



CHAPTER 14

Gratuitous Sax and Violins

On August 13th we played our first gig for one of Spoon' nights at The Legion, Old Street, London. He's the guy that compered at the "disasterous" gig where everything went wrong. Luckily we managed to get quite a few people along and play really well. This time Antonio played saxophone. He might've even played a bit of violin too, but my memory's not too clear on that one.

Then two weeks later on the 26th we played over the road from The Legion at The Mother Bar, part of the 333 club. The sound was dreadful, but we seemed to go down well.

Again Simon Phillips was there and reviewed it...

Then it was time for Clinker once more, this time as the same 4 piece as last time, only this time the two backing singers are also playing piano and Saxophone. They were hampered by muddy as all hell sound and a soundman who was incapable of making all the vocals easily heard in the mix.

They opened with Mire that did indeed sound like a mire of sound just waiting to burst out the minute Tomoko hit the right distortion pedal and they transcended the sound mire they were in!!

Painted Red sounded good but would have been much better if the vocal harmonies could have been heard, as they can on the latest Pizzo Tung EP. Then they went into the song I can't get out of my head The Line which is undoubtedly there catchiest song by far and even with this sound mix still sounded excellent I'm still trying no to cross that line they sing about...



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There were some great sax blasts on So We Say that had a good Terry Edwards feel to them as well as a good bit of vocal harmony that got lost in the mix as only Petes vocal could be clearly heard, Searching For A new World got many of us dancing as it went nicely insane a few times before they closed the set with the mashed to the max work out of Hallucination Generation that folded nicely into Searching for Hullucogens it was a good set that would have been better if the sound man got his act together.

Also there was online reviewer Matt Killeen, who wrote...

Then Clinker came on and showed everybody that dodgy sound and poor staging are no barrier to brilliance, or rather the appearance of brilliance. You either have it or you don't. A bizarre electronic, sax, keys and double guitar combo, one-part hippy harmonies, three parts Pixies psychedelia and a touch of funk, they bounced enthusiastically through their set like they were doing something genuinely exciting. Their lead guitarist, Tomoko Matsumoto, is a tiny, unassuming-looking woman who suddenly exploded into a demon, becoming a force of nature with an obnoxious, occasionally painful sound and the will to make it regardless of traditional skills or whether this was Wembley or some toilet in North London. She oozed charisma. The whole thing was utterly compelling. Then they watched everyone else play. Heaven knows if there's an audience for this out there but they reminded me why I do this: it's the hope of seeing something new and genuinely exciting, to witness something unstoppable. It's what gets us out of the house, what makes us sit through the hype and the drivel in pubs that look like a granny's back room.

So all in all the new line up seemed to be working very well!

One week later on the 6th September, we played around the corner from the Mother Bar in the basement of the same club 333.



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Prior to this, we had finally decided to release “Thru’ the Fly Machine” as a FREE download and CD. We made a few final tweaks (for example, adding Antonio’ amazing sax to “Mire”) and decided we were going to use this gig to promote and give away the first of the CDs. The gig was good, especially the sound (after last weeks awful mix) and we slipped in a bit of Talking Heads “Once in a Lifetime” before “Searching for a New World”.



1. Searching for a New World
2. Music Gives You Power
3. Let's Go Out and Get Fucked
4. Hold Out Your Fist
5. The Line
6. Painted Red
7. Mire
8. Long Way Round
9. Hallucination Generation
10. Jump in the Fire
11. A Time, A Place
12. So We Say

A couple of weeks later we made it available as a FREE download too.