



THE FINAL KICK

Seven years, three ass-kicking albums, several single releases, tours of Ireland, tours abroad, awards, songs opening t.v shows, songs that blew speakers. And minds. Music that inspired many to start making their own. Music that made others realise they need to put down the guitar and drop the drumsticks because they weren't fucking good enough. giveamanakick made prog rock something that you could refer to in real terms rather than an intellectual categorisation. They also gave punk a spiffy new coat for the noughties. In your face, through your earhole, straight to the core. From two of the nicest chaps you'd ever meet.

Steveamanakick had this to say about their decision to shut down... "It happened at the start of the summer when an opportunity came up and we had to decide what was our long term plan and we had to take a look at some of our long-term goals and we realised that we had achieved almost all of them. So we went, "This is unbelievable!" maybe we should have sat down and looked back earlier. We played with a lot of our favourite bands, played all around the world, we've released three albums which we are really really proud of. We wanted to do an acoustic tour, so we did that and after that we went ok, we're both really happy to call it a day now really."

All makes sense, still though, heartbreaking for the legions of fans and admirers that gamak have gathered to the fold over the years, how do the boys feel about no more gamak-ing? "It was totally discussed and really amicable because we are doing the final tour and everything, it's still a sad time and an emotional time because we've been in the band together, just two of us, for over seven years. So you know, there's mixed emotions but we're both happy to be doing the final tour and we're happy for each other."

After a great acoustic tour during the summer their six date shutting down jaunt has been a barnstormer raging across the country, giving the duo the sending off that their fast and furious seven year history deserves, Steve adds, "Yeah, we've had five gigs so far, we booked only six gigs for this tour seeing as it's our final one and we played at all the places we love to play. We've had Mullingar, Waterford, Cork, Galway and Dublin and they all went absolutely brilliantly, we were so surprised and to be honest a little taken a back at the crowds that turned out to see us. It was amazing to see the reaction."

Still humble as and genuinely bowled over by the outpouring of support and well wishes they have received, the final tour seems to have become something of a celebration as well as a goodbye. What now for steveamankick, "I'm in another band called Windings. I released an album in 2005 and recorded another one this summer with a band I have together now which I'm really happy about because they are all great musicians. But I'm not going to release the album until next year because I want to give giveamanakick the seeing off it deserves, to concentrate on that. Actually to concentrate on one thing at one time for the first time in my life basically. So, I've been doing that and I wrote an original score for a play for Bottoom Dog Theatre Company's recent play (The Revenger's Tragedy) That was a bit nervewracking for me, my first time doing something like that, but I was happy with how it worked out."

And giveamanakeith? "Keith is working up in Dublin, he got a job as an art director with a company and he's really really into that, he's been doing that all along aswell. He designs our t-shirts and web stuff so he's gonna pursue that

avenue for a while. He really likes it and he's really good at it."

So the future looks bright for the gamak boys. Any particular highlights from the journey? "We did one particular show in Galway which was stunning, it's a blur but I was aware of being ecstatic after it. I got to play with my favorite band since I was in school, Dinosaur Jnr. To play with them was pretty amazing because they had split up quite acrimoniously and they got back together just for me! We played in New York which was fantastic. There have been several highlights every year actually, there really has been."

Expect a packed house in Dolan's on the 18th, sound advice, get your ticket sooner rather than later, it's gonna be massive. Final word to Steve, "For fans of finality that will be the night to go and see us. It's gonna be an emotional time, I'm not gonna lie. We're really looking forward to it, we know a lot of our friends and people that have helped us out over the years are actually traveling to Limerick and to Dolan's for that night, from all around the world believe it or not. So it's gonna be emotional but it's gonna be great, we're gonna play our hearts out obviously you know, we're gonna play some special stuff. We're fans of special things."

Indeed, our future soundscape will be alot less special without ye. Goodbye gamak, you've awed us and then some.

giveamanakick play the final date on their shutting down tour in dolan's warehouse on friday december 18th. for tickets log onto www.dolans.ie. for all things gamak log onto www.myspace.com/giveamanakick