

Mishkin Interview

Rockinchina.com interviewed the UK band Mishkin in turn of their upcoming China tour 2007.

Azchael of Rockinchina.com and Mishkin. Conducted in April 2007 via email.

Azchael: Can you briefly introduce the band, it's members and since when you are rocking the stage?

Mishkin: The collective are:

Ben Davy, 22 – Vocals

Ali Epstone, 23 - Guitar, backing vocals

Jimmy MacGregor, 21 – Guitar

Mark Forster, 23 - Drums

Will MacGregor, 20 – Bass

We've been friends since school and Ben, Ali and Jimmy studied at Leeds College of Music together. Jimmy and Will are cousins. The band formed in 2003



Azchael: What kind of instruments do you use? Which brand?

Mishkin: We use Marshall amps. Ali has PRS guitar. Jimmy has Ibanez. Will is just looking at buying a new bass but hasn't decided which!

Azchael: We've heard that you are going to be one of the bands invited to perform at the Midi festival in Beijing this May. Is this right? Since when do you know?

Mishkin: Yes we're playing at Midi on 4th May. We found out we were invited back in December.

Azchael: How come that you have been invited? Did Midi ask you or did you apply only?

Mishkin: We sent copies of our EP 'State of Mute Fear' and our DVD to Zhang Fan and he said yes!

Azchael: So, the step from the island (England) to China is a huge one, spanning nearly the whole globe. What do you expect of China? Have you ever been there? What do you think is going to go on smoothly and where do you expect most problems?

Mishkin: We've never been to China and we've no real idea what to expect. The language may be an issue. We'll just take it all as it comes and deal with things as they happen. We're all very laid back!

Azchael: After the gig at Midi you're going to perform a few gigs in Shanghai? Why only there and not somewhere else in China? Bands, such as Disturbance, the International Noise Conspiracy or Sonic Bastards went to 16 city tours.

Mishkin: We are funding this trip ourselves. So this time round we are trying to keep the costs down. If we are well received we will plan a bigger tour in the future.

Azchael: Have you made contact with Chinese fans already? We've seen your MySpace page and know that a lot of Chinese youth is online and keen on browsing artists all over the world.

Mishkin: We haven't managed to reach any Chinese fans yet but we're hoping that will all change soon

Azchael: During the Midi festival more than 100 bands and artists are going to perform on more than three stages for four days. Have you ever heard a Chinese band before? If yes, which one and what do you think of their music? Do you have plans on meeting Chinese bands and maybe jam with them?

Mishkin: No we haven't heard any Chinese bands but we will be playing alongside some at Midi and other gigs in Beijing and Shanghai. We also look forward to jamming with other bands and we have been asked to do workshops at the Midi School in Beijing and Dulwich College in Shanghai.

Azchael: Coming to talk about your music, how are Chinese listeners able to access your music except MySpace? Are there plans for a China release or are you going to bring along a few of your records for side selling at your gigs?

Mishkin: We have plans to make our music available to fans in China

Azchael: There had already several bands from the UK been in China before (such as The Wombats, from Liverpool). Did you contact them? And if yes, what did you ask them?

Mishkin: We tried to contact the Wombats but they did not reply!

Azchael: What is your opinion on the China and its present development in regard of economy, lifestyle and influence in pop media here in Europe?

Mishkin: We're hearing more and more about China in the UK from all different perspectives but we will be able to form our opinions once we see for ourselves what China is like.

Azchael: And finally... what is your favorite drink (so that all those reading this in Shanghai know what to buy at the bar to give to you after the show)?

Mishkin: We all drink lager, cider or Guinness. Also Jagermeister is a favourite but we're not sure if that's available in China

Azchael: Thanks a lot!