

# Interview with Maps Are Fiction

## Interview with Maps Are Fiction, May 2012

South Shield's alt. rockers Maps Are Fiction play The Head of Steam this Friday (25th), supporting This Many Boyfriends (one of NME's 20 must-see bands this summer) and Hollywood and Vines. Following a coveted support slot for Field Music last month, the band have been busy recording more tracks for their forthcoming album.

I caught up with drummer John Curry, who gave an insight into the band's "dark" beginnings and what their plans are over the next few months.

Maps Are Fiction are John, frontman and bassist Jordan Ridley and lead guitarist/keyboardist Andrew Yates. The three have been friends since meeting in the back room of Jordan's Dad's butcher's shop as children. They formed Maps Are Fiction in 2010 and describe their music as "dark pop/white noise" similar to Radiohead, Interpol and Death Cab for Cutie.

"The butcher's shop backdrop of mangled animal corpses, sawdust, blood and tripe subconsciously shaped our music more than we then realised," says John, who admits their love of dead trees, ghosts, horses and "a morbid obsession of the Victorian age" leads to some oddly-themed songs.

Maps Are Fiction's forthcoming album was also recorded "in a variety of haunted houses and industrial units" and should make for interesting listening when it's finally released this autumn.

New track Geography and its video give a good insight into what to expect. Bass driven with searing vocals; it has a despairing edge that resembles the ambient/heavy style of My Vitriol. According to John: "Geography is about that feeling there's probably somewhere else that you should be or something better you could be doing with your time. It's about cutting loose grudges."

It's taken Maps Are Fiction two years to work out their sound, including how to augment a basic three-piece set up with samplers, keyboards and drum machines. And in many ways, John says the band are still "immature" despite their "two-year vintage." He described the gig with Field Music as: "Our Ground Zero – the point where everything clicked, and we were able to play live in a way that did justice to the recordings we've been doing."

However, supporting Field Music confirmed their status as one of the rising stars of the local music scene. This is something they consider “a pleasure and a privilege,” made even better as many other emerging bands are also South Shields/Sunderland based. “We can see a lot of old friends doing very well at the moment,” says John. “It’s very nice to be a part of that.”

The band are currently finalising mixes for their album and shooting videos. John asks people to keep checking Facebook and Twitter for details of “an exciting little project” to coincide with the release.

Make sure you catch Maps Are Fiction’s next show at the Washington Arts Centre in July

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