

## Reviews

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### "Hellacious Acres" Dangerous Toys Columbia

Dangerous Toys first screamed onto the music scene with their self-titled debut album in 1989. With the hard-rocking "Teas'n Pleas'n," and the disturbing yet toe-tapping single "Scared," Dangerous Toys quickly made a name for themselves. They gained a following that gobbled up nearly 500,000 copies of the album.

Now it's 1991 and the rockers from Texas are at it again with their second album release, "Hellacious Acres." Not ones to disappoint their fans, the new album delivers everything that the debut album had and more.

A few of the notable songs on the release are "Gunfighter," a heavy,

fast-paced tune that leaves an image of the Eagles' "Desperado" juiced-up with a heavy metal attitude. "Gimme' No Lip," the second song on the album and the first single released, is a definitive Dangerous Toys tune that gives the listener a good look at the hard edge that dominates their music. It's reminiscent of their past single "Teas'n Pleas'n."

New life is breathed into Bad Company's classic "Feel Like Making Love." With the harder edge given to the song, it makes for a refreshing change of pace from the old version.

As for the rest of the album, Jason McMaster proves again and again that his screeching vocals are more than a worthy opponent for any would-be rock singer. This is evident on many of the harder singles, such as the hard-driving "Sticks and Stones" and the sexually suggestive "On Top."

And McMaster also shows, unlike many of today's hard-rock vocalists, that he can treat a ballad with feeling

and power. It is McMaster's powerful voice that gives Dangerous Toys that certain edge that produces their unique sound.

This doesn't mean that the rest of the group is lacking in music contributions. The dual guitars of Danny Aaron and Mike Watson produce their own brand of crunching guitar riffs. One can detect a certain style in their guitar playing that was probably acquired from their Southern roots. This makes the album a pleaser for any fan of original guitar rock.

Drummer Mark Geary and bassist Mike Watson both provide the necessary back-up that rounds the group off into one hard rocking unit.

Dangerous Toys is a group that has shown that in the cluttered hard rock world of the 1990s a few "Lone Stars" can shine through the glitz and glamour.

—James Raitt



Courtesy of Columbia Records

## Precautionz

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ing the solo played a certain way," he said. "But I do like to explore, especially in songs that weren't quite as well known, and in a live setting I have a little more freedom to do that."

The band put a lot of thought into exactly what songs they should play and, according to Lehman, the group was anxious to see how the crowds would react to their choices.

"When we hit the stage, we were interested to see how the audience would react," he said. "It's always a guessing game, but I think we've done OK because a lot of people have responded well to the songs on the list."

When the band broke up in 1987, according to Skrivan, it was partly because of inexperience and disappointment that the rewards didn't come as quickly as they had hoped.

"It was very hard to break up, because we were all good friends and the experience was very frustrating," Skrivan said. "But it worked out well because we learned a lot apart from each other and that has made the group stronger."

Skrivan said the band members

are still good friends, and that makes the experience more enjoyable.

"It's better than if we were like business partners or something, because we're not afraid to tell each other when we're (messing) up and there's a very relaxed atmosphere when we rehearse," he said.

To go along with a new image, the band has a come up with an innovative approach to their performances.

"We came up with the idea to make our performances the total experience," Skrivan said. "We're going to have something for each of the five senses, a lot of surprises and things people don't expect. We really want to get the crowd into it."

However, Skrivan admitted, they

haven't come up with an idea for taste yet, but are open to suggestions.

Members of The Precautionz are all students at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln except for percussionist Dave Pendley, who graduated from UNL with a degree in engineering.

All the members of the group said classes come first, for now but, Skrivan said, the band is taking things one day at a time.

"We're working on our original tunes and hope to start integrating them into the act, but there's a laid-back approach and no definite time table," he said. "There's no pressure to hurry up and get out a record or anything like that, we're just having fun and taking things as they come."

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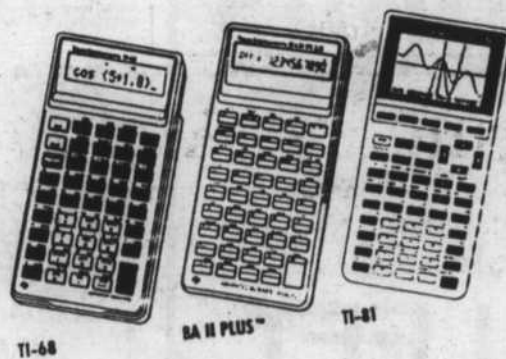
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