

Occotillo - Biography (2017)

Named after a Sonoran desert plant whose crimson rainflowers earn it the nickname 'desert coral', Ocotillo brings together the voices and songwriting of Kirsty McGee (UK) and Robert Garson (US). The duo formed in 2015 in Joshua Tree, California, deep in the Mojave desert when McGee turned up at Garson's studio carrying a musical saw.

With voices that evoke the smoky textures of 1930s jazz and the rasp of desert winds, the duo tread the line between Americana and jazz swing balladry with a nod to Cole Porter & Tom Waits. The live show features unusual instruments such as musical saw, bass flute, mbira, bowed glockenspiel and lap steel. Whilst the transatlantic harmonies may conjure up a Transatlantic Gillian Welch & David Rawlings, this pairing offers something unique, disarmingly honest and utterly compelling. After a successful 23-date debut tour in 2016, the duo return with a brand new double album. A fascinating partnership not to be missed.

Quotes from the band's debut EU tour, March 2016:

"The harmonies gel like Gram and Emmylou's; the music, a thieved midget's orchestra of offbeat instrumentation. When the writing's this good, though, the sky's the limit."

- Salford Online *****

"It's a rare, and special combination . With the 'rough voiced, ardent picking' of Garson, alongside the 'joyful, dusty', soul-seeking approach of McGee, you'll be hard pushed to find anything to dislike. Their work is of the earth – salty, real, steeped in traditions of the country, marrying 'ancient and new lyric sensibility' to the 'deep grooves heard in roadhouses from Bakersfield to New Orleans'. Old America then. It also feels as though it's going to be quite experimental, which is always seductive – think dust and sand meets gospel, 30's jazz and old vinyl blues. I'm there, with a glass of red wine and my imaginary cigarette."

- www.brumradio.com

Links:

<http://kirstymcgee.com>

<http://kirstymcgee.bandcamp.com>

<https://youtu.be/Ky-CvszqoLU>