



## LUCIFUGOUS - X' HO & ARCN TEMPL

It first began as X' Ho's dark-wave vocal experiment.

Even before Ho picked up the guitar for his 2009 album *No Ordinary Country*, he had started writing songs he'd label as "daily mantras". By the time he started composing for *No Ordinary Country*, he had conceived a handful of tunes that fell into that particular ilk - tunes that neither fit into the *No Ordinary Country* guitar-folk template nor 2010's follow-up diverse offering *Singapura Über Alles*.

Working with Ara Ophidia for the latter album's closing track *A Wet Dream In Biker's Boots*, Ho decided that Ara O's ambient soundscapes would make a good backdrop for the "daily mantras". He imagined the result to be experimental, rough and decidedly dark - like ghostly hymns. The next thing was to pick the right producer with a strong understanding of his inclination. The choice naturally fell on Leslie Low and Vivian Wang of avant rock band The Observatory who had released an album just before, titled *Dark Folke*. That was in 2010.

When performing as a duo, Leslie & Vivian go by the name ARCN TEMPL. Upon hearing the end-result of *Lucifugous'* production by Low and Wang, it was obvious that the duo did not just produce the sessions for Ho's vocals but also added rich and textured instrumentations, taking the album to a whole new level.

"I was quite blown away. What I imagined to be an experimental, rough and dark exercise turns out to be something far grander that's still experimental and dark but polished at the same time. It sounds like just the album I've always meant to make and now that it's done, it also feels like a bonus-reward," Ho says.

*Lucifugous* is not easy-listening by any stretch of the imagination. However, it resonates with an 'inspirational' groove emitted from the very nature of its "daily mantras". The album's dark spiritual force comes from the cracks of a universe and place where survival is deemed extraordinary. It isn't just a view of escape and redemption, but also a quest for a very dark invocation of light in visionary perception.

### X' Ho

X' Ho is a musician/author/DJ/experimental filmmaker making statements about the Singapore society. To date, he has written three books on the subject and made six short underground films. Of his recent solo albums, *No Ordinary Country* received this praise from The Business Times: "(It) should be required listening for anyone interested in plugging into a part of Singapore's zeitgeist that too often lies simmering below the surface." A better label could well be 'underground' of the hushed-up, buzz-free kind, which the mainstream media would generally not want to speak its name in tightly regimented Singapore. Musically or otherwise, Ho thrives in such a context.

### ARCN TEMPL

ARCN TEMPL is the duo of Leslie Low and Vivian Wang, both members of Singapore band the Observatory. ARCN TEMPL has collaborated with the design and art collective :phunk studio on their art exhibition *New World* which has since travelled to Taiwan, Korea and Barcelona. In January 2010, ARCN TEMPL provided live, improvised music for the theatrical production of *The Spirits Play* by the late Kuo Pao Kun in New Delhi, India. The duo released their debut album, *Emanations of a New World*, on Utech Records in May 2010, signalling the discovery of Southeast Asian groups involved in some of the most interesting explorations in contemporary music today.

**LUCIFUGOUS is available on limited-edition vinyl, deluxe-package CD with bonus tracks, and on bandcamp in digital formats.**

[www.xhosux.com/lucifugous](http://www.xhosux.com/lucifugous) or [arcntempl.bandcamp.com](http://arcntempl.bandcamp.com)

## **LUCIFUGOUS**

**X' HO + ARCN TEMPL**

Special guests: ARA OPHIDIA, DHARMA, BANI HAYKAL

Songs & lyrics by X'

Recorded and produced by ARCN TEMPL

Basic tracks recorded at The Well

September - October 2010

Additional arrangement and recording at

The Black Axis, April - June 2012

Mixed by Leslie Low

Mastered by James Plotkin

Photography by Vivian Wang

Art & Design by Lasse Marhaug

## **CD**

Deluxe Stumptown arigato pak + 24-page booklet

Limited to 300

Individually numbered

Additional tracks for CD only

Tracklisting:

Sodom Me

Her Soul's Demise

Nosferatu

Lord of Mirage

Zombie Hitler Youth

Lucifugous

Lamb (Von)

Satan's Blood

Rosalie's Fray

## **12" LP + download**

180g black vinyl

Custom jacket with insert

Limited to 100 first pressing

Digital download included

Tracklisting:

A

Sodom Me

Her Soul's Demise

Zombie Hitler Youth

B

Lucifugous

Nosferatu

Lord of Mirage

