

## Bang Gang

### *Find What You Get* NOWHERE RECORDS



by Kathy Iandoli

www.banggang.net

Bang Gang's Bardi Johannsson is cooler than most, for reasons beyond coming from the same ice-land as Bjork. On Bang Gang's EP *Find What You Get*, Bardi manages to convey all of the right emotions in just four simple tracks. Bardi could very well be considered a modern day renaissance man — a singer, songwriter, composer, director, and who knows what else!

The experiences that Johannsson meets on a daily basis undoubtedly fuel the fire for a style that is both dark and light all within the same series of notes. The

title track is breezy and fun, reminiscent of the 60s/70s, but backed by modern guitar riffs. Bang Gang arrive like a hybrid of Beach Boys and Radiohead — how is that not enjoyable? "It's Alright" creates haunting hums that are more peaceful than frightening. The acoustic guitars and tambourines channel the days-around-a-campfire scene in a movie, where you expect something awful to happen, but surprisingly nothing does.

Perhaps that is Bang Gang's tragic flaw — the listener waits for something big to happen, but is

left with consistent, free flowing music. What follows is "Follow," a sullen piano/stringed piece, displaying more intricacies in its instrumental section than the slightly off key vocals that arrive much later in the track. A live version of the title track concludes the EP, and while it isn't as good as the original, it's good enough nonetheless. Pop this CD in when you want to cry, fly, or ask why... Bardi has all of the answers.

Read a feature on Bang Gang on p. 7—ed.

## B.G. & The Chopper City Boyz

### *We Got This* KOCH RECORDS



by Todd Siskowski

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B.G. was always one of the more underappreciated members of the Cash Money Millionaires as rappers like Juvenile and Lil' Wayne received the majority of the love from critics and fans. Still, since leaving Cash Money Records nearly six years ago, B.G. has kept himself extremely busy, releasing numerous indie CDs.

The rapper's latest work is one in which B.G. introduces us to his crew called the Chopper City Boyz. The foursome of Gar, Sniper, VL Mike, and Hakim (B.G.'s younger brother) are all over *We*

*Got This*, sometimes rapping individually and sometimes as a group. Unfortunately, B.G.'s presence is lacking and that makes the 16-track CD disappointing.

Two of the best songs from *We Got This* are the David Banner produced "Make 'Em Mad" and Kidd produced "What I Like About Her," and they are the only tracks that feature all five rappers. "Make 'Em Mad" employs some hard beats and an interesting horn arrangement that fit perfectly with the lyrics about making others jealous

while "What I Like About Her" is a slower jam that has a great R&B vibe to it.

The majority of the rest of the CD is serviceable, but none of the Chopper City Boyz provides enough of a spark to take the songs to another level, even though there are instances of their talents here and there. Props should be given to the top-notch production and beats on *We Got This*, but the people that will enjoy this release most will be Southern-style gangsta rap fanatics.

## Big Audio Dynamite Live

### *E=MC<sup>2</sup>*

#### CHERRY RED RECORDS



by Kathryn Verrillo

www.cherryred.co.uk

Bored. That's the only word that came to mind when I had completed watching this live music DVD. It was the only word that came to mind throughout the entire 50 minutes that it was on. And now I'm wondering how I'm going to come up with the rest of a review for a virtual musical performance that really did leave me feeling just plain bored. The thing is that I didn't hate the DVD. If I had, I could write down all of the terrible things that it didn't have going for it. But it wasn't awful, it just wasn't good.

Getting down to the basics, this is the DVD of a live performance by Big Audio Dynamite II (the second incarnation of the 80's British punk-rock band led by Mick Jones of The Clash). Also known as BAD, the band gained attention for a genre-blending punk-rock style that just never appealed to me. It's not bad, it's just not good.

I had hopes for the DVD anyway because I often find that bands I consider mediocre win me over with their live performances. Nope, not in this case. BAD's

live performance doesn't add anything to make the music more interesting. And the DVD adds no special effects or commentary to keep it entertaining. The second song, "I Don't Know" has a repeated line: "Don't you even want to hear about it?" They weren't talking about their music, but I was already mentally responding, "no, not really." But, if you like BAD, you'll probably think it's good.