

"Boy George left us in his house so we took off all our clothes and ran around and tried on all his clothes from Culture Club"



electrotrash.....

Photography by Spiros Politis

Sassy, dayglo electrotrashy New Yorkers **Avenue D** visit London town and ask Howard Wilmott *Do I Look Like A Slut?*

★ Rather than the fresh faces of American electroclash, Debbie D and Daphne D look like the kind of smart-mouthed broads you'd have seen populating US sitcoms in the '70s. Today, they are clomping their way throughout London's fashionable but downright skuzzy Hoxton in the kind of ripped fluorescent pink lycra that Cyndi Lauper would've thought was just a little too much, y'know? Everyone they pass is slack-jawed in disbelief.

Not like they give a shit: their electroclash embodiment, Avenue D, started off as a joke in New York's infamous Bowery Bar (where Debbie still works) after they auditioned for an ad for "white female rapper for record deal". While everyone else's audition involved lyrics like 'pump me full of cum', they came up with their own comedy lyrics and got their friends to help out with the beats.

Avenue D has now mutated into a bonafide money-spinning venture – well, to an extent: "it pays the rent" – and they've not even released a single yet. Though one's coming soon thanks to the intervention of one Boy George who wants to release it on his label. Naturally, it's called *Do I Look Like A Slut?*

So first things first, do you look like sluts?

DEBBIE: You tell me.

DAPHNE: The reason we came up with the song

was that at one of our first shows these girls started screaming at us, they were so angry. Afterwards we were dancing in the crowd and they were next to us, going, "Ready? 1, 2, 3, SLUT!" We were laughing because they were so ridiculous – we thought it was cool that we could make someone that upset.

What's the meanest thing you've done to a groupie?

DEBBIE: We're really nice. Honestly.

DAPHNE: It's not really groupies, it's just like "You and you..." - we pick the cutest boys in the audience.

Is electroclash just a bunch of baloney?

DEBBIE: It's a scene, it's a party. Everybody who was going out to all the '80s nights, they wanted to go to something old but new and have something new to dance to. I don't know about it being a whole movement. We have a punk rock song, we have a booty song, we have a little bit of everything.

But the electroclash label has worked for us.

How does it compare to UK electroclash?

DEBBIE: Even in America, each city is completely different. In New York, everything comes in and out in five minutes. Then you go to LA and it's the biggest thing.

Have you now had to take Avenue D seriously?

DEBBIE: Suddenly it was 'uh-oh. Do you really want to do this?' We were just kidding!

DAPHNE: I was in a full time job, but I ended up

quitting because Avenue D was taking over so much of our lives. But when it stops being fun, we'll stop.

So what's the Boy George connection?

DEBBIE: We'd heard he wanted to put *Slut* out on his label. One night he was at the Bowery Bar so I went over and introduced myself. He was like, "Oh my God, Avenue D, I love your song." And we exchanged information. He arranged all the shows for us here and instead of staying in a hotel, we're staying with him.

Have you been through his drawers?

DAPHNE: He left the house and everyone was gone, so we took off all our clothes and ran around and tried on all his clothes from Culture Club. We showed him the pictures, he thought it was funny. He's the coolest.

Is there a message for the gays in any of your lyrics?

DEBBIE: I don't know if we have a message, but we are particularly popular among the gays in New York because they appreciate our crassness. They love *Slut*. There's a line in it which goes, "Mikay called me a slut but he's just a faggot anyway." We play a gay show in The Cock and everyone cheers that line.

Finally, how far do you want to take this?

DAPHNE: You know, we've never planned a day of this!

DEBBIE: But we would like to see a CD in the store...

Do I Look Like A Slut? is out soon on Electric Blue