WEIRDO CANYON DISPATCH

Roadburn Festival Daily Fanzine ~ Thursday 19th April 2018

Arabrot, Converge, Cult of Luna and Julie Christmas, Dawn Ray'd, Earthless, Ex Eye, Fuoco Fatuo, Future Occultism: Bong-Ra, Future Occultism: Phurpa, Future Occultism: Servants of the Apocalyptic Goat Rave, Hällas, Harsh Toke, Hooded Menace, Horte, Kælan Mikla, Khemmis, Petyr, Sannhet, Stomach Earth, Uniform, Waste Of Space Orchestra, Weedeater, Wreck and Reference, Yellow Eyes

Welcome To…

ROADBURN 2018

Glad you could make it. You'll be glad too. Trust me.

It's Spring in Tilburg. The weather's either gorgeous or it isn't. The people are out on bikes, scooters, the occasional skateboard (there will probably be a lot more skateboards over the next couple days with all the San Diego dudes around; we'll get there), whatever it might be. And then there's the Roadburners. Sitting outside the cafés in Weirdo Canyon, waiting in line for Het Patronaat, asking each other for directions, circling names on schedules – you'll find a handy one on the back page of this issue – and on and on. The next four days are going to be absolutely out-of-your-mind insane.

Maybe you've been to Roadburn before. Maybe not. Either way, today, tomorrow, Saturday and Sunday will pass in a blur of righteousness. You'll be in one place, then rushing to another, then back over to catch this once-in-a-lifetime happening – there are a few this year between commissioned projects Waste of Space Orchestra and *Sól án varma*, panel discussions in the side-programme, the East-Meets-West jam with Earthless and Kikagaku Moyo, etc. – and at some point you're going to wonder how you'll ever catch it all. You won't. You're only human, and Roadburn is a festival of many paths. Choose yours and walk it without regret.

You may not even realize it's happening when you're here, but by the time you leave, you feel like a new person. Because on some level, through some experience you've had here, you are.

Whatever Roadburn path you choose to walk, be good to each other, and take the time to breathe and soak in the atmosphere of this fest and this place, because there's nothing else quite like it. – *WCD Staff*

Hardrock Hideout Review

Bütcher / Speed Queen / Witch Trail - Cul de Sac, 18/04/2018

The Hardrock Hideout is Roadburn's way of bringing fest-goers into the world of the happening itself. This year? Three Belgian acts on a bill organized in conjunction with Babylon Doom Cult Records and booked in honor of Bidi van Drongelen, who worked at the fest, was close with Walter, and passed away last year.

Witch Trail opened and were easily the odd men out, fostering a stylistic blend running anywhere from '90s style alt-noise riffing to doomed plod to blackened blastbeating and screams. Based in Ghent, they impressed on cuts like "Splendour" and "Unnatural Caresses," with a sound that seemed as likely to pique the interest of Fenriz as of Thurston Moore. Not an easy bridge to cross for most bands.

Speed Queen had the thing nailed, and the thing was classic thrash. They were notably tight, which was doubly remarkable considering the amount of beer pounded. "King of the Road," sadly, was not a cover, but "Nice Boys Don't Play Rock 'n' Roll" was, and they gave the Rose Tattoo track a thrashing sneaker to the ass no less fervent than that delivered to their originals. Packed house. Good times.

Their setlist promised a "Speed Metal Attakk," and that's precisely what Antwerp-based five-piece Bütcher delivered as they supported last year's *Bestial Fükkin' Warmachine*. A rare moshpit was formed at the Cul de Sac for their oldskööl metal onslaught, as frontman R. Hellshrieker and his also-elaborately-named companions unloaded a representation worthy of being called true homage, and still managed to inject a personality of their own into the proceedings.

I've seen a lot of bands play the Cul de Sac. I can't recall any of them inducing a mosh. Clearly that takes something special in intent and execution, and Bütcher's unabashed metal-for-the-love-of-metal was exactly that. Nothing like some pure speed to get the blood moving ahead of the start of the fest proper today. – *JJ Koczan*

The Seeker, The Shaman & The Possessor: Waste of Space Orchestra Comes to Roadburn

How do you up the ante when your festival is already a place of extraordinary creativity, community and of once-in-a-lifetime heavy music moments? This year Roadburn has done so with its first commissioned collaborative performances.

Thursday opens with a colossal, 10-part musical journey from the Waste of Space Orchestra, a merger between psychedelic black metal wizards Oranssi Pazuzu and doomy occult outfit Dark Buddha Rising. Both are groups are part of the Tampere, Finland-based Wastement Collective, which was prominently featured at Roadburn 2016.

The ensemble's name is rooted in Wastement's early days when a member realized the phrase "Waste of Space" perfectly fit the hook of Motörhead's "Ace of Spades" (you're testing that in your mind right now, aren't you?), but with 10 musicians, video components, costumes, and more, its work is more complex than searing riffs and raging speeds. "It felt to me like this should be like our version of orchestral music, and with various lead vocalists, it also had something in common with opera," bassist and WOS mastermind Toni Hietamäki says. "So I thought, 'what would be the spirit versions of our three main vocalists be like if they lived in an alternate dream universe and followed dream logic?'"

From there he wrote a narrative surrounding three characters — the Seeker, the Shaman, and the Possessor — in search of consciousness, meaning, and truth; the project expanded as each member added their personal touch. "It was like building a forest path into a highway, where we all have our places that change. Sometimes someone takes a lead or an exit, and then [turns] back from an intersection into the route," guitarist and voice of the Shaman Vesa Ajomo says.

Photo by Maija Lahtinen

Until they hit the stage, all things WOS have been classified top secret, but the musicians will say it blends elements of both bands into something new, powerful, and sonically overwhelming. Marko Neumann, who voices the Possessor says, "You can expect magic to happen; an unforgettable ritual. It's something I'm really proud of — I think we all are." – Jamie Ludwig

SoCal Meets Tilburg: The San Diego Takeover

"In five years we will all be one band," jokes Nuge, professional skater and bassist for Arctic.

Crazier things have happened. Cities large and small have scenes. A boom is something completely different, and the glut of gnarly-as-hell heavy psych bands jamming in San Diego over the last several years – acolytes, many, to Earthless, but each with their own spin – can't be called anything else.

Fostered by Tee Pee, Outer Battery and a few other labels, this creative surge has become something truly special and unique the world over.

"Only a select few live the idealized life of rolling out of bed on a skateboard with a guitar in your hand and palm trees blasting by your face getting totally tubular and rippin' it up," informs Brenden Dellar of Sacri Monti. "The shows are always the magic time. Lots of hugs 'n' high fives. Most of us practice at the same place – Ursa Polaris Studios – and see each other in passing and have beers."

Zach Oakley of Joy and Volcano adds, "We're all brothers and sisters here, and we definitely support and love each other, but I think we're also locked in a sibling rivalry – that at the end of the day is always more endearing than malicious – that makes us want to write a riff or tune that will blow our buddies' socks off! It's fun that way, and I think it's that balance of love and friendly oneupsmanship that keeps the scene productive."

When it comes to what helped make the boom happen, Oakley further credits the members of Earthless, whether it's Isaiah Mitchell giving guitar lessons, Mike Eginton owning the shop Thirsty Moon Records or Mario Rubalcaba seeking out younger bands to join them at local shows and on tours, with playing a pivotal role.

"I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for Earthless, Thaddeus Robles at Cave Punk Records, Dave Sweetapple at Tee Pee Records, The Casbah and The Til-Two Club," he says.

"Lineage? Isaiah, Mike and Mario," agrees Gabe Messer, Oakley's bandmate in Volcano and guitarist for Harsh Toke.

And in San Diego, it's not just about the music, from bands like Arctic, Earthless and Petyr, whose lineups include professional skaters, to dudes just shredding sans sponsorship, skate culture is an inextricable part of the personality of this explosion.

"Everyone skates out here," says Messer. "It's the shit. And if you give a skateboarder a guitar or drums or bass or bongos, better know he or she will have the determination to be a fuckin amazing player. The gestation period for shredders in North County is like: birth, breastmilk, beach, maybe school, surf, skate, chicks, shred. Shralp or die."

Nuge perhaps summarizes it best: "Skateboarding is from California. And music is the shit. If you had ears and legs you pretty much had no choice but to skate down the street blasting your favorite jams."

One thing to keep in mind as well when it comes to San Diego is that it's not just the number of bands, but also the quality. So what's made it happen? Why San Diego and not somewhere else?

"We're extremely lucky," Oakley sums up. "I know there are scenes like ours all over the world still waiting to be discovered and bands out there that would give a limb to tour Europe and put out records and that's enough to remind me to stay humble and work hard. It's a dream come true."

"Everyone's trying to help push or motivate you in the right way," Messer concurs. "It's fuckin' smiles and hugs and slaps on the butt. Everyone wants everyone to rule at what they've chosen, basically. It's great. I fuckin' love everybody."

One can only hope to get an inkling of that spirit over the next few days (take or leave butt-slapping). Long live the love. – *JJ Koczan*

The Other Roadburn: Side Programme Rundown

On a festival already jam-packed with bands, why throw something else into the mix?

Why the hell not?

Aside from anything else, we do like to think that we do things a little bit differently at Roadburn, and as well as making you bang your head, we like to give you something to get your brain racing in between bands. Enter the Roadburn 2018 side programme.

Each day in this here 'zine you'll get a peek at what's in store on the side programme. I may be biased but I really do advise you check out at least one thing on the side programme this year -- you can even bring your beer along with you. We've lined up a bevy of brains, just waiting to be picked by, well… you, if you fancy it. We leave room at the end of each session for questions from the audience, so feel free to let your inquisitive mind roam free!

If finding the time your afternoon schedule seems impossible, why not pop your head round the door of the Roadburn Cinema one evening? You may find yourself in a private screening, or you may be squeezing in at the back -- but regardless of who you're sharing the space with, we promise to keep you entertained.

And as an extra treat, we have laid on listening sessions at every day of the festival. This is your chance to check out new tunes from the likes of At the Gates, Wiegedood, Lucifer, Big Kizz and many more -- days, weeks, and occasionally months, before these records hit the streets.

Don't say we never give you anything. If anything, we give you TOO MUCH. But, come on, this is once a year -- you can sleep when you're dead. Grab a beer, pull up a chair and join us, you won't regret it! – *Becky Laverty*

THURSDAY

Discussions:

5pm, V39 – Cult of Luna & Julie Christmas Q&A

Listening Sessions:

7pm, 013 Basement – Hangman's Chair – *Banlieue Triste*

HAPPENING EACH NIGHT!

Cinema:

Revolver Films: 4pm-6pm daily
A selection of short films including the world premiere of Full Bleed 002: Jef Whitehead, plus shorts featuring Scott Kelly, Melvins, John Baizley & more.

Evening Programme:

7.30pm – *Cocks and Crosses*
9pm – *The Doom Doc*
10.30pm – *San Diego Takeover: Through the Lens of Just Some Dude by Lannie Rhoades*

#MeToo

For Roadburners, there are a precious few days each April where nothing matters more than music, art, friends, and being present to absorb as much of it all as possible. We come to Tilburg from near and far — a recent online poll tallied 40-plus countries — and beyond our various cultures and languages, we each bring our own point of view and opinions. Roadburn is known as a hub for outsiders, weirdos, and unconventional thinkers; few if any of us represent the norm.

Just as some artists on bill challenge us to step outside our comfort zones, connecting with music fans whose lives and perspectives differ from ours can do the same, and both can expand the mind in unexpected ways. At the risk of sounding like a hippie (which I am not unless someone's spinning Hawkwind), it's a beautiful thing!

Despite any escapist or utopian vibes Roadburn isn't exempt from the world's realities, and among today's most prominent are the dual issues of sexual harassment and violence.

Conversations surrounding these subjects had been bubbling just below the surface for generations before finally exploding into a global movement that's increasingly in the forefront under hashtags #MeToo, #NiUnaMenos, and others. If you're reading this, I probably don't have to tell you that sexual harassment — and the shifting discourse around it — has permeated the music realm in virtually every genre and scene, too.

So when *Weirdo Canyon Dispatch* asked me how Roadburn compares to other fests and shows in light of #MeToo, I had to admit that in this regard it's not too different from anywhere else. The good news: it can be. We're spending the best week of the year at the best heavy music festival on the planet; whatever our differences, we can generally agree on that. By extension, we can likely agree that every Roadburner deserves to

share in that with their personal dignity and safety intact — and we can all play a part in making that happen.

What exactly does that mean? Mostly, keep on doing your thing: overload on bands, dance 'til dawn at the afterparties, meet new pals, and laugh your ass off. But if you see someone being harassed or mistreated, get involved. You don't have to be confrontational — you absolutely shouldn't be if there's a chance of escalation. Just making yourself visible or starting a conversation can help defuse a potentially harmful situation. If necessary, find venue staff or security. At the very least listen to, and believe someone if they come to you for support. Likewise, if you're being harassed, know you're not alone and by and large, people want to help.

This is Roadburn, after all. Everyone should be better off for having been here. – *Jamie Ludwig*

Side programme panel discussion in the 013 Basement

WELCOME
TO THE
WEIRDO CANYON
CAVUM18

Around tomorrow? Then make sure you grab the next issue of *Weirdo Canyon Dispatch* featuring…

- Review and photos of Thursday at Roadburn 2018
- The Beginner's Guide to Japanese Psychedelia
- Collect 'Em All - The Motorpsycho Discography
- JK Broadrick's One-Man Roadburn

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www.weirdocanyondispatch.com

ROADBURN 2018 THURSDAY, APRIL 19

	MAIN STAGE	HET PATRONAAT	GREEN ROOM	HALL OF FAME	CUL DE SAC
14.00					
14.30					
15.00		YELLOW EYES 15.00 - 15.50	SANNHET 15.00 - 16.00		ZVI 15.15 - 16.00
15.30				PHARLEE 15.30 - 16.20	
16.00	WASTE OF SPACE ORCHESTRA DARK BUDDHA RISING UNITES WITH ORANSSI PAZUZU 15.40 - 16.50		TOBY DRIVER 16.15 - 17.00		
16.30		KHEMMIS 16.40 - 17.40			BLACK DECADES 16.40 - 17.20
17.00				STOMACH EARTH 'STOMACH EARTH' 17.00 - 18.00	
17.30			UNIFORM 17.30 - 18.20		
18.00	EARTHLESS 17.40 - 18.50				SUM OF R 18.00 - 18.50
18.30		ÅRABROT 18.30 - 19.30			
19.00			WRECK AND REFERENCE 19.00 - 19.50	FUOCO FATUO 18.40 - 19.40	
19.30					INSECT ARK 19.30 - 20.20
20.00	CONVERGE 'THE DUSK IN US' 19.40 - 20.40				
20.30		HÄLLAS 20.10 - 21.10		KÆLAN MIKLA 20.30 - 21.20	
21.00			EX EYE 20.40 - 21.40		GALG 21.00 - 21.50
21.30					
22.00	CULT OF LUNA & JULIE CHRISTMAS 'MARINER' 21.30 - 22.40	HOODED MENACE 'FULFILL THE CURSE' 22.00 - 23.00		HORTE 22.10 - 23.10	
22.30			FUTURE OCCULTISM: BONG-RA PHURPA SERVANTS OF THE APOCALYPTIC GOAT RAVE 22.30 - 00.30		MIRROR QUEEN 22.30 - 23.20
23.00					
23.30					
00.00	WEEDEATER 'GOD LUCK AND GOOD SPEED' 23.30 - 00.30	HARSH TOKE 23.30 - 00.30		DAWN RAY'D 23.45 - 00.30	
00.30					UNE MISÈRE 00.00 - 00.50
01.00					

AFTERPARTY: DJ COSMIC MASSEUR // 00.30 - 03.00 // 013 FOYER BAR