



CHAPTER 15

Reviews for Fly Machine

We've had a number of great reviews for the album so I thought I'd compile them all here.

First review came from Kert Semm, the Estonian Journalist...

Oh London, so much to answer for... . Clinker, one of the stars of the London underground rock scene is back again. The history of Clinker can be seen as one man's struggle toward the stars. In recent past they have released the single/EP Hallucination Generation, and Pizzo Tung EP as well. Their last self-named LP was a brilliant album, undoubtedly the strongest unsigned album of 2008. Another sign of their growth in popularity emerges from frequent performing, where they have a formidable line-up consisting of 4-6 people at times. My initial thoughts about the new album are that the songs herein can be divided into at least 3 sections. As multifaceted as Clinker used to be. While some colours of the past are replaced by new ones. For instance, the head-on psychedelic tunes and intrusive baggy rhythms on earlier albums are removed from here. Through songs such as Searching for a New World, Hold Out Your Fists and Hallucination Generation, Peter Jordan has for the first time demonstrated his volition to move a bit more towards the charts of recent pop music – there's a lot of energy, synthetic and danceable sequences roll over these fast-paced tracks. Also, there are two tracks, The Line and Mire, that are full of feedback-driven harshness. Moving fast and hit hard. Compared to the video version of Mire, the album version comes complete with a saxophone solo, having thereby an intriguing blend of straightforward noise rock and a tumultuous



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jazz element. Quieter moments are presented in tracks like Painted Red, and Long Way Around. Also Let`s Go Out And Get Fucked can be classified as one of those, though it is a shimmering sunshine pop track first of all. Although the last three tracks differ from each other by intensiveness and tonality, all of them show their affinity towards inward-looking dreamlike tunes. Music Gives You Power is the absolute highlight on this album though and probably Clinker`s best ever – somehow in this exceedingly epic insight there lacks many words to properly describe it. However, may be it is comparable to tracks with a divine touch like The Asphalt World (Suede), Broken Heart (Spiritualized), Holes (Mercury Rev), or Grumpus (Lambchop).

Although I can only fantasize how the next Clinker album will sound, it is thinkable that the next one, sometime in the future, would appear as the transitional album between a new life and the past in the history of the London duo. Hopefully in the meantime they will have enough luck to be the-next-big-thing in the world.

Then one from Drone Magazine...

Clinker are a friendly little band from London. They warmed the cockles of my stony heart with their sweetly polite message directing me to their affectionately maintained MySpace that they clearly make the effort to update with the utmost care. They're palpably excited about the release of their album Thru' The Fly Machine - a freely downloadable collection of a dozen hazily stoned electronic tunes.

'Hallucination Generation' - a track released earlier as an EP - is a peek into Jeff Spicoli's kaleidoscopic brain. Opening with a young woman recounting her first LSD experience (taken over a dose of marijuana, might I add), it spirals into an infinite loop of fuzzy speculation: 'Was she hiiiiiiigh?... why so



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hiiiiigh?' and throws in some eerie subliminal pushes in the direction of a 'sacred mushroom' - something that makes perfect sense in the context of this trippy little ditty (but looks a bit wanky in print form - oh dear). Close on its stoner heels is the similarly spaced out (probably on 'shrooms) 'Let's Go Out and Get Fucked' which totters about unsteadily on its hippie toe-tips - a singalong in a sunny park with supportive hand claps keeping the beat.

Don't listen to this album on shuffle as you then run the risk of 'Long Way Round' being the first song you hear. Totally ear-friendly, it's not that it suffers from a lack of quality. It's just that this track is cleverly squeezed into just the right spot on the album to give your brain cells a bit of a jolt and make sure you're still paying attention. It is much more old-school than its counterparts in that it makes use of 'regular' instruments and sounds more like a 'normal' song - mellow, semi-acoustic with minimal manufactured effects, it demonstrates Clinker's ability to move beyond stoned hippies bouncing around a sunlit meadow to stoned lovers soaking up the stars in a moonlit meadow.

In fact, the second half of the album is a bit of an abrupt change from the first as it wades dazedly into the droneage territory it had initially been avoiding. 'Jump in the Fire' is a melodious, yet suicidal, zombie-chant: 'Let's all jump in the fire' (sung to the tune of "braiiiiiiins" but only more pleasant). 'A Time, A Place' is not composed of the most brilliant of lyrics, but it is definitely a bobble-headed nod to a dreamy Spiritualized-Slowdive crossbreed. Static-infused closer 'So We Say' - with the shoegaze solidarity similar to that which laces Slowdive's 'Altogether' - builds itself up to such an anthemic climax that by the time the final recited-by-an-army chorus hits, you have yourself a 'Well, it's about time!' moment.

Give Clinker a listen if only to bask in their enthusiasm and



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genuine love of music. Their last.fm bio may state the fairly generic: "[Clinker] have to make music, it's in their DNA. Everyday is spent creating. It's their life," but they really are one of the most dedicated bands I have ever come across. They have all my support, and it'll cost you nothing to give them a listen since they have happily offered this album to anyone who wants to give it a try for no charge at all. Get it from their official site.

And this one from Music-news.com, a big phat 5 out of 5 review...

London based experimental band Clinker produce their most complete work yet with their stunning L.P `Thru` the Fly Machine`

It kicks off with a high energized and synthesized bang with the anthemic `Searching for the New World`. A song that could make the most awkward person in a club girate like a giraffe on a wet marble floor. The lush production just gets bigger and bigger as the song progresses with mantra like lyrics of hope and discovery. This song is an instant classic and makes you demand to hear more. Next up is, `Music Gives You Power` which takes you into a dream-like state and is the perfect mellow foil to the albums banging opener and takes you nicely into the summer drinking anthem that is `Lets Go Out and Get Fucked` . Its nursery-rhyme style lyrics and catchier than swine flu chorus has a simple yet effective message. It conjures up images of the hottest day of the year with your favourite beer garden and chosen family. Recovering alcoholics should possibly avoid this one.

The album then takes another twist with `Hold Out Your Fists` which reminds me of a Beta Band song I cant quite place then onto another highlight `The Line` which kicks in with grungey, Distorted guitars that dim only momentarily for some atmospheric spoken word poetry then kicks back in to a



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beautiful loud noise with a chorus that will be embedded in your brain for days. `Painted Red` is next up which slows the pace right down and comes with a Syd Barret type element before `Mire` takes it right back up to notch 11 with downright dark and dirty guitars with dulcet punk style vocals.

`Long Way Round` is a reflective song that Richard Ashcroft wishes he had thought of and features top class singing and expert piano riffs before `Hallucination Generation` takes you to some sort of Hippie Grunge b-movie. The chant of `Medication for the soul` (sic) combines well with samples from films and genius psychedelic guitar riffage. The final three tracks are epic with sweeping chord progressions and the final song especially `So We Say` is a beautiful, Haunting and fitting end to a perfect album. The harmonising between Pete and Tomoko is a joy to listen to and as the song rings out your aware you have just been listening to a complete gem of a piece. Every song pulls you in different directions and yet it somehow retains a sense of unity.

You can download this album for free from the link below along with the entire Clinker back catalogue. Well, What are you waiting for? You wont be dissapointed.

We reviewed a few other reviews from foreign sites, but although I did google translate them, it didn't translate clearly. It was quite clear they were favourable though.

We also plugged it via a top shoegazer blog, that specialises in FREE stuff called "Shoegazeralive". Their endorsement has quite clearly upped the amount of downloads we've had.