

Mp3 Second Person - Chromatography

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The London-based three piece who combine an eclectic mix of Trip-hop Rock and Jazz to form one of the most unique sounds to come out of England in years. 14 MP3 Songs ELECTRONIC: Trip Hop, HIP HOP/RAP: Trip Hop Details: Second Person came about as a result of a chance meeting in December 2001 between Mark Maclaine, a hip-hop and drum and bass producer, and Julia Johnson, a singer-songwriter and piano player. Mark had a wealth of credits to his name from all kinds of musical projects, ranging from film scores and label management to playing the bass in an underground metal bands, while Julia had spent the previous 6 years writing and performing songs as well as the occasional musical comedy. They decided to collaborate, and over the following five months they put together a number of tunes, using Julia's lyrics, vocal melodies and piano hooks over Mark's impeccably programmed sounds and beats. As their repertoire increased they began to look for ways to translate it into material suitable for a live setting. Over the summer of 2002 they recruited Budha (also known as Tristan Kajanus), a turntablist of unquestionable dexterity and musicianship who would constitute an important aspect of the band's live sound. The rest of the year was spent in the studio, experimenting with different ways of working and adding further to their body of material. They also found time to contribute music to the soundtrack of Snow's in the House, an extreme sports film notable for being the first of its kind, and to collaborate with rappers Mic Concise and Dizraeli. By the start of 2003 the band felt ready to start gigging. Having recruited drummer Ed Webber, they went into rehearsals, and played their first gig at Madame Jojo's on the 11th of February, using the name Sketch. The audience's response was good. They performed again at the same venue, with a different name (Third Person), after which they agreed to abandon their uncharacteristic indecisiveness regarding the issue of a band name, and finally settled on Second Person, which had the neutrality they felt was required in order for them to take the music in any direction they chose, and also looked good when written entirely in lower-case letters. More gigs followed at the Kashmir Klub, the Notting Hill Arts Club, the Metro Club, the Rock Garden and the Bedford. Dizraeli joined them on stage on several occasions, and guitarist Neil Athale became a regular fixture. In October they lost Ed to his rock band and faced the difficult prospect of finding another

drummer. This process was combined with providing another soundtrack, in full this time, for Snow's in the House II. Mark, as composer, arranger and producer of the music, had to work extremely hard, but came out of it with masses of snowboarding paraphernalia and new tunes for the band develop further. This they did, and their darkest and best gig yet was played on the 23rd of December at the Metro, featuring Mike Ausden on trumpet and guitars, Ali Lyon on drums, and a sparkly Ann Summers corset. Academic pressures and an incomplete live line-up meant a return to the studio at the start of the new year was the most profitable option. They started work on an album, re-recording every part from scratch, reworking old songs and exploring new ones. The procedure was long and often exhausting, but the end result was a massive body of work to choose from, and a richer, more comprehensive sound. Production has now finished on the Album and "Chromatography" is the result. Tristan has left the band due to conflicting musical interests and other commitments, but may come back as a guest performer for particular performances. Meanwhile the band has recruited a new drummer, Alvaro Lopez, and is back in rehearsals in preparation for showcase gigs in the autumn. Watch this space...

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