

“Home is home, and you take it wherever you go”: Tiger Cohen-Towell on Divorce’s debut album *Drive to Goldenhammer*, transience and being a non-binary musician

Tiger Cohen-Towell joins the call from their grandparent’s bungalow, where they are staying the night. The trip consists of the luxuries you’d expect when visiting grandparents – eating a roast chicken and watching terrestrial telly. Tiger says it is nice to be in a “no-pressure” environment but admits they don’t see their grandparents enough; sure, that’s something many of us can relate to. They travel to Nottingham after the interview, which means returning to their busy life as the frontperson and bassist of the alt-country band [Divorce](#).



Tiger and bandmates, Felix Mackenzie-Barrow (co-vocalist), Adam Peter-Smith (guitarist) and Kasper Sandstrom (drums). Pic: Rosie Sco.

Divorce formed in the Nottingham indie scene in 2020. Since then, they ended a UK tour in October consisting of 21 shows. The next venture is their [debut album](#) *Drive to Goldenhammer*, releasing in March 2025.

On the last leg of the tour, they played an enraptured sold-out show at Islington Assembly Hall in London, which Tiger says was a “big milestone” as it was the largest crowd Divorce had “ever pulled”.

With the end of a successful tour and the upcoming LP, Tiger and the band recognise they are heading down the right path.

“We’re still an obscure band in pop culture but we’re going in a good direction. It’s incredible that now we can live off music. But it’s still a slog,” they say, moving the camera around and holding the phone like we are catching up on Facetime.

[For many musicians](#), it is difficult to make a living from being in a band. The sheer number of unpaid gigs, nepo-babies and lack of funding are some of the tumultuous difficulties of breaking into the saturated industry. Tiger acknowledges they are constantly “chugging along”.



Divorce playing sold-out Islington Assembly Hall. Pic: Lucy Snell

Alongside their music journey, Tiger juggles aspects of their gender identity. Being a non-binary musician, there have been times Tiger felt separated from the band for not being a man.

They say: “My band and the people we work with are amazing, but you do come across some industry people that assume I’m a girl. Sometimes they act in a misogynistic way and that is the worst thing.”

Despite this, Divorce fans have responded in an overwhelmingly positive way. Tiger says the fans have made them feel “affirmed” and in some ways have “fast-tracked” their confidence in identifying as non-binary. They recount meeting young queer fans at gigs, who shared stories with Tiger about their own identity.

With these challenges and experiences, Divorce has now reaped the fruits of their labour. They put a lot of graft into the creation of *Drive to Goldenhammer*, which succeeded two EPs *Get Mean* (2022) and *Heady Metal* (2023). Tiger says the previous two were created “on such a shoestring”, whereas their forthcoming album has a higher production.

From writing retreats at The Calm Farm, a mid-century house in North Yorkshire, to working on pre-production with the esteemed producer Catherine Marks (Wolf Alice, boygenius, Foals), and recording at the Real World studios, Tiger says the band have been wanting this for so long, that it particularly “burst out”.

Divorce’s sound is inspired by Tom Waits, Caroline Polachek and Kate Bush. They blend folk and country with a mix of cathartic harmonies and sharp, tongue-in-cheek lyrics. *Drive to Goldenhammer* focuses on this spirit but also progresses in new directions. Tiger hopes people will receive the “maximalist” album as “exploratory and thematically vast”.

Tiger says to also expect some “darkness on the album”, inspired by co-lyricist Felix, who can hone into his vulnerability.



Tiger says they have live performances in mind during the writing process. Pic: Rosie Sco.



“I’m so glad he can channel his soft side because it’s such an important part of Divorce. Sometimes he plays songs and I’m like, damn, that’s gonna make people cry. And it does,” they continue.

Tiger describes the album as “well-worn” and “lived in” and describes the rawness as hearing the “fingerprints on the album”.

“We weren’t afraid to use first takes and I think it is an imperfect album in a nice way. It’s playful, and Catherine was a big part of that.”

Drive to Goldenhammer focuses on ideas of relationships, queerness and a central focus on placelessness. Growing up in a “forgotten place” like East Midlands, Tiger experienced

ideas of transience and a mentality of leaving Nottingham once they could. The sense of not feeling Tiger says Felix is their “best mate”. Pic: Rosie Sco.

like they belong worked its way into their adult lives, especially whilst touring.

“I realised that home is home, and you take it wherever you go. Nottingham and places like Nottingham, that are lacking in identity outside its region, are permanent and important.

“We called it Drive to Goldenhammer because we are always on the go. The songs ended up feeling like they're about journeys or moving along,” Tiger continues.

Although Tiger is a mosaic of the places they've travelled to on tour, Nottingham will always have a special place in their heart. This reminds us to nurture home, as after all there is no place quite like it.