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RETARDED
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RETARDED GOES LOUDER

1. Staying Alive
2. The Monkey
3. High Heels, Short Skirt
4. Gambling on Rock
5. Got Her in My Brain
6. Faster and Faster
7. Gasoline
8. Don't Wanna Be With You
9. Gotta Hear Me
10. Reaction
11. Standing at the Party Without You
12. I Won't Give Up

RELEASE INFO

The Retarded, *Goes Louder* is yet another sonic assault from a band that is known for its pure energy. *Goes Louder* is a whole new revelation in a sound that has evolved from the spirited punk of their debut self titled release on Stardumb Records. The band has turned up their sound, into a supercharged kick to the auditory solarplexes. The album will leave fans heaving for air; holding their heads in an attempt to stop the sheer volume of the music from causing a massive brain hemorrhage. The Retarded, *Goes Louder* is rock & roll, done with reverence to the sound heralded by Motorhead, Kiss, AC/DC and the Ramones.

PRESS NOTES

"Their songs are pure rock'n roll punkrock."
- Punkhour

"Like a Rocky movie. After 6 rounds the Retarded take over. Leaving [the other band] lying on the floor crying for mommy."
- Hardrock Info

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MARKETING

- Marketing support provided by Kelley's Market
- Full marketing support program available: point of purchase, listening stations, promotional copies
- Media licensing provided by Go! Big Entertainment: MTV, VH1, Fuel Network, ESPN
- Publicity provided by Plea P.R.
- Promotional campaign to include: 150 CMJ charted radio stations, 100 local, regional and national publications; mixed and co-op advertising; web presence
- Full U.S. and European Tour Winter 2006

Street date: 03.06.07

CAT# ISR-049
LIST: \$12.99
Config: CD
Package: Jewel
Case
Box Lot 30



Orders: 1-877-733-3931

RETARDED GOES LOUDER

BACKGROUND

The Retarded have elicited many responses from the public. The name is a not-so-obvious nod to the Ramones—to those who don't understand this reference, shame on you. For those who have not experienced the manic madness of the Cretin Hop, the name the Retarded could be taken as quip. Trust me, there is no malice in the name, nor in their intent of dumbing down rock and roll to its barest components. Like the Ramones, the Retarded are one of those bands no one could find fault with because they are so damn likable. Their music is pop-punk; they have a ton of energy; and their lyrics are so nonsensical that even a college professor could dumb himself down enough to enjoy the music. The Retarded love the Ramones. You could say that the Ramones are their reason for being. Most pop-punk bands owe gallons of blood to the band for infusing them with the sound of the genre: the Retarded owe their blood, and guts. They dish it out with every performance.

The Retarded were formed in 1998 by three music fanatics from Voghera (PV), Italy: Paco, Mera and Paolo as a diversion from their band, Home Alone. They quickly grew to enjoy their new band. As Paolo puts it, “The singer of that band [Home Alone] wasn’t into it anymore, so we started practicing by ourselves doing covers, stupid rock'n'roll riffs and so on. We were all into Ramones and pop punk like Screeching Weasel and Queers. We were really pop punk maniacs. In a couple of months, the Retarded were born.” At the time the Retarded formed, there were Ramones-core bands everywhere. It does not take much effort to recollect the likes of those in the genre who achieved the pinnacle of emulation: down-strumming, guitars slung to the knees, leather jackets and girlie jeans. The band’s intentions were to simply have a good time, and Paolo is emphatic on this point, “We are here to have fun and rock. That's it I think. We like music and we really enjoy playing live. [All we want to do] is play the top club, put our amps on stage and make as much noise as we can for 30 minutes. We want to shock the audience and then go to the bar and have some drinks.”

By 1999, the Retarded had released several 7” records before recording their first full length album entitled *Retarded* on Hang Over Records (later re-released on Stardumb Records). “In the beginning we released a lot of records ...

it was really fun and everybody wanted to put out our 7's." *Retarded* was described by fans as "a true classic ... one of the best things that the pop-punk explosion in Europe has produced." The *Retarded* represented a new wave of punk music—this time Europe was the hotbed for pop-punk. It was the European scene that was responsible for keeping the genre alive while the rest of the underground music scene focused on sad, sappy, shoe-gazer rock. *Retarded* was a bit of a departure from the music that was coming out in Europe at the time. The band was harder-edged than a lot of the bands that were playing—their songs were snotty, their guitars were fast, and their vocals were loud and filled with energy.

From the popularity of *Retarded*, and the encouragement of long time friends, the Apers, the band took the opportunity to tour extensively in Europe and the United States. Paolo described the touring: "It was a cool experience ... California, [through the] Midwest and back. It was kind of pioneering for an Italian band at that time." It was around 2001 that the *Retarded* released their 2nd full length, *Back to Lose* on Stardumb Records.

Back to Lose was a turning point for the band, which started to realize the complications of writing, recording and performing new material. Extensive touring and constant performing hampered the process. "[We felt that] the album was not that good. We were

just playing and playing and playing; we didn't focus on the production and the songwriting. In 2003 the Retarded released a split EP with the Huntingtons (Tooth & Nail), on Wynona Records. The record demonstrated their growing departure from emulating their idols, “Mera developed his voice; in the first records he tried to sing like Joey Ramone ... [he reworked his vocals] to reach an original sound. The band added a new member, Dario on guitar, “Dario joined the band in 2002 but it was like he had always been there. He was listening to the same kind of stuff as we did.” Dario joined the band right at the time when their sound was changing, “We turned to a more rock & roll [sound]. It was natural. We just started playing louder.”

During this period of time (2001 – 2003) the band reevaluated their music—leading to a brief hiatus. “We kind of stopped playing and rehearsing for a while, Paolo moved to Rome, Italy and the band froze for almost one year. “ [We played] a few shows once in a while for fun. [When we were] asked to play few shows in the Netherlands, we got back to rehearsing and [wrote] a bunch of new songs in a new style. We also changed our approach to our live shows.” The band returned, reinvigorated. The time off allowed them to change in terms of the content and style of their music. They never left their fun pop punk roots, but instead started to add to their repertoire.

Paolo credits a lot to Dario, “[He] brought a lot of rock to the sound.” Rock and roll such as AC/DC and Kiss found their way into their sound. Touring also contributed to changes in their sound, “It’s a live show thing. We first changed [our live sound]; writing songs that fitted us better during the shows. “[Our tour] went great, and we were extremely satisfied with the way we sounded. We just went louder and that’s the new album.”

In 2006 the Retarded recorded *Goes Louder*, which will be released on March 6th 2007 by Insubordination Records. “The goal of the recording was to create a big production value and to try to get a new kind of sound that really shows what we have become live—fast, loud and proud.” The recording does not disappoint. Fans have already responded by grabbing up copies of their limited 7” vinyl set on It’s Alive Records. The 7” vinyl set features several cuts from their forthcoming full-length. Insubordination Records anticipates that this release will become as much of a classic as their immensely popular self-titled album. The Retarded have gone off in a new direction—if in doubt look no further than their live show—filled with promise and enough energy to keep fans going in a frenzy of manic madness.

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Album: Retarded, The – Goes Louder

Street Date: 03/06/07

Album

- *Goes Louder* is the Retarded's third full-length album
- Recorded at Elfo Studio in Tavernago (PC) Italy
- Produced by Daniele Mandèili
- Mastered by John Golden
- Available on 12" vinyl on Valium Records (Italy)

Band

- Founded in 1998, in Rome, Italy
- Paolo (Bass, Vocals)
- Paco (Drums)
- Mera (Vocals, Guitar)
- Dario (Guitar, Vocals)

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Touring

- Touring throughout Summer - Fall 2006 in key markets (see. Tour itinerary)

Marketing

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- Full marketing support program available: point of purchase, listening stations, promotional copies
- Media licensing provided by Go! Big Entertainment: MTV, VH1, Fuel Network, ESPN; and Pumpaudio.
- Publicity provided by Plea P.R.
- Promotional campaign to include: 150 CMJ charted radio stations, 100 local, regional and national publications; mixed and co-op advertising; web presence
- Full U.S. and European Tour Summer & Fall 2007
- Key markets are scattered throughout Europe and the United States.
Insubordination Records is currently focusing on major markets: New York, NY; Chicago, IL; Los Angeles, CA; Denver, Co.

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REVIEWS (English)

Publication: Punk Hour

Title: CD Review – The Soothing Sound of ... Huntingtons & Retarded

Date: Undated

Writer: Staff

Source: <http://www.punkhour.com/review.php?id=157>

The Huntington's are a 4 piece punk band and they share this split with the Italian punk rock formation "Retarded". The Huntington's didn't really impress me they're just an average punk band nothing special. Their songs on this split CD are not of the highest quality. Their first song "Let's fight" leaves a bad taste. Their cover of "Boys don't cry" from The Cure sounds pretty good but not super, I've heard better covers of this song.

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The fifth song “Old number 6” makes a little up for the earlier songs it gives a real rocky feeling. Their last song “Fade Away” on this split again sounds simple nothing special—just another mediocre song. The Retarded is in every way the better band on this split. Their songs are pure rock’n roll punk rock—easy listening swing along with a great voice. The songs are of good recording quality and they have originality. The first 2 songs are somewhat slow punk rock ‘n roll. “Restart” the third song is a little faster and really swings. “Shake your ass” is again an easy song. The 5th song, eleventh on the CD, really is my favourite on this CD; I couldn’t sit still on this one. On the last song a female takes over the singing, which sounds not as good as the male voice in the other songs. A distinguished synthesizer is heard on the background which makes it sound weird. I think it’s a good CD Retarded makes up for the lack of quality of the Huntingtons.

Publication: Scab Reviews

Title: CD Review – The Soothing Sound of ... Huntingtons & Retarded

Date: May 2003

Writer: Staff

Source: <http://www.bandwormrecords.de/redunion/scab/recenz.htm>

I know, I know, I said it million times before, but I'll say it again-I can't stand so called "Christian punk"! I know the Huntington's make good music and everything, but I can't

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get over the fact that they call themselves "Christian punk"! There is no such thing! After two band members left the Huntington's, the sound got little peppier (than the old Ramones as fuck), but it's still the same old good Huntington's sound you'll recognize. There is also one Cure cover ("Boys Don't Cry"), and it sounds really nice. The Retarded (also with 6 songs and one cover) are great as always. I'll do my best to get their first album, because it's the only Retarded release I don't have and I'm sure it's great as the rest of their releases. I must also notice that all the stuff I received from Wynona lately had great cover designs...I know it's not important, but I love when CDs are tastefully designed.....

Publication: Hard Rock Info

Title: CD Review – The Soothing Sound of ... Huntingtons & Retarded

Date: May 2003

Writer: Staff

Source: <http://www.hardrockinfo.com/reviews/showreviews.asp?id=147>

U.S.A. vs. Italy, its like a Rocky movie....Huntington's hit and hit with their American Pop Punk tunes, and they are pretty good but could be rawer. After 6 rounds Retarded

- more -

take over the game, and they beat the living crap out of Huntington's. I got their unnamed full-length CD, which is really good, and have been waiting for some new stuff ever since I got it...it took about 2 years (lazy Italians, can't even answer an interview). After the game is over Huntington's is lying on the floor and crying for mommy, Retarded just laughs and drink another beer.

Reviews (Italian)

Publication: IYE

Title: CD Review – Retarded, Self-titled

Date: 2003

Writer: Staff

Source: <http://www.iyezine.com/rec/2003/rec01.htm>

Parliamo subito di ciò che mi è piaciuto di più. Retarded - s/t originariamente uscito su Hang Over/No Name Logo Records, finite le scorte non venne più ristampato, vendette più di 2.000 copie, così il gruppo chiese ai nostri amici olandesi ed eccolo qui. Ramones, Ramones, Ramones tutto e solo questo grandi!!!. L'unico, o forse uno dei pochi, gruppi che si ergono dalla melma del pop-punk, punk-rock, punk 'n' roll.. .. (chiamatelo come volete) italiano. Migliori? "Let's go to my bedroom" e/o "Bikini Beach Party". Spero per voi che lo abbiate già in casa, se no provvedete subito!!!

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Publication: Munnezza

Title: CD Review – Retarded, Self-titled

Date: 2003

Writer: Staff

Source: <http://www.munnezza.it>

Ecco la ristampa del primo album dei punk rockers vogheresi prodotta dall'olandese Stardumb. I quattordici brani della prima edizione sono stati remixati e rimasterizzati, e vi assicuro che il tutto rende molto di più. Anche il booklet scarno della prima versione è stato migliorato con tante foto e con la storia della band scritta dallo stesso Paolo Retarded. Ma veniamo alla musica: puro e semplice punk rock in stile Ramones/Riverdales, suonato niente male dagli allora tre "ritardati". Spiccano subito pezzi come Let's go in my bedroom, Bikini beach party, Let's keep goin' the show e Baby doll. Canzoni di pochi accordi (tre per Baby doll) che mostrano la semplicità e l'efficacia del punk rock. Mi convince un po' meno la scelta della bonus track: non mi dispiaceva la "fantasma" cover dei Ramones presente sulla prima stampa. Un album che vale la pena avere se volete conoscere una delle migliori punk rock bands italiane.

Publication: Munnezza

Title: CD Review – Retarded, Self-titled

Date: 2003

Writer: Staff

Source: <http://www.kronic.it/artGet.aspx?aID=2&sID=%09%09%09%095579>

Chissà se qualcuno (male informato!) alla lettura di questa recensione si chiederà come mai Suburbia dedichi spazio ad un album che, pur essendo di notevole spessore, è uscito ormai vari anni fa ed in più esaurito ed introvabile da un bel pezzo.. "ma non recensivate solo album nuovi?" sarà la domanda che si porrà. E naturalmente il motivo di tutto ciò è che ,udite udite, la mitica etichetta Olandese Stardumb, ha acquisito i diritti dell'album "Retarded", e per la felicità di tutti i punkrocker d'Europa, lo ha riedito! E` questo un ottimo colpo sia per la band che per la casa, dato che la vecchia edizione (su Hang Over Rec) aveva subito bruciato tutte le 2000 copie uscite, senza mai riuscire a produrne altre, lasciando quindi tanti kids in fremente attesa di poter acquistare questo bell'album! In più la nuova versione è stata abilmente arricchita di foto, informazioni e rimasterizzata.. insomma è davvero imperdibile! Per i pochi (spero!) punkrockers che non conoscessero questo album.. che dire: prima di tutto che il genere è il classico punkrock alla Ramones e Queens, ma suonato con personalità e grinta; si ascolta molto bene (non è

certo complesso!), dà una carica mostruosa fin dai primi accordi, ed è a mio parere uno dei migliori cd di punkrock Italiano mai usciti! Certamente parlando di un gruppo e di un genere così, nasce il solito annoso problema sul fatto che queste band difficilmente abbiano un minimo di originalità compositiva rispetto ai loro più famosi predecessori: beh, sarei falso se vi dicessi che i Retarded sono inventori di un nuovo punkrockstyle, ma vi assicuro che i 3 (al contrario di altre band davvero troppo "alla Ramone/Queers/Weasel"!), grazie alla loro grezza e tagliente rabbia/ironia e a linee vocali irresistibili, meritano seriamente un ascolto..e quando inizierete a ballare, non vi fermerete più! E` perciò facile farsi cullare da pezzi tirati e travolgenti come "Let`s Go In My Bedroom" o "Let`s Keep Goin` To The Show" o ancora "Judy Wants To Be My Girl"..testi "sinceri", "tutto fun", e un gran tiro punkrock, vi conquisteranno! Molto belle anche le due parentesi più lente "The Right Thing" e "Stupid Boy": benchè semplici e un pò in stile Queers, risultano emozionanti, difficilmente dimenticabili e tutte da cantare! Gran finale affidato ad una bella bonus track dal titolo "Let`s Go (Let`s Go Let`s Go)"..direi che non c`è altro da aggiungere che non possiate immaginarvi! Insomma, gli accordi sono sempre quelli (tante volte anche tristemente uguali fra le varie canzoni!), ma il divertimento e la carica hanno un sapore tutto particolare nei Retarded..ascoltare per credere, cari punkrockers!

Publication: Musicboom

Title: Review – For About The Things I Said When I Was Drunk

Date: 2003

Writer: Staff

Source: <http://www.musicboom.it/stampa.php?Unico=20020307231335>

1998: mentre mezza italia punk-ramonesiana si struggeva dietro agli Impossibili, apparentemente giudicati dalla stampa specializzata come i "Ramones Italiani", l'altra metà, quella ancora più underground, insigniva di quello stesso titolo una band di Voghera, i Retarded. Oggi gli Impossibili sono spariti, mentre i Retarded sono ancora "alive and kicking", e sotto contratto con l'ottima Wynona Records. Proprio l'etichetta ha deciso di dare una mano a chi negli anni passati si è perso alcuni dei brani della band (o addirittura, eresia, chi non li conosce ancora), producendo questo cd che raccoglie tutti i pezzi usciti sugli ormai introvabili sette-pollici, i brani contenuti solo in compilation e, come si conviene per le raccolte di questo tipo, anche due canzoni inediti. Insomma, un totale di 21 tracce che riusciranno a far sorridere anche il più nostalgico dei fan dei Ramones (che non sono morti, ma solo reincarnati) con un grandioso pop-punk, scandito dai vari one-two-three e da ritornelli dementi/demenziali. In definitiva, come potete

- more -

permettervi, punkers vecchi o giovani, di perdere una occasione simile? Da notare anche l'aspetto pienamente professionale del cd, con note a margine delle canzoni, le copertine dei vinili sulle quali sono state pubblicate, e qualche testo e foto. Non c'è dubbio, l'Italia punk s'è desta!

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