

Red Eskimo

Michelle McLoughlin sits down with Limerick band Red Eskimo to talk about making, moulding and releasing their debut record, *The Grey Death Billow*

From the candlelit stage of the now defunct Boatclub on Sarsfield Bridge to an underground venue on the outskirts of Prague, the boys of Red Eskimo have had quite the journey of late. Veterans of the Limerick music scene, Peter Delaney, Neil Delaney and Rob Carey sat down with LEG to discuss the blood, sweat, tears and tea making that culminated in a beautifully crafted debut album entitled 'The Grey Death Billow.'

Two years in the making, but with a working relationship that spans nearly a decade behind them, the cohesive flow emanating from the nine track debut is bolstered by the apparent and unadulterated love and passion for music that Red Eskimo bring to the table. This album is worth a listen or eleven, and so are these boys as they talk me through the work involved as they prepare for the May 8th release in Dolan's Warehouse.

rushed. This album is completely different to what we were putting out with New Land Jester, and we didn't have the medium of Myspace or the basic know how in terms of promotion, like we said."

Ah, Myspace. If ever there was a medium universally loved by music makers. This is where a symbiotic relationship between a band and prospective fans can flourish, as well as finding people in the know that can help. Subsequently, this is where the meeting with Richard Dowling of Wav Mastering studios came about. Richard was one of the very few outsiders drafted in by Red Eskimo to help with the mastering of tracks on Grey Death Billow. Neil explains, "We got in contact, online, Myspace, whatever. We had obviously heard about him around town, he's helped out with Giveamanakick and We Should Be Dead and a couple of others. So obviously he had a great reputation, and because we didn't know too much about that side of things, we were delighted to get him. He was so very helpful. It's all part of the process, but we didn't know much about it going in there." Rob takes up the tale, "He took the walls down around us in terms of recording and getting the sound that we knew we wanted. As in, we worked on every aspect ourselves, from the artwork right through to the mixing and protection bits, but when it came to the mastering, we knew we'd have to get someone in with the know how."

The Grey Death Billow is a work of love and hard graft, as surmised by Peter, "It's a complete DIY job, from the writing, recording, mixing, producing and artwork." Also mentioned by both Peter and in the "credit where credit's due" bit in the sleeve notes, is that all of this took place in a little known recording studio called "Peter and Marions gaff." I proffer that working with each other in such close confines might have adversely altered the dynamic of the band but Neil is quick to refute any implications of a negative impact. "We're pretty open to new ideas, obviously, there's no one person that'll take over the writing. Whether it's sitting down at the table with ideas or just messing around with the instruments we've a good history. We knew what we wanted this time round."

The comparisons with Sigur Ros, Arcade Fire et al are looked upon favourably by these three. Ultimately, however, this independent release comprises a subtle low-fi air, confident harmonies and shuddering guitar breaks with an overall sense of a job well done. These boys should be proud and as you'll come to realise listening to tracks like 'So Far Away' and 'Headlights', Limerick has yet again come up with a band of merit. Get your ass down to Dolan's Warehouse on May 8th.



Red Eskimo launch their debut album, *The Grey Death Billow*, at Dolan's Warehouse on Friday May 8th. For booking log onto www.dolans.ie

For band info & sounds log onto www.myspace.com/redeskimo

From the get go, the softly spoken triumvirate that make up Red Eskimo exude a quiet confidence but are under no illusions that they have a brand new audience to seduce. Their ten year history began with the band New Land Jester, and the subsequent release in 2000, of a self titled album that was picked up by that stalwart supporter of Limerick's home grown bands, Empire Music, but as Neil points out, "New Land Jester went completely under the radar. We weren't too familiar with the work involved with promotion and that side of things, and we kind of let things go. The band, I don't know, dissipated and we were left with us three." Rob adds, "It was completely different back then, though. Everything was