

## Narcotic Wasteland - Narcotic Wasteland (2014)

Wpisany przez bluesever

Środa, 12 Listopad 2014 16:43 - Zmieniony Sobota, 25 Sierpień 2018 20:41

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1. *Anthem for the Mentally Scarred* 04:02   2. *Alcoholic Religious Fanatics* 03:38   3. *Keeping Up with the Jones* 04:31   4. *The Shackles of Sobriety* 04:45   5. *Addicted to Junk* 03:43   6. *Widespread Narcotic Wasteland* 04:54   7. *Coastal Killings* 03:23   8. *Awaken the Herd Beast* 04:24   9. *Absent Friends* 04:41   Chris "Lutachrist" Dupre - Bass, Vocals  
Erik Schultek - Drums   Ed Rhone – Guitar (Lead\_   Dallas Toler-Wade - Guitars, Vocals

Nile guitarist Dallas Toler-Wade has unveiled his new project Narcotic Wasteland with the debut of their self-titled album today and the release of a sample song, "Shackles of Sobriety."

Based on this song, it's clear the album comes from the modern metal camp and not the death metal camp. It starts with an impressive melodic metal introduction, then drops into the trademark of modern metal, which is Pantera-influenced vocals leading the guitars, reversing the classic death metal formula. Thus most of what you hear is vocal rhythm with guitar keeping constant texture on the backdrop, not guitar leading and vocals filling in secondary texture as all the best death metal bands did.

This creates a "rant effect" which makes me want to scream "Are you talkin' to me?" at the screen. Behind this during verses is an updated version of the type of lead-picked speed metal riff that might have gone on a Forbidden, Anacrusis or Coroner album back in the day. Then for the chorus, we switch to similar vocal rhythms over a more percussive death metal riff which leads in to remnants of the melodic introduction. That in turn leads to a high-speed guitar solo which borrows obliquely from jazz technique but tends to do so in a throwaway style as if the solo was more there to occupy a necessary space than to serve a musical role. Then repeat and fade away.

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“Shackles of Sobriety” is part of a concept album about drug addiction. Apparently Toler-Wade and friends live in a neighborhood blighted by people getting strung out and being dysfunctional, and decided to put it to comedic use by styling it as a narcotic wasteland. All humor at the over the top but prescient reference aside, there’s legitimacy to their gripe. Most of America and Europe are strung out at least on alcohol, and the result is massive dysfunction everywhere. This has been consistent since at least 1959 when William S. Burroughs wrote his epic Naked Lunch, where everybody has some vice, and some have more than enough.

While I applaud this effort by DTW and friends, I still can’t get jazzed for either Nile or this because I am a death metal fan. Nile sounds on the surface like death metal, but it uses harmonically static riffs and keeps them in standard verse-chorus positions most of the time, which obliterates the riff-leading composition used by death metal bands. Most of their stuff more resembles speed metal, as does this modern metal offering. --- Cory Van der Pol, deathmetal.org

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