


IN THE WAKE OF THE PRESETS, PNAU, FAKER, CUT COPY AND MIDNIGHT JUGGERNAUTS, FOUR NEW AUSTRALIAN BANDS HAVE EMERGED WITH A WEALTH OF INFECTIOUS BEATS, GROWLING VOCALS AND PRETENCE-FREE ORIGINALITY. ALYX GORMAN WRITES.

the debutantes

TRAPS

Traps is not a fashion band. Their loud, catchy, pretence-free rock and roll feels like a gulp of cold beer after months of sipping on the sickly-sweet electro cocktail that has flooded Sydney's music scene. "We never actively set out to not make that music," guitarist Matt Edge explains. "There wasn't a conscious decision to not use synthesizers... We just didn't." Conscious or not, this choice has framed people's view of the band, making them seem like rock and roll rebels. "I think in the end you always make the stuff that sounds like what you're listening to," says vocalist Kieran Day. "Sometimes I'll go off and write something I think is really good, then I'll come back a couple of days later and think 'Oh dear, that sounds quite similar to something else.'" Formed after Day spent time in London, Traps makes grimy rock and roll in the British tradition. Their sing-along choruses and plucky basslines show shades of Nine Black Alps and the Arctic Monkeys, while their gritty, muddy sound is pure bootlegged B-side. Some of the rawer qualities in their musical aesthetic are perhaps due to the intense speed with which they cut their first tracks (the band confesses to spending only five hours recording their first single in the studio). " (But) we wouldn't know what to do (with more time)," they say. Bassist Ben Hassell suggests they would probably spend it chatting and drinking, rather than actually recording, and the rest of the band concedes with a smile. www.myspace.com/killthetraps



MAL: t-shirt by Nique, pants by Julian Red, shoes by Converse, rings and watch by Diesel. BEN: t-shirt by Henson, jeans by Pepe Jeans, shoes by Gram. KIERAN: t-shirt by Flux, jeans by Claude Maus, shoes by Gram, necklace by Chronicles of Never. MATTHEW: shirt by Levis, shoes by Converse, jeans by Saint Augustine Academy.