

Jealous of the birds Interview

Is there more to being jealous of the birds other than the ability to fly?

The freedom of their ability to fly was definitely the overarching reason I chose the moniker, but it's also just occurred to me that birds and other animals aren't really aware of their mortality in the same way humans are -- or at least they lack the capacity to express it. That's probably why animals always seem so much more present and in the moment than people are. I think that's worth being jealous of, for sure.

How was your start growing into the music business?

It was pretty wholesome, to be honest. I think part of that was thanks to my manager and the rest of the JOTB team for helping to direct my course away from any bullshit, but also from learning the ropes in a small city like Belfast. The music community here is pretty supportive and insular, so it provided me with a platform to figure things out as an artist and make mistakes in a nurturing space. There were definitely times when I felt out of place or uncomfortable, and I had to put in a lot of time and hard work to feel a real sense of progression, but as with anything, you discover ways to make things your own and do what feels most authentic to you.

What's your favourite spot to write a song?

My little home studio. It's nothing fancy, but since moving up to Belfast it's become my dedicated workspace. I think it's important to be deliberate with what atmosphere you create in.

How does literature and poetry influence your songs?

People often place a lot of significance on how literature influences my music, and it definitely does, but not necessarily more than any other medium of art that I find interesting. I'm big into painting, photography, film, other people's music and almost anything which involves pursuing a craft. Poetry has just been something I've read and written since I was twelve years old, and one of my most significant takeaways from it is the act of paying attention. If I'm doing this right, I would hope that attitude saturates not only my songs, but the way I live my life.

Do you prefer playing in front of a bigger or a smaller audience and why?

I honestly don't have a preference. As a band we've had experiences playing in front of both and each can be heartwaking in different ways. The intimacy of smaller crowds is something I really enjoy, but there's also something to be said about the rush of playing to a few thousand people.

Is there anything new/different on your upcoming EP „Wisdom Teeth“, compared to the songs you released before? Why can we be excited to hear it?

There's definitely more maturity in the songwriting compared to something like 'Parma Violets'. I guess that just comes from having had time to hone in on my craft over the past couple years. The overall sound of the record is pretty organic with a little lemon twist. I was also stoked to be able to introduce more experimental elements and interesting percussion to a few of the songs. You'll hear tabla drums, krakebs, taishōgoto, some spoken word and a heap of other juicy stuff.