

DRUMS, GUNS, AND BROKEN SYNTHS

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A WINK TO OUR HIGH-SPEED FUTURE GIVES US A GLIMPSE OF WHERE MUSIC IS HEADED

At a recent concert at Wail, the eclectic, semi-underground venue that makes up, if not the beating heart, then perhaps the pulsing spleen of the Chicago, Illinois, scene: Venturewolf has a couple of good songs that are both well received by many in the music world, and a lot of good ones have gotten a little stale over the years. Mixed together though, and playing off new social anxieties, the mix becomes both heady and compelling.

RELIABLY PROVIDES AN EXPERIENCE THAT SWINGS WILDLY BETWEEN "ROLICKING GOOD TIME" AND "DEVASTATINGLY CONFUSING"

Sharp, piercing, and catchy, the mood is so much more relaxed, it's just like a free-wheeling, straight-forward and relaxing night out on a busy night. Some tracks are simple sketches: Trouble on a Plane, Stop Your Ride, Help Me, are all made up on the spot, with one song that draws raucous derision. The others reflect something of the electrifying ambiguity that comes with any performance at Wail: is the tension between two people in the crowd, the person that is playing the songs, and the person who has the most interest in the music going to erupt into a fight or simply revitalize the floor?

A second set from Rhode Island Desert based duo Ohm and Sport (who also take a long time to set up, and even longer to execute) is called Toughly a Month, and meanders through three distinct phases. The first phase, which is more of an instrumental point of view and less of a narrative, is densely impenetrable, but is heartily redeemed by the remainder of the set. The overall impression is that Toughly a Month is one of those projects that is about to make a big impact on the locals but at the same time also something that is far too nihilistic for any commercial viability. It will probably languish with a pile of B-Sides, which is a shame but also utterly predictable.

In the end, Wail continues to justify a certain kind of album that is almost always going to be successful among exactly the type of people who make these albums. And I think, after one long sweaty unkempt night, with the dawning clarity that accompanies the first rays of sun, that this is not only vital, but cause for celebration.

VERDICT

A BIG
3/5 STARS

