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BICURIOUS

If you think you've heard everything a guitar/drums duo can do, Dublin/Leipzig-based rockers Bicurious will run those preconceptions through an industrial shredder, then steamroller over the remains.

Guitarist Taran Plouzané drops riffs that are technical, heavy and bouncy in equal measure, and it's won the band an extremely loyal fanbase – so much so that they crowdfunded over €9,000 to help make new record *Your Life is Over Now...*

This was the band's third time playing ATG, and as Plouzané proudly says, "every year more and more people are singing the riffs back to us". His new material has taken those singalongs to their logical conclusion, employing – gasp – vocals. Yet whether his larynx is muscling in or not, his playing is built around making his two-piece sound as big as possible. "I have to cover all melodic frequencies myself, so I've developed a way to

write riffs that often jump between the low E string, where I keep the low-end/root of each chord going, and the higher strings, which provide the melody on top," he explains. "Those riffs can be a bitch sometimes, though..."

Infectious hooks are bolstered by a rehearsal room's worth of gear, which gives them gut-punching rumble and the kind of clarity that can get a festival singing along with even the most finger-twistingly complex runs.

Plouzané says the secret to his sound is "the right combination of pedals, the right signal-splitting, and the right amps".

"It's mainly distortion, octaves, two guitar amps and a bass amp," he reveals. "I went through a lot of different combinations... I do currently have my eye on a new piece of gear which is way too expensive for me, and would be a big change in the way I do things. But it would save me a lot of hassle, too... *cough*"



SQUID PISSER

As you might expect from a band called Squid Pisser, their guitarist serves up some of the most unspeakably disgusting guitar tones in hardcore or any other genre. "I try to create textures that I haven't heard before," says deviant six-stringer Tommy Meehan. "I love using tons of effects and atypical melodies

to keep things interesting."

Interesting is an understatement. Performing in creepy alien masks, Squid Pisser don't so much play their instruments as assault them. Their debut album, *Dreams of Puke*, doesn't have a single song over three minutes. Some are as short as 40 seconds. It's a breathless, brutal assault on the senses.

All the while, Meehan is conjuring as many festering tones as he can from his pedalboard, including Bananana Effects' glitchy Mandala, Death by Audio's Apocalypse fuzz and a number of early-noughties nu-metal faves from the Ibanez Tone-Lok series. All that's paired with an all-aluminium Jazzmaster-style electric from Electrical Guitar Company that's probably suffering from PTSD. "It's covered in fake blood and sweat and it's all dinged up," Meehan says. "It's supposed to look shiny and beautiful."

The guitarist will soon be pulling double duty as Squid Pisser are lined up to support shock-rock mainstays Gwar, who he also joined this year. "I'm excited to infuse some nasty, dirty, effects-laden stuff," he says. "I like the potential of bringing that stuff to Gwar and making it sound disgusting sonically." Brace yourselves...

