

**EXCLUSIVE**
by RACHEL
MACPHERSON**BEAR'S Den can't wait to get back on the road — after a two-year exile to write new songs.**

The Londoners toured for nearly five years but decided to take time out to get new music recorded. Now they are back.

Lead singer Andrew Davie said: "We've massively missed playing live. It's such a huge part of what we do. We're super-excited about getting back out on tour."

"Playing live for us is like the final piece of the puzzle of making music. When we do it, there's something about the chemistry of performing them live. The songs start to make sense in a way."

The band, whose name was inspired by the idea of a kids' secret hideaway, will kick off their tour with the release of their first album in three years *So That You Might Hear Me* — inspired by Chilean poet Pablo Neruda.

'Such a big deal to come home'

Davie — who plays with Kevin Jones in the band — said: "When we first started the band, we didn't anticipate that we would be touring for about five years without much of a break."

"We absolutely loved every minute of it, but it was more just like we had to give ourselves a minute to try to write the next album and do something different."

He added: "I went to Mexico for a couple of weeks while we were writing the album."

"I found a book of Pablo Neruda's and started reading it in a shop and I thought it was great. I kind of stumbled onto the poem and I thought it was incredible."

"I just really connected with it straight away. There was something about the nature of trying to communicate or feeling like you couldn't connect with somebody and how everything you said just fell short somehow."

"It just felt right as a place to look for inspiration."

Bear's Den will hit the Bar-

Playing live helps us to make sense of our songs

**CARE BEARS...**
Bear's Den duo want to put on top show in Scotland

rowland in Glasgow ahead of the album's release.

Davie said: "My family are all from Glasgow, and I spent a fair amount of time growing up in Glasgow, but we've never played the Barrowland before and that's a huge deal for us."

"That's an institution where we've only ever seen other bands play."

"It's always been a wish that we could play there. It's a really big deal and playing in

Scotland is always a lot of fun. On a personal level, I always feel sentimental when I come back to Scotland because I spent so much time there growing up."

"It's a general excitement about it all really."

He added: "We always tend to end up in Sauchiehall Street in Nice n Sleazy's afterwards which is the bit I'm worried about."

But what can fans expect when the band make their triumphant return to Glasgow in April?

Davie said: "It'll be such a big deal for us to come back to Scotland, especially playing

a room that size. We never even dreamed of being able to do something like this so it is huge."

"We'll give everything we've got. It's really exciting."

"We always try to make the gigs feel as intimate as possible, so without giving anything away, we'll just try our best to do that. We feel so honoured that we have an audience in Glasgow that want to come see us."

●So That You Might Hear Me will be released on April 26. For tickets to the Barrowland Ballroom gig on April 13, log onto bearsdenmusic.co.uk

'We go extra yarn to get game fright'

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

IT'S all fright on the night when Supermassive Games get their teeth into a project.

The Guildford-based Supermassive Games sent chills down the spine with their *Until Dawn* series so there is much anticipation and no shortage of apprehension with their new title, *The Dark Pictures Anthology*.

Games director Tom Heaton, below, told STUART CULLEN how it all came about. He said: "It's a series of games all with an intense cinematic horror. Each game is standalone with big branching narratives and the first one is *Man Of Medan*."

Heaton is proud of the fact that his team refused the cheap shock route. He added: "We wanted to look at the different horror sub-genres. When you think about a horror game or film, there isn't just a horror film it's always a sub-genre like teen slasher or haunted house."

"We actually got to 39 sub-genres. An anthology gives us the chance to explore them, understand them and maybe subvert them but really create an entertaining game."

The result of that research suggested true stories served up treats. Tom said: "For *Man Of Medan* we looked at ghost ships — from myths or folklore to real events. We found there was a ghost ship called the *Orang Medan* which gave us the idea. Then we developed the story. A ghost ship gives us a real sense of claustrophobia and we ran with that."



They are used to working with Hollywood talent like Rami Malek and Peter Stormare and Tom admitted: "We want something that looks and feels you are watching a horror movie but that, at some point, you can take the controller and inspect the world."

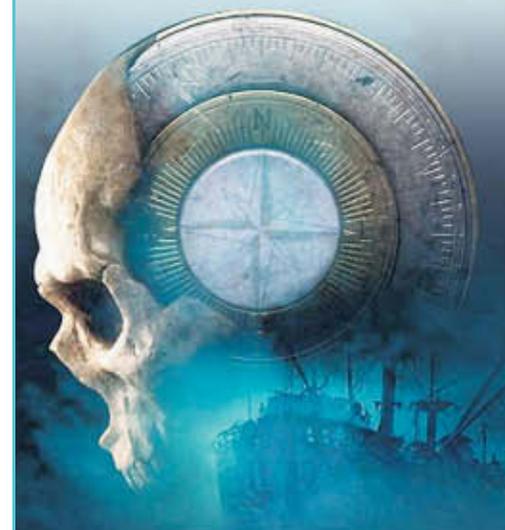
"One very important side of that is getting a recognisable actor which gives you a sort of stamp of approval. People see the likes of Shawn Ashmore and think 'I am going to play that'."

"But they also give outstanding performances. Someone like Shawn takes the time to understand the character and the role in the game and we give him the space to give it a really good performance. That builds empathy."

A key part of the game will be letting the player have choices that will shape the tale. Tom said: "Every single choice counts. Some may only effect tiny things like the relationship between characters, but some have massive impacts like death or adding branches to the game."

"One of the things we don't tell you is that when you get to a choice you'll not know if it's a tiny one or a big one. The choices drive the story."

"There are a lot of outcomes and lots of ways to get through as well."

**FALSE FRIENDS**

WHO: Jonathan Kirwan (vocals/guitar), Fearghal McMahon (guitar), Anna Doody (keyboards/vocals), Corrie McCusker (bass/vocals), Callum Little (drums)

WHERE: Glasgow

FOR FANS OF: The Killers, Fatherson, Frightened Rabbit

JIM SAYS: Back in 2011 I was a panellist on an STV series called *Scotland's Greatest Album*. To this day *Wet Wet Wet* fans are on my back for the non-inclusion of their heroes on a playlist of the best tracks to go up for a public vote by Scottish Sun readers.

There was also plenty of controversy around our decision to include *Snow Patrol's Run*. Their roots may have been in Northern Ireland, but they formed in Dundee before relocating to Glasgow. That makes them a Scottish band in my books!

I'll say the same for Glasgow-based indie rockers *False Friends*. Apart from East Kilbride drummer Callum Little, they all hail from Omagh, County Tyrone.

Guitarist Fearghal McMahon revealed that *Snow Patrol* were actually responsible for his first visit to Glasgow.

He said: "I saw them in the *Hydro* supported by *Admiral Fallow* and fell in love! We probably take a lot of our songwriting cues from *Snow Patrol*. They were so

**NEW MUSIC**

By Jim Gellatly

ridiculously huge back home when we began writing. We also love a good singalong chorus!"

They certainly do. *Monster hooks* seem to be one of *False Friends'* trademarks. Latest single *The Visionary* is yet another blast of fantastically melodic guitar pop.

Anna was the first to make the move over when she came to study at uni in Glasgow. Fearghal added: "She got us a gig here for our previous band, *Don't Shoot*. We came for the gig, then Jonathan and I got offered jobs in a pub, and we ended up staying! Glasgow had a huge draw for us because probably our biggest collective influence is *Frightened Rabbit*."

"The city really seems to nurture that indie-folk style of songwriting that we love. *Frightened Rabbit* changed our lives without ever realising the impact. Also, the likes of *The Fratellis* and *Franz Ferdinand* were how I learned to



▶ Watch a video of the band at: thescottishsun.co.uk

play guitar!" When their original drummer left and Callum came on board in 2016, *Don't Shoot* were reborn as *False Friends*.

Six singles later they have truly found their feet, clocking up over a quarter of a million streams on Spotify. Fearghal said: "That's insane! It's given us a real indication that we have something that people might be interested in. It's really boosted our creativity and drive to become the best band that we can be. Our writing has finally taken shape and become something that can be defined as ours."

They've booked studio time in Edinburgh with acclaimed producer Mark Morrow to record the EP, so hopefully it won't be long before the new material sees the light of day.

Fearghal added: "We have an endless list of songs so we're aiming to release as much good quality content as soon as we can."

"Our goal is to release a collection of songs that really speak to people. Beyond that we'd love to get on tour and see some lovely places around the world and play some tunes to new folk every night!"

False Friends head to Perthshire to play *McKays* bar in Pitlochry on March 22 as part of the *March Into Pitlochry* festival. With Grant and Billy from *Frightened Rabbit* hosting a silent disco as the finale the following night, I'm sure the band will be hanging around for that!

MORE: facebook.com/falsefriendsmusic

●Jim presents a weekly showcase of New Music on *Amazing Radio* Sundays 2-4pm.

amazingradio.com
jimgellatly.com