



lespecial

The New York and Boston-based rock power trio, lespecial, carves their own path in contemporary rock music, veering from hip-hop to metal, prog to house, pensive indie-rock to apocalyptic dub... and yet somehow still present a unified musical vision.

These three childhood friends from Connecticut play off of a lifetime of shared experience in their writing and performance. In a power trio, it's essential that each of the players can utterly captivate you at any given time. Each individual has a lot of weight to carry and is only as strong as the weakest link. In the studio, as on stage, it seems at first blush that Jon Grusauskas—delivering lyrics that call for your attention and seamlessly moving from guitar to keys to samples—is handling the entire upper end of the spectrum... until you consider how broad the melodic embrace of rhythmattest Rory Dolan and low end wizard Luke Bemand: injecting splashes of color and wicked chops into their heavy groove foundations or driving assaults, this dynamic battery simultaneously eases and propels lespecial through fractious changes of mood and tempo.

The band's fearless pursuit of a synthesis of the musical idioms that inspire them has, thus far, culminated with the release of their second album, *cheen*, on October 31, 2017. Pole vaulting over traditional genres, *cheen* is a snapshot of a band flexing their remarkable creative muscles. In a traditional sense, *cheen* is a risky album: it asks the listener to suspend a categorical approach and dig into their own eclectic unconsciousness, to adapt a phrase, and appreciate the flow of the record from start to finish, as it moves guided by an unseen plan. If there is an underlying thematic structure, it is one that is anchored—musically and lyrically—by horror flicks, 1980s video games and lespecial's indictment of the current cultural state of affairs. Not overtly political, angry or morose, *cheen* seems to observe the zeitgeist and respond to it. lespecial's willingness to take this risk of presenting an album full of flavors and feels is a reflection of the respect they have for their fans, present and future: they simply don't underestimate the listener, and that itself is refreshing.

Never willing to sit back and settle into a groove, lespecial pivoted quickly from touring in support of the release of *cheen* into a whole new format: collaborating with and supporting the iconic Bay Area hip-hop emcee and producer, Zion I, on tour dates and a forthcoming album. There are also plans to release remixes of *cheen* tracks from some of their producer friends who hold lespecial in the highest esteem.

lespecial.net

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