

INTERVIEW

with **IN THE**
DARK PARK



We were lucky to be able to interview the local band 'In The Dark Park' from New Westminster, BC. We talked about future album plans, musical influences and their techniques for writing new material.

1. Who/what is your biggest musical influence?

Suzanne: Depeche Mode, The Cure, Idles, Fontaines D.C..

David: For me, it's a mix. I'd say The Cure's in there for sure, Siouxsie and the Banshees, The Police, Gary Numan, some weird synth stuff, Kraftwerk.



Guy: Gojira, although we don't play a lot of Gojira. I want to say Deep Purple.



David: Deep Purple's a good one.

Guy: I'd say my drum influences are Jimmy Chamberlin from The Smashing Pumpkins and Gavin Harrison from Porcupine Tree.

2. Where do you find inspiration for your songs and what is your main approach to songwriting?

David: We like to write songs about actual ideas, not just songs about fluff but songs that have something to say, so I'd say there's a lot of thoughts about the state of the world and our role in it, and it's kind of a response to that in a lot of ways, as opposed to just writing love songs.

Suzanne: Sometimes they start as lyrics when you're thinking about things, and then sometimes David will write something on the piano, or the guitar or something, and it's actually the melody line itself that inspires the lyrics.

David: Sometimes we've written pieces of songs together as a group and merged them into one song. We've had a couple of cases where we've written two bits of songs together with this group and we've merged the two together into verse-chorus and then there's a bridge that used to be a piece of song that we didn't know what to do with, and it becomes stitched together as an interlude in the middle.

Another important thing is that we're not afraid to mix digital and analogue sounds, we're not purists so the idea of mixing Moog and guitar, or synths and guitar and bass and drums doesn't faze us.

Suzanne: And genres.

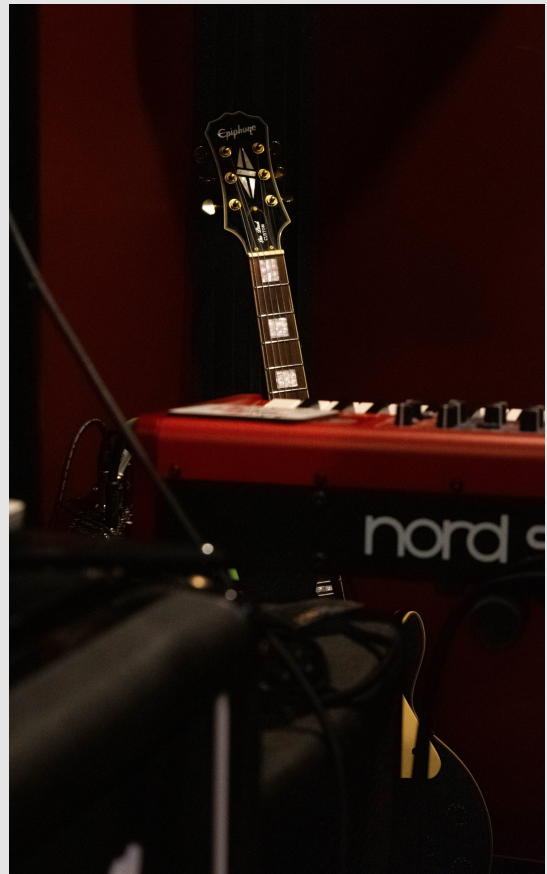
David: Yeah, we don't care about genres.

3. Where do you see your band in the future?

Suzanne: Playing Glastonbury.

David: Maybe just playing more live local festivals.

Suzanne: And doing a few more albums.



Garry: Record the next album and do some local festivals, maybe creep a little bit out of the lower mainland – it would be nice if we could get over to some of the islands. Maybe a Victoria festival, or even one in the Okanagan, Whistler..

David: Sunshine coast.

Suzanne: Winnipeg.

Garry: A European show would be great. Japanese tour as well. That would be fantastic. We're trying to build a New Zealand fanbase.



Garry: It was just a bunch of people who got together and were practicing.

5. What direction will your second album take?

(unknown): The wrong direction
(laughs)

David: I mean, we already have ten songs that we're starting to play around with.

Suzanne: I think the second album might have a few more guitar-based songs. We're experimenting more with powerful vocals too.

Garry: The good thing is, we can sneak them into the concerts here and there.

David: Another thing that we'd like to do though is – we know some musician friends that we'd like to have guest spots with and record tracks with – other musicians that aren't core members of the band.

Guy: A series of guest vocalists for the next album.

4. How did you come together as a group?

David: Let's just put it this way – we all live in New West, which is a rarity. We're all employed, which is also a miracle, and we kind of met on –

Guy: Different musical circumstances.

David. Yeah. Actually, let's say New West Noise, because that's technically true, we met at New West Noise.



Suzanne: And get feedback.

David: That's a good point. We're actually already playing some second album stuff at shows for fun because we realized it was more fun to mix it up.

Guy: More odd time signatures. More, kind of, progressive interludes, like 70s Genesis

David: And also, a bit of Emerson, Lake and Palmer, something going on with the big keys. One that's going to be on the next one, we don't even have a name for it yet, it's called Interstellar Collapse because it was inspired by the music from Interstellar, and it turned into a song and Guy wrote the lyrics for it, but that's a big prog-rock space anthem, that's what that is. With some opera.

Guy: It's basically Dark Side of the Moon part two. Dark side of the park? (laughs)



6. How would you describe your musical style?

Suzanne: Alternative.

David: I think it's a mishmash of all the music styles that we're into. So, if you took all of it, it would be 80s pop and rock and prog, and some punk and jazz, and put it all in a blender.

Garry: The nice thing about the live sets is how none of the songs sound like each other. There's variety throughout the whole set, so people don't get bored.

David: Yeah. The one thing that's fun is that we do play stripped-down versions of these songs, and you can layer them up and make them big too, which is fun.

