

HAUNT THE WOODS

Cornish four-piece turn their passion for Muse and Floyd into songs of hope.

WITH EMOTIVE MELODIES that transcend genres, Haunt The Woods have created a unique and intriguing sound. Since their formation almost six years ago, the band have shifted away from their folk roots and evolved to incorporate the skill and musical interests of each member. Lead guitarist Phoenix Elleschild admits that it's this blend of ideas that helped their style to grow.

"I do think we've come quite a long way since the first record," says Elleschild. "I love that we all come from different angles with our music. While Jon and I had very different musical backgrounds, there was something that we shared which was our appreciation of music. The sound we were making was a marriage of different ideas and that was inspiring to me."

All Haunt The Woods' members agree that their blend of styles creates a unique sound that's neither folk nor entirely rock. While the band have their roots in folk music, Elleschild suggests their sound has since become more psychedelic and effects driven. Although Dry The River and Pink Floyd influence their music, their compositions have taken on heavier tones as well.

"The more we've worked together and the less the band is dominated by a single voice, the more it's become something that has its own place musically," notes vocalist Jonathan Stafford.

Encouraged and aided by producer Peter Miles, Haunt The Woods released their debut album in February. Stafford explains that the album title, *Opaque*, reflects the opaque state of the early universe.

The raw, honest lyrics used in the album mirror this idea, while the notes themselves demonstrate the unique power of the band's genre defying sound.

"Before I joined the band, the style was more folky," says bassist Jack Hale, "but as we've all grown older and wiser it's developed into this new sound which I can't really put my finger on."

The band used crowdfunding to bring *Opaque* to life, raising more than £4,000 to make it happen. Along with investment from other sources, the generous sum has enabled Haunt The Woods to realise their collective dream and they've also been able to tour the album.

"We went into the studio for a month and wrote the album on the go," says Hale. "We did have a few ideas beforehand but most of it was getting our heads together and seeing what we could come up with in a month."

Each track explores what it means to be human and is carefully constructed, weaving together both music and the vocals. The emotion behind many of the lyrics and notes adds to the quality and perceptiveness of the album as a whole.

When asked about favourite tracks, Stafford suggests *The Box*. "The song has a beautiful guitar solo riff at the end," he says, "and the lyrics convey a message of hope. Humanity is in art and that's where our empathy, what makes us different from animals, comes from." **FT**

PROG FILE



LINE-UP

Jonathan Stafford (vocals, guitar),
Phoenix Elleschild (lead guitar), **Jack Hale** (bass), **Ollly Bignell** (drums)

SOUNDS LIKE

Psychedelic rock with elements of lyrical folk and a touch of Muse

CURRENT RELEASE

The self-released *Opaque* is out now

WEBSITE

www.hauntthewoods.co.uk



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Staring at the sea:
Haunt The Woods.



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