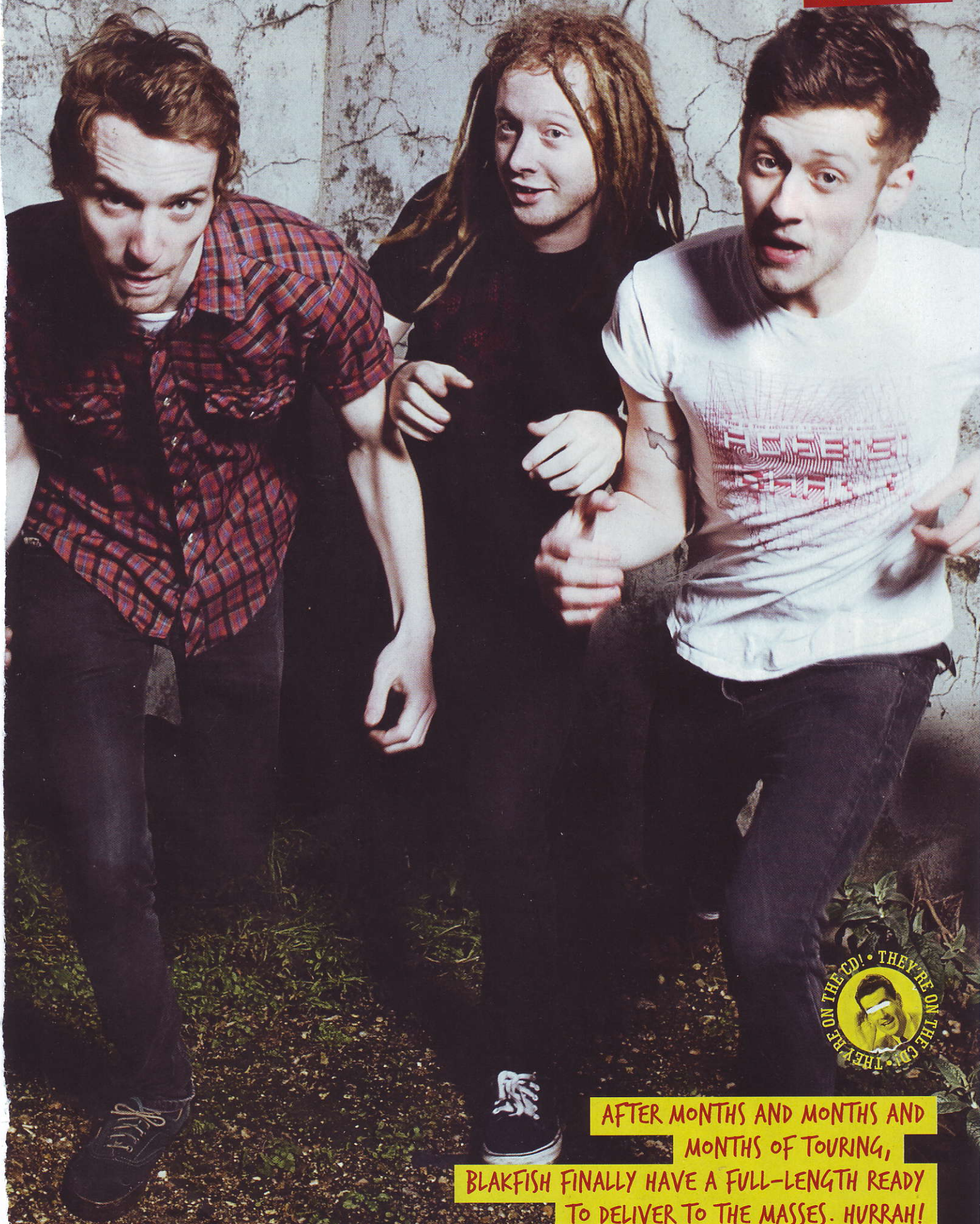


EXPOSURE

THE BEST NEW MUSIC



AFTER MONTHS AND MONTHS AND MONTHS OF TOURING, BLAKFISH FINALLY HAVE A FULL-LENGTH READY TO DELIVER TO THE MASSES. HURRAH!

BLAKFISH

BLEEDING THROUGH

"We're never going to be done with this band," says Blakfish guitarist / vocalist Tom. "It's all we know and there's no way I'm going back to working in an office." The Brummie four-piece have subscribed to a lifestyle that eschews the typical pressures of a recession-ridden Britain, electing to tour incessantly with sod all money and seemingly even fewer worries.

"We're four poor friends from Birmingham, trying to avoid full-time jobs, and that's how we have always presented ourselves - not necessarily in a jokey way, just a realistic one," explains dual vocalist / guitarist Sam. "There's no bullshit 'we're trying to be famous' thing involved. If people at our shows can't relate to that when we're asking them to heckle and throw drinks at us, then they should go and see The Enemy."

The band go about their business with plenty of good humour, and their veering blend of musical styles is bolstered by some impressively witty, frequently cutting lyrics. This class is brilliantly caught in their debut full-length, 'Champions', which, after a delay, is now being released through Hassle Records. The follow-up to debut EP 'See You In Another City', it was recorded with These Arms Are Snakes drummer Chris Common behind the production desk, in Seattle over five weeks.

"He did a really great job," details Sam. "We wanted it to be as organic as possible, so I think there are only about four overdubs on the whole record, no drum samples, and no auto-tune on the vocals."

"He was literally the hardest working man you'll ever meet," adds Tom. "He would sit at the desk from 10am onwards until after 10 pm, with maybe two stops - one to piss and the other to get coffee."

"I HAD REALLY BAD DIARRHEA FOR A WEEK AFTER TOURING IRELAND - I WAS BLEEDING FROM MY ARSE AND EVERYTHING." RICHARD HOLLYWOOD

"He's definitely not human, I think he's some kind of genetically modified robot that's programmed to survive on half a bag of pretzels and one wee a day," drummer Wiz concurs. "We had a good laugh with him, it definitely took him a while to understand what we were saying most of the time, and then when he'd finally figured that out, it took him even longer to work out why we thought we were funny."

Despite said communication problems, 'Champions' has emerged from the studio as a fine debut full-length. It's a record that should see Blakfish's fan base continue to grow as they maintain their aforementioned, relentless touring schedule. They've even worked out their own, peculiar way to keep healthy as they traverse between venues.

"We get ill, but if you're on the road you just drink through it," reasons Sam. "Think about it; alcohol kills everything else inside you, so it has to have a good go at colds and flu and shit."

"Although that's actually my theory," interjects bassist Rich. "I had really bad diarrhea for a week after touring Ireland - I was bleeding from my arse and everything."

Inadvisable self-medication aside, Blakfish are very serious about maintaining the momentum that has established them as one of Britain's brightest rising bands. Sticking any one of these guys behind an office desk would be a futile, terrible waste.

TIM NEWBOND

LINE-UP: THOMAS ROCK (VOCALS, GUITAR), SAMMY VILE (VOCALS, GUITAR), RICHARD HOLLYWOOD (BASS), WIZ (DRUMS)

FROM: BIRMINGHAM

SOUNDS LIKE: IN TOM'S WORDS: "IT'S NOT LIKE THERE'S A 'POST-INDIE HARD(CORE SPAZZ ROCK)' SECTION IN HMV. JUST BUNG IT IN WITH THE METAL AND FORGET ABOUT IT!"

CURRENT RELEASE: 'CHAMPIONS' (ALBUM, HASSLE. OUT AUGUST 10)

WEBSITE: WWW.BLAKFISH.COM

DOWNLOAD THIS: 'ECONOMICS'



ROCK SOUND'S NEW
BAND OF THE MONTH!
NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK!