

TO HERE KNOWS WHEN - GREAT IRISH ALBUMS REVISITED

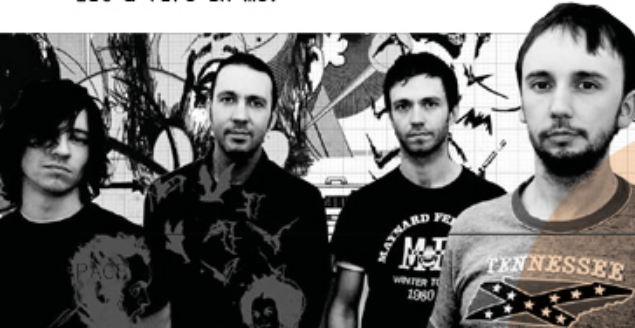
Zero For Conduct by Jetplane Landing

Last December when it was announced that *Zero For Conduct*, **Jetplane Landing's** debut album, was getting a vinyl reissue Frank Turner took to Twitter and wrote about the time in 2002 when his post-hardcore band Million Dead were looking around for inspiration: "We heard about this crazy punk band from Ireland called Jetplane Landing who had just done a 60 date tour of the UK. They must be insane! Maniacs! Heroes! A Black Flag for our time."

The band's DIY work ethic was proclaimed by the NME: "Northern Irish four-piece Jetplane Landing record their own albums in their own garage, book their own tours, release all their music on their own label, and very possibly pulp the paper to make the CD booklet with their own blistered hands."

Jetplane Landing were formed by guitarist and vocalist Andrew Ferris and bassist Jamie Burchill when their previous band, Northern-Irish rockers Cuckoo, disbanded. "We're the Anglo-Irish Agreement of bands," says Andrew. "I'm from Derry and Derry is really important for our story as a band. I mean Jamie's obviously English and Jetplane is as much about British rock music as it is Irish rock music."

That Petrol Emotion featured in a previous column and there's a lovely connection back to The Petrols here. "I learned how to play guitar in Derry at the feet of John O'Neill in a guitar club in the Northwest Musicians' Collective in 1990," explains Andrew. "Being 13 and going into a guitar class that was being taught by fucking John O'Neill. He said, 'What do you want to learn?'. I didn't really know who he was. Jamie and I talk about catching a fire but he really lit a fire in me."



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Soured by their experience on a major label in Cuckoo and definitely taking inspiration from Fugazi and DC Hardcore, Andrew and Jamie went it alone. *Zero For Conduct* was recorded in a home studio in Jamie's parents' garage in Bognor Regis. Released in 2001 on their own Smalltown America label, Kerrang declared the album, "an utterly ambitious but expertly executed debut." *Zero For Conduct* contained a number of absolute classic songs: '*Tiny Bombs*' is evocative of Wowie Zowie-era Pavement, '*Summer Ends*' is two and a half minutes of blistering guitar pop and '*This is Not Revolution Rock*' is without doubt one of the greatest songs of the 00s.

Smalltown America would go on to put out over 150 records for other bands before calling time in 2020. Jetplane Landing released four great albums between 2001 and 2014. Their second album, 2003's *Once Like a Spark* is probably more well known than the others but for me *Zero For Conduct* is the one, it packs a seriously emotional punch.

Zero For Conduct has recently been reissued on vinyl by Big Scary Monsters Records. The LP comes with a digital download of 19 demos and live tracks and detailed liner notes by Jamie.



Andrew Ferris and Jamie Burchill revisit *Zero For Conduct* on *To Here Knows When - Great Irish Albums Revisited*, available on all podcast platforms. Episode notes and further information: paulmcdermott.ie/podcast



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