

THE TITLE TRACKERS
PRESENT
LOST TITLE TRACKS



You've probably never given more than a passing thought to the fact that some albums have title tracks (*Born to Run*, *Let It Be*), while others don't (*Exile on Main Street*, *The Joshua Tree*).

Well, The Title Trackers DID notice – and they decided to do something about it by writing and recording the title tracks that their rock heroes “forgot” to.

In the ten satirical songs on their debut album *Lost Title Tracks*, the three project founders ask themselves the question, “what might the title tracks to legendary albums have sounded like if they'd been created?” In answering that question, they've written and recorded songs that conjure the spirits and the sounds of some of rock's most iconic albums.

Exile on Main Street. *The Joshua Tree*. *Who's Next*. *Morrison Hotel*. These are just some of the records for which The Trackers have created title tracks – songs the band jokingly call “the greatest hits NEVER written.”

In their live show, The Title Trackers bring this rock n' roll carnival to the stage. Jim Morrison staggers through the audience, Bono preaches to the masses, Johnny Cash riles up the prisoners of San Quentin, Bruce Springsteen and Billy Joel vie for the East Coast crown. At times comic, at other times poignant, this interactive show blends rock concert and theater performance to deliver these original rock anthems.

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CALENDAR

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ALBUM RELEASES

Greatest songs that never were

What would 'Exile on Main Street' the single sound like if it existed? Title Trackers answer.

BY RANDY LEWIS

Why didn't someone think of this before? Record an album filled with the title tracks from some of the greatest rock and pop albums of all time, including "Exile on Main Street," "The Joshua Tree," "Combat Rock" and "Blood on the Tracks."

None of those albums actually has a song of the same name as the record's title, but that didn't stop the Title Trackers, an ad hoc band of L.A. musicians who release "The Title Trackers' Lost Title Tracks" on Tuesday.

"So many of our favorite albums have such evocative titles but no song with that title," Title Trackers cofounder Andy Hill said in a statement on the album. "So we asked ourselves, what might a song called 'Exile on Main Street' have sounded like had the Stones recorded it — and how can we put our own imprint on the song by amping up the Stones' sound, attitude and all the quirks we love?"

That's what makes the "Lost Title Tracks" album so much fun. Each song is done in the style of the artists, which also includes Tom Petty ("Full Moon Fever"),

Billy Joel ("Glass Houses"), Bruce Springsteen ("Greetings From Asbury Park, N.J."), Johnny Cash ("Live at San Quentin") and the Who ("Who's Next").

The Title Trackers dreamed up original songs riffing on each of those titles, results including "Checking Into the Morrison Hotel," "Chopping Down the Joshua Tree" and "Got Our Sling-shot and Our Combat Rock."

Raw guitar licks and raucous drumbeat open "Living in Exile on Main Street" and a breathy rocker's whisper charts the journey down Jersey backstreets in "The Trackers Send Greetings From Asbury Park, N.J."

The players insist it's all about affection, not affectation. "Each of our singing voices was influenced by these artists," said David Tokaji, cofounder of the group with Hill and Russell Wiener. "So we were able to maintain our own personality while creating recognizable parody. It's not about impersonation — we're creating songs in both their image and our own."

The group is slated for a performance at the Satellite in Silver Lake on March 29.

They've already garnered an impressive testimonial: "I think the songs are really good, and I think the concept is brilliant," musician-producer Alan Parsons said. "'Exile' is unmistakably Stones. Hats off to you."

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MIKE CHAVEZ

RUSSELL WIENER, left, David Tokaji and Andy Hill are releasing set of songs inspired by album titles.

LA WEEKLY

March 11, 2015

Thanks to These Guys, *The Joshua Tree* and *Who's Next* Now Have Title Tracks

By Matt Wake

Andy Hill and David Tokaji were so jazzed about going to see The Rolling Stones' 2006 Dodger Stadium show, the anticipation grew beyond guessing whether or not the band would perform "Dead Flowers." Or "Tumbling Dice." Or any other Stones song in existence.

"It reached such a pitch that we were saying, like, 'Wouldn't it have been rad if they'd written a title track for Exile on Main St.?' Tokaji says. "Or if they'd written a title track for Tattoo You?"

And that's how The Title Trackers started. The clever parody project involves longtime Los Angeles musicians Hill, Tokaji and Russell Wiener writing and recording title tracks to classic albums that do not have title tracks. The Stones ode "Living on Exile on Main Street" was the first tune they penned. The Title Trackers song captures the blues-pop panache, sweaty horn lines and background vocals that are the essence of Exile on Main St., The Stones' 1972 masterwork LP.

"These two had this kind of running gag with non-existent title tracks for a long time and I started getting in on it, too," Wiener says. "And at a certain point I'm like, 'This is a pretty good idea. We might actually want to record something.'"

On March 10, The Title Trackers will release their first album, *Lost Title Tracks*. The LP's 10 cuts include parodies of Tom Petty ("Full Moon Fever Gone to Our Heads"), The Doors ("Checking in to the Morrison Hotel"), U2 ("Chopping Down the Joshua Tree") and Johnny Cash (the winkingly titled "Doomed to Live at San Quentin").

Hill, Tokaji and Wiener — or Tracker Andy, Tracker Dave and Tracker Russ, as they like to be called — do a nifty job rendering aural details. On The Doors cut, for example, besides Hill's solid Jim Morrison-isms, they used an Gibson SG-centered guitar rig similar to Robbie Krieger's. They even enlisted Ty Dennis, from the reformed Doors project The Doors of the 21st Century, to play drums. The Title Trackers tune "Throwing Stones at Glass Houses" actually features longtime Billy Joel saxophonist Richie Cannata, whom they reached out to via Facebook.

Wiener says, "The truth is even without all the technical stuff it's just all in our blood and when we sit down to record this stuff or even rehearse it, it already kind of sounds right. We already know what some of these guys would do on bass or guitar."

Hill, Tokaji and Wiener also perform together in the L.A. jangle-rock combo Dry September. In *Title Trackers*, they share vocal, guitar and bass tasks, with Wiener engineering and producing recording at his Silver Lake studio.

Not everything cut for *Lost Title Tracks* stuck. An attempt to do faux Fleetwood Mac based on Rumors hit the cutting-room floor.

On March 14, The Title Trackers will embark on their "Rolling Tracker Revue," a one-day "concert tour" of local record stores, including Amoeba, Vacation Vinyl and Rockaway Records.

"We looked at the vibe and identity of each store [to] figure what would be the best match for each one," Tokaji says. "Vacation Vinyl is one of the hardest to pin down, so we decided to do Johnny Cash there because everybody is down with Johnny Cash, whether you're into goth, metal or whatever."

Some "Rolling Tracker Revue" stops will involve minor costuming. (An Edge skull cap, perhaps?) Each mini-set will involve three songs: an actual title track by the artist being parodied, a *Lost Title Track* tune and a "wildcard," such as "Johnny Cash" covering something from Metallica's *Kill 'Em All*.

"None of us ever really considered forming a tribute band, though they're fun to see," Hill says. "A writer can't help but want to write, and this was an amazing project for three writers with many of the same influences. None of us could have made this album on our own; we needed the blend of influences, voices and abilities."

The Title Trackers have much respect for parody-tune icon Weird Al, but "what we do is fairly different," Tokaji says. "For one thing, his lyrics rarely relate to the actual band. For example 'Lola' becomes 'Yoda,' because it's a convenient rhyme at the right time in pop culture." The group is releasing *Lost Title Tracks* on vinyl, with each copy also including a CD version of the disc. A proper album release show is set for March 29 at the Satellite.

The Title Trackers are already lining up parody possibilities for a follow-up. Songs inspired by title-track-less classics such as *Abbey Road* and *License to Ill* are high on the list. Tokaji says, "We're not proprietary about what we're doing. These titles are so good that they really inspired music we would have never thought of. And we want other people to feel that."

What Are People Saying About The Title Trackers' *LOST TITLE TRACKS* Album and Show?

"The greatest songs that never were. Why didn't someone think of this before?"

Randy Lewis – *LA Times*

"The concept is brilliant. Hats off to you."

Alan Parsons – *Legendary Producer/Artist/Engineer*

"The Title Trackers capture the blues-pop panache, sweaty horn lines and background vocals that are the essence of *Exile on Main Street*."

Matt Wake – *LA Weekly*

"Clever and super fun. Musicianship is excellent, the writing goes back and forth between craftsmanlike and downright funny and the production is really good."

Peter Jespersen – *New West Records*

"What a great concept and project to honor such a great era of music and album making."

Richie Cannata – *Saxophone/Organ for Billy Joel's Band*

"Seriously talented musicians/satirists who've hit upon a great way of not taking themselves or their favorite artists TOO seriously"

Backstreets.com (#1 Springsteen News/Fan Site)

"This is damn good entertainment. Nobody thought it could be done, but the Title Trackers have made a great case for playing new music on oldies radio."

Greg Burk – *MetalJazz.com*

"In the vast, post-2K landscape of Remix Culture, it is exceedingly rare to come across artists doing an original take on *anything*. The guys in The Title Trackers, however, are a breed apart."

Rick Damigella – *@linernotes Music Blog*

Learn More at www.LostTitleTracks.com

THE
TITLE TRACKERS
— PRESENT —

LOST TITLE TRACKS

SIDE 1

living in **EXILE ON MAIN STREET**

FULL MOON FEVER *gone to our heads*

checking in to the **MORRISON HOTEL**

*the
Trackers
send* *throwing stones at* **GLASS HOUSES**

GREETINGS FROM ASBURY PARK, N.J.

SIDE 2

chopping down **THE JOSHUA TREE**

doomed to **LIVE AT SAN QUENTIN**

WHO'S NEXT *: a meta-rock opera*

got our slingshot and our **COMBAT ROCK**

BLOOD ON THE TRACKS
*v
title*