

DESIDERARE: EMERSIONE

Attingono al cielo basso alberi senza foglie, doglie di nuvole contorte estendono all'inverno la propria coltre.

La nebbia, impari velo, disgela un segreto anelare, un vecchio mistero assilla l'aspettativa del vento invernale:

diramare, nera, dal nero della terra, in un crepuscolo madido d'attesa violacea penombra in cui riponevo amori sconfinati e oramai inconclusi.

Giovanna Demarchi

1746

fills the glass mouth pink moist and soft a bottomless pit laff with your friends scream at your shoes another hanke day done another week gone

things and weekends
divide
experience into manageable
units
where
are
the mysteries who
knows relax
theres nowhere now
thats

not somebodys factory floor office road map kitchen table bed room pink hole moist

and soft

welcome
to this as that
this as
something else
this

as something about you but not for you

friday nervous take Guotoperar a picture drop your pants raise your skirt climb a tree dig a hole place a bet hope for the great Wagon fingertonguefistcock annihilation hum along to heaven and or the nearest retail afterparty outlet up load and enter another operating system labour market workchurch singalong

market workchurch singalol with exceptional minds and big hands

clapping
cheering
another world of vast
data sets
eating
breathing
dancing to
a new behavioural
reinvestment

cycle promising low budget mysticism growth by exclusion and no

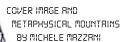
logic but hurt

b speth



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Some bands are able to express from the very first notes of their albums or concerts the imminent happening of something beastly, magical and prohibited... a profane call to the fanatics! Black Sabbath and Electric Wizard would be among the first to come to mind in the UK, yet there is another ensemble that knows well how to behave in the middle of the pentacle: Rites Of Hadda. With unique shows live between performances and deranged pits in pubs,

and a style that while distancing itself from definition dives into pagan punk and psychedelic goth, Rites of Hadda are among the best London has to offer to the sound devotees and free minds of the underground.

drag

Doom riffs, anarcho-punk beats, hallucinatory attitude... you call this Witchpunk! What spiral of madness do you immerse yourself in to find your sound? And is there any particular process you actuate to develop your music?

Wasp - I'm just an opinionated pagan with a lot to say and a penchant for oversharing awful experiences.

Matthias - Jamming out ideas with friends creates a strange alchemy when it all comes together. Sometimes, maybe even most of the time, it doesn't work. But when it does, you know straight away. We all come from different backgrounds musically but we embrace those differences. Moods play into it too - when you thrash out an angry punk beat together, it can be as cathartic as playing a meditative riff or a deep and doomy number.

Alex - Our earliest days set the tone for what became the ritual. At the time there wasn't an established set of musicians in the same way as today. It was more about the feeling; jamming and finding what worked and didn't, personally as well as collectively.

Nowadays, a song will start with just an initial riff or a basic song idea ... or something will just appear out of nowhere! The beauty of everyone contributing their own elements to the music without any barriers is that their own personalities create something unique, often with an interesting and unexpected outcome.

> We like to play with contrasts light and shade - that guide us on a journey. When others experience the music, they will hopefully share in the emotional trip.

London, city of churches, is among the esoteric capitals of the world: having hosted cryptic architects like Nicholas Hawksmoor, master mages such as Austin Osman Spare and Alistair Crowley, all the way to musical occult experimentations like Nocturnal Emissions and Thee Temple ov Psychick Youth, among many many others... Could you describe how you reacted to such a stimulating environment and what is the esoteric content of the Rites of Hadda?

London is a huge part of the fabric of the band, yet her influence can seem almost invisible. London has a supremely spiritual energy. Her cacophony of utterly disparate voices, echoing through many centuries and cultures, creates energies that provide an inspirational canvas: A map, redrawn and amended so many times as to be almost indecipherable, yet full of clues and portents that inspire starting points and directions of travel. London is scary, dwarfing, encompassing and dominant, she's protective, comfortable, submissive and inspiring. London is a goddess. London is a muse.

Rites of Hadda is imbued with references to superstitions, occult practices and pagan spirituality. The name is a nod to the personal myth of one's life and its rites of passages. "Hadda" is a Hindi word for a particular type of wasp and Wasp is our front person's name, which was channelled through practising queer paganism over years. The lyrics stem from personal experience and opinions.

Your live shows are a colourful drunken dive into a punk infused drag show, a mix between Poison Girls, Hawkwind and The Birthday Party. What inspired you to link esotericism, drag culture and punk and what are the environments you feel your music is more appreciated in? Is the occult scene still thriving in the UK?

Punk is a rejection of conventional life. A way of being, of looking at things differently and of challenging the conventions foisted on to us. Drag is punk as fuck, perhaps it's even a precursor to punk. And drag is a pretty magickal pursuit if you think about it, a ritualistic way to access a deep well in yourself that connects you to the infinite. It's about shapeshifting and stepping between worlds, becoming a person who can't exist every day. Often, it's about becoming someone who you aren't as well. Esoteric wisdom exists in those shadows and those glimpses of alternative realities. Punk and queerness are natural bedfellows for challenging capitalism and the heteronormativity that controls us all, including our spiritual lives and/or the rejection thereof.

We mostly perform this essentially anarcho-queer-pagan ritual to straight, godless audiences - and they seem to like it! Perhaps being taken into another world and seeing

how everything exists from other angles is enticing ...? The occult and pagan communities are booming in the UK and recently a raft of young queer bands have started emerging in London. It's heartwarming and affirming to be a part of that growing scene. So far, we've only played at a few explicitly queer events like Queer Spirit Festival, but we'd love to play to queerer audiences and those more directly associated with the occult. At the same time, the combination of personal stories with "traditional" punk themes like materialism speaks to more mainstream communities too, and hopefully this will pull us all together rather than showing up our differences.

www.ritesofhadda.bandcamp.com

