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## [The WAE](#)

### [‘Two Headed Cow’ rock doc has ties to the Fincannons](#)

Friday, [December 23, 2011](#) at 1:37 by [Brian Tucker](#)



The first time I heard/saw The White Stripes I thought of Flat Duo Jets, a Carrboro, NC band that played in Wilmington frequently in the early '90s, and always coming close to setting the stage on fire with their blistering shows. When I think of great shows I've seen Flat Duo Jets is close to the

very top. Romweber is an incredible performer and singer, a mixture of gut wrenching delivery and vocals that sound like Buddy Holly leaning more towards Screamin' Jay Hawkins instead of crooning pop songs.

The band's performances were memorable – Romweber on guitar and vocals and Crow Smith on drums, playing raucous rockabilly and rock and roll with atomic fire and an eye towards the days of Elvis, Gene Vincent and Carl Perkins blessed with the snarl of punk rock. I can still remember Smith beating the hell out of those drums at Jacob's Run while Romweber made the most remarkable sounds come from that guitar and mouth of his. They were so loud, so powerful, for two musicians on a stage. Flat Duo Jets never broke wide open and remained a band that people talked about and left a memory trail through performances and television appearances like "Late Night with David Letterman."

Years ago I was contacted by a publicist about any interest in the "Two Headed Cow" soundtrack and documentary about the history of Flat Duo Jets. The last album I bought from the band was 1998's "Lucky Eye" and they disbanded a year or so later. For research purposes I thought of "[Inside/Out](#)," the documentary about the Athens, Georgia music scene from 1987. In it there's great footage of FDJ and of Romweber who has such a disarming yet commanding presence. Watching him talking with a college guy in a roadside store is both sweet and illuminating. There's an interview with Jack White of The White Stripes who discusses the influence FDJ had on him. The publicist seemingly dropped off the face of the earth and I always wondered about the documentary.

[Rolling Stone](#) recently published a story about the doc "Two Headed Cow" that was released in November on DVD and is being distributed by Cape Fear Filmworks, a company started by Frank Capra, Jr. The DVD is for sale on [Amazon](#).

The documentary actually germinated with "Inside/Out" in which Lisa Mae Wells was a college student at the time and a producer on it. Wells is better known locally as Lisa Mae Fincannon of Fincannon and Associates. She is also one of the producers of "Two Headed Cow" which was directed by, and made over many years, by Tony Gayton who is a co-creator of the AMC drama "Hell on Wheels" and a successful screenwriter ("Faster," "Murder by Numbers").



The documentary covers a lot of territory – the band's status as a great underground band, its influence on bands that followed and Romweber's career as the Dexter Romweber Duo (his sister Sara plays the drums) that has been more successful than that of FDJ's. Romweber performs in the area still.

Romweber released a new album last summer on Bloodshot Records called "Is That You in the Blue?" and Jack White's Third Man Records spent a lot of time working to get Flat Duo Jets' "Go Go Harlem Baby" [pressed again on vinyl](#).

*The video below features footage from the documentary and contains language.*

**Music by Flat Duo Jets:**

**MTV's Cutting Edge show with Dexter:**

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The WAE: Wilmington-area Arts & Entertainment is dedicated to experiencing, discussing and promoting the arts in Southeastern N.C. From theater and all manner of music to visual art, dance, festivals and more, The WAE is populated by people who are immersed in local A&E. If it's about A&E in Southeastern N.C., then we're all about it.

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