

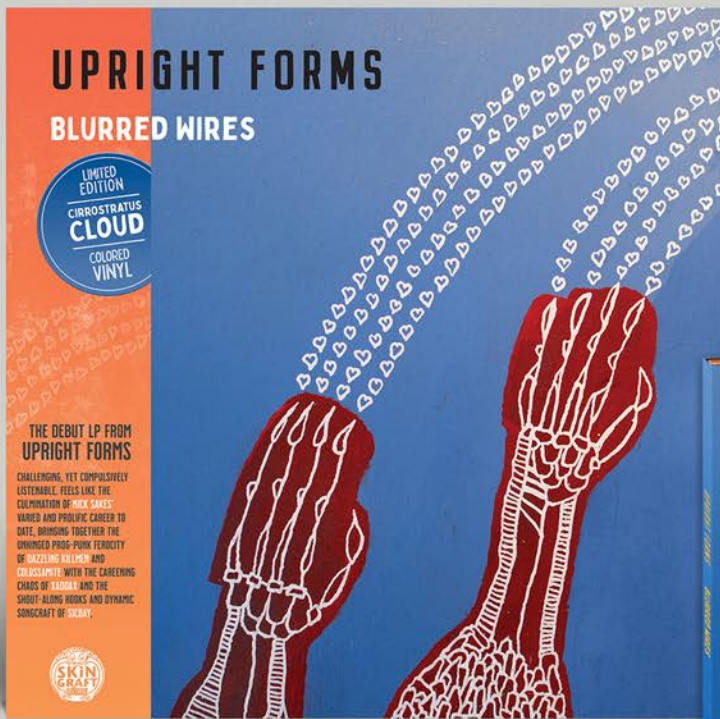
"THE DEBUT OF NICK SAKES' NEW BAND... IT IS AN AIR PUNCHER"
- THE ORGAN

"ROUSING BUT DANCEABLE STRINGENT VERSES AND SHOUTY VOCAL WEIRDNESS"
- FECKING BAHAMAS

"POST-HARDCORE WITH A POP SENSIBILITY AND THEATRICALITY"
- NEW NOISE

"RAUCOUS NOISE PUNK. YOU DON'T HEAR STUFF LIKE THIS OFTEN"
- BEARDED GENTLEMEN

"AFTER ONE LISTEN, I COULD FEEL THE SWEAT STICKING MY CLOTHES TO ME"
- JOYZINE



CATALOG #: GR158LP
COLORED VINYL LP



CATALOG #: GR158CD
MOD COMPACT DISC



UPRIGHT FORMS

STREET DATE:
JUNE 28TH, 2024

BLURRED WIRES

FIRST VINYL EDITION PRESSED ON CIRROSTRATUS CLOUD COLORED VINYL AND INCLUDES A DOUBLE SIDED "FOOTLONG" OBI. MOD CD ALSO AVAILABLE.

"I LOVE ANTHEMIC, TUG-AT-YOUR-HEARTSTRINGS KIND OF MUSIC. I REALLY DO. AND I THINK THESE GUYS DO TOO"

That's **Nick Sakes** speaking on a joint Zoom with bassist **Noah Paster** and drummer **Shaun Westphal**, his bandmates in **Upright Forms**, about their upcoming debut album, **Blurred Wires**. If you've followed **Sakes'** past output on **SKIN GRAFT Records** during the past 30-plus years - three LPs and various EPs, singles and compilation appearances, spanning four different bands — his statement might surprise you. This is, after all, the same man who spent most of the '90s howling over the surgically precise prog-punk of **Dazzling Killmen** and later the unhinged avant-rock of **Colossamite**, and then returned to the label in the 2010s as half of the ferocious, No Wave-inspired duo **Xaddax**.

But a penchant for the belligerent and/or bizarre is only part of **Sakes'** musical DNA, as he revealed in **Sicbay**, a Minneapolis trio that released three albums' worth of tuneful yet appealingly bent indie rock from 2001 through 2005. **Blurred Wires** picks up on that thread, joining it together with strands from **Sakes'** diverse musical past, and adding in **Paster's** highly developed songwriting smarts and **Westphal's** nimble but rock-solid drumming. The result feels like a summation of **Sakes'** musical life to date: 10 compact songs that balance sturdy hooks and graceful dynamics with the potent tension, dissonance and overall oddity that mark much of his back catalog.

Consider **"They Kept on Living,"** a song that first appeared in an earlier version on the 2022 **SKIN GRAFT Halloween compilation Sounds to Make You Shudder!**. It starts off with a grinding 7/4 groove, as **Sakes** spits out cryptic lines over scratchy noise-punk chords. After a brief build, the band explodes into a massive chorus, with **Sakes** shouting the title line against a fist-pumping riff.

The trio sound equally convincing digging into the pummeling aggression of **"My Lower Self,"** where **Sakes'** vocals start off as a feral snarl and then soar triumphantly during the chorus, or the soothing indie-pop hush of the second half of the **Paster**-penned **"Drive at Night."**

Various **"tug-at-your-heartstrings"** touchstones informed **"Long Shadow,"** from **Superdrag** on **Paster's** side to **Guided by Voices** on **Sakes'**, adding up to one of the record's most tastefully dynamic tracks. **"Chopped Even,"** meanwhile, makes room for urgent hooks within pure, chaotic energy. **Sakes** channeled **Television Personalities**, cult heroes of melodic British post-punk, on **"Animositine,"** which he accurately labels **"our prettiest song."**

Nearly 35 years into his career, **Sakes** is finding new ways to challenge himself - and in **Paster** and **Westphal**, he's found two musicians who are equally comfortable with both the thorniest and the loveliest manifestations of underground rock. When they reflect on their chemistry, they agree that their openness to collaboration is, as **Sakes** puts it, **"one of our superpowers."**

On **Blurred Wires**, that superpower yields dynamic, challenging, profoundly memorable results, while leaving ample room for future growth. - **Hank Shteamer**

vocals | guitar NICK SAKES

bass | vocals NOAH PASTER

drums SHAUN WESTPHAL



- HEAVEN KNOWS
- MY LOWER SELF
- DRIVE AT NIGHT
- THEY KEPT ON LIVING
- LONG SHADOW
- CHOPPED EVEN
- ANIMOSITINE
- REGULAR MULTIPLIER
- BIOLOGY OF TIME
- MISSION



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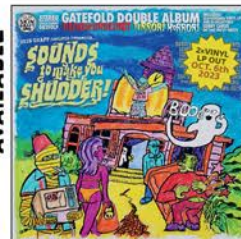


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