



Album Review: Jay Reatard - Singles 06-07

2008-07-25
Artist: Jay Reatard
Source: Paul Murphy



By now, Jay Reatard should be known to everyone paying any attention to this whole indie/punk/pop/garage/shitgaze/blahblahblah scene. Former front man for The Reatards, Jay began his career in music at the tender age of 15 and has never stopped writing and contributing and never sits still, just like his music.

Singles 06-07 is a collection of all his out of print material, remastered by the Tard himself, that was released on a slew of labels across the globe since his 2006 LP *Blood Visions*.

The sound of smashing glass disturbs the ear drum as the punk anthem *Night of Broken Glass* opens the collection, and is a theme to many fights at his live shows. Together with a couple of other tracks including *Another Person* you could easily mistake it for the Ramones on a whole lot of speed.

The collection is a summary of modern punk with clear influences from the Buzzcocks, Wire and Brian Eno shining through. *Searching For You* is the collections quietest song and *Haunting You* is straight out of the same drone pool as No Age's stuff.

Most notable is the cover of the Go-Betweens' *Don't Let Him Come Back* it's a multi layered soft sounding tribute to co-founder of the Go-Betweens, Grant McLennan, who passed away in 2006. It's followed by *Hammer I Miss You*, a song that bounces into the happy sounding side of punk rock.

Filled with alternative anthems and, easy to miss out on gems, unless you're an avid seven inch collector, this collection is a one stop shop for punk and a chance for fans to hear all his releases that were only previously pressed in limited quantities.

Jay Reatard has all the angst that spawned the very first punk bands and a whole lot more: it's raw, cutting, yet disalarmingly sweet as fuzzy guitars, strummed with power, find themselves interrupted by layered, self-harmonising vocals and the odd twang of acoustic guitar thrown in for good measure.

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