

Sholi

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(Quarterstick)

Sholi's full-length debut is the missing link between Fugazi and Radiohead. Chaotic post-punk rhythms slam up against the sort of serene fractures you'd find on OK Computer. Add some detailed instrumental passages that can float like a butterfly on acid or sting like an agitated bee, and you've got a musically complex album that never loses its sense of songwriting. While many bands come off directionless and scatterbrained when trying to use an array of cadences, Sholi's trademark is well-executed transitions. Jonathon Bafus' drumming is striking, serving as the guiding force for Sholi's musical leaps. Bafus has probably written more beats for this album than most drummers do in a lifetime. It's that diversity a band like Sholi needs if it plans to morph songs so often. And while Bafus is the glue holding the instrumentals together, it's frontman Pavam Bavafa's vocals that turn these genre-hopping jams into songs, using melody to guide listeners through Sholi's complex musical landscapes. - Matt Whelihan