

DE STAAT

O

On Saturday 11th June 2016 at Holland's legendary Pinkpop Festival an extraordinary scene unfolded. De Staat frontman Torre Florim walked into the centre of the packed main stage crowd. As the Dutch five piece kicked into their anthemic "Witch Doctor", mass circles of swirling bodies wildly swung around Florim as he conducted them like a deranged circus ringmaster. Inspired by the video (2.6 million youtube views and rising for the "Witch Doctor" video - below) the bands audiences take part in a hypnotic tribal circle dance - from the smallest clubs to the biggest arena's and festival stages. Also extraordinary was that this was De Staats second performance at that years festival. They played a packed tent on the Friday - so impressing the organisers that they asked them back to play the main stage the next day.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ogmMUddiRjA>

Circles and a circular movement have been constant in the life of "O" - the bands 2016 studio album. From the circular writing and recording they set up in late December 2014 in their newly purchased collective studio space "Doornroosje" in Nijmegen, Holland, the famous former pop venue of their hometown, to playing in the round in Arena crowds as main support to Muse across 14 dates across Europe in 2016.

The title of the bands fourth studio album *O* now seems strangley prescient. This letter not only represents the sound "Oh", but symbolizes a circular movement. Torre Florim: "That circle is resembled in every aspect of the album. We recorded the songs in a circular set up, here in our studio. "O" stands for nothing, yet for everything at the same time - and for infinity. Our new songs are repetitive, you could say they can go on forever." But also substansively the symbolical circlce plays a big role. Florim: "For example, I write about being stuck in a loop, making the same cyclical movements without being able to escape from it. And about the moment that we as human kind no longer die: how would such an endless life look like?" Will *O* be a burdensome or philosophical record? "It isn't all that heavy: there's also a song on the record that's about nothing at all."

Highlights since the release so far included a Top-5 album in their home territory, sold-out shows in Benelux, Germany, France and UK and a 3FM Award for best album. 3FM is the biggest alternative radio station in Holland (an equivalent of the UK's 6Music). De Staat's win is the first time in the history of the awards that a band has won The 3V12 Best Album Award twice (they also won the award for their debut album "Wait For Evolution" in 2009). In December they won by public vote the 3V12 Song of The Year Award with "Make The Call

Leave it All". SKY Germany is also featuring their song Input Source Select for their 2016 advertising campaign.

In March 2016 came the invite from Muse to ask De Staat if they would like to accompany them during their "Drones"-tour. De Staat performed on a circle stage in the middle of the audiences.

In November De Staat released their first ever live-album "Live in Utrecht". Following this the band will embark on a headline tour across Germany, Poland, Czech Republic, Hungary, Austria, Switzerland, Italy and France early 2017. To top it all they sold out their first Heineken Music Hall (Amsterdam) headlining show in February 2017. The circle has not yet fully closed on this cycle and you would be well advised to witness this unique band.

History

DE STAAT released their debut album "Wait For Evolution" in 2009. That year they played festivals such as Glastonbury, City to City, The Great Escape, SXSW, CMJ, Iceland Airwaves, Sziget and Lowlands. *Wait for Evolution* has won several awards – including the previously mentioned 3V12 Best Album Award.

The second album *Machinery* appeared in 2011, and in both 2011 and in 2012 the band received the 3FM Award for Best Alternative Act.

Front man Torre Florim worked on their 3rd album *I_CON* (2013) with the likes of Vance Powell (legendary, multi Grammy award winning mixer from Nashville, Jack White's right hand man) but with all recordings, the sonic vision for the band's output was very much both laid down by Torre.

ICON's album track *Down Town* has been featured in EA's FIFA 2014. The first single *Devil's Blood* was Megahit on 3FM; the album has been featured as Album of the Week. DE STAAT has received the Edison Industry Award for Best Rock Album in 2014. They have also been nominated for three 3FM Awards (Best Band, Best Rock Band, Best Album. *I_CON* was followed by EP *Vinticious Versions* in November 2014, with remakes of previously released songs by DE STAAT.

De Staat have consistently delivered innovative and much loved music videos. From the aforementioned "Witch Doctor" to the baffling, provoking and funny "Pep Talk", "Sweat Shop", "Get It Together", "Make A Call" and many more.

Front man Torre Florim has drawn some international attention to his solo projects as well. His cover version of "Firestarter" was picked up by Prodigy - they mentioned it on all their social media, calling Torre's version "*The best cover ever of one of our songs*". The song ended up in the official game trailer for *Just Cause 3*.

Torre Florim	guitar/vocals
Jop van Summeren	bass guitar
Rocco Hueting	synths, percussion, guitar
Vedran Mircetic	guitar
Tim van Delft	drums

And thus, just like the kid in your GCSE class who never had to comb his hair because it always fell perfectly and just so happened to suit any form of clothing thrown at him, De Staat are effortlessly brilliant.
(www.drownedinsound.com)

Videos De Staat:

www.youtube.com/destaatofficial

Witch Doctor	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ttGgIQpAUc <i>"This music Video Is So Spookily Hypnotic You Can't Stop Watching - 9Gag.com - 2,7 million views"</i>
Devil's Blood All is Dull	http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AgObLNPIBzY http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BvMUnUmRY4M <i>Q Magazine : "Like many a trip to Amsterdam, this is music to lose your inhibitions to."</i>
Down Town Live @ Lowlands 2016	http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2WQuQg0UQSY https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7qqTwXdL020

- 2016: 3FM Award for Best Album, 3V12 Award for Best Album, 3V12 Award for Song of the Year "Make The Call, Leave It All".
- 2016: SKY Germany features the song "Input Source Select" for a whole year in their ad campaign.
- 2015: De Staat releases their amazing video for "Witch Doctor" which goes viral instantly, all over the world.
- 2014: Torre Florim's Firestarter is Prodigy's favourite cover version and featured in the Just Cause 3 trailer
- 2014 : I_CON is rewarded with the Dutch industry award "Edison" and three 3FM Awards: Best Band, Best Rock Band, Best Album
- "Down Town" is included in Electronic Arts game FIFA 2014.
- De Staat voted Best Album of 2009 in Live XS magazine and won the prestigious 3VOOR12 AWARD 2009 for best album in the Netherlands
- De Staat's singer has won a "Duiveltje" for best vocalist 2009 – Drummer is rewarded as best drummer 2010
- De Staat has been nominated for several 3FM Awards in 2010 and 2011, and an Edison Award for Best Album 2010

- 2011 festivals include SXSW, Pinkpop, Lowlands, Exit Festival (Serbia), Iceland Airwaves, CMJ and Culture Collide
- 2010 appearances include Glastonbury, Eurosonic, The Great Escape, Popkomm, Berlin Music Week, NXNE
- 2009 festivals include Pinkpop, Lowlands, Dour, Sziget
- For 2010/2011, De Staat is chosen as one of six export-ready Dutch bands, to receive a "Music Xport" subsidy.
- Sept 09 international release of Codemasters' GRID2, including "The Fantastic Journey of the Underground Man" of De Staat.

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