

THE P.K.14



BIO

January 2010

P.K.14 occupies a space in Chinese music that might be analogous to that of **Talking Heads** or **Television** in the New York of the 1970s. They are among the most thoughtful and self-referential of bands, with an enormous curiosity about music coupled with a complete inability to care about musical fashion. Among the astonishing group of young musicians that has emerged in Beijing over the last four years, they are almost unanimously cited as the band that has most influenced the young Beijing music scene. Although they are at the heart of the Beijing scene, at the same time they are wholly unique and seem to be traveling in their own space - one which consists of only one band.

Founded in Nanjing in 1997, P.K.14 made their debut in December of that year. In May 1999, the band opened for Sweden's **The (International) Noise Conspiracy** in Shanghai, and since become one of China's most admired and influential bands. In 2001 with the release of their debut album, *Shang Lou Jiu Wang Zuo Guai (Upstairs, Turn Left)*, on **Sub Jam** records, they quickly established themselves as one of the major bands in the Chinese indie scene. The same year they moved to Beijing, China's musical epicenter, from where they released their consequential *Shei Shei he Shei Shei Shei (Whoever, Whoever & Whoever)* on **Modern Sky**, followed by the eagerly-awaited *Bai Pi Shu (White Paper)*, which was recorded in Sweden in 2005 and released later that year.

Only frontman **Yang Haisong** remains from the band's original line-up, he is generally considered to be the epitome of P.K.14's aesthetic approach to art and music. As one of China's better-known younger poets, his lyrics, predominantly about China's disaffected urban youth, have been important for the band's style and for the regard with which they are held by their audience. In addition to vocalist Yang Haisong, the band includes **Xu Bo** on guitar, **Shi Xudong** on bass and **Tan Tan** on drums. Besides publishing poetry and criticism, Yang Haisong has produced some of the most important Chinese bands of recent years, including **Carsick Cars**, **Ourselves Beside Me** and **8 Eye Spy**. Shi Xudong is a founding member of **Guai Li**, one of Beijing's wildest new bands, while Tan Tan is an established photographer, graphic artist and occasionally plays with **FM3**.

P.K.14 have performed extensively in China and abroad, both headlining and sharing the stage with many notable bands, including **The (International) Noise Conspiracy**, **These Are Powers**, **Ex-Models** and **The Soundtrack of Our Lives**. The subject of numerous articles, interviews and critical pieces on Chinese, US, German, Austrian, French, Swedish, Norwegian and Australian television, as well as dozens of newspapers and magazines from around the world. In June 2006, the band was nominated for "Best Band" and "Best Rock Band" at the 6th annual Chinese Music Media Awards (the Chinese Grammy Awards).

June 2008 saw the release of the band's fourth album, titled *Chengshi Tianqi De Hangxing (City Weather Sailing)* on **Maybe Mars** records. Produced in Sweden by Swedish Grammy winning producer-duo **Henrik Oja** and **Mats Hammarström** and mastered in New York by **Greg Calbi**, whose credits include **Sonic Youth**, **Television**, **Talking Heads**, **Bob Dylan**, **John Lennon**, **David Bowie**, **Blonde Redhead**, **Patti Smith**, **Yo La Tengo**, **Strokes** and **Interpol**. Later half of 2008 was spent touring China (50+ shows) in support of the new album. Also in 2008, **TIME Magazine** chose P.K.14 as one of Asia's five "Best bands" and one to keep an eye on.

2009 was a groundbreaking year for the band, with their first US tour including sell-out dates in both New York and Washington DC. **MTV China** featured P.K.14 as their band of the month for September. They wrapped the year with headline slot at the "Hey Ho, Let's Go" festival in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

2010 sees the band returning to America for a West Coast tour including **SXSW** festival and dates with **Roky Erickson**. Equally noteworthy is their upcoming first visit to Taiwan. Plans to record a fifth album are also in the pipeline.

BACKGROUND

LINE-UP Yang Haisong (杨海崧) » VOCALS
Xu Bo (许波) » GUITARS
Shi Xudong (施旭东) » BASS
Jonathan Leijonhufvud (雷坛坛) » DRUMS

GENRE Rock, Post-Punk, Indie
REFERENCES Talking Heads, Television, Woodie Guthrie, Pere Ubu, Motown, Fugazi, Bauhaus, Wilco, Nonesuch, Fela Kuti...

FORMED 1997
HOMETOWN Beijing, China (founded in Nanjing)
LABEL Maybe Mars
LINKS www.myspace.com/PK14 www.bingmasi.com

DISCOGRAPHY

City Weather Sailing	CD	MAYBE MARS	2008
White Paper	CD	MODERN SKY	2005
Whoever, Whoever & Whoever	CD/CASS	MODERN SKY	2004
Upstairs, Turn Left	CD	SUB JAM	2001

KEY POINTS

- Formed 1997 in Nanjing, China. Relocated to Beijing in 2001.
- One of China's early watershed bands from the 90's still very much active and relevant in the younger explosive Beijing scene.
- All songs sung in Chinese Mandarin (Putonghua).

UPCOMING ACTIVITY

- One month, West Coast tour of USA in March/April 2010 (incl SXSW).
- Taiwan mini-tour in April 2010.
- Preparing to record 5th album in the US during second half of 2010.

PRESS

- "Loud, raw and searching - theirs is the sound of modern China" - **TIME**
- "P.K.14, more than any other band, set the stage for the Beijing musical explosion." - **BROOKLYN VEGAN**
- "Prim and serious as Joy Division. They ply a jittery, glowering, tersely crafted sound." - **VILLAGE VOICE**
- "P.K.14, for all its lyrical depth, creates an overwhelming barrage of beautiful postpunk chaos." - **TIME OUT NEW YORK**
- "P.K.14 who sound like The Fall fed on fried rice, and new wave partisans QSBS, these are the bands that represent Chinese youth culture finding a voice of its own. It all marks a Red Revolution that's worthy of real celebration." - **NME**
- "P.K.14 may sing in Chinese, but their pared down sound, energy and DIY passion need no translation. They are a band whose sound reflects their audience." - **ARTROCKER**
- "P.K.14 kicked off Beijing's rotten generation" - **DAZED & CONFUSED**
- "Unlike other explosive punk rockers, they are four literati playing poetic punks" - **CHANNEL V**
- "It was the first time that I'd seen a Chinese band really own a main stage. It was a bit of a watershed." - **SHANGHAIIST**

Bookings & Press by Maybe Mars



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