

= Magnapop =

Magnapop is an alternative rock band based in Atlanta , Georgia . Formed in 1989 , the band has consistently included songwriting duo Linda Hopper as vocalist and Ruthie Morris on guitar . Magnapop first achieved recognition in the Benelux countries of Belgium , the Netherlands and Luxembourg through the festival circuit and have remained popular in Europe throughout their career . After modest success in the United States in the mid @-@ 1990s with the singles " Slowly , Slowly " and " Open the Door " and a series of albums produced by Michael Stipe , Bob Mould , and Geza X , the band went on an extended hiatus due to the dissolution of their record label . They returned with a new rhythm section in 2005 on the Daemon Records release Mouthfeel . The band has continued to perform and record since this reunion and have self @-@ released two more albums . Magnapop 's musical style is noted for blending the pop vocals and melodies of Hopper with the aggressive , punk @-@ influenced guitar @-@ playing of Morris and her back @-@ up vocal harmonies .

= = History = =

= = = Formation and self @-@ titled debut (1989 ? 1993) = = =

Linda Hopper ? a native of Marietta , Georgia ? was a member of the late 1970s / early 1980s music scene in Athens , Georgia , where she befriended fellow University of Georgia student Michael Stipe in an art design class . Stipe went on to form R.E.M. and Hopper joined him in the experimental music group Tanzplagen along with Stipe 's sister Lynda , and other local musicians . After the group folded , Lynda Stipe and Hopper formed Oh @-@ OK , whose line @-@ up later included Matthew Sweet and David McNair . That project ended in 1984 and Hopper briefly belonged to a Washington , D.C. band named Holiday , who released their only EP in 1987 .

In 1989 , Ruthie Morris had recently moved to Atlanta from West Palm Beach , Florida ? where she played a few shows as the guitarist for The Pockets . She attempted to play with local male musicians , but did not feel comfortable with any of them . Hopper and Morris were introduced by a mutual acquaintance and became fast friends ; they wrote their first song together at Hopper 's apartment the day they met . The duo had a difficult time finding collaborators to form a complete band (as Hopper described it , " We had to beg people to come and play with us . ") The duo eventually recruited bassist Tim Lee and McNair on drums in March 1990 . Lee left the band after a brief tenure and was replaced by Shannon Mulvaney , whom Morris met at a record store . The musicians named themselves Homemade Sister after a line from the film Baby Doll and released their first single ? " Rip the Wreck " / " Merry " ? on Safety Net Records in 1990 . Displeased with their name , the band was briefly renamed Swell , before they found out a San Francisco band had the same name and then billed themselves as Swell Dopa .

In 1990 ? while named Swell ? they made their public debut at a show in Athens that Michael Stipe attended . He approached the band afterward and offered to produce some demos for them in John Keane 's Athens studio in December . Their first high @-@ profile show was at the July 1991 New York New Music Seminar along with three other bands that were introduced by Stipe . At that event , Morris gave out two demo tapes ? one to American rock journalist James Sullivan and the other to Tom Engelshoven and John van Luyn of the Dutch music magazine Muziekkranst OOR . The band proceeded to pass the tape to a promoter in The Netherlands who gave the band some club dates as well as a spot at the side stage of the 1991 Rotterdam Festival . After the positive response they received , they were promoted to the main stage the next day . In The Netherlands , Magnapop was signed to Play It Again Sam Records , who released the Sugarland EP and Magnapop demo album in 1992 . Their self @-@ titled first album included four of the 1990 Stipe demos , and was released on Caroline Records in the United States . A music video for the single " Merry " was shot and aired in Europe .

Magnapop was featured on a variety of various artist compilations . Their first commercial recording

other than their independent single was their 1992 cover version of " Pleasant Valley Sunday " for Here No Evil ? A Tribute to The Monkees . The band was also featured on other various artist tribute albums , including " Ear " (a different recording from the one on Magnapop) for Delicacy & Nourishment ? Lyrics by Ernest Noyes Brookings Vol . 3 in 1992 and 1993 's recording of " Every Grain of Sand " for Outlaws Blues Volume Two ? A Tribute to Bob Dylan with violinist Mamie Fike . The band also recorded the Kiss My Mouth EP with Ted Niceley and released it in Europe . Around this time , the band was so fraught from booking recording sessions , that they briefly considered breaking up .

Magnapop established their fan base in the early 1990s through touring and the festival circuit ? particularly in central Europe , where they first broke through to the mainstream . It was only after they had established a fan base in Europe and received positive press in the United Kingdom that the band first became recognized in the United States , including their native Atlanta . By the end of 1992 , they were getting positive write @-@ ups in American press such as The New York Times and supported Juliana Hatfield on tour . The group made appearances at Rocking Kolonia Festival in Maastricht in 1992 , Pukkelpop in 1992 , Transmusicales in 1992 , A Campingflight to Lowlands Paradise in 1993 , and the Reading Festival in 1993 . They also recorded a John Peel session on September 2 , 1993 and a Black Session on February 25 , 1994 .

= = = Mainstream success (1994 ? 1997) = = =

Bob Mould of Hüsker Dü had seen the band at a show in New York City 's CBGB as well as in Rotterdam ? he called the latter show their " turning point " ? and invited the band to tour with his new group Sugar in Europe and the United States in 1992 ? 1993 . The band asked Sugar bassist and fellow Athens musician David Barbe produce their major label debut album . When he refused , Mould offered to record with the band , taking them to Pedernales Recording Studio , in Austin , Texas in August 1993 . The sessions would result in the album Hot Boxing , which was released by Play It Again Sam in Europe and Priority Records domestically on July 5 , 1994 . Releasing an album by Magnapop was a radical departure for Priority who had previously focused on rap music .

The album produced two singles : " Slowly , Slowly " , which spent seven weeks on the charts , peaking on September 10 , 1994 , at 25 on the U.S. Modern Rock Tracks , and " Lay It Down " , which topped the 1993 De Afrekening poll . The band toured the United States supporting The Lemonheads in 1993 and played at the 1994 Phoenix Festival and Marktrock to promote the album and created music videos for " Lay It Down " , " Slowly , Slowly " , and " Texas " . The promotional EP Big Bright Cherry was released in 1994 and included three tracks from the Hot Boxing recording sessions as well as three self @-@ produced songs .

In 1995 , the McNair and the band parted ways , with neither party giving a definitive rationale . Hopper explained " We had a hard time recording Hot Boxing , because our drummer had a lot of things in the way ... Nobody wants to hurt anyone , or to cut them out , but it was just like four adults getting a divorce , and their child is the band . " She has alternately explained that the split was due to the " alternative lifestyles " of McNair and the rest of the group and that McNair 's musicianship was not as competent as the other members . The remaining trio recruited session drummer Josh Freese and engineers Sandy Solomon and Bernie Zwass to record a cover of Tom Waits ' " Christmas Card from a Hooker in Minneapolis " at Plus Four Recordings Studios , in Sherman Oaks , California in June 1995 for the compilation album Step Right Up : The Songs of Tom Waits . Freese joined the group in November ? December of that year in Los Angeles , California to record Rubbing Doesn 't Help . Mould was unavailable , so the band relocated to Los Angeles and worked with producer Geza X at his home studio in attempt to make a more " eclectic " album that would represent the diversity of their songwriting . After hearing some demos , the band decided to hire him to produce the actual album and moved to Los Angeles for recording . The album produced the singles " Open the Door " and " This Family " (the former also had a music video) , as well as the EP Fire All Your Guns at Once . The band immediately set out to tour in promotion .

Los Angeles musician Mark Posgay auditioned for the band in 1995 and became the group 's permanent drummer . In July of that year , Magnapop supported R.E.M. on their Monster World Tour

and continued playing in the United States and Europe , including an appearance at X @-@ Fest in 1996 . They also played their first dates in Australia and Japan in 1996 and hosted 120 Minutes on July 7 of the same year . In late 1996 , Mulvaney left the group , citing problems of distance ? Hopper and Morris had relocated permanently to Los Angeles ? as well as a desire to focus on his family . He continued playing bass guitar and stand @-@ up bass with Atlanta groups The Hots , The Lugosis , and Anna Kramer & The Lost Cause . Boston native and former Queens bassist Greg Urbaitis replaced him after replying to an ad in The Recycler and the band continued to play live shows through 1997 , including supporting Throwing Muses on their farewell tour . Posgay quit that summer and he was replaced by former Lifter drummer Johnny Rozas and this line @-@ up recorded six demos at a recording studio in Orange County . This version of the band was short @-@ lived as Magnapop was informed while on tour that their record label 's rock division ceased to exist and they did not have any funding for future touring or recording . Compounding matters further , the band members were still under contract to their old record label and were legally disbarred from using the name " Magnapop " until their contract expired seven years later .

= = = Hiatus , reformation , and independent releases (since 1998) = = =

Hopper and Morris continued to play a few acoustic live shows as a duo into 1999 , occasionally with accompaniment (such as Philadelphia bassist Billy Warburton and drummer Lance Crow) and attempted to record an EP for record label Vital Cog with a drum machine as backing , but ended up putting Magnapop on an indefinite hiatus . During this time , Morris also moved to Seattle , where she recorded a 2002 single with drummer Curtis Hall as The New Candidates . Hopper , Morris , Hall , and a group of Seattle musicians also demoed some Hopper / Morris songs during this period . Hall would also drum with Hopper , Morris , and Mulvaney for a few Magnapop shows in 2002 ? 2003 . The band officially re @-@ formed in 2003 with bassist Scott Rowe and drummer Brian Fletcher to tour the European festival circuit and record an album . In The Netherlands , Hopper also performed vocals on R.E.M. ' s cover of " Favorite Writer " at two of the group 's concerts on June 21 and 22 .

The following May , the band entered Zero Return Studios in Atlanta with drummer Curt Wells as producer for their first album in almost a decade . On January 25 , 2005 , Magnapop released Mouthfeel on Amy Ray 's record label Daemon Records and supported it with a tour through the United States . By 2005 , Fletcher had left the group , and drummer Chad Williams had been recruited to replace him on two weeks prior to the first show on the Mouthfeel tour that included an appearance at South by Southwest . One of these performances was recorded for the band 's first live album ? Magnapop Live at Maxwell 's 03 / 09 / 2005 ? which they released independently through online music distributors including eMusic , the iTunes Store , and Rhapsody . In May 2006 , the band completed a tour of Belgium and The Netherlands and returned to Atlanta to begin work on the followup to Mouthfeel . They continued touring Europe in 2007 and completed writing and recording for a new album sometime prior to 2008 , with the album initially slated to be released in summer 2009 . These sessions recorded with Brian Paulson were released as Chase Park on September 4 , 2009 , through digital distributors by the band 's own , newly created label , The Kraft Records .

The band has continued to intermittently tour since the release of Chase Park and on September 13 , 2011 , Creative Loafing announced that Mulvaney had attempted to re @-@ form the original line @-@ up of Magnapop to perform a benefit concert for local independent music store Criminal Records . The benefit was later scheduled for October 15 , and the band announced that they would be performing their self @-@ titled debut album in its entirety , along with some songs from Hot Boxing . Mulvaney was motivated to support Criminal due to the store carrying their early releases in the Atlanta area . The original line @-@ up has continued to perform on occasion through 2015 .

Between touring with Magnapop , bassist Scott Rowe also performed in Luigi from 2003 through 2008 with former Magnapop drummer Brian Fletcher as well as Bad Magic Number with current drummer Williams . The former has released two albums ? 2003 's Vamonos and Found on the Forest Floor in 2005 .

== Musical style ==

Magnapop have been defined genre wise as power pop by multiple rock critics , and their performances have drawn comparisons with punk , new wave , and surf rock . Reviewers have commented on the band 's pop influenced songwriting , specifically their employment of guitar hooks and simple chord structure . To that end , they have been compared to Mould 's previous work as a member of Sugar and Hüsker Dü , as well as fellow Georgia based rock acts such as Guadalcanal Diary and Let 's Active and alternative rock pioneers Pixies and The Replacements . The album Rubbing Doesn 't Help represented a stylistic shift for the band away from their more pop inspired material toward more guitar oriented rock , but their comeback with Mouthfeel returned to the more pop inspired sound of Hot Boxing .

Morris is known for her particularly aggressive guitar playing and its interaction with Linda Hopper 's pop influenced vocals . In addition , the vocal harmony between the two singers has defined the band 's sound , especially on later releases such as Rubbing Doesn 't Help that feature more of Morris ' vocals . Critics have compared Morris 's guitar playing to punk acts like Johnny Ramone of Ramones as well as alternative rock musicians such as Johnny Marr .

== Covers and tributes ==

" Open the Door " has been covered by Eels as the B side to " Flyswatter " ? it would later be collected on Useless Trinkets : B Sides , Soundtracks , Rarities and Unreleased 1996 ? 2006 . Eels performed the song several times on their Electro Shock Blues Show tour in support of the album Electro Shock Blues . Karaoke versions of the song were released by Stingray Digital through the iTunes Store on January 15 , 2008 . " Favorite Writer " was covered by R.E.M. as a B side to " Bad Day " in 2003 and was played live during the 2003 tour to promote In Time : The Best of R.E.M. 1988 ? 2003 .

In 1993 , Juliana Hatfield wrote " Ruthless " in honor of the band 's guitarist after the two had a conversation about Camille Paglia while touring in 1992 (" We 're all gushin ' , but I swear we really mean it , man / We 're all sucking up to Ruthie . ") It appeared as a B side on the Juliana Hatfield Three singles " Spin the Bottle " and " My Sister " .

== Discography ==

Magnapop (1992)
Hot Boxing (1994)
Rubbing Doesn 't Help (1996)
Mouthfeel (2005)
Chase Park (2009)

== Members ==

Linda Hopper ? lead vocals
Ruthie Morris ? backing vocals , guitar
Scott Rowe ? bass guitar
Chad Williams ? drums