



## CHAPTER 11

### *And Then There Were Three*

On February 10<sup>th</sup> we had our first meeting with Ambrose Yalley, who would like to make some videos for us, starting with “Painted Red”.

Ambrose works for Channel Four as a film editor, after a brief stint working for porn channel Television X. It’s weird that because a video director we had become friends with (he filmed an as yet unseen interview with us a few weeks before and also filmed our performance at the previous gig for a supposed documentary) had also dabbled with filming porn while on a recent trip to Japan.

Anyway, I digress. Having had a look on his website, I realised that his videos tend to be quite surreal. Meeting him on the 10<sup>th</sup>, we saw for the first time what he had in mind. I’ve no idea where he gets his ideas from. I love it, but at the same time, me no understand.

We just told him, do what you like, “We are your puppets” and made plans to film a few weeks later.

It was around this time I did a podcast for Paul Giovanni’ blog. Having committed himself to monthly podcasts, he found himself too busy with other things, so I offered to step in and do one, as he had been celebrating Clinker for some time now.

Also Tomoko and I did a remix for The Spartans, who played with us at our last gig. Well Tomoko did most of the work, turning the drums and vocals from their track “Hermit” into a post rock epic. The first time I heard what Tomoko was creating, I thought she was playing Sigur Ros. That kinda thing.

February 21st was our first night as co-promoters of “Champions of



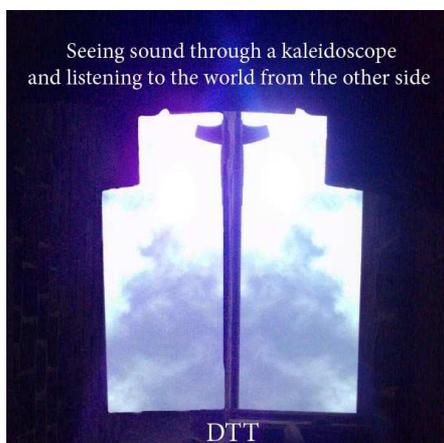
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the Empire” at The Bullet Bar, London and the whole night was a resounding success, absolutely packed! Still playing as a two piece, but with rehearsals going well with new drummer Marco. I was quite surprised really, because Spider from Colossus works in a very different way to me (something that would cause problems later) and I half expected it all to go wrong. So, full marks to Spider really for pulling it off.

Around this time, an Estonian journalist Kert Semm (who works for the leading newspaper there) reviewed our “Clinker” album and raved about it giving it a big fat 9.5/10. He got in touch. He has downloaded everything we’ve done and absolutely loves it. He also reviewed the “Hallucination Generation” single, giving it an 8.5 rating.

On February 28<sup>th</sup>, we played our last gig as a two piece in Lewisham, London. The gig was fun, but we were getting a bit bored with playing just as a duo and looked forward to playing with Marco in the future.

Tomoko released a collection of tunes as DTT on March 10<sup>th</sup>, called “Seeing Sound Through a Kaleidoscope and Listening to the World from the Other Side”. It’s a great collection of tunes with a few snatched Patti Smith and Sonic Boom samples thrown in. It’s quite a giant leap from the previous “Space Mission” EP.





1. Life is an Adventure
2. Beyond Time and Space
3. Noise Pop
4. How Do You Feel?
5. Experimental Space Trip
6. A Day in the Ocean
7. Out from the Other Side

We filmed our first video with Ambrose Yalley on March 14<sup>th</sup> for “Painted Red” in the basement of a freezing cold house, realising the weird and wonderful things he had wandering around his head. It was no fun lying on that freezing cold concrete floor I can tell you. Oh how we suffer for our art! The results were brilliant though and when uploaded it was raved about by everyone who watched it. Black balloons and mannequin heads. They were the stars!

He revealed that next he wanted to make a video for DTT, using the track “How Do You Feel” from her latest mini-album and the ideas he had were totally bonkers, but as we said to him before... “We are your puppets”!

So a meeting with Ambrose revealed we would be dressed as christmas trees and at one point would be wearing real fish heads as watches, which would squirt yellow puss....oh and there’d be lots of handling exotic snails. Like I said...bonkers! Just how we like it!

Around this time, we did another remix for The Girobabies. This time for their track “Party Around Me”. Again Tomoko took the lead, I came in and added a few bits later, turning it into another post rock epic.

So on March 28<sup>th</sup> we played our first gig with Marco on drums at o2 Academy, Islington, London. We didn’t realise when we agreed to do the gig that it was going to be a battle of the bands type thing. That is one thing I’ve always felt I would never get involved with, but we did want to play o2, cos it’s quite a respectable venue. Anyway,



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we just treated it like a gig and not some stupid competition where the winner is the band that brought the most friends and family. Marco did brilliantly and we were pleased to move on from the duo thing, deciding never to do that again. Marco also added some backing vocals which filled it out nicely.

We continued rehearsing and tightening up, with no other gigs for a month planned, but our nightmares were set to return.