



THE RESIDENTS

The Bunny Boy

Santa Dog Records, 2008

Review by Joe Milliken

If you do not know The Residents your not alone, so strap yourselves in because you are in for a ride. Despite having created over sixty albums in their nearly 40-year history, this San Francisco avant-garde music and visual arts outfit to this day is a mystery... on purpose. Yes, they choose ambiguity. Furthermore, their music is quite hard to pin point; is it alternative rock? Is it punk, hardcore or techno? One thing is for sure, they obviously take their music seriously, yet also convey some strange sense of zany humor, such as in the vein of Frank Zappa, Captain Beefheart and The Tubes, another San Francisco band of performance artists.

The concept of their latest CD *The Bunny Boy*, is a strange stretch of the imagination even for The Residents, and what makes it even more unique is that the original idea literally fell at their doorstep. The band received a mysterious DVD package full of crude video footage at their private studio residence titled "Postcards From Pantos", a strange story told by a former colleague known as "Bunny", who was pleading for help over the disappearance of his brother on the Greek island of Patmos. Was this a joke?

When the band unsuccessfully tried to track down their friend (he seemed to have disappeared) and not even knowing if this DVD was an actual problem or evidence of some sort of personal breakdown, they were inspired to write an album revolving around the "Postcards From Patmos" story appropriately titled "The Bunny Boy". The songs (all 19 of them) are pure Residents - bizarre, spooky pop slabs of their own eccentric style.

The song titles and lyrical content is straight forward and down-right crazy, which falls right in line with all aspects considered. "I'm Not Crazy", "Butcher Shop", "Blood On The Bunny" and "I Killed Him" are just a few samples of song titles, with accompanying lyrics of the same nature. The full color CD booklet also includes some "interesting" photo images that were taken from the Bunny Boy's actual "secret room". This is great stuff, but you go ahead figure it out for yourself.

