

Spot On
David Michael Ashby
The Horse Dublin
March 16th – March 27th 2023

The logo for 'The HORSE' is displayed in a black rectangular box. The word 'The' is in a smaller, white, serif font, and 'HORSE' is in a larger, white, bold, serif font.

The Horse is proud to announce *Spot On*: an exhibition of images, objects and performance by David Michael Ashby¹, an artist, musician and performer from South London.

Born in Penge, David attended Camberwell College of Art before dropping out to pursue a career in Music. His band Ludes signed to SONY and they released the album *The Dark Art Of Happiness*. Eventually a song they wrote ended up on a number one album and DMA found himself constructing songs in California for a billionaire's wife. In 2021 he accidentally purchased a badge making machine and used the badge making software to design t-shirts, which quickly became collector's items. As an animator David's work can be seen in the recent Julian Temple film *Crock of Gold: A Few Rounds with Shane MacGowan*. His last creation was a limited run of 10inch red vinyl singles featuring his songs 'Lights Out' and 'All I got For Christmas' with his current band SLEAZE.

What David presents at The Horse is a compendium of static artworks within which he will perform on the opening night. David's overwhelmingly prolific output is always fresh. The many drawings, cartoons and illustrations stand together as a view into the mind of DMA. As an artist David succeeds in keeping the channels open between the waking mind and the subconscious; the success of this fluidity takes the discipline of a daily practice of drawing, writing and performing.

Adulthood throws a lot of shit at you, the achingly boring tasks required of citizens in order to function within the system wares away our naturally playful, innocent states of being. DMA circumnavigates these obstacles, retaining a purity of communication with his subconscious, from which he generously farms funny and affable scenes for our enjoyment. DMA's originality shines, whilst feeding us sharp and leftfield wit: an essential tool for the survival of adulthood.

David's satirical examination of the human condition is driven by drawn original forms and text that operates to enlighten and clarify: just as lyrics do for a melody. *Spot On* is both a personal journey into DMA's head as well as being oratory for the concerns of what it means to be human. DMA currently lives in Peckham with his cat, Ciarán. This is his first exhibition in Ireland.

To accompany the exhibition, the Horse will be publishing a book of the same title *Spot On* that without hiccups will be available on the website by the summer. Founded in 2021 The Horse is a contemporary art space in Dublin 1 that seeks to provide a platform for emerging, experimental and underrepresented art practitioners. For more information on this show and programming at The Horse please email Matthew Wilkinson: mw@thehosedublin.xyz

¹ To contact DMA through the internet head to –