

ALBUM REVIEW BY JIM PRICE

HOMEGROWN ROCKER SHOW, 105.9 QWIK Rock, State College PA



13 SAINTS – TO THE FLOOR (no label)

On their sophomore full-length CD, To the Floor, Pittsburgh's 13 Saints resume their punk'n'roll party where last year's debut CD, Crushing Copper, left off. Guitarists Dave Buzard and Ernie Dirt (since replaced by Davey Child), bassist Creep Newholland and drummer Eric Corbin again deliver rowdy, punk-infused rock'n'roll over the disc's baker's dozen tracks.

The songs are sharp and catchy, and ride the middle ground between Rolling Stones swagger and Clash and Iggy & the Stooges sass and attitude. As the group proclaimed on the first album, they "don't do deep," and thus the lyrics here are again straightforward and in-your-face, with touches of wry wit and cynicism. Some of their wordplays are classic; 13 Saints fights off old age on the boisterous opener "Woe Is Me," battling to escape "...the land of candy and rocking chairs." The group addresses today's contentious society on "Laugh It Off," with advice to chill out because "...everybody knows the score." And on "Suburbs," they salute dysfunctional life in the land of "strip clubs/strip malls," just "kickin' around the house/kickin' around the spouse." The group also channels classic Free as they dress down a drama queen on "Princess Calamity," tip their hats to a 1970s glam/punk influence on the romping "New York Doll," diss obsessive hurried-up lifestyles on "Godspeed," and spit vinegar on those who ignore history's lessons via the fast-flying disc-closer "History of Present Illness." 13 Saints plays these songs with purpose; the rhythms jump, the guitars snarl, and the vocals sound appropriately acidic and acerbic.

Produced by the group and recorded at Very Tight Recordings, To the Floor is raw and direct, leaving the songs and performances do the talking with minimal studio polish. To the Floor offers all-out, accelerated rock'n'roll fun, as 13 Saints put pedal to the metal and spit out some vinegar and attitude along the way.

(The CD can be purchased through the group's website, www.13saintsrock.com.)