



HOME | NEWS | CLICK HEAR | ARTICLES | MUSIC REVIEWS | MOTION REVIEWS | MUSIC SCHOOL | CONTESTS | CONTACT | STREAMING RADIO



POINTS

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Datarock Ride the Bulldozer
By Marinko Jareb

Coming from Bergen, Norway, a beautiful city known for its music and culture, Frederik Saroea (vocals/guitar) and Ketil Mosnes (bass/keyboards) naturally started making music. "Bergen is a melting pot for musical genres and in our social circle there are many musicians who all do different things," relates Saroea. "When we started Datarock, there was ten years of rave music, music software was inexpensive, everyone had computers and we had our guitars and instruments and we just made it work."

The self-described "scruffy punks" cut their teeth playing punk and thrash metal before Datarock, an influence that remains strong in their music. They've also take tons of inspiration from Devo and Talking Heads. Saroea says, "That's the great thing about Datarock, we can do a club night with the Ed Banger guys one night, in Cannes we played with !!! and TV on the Radio. We played with Beastie Boys, and then we played Sonar Festival, which is an experimental music festival. My tip for everyone is to not limit themselves to one genre because you limit your potential bookings."

The duo has managed to freeze that moment in time where punk rock, disco, synth pop and hip-hop collided to create their fun and funky sound, epitomised by their songs "Fa-Fa-Fa" and "Bulldozer," which asserts, "BMX! Better than sex!" "In Norway, as a kid, you had organised sports like soccer," Saroea explains. "Then all of a sudden, BMX bikes, and you go in the woods and ride your bike and do tricks. At the same time break-dancing; you bring out a fucking cardboard box and there you have your athletic environment. Graffiti; no more art school, just get a can of spray and do it. Skateboard — same thing! It totally changed everything — organised sports were replaced by freestyle, independent activities."

It's important to pay tribute and homage to our generation's bike. So Kraftwerk have their Tour de France and Datarock has their Bulldozer." With shows in Montreal, Toronto, Vancouver, and the U.S., the boys from Datarock are out to flatten North America.

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OTHER POINTS

The Self-Made Pipettes

"We're as influenced by the Spice Girls as we are the Sex Pistols" isn't the sort of statement most bands would give willingly, but then again the Pipettes are not your parents' music. Actually, on second thought, they kind of are. Rooted in the classic '60s girl group fashion of beautiful women being exploited ...Read More



Sick Fits Bring It Back

Punk's roots have been exhumed in recent years as a whole new generation of musicians search for that distending '77 authenticity and stripped down sound. But no matter how much influence is drawn from the past, it's inevitable that the music will evolve. Usually that evolution takes a forward motio ...Read More



Wil's Excellent Adventure

Vancouver Island's Wil is riding high after completing *By December* with a slew of heroes and new friends. In his 36 years, Wil has lived in Quebec, Alberta, and now BC but first performed publicly in Calgary. "I played solo for eight to ten years and did covers that I deemed wicked and awesom ...Read More



Battles Bedazzle

Virtuosic music can seem bizarre to non-musicians — say "math rock" and one pictures some scruffy long-hair who might once have been an E.L.P. fan, air drumming and expatiating on each guitar solo. With this image in mind, your average melody-and-structure loving individual might be reluctant to put ...Read More



Ion Dissonance Control Chaos

"To be completely honest with you, the second we released the new song ['Kneel,' on our Myspace page] we got a lot of negative comments," says Ion Dissonance vocalist Kevin McCaughey. "Maybe ...Read More

