

WAVE LIKE ADULT RODEO

*It's hard to come up with a band when you feel like listening to pop, noise, ad/hd-rock and experimental songwriting all at the same time. Your best guess could be **adult rodeo**. Their first two records came out on the notorious Shimmy disc, and sound like they recorded their songs as quietly as possible, not to disturb the neighbours. I missed third album, Long-Range Rapid-Fire, but on their latest album, Tough Titty, well... recording that at home might have disturbed the neighbours.. Though Adult rodeo is a favourite round here since 1999, I hardly knew anything about the band. Rob Erickson (guitar + vocals) was kind enough to answer a few questions*



> - on tough titty, you re-work some of the older adult rodeo songs. did you think they were up to some sort of update?

our live sound is heavier now than on the earlier records and so we thought it necessary to review material not because we think the old tracks are inferior rather i like hearing the small bumpy electro tunes transformed into genuine train wreck rockers, I think Thru the Door (from the first album, -ed.) is a good example.

> - how important is playing live for you? Should someone hear your record first, or see a show ?

live is very important however, as you have seen in europe it is not always possible for us to bring the band due to expense, etc. i don't think the order is so important because either way people seem surprised especially in austin, TX. for instance people who have heard our first shimmy disc records are expecting

to hear a lushicious dragged-out sort of soft sound and then we play and they say, "gawd are you always so loud." and then vice versa, people buy the record because of a show they have seen. they go home and listen. then i get emails like "man your album is so weird it doesn't sound anything like your band, what gives?" the new album Tough Titty definitely sounds like us now so it is a true representation of the band as a sound. i generally enjoy albums that are impossible to reproduce live. i think our first album "the kissyface" approached this due to how cut-up it is.

> *last time i saw you live (in paradiso, amsterdam) it was just the two of you. how do you prefer playing live? full band, or as a duo?*

oh i probably prefer the band sound because it is easy to make four people sound like two... just ask the other two guys to stop playing, easy as that. however making two people sound like four that is more difficult even with an i-pod it is just not the same.

> *if i'm not wrong, kevin blechdom isnt a part of the band anymore, is this because of her solo-efforts? and is she your sister?*

well kristin (kevin) has been living in berlin for the last two years. Tough Titty is the first album that she does not play on however i do play songs that she and i wrote together in fact the last track on the new album we wrote together in 1991... she was thirteen at the time. she is on the Chicks on Speed record label and will have her second release come out fairly soon. i am a huge fan of her work.



(fltr: Kevin Blechdom, Kramer, Rob Erickson and Stephanie Mankins)

> *also, if im not wrong again, adult rodeo is you and your wife. when i play music with my girlfriend, we just dont get along, though we like mostly the same things. is being in a band with your wife a lot different than with anyone else? i guess its a plus when touring?*

yes my wife and i are the core group. the most difficult thing to come to terms with is that we have drifted apart conceptually over the years and so we both are developing bodies of solo work. we have agreed to disagree and so long as we each have other projects then the Adult Rodeo work can be more coherent in stead of each of us trying to redefine the band everytime we play a new song.

> - you worked a lot with jad fair (i thought you brought a few collab cds to > the show in amsterdam) how did you get to meet?

jad and i met via shimmy disc, via kramer and we have played a great deal... just this year alone we have played norway, madrid, paris and seven shows in the UK as well as upcoming events in brasil and japan. The first time i saw jad was on a second stage at lollapalooza where he was playing with Mosquito and the whole time he was sticking these two bright red microphones in his mouth, i mean all the way into his mouth. to this day his disregard for pathos-driven art is a real inspiration to me. the project that he and i are working on is experimental beatbox, all vocals and very exciting it is a dance-crazed thing that lurches forward hopping on one leg.

> - are you involved in any other side projects?
no, just my solo show i call LUMBEROB.

> - the first time i saw you live was in lauwe, belgium, in november-december > 1998 or 1999. milksop holly and kramer+jad fair also played. milksop holly > had a cdr with her, called 'snaus'. do you remember what a snaus exactly > is/was? (a friend and me sometimes recall that, but arent really sure of the > meaning anymore, so if you could help us out...)

actually snaus was a kevin blechdom invention i think you are confused. if you go the kevin blechdom website she has a fine definition of a snaus
<http://www.kevyb.com>

> i can imagine that a name like adult rodeo might bring wrong expectations to > visitors of shows. Did it ever happen that people had totally wrong > expectations or that promoters refused to book you because of the name?

we gave a pretty risque interview and as a result we had a promoter in nashville ask if we were bringing the bull because apparently he had read the Onion interview to the regulars and they thought it would really be fun to have us come play and do the dildo show. hmmm, he was quite disappointed when we showed up and just played music... no vaginal subwoofing at all. yeah the name has been a pretty frustrating aspect to the progress of the band, people always call us "adult radio" and we are often assumed to be a country band... and i have certainly received a few creepy emails from people hoping for bestiality music. whatever that might be i do not know.

Adult Rodeo has a website with a few mp3's on at <http://adultrodeo.com/>. The risqué interview Rob mentions is up at <http://www.onionavclub.com>