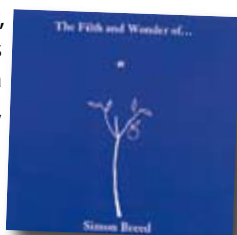


**Simon Breed*****The Filth And Wonder Of...***

One man, five songs, one toy piano, one lifetime of bullying, song titles to make your mother blush and a simple devotion to the art of catchiness, these ingredients make for one of the most surprising records of the year. A homage to kicking back against those who make the effort of getting out of bed everyday a little harder and the nervousness of infatuation, Breed creates mini operas on a £10 keyboard that would make orchestras jealous. Endorsed by the late John Peel, which these days is like being endorsed by Jesus, and fond of expletives, Breed will render you speechless with a sixty-mile smile that lasts well into next week as you get down to his casiotone, feedback-laden playground odes.



Jonathan Sebire

**Good Shoes*****Think Before You Speak***

Don't believe Good Shoes' lead singer Rhys, when he states there is "nothing left to inspire him in Morden", because their album, *Think Before You Speak*, is the effort of a band frantically trying to resist and simultaneously embrace their surroundings. *Never Meant To Hurt You* has fast become an anthem for tomfoolery in club nights nationwide, with *The Photos On My Wall* bringing up the rear. Not to be tarred by the glow-stick splattered New Rave tag, *Sophia* is full of spangling guitar and nostalgic vocals. The album is a confident product of the credible Young & Lost Club scene, currently taking London by storm.



Ava Szajna-Hopgood



# Good Shoes *A step in the right direction*

Good Shoes are being hotly tipped as one of the bands to watch this year; with catchy choruses and staccato riffs they are developing an enthusiastic following. This is undoubtedly helped by the inclusive nature of their relationship with their fans. The artwork for their single *The Photos On My Wall* (released on Christmas Day 2006) evolved from an innovative competition for their fans to send in photographs of themselves. The winners were utilised as the single cover and inlay. Rhys Jones, lead singer and guitarist says, "It feels good to include the fans and not to appear aloof, at first I felt paranoid and apprehensive about whether or not the fans would send in their photographs or not. In fact we had more than enough." In this era of buzz marketing Good Shoes have erupted onto the music scene from their roots in Morden, London.

Good Shoes are a band nurtured on the sounds of the past, but they are striving to create their own musical formula with their album *Think Before You Speak* released in March 2007. Following the phenomenal success of the Arctic Monkeys and their Sheffield-based observations in the vein of punk poet John Cooper Clarke, more emphasis has been placed on young bands and their attachments to their environments. Rhys explains the influence of originating from Morden, a suburb of London has on his music; "It's a subconscious thing, if you live somewhere then whether you're writing a journal or lyrics you're always going to be referencing things that happen in that place. All the stories in the lyrics are based

around there, but Morden does not define the songs."

Good Shoes recorded *Think Before You Speak* in Sweden, "It was a very fun and an easy process. All the singles we've released are on the album. In fact *The Photos On My Wall* was recorded in the same session is a good indicator for the overall sound of the

***"if you live somewhere then whether you're writing a journal or lyrics you're always going to be referencing things that happen in that place."***

album." To promote *Think Before You Speak* Good Shoes have undertaken a rigorous touring schedule throughout March and April spanning the UK, Europe and North America. While still revelling in the glory of releasing their first album Rhys says, "I'd like to branch out and tour other countries to get our music heard, for instance Japan I've never been but it looks really cool!"

The ambitions of Rhys Jones and Good Shoes certainly extend beyond these shores, Rhys says he wants to "get out to different countries, showcase our music and sell some records." Good Shoes have big aspirations to take their unique blend of retro pop to global levels. *Think Before You Speak* is available on Brille Records

Shona Fairweather