

ALBUMS



GAY FOR JOHNNY DEPP
WHAT DOESN'T KILL YOU,
EVENTUALLY KILLS YOU

(SHINEBOX)
KKK
MORE HARDCORE AGGRO
FROM THE BROOKLYN
PUNKS

EXPECTING GAY For Johnny Depp to have renounced their colours and written an album of, say, listenable tunes is almost as optimistic as believing Osama Bin Laden might have a change of heart and run for Pope. This, after all, is a band so committed to wounding people up that they once sent out amyl nitrate and hardcore gay porn to journalists and wrote erotically-charged fanfic letters as press releases. It's odd, then, that on this, their leaner and fiercely honed third record of explosive, abusive hardcore, they've elected to write, in part, spitefully about success – a concept their attitude and noisy music has, essentially, ruled out.

DOWNLOAD: Nine Inch Nails (Born To Hate).
FOR FANS OF: The Blood Brothers, Trash Talk.

TOM BRYANT



HELLFIGHTER
DAMNATION'S WINGS

(HEAVY METAL)
KKK
FORMER XENTRIX MEN
THRASH BACK INTO LIFE
WITH METAL-TASTIC DEBUT

IT'S NOT hard to know what to expect from Hellfighter. Even if you're not familiar with Xentrix (the '80s Brit thrash stalwarts from which this band draws several key members), it's impossible not to notice that the band name, album and song titles all scream heavy fucking metal. They don't disappoint either, jettisoning some (but not all) of the former bands more melodic thrash leanings and going straight for the jugular with the straightforward combo of pounding riffage, squealing solos and a vocal performance pitched, passionately, somewhere between bellow and melodic. It certainly isn't original, but from pacy opener Tower Of Sin, to Firewalker's searing climax, you'll be banging your head too hard to care.

DOWNLOAD: Tower Of Sin.
FOR FANS OF: Cauldron, Fozzy.

SAM LAW



**ME FIRST AND THE
GIMME GIMMES**
GO DOWN UNDER

(FAT WRECK CHORDS)
KKK
FAT MIKE-LED FUNSTERS
RETURN WITH MORE
UNLIKELY COVER VERSIONS

OVER THE years, Me First And The Gimme Gimmes have given the punk treatment to songs by such artists as Paul Simon, Barry Manilow and The Dixie Chicks, to name just a few. The trick is simple: take a song with a strong melody and simply add guitars and speed it up. On the far too short, five-track Go Down Under the band's stamp is placed on songs written by Australian artists such as INXS and Air Supply. As ideas go, it's not the best they've ever had, but it is still fun enough. In the debate as to whether punk is a subversive form designed to challenge the status quo or merely the sound of pop music played fast, Me First And The Gimme Gimmes have here placed their vote for the latter camp.

DOWNLOAD: All Out Of Love.
FOR FANS OF: NOFX, Blink 182.

IAN WINWOOD



**QUEENS OF THE
STONE AGE**
REMASTERED REISSUE OF
QOTSA'S SEMINAL DEBUT
ALBUM

(REKORDS REKORDS)
KKKKK
REMASTERED REISSUE OF
QOTSA'S SEMINAL DEBUT
ALBUM

WHEN JOSH Homme recorded QOTSA's debut, he was knocking around as the touring guitarist for Screaming Trees after his cult stoner band, Kyuss, had unravelled. It seems remarkable now that with such an uncertain future, everything here sounds so assured. Yet Josh has always had confidence, and this remaster reinforces the swagger he donates a song. Deemed experimental on release, this is actually particularly tight and soulful given Josh's later diversions. While it's driving and hypnotic, it's also so full of hooks that its quirks are kept in check. Three bonus tracks are included here and add some interest to what is rightfully considered a classic debut.

DOWNLOAD: Regular John.
FOR FANS OF: Foo Fighters, The Raconteurs.

TOM BRYANT



SUCIOPERRO
THE HEART STRING & HOW TO
PULL IT

(XTRA MILE)
KKK
UPLIFTING THIRD EFFORT
FROM SCOTTISH ALT-ROCK
TRIO

THE CONNECTION between this Scottish trio and Biffy Clyro has been well-documented, but for those not in the know, Sucioperro singer JP Reid is in Marmaduke Duke with Biffy frontman Simon Neil. While there are similarities between the two bands, this third album sees Sucioperro continue to evolve and define their own sound. Threads is a frantic, punchy rock sing-along, Out & Over switches between heavy riffage and a glorious chorus, and Ideals Have Value displays this band's expansive side. Unfortunately, the repetitive Is That Why You Pull Me In?, Delicious and Landslide detract from the album's overall impact. Nevertheless, there are some fantastic, uplifting moments here.

DOWNLOAD: Ideals Have Value.
FOR FANS OF: Reuben, Biffy Clyro.

MISCHA PEARLMAN



FRANCESQA
WE LIVED EP

(SELF-RELEASED)
KKK
DELUXE VERSION OF UK
HOPEFULS' DEBUT EP

RE-RELEASED TO coincide with their current headline tour, this bumper edition of the Oxfordshire quintet's EP shows why they were handpicked by Blink 182's Tom DeLonge to play on the Kerrang! Introducing stage at last year's Slam Dunk festivals. Those unfamiliar with Francesqa will find this the perfect entry point to the gleaming melodies that made the Blink 182 man sit up and take notice. The addition of new single All I Had goes some way to injecting a dose of the band's live energy that was missing from the EP's first release, while the acoustic version of Ghosts proves that even stripped down, their songwriting has undeniable strength. There's room for improvement, but that's forgivable, as these lads have a lot of living to do yet.

DOWNLOAD: All I Had.
FOR FANS OF: Young Guns, Biffy Clyro.

JAMES HICKIE

PLAYLIST THIS WEEK'S ESSENTIAL TRACKS!



YOUNG GUNS STITCHES

Young Guns frontman Gustav Wood described his band's new video as being "like Metallica on a budget", which still sounds ace! And, sure enough, the video and slow burning single are both cracking.

LINKIN PARK BURNING IN THE SKIES

When LP break this one out at their headline Download slot, it's sure to be the cue for an enormous sing-along. Start learning the words now so you can join in!

THE HAUNTED DISAPPEAR

WTF?! Swedish thrashers The Haunted have gone all groovy on this new song, with a Tool-esque thump replacing their usual speedy charge. And it's awesome!



PARKWAY DRIVE SLEEPWALKER

Bring Me The Horizon had better bring their A-game if they don't want to get blown offstage by Parkway Drive when the Aussie metalcore crew support them in April. Check out this live video to see what we mean!

RIVAL SCHOOLS WRING IT OUT

Ten years it's taken for post-hardcore groundbreakers Rival Schools to release their second album Pedals. Worth the wait? On this evidence, absolutely!



REVOKER THIEF

These new Roadrunner signings have just ripped up stages supporting Rob Zombie, now they're destroying your ears with a searing blast of rock. Killer!

SENSES FAIL THE FIRE

Returning with the title-track from their latest album, this is an exhilarating blast of post-hardcore goodness from Buddy Nielsen's crew. And it's hot enough to melt your speakers into smoking puddles!

PATRICK STUMP CUTE GIRLS

The voice that helped make Fall Out Boy a world-conquering phenomenon is back! Only this time Mr Stump is exercising his inner R&B superstar on this laid-back track. It's definitely different...



THE GET UP KIDS SHATTER YOUR LUNGS

Pop-punk? More like pop-funk, judging by the big bass and nifty drumming on the latest offering from this influential Missouri crew. Get your groove on, indeed!

TIGER PLEASE THE SPRING AND ITS OFFERING

This is how you make a shimmering, anthemic song ready for arenas without falling flat on your arse! Yep, this is another winner from these rising Welsh stars.

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