## Mp3 Thisfunctionall - Time To Turn It Off



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A smiling sad, cinematic sound. Acoustically asking some seriously deep questions. With trance like melodic melodies, that make you search for your own answers. 6 MP3 Songs FOLK: Alternative Folk, ROCK: Acoustic Details: Just a guy from So Cal who failed miserably in life. Until he discovered a new way of maneuvering through the worlds mine fields. One step at a time, and clearly aware of the next! Who would ever think something so simple could complicate so many lives? I tried to follow the (KEEP IT SIMPLE STUPID) theory on this CD. As well as put all my twisted thoughts, and emotions. It's kind of scary putting all of who you are on a disc, for the world and critics to rate, but I can't live without it. I hope everyone will listen, understand, and enjoy Thank You... OCWEEKLY (March 13th, 08), by Dave Segal [Sprawl of Sound] Guitarist/singer/songwriter Chris Cooks ThisFunctionAll Offers Hopeful Message By DAVE SEGAL Thursday, March 13, 2008 - 3:04 pm Morose By Any Other Name . . . After hitting rock bottom, ThisFunctionAll offers hopeful message (Click to enlarge) ThisFunctionAll: Sad songs slay so much A little more than a year ago, Laguna Beach guitarist/singer/songwriter Chris Cook and his fiancee, Marsie Wilkinson, were sleeping in an Aliso Viejo parking lot, their makeshift "bed" surrounded by shopping carts. Cook had been arrested and jailed for selling and possessing meth; the couple had been evicted from their Rancho Santa Margarita home. Today, theyre still without a fixed address, but theyre in a decidedly better mind state, clean and working three jobs between them. And Cookunder the name ThisFunctionAll (a twist on dysfunctional, which describes his upbringing) has a new six-song, self-produced CD titled Time to Turn It Off, which converts the rancid lemons of his past into the delicious lemonade of his hopeful present. Listening to ThisFunctionAlls satisfyingly glum songs, its apparent hes gone through some serious shit. The 36-year-old ex-punkhe led the Coachella Valley-based Lung Cookie from 1991 to 2000hit rock bottom mentally. "Ive been to the point where I thought every single thing on

the earth would benefit from me not being around," Cook relates. "My [11-year-old] son would have a better life without me. My family. They wouldnt have me dragging them down." Those punk years were a blur of excessive booze and drug consumptionand probably some regrettable tattoos. Lung Cookie recorded two albums, played some Warped Tour bills and endured several NOFX comparisons. (Before that, Cook was a professional snowboarder, but a broken leg ended that endeavor, and he joined Lung Cookie soon after.) After Cook quit Lung Cookie, he worked as a sound engineer for Warped. "I decided I never wanted to hear music again," Cook admits. "There were 113 bands daily on that tour. All the bands I was doing sound for, I didnt see it anymore. I thought the music was lousy. "So I almost literally locked myself in a room for two years," he continues. "I got heavily hooked on meth. I would play guitar in my room, but always other peoples songs. It got really bad when I started making a living with drugsselling and doing em. It became such a huge struggle. I finally got caught. In 2007, I was arrested three times. I was enrolled in [drug classes]. I never made it to them. I didnt take it seriously." In desperation, Cook called his sister, who secured a hotel room for him and Wilkinson. He cut his hair, shaved his beard, took and passed those classes he had skipped, and then got a job as a checker at Pavilions in Laguna Beach. Finally, over the past few months, Cook recorded some powerfully moving songs DIY-style with a lousy, broken-necked acoustic he obtained for free while purchasing 10 guitar strings from Guitar Center. "I was amazed at how guickly things were turning around. Then my mom told me that one of my best friends whom Id grown up with had killed himself. I still dont know what [caused it]. I didnt go to the funeral," Cook says, his voice verging on tearfulness. "He always wanted me to teach him to play guitar, but I was always too busy. I decided then, I have these feelings and everything thats turned around that lve locked myself from. . . . I have a lot to say, and I want to say it now. I dont want to hide in a room and pretend it doesnt exist anymore. I want to talk about all the problems that I see. I want people to hear and hopefully understand. Thats what got me going again. But I didnt think it was going to come out as good as it did. I was thinking I would have a little CD of my own and for a couple of friends because a lot of it is about the hardships we went through." Cook has transmuted the pain from those awful times into good art that oozes pathos. Mostly recorded in hotel rooms with acoustic guitar and ProTools, Time to Turn It Off recalls the gently gloomy, subtly orchestral folk-rock of Nick Drake, American Music Club and Mark Lanegan. Cooks deep, lugubrious voice invests his songs with a well-earned gravity. The minor-key melodies casually insinuate themselves into your memory and stir emotions; they seem destined to

appear on quality indie-film soundtracks. (Thats one of his goals, and hes using a service called taxito try to place his songs in films, TV shows and label bosses ears.) Creating music is therapeutic for Cook, and his songs effectively convey his message: "Its never too late to change. Ive written hundreds of songs, and [for a long time] every song Id write, Id say, this is the beginning and this is where I die. The end. I die in every song. I chose not to do that anymore." Cook has grand ambitions, but hes realistic about his chances to make a living from his art. "I dont want to get my hopes up and be crushed again," he says. "I dont want to end up in a hole again. Im sure III never use again, but I just dont want that rejection again." I, for one, predict Cook wont be working at Pavilions much longer. For more information, visit thisfunctionalland myspace.com/thisfunctionall. dsegal@ocweekly.com People who are interested in Tom Waits Pink Floyd Johnny Cash should consider this download.

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