

RUEN BROTHERS

Whether it's their collaboration with the legendary producer Rick Rubin, kudos from the likes of Zane Lowe and the BBC, or a string of memorable performances from the hills of Glastonbury to the deserts of Coachella, multi-instrumentalist and songwriter siblings Henry and Rupert Stansall, known by their amalgam-created moniker Ruen Brothers, are making a mark with a throwback rock and roll sound that intersects the early days of the genre with a dynamic present-day act. The two have gone from sleepy English steel town obscurity to craft-smiths ready to make a global impact.

Inspired by their music aficionado father who raised the duo on a steady diet of The Rolling Stones and The Everly Brothers, the two would rehearse in the family kitchen while scrounging for gigs in their blue-collar hometown of Scunthorpe, England. Laughs Rupert, "We'd walk into pubs and clubs as kids and ask the owner if we could play something for the local drunks at 2pm."

It wasn't until a move to London and the success of their track "Aces," a song recorded in their studio apartment, that the boys from Scunthorpe went from pub performers to BBC radio staples. The brothers quickly collected a global audience of fans, none more influential than iconic producer Rick Rubin, who quickly recognized their talent and promptly took the brothers under his wing. "I liked that their songwriting seemed like it was from another era," explains Rubin. "It's making something

new again with these traditional influences." Henry adds, "The album was recorded using all real instruments and a live band, resulting in a different sound than what's present in much of today's popular music." Adds Rupert of the collaboration, "It was incredibly exciting - he's worked with some of our favorite artists of all time and is such a versatile producer. He helped us recognize the strength of Henry and I playing and singing together; it was a foundation to build upon and the guidance we needed." The brothers' artistic background and pedigree come into full focus on their debut studio album ALL MY SHADES OF BLUE (out 6/01 via Ramseur), produced by Rubin and featuring Henry on acoustic guitar and Rupert on electric and acoustic guitar, harmonica, and bass. The album also includes the talents of such boldface names as Chad Smith of the Red Hot Chili Peppers on drums, along with The Killers' Dave Keuning on strings and Faces and Small Faces legend Ian McLagan on keyboards. The record features both music and lyrics written by the boys throughout their improbable journey. Says Rupert, speaking about both the album and the duo's entire career, "We're very lucky in the sense that we've been able to do whatever we've wanted musically and had it all recorded to the best quality with the best musicians and collaborators. In today's industry, you don't usually get that freedom. If nothing else, we're making the music we want to make and that's enough for me. Hopefully people will appreciate and enjoy it as much as we do."