

# QUIXOTE

“I was born a poor black child...” laughs Brain. Quoting “The Jerk” is ridiculous but funny. “Who these days’ll remember that? I can laugh at myself. Plus, it’s true... ha!”

Born and raised on NYC’s Lower East Side during “one of the most fertile, creative and dangerous periods in history – the ’70s and ’80s,” Brain benefited from the multiplicity of experiences New York had to offer: childhood in the projects, elementary school in Greenwich Village, a stint in suburbia – “where I first encountered racism” – the birth of hip hop, art school, NYHC, early ’80s nightlife, a music biz career, etc.

It’s been a long strange road to get here...here being about to release the first album from his band/project dubbed “Quixote.” When asked about the name, Brain explains: “The whole idea that I would get it together, and finish, with where I was in my life and what was going on was improbable, idealistic, and far-fetched to begin with sooo... It’s kinda romantic in a way, no?”

Recorded over several (“agonizing”) years, May sees the artist/guitarist debuting the album *Well, Then There’s That...*, a diverse and emotional amalgamation of hardcore, art rock, shoegazey drone, fortified with some dub/reggae touches, and a buncha other stuff. Filtered through his particular processor, the album is honed by Brain’s lifetime of music absorption and a somewhat unique set of experiences: “Yeah, Brains, Jane’s and Automobiles. I just wrote what came to me. In dreams. As I walked home alone on the deserted pre-dawn streets.... I think I was able to synthesize my influences and create something expressive of who I am and what I’ve come to be. That’s the hope at least.”

The assemblage of musicians to help realize this vision was a feat in and of itself. “I wrote everything,” said Brain. “Played all the guitars/basses, did some percussion and ‘vocally styled’ two tracks. But obviously, there was a lot I couldn’t play. So...I called in some favors.” Among the diverse players who lent their talents are, most notably, ex Helmet/current Battles drummer John Stanier; jazz piano prodigy Eric Lewis; Antibalas trumpeter Eric Biondo; Def poet, rapper and actress La Bruja; and actor (The OC), drummer, and percussionist Ryan Donowho on buckets. The album also features contributions from Maurice Carr, drummer for the Michael Pitt fronted band Pagoda; Chris Hoffman, Pagoda’s cellist; Eric Steinen on drums; Mike Del Rio; and Paula Jaakola and Noelle Barbera on additional vocals. “And that’s just who made it onto the record,” said Brain. *Well, Then There’s That...* also finds the debut of his label, Sensitive Guy Recordings. “Who else was gonna put this out?”

Right now, Brain’s rehearsing the “band.” Getting it ready for the stage. “I wanna do the full production. I don’t wanna exactly replicate the record, but I do want all those elements in place when we play. And logistically, scheduling wise, etc., playing a lot will be difficult. But, the trade off of not having the percussionists, or the horns, or... I dunno, we’ll see. I just wanna make it as special as I can. At this point, after all this time, I gotta come strong. It’s not worth it otherwise.”

Look for Quixote in NYC this fall.