

THE THIEVES



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- HAL -



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By T. Stephens

*I used to work as a bouncer at a bar in Hollywood and these guys would come in from time to time and play. I dug them and most importantly got no fake ass star attitudes from them. You remember that kind of stuff when you work the door at an L.A. club. So, now I find myself with the pleasure of introducing all you muthafuckers to a band I have liked for quite some time **The Thieves!***

Although the band is originally from England, what made you want to relocate to Los Angeles?

Hal: We came originally upon the false promises of a company called The Firm in Los Angeles. It turned out that the director of A&R turned out to be the tea-boy – it was a bit of an upper-cut and we should have seen it coming... but musicians are the most gullible people in the world.... until you've well and truly cut your teeth on the rind of the music industry pig. It was too late to bail cause we'd arrived in LA, suitcases packed, jobs quit and homes closed— we'd nothing left to lose so we dug in. We crashed on a friends floor, begged and borrowed our gear, learned to palate Mexican beer and played as many dates in LA as we could until our cash ran dry and our mates finally kicked us out (you know what they say about fish and friends – both stink after 3 days.... We stayed a good 6 weeks, but definitely stunk after 3 days!). We bounced around a few industry types and were sharp enough to put a few loose deals in place that kept us out here and away from the void we'd left at home. That's the short story!

Has being in L.A. affected the way you guys play and create your music?

Sam: Yeah, It has. I think we're a lot more open-minded since we relocated. American Radio is very different to English radio; you actually play rock music. We all live together in this ranch style house just on the edge of the Angeles National Forest. We spent 8 days building a soundproofed studio so now we can play any time we like and capture any idea one of us has. I think the move has also pushed us closer together and given us perspective on what rock 'n' roll is about.

Describe The Thieves sound to those who have not had a chance to check you brotha's out yet?

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Jamie: Imagine AC/DC on acid and Pink Floyd on uppers! Basically we do it dirty and we don't apologize to anyone about it! We're all from the old school and we play our instruments, not each other. I guess the best thing is check us out make your own minds up. I'm sure we'll have a party...

Do you write as a group or is there a chief songwriter in the band?

Sam: We all write. Usually one of us will bring an idea into the band and we'll work it into a song. Other times we'll bring in completed songs and then it's just a matter of making it sound good; getting the right beat, arrangement



Rock'n'Roll damnation ... it was easy for us because we just lived it 100%. We've basically done the same thing for the last 5 years.; never looked back and never had a better time! He looks a lot like me (not quite as ugly though) which can be fun for getting in and out of trouble... and we always win the band punch-ups.

Let's talk about your E.P. soon to be released on Liquor & Poker Records. Who produced it? Where did you record it?

Sam: The main bulk of the EP was recorded in LA at Royaltone Studios with Chris Brown. Chris did Radiohead's 'The Bends', Muse's 'Origin of Symmetry', and



and harmonies etc. We're pretty much a democracy really.

One of your band mates is your brother, have you always worked with your brother musically?

Hal: Yea and nay. I've played Rock and Roll for longer than I haven't now. I started playing in local pubs when I was 14... bunking off school and then coming in late the next day (sounds crazy but my folks were actually proud of me for doing this?!). My family was – and is – totally immersed in Rock'n'Roll. In fact, the first band I ever played in was with my best friend from school. We couldn't

find a drummer for love nor money... so my old man – the devious bastard – persuaded my older brother to be our drummer by buying a drum kit and only letting Jesse (my bro) play it on the condition he joined the band!! After leaving school, I knocked around London for a good while in various groups until Oxford called me home again (great music city Oxford is). When I left home, Sam had just started playing the bass, and when I arrived back on me Ma's front door he was easily the best kiddie around. We found an old converted barn in the middle of nowhere, moved in and spent 6 months just writing and rehearsing and conjuring up our plans for

he worked with George Martin on the remixes for The Beatles' 'Anthology'; all albums we dig. We locked ourselves up for a month at the end of last summer and went to work with the best songs we had at the time. We wanted to give the songs a real vibe and identity that reflects where we're at and what kind of band we are – which I think we achieved. We also did a track earlier in 2004 sort of as an experiment. We did 'Tales From the White Line' with Lenny Franchi at a studio deep in the English country side. We wanted to get a retro, deep down and dirty sound, so we used an

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old 16 track tape machine and loads of old outboard gear. This kind of created the blue print style for the songs we recorded later in the summer.

Are you pleased with how the E.P turned out?

Jamie: Yeah we're really pleased how it turned out. We got down a great energy on there. It's like our calling card just saying 'Here we are and there's more where this comes from!' It's always hard being locked away in some studio in the middle of nowhere playing the same take over and over with people getting pissed at you because you just fucked up the end of a perfect take, but when your driving through Hollywood and your tune comes on the radio it makes it all worth it, and that's a great feeling!

The Thieves will be out on tour for a few months, is this your first tour of the States?

Sam: It's our first national tour of the States. We've played up and down California for the past year and a half but never got over the state line. Getting out on our first national tour of the US is going to be wicked. We've got about 40 dates in about as many states. We're gonna get to see a lot on the road which I can't wait for.

Will you head home and do some dates in England as well?

Jamie: Most of the year is taken up with US promo but I think we're penciled in for late April, but that will no doubt change. We love playing in the UK. We always have a great time over there. We see our families and

get all our old friends down and just have a party. Oh and we can get a proper pint of the black stuff!

Does anybody in the band ride or have an affinity for motorcycles or Hot Rods? (This is the mandatory yes we do and we like half naked women too. If you guys don't, it would be the equivalent of a dear hunter being interviewed by an animal rights magazine. However, answer as you wish.)

Hal: I did say that my house was immersed in Rock'n'Roll didn't I - one and the same mate!! My family are bike nuts - big time - although I can claim the title of being the first proper biker in my family. I started working my weekends for a welder (Chad -who remains one of my best friends to this day) when I was 13. His workshop was on a farm and as soon as we put the tools down, out came the bikes. The first bike I learned to ride was a single-cylinder 360 cc Bultaco trials bike (evil bike that one). I just sat on that fucker and ripped the throttle right back - not realizing what gears did, let alone that on these bikes, first and second gear were reserved specifically for vertical walls and rock climbing. I nearly lost my crown jewels that day cuz the bike reared up and then bucked like a donkey for about 100 yards until I fell off. I sussed it out, nearly got shot by the farmer for shredding his fields up and then moved up to the proper bikes.

My friend Chad had a BSA 250, two Triumph Tigers (one in pieces that we rebuilt) and a Triumph Chopper, which he'd spent 6 months traveling around Morocco on in the 70's (needless to say that his wife left him). I then bought a Triumph Tiger for myself until having to sell it when we came to America. My dad's been riding for quite a while now but he's a blasphemer due to owning 3 BMW's (I do give him hell for it) and my older brother Jesse is a speed freak, so goes round corners with his knee up by his ear whilst scratching the rear indicator on the road at 80 mph on them Honda Fireblade things. Sam is like me and likes them Old British

beauties that you 'feel' coming round the corner as well as seeing them. Jamie's family rides too but he's the laziest git in the world so he only talks about riding - he will however ride anything else that moves, and if it ain't moving, he'll kick it til it does! I'd like to get a Triumph Chopper over here - I love the sound and history of the vintage British bikes and I think that the Triumph Chop just looks the absolute bollocks.. girls love em right?! - but with my meager pennies, it's going to be a while. As for half naked woman- well, we've done the Rock'n'Roll, and we've done the bikes, I think that only leaves for some hot, half-dressed (even undressed) ladies to complete the 'holyntrinity'. Put in a picture of us, by a Triumph Chopper and some fit birds. If they're that fit, send'em down to our shows or just give them our number.

Is there anything you would like to say to the ChopperHead readers that you think they should know about The Thieves?

All pictures of scantily clad ladies accepted and welcomed via our website - www.thebandofthieves.com

GO BUY THESE BROTHA'S EP AT YOUR LOCAL TOWER RECORDS OR IF YOUR LOOK'N AT THIS IN A TOWER STORE RIGHT NOW, MAKE IT HAPPEN!



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Ask and sometimes you muthafuckin receive!

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