



SPOOKYLAND

SOUNDS LIKE: Bloody blues-infused rock & roll delivered with a Seventies glam sneer and a dark core of cathartic gut-spillage.
FOR FANS OF: Anyone curious what Bob Dylan, Neil Young, Mercury Rev, the Smashing Pumpkins and David Bowie would sound like mashed up and channelled through a 23-year-old circa 2014.
WHY YOU SHOULD PAY ATTENTION: The Sydney four-piece are led by idiosyncratic singer-songwriter Marcus Gordon, who picked up the guitar at age 10 before im-

mersing himself in the "eco-system of the greats" ("A lot of things changed when I started listening to Bowie - it was a paper trail that led to Bob Dylan, Lou Reed and Neil Young"). The result, as Gordon puts it, was "a desire to create worlds", and a bedroom recording project dubbed "Spookyland" was born when the musician was 16. Now a fully fleshed-out band, Gordon and co. attracted huge internet buzz with the single "The Silly Fucking Thing" and have now signed with Canvasback in the U.S. (the label of Steve Ralbovsky, the man who signed the Strokes and Kings of Leon) and PIAS in the UK.

THEY SAY: "I wrote ['The Silly Fucking Thing'] when I was 16 and it's two chords and teenage poetry," says Gordon. "The EP producer, Tony Buchen, insisted that we record it, and I was shocked people were into it. To me it was a nothing song, I guess. The second Pitchfork wrote four sentences about it, everything changed in the on-line world. It was crazy."
HEAR FOR YOURSELF: EP *Rock and Roll Weakling* featuring "The Silly Fucking Thing" - a raw, heart-dissected-on-the-table slap to the face that showcases Gordon's attention-grabbing voice. A debut LP is due in 2015.

JAMES JENNINGS

JOYCE MANOR

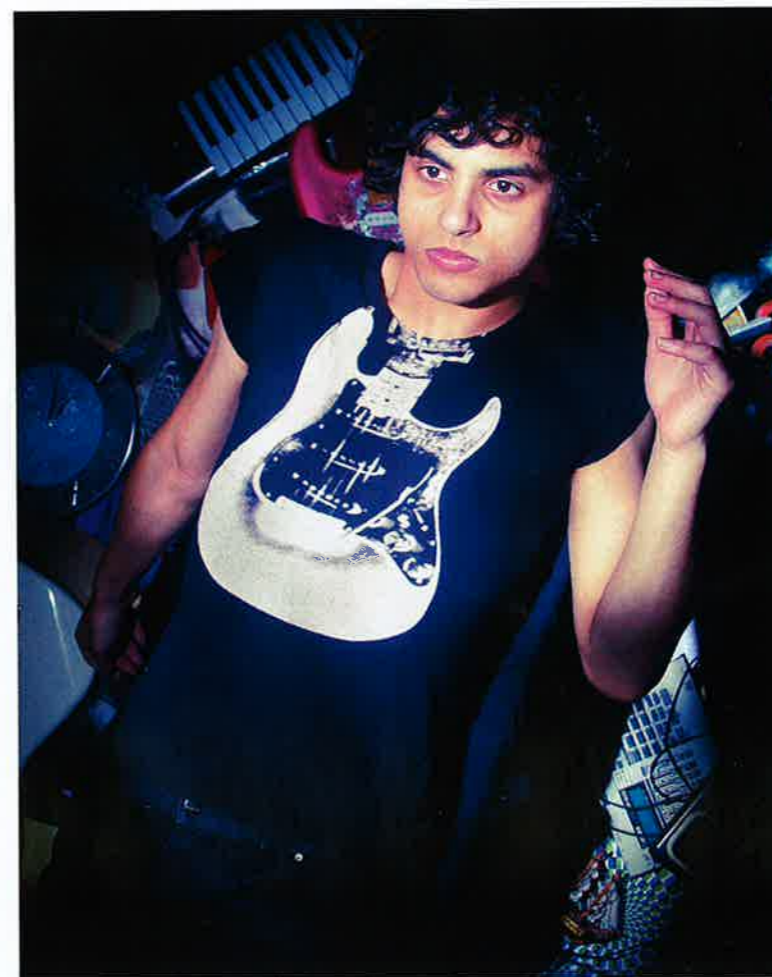
SOUNDS LIKE: Disappointment in two minutes or less.
FOR FANS OF: Jets to Brazil, Jawbreaker, Weezer
WHY YOU SHOULD PAY ATTENTION: The Southern California punks recently put out their third album, *Never Hungover Again*, which showcases their aptitude for writing short but not-so-sweet Nineties-style emo. The follow-up to 2012's *Of All Things I Will Soon Grow Tired*, songs like "Christmas Card" are so confessional and raw that they've gotten frontman Barry Johnson in trouble with his girlfriend ("Looking at your face in the dark/You don't even look that smart"), even when he says the songs aren't specifically about her.
THEY SAY: "I was surprised at how people would say, 'It seems like you're so angry and so sad and on the verge of suicide always. Are you OK?'," Johnson says about the reception to his lyrics. "I just thought that was normal. I'm happy a lot of the time. It would be weird for me to write a song about all the



good times we've shared. I don't know. It's just corny."
HEAR FOR YOURSELF: The fast-and-furious 65-second salvo "Catalina Fight Song", which has a video featuring the band getting battered in a martial arts studio. "We're all scrawny, not-athletic types," Johnson says. "We were all just super,

super sore the next day. I've never been flipped like that... We only had, like, two hours, so we went from doing rolls on the ground by ourselves to being flipped in a matter of 30 minutes. It was fine but it was definitely scary. I think the people at the jujitsu school assumed we'd be more athletic, period."

KORY GROW



HARTS

SOUNDS LIKE: A supernaturally talented young buck who's mastered Hendrix's blistering guitar shredding and the electro-funk pop perfection of Prince in his Eighties prime.
FOR FANS OF: Prince, Chromeo, the Black Keys, Toro y Moi
WHY YOU SHOULD PAY ATTENTION: Moving to Australia from India at age two, 22-year-old Melbourne Harts (aka Darren Hart) began learning drums at 15 before moving onto keyboards and guitar. An older brother's love of soul and funk led to him absorbing the works of Earth, Wind & Fire, Prince and the Isley Brothers, and the multi-instrumentalist went on to record and produce debut LP *Daydreamer* in his bedroom. His music has attracted the attention of heavyweights like Quincy Jones, Questlove and Prince, the latter flying Harts to Paisley Park to hang out and play music.
HE SAYS: "Hanging with Prince was mindblowing. He'd seen my videos on YouTube and then one day called up out of the blue and said, 'I like what I've seen.' A couple of months later he flew me to Paisley Park. I got to jam with him and his musicians, learning from him. He's really friendly and down to earth and wanted to help me - just a really cool guy and a great teacher."
HEAR FOR YOURSELF: Debut album *Daydreamer*, featuring the Prince-endorsed single "Red & Blue".

JAMES JENNINGS