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## The Hangmen & The Stanleys

By Bob Suehs



THE HANGMEN

East of Western

Track Listing:

Homesick Blues, I'm Your Man, Had A Girl, Graverobbers, Drink Smoke, Railroad Man, Betrayed, Big Red Rooster, She Cracked, Haunted

A Fist waiving, beer drinking rock band with more swagger than the New York Dolls & The Black Keys combined....Cali's own The Hangmen have been around since 1997 & with their latest release entitled "East of Western" the band pummels through 10 songs that range from riff roaring rockers to tender/twisted ballads about love lost.

The first 2 songs on this cd kick ass & take you on a wild riff-tastic voyage of reckless rock n roll abandon while "Had A Girl" slows the pace down just a bit with a tender sentiment about losing a companion.

The vocals are like a more rockin' version of Tom Petty while the guitar tone is mixed between clean & gritty and it's interesting to note that they are called The Hangmen yet their bass player is female!

"Betrayed" touches a bit on the country rock sound with it's tone & sound, but for the most part the entire record is a mix of loud garage rock meets anthemic arena rock.

"She Cracked" actually has a bit of a punk rock vibe to it & it's probably my favorite song off this cd because it's just relentless with it's energy & style...it's loud, fast & cool as sh\*!

"Haunted" is the records closer & it's a slower song that clocks in at just over 4 minutes in



length...the song is a brooding number that's an interesting closer for this record that's chock full o' riff rock & attitude!



#### THE STANLEYS

Always

Track Listing:

Always, What Are We Gonna Do?, Kid's Gonna Rock, My World

When I saw the name of this band my initial thought was, is this a Paul Stanley tribute band? I know, dumb thought BUT that's how the mind of a KISS dork operates!

This 4 song EP shows the power & pop potential Australia's The Stanley's possess. The band reminds me of Fountains of Wayne quite a bit & the opening track, "Always" is a pop rock track full o' energy, excitement and musically the song is just fun to listen to because it has a really positive vibe to it.

"What Are We Gonna Do?" has a very 70's styled pop feel to it & the only thing the band really lacks are guitar solos which would really layer & accessorize each track a bit.

Listening to "Kids Gonna Rock" I am reminded a bit of the band Space Hog .... there's a distinctive glam rock feel to this song.

"My World" is an interesting song to close this EP with because it's a bit more modern sounding than the rest of the EP & it's also a slower song ....it starts off slow but has a strong build up.

Musically this EP is solid and the band has a great sound, great song writing skills & the best way I could describe their style of music is that they mix modern rock with 70's glam influences to make a pop foundation out of their guitar driven rock...it's what makes the band have just a bit of a throwback sound with modern pop hooks. Each song makes you wanna bob your head as you listen along.

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