

Award-winning Novelist and Screenwriter to Release First Single from his Debut EP About his Battle with OCD

The Mexico-City-based rock band THE CROOKED EAST plan to release their first track, “Release Me,” from their debut EP, “Where it’s Warm,” on December 21, 2021. “Where it’s Warm” tells the tale of a troubled young man who follows his aspiring-actress girlfriend West, only to find himself a rising singer/songwriter. But the higher he rises, the lower he sinks into a haze of depression and substance abuse, until a panic attack on stage forces him to seek help and change his life.

Stream “Release Me” on [YouTube](#) or [SoundCloud](#).



Formed by award-winning novelist/screenwriter and Buffalo, NY native, Jonathan LaPoma, before the pandemic, THE CROOKED EAST plays haunting and emotional wall-of-sound rock/post punk with catchy hooks, poetic lyrics, and a splash of psychedelia (Joy Division meets Radiohead meets Badfinger). Their swelling guitars, synths, cellos, pianos, drums, and bass enhance LaPoma’s literary lyrics, which often tell raw and honest tales of mental illness, addiction, the complexities of love, the search for identity, and the loss of innocence/religion.

Before moving to Mexico in 2019, LaPoma spent most of the previous decade locked inside his apartment, where he battled crippling OCD and turned his pain, triumphs, and trauma into songs, novels, and scripts. Once strong enough, he moved to Mexico City to start a band and share his healing journey with the world. Though their songs can seem bleak and desperate, they’re often brimming with hope, encouraging people to move toward their suffering as a means to find self-acceptance and peace.

THE CROOKED EAST plan to release the full EP in Spring 2022. They also plan to release an LP of “Where it’s Warm” in Fall 2022, recording the other half of the album that tells the complete story of this man’s healing/artistic journey.

LaPoma is a repped screenwriter who has optioned a black comedy script to a producer of the *American Pie* and *Final Destination* films, and he’s also written five novels that have been recommended by *Kirkus Reviews* and Barnes and Noble, and have won multiple literary awards. This loosely-linked series of novels tells the story of a young boy who struggles to overcome his mental illness as he slowly understands his need to write and make music. Though fiction, these novels roughly tell the history of THE CROOKED EAST’S music and include the lyrics of several of their songs.

THE CROOKED EAST encourages fans to read the novels to get a deeper understanding of their music.



the Crooked East

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