

JOHN MERRICK BAND

No free cd-sampler with this magazine (too expensive for us) but we offer you an exclusive downloadable track by John Merrick Band: "straight edge hardcore scene", taken from his impossible to find first demotape. Please visit www.geocities.com/morzines/jmb to listen to the track.

>- what do you remember about the recording of the jmb song "straight edge >hardcore scene"

I think it was one or another rainy sunday afternoon and I was just playing some guitar. Suddenly I found that little riff and I wanted to record it on my 4-track, but i did not find my microphone. so I recorded the guitar and voice with some crappy walkman headphone (those tiny things to put in your ears). I quickly wrote down some lyrics and recorded guitar and vocals separately. It was quite funny singing through something that was like 2 centimetres. the day after I recorded "straight edge hardcore scene" I found my mic back and I put it in front of my tv to fill up the song with a background. I think it was a biathlon on the Olympic games. at the end of the song the crowd starts singing Queen's "we will rock you".

>- Why didn't the track end up on one of your releases?

I thought it sounded to crappy. i should rerecord it but then it won't be the same because of the loss of the queen-singing sportfreaks.

>- are you in some way or another affiliated with the sXe scene?

Not really. I had some friends back in the nineties who played in straight-edge hardcore bands. In Aardenburg, a little provincial town where I live, you had some little scene back than. Through them I discovered things like Youth of Today, a band that I still like very much. But I have never followed straight-edge ethics whatsoever. The song is meant ironic, like most of my songs. I do not like people who are walking the line of a dogmatic lifestyle without questioning it. Wearing fancy and expensive clothes whilst shouting at capitalism, I think it is quite funny or even ridiculous sometimes.

