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The Hangmen – East of Western (Acetate Records)

By

[Upchuck Undergrind](#)– May 25, 2012Posted in: [Reviews](#)

Rock-n-roll is happening all over the place on the new Hangmen release (featuring ex-Supersucker dude Rontrose Heathman). It's great because it means the band has nimbly dodged any attempt to pigeonhole them—past, of course, simply calling it rock and roll. There are elements of “straight” rock, punk rock, retro rock, stoner rock. Rock, rock, rock. You could build a mountain out of what's going on here. The band has a lot of character and a sound both familiar and distinctive. While not pushing the envelope, neither are the Hangmen just playing ditto. For fans of rock-and-fucking-roll with lots of attitude and swagger and lots of musical sensibilities, The Hangmen's EAST OF WESTERN could provide a decalogue of tunage (ten tracks) for jamming. The band's sound is radio friendly without being cookie cutter, so listeners aren't apt to have an instant I've-heard-this-before reaction. But it's not going to alienate them, either. The band hangs between comfortable dynamics rock listeners can click with immediately and a slight edge. The most distinguishing feature is probably the vocalist, whose singing will irritate some but it's exactly what brings the rudeness to the rock.

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