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STOKE SOUNDS REVIEW OF GHOST TRAINS + WEATHER @ FAT CATS, HANLEY. 27/05/11

It's a sort of homecoming for Ghost Trains tonight, having recently returned from a very successful tour of Russia and they add an international flavour to the event this evening too with support act Weather, a special guest of the band from Los Angeles, California. Playing songs from her debut album 'Animal', she simply transfixed the crowd with her raw, urban blues and all round stunning performance. Ghost Trains are now impressing on a global scale, they toured the States last year, and are on tour in Europe throughout 2011. Their last LP "Sniffing Round L.A." is a firm favourite of mine and is still the album of the year for me since its January release. The songs they perform from it tonight echo that summery vibe and it needs to be your summer soundtrack too. There's a sound drawing on 60s harmonies such as Crosby Stills and Nash, a hint of The Hollies, the band America, hitting on to the Finn brothers and with a nod to the likes of the late Nick Drake - with some lovely playing from a guitarist echoing one of his heroes therein.

The set features a number of great songs which touch on the inner psyche of the listener. I've mentioned this to Tim before and he's very humble about such comments. His songwriting is sublime and touches on subject matter which affects us all - love, love lost and found, love found and lost again. Ghost Trains perfectly capture your mood at any given moment, it is meaningful and heartfelt - reaching deep into your soul. We've all experienced these emotions and the band capture it perfectly with "Deathdance" "Dark clover" "Liar" and "Angel Heights".

As they introduce "Miss Emily" they make the reference that it's been voted the best acoustic song ever written by Acoustic Magazine, yet you get the feeling that they are somewhat embarrassed by this comment - as they joke on stage about being compared to the Beatles, Neil Young, et al. No worries lads - it's a terrific song and worthy of the praise indeed from said sources - your amongst the giants of great songwriters there my friends and worthy to be in such company and great talent.

Shout it up for Stoke as your sounds are hitting all over the world now and reaching a global audience. It also helps to put us on the map too for great music which can only benefit our local music scene whatever our preferences are, we all need to support it and take it to the world. Overall it's been a terrific night and one which I hope is repeated. Ghost Trains did themselves proud by putting this on tonight and Dave on the door summed it up by being very impressed by such a high turnout for an acoustic evening, "it doesn't normally happen" he recalled.

A massive thank you for a night out with a more chilled atmosphere it makes a change to the usual rock'n'roll gigs we go too! Well done Ghost Trains and as I said, more of same soon I hope. In fact, we all hope.

