THE ACTIONISTS

MUSINGS FROM SUBHUMANS (EP) - 17th January 2025 - BanoffeeSound Records

Contact John Matthews: 07460 463634 (phone/WhatsApp)

Email: ricardoautobahn@gmail.com

https://bsky.app/profile/theactionists.bsky.social

DOWNLOAD LINK:

THE ACTIONISTS - MUSINGS FROM SUBHUMANS

KEY POINTS

The Actionists are a genre-defying duo from Halifax, consisting of art punk performance poet Keiron Higgins and dance producer, Cuban Boy and pop star Ricardo Autobahn.



MUSINGS FROM SUBHUMANS - THE NEW EP

From the atmospheric electronic thrum of **Subculture**, the ska-tinged pop of **In A World Of You** to the grimy glam-rock slabs of synth that power **Grin Up North**, this is a thorough introduction to the band's Northern, battleship grey mayhem.

You may think you are familiar with performance poetry.

- 1) These have verses and choruses.
- 2) They have melodies, string arrangements, and synth riffs.
- 3) They have disco beats and punk atmospherics.
- 4) This EP is **not** what you are expecting.

Subculture is a tribute to anyone who experienced a specific era of music genre at any given stage of their life and the punk/ska background Keiron himself has belonged to (with a few nods to Northern Soul and Rock and Roll). Gatekeeping from elder statesmen of any genre should be frowned upon.

In A World Of You is a collection of verses from Keiron's latest book of love poetry 'Sometimes Depressed, But Often Well Dressed'. He digs around in pop culture referencing idols and his intellectual past to find figures possessing traits he lacks - or that he feels would have come in handy in navigating his relationships.

Grin Up North is a celebration of any number of dreary northern towns after dark and the need to escape them to start life anew. With the gentrification Keiron has seen across the town of Halifax he captures a tale similar to John Cooper Clarke's Beasley Street with a darkened glam rock twist.

BIOGRAPHY

Keiron Higgins is a poet from Halifax, UK. Before writing and performing poetry he was previously a musician and DJ to which he played in a reggae/funk and soul collective based from Leeds. He blurs the lines of performance poet and also as a "punk poet" due to specialising in rhythmic social commentary and pieces based on mental health, his love of musical subgenres and general outlooks on life, his peers have dubbed him "The (suedehead) bard of Halifax" as since 2012 he has shared the stage with the likes of **Toria Garbutt, Atilla The Stockbroker, Steve Ignorant, Henry Normal, Brix Smith** and **Jeffrey Lewis** to which he has been met with critical acclaim for his peers and audience.

Ricardo Autobahn is an electronic music producer and synth musician. His band the **Cuban Boys** were a big favourite of **John Peel**, recording multiple Peel Sessions for Radio 1 and topping the Festive 50 twice. BBC Session producer Mike Engles classed one of the Cuban Boys performances as one of the all-time best, alongside **Nirvana**, **The Damned** and **Ivor Cutler**. The Cuban Boys million-selling single **Cognoscenti Vs Intelligentsia** reached number 4 in the Christmas chart of 1999, battling **Cliff Richard**, **Westlife** and **John Lennon** for the coveted Xmas Number 1 spot.

In the 2000s he saw further chart hits with **Daz Sampson**, including a top 10 dance version of Rhinestone Cowboy recorded with **Glen Campbell** at his ranch in Arizona. Daz and Ricardo continue their working partnership to this day with big hitters like Ministry Of Sound and Sony - and history will always remember them for their spirited attempt to win the **Eurovision Song Contest** in 2006 (they came 19th). Ricardo has also collaborated with a wide range of other artists and producers including fellow synth wizards **DEVO**, **Helen Love** and is **Hacker T.Dog**'s musical director.

MIKE ENGLES TOP 10 SESSIONS:

https://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/bbcmusic/2009/11/my top 10 maida vale sessions.html

