

Let Their Gypsy Music Turn you into a "Freak"- Caravan of Thieves

First off I would like to say sorry to any that I offended, let me include you in; "freaks" are the fans gypsy-folk group, Caravan of Thieves. If you don't know who they are, just picture a song strait out of a Tim Burton movie.

They we're nice enough to not only let me interview them but to review their sophomore album, Mischief Night. So check out our interview and keep reading after for my review on Mischief Night.



Miguel: Who came up with "Gypsy Swinging Serenading Fire Breathing Circus Freaks!!!!". I think that is the greatest band description I have ever heard.

Carrie: Thanks! Fuzz came up with that.

M: You guys have a very interesting band name, where did it come from?

C: Thanks again! Also Fuzz

M: What genre do you consider your music to be? (Please be as specific as possible).

Fuzz: Not sure if there is a set or pre-existing genre but we say things like: "alt gypsy swing" or "gypsy folk". Sometimes we say it sounds like "Django Reinhardt meets The Beatles at Tim Burton's house".

M: That's great Ha. When and how did the band come to be?

C: We (Fuzz and Carrie) starting making music together shortly after we started dating in 2004 but had to go through a series of projects, styles and lineups till we decided to do this one. After getting back to just being an acoustic duo (which is how we started), we began envisioning the sound and songs which would eventually become Caravan of Thieves. This happened in the winter 2007 - 2008 and once we were able to get Brian and Ben to join up with us the band was formed and played our first show in the spring of 2008.

M: What would be the band's major influences?

C: Gypsy jazz and jazz pioneers like Django Reinhardt and Stephane Grappelli and Duke Ellington as well as pop, rock and folk artists like Tom Waits, The Beatles, Bob Dylan, Queen. Also visual, theatrical, classical and literary artists such as Dr Seuss, Emily Dickenson, Tim Burton, Stephen Sondheim and Chopin.

M: You guys have played with bands like Enter the Haggis and The Decembrists. With that said, do you feel like you have "made it" in the music business?

F: No not at all. But we have come pretty far in under three years. Not sure we'd ever want to say we "made it" though. The whole thing is a journey in motion so there's no place where we would stop or feel we have arrived.

M: Why did you choose to make your second album a live one?

F: Since the show has become very interactive and we've amassed a good amount of lively followers (better known as "Freaks"), we wanted to capture and document the live experience. We also added a few fun rearrangements of some other people's songs that we wanted to get on record and it seemed live would be the place to do it.

M: You guys covered Bohemian Rhapsody, in your second album, why did you chose to do so? I have to ask cause when I first saw it on the back, I skipped straight to it and have to say you guys played it with a twist that makes it more exciting than the first.

C: Queen is one of the influences, being a dramatic and classically flavored rock band, so we had thought of covering something from them.

F: Carrie had always wanted to cover that song and though it seemed adventurous at first, once we started arranging it for Caravan, it actually made sense.

M: What is your Favorite venue?

C: We have a few but close to home some of our familiar stomping grounds happen to also have a lot of character and are run really well. In Fairfield, CT the FTC Stage One, which is where we recorded the live album, has a great vibe for what we are doing and the people there are on the ball. But in northern CT in Norfolk, there is a beautiful 19th century theater called Infinity Hall that sounds, looks and feels amazing.

M: What is your favorite band to play with?

C: Its hard to pick favorites, some are good friends now and the experiences both on and off the stage have been great fun and successful with Enter the Haggis, Ryan Montbleau Band to name a few. Of course doing the Tom Tom Club tour was a blast as we are very close with that band - seeing that Fuzz plays with them and their keyboard/ percussionist Bruce Martin plays accordion and various pots and pans with us.

M: What is your favorite thing about touring?

F: Delivering our music to new places and meeting new "freaks" along the way. Exploring new towns and finding the good eateries, vintage shops and places to hang out. Seeing the world...

M: Who writes the songs in the band?

F: We do (Fuzz and Carrie).

M: What would be the ultimate direction for the band?

C: Some sort of extended collective or performance troop that could allow us to incorporate more instruments, more visuals, more theatrics... a bigger spectacle!

M: Can you list how the public can get a hold of your music?

C: Its available direct from our [website](#), which will essentially link you to [itunes](#), [cd baby](#) and the music is available on most internet sites like Amazon, Napster, eMusic, etc.

F: Of course if you come to a show, we always have the CDs there.

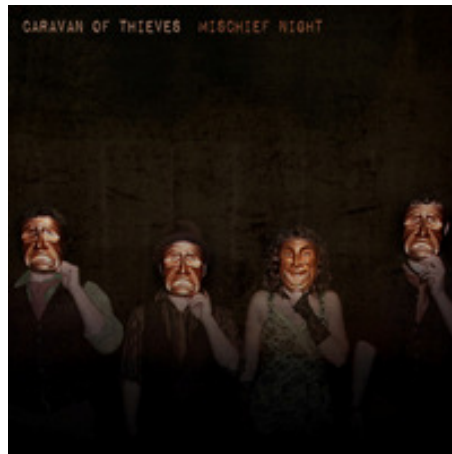
M: Do you guys plan on working on anything new anytime soon?

C: We are going to be in the studio in January working on a new full length studio album to be released later in the year.

M: Any last words?

F: Anyone listening... we would like to kindly ask you to... JOIN OUR FAMILY OF FREAKS! ...there's always room for more...

Mischief Night Review



This is really a captivating live album, from start to finish. Listening to the whole thing in one sit kind of gives you the feeling of being at a musical or even in Tim Burton's latest movie. The whole album is just plain old fun (including the art work on the CD casing) and full of energy. During this live performance, Caravan of Thieves plays some originals along with some un-expected covers. Including one of Queen's Bohemian Rhapsody (which became my favorite cover to date), and a speedy cover to You Are My Sunshine.

Like i said, a great CD to listen through. I liked it so much that I became sad when the CD came to a finish. I give it a 8 out of 10.

Written By Miguel

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