

Album Review: Hit The Lights – Summer Bones

BY CLARE FITZGERALD | March 24, 2015

Summer Bones is the latest full-length from Ohio-based pop-punk quintet, Hit The Lights. The band's first release through label Pure Noise Records, whom they signed with early last year, *Summer Bones* presents some of the best pop-punk I've heard in awhile and demonstrates why Hit The Lights are considered a scene staple.

Summer Bones begins with the infectious 'Fucked Up Kids'. Authentic and catchy pop-punk, it's one of the album's best showings and is a great way to introduce listeners to the energy that's seen throughout the remainder of the nine tracks. It's followed by 'The Real', which sees vocalist Nick Thompson proclaiming lines like "I want to stand for something real" and "Don't live life in fear". In fact, *Summer Bones* is an album that sees Hit The Lights presenting some of their best lyrical work. Tracks like 'Revolutions and Executions' and 'Sitter' - the album's best track, in my personal opinion - see the band presenting their views in a way that's lyrically and mentally stimulating, while 'Life On The Bottom' and 'Old Friend' offering contrasting views that shows Hit The Lights' diversity.

Musically, the bass takes centre stage throughout the run of *Summer Bones*. The album is overall the most melodic I've heard Hit The Lights and shows a maturity that wasn't necessarily present in the band's 2006 debut, *This Is A Stick Up... Don't Make It A Murder*. Vocally, Thompson is sounding the best he ever has, with him soaring through tracks like 'Blasphemy, Myself and I' and the album's namesake with varying notes and a wide-range of vocal pitches that hoists the songs into new territory.

The standout track is without a doubt 'No Filter', with its fusion of piano and throwback to the pop-punk style of the early-to-mid 2000s. A song for both old and new fans, it has the biggest single potential and is one I can see allowing Hit The Lights to land back in the spotlight after their three-year gap from releasing new music. It features a breakdown about half-way through, allowing listeners to really grasp the live potential it has, and essentially embodies what the five-piece are about.

Overall, *Summer Bones* is easily one of the year's best releases. Hit The Lights are back and arguably better than ever. The band have put their heart and soul into this release and that shows throughout, with not a single track losing the steam produced by its predecessors. Whether you're a fan of Hit The Lights or of pop-punk, *Summer Bones* is a definite must have and will definitely be the soundtrack of many this spring.

Summer Bones is [currently available](#) via Pure Noise Records.