



THE SPOOK SCHOOL

Hailing from an area of the British Isles that has a great legacy of producing musical genius, this Edinburgh four-piece are simply a group of friends who like to make sounds together for the fun of it, or as they themselves say: 'it's fun to play rock-stars while you can'. Naomi and Adam had always written little songs together, and then Adam met Anna and Niall when participating in some silly student comedy at university, and - voilà! - a new wee band was born. This little baby needed naming though, and what could be better than naming it after something local?

Charles Rennie Mackintosh, the Glaswegian Art Nouveau architect, was part of a group of artists called 'The Four'. However, some people found their stuff a bit ghostly looking and slagged them off by calling them 'The Spook School'. So when Adam, Naomi, Anna and Niall were to name their little ensemble they picked this defamatory epithet up, partly because they liked the idea of taking a detrimental name and making it into its opposite, but mainly because they just thought it sounded cool. (And it does suit them, because they are indeed a cool bunch!)

Spook School wants their songs to make people smile and dance, and they want them to make people realise that they're not alone, not silly, not strange, and that they can be their friends. This they have masterfully achieved when playing gigs to dancing crowds at well-known indiepop institutions such as Glasgow Popfest, Indietracks and Paris-based club night Another Sunny Night. Coming up with their songs they nick bits and bobs of inspiration from all over the place, be it from films, books (or Adam's anger at Matt Damon!). Some of the songs revolve around real emotions, 'but we like to keep quiet about that or people will think we're serious or something', says the band.

The tracks on this new release, Cloudberry 1028, are brand new and completely brilliant. But beware! They're highly addictive - once you start listening you can't stop. 'Here We Go' is destined to make dance floors all over the country of Indiepopia combust from sheer excitement with its steady drumbeat, jangly lead guitar, playful male vocals and twee lyrics. It makes perfect sense that it's one of the band's favourite songs to play live, and you're probably quite normal if you come to think of Scottish fellows Wake the President or Swedish noughties-twee-era bands Dorotea and Second-hand Furniture when listening to it.

'The Cameraman' is an up-tempo pop song that lends its storyline from the old Buster Keaton film with the same title, since the band quite loves Keaton and the story of the film turned out to fit really nicely to the tune. Here you get noisy drums, a bass-line steady as a high-speed-train storming all the way around the world, expressive female vocals, and an extremely persuasive guitar melody that is likely to pierce its way into your head, linger there for a bit and then wake you up in the middle of the night and prompt you to do a little pyjamas dance on your bed. No wonder the band is fond of these song!

Spook School has previously released two CD-Rs themselves, but this Cloudberry 7" will be their first "proper" release!



1028 - The Spook School

HERE WE COME
CAMERAMAN

thespookschool.bandcamp.com

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contact@cloudberryrecords.com
cloudberryrecords.com
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