

**Daniel Potter**

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**From:** "Sparklehorse.com" <contact@sparklehorse.com>  
**To:** <newsletter@sparklehorse.com>  
**Sent:** 03 March 2008 15:23  
**Subject:** Feb 15 2008

**Greetings**

early dec.

i had the bright idea that i would do some solo shows with just a laptop that had some back- up tracks that i had recorded before hand at my studio, StaticKing. i arrived in London to rehearse the set. i had never done this before, just me, many doubts about the whole thing, possibly the audience would descend on me like a pack of angry jackals with Sharpies or stealthy flying creatures with mini-disk recorders and uneven rows of pointy yellow teeth. i had had a bunch of new songs written and had recorded (what i thought) were kick ass backing tracks for them. i was exited about standing up there alone and confidently belting out these new simple melodic songs that i envisioned sounding like Buddy Holly inside a suicide space-probe crashing into a White Dwarf or colorful Gas Giant, something with an unfriendly atmosphere that re-arranges your atoms yet you can still hear the melody. 1st solo show ever was at the Cube in Bristol, home to many of my musician friends who im glad were not present.

the Cube is a great little venue that i think doubles as a cinema. holds around 100 people in red velvety chairs. i couldn't see a damn thing and had to ask if people were there, they said yes.



so i did my 1st solo show, didn't get injured but i think i played too many new unfamiliar songs and b-sides and maybe the backing tracks were too busy. i did my 2nd solo show a few days later at All Tomorrows Parties with a re arranged set but still not enough familiar songs. anyway, i think i know what needs to happen to make a Sparklehorse Solo show work, some nice film, better mix of old and new songs. maybe some songs with no laptop back-up at all. so Thank You if you were there and were kind as most Sparklehorse audiences are. Special thanks to Gideon and the King. directly after ATP i went to Amsterdam to do some recording with my good friend Christian Fennesz. the Konkurrent label has a running project where 2 or more bands/musicians record together for two days,

then it gets mixed at the very wicked Studio 150 in Amsterdam. the series is called 'In The Fishtank' i think our session went great and i am still in awe of Christian and i think we are getting nearer to some music we have been trying to conjure from the Dark Matter.

Christian and i are also planning to do a proper lp release in 08 , recorded partly in Vienna and partly in North Carolina. after the Amsterdam recording i returned to Bristol to visit and help feed a new Portishead baby and see them perform at the Bristol Academy. they sounded great, as great as ever. the new songs are dangerous. like so many others, i cant wait for the new P lp. thank you for the hospitality to my good friend A.

Dangermouse and i are finishing up the DangerHorse lp slowly but surely. thank you to all the great singers who contributed to it. i think it will have been well worth the wait.

mark

photo : charlie cravero