

Whiskey of The Damned - Monsters Are Real (2014)

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Whiskey of the Damned's new release *Monsters Are Real* has the potential to be their breakout album. Comprising of 12 all original songs (2 previously released songs) shows the strength of Eoin McCarthy, Andrew David Weber and Matt Schuetz beyond their madcap playing. Based out Milwaukee, WI, Whiskey of the Damned is a 5 piece Celtic influenced band led by Irish native Eoin McCarthy. This third release shows off their musical maturity and genre bending style that will hopefully get this band recognized beyond the Celtic community.

The album starts with 'Batons and Guns', that begins with lamenting vocals that explodes into a hard pounding song that highlights some Gina Romantini's incredible fiddling. 'Gypsin' keeps the pace going with speedy vocals and riffs interspersed with a few slowed breaks. Just as you think your heart can take a rest, they ramp it right back up again. 'The Unknown' will give your pulse a chance to come down a few beats. Gina's fiddle playing and Eoin's vocals set a melancholy tone that is hauntingly beautiful. 'Burn Your Suicide Notes' will drive your feet tapping and pulse back up in a quick number that drives into 'Good Rat' for another heart pumping fast tune. 'Lucky One' features the vocals of Andrew David Weber that is one of my favorite songs on the album. With the soulful vocals and once again the fantastic fiddle of Gina Romantini. 'Thumpkeg' and 'Another Day Dead' are ramped up versions from their previous releases that was on *Moonshiners & Shoplifters*, their second EP. Both feel faster and much more in line with how they play in their live shows. 'Maria' brings the pace down in a song of lost

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love and sorrow – by now you will need the respite to prevent your heart from exploding. The lyrics, music and vocals are a perfect storm of longing. ‘When It All Comes Down’ continues your brief respite in another slow song. Eoin’s and Gina’s vocals are heartbreakingly deep with the fiddle work is achingly gorgeous. ‘Shutdown’ will quickly bring you out of your emotional introspection, pounding your hand on the closest hard surface. This song will have you shouting along at the top of your lungs. ‘Chuck’ brings the album to a close with a song of being on the road that is an anthem for those hard working bands that take time away from family and friends to spread their joy to the world. --- Randall Kelley, paddyrock.com

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