

English Press Book DIMI DERO INC
(Some articles)

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Dimi Dero Inc "Sisyphus" CD (OTH 7039)

How do French rockers Dimi Dero Inc come to be so well known to so many Australian musicians, and come to produce a tribute album to Rowland S Howard? And get the likes of Mick Harvey, The Drones, Penny Iking, Warren Ellis, Spencer P. Jones involved?

They've supported and played with/ for and in honour of so many Australian musicians, you'll feel like they should be old mates.

They've just signed to Oz label Off The Hip, who will release their new album "Sisyphus, Window Cleaning" to coincide with their Australian tour with The Drones and a host of others, in March 2007. And Dimi has been invited to join the Dirty Three hosted All Tomorrow's Parties Butlin's gig in the UK in April, performing in his other band, Youpi Youpi Yeah.

Dimi Dero Inc were born one drunken night in Paris, when a bunch of musos were pissing in each other's pockets, talking shit, and promising they should work together sometime. So they did. Dimi Dero Inc is now:

Dimi (vocals, guitar), Brenko (guitar), Vinz (bass) and Manga (drums).

Two albums later they took the interest of Philippe Marie (ex-manager of the Gun Club, Cramps, Saints from the legendary New Rose French label). Their new album features Ash Wednesday (Einstürzende Neubauten, Sacred Cowboys) on synthesizers.

SISYPHUS, WINDOW CLEANING – Dimi Dero Inc (Off the Hip)

Angst-ridden declaiming doesn't usually row my boat but these guys from France have sufficient rock and roll in their swagger 'n' snarl to pull it off – convincingly, I might add after seeing them live a couple of times. Melbourne-based blues-howlers The Drones have a high opinion of Dimi Dero Inc after sharing European stages and are hosting them as their support for an Australian tour.

If it's surprising to see Dimi Dero Inc on Aussie label Off the Hip (who usually dig deep into garage and powerpop) it's also more reason for your average I-94 Barfly to cock an ear. It's an indication there's something going on here and while their earlier albums ("Greetings From Trauma" and "Good Morning Mr Edvard") had their share of dark merit, this is a notch above both.

Dimi Dero – the man, as opposed to the band – is a multi-instrumentalist from Paris and the driving force on vocals and guitar. He's also a graduate of the Rowland S. Howard School of Dark and Foreboding Songs With Switchblade Guitar. While there's nothing as singular as RSH's uniquely crazed six-string carnage, it's still running on a heartful of black blood.

I'm lazy enough to like to have seen a lyric sheet with this CD but it might have spoiled the fun that comes with working them out. They're sung in English (rock and roll's universal language) with Dimi grimly intoning words about revenge and assorted emotions.

Sounds great when he slides and wrings out the words and pretty Gallic. But a soundtrack to a sunny day down the beach, it isn't.

A few people have disagreed with the Birthday Party and the Scientists as obvious references points but there's enough droning repetition, throbbing bass and scarifying guitar for mine to point to both. "Ah Oui, C'est La Vie" could easily pass as something from "Junkyard" and "You Abandon Yourself" is at least a superficial cousin of "Swampland" in the opening chords.

High point for mine is the loping, magnificent "Damn !", propelled by a swinging backbeat, droning guitar and truly mighty Dimi vocal. There's enough dynamics in "Cut" to satisfy a roomful of quantum electrodynamics graduates. Doubt whether they could rationalise it, though.

Sharp-eyed CD cover scholars might note Vinz on bass as the same bloke who drives the bottom-end for fellow Frenchmen Holy Curse, while this tour sees Pascal who used to be in that band helping out on guitar. Which just goes to show the French scene can be as incestuous as Australia's. If you're looking for another Antipodean connection, Ash Wednesday of Jab, The Models and more recently, Einsturzende Neubauten (for correctly spelling whose name, I deserve a stein of fine Bavarian beer), helps with his distinctive keyboard stylings.

From the relatively straight-up rock of opener "You Abandoned Yourself" to the homicidal sturm und drang of the closing "I Washed Your Windows Clean", this is an album to kill kittens to. – The Barman 194 bar

BANG! RECORDS :
DIMI DERO INC

Sisyphus... (+ bonus track)" (LP) —

For the first time Bang! Rcds releases a non Australian artist. This is DIMI DERO INC. from Paris, France. The reason for it is very simple, DIMI DERO INC. is the personal project of this creative, innovator, multi faced artist Dimi Dero (producer, multi instrumental musician, song writer etc) who has known how to gather in this record all his emotions and demons.

Think of a mix between THE SCIENTISTS, THE BIRTHDAY PARTY and EINSTURZENDE NEUBAUTEN, with the unique personality of this man/band and that special French touch which might remind you a bit of the old DUM DUM BOYS records. Songs of anger which go by the hand of the Aussie swampy sound and can carry you to the music of THE DRONES (big friends and colleges of DIMI DERO INC. actually they toured Australia together).

DIMI DERO INC. is a four piece band where Dimi leads with vocals and demonic guitar, and he is surrounded by a a band of nasty noisy brutal musicians.

As well we find the Australian member of EINSTURZENDE NEUBAUTEN, Ash Wednesday, cooperating in the album. As a last comment, Dimi Dero has cooperated with musicians such as Kim Salmon, Mick Harvey, Penny Ikinge, THE DRONES, THE DIRTY THREE, Nikki Sudden, etc.

With no doubt a European gem how we haven't heard for ages around here, introduced to you by Bang! Rcds in the usual quality of deluxe limited edition of 500 gatefold LP and triple cover digipack CD.

WITH THE BAND ZINE

Next up were French band Dimi Dero Inc who make no secret that they are big fans of 70's and 80's underground Australian rock. Think the Scientists meets the Birthday Party and you get the picture. They opened with just their guitarist and a female vocalist - no mention of her on the band's website, so I have no idea who she was but she had the voice of an angel and I could have watched her for a lot longer. After one song the rest of the band got on stage and she stuck around for backups for another tune and then she was gone. The band then went on to play a big noisy and dirty rock set wearing their influences proudly on their sleeves. No one was up the front for them but that did not stop them from putting in their all and frontman Dimi rocked out like there was no tomorrow whilst seemingly channelling Nick Cave, Kim Salmon and Blixa Bargeld.

It was a very entertaining set of art rock and hopefully they'll get more attention at their Sydney and Melbourne shows.

RAVE MAGAZINE

Punters wandering through to catch only part of the show by Dimi Dero Inc cannot conclusively say they know what these French visitors have to offer.

Starting with an unremarkable female singer, anyone thinking the band specialises in indie-gypsy tunes could be forgiven, as she sings about merry-go-rounds with an oom-pah-pah backbeat. However, with the arrival of lead singer, the gaunt mic-attacking Dimi Dero, guitars start to squeal and a dirty hard rock show begins, with the odd feel of an imprecise '80s underground Australian band. The pace accelerates with each song, concluding with a sweaty Not From There-style freak out and a frantic Ace Of Spades cover. Tres bon.

LEICESTER BANGS

Dimi Dero inc - Sisyphus Window Cleaning (Off The Hip)
Four friends from France with a penchant for decadence and a love of like minded Australian musicians (they have just toured Oz with the Drones).

The thank-you to collaborators, and others, reads like a list of miscreants. Vocalist Dimi Dero has a fine pedigree of time spent with a host of musos from a land down under and English / German counterparts. His sometimes slow almost spoken vocals have a slight vehemence and are sung mostly in English with the benefit of his accent.

The whole CD is a devastating noise with pounding (and good) drumming throughout. Attitude all the way in a similar mood to Bad Seeds / Crime & The City Solution and some New Rose label bands – the twangy guitar reminded me of The Hives on one track. Window Cleaning the last track is best almost like ‘Next’ by Alex Harvey. A saint will feel at peace in the midst of any din and noise – this CD may require a saint.

Terry W.

TIME OFF

Despite being French, and all that that connotes, Parisian quartet Dimi Dero Inc prove they too can kick out the dirty jams, including a cover of Motorhead’s ‘Ace Of Spades’.

GREETINGS FROM TRAUMA – Dimi Dero Inc. (E.L.P.)

Maybe I’m not the best person to review this album by a band that few are likely to have heard of outside their native France. I’ll explain the first part as part of a case justifying why the latter ought to change.

Back in the ‘80s, the well-plumed, black-clad spectre of bands like the Birthday Party, and some of their “junk rock” offspring, left me cold. Maybe it was a geographical thing, them being Melbourne and the preferred sounds being Sydney and (silly as it sounds) never the ‘tween used to meet. Most likely it was the overload of angst in their attack, and the emphasis (reliance?) on oh-so-serious media pronouncements by said bands to make a, ahem, “scene” for themselves. (Sorry, Nick Cave, but you did come across as a self-important tosser).

Anyway, this is an album with a dark heart and maybe, in a perverse way, that’s the reason I’m into it. ‘Cos it still rocks – and creaks. More brooding than brutal, the bones are showing but there’s enough meat in the stew to keep me happy.

Dimi Dero Inc are a little like the Birthday Party, with rock roots and fewer non-sequiturs. Dark and dense, both lyrically and musically, I dig it like I dig the Scientists and the Moodists, two bands who might not have attended the same school as Saint Cave but at least used wound up sharing the same playground. The album title is a blatant Scientists reference that gives a clue, just like song titles like “foetus in the red” and “Down in hell”.

The dark aspect is part of the picture, but it's by no means a limited canvas. The shuffling feel and piano appellations of "Your Shallow Grave", for example, recall some of the stuff on Louis Tillett's first album (no small recommendation), while "Koursk" is a clear take on the Birthday Party's "Zoo Music Girl".

(Trivia point: "Zoo Music Girl" is allegedly a fave of Kylie Minogue's. Would she take to Dimi Dero Inc?)

Singer and central force of "Dimi Dero Inc" (is the incorporation a tax shelter?), Dimi Dero, is a pretty fair vocalist, if at times slightly buried in the mix. Also central is the very capable basswork of Vinz Holy Curse, given that this material is outside the remit of his usual band (Holy Curse), who come from Paris-via-Detroit. From the clattering stomp of "Funky shit" to the simple pulse of "People on the dancefloor", he's sitting in the same seat as Chris Walsh or Boris Sudjovic who were just as vital forces in the Moodists and Scientists respectively. Kudos, too, to guitarist Benko who invokes nice fat walls of six-string noise without overplaying his hand.

There's also a goodly chunk of the Beasts of Bourbon here, too. Although Dimi can't muster the same sense of psychotic-farmboy-full-of-piss-and-out-to-buy-an-axe as Tex Perkins at his best, a song like "Deep sleep" would seem to sit well in the Aussie band's hands.

They're on the same page as Dimi Dero Inc with the dynamics of "Down in hell", a song drawing on all of the aforementioned influences. Or influencers.

I don't want to give the impression that this album is too derivative. All of the above are reference points, merely meant to convey a sense of what it's about. There's an earlier album buried around the Bar somewhere (unreviewed because I couldn't make out the track names, I recall) and "Trauma" is prompting a re-visit. Music's a mood thing. I don't know that I'll spin "Greetings..." every day of the working week - but don't go asking for a lend soon. - The Barman | 94 bar