

Prepare for festive fun



Having played just a handful of dates in 2009, local heroes Supergrass's gig at The Regal on Friday, December 18, promises to be something special. The lads have even renamed themselves for the occasion, calling themselves Santagrass.

Formed in Oxford in the 1990s, Supergrass are frontman Gaz Coombes, bassist Mick Quinn, drummer Danny Goffey and keyboard player Rob Coombes. They released their debut album *I Should Coco* in 1994 and enjoyed a rapid rise to stardom.

Armed with chirpy singles like *Lenny*, *Caught by the Fuzz* and the ever popular *Alright*, they quickly established themselves as a leading light of the Britpop. Albums *In It for the Money* and *Supergrass* followed in 1997 and 1999 respectively, tracks from which included the darkly brilliant *Richard III*, the

TOM GOODWYN looks forward to a festive concert featuring the city's home-grown favourites Supergrass, alias 'Santagrass'

jarring *Moving* and festival favourite *Pumping on Your Stereo*.

As Britpop died and their contemporaries opted for either stadium rock or splitting up, Supergrass diversified their sound, 2002's *Life on Other Planets* showed a more experimental edge, while 2005's *Road to Rouen* was almost entirely acoustic.

Last year, the band decided to return to their poppier roots and released *Diamond Hoo Ha* to much critical acclaim.

Normally constantly on tour, Supergrass have had a quiet 2009, recording a new studio album, their seventh, playing a few festivals, including Oxfordshire's very own Truck and bringing to life their new side project the Hotrats. All of which makes this show at The Regal all the more exciting.

Throughout their career, Supergrass have had a reputation as a really fun live band, never shy about playing their hits and always relentlessly joyful with their crowds, no matter how big or

small they are.

Whether you're a committed fan or just joining the party, Supergrass will cater for all. Support will come from former 22-20s frontman Charly Coombs and the New Breed. Tickets are £17.50 and are on sale from The Regal box office, Gigsandtours.com and WeGotTickets.com