



LOUIS BARABBAS & THE BEDLAM SIX CELEBRATE "YOUTH"

The new album by Manchester Dirt-Swingers *Louis Barabbas & The Bedlam Six* will be on general release from 3rd March 2014 with a UK tour to coincide. The album's name: YOUTH.

In early 2013 the *Bedlam Six* moved into a house with the intention of going back to basics and making a studio record along the lines of *The Band's* "Music From Big Pink" and *The Stones'* "Exile On Main Street" – living and playing together in a custom-converted studio house with no distractions from the outside world. Three weeks later they emerged with an eleven track LP entitled "Youth" – their not-so-difficult second album.

"Over the years we've recorded in a lot of different ways" says Louis, "onto computer, onto tape, in 'proper' studios, in makeshift ones, live on stage, acoustically around a single microphone, in public, in private. We've come to the conclusion that the hardest thing is not the laying down of a quality or definitive version of a set of songs, but rather the preserving of moments – capturing something of the personality of the contributors and the context in which the songs are performed. This was our aim on *Youth*, to get a sense of that moment."

Fortunately the decision to trade sonic perfection for artistic freedom paid off. This is the best record the band have created to date, described by Louis as "the story of a boy teetering on the threshold of incurable maturity, pawing at the tangled fronds of his shriveling potential... (it's got a few jokes in it too)."

After sending the record off to be mastered the band embarked on a European tour (taking in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Belgium, Italy, Milan, Ireland, Holland and the UK), followed by a busy festival season and then a solo acoustic tour of Australia by Louis in the Autumn. They are now about to do it all again, but this time with added *Youth*.

Background:

Described by BBC 6 Music as "Excellent in every way" *The Bedlam Six* have received praise and support from the likes of *Supergrass*, *The Mighty Boosh*, Har Mar Superstar, *UB40*, *The Blockheads*, Mark Steel, Pete Shelley and even the Hell's Angels – both for their furious onstage energy and Louis' manic lyrical gymnastics.

Their infamous live shows – incorporating rock, jazz, folk and theatre influences – have proved time and time again that the group is at home on any line-up, even sharing the bill with such disparate acts as *Motörhead*, *Sun Ra's Arkestra*, *I Am Kloot*, Eliza Carthy, Emmanuel Jal and *The Buzzcocks*. In the past they have collaborated (either live or in the studio) with the likes of John Otway, *Moulettes*, Bridie Jackson, Tom Hingley, *She Makes War*, Kirsty Almeida, *Hope & Social*, Liz Green and John Robb.

They are looking forward to celebrating the release of their new album and seeing what treasures and experiences 2014 will bring.

NOTES TO EDITORS

"Youth" by *Louis Barabbas & The Bedlam Six* is released through *Debt Records* on Monday 3rd March 2014. Official launch parties will take place in London, Portsmouth, Brighton, Liverpool and Manchester throughout the week of release.

A special website devoted to the new record can be found at www.bedlamyouth.com

For tour details and further information contact louis@debtrecords.net.