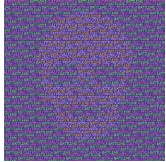


Battleme - Cult Psychotica (2017)

Written by bluesever

Wednesday, 15 May 2019 14:57 -

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1 *No Truth* 2 *Wanna Go Home* 3 *Hot Mess* 4 *Suzie Fuse* 5 *Testament* 6 *Bitch Blues* 7 *Close* 8 *Keep Me With You* 9 *Misfit Honey Bear* 10 *Lowlife* Randal Blaschke - Bass, Guitar, Vocals Matt Drenik - Bass, Guitar, Keyboards, Producer, Vocals James Eliot Jones - Bass, Guitar, Vocals Scott Noben - Drums, Percussion, Vocals

Battleme is the stage name and band of Lions singer Matt Drenik, an American musician. It was started as a creative outlet to other projects Drenik was involved in during 2009. Since its formation, Battleme has been critically acclaimed by Rolling Stone, Billboard, Esquire Magazine, Classic Rock Magazine, Magnet and more. They've toured and shared the stages with Metric, The Arctic Monkeys, The Toadies, The Supersuckers, Veruca Salt, Reign Wolf + more. Featured heavily in the US television series, Sons of Anarchy, the band reached the iTunes top 20 for several weeks with their cover of Neil Young's "Hey Hey, My My", which now has over 30 million YouTube hits. Their most recent record, "Cult Psychotica", was released in the US on Oct 6, 2017 with All Music giving it an 8 out of 10 stars, with reviewer Matt Collar.

Cult Psychotica's ten songs are an homage to a fluid and sometimes morbid dream that centers around Drenik's vision of an urban American landscape run by shams and hustles. It's a reaction to the Trumponian theatre, a timely reflection on our own busted reality. ---battleme.org

Battleme gained early attention for the lo-fi psych-folk of their eponymous 2012 debut after several tracks showed up on the motorcycle gang drama Sons of Anarchy. Since then, lead singer/songwriter Matt Drenik has pushed the band in an even more road-hardened direction

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with a fiery garage and punk rock-steeped aesthetic. It's a sound they once again champion on their swaggering fourth studio album, 2017's *Cult Psychotica*. Imagine if Jane's Addiction's Perry Farrell jammed out with Black Rebel Motorcycle Club and you'll get a good sense of the sound Battleme achieve here. Purportedly recorded during one frenzied weeklong session at the band's Portland studio, the album is a red-eyed collection of fuzzy rock anthems, all centered on Drenik's throaty, nasal-pitched sneer. What he lacks in outright vocal resonance, he makes up for with strutting rock attitude and literate, philosophical lyrics that are equal parts Lou Reed and Elliott Smith. On the opening "No Truth," he sings "What's you gonna do when your gods are through, man?/What's you gonna say when your love is through, man?" It's that kind of shoot-from-the-hip, punk-meets-beatnik sensibility that informs much of what is to come on *Cult Psychotica*. Cuts like the driving "Suzie Fuse" and "Testament" are bass-heavy and deliciously boneheaded groovers that sound sort of like a more streamlined version of '90s-era Jon Spencer Blues Explosion. Elsewhere, the propulsive "Wanna Go Home" and "Hot Mess," with its dancy, four-on-the-floor rhythm and angular shards of guitar, lean heavily toward the '80s post-punk of bands like the Buzzcocks and Wire. If Battleme started out writing songs to listen to after driving your Harley out into the desert, then *Cult Psychotica* is the sound of revving your engine just before you speed off down the highway, shouting at the sun. ---Matt Collar, AllMusic Review

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