

If the Shoe Fits

2009 has been a mighty year for Limerick brothers, Éoin and Moley Ó Suilleabhain, of Size2Shoes. They have reaped widespread acclaim for their upbeat self-titled debut album which sits snugly on the shelf marked Inspirational Pop and played a slew of cracking live shoes. I mSzOe caught up with Moley to hear about the past and future for Size2Shoes



Blending witty lyrics, great musicianship, mouthfuls of tongue in cheek, Size2Shoes are two accomplished singers and instrumentalists working in perfect symbiosis, and having a great time doing it. As Moley says, "The first album is really nice, sugary sweet, I dunno, optimistic or even doe-eyed, and the arrangement is very flowery too. There's a harmonica and a sax and percussion, no drumkit and a string quartet so it's almost sickly sweet. We originally wanted it trimmed down, not attitude-y but very acoustic and then when we recorded it there was holes in so we ended up bringing in session musicians and filling it up and turning it into a bit of a Christmas cake really. Which is befitting for this article," he segues into radio salesman toned voice, "Our first album is much like a Christmas cake, a great gift and it will keep 'til next year."

All Christmas cake references aside, Moley points out that they are immensely proud of their first album and thankful to the musicians who played on it. "It's going well, everyone has reviewed it and been very positive and we've learnt a huge amount," but you get the sense that Size2Shoes are always on the move with eyes (and ears) turned toward the future. "We've a second album written already, you know? A lot of the tunes that we are playing live now, a lot of the tunes that bring in rap and beatboxing, more kinda funky stuff, that's all on the second album. We believe that the second album might have a hit or two on it, more radio friendly maybe you know."

Although Size2Shoes have a pop sensibility their sound flits through several genres with enviable ease. Moley's background as a beatboxer and his love of hip hop is evident when they play live

as is their shared love of '90s dance. They pay suitably humorous homage to their musical heroes with their incredible medleys which light up their live sets, "We do a lot of genre hopping and we've started to do these sort of medleys you know, one is a dance medley, a sort of tribute to the nineties, and then is another Morrissey tribute-y medley. They are kind of tongue-in-cheek obviously but musically they are very tight and are there purely for entertainment. The only other people we know who do medleys are Boy Bands you know, when we realised this we were horrified and delighted at the same time. The audience love them and they are great fun to do."

Live they exude an undeniable warmth as they cavort from the sweet and soft to the funky and fresh in their repertoire, and all things considered their recent dates around the country have gone great bar the rain and ensuing unnatural disaster, "We did a gig in the Shannon Rowing Club, it was a small old night, because that was the night that Christmas blew down river. So during the biggest floods that Ireland had ever seen we decided to do a homecoming gig in the middle of the Shannon." Their upcoming show will unfold uptown on the high ground of the Belltable Arts Centre on Cecil Street. "We did Nick Carswell's acoustic Belltable Sessions there twice and they went down really well so we really like that venue and it's got high high ceiling so that we can put off this party popper I was telling you about. I went up to Northern Ireland and you know the way you can buy crazy shit up there so I asked them for party popper's and they rolled out these fuckin' bazookas, basically. I let it off in The Pavillion and I'm going to in the Belltable too."

Can I put that in the article I ask? "Say there's a big messy surprise at the end but it's also a family show." Sorry Moley, I think people should be fully prepared for the festive frolics of a Size2Shoes show, you never know what to expect.

Catch Size2Shoes in the Belltable Arts Centre, 36 Cecil Street on Friday December 11th for some great music and fun for all the family. www.size2shoes.com or www.belltable.ie

But there'll always be a surprise pulled out of the bag, like this parting cracker. "We are gonna record the second album next summer in Australia on Russel Crowe's farm. We met in Kilkee for the unveiling of the Richard Harris statue about three years ago, we were kinda hired in by the Kilkee town council to be a band for a song that he was going to sing called, Mr Harris, which is on one of his albums, it turns out he was a singer before he got into the old acting. So we met up with him there and another musician friend of his who produces his albums, and we partied for the weekend and then we didn't see him for about a year and half. We sent him an album though, saying we were the lads from two years ago singing on the back of a truck in Kilkee, so he said he was in London recording Robin Hood and we were over hanging out with him and stuff. Which is pretty trippy really but not important, he said the next time I see you guys will be over in my gaff recording, so we'll record the album in three weeks over there because he's got a studio in the house and his friend will produce it." Size2Shoes – the one's to watch in 2010.