

CACTUS TRUCK

John Dikeman, saxophones.
Jasper Stadhouders, guitar and bass.
Onno Govaert, drums.

BIOGRAPHY

Cactus Truck creates startlingly intense music. Through complete physical and psychological surrender, the pull raw and pure emotions out of their instruments. In each performance, they push themselves beyond their limits through improvisation, resulting in a quick-paced music of very high energy, often genre defying. The band formed in Amsterdam in April 2010 and has since played over a 100 concerts all over Europe and the USA. Cactus Truck frequently collaborates with a wide variety of like-minded artists, including Terrie Ex, Jeb Bishop, Nicolas Field, Peter Jacquemyn, Ab Baars, Kevin Shea, Roy Campbell and Wally Shoup. Their first official album entitled "Brand New For China!" (PE119) was released in March 2012 on Public Eyesore Records (www.publiceyesore.com) and has been well received by critics world wide, describing the music with mere superlatives. Next to "Brand New For China!" they released a cassette tape featuring Terrie Ex on Beyt Al Tapes called "Macho Sex with Terrie Ex", and a self made CD-R entitled Cactus Truck. Cactus Truck went into Seizures Palace in Brooklyn to record again at the end of an eight week tour throughout the USA. A release of this material is planned for 2013.

PRESS

"Concerts of the year: Cactus Truck at Zebulon, NYC, 1 November 2012."
Andrey Henkin's Best Of 2012, New York City Jazz Record

"Discovery of the year: Cactus Truck. Young, Dutch improvisers (about time!). Sparky and real."
Terrie Ex, recollections of 2011, The Wire

*"It's been a long time since the Netherlands had such a wild jazz band. That comes as a relief. ****"*
Tim Spangers, Volkskrant

"It's easy to see why The Ex's Terrie Hessels described Cactus Truck as the discovery of the year in The Wire's 2011 Rewind a few months back. His idea of a friendly greeting is a hard punch to the solar plexus, and that's what Amsterdam based American saxophonist John Dikeman and Dutch sparring partners guitarist/bassist Jasper Stadhouders and drummer Onno Govaert deliver on Brand New For China!, three of whose seven excitingly raw tracks clock in at just 20 seconds, for anyone nostalgic for grindcore. But there's a lingering aftertaste of vintage free jazz in Dikeman's rough, rubbery saxophone playing and Stadhouders's wild, wiry guitar."
Dan Warburton, The Wire

"Cactus Truck opts for the monumental approach, the Grand Gesture, the Fucking Statement. Nietzsche would have found all this excessive courage great. ... A welcome kick in the jazz balls."
Guy Peters, Goddeau/Enola

"They've collaborated with agitprop bouncers The Ex as well as open-form improvisers like Ab Baars, Dave Rempis and Jeb Bishop and it's not difficult to see why they've found a willing stable of partners: the trio gets things done. ... Certainly a healthy dose of obstinacy is at play here, Stadhouders doggedly strumming a detuned guitar in careening chunks as Govaert rattles and pushes, Dikeman's effusive and steely keen soaring atop it all. Or, in a fine tenor and drum duet towards the end of "Sweet Movie", the fourth track here, Govaert hangs out just behind the beat and a little to the left, continuing his twinkle-eyed random careen as Stadhouders picks up a gritty bass line reminiscent of Confusion is Sex-era Kim Gordon. ... Once again: Cactus Truck gets things done."
Clifford Allen, New York City Jazz Record

"It just might be that "Brand New For China!" reaches legendary status in the history of Dutch improvised music."
Herman te Loo, JazzFlits

"Brand New For China! reads like a calling card, unapologetically letting us know what their agenda is, from the 3, thirty second blasts of intensity, laced around the 4 longer tracks, to their choice of album cover art. They mean business, and like anyone from the punk tradition, they don't care what we think. I can't wait to see what else they bring to the table on their next effort."
Philip Coombs, Free Jazz

"The trio's raw punker energy disguises their evidently keen musical intelligence."
Tim Owen, Dalston Sound

"The manic intensity and skronking chaos of Cactus Truck whose hyper-energetic jazz free-form workouts are enough to spark electricity between the ears and get you grinning like a cheshire cat. The band display amazing understanding and dexterity, their almost telepathic interplay giving the piece a vitality and rhythm that is hard to pin down but excellent to listen to."

Ptolemaic Terrascope

"Although the relentless combination of speed, feedback and controlled screech is overwhelming, in the greatest possible sense, it also becomes clear that 'Cactus Truck's' cathartic expulsion of energy results from unusual counterpoints and very tight group dynamics somewhere between improvisation and composition. The original perception that each member is soloing in isolation gradually becomes replaced with a sense of interaction and cohesion. Not that this in any way reduces the crude effectiveness and energy of the project, whose relentless, invigorating and elusive snottiness should probably just be completely engaged, rather than dissected."

Chris Trowell, Foxy Digitalis

"Whether they mean to or not, the Dutch trio Cactus Truck makes a statement in the jazz world... With their feet planted in history, screaming in 2012. And into the future. They interact as if their lives depended on it."

Tim Spangers, Jazz International Rotterdam

"A monument of courage, of professionalism and absolute surrender. ...They lead to a kind of musical insanity for which there is no medicine. ...Cactus Truck has all the goodness of the American power blowers like Frank Wright, Charles Gayle and Albert Ayler in their music. ... It goes just as far as The Ex and the Japanese artists Akira Sakata and Yosuke Yamashita, forerunners of the Japenese noise movement. ... They make thunderous music, that hurts, but through its intensity and sincerity it must hit the soul of every righteous music lover. Therefore Cactus Truck is a relief in the Dutch jazz scene and 'Brand New For China!' the revelation of 2012."

Rinus van der Heijden, Jazzenzo

"Improvisations of a raw beauty, grinding and chaotic."

Ab Baars

"What an energy! ... The music overwhelms you like a tsunami tearing through the Bimhuis."

Jan Jasper Tamboer, Jazzenzo

"Cactus Truck stood on stage with great confidence and blew away ... the entire audience. After the last tones decayed, the totally baffled audience sat in complete silence and slowly realized that a great concert had just taken place."

Bart Hollebrandse, JazzFlits

"This album, in its noisiness, makes me smile every time I put it on."

Caitlin Crockard, No Wrong Notes

"The scum of Cactus Truck ... delivers with this suppurating lump of a record one of the most ebullient, from the abdomen fired, improvisation records from the Netherlands: a seething, shooting spectacle of bleating, howling, nagging and snarling saxophone swipes, chastising and wrenching the guitar strings and equally brutal as chaotic drum eruptions, which altogether leads to a violent head butt ... above all wanting to cause a physical sensation. ... Brand New For China! shows the most exciting side of free improvisation."

"In punky moods and excited shouts we're headed for the end of time. Wild jazz punk noise for the brave with high resilience."

Gonzo (Circus)