

Isis: Biography 2004

Formed:

1998, Boston, USA

Hometown:

Los Angeles, USA

Personnel:

A. Turner: vox/guitars

A. Harris: drums

J. Caxide: bass

M. Gallagher: guitars

B.C. Meyer: guitars,
electronics, vox

Band History:

Old Man Gloom

Lotus Eaters

5's Continuum
Reaserch Project

Red Sparowes

Tour dates:

None confirmed at the moment, but expect a tour in support of *Panopticon* early next year!

Relevant press commentary for Isis:

"...it's difficult not to feel overwhelmed by the sheer power of the music Isis create..."
Rock Sound, May 2004

"...Aaron Turner has loosened hardcore from its geographical roots, and in the process created an intimate, yet immeasurable vision all of his own... a genuine treasure and one that will haunt us for years to come..."
Terrorizer, Jan/Feb 2003

"*The Panopticon* is a machine for disassociating the see/being seen dyad: in the peripheric ring, one is totally seen, without ever seeing; in the central tower, one sees everything without ever being seen." – Michel Foucault, 1973 from *Discipline & Punish: The Birth of the Prison*.

After two EP's (*Mosquito Control* on **Escape Artist** and *The Red Sea* on **Second Nature**), **Isis** issued their first truly definitive recordings: 2001's *Celestial* (Escape Artist) and its companion EP, *Sgnl>05*. The stunning *Oceanic* followed in 2002, marking the beginning of the band's relationship with **Ipecac Recordings** and earning Album of the Year accolades from popular UK metal mags *Terrorizer* and *rocksound*. While tours of the US, Europe and Japan with underground legends Melvins, Mogwai, Dillinger Escape Plan, Dàlek, Fennesz, Neurosis and Napalm Death solidified Isis' standing as masters of live performance, special engagements at 2004's **All Tomorrow's Parties** Festival in East Sussex, England (curated by Mogwai) and, most recently, the **Museum of Contemporary Art** (MOCA) in Los Angeles, attest to Isis' reputation as avant-metal visionaries.

In between touring in support of *Oceanic*, Isis released a series of twelve-inch remixes which featured heavy-weights such as **Mike Patton** (**Tomahawk**, **Fantômas**), **Justin Broadrick** (**Jesu**, ex-**Godflesh**), **James Plotkin** (**Khanate**, ex-**O.L.D.**), **Thomas Koner**, **Ayal Naor** (27) and **Fennesz**. Now, in 2004, Isis unveil the incomparable *Panopticon*.

On Isis' third full-length, the unblinking eye of counter-insurgency is exposed with mesmerizing stereophonic clarity. Ultra-dynamic sound-design takes on the heightened dimensions of institutionally-induced anxiety, and the carefully constructed artifice of an omniscient predatory apparatus becomes the paradigm of surveillance culture. Meanwhile, panoptic cognizance, while ostensibly the utmost of all Orwellian implications, lends itself to far more insidious applications: Just as hidden crosshairs hold sway over every prison yard, to see everything is to know all.

With guest bass on "Altered Course" by **Justin Chancellor** of **Tool** and production courtesy of **Matt Bayles** (**Mastodon**, **Pearl Jam**, etc.), *Panopticon* is the pinnacle of Isis' considerable sonic achievements to date; a sprawling epic that will cement their place in underground legend the world over.

Discography:

Panopticon – Ipecac 2004

Oceanic – Ipecac 2002

Sgnl>5 – Neurot 2001

Split 7-inch w/ Pig Destroyer – Relapse 2000

Celestial – Escape Artist 2000

The Red Sea – Second Nature 1999

The Mosquito Control EP – Escape Artist 1998



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