

INDIE SCENE

CHARM CITY DEVILS

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charmcitydevils.com

These Baltimore hard rockers are protégés of Mötley Crüe's Nikki Sixx, and their second album updates that band's bruising glam-blues boogie for the nü-metal era. Nowadays it's cool for dudes to sing about their feelings, and frontman John Allen opens up about everyman struggles, singing lines like, "You should have believed in me when I needed you" in the opening "Spite." If it's hard to imagine Crüe singer Vince Neil admitting such vulnerability, he'd have no trouble shrieking along to more defiant and incendiary pieces of riff-rock catharsis like "Devil Is a Woman" or "Start It Up." Elsewhere the Devils give old-timey folk song "Man of Constant Sorrow" the chugalug treatment, commiserating with sufferers of yore.

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TENACIOUS D | JOE BONAMASSA | MINDY SMITH | JOE JACKSON

 A black and white photograph of three musicians standing together. From left to right: Tenacious D (long hair, glasses), Joe Bonamassa (short hair, smiling), and Mindy Smith (short hair, wearing a dark t-shirt). Above them is a red 'M' logo for Music & Musicians magazine. To the right of the photo is a vertical column of text with names and descriptions: SHAWN COLVIN (Falls free), LINKIN PARK (On a roll), JOE WALSH (Goes solo), and a large 'RUSH' logo with the tagline 'Can't stop thinking big' and 'STUDIO WIZ HEAR NO EVIL EDM ERUPTION' at the bottom.