



The Murder City Devils RLP. CD

Sub Pop 2003

Forget everything you've heard over the past year or so about that certain Detroit duo that is supposedly the next coming of rock—from 1997 to 2001, The Murder City Devils were the last real saviors of rock n roll—not to mention one of the best fucking bands ever to hit the stage. This live recording of their last show, played on Halloween 2001 in Seattle, is a testament to the power of the Devil's music and what a truly unique experience one of their gigs was. For those of you who were not fortunate enough to see the Murder City Devils before their all too early demise, I'm sorry—you missed something that will never be replicated again—unless, that is, the band gets back together (Guys—please!).

The Devils were a literal embodiment of everything that rock n roll should be—loud, abrasive, dark, cathartic, drunk, passionate, moving, but above all, real. Copious amounts of liquor, craziness and tattoos only added to the already explosive mix—the band was a powder keg with the fuse just waiting to be lit by a live audience—and it's documented in every aspect on this disc.

From the opening notes of "Bear Away" the band careens through the set, performing songs that span the entire spectrum of their existence; "Boom Swagger Boom," "Rum To Whiskey," "Dear Hearts," and "18 Wheels" are among the many standouts. Sure, the sound cuts out occasionally on a microphone, someone slams into the guitars or organ, and Spencer may occasionally forget the words, or what part of the song he's at, but that was part of the beauty of the band—it was made up of real people, not prefab posers or wannabes that wanted

to make it big and suck up to MTV. These guys did it for their love of the music, which is why they were such a powerful force to reckon with. When they played live, they played each song like it was going to be the last time they would play it—and in this case it was. The sense of urgency and emotion of the night comes through the speakers loud and clear, a fitting tribute to one of the great rock n roll bands of all time.

—Sean McCourt