



NINJA GUN

Ninja Gun - "Restless Rubes" LP/CD (Suburban Home 71-2)

Jonathan Coody - Vocals, Guitar, Harmonica, Keys Thad Megow - Guitar
Jacob Sparks - Bass Jeffrey Haineault - Drums, Percussion

Ninja Gun accomplishes something not many other bands are doing these days; writing catchy, melodic and well-thought out rock and roll songs. Ninja Gun's Southern upbringing resonates throughout each song alongside a mischievous rebellious streak: the same mixture of discordant ideals that gave rise to rock and roll in the '40s and '50s. And while Ninja Gun's music is packed with sing-along choruses, the lyrics often run deeper than the average radio-friendly hit. At times they are political, personal and often laced with cynical Southern commentary showcasing a great sense of humor that will shine through from stage, photo shoots, and late night sessions.

From poignant political jabs from a self-proclaimed "rube" to songs about escaping the fate of life growing up in the only town you know. Chasing destiny to change the path of the working class routine. Keeping faith in something: be it love, hard times, family, friends or good tunes played from the heart on the front porch. "Restless Rubes" allows you to feel the plight of the Southern small town working class band.

Musically they have more in common with 70's power pop and Southern classic rock than punk rock, often turning gospel-inspired melodies back on themselves with an attack from a powerful distorted riff, leaving you only to be captured later by the memory of a chorus you just can't shake. "Restless Rubes" is pop perfection. It is clean, loud, dynamic, and truly classic! It's a powerful pop album in its truest sense. This is a sleeper album that years from now will be passed on from friend to friend and timelessly enjoyed.

From Suburban Home's poppa Virgil Dickerson:

Coody (Johnathan Coody, singer of Ninja Gun) had written me saying that his band had played a few shows with Drag the River and that they were working on a new album that they wanted me to hear. As they wrapped up recording what would become "Restless Rubes," Coody sent me over some rough mixes and from the first song, it immediately struck me that the song had hooks, it rocked, and it had honesty. We spoke on the phone a number of times and right off the bat, I hit it off with Coody. He is friendly and his laugh makes you think you are actually saying something funny. We spoke about the things that got us into music. If you looked at either of us, you would not call us punk rockers, but I think we both grew up during an era of D.I.Y. punk rock that helped shape who we are. I got a really good feeling about the guys, and as I talked to more and more people about the band, everybody had great things to say. Coody mentioned that he was the son of a South Georgia pig farmer that had found punk rock, and wrote in an email, "I think if music is honest and made for the right reasons, people of all different stripes will connect with it." All of these things gave me a great feeling about working with the band and I just fell in love with the album.

After having spent a week with Ninja Gun while they toured through Colorado, I think that they are one of the greatest unknown bands on the planet (as well as some of the most genuinely nice people). I feel so lucky to be able to work with them and think that if people take a chance on the record and the band's live show, Ninja Gun will find a place as one of their most beloved bands. Until a bio can give readers the experience of getting drunk with Ninja Gun, seeing them rock an audience's socks off, and becoming friends with Ninja Gun, you will just have to go out and see them. Ninja Gun is Suburban Home's first Southern band and we could not be more excited.



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Reference: Think the Shins meet T-Rex meets the Kinks, but they all partied in the South with Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers.

History: Ninja Gun has been a band for six years. Four members from two bands you never heard of. A pair of cousins and a pair of life long buddies formed Ninja Gun based around a curiosity of what Coody's acoustic songs would sound like as a full band.

Previous work: Their first album "Smooth Transitions" was released on Barracuda Sound (drummer from Whiskey & Co.'s label), who co-released the vinyl version of "Restless Rubes".

Recording: Sounds like it was recorded on a major label budget when it was recorded over many months in many small sessions at a little studio (Earthsound Recordings) in their own Southern town, paid for by a loan from drummer Jeffrey's father who owns J&J's Fried Chicken and Seafood operated out of a double wide trailer.

Employment: Jeffrey is the owner of a small pizza window, Jake is kitchen manager at a Pub (Valdosta's Leo's), Thad is a computer repair/information technology geek, and Coody is a farm laborer in his father's footsteps (a pig farmer).

Transportation: A used white 16 passenger van from First United Methodist Church in Valdosta, bought under the ruse that Coody was a youth group leader. The lettering was never removed, providing them with terrific camouflage. "We've never been pulled over. We actually played a bar in Athens, GA called Repent one time."

Tour: Several small runs up the East Coast and two full US tours.

Bands they have rocked with: Fleet Foxes (Sub Pop), Blitzen Trapper (Sub Pop), The Boss Martians, The Black Lips, Against Me, The Draft, Whiskey & Co, Joe Jack Talcum (Dead Milkmen), The Vibrators, The Arrivals, The Bomb, Tilt-wheel, Dan Padilla, Drag The River, The Gaslight Anthem, Fake Problems, Sleepercar (Jim Ward from Sparta's new band), and Hot Water Music.

In the works: A week-long Florida tour of beach towns in August with The Tim Version (No Idea Records), with plans for an extensive 3 week East Coast tour in October that will conclude at this year's Fest 7 in Gainesville, FL.

From "What We Hate" Webzine (whatwehate.typepad.com):

There's been something of a Renaissance in the underground lately. These bands-many of them hailing from the South-emerge having been raised on equally copious amounts of Tom Petty, Johnny Cash and Ramones, with a predilection for playing music deeply rooted in Americana while harmoniously blending a down-home sense of honesty with a unique pop sensibility. It's a formula that yields some fantastic music when properly executed, and on Ninja Gun's debut Restless Rubes it all comes together.

I'm having a difficult time finding anything wrong with Restless Rubes. Whether or not it will have the staying power necessary to elevate it from 'great' to 'classic' remains to be seen, but in both practice and execution Ninja Gun have created the closest thing to a perfect record I've heard this year.

From SputnikMusic.com:

what really makes Restless Rubes such a great album is the sheer charm it exudes - every song, regardless of subject matter, has an unfailingly sunny disposition and it's this upbeat mood, along with the effortlessly catchy melodies and complete lack of pretension on display, that make it such an enjoyable listen.

Valdosta Fun Facts:

1. Valdosta is the 11th largest city in Georgia.
2. Famous folks from Valdosta other than Ninja Gun:
 - The composer of "Jingle Bells,"
 - Sonny Shroyer AKA Deputy Enos Strait from TV's The Dukes of Hazzard
 - Famous gunfighter and gambler Doc Holliday
3. The Valdosta High School Wildcat football team, which has won more games than any other high school in the nation, has given rise to the city's nickname - "Winnersville".

