



Empirical Elements Of Truth

Naim Label release date 24th October 2011

Empirical should really need no introduction. The project of four young, British Jazz musicians, who aim to expand on the traditions of Jazz, their unique music manages to be both timeless and totally now, inside and out. In just a few short years they have carved out a place as one of jazz's most exciting new bands, touring from New York to Molde, London to Montreal, and they have won numerous awards including the 2010 MOBO for Best Jazz Act and Jazzwise and Mojo Albums of the Year. **Elements Of Truth** is their third album, and second with the current line-up of **Nathaniel Facey** alto saxophone, **Shaney Forbes** drums, **Tom Farmer** bass and **Lewis Wright** vibraphone.

Empirical perform compositions and improvisations that express ideas taken from beyond music in a uniquely democratic style. Each member is given equal responsibility for the direction of the music in composition and in the moment of improvisation. It is this mixture of shared responsibility and openness that gives their music such a unique edge as they draw on influences from Film and TV, proverbs and sayings and even sports! So while collectively they will acknowledge musical influences from the oblique sounds of Andrew Hill and Eric Dolphy's sublime *Out To Lunch*, to the more contemporary stylings of Vijay Iyer or namecheck Wayne Shorter and Branford Marsalis, it is their unique ability to express what they think and feel on a range of ideas through the collaborative trial and error process of Jazz improvisation that makes them such a powerful group.

On *Elements of Truth*, they are joined by special guest **George Fogel** on piano, while Wright over-dubs glockenspiel to add an otherworldly texture to their unique brand of post-bop, and if their previous album '*Out 'n' In*' celebrated the influence of Eric Dolphy on their music, *Elements Of Truth* is about getting back to the essence of Empirical: observing, experimenting and commenting through music. *"We live in musically unique times: We can listen to almost any music in the world at the touch of button: Music is eclectic where styles and genres are bent and blurred: This album is a comment on that. Furthermore the music is our way of making sense of the world, reflected in the titles of the pieces, which are philosophies, proverbs or the intangible parts of life."*

Amongst the records many stand-out tracks, almost too many to mention, is the deceptive **Simple Things** by bassist Tom Farmer, which was partly inspired by Bjork, but is based on the idea of a girl taking pleasure in the simple things in life, expressed through diatonic repetition. Facey's **In The Grill** refers to the space inside a man's physical reach, specifically inside a boxers reach and is about spatial awareness and the conviction to go for your ideas. **An Ambiguous State of Mind**, also by Farmer, is a wonderfully impressionistic piece which attempts to create ambiguity through use of an uneven meter and altered harmony. Musically inspired by Vijay Iyer but with House of Horror overtones, it was written to feature guest pianist Fogel. Farmer's spooky **Say What You Mean, Mean What You Say** draws on Messiaen, Steve Lehman and Vijay Iyer and attempts to illustrate its message through the juxtaposition of free and rigid passages. Finally Lewis Wright contributes the title track (his first recorded composition with the band), **The Element of Truth**, explores the idea of subconscious truth, especially within a dream state. It has a deliberate ambiguity within the feel/melody which gives the music a shimmering, ethereal quality but one underwritten by a solid pulse. *pto*

It is this ability to mix the off-centre within a powerful framework and the ethereal and the earthy that makes Empirical's music so powerful and one that demonstrates that while truth is a subjective idea, exploration through improvisation can result in an empirical proof: One that proves that these four young Brits are one of jazz's most potent forces!

Further information, images, interviews: email: kerstan@riotsquadpublicity.com ph: 07775655573

Composers Credits

Say What You Mean: Mean What You Say **T. Farmer**

Yin and Yang **N. Facey**

In the Grill **N. Facey**

Out of Sight Out of Mind pt1 **T. Farmer**

Cosmos **T. Farmer**

Simple Things **T. Farmer**

An Ambiguous State of Mind **T. Farmer**

An Element of Truth **L Wright**

Out of Sight Out of Mind pt2 **T. Farmer**

(Bonus Track) Spitting Them Out **T. Farmer**

Live Dates

2011

20 th Sept	Concha Segura Teater , Murcia	SPAIN	
27 th Oct	Enjoy Jazz Festival, Heidelberg	GERMANY	
17 th Nov	Queen Elizabeth Hall w/ Archie Shepp	LONDON	(London Jazz Fest)
19 th Nov	Clore Ballroom London, BBC Jazz Line-up	LONDON	(London Jazz Fest)

2012

'Elements of Truth' Tour

14 th Jan	Turner Sims Concert Hall	SOUTHAMPTON	
21 st Jan	Royal Northern College of Music	MANCHESTER	
10 th Feb	Royal Welsh College of Music	CARDIFF	

much more TBC

www.naimjazz.com

