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Fuck Buttons – Street Horrrsing

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ATP Recordings

Release Date: 17/03/08

Ragged Rating: **** 4/5

In A Ragged Word: complex

The debut album from Bristol duo Andrew Hung and Benjamin John Power has taken me four days to listen to the whole way through. Not because it's bad, but because suffering from man flu and surrounded by countryside, the nihilistic noise merchants' sound is making me feel slightly nauseous.

So when my head finally clears, I'm glad to say Street Horrrsing is quite good. On it, Fuck Buttons come across as a more abject M83, Einstürzende Neubauten or Suicide. This is progressive music driven on by tribal notations and a dark brooding.

Opener 'Sweet Love for Planet Earth' starts with a folksy melody before morphing into something much more rapid and complex. It's followed by 'Ribst out' is pure nihilism driven on by a tribal back beat. I say tracks but this album has to taken as a whole, the songs meld into each other progressing along a line that when you are in that zone is arresting and drags you in.

'Okay, lets talk about tomorrow' is my soundtrack to the revolution when it is in fact televised. It starts out harsh and bleak and by the end is quite beautiful. It's not just noise, crafted in a way that, at first makes you question the necessity of such white noise, but in the end shows you the merits of it. Single "Bight Tomorrow" is of the same vein, and is startling in its ability to make simple such a complex juxtaposing of noise and crafted melody.

The sum of its parts is very much greater than any of the six songs taken alone, as Street Horrrsing blends together superbly. Its tribal beats give rhythm to white noise, and the screams and howling add emotion that make this a truly individual album and the best I have heard so far this year.

Stephen Mooney

Submitted by Padraic Halpin on Wed, 2008-03-12 16:13.

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