ELECTRIC CIRCUS

“RITES”

RELEASE DATE NOVEMBER 27TH 2026 - CD / LP / DIGITAL



Track list:

1. Smasher
2. Mutual Convenience
3. High Fever
4. Peter
5. Ogres
6. Butter Chicken
7. Expiration
8. King Of Beggars
9. Azazel

CAT NO	FORMAT & DP
KGR03CD	CD 5050580870925
KGR03LP	LP 5050580870932
KGR03DD	DIGI 5050580870949

Genre: Jazz-Funk / Afrobeat / Psychedelic Groove
Regional bias: Italy

Killer Groove Records presents Rites, the second album by Turin's Electric Circus: '70s jazz-funk, Afrobeat and psychedelia with a cinematic streak.

Born out of late-night jam sessions *Rites* (due out November 27th, 2026 on limited-edition LP, CD digipak and digital formats) unfolds like a sequence of scenes from an imaginary film. Drawing on library music, 1970s crime soundtracks, dub and jazz-funk, the record moves between instinctive improvisation and tightly constructed arrangements. Rather than telling a single story, it opens a series of nocturnal visions and symbolic rituals, leaving the listener to complete the narrative.

It begins with "Smasher," a slow-burning ride through neon-lit streets where thick grooves and vocoder textures evoke the humid nights of an imaginary Vice City. "Mutual Convenience" grows out of a dreamy intro into full Afrobeat, horns turning a subtle motif into a collective statement. "High Fever" raises the temperature with Meters-inspired funk, dub echoes and swirling keyboards, while "Peter" sets organic Afro-funk rhythms against vintage synthesizers, sketching a crime sci-fi setting suspended between tension and nostalgia.

At the center of the album, "Ogres" turns darker: Ethiopian scales, obsessive rhythms and psychedelic textures conjure a twilight march of mysterious creatures before dissolving into a hazy finale. The mood lifts with "Butter Chicken," a tribute to the meal that fueled the sessions, wrapping its Afro-funk groove in warm, colorful melodies. "Expiration" pushes forward on wah-wah guitars, saxophone and restless rhythms until they collapse into a single exhausted breath.

The final act opens with "King of Beggars," a hypnotic desert-psych excursion where urban reality and surreal imagery coexist. Closing the record, "Azazel" returns to the intimacy of a campfire: acoustic guitar, fretless bass and Tom Newton's harmonica (one of the finest Italian harmonica players of the new generation) build toward a cathartic crescendo before fading into silence.

Rites was recorded in stages: live takes of the core arrangements first, then dedicated sessions for synths, horns and overdubs. Marco Sirio Pivetti engineered at Metrò Rec Studio in Riva del Garda, Gio Solo at Sberdia Studio in Turin. Overdubs were reamped through tube amplifiers and analog outboard. The band co-produced with Pivetti, who also mixed; Riccardo Ricci mastered at Velvet Room Mastering Studio in Brighton.

Electric Circus are based in Turin. They released their debut album, *Canicola*, in 2018 and have toured the U.S. Scoring *Contrecourant* a documentary series shot in Senegal and Mali, led them to Sahel Roots, a duo from the north of the country; the two groups recorded *On est ensemble* (Mieruba, 2023) remotely between Turin and Bamako, each writing two pieces for the other to finish.

Fans of The Heliocentrics, Calibro 35, BADBADNOTGOOD, '70s jazz-funk, afrobeat and psychedelic sounds, take note.

Credits

Produced by Electric Circus

Co-produced and Mixed by Marco Sirio Pivetti

Recorded at Metrò Rec Studio, Riva del Garda, Italy by Marco Sirio Pivetti, and at Sberdia Studio, Turin, Italy by Gio Solo.

Mastered by Riccardo Ricci at Velvet Room Studios, Brighton

A&R: Daniele Flamini

Art Direction: Francesco "Franz" Longhi

Photography: Valentina Maistri