



BOY

“Mutual Friends”

Release date: 02.09.11

Label: Grönland Records

PR Contact: Alexandra Steinegger – 044 271 27 59

alexandra.steinegger@spv-ag.ch

LIVE:

18.10.11 - Parterre, Basel

19.10.11 - Bleu Léopard, Lausanne

20.10.11 - Mascotte, Zürich

21.10.11 - MàD, Genève

23.10.11 – Stanzerei, Baden

Listening can be a magical experience. The best music can lead you into a tangible world of seeing and feeling; a place where just closing your eyes opens up a whole visual world and allows you to see vivid scenes play out thanks to the intensity of the music – or soundtrack – you happen to be listening to. And the fresh breeze blowing through the debut album from BOY certainly inspires such vivid daydreams. It's therefore no accident that the LP opens with the promise that “this is the beginning of anything you want.”

BOY are an exciting young duo made up of Zurich-born Valeska Steiner and Sonja Glass from Hamburg. An engaging pair of musicians, it's perhaps all too easy to categorise them as songwriter-pop when in fact a closer listen reveals that the girls are very much channelling their own unique style. Their music is by turns touching and playful, inspired by everyday stories of real life.

Recording for the album took place mostly in Berlin together with multi-instrumentalist and producer Philipp Steinke, who, perhaps bizarrely, has constructed a professional studio in the former nursery of his parents' home. But there's no room left there for train sets and dolls' houses; on the contrary, the tiny 12 square meter space is jammed with equipment and was the location for several weeks of intense recording and re-recording. Valeska and Sonja played virtually all instruments on the record themselves with the exception of drumming duties. In this case, a rotating roster of friends jumped in to play, among them Phoenix's live drummer Thomas Hedlund. Valeska recalled an evening partying together with the French alt-indie band and thought Hedlund would be an ideal candidate to join in the live sessions. Numerous emails and phone calls later and he found himself in the tiny studio in Hamburg where he laid down drum tracks for the songs “Oh Boy”, “Skin”, “Waitress” and “Silverstreets”.

BOY's music is, on the surface, relatively easy to describe and, as with all bands, it's easiest to

play the comparison game; imagine a mix of the art school elegance of Phoenix, the lively melodics of Feist and the emotional depth of Bon Iver. But to draw such comparisons is superficial and not especially helpful because what you miss is the originality of the BOY concept and the charisma of its two performers.

“This is the Beginning” provides the springboard into the album, an autobiographical work. “Drive Darling” is inspired by Valeska leaving behind friends and family in Zurich. “And no rear view could picture what we leave behind. Drive, darling, drive.” As the tempo rises and the

driving sound of guitars push to the fore, the future seems to begin with a smile as a feeling of optimism prevails. In complete contrast however, “Waitress” explores the melancholy story of a barmaid stuck in time and wondering when her life is going to start: “While daylight is fading, while traders are trading, while the jukebox is playing, while lovers are dating, the waitress is waiting.”

The single “Little Numbers” is something of a straggler, being the last recorded from the sessions. But this is arguably precisely why the track is imbued with such a rambunctious drive and dizzying joyousness; it is the product of studio playtime, the long-awaited period where musicians can relax and have fun knowing – wrongly as the case may be – that all the work is done.

At times, pop music can sound banal and cheap and leave a sickly sweet after-taste like the cheap chocolate you buy at a backwater gas station while you’re in a rush to eat something. BOY’s “Mutual Friends” however sees a poetic realism come face to face with rousing melodies, an intoxicating mixture to lift even the dullest day out of the doldrums and the direct result of the refreshingly lively and humorous personalities of Valeska and Sonja.

Since last year BOY have been on tour more or less constantly throughout Germany and Switzerland. With their first acoustic-oriented EP in their backpacks, BOY have taken their live show on the road countless times; whether it’s appearing at the Eurosonic Festival in the Netherlands or playing support shows for befriended artists, they’ve travelled the length and breadth of their respective homelands either by train or by car and notched up an impressive 60+ headline shows in the process.

In the early days of touring, Sonja and Valeska were unable to afford to take a complete live band with them on the road and therefore their tracks had to be scaled back for a duo performance. However, their forthcoming tour, which begins in autumn, will no doubt see a number of guest musicians join them on stage to fill out their sound and add to the sparkling energy the girls themselves are more than capable of creating.

“And the roof is a blanket, it’s keeping you warm, inside the silence, after the storm...”

You can hear the empathy in Valeska’s voice on the album’s last track, “July”, a fitting end to the album, it closes the circle of venturing out into the world by bringing you, at last, back home.

<http://www.listentoboy.com>

<http://www.myspace.com/listentoboy>

<http://www.facebook.com/listentoboy>

<http://groenland.com>