

# DARKUS

2020: Showcase Series



# PEACH PIT



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## 2020 Showcase Series: Peach Pit

### Editors Message

Welcome to our very special showcase series where we focus on some of the exceptional emerging artists from across the globe. In this edition we wanted to introduce you to Canadian alt-pop quartet, Peach Pit from Vancouver, B.C.

2020 is a year which sees the band celebrating their sophomore album, You And Your Friends which was released via RCA Records on 3rd April 2020.

I hope as you continue to read it wont take you too long to realise why Peach Pit are at a exciting chapter on their journey to become one of the hottest international bands around.

From everyone at Darkus, we wish Peach Pit nothing but love, respect and continued great vibes!

Thushara X x X



Peach Pit are:

Neil Smith (Lead Vocals, Rhythm Guitar)

Christopher Venderkooy (Lead Guitar)

Peter Wilton (Bass Guitar, Live Vocal Harmonies)

Mikey Pascuzzi (Drums)

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Thank You To:

Peach Pit

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# Interview With Neil Smith (Lead Vocals & Rythm Guitar)

"It really made me realize how much of a creative muscle song writing is and how important continuously writing can be. If you don't use it you lose it!"

Having released their debut album Being So Normal in September 2017, Peach Pit have been continuing to keep momentum going over the past three years which has seen them grow in confidence as musicians, especially in terms of live shows and that constant hunger all creatives get, working on new material.

As we move into 2020, given how hard this Canadian indie-pop band have pushed themselves, the band announced the news of their sophomore album, You And Your Friends which shows, fans both new and old, how Peach Pit continue to evolve as one of the most exciting bands around.

Taking time out of their busy schedule we had the absolute honour to speak to Peach Pit's very own lead singer and guitarist Neil Smith to find out more about the life, music and adventures of this group of 4 incredible musicians and friends.

- Questions & Article By Thushara -







“It feels a lot different from the first time we put out music. But people have been very kind to us so far.”

A huge welcome to you guys. What has 2020 been like for you as a band?

It's been such a rollercoaster ride! First, we announced a big tour and all the shows were selling so well, lots of sold out shows, and we were getting so excited. And then COVID-19 hit and basically stopped the music touring industry in its tracks so it's been a weird year.

Massive congratulations on the news about your sophomore album which comes out 3rd April. How would you sum up You And Your Friends?

2 years of us scrambling to write another record as quick as possible!

Fans have already had a little taster of the new record with tracks like Black Licorice – happy with the response so far?

Very happy. It's pretty nerve wracking putting out a second album when you have people actually anticipating the release. It feels a lot different from the first time we put out music. But people have been very kind to us so far.

As a band based in the beautiful city of Vancouver, tell us what it was like starting out in your local music scene?

Vancouver is an awesome city for music. Even though it's a pretty small city there's lots of places for young bands to play. When we started out there was a production company called Trash City that put on tons of all-ages shows around town and they were a huge help to us. They really gave us a foot in the door of the Vancouver scene, we owe them a lot.



"Over the years me and the boys have become a lot less like friends, and a lot more like brothers."



When people listen to your record, what do you like them to take away?

I just hope they like it. If they can relate to the lyrics and attach their own experiences to the words that's all that I hope for.

How do you feel it tested your creativity in different ways compared to previous releases such as *Being So Normal*, and *Sweet FA*?

Mostly it was just really tough because you sort of have your whole life to write your first album and then like 2 years to write your second. It really made me realize how much of a creative muscle song writing is and how important continuously writing can be. If you don't use it you lose it!

How has being in a band together strengthened not only your bond with each other but also your hunger for music?

Over the years me and the boys have become a lot less like friends, and a lot more like brothers. We love each other a lot but we know how to bicker. Because of that we really don't hold back anymore and are always trying to push each other work hard on our music.

As more people join the Peach Pit family, why is *You And Your Friends* the album not to be missed?

There are a few songs on the record that are my favourite we've written so far, so I hope people will listen to it and feel the same as us.





## REVIEW

### Peach Pit Release Sophomore Album, You And Your Friends

Article By Beverley Knight

Have you noticed that there are some cute little Indie Pop bands around at the moment? Bubbling away, owning their spot is Vancouver foursome Peach Pit. They've got that thing going on, you know, where the songs can feel chirpy but are tinged with a bit of sadness. Wanting to share a heartbreak story or two over their distorted voices, the band uses their fetching guitar riffs to compliment their tales.

A high-school musical project in 2014 saw Neil Smith (vocals, guitar) and Chris Vanderkooy (guitar) join with Peter Wilson (bass) and Mikey Pascuzzi (drums), which led fairly quickly to the release of their debut EP Sweet FA. Soon after, their first LP Being So Normal came along, as did millions of streams. This acted as a catalyst for the polite lads to quit their day jobs and go for it full force, building a legion of followers. They recently achieved the magnificent feat of supporting Two Door Cinema Club on their U.S. tour, whereby all accounts their interaction with the crowd was part of their charm.



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Early this April, second LP *You And Your Friends* was presented from the boys, produced by Grammy Award-winning producer John Congleton. During the twelve tracks, they are at their best when they bottle that LA sunny day at the beach vibe. Puppy Grin captures an up-tempo beat accompanied by a nod to a 60s inspired guitar sound. Big number Camilla, I'm at Home starts quite starkly musically, but it fits with the notion that, in heartbreak, there's often pretence that everything is ok, but alas...it is not. This builds to a more anthemic, bigger number to finish.

Single *Shampoo Bottles* is a slightly lighter look at a break up, as frontman Neil explains: "Shampoo Bottles is a song about the stuff my ex-girlfriend left at my apartment after we broke up and how even after I'd used up all the soap in the bottle and the deodorant in the stick, I still didn't throw them out for a while." The dreamy voice lulls you in for this musically well-rounded song and is the direction that seems fitting for the Peach pals to keep exploring.

There are some moments, which don't always quite hit the mark. For instance, *Feelin' Low* (F\*ckboy blues) is a nifty little tune with a twist in the tale. It has a thrashy, angsty feel, but the sound of the voice overpowers the instruments. This, however, may transcend live better and be a stand out track there. Speaking of live, *Black Licorice*, another single from this record should rock the crowd with its heavier bassline and drums. It represents feeling unwanted: "And all the people that I know would rather leave me in the bowl."

Overall, *Peach Pit* is appealing, and one can imagine them having a loyal fan base. Observing and storytelling work for them in their sweeping, hazy, poppy way; it will be interesting to observe the band's progress from here. Their first North American tour was on the horizon, commencing in Calgary, AB, with stops in Chicago, New York, and DC before entertaining Europe. They were then heading back to the US for the West Coast run of dates, so make sure you keep an eye out for this to experience them at their most Peachiest.











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