



Amplimonkeys

Elaine Well I am here in Gouarec today to talk to three members of the band Les Amplimonkeys? Is that the right way to say it?

Phil Yes

Elaine OK, Who are going to tell me something about how the band was formed and what they actually get up to. So to start with, I am talking to Phil Horton who is a member of the band and, uh... So can you tell me, when did you get together and how?

Phil It was about 5 years ago and Bernard, the bass player rang me up out of the blue and said "Do you want form a band?" and I said "Yeah, why not?". He then introduced me to Tanguy who is the guitar player and then we started from there.

Elaine So how many are there actually in the band and are they French or English?

Phil There's 5 of us in the band, I am English and the rest are French.

Elaine So you are waving the Britannia flag.

Phil Normally I'm waving drumsticks.

Elaine Drumsticks right OK. So that's good and what instruments are actually played within the group?

Anise Alors, moi, je m'appelle Anise et je joue le guitar un peu et je chant dans le groupe.

Phil That was Anise and she plays the guitar and sings for us.

Bernard Bernard, je suis le bassist de la groupe.

Phil And Bernard's the bass player. I'm the drummer.

Elaine The drummer, you're the one who makes all the noise.

Phil I am the one who makes the lot noise.

Alise Et a la coté, nous avons également Tanguy qui chant également, mais

plutôt en français et Jean-Marie qui fait le guitar et que soloiste.

Phil Yeah, the other members are Tanguy who plays the guitar and sings the songs we do in French and also Jean-Marie who plays guitar and does the solos for the songs.

Elaine Is that bass guitar? Lead guitar?

Phil It's bass guitar, rythm guitar, lead guitar, drums and vocal. Yeah.

Elaine Right, what a range, a range of instruments. So could you tell me, where did the name, Les Amplimonkeys come from?

Phil The origins of the name, came from, we had a guitar player who said that when we play La Vieilles Charrues, that he wanted a big stack of Marshall amplifiers and we said "well there's a problem with that because if it gets too high, this stack of these amplifiers, you won't be able to plug the guitar in. So he said "Oh, it doesn't matter, I'll just get a monkey, I'll train a monkey to do it. And that's why "Amplimonkeys". So it's the monkey that climbs the big stack of amplifiers and plugs his guitar in for him.

Elaine Brilliant, So do you actually have a monkey then?

Phil Ohhh, I wish!

Elaine We will have to find you one. Now I understand that you compose all your own music and lyrics, so how does this work?

Phil Right, Tanguy writes the lyrics in French and Anise prefers to sing in English, so I do the English lyric and then we write music between us.

Elaine So it's very much a co-operation?

Phil It has to be yeah, there's no other way of doing it. You have to do it.

Elaine So, um, do you always play the same venue or do you go out on the road?

Bernard Alors, a jour principalement en Centre Bretagne, en Finistère, dans le Morbihan, en fait dans le trois départements.

Phil OK, we play all over Brittany basically. In all three departments. Normally once a month, so yeah, so we get about a bit.

Elaine So you obviously have roadies?

Phil We ain't got no roadies! Like I say, we could train a gorilla to do that I s'pose, but um ... no we haven't got, we just tend to turn up erm...and set up... and dismantle, ourselves. There's quite a bit of equipment to move about, but it's OK.

Elaine So, how often do you rehearse?

Phil Er, normally twice a month. So if we have a gig, we would normally rehearse leading up to that.

Elaine 'cause you'll be changing what you are playing.

Phil Oh yeah, all the time. Yeah.

Elaine And creating new songs to play?

Phil There is always something to do.

Elaine So, but I understand that you also have day jobs?

Phil Yeah, we do the music for a hobby because we all work. Anise works at the CLAJ in Carhaix with the children there as an Animatrice and Bernard?

Bernard Moi, je travail a Glomel dans une mine, je suis responsable d'achats.

Phil And Bernard works in a mine in Glomel.

Elaine Right OK and yourself?

Phil I am a web designer, so...

Elaine Very, what an interesting contrast of activities that you can probably bring that to the group.

Phil Yeah, I mean Tanguy, the web design helped, em because then we could promote the band through the web, um Tanguy's a postman and Jean-Marie's a designer.

Elaine Do you think having like a mixed, largely probably French to English that it's been a good exercise in integration?

Anise Er, oui, parce que il y a un echange ça c'est sûr. Il y a un echange artistique et linguistique et donc er, il y a un partage. Ca permet pas mal des choses. C'est vras c'est ouvre plein, plein portes de les bilingues.....

Phil Yeah, it helps culturally and linguistically to share the culture, not just the music, but the culture as well. So we certainly do a lot of that.

Elaine Exchanging ideas.

Phil Yeah, normally over a bottle of wine.

Elaine En Angleterre, le thé!

Phil Oui, voila!

Elaine Um, so what plans do you have for the future? Are you going to expand the band or go down any other road?

Phil I think we'll just keep doing what we're doing for now. I think we've done quite well to do what we've done so far with releasing a CD and one thing or another, so we'll keep writing songs and keep playing concerts and keep drinking wine.

Elaine Excellent! Sounds very good. So how can people get in touch with you? Should they want to maybe want to book you for a venue?

Phil The best way to do that would be through the website which is lesamplimonkeys.com which is les ampli monkeys . Com en Anglais

Elaine Thank you very much all of you. Thank you for giving up your time to come here today.

Phil *That's cool???*

Elaine And it's been great to meet you all. So, Merci beaucoup.

Anise and Bernard Merci.

Phil Thank you.

