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NEW MUSIC NOW

STEROID MAXIMUS Gondwanaland

The long-awaited follow-up to Jim Thirlwell's first SM release arrives packaged in a cover with a design so bright, it looks like a box of detergent. Here Mr. Thirlwell further perpetrates his soundtrack-styled affections with a bevy of friends, returning to some of the styles mined on *Quilombo*.

Hell, he even returns to that album for some rehaults; "Life in the Greenhouse Effect" and "Quilombo!" itself return here with an extended, perfect feel of watching late-'60s British TV thrillers. The new material is equal if not superior to the first release: Raymond "Pig" Watts offers input on "The Bowel of Beelzebub," a symphony whose movements (Get it? Bowel movement?) segue from orchestral tension, rolling tribalist drumming and bagpipes, collages of found sound and electronic noise culminating in a heavenly ascension only to find halfway up, your wings are defective. Gumball's Don Fleming stops in for "I Will Love You Always (Wild Irish Rose)" with a sinister beat and drunken samples of old recordings of the two namechecked standards. The result sounds nothing like his day job. There's material for the suspenseful cinaste ("Cross Double Cross"), funeral march tangos ("Destino Matar"), a marriage of the Orient and the industrial ("Ól (Kwik-Lube)") and a cover of cartoon composer Raymond Scott's "Powerhouse!" that was released on the Sympathy label several years ago.

As far as mind movies go, *Gondwanaland* is a four-star picture; put it on your Discman and dim the lights. (Big Cat/dist. by Cargo)

—Jason Pettigrew