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JAPANTHER
"Rock 'N' Roll Ice Cream"
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Catalog # MPK 7055

We're all dying, aren't we? And we're not teaching each other what we really know— it's so wrong and sad! —Marilyn Monroe in *The Misfits*

Described as a “Performance Galaxy” by *Vanity Fair* and “Super hard, incredibly fast and overall inspiring” by *Thrasher*, **Japanther** (www.japanther.com) has always been a band apart, running the gamut from performance art to punk rock and back again. Pushing parties to the limit and only stopping short of riots, Japanther returns in 2010 with new member **Anita Sparrows** (The Soviettes) and *Rock ‘n’ Roll Ice Cream* (Menlo Park Recordings, March 2). Says **Ian Vanek**, “We met Miss Sparrows on Christmas Eve in San Pedro and formed an instant bond. She is family to us and making music with her is just a part of it.” With Sparrows on board, Vanek and **Matt Reilly** flew to Los Angeles to work with producer **Michael Blum**, whose past projects with Michael Jackson, Madonna (*Like a Prayer, Who’s That Girl*), Pink Floyd and Suicidal Tendencies seemed a daring fit for *Rock ‘n’ Roll Ice Cream*, an album envisioned by Japanther as a dance party— and all the kids are invited. “Telephone mics? Really?” exclaimed Michael as the group began what was to become a near-perfect expression of an underground sound. Continuing Japanther’s established habit of collaborating with inspiring icons from every scene, legendary poet **Eileen Myles** (*Cool For You, Chelsea Girls*) appears on two astonishing tracks.

Rock ‘n’ Roll Ice Cream was put together with the idea of album sides in mind, and will be available on vinyl and digitally. Nowadays, says Vanek, “records often feel like exercises in hitting fast forward. With *Rock ‘n’ Roll Ice Cream*, we wanted a burner from end to end, with the possibility of listening to side two with your morning coffee.” The cover for the new album was created by artist **Elisabeth Arkhipoff**, known for her collaborations with musicians and fashion designers such as M83, Sport Hit Paradise, Tahiti 80, Anna Sui, Eley Kishimoto and Swarovski.

Her work has been featured in *Graffik, Tokion, Creative Review, ZOO, Vogue, +81, Self Service, Dazed & Confused, Studio Voice* and *SHOWstudio.com*.

The story behind *Rock 'n' Roll Ice Cream* is an adventure tale of exploring harmonies, writing together, and a little bit of that West Coast surf vibe whilst lurking a bit towards Japanther's salad days in Brooklyn to draw on pop hooks and simple drum parts that make skating seem easier and bikes move faster. Manifesting their usual elemental drive, Japanther spent 2009 performing nine months out of twelve in a nomadic existence that took the band to Houston, Toronto, Oakland's Hoodstock, LA's Fuck Yeah Fest, SXSW, HardPop in Ciudad Juárez, The Halifax Pop Explosion, multiple illegal shows on the Williamsburg Bridge... the list goes on.

Japanther is a time-based performance duo, formed in 2001 by Ian Vanek and Matt Reilly. Their music is intense, danceable and fun. In Japanther's near decade of baffling unsuspecting audiences and amassing new fans, the boys have toured Europe, Australia, Mexico, Canada and the US constantly while working in museums on all types of "Art Projects." Synchronized swimmers, illegal shows, marionettes and giant puppets have all been employed successfully again and again, all in an attempt to redefine what bands, groups and gangs can do.

Rock 'n' Roll Ice Cream Track Listing:

She's The One
L.A. URA Mystery
Surfin Coffin
Life is Strange
\$100 Dollar Remix

Not at War
Spread So Thin
Get Me Home
What the Fuck is the Internet
Alone in the Basement

Japanther discography on Menlo Park Recordings:

Leather Wings LP (2003) Menlo Park Recordings
Dump The Body In Rikki Lake CD (2003) Menlo Park Recordings
Operating Manual for life on earth 12" (2004) Menlo Park Recordings
Master of Pigeons CD (2005) Menlo Park Recordings
Yer Living Grave CD (2005) Menlo Park Recordings
Dump The Body In Rikki Lake 2 sided DVD (2006) Menlo Park Recordings
Challenge/Fuk tha Prince a Pull Iz Dum 7" tour only (2007) Menlo Park Recordings
Skuffed Up My Huffy CD (2007) Menlo Park Recordings
Tut Tut Now Shake Ya Butt (2008) Wantage/Tapes/Menlo Park Recordings

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