

"Tomorrow Tonight" and "In the Modern World" are the best of this bunch, from an artist comfortable enough in his own skin to recast lessons learned from Bob Seger, John Mellencamp and "The Boss" in his own inimitable style.

A generation earlier, Britain's Ian Hunter was another master of the musical mash-up.

Adding a crunching guitar-based attack to his Dylan-like yowl, and garnished with a healthy slab of David Bowie gender bending, his group Mott the Hoople enjoyed a brief time as superstars with hits like "All the Young Dudes," "Roll Away the Stone" and "All the Way to Memphis".

Later as a solo act, he scored with "Once Bitten, Twice Shy," "Cleveland Rocks" and in the early days of MTV with "All of the Good Ones Are Taken."

2007 finds Hunter still in fine form, applying his acerbic wordplay, still untamed voice and innate sense for the killer rock riff to good use on "Shrunken Head's" 11 tracks. Wilco's Jeff Tweedy joins the original "Dude" for three songs, but this remains Hunter's show as "Words (Big Mouth)" "Soul of America" and the title track are welcome additions to his prodigious canon.

**"Glitter In the Gutter" – Jesse Malin (Adeline)**

**"Shrunken Heads" – Ian Hunter**

**1876A (Yep Roc)**

Those pining for a dose of Bruce Springsteen that doesn't include his recent overwrought renovation of hoary folk classics should check out his duet with Jesse Malin on the latter's "Broken Radio," and remain for the rest of Malin's splendid new disc.

The former lead singer of New York's punkish D'Generation (the missing link between the Ramones and the Strokes), in recent years Malin has resurfaced as a heartland rocker, a proponent of a raw incandescent style slowly slipping away in this era of more transient acts.

Tight, two-fisted tunes like "Prisoner of Paradise,"