

A NIGHT IN NOVEMBER



What were you doing before you all formed "A Night in November"?

Costa: The 9 - 5 life (still going too). I will say this though, it's never too late to start a band.

Luis: I played a few performances in an orchestra years ago, and some jazz jam session stuff, but that was actually on trombone. I've played guitar for a long time, but I'd always feel like I needed to get just that next bit better before I could start a band. Seems silly now, as you learn way more in a practice room than your bedroom!

Gareth: I was a Jack black impressionist for a little while. Like Luis I was a bedroom guitar player mostly. I was always playing guitar when I wasn't having unusual dreams about people I'd briefly met.

How did you come up with the name "A Night in November"? This is where I look like a berk and it's self explanatory!

Gareth: November is awesome - We love bonfire night, England's first newspaper was published, and the Mayflower landed in Cape Cod. Take your pick, but it definitely isn't just because we asked when our first practice should be and the only time we were all free was a night in November.

Pop punk blood runs through your veins. You've had Jaret Reddick add one of your songs to his driving playlist! Who are your influences, and which parts do you take from them to inspire your music?

Luis: I love loads of music so there's everything from Irish folk, to metal, pop punk and hip-hop in my influences. But as a guitarist and screamer my biggest influences are Four Years Strong, Wonder Years, Sum 41, and Trash Boat.

Costa: I'm hugely influenced by Drive Thru Records and their complete roster in the early noughties. It's not really a case of copying drum beats, but more locking into tempos and the song structure. Drum sounds are evolving all the time, I've noticed that there are fashionable sounds that bands use these days but I like to keep away from following the trends too much. Try to go with what feels suits the guitars and vocals.

It's rare I fall in love with a band I've heard for the first time within 10 seconds. I did that with "A Night in November". Added bonus they are down the road from me! Let's get to "Making New Friends"

Thank you so much "A Night in November" for making friends with me via this interview.

"A Night in November" is a trio from Leeds consisting of Gareth on bass and vocals, Luis on guitar and vocals and finally Costa on drums.

I can't ask my usual first question but I can ask, how and when did you all meet?

Luis: Me and Costa have known each other since we were kids, and Gareth entered my life by telling me he'd had a dream of chain sawing me to death and I enjoyed it. figured I'd take the risk and become friends with the psychopath.

Gareth: I'd seen Luis around and randomly had the dream that I chain sawed him. I felt really bad about it and so, naturally, I apologised to him. Looking back I think he was the psychopath for not doing a runner.

Gareth: I have always been influenced by bands like Alkaline Trio, Jimmy Eat World, Yellowcard, and Bowling for Soup. Having Jaret Reddick from Bowling for Soup, one of my musical heroes, take our song seriously and treat us like a peer is something I never expected but I am eternally grateful for. We just have fun making music and spreading positivity and these amazing things come out of the blue. We feel incredibly lucky.

Your latest EP is "Bear Force One" (I loved the fact that Tom Rosenthal was the surprise Bear at the EP Launch), how does it compare to your first EP "Smug and Pointless"; from conception to recording it?

Costa: Tom Rosenthal was great, we are going to feature in his upcoming book too in one way or another. Not sure how we top his presence as the bear though.

Luis: We've still got the same attitude of writing songs that make us smile, as we just want our gigs to be fun for everyone, more than anything else. But we've learned how to add more layers to make the songs sound closer to what we've always wanted them to be.

Gareth: We try to learn from the last release. What worked well and what we didn't nail. We try to evolve and improve and you can only do that by experimenting and never giving up.

What is your favourite track from "Bear Force One" and why?

Costa: 'Sunny Mornings' is a pop punk banger and people loved it. But for me it's 'We Got This'

Gareth: Yeah I agree. I'm incredibly proud of 'We Got This' because we had a very clear vision of what we wanted that song to be and when we played it for people and started receiving feedback it was clear we had achieved our goal. A song about music bringing people together which we hear people singing back to us, That's a wonderful feeling.

Luis: For me it's 'Paradise'. It will always be tied to fun memories in the rehearsal rooms jumping around to get energy going, and singing stupid lyrics to make each other laugh.

Your ethos is "Be who you want to be, don't be embarrassed to have a good time, and everyone is invited to the party". Is there a reason this came to be? I don't come across many bands with such strong ethos's.

Gareth: We just want to have fun and meet interesting people. That's always been our main drive and purpose. As time has gone on we've become more of a positive force because it gives us a kick to cheer people up. Why wouldn't we want as many people as possible to come along on that journey with us?

Luis: I think everyone feels like an outsider sometimes, whether they wear it on their sleeve or keep it to themselves. And we want all those people to know that with us, there's no judgement or expectations, just good vibes.

Costa: Yeah, it's not always possible but live music should be for everyone, personally some of my most precious memories are based around shows I've seen or things that happened at a show.



You're preparing for your "Making New Friends" tour this year, where is going to take you?

Costa: We will be announcing the details very soon. We've picked locations based on places we've never played before as well as ones where we know a local band that we would be flattered to play with. It's not an extensive tour but we will hit north, south and the Midlands. Hopefully more locations next year!

Do you think Pop punk is having a revival especially with bands such as "Fall Out Boy", "The Offspring", "Sum41" and "Bowling for Soup"; to name a few, playing at Download this year? Side note I'm not upset by this at all!

Gareth: No matter what your opinion is of them, artists like MGK and Yungblud have done a lot to bring the genre to a new generation. From my experience, The fans of pop punk don't have a culture of gatekeeping which I've seen for other genres so it can only grow as people are welcomed into the fold. Mix that with a bit of nostalgia from parents and you've got a recipe for a growing pop punk party.

Costa: Pop Punk never died for me, it's changed era by era and in some ways it has gone full circle but there are always bands breaking the mould.

Luis: It's definitely having a revival for me personally - it's like a flood of great pop punk from the big festival and touring bands, through to genuinely incredible bands that we play with in smaller venues. The level of musical ability, polish and community in the independent scene right now is wild.

I've never been to one of your gigs, what can I expect when I attend?

Gareth: We will be dancing and watching the other bands when we aren't on stage and when we are on stage we will be having the time of our lives and inviting you to get involved. There's lots of opportunities to sing and dance. The more involved you get, the more fun you'll have, and the more fun we will have, it's cyclical. Keep an eye out for inflatables though.

Costa: I'm keen to introduce doughnuts to our live show. Mmm

Luis: You'll find us chatting with everyone, getting down the front for the other bands, and doing whatever we can to make the gig fun when we're on stage. We know everyone enjoys gigs in their own way, whether jumping around at the front or watching from the back, and we want to make it memorable for everyone!

Shout out to the world why should people be friends with "A Night in November"?

Gareth: Yo, world! Listen up! Haha. We are having fun, you are invited, no pressure but the offer is there.

Luis: Be Who You Want To Be!

What has been the most embarrassing thing that has happened to you at a gig?

Luis: I have some fun solos to play and one time we built up to one, I stepped forward to play it, stomped on my guitar pedal, accidentally turning off all the distortion on my guitar making my solo sound like it was played on a medieval lute. We were laughing the whole time and didn't fix it.

Gareth: For me, it was probably having a drunk guy at a city festival asking us constantly through the set if we knew any Ed Sheeran songs. But this is an interesting question because over the years we have learned to embrace the embarrassment and laugh at ourselves when things go wrong. And things go wrong a lot, so if we seem super happy it's because we are having an enjoyable meltdown with our mates.

Thank you "A Night in November" for making friends with me. I have really enjoyed getting to know you.

Everyone should check out the links for merch, EPs and more, below. You should also go, follow, like and support them!

