

MASS MOVEMENT LIVE

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23.04.2009 - Earth/Stebmo @ The Croft, Bristol

Opening up tonight is jazz pianist and experimental audio junkie Steve 'Stebmo' Moore. Steve a multi instrumentalist, who as it goes also plays keys for Earth treats the receptive crowd to a stark and beautifully minimal and eclectic set. When was the last time you went to a 'hard rock' show and heard something totally different and unapologetically sincere? Stebmo drift from heartfelt chords, melodies to emotive drone like tones and cascading structures, provoking thought and taking the listener on a journey through sound and acid lounge. Playing drums tonight is Earth bassist Don McGreevy and the sound and mood this duo creates is astounding, Don's meticulous, heavy and jazz influenced drum style adding another element and dimension to Steve's already impressive compositions and diverse musical styling. Will definitely keep an eye out for Stebmo in the future and as an opener for an Earth show could anyone ask for more?



I've been to see a few bands recently who try and do the whole slow tonal thing but not one of them come even close to the sheer scale and excellence that is Earth's sound. From the first note the room is filled

with a thick cloud of perfect noise both enveloping and captivating all in its path. Dylan Carlson is truly the king of doom and if you consider the audience his students then tonight is a master class. Repetitive, building riffs are married off to Adrienne Davies note perfect and immensely heavy controlled drumming. Watching and listening to Earth play live feels like necking a shit load of Valium, jumping on a plane and pointing it straight at the sun. An ever-evolving crash course with destiny, interwoven with the unmistakable sound of human suffering and anguish, the entire audience is enthralled and at Carlson's request not a single camera flash goes off the entire time... it was refreshing not to see an army of camera phone photographers (lets admit it we're all guilty at times!) but it was bliss, no flashing lights, no singing no dancing just pure unadulterated, unapologetic fuzzy warm heroin blues.

Earth are such an influential band it was incredible to watch them in such a intimate venue and as i'm writing this reiew they're playing out in Roadburn Festival in Holland! I'm insanely jealous of you guys partying out there in Tillburg! I could happily listen to Earth forever or until i fall over.. even then i'd still have my ears open.

I've never seen Earth play before I tried to come with an open mind and no pre-conceptions. I left feeling like id just witnessed something incredibly special and was just blown away by the epic tour de force that is Earth! If you aren't familiar with Earth and like me you're a fan of all kinds of different stoner rock, blues, doom and drone are a fan of Sunn 0))) and the supergroup that is Teeth of the Lions Rule the Divine etc then Earth is essential listening. They've got a new album, an immense back catalogue and from what i gather are just about to start work on a new record.