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MUSIC.TECH.NIGHTLIFE.STYLE

IGGY POP and THE STOOGES

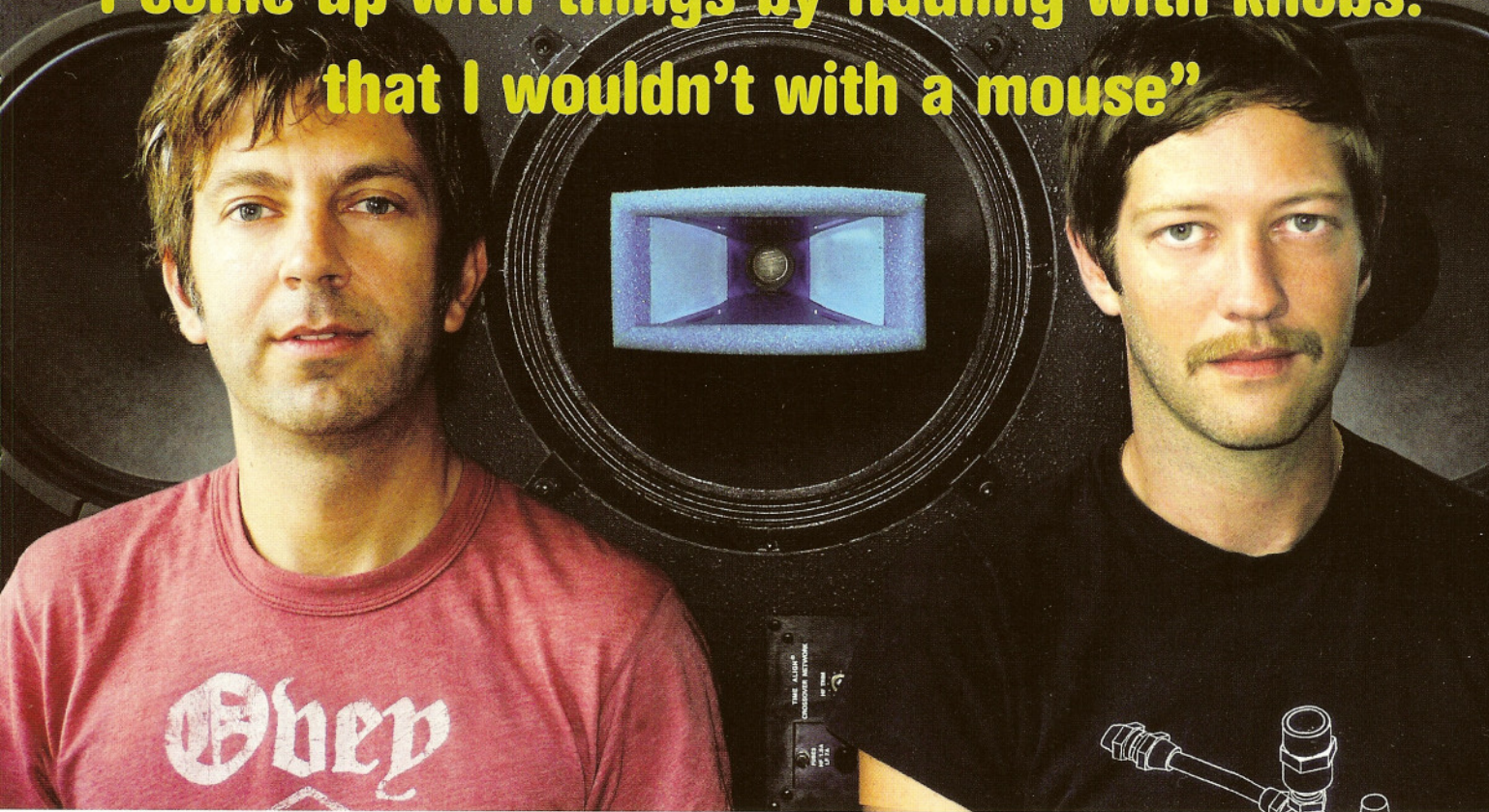
old blood, new veins

ISSUE 81



MUSICAL FRESHNESS BUNNY RABBIT • FREEFORM FIVE • MIGUEL MIGS • TTC
CHRIS HOLMES • PANTHER • GUSGUS • A TOUCH OF CLASS • !!!

**"I come up with things by fiddling with knobs.
that I wouldn't with a mouse"**



Touch My Class

NYC'S **ATOC** ARE THE TYPE OF "RARE" AMATEURS THAT DEMAND PROFESSIONAL ATTENTION.

By Mark von Pfeiffer

A single, low sonic boom from seemingly out of nowhere catches me off guard. As a counterpoint to the diminishing return of its echoes is a flawless cowbell. As the rising of one equals the descent of the other, a single voice cries out: "Class! Just A Touch of Classssss!" At that very instant two figures spring from the mist that has been "shrouding" the Jetway. One sprints past me, executes a short but dazzling tumbling routine where he ends up in the arms of friends and family. The other does not run, but strides towards me, poised and confident, with right hand extended. Showmanship, something I thought had died with Freddie Mercury, is very alive.

"Mark?" "Oliver?"

We're in Switzerland you see, hailing point for Domie Clausen. The country where the two met at school when, in the halcyon days of the '80s, Oliver Strumm had taken time to study abroad. Graduate degrees ensued and after more continent-hopping the two wound up together in New York, and the beautiful music began. Therefore, the land of the Swiss serves

for a stopping-off point when a rare pause between gigs and album work presents itself.

Aside from being recognized in the international gymnastic community as the type of "rare" amateurs that demand professional attention, the two own and operate their own eponymously-named label which serves as home port to The Scissor Sisters, Waldorf, Xavier, Nu Wave Hookers, Eurochrome, Secret Weapons, Services and The Ones...to name a few. All of the bands on the label draw from both the electric and the electronic side of the closet, but none more than AToC themselves. "We've accumulated quite a few synths, but my favorite is an analog 1985 Juno 106. I prefer analog because every time you get something a little different. I come up with things by fiddling with knobs that I wouldn't with a mouse," asserts Strumm.

Amen.

Speaking of bands named A Touch of Class, this one has just dropped a new album—*Still Sucks*. It rides sidesaddle from electro to post-punk and leaps the offal pond to revisit disco. It's a showcase for their

precise cauterization of mash-up, remix and production skillz that can bring even the most retro of styles up to date. These aren't tracks—they're singles, each. "*This Sucks* was two years in the oven. On and off, we were working with other bands and we looked at the tracks as single material, not album material; so each was taking us two to three weeks."

With that much focus, they should have a golden shower of hits on their hands...and everyone in the industry will be trying to find their secret hideout, very soon.

Oliver Strumm: JT. What's up? I wish he'd call us back. We wanna work with him. What's his girlfriend's name again?

MvP: I don't know.

OS: Was it Gwyneth Paltrow?

MvP: Not sweet Gwyneth!

OS: Cameron Diaz. Yeah, we told her to put in a good word for us.

MvP: Diaz is looking a little skanky lately. Too many drugs. Definitely...too many drugs (or not enough).

atouchofclassusa.com