

ECHOGRAM_

Cork is one of Ireland's most vibrant and cosmopolitan cities. But for all its positives, it has little pedigree in the form of great rock and pop bands. All that is about to change thanks to ECHOGRAM_, the most genuinely exciting and refreshing band to come out of Ireland in years.

ECHOGRAM_ is the brainchild of one man: singer/songwriter Kilian Pettit, the man behind the band's dark, forward-looking vision. The epic, electronic-influenced pop-rock of their debut album has already found a legion of diverse fans in the shape of Linkin Park frontman Chester Bennington, The Cure's Robert Smith and 80s hip hop legend Kurtis Mantronik.

Kilian was born in Cork, but spent his formative years going back and forth between Ireland and his mother's native Wales. This irregular upbringing sowed the seeds of the restlessness that would go on to drive him.

"I've always felt like a bit of an outsider," he says. "I'm Irish, but I was raised Protestant. It's a weird combination."

Music surrounded the young Kilian when he was growing up, whether it was pop on the radio or the sounds of Depeche Mode spilling from his elder sister's bedroom. "They made a big stamp on me when I was 9 or 10," he says of the Essex synth-pop icons. "It set in motion what appeals to me, synth-wise and programming-wise.

Always tinkering on the piano and later the guitar, he was inspired to pursue his own musical dream after hearing U2's Achtung Baby at the age of 13. Self-confidence wasn't in short supply, even at such a young age.

"I always thought I could do it," says Kilian. "My dad died when I was 10. There's a syndrome that says if you have a parent who dies at a young age, your way of rationalising it is to think you're destined for something better, like it happened for a reason. That's how I felt. I'm completely driven, absolutely 100 per cent focused on this."

After joining a string of local bands, this rock-star-in-waiting realised that the only way he could realise his vision would be to strike out on his own, writing and recording solo, only building a band around himself at a later date.

"It's fair to say that I'm a bit of a control freak. But not in a bad egomaniac kind of way. In a nice egomaniac kind of way," he adds with a laugh. "I'm just confident what I'm doing is worthwhile."

It was this single-minded drive that took Kilian to Los Angeles to record ECHOGRAM_'s forthcoming debut album. A string of album-quality demos recorded with longtime producer Ciaran O'Shea (formerly of cult Irish rockers Cyclefly) had received major support from Irish radio stations 2FM and Phantom FM, but a moment of epiphany in the middle of the night made him realise that it was time to take things to the next level.

"It was 4am on the 2nd of January 2009 that I woke up in a cold sweat and just went, 'Fuck it – I don't care where I get the money from, but I'm going to be in LA at the end of April recording the drums."

Pulling together his savings and borrowing money from wherever he could, Kilian, along with ECHOGRAM_'s drummer, found himself in Los Angeles' fabled Cornerstone Studios, where The Killers recorded their first album, working on the record while Cypress Hill and members of Snoop Dogg's posse were holed up in the next studio along.

"We worked from seven at night until seven in the morning," says Kilian. "Krupt, from Snoop Dogg's posse, was there one day. He was listening to the drums, going, 'That's HEAVY!'"

Kilian returned to Ireland to finish the album at Ciaran O'Shea's cottage during one of the coldest winters on record. "We were pumping coal on the fire between vocal takes," he recalls. "But I love the idea of starting it in one place, with all the glitz and glamour, and finishing it in another, with scarves round your neck. It's that two-tone thing again."

Mixed by Sean Beavan (Nine Inch Nails, Marilyn Manson), the finished album showcases every aspect of Kilian's songwriting ability from the skyscraping electro-rock of first single 'Walk In The Sun' (remixed by '80s hip hop legend Kurtis Mantronik) to the bitter-sweet ballad 'Everytime I Fall' and all points in between. Whether you want to call ECHOGRAM_'s music dark pop or rock with a digital sheen, one thing is for certain - it heralds the arrival of a startling new talent.

"I really believe in my music, and I believe it's worthwhile," concludes Kilian Pettit emphatically. "I have to pursue it until my dying day. There's no other option."

Dave Everley
Associate Editor (Features)
Q Magazine

For music, gigs & info please visit:

<http://www.facebook.com/ECHOGRAM>

<http://www.myspace.com/echogram>

http://twitter.com/ECHOGRAM_

<http://www.youtube.com/echogram>

Contact: Carrie Hustler / Miller Music Management
carrie@m-music-m.com / +44 (0)7789 273 432 (UK) / www.m-music-m.com

Radio: Scream Promotions

Legal: Andrew Myers & Berkeley Edwards at Clintons