

WOOKALILY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EVERYTHING IS NORMAL

Except the Little Things Inside My Head

Wookalily, the all-female Belfast band and veterans of vicissitudes, are finally releasing their second album. It's been a bit of a saga.

Everything is Normal was recorded five years ago – yes, in 2017 – at the famed Analogue Catalogue Studio, with award-winning producer **Julie McLarnon** (*The Vaselines, Jeffrey Lewis, Lankum and King Creosote*). Two-inch tape, varispeed, real-time mixing and a 1978 Trident desk were all put to use.

Demand from fans and a desire to dive deeper into the creative well than had been tried on the sprightly debut album ***All the Waiting While*** (oh, the irony now) resulted in Wookalily creating music of richness, intrigue and complexity – a perambulation between dark forests and sunny skies, with brightness and brooding, gentle harmonies and creaking layers of sound. Autumnal – that's the word...

The visually captivating artwork by Wooka-member **Sharon Morgan** for this new release is darker than the technicolour, surreal artwork of before. ***Everything is Normal...*** is like the **MR James** ghost story after the **Lewis Carroll** world of its predecessor. But the Cheshire Cat and the Jabberwocky would certainly appreciate the new direction. Atmospheric, cinematic, hints of folk and Morricone but also early B52s.

Since recording ***Everything Is Normal***, Wookalily have endured one challenge after another, both professionally and personally – lost files, incorrect codes, mastering mishaps, deviant discs... Five very confused and frustrated musicians later, the big C hit (one of the band's more sobering challenges). Shortly after that, the big C19 hit and suddenly Nothing Was Normal...

A deal with German label M.I.G. had been signed just before lockdown and, yes, you can see where this is going... Covid put the brakes on the M.I.G.-mobile and, two years on, the vehicle had rusted completely. Back to square one.

In spring 2022, **Wookalily** emerged from the caverns of despair surprisingly unscathed. They are battered but unbowed! Everything that made what fans had begun regarding as *'the lost second album'* magical in 2017 remains in place – that's the whole point of a record: it's all there, for all time. The world has just had to wait an extra five years to hear it!

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About Wookalily:

Wookalily are five women with ten instruments. They have played sold-out shows in England, Wales and their home turf, Northern Ireland, and have appeared many times on local TV and radio. One BBC NI TV performance, on **Music Night at Brownlow** (episode 2), is permanently available on BBC iPlayer. They have played Nashville at the IBMA songwriters showcase but remain happily outside Country conventions, the Folk mainstream and the bluegrass rulebook. 'Folk-noir' comes close, but 'acoustic music with electricity and imagination' would be better.

Midge Ure and **Rhod Gilbert** introduced the band to a new audience in a BBC4 series a while back and since then Wookalily have performed at Ireland's leading festival **Electric Picnic**, Suffolk's **Red Rooster Festival** and opened for **Martha Wainwright** at **SOMA Festival** in Northern Ireland. They have been invited back this year to play again at **Electric Picnic 2022**.

'I really enjoyed making this record, it'll find its way into cultured collectors hands over time.'

– **Julie McLarnon**, Analogue Catalogue Vintage Recording Studios.