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American Speedway - Ship of Fools (americanspeedwayrocks.com)

What makes this four piece band (Michael Thursby, lead vocals/guitars, Johnny Griswald, guitars/backing vocals, Billy Angry, bass/backing vocals, and Chris Callahan, drums), so damn interesting is not just the solid musicianship which jumps out at you with its urgency and stripped-down emotionalism, it's the purity of the hardcore punk that American Speedway spit out.

Furthermore, Callahan's industrial-strength drumming and Thursby's terrific songs that mostly draw on everyday problems and love/hate situations make for a winning combination of punch and intelligence. Over memorably original music that is ignited with repressed passion and explodes in gloriously liberated choruses, Thursby summons up heavy hardcore vibes with sturdy power, propelled by the rest of the band's ample musical resources. Uncluttered rhythms shape the body of each song, but they never lose their firm attachment for bracing, loud guitars.

With Thursby's impassioned talk-shout-singing and masterful guitar overlaid with feedback and amplified distortion, Angry's straight-ahead driving bass lines, Callahan's only slightly less demented and excitingly excessive drumming, and Griswald's grinding guitar work puts American Speedway into it's genre. The band piles on the hooks to the point of explosion, creating a startling rush of momentum. If this is a taste of what their live set could sound like, be ready for an adrenaline rush bar none!

- Phil Rainone