



early winter recordings 2007



EWR5 Acolytes Action Squad – Winkle Time CD album

It was the cause of some small consternation when James Green sent me a CDR asking me to write a press release on a band that I knew nowt about. Some brief biographical information in the accompanying letter indicated that they had some personnel connections to Green's previous musical concern, Big Eyes, and that ain't surprising as both bands seem to share a predilection for channelling certain characteristically Antipodean atmospheres. But where Big Eyes basked in the kind of ragged, pathetic beauty of such string capitulators as Dirty 3 or the Hungry Ghosts, **Acolytes Action Squad** seem to swim in much murkier rivers, recalling the meticulously deconstructed miniatures of astral arbiters such as Alastair Galbraith or Peter Jefferies. In fact, on **Winkle Time**, their debut CD on Early Winter/ Terraas Recordings, a whole spectrum of *avant* traditions are reconstituted and pushed out again.

From the opening sound of the raked ribcage of a Salvation Army Store piano the sound passes through heavy hoodoo, Gris Gris stylee drum breaks (**Letters to the Master**), radio interference from the far side of the distant blue (**Check: Weigh in**), weird moments of regressive sing song clarity (**Music for Perspex**) all suffused with all kinds of angelic debris and zoological whoopee (**The Yak's Head/ Yak Buttons**). And underpinning every stylophone/ flute duet (**Against Old Masters**) and every passage of potato-tongue sound poetry is a strong melodic sensibility that joins the dots between Dr John, Dr Hook and Dr Harold Shipman.

This disk don't really sound like anything ever to have been sired in the City of Steel....amen to that!

- Alex Neilson 2007

(Alex is a founding member of Scatter, Motor Ghost, Tight Meat, Directing Hand, and a frequent accomplice of Alasdair Roberts, Richard Youngs, Jandek and Will Oldham)

Ac.Ac.Sq (i.e. **The Essence** and **Ditchus**) has been in existence since 1997, and had 3 previous releases, all on **Terraas Recordings**: "**Surface Noise**" (4 track cassette, 1997), "**Incredulous Shrinking World**" (6 track vinyl EP, 2000) and "**Bust of Acolytes Action Squad**" (CD album 2002).

They are busy collaborators outside of the group. Both are also members of Sheffield-based free-rock-jazz-noise-funk-electronic-pop-world music band **Hot Snack**. **The Essence** is a member of **The Broken Blackbird Ensemble**, has produced an improvised film soundtrack for Iranian visual artist **Farhad Ahrarnia** and is a fervent experimental sound engineer, having, among other things, previously produced an album of regenerative remixes for Sheffield noise label **Audio Laceration** and worked extensively with Sheffield gangster rap legend **Doyen-D**. **Ditchus** is also a recent **Big Eyes Family Players** contributor. See www.acolytesactionsquad.co.uk for further information, sounds and thoughts.

Tracklisting:

1. Courtesans
2. Music for Perspex
3. Winkle Time itself
4. Check: Weigh in
5. Against Old Masters
6. Minimum Beam
7. The Yak's Head (pts 1&2 featuring Turkees (unwaged))
8. Letters to the Master (AC.AC.SQ/Hotsnack coagulation)
9. Yak Buttons
10. Vasos & Uvas – The Legend of Blank Canvas
11. Abreast

This is a collaborative release between EWR and the Acolytes Action Squad's own Terraas label. It is released as a limited edition of 350 copies, each CD with a handmade 2-colour stamped sleeve and a full-colour insert.