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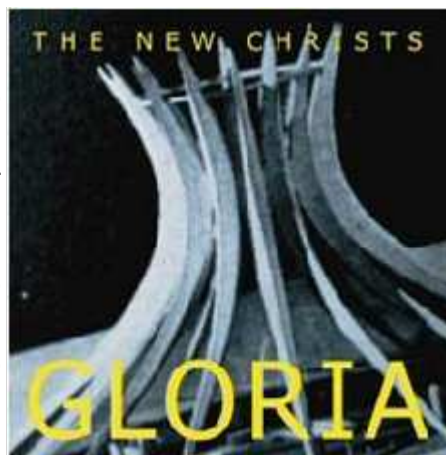
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The New Christs - Gloria

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A long wait but well worth it

For some, Australian rockers The New Christs need no introduction. Formed in 1980 by Radio Birdman vocalist Rob Younger after Birdman's original demise, the band has undergone many line-up changes revolving around Younger to include members of The Hoodoo Gurus, The Celibate Rifles, The Saints, Radio Birdman, The Screaming Tribesmen and The Hitmen. After a string of singles and 12" releases in the early



80s, the band's much lauded first two long players, 1988's *Divine Rites* and 1989's *Distemper* are hailed by many to this day. The band's activity has been on and off over the years and after reforming again with a new line-up in place in 2006, The New Christs (who are Younger, guitarists Dave Kettley and Brent Williams, bassist Jim Dickson, and drummer Stu Wilson) are back with their latest studio effort simply titled *Gloria*.

Even though Younger's voice is a staple in defining the sound of both The New Christs and also Radio Birdman, he manages to keep both bands unique and when *Try Something* starts off proceedings, the air of familiarity cannot be denied. It's typically New Christs sounding and with the band's sporadic output over their almost 30 year existence, inevitable comparisons will be drawn to the classic *Distemper*. My Existence ups the tempo and stands strong as *Gloria* really is shaping up early to be the band's best release in many a moon. Moving onto the swinging *These Reasons* (which could easily slot alongside any of the *Distemper* material and the same could be said of *The Posse*) and the stomping *The Wheel*, and The New Christs are as alive today as they were when they started.

The horn section of *Psyche Nurse* brings back parallels to *Heading South* (from 1989's *Distemper*) before the fuzzed out *Impossible Now* stands as the album's weakest moment. Sure it's a nice enough song, but lacks that New Christs stamp of approval that returns on *Animalisation* and the slower, classic sounding *Daddy's Calling* and the rockin' *On All Fours*. *Bonsoir A Vous* rounds out the album and is fittingly New Christs sounding as Younger croons his way through with his inimitable style.

With only actual studio albums across their lengthy career, The New Christs don't exactly have a huge body of work to compare. *Gloria*, whilst not topping the classic *Distemper* which is a yard stick for

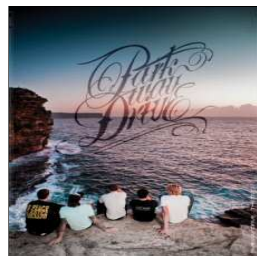
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many fans, certainly has its moments to draw comparisons. Most importantly though, it's a generally solid album and one that is distinctly New Christs sounding and really, that's what matters.

(Impedance Records/Amphead Music)

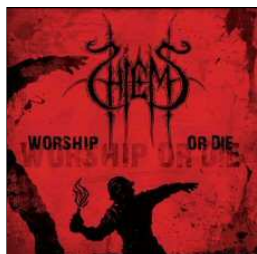
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Reviewer: [Simon Milburn](#)

Score: ★★★★★★☆☆☆☆

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