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[Recent Afropunk and Rock Releases](#)

August 1st, 2013

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As a tie-in with the annual [Afropunk Fest](#) held in Brooklyn at the end of August, we're highlighting selected releases from the past year that fall within the general category of rock, including albums from bands that are closely identified with the [Afropunk movement](#).



Title: [Pinnick Gales Pridgen](#)

Artist: Dug Pinnick, Eric Gales, Thomas Pridgen

Label: [Magna Carta](#)

Formats: CD, MP3

Release date: February 12, 2013

All hail the return of the black power trio! This supergroup includes [dUg Pinnick](#), frontman and bass guitarist for the progressive metal band King's X, blues rock guitarist [Eric Gales](#), and drummer [Thomas Pridgen](#), formerly with The Mars Volta and currently a member of the [Memorials](#). This heavy metal love fest, produced by guitar specialist Mike Varney, culminates in 13 tracks that are a testament to the virtuosic powers of these three seasoned musicians. Highlights include their cover of the Cream's "[Sunshine of Your Love](#)," and the original songs "[Hang On, Big Brother](#)," and "Collateral Damage":

To quote Gales, "this is just some slammin stuff."



Title: [Naked](#)

Artist: Dug Pinnick

Label: [Rockarmy](#)

Formats: CD, MP3

Release date: May 7, 2013

[dUg Pinnick](#)'s creative juices are spilling over. Three months after the release of *Pinnick Gales Pridgen*, he completed his sixth solo album, *Naked*, while also teaming up with Robbi Robb in the experimental art rock band Third Ear Experience to record *Peacock Black*. *Naked* features 11 original songs written, performed, mixed and produced by Pinnick at his own dUgtone Studio in L.A. The album's title references the lyrics of "Courage" (track 4): "Naked I was born, I'm naked all the time, easily deceived, with stars in my eyes, it's a real short adventure, and we waste a lot of time, felt like I'm just getting started, at the end of the line." The rest of the songs are in a similar existential vein, the thoughts of a musician who's been around for a minute (Pinnick will be 63 next month), examining his past and pondering his future. One of the highlights is "Ain't That the Truth," featuring a guest appearance from Tracey 'Spacey T' Singleton (Sound Barrier, Fishbone) on lead guitar. My favorite tracks, however, are not the hard rocking lightspeed jams, but the slower, introspective songs such as the hallucinogenic dirge "The Point" that's awash in spacey reverb, the ominous "Take Me Away From You" about electronic surveillance, and "That Great Big Thing":