



Patrick Sweany
C'mon C'mere
(Nine Mile Records)

The first track on Patrick Sweany's new CD *C'mon C'mere* is ironically titled "Nobody Dance." It's ironic because the track is instead likely to provoke plenty of groovin' when the effervescent maracas kick in. Recorded by ex-Squirrel Nut Zipper and Grammy Award-winning Buddy Guy producer/sidekick Jimbo Mathus along with Dan Auerbach of the Akron, Ohio blues-rock duo the Black Keys, the overall sound is raw and alive. It sounds like a band playing in a little joint—and this primitive approach provides the right tone for these rock-solid compositions, all written by Sweany. "Step Outside" is a shack-shakin' standout. The tune percolates like a hot pot of coffee. Listeners are then swept into the bittersweet, achingly lonely "World of Love." Sweany and his band—Clint Alguire on drums and Bob Basone on baritone guitar (with help from Jon Finley on baritone guitar)—excel at these R&B-flavored ballads. Check out "An Understanding"—an Otis Redding-style breakup tune—filled with dramatic rests between the verses and bridge, a forlorn Wurlitzer hovering in the background like a ghost. It feels like a song written in Macon, Georgia or Memphis sometime in the mid 1960s. Listen to Sweany's pleading vocals: "Never thought I'd think about it/you fall in love, and then you're out/hard to be anything but mad/but you're still a Mom/I'm still a Dad/it don't bother me all the time/just every day/and most of the night/it's an understanding." Sadly, some "understandings" are just too painful to grasp. But *C'mon C'mere* is filled with many shades of blue, from house-rockin' numbers like "Stark County" to the distortion-soaked, real folk blues stomp of "The Waterfall." And Jimbo Mathus fans will get a kick out of the wildly traded solos on the instrumental "The Hornet." Sweany, an inventive guitarist in his own right—he's a regular teacher at Jorma Kaukonen's Fur Peace Ranch along with folks like G.E. Smith, Roy Book Binder and John Hammond—sounds like he's having fun with one of America's oldest musical forms, the blues, by casting it in a contemporary light while pulling it all up by its deep, dark roots.

—buck quigley



Dangerdoom
Occult Hymn
(Adult Swim)

Hip-hop has had its share of cartoon characters over the years, from the insane (Flava Flav) to the ingenious (Busta Rhymes) and the insanely ingenious (Ol' Dirty Bastard). By fusing underground sensibilities with the innocent kitsch of 1970s cartoons, the duo called Dangerdoom has taken a new approach to animation-inspired rap, laced with zany humor, an extensive vocabulary and a healthy understanding of camp. With the *Occult Hymn* EP, rapper MF Doom and producer Danger Mouse continue their fruitful association with *Adult Swim*, Cartoon Network's late-night onslaught of oddball animation. Coming on the heels of 2005's magnificent *The Mouse & the Mask*, this meager offering (five songs, three of which are remixes) may seem like a rushed attempt to cash in, until you realize it's available as a free download on adultswim.com.

With this in mind, it would be silly not to check this out. Although it's lacking in new verses from Doom—one of the most brilliant stream-of-consciousness MCs out there—it's a showcase for great production. "Korn Dogz" is propelled by an eccentric violin loop, with Danger Mouse playing Bernard Hermann to MF Doom's Hitchcock. The "Sofa King" remix features an airy, addictive groove from Mouse, reminiscent of his contributions to the last Gorillaz record. Guest remixer Madlib gives "Space Ho's" a deliciously corny edge; his flute-heavy, pseudo-Latin sample could have been lifted directly from the soundtrack to *The Price Is Right*.

As an extension of *The Mouse & the Mask*, *Occult Hymn* is a thoroughly enjoyable listen. It may feel a little disjointed on its own, but it still represents everything that makes Dangerdoom such a gift to hip-hop fans—a completely fresh, accessible sound that simultaneously takes you back to the days when the Harlem Globetrotters guest starred on *Scooby-Doo*.

—joe sweeney



Group name: Hooks and Halos.

When/where playing this week? July 8 at the Evening Star Concert Hall in Niagara Falls.

Band members?

Billy Jones—lead vocals, guitars, harmonica

Steve Wayland—guitars, mandolin, additional vocals

Denny Soliday—lead guitar

Mat Pike—bass, additional vocals

Ryan Gaines—drums and percussion

When did the band form? Musically forged in 2003, Hooks and Halos has become a full ensemble in spring 2006.

You might like us if you like... Counting Crows, Ben Folds, Barenaked Ladies and Tom Petty.

Upcoming events... July 12 at Average Joes in Williamsville.

List of recorded releases... *Sandusky*, *All About You*, *Another Disappointing End* and *Annie*.

Anything else you would like our readers to know about the band...

Hooks and Halos bridges the gap between a variety of music listeners, reaching diverse crowds of all ages. Soulful and heartfelt lyrics accompanied with powerful musicianship hit home in a way that we can all relate to.

Contact information...

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BANDWIDTH: HOOKS AND HALO'S