



CHAPTER 8

Live at Last

So at last on November 17th 2007, with Joe back and rehearsals going well, we played our first gig at Water Rats in Kings Cross, London. It went really well and the set was...

Bulletproof
Sunnyside Up (and Runny)
Blott
Too Punchdrunk
Star Hardcore Lady
Am I Good (Am I Evil)
Say Goodbye
Sega

There's a short clip of us playing "Bulletproof" from the gig on youtube.

As a warm up for me, I also played a short solo acoustic set the week before at the T Bird pub in Highbury, London bashing thru' "Blott", "What You Done" and "22...and the Rest". I didn't play 'til midnight by which time I was quite pissed, but I don't think it showed.

After sitting on "When I Grow Up I Wanna Be a Space Cadet" for nearly a year, wondering what to do with it, we decided to give it away like all the others as a 2007 Christmas present to anyone that wanted to download it. We were originally going to sell this one using an on-line distributor, but we finished the album with a cover of Pink Floyd's "Matilda Mother" and getting the permission to use the song proved too difficult. Anyway, we weren't playing any of it live and had another album complete which we were ("Clinker"). One person described it as a "psychedelic masterpiece" and had it as one of their favourite albums of the year. Indeed we were still very



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proud of it. As mentioned earlier it is quite an experimental batch of tunes (too tricky to do live at that point!). It still has a lot of strong melodies I believe and is another one of my favourites.



1. Ayor
2. Don't Panic
3. Interferon
4. Stop!
5. Personal Hygiene
6. Isolation
7. 7th Heaven
8. One Step (Too Far)
9. Some People Are...
10. Spit Me Out
11. Matilda Mother

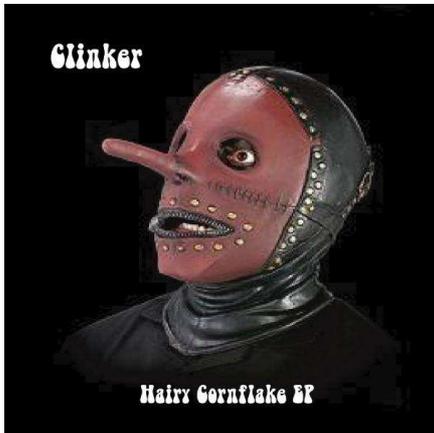
So 2007 ended and we'd managed to get quite a lot done over that year and finally played our first gig.

January 2008 and we made a few final tweaks to the Clinker album and started putting together an EP of one original tune recorded a while back and three cover versions. The idea was to make it as cheesy as possible...and it was for sure. It was released to download for free (as usual) on February 15th and we called it "Hairy Cornflake" (a reference to cheesy 80's Radio 1 DJ Dave Lee Travis).



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To date it's one of our top downloads, though I think that's more to do with the mad cover design maybe than the content.



1. You Just Are
2. No Good Trying
3. I'll Shoot the Moon
4. Story of an Artist

A fair review of it was published on-line...

"Well it's free and you should not turn away from stuff that is free. It's that whole not looking a gift horse in the mouth thing. Vets probably do that kind of thing all the time (or maybe they do look a gift horse in the mouth as part of their job description...) but Bluesbunnies just take what is available. In this case, it was a download only EP called "Hairy Cornflake" from a London band called Clinker.

The cover made a good impression even if it did remind this Bluesbunny of his Uncle Eddie (now resting at one of Her Majesty's hotels after an abortive attempt to rob a post office whilst disguised as a french maid). You also get four songs for no money (which can't be bad) - one original and three inspired covers. Let's take the original first. "You Just Are" is a quirky little number. Oddly enough, it also seemed reminiscent of George Harrison's hippy type music from the seventies with



the chorus being more of a chant. No complaints so far then. Moving on to the covers, we get a Kinks like version of Syd Barrett's "No Good Trying" with some added cheesy synths and a vaguely camp showtune take on Tom Waits' "I'll Shoot the Moon". Drama abounds on the cover of "Story of an Artist" and the song comes across like it should be on a stage as part of some musical extravaganza or other.

Bluesbunny has never been on an ocean cruise mainly due to spending too much cash on beer. However, Bluesbunny can imagine stopping off in a Caribbean paradise and going into a quayside bar. There's a piano player there who for a dollar will play any song you like. You request a few of your favourite songs and they sound like the songs on this EP. Sort of off key, sort of camp but memorable nonetheless. Perhaps not essential, but worth having. Available from the band's website." – Bluesbuuny.com

On February 27th we played our second ever gig at The Bullet Bar in Kentish Town, London.

We knew just before the gig that Joe was leaving the band. His day job working on the underground made it difficult to plan ahead. He never knew right up to a gig, whether they were going to give him the time off or whether he would be on the right shift. The same went for rehearsals, but it never really caused us a problem. He didn't want to hold us back and the stress that situation caused led to him believing it was best if he left now. It was a shame because he's been committed to doing Clinker from 2000 onwards, even though the live band didn't happen properly until more recently. We still had one more gig planned for March and he said he'd do that one then that's it.

Still, the Bullet Bar gig in February went down well and we officially released the "Clinker" album there, selling out of all the CDs we'd managed to put together. I think the album is really good but,



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because half of it is re-recorded old tunes, it's hard for me to truly love it. The new songs are great, up there as some of the best tunes I've written and Tomoko started to get involved with production, pulling off a marvelous big production for "The Sun is Out Today". Also having real drums on most of the tunes certainly made it sound a lot bigger. The first half of the album is purely song based and then it gradually gets a bit trippy.



1. Sunnyside Up (and Runny)
2. Am I Good (Am I Evil)
3. Blott
4. Bulletproof
5. Say Goodbye
6. What You Done
7. Slimeball
8. Overspill = Calamities
9. High Times
10. Star Hardcore Lady
11. The Sun Is Out Today
12. What You Done (Reflection)

One listener said the album flows brilliantly and I like to think it does. That person was Julsie from Edinburgh, Scotland and she even sent us a "wee" drawing she created inspired by the album...



Paul Giovanni did a little review of the Bullet Bar gig...

"So, Clinker were great...Yes boss, I like Clinker.

The current sound of the band is quite shoegaze and even a little baggy - the kind of thing you might have expected to hear in the early 90's on Creation - but I like a band with an inbuilt stubbornness about how they go about things and I also like a band who play without any sense of time - who create their own (though I felt *Say Goodbye* was perhaps played a little too quickly)."

It was pretty much the same set as the last gig, but we added "Tyred" and a cover of Velvet Underground' "Sunday Morning" at the end of the set and didn't play "Star Hardcore Lady". Hmm, actually not the same set at all.

The "Clinker" album was reviewed by an Estonian blogger Kert Semm (who also writes for Estonias leading newspaper). I don't know what it says, because it's in Estonian, but he marked each half of it (7.3 for the first half, 9.8 for the second) and gave it an overall mark of 8.6. He's going to write about us in the newspaper once we



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release our next album.

He has since commented...

Today I listened to Clinker (2008). Previously I did it some weeks ago. I needed some time to forget it. This album is the masterpiece. Actually is more worth than 8.5 given by me on my blog.

On March 17th, we made another EP available for FREE called "Cake Tin Head". It's a three tracker, featuring "Relapse", a re-recorded version of "Tyred" (originally on "The Truth About Nuts") and our "Sunday Morning" cover version.

"Tyred" was written in 2002 about our flat at the time being infested with mice. The weird thing is....when I set about re-recording it we had another visit from the mice community (a mouse who became known as Gerald)! Weird shit! Sean said I was the pied piper of Highbury. So now I'm frightened to play the bloody song, just in case!



1. Relapse
2. Tyred
3. Sunday Morning

The "Cake Tin Head" EP was also reviewed by Bluesbunny.com...



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"More free music? So it would seem as the Bluesbunny downloaded another EP from London band Clinker. This time there are three tracks up for grabs to go with the rather fine cover art that Bluesbunny has come to expect from them.

"Relapse" is all riffs and robotic drumming just like a heavy metal band that have gotten a bit addicted to American period Depeche Mode. The guitars trip out on power chords whilst the vocals rattle about in reverb land. "Tyred" by contrast sound more like the Kinks would have sounded if they had lasted a bit longer. Certainly on the pop side of things, it reeks of life in the Big Smoke with some properly effective tub thumping drums and laconic vocals. "Sunday Morning" takes the Velvet Underground song and gives it the Slade treatment. Seventies pub rock goes all glam in this one. Respectful and different at the same time, it brings a smile to your face.

You know something? I'm getting to like this band. They always have a new trick up their sleeve. Wonder what they will do next?"