



Double Dagger does not make “background music.” The Baltimore trio’s songs are meant to be experienced, rather than just listened to—either at one of their intense performances or with the volume turned up loud enough to feel it in your gut. Double Dagger embodies the contradictions of the fair-yet-blighted city they call home—visceral, raw, cacophonously loud, yet with unexpected moments of clarity, humor, and revelation. Live, Double Dagger’s stripped-down musical line-up, consisting solely of bass, drums, and vocals, somehow manages to sound like a stage-full of musicians. Drummer Denny Bowen hammers the drums with such force that bassist Bruce Willen must employ four amps to match his volume. Singer Nolen Strals wades into, out of, and sometimes on top of the audience, channeling a dynamic energy that often has the three musicians dripping with sweat by the second song.

Double Dagger’s latest EP, *Masks*, takes up where their acclaimed 2009 full length, *More*, left off. *Masks* presents a series of vignettes, ranging from acerbic to facetious to self-reflective, on the facades we build within our lives. *Masks* contains some of Double Dagger’s most catchy songs to date, yet characteristically the tone of the album encompasses the abrasive and sarcastic as well as the upbeat and closes with a surprisingly delicate instrumental. The EP was recorded by the band using a minimal DIY setup, and like *More*, manages to capture the loudness and energy of Double Dagger’s explosive live performances.

<b>BAND WEBSITE:</b>	<b><a href="http://WWW.POSTTYPOGRAPHY.COM/DOUBLEDAGGER">WWW.POSTTYPOGRAPHY.COM/DOUBLEDAGGER</a></b>
<b>BAND MYSPACE:</b>	<b><a href="http://WWW.MYSPACE.COM/DOUBLEDAGGERSUCKS">WWW.MYSPACE.COM/DOUBLEDAGGERSUCKS</a></b>
<b>LABEL WEBSITE:</b>	<b><a href="http://WWW.THRILLJOCKEY.COM">WWW.THRILLJOCKEY.COM</a></b>
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## **L.A. RECORD**

Double Dagger distill everything I love about '90s post-grunge underground music into a new style that feels totally fresh and progressive. And that's what underground music is all about: taking the wreckage we've been left with by previous generations and making something revolutionary—and beautiful—from the debris. — SEAN CARNAGE

## **AURAL STATES**

One of the most vital bands to ever emerge from Baltimore.

## **ROLLING STONE**

Skull-fuckingly loud.

## **MTV NEWSROOM : MORE — BEST OF 2010**

In the manic stew that is the Baltimore music scene, Double Dagger stands above everyone else. The awesome noise generated on *More* is almost childlike in its exuberance, as if it was recorded on a playground full of kicked-in amplifiers. “No Allies” is the best first track on any album released this year.

## **PITCHFORK : MASKS — 8.1 OUT OF 10**

[At] their best, Double Dagger feel fresh and urgent. Each song is like another alarm clock ringing.

## **ALL MUSIC GUIDE : MORE REVIEW**

Bringing back the spirit of the underground punk movement of the '80s, specifically that of Dischord bands like Minor Threat and Fugazi, Double Dagger's, *More*, is precisely that. It's more provocative, more realized, and more powerful than any of their prior releases... This is punk rock in the purist form. Filled with social commentary and smart, art-house literary references, picking a favorite on this album could prove itself a difficult feat.

## **REMEMBER YOUR FUTURE : MORE REVIEW**

It became something of an addiction, this record. I couldn't put it down. It would end and I'd flip it back over and play it again... I must have listened to this record a hundred times, at least... And damn if it isn't as exciting now as it was the first time.

## **BBC MUSIC : MORE REVIEW**

*More* exposes Double Dagger's softer side – and it's immensely likable. [The album] is guaranteed to stay deep within the ears and hearts of those it does reach.

## **THE STRANGER : MORE REVIEW**

On their recent Thrill Jockey album *More*, Baltimore's Double Dagger flex stealthy, sinewy rock that balances brains, brawn, and emotional heft with admirable equilibrium. In the vein of Fugazi, Mission of Burma, and Volcano Suns, they're Rhodes Scholar athletes of caustic sound, summoning anthemic energy with dependable white-guy moxie. You will probably mosh to this, but thoughtfully and at acute angles.

## **BALTIMORE CITY PAPER : MORE — BEST OF 2010**

Local albums typically get ghettoized to their own list in the yearly top 10, but the response from this year's voters to *More* was overwhelming, whether those voters lived in Baltimore or not. The band's third full-length and first for Chicago standard Thrill Jockey destroys. Frankly, “punk” is a stand-in here, because this blasts through punk, hardcore, “post-hardcore,” and the rest of it into its own field of non-stop revolution.

## **CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY RAG**

Double Dagger is one of the most forward-thinking punk bands in the country, and one of the American independent scene's best kept secrets... During an era where a number of British groups have turned angular punk into big business, Double Dagger offers the real deal. It's a shot of much needed energy and originality into the arm of left-field rock and roll.

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## **WASHINGTON CITY PAPER**

Double Dagger recently released its stunning third LP, *More*, on Thrill Jockey. The trio's fuzzed-bass-and-monster drumming m.o. is a nod to that thinning brotherhood of post-punk musicians who highlight basement shows and fanzines (what are fanzines?), who haven't thought about wearing guyliner and going emo, who haven't dabbled in concept albums or made records where you need a Ph.D in Steve Reich to get.

## **WASHINGTON POST : RAGGED RUBBLE REVIEW**

One of the toughest things about being an amazing live band is transferring the in-person experience to CD. And there aren't many better live bands than Baltimore trio Double Dagger. Just check out the mayhem the vocals-bass-drums trio inspired at Baltimore's Whartscape festival last weekend. There's simply no way to recreate that infectious live energy, but the aptly-titled *Ragged Rubble* comes pretty close. ... This is the kind of record that probably won't make it onto the radar of too many people, but will leave a lasting impression on those who take the time to listen.

## **ROCK SOUND : MORE REVIEW 8.0 OUT OF 10**

Double Dagger's debut album for Thrill Jockey is a veritable riot fit to introduce their elastic east coast indie-rock to the wider world. By turns crushingly discordant and deceptively melodic beneath Nolen Strals' twisted intonations, "*More*" is exactly what you'll be left wanting.

## **BLACK PLASTIC UK : MORE REVIEW**

Don't be put off by the shouts and the labels. A single listen to *More* proves that Double Dagger have made an album that achieves much more than anything by any band concerned with genres could - it might be hardcore, it might be noisy pop... BlackPlastic doesn't care, it's just awesome.

## **BALTIMORE CITY PAPER : RAGGED RUBBLE REVIEW**

Double Dagger has always provided dark, frenetic, politically charged punk rock for people who enjoy using their brains.

## **BALTIMORE CITY PAPER : MORE REVIEW**

Double Dagger has always worn its heart on its sleeve, but by embracing just how such a forthright stance exposes you, the band has matured into an even more defiant, pertinent, and essential force... *MORE* is a phenomenal leap forward.

## **PASTA PRIMAVERA : MORE REVIEW**

Baltimore's Double Dagger is a ball of fire that freezes your hand, a warm embrace that punches you in the gut, an explosive puppy. DD is a musical dichotomy that rages with punk and hardcore but tempered with experimental melodies and structure.

## **AURAL STATES : MORE REVIEW**

You'll wonder why the hell these other bands need more members and instruments to even attempt to approach the intensity, size and diversity of Double Dagger's sound.

## **THE 405 : MORE REVIEW**

All I can say is I want to kiss the lead singer on his beautiful, bald head for giving me music I can be proud to tell my friends about. Its truly a shame on a criminal level that this band isn't more well known... Give Double Dagger a chance, they will be on your top albums of 2009.

## **ANTI-GRAVITY BUNNY : MORE HAIKU REVIEW**

daggers are awesome // double daggers, twice awesome // i want more daggers

## **THE MOBTOWN SHANK**

The most important band in Baltimore.

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