

25 YEARS AFTER THEIR HEYDAY, THE DEBUT ALBUM FROM GALWAY'S FINEST

RELEASING a debut album a quarter of a century after a band's heyday may look like a very belated and peculiar thing to do. Indeed it's hard to argue with the notion that a long forgotten band releasing a debut album equals old musicians having a collective mid-life crisis! Maybe so, but the ex-members of Galway band *The Fuze* have complied a collection of 20 of their original recordings from the early eighties and are releasing their *A Blast From The Past* CD on October 12.

As guitarist and Renmore native Paul Gaughan explains, "It has always been a regret of *The Fuze* that we never cut an album despite having two successful singles and no shortage of original material. We did spend quite a bit of time in different studios and a lot of effort taping gigs but, due mainly to the lack of a record deal, an LP never materialised."

They did, however, succeed in building a reputation as an excellent live act playing their very distinctive brand of power pop in clubs and ballrooms up and down the country during the early eighties. The five-piece began life in the surrounds of UCG but quickly gained a national profile after winning a prestigious band competition in Tramore in the summer of 1980. Two successful singles soon followed – *Stone Age Man* and *It's A Sunday Morning*, both of which charted – but just as it looked as if an international breakthrough was possible the band split in '82. Paul smiles ruefully, "Yeah, looking back we can only put our hands up and admit we blew it."

Although the band briefly reformed a few years later they soon dissolved again and the opportunity to make an album seemed lost forever. The legacy of their many enjoyable studio sessions – a disparate collection of cassettes of varying quality – was left to gather dust.

Fast forward 25 years and with the revolution in sound technology came the ability to format *The Fuze's* antique tapes



and vinyls into modern digital files. Moth-balled songs were dusted off and had new life breathed into them with a little tweaking and re-mastering. Paul is pretty pleased with the results. "While it can never claim to be the highly polished studio LP we once dreamed of making, it none the less captures the essence of *The Fuze*." However, he quickly adds, "Regardless of how happy we are with the album, it isn't a prelude to a Take That like comeback tour. We know where to draw the line!"

Featuring 20 original songs, five of which are live tracks, and accompanied by an extensive booklet on the band's history, the release of *A Blast From The Past* is an ambition fulfilled for the band and will trigger pleasant memories for Fuze fans. Hopefully it will also relieve any foolish mid-life notions the band might have of buying high-powered sports cars!

Release date:

Friday 12th October 2007

Available exclusively in:

Red-light Records, Eglinton St, Galway
Downtown Records, Castlebar & Westport
Road Records, Dublin
Tower Records, Dublin

Also available online at:

www.fuzesounds.com

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