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## BEC & BETH - "Bec & Beth E.P." (PURR 024)



So by now you think you know the Hot Puppies. But within the band lies something equally special, the friendship – musical and personal – of the girls Bec Newman and Beth Gibson, which until now has been part of the band's mix, but is about to get the stage all to itself.

As the band approach the release of *Blue Hands*, "the album they've always wanted to make", times have been a-changing in the Hot Puppies camp. Revealing an altogether stronger sound, more deeply personal subject matter and an array of wildly disparate influences. Meanwhile, on the personal side, Bec and fellow band mate Bert finally decided to tie the knot (they only waited seven years!).

Perfect timing then to put the essence of Hot Puppies into practice. To take her mind off the arrangements in the build up to the big day, the young bride-to-be and her friend Beth set up some mics in Bec's flat and have recorded an EP of lost love and heartache.

The girls were bombarded with suggestions by friends, family and label eager to hear Bec sing their favourite songs but the natural choice was to open with Burt Bacharach's *Anyone Who Had A Heart*. Transforming Cilla Black/Dionne Warwick's original 60s hit into a delicate piano waltz with vocals so satin soft, you can literally hear Bec's lament shatter even the hardest hearts into pieces.

Where *Blue Hands* explores themes and territories befitting the band's love of great storytellers like Leonard Cohen and Nick Cave, here we are dealing with matters of the heart, pure and simple. This time it's just the two of them, taking risks and truly baring their souls, made clear on the girls' goosebump-inducing version of Bec's long-term favourite The Smiths' *Last Night I Dreamt That Somebody Loved Me*.

It's on *French Song* though where the girls really wear their hearts on their sleeves. Beth turns her hand to composition, and both girls sing bittersweet verse in fluent French alongside stripped-back strings to evoke a hidden story so heartbreakingly beautiful, you can just imagine walking along the leafy banks of the Seine one rainy weekend in Autumn.

*I'm Making Believe*, from 1944 film Sweet And Lowdown closes proceedings. Written by Mack Gordon who penned songs sung by Sinatra and Dean Martin, Etta James, Nat King Cole and originally sung by The Inkspots, it brings the girls and their love of 1940's vocal groups together, singing in harmony as solid as their everlasting friendship.

Band Website: www.thehotpuppies.com and www.myspace.com/thehotpuppies

PR: Lisa at In House; lisa@inhousepress.com / 0161 228 2070

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