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## HILL COUNTRY REVUE

### Make A Move

Razor & Tie - 7930183024-2

Hill country blues and hair metal. In the simplest possible terms, that's what Hill Country Revue throws against the wall on their debut album *Make A Move*. The North Mississippi Allstars spinoff (Cody Dickinson and Chris Chew of the Allstars are joined by Daniel Coburn, Kirk Smithhart, and Edward Cleveland) self advertise as bold and brash, loud and southern proud. The group delivers on that promise of a cocky musical concoction complete with their own theme song, but for all the posturing the record has few memorable moments.

The album opens with the R.L. Burnside homage *Alice Mae*, a tribute to his beloved wife who passed away late last year. R.L.'s youngest son Garry hauls the rest of the songwriting load save *Highway Blues*, and the familial connection shows on *Dirty Shirt* which sounds every bit like an over-amplified R.L. tune. Of course, that's part of the problem; R.L. would have sounded like a badass over this bravado but Coburn's vocals result in generic southern fried rock as he constantly parrots up and down with the guitar melody,

a trick the band beats to death before the record ends.

*Dirty Shirt* also shows promise when a too brief acoustic spell is funky up with electric chicken scratching. *Make A Move* could use more of these moments and the boys do deliver a song-fall on *Georgia Women*, a harp-driven juke joint blues burner minus the blues-rock clichés. For the most part, the Hill Country Revue eschews this aesthetic to follow the dueling guitars caught in an album-long pissing contest (see *Ramblin'* or the hackneyed *Growing Up In Mississippi*). The goal is a modern touch but too often the album sounds over the top.

—THOMAS FAWCETT

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