



**“Relentless, film noir-inspired, Dracula-awaking grooves”  
- Beatroute Magazine**

Americana Noir was created from the dead things that Brandy has drug in from the gothic country of her native Montana. From the rusty riffs John uncovered in some dark garage in the Ottawa Valley. From black metal soundscapes and epic defunct Denver bands. The songs are written and sung by both of them and are likely influenced by rustic paintings at least partially obscured by spider-webs. Big John coaxes night from his guitars through the thunder of Brandy Bones' upright bass, RequiEmily's psycho violins and Ty-Ty's timpani percussion.

**“A blend of Jack White blues, calliope-style strings, thumping drums & banshee wails”  
- Americana UK**

**“Headless Fowl is extremely cool.” – Jello Biafra**



**EU: TRÜMMER booking**  
T: +49 4421-996573  
JENS@TRUEMMERPROMOTION.DE

**US: Christian Brooks**  
T: +1 (615) 498-.2447  
BUCKETCITYAGENCY@GMAIL.COM

**CA: Luc De Bouvries**  
T: +1 (514) 983-4457  
LDEBOUVRIES@GMAIL.COM

***[youtube.com/bigjohnbates](https://www.youtube.com/bigjohnbates) -- [facebook.com/bigjohnbates](https://www.facebook.com/bigjohnbates) -- [twitter.com/bigjohnbates](https://twitter.com/bigjohnbates) -- [instagram/bigjohnbates](https://www.instagram.com/bigjohnbates)***

# .BIG. JOHN BATES

## LP REVIEWS

### **FROM THE BESTIARY TO THE LEATHERING ROOM 12" – Roadtracks Magazine, Desert Rock Edition (Germany)**

The 10 tracks of the new album "From The Bestiary To The Leathering Room" show us Canadian Big John Bates has left his roots in metal and psychobilly behind for the world of rock'n'roll, country, gothic, punk rock and blues they call "Americana Noir". Most of the album was recorded in Vancouver on John's private houseboat "Caleuche", named after a mythical ghost ship. Of course the bottom line is what gets in your ears and that is a dark, rocking mix of styles; punk-ish at times and other times country-esque. Dominating the rhythmic, earthy sound is John's multifaceted Gretsch guitar playing and Brandy's dynamic upright bass. Both alternate on lead vocals, Bates with his dark, whisky-tanned voice while his female counterpart Brandy sings in a voice that reminds me of an infernal fusion of Patti Smith and Siouxsie Sioux.

### **BLACK TIMBER BITTER ROOT 7" - Dynamite Magazine (Germany)**

Rookie Records released two brand-new songs on color, hand-pressed vinyl for the "Black Timber" 7". On the track "Black Timber" Big John Bates sings about the passing of time, a beautiful song with the usual high quality we expect of him. On "Bitterroot" Brandy Bones Bates uses her vocal diversity to sing about life as an outsider. Brandy's voice is somewhere between fragility and melancholy; an outsider expressing those feelings perfectly with tight, powerful vocals. Good songs, good musicians and beautiful presentation.

### **BATTERED BONES 12" LP – Hooked On Music (Germany)**

"Battered Bones" is a wonderful mix of roots rock, Americana, blues and an invigorating syringe of rock'n'roll. Songs like Wide Open Blues, the purely instrumental Battered Bones, Circadian Rhythm and Glossilalia have a delicious sound, like whiskey rinsing out a dusty throat on an abandoned highway. Adding distorted guitars to the dark-colored roots sound completes this cinematic head-trip to remote corners of the American West, to abandoned dives and tiny graveyards along the way. The only drawback of this fascinating disc is that it ends too soon.

### **HEADLESS FOWL 12" EP – Americana UK**

Setting the tone is the instrumental opener "Amerkin" ... it moves from mournful bass with subdued drums and spectral guitar to a powerhouse of railroad drumming and blood curdling yells. Musically it's a blend of Jack White style blues, Calliope organ (cello), thumping drums and banshee wails. It's hypnotic and intriguing but be careful – the left hand may be beckoning – but the hand hidden behind the back is holding that knife, Jack. It may only last a whisker over eighteen minutes but they are eighteen unforgettable minutes – raw and knowing and powerful and all worth hearing.

## LIVE REVIEWS

### **The Scene Magazine – Halifax Pop Explosion (Michael's)**

Gothic/Southern/Hard Rock. All fucking epic. The mic stands were adorned with animal skulls. The vocal duo of Brandy and John was intricate, and they shared the duties well. The technical skill overall was incredible. Memorable Moment: Straight up, this was one of the best live sets I have ever seen. Every time something awesome happened, it would get one-upped by something even more insane or awesome. It was an "anything goes" show. Every second was a memorable moment. I dreamt about it that night. It was the definition of "putting on a show". Blew my face off with such a sick combination of gritty riffs, interesting vocal arrangements and stage presence.

### **Music Examiner – CMW Showcase (Toronto – The Bovine)**

Big John Bates has moved to dark roots rock as evidenced by their opening song "Amerkin", a track with a soul-shaking beat. And while the music may have changed, the intensity and fervor of this band's live performance has not. Bones shines in all her sultry, gothic temptress glory. She is the true master of her massive bass, using it as not only a tool to make music but as an instrument of seduction. "Taste the Barrel" showcased Bones' eerily whispery vocals, accompanied by Bates' banjo-sounding guitar, giving the song a true dark country feel.

**The Noirchestra was formed in 2012 by John Bates and Brandy Bones. They have released two full-length LP/CD's, a 12" EP, two 7" singles distributed by Cargo Records (EU), Frontman Records (CA), Disk Union (JAP) Alternative Tentacles (USA). Big John Bates has performed 1500 shows and festivals across North America, Europe and Japan.**