

Interview with Natasha Haws

Natasha speaks to Andrew Openshaw about her inspirations, achievements and plans for 2013 and beyond.

What's the inspiration behind Stranger?

It's about a night when I met someone special but couldn't act on my desire because I was already in a relationship.

How was recording with Dave Burn and Tiny Lights?

Paul Brown (Tiny Lights) is rare in the industry because he's genuinely not in it for money. He's looked after me really well. When it comes to Davey, I think we bounce off each other. He knows how to get the perfect sound. I couldn't see myself working with anyone else.

You've got a band now – tell me about them?

They're a very clever bunch of people. On bass is Glenn Coyne, drums David McDonald and synth/atmospheric/genius man is Yann Rezner.

How was going on tour for the first time earlier this year? Any wild stories?

As wild as you can get when you're touring on your own! I drank five pints of shandy and had a large Sainsbury's salad box while in London. Rock and Roll!

You're on tour again soon, what should audiences expect from Natasha and the band?

Just playing really powerful music that will make people want to dance and weep at the same time.

You've recently turned eighteen, are you surprised with what you've achieved in such a short space of time?

I was lucky being in the right place at the right time. It basically took a year to get from starting to write to a release, and I don't think that's as short an amount of time as people think. It's just pure graft.

What helps you keep your feet on the ground?

I'm proud of what I've achieved. I'll always be thankful for everything and never get to a point where it's not an achievement anymore. Being offered gigs or when someone buys an EP, or a t-shirt is really exciting. The team behind me is wonderful too.

How do you write songs?

I used to write about things that affected me. Now I write about other people's perspectives too and they've turned into beautiful accounts of someone else's life. Sometimes it's easier to write about things that you're not fully involved in.

2012 has been a big year for you, what are your hopes for next year?

A support slot with an established artist would be great. I'd also like to play with my band full time, do another single or two and maybe tour Ireland or Germany or somewhere like that.

If you had to pick one thing from this year as your biggest highlight what would it be?

The Launch for the EP. The night was sold-out. When I came on-stage and people cheered, it dawned on me that I'd written these songs that others really wanted to hear. I was canny emotional that night, it meant so much to me.

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