

## DESERT MAN – LOVE KILLS

### Key contributors and main individuals —

Desert Man is the new solo endeavor of Grammy-nominated artist and producer Sebastian Gäbel from Gothenburg, Sweden. After 5 tours and a double live album as guitarist with José González and The String Theory, Gäbel returns as Desert Man, his alter ego born during a mind-bending trip into the badlands of Southern California. Following three single releases, “Love Kills” is Desert Man’s debut EP.



Performed and produced by Desert Man. Percussion played by East Los Angeles native Andres Renteria (Beachwood Sparks, Rodrigo Amarante). Gäbel and Renteria started collaborating when both were on tour with José González. Drums performed by Jakob Kiersch (Alphaville), a long time friend and former bandmate of Gäbel's in Berlin-based alternative rock band Gods of Blitz.

### What's the story —

Gäbel spent a month in Los Angeles to attend the Grammy Awards (being nominated for his work on the album “Sekou Andrews & The String Theory”), during which time he rented the California Music studio run by his friend Kristian Nord, where he recorded “Love Kills” and wrote some of the other material on this album, in between trips to Joshua Tree and Anza Borrego. More songs were written

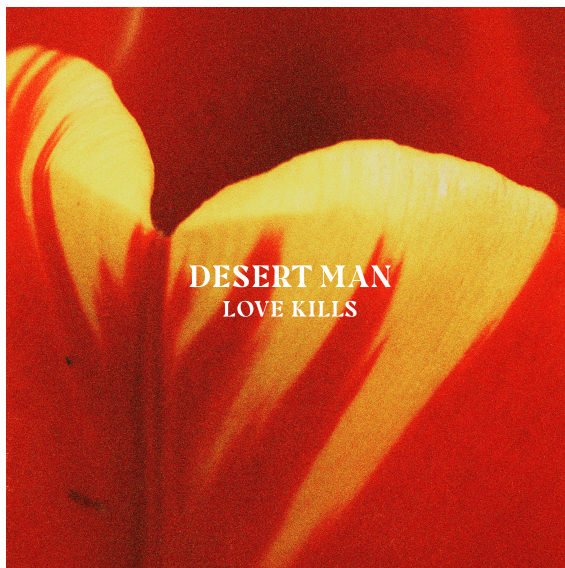
later during residencies in Berlin and Mallorca. After 16 albums as singer, musician and producer in various bands and orchestras, and 1,000+ concerts played in Europe and North America, it was time for a proper solo release by this exceptional creative.

### What makes this release stand out and why is it significant —

“Love Kills” is a shimmering analogue indie rock summer banger that deals with the impossibility of romantic love. Not unlike Father John Misty, Desert Man dissects popular beliefs and societal tropes with delicious European sarcasm by turning them upside down: “Love is only biochemistry and electricity in your brain / love is a drug that helps you get through the day / then again, so does crystal meth”.

Here’s a production that packs the psychedelic soundscapes of Jonathan Wilson, the quirky laid-back beats of Dope Lemon, and a vocal delivery reminiscent of Beck into an organically pumping folky Lofi rocker that might just become the soundtrack for people who wear their scars with dignity and spend their summers vibing to soft rock.

The previously released single “Penelope” tells the story of the proverbial insatiable human and girl-who-doesn’t-know-what-she-wants with great emotional urgency and philosophical confidence and sounds like The Lemonheads and The Strokes made a song together while Supergrass and My Morning Jacket sang the choir.



And if you're a sucker for big time mid-1990s anthems do check out "Desire Lines". It's like Cinnamon Girl-era Neil Young & Crazy Horse on cocaine.



#### **Where did the recording take place —**

Recorded at Studio Wong in Berlin, California Music in Los Angeles, and Svenska Grammfonstudion, Gothenburg (studio owner is Kalle Gustafsson Jerneholm of The Soundtrack of our Lives). Mixed by György Barocsai (Two Year Vacation) at Svenska Grammfonstudion. Mastered by Frida Claesson Johansson at Svenska Grammfonstudion's mastering unit at the venerable Hansa Studio, Berlin.

These selections are classic live recordings: drums and guitars were tracked in the same instant. One take, no edits. Vocals, bass, piano, percussion and more guitars were overdubbed later. "Love Kills" being an exception – that was just Desert Man with his Les Paul and a drum machine, before other instruments were added later on.

#### **Any upcoming performances to highlight —**

New EP release summer 2026. Live dates summer 2026 to be announced.

#### **Quotes —**

"Desert Man sound entirely up for ruffling feathers. Reminded me of Franz Ferdinand in the first instance but there is a softness to Desert Man that that Scottish act don't really have in their armoury. Likeable stuff, romance without any of the ickiness." Kevin Hugger, [mp3hugger.com](http://mp3hugger.com)

"...that magical place where an artist intuitively knows how to blend the infectiousness of pop, the effortlessly cool attitude of indie, and the robust energy of the rock world. Desert Man is obviously someone not weighed down by the expectations of genres..." Dave Franklin, [bigtakeover.com](http://bigtakeover.com)

"Desert Man doesn't just summon up his influences - he blends them into a singular aesthetic, elegant and raging. He paints a vitriolic portrait of an age plagued by ennui, despite its abundance and succeeds in the rare feat of combining reflection and intensity in the same musical breath." Marie Testa, [iggymagazine.com](http://iggymagazine.com)

"Desert Man succeeds in making more than just a musical statement. It is a philosophical reckoning, an unembellished but fascinating portrait of love, loss and human unrest – wrapped in psychedelic lo-fi rock and anthemic mid-90s energy." [nenesbutler.com](http://nenesbutler.com)

"Desert Man is a cathartic and vibrant solo project, a nugget of nostalgic pop-rock and nuanced psychedelia now flourishing into a euphoric EP, 'Love Kills'... an earthy, raw and vulnerable collection of introspective pieces." Gabriel Mazza, [mesmerized.io](http://mesmerized.io)

"A sun-drenched, acid-tinged sonic detour into the surreal, the sincere and the sharply self-aware... a collection that hums with both cinematic grandeur and lo-fi intimacy." Damo Howard, [plasticmag.co.uk](http://plasticmag.co.uk)

"It's taut, emotionally urgent, and deeply self-aware, balancing indie rock edge with a bittersweet longing. The artist's vocal work here is especially strong, switching seamlessly between detached observation and piercing vulnerability." Kristine Galura, [hellafuzz.com](http://hellafuzz.com)

## Other info —

"Love Kills", release June 5, 2025. Previous singles include "Zodiac" (released March 21, 2025), "Penelope" (released May 9, 2025), and "Willow Waltz" (released April 11, 2025).

Label and Management: Cornbread [mgmt@desertman.net](mailto:mgmt@desertman.net)

Publisher: TST Music/Bosworth Music GmbH/Wise Music

Distributor: Kontor New Media