

MCN Columnists

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"Two Headed Cow" is the latest in a series of rock bio-docs that describe the hardships associated with being dubbed a tortured genius. "The Devil and Daniel Johnston," "Derailroaded," "Joy Division" and "Kurt Cobain: About a Son" come immediately to mind as films that document how the ravages of fame, near fame and failure impact rock musicians who've pushed the envelope and had it close back up on them. Although he's not widely known outside guitar-hero circles, Romweber's ferocious brand of rock 'n' roll has influenced musicians with whom most people are familiar. Among those who testify here are Jack White, Cat Power, Neko Case, Exene Cervenka and Mojo Nixon. While on tour, in 1990, opening for the Cramps, he appeared on "Late Night With David Letterman" with Chris "Crow" Smith, the other half of the band Flat Duo Jets. Their sound combined traditional lo-fi rockabilly with roots rock, garage rock and something called surf-punk. They made a few albums and played a lot of bars, before splitting up acrimoniously. Romweber, who probably suspected he was a genius all along, was left to his demons. Writer/director Tony Gayton had already included Flat Duo Jets in his 1987 rockumentary, "Athens, Ga.: Inside/Out," and incorporates concert footage from that period into the new film, which had its festival debut in 2006. It wasn't until very recently that **"Two Headed Cow"** found distribution on DVD.