

SOUNDS FROM THE MASSIVE

BY MICHAEL J. MEISEL

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Renowned creators and dubbed Trip-Hop kings, Massive Attack announced a new US/Canada tour recently. It's quite odd since the Bristol natives rarely travel through the states, but it's an exhilarating, full of anticipation time for the hundreds of thousands of diehard fans living in the states. They are billed with Thievery Corporation for this sure to be Massive tour that kicks off in Montreal on 10/18. It's too bad Portishead isn't headlining and FSOL isn't on the bill. I do believe I would faint in rapture if they were. I'll be heading back home to catch Massive and Thievery at the Hard Rock Live in Orlando on October 27th. Soon after the show I'll have photos, a recap of the show, and possible interview for all you readers to indulge yourselves in. A list of full tour dates are listed on <http://massiveattack.com/>.



Massive is typically deemed as experimental, but the electronic euphoria they ensue into the world of music is clearly dead-set focused. The duo has been making records since 1988 that shine a poignant and uniquely down-tempo rainbow through the mainstream of the upbeat British dance and rave scene. Massive is considered to be one of the most abstract, ever-changing, and collaborative acts in the business. From Portishead to Hope Sandoval of Mazzy Star to Tricky, these graffiti-styled musicians are an inspiration to all artists alike. Their sounds are always creatively ethereal that cross over from genre to genre. Think of Massive Attack as electronic experimentation full of melancholy mixed in with down-tempo dub-step and a heavily gessoed texture of hip-hop, reggae, soul, and cinematic post-punk. The libraries of subliminal music videos that they have produced are especially mind-bottling. You can find their music and videos on YouTube, or simply buy their Collection record/DVD.



Thievery Corporation is a different animal, but completely suitable to be put on a bill with Massive. The notorious radio-retaliation DJ duo from D.C. will probably slap a smile on your frowning face with the dozens of elements injected intravenously into their tracks. You'll get a taste of Brazil, India, Caribbean Island, lounge, rock, trip hop, soul, dub, jazz, blues, and many more from their politically charged material. Thievery Corporation is like a prestigious restaurant tasting of music. A "*Best of Thievery Corporation*" album is being released on Sept. 21st, which in my opinion, despite the bouquet of recordings they have, is rather premature due to only having six full lengths out. I assume that there will be new artwork included with the album.

For streaming you can check out both acts recordings at www.myspace.com/massiveattack, or <http://www.myspace.com/thieverycorporation>. If you want to purchase records or merch I suggest that you go support your local record shop utopia rather than going to amazon.com, but you can also find some cool bundles from www.massiveattack.com and www.thieverycorporation.com.



Michael J. Meisel is a freelance journalist who is a sucker for multi-cultural electronic and downbeat trip-hop, and is currently attending Madison Media Institute for Entertainment and Media Business.