

'East of Western,' The Hangmen (Acetate Records, 4 1/2)

This May 8 CD is the new one from Los Angeles' the Hangmen (Brian Smalls: lead vocals & rhythm guitar, Angelique "Eek" Congleton: bass/vocals, Ron Heathman: lead guitar/vocals and Dino Guerrero: drums). They've been together more than 25 years, with Heathman joining up when he left the Supersuckers. I reviewed and thoroughly enjoyed their "Lost Rocks-Best Of" album in 2011. The blazing opening song, "Homesick Blues," kicks off with a high-speed snare roll that underlines the singer's statement while being far from bluesy. My other favorites include the garage-y "I'm Your Man," the acousticky "Had A Girl," the spooky substance-riddled "Drink Smoke," the hammering "Railroad Man," the AC/DC-ish "Big Red Rooster" and the pile-driving "She Cracked."

That's right, readers, I like just about every song; so, broad-minded punk rockers will really enjoy this album.

- Ricky Flake