

The Agency...

Introducing 'Of Ghosts'...

On 29th Sept 2014, The Agency... will release their second album, 'Of Ghosts', through Solarbear Records. The album's lead single, 'She/The Temple', earned critical acclaim, and over the last two years, the band has built up a loyal local following in their native North-East, following a string of successful shows and radio airplay.

The Agency... are currently promoting 'Of Ghosts' with a series of gigs, before the official album launch takes place at Cluny 2 in Newcastle in July:

- 26 April - Radio Hive (session guests)
- 10 May - Oh Yeah Music Centre, Belfast
- 5 July - HMV Newcastle in-store performance
- 19 July - Radio Hive (guest presenters - the Records Bureau)
- 25 July - Cluny 2, Newcastle ('Of Ghosts' official album launch)
- 16 August - Pop Recs, Sunderland
- 23 August - Sound It Out Records
- 29 August - Washington Arts Centre
- 05 October - Newcastle Oxjam

About 'Of Ghosts'...

'Of Ghosts' is the second album from The Agency..., following their highly applauded 2012 debut, 'For the Brave and Troubled'. The opening track, 'She', was single of the month in Crack Magazine and the recently released 'Child So Careless' also helped win the band a wider audience. Tracks such as 'For the Daughter' and 'Border Song' show the gentler side of The Agency..., with heartfelt tales of political imprisonment and criminal fraternity; both great examples of how the collective have carved out their own unique way of marrying cinematic storytelling with striking musical soundscapes. There are some surprises too, most notably the stripped back 'Jack and Spade'. A hidden bonus track celebrates the gothic theme running throughout 'Of Ghosts' in all its magical glory. A further track, 'Fast', about the corruption of good politicians is now also available as a pre-release.

'Of Ghosts' is due for release on 28 July 2014. It is currently available to pre-order through [Bandcamp](#) and all good online retailers.



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Biography

The Agency... began in 2012, as a large musical collective based in Newcastle upon Tyne. They are now a settled smaller unit, featuring;

Steve Beyer - guitar

Garry Cosgrove - drums

Steven K Driver - singer/songwriter/guitar

Andy Ludbrook - bass

Kerry Ramsay - vocals

Their debut album, 'For the Brave and Troubled' (Dec 2012), featured Jason Blaney on additional drums, string samples from DJ Fonzarelli and the talents of Gemma Thompson on cello. Scott Wall (My Exit Music) lent his piano-playing skills and appears again on The Agency... 's forthcoming album, 'Of Ghosts', as does Fraser Smith (Little Man Tate/Shed Seven). Jim Ward also plays guitar on several tracks.

This summer will see The Agency... take their Gothicana sound on the road to support the release of their second album, 'Of Ghosts', which features the singles 'She/The Temple' (Crack Magazine Single of the Month, April 2013), 'Sad Parallel', and 'Child So Careless'.

Listeners describe the band's sound as rich and multi-textured. With influences including Bob Dylan, Pink Floyd, The Felice Brothers, Mark Lanegan, the National, Nick Cave, Leonard Cohen, William Shatner, The Velvet Underground and The Wizard of Oz, there is a little bit of something for all who choose to be seated at The Agency... 's table.

***"An English Velvet Underground for the 21st Century."* Tom Robinson, BBC Radio 6 Music.**

The Agency... are a Newcastle based band, trading, nominally in folk/rock, but such a label is a tad in this case. They have the kind of listen-to-me intensity that Nick Cave & The Bad Seeds manage to up...and the instrumentation is exemplary throughout. Incredibly rich, and with plenty of sweet me boot, this is like setting down with your favourite bar of quality dark chocolate. Crack Magazine, 2012.

For bookings or further information, please [email](#), or visit their [Facebook page](#).



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The Story So Far....

The release of "For the Brave and Troubled" and 'The Agency...'s' live shows in 2012 have already won the band local, national and international acclaim, courting generous and favourable describing the record as..

"This feels like genuine talent at work. Telltale signs are all too obvious: the spaciousness, the unhurried livery, keeping the pace low and brooding where needed and not being tempted to overdo it; the lyrics sound like the work of an imaginative brain"

The lead track from their forthcoming album has also been winning rave reviews through blogs such as the [Sound of Confusion..](#)

"...this feels totally natural and unforced. I guess some bands just have an understanding of what they sound amazing, and I guess The Agency... are one such band."

Whilst AmericanaUK awarded a rating of 7/10 and included the track "She May Meet a Tall Dark Stranger" on their March 2012 compilation CD

"...it is a very enjoyable record...there's craft here, articulate and often humorous lyrics, great playing superb execution and, in chief songwriter Steven K Driver, a chameleon like vocalist. The songs themselves are essentially folk songs, but filtered through post-rock, country and psychedelia and with "Carnival" a possible Granddaddy influence..."

At the beginning of 2013 the positive reception continued with Adam Millard of Cracklefeedback awarding the album 8/10 and going on to say..

"For The Brave And Troubled. The music is almost universally slow paced, considered and beautiful, the lyrics transpose fanciful imagery onto a bleak canvas of realism."

The success of the album launch was in no small part thanks to the excellent coverage of local media. NARC magazine even ran an interview with the band ahead of the event.

She/The Temple was released on 29 April 2013 and was named single of the month in the [Crack Magazine](#). There were also positive reviews in the likes of NARC Magazine and influential blogs such as [Sound of Confusion](#).

The band were also asked to offer their thoughts for [Cracklefeedback's Broken Record feature](#), which was a real honour for them. Off the back of all this, The Agency... were one of the first groups to be named as HMV Newcastle's 'Band of the Week'

The Agency... have also been playing festival and event gigs in the run up to Summer including Sunderland Soundscape and were privileged to open the Cluny stage at [NARCFEST 2013](#).



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Photos



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