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East Bay Ray & The Killer Smiles - s/t



[TravisAssault](#) (57 reviews)

Posted: 08/08/2011 Comments: [0](#)

Staff Rating: (4.00/5)

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3Dead Kennedys have easily been one of the most influential punk bands ever. From Jello

4Boafra's signature voice and witty lyrics to East Bay Ray's amazing guitar playing.

5

While doing the most recent tours with Dead Kennedys East Bay Ray and Skip McSkipster started writing new songs. Instead of jumping on the band wagon of reforming and putting out new music without an integral part, they decided to release these songs under the East Bay Ray & The Killer Smiles name. After hearing these tunes Paul Leary was excited to hop on to produce.

The music has a strong rockabilly feel to it. There isn't really any Dead Kennedys feel to it at all. It is less punk rock but still has the East Bay Ray sound to it. He still shows influences from surf, punk, rock, country and others but loses the "spy-music-on-meth" feel that the Dead Kennedys were so well known for. This may be the biggest reason he didn't release it under the DK name.

Skip manages quite well on this record. His vocals are very similar to Nick 13 of Tiger Army. His voice is better fit for the more country or rockabilly sounding songs that adorn this record. With that being the majority of the songs, it was a smart choice for this record.

"It's Broken" with its Dead Kennedys sounding parts was probably my favorite song on the album. Even though Skip's voice doesn't really fit well on this song, I found myself really enjoying it. "Raising the Stakes" was a close second for me. It sounded like it could have been Tiger Army playing it. Just a great rockabilly song that shows off the quality of the band and probably the best song to lead with.

This is not a new Dead Kennedys album. It is actually nice to see them not try to capitalize on the popularity of DK and try to release this as one. Each song is great on their own. There are a few duds but they flow nicely with the whole album giving it an identity and if you look past all the drama that has unfolded with DK, this is a must for any fan of Dead Kennedys.

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01. Raising the Stakes

02. Lipstick Cherry Red

03. You're Such A Fake

04. Area 51

05. The Heart Is Something

06. It's Broken

07. I'm A User

08. The Runner

09. The Last Time You Failed

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