



## Clinic

---

### ***Do It!*, out April 2008 on Domino Records**

*Do It!* is a summer album, a warped technicolor celebration -- pop music and severe cut-ups going from melody to acid psychosis to acoustic, usually in the same song. Recorded by Clinic in their Liverpool studio and mixed by Jacquire King (Tom Waits, Kings of Leon, Archie Bronson Outfit), *Do It!* is a skewed pop amalgam of Motown, Exuma, deep lounge and The Balloon Farm (amongst many).

Clinic's magisterial fifth album opens with what sounds like the melodious chimes of a harpsichord before all hell breaks loose. Asking you if you want the good or the bad news, the song lurches between Ade Blackburn's bittersweet vocal line concerning memory and the band tearing itself inside out. *Do It!* is a record dripping in a delicious and seductive tension. Clinic have never sounded so relaxed and so uptight.

On "Free Not Free" you'd be forgiven for thinking you were listening to a lost Isley Brothers acetate; until a guitar intervenes and the sense of reverie mutates, as it so often does, into caustic comedown. Clinic have long inhabited their own universe. The world of *Do It!* feels expanded and exploded! A fortune teller horse rides through "High Coin" accompanied by the moment "your thoughts begin to fray" and the band play on, locked in luminous syncopation.

"Mary and Eddie" features a classic Clinic melody line, eerie and intense for a turn around the psychic dancehall. But however spooked and hallucinatory the imagery, *Do It!* is equally exuberant, giddy and up. The album closes with the sound of church bells, the rhythmic sway of a drunken waltz and a guitar trying to mace someone - leaving you feeling peaceful, confused and pretty stunned.

#### **A Guide to *Do It!*:**

"Memories" -- Veers from it's music hall introduction to raw "Mirror Man" swing to high octane "Band on the Run" melodies (and back again). Sets the scene.

"Tomorrow" -- Henry Flynt and John Denver laced acoustic free festival workout. Living for today.

"The Witch (Made to Measure)" -- Neatly twisted Bo Diddley/Dr John dancefloor groover, about escaping a modern day witch-hunt for a new future.

"Free Not Free" -- Very mellow lounge, sliced up with severe fuzz. Contains the heartbreaking line "free not free your belly's full of glee".

"Shopping Bag" -- Off the scale freeform punk, as raw as they've sounded.

"Corpus Christi" -- Can/Electric Prunes hybrid of rhythm, marimba and warm surf, with the lyric "pet the pet who vets you more".

"Emotions" -- Another mellow excursion into acid stax and alcoholism. A love song.

"High Coin" -- Neo-dance craze tango, rhythmmed floorfiller.

"Mary and Eddie" -- Harmonium and acoustic Bavarian mindblower with electronics. Contains the line "reel in the quaker you zip up and taper".

"Winged Wheel" -- Out and out phased joy.

"Coda" -- Echo led outer-space album closer, reminiscent of Dion and the Belmonts. A touch of Christmas for the summer.

**". . . 70s horror movies, desiccated blues riffs, pagan sounding folk and even psychobilly... akin to walking in the woods at midnight – both spooky and compelling . . ." -- Uncut (4/5 stars)**

**"Behind these Liverpoolians' surgical masks lurks a knack for scalpel-honed rock that rises to near hypnotic beauty . . . With its lushly forbidding soundscapes and enigmatic lyricism, *Visitations* bears repeated journeys."**

**-- Ben Spier, Entertainment Weekly (A)**

**"These British minimalists are...masters of pith, shaving their ingenious tangle of surf guitar, 1960s garage organ and...melodica to galloping, bone-hard excellence." -- Rolling Stone**