

CD Review by Joel Felkin

Biscuithead & the Biscuit Badgers - *Interspecies Disco* ★★★★★

Biscuithead & the Biscuit Badgers were awarded Best Band Name of the Week by the NME in 2007. Now, still flushed with success, they're releasing their debut album on the Crabophone label.

This unusually named band has an equally unusual, but somehow logical, line up - vocals & ukulele, piano, tuba and drums - which combine to make a surprisingly pleasing noise.

They present an eclectic smorgasbord of styles ranging from swing, ragtime, country, rock and roll and calypso to classic pop songs. However their stylistic virtuosity isn't really the point; the strength of the album lies in the exquisitely crafted songs and clearly articulated lyrics. Not your usual indie mix of mumbled lovesongs

and misery here; these songs are fact-packed, educational, full of obscure detail and very very funny.

There's more than a passing nod towards the Music-Hall tradition, and

I'd guess their top Myspace friends might include The Bonzo Dog Doo Dah Band and John Shuttleworth.

The songs are wide ranging. There's an homage to lead singer Dean Murray's home town of Runcorn, The Land Hermit Crab is a cheery educational calypso celebrating everyone's favourite crustacean, Flea Beetles deals with a common garden pest, and Send Me Back Upstairs is a great choice if you're looking for music for your funeral.

Interspecies Disco is due for release on May 10th with the single from the album, The Land Hermit Crab, coming out on April 26th, but

the band are actually selling pre-release, promotional-only copies from their website now. In this try-before-you-buy world you won't be surprised to learn that you can listen to full versions of all the songs there too.

