



10.15.12

The Hangmen

EAST OF WESTERN-(ACETATE RECORDS)-It's always a great day when a new Hangmen record is released! A brick-and-mortar Los Angeles institution begun in the late '80s, The Hangmen stood alongside The Joneses as a real alternative to the city's then-*au courant* glam sleaze scene. The Hangmen played shaggy-haired punk rock in smudged eyeliner and a tattered cowboy shirt, steeped in The Gun Club, Johnny Thunders, and 1000 rare, scratchy blues and country 45s. Two decades later, founder guitarist/vocalist/songwriter Bryan Small has outlived several Hangmen lineups as well as the glam trappings. But the foundation remains their driving, vicious roots pounding and Small's snarling songwriting: Tales of life lived badly, told from a cheap motel room littered with whiskey bottles, spent condoms, months-old junk food wrappers, and empty plastic bags. And with *East of Western*, The Hangmen gain some musical muscle courtesy of ex-Supersuckers guitarist Ron Heathman & his Les Paul. Nice cover of Jonathan Richman's "She Cracked" to boot, which fits oddly well among Small's originals. www.acetate.com TIM "NAPALM" STEGALL

http://www.daggerzine.com/reviews_main.html