



THE JAMES CLEAVER QUINTET: FRANTIC, CHAOTIC AND FUN AS HELL...

The James Cleaver Quintet's Jimmy Diego "threw his Fender Jazz bass three feet in the air, caught it with his face and broke his nose." ("More blood than a KFC slaughterhouse" - Jimmy Diego) That pretty much sums up TJCQ. Hailing from Eastbourne and the surrounding areas, they describe themselves as "Circus Punk." Having been together for four years, they've managed to score an EP and a full length under their belts, which is phenomenal to say they're all young adults. I caught up with (self-proclaimed) King Diego himself.

A band's inaugural release is always seen as their opening statement. In hindsight, are you happy with yours? (10 Stages Of A Make Up EP, 2010)

Super stoked, man! All the songs were exactly what we wanted to hear (recorded ourselves for that extra-spicy tone) and we were wicked happy with the hype we got.

Talk me through the writing process of "That Was Then, This Is Now" (New album 31st October).

We used the same ethic and it was what we wanted to hear, but when writing for the album we threw way more influences into it. We got string sections, horns, Cuban jazz and a few guest vocal appearances so you may get a few newbies skankin' to this record!

On the new album, where do you guys venture lyrically?

Things that have affected us, gone on in our lives whether it's to do with the band, peers we've met or straight up personal [stuff]. Ain't nowt 'bout Morrissey or the smell of girls' hair everywhere.

How would you describe a Jcq show?

Hostile and full of love with the odd pit-backflip - like a perfect moussaka baked by the risen-from-the-dead James Cleaver with all dem

ingredients for a perfect show that'll leave you crippled like Oliver Twist begging for more.

Some people have seen you on TV recently - How did the Lucozade ad come to fruition?

Our manager saw a great opportunity to expose our band and more importantly, pay for our album and a whole range of merch which is a great head start for a struggling band like ourselves. Ideally, we wanted to play one of our phat jams but the residents of the hill were hardcore Feeder fans who wouldn't settle for ANYTHING but 'Buck Rogers'.

What brought you guys together in the first place?

The pure love for the tropical Quiche we shared.

Who would you say your main influences are?

Nicole337, MC Poffter and Slayer.

Any plans for the remainder of 2011 and 2012?

Infect the world with TJCQ and play... EVERYWHERE.



Finally then, any advice you'd give to kids in bands who want to be where you are today?

Don't [care] what other bands are doing at the time or what's 'cool.' Do your own thing, work hard, shred hard and one day you may support Slayer.

[TJcq@Rock City November 12th supporting Turbowolf + Hawkeyes]

©Jack Boaden (aged 15yrs)