

MAI MAI MAI NEL SUD

Released May 2019
La Tempesta International



LTI-068

'Cutrone deserves admiration for how much he crams into such a short space of time, preventing the listener from ever locking the record into the straightjackets of genre and influence' — The Quietus

'Mai Mai Mai trades in energising blasts of biomechanical synth noise which snarl and throb like a demonically possessed star cruiser' — The Wire

'Diggin this f-cked, weirded out, atonal mad shizzle from Rome' The Bug
'Mai Mai Mai records rich and challenging drone, ambient, and electronic music, which is often as elegant as it is abrasive' — Bandcamp Daily

In his formative years **Toni Cutrone** aka **MAI MAI MAI** travelled around Europe and the Near East with his parents, ending up in the south of Italy. Throughout this period Cutrone assimilated the different cultures, atmospheres and sonorities of the places he was involuntarily taken to. The sensations and sounds he experienced during this time were intense enough to leave indelible traces on the music he has made since. Yet Cutrone's longstanding and considerable experience in the Italian underground has inevitably played a significant role too.

Every one of Cutrone's releases as Mai Mai Mai have so far been named after characters drawn from the Greek alphabet, beginning with *Theta* (Boring Machines, 2013) and followed by *Delta* (Yerevan Tapes, 2014) and *Phi* (Not Not Fun Records/Boring Machines, 2017) With each of these projects – subsequently anthologized as the 'Mediterranean trilogy' – Roman noise maven Cutrone has unloaded a venomous, punishing and miasmatic electronic music, one that reached a climax of vivid, interzonal synthesis and scorched ritual on the trilogy's final instalment *Phi*.

The new LP by Mai Mai Mai, titled **NEL SUD**, continues to explore Mediterranean

→



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history yet does so with a different sense of ambition. A journey into the past of the Italian south, realized through original footage taken from Italian ethnographic documentaries made during the 1960s and 70s, *Nel Sud* is intended as an original soundtrack and is mixed with sounds from the original films.

In the A/V performances of *Nel Sud*, the cinematic output of directors such as Luigi Di Gianni, Gianfranco Mingozzi, Vittorio De Seta and Cecilia Mangini are edited and manipulated in real time by the video artist Simne Donadni, and set to Mai Mai Mai's heavy and hypnotic sound signature. Profoundly evocative of the Mezzogiorno d'Italia (Southern Italy), *Nel Sud* explores manifold themes associated with the films and the region; the interrelation between pagan rituals and Catholicism, lives shaped by arduous labour and working-class dignity, the fragility of man subdued by nature, divinity and magic.

The original soundtrack of *Nel Sud* will be released on LP and digital download at the end of May 2019 by **La Tempesta International** (also home to Xiu Xiu, Ninos Du Brasil) Mai Mai Mai's recent work has included a role in the recording band for Chapel Perilous, the latest record by renowned Manchester based collective Gnod. Mai Mai Mai has also made an appearance on the latest compilation by the cult techno/noise Berlin imprint Instruments of Discipline, courtesy of the track Kuanos.

As a live prospect Mai Mai Mai has toured extensively throughout Europe and the UK, appearing at Liverpool Psych Fest and at shows alongside the likes of Gnod, the legendary Silver Apples, and with Inuk throat singer Tanya Tagaq.

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