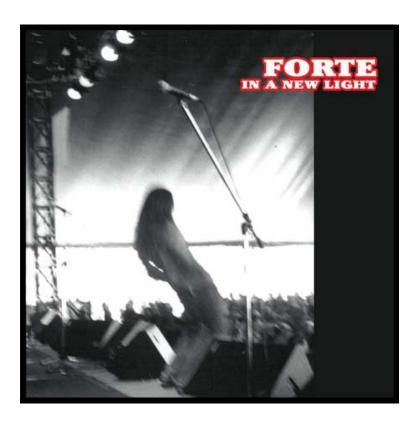
Album Reviews

In a New Light



Herald Sun

23rd March - In A New Light - David Flaherty

Not since AC/DC and Rose Tattoo has Australia had a rock 'n' roll outfit that kicks out the jams as loudly and as proudly as Forte. With its powerful Black Sabbath - inspired sound, Forte delivers an exciting aural onslaught that is comparable to that of such rock heavyweights

Monster Magnet and Clutch.

The bands sonic heaviness is accentuated by its preference for mid-tempo grinding rhythms and chugging guitar riffs. Vocalist Andy Walker struts out the albums mystical lyrics with a charisma that lies somewhere between that of Glenn Danzig and Ian Astbury.

"Not since AC/DC and Rose Tattoo has Australia had a rock 'n' roll outfit that kicks out the jams as loudly and as proudly as Forte"

In A New Lights only fault lies in its tight, clean production. Although the albums overall sound is awesome, a little more dirt and looseness would make highlight cuts Her Motives Right, White Sands Of Brays and Risin' Sun Of Venus close to perfect.



In A New Light - cd of the week

The title doesn't suggest that Forte have gone and turned into a Bavarian folk group or something. Far from it. On their debut album they have produced more of the cracker "full-on ballsy roots rock"

that they are known for (he says appropriating vocalist Andy Walkers words). Even the massive fifty second intro should be like a warning light on a plane to strap yourself in because you're in for one hell of a rock ride.

"mammoth riffs + massive groove = pretty bloody good rock album"

Ghost Train cranks along with one of those big thumping riffs that the



lads come up with every now and again, and the absolutely huge chorus. Her Motives Right is one of those Sabbath via Kyuss riffs with crash cymbals flaying away and everyone rocking out. The big riffs also abound on the albums title track and Fly. Deadweight

has the jackhammer approach to riffing due to its choppy nature. Monsta Trucka has a hint of prog rock or psychedelia in there with its big wah wah solos and ethereal backing vocals, but it still rocks mightily. The wah wah also gets another solid workout in White Sands of Brays, sounding like their manipulating a Kyuss riff.

Occasionally they lay off a bit on the continuous riffing, such as on the melodic rock of *Rising Sun of Venus*. *One twenty* is another that doesn't rely on huge big riffs, more on the groove. *Santa Rosa* is a gorgeous instrumental that has an acoustic guitar dictating the groove coloured by only a couple of riffs. *Skychaser* is straight up classic old school rock and roll.

I thought at maybe 14 tracks there might have been a bit of filler in there. Nope, it's all about killer groove rock from go to Sloglyde (the final track). Well actually the latter is a cruisy, almost psychedelic influenced number that ever so slowly builds with swinging groove in bucketloads, and then breaks it down just before the end. All up mammoth riffs + massive groove = pretty bloody good rock album. Mark Neilson - March

DB Magazine

'In A New Light' is the intoxicating debut album from Forte, Byron Bay's loudest export. Featuring the Triple J hit Skychaser, a heavy pumping groovy piece of great rock, and a kick-ass title track, it's easy to get hooked on this stuff.

With overdriven guitars, driving tempos and a strong groove, Forte's music can best be described as stoner rock. However, there is not a single boring moment on this album - from start to finish the material is killer.

While Skychaser and the title track are hard to top, Submachine, Deadweight and White Sands Of Brays are all examples of big fat rock that could knock your socks off, as well as your head. For more laid-back Aussie rock " big fat rock that could knock your socks off"

Her Motive Right, One Twenty and Santa Rosa should not be missed, glazed with just a little bit more psychedelia than the rest of the album, until the closing track, the stoner rock Slo Glyde, leaves the listener with that satisfied feeling that only an album of this calibre can leave.

Fans of stoner rock and bands such as Mammoth Volume, Atomic Bitchwax and Dozer will love 'In A New Light'. With two great EPs behind them and an even better new album there is sure to be a bright future in-store for this truly promising band. - Sarah Green



April - Review by Robyn Doreian

Forte hark back to the not too distant past when guitars were played by men unafraid to grow facial hair, who delivered heavy arse riffs like their lives depended on it. Serving up a brew of Kyuss-styled psychedelia

and no-nonsense AC/DC fashioned riffing, set against a backbone of crashing cymbals and a pace far to strenuous for those weened on rock 'lite', this NSW quintet weild some serious axe.

"this NSW quintet weild some serious axe"



Although the bulk of the 14 songs on their debut are straight-ahead rockers, there is enough variation provided by the instrumental, 'Santa Rosa' and the more considered 'Slo Glyde' to prevent *In A New Light* turning into one gargantuan iam session.



Cd review for In A New Light.

Fortes debut album *In A New Light* plays on ambitious song structures, heavy psychedelic grooves and dynamic, winding melodies.

The production is sharp, yet with the band achieving such a mammoth sound, it makes even the heaviest songs sound deceptively bright. Andy's strong vocals evoke images that are undoubtedly influenced by Forte's time spent on the open road. Track *Monsta Trucka* epitomises the bands unique combination of elements. Starting out with an obscure melody, it explodes into an intense riff, segues into a spaced out, psychedelic bridge, then lets rip for its conclusion.

****1/2





Reviewed by Simon June 1st

Stoner rock isn't the number one genre that the kids these days listen to and therefore in saying that there are probably a handful of quality stoner rock bands kicking around Australia. The genre has been lead by Queensland rebel assaulters Rollerball but there is this little five piece band out of Byron Bay who go by the name of Forte and at the present are making quite a name for themselves on the back of their debut full length album "In A New Light".

This effort by the lads from the North Coast of New South Wales is certainly not one to take light heartedly and after the instrumental intro comes the a spinal chord busting 'Ghost Train' that stands up

and delivers in a huge way with a riff as daunting as Brett Lee's fast ball. Tracks such as 'Submachine' and 'Her Motives Right' follow the trend of loud, chilling ballads and sweep taking vocals as front man Andy Walker

"very balanced and very true to rock 'n' roll."

dominates proceedings with his voice putting old mate out of Almost Famous to shame.



'OneTwenty' and
'Deadweight' are the
albums strongest period
as not only catchy and
well composed chords are
the focus point but so
many pieces of music
fitting the puzzle to
establish 6 minutes of
solid and identifying work
that even gets grandpa
out of the arm chair and
applauding for more. With old style rock there
is always room for a good

instrumental and 'Santa Rosa' is an effort that any muso would be proud of as the repeated riffs are so catchy yet so raw in presence.

'Skychaser' is another notable track that is at the back end of the album to weigh up this 50 minute blockbuster and its end to end solidarity.

This effort from Forte is a very strong start to their career. With rock bands starting out the first album always seems good in parts and extremely weak in others but with this outing from Forte it is very balanced and very true to rock 'n' roll a live and clean sound is certainly the focus point with this album as it impresses and delivers the expectation that these guys gained prior to this release.

We've seen acts like Giants Of Science and Rollerball break through the Australian scene with the old style of rock 'n' roll. As mentioned before there are not many bands like these guys getting around but the ones that are in the fray



are certainly top notch and Forte fit that category.



Time Off Magazine May - CD Review - In A New Light

With their debut EP recorded only months after the band's inception, it's clear Byron rockers Forte have really benefited from a couple of

years relentless touring and time spent honing their massive sound.

On this debut album, the five-piece deliver 14 tracks of precise and unrelenting

Aussie rock'n'roll that really packs a punch. The dual guitars interplay perfectly with the monster rhythm section and frontman Andy

wall of sound that mixes groove,

Walker's vocals to create a fantastic melody and power with a cascade of riffs just begging to be played at full volume.

"14 tracks of precise and

unrelenting Aussie

rock'n'roll that really

packs a punch"

Despite the disc's length there are no real weak tracks, and highlights include 'Deadweight', 'Skychaser', 'Submachine' and the beautiful instrumental 'Santa Rosa'. While there are some stoner moments here, there are also some psychedelic tracks and lashings of AC/DC-inspired power rock. In A New Light covers much ground both stylistically and sonically and is sure to appeal not only to long-hairs but to anyone who appreciates quality heavy music.- Steve Bell





Kerrang! Magazine - Issue 4/ - Review by Simon Jones

Floating somewhere between stoner, psychedelic and good 'ole

fashioned Oz Rock, Forte have spent the past few years lighting a torch to stages up and down the east coast and by the sound of things, a doobie or

"top class"

1000. Given the somewhat constrictive dimensions of the genres of which they work there isn't much room for shattering musical boundaries, but what they do within those Monster-Magnetesque walls is top class.

Let down only by the length of the album - 14 songs is, in all honesty, a few too many - and some questionable lyrics, such downfalls are compensated for by the shimmering, almost epic like OneTwenty and some monster riffage in the likes of Submachine and Skychaser. Get on board, Baby.



Noise Theory - Review of In A New Light - April

Following a scenario similar to most Australian rock bands on independent labels, Forte didn't receive the widespread attention they deserved following the release of their 7-track debut EP 'Tripping In The Vast Exterior' in 2001. Despite only being together for a couple months before it's release, 'Tripping In The Vast Exterior' gave terrific insight into the development of a hardrock band, and with the help of the monstrous lead track 'Momentum' (an absolute must-listen song), the band gained minimal underground exposure via surf videos and indie compilations, yet wider recognition evaded Forte. With the release of it's follow-up, their first full-length 'In A New Light,' this severely under-rated 5-piece attempt to make a change.

Born out of the Australian surfing town of Byron Bay, marijuana and alcohol is as important aspect of the lifestyle as the ever-

present waves, and the influence of the stoner Byron Bay lifestyle is obvious on 'In A New Light.' It seems that this record is made purely for the 3-hour car trip between Byron Bay and it's closest major city, Brisbane. A soundtrack, if you will.



With three guitarists, all of a distortion-

hungry nature, you don't have to be a genius to predict that 'In A New Light' will be one of the most guitar-heavy records of 2003, and thanks to tracks like the grinding, almost metal-like 'Her Motives Right' and 'Ghost Train,' Forte prove they haven't lost any hard edges.

As well as borrowing some very (early) Alice Cooper-ish rock ideals, Forte still keep a strong level of stoner-rock presence in just about all of their 14 tracks on 'In A New Light.' 'Fly,' 'Monsta Trucka,' 'Skychaser' and 'White Sands Of Brays' are all driven by a hard groove that would work an equal effect as the already mentioned soundtrack either for the long straight highway with the speedometer slowly raising, or alternatively at a set of traffic light with the windows down and stereo at maximum volume,

Forte's impressively thick wall of sound drowning out the dull thump of Nelly or Eminem coming from the car adjacent.

The five heads of long, dirty hair that the Forte machine runs on hide the brains of 5 intelligent musicians who, without losing the required repetitiveness of a stoner/hard-rock band,



realise that some variation and experimental pieces make a complete album. 'In A New Light' features some nifty near-psychedelic trips, most notably 'Slo Glyde,' and 'Monsta Trucka,' and even some acoustic action on the fantastic 'Santa Rosa.' While vocalist Andy Walker never reaches any great extremes (other than a brief scream on the album's best track 'Fly'), his strong and clear delivery suits the bands rolling style of music, Walker sitting

"If ever there was an album that could appeal to metal-heads just as easily as it could bust the eardrums open on stonerheads, Forte's debut LP 'In A New Light' is it"

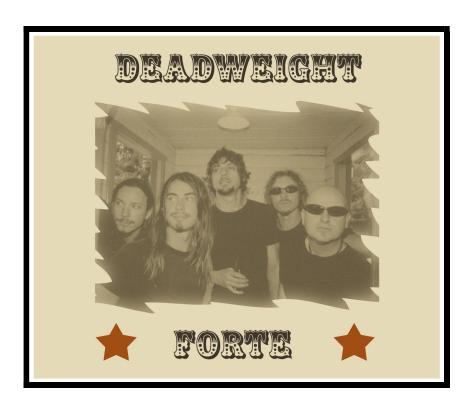
somewhere between Hoodoo Gurus (Faulkner) and Fu Manchu (Hill).

If ever there was an album that could appeal to metal-heads just as easily as it could bust the eardrums open on stoner-heads, Forte's debut LP 'In A New Light' is it. Delivered with

the confidence of a few rounds of beer, Forte could not have hoped for anything more out of a debut, and hopefully this time around this road-trip soundtrack will turn a few more heads their way. Rating: 8.2 out of 10.

Single Reviews

Deadweight



Beat Magazine 25 Jun Just another wannabe Aussie stoner-rock band? Not on this evidence. Forte's Deadweight doesn't bother with introductions, it's undeniable from the outset - banging down your door, setting up camp in your loungeroom and proceeding to rock all night long......, forceful, intense, straight-up but with



"forceful, intense, straight-up"

more colour than a bunch of long haired blokes from Byron Bay would usually bother with. Oz-rock pigs, meet your new heroes. Everyone else, grab a VB and search out any vantage point you can - this is gonna be a hell of a night.

Inpress Magazine 25.6.03 - single review.

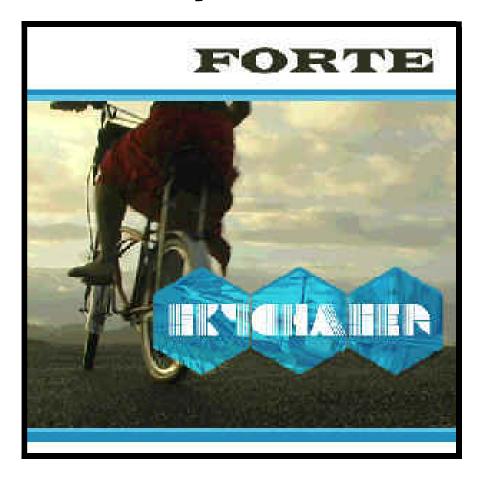
Yes indeed, with *Deadweight* These Byron Boys prove that they have mastered the balance between classic, crunching Aussie hard rock and the wall-of-sound fuzz of stoner rock What's that, a cross between AC/DC and Fu Manchu? That's got to get you drooling and it's right where Forte are aiming. While they avoid

the histrionic, highpitched wails of traditional hardrock/metal singers in favour of a much cooler Scott Hill croon, they're not afraid to throw in some sparser rock riffs and Angus style solo action.

"they have mastered the balance between classic, crunching Aussie hard rock and the wall-ofsound fuzz of stoner rock"

Single Reviews

Skychaser



www.Daredevil.de (Germany)

You better play that loud otherwise you will miss the taste of good Aussie-Rock. Three songs, three absolute killers. The sound is dusty, but not downtuned to the max, everything comes out really brilliant and clean. Forte shows us that every country got it's own sound. If you hear Rollerball, Thumlock or Daredevil, they all have this certain touch, I can't figure out what it is, but it brings over the sunny vibes of Australia. I would not say that Forte is a revolution, but they're defnetly NOT a one hit wonder and if these three songs are teaser for the upcoming long-player, we all can look forward to the album. I would say Forte count to the High-Society of Australia's Riff-Rock scene. Heavy, fresh, high octaned Rock from Downunder.

Classic guitar riffin and drum pounding introduce this first single from Forte's forthcoming album - and things just get better from there. Stoner rock aesthetics with some more contemporary fireworks and melodic variation thrown in. It's probably the most melodic cusp of what the band does, as the deep and dirty b-side 'Sex Gods and Rock'nRoll' demonstrates - buzz and fuzz galore.



Inpress 17/April/ - Martin Jones.

Forte - 'Skychaser': Another thumpin' rocker, 'Skychaser' is taken from Forte's album In A New Light. The Byron Bay five-piece concoct a style of rock that effectively blends a driving bottom end with tight quitar lines that leap from the speakers. Vocalist Andy Walker adds the right dose of melody to his liquid vocal stabs, sounding like Dave Faulkner fronting a wild Brad Sheperd B-side, Review of Core Sample 3 Compilation CD - Time Off Magazine February

EP Reviews

Tripping in the Vast Exterior



www.drummedia.com.au

Drum Media Magazine 14 Aug 01 - CD Review of "Tripping in the Vast Exterior"

From the Northern home of the big ballsy bluesy rock, Rhythm Ace Records, comes yet another group to join the ranks of the fledging

stoner rock movement. Opening track Momentum has all the hallmarks of a stoner rock classic. Mammoth riffs and an unbelievably melodic chorus. If it hasn't already, this has got to get Triple J airplay soon.



Hell Bender is probably what it feels

like inside your head after you've been on one. It's subtly aggressive with frantic riffs. Big Brother has the swinging groove that is deep and rumbling, akin to the likes of Sabbath, but there's probably a nod to the later stoner bands in there as well. There's a big wall of sound going on with this song which is very effective.

Outspoken has a Mark of Cain feel to it, and probably with an equal amount of restrained intensity as the aforementioned South

"big enough to leave a dirty big footprint on your head and you wanting them to treat you rough again in the near future" Australians can produce. Red Desert Rolls picks up the pace a bit, which along with it's desert rock could have a shade of punk going on, getting its heaviness not from the groove but the beat. They return to the massive groove (and i do mean massive in this case) with Goldencoat, which is a little bit ala Kyuss in some parts.

It's straight up rock done good. Even though short and sweet as a mini

album of seven tracks (and one of those was a brief piece which sounded like a guitar imitating a Jewish Harp), it's still big enough to leave a dirty big footprint on your head and you wanting them to treat you rough again in the near future.

Rave Magazine 24 July 01 - CD Review of "Tripping in the Vast Exterior"

Almost like a modern take on Deep Purple's Highway Star, the opening track of Brisbane band Forte's new mini-album talks about the joy of a vehicle that picks up speed and is decorated with fluffy dice. The song is entitled Momentum and is particularly hard rockin',

leaving a whiff of petroleum in its wake. Things don't settle down on track two, Hellbender, instead maintaining the rage, leaving

"a fine display of garage rock'n'roll"

the listener shaking the mane to propelled hard rhythm



and dirty,
loud
guitars.
Big Brother
is a solid
riff fest,
enhanced
by George
Chrstie and
Stu Hume's
merciless
guitar
onslaught
and Andy
Walker's

melodic hard rock vocals. Juice In' is a brief meld of Jews harp and squalling guitar effects, transforming into the steady chug monster of Outspoken, which culminates in a battering ram finale that effectively shows off the rhythm section of bassist Brent Crysell and drummer Deon Driver. Red Desert Rolls goes for the jugular with a fine display of garage rock'n'roll. The package then wraps up neatly with the slow burnin' Goldencoat, which builds up the pace, sabbath at the

end. A thoroughly recommended local rock recording.



Live Reviews



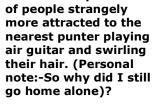
The Brag Magazine - live review - Friday the 13th of June at Bar Broadway, Sydney.

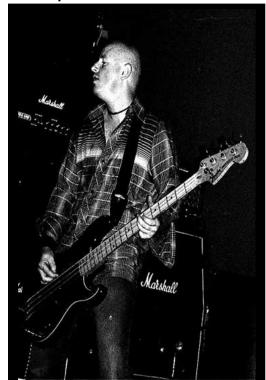
Forte were always going to have trouble putting on as intense a show as the 2 young girls kissing in front of me for about 5 mins just as Forte were coming on stage. However. The curtains opened

to a rousing crowd response, with the band wasting no time to kick into a massive Sabbath testimonial intro riff. It is clear that Forte are a lot more comfortable on stage now with the bigger gigs they've been playing of late.

"Byron's best export since Hemp Jeans"

This is an act that recordings don't do justice in comparison to their live performance. It's the sort of music that makes pubs full





The crowd covered a wide age and demographic seemingly, with everyone enjoying the powerful performance from these Byron Bay spunk rats (I was made constantly aware of this from my female friends). I will go as far as to say Forte are Byron's best export since Hemp Jeans.

10th Mar Railway Hotel - Woolloongabba

Looking around the back room of this Brisbane landmark, the most obvious renovation is the relocation of the stage from one end to the other. With





For a band that has only been together for a year, these new age stoner rockers manage to stay impressively tight throughout their set and are already looking to be one of the nights highlights.

By Mel Bampton

concrete floors, a high ceiling and a sudden reverberation of sound from the lead guitar of Byron Bay outfit Forte I am made instantly aware of the fact that I am without earplugs and I am scared.

With the P.A. turned up monumentally loud, Forte deliver a wall of sound so solid you could run into it and rebound. With slabs of enormous bass and some well timed ear splintering vocals, they're certainly well received by this crowd of seriously die hard, kick arse rock fiends.

"Forte deliver a wall of sound so solid you could run into it and rebound"



Time Off Magazine - Gig Review - 21st September - The Zoo - Brisbane with Nebula

The guernsey has to go to Forte for putting in the loudest set on the night. Louder even than their predecessor, but with a little more

"a careful balance between laid back Sunday arvo ambience and and all out rock fury. Brilliant!" clarity in the mixture. Their Sabbath stylings have tantelised the ear of this scribe since a pre release copy of their Tripping in the Vast Exterior found it's way into my hands, and live they are a revelation. Single "Momentum" heralds bigger things ahead for the act, playing a careful balance between laid back Sunday arvo ambience and and all out rock fury. Brilliant! By Eden Howard



Tsunami magazine - April

Waterloo Hotel, Brisbane. Fri March 14th

On a high from the recent release of their much anticipated debut

album, Forte weren't about to disappoint an amped up crowd. From the slow build of the filthy, bottom heavy rock of 'Her Motives Right', to the rumbling psychedelic guitar explosions of 'Monsta Trucka', tonight

"one of the tightest heavy rock outfits to emerge from the Australian woodwork"

Forte proved why they are one of the tightest heavy rock outfits to emerge from the Australian woodwork.







Volume 1 issue 8. Fu Manchu/ Forte at the Metro. 30 May

Forte are undoubtedly the right sort of band to warm up this crowd, picking up plenty of new fans in the process, judging by the very positive reaction they are met with. Fat, bottom heavy stoner grooves are what they specialise in, kicked along by hard hitting and very showy drummer Deon, who makes Lars Ulrich look reserved in comparison!

Sex Gods and Rock'n'Roll is total Sabbath worship and filthy as it gets, the lyrics peppered with words like 'crop' and 'stash'. Hey, they are from Byron you know.....

Theres another side to them though, as highlighted by the title track from their current single, Skychaser, a great hooky rock song, with a vocal from singer Andy Walker that brings to mind Dave Faulkner at times.

Triple J GIG PIG – Mel Bampton May 30th Gig Review of FuManchu/Forte @ Metro Sydney......Openers FORTE make up for things by boasting more hair than a wig shop. The crowd quickly warm to the Byron Bay five piece as they roll out one monstrous sounding Sabbath meets Kyuss inspired stoner workout after another. Current single 'Skychaser' is an exception, proving that they're equally adept at penning hook-fuelled rock



songs. Finishing with a flurry of ear-shredding feedback, the audience is well and truly won over - mission accomplished.

www.drummedia.com.au

Drum media 20.3.03 - Live review from SHX

I could never figure out those listen to Ozzy backwards teen suicide lawsuits in the 80's. Why would you wanna kill yourself to this kind of music? Save that for Celine Dion. Forte have some Sabbath in the collection, I'm sure. Along with Soundgarden, The Stooges, and the kicker that makes these Byron boys really hum. Iron fucking Maiden.

Forte drawl into it with plodding metal that kicks out the jams - clears

out the webs into thumping rock. Low rumbling riff into double time rhythm and squealing licks. A short sharp drum solo then back into the lurching verse. It builds - precise and intricate before

"Acca Dacca eat ya heart out"

crashing to a screaming solo. The consistent thump to the rhythm careens off to a tuneful tangent then its back to the original 'oooh baby!' riff. And that, my friends, was just the first song. Makes War

and Peace look like an office memo. And I'm thinking, 'how the hell are they gonna top that?' Stupid me.



They hit hard with looping dirty riffs into searing elaborate bridges. Epic rock feels to quieter twisted spaces. Total old school pommy metal rhythm changes gives the edge to 70's rock.

They've even got the twin guitar swapping lick going on. Devil worshipping go straight to hell bring a tear to the eye of Bon Scott rockin' good stuff. . Acca Dacca eat ya heart out. - by Steve Anderson.



In town to launch their debut album, In a New Light, they get off to a slow doomy start. While their thick groove-laden sound, peppered with tasty wah wah solos that never overstay their welcome, is unlikely to

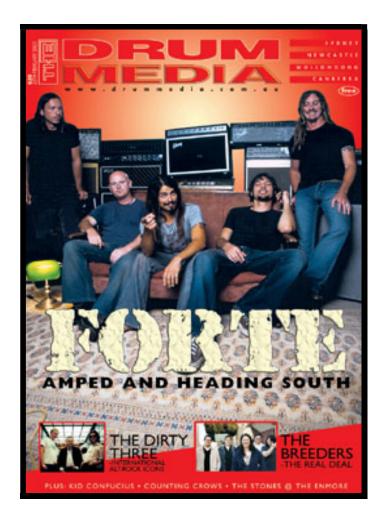
ignite a mosh pit, its perfect for inspiring a healthy amount of head shaking and hip swinging amongst the crowd, not to mention plenty of hair flailing on stage. Her Motives Right, introduced as "a dirty, nasty, sleazy number" brings to mind the bottom heavy thump of Kyuss, while songs such as the album's title track and Skychaser reveal a hookier, more up-beat rock'n'roll approach.

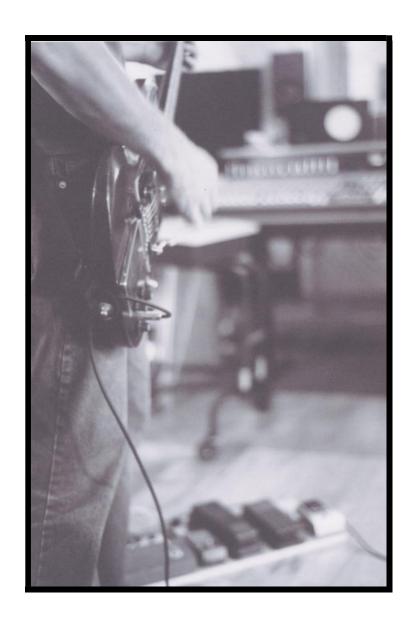
"One more song you filthy long-hairs!" shouts a halfpissed punter as their set comes to a close. Happily they oblige, finishing on a high note with the head pounding, Sabbath-meets-early Danzig styling of Sex, Gods and Rock'N'Roll. Tonight Forte are akin to a bongload of the north coast's finest- they leave you feeling warm and content, yet hungry for more.

Surry Hills Excelsior, Sydney, Friday March 21

KKKK









Live @ JJJ



Deon Driver - Drums

Andy Walker Vocals

Brent "Badger" Crysell - Bass



