

with David Jackson
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It's not a name you

FORGET

So says Gay For Johnny Depp guitarist Sid Jagger

INFLUENCED by a combination of coffee, sex and the works of Oscar Wilde, Gay For Johnny Depp begin their UK tour in Northampton tonight.

Despite having a name that proceeds them, the band has carved out a niche for evocative lyrics combined with brutal bursts of hardcore rock.

With two EPs and an album already under their belt the band's first gig in the UK three years ago saw singer Marty Leopard attacked mid-set.

"Well, it's not a name people forget – which is nice," explains guitarist Sid Jagger.

"I think people are surprised that we are not a 'novelty' band, but that is all."

The band, which also includes bassist Fabrizio Coxboi and drummer JJ Samanen formed from ex-members of hardcore bands Garrison and Instruction.

GFJD released their first recording, *Erotically Charged Dance Songs for the Desperate*, in 2004 and the five-track won positive reviews, comparing the bands to fellow artists The Blood Brothers and The Locust.

A second EP, called *Blood: The Natural Lubricant*, followed the following year.

"We formed in the summer of 2003 as an outlet for more aggressive music that I had in my head," explains Sid.

"It was originally a side project to my other bands and was supposed to only play one show in Brooklyn. "But the demand for the Gays is high – which is so very sweet." The band released their debut album, *The Politics of Cruelty*, last year.

The album won praise from the likes of the *NME* and *The Guardian* – an accolade not usually enjoyed by hardcore bands. Admitting being somewhat surprised at the reception, Sid played down the response: "I try not to care too much about critical success, to be perfectly honest.

"I think it is great that those publications 'dig' what we do, but I am more concerned with the people who come out to our shows and if they are getting off."

The band has also worked with the Blacksmoke Organisation – an art and music collective who remixed GFJD's track *Shh, Put the Shiv To My Throat*.

Blacksmoke was founded by KLF



co-founder Jimmy Cauty and Brighton-based multi-media artist James Fogarty.

They are best known for their prints of stamps called The Stamps Of Mass Destruction the Post Terrorist Modernist EP, and their Post-Terrorism Xmas Shop.

They have also remixed work by The Dandy Warhols, Bloodhound Gang and Deep Purple.

"I adore what they do," explains Sid. "They actually got in touch with me out of the blue and suggested doing it.

"Later I recorded vocals for a new track that they had done but it has yet to see the light of day – those boys are ace."

The band is set to spend January and February in the UK playing with Hearts Under Fire before heading back to the US.

At the end of last year members of Gay For Johnny Depp released The God Fires Man EP – with a debut album on the horizon.

"God Fires Man is a more serious project, anthemic alternative rock that allows me to explore much more layered music with swirling guitars and keyboards and such," explains Sid.

"Gay for Johnny Depp will always be a side project to other things as some of the members simply have commitments at home they cannot afford to leave for long periods, the

drummer is a music therapist, for example.

"*God Fires Man's* new full length, *A Billion Balconies Facing the Sun* will be out in the new year and we shall be touring our asses off, I'm sure.

"I have another band as well called I Hate Our Freedom and we are halfway done with our record – basically I love staying busy and drink far too much coffee."

Gay For Johnny Depp play the Northampton Racehorse tonight. Doors open at 8pm. For more information visit www.gayforjohnnydepp.com, www.godfiresman.com and www.ihateourfreedom.com

Band set to put Ocean Between themselves and UK fanbase

THIS Ocean Between play their final UK gig next week before heading for a tour of Europe.

The band plays Sawyers in Kettering on Thursday, after which they will team up with Croatian band Dead By Mistake. Playing with them at Sawyers will be recent runners-up in Kerrang!'s Best Unsigned Band award Boys With X-Ray Eyes. The band, made up of guitarist/vocalist Darren Aldred, guitarist Wayne Parker, bassist Stephen Crook, keyboardist/vocalist Shaun Lynn and drummer Dan Appleyard

recently underwent a line-up change, with vocalist Damon Tang joining the band. Having finishing off last year by recording their second self-produced EP, 2008 looks likely to be a busy year for this up-and-coming group, with February being spent taking their ferocious stage show abroad. Catch This Ocean Between at Sawyers, Kettering at 8pm on Thursday. For more information about gigs at Sawyers check the listings on these pages, or visit www.myspace.com/sawyersvenuecouk.

Eccentric Idiots at club night

FRESH of a series of Club NME tour dates, Idiot Savant headline The Broken Shackle Tabernacle tomorrow night.

The Middlesbrough band's debut single *Emilione* was released at the end of last year and received a host of airplay on BBC 6Music and Huw Stephens Radio 1 show. Their dark, string-laden sound has found them compared to The Editors, Arcade Fire and Joy Division, but, with songs about long forgotten pre-Norman invasion Kings and Marco Polo's wife, they're certainly trudging

their own eccentric path. Support comes from The Parks Dept, the solo electronica project of Luke Farmer.

Formerly a member of local favourites Kapowski, Luke will be previewing material from his forthcoming debut EP *The Weekend Starts Around Here*, scheduled for release in March. Doors open at 7.30pm and entrance is free. For more information about upcoming shows see www.myspace.com/brokenshackle

The scene

Local

Today The Men They Couldn't Hang, Eastfield, Chris Butler, Sawyers, Kettering, 8pm

Today Play Hard Presents Glasvegas, Northampton Soundhaus, £6, 7.30pm

Today Gay For Johnny Depp, The Racehorse, Northampton

Today Sacred Mother Tongue, 14-17 yrs event, New Roadmender Northampton, £4, 7.30pm.

Today Bleeding Hearts, Eastfield, Chris Butler, Sawyers, Kettering, 8pm

Tomorrow One To Many, Crown and Anchor, Northampton, 9pm

Tomorrow The Lurkers, Ram-Man, Rotten Agenda, First Wave, Sawyers, Kettering, 8pm

Sunday Terry Wiseby's Texas Thunder, Sawyers, Kettering, 8pm

Thursday This Ocean Between, Boys With X-ray Eyes, DJ Milzi, Sawyers, Kettering, 8pm

Friday, February 1 Merz / Jacob Golden, Northampton Soundhaus, £7, 7.30pm

Friday, February 1 Transcend Records Present... The More I See, Sacred Mother Tongue, 9 Days Down, Sawyers, Kettering, 8pm

Saturday, February 2 Ambush, Sawyers, Kettering, 8pm

Saturday, February 2 Elliot Minor, Soundhaus, Northampton, £10, 7pm

Sunday, February 3 Blues Club...Dave Arcari, Sawyers, Kettering, 8pm

Tuesday, February 5 Royworld, Northampton Soundhaus, £5, 7.30pm

Wednesday, February 6 Acoustic Spotlight feat. Black Vinyl Heart, A Perfect Sin, Adele Kirk, Sawyers, Kettering, 8pm

Regional

Today Deaf Havana, Centauri, Chiaro Scorio, Round 2, Leicester Charlotte, £5

Today Random Hand, Love A.45, Citizen Keyne, Anti Vigilante, Milton Keynes Pitz, 7.30

Tomorrow 1000 Hertz, Outcry Collective, Symbo, Four Seconds On, Milton Keynes Pitz, 7.30

Tomorrow Progression - Live bands and DJs, Leicester Charlotte, £5

Tomorrow Bad Manners, Leicester Charlotte, £12

Monday The Courteeners, Leicester Charlotte, £7.50

Tuesday Blood Red Shoes, Leicester Charlotte, £6

Wednesday King Creosote, Sam Isaac, Leicester Charlotte, £10

Friday, February 1 No Asis (UK's biggest Oasis tribute band), The Vision, Sovrin, Milton Keynes Pitz, 7.30pm

National

● American singer songwriter **Josh Ritter** has announced a tour. He kicks off in Oxford on March 25, and ends up in the St Albans arena on April 5. Go to www.joshritter.com for details.

● UB40 frontman **Ali Campbell** is playing throughout June. His solo tour kicks off in Bristol on June 3 and ends in Sheffield's City Hall on the 25th. Go to www.bookingsdirect.com for information.

● Tipped for the top in 2008, **Duffy** is going out on the road throughout February and March. She starts in Bristol on Feb 21 and finishes in Birmingham on March 11. Go to www.iamduffy.com for details.

