

## PINK MOUNTAINTOPS (US)

**Album: «Get Back» (Jagjaguwar, release: 25.04.2014)**



*It's doubtful that Stephen McBean set out to make The Great Rock'N'Roll Primer when he started conjuring the songs that would come to be Pink Mountaintops' «Get Back». But when the aliens do touch down and they don't know rock'n'roll, you can play them «Get Back» start to finish, and that'll be all they need.*

<http://www.pinkmountaintops.com/>

Ask McBean about the record «Get Back» and he will tell you about «Alleys, curbs, walls, and cigarette stained gig flyers. An island on the Pacific coast. Fake British towns. Slayer posters. The beauty of youth. It's about listening to Driver's Seat and 'Guns of Brixton' and hotboxing The Duster.» And suddenly it becomes clear: when the aliens do touch down and they don't know rock'n'roll, you can play them «Get Back» start to finish, and that'll be all they need.

Get Back comes out swinging with «Ambulance City», a head-trip of a song with a chugging, insistent, oddly timeless guitar riff sitting front and center. «The Second Summer of Love» needs almost no explanation; it dives into 80s VHS saturation and never comes up for air. «Sell Your Soul» is a deep sigh and a motorcycle ride, a roll in the grass lamenting summertime blues with a little grit and a little harmony. And «North Hollywood Microwaves» is downright obscene. But what better way to start Side B than this? You can listen at hushed volumes so your parents don't hear, you can crank it in a dorm room, you can smirk to yourself from the safety of rock'n'roll's old age. You start to wonder - why don't all Side Bs start with a song like this one...

The number of platitudes in music hit critical mass years ago, and among those tropes is that annoying, inescapable mantra: rock'n'roll is undefinable. And yeah, sure, that's true. It's different things to different people. It starts with guitars, maybe, and ends with a stage-dive, or spit, or feedback. Rock'n'roll is drugs, is rebellion, is youth, is sex, is cosmic. It's wanting more than you have. Rock'n'roll is butts and cigarette butts. And Pink Mountaintops might not be the best-known band ever to make rock'n'roll, but in «Get Back» they just might have written its scripture – an exploration and celebration of what, exactly, rock'n'roll can be.

