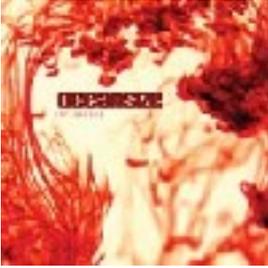


Brainwashed - Oceansize, "Effloresce"

Written by Rob Devlin

Saturday, 12 June 2004 19:00 - Last Updated Monday, 29 August 2005 11:38

[Beggars Banquet](#)



Oceansize have had some very lofty comparisons assigned to them in their young careers, and their stunning debut full-length shows exactly why they're appropriate and warranted while still providing for a very original take on epic and destructive rock. Absorbing the album in its entirety is not only recommended, it's somewhat required, as seconds into it the sounds will prevent turning the music off or down. Theirs is a serpentine, tentacled organism, splattered with blood and full of color, inviting while it can kill in an instant. It is an old but still clever deception: lure with the quietest moment, then strike before the victim has any idea what has happened or what the true nature or power of the attack is. The three-guitar assault, the ethereal keyboard passages, the tight tour-educated sound are perfect for this brand of murder, and Oceansize have studied their passion well. They are not vain, as they leave their grand largesse on full display, not cutting or splicing the fat to make for a leaner listen. The first moments of the album reminded me of plenty of bands I have seen in small clubs, unaware of their appeal, desperate in their need to impress. The difference is that this band does, and when the quiet gives way for the brutality, I was unafraid. Then the true space ride begins, and the assurances that have built up from a life of caring are decimated one by one.

"Nobody ever said they'd love you forever" and "one day all this could be yours" are the dream and the realization of Tyler Durden in separate verses: there is no success, there is no accomplishment, there is only the lasting disappointment. The trick is to make it sound inviting. Oceansize accomplish that and more. The roller coaster ride they induce is to be marvelled over, that in this day and age of worthless garbage being released day after day, there is a band that is capable of absorbing influences and creating a music that can make the blood boil again. Where others have held that claim, and even had it quoted in songs on their record, it's been a long time since it beared any weight. I submit that it can, and does, with this album. _

[samples:](#)

- [One Day All This Could Be Yours](#)
- [Remember Where You Are](#)
- [Women Who Love Men Who Love Drugs](#)