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East Bay Ray and the Killer Smiles - 'Self Titled' (MVD Audio)

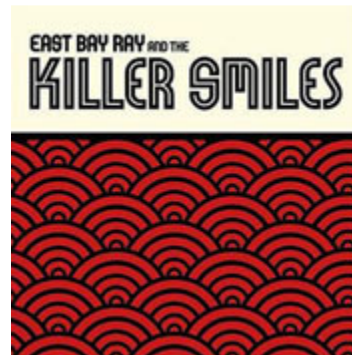
CD Reviews

Written by Dom Daley

Wednesday, 05 October 2011 05:00

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Yeah that's him, Easy Bay Ray from the Dead & Company with a curious collection of songs that will have connections to his other band - like the style of 'Broken' having that one string riff that was a trade mark with the DKs - but exploring further with songs like 'The Heart Is Something' with its orientated lilt.

Using the voice of Skip McSkipster from the Wytches and recent DKs live lead throat as well as drummers Wilson and bassist Greg Reeves also seeing different tours with the DKs I think it's a much better idea for the band something else and not the new record by the DKs but the experimental sound record maybe would never fit into the 'Fresh Fruit' or 'Frankenchrist' tip and bring criticism, so by calling the band East Bay Ray & The Killer Smiles is best all round. It is a great power pop, gang vocal chorused track and a fine three and a half minute.

'The Runner' sees the combo smoulder towards the chorus as the track simply drops back down with a great vocal workout from Skip. This music is timeless with a wide appeal and will enable this line up to take this baby wherever they want for twelve songs and not a duff one in sight; DKs fans will like it and so will '80s alt because I can hear some influences in here as well as the reggae skank of 'Saf' which shows off a very versatile style you might not instantly associate with East Bay Ray. Close out the album you've got the rockabilly workout of '16 Tons'. Curious choice but well executed and another string to the bow.

Check this out if you want some quality punk rock and an album that stretches it without sounding awkward or out of place. East Bay Ray & The Killer Smiles offer more than a cheeky grin and I'm a liking it.

<http://www.reverbnation.com/killersmiles>

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