

Soul-folk duo Take Berlin ventures into the woods and back on “Schoharie”

It was an affinity for soul music and hip-hop that first brought lo-fi folk purveyors *Take Berlin* together. After a chance encounter at the Baltic Soul Festival, the two jumped between Berlin and Brooklyn to complete Lionize, a collection of lo-fi songs they recorded on an abandoned cassette deck. Using mainly ***Wurlitzer electric piano and acoustic guitar*** to accompany their voices, the 2013 EP established an intimate, analog identity for the duo - quite a change of pace for two musicians who play with a diverse range of artists, including; *Aloe Blacc, Sleigh Bells, Little Boots and Eli “Paperboy” Reed*.

Take Berlin revisit their nostalgic sound on the upcoming record, ***Schoharie***. Shaped in the Catskill Mountains and Brooklyn, the songs mirror these competing environments and mark a shift towards the more ***psychedelic side of their lo-fi folk***. The stories are slightly more opaque and the band often departs from their minimalist aesthetic, with drum machines racing alongside acoustic guitars, emulating the Schoharie Creek after which the album was named.

The duo enlisted friends from the ***William Onyeabor Atomic Bomb!*** band and ***Sharon Jones and the Dap Kings*** to fill out the rhythm section and the record relies heavily on an Akai MPC, the sampler known more for classic hip hop than stripped-down folk music. Yvonne grew up in East Berlin and when the wall came down she, much like Jesse in Cleveland, became obsessed with hip-hop culture. Unconventional sonic choices have become a hallmark of *Take Berlin* and ***the grainy sound pallet for the record was actually modeled after Blowout Comb, the 1994 album by hip-hop luminaries Digable Planets***.

Take Berlin is a band that seems intent on avoiding cliche's and the stories on ***Schoharie*** are presented with an almost brazen intimacy. It's a challenging piece of work that has its tranquil origins in the Catskill Mountains but eventually winds its way downriver and into the fast-paced boroughs of New York City. ***Schoharie*** is due out on February 9, 2016 with the first single slated for release next month.

Listen to the upcoming record ***Schoharie*** :

<https://soundcloud.com/take-berlin/sets/schoharie/s-1P6RB>

For more information about *Take Berlin*, please contact Jesse Barnes (jbarnez@gmail.com), 504-400 5460 or Andreas Ryser at Mouthwatering Records (info@mouthwateringrecords.com), +41 79 222 69 75.

