



SAVIOURS

Acid Hand/Burnin'

Cross/F.G.T. 7's

Deemed favorites to resurrect underground metal back to prominence, Oakland, California's **Saviours** have quite a reputation to live up to. Since their 2008 album *Into Abaddon* (Kemado) was hailed by

both critics and fans as a stoner metal masterpiece, the boys have spent months on the road honing their skills and keeping their name on the forefront of modern metal. As bloodshot eyes wait for their third, still untitled LP, Saviours have released three limited edition 7"s compiling four new cuts and two ballsy covers by metal mainstays Saxon and Judas Priest. We are all better off because of it.

While their song structure and sound never veers far from the heavy, stoner metal aesthetic, Saviours pack an unusual amount of power into each song. Classic, tasteful showmanship can carry a band forever (take Slayer, for instance), and it is because of this that a Saviours record can be listened to time and again.

Acid Hand's title track is the perfect overview of the collection. Classic thrash intros ala Exodus perfectly set the base for Austin Barber's unintentional throwback howl. The extended solo/jam of drummer Scott Batiste and both Barber and Sonny Christopher Reinhart end the song with a compliment to each part prior. Covers of both Saxon's "Fire in the Sky" and Judas Priest's "Running Wild" unsurprisingly suit Saviours, considering that this era, 1978–1985, also referred to as the New Wave of British Heavy Metal, has been their greatest influence. Each guitar line and riff is cloned with only the wonders of modern production (a perfect balance of rawness and a produced/separated thunder) differentiating the two. As some are fearful of the falsetto style of singing from the NWOBHM movement, Barber's no-bullshit delivery empowers the tracks to inevitably open the ears of young listeners to a very important episode in the history of metal.

Saviours have ascended to a cult-like status in a very short time. With a simple aesthetic—to rock hard—and an obvious love for the genre, it is apparent that the



Oakland foursome will carry the Bay Area metal reputation with pride for a long time to come. [LR]

Saviours: www.killforsaviours.blogspot.com

Kemado: www.kemado.com