

THE NEIL COWLEY TRIO.

LOUD...LOUDER...STOP!

Released on Cake

31st March 2008

Live

UK Tour from February



The Neil Cowley trio first burst into our consciousness with their outstanding debut album *Displaced*. Fizzing with the energy of rock and the surging dynamics of dance music, it accidentally placed Cowley and his trio at the forefront of the 'Post-Jazz' scene alongside such similar spirits as Acoustic Ladyland, Jaga Jazzist, Fulborn Taversham, EST and the Portico Quartet.

It's a scene driven by simple musical curiosity, a post ipod, everything fits, cut-n-paste aesthetic that says the old certainties of form and genre are increasingly redundant. Indeed Cowley, a classically trained, dazzling pianist and outstanding composer, is as likely to listen to the trancey desert blues of Tinariwen or the zaney rock of Zappa as he is to Errol Garner, Ahmad Jamal or Shostakovich, and he is as likely to play The Big Chill and Glastonbury as Brecon or North Sea. As he puts it "I got the haircut and wore the t-shirt, and this is where I've landed!"

It's an approach that has attracted a new, younger, audience to his music. Drawn by Cowley & co's finger-bleeding energy, hook-laden, powerfully dynamic and ridiculously catchy tunes, they are less interested in questions of is it jazz, punk-jazz or post-jazz, than "is it any good?" But it isn't just the so-called post-jazzers that dig Cowley's unashamedly virtuosic music, with the Observer commenting "For two generations the gatekeepers of popular culture have sneered at virtuosity. When Cowley's audience heard the ends it could achieve they were transfixed. He may have plugged into something bigger than he realises". Indeed, praise for *Displaced* came from the highest echelons of jazz – "Captivating...impressive" claimed *The Guardian*, "A triumph... an absolute feast.. cried Mojo, and "Thrilling.. dynamic.. distinctive " added Jazzwise.

Loud.. Louder...Stop! is the trio's follow up to their 2006 breakthrough, and features Cowley's long-time collaborators **Richard Sadler** on bass and **Evan Jenkins** on drums. Taking its name from a critic's dismissal of their style it is marked with a bravura energy and wit; an album of massive dynamic range and contrasts it provides a real adrenalin rush. Yet, Cowley expresses a wide gamut of emotions through his music - beautiful melodies and exquisite harmonies often underly his sensitive and romantic approach to compositions.

"**Loud.. Louder... Stop!**" says Cowley "is an extension of *Displaced*. Where there was energy, we've pushed for more, where there is unity, we've pushed for more, where there were catchy melodies, we've pushed for more." *Displaced* brought together three capable musicians wanting to explore their jazz musicality, but, as Cowley says "we were slightly intimidated, by the whole scene. Were we capable of dotting the i's and crossing the t's of the jazz language? **With Loud.. Louder... Stop!** I realise, we don't want to!"

Loud... Louder...Stop! is the Neil cowley Trio's first release on **Cake**, the forward-thinking edgy imprint of inde jazz label, Candid Records. The trio tour across the UK from February .

For more information contact:

Julie Allison at Riotsquad Publicity on 01273 475980 || julie@riotsquadpublicity.com
Kerstan Mackness at Riotsquad Publicity on 020 8541 3175 || kerstan@riotsquadpublicity.com





NEIL COWLEY - BIOGRAPHY

As a 10 year old child protégé, London-born Neil **Cowley** performed a Shostakovich piano concerto to a full house at London's Queen Elizabeth Hall, yet he turned his back on the Royal Academy at an early age. Instead, having answered an ad in *Melody Maker* at 17, he entered the world of pop.

Cowley went on to record and tour with some of the best soul and funk bands of the day, including Gabrielle, The Pasadenas, 4 years with the Brand New Heavies, and Zero 7, until in 2002 he formed his own band, *Fragile State*.

As one half of the *Fragile State* production duo, Cowley produced two critically acclaimed albums that set the world of jazzy chill-out music alight. When the record company dissolved, Cowley continued to make music, yet began to find the experience of extracting music from a computer chip unbearable. So, he set forth with his dear friend the piano and a renewed enthusiasm to present creativity without technological hindrance. Cowley began composing and eventually realised a long-standing vision, and formed a jazz trio with **Richard Sadler** on double bass, and **Evan Jenkins** on drums.

In June 2006 Cowley formed his own label, *Hide Inside Records*, and released his debut album **Displaced**, an outstanding album of original recordings. The album presented Cowley as a dazzling pianist and stunning composer. The trio swiftly became known for their (now trademark) energetic and forceful melodies, catchy hooks, soulful moments and thrilling climaxes. The album was released to huge critical acclaim, and won the award for **Best Album** at the **2007 BBC JAZZ AWARDS**.

In support of *Displaced*, The Neil Cowley Trio undertook their first UK tour in February 2007. Known for their remarkable rapport with their audience, helped by Cowley's often hilarious and always amusing chat, the trio's captivating and exciting live shows led many shows on their tour attract full houses and standing ovations.

In the summer of 2007, The trio returned to Real World Studios (where their debut was recorded) and laid down tracks for their follow-up album, **Loud..Louder...Stop!** released in March 2008 on the new indie jazz label, Cake.

Displaced Press Quotes

"When the energy of Neil Cowley's piano comes booming out of your speakers it's impossible not to think of early Cash... Think punk's energy and the grace of Billy Elliott... trance... and funk... the most exciting band since...Polar Bear and Acoustic Ladyland" (**Observer Music Monthly (5**s)**)

"... impossible for music lovers of any stripe not to get drawn in – funk, soul, house, rock and trance thread through these joyful, exuberant workouts" (**London Metro**)

"an adventurous eclecticism... resonant tunes, some rock dynamics and.. a fine sense of swing mark this debut out as special" (**The Times (4**s)**)

"Stardom, such as it is in jazz, beckons" (**The Independent (4 **s)**)

"a captivating show... one of the big jazz stories of the year" (**The Guardian (live) (4**s)**)

".. enjoyable as EST's work is, I would say that Cowley is a step up. It draws the listener in, demands attention, and mesmerises with its insistent, quietly dazzling rhythms" (**Independent Music / The Independent**)

"Thrilling.. dynamic...one of the most distinctive debuts you're likely to hear this year" **Jazzwise (4 **s)**

For more information contact:

Julie Allison at Riotsquad Publicity on 01273 475980 || julie@riotsquadpublicity.com
Kerstan Mackness at Riotsquad Publicity on 020 8541 3175 || kerstan@riotsquadpublicity.com





The Loud... Louder... Stop! tour DATES

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Tues 12th February | Cardiff Concert Hall, Cardiff |
| Mon 10th March | Redrooms @ Perth Theatre |
| Thu 27th March | St George's, Bristol |
| Sun 30th March | Gateshead Jazz Festival, The Sage, Gateshead |
| Wed 2nd April | Cargo, London |
| Thu 10th April | Norwich Arts Centre, Norwich |
| Fri 11th April | Cinnamon Club, Altrincham |
| Sat 12th April | The Sands, Gainsborough |
| Wed 23rd April | Matt and Phreds, Manchester |
| Fri 25th April | Dean Clough, Halifax |
| Sat 26th April | The Polish Club, Birmingham |
| Sun 27th April | Triptych Festival, The Jazz Bar, Edinburgh |
| Thu 8th May | The Point, Cardiff |
| Thu 15th May | The Blue Lamp, Aberdeen |
| Sat 17th May | Newark Jazz Festival, Newark |
| Thurs 22 nd May | The Brewery, Kendal Arts Centre |
| Sat 21st June | Glasgow Jazz Festival, Tron Theatre, Glasgow |
| Sat 12 th July | 'The Big Day Out', South Hill Park, Bracknell |

For more information contact:

Julie Allison at Riotsquad Publicity on 01273 475980 || julie@riotsquadpublicity.com
Kerstan Mackness at Riotsquad Publicity on 020 8541 3175 || kerstan@riotsquadpublicity.com

