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Interview of Fool's Gold: African Dream

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URL :

<http://branchetonsonotone.com/2011/03/14/interview-de-fools-gold-african-dream>

Dr. Javnaire: You all come from different bands, great bands moreover (*ndlr. Foreign Born, We are Scientist, The Fall, etc.*). So, how did you met?

Lewis: Luke and I met each other in high school. We were like sixteen or seventeen years old, which for us is a long time ago. We were in a band, playing together in high school. So we have been playing music in some capacity with each other for a long time. And only when we started this band did we start to actually write songs. We always played in each other's bands, never or together as backups. So this is the one product we are doing like that: and this is exciting.

Dr. Javnaire: Why did you choose such a name? Why "Fool's Gold"? Does it refer to the Stone Roses' track?

Luke: No, it wasn't because of that. In California there is the history of the Gold Rush: all these people came to California, they thought they would find gold. And it's a stone, called pyrite, a mineral, and it looks like gold. And in English it's called "fool's gold". So, that's how we named it after. It was kind of a joke.

Lewis: It's a playful name, meant to not be taken too heavily. When we started the band, it was kind of an experiment. We didn't really imagine we'd be a "real" band touring, talking to you now.

Luke: And both of words sound cool: "fool" and "gold"!

Lewis: Now we refer to our male fans of fools and our female fans of gold... (*laughs*)

Dr. Javnaire: And how would you describe your music, which is such a melting-pot?

Luke: Hmm... "Tropical"?!

Lewis: Yeah! We can go for a tropical thing!

Dr. Javnaire: It describes at the same time California and Africa...

Lewis: Yeah, exactly!

Pierro: Why do you sing in Hebrew?

Luke: Because the lyrics are too embarrassing... *(laughing explosion)* Both Amir and I were born in Israel, so it's something I grew up with: speaking at home and... So I had it in there somewhere. And when we started to play this music, it just kind of sounded right.

Dr. Javnaire: But, talking about the Hebrew texts, what do they say?

Luke: Well, every song has a different idea. Some are more playful than others, some are more personal, some are more... you know...

Dr. Javnaire: I also read that just one of you went to Africa. Isn't it weird compare to the music you play?

Luke: No, because we just listen to a lot of music from Africa. And you know, when you listen to music, it's easy to sort of pick up on certain things.

Dr. Javnaire: But don't you want to go there, to face the music you play?

Luke: Oh... we'd love to do it together. But it's very difficult for Americans, specifically from Los Angeles, to go to Africa.

Pierro: And have you ever played in Israel?

Lewis: We've been planning trips to both places for long time. But it's difficult for us to get there. But we're always trying to go there, so...

Dr. Javnaire: Who inspires you the most (on both musical and lyrical levels)?

Luke: Kobe Bryant! He's a big inspiration for us. He is a master of rhythm, doesn't he?

Dr. Javnaire: You are a lot in the band (six now, but twelve before). How do you manage to create, and not to fight?

Lewis: Luke and I basically create everything. And the guys kind of take what we created and make it their own a little bit, you know. But, we are quite the captains on our ship.

Dr. Javnaire: What difference would you make between European and American public?

Lewis: We love European audiences because we feel a very strong connection with them, especially in France, in Belgium as well as in Holland. It is quite the same for us in California. In San Francisco or Los Angeles there is also a tight connection with people. But we spent so much time in Europe; we haven't been in America that much. You know, America is so huge, and places are so different. We didn't play that much in our country, so...

Pierro: And do you think that there is something special in the Californian air which make musicians cross cultures in the musical creation? I think for example about Groundation, a pure Californian reggae band.

Luke: For me it's the weather, the heat and the dryness; and also a lot of diversity. Every single culture is represented so you're exposed to a lot of things. Every single day in Los Angeles, you can, for example go to "little Ethiopia" and face something radically different. So we are maybe more influenced than inspired by African music, you know.