## The Jon Spencer Blues Explosion shows its teeth

STREET

the title to a
campy horror
flick than a rock
record. But The
Jon Spencer
Blues Explosion isn't toying with

four years, the New York City

STEPHANIE
CASOLA

With 12 songs so brutally spatic, it was wait. Plastic Fang hits stores
Tuesday, April 9 and JSBX arrives Saturday, May 11 for a performance at St. Andrews Hall in Detroit.

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l Detroit. If the record exudes a rock

THE WORLD!

'A WINNER!"

"WAY COOL!"

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you. After nearly

chaotic mix of influences — from punk and hard-core to rock and sou! "It wouldn't be the Blues Explosion without the three of us," he declared.

Spencer, Simins and Bauer bring their own experiences, influences and attitudes to the music. "It's who the three of us are as people," said Spencer. "It's what we do. It's what breakfast we ate."

Now more than a decade later, all these greatilf fully bugged.

New-fangled: The Jon Spencer Blues Explosion - (Left to right) Russell Simins, Spencer and Judah Bauer - will release their latest rawk record Plastic Fang, Tuesday. The band performs in Detroit next month.

of get out of where I was."

Spencer didn't netually pick up a guitar until the age of 20. While attending Brown University, he began playing with a few different bands. Spencer dabbled in bass and drums before grabing a guitar — that coincided with the creation of Puessy, Calore, the punk band that preceded his days of Blues Explosion.

ceded his days of Blues Explosion.
By 1991, The Jon Spencer
Blues Explosion formed with
help from drummer Russell
Simins and guitarist Judal
Bauer. Contrary to the name,
the band doesn't play the blues.
What JSBX does offer is an
almost undefinable, consistently

songwriting. I'm always sur-prised when people any 'You don't really write songs.'
These days, Spencer finds him-sol' writing about his personal life and expressing his feelings more than over. It might have something to do with becoming a husband and father. 'I feel a great urgency to get some of that stuff out there.'
It's best represented in the sin-

stuff out there.

It's best represented in the single She Said and the song Killer Wolf.

For me, its was a great joy to kinda sing sad songs. It was very satisfying to grow like that. It wasn't easy.

The band began work on Plastic Fang in Fall 2000, but didn't move into the studio — Manhattan's Oorong Sound — until last June. Because JSBX kept touring, the new songs changed sub-

tan's Oorong Sound — until last June. Because JSBX kept touring, the new songs changed substantially before they were committed to compact disc. "It certainly holps the songs," said Spencer. "It helps us see things about the songs," if Recorded with producer Steve Jordan and mixed by Don Smith, some songs were forever altered in the studio. One of the best examples is Mean Heart. "It was more uptempo," he said. "More of a rock song, When we went into the studio, we wanted to do a kind of country or blues version of it. We did an almost acoustic version."

Anyone still clinging to a copy of Acme, a record that earned critical praise and dabbled in

WO THUMBS UP"

NOW PLAYING

"'PANIC ROOM' WILL MAKE YOU JUMP OUT OF YOUR SEAT."

"IT'S ONE OF THE BEST FILMS YOU'LL SEE ALL YEAR."

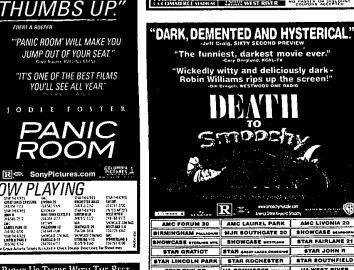
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electronics with guests like Dan the Automator, Alec Empire and indie guru Steve Albini, might be surprised at the sound of Plastic Fang. The record is less about experimentation and production and more faithful to the force of the band's live show. While tour plans are still in the works, one thing is certain—the bus will stop at St. Andrews Hall next month. "It's gonna be great," Spencer promised.

Catch The Jon Spencer Blues Explosion 9 p.m. Saturday, Mayr. 11, St. Andrews Hall, 431 E. 201. Congress, Detroit. 18 and older 11, welcome. Tickets \$15. Call (248) 2016 645-6666.

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FOR MORE INCORNACION ABOUT THIS MOVE. (movielone)

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If the record exudes a rock escapist quality, it probably isn't an accident. Spencer's always viewed music in that way. "Iguess when I was young I started music, he said in a p h o n complete in the Jon Spencer of The Jon

is currently listening to records by ...

Speedball
Baby Yeah Yeah
Yeahs

teeninger, it teeninger, it teeninger, it to be a comme so obsessed with it. I wanted to play it. I saw it as a way to kind



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