

GRAND ATLANTIC BIO – JUNE 2011

Sometimes, getting a bit lost can be the best thing that happens to you. After a frenetic 2010, Australia's **Grand Atlantic** could be forgiven for disappearing for a while. Tours of the US, Japan and Australia had gained them a swag of new fans, and their second album 'How We Survive' gained huge exposure and US airplay... so a strategic disappearance was in order.

Over the later part of the year, around 20 songs were written and arranged by the band for their third long-player. The power-pop flavour of the first two albums gave way to a darker, more introspective set of tracks that tip the hat to the shoegaze sound of the early 90's, while stripping back the arrangements to a leaner, tougher, more direct sound.

In early 2011, the band bunkered down in Seacliff Lunatic Asylum, an abandoned psychiatric hospital near Dunedin, New Zealand, with producer Dale Cotton to record their upcoming album '**Constellations**'. As singer Phil Usher describes, "We had a few strange experiences while we were there—hearing voices during takes, strange sounds, and we also saw a microphone stand move like someone knocked it." That strangeness, and the unease of not quite knowing where you are, informs the sounds on the record.

The new album is sheer psychedelic sophistication, its beating heart urgent and undeniable. Yet the band is content to let the music build and peak, unhurriedly and with tangible conviction. Intimate and inscrutable, these songs bend and fold, stretch out and explode. Guitar-pop mutates into a lush psycho-geographical map where the band's headspace mimics the manic contours of the equally beautiful and punishing New Zealand countryside where the album was recorded.

In March 2010, Grand Atlantic barnstormed across the US and Canada after invitations to showcase at SXSW and Canadian Music Week, following extensive touring of the album in Australia and a growing call from the US powerpop scene. The release of 'How We Survive' in the US prompted radio play on over 50 radio stations, a glut of media attention and placed them on a bunch of SXSW 'bands to watch' short lists.

Back home, Scene Magazine characterized them best: "*How We Survive* is classic guitar pop that leans heavily on Brian Wilson, Ray Davies and The Beatles while asserting a sonic identity rooted heavily in 90s Brisbane rock...*How We Survive* is the best chance yet for this Brisbane band to take on the world."

Even the massive exposure of their "Gossip Girl" track hasn't changed their focus or approach to music. "We're really proud of what we've done on record to date, but we also wanted to keep evolving and growing as a band. The first two were done over a long period of between one and two years. This new album was recorded in 12 days and that created an intense and focused process," says Usher. "We've really let down our hair, experimented and let things be a lot more raw than we ever have before. It's been a frightening, exhilarating and wild ride!"

March 2011 saw Grand Atlantic return to the US for a repeat tour of both the East and West coasts, as well as SXSW again. Live, they're passionate and intense, a high-energy rock tour-de-force. The first official single from '*Constellations*' is '*Fresh ideas In Home Security*', which can be found at <http://freshideas.viiny.com/> - and the band is about to announce Australian dates. '*Constellations*' is due for release 2nd September 2011.

www.grandatlantic.org
www.myspace.com/grandatlantic
www.youtube.com/grandatlantic
www.facebook.com/grandatlantic

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They said it...

<http://ripplemusic.blogspot.com/2009/08/grand-atlantic-how-we-survive.html> "This is absolutely hypnotic, mind-numbingly good sixties-flavored alt pop of the sort the entire world needs to pay attention to..."

<http://lucidculture.wordpress.com/2009/08/17/cd-review-grand-atlantic-how-we-survive/> - "This is the excellent album Oasis should have done after What's the Story Morning Glory but didn't..."

<http://absolutepowerpop.blogspot.com/search?q=grand+atlantic> "No duds here, and most certainly no sophomore jinx..."

<http://billsmusicforum.blogspot.com/search/label/Grand%20Atlantic> "**Grand Atlantic** has a sound along the lines of **Carolina Liar** or **O.A.R.**, masterfully blending driving modern rock riffs with smart pop hooks and spot on harmonies..."

<http://love.apt6d.com/2009/05/08/grand-atlantic-how-we-survive-due-out-june-1/> "**Grand Atlantic** gives you a decidedly post-punk influenced garage sound that fits these American ears just fine, thank you!..."

<http://underneathica.blogspot.com/2009/09/surviving-grand-atlantic.html> "...most of the songs recall the time when bands like Teenage Fanclub, the Posies, Redd Kross and Velvet Crush made power pop with enough sonic muscle to rival the grunge bands..."

<http://powerpopaholic.blogspot.com/search?q=grand+atlantic> "With the break-up of the brothers Gallagher - I now pass the torch over to Phil Usher and Mat Von Diehm. Viva Grand Atlantic!"

<http://www.ravemagazine.com.au/content/view/17843/181/> "GA have a sophomore album on their hands that not only manages to better the debut, but also demonstrates admirable artistic progress and world-stage potential."

<http://austintownhall.com/2010/02/23/sxsw-watchlist-grand-atlantic/> - **SXSW Watchlist**

We're falling in love with the South Pacific this year. Bands like [Crayon Fields](#), [Surf City](#) and [The Clean](#) have made their mark on our site, and I've found another gem in Australia's [Grand Atlantic](#). This band shoots straight for the heart of those in love with power-pop. There's a little bit of fuzz in their sound, which recalls [Teenage Fanclub](#) or the lesser known band, [The Comas](#). But, the tune I'm bringing you today reminds me a lot of [Dandy Warhols](#). All these little markings demonstrate just what a wide array of influences go into the band's most recent album *How We Survive*. In a year where guitar bands are making their comeback, this is a group you'll want to catch during SXSW. It's just simple power-pop, made for those about to rock. They're playing Sounds Australia party, as well as a few other dates, so do yourself a favor and get into [Grand Atlantic](#).

<http://www.wavedrumor.com/2010/02/sxsw-promo-1-grand-atlantic.html> (SXSW watch list)

<http://thedumbingofamerica.net/2010/02/17/your-new-favorite-band-grand-atlantic/> (SXSW watch list)