

# TINY FOREHEAD

It's not often you get an email which has the line, "and are pretty unique in that three of us are over 50 and three of us are teenagers"; well, that was one of the openers from "Tiny Forehead" that piqued my interest. Not many bands open with alluding to ages, most want to stay in the vibrance of youth!

"Tiny Forehead" is a six-piece mixed genre band. (I can't quite put my finger on a specific genre I hear a diverse mix and I like it). There is Simon who is the masked singer, he is complimented by Tilly-Grace. On instruments we have Rob on lead guitar, George on rhythm guitar, Dr Krollspell on bass and finally the hard-hitting drummer Steve.

Hideo all and thank you for doing this interview, lets get into it.

Obvious question for me is, what's with the name and how did it come to be?

**George-** The greatest mystery, I do not know the answer and no matter how many times that question is asked the answer is always the same

**Tilly-** I heard Simon thought he made it up. He used to play on this online zombie survival game called The Urban Dead and set up a zombie clan called Tiny Forehead. But then he found out a band he was into called Terminal Cheesecake had a song called Tiny Forehead. He must have heard it back in the day.

**Simon-** Tilly does sometimes listen to me!

**Dr Krollspell-** Dr Krollspell was a pseudonym suggested by Simon. With the span of ages in the band it may have been The Godfather may have been better; but not the Grandfather.

Which band would you say influence the sound of "Tiny Forehead" the most?

**Dr Krollspell-** In my opinion, the Music is influenced by my student days in Leeds before and during the rise of the Gang of Four and then The sisters of Mercy. A noticeable local student was a cloak room attendant at the Wharehouse , then one day the stage , then top of the Pops , singing « Tainted Love » At that time everyone in post punk era wore long coats and goth was the natural progression for many despite the return of the mods and two tone . Manchester music , magazine , joy division and the fall are still relevant . Thus a post punk genre with a hint of goth and soul suits me fine but happy to go with the flow until my bus pass arrives , then I'll make my own way to gigs on the bus if there isn't room on the 'Kindertransport van (what the seniors call Simon driving round Steve, George and Tilly!)



**George-** We are quite hard to pigeonhole... personally have never heard anything like us!

**Simon-** we each bring very different influences. I'm into The Fall, maybe some of the basslines from that vibe translate over, but probably more the spirit.

**Tilly-** My favourite band is seventies era Fleetwood Mac, and I like singing in that sort of full on belting style. I like all sorts. I keep asking the boys to do a planning meeting about covering a really out of genre song.

**Steve-** like Lulu's "Shout"

**Simon-** No, Steve. Just no. On toast.

**Steve-** my parents are massive musicians and I was brought up on prog rock and pub rock. I love Keith Moon, Mitch Mitchell and Rat Scabies. And The Blockheads.

**George-** I like metal, and Jeff Buckley. All sorts. My mum was in a folk prog rock group called Sandfly. They played Glastonbury etc. I saw the rock and roll lifestyle as a kid.

Recently you brought Tilly-Grace into the flock, was it always a plan to bring a second vocalist in or did it just happen naturally?

**Rob-** It was part of the plans to have a female co vocalist and we seem to have added more soul and a smile to what someone described as gloom garage rock!

**George-** I know the plan to have another vocalist has been under enactment for a long time and we have gone through multiple auditions to no avail until I introduced Tilly to Simon and she fit right in

**Simon-** It was always the plan to have a female singer. Originally I was the bassist and we wanted a female front woman but we couldn't recruit. Also I was struggling to sing and play and it was going to be another year unless we brought in Dr Krollspell. COVID lockdown had just ended and we desperately needed to gig.

There was a period of 6 months where we had a rhythm guitarist/ singer Kelly but she couldn't stay. But we always were seeking a female singer. We auditioned loads of lovely singers but it never got beyond one practice ... then George remembered Tilly- Grace one night - doh! She fitted straight in and brought a life force to the table. Not that we were dead. Anyway.

Since "Tiny Forehead" first came to be, has it all been smooth sailing?

**Simon-** No. In the space of three months we went through three guitarists. A total semi conscious nightmare. We had looming gigs booked but fortunately Rob saved the day - he more or less learned the set overnight. And George came on board, he actually was the mate of one of the female singers who couldn't commit- he came and stayed when she peeled off. We have been helped by Shan Henry for our studio female singer, she can't do live as she fronts the amazing Chekovs Gun from Sleaford. Her track's probably helped Tilly understand the vibe and she built on that.



I read your post about song writing, has there been times when you have come up with something brilliant and wished you recorded it? (if you want to check out, go like and follow "Tiny Forehead's" Facebook page)

**Simon-** So we're writing a new set list/ our first album. What we posted is actually how we really do roll in song writing. It's a shame our day jobs/ studies take most of our time! It seems to take so long writing and practicing and then getting them recorded. As any band will know, recording is awful. One member of the band doing 100 takes and everyone else slowly annoying each other. In sideways rain, minus three degrees, outside.

I see you advocate for unsigned, small potato bands, why does this mean so much to you?

**George-** Supporting the local music scene is a big part of tiny forehead, collectively we yearn for the days of live original music and supporting small bands is a great way to encourage that

**Steve-** I love the punk gigs we do. They're the nicest people

**Simon-** We could go on all night about this. I suppose outsider original bands bring so much invention and unpretentious energy to a cynical and bloated signed industry. Lincolnshire has this incredible original scene. But hardly anywhere to play. We are part of a local promoter collective called BOBI (Boston Original Bands Initiative) putting on a scene every last Saturday of the month. We did the first one last week and it was amazing.

**Tilly-** I also do solo stuff. I do covers but I've also written a load of my own stuff. It's how I fund buying leg razors and that.

I like to do a little section on gigs and touring, where is the furthest from home you've been to play a gig?

**Simon-** Probably The Fiddlers Elbow in London. Total mission to get to. With hideous London driving and parking and ULEZ nonsense.

We're booked into some Bolton gigs next year. We're going to crash at a mates house, and even negotiated Tilly her own bedroom!

I always ask which is the best venue or gig but I want to know, was there any gig where you thought, "aye up we could be in trouble here"?

**Simon-** lol not yet, though we sometimes do gigs with Oi bands and there's some head scratching! one Boston pub had a dodgy floor in the upper room. It was literally going up and down, and the audience wouldn't stop pogo-ing. We literally thought we were going to land on the old men watching the football underneath.

**George-** We played a gig in Norwich where the venue was lovely however we did feel quite out of place and a little under appreciated...



What does your night look like after a successful gig?

**George-** Staying to watch the rest of the bands, maybe a pint or two and a cheeky game of pool before driving home and getting a good nights sleep

**Tilly-** I like sleeping and just want to get home to my bed after a gig

**Simon-** Chatting to punters and exhaling. Usually there's a bit of driving involved because Steve, George and Tilly can't. About four pick ups/ drop offs in our Vauxhall Zafira. We stagger in smelling like satans underpants and collapse into the sofa.

Do you have any preperformance rituals?

**Rob-** Kebabs

**Tilly-** one glass of white wine is all they let me have, lol

**Simon-** If we're brutally honest, by the time you have unloaded the backline, befriended the engineer and said hello to the other bands you're on. We haven't got to the stage where we aren't doing everything. But we usually grab a kebab. And take the piss out of each other.



Do you think bands need to fit into a genre or do you feel evolution is the way forward?

**Rob-** I think we play what we like to play and evolve with every new member and with time and experience. With new people it's one step back initially with each member change but then often three steps forward. Evolution in an organic way is best

**Tilly-** Bands have to evolve totally

**Simon-** I think genres are ok - I mean it would be great to see youth unified in some exciting new massive movement- but every band has to evolve. And the best bands are the ones that evolve first. That's why Bowie and The Fall are awesome but 77 punk bands that still sound the same now are ... well, not so much. Tiny Forehead are maybe the remote hill tribe of goth. Like we have similarities but speak a strange dialect. For many in the scene we won't be part of the pack, but a good description of goth I heard was that there had to be a darkness in the music, even if tongue in cheek, and everyone has to play their instrument like it's the lead instrument. That's us 200%!

Is "Castle Corset (Redux)" a rebirth for "Tiny Forehead" or just a step along the evolution?

**Rob-** Evolutionary step

**Simon-** Well it brought in the female vocals and our second guitar- we hadn't recorded either before . It came out pretty (trad) Goth and we loved it. It felt natural but we started evolving super quick after that and our new single Midnight Science Lab (out early May) has Tilly on it and it's another major milestone. She sounds utterly incredible on it. Has totally changed the sound.

You're due to start filming for your new single "Midnight Science Lab" at the end of April, how is that going?

**Tilly-** I literally can't wait.

**George-** Props have been purchased and a storyboard written by Simon is set to be put into effect

**Simon-** We've been buying props for weeks. It's going to be this daft sort of Carry On Screaming/ League of Gentlemen thing. We've secured a proper cinematographer. And a female actor.

Are you able to share what we can expect from the new single and video?

**Rob-** Great twin harmonies, two ripping lead guitar breaks

**Tilly-** They keep saying they're going to superimpose my face on this creepy doll in the video. They're literally nutters

**George-** A rocking tune accompanied by a video detailing the secrets of the midnight science lab

**Simon-** The video is intended to be funny. It's about a vampire single mum called Debz who is insecure about her relationship with her new werewolf boyfriend called Kevin. It'll probably look super disturbing by mistake, like Eraserhead.

Musically it's trying to do something new, Tilly has come in and scribbled TILLY over all the parts instead of doing the demo arrangements like a polite girl- and it's freaking awesome. It reminds me of the spirit of those mashup songs like "Freak Like Me " by the Sugababes / Gary Numan (the spirit not the sound)

It's playful but makes serious points. Some of the new stuff we're writing covers themes about politics and how people disengage from one another because of fear and brokenness and failure to confront stuff.

Look, we want to do dangerous, unpredictable music about real life. We like people and are super friendly and are always amazed that in the midst of these dark times people are being kind and innovative and funny. We'd like to be part of that.

It has been a pleasure speaking with you, "Tiny Forehead". It's the obligatory closing statement. Down below you will find links to "Tiny Forehead's" social media and other good stuff. Go give them a listen and a like.

Interview and edit by Sarah Parker

