

Biography

Moscow Apartment: Here's what you need to know

Two young women, two guitars and a message that matters in 2017:

Never let anyone get you down. Stand by who you are and what you do and what you say.

Meet Moscow Apartment. Toronto musicians, singers and songwriters Brighid Fry and Pascale Padilla, who embody their message — they are confident, they stand tall and they sing with passion, power and precision.

And, as of August 2017, they are 14 and 15 years old.

Is their age irrelevant? In this case, yes. Their youth may be the “hook,” but the reality is that they’re strong, seasoned and totally professional performers as comfortable on a club or festival stage as they would be in your living room.

Friends for years: Starting young

Brighid and Pascale have been friends for years. They first met as young members of the VIVA! Youth Singers — the top kids’

choir of Toronto — and sang in the chorus for the National Ballet's annual Nutcracker for several seasons.

They also took part in events at Girls' Rock Camp, where the music was decidedly different. And both of them credit camp teacher (and local musician and bandleader) Kritty Uranowski for supporting them to become better – and powerfully pertinent — songwriters. They took every available opportunity to learn their craft.

Brigid mastered social media early — you can find a video of her singing, with her guitar, when she was six, and a few years later, busking at Toronto's ferry docks. At 12 she filmed herself to spur crowd-funding to pay the costs to make a seven-song album — and recorded it a few weeks later with respected producer Don Kerr. Last year she was part of another EP, this time with an even younger band called Kingdom of Birds.

Pascale began her musical journey with a trip to the Vancouver Folk Fest at the age of four. She was entranced and quickly learned how to strum a ukulele and sing in front of a crowd. She grew up in a household filled with the sounds of Franco-Ontarien jazz — her father is a guitarist with Amelie Lefebvre and Les Singes Bleus; Pascale's voice can be heard singing backup on their latest album.

She also (and other VIVA! singers) sang back up for Alice Cooper (wearing the classic eye makeup Cooper has made familiar) when he appeared at producer Bob Ezrin's induction into Canada's Walk of Fame in 2013.

A new band and a whirlwind of activity

Brigid and Pascale began Moscow Apartment early in 2017, taking their name from the caption in a book of photographs — a shot of an old man outside a bleak Russian building.

"Something about that caption caught our eye," Pascale says. "It seemed like a good name, a different name, for our duo."

And it's been something of a whirlwind ever since. With a collection of solid songs to choose from, the band went into the studio to complete a powerful five-song EP with the support of strong local musicians and another fund-raising campaign.

There have been strong performances in clubs (including the famous Blacksheep Inn in Wakefield, Quebec, and a number of different Toronto venues), at street events and most notably at three of Canada's major folk festivals: Winnipeg Folk, Hillside in Guelph, Summerfolk in Owen Sound and the Shelter Valley Festival in Grafton, Ontario.

And then there's the first video — a surprising treatment of the first single from the record. "Annie" is certainly not your

frothy pop song, but a powerful piece which alludes to body image and sexism — an anthem for our times.

The self-titled EP will be officially released September 29, with a release show at the Burdock in Toronto a day later.

As Brigid and Pascale will tell you: “Expect more.

“Much more.

“We’re just getting started.”