

## ALBUM PRESS RELEASE (EXTENDED)

# Believers Roast Presents *The Exquisite Corpse Game*

**Album:** The Exquisite Corpse Game

**Tracks:**

1. Fold 1: Khyam Allami
2. Fold 2: Karda Estra
3. Fold 3: JG Thirlwell
4. Fold 4: Kavus Torabi
5. Fold 5: British Theatre
6. Fold 6: Bob Drake
7. Fold 7: Weasel Walter
8. Fold 8: Dominique Leone
9. Fold 9: Appleblim
10. Fold 10: Katharine Blake
11. Fold 11: Max Tundra
12. Fold 12: Mikrokosmos
13. Fold 13: Craig Fortnam

**Release:** 2nd September 2013

**Label:** Believers Roast

**Format:** Download / CD

**For fans of:** Foetus, Cardiacs, Oceansize, Max Tundra, Mediaeval Baebes, Appleblim



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**Exquisite corpse** is a method by which a collection of images is collectively assembled. Each collaborator adds to a composition in sequence until finally the whole completed picture is revealed. This technique invented by the Surrealists is similar to the old parlour game, Consequences, in which players write in turn on a sheet of paper, fold it to conceal part of the writing, and then pass it to the next player for a further contribution.

**The Exquisite Corpse Game** is a unique musical collaboration based on these rules put together and overseen by **Kavus Torabi** for his label **Believers Roast**, featuring **Khyam Allami**, **Karda Estra**, **JG Thirlwell** (**Foetus** / **Manorexia** / **Steroid Maximus**), **Kavus Torabi** (**Knifeworld** / **Cardiacs** / **Guapo**), **British Theatre** (**Oceansize** / **Biffy Clyro**), **Bob Drake** (**Thinking Plague** / **5uu's** / **The Science Group**), **Weasel Walter** (**The Flying Luttenbachers** / **Behold The Arctopus**), **Dominique Leone**, **Appleblim**, **Katharine Blake** (**Mediaeval Baebes** / **Miranda Sex Garden**), **Max Tundra**, **Mikrokosmos** (**Levitation** / **Dark Star** / **Cardiacs**) and **Craig Fortnam** (**North Sea Radio Orchestra** / **Arch Garrison**).

Once the first 'fold' was recorded each artist was given only the last 20 seconds of the previous composition and had to continue by recording instrumental music in any way they saw fit. Whether they chose to develop themes or take an obtuse 90 degree turn was entirely up to them.

Each 'fold' had to be a response to the 20 seconds they were given and be between one and four minutes long. None of the contributors heard the entire piece until the final 'fold' had been completed

Taken individually, *The Exquisite Corpse Game* represents thirteen brand new, original compositions by thirteen innovative musical artists but taken as a whole the entire album has a kaleidoscopic, dream-like yet homogenous quality. Themes and ideas seem to repeat and reoccur throughout in a way that could not have been known to the contributors. There is an ebb and flow throughout that sounds both pre-conceived and deliberate.

**The Exquisite Corpse Game** will be released on **2nd September 2013** and is available to pre-order now from the Genepool website.

### Some words from Kavus Torabi about the project:

"I remember a conversation with myself, Tim Smith (Cardiacs) and Bic Hayes about six years ago regarding an idea of Bic's some years before which basically formed what was to become *The Exquisite Corpse Game*. It was something Bic had been talking about for some time but had never come into fruition.

It wasn't until 2011 after co-writing remotely with Richard Wileman (Karda Estra) that I was struck by how privileged I had been over the years to work with composers and musicians I regard very highly, either playing for me, collaborating or playing for them. Often all three. On top of this I am in the somewhat unusual position to be regularly working in fields that include folk, rock, orchestral, electronic, psychedelic, avant-garde, experimental, pop etc. All of which are close to my heart. This brought to mind Bic's idea and it struck me that this would be a very good excuse to pick it up and run with it, particularly now I had a label, Believers Roast, since originally hearing about it.

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After ringing Bic and asking him if he would let me use his idea, I contacted many of my recent collaborators and included some of my favourite artists too. While a couple politely declined and a few ended up being too busy to get involved this time around, I was delighted that JG Thirlwell, Dominique Leone and Weasel Walter said yes immediately.

I had no idea how long it would take or if it would even really work. It took about two years in total as files were sent back and forth across the globe. I was terrified to listen once it was completed in case it was just awful or didn't work at all but the result is a record I feel immensely proud to have been part of and hopefully the first of many more."

### More about the artists:

**Khyam Allami** is a Syrian-born Iraqi who spent his formative years in London where he was first known as a rock drummer. He then began his formal study of traditional Arabic stringed instrument the Oud, Arabic music theory and traditional Iraqi repertoire, traveling to the Middle East to study with masters of the instrument. 2011 saw the release of his acclaimed *Resonance/Dissonance* album which married traditional Arabic music with a modernist approach.

**Karda Estra** is a musical project from Swindon founded in 1998 by composer, arranger and producer **Richard Wileman**. Richard plays guitars, keyboards, percussion, bouzouki and rastrophone. Various regular contributors and collaborators augment his sound.

**JG Thirlwell** is a composer, producer and performer based in Brooklyn. Born in Melbourne, he moved to London in 1978 and has been based in NYC since 1983. As well as his own name, he works under many pseudonyms including **Foetus**, **Manorexia**, **Steroid Maximus**, **Baby Zizanie**, **Hydroze Plus**, **Clint Ruin** and **Wiseblood**. He has released over thirty albums. JG has also featured as producer, remixer, collaborator or arranger for artists such as **Nine Inch Nails**, **Karen O**, **Excepter**, **Zola Jesus**, **Jon Spencer Blues Explosion**, **Lydia Lunch**, **Coil**, **Z's**, **Nick Cave**, **Swans** and many more. He has completed commissions for **Kronos Quartet**, **Bang On A Can**, **Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary** and **LEMUR**. He is a member of the "freq\_out" sound-art collective, creating sound and light installations. JG scores the cartoon "The Venture Brothers". He also scored the films *The Blue Eyes* and *Seeking The Monkey King*.

**Kavus Torabi** is a British musician and composer. Born in Tehran of Iranian descent, he has lived in England since 1973 and is now based in London. Kavus is known primarily as a guitarist in the psychedelic, avant-garde rock field. He was a founding member of The Monsoon Bassoon and he subsequently joined the cult psychedelic cult rock group **Cardiacs**. Kavus is also the singer, guitarist, composer and producer of his own band **Knifeworld**. He also performs and records as guitarist for **Guapo** and **The Mediaeval Baebes**. He frequently collaborates with notable artists working in left-field music, many of whom appear on *The Exquisite Corpse Game*. Kavus owns the **Believers Roast** label and he co-presents the weekly *Interesting Alternative* radio show with British snooker legend **Steve Davis** playing a variety new experimental music.

**British Theatre** are based in Manchester. They are **Mike Vennart** and **Richard A Ingram**, both founding members of the now-defunct **Oceansize**. Mike and Richard are also members of the live format of **Biffy Clyro**.

**Bob Drake** is a multi-instrumentalist and singer who has played with many bands since 1970. He was a founding member of **Thinking Plague**. In the early 1990s in Los Angeles he engineered sessions with a variety of artists from **Ice Cube** to **Shirley MacClaine**, began working with **Dave Kerman** and **5UU's**, and started making solo albums. Since 1994 he lives at his home studio in Southern France where he has engineered over 100 albums and been responsible for careful remastering of classic albums by **Art Bears**, **Henry Cow**, **Cassiber** and others.

**Weasel Walter** is best known as the drummer and primary composer for the cult punk-jazz/no-wave/brutal-prog band **The Flying Luttenbachers**. Weasel has also worked with other experimental rock groups including **XBRRX**, **Behold...The Arctopus**, **Burmese** and **Lake Of Dracula**. As an improviser, Weasel has performed and recorded with **Evan Parker**, **Marshall Allen**, **Elliott Sharp**, **Henry Kaiser**, **Nels Cline**, **Jim O'Rourke** and many others.

**Dominique Leone** is based in San Francisco, and makes prog pop music. His music has appeared on **Stromland**, **Important** and **Upcode Records**, and he has recorded an updated version of Igor Stravinsky's *Les Noces*. Dominique has worked with **Fred Frith**, **Matmos**, **Lindstrom**, **R. Stevie Moore** and many others, and is currently embarking on a project to release a new track each day of 2013.

**Appleblim** runs the respected label **Skull Disco** with **Shackleton**, pioneering a dark, experimental take on dubstep and bass music. He now lives in Bristol, runs his label **Apple Pips** and has worked for labels such as **Ninja Tune**, **Ostgut Ton & Aus Music**. His remix work includes **Harmonia** and **Brian Eno**, **Bonobo** and **Underworld**. His Djing has taken him to some of the most renowned clubs around the world. He is currently working on projects with **Al Tourettes**, and **October**, **Skudge** and **Komon**.

**Katharine Blake** is best known for her work as the founder, main composer and musical director of the classical chart topping ensemble **Mediaeval Baebes**. She is also known as the front woman of 90s avant-garde gothic rock band

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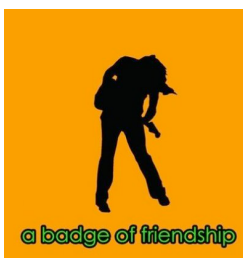
**Miranda Sex Garden.** Katharine trained at the Purcell School of music and has worked with **John Cale**, **Nick Cave** and **Michael Nyman**.

**Max Tundra** has released three highly acclaimed albums for **Domino**, a single for **Warp** and countless remixes. He has played concerts all over Europe, Australasia and North America. He is currently working on his fourth album.

**Mikrokosmos** is **Bic Hayes**, formerly of **Dark Star**, **Levitation** and **Cardiacs**. **Fujimoto Mihar** is a performance artist, choreographer, singer and percussionist.

**Craig Fortnam** is the composer, guitarist and leader of **North Sea Radio Orchestra**, who have over the last 10 years produced three albums of critically acclaimed, unique and beautiful chamber music. He also composes and records as 'singer/songwriter' project **Arch Garrison**.

- All artists are available for interviews.
- EPK, photos and artwork available upon request
- Believers Roast online: <http://www.thegenepool.co.uk/labels/Believers+Roast.htm>



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