

## Frantic and Freaky Good Gurriers-Approachable

Contrary to the name that they have prescribed themselves (an Irish slang term used to describe the tough and lawless young person), Gurriers are a very nice band.

While the Irish noise-punk aces may appear anger-fueled when they take to the stage, they have infused a positivity into their chaos. Gurriers are not here to take the piss or wreak havoc, rather they are attempting to construct an effective communication of their frustrations. If that means acting like a Gurrier on stage, so be it. As Pearce Callaghan (the band's drummer) blatantly stated, 'Gurrier by name, Gurrier by nature.'

Gurriers' newest single 'Approachable' perfectly encapsulates this idea. An unrestrained and angsty strife with right-wing politics, the four-minute track pleads for the truth. 'Approachable' is past itself with its nihilistic abjection and mockery of the perceived pandering of reality from the powers that be. The effect of this is a biting portrayal of being alive.

The lyrics achieve this to an almost comical effect. Lines such as 'no need for the weekend the light does not meet me,' and 'if you want to know where to find me its dark and deep' self-mock the misery felt by the speaker. The character created, for lack of a better term, is a tragic weirdo and it is ok to acknowledge this. Gurriers are embracing themselves and their political astuteness as well as the effect that this has had on their actions in daily life.

The scuzzy instrumentation accompanies this, pummeling the audience with a sense of inescapable doom. Although the discussion is a depressing take on reality, the tempo moves at a lively but steady pace, pushing the listener through the experience like a really scary game of Temple Run, before climaxing in its last forty seconds, or so, with a frenzied crescendo of adrenaline-fueled defiance.

Regardless of the song's nihilistic bones, 'Approachable' reiterates the phrase 'I'm approachable,' Asserting the aforementioned positivity that the band identifies itself with. The progressive Irish quintet has found itself among a scene of likeminded bands who share this intensity driven artistry such as Chalk, Enola Gay and Naked Lungs. This scene's tendency to diverge into darkness as a means of speaking meaningful truths is compelling and an interesting route for the Irish music scene to take.

This isn't a new strategy of artistic endeavour by any means. Way back in the 1970s, Johnny Rotten, the ratty front of Sex Pistols would spit on his adoring fans in the audience, before donning a cheeky but rather calm collectedness off stage, but its fun to see a reimagined version of this attitude in Ireland's ever augmenting music scene.

**You can catch Gurriers' headline show at The Ulster Sports Club on the 21<sup>st</sup> of November 2024.**