



CURSE OF LONO

GOTHIC ROCK QUINTET BRING THEIR CINEMATIC TOUCH TO THE BLUES.

TOGETHER since 2015, London's Curse Of Lono are a gothic-blues quintet about to release debut album 'Severed'. Formed by frontman Felix Bechtolsheimer, previously of Hey Negrita, they are a group of experienced musicians committed to a bluesy, melancholic sound. Felix has already toured extensively and released four albums with his previous band, but decided to take a new direction with his music in Curse Of Lono. Felix's troubled history lends itself to the band's song writing in heavily affecting tracks like 'Severed' as he explained: "'Severed' was written over a fourteen year period. Some of the oldest songs were written in a detox ward in South Florida when I was kicking heroin and methadone. Some of the newer tracks are brand spanking new additions. There are a lot of references to a darker past but there are also rays of hope."

The band's sound is flooded by a blend of incredible influences as Felix told us; "Between us we have a vast range of influences but the ones that people keep picking out are The Doors, The Velvet Underground and Wilco." You can

certainly hear a Morrison vibe in his low, growling vocal but the band also go into a neo-Krautrock sound and include blissful harmonies. It's

clear they have absorbed their fair share of blues, gospel and jazz aside.

Though a new band, they have already released four music videos/singles with the latest called 'Pick Up The Pieces'. "The song's story is a snapshot of a relationship at the stage when too much damage has been done to keep the boat afloat but neither party is ready to say it out

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loud," Felix explained: "We wanted to make a simple performance video with a little nod to 90's bands like Nirvana, Faith No More and Pearl Jam. We showed Shane (director and friend) some examples of stuff we liked and he suggested that we film the whole thing on 16mm film."

Curse Of Lono's sound has often been described as 'southern gothic' and 'Indie Americana' which definitely comes across in the music and the new video. We asked Felix how the band arrived at their sound.

"The songs are mostly written on an acoustic guitar. A lot of them are very dark and rootsy when

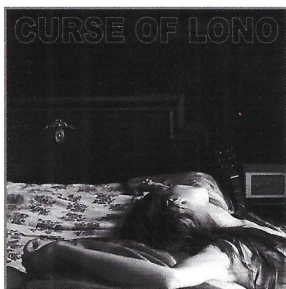
they come out and then it's our job to break them down and rock them up. The producer, Oli Bayston (AKA Boxed In) had a big influence on the sound of the record as well. Oli comes from more of a Krautrock and Radiohead background so it was really exciting to try to come up with a fresh and unpredictable sound."

We wanted to know how it felt to be in a new band after years with Hey Negrita.

"Me and the drummer Neil Findlay played in Hey Negrita together. We released four records, toured all over the world and played more festivals than we dare to remember. The others (guitarist Joe Hazell, bassist Charis Anderson and harmonium and keyboard player Dani Ruiz Hernandez), all answered ads on various music sites. We've all been together for less than two years but we've already been through some serious highs and lows that have really brought us closer. We chat every day and stick together."

This year the band will be playing festivals including Great Escape and are already working on the next album.

"We'll also be heading out on our first headline tour in September. As far as new material goes, the next album is coming together nicely so we're looking forward to road-testing a few new songs in the summer." 🍄



SOUNDS LIKE: WILCO, THE VELVET UNDERGROUND, THE DOORS
OUT NOW: 'SEVERED' (SUBMARINE CAT)