



Guardian 'New Band Of The Week' – *"we didn't dream them up. They're actually happening"*

London producers and DJs Oliver Lee and James Carter are the talent behind breakthrough duo Snakehips, whose remixes and original productions have propelled them into the spotlight. Inspired by golden-era hip-hop and R&B with more modern production techniques, Snakehips has crafted a signature sound that is soulful and sweetly reminiscent.

Despite a shared home city, the pair met on separate business trips to Hong Kong, where they bonded over their mutual musical interests. They shared a flight to L.A., began talking music and booked a studio in which to work on a track. It went so well that within days of returning to London they nudged their laptops together and Snakehips was born.

The pair's first release was a remix of Chicago band Wild Belle's 'It's Too Late'; their next a remix of 'Gold' by electronic duo Bondax. Both used only the original vocal, topped the Hype Machine chart and revealed Snakehips' love of '90s hip-hop, disco and vintage soul.

When Snakehips heard Banks' song 'Warm Water' the guys loved it so much they contacted Banks and asked to remix it. She sent the acapella, they added funky disco music, had another blog hit on their hands and were rewarded by being asked to rework The Weeknd's 'Wanderlust'. After The Weeknd tweeted his praise for their version, saying it was "dope", it received a million and a half plays in less than a month, and is currently sitting on over 7 million streams. More recently the duo have remixed Raury's 'Cigarette Song' and Lion Babe's 'Treat Me Like Fire' and have inevitably wracked up even more Hype Machine kudos.

The reaction to the guy's own music, however, was in a different league. The steamy, sultry, lushly-produced *On & On*, featuring up-and-coming Australian singer George Maple, sent blogs in to a frenzy, reached the Top 10 of the iTunes electronic charts on both sides of the Atlantic and caught the attention of Radio 1's Zane Lowe, Annie Mac, Mistajam and Monki. *On & On* is a song about heartbreak that sounded like summer, or as Ollie puts it: "It's about a bloke George was in love with who didn't love her back."

Following on from "On & On" Snakehips put out a further two singles; 'Days With You' (ft. Sinead Harnett), a track that's amassed 2.3 million Soundcloud streams to date as was described by The Sunday Times as *"woozy, classic soul, R&B and House, heavy with impeccably sourced samples"*, and the equally hypnotic 'After I Met You'.

Oliver and James' own tracks have had the remix treatment by Kaytranada, Pomo, Fwds!xsh and Sweater Beats. The duo have also produced a song for Sinead Harnett and have put together a Radio 1 Guestmix for Monki, an exclusive mix for Hypetrak ahead of their sold out US tour and a special guest mix for Australia's national radio station triple j.

In between official singles, Snakehips have put out a handful of sample-based tracks, among them the Annie Mac-premiered *Make It and Miss U Always*, a love song posted for fans on Valentine's Day. They sold out a tour of Australia, shows across the UK and were in demand to play clubs and festivals everywhere from Paris, Vienna, Warsaw and Berlin to the Netherlands. The pair's debut London date at Village Underground sold out so quickly a second show had to be added.

Snakehips spent most of 2014 touring, with appearances at Glastonbury, Reading & Leeds, Love Saves The Day on top of European jaunts at Outlook in Croatia and Pitch in Amsterdam, as well as working on their debut album. All releases are on Snakehips' own label Hoffman West, named after a fictional character Ollie created to get in to clubs for free.

"Put the name Hoffman West, plus five, on a guest list and no one asks questions when you get to the door," he explains. "There's something about that name that sounds so important that you're always ushered straight in."

In just two years Snakehips has mustered up a hefty online following with over 158,000 Soundcloud subscribers, 77,000 Facebook likes and just over 12,000 Twitter followers – and collectively their original productions have wracked up over 5 million streams. With a new EP 'Forever (Part II)' out in March alongside a UK tour and another busy festival season, there's certainly a lot more of exciting things in store from the London based production duo.