

GODSTICKS

'Faced With Rage'

Alt Rock

Kscope



"We've probably created our most progressive album to date, albeit unintentionally!" says Godsticks' Darran Charles about *'Faced With Rage'*. Fear not, as there's also the prospect on Godsticks delivering on the promise to offer up something just as heavy as 2015's *'Emergence'*

yet with a darker and more industrial feel. Covering all bases, the focus seems to be on the contrast between light and shade, as *'Faced With Rage'* also sees the South Walian band expanding to a quartet for the first time with new drummer Tom Price and guitarist Gavin Bushell who bring a more aggressive playing style to back up Darran Charles' distinctive guitar/vocal combo and Dan Nelson on bass.

Lyricaly, the album explores the theme of people dealing

with emotional conflict in different scenarios, people who have a powerful desire to change their behaviour or situation. Beside the typically assertive and uncompromising guitar, a variety of synth sounds have found their way into the longer song formats (brevity has always been the Godsticks calling card up until this point) but as always, raw guitar and Charles' vocals are still at the forefront of the band's sound. Yet, as promised, an elegance seeps from the heavier canvas. Channeling the mellow in *'We Are Leaving'* and in the gentle acoustic intro to *'Revere's* easy groove, they sandwich the dirty bass growl of *'Angry Concern'* and accompany moments where they suddenly burst into wild Crimson-y arrangements that fly all over the place ("like a mad woman's shit" I believe is the term). Typically idiosyncratic.

POWERPOINTS: ①②③④⑤⑥⑦

MIKE AINSOE