

HA HA TONKA

BUCKLE IN THE BIBLE BELT

BS145 | RELEASE DATE: SEPTEMBER 11, 2007
ON TOUR ALL SUMMER AND FALL - SEE FLIPSIDE FOR DATES

ROARING OUT OF THE OZARKS WITH A BOTTLE IN ONE HAND AND A BIBLE IN THE OTHER, Ha Ha Tonka mix sanctified four-part harmonies and blistering rock, carving out songs that evoke the dichotomies that define their home. The Springfield, Missouri natives dubbed their new album *Buckle in the Bible Belt* in homage to their hometown, so named for its position on the dividing line of the Ozark states. Their dark view of the realities of socio-economic hardship, backwoods prejudices and drug abuse is leavened by wry humor and a deep appreciation for regional storytelling traditions.

The band's first single from the album, "St. Nick on the Fourth in a Fervor" combines harmonies and biting guitar riffs with lyrics that delve into issues of nationalism, religious allegiances, and rites of passage. "It's an attempt to point out the fallacy of wrapping yourself in the flag, religion or worse yet, both at the same time," explained Brian Roberts. The song also depicts better times, with the refrain "...this glimpse of brilliance is much better than your long look at mediocrity." "Gusto" and "Up Nights" tackle the tragic legacy of methamphetamine in rural areas while "Hangman" and original "Caney Mountain" mine the deep veins of regional folk music.



Buckle in the Bible Belt was recorded, fittingly, in an old church in Union, Missouri, with a control booth where the pulpit had once been. Augmented with piano and organ, the songs bring to mind southern bands like REM and Kings of Leon as well as classics like The Band and Bruce Springsteen.

Formed in 2004 under the name Amsterband, the band released their debut CD, "Beatchen" and hit the road, playing with a diverse range of acts including Tapes' n'Tapes, Say Anything, Soul Asylum, Limbeck and Robert Randolph & The Family Band. The band self-released *Buckle in the Bible Belt* in 2006 before catching the attention of Bloodshot Records and signing their deal in May 2007. The band decided a name change was in order, and chose Ha Ha Tonka, the name of a state park in the Ozarks.

HA HA WHAT?

It's a nod to the boys' Ozark pride. It's the name of a state park in southwestern Missouri, full of natural bridges, sandstone cliffs, caves and a castle. That's right, a castle. Some crackpot rich guy built himself a Scottish style castle around 1900. It burned down, but the ruins are still an attraction.

Thus, Ha Ha Tonka want you all to know there is more to their home stomping grounds than Branson, walnut bowl outlet stores and Jesse James' hideout.

THIRSTY? HOW ABOUT A HA HA TONKA COCKTAIL!

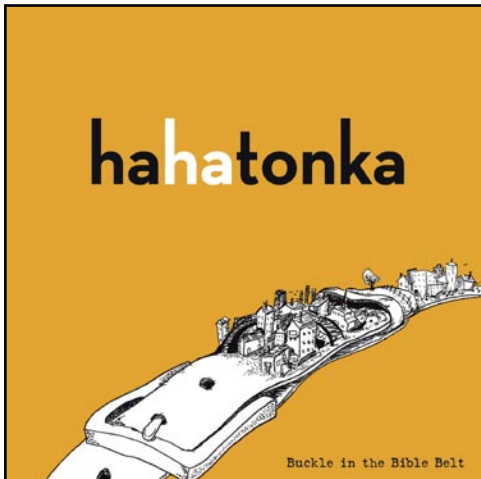
IT'S EASY:

- 1 oz vodka
- 1 oz amaretto almond liqueur
- 1 oz sloe gin
- 1 oz Southern Comfort peach liqueur
- orange juice

Fill a 16 oz cup with ice, pour in alcohol, then top with orange juice.



Bloodshot Records 3039 W. Irving Park Rd, Chicago, IL 60618
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BUCKLE IN THE BIBLE BELT
AVAILABLE SEPTEMBER 11, 2007

1. Up Nights
2. St. Nick On The Fourth in a Fervor
3. Gusto
4. Falling In
5. Hangman
6. Caney Mountain
7. This Is Not a Cure For The Common Cold
8. Bully In The Pulpit
9. Cureall
10. You Lit Up the Night



HA HA TONKA

ON TOUR ALL SUMMER AND FALL
SELECT DATES WITH VIOLENT FEMMES AND THE OLD 97'S

- Jul 10 - Moonlight Gardens at Coney Island Park in Cincinnati, OH *
- Jul 11 - Promowest Pavillion in Columbus, OH *
- Jul 12 - Royal Oak Music Theatre in Detroit, MI *
- Jul 13 - 4th Street Live in Louisville, KY *
- Jul 24 - Southgate House in Newport, KY +
- Jul 25 - Beachland Ballroom & Tavern in Cleveland, OH +
- Jul 28 - Chameleon in Lancaster, PA +
- Aug 4 - Brat Days in Sheboygan, WI
- Aug 20 - North Dakota State University in Fargo, ND
- Aug 24 - Artstreet in Green Bay, WI
- Aug 26 - Skokiefest in Skokie, IL
- Sep 2 - Carroll College in Waukesha, WI
- Sep 3 - UW-Platville in Plattville, WI
- Sep 4 - Augsburg College in Minneapolis, MN
- Sep 5 - UW-Green Bay in Green Bay, WI
- Sep 6 - Waukesha County Tech in Waukesha, WI
- Sep 6 - UW-Stout in Menomonie, WI
- Sep 7 - UW-Marathon County in Wausau, WI
- Sep 8 - Beloit College in Beloit, WI
- Sep 13 - UW-Waukesha in Waukesha, WI
- Sep 14 - UW-Eau Claire in Eau Claire, WI
- Sep 15 - UW-Stevens Point in Stevens Point, WI
- Oct 3 - UM-Moorhead in Moorhead, MN
- Oct 4 - North Dakota State College of Science in Wahpeton, ND
- Oct 8 - Ripon College in Ripon, WI
- Oct 8 - Lawrence University in Appleton, WI
- Oct 9 - Saint Mary's University in Winona, MN
- Oct 11 - Coe College in Cedar Rapids, IA
- Oct 12 - Carthage College in Kenosha, WI
- Oct 23 - University of Dubuque in Dubuque, IA

* - with the Violent Femmes
+ - with The Old 97's

**CHECK OUT THE
HAHA TONKA
VIDEO BLOG!**

www.youtube.com/hahatonkamusic



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