

MUSIC

HE'S MY BROTHER SHE'S MY SISTER – NOBODY DANCES IN THIS TOWN

Published on February 13th, 2013



A gumbo of country, pop, blues and indie on debut album from LA's psychedelic carnival band. OUT NOW!

Before even playing this album by Los Angeles five piece He's My Brother She's Me Sister the first thing that strikes you is the album's cover – a photograph of the band looking like some sort of Pitchfork endorsed jug band. They look like Woodstock survivors rounded up by Wavy Gravy and taken on a Back-To-The-Future jaunt to 2013. Or like some sort of LSD fuelled travelling carnival show. Ken Kesey meets P.T. Barnum. In a word, intriguing, promising even. (OK two words!)

So far so good but what about the music? Album opener Tales That I Tell is a swinging, mid-tempo, almost rockabilly number. Catchy enough even after only a couple of listens. Further in there's country (Choir Of The Dead), brooding swampy blues (Touch The Lightning), and indie-guitar pop (The Same Old Ground), all gilded by great boy-girl vocal harmonies and sterling slide guitar work.

Although none of the musical ingredients is in itself new or boundary pushing, the way it's put together is endearingly fresh. Country, blues, swing, indie and pop bristle up along side each other often within the same song. Given the band's upfront sense of showmanship and presentation, the overall effect is colourful, vaudevillian even.

The band were originally formed by brother and sister Robert and Rachel Kolar as a folk duo before being expanded to a full five piece group. A refreshing antidote to bands that take themselves too seriously, there's something decidedly uplifting and inclusive about the band's music. You'd have to be a real sourpuss not to enjoy at least some of the tracks on this record. Factor in the fact that their stage act includes a tap dancer (also featured on the record on Clackin' Heels), and it makes your average indie guitar group pale in comparison. At present the band have no UK dates booked so in the meantime we'll have to make do with this LP. Roll up, roll up brothers and sisters come join the party!

[Click here for the band's website.](#)

[Click here for the Park The Van Records website.](#)

Nobody Dances In This Town was released on 28th January 2013 on Park The Van Records.

Rating 8/10

Written by: Duncan Fletcher on 02/13/2013.



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