

Light entertainment

One of the city's longest lasting groups of musicians promises a record soon, and a show in June. Get your tabloids ready for the brad pitt light orchestra. LEG pitts its wits.

Practically all hailing from Limerick, save one token Galwegian, The Brad Pitt Light Orchestra are desperately hard to categorise yet strangely easy to love. Originally a group of college friends who parted ways due to emigration and the like, the band reformed when two members, Ann and David Blake, featured on Ray D'Arcy's album *Even Better Than The Real Thing Volume 2* with a version of *Hole in The Head* by the Sugababes.

They have since produced two successful EPs, have an album on the way

and are hitting this summer's festival circuit. Not before a show in Baker Place and some searching questions aimed at frontwoman, Ms Ann Blake though.....

First of all, and I know you've been asked 1,000 times, but there will always be people who don't know and would like to know where the name came from.....

It is a good question. When the band started out, as a classy covers band, way back in the college days of my older brothers, the internet was not quite as widespread as it is today. They reckoned it would be a fun way of getting hits to their webpage if they put a famous actor's name in the title. There was also a huge amount of irony at play as Brad Pitt

was not remotely cool at the time and quite the teen magazine cover for screaming girls. I think the other part of the logic was that people would remember the name on some level, whether they wanted to or not.

Is being in a band the most rewarding or frustrating thing you could do in life?

Both are a major factor. It is so rewarding to be part of a band that I very much believe in. Not meaning to sound corny but I do genuinely love the songs David writes and performing is such fun. We really enjoy our gigs because we reckon if we don't, chances are the audience aren't going to. It's also wonderful to see the reaction we get. While people might see us dressed in our lovely clothes and reckon we only do cosy gigs to quiet, appreciative crowds it ought to be known that we've played to a fair variety of audiences and have managed to win over the most unlikely crazed drunken throngs. This is always a buzz as when it begins there's whispers among the band like 'they're gonna kill us' and by the end of it the crowd are in fact cheering and asking for more.

It is frustrating that we don't all live in the same city so we don't gig as often as we'd like to or as often as we should. Ideally, I'd be doing this all the time.

Is three family members in a little room a sensible approach?

Surprisingly yes. We were all sent to music lessons quite young so got used to playing together at a young

age. This makes rehearsal and performing easier as there is a lot understood between us without having to be said. In fairness we do have our moments of 'familial fury' but we try to channel that into jovial banter onstage. It generally involves the two boys slagging me.

Why, oh why, has it taken so long for bplo to give us an album?

Another very good question. I mentioned earlier that we don't all live in Limerick and I think there was a point last year after we'd finished the second EP that we all got a bit distracted (well there were a few weddings and some lovely babies born). Anyway, it's not a good enough excuse and I have been plagued many's a time by bplo enthusiasts who have their two EPs played to death and are looking for the new material. All I'll say is they won't be disappointed.

Next move?

We're spending August gigging pretty much. We're playing two festivals anyway, Green Gathering and Flatlake, and perhaps a couple more to be confirmed as well as Limerick, Galway and Waterford. The album will be finished by the end of the summer and we'll be focusing on promoting that properly. We basically plan to continue our quiet, mild mannered approach to taking over the world. You've been gently warned.

The Brad Pitt Light Orchestra play Baker Place on June 13. Log onto www.myspace.com/gigtown and/or www.bplo.org for more details.

