

# the BARN BURNERS

**THE BARN BURNERS GO FROM GARAGE TO GROOVE ON **SHOT DOWN**, THEIR THIRD ALBUM AND DEBUT RELEASE ON ATOMIC TWANG.**

From the garage comes the disc's title cut, all nervous guitars and frantic toms, hard up against the open-tuned swagger of "Throwin' Your Life Away." From the groove comes a slinky cover of "When I Had Your Love," an overlooked classic that Smokey wrote for Marvin, and "Why I Run," where the band sneaks into Hi Records through the back door. Somewhere in between garage and groove lies "Everything Was Crooked,"

a vivid recollection of life on the Cleveland, Ohio homefront during World War II that would not sound out of place in the Springsteen catalog. Like previous Barn Burners releases *Alibis* (2000) and *Tobacco Sunburst* (1996), *Shot Down* features a honky tonk shuffle ("Cheatin' to Lose"), swamp blues ("Mud in My Eyes") and Berry/Richards-inspired rockers ("Yesterday's Clothes," "Said the 7 to the 11," and "Rockin' with Viola.") For their final number the boys crank up the reverb and hang ten with Hank Williams on "Moanin' the Blues."

The Barn Burners are based in Baltimore, Maryland and have been setting fire to mid-Atlantic clubs since 1995. Led by guitarist and songwriter Bob Kannenberg, the band features Bonanza D. Jones on drums, Paul Thomas on guitar, and Brian Fisher on bass. Barn Burners tracks appear on several compilations in the US and abroad, including the Run Wild Records Blasters tribute, *Blastered*, and the Dusty Records (Sweden) *Rockin' at the Barn* series. The band has been privileged to share stages with such kindred spirits as Dave Alvin, Jason and the Scorchers, Duane Jarvis, the Tarbox Ramblers, Mojo Nixon and Robbie Fulks.



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# PRAISE FOR SHOT DOWN

## MILES OF MUSIC, AUG. 2004

The Barn Burners' brand of sizzling roots rock pays tribute to a variety of things including '80s jangle pop, English pub rock, swaggering country-blues and good ol' rockin' Americana. All the while, they never stray from a unified sound that is clearly the work of a band not clinging to some flash retro craze. The members of this Baltimore, MD based band have been around long enough to have the roots of classic rock and deep country as part of their true musical foundation. They naturally reach an effortless hybrid as a result. Shot Down, their third full-length release, plays from one tight, memorable song to the next, with chief Barn Burner Bob Kannenberg out in front, commanding with a sharp, biting vocal. His presence and delivery brings to mind a CBGB heyday-era rocker whose VU/Lou Reed influence hasn't quite sloughed off yet, especially on "When I Had Your Love." "Why I Run" recalls Sticky Fingers era country-rock, while not so far off is the reverb-heavy "stripper" rock of "Mud In My Eyes"; Raunch-a-billy, you might say. A wildly entertaining ride, to be sure. (Atomic Twang)

## KUDOS FOR ALIBIS

### JOE KROCHESKI, NO DEPRESSION, SEPT. 2000

With Alibis, East Coast roots rockers the Barn Burners prove their highly enjoyable '96 debut, Tobacco Sunburst, was no fluke. Alibis is a sturdy follow-up that features more memorable songs from leader Bob Kannenberg, and some killer guitar courtesy of new guy Paul Thomas...No Alibis necessary. The only thing the Barn Burners are guilty of is making a damn fine record.

### JANA PENDRAGON, NEW TIMES LA, FEB. 2000

The Barn Burners' sentimental side is bittersweet and enticing. In a high-lynesome mood, ala the Stanley Brothers, "Big Tree" marries contemporary experience with traditional bluegrass and hill music in a meditation on the universal need for family and love; it's a strong link in the musical chain that connects America's music back to the Old World. Throw in some fine pedal steel by Neil Eber and Alibis is both interesting and accessible, a menagerie of American music's finest qualities. Produced with a light touch by Dave Nachodsky and the band, every cut counts. This one is radio-ready and tempting, the perfect disc to pop into the car player—crank it up and just drive.

### ROOTS TOWN

Opener "Whippin' Boy" sounds like the way the Stones haven't sounded anymore after Exile On Main St., "Dice Are Loaded" rocks away smoothly and "Thinkin' Hard And Drinkin' Harder"—snappy pedal steel from Neil Eber—could be a slogan for every cafe worthy of its name.

### SPARECHANGE MAGAZINE, SPARECHANGE, AUG. 2000

Here's the recipe for the Barn Burners' musical stew: Take a big heaping helping of the Stones from their "Let It Bleed" countrified era, toss in some slicker Bakersfield twang ala The Derailers, and add Bob Kannenberg's nasal, slightly gruff vocals, creating the perfect compliment to a late night in a smoky bar with a tall bourbon...Easily the highlight of the record is "Hey Little Darlin'," a catchy 3-minute rockabilly ditty that you'll still be singing long after that tall bourbon has turned into a wicked hangover.

### STEVE SCHMIDT, INSURGENTCOUNTRY.COM, JULY 2001

Alibis is polished enough to show that the Barn Burners take their craft seriously while making it clear that they still believe rock'n'roll is supposed to be fun. And what could be more fun than listening to a band hit its stride?

## PLUGS FOR TOBACCO SUNBURST

### JOE KROCHESKI, NO DEPRESSION, MAY 1997

The Burners first studio release Tobacco Sunburst delivers the raw energy and intense vibes endemic to their live performances. The album's opening cut, "Smokin' into Mexico," had me pushing my way to the front of the line to enter a packed Baltimore club.

### JANA PENDRAGON, WHAT'S UP

Fronted by Bob Kannenberg, this band is one of American roots rock's best. Tobacco Sunburst displays a knowledge concerning American music that is rare.

### LEE GARDNER, BALTIMORE CITY PAPER, SEPT. 1996

Tobacco Sunburst is a fine introduction to the band for anyone who has yet to have the pleasure live: an even 10 examples of twang-heavy rockin' with more than a hint of country-cuz drawl.

### WASHINGTON CITY PAPER, SEPT. 1996

Don't expect psychobilly insanity or ducktailed revivalism...the Burners go for a Jason and the Scorchers-meet-the-Blasters twangin' roots vibe.

### GEOFFREY HIMES, PATUXENT NEWSPAPERS, JAN. 1997

Kannenberg writes songs full of automobile metaphors, Chuck Berry riffs, twangy guitars, and punk-staccato rhythms...the album on the Run Wild label leaves the rough edges on, but there's an undeniable energy at work.

### BALTIMORE CITY PAPER

Everybody's showing their roots these days, but this veteran local combo was digging up and mixing up the choicest bits of rockabilly, blues and country with aplomb back when most contemporary neo-roots enthusiasts were still flying the grunge flannel. Factor in the fact that Bob Kannenberg's originals don't shame the classic covers, and you can expect a hot time from the Burners.

### MARK JENKINS, WASHINGTON POST, SEPT. 1996

Tobacco Sunburst serves up seminal rock and country with plenty of energy and attitude.