

THE RESIDENTS, "The Bunny Boy" (Santa Dog) *** * — OK, there's weird and then there's the Residents, the indie pop/punk outfit that brings new meaning to the word. Normally this kind of sonic roller coaster isn't

my cup of tea, but there's something about "The Bunny Boy" — the band's whopping 53rd release dating back to 1976 — that kept me coming back for more. The songs are fast-paced (19 tracks clocking in at less than 45 minutes) and catchy. So even when a stinker rolled by, it was over almost before I realized I didn't like it.

The hits outweigh the misses here, with keepers "Boxes of Armageddon," "Pictures From a Little Girl," "Butcher Shop," "Golden Guy," the title track and "Blood on the Bunny." That means misfires such as "Rabbit Hat," "Fever Dreams," "My Nigerian Friend" and "The Black Behind" get lost (fortunately) in the shuffle. I didn't know much about the Residents before "The Bunny Boy" — and I doubt I'll ever have time to work my way through their massive back catalog — but there's a reason these Louisiana boys have lasted this long. They know how to rock. (JS)