

## FLOUNCE REVIEW

From the opening seconds of the first track to the final bar of the last song (an unsettling hidden track should you let the album run) you get the sense of an artist who knows precisely what he wants to do and how to do it. More than that though "Flounce" is also the sound of a man having lots of fun. Psychedelic merriment abounds. This may fly in the face of the perception of Gray as a troubled acoustic troubadour but if you've ever interviewed him you'll know he has a somewhat wacky sense of humour and this shines through. For example, "Thoughts In My Head", where Gray confides, "It's become a fear I'm more backwards than my rear end", or "Heather", Gray posing the unexpected question to the protagonist, "Your father cut off my dead dog's leg/The dog was still alive then/Is he still a vet?" And take the thoroughly out there arrangement of first track "Child's Play", the playful use of a wah-wah in aforementioned "Heather", "Riddle Me Thistle", and "Difficult Sum", and the sinisterly entertaining, "Suck It In Spit It Out". But don't get the impression this is just a guy messing around. These are fantastic songs. "Horizon" is a belter of a track conjuring up the melodic side of Grandaddy, whilst "Anyway" would have hit written all over it if Gray had the clout of a mainstream artist. And it feels effortless. Title track "Flounce" sees a sudden foray into something more shoegazey without undermining the poppy, hooky feel of the album, bringing the woozy experience to a suitable climax before "Regardless" serves as a fitting little epilogue, the central message being if art hasn't made you rich don't let it break you, just carry on. And we very much hope he does.

accurately with minimal extra investment in terms of equipment and that's mission accomplished. Making these decisions was a means to an end. It helped me pick a direction and stick with it. Some might say I should just take a laptop onstage with me and embrace midi and computer-based backing tracks. I have no artistic problem with that. I just know I'd be half a song in and the computer would crash! I spend enough time looking at screens swearing whether I'm doing music or just looking at Donald Trump's face - it'd be nice not to get angry at a computer in a live music venue (laughs). And also, I've got the sampler and I've just always fancied using it onstage. Pre-recorded beats seem more accepted in a live environment these days and I've always wanted to experiment with that. I love live drums but it's hard finding the right drummer. Then you've got to hire rehearsal rooms and all that jazz. The whole process takes even longer. So the short answer is yes, I do hope to get a band together to play these songs and I took this into account from the outset. In fact the whole album is almost entirely based around that aspiration. In some ways the approach has already served its purpose in that I have a new album to release and that's what I love doing the most, recording and releasing music. I do currently have some people in mind but I don't know how it will pan out. I really hope it happens but I'm not going to do it unless it sounds right.

**NG: Fingers crossed it does - I want to hear this album live! Any other releases in the pipeline we can console ourselves**

**with if it doesn't happen?**

Pre-Flounce I was working with lots of material that was more acoustic based or downbeat. I wrote some good songs but was unsure how to present them. Once Flounce was done I was thinking about these songs and I had another concept for a potential album or EP, which was essentially the trawling of my hard drive, fishing for treasure, i.e. seeing if any of these older recordings could be made fit for release. And I found some treasure! Enough for an EP. I've just got the masters and I'm really pleased. The name "Dragnet" for a release has already been done by The Fall so I'm calling it "Seine", which is a type of fishing net. We'll put it out in autumn if John at Medic is happy with that. I'm so pleased all that other work wasn't for nothing and I've got some decent finished tracks out of it.

**NG: Woah for a person who was thinking music would be taking a backseat that's shaping up to be a pretty prolific year! Thanks for taking the time to speak to us today.**

I know, weird eh? Perhaps that's the key to being creative. Try and stop and then it opens the floodgates! Ciao for now.