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**FALLUJAH**

**«Empyrean«**

##### OUT: September 9th, 2022

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| **Line up:** | **FALLUJAH online:** |
| Kyle Schaefer | vocals  Scott Carstairs | guitars & vocals  Evan Brewer | bass  Andrew Baird | drums | facebook.com/fallujahofficial  [twitter.com/fallujahbayarea](http://www.twitter.com/fallujahbayarea)  [nuclearblast.de/fallujah](http://www.nuclearblast.de/fallujah) |

Tech-metal outfit **FALLUJAH** intensify their metallic dynamism on stunning new album, ***Empyrean***. Built on an “all killer, no filler” maxim, the Bay Area-based quartet delivered just that on album number five. From video single “Radiant Ascension” and “Embrace Oblivion” to “Soulbreaker” and “Mindless Omnipotent Master,” ***Empyrean*** is breathtaking in atmospheric expanse and impressive in sophistication. **FALLUJAH**’s overhauled lineup has contributed massively to the level-up on display. Primary songwriter/guitarist **Scott Carstairs** and compeer/drummer **Andrew Baird** enlisted Archaeologist’s **Kyle Schaefer** and **Evan Brewer** (formerly Entheos/The Faceless) as their new vocalist and bassist, respectively. Technicians at heart but looking for old flames, **FALLUJAH** rediscovered their muse on ***Empyrean***.

“After such an experimental expression [with Undying Light], we sat down to write ***Empyrean*** completely refreshed and inspired,” reveals **Carstairs**. “It was like the musical tension of the last decade had been released, and we were ready to achieve goals the band had originally set out for. ***Empyrean*** is truly a return to form because we are doing what comes naturally to us, but with an intensity that we haven’t achieved in the past. We set out to create something that represents the band and its history in its purest form while also pushing our technical abilities further than we have ever gone.”

Since forming in 2007, **FALLUJAH** have triumphed over their challenges. Whether it’s self-administering the band, going to school, writing music, or working full-time, they’ve savored release of and diehard fan admiration for five albums in ***The Harvest Wombs*** (2011), ***The Flesh Prevails*** (2014), ***Dreamless*** (2016), ***Undying Light*** (2019), and their latest ***Empyrean***. Indeed, diligence and creative enterprise have resulted in high-profile tours with Whitechapel, Suffocation, The Black Dahlia Murder, and more across North America, Europe, and Australia. **FALLUJAH** also prospered with critics in Metal Hammer, Allmusic, and Metalsucks. The group’s Billboard chart positions on the Top Hard Rock Albums (Dreamless, The Flesh Prevails) and Heatseekers Albums (Dreamless, Undying Light) prove that with every twist and turn, **FALLUJAH**’s fans are with them. ***Empyrean***, with its revivalist spikes, bolstered atmospherics and high-powered production, is the greatest yet.

“Every **FALLUJAH** album has been a reflection of whatever ideas felt the freshest and exciting to us at that particular point in time,” **Carstairs** offers. “We’ve developed our own defined sound over the years, but on this album, our new members helped bring in some new perspectives. We incorporated new elements such as counterpoint and tempo changes but maintained elements integral to the band and even brought back techniques used in older records. At this point, it’s all about elegantly presenting the sound we have cultivated over the last decade.”

***Empyrean*** is a specialist’s paradise. As a rhythm/lead player, **Carstairs** enters a league of his own. Tracks like “The Bitter Taste of Clarity,” “Radiant Ascension,” and “Eden’s Lament” illustrate he’s upped his chops and boosted the emotional outlay. Throughout, he’s careful about compositional placement and how his radiant, palliative leads complement **FALLUJAH**’s sapid landscape. Drummer **Baird** tastefully and aggressively holds down the fort, grooving and syncopating admirably on “Radiant Ascension,” “Embrace Oblivion,” and “Mindless Omnipotent Master.” **FALLUJAH**’s long-standing timekeeper has always been great, but on ***Empyrean***, he’s superior. Right there with him is recently joined bassist **Evan Brewer**, thundering and bopping on, around, and against **Baird**’s foundation like a seasoned prizefighter. “Duality of Intent” is but one of **Brewer**’s standouts. Although known for his guitar work outside of **FALLUJAH**, newcomer vocalist **Kyle Schaefer**’s low-end and mid-range bark perfectly matches the existential threat-themed lyrics. ***Empyrean*** is **FALLUJAH** inspired, and as they approach their 15th year, the Americans couldn’t be better.

“***Empyrean*** isn’t a concept album, but there are some recurring themes throughout,” explains **Carstairs**. “The first three songs (‘The Bitter Taste of Clarity,’ ‘Radiant Ascension’ and ‘Embrace Oblivion’) all deal with a process of metaphorical rebirth—overcoming personal hardships, finding the right outlook to keep moving forward, and learning to embrace change in a way that makes you stronger for it in the long run. ‘Duality of Intent’ describes the internal conflict between the two sides of your brain, simultaneously craving immediate gratification versus long-term fulfillment and the paradoxical balance that results. ‘Artifacts’ is about the universal human desire to create something that will live on beyond oneself. ‘Mindless Omnipotent Master’ takes a cynical look outward, personifying mankind’s globally-linked networks of societal and technological systems as a giant mechanical beast which has grown beyond our control and now moves of its own accord.”

**FALLUJAH** welcome the return of long-time producer Mark Lewis (Whitechapel, Cannibal Corpse) on ***Empyrean***. Under Lewis’s expert sonic tutelage, the quartet advanced on the production milestones that benefitted ***Undying Light*** (2019), walking away with an album that sounds incredible at high velocity (“The Bitter Taste of Clarity,” “Soulbreaker”) and when it carries sentimental heft (“Into the Eventide,” “Celestial Resonance”). **FALLUJAH** and Lewis recorded ***Empyrean*** at MRL Studios in Nashville, Tennessee, over six months. The full-spectrum endeavor was then mixed and mastered by Lewis in seven weeks. The studio sessions weren’t without sacrifice, however. **FALLUJAH** worked their tails off to make ***Empyrean*** the remarkable reality that it is.

“It was certainly long and arduous,” **Carstairs** exhales. “Everyone involved had the mindset that it had to be our best work, and because of that, we were incredibly meticulous and hard on ourselves. We were united in our goal and embraced the brutality of committing to it.”

Throughout ***Empyrean***, **FALLUJAH** surprise. Musically, lyrically, and with their bevy of guests, they add hard-to-describe depth and musical import. Vocalist **Tori Letzler** (Batman V Superman: Dawn of Justice) reprises her angelic role on “Radiant Ascension” and “Artifacts,” while Chiasma’s **Katie Thompson** also reappears to elevate “Embrace Oblivion” and “Into the Eventide.” **Chaney Crabb** of Entheos and Cyborg Octopus’s **David Wu** tender their considerable talents on “Mindless Omnipotent Master” and “Duality of Intent,” respectively. Celebrated artist **Peter Mohrbacher** (Serenity in Murder, Rainbowdragoneyes) replays his role on ***Empyrean*** as well. Truly, this is an all-star cast appearing on a momentous album by a band reaching beyond.

“From the beginning of this writing process and until the end, we painstakingly made sure every aspect of this record would blow away our listeners,” states **Carstairs**. “We meticulously scrutinized every riff and note choice. There has never been this much effort put into a **FALLUJAH** record as we did with ***Empyrean***, and the result is a truly monstrous record that we believe is the band’s best work by a significant margin. We showed you restraint on the last record. Now, let us show you what happens when we leave it all on the table.”