



*REMEMBER WHEN ROCK 'N' ROLL WAS EXCITING?*

**PROFESSOR AND THE MADMAN ARE SET TO EXPAND BEYOND  
THE CONFINES OF THEIR PUNK ROCK LEGACIES WITH  
THE KALEIDOSCOPIC SOUNDS OF *DISINTEGRATE ME***

**THE FIRST IMPORTANT NEW ROCK BAND OF 2018 COMPRISES ALFIE AGNEW  
(Adolescents, D.I.), SEAN ELLIOTT (D.I., Mind Over Four), PAUL GRAY  
(The Damned, Eddie & the Hot Rods, UFO) AND RAT SCABIES (The Damned)**

***Disintegrate Me* released on LP/CD/DL by Fullertone Records on February 23, 2018**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / November 6, 2017 - Southern California's **PROFESSOR AND THE MADMAN** are ready for the curtain to rise on the group's world debut. Inspired by Universal horror movies, the literature of Edgar Allan Poe, and the chaos of the world around them, the four veteran musicians who comprise PROFESSOR AND THE MADMAN are co-frontmen/songwriters **Alfie Agnew** and **Sean Elliott**, alongside the legendary rhythm section of drummer **Rat Scabies** and bassist **Paul Gray**. The group's new album, *Disintegrate Me*, is released on LP/CD/DL by FullerTone Records on February 23, 2018. It marks Gray's debut in the group.

Co-produced by the band and **David M. Allen** (The Cure, The Damned, The Sisters of Mercy), *Disintegrate Me's* nine tracks encompass elements of British Invasion rock, Britpop, psych, Prog, power pop, and even country, all underpinned by the melodic punk energy so clearly imprinted on the band's DNA. Agnew and Elliott are credited with the lion's share of the song and lyric writing, and the two take turns singing lead. There's a deep sense of introspection at the heart of *Disintegrate Me* as songs grapple with lack of direction in life, dreams unfulfilled, and coming

to terms with the loss of friends and family. However, these themes only surface if you dig deep. On the surface, the album is an energetic, instantly catchy hand grenade.

“Nightmare” kicks things off with Dr. Phibes-inspired horror organ and Gray’s prowling bass, shortly before exploding into a ferocious Death Rock classic worthy of upper tier SoCal punk albums like T.S.O.L.’s *Dance with Me* (1981) and 45 Grave’s *Sleep in Safety* (1983). “Space Walrus” veers off into the stratosphere with its tale of a space explorer who is undoubtedly a close cousin to Bowie’s Major Tom. Amidst Beatles-inspired psychedelia and Carnavalesque piano, Elliott sings of a spaceman flying through “radioactive debris” in a “machine made of cheap tinfoil sheets.” “Wishes” revisits the 1990s college rock/power pop of bands like Flop and Gumball, while “Machines” melds punk with themes of alienation consistent with *The Matrix* and Patrick McGoohan’s *The Prisoner*.

“Faces” is an out-of-leftfield British Invasion rave-up. Scabies’s drumming recalls Keith Moon’s controlled chaos and Agnew delivers a super catchy melody cut from the same cloth as moderate The Who and The Creation. “The Mirror” is ‘70s-styled epic pop with bombastic production and a closing drum coda from Scabies, while “Useless” explores futility and pain, even managing to work in an excerpt from FDR’s “Prayer on D-Day.”

*Disintegrate Me*’s closing pair of tracks, “Demented Love Song” and “Electroconvulsive Therapy,” likely share the same protagonist. “Demented Love Song” is a total surprise, a rambling, homespun country tune that wouldn’t be out of place in the catalogs of The Marshall Tucker, Starland Vocal, or Little River bands. Featuring brush drumming from Scabies and a twisted Beach Boys opening, the song is shockingly timely in its depiction of an unwanted stalker in your front yard. “I stole your underwear and bra,” sings Agnew, “so I can feel closer to you.” That same stalker, now revealed to be “Mr. Jones,” enters a psych ward for treatment in the closing “Electroconvulsive Therapy.” As the guitars grind and coil with serpentine menace, poor Mr. Jones screams away his sweet insanity.

The origins of PROFESSOR AND THE MADMAN reach back to the early 1990s, when both Agnew and Elliott were guitarists in the punk band, D.I. Playing together, the pair hit it off immediately, both musically and personality-wise. They both loved punk but also felt confined by its strict parameters. Elliott taught Agnew jazz chords. Agnew played Elliott some of his piano-based compositions. The two realized they could collaborate and write songs more musically adventurous than the D.I. mold. But other life pursuits, most notably Agnew studying for and earning a Professorship in Mathematics, ended up derailing the emerging partnership for two decades. It wasn’t until 2014 that Agnew and Elliott reconnected and started laying the groundwork for PATM.

An unexpected third member arrived as a Christmas gift in 2015. Agnew and Elliott were playing a holiday-themed gig with a different punk rock side project, introducing The Damned’s “Smash It Up” as an encore, when founding Damned drummer Rat Scabies was coaxed on stage to join them. Scabies happened to be in Los Angeles and some friends had brought him to the show. Agnew, Elliott and Scabies were exhilarated by the performance. To such a degree that

they all convened at Agnew's home studio, Hollydale, to take a shot at recording a song together. Pleased with the results, Scabies offered to drum on all the tracks for PROFESSOR AND THE MADMAN's initial pair of digitally-released indie albums, *Elixir I: Good Evening, Sir!* (July 2016) and *Elixir II: Election* (November 2016). Sessions were recorded via file sharing — Agnew and Elliott in Orange County, Scabies in London. *Elixir I: Good Evening, Sir!* marked only the second time Agnew and Elliott had ever played together on the same record (the first being D.I.'s *Live at the Dive*, a concert recorded in 1991 but released in 1993).

Paul Gray was brought into the fold when Elliott found him on Facebook. Although he hadn't communicated with Scabies since a run of Damned reunion shows in the early '90s, Gray was open to the idea of listening to a few demos Agnew and Elliott had written for a third LP. Gray liked what he heard and agreed to take part in the project. He appears on eight of the nine tracks on *Disintegrate Me*. He also re-recorded the basslines for "Nightmare," a cut which originally debuted on *Elixir I*.

Scabies and Gray played together on two classic Damned albums, 1980's *The Black Album* and 1982's *Strawberries*. Prior to The Damned, Gray was the bassist for Eddie & the Hot Rods, a poppy, high-energy rock outfit now widely recognized as a crucial link between Britain's pub rock scene and the punk explosion. They are best remembered for "Do Anything You Wanna Do," a #9 UK hit in 1977. Immediately following his time in The Damned, Gray joined long-running English rock band UFO for four years. Presently, Scabies also records and plays live with The Mutants, a rock group which includes Chris Constantinou (The Wolfmen, Sinéad O'Connor, Adam Ant), Paul Frazer (Black Futures, Subsource), and a revolving cast of guest musicians.

Since Scabies and Gray reside in the UK, the studio lineup of PROFESSOR AND THE MADMAN have yet to make their live debut. Instead, PROFESSOR AND THE MADMAN's current live lineup consists of local SoCal rock veterans.

The idea of a UK concert dates with Scabies and Gray remains a possibility. To be continued ...

#### **PROFESSOR AND THE MADMAN – Studio lineup**

**Alfie Agnew - vocals/guitar/keyboards (Adolescents, D.I.)**  
**Sean Elliott – vocals/guitar/keyboards (D.I., Mind Over Four)**  
**Paul Gray – bass (The Damned, Eddie & The Hot Rods, UFO)**  
**Rat Scabies – drums (The Damned, The Mutants)**

#### **PROFESSOR AND THE MADMAN – Live performance lineup**

**Alfie Agnew - vocals/guitar/keyboards (Adolescents, D.I.)**  
**Sean Elliott – vocals/guitar/keyboards (D.I., Mind Over Four)**  
**Frank Agnew – bass/backing vocals (Social Distortion, Adolescents, T.S.O.L., 45 Grave)**

**Mark Tolbert – guitar/backing vocals**  
**Nick Scalzo – drums**

***Disintegrate Me:*** Tracklist

1. Nightmare (lead vocal: Alfie)
2. Space Walrus (lead vocal: Sean)
3. Wishes (lead vocal: Alfie)
4. Faces (lead vocal: Alfie)
5. The Mirror (lead vocal: Sean)
6. Machines (lead vocal: Alfie)
7. Useless (lead vocal: Sean)
8. Demented Love Song (lead vocal: Alfie)
9. Electroconvulsive Therapy (lead vocal: Sean)

All songs by Professor and the Madman except “Machines”  
(Agnew/Calabro/Knight/Milucky/Tolbert)

Produced by David M. Allen and Professor and the Madman  
Recorded in Fullerton, CA; Cardiff, UK; and London, UK  
Mixed and Mastered by Mark Bolton at Orange County Arts Center in Brea, CA, USA

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