



MICHAEL GOELZER

GET NOTICED: Milwaukee's Jaill has been around for a decade.

Jaill, Miniature Tigers release standout CDs

By Andrew Dansby
ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

MY favorite new band that's actually old is Jaill, a group from Milwaukee. It has been kicking around for nearly a decade but will get more attention now with the release of *That's How We Burn*, an assured masterpiece of modern garage pop.

The band does the make-vintage-new thing with sly in-



Jaill
That's How We Burn
SUB POP RECORDS
★★★★½

and recede with wave-ready

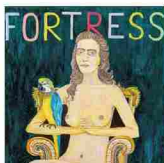
fectious songs. The fizzy melodies and underlying surf guitar parts defy an easy one- or two-word description, so I'll go with one of my own creation: jangular. The guitars surge and recede with wave-ready



reverb (even the lyrics include references to surfboards and being sunk). Vinnie Kircher sings with a sort of detached nerdiness — part James Mercer, part fellow Milwaukee native Gordon Gano and part girl-group obsessive.

CHARLIE Brand is an Arizonan who creates Phil Spector-influenced productions with his band Miniature Tigers. So it is that the band's second album is aptly titled *Fortress*.

Like XTC's Andy Partridge, Of Montreal's Kevin Barnes and Apples in Stereo's Robert Schneider, Brand seems inclined to wall himself off from the world while he builds regal compositions from the ground up. His pop dictionary is not abridged: He coyly breaks into a reference to *The Sound of Music* on the opener *Mansion of Misery*, a jaunty symph-pop delight despite its dark title. The songs are devious constructions with precious little empty space.



**Miniature
Tigers**
Fortress
MODERN ART
RECORDS
★★★

Vocals are big, layered and varied (Beach Boys-like on *Dark Tower*, and with a tip to the Flaming Lips on *Bullfighter Jacket*). The keyboards and guitars swirl about like a thick fog.

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BRANDON LEE

GROWL: *Fortress* is *Miniature Tigers'* second album, which is full of Phil Spector-influenced productions.