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Mojo Fury: on pop stars and a travelling circus

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The cover of their new album is a half-man-half-cock, a depiction of two men about to fight. And it lays down a marker in the sand for the Northern Irish band Mojo Fury. The album, *Visiting Hours of a Travelling Circus*, sees the band's sound maturing, but there's still a distinct industrial edge influenced by the likes of the Nine Inch Nails. But even, 'underneath the heaviness of most of the songs, there's a light hearted story.'

Like when English comedian Frank Skinner played their current single 'Color of the Bear' on his Absolute Radio show.

"It was strange hearing someone like Frank, who has been in our consciousness for so long, talking about us," said bass player Ciaran McGreevy.

The point about their single being played on national radio is that the band is about to break into the big time. And no wonder; they excel during live performances and take every opportunity to play challenging music instead of being just another promoted band on a label, 'ramming generic pop stars down people's throats.'

"Dictating what people should listen to is not what music is about," said Ciaran. "Promote music that actually means something real, music with feeling."

The band has been playing together for seven years since meeting in Music College. They took the money they made from gigs and used it to make an EP, which brought them to the attention of a promoter.

"We set about recording our first album after we'd saved up enough money from gigs," explained Ciaran. "We recorded the album in 2009 and spent the next year sending it out to managers, agents and labels. Luckily, we were picked up by Northern Music who manages some bands we had grown up listening to. They got what we were doing and have helped us tour lots and put out a couple of singles. NMC have definitely been our savior."

The band has built a strong reputation for delivering energetic live performances.

"We try to make our music an embodiment of what's inside all of us," said Ciaran. "We put everything we have into our performances. We like to chill things out from time to time but generally we can't keep the energy we have bottled up so it comes out in the way we play. We play how we would want to see someone else play. Our favorite bands are those who put everything in to their shows."

Their last tour saw them on the road for two months solid, and they've supported big bands like Biffy Clyro.

"We slept in the van every night and had lots of fun doing so," said Ciaran. "There's a lot to be learnt by doing things this way."

Mojo Fury still take inspiration from their roots, practicing in a 'big farm house' in the Northern Ireland countryside.

"I think we just wanted to make a lot of noise in the beginning," said Ciaran. "We've kept the energy we had back then but have tried to

expand on the ideas a lot more.

"Every song comes about in its own way," continued Ciaran. "Usually it starts with an idea Mike has, he'll bring it to the practice room and we'll go about taking it apart and building stuff around it. Sometimes he'll bring a full piece of music to us and it's just a matter of tightening it all up. We'll then start adding it in to the live show once we can play it cohesively enough. New tunes never fully settle until you've played them live a good load of times."

Mojo Fury will hit the road in May with another Northern Irish band, And So I Watch You From Afar. Their debut album, Visiting Hours of a Travelling Circus, is released 9 May 2011, with the official launch show in Belfast on the 14 May.

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Mojo Fury: on pop stars and a travelling circus



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