

Maverick Magazine

Review by: Emily Saxton

Record Label: Slammer: 003

Website: www.foghornleghornmusic.com

Foghorn Leghorn NOT BEFORE TIME

Heading in to North London's Reservoir Studios late last year, the fingerpicking Hackney six-piece (Tim Kent, Paul Fay, Del Brookes, Kevin O'Neill, Eamonn Flynn, Chris Clarke) momentarily return this year with the much-awaited NOT BEFORE TIME; their third superbly-crafted, full-length studio release, containing 11 dynamic, London-associated Foghorn self-pens, alongside a perfect jovial showpiece instrumental by Bill Evans—there's no better way they could celebrate their 21st anniversary! Quick-pickings seem to dominate this release and it's something these festival favourites certainly know how to deliver, with the city-esque Pizza Boy and Tube Trains speedily getting things off to a toe-tapping start.

Keep listening and you work out that this hell-for-leather fingerpicking isn't all Foghorn Leghorn are about, as such gems as the saloon-esque Runner Up, the gentle guitar-led Either Or and the jovially tuneful Madeleine steal the show completely; all three utterly refreshing and dissimilar; each being led by a different voice. And don't be fooled by the ambling intro of Smoking Gun either, as the lads tell a musically-rich yet darkly sinister and at times gory tale of drug-fuelled murder, massacre, mutilation and sweet revenge, meriting a listen two or three times over. Brother O Brother closes this momentous chapter in the band's life, on a steady, country-laced note as voices and chords join beautifully together.

It's hard not to remember these guys; with a name that rolls off the tongue, marvellous musicianship and melodies and arrangements that leave a long-lasting impression (and that Day Of The Dead album sleeve by artist Frank Burgess is pretty cool too) — why would you not want to? Go get this highly

praised third release and you'll know what I'm talking about.

Maverick Magazine © 2013 Hand Media Ltd