

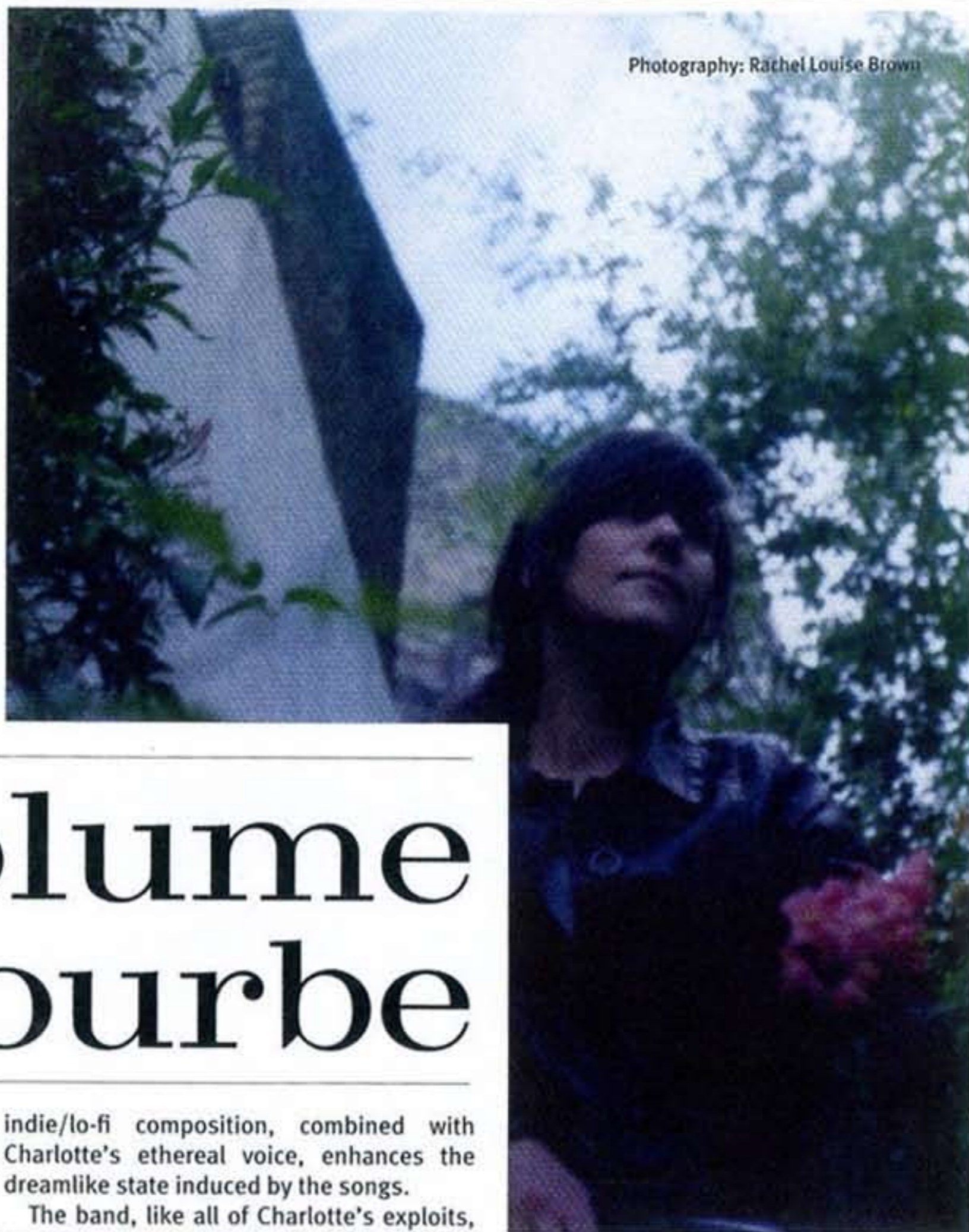
Volume

FREE

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Le Volume Courbe

This year has seen **Le Volume Courbe** resurface after the 2005 release of their debut album *I Killed My Best Friend*. **Kay Wrate** meets singer and co-founder Charlotte Marionneau in the Duke of Uke to discuss the band's current exploits.

The Duke of Uke is a small, warm venue with colourful ukuleles strapped all over the walls and a tiny area in which Le Volume Courbe are preparing to play. Sitting in the basement of the Duke with a petite and initially shy Charlotte, we talk about her innate fear of performing: "I didn't want to play live when our first album came out. It's a bit weird touring with a record that's already a couple of years old, but I was too nervous to perform then. I'm trying to get over it as time goes by." Charlotte possesses an air of vulnerability — when we talk, she sometimes whispers her answers and looks uncomfortable, as if she wishes her music could answer my questions.

I Killed My Best Friend was released in 2005 on Damon Albarn's record label Honest Johns and was well-received, with music patrons Rob Da Bank and Alan McGee championing the release. The album is a bizarre musical experience; the surreal,

indie/lo-fi composition, combined with Charlotte's ethereal voice, enhances the dreamlike state induced by the songs.

The band, like all of Charlotte's exploits, formed in a very organic way from a bunch of old friends. This year saw Le Volume Courbe play at The Roundhouse, supporting My Bloody Valentine: "I wish they reformed next year so I would have had more time to prepare to play in front of so many people," giggles Charlotte in a wishful manner. Supporting My Bloody Valentine was a natural progression for Le Volume Courbe, because Kevin Shields of the band worked on their debut album. Charlotte talks



remarkably casually about this partnership: "It was ok ... it was just like working with a friend; we argued a lot and stuff. We mainly just improvised songs sitting in my room."

Charlotte grew up in France listening to Serge Gainsbourg (French poet, singer-songwriter), but she claims that "the music I listen to doesn't directly influence what I write. At the moment I'm listening to Duke Ellington, which sounds nothing like me!" Film is more key in inspiring Charlotte's creativity: "I feel so influenced by the movies, films like *Citizen Kane* and *Gummo*. I love Harmony Korine as a director; his work was really free, a bit like a collage of ideas, which I hope my own work reflects."

The future for Le Volume Courbe seems as free as their past. They plan to release an EP as they work on their upcoming album, but give no definite timeframe for this. Charlotte appears unconfined by the normal strictures of music, which makes her dreamy outlook and unaffected sound so refreshing.

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