

Record Review: Screws Get Loose

By Karl Rybaltowski
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Those Darlins is a four-piece band from the Nashville area, deftly combining country, punk, and an element of retro girl-pop to create crass, cute and extremely catchy music with a grungy Southern feel and a distinct garage aesthetic. They've performed with the likes of The Black Keys, Jon Spencer, and Wanda Jackson. Oh, and their new album, *Screws Get Loose*, will blow you away.

Let me establish one thing at the outset: I cannot stand most modern country music. Give me a classic like Emmylou Harris, Patsy Cline or Harry McClintock and I'm set, but something about the pop-country of the last few decades gets on my nerves. Maybe it's the idea of multi-millionaires singing about their hard lives, but the whole affair just strikes me as insincere. I have always ascribed more of a grimy punk aesthetic to good country music, and so when I heard Those Darlins described as "garage-country-punk," I was intrigued, and the resulting musical exploration made me feel like I hit the jackpot. Now, it's time to get back on topic the album.

The band already has one release under their belt, a self-titled debut from 2009, that skews heavily toward the country sound; the tunes sometimes felt a little repetitive, though the charm of the self-aware country lyrics was enough to keep the album strong. With *Screws Get Loose*, however, the mix is more even, and the variety of sounds Those Darlins experiment with keeps things sounding fresh all the way through. The title track, which opens the album, sounds like a lo-fi homage to Phil Spector-esque 60s girl pop, complete with harmonies. The next track, the un-romantic "Be Your Bro," delves more into punk territory, while country twangs accentuate the track. The fast-paced "Hives" is more of a short, sweet power-pop number, while "Waste Away" qualifies as a succinct country ballad.

It's hard to find anything to dislike about the album. For my part, it's been on repeat for a couple of days now, a rare occurrence without some kind of break. Even if you are highly skeptical of country music, though, the genre-mixing of *Screws Get Loose* is definitely worth a listen. The catchy songs, with their gritty lyrical charm, will make it worth adding to your permanent collection.



(Image courtesy coverhunt.com)

Coffee Club Escapades: Noble Tree Coffee and Tea

By Harshita Iyer
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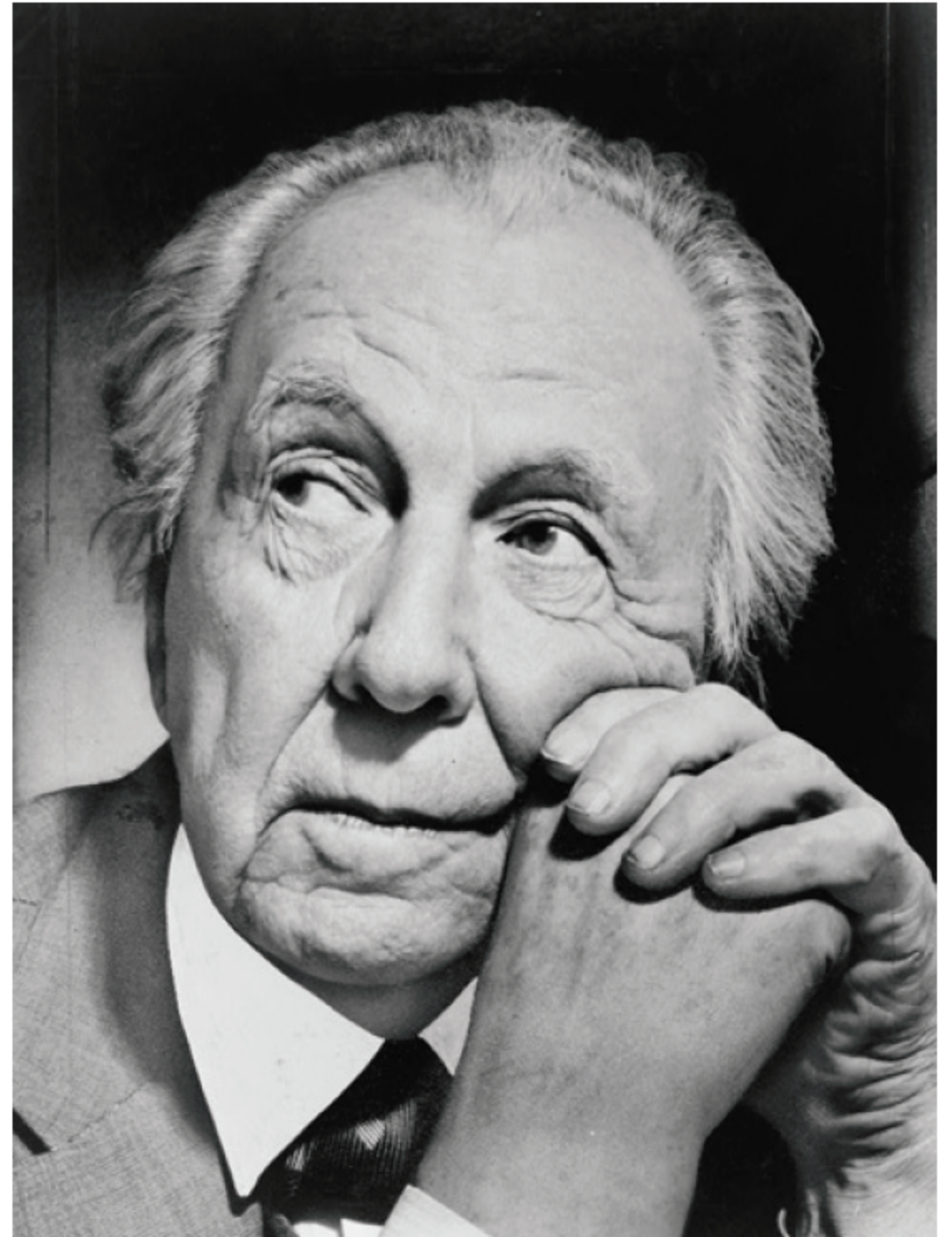
After a long gap between meetings, the Coffee Club finally got together again last week to go to Noble Tree Coffee and Tea. This café is just a short walk from the Fullerton stop on the Red Line. It has a rustic look to it from the outside, set back from the road a little and with a woody feel to it. On the inside, it has nice patterns on the walls with little tables almost crammed into the first floor.

With a three-story building, at one's disposal, there would be no lack of space for one to sit and spend time. The wooden staircase is of a very old style with soft wooden railings, and a swirling aesthetic. The upper floors have big comfortable couches around tables if you

have a big group with you. All the levels also have little tables with chairs around them, if you're on your own, doing homework or with a small group. The place is a little bit upscale, with a drink and a sandwich together coming to about \$12. The ambience is that of a modern café, with great natural lighting. The atmosphere is very cheerful, and a great start for the weekend (or for the morning), with a great cup of coffee and a good sandwich in hand.

The Noble Tree is a great café to visit just for fun, as well as to sit down and spend an entire afternoon at. With Wi-Fi available at all times, and a constant supply of delicious coffee, the Noble Tree would be a great place to sit down and do homework, or catch up on the studying, while wrapped in the luscious smell of coffee in the air.

Frank Lloyd Wright: Organic Architecture for the 21st Century



(Portrait courtesy bolender.com)

By Rebecca Waterloo
A&E EDITOR

In celebration of the 100th anniversary of Taliesin East, Frank Lloyd Wright's home, school and studio in Wisconsin, the Milwaukee Art Museum is putting on a major exhibition in honor of presenting the perspective and great works from the Master of Prairie-style architecture. This exhibit offers the fresh perspective of Wright and his seven-decade career. The exhibit, *Organic Architecture for the 21st Century*, is indeed a hidden treasure in the Midwest, or at least the city of Milwaukee. Just an hour and a half away on the Amtrak, it is encouraged you visit this exhibit before its end in mid-May.

The exhibit guides you through stages of Wright's work to help you understand the impact he had during his lifetime as well as his significance today in architectural work. The exhibit covers the many achievements he sought using 150 different objects. Walk through the exhibit to see a variety of me-

diums including scale models, photography, spectacular hand drawings and renderings as well as his furniture designs. 33 of these objects, most of them drawings, are never-before-shown publicly by this legend, as well as rare home movies.

Many of the highlighted projects include his beloved Unity Temple (Oak Park, Illinois, 1905), Fallingwater (Mill Run, Pennsylvania, 1936), Johnson Wax (Racine, Wisconsin, 1936, Taliesin East (1911-59), and Taliesin West (Scottsdale, Arizona, 1937-59). The exhibition successfully shows the vision he created with Organic Architecture; horizontal lines, the building becoming one with the site, the use of local colors and materials, etc.

The exhibit does a great job at examining every type of project that Wright designed, including his plans for different suburban communities and his American System-Built Homes. The well-rounded exhibit gives you a great idea of how big of a role this architect (and his ego) really plays. Think you know Frank Lloyd Wright? Think again.

GreenIT

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