

# naïve

## GIRLS IN HAWAII

New album PLAN YOUR ESCAPE

International Release on February 19th 2008

International Tour from February to April

Can it really be four years? Four years since we first fell for the gorgeous bittersweet pop of Girls In Hawaii. Four years since we first heard their sound, somewhere between improvisation and vulnerability, with their fondness for contrasting atmospheres and their ceaseless invitation to dream. Have we really been waiting four years for a follow-up to FROM HERE TO THERE, the debut album that took this Belgian six-piece on a lengthy voyage across Europe and the USA?

Once back home the Girls had time to ask the big questions. Did they really want to carry on? What if the experience had changed them or caused them to lose their naiveté? If they want back into the studio, wouldn't they take shortcuts, opt for the easy ways out? And then there was the problem of how to start writing again, how to use songs to get back in touch after losing their grip on reality after a seemingly endless time on the road.

For a few months these questions hung in the air; the commotion surrounding the group died down a little; and then suddenly the Girls wanted to get back to work. They brought their sleeping bags with them and set up in a rundown old house in Pussemange, a semi-deserted village in France's Ardennes region. They took time to relax, putting the world to rights as they talked into the night, enjoying their isolation, listening to the sound of creaking floorboards. Wrapped up in the atmosphere of a holiday camp for grown-up boys who think too much, they realized that their innocence had remained intact. They were a little more self-assured, but nothing worse.

PLAN YOUR ESCAPE slowly took shape. It's a second album that blows the much-feared second album syndrome out of the water. Everything we loved about FROM HERE TO THERE is still in place: the melodies drenched in melancholy, but never despair, the multiple pop influences jumbled into an aural mosaic, the mass of details that are revealed only after hearing the album twenty times or more. And better still, Girls In Hawaii have, in the course of their travels, learned the secret of the apparently innocent pop song that you can't get out of your head, all awash with silky-smooth vocals, sumptuous arrangements and delicate resonances.

They did avoid taking the easy way out. They're masters of the art of creating surprise, endlessly astonishing, never preformatted. Just listen to the so-very-peculiar *Couples On TV*, which starts out like a hypnotic nursery rhyme built around a mandolin line, and builds into the sort of jubilant brass band you might hear at the end of a fair. Or there's *Plan Your Escape*, the final track that swims and crackles with sound effects, all recorded live and wrapped around a melody that swells,

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collapses, and then explodes into life once again. And there's *Grasshopper*, an urgent, vibrant song replete with vocal harmonies and layer upon layer of keyboards battling with guitars for supremacy.

Assisted by producer Jean Lamoot (Alain Bashung, Noir Désir) who, in their words, left them free to chill, hesitate, improvise and experiment, they made things happen by accident, set up microphones in the middle of the countryside, and recorded live in their house-cum-studio. The results are at times astonishing: witness the women's voices recorded off the radio that haunt the *Road To Luna*, all the time in perfect harmony with the rhythm, as if they'd been made that way. Nobody knows if the house in Pussemange was haunted, but a unique atmosphere, a mixture of glacial surroundings and human warmth, suffuses every track on PLAN YOUR ESCAPE.

A second album that Girls In Hawaii are itching to unveil in concert. Because it's good to get back on stage, and in the end a little more experience can never hurt...

[www.girlsinhawaii.be](http://www.girlsinhawaii.be) / [www.myspace.com/girlsinhawaii](http://www.myspace.com/girlsinhawaii)