

Detritus Issue #541 - Week of March 29, 2010

<http://launch.groups.yahoo.com/group/Detritus/message/891>

BUGGIRL - BLOOD, SWEAT & BEERS (B+) Impedance Music/MVD, 2009
5 tracks, RT: 19:18

[<http://www.buggirl.net/>]

[<http://www.myspace.com/thebuggers>]

[<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=REllvx4X0pQ> ("Blood, Sweat & Beers")]

[<http://www.impedance.com.au/>]

[<http://www.mvdb2b.com/>]

This E.P. was an unusual offering for me -- a "band" consisting of only two people! BugGiRL, otherwise known as the Spence siblings (Amber on guitar/vocals and her drum bashin' brother Clinton, a.k.a. "Clinno") have been making a racket on the pub-rock scene in their native Australia since the early '00s and have racked up rave reviews for their raucous live shows wherever they go (the best one I saw on their Web site came from a critic who claimed they sounded like "AC/DC with the vocals of Tina Turner while being penetrated from behind"... BWAHAHAHAHA! After reading that, I was sold on 'em before I even heard a note!). Now it appears that the duo is hell-bent on making a name for themselves here in America too. BugGiRL are currently touring the U.S. to stoke the fires for their forthcoming full-length album, DIRT IN THE SKIRT (due this June) , and judging by the ammunition they're packing on this brief but oh-so-tasty E.P., BugGiRL should have no problem finding an audience among fans of all things loud and sleazy, i.e. AC/DC, Airbourne, Nashville Pussy, Motorhead, or Betty Blowtorch. In short: this guy-n-gal ROCK! I'll confess that at first, I thought listening to a duo would be an odd experience (especially since the only previous brother/sister combo I could think of was The Carpenters, who obviously weren't even in the same musical universe... haha). I expected to wonder "where's the bass player?" throughout the recording, but Amber and her brother fire off enough six-string pyrotechnics and drum abuse that I didn't even notice the lack of other players. The five tunes on BLOOD, SWEAT & BEERS are a wall of sound and a sharp smack upside the head, topped by Amber's versatile vocals, which can be either a bluesy croon (as heard on "Bad Blood") or the pissed-off shriek of a metal goddess (see "Motor City Lover"). The E.P. was produced by Mark Ortiz, who has worked on such legendary Aussie classics as AC/DC's POWERAGE and LET THERE BE ROCK and Rose Tattoo's BLOOD BROTHERS, and he captures BugGiRL's fiery, stripped down rock 'n' roll essence to a tee. In other words, BugGiRL hits with the force of a commando raid, and BLOOD, SWEAT & BEERS causes maximum hearing damage in its minimum running time (less than 20 minutes!). I look forward to getting my mitts on that full length as soon as it hits the racks.

- Keith Abt (KeithAbt@...)