

PICK OF THE MONTH

Jesse Malin



Glitter in the Gutter

JESSE MALIN **Glitter in the Gutter** **East/Adeline Records**

From the former lead singer of D Generation, you wouldn't expect a new album featuring Ryan Adams and Bruce Springsteen. Actually, you probably wouldn't expect much of anything to come out of Malin, whose former band got a little bit slammed in the press, then a little bit respected when they turned out some respectable albums. And that's what you've got here: a surprising blend of Tex-Mex-acoustic ("Tomorrow Tonight"), broken-hearted cowboy piano ballad ("Broken Radio," a duet with Springsteen), and thundery rock ("Black Haired Girl").



The most surprising thing about *Glitter in the Gutter* is, it sounds pretty much like you'd expect it to. There are traces of punk and glam-rock, for sure, just like there are traces of Adams' folk-rock and the country-bluegrass-country that sporadically finds its way into Springsteen's recent oeuvre—but more than any of this, Malin's album truly finds him doing his own thing. It's unexpected and rare and it actually has a potential to transcend all the former-lead-singer-of appellations and featuring-famous-musicians appellations and be a simple, straightforward, solidly good record.

-*Matthue Roth*