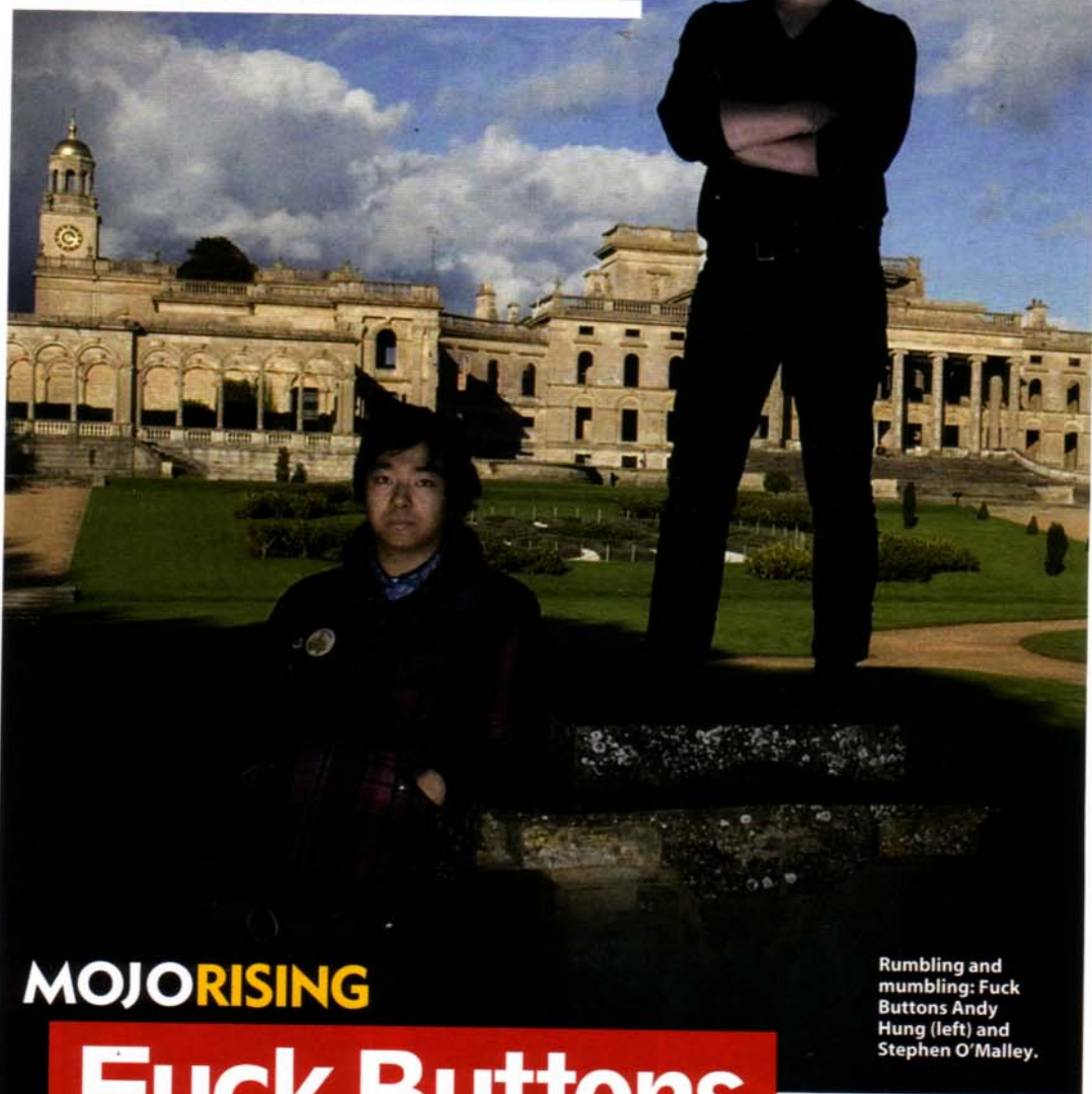


# WHAT GOES ON!



Rumbling and mumbling: Fuck Buttons Andy Hung (left) and Stephen O'Malley.

## MOJORISING

# Fuck Buttons

**BRISTOLIAN DRONE DUO COME TO INTOXICATE. BY ANDREW MALE**

"It's funny," says Andy Hung, one half of Bristol-born Fuck Buttons, "we meet lots of people who make really confrontational sounds and they're all so quiet and nice. Stephen O'Malley from Sunn O))) was just, 'Hey dude, how's it going!' Weird."

Naturally, then, as he attempts to explain over the phone how Fuck Buttons craft their euphoric walls of melodic distortion, Andy is soft-spoken to the point of inaudible and his co-creator, Ben Power, is quieter still, sat at the back of a room, seemingly muttering into his sleeve.

Ben and Andy originally hail from Worcester but first became aware of each other during wary sightings in Bristol in the winter of 2004, both initially unaware that they were attending the same university. "We were going to the same gigs, passing each other outside the library, then Ben approached me and said we should do music together," murmurs Andy. "He was into Black Flag and Bad Religion and I was listening to a lot of stuff on Warp and Leaf. It's quite simple on paper. A logical connection between those two sounds."

Naming themselves after "a coupling of words we found amusing at the time", and not the punchline to some off-colour Cinderella joke, the duo's initial direction was towards noise and

confrontation. "Then, the melodies arrived subconsciously," says Andy. "It came together on this drone song, Race You To My Bedroom. Ben started adding melody on top. That's become our sound. It's quite protective really, there's an element of keeping something inside the fence and pushing something out."

That contradictory sense of blissful noise is best experienced at the band's live shows where their driving, pulsating sound – and distorted vocals screamed into a Fisher Price Kid Tough tape recorder – has the ability to physically overwhelm. "We still practise in our front rooms," explains Andy, "and we can only play at low level so it's all about playing live, where we can finally hear what we've written."

However, they've still managed to harness that sense of scary euphoria and blissful noise on debut album *Street Horrrsing*. They promise to take it even further next time.

"With the last one Ben was still in Worcester and I was in London," says Andy. "We'd only get together once a month. Now we're both in London and the new songs sound fantastic. I'm expecting more progression."

"We still play in our front rooms."

**MORE MOJO**

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