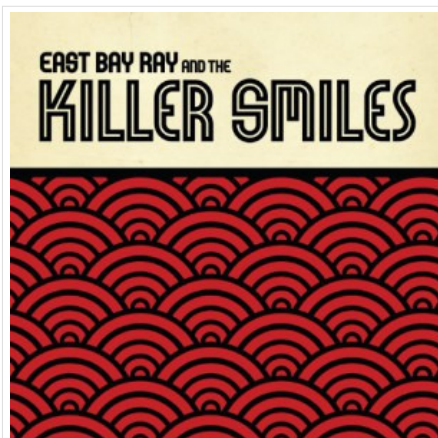


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East Bay Ray and the Killer Smiles – s/t CD

POSTED BY MARTIJN ON SEPTEMBER - 8 - 2011



East Bay Ray and the Killer Smiles – s/t

East Bay Ray and the Killer Smiles – s/t CD (MVD)

Throughout the whole Jello vs. the rest of the DK fiasco, I found myself flip-flopping like any of those fat cat politicians who are constantly in the public eye and are always trying to say the 'right' thing to make everyone happy – it was hard either to support or to disparage either side, because it was DK, the band, the unit, that had been playing such a huge role in my life for the preceding 20-odd years. Now East Bay Ray, alongside Skip McSkipster (current vocalist for the touring entity calling itself Dead Kennedys) and a tightly wound rhythm section (Greg Reeves and Steve Wilson), has unleashed the Killer Smiles via

a completely killer eponymous record. It doesn't hurt that Paul Leary (Butthole Surfers) produced and oversaw the entire affair, but even if these tracks were homemade demos with no production or guidance at all I can't imagine them sounding anything less than fantastic. This is creative, original punk rock at its finest, with well-thought-out lyrical themes and tasty 60s-surf-meets-80s-hardcore riffing over that classic California punk backbeat which formed the backbone for some of the best music ever made. At this point, I don't give a rat's ass who was right and who was wrong in the DK legal wrangling of the past decade. All I know is that East Bay Ray is the only former member that has been able to make a record that I'm going to listen to more than once, and I'm actually going to listen to this one a whole lot more than just once. **The Impaler**

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