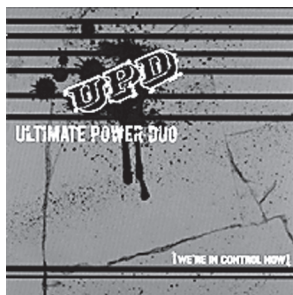


Ultimate Power Duo a liquor-bred trio



Ultimate Power Duo
We're in Control Now!
 National Hearing Lab
www.ultimatepowerduo.com

JOHN KMECH
 Arts & Entertainment Staff

Over twenty years ago, the great Frank Zappa asked if humour belongs in music. Clearly, Ultimate Power Duo answered yes. Kicking their album off with the inspiring, child-abuse themed rallying call of "Lock up your daughters and beat up your sons!" these guys throw down the rock while chipping in a healthy dose of laughter.

Opening almost every song with an old-school punk countdown, the Power Duo play thrashy, three-chord tunes that are heavily influenced by the early British punk movement, without all the anarchy or heroin. Throughout the yells of, "Whoa-oh" and "Yeah!" there's the occasional message, ranging from the importance of moon formations and German cab hailing.

Although any real political angle gets lost in the silliness, the group makes a strong entrance to the Canadian punk scene with their classic sound.

Ultimate Power Duo

With Rake and Chunk
 23 September at 8pm
 The Powerplant

JOHN KMECH
 Arts & Entertainment Staff

If absolute power corrupts absolutely, does that mean that the Ultimate Power Duo corrupts ultimately?

"Absolutely," quipped ScottRP, the Saskatoon-based rock trio's guitarist and vocalist.

But wait: aren't there also three of them? That's right, this Power Duo seats three and they aren't afraid of being confusing. Being a power trio hasn't even crossed their mind, since the band formed in 2003 over 40 ounces of nine per cent liquor, which Scott insisted was the best way to start a band.

"Since nothing we do really makes sense for us, to have a Power Duo we needed to have three members," ScottRP deadpans. "It's a Saskatchewan thing."

"We just stand in my living room with three to four Colt 45s and shoot the shit, which eventually turns into song ideas. We booked our first show with three songs. From there, we got smaller opening gigs and eventually made it to New York, all across Canada, and to the Warped Tour."

The Duo knew from the beginning that they wanted to play punk, but they didn't want to get grouped in with what they felt was a watered-down version of the art. "We discovered that we had a mutual admiration of punk

but we didn't want to get grouped with Simple Plan, who at the time were considered punk," RP explains.

So what happens then when you don't fit into a specific genre? Create your own. That's what the Duo did, christening themselves the prodigies of "Demolition Rock."

"To us, it sounds more punk rock. It's one part rock, one part punk and one part conspiracy," Scott notes.

The sound of demolition rock can be described as a unique revival of back-to-basics, '70s-influenced punk in the vein of the Ramones or the New York Dolls, but Scott claims that growing up in Saskatoon has influenced their music significantly.

"I just knew that I wanted our music to be really rhythmic, so that I could go out and just play," he says. "I don't want to be a shredder and think about pentatonic scales. I'd rather have gin and tonics."

The trio—err, Duo—is responsible for some of the most creative song names this side of the Atlantic, which makes reading the cover of their first full-length album, *We're in Control Now*, an interesting venture before you even pop in the disc. Ranging from "Ultimate Power Duo Breaks Your Stuff and Keeps It!" to "Ultimate Power Duo vs. Optimus Prime, Round 1" and "Do Electric Sheep Dream of Ultimate Power Duo?" ScottRP tried to determine the exact origin of their humorous titles.

"They're just these interesting situations that make us laugh," he says. "It was a way to get people to hear our name twice. We just wanted people



on the radio to introduce our songs, like, "Here's Ultimate Power Duo with 'Ultimate Power Duo ... and the song name.'"

Anything seems to go for this Power Duo. Off-the-wall antics seem to be in their mandate, but there's still one question to be asked: if everything is fair game at any given time, then is

safe to assume that the Power Duo is a group of nerdy science-fiction fans, and we can expect a round two against Optimus Prime?

"I think so. The Riz [bassist] and I are big, old, cheesy sci-fi fans," Scott laughs. "Comic books, sci-fi and superheroes, all that crazy shit, which seeps into our brains and ends up on our CDs."

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