

# Ted Nugent

*Ted Nugent is one of Rock's legendary figures. Known for his ferocious guitar playing, high energy shows and his outspoken opinions, the Motor City Madman released his 14<sup>th</sup> studio album 'Shutup&jam!' via Frontiers Records. James Gaden was on hand for Ted to wax lyrical about it...*

You have a pretty good idea what you are going to get with a Ted Nugent record – it's not going to be big on ballads, you aren't going to find too many saxophone solos. Expect killer guitar licks and high impact Rock and Roll. 'Shutup&jam!' is no different – it literally starts with Ted yelling that very phrase before unleashing one of his textbook riffs. I inquire if, after making headlines so often with his opinions, it was a statement regarding a view that he would now rather concentrate on the music. Ted, however, naturally had something more to say on the subject.

"A real American worthy of the freedom has an obligation to participate in this sacred experiment in self-government," he enthuses. "Each of us, 'we the people', have a duty to demand accountability from our elected employees to adhere to their oath to the US Constitution, and every self-inflicted malady plaguing America today is a direct result of the scourge of apathy that allowed Barack Obama and his gang of America hating, freedom hating, independence hating criminals to fundamentally transform us into the mess we are in. I have been doing my job fulltime for the last forty plus years, refusing to back down or give up, so it is very important for me to cleanse my soul and recharge my spirit batteries with my powerful musical force, hence; Shutup&jam! And do it as often as possible as long as I'm getting my American job done."

The record has all of Nugent's trademark energy present, wrapped up in a clear, powerful production. It's almost like 'Shutup&jam!' was the ethos in the recording studio too, of laying it down spontaneously, rather than indulging in lots of pre-production.

"Each guitar jam is like the first time with a new loud amp as a kid in the garage," Ted explains, "so the licks are pure, primal, raw, spontaneous, and that describes my songwriting stream of consciousness, or should I say sub-consciousness! I think not, but rather unleash with a purely open mind and uninhibited craving for intense, driving patterns, grooves and chord changes. The lyrics unfold on their own as

a ferocious love of soulful, grinding, high energy music, so the energy in the room is off the charts."

Anytime you see Ted Nugent, he always appears as an upbeat, positive person. The lyric to the second track, 'Fear Itself' seems to encapsulate his lifestyle and attitude perfectly.

Yes I would agree with that," enthuses Ted. "I really do get up everyday with a smile on face, happy to be alive, back in the race!"

'Shutup&jam!' is notable also for the return of Derek St Holmes, whose vocals have graced many a Nugent classic. His performance on 'Everything Matters' is superb.

"Derek is my Motown blood-brother and he has always joined us on the classics, off and on pretty much every tour," Ted elaborates. "'Stranglehold' is a monster unto itself every night, but that magical St Holmes vocal touch elevates into the uncharted stratosphere of Soul music. We simply agreed enough with the occasional appearance, let's do this fulltime again, and everyone is genuinely moved. The world hasn't grasped Derek's incredible guitar talents as yet, for he is one of the best guitarists anywhere, anytime. We create killer fire-breathing music together."

Speaking of great guitarist/singers, 'She's Gone' features Nugent's longtime friend

well. I simply strive for feel, groove, pulse, authenticity, spirit and soul in my music, in my stage-show and everything I do."

With live performances being one of the most celebrated things about Nugent's career, you could be forgiven for thinking he might worry how to capture that in a studio, but if the sound of 'Shutup&jam' is anything to go by, that's not a concern.

"I have always been so very blessed to surround myself with not just super gifted, ultra-talented musical geniuses, but they are also great gentlemen," Nugent replies. "They all have incredible work ethics and



Sammy Hagar, a similarly upbeat and energetic figure. I point out to Ted that it's amazing, given the amount of work that the pair of them have put out, that they haven't recorded together before now.

"Sammy and I come from the same American black Soul music, Blues, R&B&R&R school of authoritative music, so our threat to make killer music together was indeed long overdue!" he agrees.

Nugent is well known for his love of hunting and as a fervent meat eater myself, I couldn't help but smile at the amusing track 'I Love My BBQ' which ends with Ted's statement that 'Tofu just might kill you.' In Michael Bolton's highly entertaining autobiography 'The Soul Of It All', the singer recounts a tale where he auditioned to be in Nugent's band in the early 1980s. On arriving at Ted's house, which was decorated by numerous animal heads from hunting, they sat down to eat and Ted noticed Bolton had eaten everything except the meat. When Nugent inquired if something was wrong, Bolton explained he was a vegetarian. Ted's classic response was 'Well what do you have on your walls, cabbages?' resulting in everyone laughing.

"To each his own," Nugent says casually. "I cannot imagine anyone honestly making a judgment of someone based on their diet, this side of cannibalism of course. If Paul McCartney came up here today I would say, 'Paul, have a seat, we'll get you some tofu, you son of a bitch. Now shut up and let's jam!'"

Nugent is keen to show his respect for not only the armed forces, but the police too on the new record, in the form of songs 'Semper Fi' and 'Screaming Eagles'.

"'Semper Fi' is of course a salute to the US Marine Corp warriors," he states proudly, "and 'Screaming Eagles' is what we call motorcycle cops, another breed of street warrior I admire very much. I have been blessed all my life to be welcomed and embraced by these special people and the songs came to me as a direct result of their influence on me."

With the pace and the energy of the record, it would be easy to imagine any one of these songs easily slipping effortlessly into the live set – but when you have a strong back catalogue, there is the age old question of what you should leave out. Ted acknowledges that it can be a nice problem to have.

"Lord have mercy! The phenomenal Detroit drummer Tommy Clufetos performed his power-groove magic on my 'Spirit Of the Wild' record back in 1995 and said it quite succinctly – he said that every one of my killer songs would make the ultimate concert opening song and the ultimate concert encore. This record fulfills that enormous qualification!"

Nugent recently performed his 6,500<sup>th</sup> show, a staggering amount by anyone's standards. However, rather than rest on his laurels or dwell on the memories of shows gone by, the Motor City Madman continues to plough onward in his own inimitable way.

"Though I am more than well aware of the joys and power of my past, I must admit that I am always intensely focused on the right here and now and future. When surrounded by world class passionate musical masters like I have been for more than fifty years, every song, every jam, every concert is a musician's dream. Add to that spectacle music loving audiences that fuel the fire with equal energy and passion and I am blessed to swan-dive into the perfect musical storm every night. I am clearly the luckiest guitar player in the world."

With such a positive outlook on his music and his lifestyle in general, there's no wonder Nugent has the drive and energy of men a third of his age.

"Quality of life, happiness and optimal fulfillment is best accomplished when surrounded by positive people with positive energy putting their hearts and souls into the absolute best, most positive things they can do," Ted explains. "'Shutup&jam!' is indeed the definitive soundtrack of the ultimate positive people, creating the most positive, driving, uppity, intense, high energy, ultra-fun, ass-kicking, soulful, R&B&R&R musical force any music lover could ever dream of. In this crazy, crazy world, we all need to Shutup&jam as often as we can!"

## Rocksector Records UPCOMING RELEASES

Distribution by  
**CODE**  
via



AVENGER  
NWOBHM HEROES RETURN

"THE SLAUGHTER NEVER  
STOPS"

BRAND NEW SONGS & THE  
BAND'S NEVER SOUNDED  
BETTER

RELEASED OCTOBER 2014



DIE NO MORE

"ELECTED EVIL"

INSPIRED BY  
METALLICA  
TESTAMENT  
MEGADETH

RELEASED  
NOVEMBER 2014



OBZIDIAN

"CONCRETE  
PSYCHOSIS"

UNIQUE BRAND  
OF GROOVE  
DEATH METAL

RELEASED  
OCTOBER 2014

VISIT [ROCKSECTOR.COM](http://ROCKSECTOR.COM) FOR FREE SONGS  
FROM THESE ARTISTS, TOGETHER WITH  
TOUR NEWS, EXCLUSIVES & MORE

[WWW.ROCKSECTOR.COM](http://WWW.ROCKSECTOR.COM)