

• Left of the Dial Magazine

## July 12, 2008

### Black Halos/We Are Not Alone: Acetate

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With rock'n'roll myth making and aplomb, these lads seem to deliver on the promises of bands like the U.S. Bombs/Die Hunns and D Generation, forging a helluva dirty boulevard punk sound without pretense but a haggard pose in tow. If you want your punk to come fiercely tattooed with AC/DC and Radio Birdman iconography, than this is your dented Budweiser beer can of a band. "Princess St. Princess" outlines the sussy girl who don't need no fancy clothes and chaperones because she has a cheetah attitude, or something equivalent. Meanwhile, "Love and War" ("tell me something sugar, which are you fighting for?") offers a metaphoric meditation on the twin fuels of the modern age, when emotional bomb blasts and burning hearts ricochet in our lives with equal doses of shrapnel. The raspy, barbed-wire vocals and anthemic musical conflagrations continue unabated for the rest of the disc, from the sloganeering "We Are Not Alone" to the phlegm and vitriol cocktail of "Suck City" to the slightly slower hip twist of "Dreamboat," which could be a bourbon-soaked Tom Petty in drippy eyeliner, arms decked in ink. I swear. Tap your industrial boots to that Toilet Boys trickster.

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