

THIS WINDOW/FINISH THE STORY The Sampler #05

Back in July I reviewed this sampler, only for that to turn out to be a sampler of this sampler, and with almost entirely different tracks!!! (Has the world gone mad?) So for those of you don't know, This Window are Peter Bright's most long-standing musical adventure since Finish The Story er....finished, and he bobbles smoothly through the brittle rhythmic soufflé of 'Don't Think I Can Make It' then doubles up the impressively inventive rhythmic pattern through 'Ciao Again', adding depth with an acidic, growling 'A Moment Longer', a nutty 'Naked', and the weirdly cute 'Nepal.'

The difference this time around, now their inclusion had been settled, is five Finish The Story tracks. 'Trapped In The Hometown' has a gauzy tangle of music behind slowly drawn vocals with its memorable guitar rising alongside and revealing a weighty variety of musical avenues to pull you down; the mood empty, or brightly in your face, a thoroughly diverting, divine encounter. 'Playing At Life' is even better with a mean throb, and more of his sublimely catchy, nagging guitar with Nicola's unusually piercing vocals and a weirdly spooky synth. 'Solace' is more relaxed, actually far more towards the This Window style, being like ambient bellows, billowing, but then you get a different version of the idly brilliant 'Like A Sickle Runs Through Corn' which moves from being damn pleasant to unsettling and sad, but whether trickling evocatively, or slumping prettily, it's an *extraordinary* thing.

Peter's work is a wide-ranging artistic scavenging act, with subtle twists built in to expected styles so you never quite know what you're getting, and the unique charms of Finish The Story are something which this trio could easily carry on today, so let's hope that works out. Put together they make sense, and not just when his curiously distinctive raged guitar style becomes sternly honed and oddly hypnotic.