

The Downsetters – Press and Reviews

Live review: Stephen Foster, BBC Radio Suffolk

The Downsetters are quite simply one of the best ska and reggae acts the UK has ever produced. Not content with just reworking well known songs, including obscure gems, the group pride themselves on innovative, original songs masterminded by their founder - the late, great Stan Stanojevic. With a back catalogue to be mighty proud of and more new material being added all the time, The Downsetters continue to amaze and entertain with their unique style.

Live review: Gaz Mayall, Gaz's Rockin Blues

My favourite Ska Band, The Downsetters! They are absolutely bloody marvellous, mark my words. If you haven't seen them or haven't heard of them, well....put that on your bucket list because they are simply superb. They've just left the Royal Ascot stage in a smouldering mess of goodness after smashing the joint, just like they did at this years Glastonbury festival! Expect more excitement, electricity, and top dancing music from the number one Ska Band in the land.....The Downsetters!

Live review: Stewart Lee, UK Comedian

I managed to see 40 music gigs this year, which was brilliant, and most of them were superb – I think because they people I have liked for decades that have kept going just get better and better and also, I have had the pleasure of seeing new (and old) things with my kids at their suggestion. The most fun I had at a gig was dancing about on my own for hours to a ska band called The Downsetters at Glastonbury 2023.

Album review: Jump up records, USA

One of today's most beloved British ska bands finally gets their latest album on vinyl – limited edition yellow from Grover Records! THE DOWNSSETTERS are top shelf modern 2-TONE, and "CHAINSAW LULLABIES" is arguably their best release to date. Capturing the feel of THE SPECIALS but without ripping the sound off – trombone and keys lead the way with good ol' RODDY RADIATION influenced guitar riffs. THE DOWNSSETTERS take a piece from today's ska-punk pie, with modern chant heavy vocal breaks, occasional distortion and visits to ska-punk Hellcat related rhythms, along with "fake" radio intermissions. All in all THE DOWNSSETTERS create an excellent sound for modern times with an homage to their British 2-Tone roots. A record for all fans of great ska, whether your "old" and lived through the 80s, or "young" and got hooked on ska from 90's punky bands. This is the vinyl release we have been waiting for since it dropped in 2020!

Live Review: Rockfiend

Just on 8 o'clock the first band of the night appeared, The Downsetters. This seven piece, ska band hail from Ipswich. They had come a long way for their 35 minutes and were obviously planning to make the absolute most of their time.

It took a couple of songs before The Downsetters had the crowd jumping on demand but when they got them, they had them for the rest of the set. A frontman who kept the ska groove going throughout and a keyboard player who just danced, whether he was playing or not, made them a great watch and listen. It turns out their guitarist was Scottish, and how did we learn that? By listening to him sing a crowd-pleasing version of The Proclaimers "I'm On My Way". The Downsetters will be welcome here again.

Just on 9:15 the main event arrived and eight of the nine piece band started to play an upbeat, ska instrumental before, main man, Tyber made his entrance. Like guitarist Pete, Tyber was resplendent in a kilt, and few things help connect with a Scottish audience more than a English band wearing kilts!