

INDIAN

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I imagine that you're a fan of The Sonics. Correct me if I'm wrong...

Johnny: Huge fans yes !!

Warren: Yea, dig em lots

How were The Fizz Pops born? And how did you choose the name of the band?

Johnny: Well Warren and I have been in a few bands together now - Our first band together was The Future Primitives, then more recently The Dyna Jets, so we have quite a history and we communicate really well together musically, almost effortlessly. And Noah and Cameron also have a band together called Changeling so come from a similar situation. I had been writing a bunch of stuff on my own and it made sense to have Warren on drums, and I asked Noah and Cam to join because I liked their style and dedication to music, plus they are great guys. Our name, The Fizz Pops: It's the name of a South African lollipop - not to be taken literally though, we just liked the name. Great lollipops too.

What would you say about the South African music scene and the Cape Town music scene? In the past I've been in touch with another garage group from Cape Town, the Future Primitive... Does this ring any bell?

Johnny: Yes, that was us! The scene is alright here, it's growing a bit but it's still really small and we are short of venues. Cape Town is a small city.

Is the South African younger generation interested in political and social issues and are public attitudes reflected in some ways in music today?

Noah: The youth are definitely concerned with the sociopolitical issues of the country. Last month the #FeesMustFall student movement shut down all major universities across the country to demand 0% fee increase and an end to outsourcing of labour at institutions of high learning. There is serious political unrest and discontent directed at our government for its neglect of the youth and poverty. I think some underground bands here do express that discontent but not overtly through lyrics rather than anger or frustration expressed through noise or aggressive high energy performances. There are quite a few female fronted bands who are challenging the patriarchy like Heroine, Julia Robert and Training Brah

Listening to "Help" and "Dirty Tears", my favorite track, I've perceived, next to the garage matrix, a pinch of psychedelia and hallucinated pop à la Beatles. What is the story of these two songs?

Johnny: "Help" is about exactly that – it's about helping yourself, like no matter what other people do, you kind have to help yourself. And no matter what you do to help someone, the only person who can really help them is themselves. It's loosely based on that concept. "Dirty Tears" is just a song about a guy who sees a girl crying and he just wants to cheer her up really, and probably get into her pants.....no, really, I think he's pretty honest, more than anything he wants her to smile.

Would you think of proposing one of the two songs I just mentioned to Quentin Tarantino for one of his upcoming films? I think they would work well...

Johnny: Absolutely! Well I wouldn't dare try propose, but if we were asked, for sure. Hopefully he reads this ;)

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About cinema, in December a new trilogy of Star Wars will begin (I am a fan). In your opinion what are the most "garage" character and the most "trash" character of the series as we know it until today?

Noah: I think Han Solo is trash. Chewbacca is garage, 'cause he's got The Sonics' scream just transposed down an octave.

Warren: Ki-Adi-Mundi is seriously underrated.

Back to the music. Could you give the Italian audience your personal 10-song playlist?

Johnny: It's so hard to only choose 10 songs so we did a few more:

Link Wray - Rumble
Captain Beefheart - Zig Zag Wonderer
The Keggs - To Find Out
The Beatles - Glass Onion
The Cure - Jumping Someone Else's Train
The Pixies - Tame
The Gun Club - She's Like Heroin To Me
Captain Beefheart - Electricity
The Beatles - Happiness Is A Warm Gun
The Milkshakes - For She
Link Wray - Fat Back
The Sonics - Boss Hoss
The Rolling Stones - Tell Me
Les Sexarinos - Everybody Sexarino
Link Wray - Run Chicken Run
Thee Milkshakes - Hippy Hippy Shake
The Iguanas - Again & Again
Dick Dale - Lets Go Trippin'

In your songs the female presence is predominant. Are women muses, girlfriends, mistresses or terrible "tormentors"? Or what else?

Johnny: Haha, yes they are almost all of the above

Warren: Cold hearted dancers

Johnny, in addition to writing, singing and playing guitar, you also produced the record. Is it all about having total control over your music or was there no producer who was willing to risk it?

Johnny: Yes it is about control. The reason I started producing and recording in the first place was because with earlier bands of mine I hated the fact that the final product never sounded the way it did in my head so I figured the only way to do it would be to do it myself, beginning to end.

What was your most exciting live experience?

Johnny: Last weekend we opened for The Black Lips at a secret party here in Cape Town while they were down on South African tour - that was probably the highlight so far. I don't think The Black Lips themselves actually got to watch us, which was a bummer, but we played a killer show, our best show so far.

Warren: I really enjoyed recording our record and forming a new band, making new connections with Noah and Cameron. Johnny and I having been playing together for a while now so it's quite refreshing to play new music with new band mates.