



*"I used to pay more attention  
to critics than fans, but now  
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# SPECTOR

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After stylishly making their mark on the indie scene in 2012, it was a long, arduous three year wait between Spector's debut and this summer's Moth Boys. Now re-energised, revamped and embarking on yet another tour, we caught a few words with ever-acerbic frontman Fred Macpherson, Sheffield's own Danny Blandy and guitarist Jed Cullen just hours before they graced the Leadmill stage.

*Words by Benedict Tetzlaff-Deas — Photography Harley Kate Young — Design by I am a graphic designer*

# An Inspector Calls

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## HOW'S IT GOING?

*Danny:* Very well, we're about halfway through the tour, and it's I think been it's been the best tour we've ever done.

*Fred:* I think we're playing better than we ever have played, so hopefully you'll see that tonight.

## TOURING ASIDE, WHAT'VE YOU BEEN UP TO?

*Danny:* We went to the cinema last night, and I went swimming and to the sauna yesterday. I was at the football today, Sheffield United vs Millwall, we lost 2-1. And we've just done a sound check.

*Fred:* I went to a horror festival at The Showroom this morning at 10am, and watched two feature-length films and three short films, alone in the dark, eating a chocolate croissant.

## HOW HAVE YOU FOUND THE GENERAL REACTION TO YOUR SOPHOMORE ALBUM MOTH BOYS COMPARED TO YOUR DEBUT?

*Danny:* I think with three years between them, with that long wait, it's good that people still come back to listen to us.

*Jed:* Really good. A lot of people seem to have said it's better than the first one, which is what we were hoping for.

A few people have said it's worse, but those who have been vocal about it say they prefer it.

## WOULD YOU SAY YOU PAY MORE ATTENTION TO CRITICS OR FANS?

*Danny:* I'd say I used to pay more attention to critics than fans, but now I pay more attention to fans. Definitely.

*Fred:* That's a really good question. If a critic from a really big newspaper said the album isn't as good as the first you're like "oh, okay", but it's more cutting if a fan says it.

*Danny:* It feels worse, really

*Fred:* Yeah, it does feel worse.

## YOUR NEW MATERIAL IS PERHAPS MORE NUANCED THAN WHAT CAME BEFORE. HOW DOES THAT TRANSLATE ON STAGE?

*Danny:* Yeah, anything that wasn't vocals, bass, drums or guitar was on an iPod.

*Fred:* You're giving away the secrets of 2012! I think nuance is a lot harder to translate live, you can't fake nuance, whereas if you're making a loud clatter then that's quite easy to deliver. Nuance has to be nuance, and I think you have to learn that. We're only just starting to develop that now, we're just beginning to have that approach.

*Jed:* Less general noise, really. I think we've just had to make the setup a bit... nicer. Before we basically just had an iPod as a backing track.

## DANNY YOU ARE, OF COURSE, FROM OUR STEEL CITY. WHAT SIGNIFICANCE DOES THIS DATE TEND TO HOLD FOR YOU?

*Danny:* All my friends from school come along, and my mum comes down, which is nice. When I first played in Sheffield I actually got quite embarrassed about it, with my mum being there, but now I'm fine with it. And she likes it. Which is good.

**I REMEMBER SEEING YOU PLAY HERE FOR  
TRAMLINES IN 2012, A FEW WEEKS BEFORE YOUR  
DEBUT CAME OUT. WHAT'S CHANGED SINCE THEN,  
AND WHAT'S STAYED THE SAME?**

*Jed:* What's changed? Well, you play the keyboards now. (looks at Danny)

*Danny:* Yeah, I play the keyboards now. I used to be on drums, but now that's Yoann. And Chris has left, so there was two guitarists, but now there's just one, Jed. Jed: And we have a new album of course. Danny has longer hair now, Fred's got long hair. And Fred's got new glasses. Fred: Yeah, new glasses, write that down. Yes, your trademark glasses, where are they now?

*Fred:* They're on the shelf at home. There were two pairs actually, a thinner pair and a thicker pair, but only an eagle eye would've spotted the difference. But the old ones looked weird with long hair.

*Danny:* They looked weird with short hair too!

**HOPEFULLY NOT A SORE SPOT, WHAT EFFECT DID  
THE DEPARTURE OF CHRISTOPHER BURMAN HAVE  
ON THE DYNAMICS OF THE BAND?**

*Jed:* I think we've come together a bit more actually. You know when there's a funeral and you have a nice chat afterwards

*Fred:* Yeah, or if you've ever had a nice steak and there's been a bit of a fatty bit and you've had to cut it off (laughs) No, we're still good friends. In reality we needed something to change for us to be able to inspire a shift in the music, and I think he left because he knew it'd be the right thing for the band. And it was the right thing for the band.

*Jed:* He also came last in the public vote, so we had to get rid of him. We'll be doing the same thing at the end of this tour.

**WHAT'S ON THE RIDER?**

*Fred:* Tonight's actually a bit different, usually it's kind of safe, sometimes we get Pret a Manger sandwiches if they have them in that city.

*Jed:* Hummus, ginger, lemon and cucumber, which is actually a really useful combination of things. Also tea, things to make sandwiches, Lilt...

*Danny:* And carrots.

*Jed:* And a bottle of water, mixer, beers. So nothing interesting. Oh yeah, and we'll usually have three packets of supernoodles, then we mix in the ginger and cucumber. It's really good actually.

**SO, WHAT CAN WE EXPECT FROM SPECTOR  
AFTER THIS TOUR?**

*Danny:* New music, sooner.

*Fred:* Yeah, and some more touring.

*Danny:* We'll be going to America and Mexico soon. The plan is definitely for the gap to not be as big as it was.

*Fred:* We're in Mexico at the end of November. But I also think we want to find a more interesting way to develop as a band than just 'album, tour, break'.

I think we want to try to find a better way to develop albums and touring alongside each other, so we don't get in that rhythm of it always being one or the other.

So I think next time we do an album it won't have as many singles before it's out, we'll do a single and an album much quicker.

We're definitely going to be looking to record an album next year, so touch wood we can think of some good songs.

*No plans for Spector to return to Sheffield any time soon, but you can catch all the latest info on their website and social feeds.*

**WWW.SPECTOR.CO.UK**

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to record an album next year"**

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