

# Discs & DEMOS



Leiana:

*No Going Back*

Overall Rating ★★★★★

Musicianship ★★★★★

Songwriting ★★★★★

Originality ★★

If Leiana were a cat, she'd purr like the revved up engine of a Pontiac. For pure rock with a little bit of style and shred added in, look no further than this album. In the past, Leiana has been backed by established musicians like Chuck Treece (Bad Brains, McRad), and Roy Mayorga (Soulfly, Sepultura). But this time around, she has come into her own with a lineup of fresh and talented faces.

A lot of parts (particularly the choruses) on *No Going Back* are repetitive, but in a good way. They're addictive and bound to make the listener sing and move along. The instrumental work is tight; guitars shred and drums pound. For a hard rock/punk singer, Leiana has an excellent vocal range (check out the title track, "Friend" and "Suffer").

Leiana and her band are currently coming off a month-long tour of Japan, but hopefully they'll be back in a Philadelphia club soon. Seeing them live is one great experience.

-- Bill McThrill



Black Market Radio:

*Better Than a Killer*

Overall Rating ★★★★★

Musicianship ★★★★★

Songwriting ★★★★★

Originality ★★★

Right from the get go this CD has a driving rock and roll sound. The songwriting is well thought out and the lyrics are put together very well. You can feel the emotion but it's not overbearing. Pete Cornell and Keith Manino wrote their first song, "Better Than A Killer", together in about 20 minutes. At that point they knew they had a good thing and Black Market Radio grew.

The CD opens with "Wave" and continues to grab your attention with songs like "Warned You," "Better Than A Killer" and "Fight For Your Life". The pace changes from song to song but the momentum of the *Better Than A Killer* is NEVER compromised. For music to stand out, it has to have an edge. This music has an edge to it. Also, Pete's Seattle roots can be felt at different times throughout the CD. It's one of those things I don't think you can leave totally and wholly behind.

Black Market Radio will be at the Grape on August 23<sup>rd</sup> and their CD hits stores in early August. Check Black Market Radio out at [myspace.com/blackmarketradionyc](http://myspace.com/blackmarketradionyc), or [www.blackmarketradionyc.com](http://www.blackmarketradionyc.com). You will also see a feature story about Black Market Radio in the September edition of *The Compendium*.

-Markus



Victor Victor Band:

*Self Titled*

Overall Rating ★★★★★

Musicianship ★★★★★

Songwriting ★★★★★

Originality ★★★★★

**Victor Victor Band – *Self Titled***

This is a husband and wife team where she plays the drums and he plays a right handed guitar left handed. This is a very garage sounding EP. It's a raw sound with lots of feedback. Victor Victor is very Stooges and White Stripes influenced. My favorite song on the EP is the instrumental "Do". It's a great jam. Not a fan of the first song, "Modest Times", but I do like "Lost and Found" and "Victor Luck". "Victor Luck" has a Foxy Lady meets I Wanna Be Your Dog vibe. I think that with these four songs Victor Victor has recorded, they are on the right path. Haven't seen their live show, but after listening to their EP I'd bet it's a fun set to see: sweaty, rocky and raw. Keep this band on your radar; check them out live. [Myspace.com/victorvictorband](http://myspace.com/victorvictorband).

-Markus