

HR:R



P R E S S   K I T   2 0 2 2

# Harvey Rushmore & the Octopus

B A S E L / B E R N E ,   S W I T Z E R L A N D

C O N T E N T

<b>Band</b>	. . . . .	<b>3</b>
<b>Album “Freedomspacecake”</b>	2022 . . . . .	<b>6</b>
<b>Album “Futureman”</b>	2018 . . . . .	<b>9</b>
<b>Album “The Night”</b>	2017 . . . . .	<b>12</b>
<b>EP “Octopus Ride”</b>	2016 . . . . .	<b>16</b>
<b>Contact</b>	. . . . .	<b>18</b>



HR:R

B A N D

**Harvey Rushmore & the Octopus** is a seducing mix of Garage, Surf, Psych and Krautrock. They will make you sweat, dance, and leave you breathless, full of desire.

**"Psych rushes from the past,  
an audiovisual adventure,  
mixed with a wave of surf."**



LIVE - REITSCHULE, BERN 2021

B A N D

## **Massimo Tondini**

Vocals, Lead Guitar

## **Jonathan Meyer**

Bass, Backing Vocals

## **Jakob Läser**

Drums, Percussion,  
Beat Machine, Harp

## **Stefan Cecere**

Organ + Synths, Guitar,  
Percussion, Live Visuals



P A L P F E S T I V A L , S I E R R E 2 0 2 1

The members of **Harvey Rushmore & the Octopus** have known each other for more than 15 years and have been active in various bands together. The founders of Harvey Rushmore & the Octopus, Massimo Tondini and Jakob Läser, were former members of the band **Navel**. From 2011 until 2015, they toured internationally and appeared on radio and television with Navel, gaining the valuable tools that they later used to create this new band.

**“To create something that is open to randomness and improvisation, something that cannot be forced into a mold.”** This is the foundation of the band. Massimo Tondini, Jakob Läser, Jonathan Meyer and Stefan Cecere **“... the band is a space where we process the daily tumult of life, without having to define ourselves.”**

The quartet mixes innovative beats with psychedelic rock and surf of the 1960s, inspired by neopsychedelic bands such as **The Black Angels, Wooden Shjips** and **Moon Duo**. Their live shows are complimented by drifting live visuals.

Since the first spontaneous concert at a gallery opening for the Walter Wolff art collective in 2015 in Basel, the band has played over **200 concerts** in Switzerland and throughout Europe. The band's reputation of quality live performances spread quickly.



# Freedomspacecake

Harvey Rushmore & the Octopus recorded their 3rd full-length album in spring 2021 with lots of new ideas and material. Once again in their very own studio (Madagascar Studio, Basel) in a deserted carpark in Basel. Well baked and mixed again by Jari Antti (Monoton Studio, Berlin) in Berlin. The album release is set to early fall 2022 via Taxi Gauche Records.

## Side A

- 1 **Plastiq**
- 2 **Speedmaster**
- 3 **The Wiper**
- 4 **Bakerman**
- 5 **Rainbow Machine**

## Side B

- 1 **Trip In  
The Mountain**
- 2 **Spacegarage  
In Your Head**
- 3 **Harvey Stardust**
- 4 **Freedomspacecake**

Hidden album link (Please don't share):

<https://tinyurl.com/hro-fsc>



# Freedomspacecake

OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE

It's been quiet for a while around psych rockers Harvey Rushmore & the Octopus. After an abstinence of three years, the band is back with their third album **"Freedomspacecake"** on psychedelic record label Taxi Gauche Records. The quartet has used the pandemic-related touring and concert impossibility to process the prevailing conditions musically. The result is nine tracks which deal with fears, excesses and the downfall of the world. A bad trip, which threatens the world since a long time. If it goes according to Harvey Rushmore & the Octopus, there is only one remedy: **"Freedom-spacecake"**.

**"Plastiq"** seems to be an easy opener at first, but soon it gets clear: Things are much darker ("Just a war in my head / I can't have it back") and the ride picks up speed in **"Speedmaster"**. Driven by psychedelic spheres, highs and lows, the mood rears up in this demonic and effects-rich fuzz monster until you succumb to the intoxication and are swallowed up by the night forever.

Psychedelic fuzz guitars and the bright, melancholic sounds of **"Rainbow Machine"** bring us back to the bittersweet actual cause: The horror-fairy tale has come true, the world is ending ("Black horses collapsing in slow motion / Birds are falling slowly into the ocean"). It slowly disintegrates piece by piece, along distorted guitar riffs and prancing percussion. In **"Spacegarage In Your Head"** and **"Harvey Stardust"** the vision changes: garage elements mixed with a good portion of reverberating rock spheres give hope for a better world. With eponymous title track **"Freedomspacecake"**, the journey ends with a hypnotic lo-fi anthem that makes you forget any sense of time.

**"Freedomspacecake"** is Harvey Rushmore & the Octopus 46-minute dystopian and psych-fuzz-soaked answer to a world that goes from one disaster to the next without having given up hope for something better. A world, which seems doomed without having given up hope for something better. A journey that almost scares you, which nevertheless thrills you so much that you wish it would never end.

Zurich, September 2022 – TAXI GAUCHE RECORDS (Vinyl / CD)

## Futureman

In April 2018, Harvey Rushmore & the Octopus invited again Jari Antti (Monoton Studio, Berlin) to Basel to record the **"Futureman"** album. It was recorded in their own studio, a deserted carpark.

To mark the album's release, the band was touring extensively across **Switzerland, Germany, Austria, Czech Republic, Belgium, Luxembourg, France, Spain and Portugal.**

Side A

- 1 **Slime on the Beach**
- 2 **Spiders in the Sun**
- 3 **Cosmic Lovers**
- 4 **Vacuum**

Side B

- 1 **Nightwalker**
- 2 **The Coaster**
- 3 **Trees Have Eyes**
- 4 **Hole in the Sky**

Album link:

<https://harveyrushmoreandtheoctopus.bandcamp.com/album/futureman>





# Futureman

OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE

“Futureman is mysterious and cryptic. Futureman has many genders and only partial human features. He is a further development of mankind and combines his good side with supernatural powers that allow him to travel through time and experience the universe intensively and filter-free,” says Massimo Tondini, the band’s songwriter, explaining the figure. This gift increasingly becomes a burden and drives Futureman to the edge. In a frenzy, he recognises humanity’s problems and is firmly decided to fight the good fight against them.

Harvey Rushmore & the Octopus build on the sound of their **The Night** album (Independent, 2017), enriching it with an additional two levels. **Futureman** is more open and enthusiastic as a result.

Using his skills, Futureman recognises the government’s true intentions and the power and money-hungry aristocrats that rule the world. But due to his multi-sexual orientation plus his gender and species fluid appearance, he is ignored by the public and treated with contempt while the world is threatened by a mysterious, red slime.

**Slime On The Beach** is also the album opener. A song that confidently presses forwards with a Casiotone intro and slapback delay on the vocals. The album maintains the tempo with the title track **“Futureman”** and its melody winds up dramatically. Then comes **Spiders In The Sun** and **“Cosmic Lovers”**, that brings out the melancholic side of the antihero Futureman.

On the search for food, the **Red Slime** was washed up onto the beaches of the world from the sea. The slime’s incredible beauty and radiant glow bewitches people and entices them from all over the world to wallow in it and – despite risking death – to become part of it. But creatures that come into contact with the hungry slime decompose and disintegrate. The public is bedazzled by the Red Slime’s beauty and hypnotic effect. The slime is quickly marketed, coveted and adored all around the world. The disastrous consequences for mankind are completely blanked out and ignored.

Another level is explored in the story of **The Coaster** who finds his purpose on the other side of the world and, following years of alcohol abuse and a life on the outskirts of society, sees a chance to escape misery; he creates a drug from the slime that is soon in great demand and proves very addictive.

Can Futureman ward off impending danger and win over the goodwill of mankind to his cause? Will he manage to overcome his fears and thoughts to save the world?

**Harvey Rushmore & the Octopus** have the answer to hand in the shape of nine psychedelic garage songs.

Basel, October 2018 – A TREE IN A FIELD RECORDS (Vinyl / CD)

### **Fuzzy Sun**

“Their latest album “Futureman” is an adventure, a sonic party somewhere in space.  
An album filled with psychedelic/garage tunes with some surf added to the mix.”

[www.fuzzy-sun.com/2018/11/13/futureman-by-harvey-rushmore-the-octopus/](http://www.fuzzy-sun.com/2018/11/13/futureman-by-harvey-rushmore-the-octopus/)

### **ByteFM**

«Die Geschichte, die Harvey Rushmore & The Octopus auf ihrem kommenden zweiten Album „Futureman“ erzählen werden, liest sich wie der Opiumrausch eines Science-Fiction-Autoren aus den 20er-Jahren. Und sie klingt auch so.»

[www.byte.fm/blog/redaktion/harvey-rushmore-the-octopus-81392/](http://www.byte.fm/blog/redaktion/harvey-rushmore-the-octopus-81392/)

### **Glitterhouse - Joe Whirlypop**

«Holy Shit so klingt heute die Schweiz? Was für ein rüdiges, drogenschwangeres Stück Musik [...] »

[www.mailorder.glitterhouse.com/album/5/rock--metal/1123504/futureman.html](http://www.mailorder.glitterhouse.com/album/5/rock--metal/1123504/futureman.html)

### **Aargauer Zeitung - Marc Krebs**

« [...] Klingt abgefahren? Ist es auch. Unheimlich? Durchaus. Unheimlich schön, ja, von einer musikalischen Grandezza und Reife, die einen ehrfürchtig den Hut ziehen lässt.»

[www.aargauerzeitung.ch/kultur/musik/eine-fantastische-reise-in-psychedelische-sphaeren-133535578](http://www.aargauerzeitung.ch/kultur/musik/eine-fantastische-reise-in-psychedelische-sphaeren-133535578)

### **Neolyd**

« [...] erschaffen Harvey Rushmore & the Octopus einen ganz eigenen Klangkosmos zwischen Oh Sees, den Beach Boys und King Gizzard and the Lizard Wizard.»»

<https://www.neolyd.com/audio-video/harvey-rushmore-the-octopus-slime-on-the-beach/>

### **Negative White**

« [...] Harvey Rushmore & the Octopus liefert alles an Soundmaterial, um sich auf einen haareschüttelnden Psychedelic-Trip auf Wolke 7 zu schiessen..»

[www.negativewhite.ch/musik/rezensionen/harvey-rushmore-and-the-octopus-futureman/](http://www.negativewhite.ch/musik/rezensionen/harvey-rushmore-and-the-octopus-futureman/)

### **RFV Basel**

« [...] Futureman ist ein bezauberndes, mitreissendes Stück retro-inspirierter Musik, die eine Menge Zukunft verspricht.»

[www.rfv.ch/magazin/album-reviews/2018/harvey-rushmore-the-octopus-futureman-wunderbar-klingende-zeitmaschine.html](http://www.rfv.ch/magazin/album-reviews/2018/harvey-rushmore-the-octopus-futureman-wunderbar-klingende-zeitmaschine.html)

### **Falter.at**

« [...] hier geht es psychedelisch und sanft drogenrockig zu.»

[www.falter.at/event/818754/harvey-rushmore-the-octopus](http://www.falter.at/event/818754/harvey-rushmore-the-octopus)

### **Swiss Music Export**

« [...] The music, however, is simply and irresistibly one thing: Fun.»

[www.swiss-music-export.com/2018/11/02/futureman-is-here](http://www.swiss-music-export.com/2018/11/02/futureman-is-here)

## **Hai Angriff**

«Damit pendeln sie zwischen spannenden Referenzen von Black Mountain über Wooden Shjips bis hin zu den späten NAVEL oder einem Schulterklopper für Brian Jonestown Massacre.»

[www.hai-angriff.de/harvey-rushmore-the-octopus-futureman](http://www.hai-angriff.de/harvey-rushmore-the-octopus-futureman)

## **Reverb Is For Lovers**

« [...] Nach dem hektischen Garage Psych auf dem eröffnenden „Slime On The Beach“ begegnen wir King Gizzard und den Oh Sees auf dem teils fließenden, dann wendigen Titeltrack „Futureman“. „Spiders In The Sun“ liefert staubigen Psych Rock, ein Fingerzeig an die Black Angels.»

[www.reverbisforlovers.com/review-harvey-rushmore-the-octopus-futureman/](http://www.reverbisforlovers.com/review-harvey-rushmore-the-octopus-futureman/)

## **Skug**

« [...] nicht ganz frei von Spintisiererei.»

[www.skug.at/harvey-rushmore-the-octopus-futureman/](http://www.skug.at/harvey-rushmore-the-octopus-futureman/)

## **Westzeit**

«Die Gitarren kommen von überall her, die Effekte stürzen auf einen hernieder. Irre ist das alles, aber äusserst hörensenswert. Jason Pierce hätte seine wahre Freude an dem Werk.»

[www.westzeit.de/rezensionen/?id=20186/](http://www.westzeit.de/rezensionen/?id=20186/)

## **Artnoir - Michael Bohli**

« [...] Roh, wild und dem Garage-Rock nahe, voller Schweiß und Lust. Ein prophetisches Album für Junggebliebene und Altwerdende.»

[www.artnoir.ch/harvey-rushmore-and-the-octopus-futureman/](http://www.artnoir.ch/harvey-rushmore-and-the-octopus-futureman/)

## **Concert News**

« [...] voller Garage Rock, Psychedelic, Noise und Stoner, Songs voller Lärm und Schmutz und Schönheit, wirr eben, böse und anstrengend, verdrogt, kaputt, komplett grossartig.»

[www.concert-news.de/2018/11/04/futureman/](http://www.concert-news.de/2018/11/04/futureman/)

## **Artnoir - Sebastian Leiggener**

« [...] Kaum auf der Bühne schnellen gefühlte tausend Pferdestärken von null auf Hundert in 0,2 Nanosekunden. Psychedelic Rock durchfährt den kleinen dunklen Club.»

[www.artnoir.ch/bericht-harvey-rushmore-and-the-octopus-2019-09-25/](http://www.artnoir.ch/bericht-harvey-rushmore-and-the-octopus-2019-09-25/)

## **Artnoir - Nicole Müller**

« [...] Mit fliegenden Gitarren, berauschten Effekten und lavalampenmässigen Klangteppichen krümmte die Band die Zeitrechnung mühelos.»

[www.artnoir.ch/bericht-harvey-rushmore-the-octopus-2019-10-16/](http://www.artnoir.ch/bericht-harvey-rushmore-the-octopus-2019-10-16/)



## The Night

The independently distributed debut album **"The Night"** was produced in Berlin by Jari Antti (Monoton Studio, Berlin) in the spring of 2017 was highly received and generated international airplay and reviews.

The album release in 2017 lead to two extended tours, with concerts in **Switzerland, Germany, France, Belgium, and the Netherlands.** The outcomes of the tours, and the contacts and connections made, created a positive and lasting impression for the future.

Side A

- 1 **Alchemy**
- 2 **The Night**
- 3 **Octopus Ride**
- 4 **Darkside**

Side B

- 1 **Beneath the Sun**
- 2 **Radiation**
- 3 **Rusty James**
- 4 **Dead Water**

Album link:

<https://harveyrushmoreandtheoctopus.bandcamp.com/album/the-night>



# The Night

Official Press Release

## “Creating something that is open for coincidence and improvisation, something that can’t be forced into a formal straightjacket.”

That is the basis for new psychedelic combo Harvey Rushmore and the Octopus. Massimo Tondini (voc./git.), Jakob Läser (drums), Jonathan Meyer (bass) und Stefan Cecere (keys) see the band as a place where they can process the ups and downs of life without having to spell everything out.

**Harvey Rushmore** is a fictitious Beat Generation character on a road trip, seeking to forget his fears, and to escape convention and deadly mediocrity. The jalopy he’s travelling in might well be named Rusty James. It frees him from the suffocating grip of social pressure.

Songs like **Darkside** fit into this scene perfectly: cruising, mid-tempo, with a tambourine. Then the voice comes in, and the harmonica isn’t far behind; Bob Dylan would approve. Or **Beneath The Sun**, with shimmering, distant vocals, rippling organ and a restrained beat. Six minutes and counting? Yes, please.

You’re welcome. **Octopus Ride**, a stirring eight-minute piece with a resonant Sixties guitar, is “a gigantic octopus who conquers the world and destroys mankind to take revenge for the exploitation of nature”. Images from B-movies and pulp novels come to mind, Attack of the 50-Foot Woman, invaders from space, vintage superhero comics, paired with the fascinating rawness of Iggy and the Stooges, the Doors, the 13th Floor Elevators, and Link Wray’s primal twang; the music of Harvey Rushmore & the Octopus is driven by the power of the blues and the sweat of Rock’n’Roll.

The basic outlines come up on the road, find their way into the rehearsal room and the monster jam, and are gradually distilled into songs. Finally, they end up on the current album, **The Night**. And we’re not talking about the hours between sunset and sunrise here – too brief a timeframe for the galactic trip of yearning souls – but the eternal night of outer space.

“**Octopus**” had to be part of the band name. This short-lived, intelligent creature will not be locked up, can blend into its surroundings to the point of invisibility, is difficult to grasp, and invites all kinds of associations. Its meandering, sneakily floating and lightning-fast movements are emblematic of the music of **Harvey Rushmore & the Octopus**. The name of this four-piece couldn’t be better chosen.

Basel, April 2017 – INDEPENDENT Release (Vinyl / Tape)

### **RFV Basel**

« [...] Wer aber einen ausschweifend-eleganten Underground-Sound- und Obskur-Filmabend in den Untiefen des Dark & Psychedelic Surf sucht, um seine/ihre Tarantino-Dancefloor-Moves auszubauen, der/die ist beim ominösen, coolen Harvey und seinem vielarmigen Kraken sehr gut aufgehoben.»

[www.rfv.ch/news/cd-news/2017/harvey-rushmore-and-the-cctopus-the-night.html](http://www.rfv.ch/news/cd-news/2017/harvey-rushmore-and-the-cctopus-the-night.html)

### **Bad Bonn Kilbi 2018**

«Harvey Rushmore & the Octopus, a furious quartet that swears on experience and hence wants to conquer the stage. Those rebels, inspired by the American (anti)heroes and the soundtracks of the 60's, resist against all kinds of chains. The group likes improvisation and the freedom of coincidence and isn't scared of hidden niches nor quirky turnoffs. The rock'n'roll fountain of youth seems more inexhaustible than ever.»

[www.kilbi.badbonn.ch/2018/en/program/](http://www.kilbi.badbonn.ch/2018/en/program/)

### **fourtraque.com**

« Si ce groupe ne joue pas prochainement au Psych Fest d'Austin ou au Levitation France d'Angers, j'en perds mon latin !»

[www.foutraque.com/chronique\\_disque.php?id=4992](http://www.foutraque.com/chronique_disque.php?id=4992)

### **Radio Rabe**

«Yeah... cooler Sound!»

[www.rabe.ch/2017/06/12/harvey-rushmore-and-the-octopus-meet-rodger-waters/](http://www.rabe.ch/2017/06/12/harvey-rushmore-and-the-octopus-meet-rodger-waters/)

### **Art Noire - Live**

«Harvey Rushmore & the Octopus umgarnten die Besucher mit neuster Ware und älteren Hits und liessen nicht nur Flüge ins All zu, sondern auch Zeitreisen in die Surf-Phasen der Siebziger.»

[www.artnoir.ch/bericht-harvey-rushmore-the-octopus-2017-05-25/](http://www.artnoir.ch/bericht-harvey-rushmore-the-octopus-2017-05-25/)

### **Art Noire - Albumreview**

«Und dank solchen tierischen Maskottchen scheint die Szene des Psychedelic Rock in der Schweiz wieder so richtig aufzublühen.»

[www.artnoir.ch/harvey-rushmore-and-the-octopus-the-night/](http://www.artnoir.ch/harvey-rushmore-and-the-octopus-the-night/)

### **tonspuren.ch**

«Wo bleiben denn die Gitarren bloss? Beispielsweise bei dieser psychedelisierenden und schön schweren Band aus dem A Tree in a Field-Umfeld (wiederum Basel also), die eben ihr Album «The Night» veröffentlicht hat.»

[www.benediktsartorius.ch/blog/die-mittwochs-jukebox-vol-26](http://www.benediktsartorius.ch/blog/die-mittwochs-jukebox-vol-26)



### **Sous le Pont - Rössli, Bern**

« [...] Schrammeliger Surf, gepaart mit Referenzen aus der Diskographie des samteneen Untergrunds, angereichert mit Fuzz aus der Garage und diesem leichten Kraut-Drone. Ich erstarrte unter der Brause, den Blick auf die Füsse gerichtet, Showergaze, haha. Jedenfalls packten mich diese Harvey Rushmore mit ihrem Gemenge an Psychedelika, mit ihrem «locker-aus-der-Hüfte-Verve» und trotzdem dieser gewissen Detailverliebtheit.»

[www.souslepont-roessli.ch/events/harvey-rushmore-and-the-octopus/](http://www.souslepont-roessli.ch/events/harvey-rushmore-and-the-octopus/)

### **3fach.ch**

«Harvey Rushmore & the Octopus – phu – kein mega einfacher Name. Einfach ist es aber, in den Flow der Musik zu kommen, die aus Basel stammt.»

[www.3fach.ch/blog/gaffa\\_blog/harvey-rushmore-and-the-octopus](http://www.3fach.ch/blog/gaffa_blog/harvey-rushmore-and-the-octopus)

## Octopus Ride (Raw Demos)

In October of 2016, the first limited edition demos were released on cassette. A total of only 68 cassettes (Analogcuts, Berlin) were released.

Side A

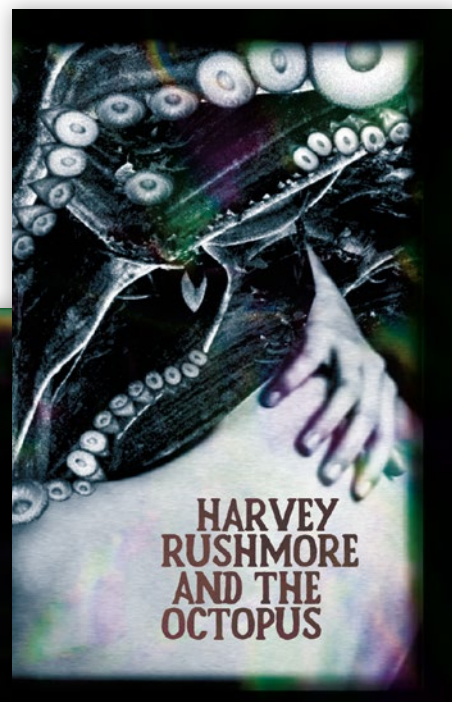
1 **Octopus Ride**

Side B

1 **Highway To  
The Moon**  
2 **Colored Rain**

Album link:

<https://harveyrushmoreandtheoctopus.bandcamp.com/album/octopus-ride>







LIVE - LE BOURG, LAUSANNE 2020



C O N T A C T

WWW

**harveyrushmoreandtheoctopus.com**

Mail

**band@  
harveyrushmoreandtheoctopus.com**

B O O K I N G

**Switzerland**

**A Tree in a Field** – Marlon McNeill [<marlon@atreeinafieldrecords.com>](mailto:marlon@atreeinafieldrecords.com)

**EU / UK / World**

**HRO** – Harvey Rushmore [<band@harveyrushmoreandtheoctopus.com>](mailto:band@harveyrushmoreandtheoctopus.com)

R E C O R D L A B E L

**Record Labels**

**Taxi Gauche Records** – Piet Alder [<piet@taxigauche.com>](mailto:piet@taxigauche.com)

Freedomspacecake (release fall 2022)

**A Tree in a Field** – Marlon McNeill [<marlon@atreeinafieldrecords.com>](mailto:marlon@atreeinafieldrecords.com)

Futureman (2018) + The Night (2017)

Instagram

**@harveyrushmoreandtheoctopus**

Facebook

**facebook.com/  
HarveyRushmoreAndTheOctopus/**

Bandcamp

**harveyrushmoreandtheoctopus.  
bandcamp.com/**

Youtube

**youtube.com/channel/  
UCFzv0SGAZSITILsZLzyXpkQ**

Apple Music

**music.apple.com/ch/artist/  
harvey-rushmore-the-octopus/1223494802**

Spotify

**open.spotify.com/artist/  
7mrAXYivr97fQvPoROjUGm**

HR 2