

# KATAONO

SEPTEMBER '92

## *Neurosis - Souls at Zero - (Alternative Tentacles)*

*Whilst avoiding the current influx of US bands; Polvo, Seam, Pond, Hum, Swell, to name a few (Yep, they're all good, but so similar, so generic, there is only so much you can take before the snore factor sets in), I stumbled across Neurosis. I don't want to go over the top (as is my tendency to lose myself in my enthusiasm) but I have to say Souls at Zero makes 90 percent of music inside the "alternative" bracket seem bland and lifeless by comparison.*

*English Bands are evidently at their most apolitical, happy to say nothing. Meanwhile American Bands undergo an awakening politically, socially, and ecologically. Neurosis have a painful awareness that the Earth and Human Race are basically fucked. This would be of little consequence if it weren't the driving force behind one of the most devastating and captivating records this year. Like the finest music Neurosis defy categorization. They have the brutal dynamism of hardcore, but are far more free-form and adventurous (additional instruments include violin, flute, 'cello and trumpet). This is not noise for noise sake, there is "soul" embodied deep in Neurosis: Emotion even. TO CRAWL UNDER ONE'S SKIN is a song about isolation; careering frenzied guitars sprawl over bonecrushing drumming, SCOTT seizes the moment and shrieks "Isolated for so long, blighted by the first frost, longing for the warmth of human touch..... Reaching through the ice at last, but you feel the frost and run, Run from me back to the secure". Neurosis can be more touching and affecting than the majority of bands renowned for this.*

*Elswhere they castigate the human race for the interference with nature. Various voices interject and overlap each other unfettered and furious. Their two guitars sound like six, suffocating the twisted melodies punctuated by Jason Roeder's thunderous drumming. A CHRONOLGY FOR SURVIVAL is an acceptance of nature's cycle "rise, run, feed, ripen, wound, wither, fall, rise again" and yet it finishes with an aching outro of sad yearning strings - astounding!*

*Neurosis make hardcore music very human without losing it's hard edge. Neurosis piss over Superchunk et al, so instead of blowing your dosh on one of the hyped college kids bands, buy SOUL AT ZERO, you won't be disappointed.*

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