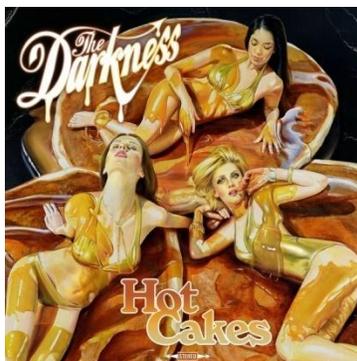


THE DARKNESS
Critical Soundbites for their new album
'HOT CAKES'



“Hawkins and Co. have always been **champs at penning solid, tuneful rock pop**, and the group manages a small tackle-box worth of hooks here, ditching its second album’s baroque (faux-?) pretensions to reboot its debut’s uncluttered directness.”

--K. Ross Hoffman, **MAGNET**, August/September 2012

“**Hot Cakes just exudes fun**. It seems to wipe away a period of discord during which the band broke up and its members started other projects. ‘Nothin’s Gonna Stop Us’ has a feel-good 1980s rocking chorus and guitar solos you can imagine being played in atop a huge speaker in a stadium.”

--Sian Watson, **ASSOCIATED PRESS** (August 20, 2012)

“After seven years off, these Brits bounce right back on ‘Every Inch Of You,’ the kickoff to Hot Cakes. Justin Hawkins cheekily tells his backstory: surviving on the dole till Led Zep changed his life, becoming ‘an Englishman with a very high voice, doing rock & roll.’ Hot Cakes stays amusing, mixing beer-barrel chuggers with proud schlock ballads. Sneakiest trick: going full-on metal... with a Radiohead cover.”

--Chuck Eddy, **ROLLING STONE** (3 out-of-5-star album review, August 21, 2012)

“Frontman Justin Hawkins’ otherworldly shriek, his brother Dan’s FM roc-god guitars and the band’s stacked-like-pancakes harmonies are in fine form on ‘Forbidden Love’ and ‘Keep Me Hanging On.’ Wisely, however, the Darkness add some levity-and strong songwriting-to the fray, in the form of fried Southern boogie (‘With A Woman,’ ‘Concrete’), epic power ballads (‘Living Each Day Blind’) and anti-romance power-pop (‘Love Is Not the Answer’). Plus, their sense of humor is firmly intact: A galloping, in the style of Iron Maiden cover of Radiohead’s ‘Street Spirit’ is hilarious.”

--Annie Zaleski, **ALTERNATIVE PRESS** (3/4 star album review, September 2012)

“The beauty of The Darkness is that the band has never taken itself seriously, but manages to create winsome, punch-the-air arena anthems stuffed with earworm choruses (which should go over well during their stint opening for Lady Gaga in Europe). Just listen to the hook-filled ‘Everybody Have a Good Time’—complete with cowbell!-or ‘Nothing’s Gonna Stop Us,’ which sounds like Queen and Bryan Adams spawned a rock ‘n’ roll demon child. They’re irresistible roll-down-the-windows singalongs designed for disposability. The Darkness even covers Radiohead’s ‘Street Spirit,’ which finds Justin’s falsetto ready to shatter glass and Dan’s guitar

racing like Mick Mars' in Motley Crue's 'Livewire' days. The band can tone it down a notch, too, as on 'Forbidden Love,' a purposely overblown power ballad. ...So here's our advice to enjoying The Darkness: Place tongue firmly in cheek and rawk on."

--Melissa Ruggieri, [ATLANTA JOURNAL CONSTITUTION](#), (August 22, 2012)

"Justin Hawkins may be the face and attention-seizing voice of the Darkness, but the heart of their sound lies in his guitar playing, which offsets brother Dan's Angus Youngian raunch with the sort of rich, harmonic solos that Tom Scholz used to slather on Boston records. And despite the band's love of heavy metal histrionics, [Hot Cakes](#) furthers the notion that the Darkness are, in essence a very slick power-pop band, one that's as beholden to 'Peace of Mind as Piece of Mind."

--Stuart Berman, [PITCHFORK](#), (August 16, 2012)

"[Hot Cakes](#) is the most varied record of The Darkness' canon-11 Killer-no-filler songs that steer through the '70's and early '80's and veer from fist-pumping anthems to mid-temp good-time rock, all with an ear for a killer pop hook. Opener 'Every Inch Of You' is a battle cry for maximum-capacity arenas, and perhaps the true missing link between 1977 and 2012. ...The band turns Radiohead's 'Street Spirit (Fade Out)' (one they've been playing live for years) into a frenzied metal song, and easily the heaviest cut on the record."

--Mark Lore, [PASTE](#) (7-out of 10 star album review, August 21, 2012)

"The new single, 'Everybody Have a Good Time,' is another giddy glam-rock blast, all Thin Lizzy bombast and T. Rex boogie. Let the good times roll, to characteristically hip-replacing excess."

--Marc Hogan, [SPIN](#)

"**Undeniably impeccable pop songwriting on virally infectious** glam numbers."

Lyndsey Parker, [YAHOO! Music](#)

"The new songs are driven forward by hard-roc guitars and thunderous drums, but all of them are anchored by pop melodies that have as much in common with ABBA as AC/DC. 'Everybody Have A Good Time' is a self-explanatory party anthem, and 'Forbidden Love' is a gorgeous power ballad, delivered by frontman Justin Hawkins in a voice that is both beautiful and ridiculous. Toward the end of the album, when the band turns Radiohead's 'Street Spirit (Fade Out)' into a chugging speed-metal juggernaut, it's Mr. Hawkins sky-ghigh vocals that keep the song from sounding too sinister."

--Andrew Leahy, [WASHINGTON TIMES](#) (3-out-of-5 star review, August 20, 2012)

"The only thing that is ridiculous about Hot Cakes is how ridiculously good it is. 'Nothing's Gonna Stop Us' is as good an exhibit as any-full throttle pop metal, prime beef and glam that recalls the best traditions of AC/DC and Queen but, more subtly, those of Husker Du. 'Keep Me Hanging On' chugs and boogies with the best of them all the way to the punchline 'Til something better comes along.' The pace barely lets up-certainly not on the philosophical 'Everybody Have A Good Time' which bears the priceless promise: 'Where eagles dare, you will find us already there.' Almost edibly irresistible, Hot Cakes is a straight-up motorcycle masterwork, and one that benefits from keeping a clever eye on the wing mirrors at all times. They fly solo like eagles indeed. Only The Darkness would dare to pull off that trick they do like they never stopped pulling it off all those years ago-of both undermining and reinforcing the majesty of rock."

--David Stubbs, [CLASSIC ROCK](#), UK (9 out of 10 star album review, August 2012)

"This band is **pure swagger, sweat and sex, blasting giant rock tunes** that you're ready to hear again immediately after the album finishes. As usual, certain riffs reign supreme, from the

rejuvenating 'She Just a Girl Eddie' to the propulsive 'Nothing's Gonna Stop Us'.... .. The Darkness is back and still bitchin', writing more party rock anthems that make your night better, not worse."

--Matt Pais, **RED EYE** (Chicago) 3 and ½ out of 4 star CD review, (August 15)

"Seven years after they split up in a mess of rehab and band chaos, the eccentric rock/metal outfit is back with a vengeance. **The Darkness' new album, Hot Cakes, is as raw and badass as their debut.** Their first single, '**Everybody Have A Good Time**,' resurrects the essence of their debut album Permission to Land. It is ballsy; it is outrageous and a whole lot of fun."

--Brenda Camberos, **CAMPUS CIRCLE**, (A- album review, August 22, 2012)

"Highlighted by wailing sex anthems ('Every Inch Of You'), pop-metal hooks ('Living Each Day Blind'), and a thrashing glam reinvention of Radiohead's 'Street Spirit (Fade Out),' the album culls generously from the band's usual pool of influences--including flashy hair bands, Seventies hard rock and Queen."

--Zach Schonfeld, **ROLLING STONE**, August 14, 2012

"If you are looking for a fun hard rock album with both heart and a sense of humor, look no further than Hot Cakes; a solid new entry in the canon of The Darkness."

---Tom Campagna, **ABOUT.COM**, August 14, 2012

"This is one of those rare albums that offers undeniable proof that glam rock and the true essence of rock music--and perhaps maybe a little bit of campy humor – still thrive in dark corners of a diluted music industry. From the band's classic sound in '**Nothin's Gonna Stop Us**' to a cover of Radiohead's '**Street Spirit (Fade Out)**', **there are no doubts that The Darkness are on a roll, and they're taking no prisoners.** ...as novel, splendid and beautiful as any of the band's previous work."

--Adam O'Connor, **REAL DETROIT WEEKLY**, (8/23/12)

"...Hot Cakes bulges with infectious melodies, blazing leads and strident riffing, Justin Hawkins' unmistakable falsetto adding pathos and silliness in equal measure. The best songs more than equal their biggest hits: the motoring pick-me-up of 'Nothing's Gonna Stop Us,' feelgood anthem 'Everybody Have a Good Time' and majestic power ballads 'Living Each Day Blind' and 'Forbidden Love' are custom-built for remorseless radio play and may just enable The Darkness to return to the arenas. An added bonus is the inclusion of their notorious demolition of Radiohead's 'Street Spirit (Fade Out)' and, of course, the accompanying mental image of Thom Yorke seething with impotent fury."

--Dom Lawson, **THE GUARDIAN** (UK) 4/5 star album review, 8/16/12

"If Queen and the producers of the Olympics closing ceremony had been serious about finding a Freddie Mercury surrogate, they'd have tapped Justin Hawkins. He's got pipes and panache, plus tongue planted firmly in cheek. The Darkness' third full-length finds the singer once more in excellent voice, unleashing his stemware-shattering banshee wail on a slew of bubblegum metal ditties that rival prime Def Leppard and AC/DC. There are surprises, too, including flashes of robust power pop ('She's Just A Girl Eddie,' 'Nothing's Gonna Stop Us') and a lighter-waving glam anthem in the Mott The Hoople mold ('Livin' Each Day Blind')."

--Kurt Reighly, **MSN.com** (August 21, 2012)

"we hesitate between « Yeaaaah » and « Woohoo » to sum up this 'Hot Cakes', which comes just at the right moment to get ready for the return to work, giving real boost. Invigorating!"

--**ROLLING STONE** (FRANCE), September 2012

“Straight-up, glam-damaged ’70s pub bangers in the Thin Lizzy vein and mega-chorused ’80s pop-metal pitched between Def Leppard on the U.K. side and Motley Crue on the U.S. side dominate and do their jobs perfectly while they’re playing, while a mild Bob Mould influence creeps into the glazed guitar rush of ‘Nothing’s Gonna Stop Us.’”

--Ben Rayner, **TORONTO STAR**, August 21, 2012

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