



Eli 'Paperboy' Reed meets The Pepper Pots 'Time and Place'

Written by Tony Poole

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Add to that list, The Pepper Pots, a 10-piece group, with three girls sharing lead vocals, from Girona, Catalonia, who deliver an 'Old School' Sound inspired by the best mid-60s Soul albums. Their latest release sees them teaming up with American singer Eli 'Paperboy' Reed for 'Time and Place' (Double Back Records), an EP that comprises of four classic soul tunes. Reed has built a strong international reputation showcasing his genuine fascination, and love for, Soul music's golden era. His album 'Come and Get it!' introduced the world to an exceptional singer-songwriter who has taken the genre one step further. His lively voice and his impressive backing band (The True Loves) have worn out dancing shoes around the world, evident from his performance at the Cartagena Jazz Festival in 2010.

In recent years, The Pepper Pots also have made great strides. In 2009 they recorded with Binky Griptite, guitarist with the magnificent Dap-Kings (backing band for Sharon Jones and one of the creative forces behind the sound of Amy Winehouse). That record was followed by an expansive world tour leading up to the release of their newest full-length album, 'Train to Your Lover'.

Not long after this release, the band found time to perform on several occasions with a living legend of Northern Soul, Maxine Brown, a star who worked with Aretha Franklin, Ray Charles, Otis Redding and Marvin Gaye.

The relationship between The Pepper Pots and Eli 'Paperboy' Reed started some time back. They first met at one of Reed's famed live shows. The idea of a joint venture was always a dream and finally became a reality last May. The premise was ideal. Reed and The Pepper Pots would choose their favourite unheralded soul records and then record their own versions of the best of the best, recasting the classic tunes in their own styles with Reed at the helm as producer.

The songs were recorded in The Pepper Pots' own analogue Black Pepper Studio, in Cornellà del Terri. The end result is a seamless blend of the two bands' sounds, the rugged soul of the American star and the silken Motown Sound of the Catalans, as they come together to pay tribute to Fontella Bass & Bobby McClure, Lee Moses, Jimmy Lewis and Kip Anderson.

'Time and Place' (available on CD and 7-inch vinyl) is accompanied by a DVD documentary which charts some of the hidden moments behind the recording. Next month The Pepper Pots tour Spain together with the Sweet Vandals and The Cherry Boppers as part of the Soul Train Fest, a touring festival that mimics the events of the famous Motown and Stax Revues.