

# HERMITAGE GREEN

"Never In a million years did I think we'd be playing all over the world and at festivals when we started out! I was so nervous playing our first gig in a small pub called Aunty Lenaghs in Adare. I thought we weren't ready and that people would either ignore us or laugh us off! Even when we started jamming in the Curragower bar in Limerick I always thought of it as something for fun to pass the evenings, never as a career! Both Barry and myself, were coming from a sporting background where we were full-time/professional athletes. Our outlook was that playing music was a good distraction/pastime to get away from thinking about training and competitions. The lifestyle change couldn't be more opposite! From training hard, eating healthy and looking after yourself in all

of us started jamming together with the intention of being a band. It was purely for fun and something to do to pass time and satisfy an urge to play a few tunes. Being in a band was so far from my radar when we started that I spent the first few months, if not years, wondering what the hell was going on! Then when you list those gigs above and think of all of them in the same sentence it is surreal to think we played all those gigs! To think of people paying money to buy tickets to come and see us play songs that we wrote and to hear them sing them back to us during a gig is an amazing feeling that I never contemplated starting out, yet when it happens it's an amazing feeling. The thing that always gets me is, sometimes before a gig you'd see people queueing at the door and the queue could be 20m long! We're sometimes walking out to get a coffee or something between sound check and stage time and you see this and it always takes me by surprise. I don't think I'll ever get used

doing exactly what you want to be doing. It doesn't feel like work (most of the time). Then again, as you said, it's also a bit scary. You get busy months where you are financially stable and then you get quieter ones where you are counting your pennies. To be honest, for me that's the biggest stress of the whole thing. All we need, is to write a hit and become a massive success and then we won't have to worry about that! Easy! (laughs)

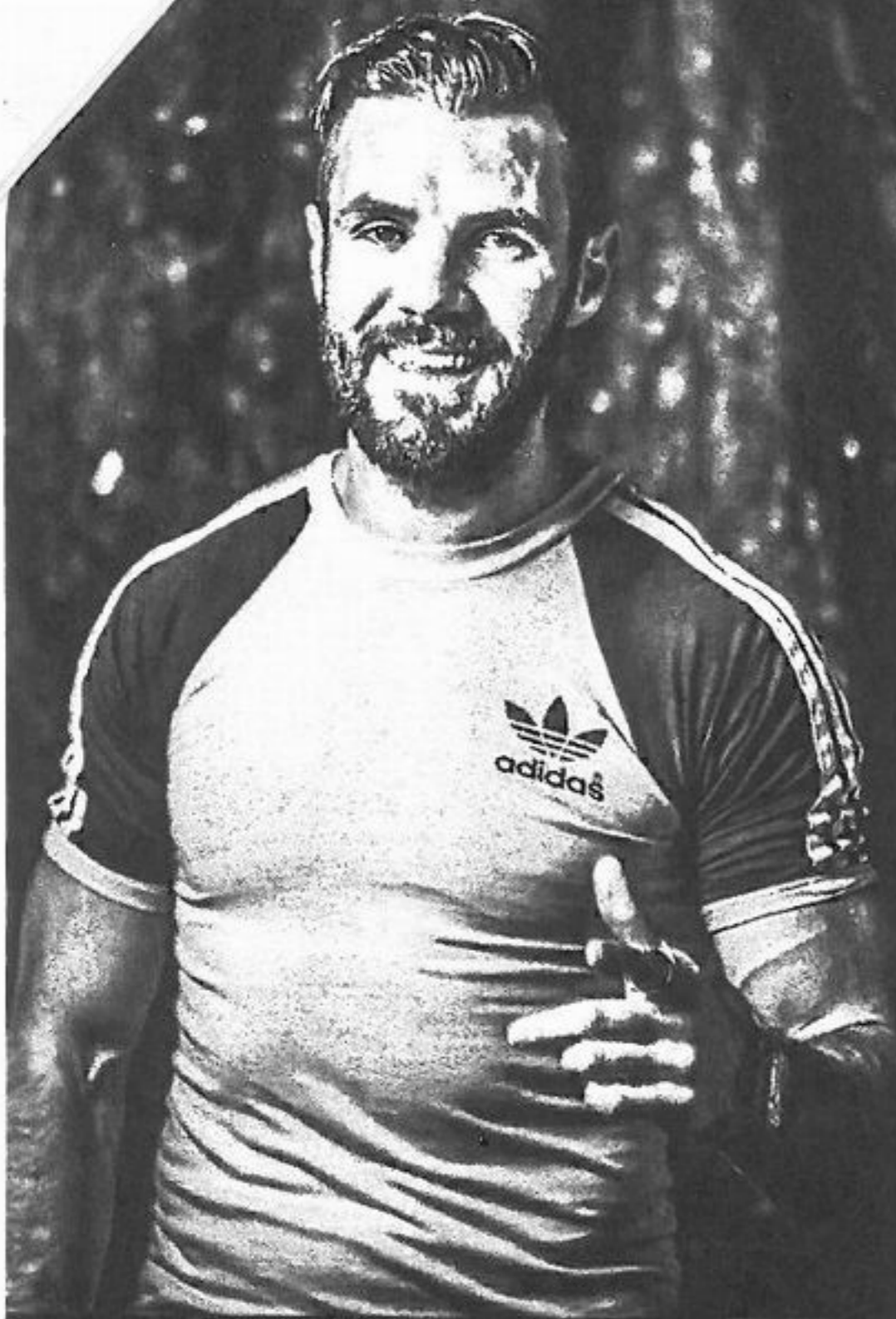
Haha! What happens on tour...let me think... Dan fell asleep in an airport in Sydney after an all-night post gig party. We were all hungover and probably only got 2 hrs sleep, Dan went straight to the airport from the house party, we brought his clothes from the hotel, he was there before us but when we checked, he wasn't there and we couldn't reach







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I think you are correct. We have a laugh and enjoy ourselves, but I don't think that's anything to do with the great Limerick music community. I think it's to do with Limerick City and the innate humour that is within all Limerick people. Myself being from Wicklow, I went to college in UL and ended up staying in Limerick for 13 years as I really enjoy living here. The best way I can describe Limerick to someone from home who asks me what it is like I say it's a really funny place. The people have a wit about them that is so quick and is incomparable. There are so many funny interesting characters everywhere you go, who will all have their two pence worth for you, free of charge! You'll always see something funny or something that'll make you smile walking or driving through Limerick that you would only see or overhear in Limerick! I'm not sure where that comes from, but nevertheless, I think, growing up or living amongst that is bound to rub off on you and that then becomes part of who you are. I suppose that's why we may seem that way.

Recording with Joe Chester in Dublin. Joe's a great guy. He understands our sound and gets us. That, for us, is really important. We put a heavy emphasis on percussion and our harmonies and he's great with them. He also brings his own take on things which can sometimes be a different way at looking at a song, so it sheds a new light on things that we wouldn't necessarily see ourselves. Basically, each of us would look at things a certain way, and collectively the bands view would be made up of the 5 individuals. Then Joe would come in with an outside point of view and give his take and between all of us we always seem to end up with a version we are happy with.

The approach to writing the songs for the EP has been different to previous releases. All the songs on the EP have been written collectively between the five of us, rather than before where one of us would present a finished



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song to the group. We feel we have learnt a lot over the year since our last release and hopefully you'll hear a sound that reflects who we are as a band and keeps the sound of Hermitage Green, but perhaps the songs will get to the point a bit quicker. Live at Whelans, being a live recording, was never going to feature on the radio simply by the nature of the recording. It was simply a means of getting our music out there. The EP will obviously be recorded in the studio as opposed to Live, so hopefully we can lend these songs to the airwaves, and raise our profile!

Ahh yes, poor auld Jezabel! She gave us amazing times! I can still remember the day she first strolled into our lives (laughs). Yeah she's coming towards the end. We have two trips to the UK coming up and have had to tell her she won't be travelling with us. We have to do the dirt on her with a younger model. Hopefully Dermie won't get up to his usual antics in the back of the sprinter!

After the release we hope to tour the country with the EP, including Limerick, Dublin, Cork, Galway, Belfast and a few in between. Then it'll be summer festival season and then straight back to a follow-up release hopefully in 2015 also.

Check out upcoming tour dates and releases by Hermitage Green – [www.hermitagegreen.com](http://www.hermitagegreen.com)

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