

Jody Hughes

P r e s s K i t

Jody Hughes

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One-man-band
Performing Artist
Funambulistic Raconteur
Electronic Barnstormer
Insufferable Nimbus

front cover photo: Jody Hughes at Rudyard's (Houston, TX) 2000 photo by Al Herrmann
below: Jody Hughes with Enid Baxter Blader at Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions (LACE) 2003 photo by Angela Dorrer



Jody Hughes

Using analog synthesizers, guitars, a banjo and a laptop, Jody Hughes makes music that sounds like a more electronic Beck, or maybe a hard rock AIR (the French band). Live, Jody Hughes plays the role of an imaginary rockstar, living out rockstar fantasies with multiple costume changes, stage posturing, acrobatics, and choreography. He has played at both NXNW 2000 and SXSW 2001.

With his electronic-rock-band-in-a-box sound, Jody Hughes celebrates the post-modern, super-referential world of a nerdy electronic musician who wants to be an arena rocker like Ted Nugent or Pink Floyd. The music is the music of the future from the past. The influences are junk culture, sci-fi movies, video games, Frank Frazetta, Satanism, heavy metal, Kraftwerk, Black Sabbath, Henry Mancini, Les Paul, Truman Capote, Buckminster Fuller, Scott Walker, and James Bond. Jody Hughes asks us to look for sincerity and beauty in an old jingle or a sit-com theme song.

Originally from Houston, Jody Hughes started performing as a one-man-band in 1998, after the breakup of Catbox, a glam punk band, in which he played guitar. The first Cassette was made in 1999 and the first full length CD came out in 2000, peaking at #4 on KTRU 91.7 in Houston. One of the songs that received the most airplay was a "Superman", a sad song about the super hero.



Photos: Al Herrmann



P r e s s

One man's arrested development makes for another man's freakazoid moog-pop.

The Skinny: It's any given night of the week and you're sitting on your couch, frozen in permanent pointing-the-remote-at-the-TV position. Then you think: "I'd really like to see some weird, yet strangely attractive man reenact childhood bedroom fantasies on-stage. It would be preferable if he's wearing something really odd, like scuba gear, and making what can loosely be defined as music all by himself." No problem. Jody Hughes is your man. The former member of punk-rock outfit Catbox, Hughes is a kooky one-man outfit that defies categorization. Just go to hear his covers of Motley Crue's "Home Sweet Home" and Sonic Youth's "Kool Thing." The Crowd: Those who think that Kraftwerk was too mainstream. — **Melanie Haupt from Citysearch.com**

Rock-star fantasies, geek-rock dreams or an avant-garde artist

This past year Jody Hughes lived out the American dream -- well, the American dream for white boys approaching 30, weaned on sci-fi movies and video games and now working in computer graphics, that is. After serving tours of duty with such groups as defunct punk-rockers Catbox, Hughes broke out and became his own one-man synth-rock outfit. His most recent performances have found him playing old-school analog synthesizers and indulging in rock-star fantasies. The self-titled, self-distributed album he released earlier this year went even further in displaying Hughes's taste for nostalgic irony, teaming computer-assembled retro riffs with quirky covers of Motley Crue's "Home Sweet Home" and Sonic Youth's "Kool Thing." But with all this techno skullduggery, one question remains: Is Jody Hughes really a novice living out his geek-rock dreams or an avant-garde artist just too damn hip for the room? Listen to his work and see if you get it or not. — **Craig D. Lindsey, The Houston Press**

It's the sound of apocalypse, circa 1984

I have no idea, really, how to begin to describe this album. Local pop weirdo Jody Hughes has managed to assimilate all the Kraftwerkian sensibilities of the '70s, mix them all up with almost Crystal Method-like electronic noise, embellished it with some Peter Dinklage touches (think "vocoder"), and create something totally bizarre. I can't claim that it's something new, mind you, mostly because Hughes seems to revel in the retro-ness of the whole thing, both in the music and the artwork. "Superman" is almost a tongue-in-cheek sendup of Laurie Anderson's 1982 opus "O Superman"...except that I think Hughes is completely serious, and that takes it from silly to just plain terrifying. And y'know, I'm loving this. The overamped, almost crunchy synths, the robotic voice, the just-this-side-of-"lost it" lyrics, the pop culture references -- after the first bewildered listen, I've come to realize that this is fucking genius. The album builds steadily to its beautiful peak, the freaky fairy tale of "Walrus," which sounds like it could be Guided By Voices' Robert Pollard with a serious Darth Vader fixation. Just slightly less incredible is "Coca Cola (Daisy)," which transposes children's rhymes and an old folk song with gloomy electronic noodling and distorted vocals. The non-vocal tracks shine, as well, particularly "Torpedo Boat Destroyer" and "Nexuance" (the track that veers closest to Underworld of everything on here, by the way), even though several of them ("Truck," "Car," etc.) don't last long enough to make an impression. To top it all off, about halfway through Hughes decides to have fun with other people's songs, as well: "Black Abba" turns Ozzy Osbourne-era Sabbath into Gary Numan; "Home

Sweet Home" is a hopeful, steadily-quickening technological reworking of, yes, the Mötley Crüe "classic"; and "Dirty Boots" and "Kool Thing" are both Sonic Youth songs, redone to fit Hughes' twisted vision and seeming almost better for the transformation, if you can believe it (note, by the way, that I'm not a dedicated SY-head, so diehards, your mileage may vary). Final word: it's the sound of apocalypse, circa 1984. — **Justin Hart, SPACE CITY ROCK**

An excerpt from a review of the first Jody Hughes CD from the Houston Press

In his own blisteringly ironic fashion, Hughes revisits the avant-garde posturing that helped create new wave back in the day. Using relatively obsolete equipment, such as analog synthesizers, Hughes composes experimental, utterly minimalist works that die-hard Kraftwerk fans would love. He revamps tunes from such unlikely sources as Black Sabbath, Motley Crue and Sonic Youth and turns them into tongue-in-cheek techno flukes, the kind of pop culture-saturated stuff teens of the '80s used to play on their Casios. He even finds a place to mix in the theme from The Rockford Files.

KTRU Radio 91.7 Houston, Texas 5/29/00

#	artist	album	label
1	men's recovery project	bolides over basra	laod
2	cadallaca	out west	kill rock stars
3	june of 44	in the fishtank	konkurrent
4	hughes, jody	s/t	self released
5	quickspace	the details of quickspace	matador
6	lickets, the	the lickets	sandwich
7	tin hat trio	helium	angel
8	immense	evil ones and zeros	fat cat
9	people like us	hate people like us	soleilmoon
10	spider the cat	s/t	svr
11	junior vasily	bam bam bam!	peek-a-boo
12	dj faust, shortee & craze	fathomless	bomb hip-hop
13	lunchbox	the magic of sound	magic markers
14	apples in stereo	the discovery of a world inside	spin art
15	happy apple	part of the solution problem	no alternative
16	silver mt. zion, a	he has left us alone	constellation
17	tied & tickled trio	ea1 ea2	drag city
18	flying lutenbachers	the truth is a fucking lie	ugexplode
19	lois maffeo & b. canty	the union themes	kill rock stars
20	pond, matt PA	measure	file 13
21	oldham, will	guarapero: lost blues 2	drag city

P o s t e r s

JODY HUGHES
 OCTOBER 16
 SATURDAY
 ELECTRO ROCK
 FROM HOUSTON

*Jody Hughes 10-16
 Kings County Justice 10-16
 FREE*

The Charleston
 174 Bedford, Brooklyn
 an affiliation at the Bedford side of the L train

FREE
 10/16 Saturday

Gigapoodacom

music: Jody Hughes
 video: Aline Cautis

Lawndale Art Center 1/15/00 8-10 pm

Jody Hughes performs
 Sound Exchange 3/23
 Thursday 7:30

Jody Hughes
LA GARGANTA PROFUNDA
 MARY JANE'S 4/23 SATURDAY

JODY HUGHES
 SONIC YOUTH
 RUDYARDS 8/14

Jody Hughes

Rudyards
 Saturday 4/15

**GOLDEN ARM TRIO
 JODY HUGHES**

Rudyards
 Saturday 4/15

Lawndale Art Center 1/15/00 8-10 pm

Gigapoodacom

Music by Jody Hughes
 Video by Aline Cautis

jody hughes
 the senses don't lie

P o s t e r s



Jody Hughes - Japanic - Freedom Sold
Mary Jane's 5/21

LAX SUNDAY AUG 23 10PM 4910 MAIN



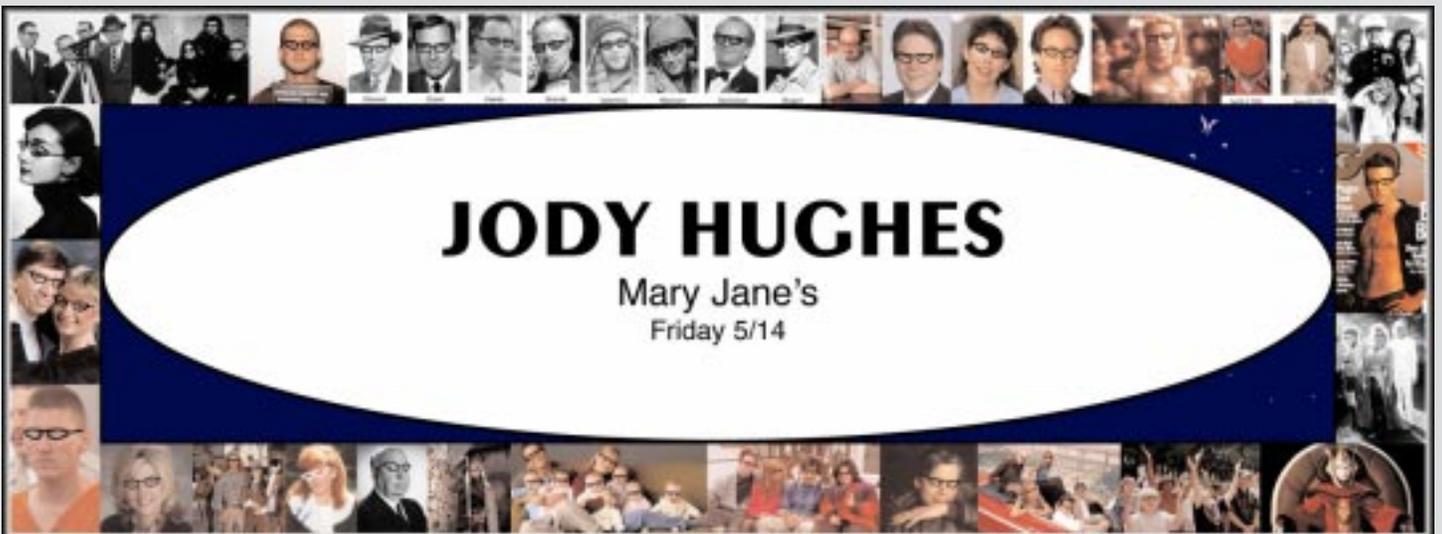
Jody Hughes VS. Samuel Bing

Glamour, Style, Presence, You

Jody Hughes
(Moog Rock)

Filthy McNasty
(R&B Extraordinaire)

The oven 12/27 Wed.



P u b l i c i t y P h o t o s



photo: Al Herrmann

J o d y H u g h e s

P u b l i c i t y P h o t o s



photo: Al Herrmann

J o d y H u g h e s

P u b l i c i t y P h o t o s



photo: Al Herrmann

J o d y H u g h e s

P u b l i c i t y P h o t o s



photo: Tova Mozard

J o d y H u g h e s