



THE ORANGEBURG MASSACRE

HQ: Torrance, CA

NOW PLAYING: *Moorea* (PLUTO RECORDS; plutorecords.com)

THE STORY SO FAR: Music journalists know there's an unspoken rule: Never ask where a band got their name. But with SoCal-based metallic hardcore unit the Orangeburg Massacre, we had to bend the rules a little. Vocalist Brandon Barron *wants* to explain the history behind his band's name since it relates to their entire message. The original Orangeburg Massacre occurred during the civil rights movement of the late '60s when highway patrol officers opened fire on a group of protesters in South Carolina. So *this* Orangeburg Massacre are on a mission to raise awareness about events that don't always make the news. "We don't want to be preachy," says Barron, "But we're trying to use our platform to open people's minds."

WHY YOU SHOULD KNOW 'EM: With influences that range from the Misfits to Converge, the Orangeburg Massacre have spent the greater part of three years developing their blood-boiling sound. After self-releasing a couple of EPs, the band were tapped by Pluto Records, which Barron pins as "pretty much the greatest label ever." Their newest record *Moorea*, says Barron, is named after an island of Tahiti which seemed dark yet mysteriously beautiful—mirroring the band's musical tone. "The lyrical content is my personal interpretation of what I see in society and people." Armed with a sound that's intense yet far from cookie-cutter hardcore, Barron says the Orangeburg Massacre are fighting a war against complacency. "The value of knowledge has been overlooked" — Adam K. Zakroczymski III

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