Foetus (Dorfdisco Berlin)

Review:  Foetus – Live im Knaack 5/10/2001

Where Evil Spirits turn to Gold

Foetus - Live im Knaack von Oliver S.

Interview & more Live Pics
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Cool. We see us back with Foetus, Baby. For those who already had forgot about J.G. Thirlwell aka Foetus, the Come Back of the hottest Self Immolator from NY City turned out to be the happening thing inbetween big names of the night. First we were to see the Cobra Killers, then went to the concert and afterwards left the Pair-a-Dice Bar with some foolish looking Slayer Buds over three beers.

It took a while so for the band to begin in black T-Shirts, while Jim Foetus, took it up with a more flowery shirt, flapping ’round his spread arms of destiny, and as it sounded like if they wanna kill all wishy-washi attitudes, they came across to that foetuseralian wildstyle, putting his chaotic organised beauty into a fat pestely bandpastiche with queer hard-rock elements, dangling inbetween Industrial, Punk, pre-EBM, Jazz and Swing.

The Concert-opener was The Need Machine from the latest album ’Flow’ (that we even didn’t heard yet), which took the audience from the spot on and Thirlwell looked around as if to say: me, the Exterminator is back! About two third of the set was dominated by the newest works, one third went to those Golden Greats by Foetus, like ’Clothes Hoist’, ’Take it Outside Godboy’, ’DI-1-9026’ und ’Throne of Agony’, maybe most typical early 80’s Final Armaggedeon Hymn. My personal householdalarmtrack ’Wash it All Off’ was missing though, but the band and energy worked and the Knakkies are quaking on the spot. Others in his age let their audience sit on chairs already, with Foetus you’d need seatbelts to it. Fasten your Seatbelt, Baby.

Full Length RealAudio Clips:
The Throne of Agony
Scraping Foetus off the

Where he’s got that from?... In 1978 it pulled him from Australia to England and to the Punkscene, which
Westscene-Café with an Easly style, today also stupid Housemusic you could hear 'Diary of a Sick Man', a hellisch joking track about Blixa Bargeld, who sometimes had his Coffee there, doodling restless hyroglyphes into his Dayplanner. People discovered in Foetus the broken bardo with a big charisma dandy pop appeal. Nothing for the lighthearted, but people with a more bizarre arts sense. While Foetus is educated and produces up to now everything by himself, he is working with the most extreme musicians such as Robert Quine, Lydia Lunch, Don Fleming, Rolli Mosimann, even Marc Almond and lives in New York since 1988..

But noone who's desperately seeking to lose his innocence. Foetus stays consequent, only the identities keep changing as The Foetus All-Nude Revue, Wiseblood, The Flesh Volcano, Foetus Interruptus etc. Although his myth crumbles to nearly unseen. Can he remember himself? In the end he withdraws from the feed for, what he calls 'little demons in the backhead'. Six years are a long time in spite of his hyperspeed output of former times. Now: 'Flow' After the show there was a introverted but sober Jim G. Thirlwell standing with us, who doesn't change his shirt, just the mood.

"It is what it is, you know", he says cautiously, "all I do is to describe my fears, my passions, my fantasies, how they cross my life." and: "Decipher that". Should have asked him better about something else?

Later we went to the Slayer Party. They are even sitting there with crossed arms over a few beers at the bar. Just a few faces around. We speak to Chris Haskett, the guitarist from the Rollins Band and David Bowie. Nice bloke, likes us too. Jim speaks with Hacke, gentle, until we say goodbye. A short but 'warm' handshake. Nice, that we've seen each other once. Already tomorrow was another, stupid adult-day.

• More Foetus Dorfdisco Interview
• More Information: www.foetus.org
Dorffisco does an additional little extra here from Foetus...

We've got more Live Pictures from Foetus at Knaak 5/10/2001!

Read our e-mail interview with J.G.Thirlwell a.k.a. Foetus:

Foetus, e-mail Interview:

Dorffisco:

It's said that you had to get rid of certain habits. [I know, I've been through this.] Do you feel as strong and inspired as before, or has there been a slight change in the personality of Foetus?

J.G. Thirlwell:

Oh yeah I feel stronger and more inspired than I have for many years; you've got to remember that toward the end of my "using" I couldn't even turn on the studio, my life vacillated between abject terror and blackout. There is always personality changes in Foetus, from album to album and from moment to moment.

Dorffisco:

How do you see the music industry today? Is there still something you like, or did it change to complete nonsense in your view? What are your Hot Band Tips we should look out for?

J.G. Thirlwell:

Then "industry" has always been a weird place to be and it is at the moment both depressed and bloated, with too much crap out there; music has become too commodified and stripped of its specialness by the sheer glut of it, it becomes merely an accessory. Having said that, I think a lot of the people on my remix album are doing vital stuff that I respect. In other current music, Lightning Bolt, Elysian Fields, Flux Information Sciences, Hrvataski, Melvins, Enon, Calla. But I also enjoy listening to older stuff, soundtracks, Gainsbourg, stuff that I play when I DJ. (DJ otsu...I play crime/spy, soundtracks, brazen b3's, filthy flutes, polyrhythmia etc)
Dorfdisco: Do you still like Berlin (after reunification maybe), or don't you judge these things, maybe because you disbanded yourself from a certain world?

J.G. Thirlwell: I still really groove on Berlin's energy tho I havent spent enough time there totally consciously lately to really soak it up and evaluate;

Dorfdisco: Would Foetus go to MARS if he could?

J.G. Thirlwell: Foetus would rather go to Uranus.

Dorfdisco: Which are your main influences anyway?

J.G. Thirlwell: I'm influenced by everything that passes before me, be it overhearing someone on the street, a tv commercial, a record or the voices that scream insults and instructions at me from the backseat of my head. I've noticed lately what I dj has been filtering back into my music a bit.

Dorfdisco: Anything else our readers should know? Btw. did you hear Anita Lane's new album?

J.G. Thirlwell: I heard some bits that Mick Harvey played me and I can't wait to hear it in its entirety!

Dorfdisco: Jim, thanks for your reply.

http://www.dorfdisco.de/rev/foetusint.html