



'Mischief Night'

Caravan of Thieves make the type of mischief you want to be a part of



By **Christopher Hislop**

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Connecticut based band Caravan of Thieves' latest recording, "Mischief Night," paints a sumptuous portrait of a band expanding the genre boundaries and creating a sound as much aural as visual. Their second release to date, "Mischief Night," is a live performance recorded at StageOne in Fairfield, Conn., which showcases the band's ability to turn their music into a work of true performance art. Even though you can only hear this performance as it is laid out on this disc, the music and the way the band interacts with the crowd is quite vivid and puts you in one of the seats at the venue — feeling as if you're actually attending the show.

The tunes that Caravan of Thieves write are fun, full of imaginative imagery, and are unlike anything that's out there in the music world nowadays. Steeped deeply in the traditions of gypsy jazz and call-and-response blues/folk tunes, with a smattering of "punk" edginess thrown in for good measure, this music demands action, and reaction. This isn't just music that you hear, it's music that you feel. Primary songwriters Fuzz and Carrie Sangiovanni are the curators of the stories that bring you to an era where performance art was really the only form of entertainment. The time before television sets and the Internet. A time when being social meant being a part of a thriving, living (in the flesh), and breathing community. This stuff is fun.

"After going from an acoustic duo to rock band, we (Fuzz and Carrie) wanted to get back to being an acoustic act," said Fuzz in a recent interview. —!One with flare and dynamics and not just a singer songwriter thing. We started playing with Ben Dean (violin) who would make guest appearances with our duo format and also at that time we had been listening to a lot of the old Hot Club Gypsy Jazz recordings, other '30s swing, romantic era orchestral music and getting into some dramatic literary and theater works. When it seemed we could marry the rhythms, textures, harmonies and instrumentation of the gypsy jazz with our existing songwriting, vocal styles, and vocal harmonies, which both contrasted and complemented the gypsy music, it felt like we found our niche."

"Mischief Night" is a great sampling of what Caravan of Thieves are capable of in a live setting. Along with their originals, the band offers a smattering of colorful covers including Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody," the Talking Heads' "Psycho Killer," and a darker version of "You Are My Sunshine" — all contributing to a set of music that is a well-rounded and pleasing endeavor.

A) You gotta hear this.

and...;

B) You gotta see this to believe it.

Check out the Caravan of Thieves when they take the stage at the Red Door on Monday, Nov. 29 as part of the Hush, Hush, Sweet Harlot music series. This looks to be like one of those "can't miss" performances that folks will be chatting about for some time to come...;

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