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D.C. Party-Rock Digest No.1: The Dance Party and the Factory

Posted by Jonathan L. Fischer on Jul. 26, 2010 at 3:33 pm



An occasional feature that, God willing, will never appear in this

space again

The last time we checked in with the **Dance Party**—that would be the time the dudes behind Fan Death Records <u>called it a "garbage band"</u>—the sweatband-loving D.C. synthpop group was in L.A. recording its major-label debut. Now via the band's publicist, we learn that that record, TOUCH, is complete, and will drop on Sept. 28 via Hell Ya! Records, a subsidiary of Warner Music Group. The press release says fookyah:

It seems like a common rock and roll cliché for bands to move to Hollywood, party with reckless abandon, and hang out at strip clubs. However, for THE DANCE PARTY, the L.A. party lifestyle seemed like the most obvious next step in their career. While in Hollywood writing and recording TOUCH, the band took over [strip club] Crazy Girls, setting up shop with a naughty monthly residency involving energetic performances, excessive partying, and most importantly, onstage strippers.

While the band's over-the-top live show and song writing may have seemed out of place in Washington, D.C., a city best known for power suits and politics, THE DANCE PARTY fit right in with the drugs, sex, and rock and roll of the Sunset Strip. "In Hollywood, we found a lifestyle that matched the music we wanted to make," says Coogan. "We found muses in the beautiful California girls and inspiration in the excess. Our record is a natural expression of how we live and we're proud of it." The band's series of sold-out shows at Crazy Girls gained instant notoriety, quickly becoming one of the most insane parties in Hollywood.

Right.



One imagines, based on the provided press materials, that the **Factory** occupied a similar, if slightly more metal-tinged, milieu in the late '80s and early '90s. Listen to "Self Submission": Its scuzzy, self-parodying rock is suggestive of the New York Dolls or the Dictators, which is exactly the type of rock music D.C. has never been known for. The group apparently attracted some attention (if not enough) from A&R reps, but disbanded in the early '90s due to frontman Vance Bockis' addiction to heroin (he beat it, but the group stayed kaput). Now Acetate Records is releasing the group's once-lost recordings as a self-titled album, out on Sept. 7. If you're into the kind of band whose fashion sense The Washington Post described in 1998 as...

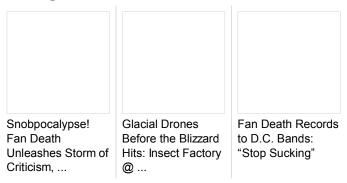
part Prince prance, part Glimmer glamour, part biker butch and part spaghetti Western

...then, uh, check it out. Me? I've got 45 minutes of Fugazi stage banter I feel like relistening to.

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1. ricky d July 26th, 2010 5:14 pm

#1

Vance Bockis is better known for 9353, a cool band who were kind of the exception that proved the rule of mid-80s DC punk. No reason to slag him.

2. Sergio July 27th, 2010 9:23 am #2

Is DC Music scene and the people who dominate it (writers, bloggers, people in position of power, etc) ever going to wake up and realize how ridiculous their love of post-punk/experimental music is? Their influence is absolutely destroying this city's music scene...God-forbid that the Dance Party uses synths, can actually sing and play their instruments, writes catchy songs, and are successful. These guys are good and should be getting way more attention but we are still deifying Fugazi. Great job.

3. Mickey Weekend July 27th, 2010 10:57 am

#3

while i have always made it known that fugazi etc. is not my cup of bud light, i will forever endorse the best band ever to come out of dc-washington social club.

this band wrote amazing songs, signed a deal, got in a van and brought the rock to the masses. they wrote two outstanding records that everyone should check out-"catching looks" and "bigger than your boyfriend." eventually the band robots became too powerful and they broke up, but they were a huge influence on our band.

this fucking band's live show was unstoppable. don't get me wrong, fugazi brought the hellfire, but there were just too many sober, sweaty dudes arm wrestling at those shows. wsc was the shit.

boobs boners tits whatever. record drops sept. 28. long live dc

4. Chad July 27th, 2010 <u>12:05 pm</u> #4

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YSUwCnm-gww&feature=player embedded

5. Darnell Struthers July 27th, 2010 12:09 pm #5

The lamest part of this article is that he wasnt joking about listening to Fugazi stage banter. Man, wasn't living in Bethesda in 1989 rad?

6. Jon St. John July 27th, 2010 12:29 pm #6

skeleton t-shirt

7. James July 27th, 2010 12:29 pm #7

> I'm sorry, i'm too busy sitting in my power suit and thinking about politics to understand the rock and roll excess of this band. If only I were cool enough!

8. Disco Dan July 27th, 2010 1:06 pm #8

I hate it when nobody comes to listen to my experimental math rock duet that sounds like every other joke

indi band on Tuesday afternoons at Velvet Lounge.

Way to go out of your way to hate on one of the three DC bands that decided to actually go for it and not play the DC9/ R&R Hotel weekend circuit until they had kids and moved to Fairfax.

Oh yeah. Fugazi is fuking boring as shit.

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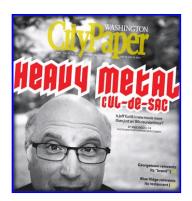
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