



**IRASCIBLE
MUSIC**



HIGHER AUTHORITIES (USA)

«Neptune»

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Web: irascible.ch/de/releases/higher-authorities/neptune/

Neptune is a different expression of the fruitful musical partnership between a duo from a beloved cult band that have been at the forefront of continuing the UK's rich psychedelic tradition for almost two decades. So who or what are the Higher Authorities? It's partly a tongue in cheek reaction to scaremongering from the conspiracy theorists that would have you believe there's a sinister organisation controlling the world ("we're obviously not the higher authorities"), but also inspired by "the idea of doing something daft. Everything in music now seems so regimented. Everyone takes a careerist approach to it, but a lot of the music we love was made when people were out of their heads."

The release date – 4/20, a day of huge significance in cannabis culture – is no coincidence. This is proper head music, an old-fashioned headphones album where the devil is in the lo-fi details. *Neptune* is a dense, disorientating sonic stew; a warped psychedelic dub album augmented by the mad box of sound effects that the legendary dub producer Adrian Sherwood, who mixed the record alongside the duo, brings to proceedings. Taut grooves are tapped out on battered old drum machines, ancient synths wheeze and drone alongside insidious keyboard lines, squelchy, fluid funk riffs and distorted guitars.

"Although songs might be based around just one riff or rhythm, things are changing every few bars. It's constantly evolving, with lots of even odder effects coming in. We recorded it ourselves in a small home studio set up – really cheap – then took it to Adrian. He likes to do it old style, mixing it while you're there. Between the three of us we mixed the whole album, but in between each mix Adrian would do dub mixes of every track. Some of that is even weirder."

As well as dub, the key musical influences for *Neptune* were funk and disco. "The grooves are more obvious than in our other band. We were inspired by tacky 1970s disco – chart acts like Boney M and Odyssey. And then things like Jean Pierre Massiera, The Invaders and Cabaret Voltaire. But the echo side of it came from the third volume of *Pebbles* – it's the most out-there edition, with cheapo guitar pedals and that really amateur use of echo and effects where it's really over the top."

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