

Jonquil

Lions
Try Harder

Jonquil is a multi-talented experimental sextet originating from Oxford, who have seen super-fast, yet solid growth over the past two years since their first release, *Sunny Casinos*. That first album was essentially a bedroom recording project of the band's front man Hugo Manuel, but it quickly gained recognition, and now the band have a UK tour, appearances at Truck Festival and air-play on Radio 1 and XFM under their belt. This band has seen immense growth from humble beginnings, and it's great to know they've kept their heads about their burgeoning success while still taking it in their stride.

This album has a similar underlying aura in resonance with Doves' *The Last Broadcast* album. Indeed, one listen of this record and you'll understand the anthemic and timeless nature of this band — it evokes woozy late-night dreamlike tapestry landscapes of tender, subtle and intimate moments through the use of beautifully engrossing melodies and cleverly applied esoteric ambience. Each track blends seamlessly into the next, which gives a coherent sense of fluidity throughout the album and maintains the dreamlike journey that the music evokes. This is an album of rare individual substance that sets this band into the perfect stride with which they can achieve something great.

Lions was released on 26 May and the band will be touring nationally throughout June and July.



Arms

Kids Aflame
Melodic

Todd Goldstein is a man blessed with a multitude of musical talents, currently involved in a project with Harlem Shakes amongst others. He has somehow found the time to create a debut album of stunning calibre, albeit with a production process that spanned three years and was undertaken in various apartments across Brooklyn.

Naming himself "Arms" because Todd thought it was a "cool, strange thing" to pluralize a body part for a band name, his album *Kids Aflame* comes overflowing with raw, intimate songs that blend excellently with melodramatic, crooned vocals. With the intention of making music to "keep lonely people company," Todd writes from personal experience to fuse dark lyrics with a variety of sounds. Country-infected *Sad, Sad, Sad* offers a glimpse into those lazy, restless afternoons where time seems to stand still, and the familiar, infectious sounds of pop filter into the penultimate song *Pocket*. Hard to be categorised, Todd's music leaves a surprise around every corner, most notable with the catchy hooks and sudden change of pace in *Eyeball*.

After a flurry of interest on the blog scene and a "magical" new contract deal with Melodic, Todd is very happy to continue to be inspired by his need to "make the kind of music I've always wanted to hear, but haven't." Fortunately for his growing fan base, he has certainly achieved this with *Kids Aflame*.



Jon Falkingham

Rachel Nardiello

CIRCA is Ireland's leading magazine for contemporary visual arts. Appearing quarterly, its 112 full-colour pages contain news, reviews, previews, interviews, feature articles and a host of images. The magazine is dedicated to reflecting visual culture as it unfolds throughout Ireland while also reporting on important developments further afield.

<http://www.recirca.com>

43/44 temple bar, dublin 2,
ireland +353 1 679 7388



Front cover of CIRCA Issue 123, Spring 2008. Image: Daphne Wright: Lamb, 2006, marble dust and resin, courtesy the artist/Frith Street Gallery