

# MESSER CHUPS

## Surf zombies from Russia



MESSER CHUPS is a quartet now. The former trio with Oleg Gitarkin on guitar, Zombie Girl on bass-guitar and Sasha Belkov on drums, is extended with a vocalist Sasha Skvortsov. Skvortsov, a singer of one of the first Russian post punk bands from the 80's - *DURNOE VLIYANIE* (existed '87-'91), brought in music of MESSER CHUPS more dark, mysterious, psychedelic influence.

New album "Heretic Channel" will be released in February 2009. You will hear new songs with real church organ, theremin, singing saw, vocals, screams and other strange sounds.

In their music MESSER CHUPS combine surf, bizarre film samples and sounds from the 50's and 60's. The show is combined with scenes from trash cult movies of the middle of the last century – Betty Page, Bela Lugosi, zombies, Russ Meyer's and Ed Wood's heroes all mixed in videocollages of the master Gitarkin.

Gitarkin formed Messer Chups in 1998. Since then the line-up was continuously changing, just to mention the most important contributors to Messer Chups carrier : Annette Schneider (German music promoter - synths), Igor Vdovin (ex-vocalist of Leningrad, successful Russian composer – keyboards), world-famous theremin player Lydia Kavina (and grandniece of Leon Theremin, the inventor of the theremin), several drummers. But only Zombie Girl, who joined the band in 2004, managed to stay in MESSER CHUPS forever.

Oleg Gitarkin became famous in Russia and abroad with his another band MESSER FUR FRAU MULLER (1991), which still exist but only on albums. Gitarkin is also writing music for films, theater and adverts. *None other than Messer Chups provided their "Grobik Mobile" to General Motor's pan-european TV campaign for their Meriva and Zafira Models. Watch the video <http://www.freibank.com/a/tvspot/OpelMonocabs.mpg>*

### PRESS

*Messer Chups is the project of Russian composer Oleg Gitarkin, and while the band's instrumental rock is hard to neatly categorize, it's safe to say that it would be enjoyed by fans of surf, rockabilly, horror punk, Italian slasher films, My Life With the Thrill Kill Kult, pulp fiction, lounge music, Ed Wood, the theremin, the Cramps, Russ Meyer movies and the theme song from "The Addams Family." Gitarkin incorporates all of these elements and more, layering samples from Russian and Western B-movies over weird vintage keyboard chirps and groovy horn loops. Messer Chups have already released over a half dozen albums and a greatest hits collection, which is a little extreme unless you're a diehard fan of this kind of stuff. [www.graveconcernsezine.com](http://www.graveconcernsezine.com)*



The trashy sci-fi horror sound of Messer Chups is not very common within the context of Russian rock music. The reason for this is the good old cold-war/iron curtain commie agenda. The majority of Messer Chups' musical and visual aesthetics come from trashy western pop-culture of the past century. This includes horror/sci-fi b-movies from 1930's through 1970's, as well as music such as surf (The Ventures, Dick Dale, Trashmen), big-band lounge (Henry Mancini, Les Baxter, Martin Denny) and rock n' roll of the 60's.

**Since the release of their album *CRAZY PRICE* on Ipecac Recordings, Messer Chups has slowly developed a cult following around the world as one of the most unique and genre-defiant bands.**

*"Embracing elements of decadent capitalism that even most Westerners would shy away from, zany Russian lounge mutant Oleg Gitarkin plays twangy sci-fi music for people who know that the future actually happened over 40 years ago... This is the start of the Leatherette Revolution." (THE WIRE).*

*"If Tom Waits and Add N to (X) covered the Munsters theme, hit the syrup and went crazy Soviet-Bloc electro, it would sound like European surf loungers Messer Chups. Their latest features rickety Moog-playing, creaky bass and echo guitar. All that -- and suspenseful voice samples -- just sort of floats over beats ranging from modestly funky (nearly hip-hop) to driving, Dick Dale suspense. It feels like the soundtrack to the best Halloween party ever; strange voices enter and leave the mix, and you can't tell if they're being scary or just kidding. Give Tarantino two years and these guys will score all of his movies."*

**By Adam Bulger - October 20, 2005 <http://www.hartfordadvocate.com>**

*"Imagine Ed Wood meets Davie Allen & The Arrows, and they go to a covert Soviet-era studio on the moon. Maybe they bring along Lux Interior of The Cramps for the ride. And a theremin. Strange sounds emerge and are broadcast in Eastern Europe on scratchy old radios. People listen and begin to dance in strange formations. Then they all turn into vampires, or huge flesh-eating robots, and destroy America and Western Europe to the tune of this entrancing, psychotic beat. Or something.*

*That's Messer Chups. They hail from Russia, but beyond that, these spy-surf-horror space cadets remain largely shrouded in mystery. Cloaked in prehistoric Soviet analog synth sounds, their enigmatic catalog of hits features a retro style that has as much to do with scratchy old vampire films from the '60s as it does with easy listening and surf styles".*

### **Ipecac Recordings Releases**

#### **LINKS on music, photos, videos**

[myspace.com/messerchups](http://myspace.com/messerchups)

[www.morezvukov.nl/messerchups.html](http://www.morezvukov.nl/messerchups.html)

[www.messerchups.ru](http://www.messerchups.ru)

#### **DISCOGRAPHY**

- \* Chudovishe & Chudovishe (1999)MC,CD Solnze Records
- \* Miss Libido (2000)MC,CD Solnze Records, Russia
- \* Bride Of The Atom (2000)MC,CD Solnze Records, Russia
- \* Vamp Babes (2000)MC,CD Solnze Records, Russia
- \* Black Black Magic (2002)CD Solnze Records, Russia
- \* The Best Of Messer Chups: Cocktail Draculina (2002)CD Solnze Records, Russia
- \* Crazy Price (2003)CD Solnze Records, Russia
- \* Vamp Babes Upgrade Version 2004 (2004)CD Solnze Records, Russia
- \* Crazy Price (new version)(2005)CD Ipecac Recordings, USA
- \* Hyena Safari (2005)CD Solnze Records, Russia
- \* Hyena Safari(2nd version)(2006)CD Solnze Records, Russia
- \* Zombie Shopping (2007)CD Solnze Records, Russia
- \* Best of the Best (2008) CD Solnze Records, Russia
- \* Best of the Best (2008) LP, Copasetic Germany



**MESSER CHUPS toured in many countries** - Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Israel, Monaco, The Netherlands, Switzerland, Serbia, Italy, Spain, Turkey, Slovakia, Czech Republic, USA .

**MESSER CHUPS was a participant of international festivals**, such as Donau festival (Austria), Crossing Europe Film Festival (Linz, Austria), Transmusicales 2005 (France), I.D.E.A.L. (France), Eurosonic (the Netherlands), Fusion (Germany), Bavarian Open (Germany), Les Nuits Sonores" Lyon (France), Grimaldi Forum (Monaco), Musiques Volantes (France), Trollofon 06 (Bergen, Norway), Les Invites Villeurbanne (France), Furia Sound (France), Dour festival (Belgium), ArezzoWave (Italy), European Film Festival Palic (Serbia), Jours de Fêtes Festival (France), Rockomotives Festival (France), ZXZW (Netherlands), Pohoda (Slovakia), Freek fest (Spain), Italia Wave Love (Italy), Poulpaphone festival (France), PrimaveraSound (Spain), SKIF (Russia) and others.

**MORE ZVUKOV Agency** - Booking artists in Europe and Russia

Natasha Padabed

Messchert str. 6E

3023TH Rotterdam

The Netherlands

+31-6-14329802

[natasha@morezvukov.nl](mailto:natasha@morezvukov.nl)

web: [www.morezvukov.nl](http://www.morezvukov.nl)