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Prima Donna

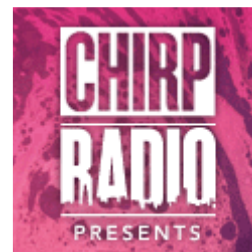


Bless This Mess



(Acetate Records)

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Sounding like a band weaned on little more than the New York Dolls and Cheap Trick, LA's Prima Donna (why has no one snatched this band name up before?) play glammed up power pop and punk rock that sounds like

they've just awoken from a 35-year coma. Try and name any other glam punk band recording today that includes saxophone and tubular bells?

Bless This Mess, their sophomore effort, is a nice step forward from their impressive if a little uneven 2008 debut. The band has certainly kept busy during the four-year gap touring the globe several times including a high profile world tour opening for Green Day (Singer/guitarist Kevin Preston also plays guitar in the Green Day side project Foxboro Hot Tubs) .

Years on the road have worked out well for the band as they sound much tighter on these newer songs than their first go round. "Feral Children" comes off like the Stooges if they had discovered melody and "Broken," with its piano backing, is closer in vein to more modern pop punk songs, but both manage to highlight the band at its best. The record loses a little steam toward the end, tacking on a couple of the weaker tracks, but the earlier songs more than make up for the flaws. What's punk rock without some scars, right?

DOWNLOAD: "Sociopath," "Feral Children" and "Broken" JOHN B. MOORE



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