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The Rikters

Self-titled

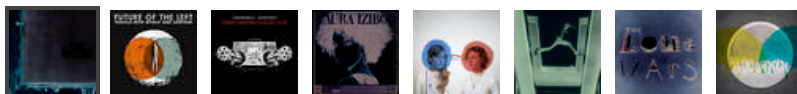
(Self-released)

Sounding like the album Our Lady Peace might have made in the early '70s, the debut disc from locals the Rikters comes packed with slicing guitar rock equally interested in hooks and hell-raising. (Its most compelling wails, such as on "Give Me Tonight" and "All My Life," tend to be its loudest, most honest pleas.) The album was recorded with producer Brian Zieske (The Academy Is..., The Hush Sound) yet delivers considerably more force than the aforementioned Chicago bands, as the Rikters favor rock snowballs that frequently gain momentum and full-fledged stadium rockability a minute or two in. (Is it too late to go back and pop in the escalating, apologetic "Ava" into "Wall-E"?) Some tracks dawdle ("What You Said That Night," "Simple to Start") rather than jangle, and thematic variety would prevent singer Doug Jenkins's lovelorn howls from blending into each other. Still, this is a record unafraid to truly rock without concern for attitude or hipster posturing. Recorded on tape to capture the Rikters' thunderous live performances, "The Rikters" is a promising start for a Chicago band that's more than just another addition to the indie rock pile.

CD release show: 10:30 p.m. Sat at Beat Kitchen

Posted June 22 by Matt Pais

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Livemusicme from Ukrainian Village - June 23, 2009 at 11:39 AM

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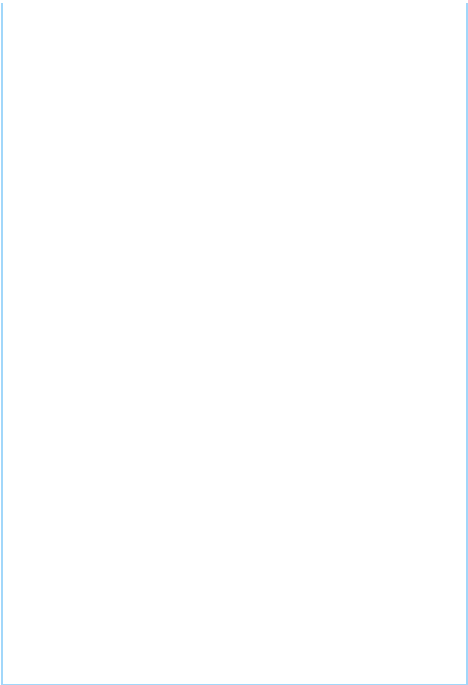
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