

▶ WHY BUY?

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ARTIST: BLACK TAPE FOR A BLUE GIRL
CATALOG#: PJK229
TITLE: 10 NEUROTICS
LABEL: PROJEKT

It's very rare to come across a band that can only really be described by playing one of their albums. It's even rarer if such a band has an ever-changing sound and line-up, yet still has the ability to keep their fans guessing. A perfect example of such a band is **Black Tape For A Blue Girl**, who has constantly created atmospheric masterpieces for over twenty years! The first time you hear **Black Tape** it's immediately obvious that if this group can do one thing it's create some of the spookiest, moodiest and darkly beautiful songs out there. **Black Tape For A Blue Girl**, who recently released their tenth studio album, **10 NEUROTICS**, has an ever-changing line-up with Projekt Records owner **Sam Rosenthal** as the only constant. While often relegated to the Goth genre, I've never found this tag to be an appropriate one and often think that the group has been deemed as such due to the almost-indescribable nature of their music. Like he does in his band with **Nicki Jaine**, **Revue Noir**, **Sam Rosenthal** and

BLACK TAPE FOR A BLUE GIRL 10 NEUROTICS

Black Tape create full-on moods rather than simple songs. They transport the listener into their expertly-orchestrated atmospheres and each album is almost like a field-trip to an oddly fascinating yet macabre spectacle; a sonic sideshow of musical proportions with **Rosenthal** taking on the roll of ringmaster. **Black Tapes'** **10 NEUROTICS** re-creates the band and expands the sound to make quite possibly their greatest release.

On **10 NEUROTICS**, **Sam** is joined by the **Dresden Dolls'** **Brian Viglione**, as well as vocalists **Athan Maroulis (Spahn Ranch)**, **Laurie Reade (Attrition)** and **Nicki Jaine**. Guest appearances on the album come courtesy of **Lucas Lanthier (Cinema Strange)**, **Elysabeth Grant**, **Michael Laird**, **Lisa Feuer** and **Gregor Kitzis**. While the music on **10 NEUROTICS** finds the band in a dark cabaret setting, according to **Rosenthal** himself, the songs lyrically "deal with a range of taboo topics: dominance/submission, furies, police state fetishists, pro-anna, exhibitionists, humiliation, self-destruction, cuckolding, and anonymous sex." (www.projekt.com). The first track on the album, "Sailor Boy" explores the power dynamics of a dom/sub relationship and sounds like a cross between a marionette show and a salt-drenched sea song. "Inch Worm" is an especially-haunting song that is told from the point-of-view of an anorexic. Musically the song could be a sibling to and always reminds me of **Black Tapes'** "Knock Three Times" (from 2004's **HALO STAR** album). "The Perfect Pervert" is another song that explores a dom/sub relationship; a conversation between the submissive (**Laurie**) and the dominant (**Athan**). Two of my favorite tracks on the album ("Rotten Zurich Café" and "In Dystopia") feature the evocative and addicting vocals of **Nicki Jaine**. I am always immediately drawn to any song that **Sam** and **Nicki** have worked on together as it's never anything less than pure magic. "The Pleasure In The Pain" is perhaps the "heaviest" track on the album and is a perfect example of the aforementioned mood that **Black Tape** creates. From the mix of drums and synthesizer to the choir-like backing vocals; this song has an almost-epic feel to it. The video for "Pleasure In The Pain" which was directed by **Sam Rosenthal** and recently released on www.BlackTapeForABlueGirl.com is equally as mesmerizing albeit slightly unnerving. After stand out tracks such as "Tell Me You've Taken Another," "Marmalade Cat," and "Curious, Yet Ashamed" the album ends with "Love Of The Father." The track, which is another contender for favorite song, is the one of the most heartbreaking songs I've ever heard. Told from the point of view of an abused boy - the extremely powerful song finds the boy questioning faith (and quite possibly life) because of his horrible experiences.

Housed in a beautiful digipack packaging with a full-color, 28-page booklet, **10 NEUROTICS** is **Black Tape for a Blue Girl's** finest moment. From concept to creation, every aspect of this release was thoroughly thought-out and because of that; **10 NEUROTICS** is an inimitable tour de force that shows the full power of **Black Tape for A Blue Girl**.

5 reasons to check out 10 NEUROTICS:

- ▶ "HALO STAR had already showcased his increasing interest with neo-cabaret music and 10 Neurotics brings it flowering in the full." - AllMusic.com.
- ▶ "10 NEUROTICS is a great album! It may be **Blacktape's** best!" - www.musictap.net.
- ▶ "the soundtrack to a cabaret hosted by **Caligula**" - www.sepiachord.com.
- ▶ "it's something you must experience for yourself." - www.examiner.com.
- ▶ To see the video for "The Pleasure In The Pain" and to read **Sam's** blog about creating the album, head over to www.blacktapeforabluegirl.com.

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