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Bug Girl

Dirt In The Skirt

10 Track, LP (2010, Impedance Records)
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Thank fuck for filthy party rock'n'roll! Australians are so good at making it and there's nothing better than chucking on a platter like this to wipe away all the hipster posturing, navel gazing experimental pretentiousness and twee Hello Kitty pop and rediscover the simple joys of cars, chicks and greasy jeans.

Bug Girl are a duo fronted by Amber Spence on guitar and vocals and her brother Clinton on drums. They live and breathe rock'n'roll. Bug Girl seemingly exist outside the boundaries of contemporary popular culture and they genuinely don't give a fuck. On *Dirt In The Skirt* they show just what can happen if you grow up on a steady diet of Mötley Crüe, The Runaways, AC/DC, Guns N' Roses and other greats of the genre.

Bug Girl have absorbed these influences and turned them into 10 red-hot slabs of squealing, metallic rock that sound best blasting from a car stereo cruising around the suburbs on a Saturday night. The lyrics are pure cliché, but like Girlschool or The Runaways, a line like "spread me like butter, spill me like wine" ('Spread That Eagle') sounds incredibly cool being delivered by a sassy woman, especially when she backs it up with some hot guitar licks that could make Lita Ford blush. The guitar sound is so full and upfront that the absence of bass is hardly noticeable. There are no ballads, just one short, sharp blast after another, the way a great rock album should be. For two people, Bug Girl create one hell of a racket.

How a record like this fits into the overall picture of Australian rock in 2010 is anybody's guess. It's best to turn off one's critical faculties and enjoy *Dirt In The Skirt* for what it is – a celebration of big, dumb fun with furiously loud guitars, walloping drums and lots of wailing vocals. Bug Girl's music is beyond current notions of "cool", or "cutting edge". Instead, it distills the spirit of a vanishing outer suburban rev-head culture and imbues it with just enough knowing self-mockery to appeal to those for whom this world is as foreign and distant as the moon.

Underneath the devil-may-care bluster and party vibe, this album is a strangely nostalgic experience for those who grew up in suburban Australia over the past 30 years. While bored, disenfranchised teenagers in hotted-up cars still roam the streets of new estates on our urban fringes, the soundtrack that Bug Girl associate with this diversion is one that belongs to an already mythical past. Like the sharpies of the 1970s, true bogans are dying out, subsumed by new cultures. The soundtrack to a Saturday night cruising is more likely to consist of R&B or ethnic dance music than AC/DC these days.

But, hey, this doesn't detract from this being one hell of a record. Ultimately, *Dirt In The Skirt* is nothing but a good time.

by **René Schaefer**

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Your Comments



LaxCharisma said 2 days ago:

Bug Girl are awesome....awesome people...awesome band....a-w-e-s-o-m-e!



Mo said 2 days ago:

fkn great peeps!

go buggirl!



LaxCharisma said 2 days ago:

I figured you' be a fan Mo.



littlesmoke said 1 day ago:

They do indeed rock, on & off the stage. That guitar sound is amazing.



Texaco said 1 day ago:

How have I not heard of these peeps?



Texaco said 14 hours ago:

I can't stop listening to these guys now. It's just great, no bullshit stuff.



Mo said 13 hours ago:

and they're tops folk too



Texaco said 13 hours ago:

They look like they'd be fun to hang with.



Mo said 13 hours ago:

yeh them and hcgs used to play a lot together back in ze old days - but now ya just sorta see em on tour at various places, they tour a lot too - solid road warriors



intruder said 13 hours ago:

Yeah, great people. awesome live act. Gotta respect a band that manages to spend so much of their time touring Europe. I don't know how i'd be able to sustain that.



littlesmoke said 13 hours ago:

Their email updates have listed so many European dates that I just figured they'd moved there.



Mo said 9 hours ago:

intruder said 3 hours ago:

Yeah, great people. awesome live act. Gotta respect a band that manages to spend so much of their time touring Europe. I don't know how i'd be able to sustain that.

bein a two piece would definitely help that



rubbersoul1991 said 1 hour ago:

being an owner of 2 valiants I just have to get it for the cover!

- **Plug-In City**, Plug-In City
- **Clare Bowditch and The Feeding Set**, The Moon Looked On
- **Richard In Your Mind**, The Future Prehistoric
- **Various Artists**, Do The Pop! Redux, Part One
- **Tic Toc Tokyo**, Artefacts
- **Nunchukka Superfly**, If Ya Not Careful With Electricity It Will Kill Ya
- **Red Jezebel**, How I Learned To Stop Worrying
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- **Young And Restless**, Young And Restless
- **Harem Scarem**, Pilgrim's Progress
- **The Motifs**, Matches
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- **The Hitmen**, The Hitmen & It Is What It Is

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