with its profusion of strings, accordions and barnstorming percussion, which can only be a good thing. Drawing on the rich history of Irish music, Skinny Lister – Daniel Heptinstall, Lorna Thomas, Sam Brace, Maxwell Thomas and Dan Gray – are clearly accomplished musicians with the male and female vocals, often as harmonies, beautifully realised. Opener If the Gaff Don't Let Us Down, the sweet Peregrine Fly and rousing final track Colours are the highlights. With a bit more support, Skinny Lister could become big news.

Peaking Lights – Lucifer INFUSED with sunshine, happiness and cosmic vibes, the third collection from Aaron Coyes and Indra Dunis expands upon previous album 936 with better songwriting, gloriously chilled synths and even more persistent bass. LO HI's twin influences of reggae and blissful house chime together to produce perhaps the band's most perfect moment yet, while the likes of Beautiful Son and Cosmic Tides sound like taking a boat ride straight to a sun-drenched beach – no matter what the weather may be like in real life.

Single of the Week

Stooshe – Black Heart EVOKING the spirit of the late Amy Winehouse, this soulful Motown-inspired offering from the feisty British R&B girl group is about falling for a monster with a black heart. It features strong vocals from the trio, bringing a touch of retro glamour to their modern approach.

Ed Sheeran – Small Bump AKIN to Athlete's Wires, this latest instalment from Sheeran's debut album is a heart-wrenching account of an incredibly personal experience. Seemingly about the loss of an unborn child, the subject belies this singer's young years – the result is a tender ode to what might have been.

Jade Wright recommends . . .

MUSICIAN manager and producer for Space, Shack, Seven Seals, Ivan Campo, My Amiga and Circlesound, Yorkie has been responsible for some of the most interesting sounds to come out of the city in recent years.

Now his band Moongoose will be performing a special multimedia show at the Odeon cinema, Liverpool One, on July 2.

Their music draws from a great lineage of instrumental and cinematic music: from the sounds of

early John Barry, to Ennio Morricone, John Carpenter and Jerry Goldsmith.

"There used to be a place for instrumental music in popular music, and we are re-asserting that place," says Yorkie.

With band member Mark Jordan at the helm of the visuals, they have created a wondrous, other worldly experience.

"It makes perfect sense to us, as we grew up loving the cinema, and have been captivated by its essence

ever since," adds Yorkie. "As schoolboys, myself and Mark used to be completely into the 70's science fiction films such as Planet Of The Apes, Logan's Run, The Illustrated Man – the list was endless.

"For this show people can expect to see Moongoose how it was always meant to be.

"Standard rock venues are quite frustrating for us, as the visuals are supposed to be upfront: more like our singer or frontman.

"Usually they end up placed behind us and form, essentially, a moving backdrop.

"At the Odeon, they will take pride of place above us in all their high definition glory."

At the show they will be playing most of their new album – Organic Technology: Reaction Music 2, as well as a selection of tracks on the previous EP.

There will also be a set from Dave Jackson & The Cathedral Mountaineers.

Q&A The Flamin Mammies – sweet, hot and syncopated

WITH The toe tapping' deco dames from the jazz age, The Flamin' Mammies are Ma Bailey on tenor banjo and vocals, Chantilly Lace on banjo ukulele and vocals/scat singing and Kirsty Walker on double bass.

With their syncopated rag time rhythms and big bass fiddle, the girls excel at scat vocals that'll melt the wax clean off your old victrola.

So set 1 my phonographs to 78, rolled back the carpets and tracked down Ma Bailey for this week's ECHO music Q&A ahead of their gig supporting the Big House.

Are you looking forward to playing

Liverpool? Always and we can't wait for this show at The Kazimier.

Do you have any happy memories of the city? Every Tuesday night at Peter Kavanagh's Pub which song is stuck in your head today? Fascinating Rhythm by Cliff Edwards – it was written by George Gershwin in 1924.

What's on your iPod today? On our gramophone player we are currently listening to all the hottest jazz, country and western swing sounds around.

What exactly is playing depends largely on which Mamie is in charge that day, it

could be Bob Wills or The Boswell Sisters. – As long as it's sweet, hot and syncopated – we like it.

Which musician do you most admire, and why? Sidney Bailey's No Good Punchin' Clowns, The Loose Moose String Band, The Downtown Dixieland Jazz Band, The Long Finger Bandits, Stig Noise, and The Kazimier Krunk Band. These bands are all from Liverpool and so can be enjoyed at your leisure.

Have you ever been told you look like anyone famous? Rita Hayworth, Patsy Cline, Billie Holiday and Berenice Bejo.

If we ended up in a karaoke club, what would you sing? If you lubricate us with enough moonshine, we will sing you any old tune at any old time...

What song would you like played at your funeral? Nothing short of a full New Orleans style Jazz Parade will do.

What was your most embarrassing moment? Certain Mammies have been known to have wardrobe mishaps on stage. There's nothing much more embarrassing than your petticoat slipping to reveal undergarments. Have you ever Googled yourself?

Yes. All we found was two Argentinian strippers with the same moniker. What's the funniest thing you've ever heard said or written about you? One rude young man enquired which of us was single – said any of us would do. Coffee or tea? Coffee from a tin cup, if you please. Facebook or Twitter? www.facebook.com/theflaminmammies The Flamin' Mammies support The Big House with Emily & The Faves on Saturday June 30 at The Kazimier, 4-5 Wolstenholme Square, Liverpool, L1 4JJ. Tickets £9 advance from The Music Consortium's Vinyl Emporium.

