

Review: Lightning Bolt

reviewed by Brad Deighan

You know I'm sitting in the lab listening to them right now and I feel like ripping the computer out of it's stationary setting and dancing with it, before stomping it and throwing it through the window a few feet in front of me. I mean, it's clear, I can see through it, so why can't I just - you know - throw something through it? I'll never understand this completely boring reality - but that's what you get for reading 347 stupid fucking fantasy novels in approximately two years. I hate my life and I want to go live on some other plane of existence.

Lightning Bolt is a noise band consisting of a drummer, a bass player, and well, that's it. The drummer plays like an insane per-

son on acid, overdosing on speed. He's got a sick fucking mask on that looks like he made it himself with a bunch of old scrap material and he uses it to hold a tiny mic to his mouth, which he yells into at various intervals. I got to check out a video they made of some live shows and it's incredible - during one show the drummer lifts his whole kit up and moves it into the middle of the audience without missing a beat, and then has to fend the frenzied crowd away from his back where they continue to crash into him. The whole time it seems like he doesn't even notice that anyone is there. At another show he gets up atop a pile of amps which are almost reaching the ceiling. When he has enough

up there he jumps down, straight onto his seat, and he starts playing before his feet even hit the ground - and before God can tell him to shut the fuck up because he needs to take a goddamn nap, you sick asshole.

Meanwhile the bass player just stands there like nothing exciting is happening, patting his bass like a bored old lady with a kitten - he strokes three strings most times instead of just one, and rips his noise through a pile of shitty amps. And yeah, that's the other thing - their gear sucks. Their amps are piles of crap and the drum set's got fucking duct tape holding it together - but it all makes sense once you see them play because they're "slowly" destroying it all anyway. They make their own shitty clothes and then sweat them to shreds too - I love it. I can only aspire. Hey, come on, I'm being serious (I actually am).

Lightning Bolt is non-stop intense, with a little yelp in between that hurts when it hits my brain. You see, I'm sitting in front

of a university computron at exactly 4:35 am on a Friday morning, and I want to be dancing wild, like when I split my head open Tuesday in Halifax at one of those rocking bars they have over there. It's called Hell. Yes I am, at the moment, shaking my head and throwing greasy dandruff particles all over the poor girl beside me - what's she doing here at... 4:36 on a Friday morning anyway? She must be insane. She's obviously not listening to Lightning Bolt - looks like she wants to die not dance. Maybe I should ask her if she wants to dance. Excuse me, would you.... Whoa!

"Fuck you" she says.

Christ, I usually get to the 'like' part. Hey, excuse me, Lightning Bolt is "a two piece drum and bass outfit that is louder than many NASCAR events. The most complicated music imaginable played by costumed super heroes with hockey gloves" according to their record label, I tell her. So do you want to dance? "Put it that way...!"



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