

THE 39 CLOCKS – PAIN IT DARK

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THE ESSENTIALS

- The Band: Hanoverian duo, founded in 1979, first LP released in 1981: "Pain It Dark"
- The Music: Psycho Beat – futuristic, hypnotic sixties psychedelia deferred to the early 80s with a beatbox, English vocals with a heavy German accent
- "The best German band of the eighties" (German pop scholar Diedrich Diederichsen)
- Booklet with rare photos and liner notes by Alfred Hilsberg (a pope of the German music underground)
- Includes a previously unreleased bonus track

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Many a wild tale has enriched the history of the 39 Clocks. For example, the time they went on stage with vacuum cleaners and circular saws instead of guitars, the LSD inside their heads having erased all memory of how to play their songs. Or the time when they were expelled from the Documenta because Joseph Beuys was aggravated by their music. Then there was the angry member of the audience who attacked one of the band with a knife on stage. Not forgetting the concert in a cavernous aircraft hangar where the amps were turned up so loud, that by the end of the show not a single spectator was left. "Sounds" music magazine duly confirmed it as "Concert of the month". The great thing is, every one of these stories is true. The duo from Hannover, Christian Henjes (alias C.H. 39) and Jürgen Gleue (alias J.G. 39), were pure statement in everything they did – the musicians and their music smelted into provocative union, cold and dark.

The 39 Clocks are one of the most magnificent bands Germany has ever produced; pop scholar Diedrich Diederichsen described them as the best German band of the eighties. The Clocks took shape in 1979 as they turned their backs on punk and invented "Psycho Beat". They were the self-styled counterdraft to the burgeoning German New Wave Scene, the NDW. Their music can be seen as a futuristic, definitively urban, German form of US Sixties Garage Punk, deferred to the early eighties with a referential nod to the New York duo Suicide – monotone psychedelia chord progressions, hypnotic rhythms (invariably emanating from the beatbox), deadpan voice, English lyrics delivered with the heaviest of German accents and dirty sound. The 39 Clocks were always intent on pushing back the borders of experimentation: barely sufferable live improvisation, atonal meanderings, interference, lower than Low-Fi and a tinny beatbox tested the resilience of their listeners to the full.

The success of the 1981 debut album "Pain It Dark" was, in spite of the labels unjustly stuck on the 39 Clocks – from retro band to traitors – astounding. For more accurate appreciation of their place in music history, they had to look further afield, to England, USA, Japan, even Greece. Geographical and mental shifts brought about the split of the underground enfants terribles before the eighties were gone. That, however, is not the end of the matter. The whole story has yet to be written.

This CD reissue contains a previously unreleased bonus track ("I Love A Girl"). In the 12 page booklet Alfred Hilsberg reminisces on the eccentric band who would later appear on his "What's so funny about" label, illustrated by a wealth of rare photos.

Tracklisting

1. SHAKE THE HIPPIE (3:39)
2. DNS (3:22)
3. 78 SOLDIER DEAD (5:22)
4. OUT OF SIGHT (2:23)
5. STUPID ART (4:06)
6. TEST THE BEAT (2:49)
7. PSYCHO BEAT (2:54)
8. TWISTED & SHOUTS (4:32)
9. RADICAL STUDENT IN SATIN BOOTS (2:42)
10. 39 EXPLOSION HEATS (2:29)
11. A LOOK INTO YOU (6:57)
12. BONUS TRACK: I LOVE A GIRL (3:35)



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