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AFGHAN WHIGS (USA)

Album: «Do to the Beast» (Sub Pop, release: 11.04.2014)



«Do to the Beast» is the first new album by The Afghan Whigs in over a decade and a half. Founded in Ohio, in 1988, the band has long stood out from its peers, with their savage, rapturous blend of hard rock, classic soul, and frontman Greg Dulli's searing obsessions. The new album serves as both a homecoming – it marks their return to Sub Pop, for whom the Whigs were the first signing from outside the label's Northwest base – and a glimpse into the future of one of the most acclaimed bands of the past thirty years.

<http://theafghanwhigs.com/>

«Do to the Beast» proves an appropriately feral title for one of the most intense, cathartic records of Dulli's entire career – one that adds fresh twists to The Afghan Whigs canon. On it, one finds the *film noir* storytelling of *Black Love*, the exuberance of 1965, the brutal introspection of *Gentlemen*, but rendered with a galvanized musical spirit and rhythmic heft that suggests transcendence and hope amidst the bloodletting. «A lot of records I've done stemmed from epochal experiences in my life – and this time I've used them all», frontman Greg Dulli says.

Indeed, «Do to the Beast» takes The Afghan Whigs to previously uncharted zones. That's clear from the Lennon-esque primal screaming announcing album opener «Parked Outside» – one of the hardest-rocking Whigs songs ever, propelled by a pile-driving riff that would make Malcolm Young envious. First single «Algiers», meanwhile, hotwires a pounding «Be My Baby» drumbeat with spaghetti-western atmospherics. Elsewhere, «Matamoros» – named after a town in Mexico cursed by a series of Satanic murders – finds Dulli at his most psychosexually sinister: over its relentless, Zeppelin-meets-disco groove, he coolly threatens to expose «every little crime that you hide». Such themes of duality, viscera, and love destroyed echo throughout tracks that dynamically flow in and out of each other – from ambitious revenge fantasy «These Sticks» to album centerpiece «Lost in the Woods». Here, Dulli imagines himself on his deathbed in an especially haunting lyric, set to a swinging melody evoking Duke Ellington and Cab Calloway.



Reunited anew since 2013 – quite surprisingly, even for the bandmembers themselves –, The Afghan Whigs will tour worldwide in support of «Do to the Beast» – kicking off an extensive jaunt with a performance at Coachella 2014 in April.

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