

## Mp3 The Key Party - Hit Or Miss



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The kitchen sink with guitars 15 MP3 Songs FOLK: Modern Folk, ROCK: Punk Details: The Key Party came to me like someone else's wife at 3 a.m. on a Friday night. Bingo. The lottery. I was channel surfing for any thing that proved to be good fodder for lyrics. Click, shark program; Click Inca history; Click and bam there it is Sigourney Weaver had a hand in the bowl for me. HBO offered up TKP via The Ice Storm. The Key Party wouldn't be a band. It would be a party. Everybody would show up, reach into a bowl full of instrument names and pull one out to sleep with. All things plastic, metal pans, washtub bass, real instruments, kids toys, anything fun, silly, off the wall, anything broken, borrowed or stolen. I would record the basics of most songs with rhythm guitar but the rest would be what Chris Rock calls the strange, and I would call sweet revolutionary songs and terroristic ballads; John Prine meets Billy Bragg after a few drinks with Tom Waits; a whole lotta cheating going on. Darren Gaines on The Key Party Darren Gaines is The Key Party. But it gets boring to sleep alone, so there's 14 other tin pan beating, chant vocal screaming and darn good performing musicians on the record. Live, who knows who's going to show up. But Darren is The Key Party. In previous incarnations he has been compared to Joe Strummer (WOXY.COM), Iggy and Ziggy (Village Voice) and A Drunk Lennon (SF Weekly). He has spent time unemployed, on America's dole, which of course runs out, and he's been employed 10:15 to 6 p.m. Sharp! He's been knocked out by a punk on Avenue A. He wrote an unpublished solipsistic first novel called Billboards and someday, he says, "when they're looking for a story about how it was in the martinis and bistro, don't worry about tomorrow, we're 27 years old with internet cash to spend, pre-you-know-what New York City, they'll come calling." He formed The Great Shakes in the early aughts. They rehearsed in a basement on 1st Avenue in the strip mall known as the East Village where Darren swallowed a large fly while singing during one rehearsal, witnessed the killing of a rat with a spear thrown drum stick at another

and broke a toe or two. They played almost every happening venue with many of the hipening bands back then. They charted on CMJ. They signed to a development deal with Joe Blaney, the man who recorded Combat Rock, produced Soul Asylum and mixed The Raveonettes. They played some hilarious on-air performances and some horrible music festivals about which Darren said, "Music Festivals are neither festive nor about music." The Great Shakes got altitude sickness. So Darren formed The Key Party (see above). Hes lived in NYC for 13 years, swung many times, fell down a lot and through all that, he is still, as the SF Weekly said, "Graced by God with a voice as lush as his black velvet pants, and a cadence that can melt ice cubes still in their trays.

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