



TIJUANA PANTHERS

"SEMI-SWEET"

INNOVATIVE LEISURE RECORDS

ITEM ID (CAT#): IL2012

STREET DATE: 5/28/13

ARTIST: TIJUANA PANTHERS

TITLE: SEMI-SWEET

FORMAT: LP/CD/DIGITAL

CATALOGUE: IL2012

FILE UNDER: ALTERNATIVE/ROCK

SRP: LP: \$17.99 / CD: \$12.99

FOR FANS OF: BUZZCOCKS, FIDLAR, MINUTEMEN, SOFT PACK, DESCENDANTS

UPC: LP 634457579019 / CD 634457579026

BIO

Tijuana Panthers come striding proudly out of their hometown of Long Beach, California, with *Semi-Sweet*, their most fully realized album yet. *Semi-Sweet* has every Panther contributing a part in the entire album-making process, all the way down to brainstorming new songs on drummer and singer Phil Shaheen's ukelele. Traditional Tijuana Panthers engineer Victor Orlando Nieto split the sessions for *Semi-Sweet* with new engineer Matt Vasquez, which worked with the new creative process to give the Panthers' latest a different feel, says guitarist & vocalist Chad Wachtel —something instantly apparent from first jittery notes of the Swell Maps-meets-Urinals DIY clatter-pop opener "Above Your Means."

From there, it's a twist-and-turn-y journey through at least four decades of off-center from-the-heart music. "Tony's Song" matches the relentless energy of the Wipers with instantly catchy beach-punk harmonies, while "Father Figure" left-turns toward the kind of complicated jangle-pop of New Zealand's Verlaines. "Push Over" is like some kind of Howard DeVoto demo that suddenly splits into a Mickey Baker guitar line, and "Juvy Jeans" is pure my-daddy-was-a-New-York-Doll teen-punk hilarity. (Or maybe the Dead Milkmen? Phil is a longtime fan.) Of course, the surf guitar they built their band on is still surging along—leading the band through their moody "Baby On Board" and then bouncing into the darker-than-it-seems "Forbidden Fruit." And then there's the pitch-perfect Nerves cover, a reverent redo of "One Way Ticket" by a band that in sound and sentiment both were pretty much the Tijuana Panthers of their day. They're really just aesthetically simple dudes, says bassist and singer Dan Michicoff—they know their songs are done when they not only sound right but feel right, and when they've got that same rare combination of harmony and velocity and honesty that's pushed bands out from their garage since the invention of the electric guitar.

"Cribbing as much from Brian Wilson's lyrical topics as they take from Dick Dale's reverb-soaked guitar tone"

- NOISEY/VICE

"[The music of the Tijuana Panthers] sounds something like they had spent an afternoon with Jan and Dean sharing fish tacos with Quentin Tarantino, before laying down some 4-track recordings with The Cramps in a sunlit garage."

- LA WEEKLY



INNOVATIVE
LEISURE