

PUBLIC ENTERPRISE: BIOG

July 2006 and Public Enterprise are sat in a bar on Manchester's much lauded Deansgate district. Look the venue up and it would be filed under 'exclusive'. The threesome are far from impressed. Lead singer Mark, fiddles with his lager, as the 'elite' clientele buzz around manically. He looks up, smiles. Tall yet hunched his nonchalance make him look even more like the next bass wielding frontman in waiting. A knowing nod comes from Neil, calm, considered. The man behind the fuzzy guitar licks and New Order-esque key arrangements re-visits the menu, as Pablo, tight as f*ck drummer and key to the sound Public Enterprise have fashioned, attempts to halt a passing waitress. Duly ignored, the three reconvene.

Public Enterprise have that 'gang' feel about them, the one that only seems to accompany bands that really matter. It's not insular, nor is it your typical 'clenched fist in the air' attitude. More a quiet camaraderie. Does it stem from their formative years at Goldsmiths College where a love of good music and only a mere *like* for studying, brought them together? Or the fact the band have been writing, recording and performing for over 5 years? Perhaps it's a combination of both. Either way, it's an assured confidence that makes you hope to hell the music matches up. And it does. In spades...

The Public Enterprise sound is like polished punk; trad 3-piece rock laced in a pop sheen. The songs tackle issues, tell stories and paint pictures with hooks, humour and infectious melodies. 'It all started with an advert on the wall. As these things often do' says Neil. One drink on and the band were born, performing under a variety of guises before deciding on the current moniker. 'It stuck. And now we've grown into it, we cant imagine being without it,' says Pablo, leaning back into his chair. Influences read like a whose who of British music in the last 20 years; The Fall, Blur and The Beatles are all on the bands radar. A knowing nod is tipped toward the bands CD collection, but its what they do with it after that that makes Public Enterprise stand apart from contemporaries. Listen to 'My Mysterious Uncle', 'Glass Ceilings' or 'Decisions Decisions' and you'll know exactly where I'm coming from.

So that, as they say, is that. The introduction to your new favourite band has just been completed. I hope you enjoy the rest of your trip.