

## Spring Offensive - A biog.

November 2013.

Spring Offensive are:

Matt Cooper - Guitar, organ, vocals

Lucas Whitworth - Lead vocals,

Theo Whitworth - Guitar, vocals

Pelham Groom - Drums, vocals

Chris Chadwick - Bass, samples, vocals

Spring Offensive, both on record and live, are already a hugely accomplished band. Their debut album 'Young Animal Hearts' isn't the sound of a new band with potential still fumbling around trying to find their style - it's a record that announces them as one of the UK's finest new bands. Live, there's an energy, creativity and conviction mixed with a style wholly their own, all led by the towering charismatic figure of frontman Lucas Whitworth. Live it isn't simply a band playing their music to an audience - it's a cathartic experience for both Spring Offensive and their fans.

There are several potential explanations for this:

'Young Animal Hearts' is an album eight years in the making. Produced by the band, it is eight years of blood and guts, eight years of life's high and lows poured into each lyric and musical nuance. But they are perfectionists, and over those years, the talented five-piece have continued to evolve their sound and tighten their live sets to a standard not befitting many new bands. This year alone they've played alongside contemporaries Local Natives, London Grammar, To Kill A King and Stornoway and sold out all three of their own headline London shows.

Things really started happening for them in 2012, with Spring Offensive being voted Oxford BBC Introducing 'Band of the Year', followed by a relocation to London, a playlist on BBC Radio 1 and a lengthy European tour. After a lot of industry false starts (thus begins life's process of highs and lows) Spring Offensive soon learnt the big life lesson that with independence comes power: the band set about raising the funds to release 'Young Animal Hearts' independently via crowd-sourcing. In only one week the full funds were raised thanks to devoted fans and aided by The Guardian covering the band's unconventional offer to personally kidnap a fan in exchange for £5,000 (not yet claimed).

Another explanation, which precedes the band's above history, is simply that Spring Offensive is formed of five exceptionally talented individuals. Whether it's composing theatre scores for theatre productions, filming documentaries, video making and remixing or even being involved in avant garde interactive performance art, here are a group for whom Spring Offensive is only one feather in their caps.

Guitarists Matt Cooper and Theo Whitworth independently compose theatre scores for various companies, using Theo's classical training (organ, viola, guitar, piano) and Matt's ear for the odd sounds and melodies, both of which occasionally find their way into Spring Offensive's music.

Bassist Chris Chadwick turns his hand at more wordy and business ventures, by managing new acts and producers, editing independent magazines and writing about new music.

Singer, Lucas Whitworth, (brothers Lucas and Theo were part raised in Argentina) works occasionally on translating foreign cinema and turns his flair for film to the bands advantage, directing the bands last three music videos alongside Matt, whose degree is Theatre & Performance Studies is clear through the band's videos, minuscule in budget but oh-so grand in scale.

The video for album track 'The River' is indicative of what - both visually and musically - Spring Offensive are capable of. Premiering on Clash this month, and shot in cinematic black and white, the video involved the long, tricky process of filling up a car with 7.5 tonnes of water, using rubber and duct tape to seal the Peugeot and pumping water through a hose from giant tanks. The track was inspired by the murderous folk music of the English countryside and the video mirrors the dark theme, with the atmosphere of Ben Wheatley's 'A Field In England', in which time and location are made to feel surreal and malleable, being an influence. 'The River' video feels like a dream with each band member floating over the ground, almost drawn towards the car. Conceptualised and directed by Matt and Lucas, with the whole of Spring Offensive working on the video's production. The extended Spring Offensive 'family' of friends and fans were brought in to help, with Sam King filming and editing the video and a fan offering the band her Peugeot via Twitter.

One look at the video for 'The River', was enough for Stornoway to hire Matt to direct their latest music video to single 'Farewell Appalachia'.

The bands collective creativity is poured lovingly into everything they do, and is impressively and clearly demonstrated in the meticulous way that they approach every aspect of their output. From releases in hand-stitched colouring books to the now sold out run of 7" accompanying single 'Not Drowning But Waving', from packed out shows in churches and bunkers to intimate acoustic affairs in living rooms, every performance, every piece of artwork, every format and font is as important to the band as the music they make.

'Young Animal Hearts' may have been a long time coming, but real artistry cannot be rushed and this is only just the beginning for Spring Offensive.