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RIPPING HEADACHES



REMEMBERING METTLE
SMELLY BASTARD
NOODS RADIO
OBITUARY
LONDON

MINI ZINE ISSUE 6

£FREE

INTHE SHOP

It's been a busy time as always in the shop with one thing and another - you can read about most of that later on in this issue of RH. 2023 doesn't look like it will be much quieter either but we will be doing a few things differently this year.

Coming up this year we have a few intro appearances that we cannot wait to tell you about - but at the time of writing we sadly are not allowed to. But trust us, you won't be disappointed!

There's also a super exclusive Black Metal classic reissue coming on vinyl that will have its very own Black City coloured variant - only available through us worldwide and super limited.

The big news for us as a shop right now though is the launch of our brand new shirt design. Designed by Mr Seventhbell (he of Rebel Lands fame) it is a hark back to the glory days of Heavy Metal in both style and colour choice. We've tried to make it explicit with the tagline 'TRAD - BLACK - DEATH - SPEED - DOOM' that we are an umbrella term Heavy Metal record shop and not just a Black Metal shop, like a few people have mentioned that they think/though we were. In fact throw in Hardcore, Stoner, Prog, Thrash, Industrial into the mix as well and you'll start to touch on the range of metal we stock. Also, remember we lifted our name straight from a thrash song!

The main vision for us going into 2023 though is to focus our sights closer to home more - certainly for this year. 2022 saw us travel (or attempt to) far and wide to festivals and gigs with our stall and as great as all of those experiences were, they were also extremely tiring and time consuming for our little band we have here. So we will be concentrating our efforts on Bristol. We'll be back out on the road soon though.



ADVENTURES IN RECORD COLLECTING

LONDON

Recently we took a day out to go to our fair capital city to check some of our peers in the record peddling business. Two in particular - Crypt Of The Wizard and Rise Above Records & Relics.

First up was the Crypt in Hackney. A 10 minute walk from the tube station we made it to this legendary little shop now in its second incarnation since opening. We were greeted by Sophie Wizard who was the best and we talked "shop" for a while whilst browsing the racks. If the super underground is your bag then COTW is the place for you. We came away with a couple of albums we were aware of and two blind purchases - something we always try and do from time to time - along with a long-sleeve and some other shop branded bits and bobs. Great little shop run by great people.



Next up to Highgate to visit Rise Above Records & Relics - the record store founded and set up by Rise Above main man, Lee Dorrian. This place was a true record collectors paradise with every genre covered from metal to soul to pop. Literally everything though was completely amazing! We were served by the man himself, and after a brief chat about a beautiful condition copy of High Tide's 'Sea Shanties' we had our arm nearly twisted by (look this up for some amazing proto-metal heaviness) we made off on our way with some doom, and old speed metal classic and a psych rock gem.

Both shops were beyond great and it was good to finally be able to visit - which we will again soon.



HAILS

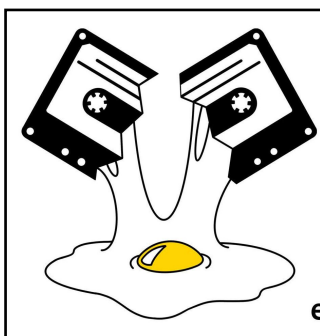
Hails metalhead!

Issue 6 is finally here! This should have been realised sooner but events since September 2022 to now have held us back in many regards. From our break-in to a string of losses it's been a tough time for the Black City. But in every way, each and every one of us in this great big metal family have come together and got all of us through it. I don't know how many times I can write the same words, but we are truly the best! A global family like no other and we love you all.

We're hoping 2023 shines a bit more good light all of our way. One thing is for sure - we have some amazing things planned and some massive albums due to drop. So we keep our heads held high, our horns aloft and our family in our line of sight at all times.

Stay metal!

BLACK CITY



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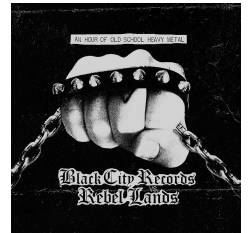
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Cover Image: Jake 'Mettle' Eittle-Iles playing live with Cybervoid 2022

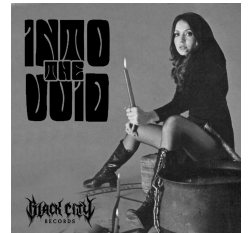
YOU'RE LISTENING TO...

...Noooooods Radio! If you've never heard the intro then why not? As mentioned in the last issue of RH, we were offered a regular spot on Bristol's largest independent radio station - Noods Radio. Since then we now have three shows on the station that pretty much cover the whole metal spectrum.

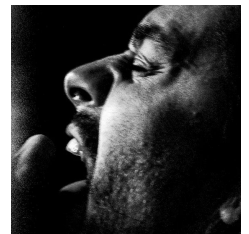
Our signature show, with our good friends at Rebel Lands Club Night, is broadcast the first Tuesday of every month at 8pm and covers new and old sounds that stay true to the original sounds of Heavy Metal. Trad, NWOBHM, speed, death, thrash and black - it's all here and all 100% real metal. No posers allowed!



Into The Void is where we delve into everything proto-metal. Diving into the late 60s and early 70s sounds that helped shape and define the sound of Heavy Metal. Acid Rock, Psychedelic Rock, Heavy Rock and Proto-Doom all get a piece of the action.



Finally for fans of all things super extreme there is Distortion Gospel which we host with our friends from Bristol's Chewing Glass Collective. All forms of extreme genres are covered here. Black Metal, Crust Punk, Hardcore, Death Metal, Grindcore, Noise... you name it. If it's brutal and disgusting Distortion Gospel covers it.



If you haven't checked any of the above out yet then fear not - all past episodes on our website for your listening pleasure at blackcityrecords.co.uk/radio

COLOUR IN BARNEY

Here he is having a little boogie on stage in his very own "unique" way. Can you draw Barney from Napalm Death?



SMELLY BASTARD

You wouldn't steal a can of Lynx would you? When we got broken into on the night of 7 September 2022 that's what happened folks!

After being alerted to someone being on the shop via our CCTV system, we quickly alerted our friends at The Gryphon. Sadly, before they could make it to the shop the brainbox who broke in was gone - making off with the takings from our till, two charity collection tins (classy guy eh?) and, the now forever legendary, can of Lynx. Rather than steal our computer and iPad he decided the genius idea would be to just smash them to pieces. That can of Lynx though? Nabbing that bad boy!



Now, Smelly Bastard was not exactly the master criminal here. The CCTV footage shows him coming into the shop with gloves on. He then... takes them off before pawing everything in sight and then stands around looking gormless into the cameras without any face covering. Subsequently (shock! Horror!) he was caught in a matter of days, after doing the same to a few other businesses - amongst a string of other offences.

At the time of writing he is still on remand with a hearing now set for March, meaning he will have been in custody for 6 months before he's even been sentenced. Sadly until this happens we can't reveal who he is. But rest assured we intend to fully make fun of and ridicule him publicly as soon as we are allowed.

We were back up and running within a matter of days thanks to everyone on the scene. Our thanks will be with you all forever! You can't kill the metal. The metal will never die!

ALBUM SINCE THE LAST ISSUE

OBITUARY - DYING OF EVERYTHING

What is there to say about the new platter from the Floridian Death Metal legends that are Obituary?



When teaser single 'The Wrong Time' dropped last year, at first listen to that incredibly catchy riff which permeates the whole song we were hooked straight away and knew this was going to be a belter.

The band's 11th studio album, released on Relapse Records, is just an enjoyable listen from start to finish and is just all about THE RIFF the whole way through. Sure it's not going to break any ground or make you go eyes wide open in amazement in a Blood Incantation kind of way. But what the band have made is just a solid banger of an album with just chubby groove after chubby groove. Death Metal to put a smile on you face almost.

And to be perfectly honest... it's just fucking OBITUARY! Plus, we can't help but love Donald Tardy's work with stray cats in his spare time. That gets bonus points from us straightaway.

Cover artwork was supplied by the incredibly talented and sadly no longer with us Mariusz Lewandowski, and seriously needs to be appreciated in the 12" format.

The old gods have returned and they're not ready to stop yet!



Body Harvest

NEW YEAR'S 'EAVY

Normally we fucking hate New Year's Eve. Most years we don't even leave the house. Crushed bars, the end of the Christmas holiday break and getting another year older somehow never appealed to us as a celebratory kinda thang.

This year however, we were asked by our good friends at Rebel Lands club night (Bristol's only real metal club night), whom we also host our regular monthly show on Noods Radio with,



to join them for a live DJ set at the one and only Gryphon. Of course, we could not say no. The opportunity to spin old school metal all night was too strong a temptation to turn down.

From 9pm to 2am the sounds of the NWOBHM, classic thrash, death and black metal wafted and waded us from one year to the next. We were joined by some good friends who kept us company throughout the night and an all round good time was had by all. Maybe we might just be tempted out again next year. We'll see...



LEGENDS NEVER DIE

On 19th December 2022 the Bristol metal scene was shocked and saddened to hear of the passing of one of our own. The man behind Body Harvest (probably the best Death Metal band to come out of Bristol) and the up and coming outfit Cybervoid - Jake Etlle-Iles, known amongst friends and fans as Mettle.

We first discovered Body Harvest when we saw them play at Bristol Deathfest in 2016, before we had moved to the city and immediately fell in love with their immense technical ability and sheer brutality. Once we moved to Bristol in 2017 we caught them again at the launch of their 'Parasitic Slavery' album. It felt as newcomers to the city that Body Harvest were as integral to the Bristol metal scene as the likes of Jaguar and Onslaught who had gone before them.

When we opened the Black City in 2021 bands soon became customers who soon became friends and we were truly honoured that Jake was one of those. If there is one thing we will always remember about him it was that he literally never, ever, EVER stopped smiling. He had an infectious enthusiasm and buzz and lust for life that was apparent every time you saw him. He was a major talent, an incredible songwriter and performer but so much more than all of that - he was the nicest guy you could meet and someone we are proud and lucky to have had in our lives.

His picture is up in the shop and will remain there, and whenever we're felling a little low or down, just a glance at his face always makes us smile. You are dearly missed Mettle and you will never be forgotten. You'll always be with us. Rest in power... friend!

