

Press for  
**JOSH ROBERTS**



**and the hinges**

the sugar bird test

...The more than 35,000 who reveled in the afternoon sunshine and ah-that's-nice wind were treated with a balanced blend of rock, country and pop.

The most remarkable performance was the thrilling two-minute jam by Josh Roberts and the Hinges during "Janey." Roberts traded guitar licks with Robert Walker, and the rhythm section of bassist Jim Taylor and drummer Matt Anderson coyly led the guitarists astray to create an intricate, imperfect collage.

Petrillo Relents' Bill Stevens, who was in the crowd, summed it up best by saying, "You can't argue with that."...

By Otis R. Taylor  
St. Pat's In Five Points 3/18/06

**The  State**

It's admittedly cliché to say Josh Roberts' solo debut *The Sugar Bird Test* further makes sense out of the

sudden breakup of his former band Captain Easy, but it's a convincing departure from the classic AM-radio piano rock he wrote with Ryan Monroe. Here, Roberts is in full-on Americana territory, sounding remarkably similar to The Jayhawks or their Minnesota brethren, Soul Asylum. Also at work are the influences of yet another Minnesotan, Bob Dylan, though these are more subliminal manifestations.

The songs are feisty and freewheeling, a product of Roberts' decision to cut much of the record live in the studio. Roberts and I recently talked passionately about that technique, offering examples of our favorite mis-cues in the rock n' roll canon from the Rolling Stones' "Gimme Shelter" to Rod Stewart's "Every Picture Tells a Story." While we both agree there's something to be said for being a meticulous studio band, the romantic appeal of capturing a rock moment prevails.

*The Sugar Bird Test* eloquently captures 11 of these moments, complete with backing vocals from Monroe, Danielle Howle and The South's Nicole Hagenmeyer. In fact, the rest of Chris Conner's newest alt-country project was, itself, recently holed up in the studio and opens this CD release show.

By Kevin Langston

Free Times Columbia's Free Weekly

Former Captain Easy co-frontman Josh Roberts spread his solo wings with a rock, blues, folk and country album – with soul sprinkled on top. The record

screams with earnest energy as Roberts, draped in Southern influences, rocks the real rock n' roll.

By Otis R. Taylor

## The State

From the opening guitar of "Why I Never Killed," the first track from *The Sugar Bird Test*, one can see that Josh Roberts came to rock. That catchy riff conjured up "Golden," by My Morning Jacket, but Roberts' chorus is a bit catchier. The first track is typical of most of the album, which seems to be structured around riff after ear-blowing riff and sing-along choruses with lines such as "We're doin' it slowly/16 months of foreplay/If we ain't wound up by now/I don't know if we'll wind." If you're looking for more reference points think Neil Young (with Crazy Horse), Son Volt and any other guitar-heavy, beer-battered rock.

The Hinges include Larry Gornto/drums and vocals, Robert Walker/guitar and Joey Wetzel/bass, with additional vocals for the album from Nicole Hagenmeyer, Ryan Monroe and Danielle Howle. I won't be tossing this album off like a battery run down any time soon. My top picks are "It's Never Enough," "Why I Never Killed" and "Slowly, 16 Months." And oh yeah, it sounds best played loud.

By Todd Mathis

**STEP OUT OF THE LINE**

magazine

**Josh Roberts**, founder of Captain Easy and often guitar player for Danielle Howle, has a new band. Josh Roberts and the Hinges play rock n' roll.

Raw and uncompromising with country, blues, punk and soul in the mix and dirty guitars contrasting with beautiful harmonies, the debut album *The Sugar Bird Test* is a big chunk of the real thing. The band is: Josh Roberts- vocals, guitar. Leslie Branham- vocals, guitar. Robert Walker- guitar. Jim Taylor- bass. Matt Anderson- drums.

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## Josh Roberts' History

In 1999 Roberts founded Captain Easy, and alongside co-writer Ryan Monroe, led the Columbia, SC band to a place as one of the South's most loved and respected groups. Prior to their amicable parting on New Year's Eve 2004/05, they toured extensively and produced the following independent releases:

"Greatest Hits" - full length, 2001

"Picture Perfect World" - full length, 2003

"It Was Cold: Live at the Newberry Opera House" - concert DVD, 2004

Soundtrack to the documentary film "Drive," by director Rand Courtney

Subsequently, Josh played lead guitar for nationally renowned singer/songwriter Danielle Howle. He appears with her on "The Sound the Hare Heard," a compilation by Kill Rock Stars Records (2006), and continues to collaborate with Danielle.

Roberts' new band, Josh Roberts and the Hinges, formed in early 2005 and immediately began touring and recording. Debut album "The Sugar Bird Test" was released in September 2005 to excellent reviews, good sales, and strong positive reaction. Josh and the band continue to tour and do soundtrack work, and are looking forward to releasing a new album in the fall of 2006.

Josh Roberts has performed across the country from Denver to D.C. and has shared stages with artists as diverse as Jason Isbell (Drive by Truckers), Big Head Todd and the Monsters, Billy Joe Shaver, 2 Skinee J's, JGB, Moonshine Still, Stockholm Syndrome, Angie Aparo, Leon Russell, Sevendust, Acoustic Syndicate, moe., 7 Mary 3, Five Eight, and many more.

And in venues like: House of Blues-Myrtle Beach, Hi Tone-Memphis, Lincoln Theater-Raleigh, Smith's Olde Bar-Atlanta, Bele Chere Festival-Asheville, Music Farm-Charleston, Pourhouse-Charleston, Pourhouse-Raleigh, City Stages-Birmingham, The Handlebar-Greenville, SC, Headliners-Columbia, SC, The Basement-Nashville, Local 506-Chapel Hill, Visulite Theater-Charlotte, and many, many more.