GRANDPAS GHOST

The London's Cat-Meat

Suddenly there broke on the dirty swell of the dark marsh a squall of terrible sound that sent a tremor through both shores of Hell; a sound as if two continents of air, one frigid and one scorching, clashed head on in a war of winds that stripped the forests bare, ripped off whole boughs and blew them helter-skelter along the range of dust it raised before it making the beasts and shepherds run for shelter. The Master freed my eyes. 'Now turn,' he said, 'and fix your nerve of vision on the foam there where the smoke is thickest and most acrid.' As frogs before the snake that hunts them down churn up their pond in flight, until the last squats on the bottom as if turned to stone - so I saw more than a thousand ruined souls scatter away from one who crossed dry-shod the Stygian marsh into Hell's burning bowels. With his left hand he fanned away the dreary vapors of that sink as he approached; and only of that annoyance did he seem weary. Clearly he was a Messenger from God's Throne, and I turned to my Guide; but he made me a sign that I should keep my silence and bow down. Ah, what scorn breathed from that Angel-presence! He reached the gate of Dis and with a wand he waved it open, for there was no resistance...Then he turned back through the same filthy tide by which he had come. He did not speak to us, but went his way like one preoccupied by other presences than those before him. And we moved toward the city, fearing nothing after his holy words. Straight through the dim and open gate we entered unopposed. And I, eager to learn what new estate of Hell those burning fortress walls enclosed, began to look about the very moment we were inside, and I saw on every hand a countryside of sorrow and new torment....

excerpt from Dante Alighieri's "The Inferno" translation by John Ciardi



The London's Cat-Meat

- 1. Unbolt the Gate
 - 2. Conching Consciousness in the Banks of Your Sea
 - 3. A Schoolboy's Treat/Loving Your Shadow
 - 4. Dedicated to the Racists of Rural Illinois
 - **5. Evenings Split Between the Fine Hairs**
 - 6. He Asked Her for a Resolution and She Gave Him an Answer
 - 7. Silver Glitter Girl
 - 8. Lily-White Deconstruction
 - 9. "Love Avowed/Play Extracts"
 - 10. The London's Cat-Meat
 - 11. The Moist Open of Minds ("Viva Anarchia")
 - 12. Wicked Lester and the Suicide Sex Machine
 - 13. A Revealing Hilt



Produced/written/performed by Ben Hanna & Jack Petracek.

Recorded/mixed/mastered by Jack Petracek.

Ben Hanna - words/vocals, scratched hand-drum on "A Schoolboy's Treat / Loving Your Shadow" and shaker on "The London's Cat-Meat."

Jack Petracek – rhythms/drums/percussion, vocals on "'Love Avowed/Play Extracts'" and "Wicked Lester and the Suicide Sex Machine."

Performed & recorded live in Jack's basement studio March 15th & 22nd, April 19th, May 10th & 17th, 2005, St. Louis, MO, USA.

Photographs by Rachel Wilson.

