

EXTRAORDINARY

In the last few years the cyberpunk genre has become a phenomenon capable of great influence across all media, in music we have Synthwave and its sub-genres, in movies elaborate machines and man-AI interactions are far more common than they used to be; of course gaming didn't stay put, there's this little-big title, Synthetik: Legion Rising, that in the recent weeks seems to have charmed a lot of people, for good reasons too!

Developed by Flow Fire Games (a couple of guys from Berlin), this title was released as an Early Access on March 16th of 2018 on Steam, it's a rogue-lite cyberpunk, isometric shooter; the premise is pretty simple, in future a megacorporation will build an armaggeddon device to eradicate human life, we have to stop it from happening. We start by waking up inside the mentioned corporation and our objective is to fight our way through industrial structures while legions of robots and heavy vehicles try to stop us in every way possible. One of the things that impressed me was the colors chosen to decorate the environments: usually in a cyberpunk context we are used to grey or purple shades while here in Synthetik we find all kind of colors but without the feeling that they are misplaced, they actually give us the idea of where we are; let me explain, usually in big industrial buildings to facilitate the understanding of the purpose of a specific area different colors and patterns are used to avoid confusion, here we find the same logic to describe the room we are in without too many signs or pop-ups. While we move on, deeper in the structure, colors also warn us about the level of danger situated there, going from a lighter color palette for easier areas to a darker or far more vivid one for dangerous zones.

Another aspect that I found interesting was the sound in general, the gunshots and explosions are very accurate for a gameplay purposes, telling us when our weapon is going to empty its magazine or is overheating; but also the Synthwave soundtrack stands out for its simplicity, it keeps up the pace of action but without being too much or taking the spotlight from it, they avoided the action movie feeling to keep the player focused and at the same time intrigued with what is happening on screen.

From a gameplay point of view everything is pretty much as expected from an isometric shooter, but there are a couple of curious mechanics; we can play one of many different classes, from a direct and insane approach to a more stealthy or planned one; reloading in this game is no joke, not the usual 'press the button and let it manage itself' situation, but its an active reload by all means, we have to eject the magazine and insert the new one with the right timing all by ourselves. It may sound complicated, but it becomes second nature in no time. The enemies' AI is outstanding for a title like this where normally enemies swarms towards you; they plan, prepare tactics and fight accordingly to exploit everything they have to kill you, and they are damn good at it. Each run is randomized, the only constant here are the loadouts that we can prepare or research for the machine-hell we are about to face. All of this can be played with a friend or a random player thanks to the cooperative multiplayer.

This is surely a gem that stayed in the shadows for too long, I'm glad that it is finally getting the recognition it deserves, it sure is one of the best titles to start this 2020 with.



Dark Demon



Dona Ferentes is a name which is more easily linked to an attitude towards music than an actual genre. With its instruments DF explored the vast valleys of ambient, harsh noise, drone, minimal and abstract guitar. The amount of house concerts, sonic mountain hikes, alpine tours that this project has organized or been part of and played in describes its sonic variety and made him part of the core of the Italian noise scene. In the last years Michele Mazzani, the entity behind the musician, shared stages, treks, releases and ideas with COdA, finally he agreed to share with the public his long journey through the peaks of noise, you'll find it pure and explicit so beware...

"...Dona Ferentes started in 2006 as a solo project, I did my first musical attempts at the end of 2005, and I'm completely self-taught... Never attended to some boring guitar lessons, never did "Albachiara" with friends sitting on the grass; I sang in a hardcore band for almost a year when I was a teen, but nothing more...I've grown very disillusioned in the late '90s with the punk-metal-hc scene, at least here in Italy. I was anyway lucky enough to attend lots of different sound cultures after the 2Ks: I was very deep into Doom (Paul Chain, Sleep, Neurosis), Grindcore (Cripple Bastards, Warsore), and then I discovered Merzbow, Masonna, Atrax Morgue and the whole industrial-noise underground, but I had good times also listening to Tangerine Dream, free jazz stuff (Sun Ra, Art Ensemble), Post-Rock (Godspeed you! BE, Swans) and the old psychedelic stuff like The Incredible String Band... I once was very deep into the rampant DRONE WEIRD thing which had good potential in the middle-2K: projects like Wolf Eyes, Prurient, The Skaters were always spinning into my stereo at the time... I found a guitar in the fields and mixed its feedbacks with crude and lo-fi tape sounds; since then I've evolved more into improvised music using synth sounds, effects, and different sound sources, never a computer or digitalized solutions... I've put out a limited number of releases, most of them on my label Lonktaar. Throughout the years I've started some other projects with some friends / colleagues to explore music (Gelba, Melting Mind, Videobasic, Eclipse Cremisi, to name a few...), but DF is my oldest one! I'm still happy with it, and after 13+ years a film maker friend of mine, Daniele Pezzi, decided to stick the tons of video recordings and weird concerts of DF he attended, and the result was "Beware the Dona Ferentes" an underground film which, anyway, is not available online, but ultimately definitive on the argument!"

Between 2015 & 2017 you performed a series of intimate concerts in huts in the Apennines forests. One of COdA's main interests is the blending of other kinds of music with the mountainous context... What pathway lead you to this approach towards music fruition?

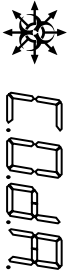
"I've always been an enthusiast mountain hiker, since my childhood I spent summer holidays in Trentino-Sudtirolo, little villages like Soraga, Carano, or Caviola, to name a few...they were some sort of second heimat for me. I was taught orientation, to recognize mushrooms and vegetables! My experience as a teen in the '90 was kinda different... I completely forgot about those things; I was obviously more interested into discos, women, metal , drugs/alcohol, and skateboarding. A very dark period, now I feel like someone else has lived in my body for the most time in the '90s... Once I turned 24 I was invited by friends to spend two weeks at Lake Levico, in Trentino, and the last two days we decided to sleep in a remote hut in the forest, after a 3 hours trip through beautiful and evergreen slopes...It was sort of flash backing into my childhood, a catharsis which I decided to renew every year after that summer... It came kinda natural to start to record and do things in those incredible places: play acoustic instruments, tape recorders and radios, taking field recs which were then reprocessed and played...I did some CDs at the time under the name "Campfire sessions", I sometimes still do it with new recordings. After about ten years, in 2014, I started taking it to another level: the idea was to play in the huts themselves with a selected public, also just a few friends (which support the true spirit...); unfortunately I had no possibility to play in the Alps, because I live far from them, but really close to the Apennines, so I found out some spots (Pian De Rocchi, Rifugio Fontanelle, Camaldoli, and some more...) where I organized gigs for occasional musicians like Rinus Van Alebeek, Trashsound, and some of my projects. I remember also a very evocative night with you and our good friend, Nicola while playing a 2 tape recs set at Rifugio Tigliè / Lama Forest!! Great!! The project went into a long hiatus, but after almost 3 years at last on this 2020, it will happen again, in a place called Campigno, near Maradi. I'm very thrilled about the idea and I suggest to contact me to know more about this!!"

In 2018 on your label Lonktaar, Depressive Music and Necrotic Tones, usually devoted to tapes, you put out "Katasterismòs": a delicate and hypnotic piece between minimalism and pure loop of the most intriguing wild kind. The format in this case was a 3"CD, what drove you towards this support? and what makes tapes still the best coffer for Dona Ferentes' sounds?

"Minimalism and pure loop!!! that's the key! And definitely the ultimate goal I wanted to achieve with this project. I used 3" because they are almost obsolete as a sound format: the story repeating itself, with tapes being trashed and snobbed in the late '90 with the coming of CDs... I think my previous material had more in common with standardized noise music and drone stuff, now DF is mature for selected solo (piano VS tapes) concerts for people who are grown disillusioned with post-millennium relativism, political activism, and consumerism/materialism...my answer is total randomness, Alpine suggestions and postcards from the Outer Space and Time!! Tapes are definitely the best format, first of all because they are cheap and then because the sound is unpredictable...I don't give a shit about "production" or letting my listener comfortable with my sound.. now, most of you may think: "Fuck you instead! why on Earth should I listen to some rumbling, dizzy and crappy nonsense? Grow up and learn how to mix music, and do decent sound with Ableton and shit.!!!" My obvious response is: "HEY NOISE IS NONSENSE!! FUCK OFF AND RETURN TO LISTEN TO ZOOROPA!!!" I'm not supposed to be the next Warp Records big seller, I'm not here to lure anybody into "coool vibes" and I don't want to return home thinking: "Good!! People love me and I feel like a hipster!... And here are my 500 bucks!!" If you are spotted into this point of view, you shouldn't have this fanzine in your hands, instead you should be at home listening to Bob Marley or to some Metallica black album bullshit.

Anyway, I must say I enjoy listening to Robert Lippok, but my attitude is different: with music I don't want to learn "how to play", it's just the expression of my inner self channeled in sound. I feel like everything that's taught and repeated, like at school, it's a bit artifact, at least in this context... The best way to understand my approach is seeing me at the piano - which I don't know how to play, I even don't distinguish a C note from an E note. I feel myself into the sound, that's enough for me, playing piano and tape recorders in some absurd and unexpected ways."

COdA just released "Ungarno Della Montagna A Forma di Stella", a 3" CD with two tales by Dona Ferentes of forgotten tape loops and enchanted synth music, check www.codafanzine.net or bandcamp for more info. You can contact DF at lonktaar.blogspot.com **INKJET**



ISOLATION

it came from bats or a seafood market in wuhan china a city of 11 million divided by the yangtze a state capital a crossroads known for its lakes plum blossom and wild meat markets it wasn't chickens this time or pigeons or pigs but bats or pangolins the scales of which are thought to enhance kidney function cure asthma improve lactation and blood flow the virus doesn't bother the pangolin or bat or fish but it makes humans cough and infects their lungs making it hard to breathe but no mucous it is considered a dry infection this was later revised fever at first no then yes then no then yes but only in the elderly and very young later revised deadly not deadly not as bad as the flu a death rate of 8% then 6% then 4% then 2% seasonal flu has a death rate of 0.1% the genetic sequence of the virus is determined and disseminated world wide germany manufactures and exports 10,000 virus test kits a day they throw a net around wuhan and build a 7,000 bed hospital in a week but by then 17 people are dead and over 570 infected people die in the streets alone in their apartments the first person to be infected is a 55 no 61 year old man he was diagnosed with an unknown virus november 17 2019 but then again maybe not he dies january 11 or 12 he was a regular customer of the seafood market the doctor who discovered the virus and raised the alarm says he was told by officials not to tell anyone then he disappears then he reappears then he is dead then he is alive again then he is dead the virus is called a foreign virus the wuhan virus a chinese virus it is rumoured that the u.s. army brought the virus to wuhan people in japan south korea and thailand are found to be infected with the foreign chinese wuhan u.s. army virus the u.s. suspends entry to all foreign nationals who have traveled to china in the past 14 days the president of the united states says it's going to disappear one day — it's like a miracle — it will disappear as of this utterance over 9800 are



infected and 213 dead in the philippines a 44 year old man dies of the virus total deaths world wide 360 february 5 218 passengers on the diamond princess cruise ship test positive for the virus total deaths world wide 908 February 14 an 80 year old chinese man infected with the virus dies in france chinese officials draft legislation that aims to end the pernicious habit of eating wildlife february 19 2 am gmt the bbc announces the total infected to be 2666 which is the name of roberto bolano's last novel in which he details the murder of 150 women and girls in a fictional town thought to be juarez mexico none of the cases are solved taiwan has been producing respirator masks 24/7 since early january their export is banned taiwan introduces a mask rationing system allowing anyone with a national healthcare card to buy two adult masks per week later this is revised up to 3 a week iran announces 2 cases of infection italy announces 5 cases then 150 february 24 iran has 61 new infections and 12 deaths a 61 year old man in brazil tests positive march 2 the u.s. surgeon general asks the public to stop buying masks he says they don't work and they are needed by healthcare professionals masks toilet paper hand sanitizer canned food batteries are hoarded 2 women are rendered fighting over toilet paper the clip goes viral a man in the u.s. stockpiles 17 thousand bottles of hand sanitizer is investigated for price gouging he donates the bottle of sanitizer to several charities march 17 korea has tested over 150,000 people america has tested 972 u.s. stock markets report worst loss since 1987 everyday 10 women are killed in mexico and 130 children in yemen die of starvation as of march 19 over 220,000 people have been infected and 8,800 are dead it is estimated that everybody who contracts the virus spreads it to 2.5 more people

ben speth
sans-culotte

FREE FANZINE

CODA

PLAGUE MAR 2020

ØRESUNDERS ÅR (NO) GO! FORMAT + KATT HERNANDEZ + SPS
Why not bring three musicians and a comic maker on tour in Scandinavia for three gigs in march 2020? well yes but... a noisecore duo, Format, together with a violinist player, Katt Hernandez, and an exhibition on Swedish discomfort by sps is a tough combination for the open minds of north Europe, replies were rare. Some daring labels, like Maternal Voice in Stockholm and Nofigore in Copenhagen, accepted the treat; in Malmö anarchists were the only ones who were vaguely interested. We GO! The day we are to play in Stockholm the local government launches coronavirus alert, the city is semi-desert, the venue a guitar shop, Twang, where low volumes are mandatory, noise rock n roll at low volumes... Katt and sps have no problems, and a merged set at the end brings out something to remember. On the train to Malmö we get two bits of news: 1. Øresund bridge to Copenhagen is closed for a giant storm called Laura 2. Denmark is quarantined for coronavirus. Mayhem, our venue, closes. We arrive in Malmö while Laura is blowing like Heather Brook, anarchists host us at NGBG 26. Katt has allergic reaction to famous Malmö felafe!... and cannot play. Two improv sets by Systemet and another by Ben Speth compensates somewhat for Katt's absence, sps's art helps. When Format gets on stage they rage as never before, a guy starts smashing a shovel on the floor in sign of appreciation, dances start. Party continues during the night in Neu Drone's music bunker, we get psyched, drunk, sleep in the rehearsal room of Lautstürmer and Korsfäst, walk the city. Eventually we make it home. Borders finally close the same day. Rock n Roll!!!



CODA SUPPORTS

DYRKA DÖDEN RECORDS
the first album
Frozen Entrapment
by Swedish drunken
psychedelic death
doom metalpunks
Sepulchral Frost
is out now, order at
dyrkadoden@gmail
.com or listen online

SPUTO RECORDS
the complete live set
of the nekroambient
summoners Systemet
is now online on
Sputo Records Netlabel

droned in Saint Mary's
tower's cemetery in
London, kept minimal
and nekrotic.

Happy music for
nekropeople

sputorecords@gmail
.com

Yasuyuki Uesugi

Hokkaido is the
northernmost island
of the japanese
archipelago

harsh noise
harsh noise
harsh noise that
plays itself

id:cod@codafanzine.com

