

**CLUTCH**  
Critical Soundbites for  
**'EARTH ROCKER'**  
(Weathermaker Music)



“Four Maryland lifers--road dogs who've been grinding since the early **Fugazi** administration, **cranking out seething admixtures of jam-band chops, careening blues-punk riffs** and singer **Neil Fallon's** nerdy, piss-taking wiseass lyrics--**release their hardest rocking set to date.**”

--**ROLLING STONE**, (#10 on **Rolling Stone's** “**Top 20 Metal Albums**”, Dec. 2013)

“Every now and again an album [**Earth Rocker**] comes along that's **an absolute classic**--not just a handful of good tunes and a handful of filler, but **a classic from start to finish**. Not since **Pure Rock Fury** and **Blast Tyrant** has **Clutch** been so straightforward in their approach. By their own admission, the band found **fresh inspiration from touring with Thin Lizzy and Motorhead** and it showed in the music and in the **colossal riffs of guitarist Tim Sult**. “

--**METAL HAMMER**, (#1 on **Metal Hammer's** “**Album of the Year**,” Jan. 2014)

“Ten studio albums in, **Clutch** deliver here pretty much everything you've come to expect from them: **bluesy rock, blustery but impressively precise riffage, beards, and story songs about robots.**”

--Allison Stewart, **REVOLVER** (Mar. 2013)

“Drawing heavy inspiration from recent tours with **Mötörhead** and **Thin Lizzy**, drummer **Jean-Paul Gaster** and crew are at their fiery best here. Vocalist **Neil Fallon** oozes the passion and silver-tongued charm of a fire-and-brimstone preacher on the title track, **Sult** unleashes scores of timeless **Clutch riffs** (with a highlight being the irresistible fervor of ‘**Unto the Breach**’), and bassist **Dan Maines** lays down a **gritty yet silky tone** on tracks like ‘**Crucial Velocity**’ and ‘**Mr. Freedom.**’ Through it all, **Gaster is the modern zenith of groove and feel**, which he serves up in a number of different ways. Shuffles are the order of the day on ‘**Book, Saddle and Go**’ and ‘**Cyborg Bette**’; ‘**Gone Cold**’ features delicate brushes; ‘**The Wolfman Kindly Requests...**’ benefits from some **fantastic hi-hat and ride work**; and the **cowbell interplay** of ‘**D.C. Sound Attack**’ is a capstone to **one of the best songs of an already loaded catalogue**. In fact, **every song here has its own rhythmic or melodic hallmark**, making **Earth Rocker** is a surefire future classic.”

--Billy Brennan, MODERN DRUMMER (Apr. 12, 2013)

**“Clutch has become a beaming example of perseverance and self-sufficiency for an independent act.** Often labeled as stoner rock or a metal-something band, this longstanding four-piece is and has always been, in reality, a classic rock band. Earth Rocker--as if the name doesn't say enough--should convince everyone that **Clutch** has been mislabeled for years. There's still ample experimentation and some solid lengthier jams here, but Earth Rocker **remains focused on staying tight.** Reining in some of the more experimental and meandering ways of the past, tracks like **'Unto The Breach'** **deliver with force: It's fast, aggressive, melodic and catchy.**”

--Mike Thomas, RELIX (Apr. 2013)

**“Earth Rocker is Clutch's hard turn into primal boogie heaviness.** The acoustic flourishes, blues songs, and psychedelic forays that shaped **Clutch's** past few records are shelved and in their place are **hard and barbed riff-driven tunes.** Drummer **Jean-Paul Gaster** keeps things going at a crisp clip while managing subtle shadings. The **drummer's tight control and bassist Dan Maines's aggressive low-end let guitarist Tim Sult go nuts--you will air guitar.** Singer **Neil Fallon is a holy rock 'n' roller** celebrating his music's **cathartic release** and its history.”

--Scott McLennan, BOSTON GLOBE (Mar. 2013)

**“Clutch has created one of its best, and most straightforward, albums to date.** ...Working again with producer **Machine**, the act stripped away the excess and **honed in on the riff-heavy, muscular bar-band rock.** ...The white-knuckled rocking only slows down once. **'Gone Cold,' a subdued existential meditation,** signals the end of Side A and works as a palate cleanser from the amplification and distortion. The respite also builds anticipation for **the album's best track, 'Book, Saddle and Go.'** The band was inspired by recent tour mates, and '70s hard-rock legends, Thin Lizzy, and here it shows most. **The call-and-response hook and gritty riffing are proof Clutch doesn't need to pander to fans or a major label** (Weathermaker Music is owned by the band). **'I will suffer no evil / my guitar will guide me through,'** Fallon sings on the title track. As usual, he sounds like a man who doesn't need convincing.”

--Wesley Case, BALTIMORE SUN, (Mar 15, 2013)

**“Clutch, the hard-touring Maryland band with an endless supply of guitar riffs, is back on the righteous path of heavy rock... Earth Rocker is Clutch's hardest-hitting album in a while,** and it's full of **Fallon's** occasionally inscrutable, **fantastical sci-fi themes.** There are references to **Guttenberg, the Large Hadron Collider** and the **medieval weapon the halberd--and that's just in one song ('Unto the Breach').** **'The Face' imagines a post-apocalyptic pop culture landscape** where rock is dead and electric guitars have been cast into the sea. On **'Cyborg Bette,' our rock-star narrator falls for a robot, his 'latest model'. A welcome return to form.**”

--Christopher Weber, SEATTLE TIMES (Mar 18, 2013)

**“Earth Rocker' itself is the first round; it will leave you battered and bruised from the relentless rhythm, vibe and energy.** ...The record is so UP, so groove ridden that words are not adequate to describe it. **'Crucial Velocity'** follows the title track--the title is apt. **'Mr Freedom'** is just as good with some trademark **Fallon** lyrics. For me, **'DC Sound Attack'** really stands out-- **the groove is incredible, the pacing sublime, the whole band absolutely on fire.** There is also a cowbell. **'Unto The Breach'** keeps the energy up and the record is, unbelievably, nearly half over. **'Gone Cold'** takes the listener into more mellow territory--real

album structuring is at work here. **It's not just a collection of songs, but an ebb and flow that takes you on an enjoyable road trip.** 'The Face' kicks off the next phase of the record nicely and is followed by two stormers: 'Book, Saddle and Go' and 'Cyborg Bette.' All relevant Clutch-isms are operating at full whack here; **big hooks, big riffs, sermonising vocals...** it's all there, just how you want it to be. 'Oh Isabella' and 'The Wolf Man Kindly Requests...' close the album out very strongly. **There is no filler here. There are no weak moments. There is nothing wasted. There is not a lyric, not a riff, not even a cymbal crash that is out of place.** If you ever had an interest in **Clutch, rock, metal or just great music- buy this album. Clutch are better musicians than most, but they are a much better band than just about everybody** (there is a crucial difference). **What an album it is."**

--Richard Maw, **THE SLUDGE LORD**, (Mar. 24, 2013)

**"Unique and dynamic, this is what Clutch do--and do best."**

--**EXCLAIM**, (Mar. 19 2013)

**"Clutch are getting better with age....the honesty of a true working man's band doing what they do best: capturing the magical spirit of rock in its most natural form."**

--**CLASSIC ROCK** (Album review, Jun. 2013)

"With their tenth studio album **Earth Rocker**, the long-running outfit have assembled what is perhaps their **most concise and revved up collection of songs to date.** A **rollicking assortment of good ol' fashioned rock n' roll grit torqued for maximum performance.** Brimming with **vigor, these groove-laden tracks are an undeniable force.** A **near constant stream of forward momentum and rugged grace** that instantly melts off the excess pounds accrued during the bands recent years of blues and jam based ventures. Simply put, this is **Clutch with the pedal pinned to the floor.** Boasting some of their most direct and incendiary material to date, **Earth Rocker** **as a whole is razor sharp.** Whether it be in the smug demeanor of **Neil Fallon's** vocal delivery and his **riled up hobo prophet lyrics**; the searing whirlwind of **surprisingly solo-heavy guitar work**; the **shrewd slinky/abrasive duality of the bass**; or the **impressively bombastic drumming**--every instrument is purposeful and fits together with seasoned craftsmanship. ...**The rowdy spark of their youth has been reignited, leaving Earth Rocker magma hot."**

--**THE PRP.COM** (Feb. 20, 2013)

"Clutch's aim here was to try something different, and in stripping Earth Rocker of its fat, **the band has revealed even more imaginative and powerful artistic muscle."**

--**POP MATTERS**, (May 14, 2013)

**"...blues-rock bruisers..."**

--**Q Magazine**, (Mar. 19, 2013)

**"Clutch made a reputation for themselves based on solid songwriting, lyrical weirdness, and quality--all of which are present on Earth Rocker, which is still unmistakably a Clutch album."**

--**ALL MUSIC GUIDE** (Mar. 19, 2013)

"Let's be real about this: **Clutch is one of the only hard rock bands in the world worth caring about.** It's not often that I get to say this without any irony or sarcasm these days but,

dude...**this album rocks**. The music plays like a **wicked cocktail of blues, funk, rock, and metal with a taste only Clutch can provide**. Leading the pack is singer **Neil Fallon**, who's unmistakable **toad-rasp vocals are as essential to Clutch's sound as his out-of-this-world lyrics**, like in 'The Wolfman Kindly Requests...' Yes I can dig it! And more importantly, I dig those **riffs on 'DC Sound Attack,' 'The Face', and 'Book Saddle & Go.'** **Earth Rocker** is packed with an **endless supply of catchy grooves and if you can't get down to them, well you must be either dead or a certified member of the anti-fun brigade**. Flashes of **1970's Thin Lizzy fuzz and groove give Earth Rocker an almost space-rock feel**, which is to say nothing of its **intergalactic cover art**. But other tracks have a very **straight to the gut feel** like the **title-track's fist-pumping chorus of 'I'm an Earth...ROCKER!'** that **Lemmy** would surely approve of (I'm surprised he hasn't written a song called '**Earth Rocker**' yet himself). One curious but **awesome highlight** is the mid-album dirge, '**Gone Cold,**' which could easily fit into a classic **Western flick**; in the lead up to the shootout scene, just as the two men walk through town, pistols loaded. On the journey through **the world of modern hard-rock, Clutch is like the mad village storyteller**. You might not get what he's trying to tell you right away, but after awhile you discover, he's **the one you should have listened to all along.**"

-- J. Andrew Zalucky, **METAL INJECTION**, (8/10 album review, Mar. 15, 2013)

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