



CHAPTER 16

Train, Bus, Car...the shoot out

On September 27th 2009, we filmed a brand new video for “So We Say” with Ambrose Yalley directing again.

For this one we drove down to my old stomping ground Kent to film at Shorne Park, rounding up a few old friends as extras. Ichiko couldn't make it, but Antonio came down. Also Dave Munn, Marcus and others appeared. We took down a load of food. The night before, I baked 40 cheese scones (my speciality), some pasta and spicy chicken wings to keep everyone fed on what I knew from experience would be a long day. Luckily the weather was good. I actually thought it would be better if it was raining, thinking it would suit the video. As Nicola Moys (one of the extras) pointed out though, it would probably have meant no-one would've turned up.

For the first time, I could actually understand what the video was about. Not completely, but I could see a link between the video and the song. We had to dress up in soldiers uniforms and the performance side of it was a post battle scenario, with bloodied bandages and everything. The Ambrose surreal bit was sewing chicken bones to bandages and cushions...hmmm got me stumped there. Overall though I felt the video showed us fighting against the odds, which is roughly what the song is about (without giving too much away).

Anyway we had a great day. It was good to catch up with some of my Medway chums and make a great video. Another great Ambrose Yalley one! He did a fantastic job editing it and getting the colour right.

Browsing the internet in October, we found that Esquire magazine



had declared our cover of Tom Waits "I'll Shoot the Moon" (from the "Hairy Cornflake" EP) one of the best covers of all time. Who'da thought that. When we recorded it, the whole premise was to make it as cheesy as possible. It's strange how things turn out sometimes. Our first major British press.

For our next gig at Tommy Flynn's, Camden, London on October 1st we had to play without Ichiko. She had to go into hospital to have a minor operation. The gig went well though and thankfully Ichiko was soon back to normal recovering well.

It's great when bands bond and our next gig at The Legion on October 29th was one of those where all the bands connected and have remained friends ever since. Spoon put on an amazing line-up of bands that also included Telesterion, Sunlight Service Group, Honrada and Maria Slovakova. Apparently, according to Spoon, he just threw it together without much thought. But it was perfect. I didn't really plan to stay until the end, because we were having to get up early the next day to catch the Megabus to Hull for our first gig outside of London. You just couldn't leave though, it was a magical night. As for our set, we opened with our cover of "The Hawaii Five-0 Theme" for the first of two times we've played it. Antonio even guested for an impromptu spot with Honrada.

So the next day...The Lamp in Hull.

I'd been friends with a band called The Notebook for a few years on Myspace, but we had lost contact. I'd even cheekily nicked a couple of their tracks using cheeky software back then. Then around October 2009, a few months prior maybe, we were back in contact. We were due to play with them at Camden Rock, London on September 6th, but due to unforeseen circumstances we had to pull out. I still went to meet up with them and we made arrangements for Clinker to go up to their hometown of Hull to play with them and now that day had arrived.



We were booked on a very early Megabus to travel to Hull, which meant going part of the way by coach and part of the way by train. Ichiko couldn't come due to work commitments. So we traipsed off, very tired after the previous nights gig, down to Kings Cross where we thought we were going to board the coach for the first part of the trip. When we arrived and waited a while, we started to wonder where we were supposed to wait. There didn't seem to be any coach around for us to board. We'd got there nice and early so it wasn't a big deal. We were sure it would turn up soon, assuming we were standing in the right place. With little time left before it was due to leave, we double checked the times and everything. This was when we realised "SHIT, THE FIRST PART IS BY TRAIN!!!". We ran and ran and ran up the road to the train platform, only to arrive just in time to watch it departing from the station.

We wandered around the station a bit shell shocked not knowing what to do for a while, then headed back to my flat to discuss what to do. There was only one more train apparently and that was fully booked.

Back at my flat, I was quite determined not to blow out the gig. The only gig so far we had pulled was a gig with The Notebook. I couldn't face doing it again. So after much discussion we bit the bullet, hired a car from the garage opposite our flat (fuck the cost) and drove to Hull.

So I'm fucking knackered, driving to Hull, playing another gig, then driving back.

I originally thought, "Ok, well I'll have to get some decent sleep before we drive back", but of course that didn't happen. I partied through the night with The Notebook posse and only had two hours sleep.

Possibly over the limit alcohol-wise, I drove us back. Mostly it was ok, but by the time we hit London I could no longer react to signs very



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well, nearly crashing the car by jumping through traffic lights on one or two occasions. It didn't help that they had shut off some of the motorway on the way down for some reason and we found ourselves going round and round in circles for an hour or so.

In the end though, we arrived home safely...just. I'm glad, despite the cost and everything else we did it though. Rock n Roll!!!