



Since 2003, Liverpool's Mugstar have been putting out singles and EPs like there is no tomorrow. Having released their second album, *...Sun, Broken...* on Important Records last year, the band subsequently started work on its follow-up

*Lime*

which Important are again happy to present. Jason Stoll talked to John Kealy of Brainwashed about

*Lime*

, film music and Hawkwind.

### **John Kealy (JK): How did Mugstar come to be?**

Jason Stoll (JS): Mugstar in this form has been together since 2003, me being the last person to join. But we had played shows with each others' bands before. We all loved similar bands, Sonic Youth, Black Sabbath, Hawkwind, Dinosaur Jr, etc., so it seemed likely that it was gonna happen one day. The band was initially called Muckstack which when asked by some one what the band was called, it was misheard and the person said "What, Mugstar?" so the name came into being. I'm glad for that person, whoever they may be!!

### **JK: Has the band developed in a way that you expected?**

JS: When we recorded the first 7" *Spotlight over Memphis* in 2003 we didn't have a definite idea of what we sounded like. We played a lot of shows which helped develop the sound, but I do think it developed organically rather than us having a master plan of how we would sound. We have did some shows with Oneida and they were an early influence on our emerging song structures.

I also think meeting producer Rob Whitely, who we have worked with for the past 5 or so years, helped as it has encouraged us in the studio to experiment with more ideas due to his recording technique. We have worked with a lot of producers, who although good at what they do, Rob fits with how work.

**JK: A lot of your recent album ...*Sun, Broken...* has a very strong krautrock and psychedelic feel, how important are these types of music to you? What music has been particularly inspirational to you?**

JS: I'd say that was a fair assessment - we do listen to a lot of kraut and psych music. You'll hear this more in *Lime*. They are really important styles of music to us and a way of moving far away from 'normal' song structures, and like I said earlier its not something we have made a conscious effect to do it has just happened. There are a lot of different influences from each band member but the main inspirations have been the likes of Sonic Youth, Neu!, Oneida, early Pink Floyd, Black Sabbath, Hawkwind, Soft Machine, Can, My Bloody Valentine, Boredoms, Steve Reich, Kraftwerk, Tortoise, The Stooges, Sun Ra, Spacemen 3, Dinosaur Jr., etc.

**JK: Speaking of Hawkwind, you popped up on a lot of people's radar as part of Tresmat's *Sonic Attack* tribute series of split singles to the band by being paired up with Mudhoney. Firstly, for a band who seem to fight against normal song structures, how did you find covering a band as sprawling as Hawkwind and secondly, did you feel intimidated sharing a release with Mudhoney, another band that has become legendary in their own rights?**

JS: Although we do fight against traditional song structures I think the deconstruction comes from how we write songs. We tend to bring ideas which we bash into submission until we are happy with the sound and structure. So, a traditional song format would never appear. I love Hawkwind's early 1970s policy of "total assault" which I would like to think we have mastered to a degree and want to progress further. So covering Hawkwind seemed like a natural thing to do as they had their deconstructed structures down to a fine art.

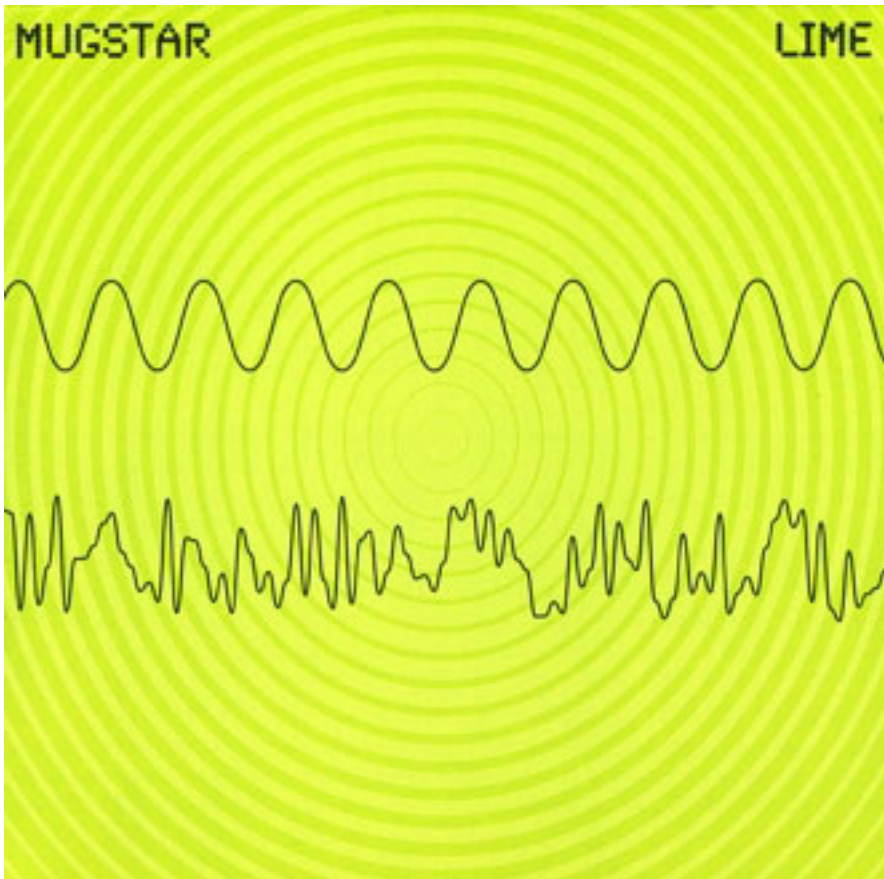
As for sharing a 7" record with Mudhoney we felt very honored and excited about it that I don't think we had chance to feel intimidated!! We initially had an idea to do a split 7" with both bands doing Hawkwind songs, but as we had contacted a number of bands, this then grew into a 60 minute album featuring Mudhoney, Kinski, Bardo Pond, White hills, Magoo, Acid Mothers, Moon Duo, and us. This is out now on our own label Critical Mass records, called *In Search of Hawkwind*

# Brainwashed - Mugstar: Total Assault on the Senses

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[In Search of Hawkwind - A variable New on Critical Mass Records](#)