

The Bleedin Noses – Larmer Tree festival 16th July 2014

[The Bleeding Noses](http://www.thebleedinnoses.com/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) won the band category of this years [Larmer Tree Breakthrough Music Awards](http://larmertreefestival.co.uk/results-live-final/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank).  It is no mean feat to reach the final with over 300 entrants being whittled down to 3 in each category by public vote.  The final 3 in each category then played live in front of a panel at 60M postcards in Bournemouth.  The prize was the opportunity to play a slot at this years festival.  In fact the Bleeding Noses were so good that they played not one but three spots during the festival, two on the first night either side of  none other than Sir Tom Jones.  At times it seemed like half of  Wales had moved to North Dorset for the weekend.

The boys all grew up in the Welsh Valleys and all are experienced musicians having played in a variety of bands.  In 2011 guitarist Spook (AKA Paul Julian) and Ollie wanted to get together a group of players to play the sort of music they liked and the Bleedin Noses were born.  The guys had all been aware of each other and they quickly bonded into a strong unit.  When you see them play together it is clear that they share a strong friendship and that has enabled them to build into a cohesive and tight band.  Their sound is difficult to categorise. The combination of guitars, banjo, mandolin, double bass, keyboards add up to an undeniably ‘BIG’ sound.  There are elements of skiffle, country, americana and folk all delivered with punk attitude.  When I chatted with Spook after their gigs we agreed that a good description might be ‘Welsh Hillbilly Punk’.  The truth of course is that trying to categorise a band like the Bleedin Noses is a bit like herding cats.  Your opinion will only hold until the start  of the next song.  My advice is to stop thinking, just sit back and listen or better still get on your feet and let yourself go.  When the Bleedin Noses are on stage you most certainly won’t ignore them, the driving guitar will get you on your feet and the banjo will get those feet moving.

With such a wide range of sounds to absorb you could perhaps be forgiven for thinking that the lyrics of the songs were be of minor importance.  That would be a mistake.  The boys see the lyrics as being of primary importance.  They feel that you can discover who they are, personally, politically, musically and collectively by exploring the rich depths of their lyrics.  Be assured the songs are clever, witty and interesting.  I am told that Ollie normally brings the idea and bare bones of  the song and that everyone then contributes to turning the ideas and melodies into a Bleedin Noses song.  You do get the impression that everyone believes in the song, that everyone owns it, that everyone has put a little of themselves into it.  It is clear that the lyrics are hugely important, that they underly everything and they drive the band both individually and collectively.  You don’t need to analyse it, it is there for all to see.  Live, The Bleedin Noses are at their best.  Their performances are testosterone fuelled and full of attitude, but they are much more than this.  This is a band full of talent who put their heart and soul into what they do!”

Their Larmer Tree performance were top notch.  They had me smiling from start to finish and it was clear that the boys enjoyed every moment of both their performances and the festival itself.  They were thrilled to win the breakthrough award, which they said had given them a massive confidence boost and delighted to have been able to bring a bit of Welsh Hillbilly Punk to North Dorset.  Spook was also very complimentary of the Larmer Tree audience and of the festival itself.  He described it as beautifully located, intimate and full of very friendly , knowledgeable and open minded people.   I know the band really enjoyed the Larmer Tree experience and would love to come back next year.  I and I am sure many others would love to see them back.

I have had the bands eponymous CD on repeat play since I got back from the festival and am loving it.  I will write a full review in the next week or so after I have had the chance to leave it for a day or two and listen with fresh ears.

In the meantime, [click on this link](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lNVsw4UgOjY" \t "_blank) to see a video of the bands tribute to the TV Series ‘Breaking Bad’ and Badfingers brilliant ‘Baby Blue’.  It’s the best 5 minutes you will spend this week.  Who knew that South Wales and New Mexico were so alike :)

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