



Interview with Shiny Beats

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I've had a chance to see how well you connect with your audience, how quickly you react to the emerging situations in the hall, etc. Is this practiced, or maybe you've never had any problems with it?

Probably both. As Shiny Beats we've played several dozen concerts, and you can't overestimate the role the experience with the stage plays in that. You can't really learn it any other way, though some innate predispositions are also required. Besides, everyone has a different idea for themselves and acts differently onstage. Hard to expect from someone introvert to act differently during the show. We were always more drawn to Freddie Mercury and the way of flirting with the audience than to playing just for yourself. We're playing for others, and our stage image is a direct outcome of our music.

In Warsaw's club "Sen Pszczoły" ("Bee's Dream"), you've performed as a duo. But you've been seen in different configurations too.

We're a duo. We've established and imagined Shiny Beats, just the two of us, and everything we do is done together, from the beginning to the end. For a while we've had a drummer as a part of the band, but it wasn't working. Later we've had help from other musicians, but those were always guest appearances. Maybe at some point in the future, once we're better known, we'll organize a tour with an orchestra. But Shiny Beats will forever remain a duo.

Among the words used to describe your music there are: new wave (strongly but freshly heard), punk, electro, shoegaze... Could you yourself specify?

That Linnaeus way of classifying everything always has two sides. On one hand we relate and compare new things to the things already known, which makes it easier to comprehend, understand. On the other hand, this comparison always brings on a cer-

tain oversimplification. It's difficult to say exactly what kind of music we perform. To say it very broadly, we're making music from the indie-electro genre, or the so-called ambitious electronic - if you can even speak of such a genre, which is disputable. We're situated within everything that happened after new rock revolution that is based on electronics. So there's a lot of electro in it, some nu rave, and some new wave as well.

How do you control the interaction with the audience and, at the same time, instruments and the vocal? Let's face it, you're a young band.

We are a young band, we've been playing for a year now. In that time a lot has happened and we've changed significantly. If someone attended our concert in spring 2010 and comes to our concert today, it will seem like we're a completely different performer. We've learned a lot, which we have already mentioned, and we're constantly evolving. These three things you mentioned aren't a problem for us now, but they came with time. What we're worried about now is that the club has good acoustics and there's no coupling, which is a real bane of technical rehearsals.



(graphics – archives of Shiny Beats)

How do you yourself see your ability to handle the instruments? And the vocals? You have very characteristic vocals, though some point out the similarities to certain voices of the 80s.

It's better than it has been, we've been buying new equipment, building up our arrangements, writing more diverse songs. We've evolved vocally, too. At the beginning we had only the male vocal - depending if we're singing lower or higher - similar to Ian Curtis, Samuel Eastgate or Andrew Van Wyngarden. That's what our first record is like, sung totally in English, in male voice. Now the fairer part of our duo got a hold of the mike. Any moment now our new single will come out, along with the promo music video,

and we're eagerly awaiting all the hate and all the comparisons to Crystal Castles (laughter).

Does performing make you become someone else, change dimensions, find out your different 'self'? Or maybe there's a natural continuity and the stage isn't a frontier at all?

That's what you might think. But if someone saw how we act when we're alone together, privately, they would probably say that we're uncharacteristically calm and normal on-stage.

What can you say about your characters, personalities, inclinations? How do they feature in your music? And how do they relate to your lyrics?

Most of the lyrics is ephemeral and fairy tale-like, with the exception of "Tonight", which is about a party and about nothing and in the end a little about love. Ephemeral is also - so far not published but performed at every concert - "Let us play", which is also a little erotic and fun. And probably the lyrics convey the dreaming part of our personalities. The music is cheerful, good to tap your foot to. We don't know what that means, maybe the fact that we like to dance. Especially together (laughter).

We know already [from the intro note to the interview] what 'shiny beats' mean. How would you describe the properties of your music, using the imagination from beyond the music?

The definition of 'shiny beats' as the physical phenomena conveys exactly what we're doing. Once after a performance someone came up to us and told us he's been feeling down all day, came to our concert accidentally, and that now he felt alive again. That's how we'd describe our music. We take light, change it into music, and through the music we place it in the audiences' souls.

Did any of my question seem forced, fake, or over-intellectualized? Be honest!

No. Those were the best questions we've got so far (laughter).