

→ sides to it. There's that side, but we're Smaller. We're a band of our own. We're getting tagged in the press all the time... 'Digsy from Digsy's Dinner fame.' It is great, and we're proud to be associated with them. They're the best fuckin' band in the world, but we're a band ourselves. We're having a go. We've got good songs, we're a great band.

So have all the Oasis connections helped you?

Oh yeah, loads. They've done so much for us. We supported them on their last British tour, which was great of them to do. They've just sent down three grand's worth of amps for us the other week! We're still in total contact with them.

So they really do stick with their old mates then?

Yeah that's true. They *are* great lads. It's a bit strange... He's always in the press as the big pop star and I laugh at some of the things, but I still love him as a mate. It's a bit different for me. Liam's my mate, and Noel's our kid's mate in a way. We're the younger brothers I suppose!

So what other connections have you got?

Well, Marc Coyle's produced our new album, 'Badly Badly' which is coming out in February. (which judging by the singles so far, pop pickers, will be fantastic!) There's another connection - Tim Abbot is our manager. (Those who bought Lasagne! #7 will know that's the guy with the bottle in his hand on the 'Cigs & Alcohol' sleeve). Tim was vice-president at Creation Records at the time. Oasis told him all about Smaller. He'd never managed a band before and he wasn't interested, but Noel and Liam persuaded him that we were worth taking on and we signed to his label, Better Records. So

we've got Oasis to thank for getting signed.

There's a picture in the Oasis book, 'Definitely', of you signing you deal. Liam's sitting there between you and Digsy. What's the Story?

Well we'd played that night with Oasis in Leicester and that's a picture of us signing in the hotel after some heavy partying. The next day, the two bands were going their separate ways after touring together. We were carrying on ourselves and Liam decided he was gonna stay on tour with us and he just jumped in our shitty little van which we call 'The Stinkvan'. He did a few dates with us... That was funny!

In the book it says 'He was last seen heading off on a bin lorry'?

That's totally true. We'd been to a club and he'd lost his bag. He was like "Where's me bag?" The funny thing is, it had a grand in cash in it! we found it eventually and said our ta-ra's, and the next thing he jumps on the back of a bin lorry. I'm just left standing there! The bin lorry kicks off and he's heading for the city centre. He's clutching onto his bag with one hand and the bin lorry with the other. He's as mad as he sounds, honest to god!!

I can well believe it. But when I've met him, he's always struck me as a very genuine person as well...

He *is* the most genuine fella I've ever met. People say it's like a big act, but he's been like that from the day I met him, years ago. He's the most genuine, honest person going. He makes me laugh so much. When he's talking, I'm laughing me head off and he's staring at me. He doesn't realise how funny he actually is... a naturally funny guy. He's just a cracking fella!

So what are the chances of Smaller getting bigger then? I've seen you live and in the press playing on the band's name, emphasising how small you are in terms of popularity. Is that just tongue-in-cheek?

That would be our kid. He likes to say that all the time. It's just a contradiction in terms. We wanna be the smallest band in the world? I'm just like "Shut the fuck up, you boring bastard!". We wanna be as big as we can be. We're not like Oasis, in that we don't go round saying we're the best band in the world. That's just not in my nature, and it's not in our kids, but at the same time, putting us down by saying we're the smallest, that's our kid talking a load of bollocks, which is generally all that comes out of his mouth anyway!

Now that you've been playlisted on Radio One though, and you're playing bigger gigs, do you not feel like saying 'We're great, buy our records'?

No I'm not into all that. I think the records and the live performances speak for themselves. If we need people to get to our gigs, we've got people who work for the record company there to promote us. It's not in our nature to say 'Come and see us 'cause we're brilliant' and all that. If people wanna see and have heard us, that's sound. The fanbase is getting bigger and we're getting played on the radio, but it's *not* down to us promoting it I'm telling ya!!

... Well Steven, we'll do our bit here at Lasagne! Smaller are off to Japan soon and the album *Badly Badly* is out in February.

Don't miss the 2nd part of this exclusive interview in Lasagne! #9. Steven tells all about Liam. Order yours today!



WIN! Hip Hip Hooray! Roll up, roll up! We've got some fantastic Smaller goodies to give away... See the competition towards the back for details!



Lasagne!