

# ANEMO

## Anemo's

**Slowburn was the CD that took my attention out of the latest pile of new releases. Hazelle Woodhurst is one of the band founders. Her enthusiasm for the current band status and the future is infectious and so it should be.**

Story; Martin Hudson

other two major partners in the band are Kingsley Sage on keyboards, bass and programming and Matt Palmer on guitars and bass.

It is always a thrill sticking a CD on by an unknown band and it immediately blowing you away. Hazelle has a voice not a million miles away from that of Julianne Regan but the body of the music is more upbeat than that delivered by her band. It is in essence a lot more ballsy and it just has to be heard.

When I called Hazelle on her mobile the band were on tour playing in the west country but they are not new to the gig scene. Anemo have been together for about four years, that is if you consider that the three mentioned are the only ones signed to their label, City Canyons Records in the States. "The rest of the guys, as much as they're part of the band, they're not part of the actual writing for our label. They are just part of the gigging band," explained Hazelle.

This is the debut album from a band that average out in the late 20's age bracket, but the UK is a bit behind as the album has already been released in America. "We released it in September there last year but obviously it's taken a lot longer to get the wheels turning in the UK, so the album is due to come out here on the 18th September and the single comes out on the fourth." The single will be the opening track on the album, Fallout Renegade.

Influences are wide and varied as Hazelle explained, "We're a real eclectic mix. I'm very much from the old school. I grew up on a lot on blues, Robert Cray and Albert Collins and later on Led Zeppelin and AC/DC. My dad was a blues session guitarist so that's the stuff I grew up listening to. Now I like the heavier stuff like Linkin Park, Evanescence and even Jamiroquai. As for Kingsley, he is classically trained pianist and so struggle to get him to listen to modern day stuff but he is catching up now," she laughed. "Matt is very much out of the metal school, he likes his Soundgarden, Metallica and that sort of stuff. This is why we chose the name Anemo because it is a changing form word and means you can add different endings on to it to mean different things.

"We experimented a lot in the early days but now I think we can definitely say that we fall in to the crossover experimental rock category and it'll be interesting when we do our second album which we're doing quite shortly."

It seems that this band found out very early that everyone needs to get on well for the band to work.

"What I found early on working with Kingsley is that he's great, a

I Was Taken In is just one track on the debut album by Brighton based Anemo and the title kind of sums up what happened to me when I heard the whole of Slowburn.

The band is fronted by the lovely Hazelle Woodhurst whilst the



fantastic producer, he's an extremely clever guy and very, very versatile. He listens to what you want to say and I found that we just clicked and he's almost become like a brother to me now. I can say, 'You're talking a load of shit' and vice versa. You need to have that relationship. I think there's a real honesty between us all.

"When we brought Matt in, our guitarist, he was quite a shy bloke but he has absolutely blossomed over the years and is extremely confident now. He comes up with some fantastic ideas. It's great when we work with the full band, there's so much energy. We get to play with our drummer who is superb with so much energy but a bit of a cynical bugger," she laughs.

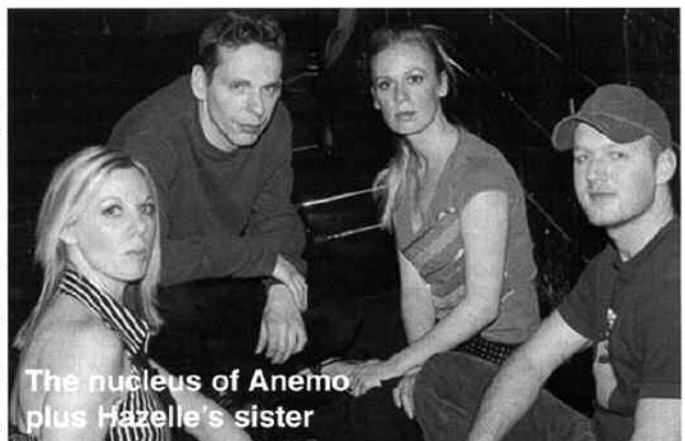
Anemo are very realistic too knowing that it will happen or it won't. A lot depends on airplay but starting out with an American label might help.

"We submitted a lot of our material on a site called Artist To Deal which only people in the industry have access to. Trevor Lloyd, our manager, he by pure luck happened to click on our link, listened to a couple of tracks, really liked them, then e-mailed us to see what else we had. We actually drip fed him and then he asked for biogs and photo's and then said, 'I really like what you're doing here.' So we sat tight for a couple of weeks and he spoke to his partners and they came back and offered a record contract.

"Kingsley still acts very much as our agent in the UK and liaises daily with the label. He's had so much experience already and has worked with various bands over the years and so he's got a great head on his shoulders. I just write lyrics, write the songs, sing and try and look pretty," said the blonde Hazelle!

It all seems to be bubbling nicely for Anemo at the moment "We're finding it quite interesting. At the moment in the States we're doing very well on college radio and some of the charts and hit the Top 10 in a couple of states. The exposure there is brilliant. We are, with our media people and radio pluggers, cracking all the regional stations in the UK fairly easily. That is good but because we're signed to an independent there is only so much money in the pot and so we have to do things in stages. We need to up our profile more to take the next step and then get the commercial plays we need. We're getting played on some commercial stations and were lucky down in Brighton that somebody called up and asked to hear a couple of tracks from our album. The station said they didn't know if they had a copy but Kingsley amazingly just happened to be listening at the time and phoned the radio station and told them he was from the band. This was all live on air and so he drove down there and they brought him in for an impromptu interview and played about four of our tracks. We were lucky that the DJ playing the records was Ace who used to be the lead guitarist for Skunk Anansie. So he's been really brilliant and he thinks we have easily got the talent. That's all it takes now for a few more commercial stations to give it some air."

Watch out for some kind of stunt by Anemo over the next few weeks to up their press coverage. Can't tell you any more than that. [Check out page for the Anemo competition!!!!](#)



The nucleus of Anemo plus Hazelle's sister