

# DOWN BY LAW

## B I O G R A P H Y

DAVE SMALLEY.....VOCALS,GUITARS  
HUNTER OSWALD.....VOCALS, DRUMS  
SAM WILLIAMS.....GUITARS  
ANGRY JOHN.....BASS

"Forget the newly accepted corporate face on punk. It's time all the flannel shirt fashion kings and pimply faced seventeen year old suburban rebels know the truth. [Grunge rock] ain't punk, Down By Law are," says B-Side magazine. And their third Epitaph release, 'punkrockacademyfightsong', proves it with fifteen spine cracking, glass shattering, jubilantly melodic punk rock tunes.

All new members, except for veteran Dave Smalley, along with the production talents of Michael Douglas, have launched the band to new heights. "It's the first time Down By Law has had it's own line up...not sharing musicians with other bands like Claw Hammer and Chemical People," says Smalley. The first new addition was Angry John, formerly of the Clay Idols and the Leonard's who was introduced to the band by Bobby Schayer, drummer for Bad Religion. Sam and Hunter flew in from Florida to audition, threw their musical talents into the pot and created the best "version" of Down By Law to date.

The coupling of these two teens (Sam and Hunter) with old-schoolers John and Dave has driven Down By Law back to their bluntest punk rock roots. "We were so loud on our first night of recording that the Rolling Stones, who were recording across the hall, called and demanded that we 'turn that shit down,'" laughs Oswald. Yet the 19 songs of 'punkrockacademyfightsong' continue to reflect the quality songwriting that has marked the previous releases. "Somewhere a pen is busy with hate tonight/ jaded eyes and cynics bring me down/ somewhere a kid is playing his heart out tonight/ but he'll get nowhere with the Berkeley in-crowd/ well put downs are so easy/like a novel without a soul/ and every executioner wears a hood/when it's time for heads to roll/ well they're just like new dictators/ trying to tell us what to love"

cont.....

Anyone familiar with independent labels and the annals of punk rock history will instantly remember Dave Smalley's former exploits. In 1981, Smalley left the murder capital of America for a fresh scene in Boston, and founded DYS (Department Of Youth Services). From then until 1985, when Dave returned to Washington DC, DYS set the standard in straight-edge hardcore, churning out such enduring punk hits as 'Wolf Pack'. Back in DC, Smalley joined with Dischord artists Dag Nasty, recording "Can I Say" (and years later recorded "Four On The Floor") only to become one of the most well known pop/punk vocalists in the country. Then in 1988, he joined ALL (Cruz Records), and recorded two of their best records to date: 'Allroy Sez' and 'Allroy for Prez' and an EP called 'Just Perfect'.

With a legion of loyal fans and an extraordinary punk rock lineage from Smalley's earlier involvement with Dag Nasty, All and DYS, and with new recruits at every listen, Down By Law promises to surpass everyone's expectations with 'punkrockacademyfightsong'. "We have a new production team and a tougher attitude," says Smalley. "This album is by far Down By Law's strongest".