

THE SPECTORS

release self-titled debut E.P. on March 15th, 2014





“
THE SPECTORS are kick-ass, loud, dreamy and also slightly dangerous.”

- Arne Van Petegem, STYROFOAM

The story so far. So good.

A publisher. A label. A booking agent... Gigs at established Belgian indie festivals such as **Dour**, **Boomtown** and **Leffingeleuren**...

A support slot for **My Bloody Valentine** as the proverbial icing on the cake...

2013 turned out to be quite the year for **The Sectors**, the five piece outfit fronted by songwriter and bass player **Marieke Hutsebaut**. With single **Nico** hitting the national charts and receiving widespread critical acclaim, 2014 is shaping up to be an even bigger year...

Backtrack to 2012, first. Egged on by her bass teacher and mentor **Mirko Banovic (Arsenal, Arno...)** to veer off the beaten track and write her own stuff rather than go the predictable *Pastorius Route*, Marieke recorded some ethereal bathroom demos which soon caught the ear of music publisher **Strictly Confidential** and veteran indie label **[PIAS]**.

No sleep till Brooklyn

Strictly Confidential then hooked Marieke up with **Chris Urbanowicz**, formerly of **Editors**, who immediately connected with the heartfelt purity of her well-crafted songs and unique sound. So much so that he invited the 23-year old Belgian over to Brooklyn, NY, to flesh out and finetune the material for a first E.P.

Back in BE, Marieke and The Sectors recorded four tracks at **La Chapelle Studios** with **Stijn Verdonck** on the mixing desk. In addition to taking producer credits, Chris Urbanowicz also added some signature guitar and synth parts, which effectively make this his first official musical outing since parting with Editors in 2012.

Nico in the singles bar

Nico, the precursor of this E.P., was released at the end of January and accompanied by a dazzling “bad trip” video (director: **Jochen Decostere**) that paid homage to local movie pioneer **Joseph Plateau**, amongst other things. It quickly garnered airplay on national radio **Studio Brussel**, entered the weekly charts (where it is currently still residing) and received no faint praise from Belgian stalwarts **Luc Van Acker (Revolting Cocks, Arbeid Adelt!)** and **Arne Van Petegem (Styrofoam)**, who claims The Sectors sound “like **The Ramones** covering **My Bloody Valentine**” and *Nico* is the kind of song that’s “so catchy you want to play it again right away”. Song and clip were featured extensively in an episode of **Fans of Flanders**, a weekly tv-show on national television.

Soundcheck

Pigeonholing The Sectors’ sound is like trying to put a saddle on an eel. Though many have tried, it’s actually very hard to put a finger on, as those riderless eels will slyly tell you. Their sound has been likened to that of “**The Jesus and Mary Chain** flying in from a surfing holiday” (Damusic), “carrying on the legacy of **Yo La Tengo**... unheimlich, yet suspiciously cosy” (Café Video), and “reminiscent of **Anja Plaschg (Soap&Skin)**, **Kim Gordon (Sonic Youth)** and source of inspiration **Nico**” (CJP.be).

One Spanish reviewer was reminded of “**Frankie Rose, Dum Dum Girls** and **Slowdive**”, whereas Irish fanzine U&I hailed “the revered style that a CBGB-era **Blondie** possessed”. Rif Raf dubbed it “an original mix of indie shoegaze and the girl surf pop of **Phil Spector**”, whilst Focus Knack labelled The Sectors’ sound as “dreampop with cool, flirting with **The Raveonettes**”. And did we mention **The Shangri-Las** and **Joy Division** yet? Quite the combination, indeed. But true, too. >>>



Going Down

○ Music & Lyrics: Marieke Hutsebaut

Wistful synths and haunting harmonies, verging on the dissonant, carry this chilling anthem about a love disintegrating, yet not throwing in the towel just yet, to its eerily beautiful conclusion. **Hannah Vandebussche** sings the verses in a wonderfully understated way.

Dig

○ Music & Lyrics: Marieke Hutsebaut

Love is blind. Love forgives all. Love digs everything, even as it digs heart-shaped holes. **Stefanie Mannaerts'** drums pound out Motown patterns as the voices soar in the time-honoured *Ascendant Aah's* tradition, like **The Beatles** (*Twist & Shout*), **Grandmaster Melle Mel** (*White Lines*) and **David Bowie** (*Let's Dance*) before.

“ Losing touch, like **NICO** did... ”



Nico

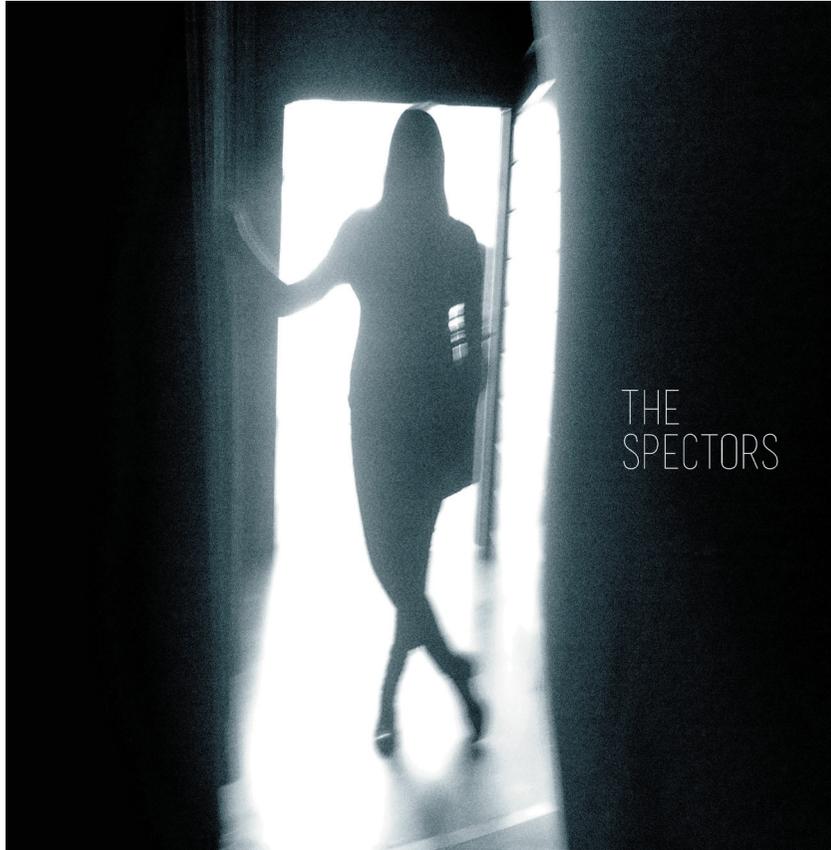
○ Music & Lyrics: Marieke Hutsebaut

A lament about alienation and the consequences of substance abuse, as well as an ode to The Velvet's resident femme fatale, the song draws from musical and personal experiences. With its subtle patchwork of guitars, courtesy of **Bart Baele** (who has since been replaced by Emiel Van Den Abbeele) and **Maxiem Charlier**, ethereal harmonies and catchy chorus, *Nico* bears all the hallmarks of a classic pop single, right down to its 2:46 playing time and abruptly confident opening, a technique only used on a handful of massive 45's, notably *She Loves You* (The Beatles), *The Beat Goes On* (**Sonny & Cher**) and *Dancing Queen* (**ABBA**).

Perfect Early Morning

○ M&L: Marieke Hutsebaut/Lee Swinnen

Upbeat, sprightly and totally irresistible, this has to be to the greatest ode to the joys of early morning love-making since **Ian Dury's** *Wake Up and Make Love With Me*. Jubilant guitar melodies usher in a boy/girl dialogue that spills over into a chorus so catchy, it is bound to be illegal somewhere. Male vocal duties are split between resident New Yorkers **Aaron Pfenning** (**Chairlift**, **Rewards**) and **Keith Murray** (**We Are Scientists**). The song was co-written by Marieke Hutsebaut and **Lee Swinnen** (**Tubelight**, **Double Veterans**).



CREDITS

Release March 15th 2014
 Label [PIAS] Recordings
 Published by Strictly Confidential
 Music & Lyrics by Marieke Hutsebaut
 Performed by The Sectors with Chris Urbanowicz
 Produced by Chris Urbanowicz
 Mixed & Recorded at La Chapelle Studios by Stijn Verdonck
 Mastered by Frank Arkwright at Abbey Road Studios
 Artwork & Photography Stijn Vanhogaerden

THE SPECTORS

Marieke Hutsebaut bass, vocals, music, lyrics
 Maxiem Charlier guitar, vocals
 Hannah Vandebussche vocals, synths
 Emiel Van Den Abbeele guitar
 Stefanie Mannaerts drums

GUEST MUSICIANS

Chris Urbanowicz guitar, synths
 Aaron Pfenning vocals
 Keith Murray vocals
 Bart Baele guitar

LINKS

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