

<http://www.rocknreelreviews.com/review/dixie-fried-a-ways-to-go/>

Dixie Fried; the very name conjures images of the Louisiana Bayou, glasses of Moonshine and whiskey, bubbling pots of crawfish stew and grizzled old black men fusing the Blues of their fathers with the Cajun and voodoo sounds of that most eclectic of American states.

So it's fair to say you know what you're expecting on an album from a band with such a name. Indeed, the tinny beat of the cowbell and the fuzz-soaked riffs that herald the arrival of opening track **On Shotgun**, do nothing to dispel that imagery. All of this makes it all the more surprising when you find out that it's actually being played by two very white white-boys from Whitburn in west Lothian. Honestly, fucking Whitburn! Not exactly the Mississippi delta, in fact up to now it was most famous musical export was Leon Jackson who won the fourth series of the fucking X-Factor.

Despite all that, it has to be said that that messrs Craig Lamie and John Murphy, the duo who make up **Dixie Fried**, can in fact rock like pair of mother-fuckers. Their sound is a stripped back, distortion-soaked version of the delta blues that owes as heavy a debt to the garage rock sounds of acts like The Black Keys and White Stripes as it does to Howlin' Wolf and Elmore James. Regardless of their Scots heritage Lamie & Murphy have produced a sound that is both authentic and original at the same time. Murphy's drums add a hypnotic beat to Lamie's killer riffs and slide licks, producing a surprisingly full and powerful sound for a duo.

A Ways To Go is the band's sophomore release for Glasgow Indie label Big Rock Candy Records, following on from 2011's self-titled debut, and it has made quite an impact on this here reviewer. Tracks like **Too Weird To Live, Too Rare to Die** and **Ballad Of a Bad Man** are ferocious little burst of intense sound and rhythm that pick you and drag you along in their wake leaving you spent and exhilarated by their end. The energy conveyed on this record has propelled **Dixie Fried** straight to the top of my "bands I need to see this year" list, and for once there is a decent chance I'm not gonna have to drive halfway across the fucking country to do so.

There are one or two small flaws here; it's not all solid gold. There is very little variation in style which can leave you feeling slightly over-saturated by the end of the record. On top of that, the one time they do veer off course slightly, on **The Resolve**, it turns out to be the one weak track on the album. As I said though, these are minor gripes.

On first glance **A Ways To Go** may look like it's aimed at a niche market, but I defy anyone with even an passing interest in music to listen to this record and not find themselves getting caught up in it.

This is proper music for proper grown-ups and I fucking love it!

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