

Mp3 Digable Cat - Skratch Traxx



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Bluesy Rock, Funky Pop with a whole lotta soul 11 MP3 Songs ROCK: Modern Rock, ROCK: Acoustic

Details: In just one year this band formed, produced their first full-length album and began their own record label. Also in that year, their very first show was a Saturday night on the main stage of the House of Blues , and they also performed a mini tour of London. Not bad for a first year out. Digable Cat began in the summer of 2002 when Gregg Mandel had taken half a year off after quitting his band of three years. He wanted to assemble a group of "top of the line" musicians to go into the recording studio and record a full-length album before gigging out. The goal here, Mandel says, "was to create a studio album, 1. To have a product to sell and distribute right from the start, and 2. To have two different entities: the studio album which will show off the songwriting skills and be a bit (but not too much) toned down. And the live show, which will allow the band to "rock" out a bit more and be filled with a more raw energy and power as I believe a live show should." He met vocalist/songwriter Susie Lofton in July and they immediately clicked as songwriting collaborators, writing their first tune, "Mary Poppins" the day they met. After the next few months, they would have an entire albums worth of songs written. During that time, Gregg had contacted a long time acquaintance, Nathan Syfrig, to join forces with them on electric violin and keyboards. Nathan's first task was to write a string quartet arrangement for one of the studio tracks. He played two violin parts and viola on the recording and they used cellist, Steve Sperapani to round out the quartet. They instantly set out playing acoustic open mikes, to test out their newly written songs in front of an audience. Pre-production on the album started in October and they began recording at Super Buddha Studio in November. The supporting players on the album were cast with friends Gregg had met in the Chicago local music scene over the years and that he greatly admired as musicians. Once the band was put together, the sound became a mixture of bluesey rock and jazzy pop with some country fiddle thrown

in. Their influences stem anywhere from Ben Harper to Foo Fighters. Sheryl Crow to Indigo Girls. Beatles to Led Zeppelin. They passed an acoustic demo to James Van Osdol of local radio station 94.7 Zone for submission in "Mojo Madness" at the House of Blues. They were called by 94.7 and asked to play an after work acoustic set at the Back Porch stage of the House of Blues in January 2003. At that time, they gave Van Osdol two newly recorded songs of the full band, and a week later he played, "Nowhere To Run" on the radio. Another week later Digable Cat was contacted by the House of Blues and asked to play a Saturday night on the main stage with the full band. Their first gig was on March 1 at the House of Blues. They followed up the HOB, with shows at Wise Fools Pub, Rolling Meadows Rockhouse and the Lyons Den. The recording of the album was finished and mastered in May. In June they started their own record label, Blue Tortoise Records. They will be releasing their debut CD, "Skratch Traxx" on August 3, 2003 at the 12-Bar Club in London. Their goal is to seek out management and representation and become nationally as well as internationally recognized for their creativity and contribution to the world of music.

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