



Making Records : with Asobi Seksu
interview with James Hanna by Hillary Johnson
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Do you have your own monthly practice space or do you do the hourly thing?

Until this year we had our own rehearsal space. We spent most of last year on tour so it wasn't worth it to keep paying the rent on what was essentially a storage space. The hourly thing is just not worth it, it takes so much time just setting up and getting the sound even remotely acceptable.

If you record your rehearsals, what do you use to record them and is there one person in the band that handles all of that?

Yuki has a mini disc that we use. We just record the odd song every now and again just so we don't spend 2 hours of the next rehearsal trying to remember parts and whatnot.

How do you get copies of the rehearsal recordings to everyone in the band? (ex. web server, cd-rs, etc)

Just pass it around with headphones of necessary.

Do you consider making demos to be an important part of making an album?

Have you found it helps the writing process?

Demos are ok, mostly just so you don't forget everything.

How and where do you record demos?

In the past our demos have been on some barebones 4-track shit. I recently just got a Mac and am getting a little Pro Tools thing going on at my house. I just put a RAM upgrade into the computer and it immediately stopped working completely, this is kind of par for the course with me and technology.

Who gets to hear the demos? Are they just for your own learning process or have they helped get you shows/record deals/etc. in the past?

In the past they have just been for us and our producer. For the new record we are gonna try to flesh out the songs at home a lot more and experiment with instrumentation, etc. before we even go into to the studio.

How much and what kind of pre-production do you do before going in to record a record?

I'm pretty obsessive about parts and whatnot and we are kind of notorious for recording a trillion overdubs. So I make all kinds of charts for the song and try to be really prepared. Not to say we have everything totally planned there should always be room to completely change everything in the studio.

Is there one person in the band that is more recording-saavy than the rest?

I guess that's me, which really isn't saying anything.

Do you record your own records or do you hire an outside person? Why?

Definitely hire someone. First of all we don't know how to use all those esoteric filters and EQs and whatnot. Second of all it's just really healthy to have an outside perspective on your music.

Do you think your approach to making records suits you or is it only what you can afford or what

business-people expect from you?

Umm, if we had more money we would have had more studio time but that just wasn't an option. I want like two months for the next one.

Can you describe the process of recording the last record?

We recorded at Gigantic Studios in lower Manhattan which is a really quality small studio. They have tons of cool toys and amps, and all that boring important stuff like good mics and drums. Our last record was produced by Chris Zane who is a talented dude that we really have clicked with.

Did you record together live with amp bleed or with isolation or was everything pieced together?

Some bass was recorded during drum tracking other than that we are certainly not a live in the studio type of band. Everything was built from the ground up just layering keyboards and guitars 'til it sounded cool.

Are you generally happy with the end result?

Sure why not, the last record was pretty good. There are a million things I'd like to change or improve but I'll always feel that way. At a certain point it's not about being happy it's about being done.