

At first, Blinker the Star was just Jordon, who was born in 1973 and is now 22 years old. But lately drummer Colin Wylie and bassist Pete Frolander have become Blinkers too. Before Frolander, there was Peder Jakobsen; before those guys, there were a couple other guys who helped out on Blinker's aptly titled and widely hailed debut CD BLINKER THE STAR (released in Canada in summer 1994 on Vibra Cobra Records by a guy who later became their manager then later still stopped being their manager; then released on Treat and Release Records in the States in fall 1995). Before the first album, there was allegedly also an early 1994 cassette called Satin Doombox, of which only three or four copies are known to exist. "We had a big release party," Jordon remembers.

Jordon says the words "Blinker The Star" don't mean anything, except that before Blinker he was in a band called Tinker. Before that, he was in a band called King Louis Katz, named for a Dr. Suess story; coincidentally enough, Blinker also have songs entitled "Bourgeois Kitten" and "Kween Kat," and Jordon owns a 10-year-old longhair named Maggie. (But he hates dogs, despite having another song called "My Dog.") Before King Louis Katz, he played big-band music in high school until a "young liberal teacher" started letting him compose classical scores based on old Black Sabbath numbers. He was also in a group that entered a local Kiwanis Club contest with a jazzed-up version of "Interstellar Overdrive" by Pink Floyd, not to mention a swing band with a bunch of British guys who worked Homer Simpson-style in the local nuclear power plant and were really proud of it.

"But the new album (A Bourgeois Kitten) is the record I've always really wanted to make," Jordon says. It's got a cleaner and more technocratically swoopy star-blinking sound he attributes to "studio geek" producer (and big Cars fan) Ken Andrews of the band Failure; keyboard guy Chris Pittman from the Replicants lends a hand too. Though not especially fluent in French ("only what I learned in school," Jordon admits), Blinker The Star now reside in Montreal, where they sometimes see nubile disco queen Mitsou (the Madonna of Canada) shimmying down the street, and where they once came upon "the house Voivod built" while looking for a rehearsal space. Yet since their new collection was recorded in the States with an American producer, the CD may well run afoul of content quotas stipulating that a certain percent of music programmed by Canadian radio stations must be made in Canada. That's just a cross Blinker, like their countryman and labelmate Bryan Adams, will have to bear.

The album's oldest song is "Earman," which Jordon still refers to as "the one that sounds like the Cure." "Kween Kat," by contrast, has bluesish slide guitars that are supposed to remind you of Led Zeppelin III. Some of the more bizarre noises on the record, Jordon boasts, are mistakes that just accidentally emerged from studio speakers or special effects pedals when nobody was paying attention; when such sounds didn't seem merely "stupid and goofy," the Blinker boys left them in. Blinker the Star's previous CD (according to its sleeve) was "for personal use only, not for entertainment purposes," but even though their recording process has since turned notably more professional (or at least less cellar-bound), Jordon allows that the new disc is perfectly okay for entertainment.

So put the damn thing on already - Entertain yourself 'til the hippos come home!

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