

GAS HUFFER

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Gas Huffer was formed in 1989, a year when the Seattle music scene was bustling with activity. Even in this crowded environment, the group was able to quickly make a name for itself. Their high energy live performances revealed them as engaging entertainers, the unique way in which they wrote and arranged songs illuminated their skill as musicians, and a friendly sense of humor helped them win the hearts of fans and peers alike. More than twelve years later, these qualities still drive them as they continue to create, record and perform.

Guitarist Tom Price, bassist Don Blackstone, drummer Joe Newton, and singer Matt Wright have written and recorded five albums and will release a sixth in March of 2002. The first two of these albums (*Janitors of Tomorrow and Integrity Technology and Service*) were produced by Jack Endino, well known for his work on Nirvana's *Bleach*. They were released on Seattle's own eMpTy records. The next two (*One Inch Masters and The Inhuman Ordeal of Special Agent Gas Huffer*) were produced by the Grammy nominated Kurt Bloch and released on Epitaph, one of the world's largest independent labels. The fifth album, *Just Beautiful Music*, also released on Epitaph, was produced by Phil Ek, whose client list includes Built to Spill, 764-Hero, and other famous groups. For their upcoming release, the band chose to work again with Jack Endino. This reunion resulted in a stripped-down, powerful set of songs called *The Rest of Us*. The new album will be released in March on the Estrus label, a favorite of independent music fans around the world.

Gas Huffer has not limited its activities to the recording studio. On the contrary, the group has built its reputation largely on exciting live performances. Their sound, one part high-speed punk, one part hillbilly twang, and one part 60's garage rock explodes on stage with energy and humor. They have toured the U.S. many times, sometimes headlining and sometimes opening for such popular groups as Mudhoney and the Cramps. They have also toured Europe, New Zealand, and Japan, bringing their live show to a global audience.

In addition to recording and touring, Gas Huffer has been involved in several film projects. They appeared in *Hype*, a feature-length documentary film about the Northwest music scene, and have produced several music videos, most of which have been aired on MTV. These videos and rare live footage of Gas Huffer can be seen on their videocassette release *Van Full of Videos*. The members of Gas Huffer not only appear in their film clips, they are also heavily involved in the writing and art direction of every music video they produce.

The hands-on creative control Gas Huffer applies to film projects is a natural extension of their longstanding commitment to visual design. They have designed all of their own c.d. covers, video boxes, posters, advertising, and other artwork required for the band's various projects. They have also written and illustrated five comic books, one for each of their albums. Visual design is something Gas Huffer considers an important part of its creative process.

Great records, entertaining live performances, well-produced music videos, and engaging visual design are just a few of the things Gas Huffer has achieved. Their longevity in the fickle world of music is another. Harder to measure, but equally important, is the influence they have had on some of independent music's up and coming young groups. Separately, these achievements can be viewed as impressive. Together, they point to Gas Huffer as a singularly talented group.

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