



DEAD CANARY RECORDS
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BASSHOLES - "OUT IN THE TREETOPS"

FOR FANS OF: Gibson Bros., Blues Explosion, 68 Comeback, Flat Duo Jets, Anthology of American Folk Music

So yeah, now every Tom and Dick is doing the two-man lo-fi bent blues thing. But only one cat can boast purveying such roots wrangling for over 10 years -- Columbus, Ohio's Mr. Don Howland. And before he embarked on this Bassholes cruise, he co-whipped up the Charlie tarred-and-feathered garagebilly combo, the Gibson Bros., a major touchstone of choice for those aforementioned Toms and Dicks who manage to land a Harry.

After the fall of the Gibson Bros., Howland nabbed Rich Lilash from the debris, and hoisted the Bassholes via distantly-spaced 45s and a number of LPs for Cali label, In the Red Records. Claiming "it became clear that two pussy-whipped individuals in one band is one too many," Howland heave-hoed Lillash and hooked up new skin slapper Bim around '95. With swing to spare, this brotherman put some needed zip into the live show.

Each Bassholes release has offered up fine unrefined distillations of Howland's various likes, from Skip James to trance, the Germs to Bob Dylan, and back. So this here is a renaissance man who has written for the Village Voice, Spin, New York Rocker, and had a Bukowski amount of ice cubes hit him in the chin. Not to mention he's a small town middle school teacher and father of two. Yup, gets to bed by 10, up by 6. Makes this stuff because he's got to, I guess. Being the perennial outsider, he doesn't exactly pimp himself out. So don't slap yourself if you haven't heard his wailings before.

Self-described "art fag," he is never at a loss to soil the garage rock purists' formulas with his inventive bile. Like on this latest EP, *OUT IN THE TREETOPS*, wherein da 'Holes swipe a Joy Division song then call it "Life Goes On;" cover the Stooges' "Raw Power," which would be pointless at this point were it not such a truly blistering fuzzed-out take-back; offer up another retelling of the Stagger Lee story; and generally bash along a lil' more punk-like than on recent outings. And by twisting his hillbilly twang further -- all twitch and holler like Itchy & Scratchy mid-explosion -- well it proves Howland is now reanimating even his own tricks in addition to the usual rootsy mish-mash.

Most give up on such artsy stabs by the time they're 26 and the label advance has been snorted. Howland however has retained the invigorating zeal of the 17 yr. old hearing his first Velvet Underground record, which all belies the real bastard he can be sometimes. But hey, we all have our bad days. At least Bim and him turn their's into blasts of rockin' quitar/drum sound bites, peppered with unfamiliar noises and familiar emotions, familiar to anyone who has ever been wronged by a significant other, grim jobs, back taxes, a conscience. If you haven't, move on. You've already found peace. This record will only fuck it up.

-- Eric Davidson, Columbus, OH, 1/03



SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

Singles

98 Degrees In The Shade (In The Red, 1992)
John Henry (Sympathy For The Record Industry, 1992)
Baby Go (Honey Man, 1994)
(She Said I Had A) Problem (Bag Of Hammers, 1995)
Hey O.J. (In The Red, 1995)
Lion's Share (In The Red, 1995)
Interzone (Seldom Scene Records, 1997)
Bassholes Featuring April March (Sympathy For The Record Industry, 1997)

Albums/EPs

Blue Roots (In The Red, 1993)
Haunted Hill (In The Red, 1995)
Deaf Mix Vol. 3 (In The Red, 1997)
Long Way Blues/1996-1998 (Matador, 1998)
When My Blue Moon Turns Red Again (In The Red, 1998)
Out In The Treetops (Dead Canary, 2003)

BASSHOLES "Out In The Treetops"

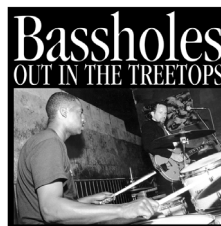
DCR001 - 2x7". Release 03/03
DCR003 - CD. Release 11/03

1. Ode To Charo
2. Out in the Treetops
3. Life Goes On
4. Tattoo (The Who)
5. Raw Power (The Stooges)
6. Stack O Lee
7. St. Matthew

Don Howland - guitar, vocals. Bim Thomas - drums.

Paul Parsons - guitar on #5. Lou Poster - lead on #5.

Recorded by the Bassholes. Mixed and mastered by Jon Chinn at Workbook Studio.



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NOTES: However you classify this release (single, EP, etc.) its the twentieth release in the Bassholes catalog---give or take a couple, and marks the beginning of the Bassholes second decade. 2004 will bring another Bassholes full-lungth to be released on Dead Canary Records.