



X heroes (l to r): Andy Keer, Jim Beattie, Judith Boyle

X INDUCTION HOUR

The last person to exhume Brian Jones in recent memory was that renowned nutter, Genesis P-Orridge, who paid tribute to the cherubic ex-Rolling Stone with the elegaic 'Godstar'.

Now 1991 sees **SPIREA X** ploughing the same furrow – albeit somewhat obliquely – with their first single, 'Chlorine Dream', which conjures up images of the bloated body of the once beautiful star floating in a swimming pool with almost effete distant vocals, some 12-string Rickenbacker action and *trés-moderne* (read dancey) rhythmic fells and swoops.

It's a startling debut and something that gives mainman Jim Beattie and his cohorts Judith Boyle and Andy Kerr a burst of confidence bordering on arrogance – even if Jim is wont to gloss over the Brian Jones connection.

"I read a book about The Rolling Stones recently," he admits, "and I just thought 'F—!', I wanted to write a song about the incredible way

he lived his life, but 'Chlorine Dream' is more about a person like Brian Jones than Jones himself. It's this completely clinical thing about pop music; the person wanted to be a star, nothing else... so clean... he washed his hair twice a day, so the song doesn't really deal with the swimming pool, it could be about anything... its quite paranoid as well."

Judith: "It's not dedicated to him, though, if you didn't know if you couldn't have guessed it from the song."

Spirea X came together when Jim Beattie decided he'd been out of the picture long enough. After spending the mid-'80s in Primal Scream – of which he was a founder member – and a considerable period of lying fallow, Jim started gigging with some friends. Soon enough, word-of-mouth spread like wildfire and Spirea X had to change addresses weekly – in various parts of Glasgow – to avoid undue A&R attention.

They've since signed to 4AD Records, but are quietly insistent that they won't ape the trademark House sound – y'know, e-t-h-e-r-e-a-l – rather,

other 4AD acts will soon enough be influenced by them.

Beattie dominates the conversation, expounding on a variety of topics from the ridiculousness of the new Scottish chart, to his working class roots, to the current state of dance music, claiming Spirea X are "the perfect pop group" along the way. The man is not modest. In between discussing Burning Spear, Sly Stone, The Who, heavy dub reggae and Love, Jim reveals that Spirea X have already recorded three singles, with the only linking factor being that each is wildly different from its predecessor. (The next one, released in six weeks' time, is apparently an excursion into soul, with the third following six weeks later.)

"For a first single, 'Chlorine Dream' is a f—ing brilliant debut," Jim offers. "There's too many people who are too laid-back with their principles. I'm not like that. We are a brilliant pop group. We write brilliant songs. And we hate The Stone Roses. There's not much more to say."

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