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Cortez. Conqueror. Killer. Oppressor. Madman. The great god Quetzalcoatl returned as a blood-mad Spaniard. And now, head-cracking rock n' roll band. Take a listen, and it'll all make sense.

Formed in 2006 from the ashes of several of Boston's stoner rock and punk n' roll institutions, including Fast Actin' Fuses and Sin City Chainsaw, Cortez has taken everything good from their old bands and made them bigger, louder, and heavier than ever before. Borrowing their name (but precious little else) from Neil Young's classic and controversial song "Cortez the Killer," the band has been electrifying stages with a pulverising live show and an arsenal of instant-classics like "The Highlife," "Stone the Bastards," and "Floodwater Rising" that mix classic 70's hard rock with rumbling, doomy stoner-metal. With influences ranging from the proto-metal fuzz of Cactus and Deep Purple to sludge-masters the Melvins and speed-weed monsters High on Fire, this is a band that's done its homework, and its sound stretches back through the decades, a timeless throb of heavy metal thunder and endless, rolling grooves.

Regional success is one thing, but a band like Cortez can't be contained by the borders of Route 495.

Cortez has recently signed with Belgian dope-rock label Buzzville, home to like-minded midnight ramblers like Artimus Pyledriver, Gonzalez, and Generous Maria. A new album titled Thunder In A Forgotten Town, produced by Marc Schleicher, head party-wrecker in the infamous Coke Dealer cartel, is due to land sometime this year. A six-track orgy of southern-fried riff n' roll, heavy on the acid-for-blood wah-wah and the thundertrain rhythm section, with the spectacularly confident vocals propelling the whole bruising chain into the arena-burning stratosphere.

For a band that's only been around for a year, they sound like they've already crashed their first private jet. This is thick, gristly rock music that sticks to your guts and leaves you clamoring for the next mind-frying riff, the next chest-thumping chorus, the next bout of shameless, heads-down superchug. Cortez is the real deal, brother. No wonder the estimable Arzgarth at Stonerrock.com wrote, "Cortez is rapidly becoming a killer band in Boston. If there's such a thing as classic stoner rock, these guys are doing it." Said album was recorded in December of 2006 at New Alliance Studios, the same house of horrors that spawned seminal releases from blister-rock champs like Road saw, Cracktorch, Scissorfight, Throt tlerod, and countless others. Soon then, the world.

** Cortez has played shows with Brant Bjork & the Bros, Solace, Atomic Bitchwax, Dixie Witch, Road saw, Devil To Pay, Monkey 3, Hypnos 69, Quintaine Americana, Throt tlerod, the Bakerton Group (Clutch side project), The Upper Crust, and RPG*

** Cortez released their debut cd "Thunder In A Forgotten Town" in Europe via Buzzville Records on November 19th, 2007.*

** Cortez played at the Maine Stoner and Doom Festival in 2006 and 2007.*

** Cortez played at Contact High hosted by Bobby Black of Sirius Radio and High Times Magazine.*

** Cortez played at Buzzfest in Opwijk, Belgium and Rossignol-Titigny Belgium, November 2007.*

** Cortez participated in WBCN's Rock N Roll Rumble in 2008.*

** Cortez toured the Northeast in August 2008.*

** Cortez's "Thunder In A Forgotten Town" CD placed 8th on Montreal's CJLO top ten of 2008 list.*

** Cortez played at the tenth edition of the Stoner Hands of Doom Festival in Frederick, MD September 2009.*