

= Earthsuit =

Earthsuit was a New Orleans @-@ based Christian rock band formed in 1995 . The band consisted of guitarist Dave Rumsey , keyboardist / vocalist Paul Meany , bassist Roy Mitchell , drummer David " Hutch " Hutchison , and vocalist Adam LaClave . Earthsuit 's sound was primarily rock , but also possessed strong hip @-@ hop , electronica , reggae , soul , and experimental elements .

The group recorded several independent EPs and played primarily in their New Orleans area before becoming noticed by Sparrow Records at a concert in 1999 . The ensuing record deal saw the band 's only commercial release , a critically acclaimed album entitled Kaleidoscope Superior , in 2000 . Shortly after , the band left Sparrow and drifted out of the public eye . A final album , entitled The Rise of Modern Simulation was independently released before the group disbanded in 2003 . Many of the band members continue to play together and collaborate in various bands , namely Mutemath and Club of the Sons .

= = Biography = =

Earthsuit began in 1995 as a collaboration between Adam LaClave and Paul Meany , who began composing music together after being introduced at a church in New Orleans . In an interview with Family Christian Stores , Meany explained that a sermon was the inspiration for the band 's name : " ... This man was preaching about how humans are really spirit beings encased in fleshly bodies . The term " earth suit " came up . At the time we liked it , and we took it . " The two regularly performed at Café Joel , a small coffeehouse their church had started where Meany was music director . These performances helped cultivate their unique sound and introduced them to future band member David Rumsey .

In 1997 they released a self @-@ titled EP , which is sometimes called the Headless Clown EP due to its album cover . The record featured an early version of " One Time " (of which they later made a music video) as well as portions of live performances where Earthsuit covered Roberta Flack 's " Killing Me Softly " , albeit with re @-@ written lyrics . Rumsey helped produce the EP and played guitar ; however , the official band lineup only comprised LaClave and Meany . Shortly after , Rumsey officially joined along with bassist Roy Mitchell , another Café Joel regular . The band played and ministered in their hometown and did not tour much . In 1998 , the band recorded and released a second EP , entitled Noise for Your Eyes . The EP included a remix of " One Time " and early song demos , which were interspersed with short clips of live performances . Drummer David Hutchison joined the band after they met him through a friend . In 1999 , Earthsuit performed two sets at the Cornerstone Festival , one in a label showcase and the other opening for P.O.D. on the main stage . This garnered the attention of several major Christian labels , and the band subsequently signed to Sparrow Records .

The band began working with Prince producer David Leonard on their debut record , which excited Meany : " [Sparrow] loved what we were doing musically , and they wanted to find the producer who would capitalize on that . " Kaleidoscope Superior was released on June 20 , 2000 and elicited positive reviews from critics . It also received a Dove Award nomination and experienced some success on Christian radio stations . Christian rock peers Rebecca St. James and dc Talk members , Kevin Max and Michael Tait , expressed excitement over the record . The same year , Earthsuit embarked on a tour called Festival Con Dios with other Christian bands , such as the Elms , PAX 217 , and Switchfoot . The following year saw the band embark on their " Do You Feel The Distortion " tour with Ill Harmonics and The Benjamin Gate .

Despite critical reception , Kaleidoscope Superior would remain the band 's only commercial release ; they were soon dropped from Sparrow 's lineup due to " creative differences and marketing conundrums " . Earthsuit disappeared from the public eye and began posting on a website about a new independent album . In September 2001 , Hutchison left the band so he could spend more time with his family . Rumors began circling that the band would break up . In 2003 , Earthsuit revealed they were disbanding and released their last record , The Rise of Modern Simulation . The final collection featured six original studio songs and ten bonus tracks , including a live remix of " Against

the Grain " , practice sessions of concert material , and covers of various songs . The album could only be purchased on the internet . Meany would later state " most people didn 't care when [they] broke up " .

Shortly after Earthsuit 's break up , Meany began working with drummer Darren King in a production team called " The Digitals " . The name later changed to " Math " while the group helped produce music for Christian music stalwart TobyMac . The band recruited guitarist Greg Hill and changed their name to Mutemath . To accommodate new recordings , Meany and producer Tedd T started an independent label named Teleprompt Records . Their first release was an EP titled Reset in September 2004 . Earthsuit alumnus Roy Mitchell joined the venture in 2005 . Teleprompt later signed a distribution deal directly with Warner Bros. Records , allowing Mutemath to release a full @-@ length self @-@ titled album on September 26 , 2006 .

Adam LaClave formed two bands , Macrosick and Club of the Sons . Macrosick has released only an independent CD titled demodisk ; the Hurricane Katrina disaster of 2005 forced the band members to go on hiatus . LaClave then turned his attention towards Club of the Sons with friend and bassist Jonathan Allen . They released an EP called The Roughs in spring 2007 and an album entitled Young Quanta on July 7 , 2009 .

= = Musical style and influences = =

Earthsuit music was primarily rock , but also possessed strong hip @-@ hop , electronica , reggae , soul , and experimental elements . Their sound had sometimes been compared to The Police , while Meany 's rapping had been likened to the Beastie Boys . Adam LaClave stated the differing musical tastes of the band helped cultivate their sound : " Each one of us is really into a lot of different things ... it helps make our sound because you can hear all kinds of things " . Live performances were characterized by sunglasses , futuristic costumes , and energetic showmanship . Many bands have influenced Earthsuit 's style ; the group has performed covers of songs by Basement Jaxx , Black Sheep , Kraftwerk , and The Talking Heads . They have also utilized samples by DJ Shadow and The Verve .

Adam LaClave and Paul Meany were the primary songwriters for Earthsuit . As Christians , the two wrote lyrics that often communicated a Christian message . For example , the song " Said the Sun " is an allegory about God telling Christians to be carriers of light . " Whitehorse " was written to present a different view of the return of Jesus , as LaClave stated in an interview , " Most people , when they hear the term " white horse , " think of the analogy of Jesus coming back ... [We] wanted to bring a different meaning to it , because ... He comes to rescue us in our everyday life [too] . " The men 's lyrics also reflect experiences they have had . Meany once had a dream that inspired him to write " Gummy Buffalo " ; he found himself in a candy store and squeezed a gummy buffalo whereupon he heard the melody for the song . Christianity Today has proposed the lyrics in " Foreign " may have been inspired by their departure from Sparrow Records . The lyrics read " There 's no place in your world for me / I 've been from sea to shining sea / And I can 't retain your policies , excuse me / If I 'm just hanging around , I 'm foreign . "

= = Discography = =

Earthsuit (aka The Headless Clown EP) (independent , 1997)

Noise for Your Eyes (independent , 1998)

Kaleidoscope Superior (Sparrow Records , 2000)

The Rise of Modern Simulation (independent , 2003)