

The Incurables – Back Into Eloise

Revised by A Band Called Paul

Brecon Indie Review Team

I must admit something ... I'm old enough, and Irish enough (!), that my formative musical years were during the post-punk new wave era of the late 70's and early 80's Irish and English music scene, bands like The Clash, The Undertones, SLF, XTC, Buzzcocks and Dublin's The Blades etc.

So, I save a special sentimental place for 3-to-3-1/2-minute-long slices of catchy guitar-led rock/pop. With this in mind, it's no surprise that I cracked a massive smile on first listening to The Incurables' "Back Into Eloise!"

The track has crazy, fast guitar licks on display that raise it beyond the level of chugging barre chords and bring a more American style impetus to the track, unsurprising given that the band from "the primordial ooze of the Detroit suburbs".

The musicianship on display here from the single, and dual interplay, of the main guitar riff is so, so good.

Driving the track from below is that somewhat rockabilly style of drumming reinforced by some very solid and supportive bass playing, nothing too flash, cos that would spoil the vibe. Just totally appropriate.

The chord progressions flow easily in that new wave kind of way where nothing jars and they seem to fall naturally from one to the next.

The introduction of a nylon-string, quasi-Spanish guitar section in the middle as the drums and bass regroup allows us some breathing space as a listener before the main guitar riffs kick off again, leading us into the final verse and chorus with vocals sounding something like a cross between The Cure's Robert Smith and Stiff Little Fingers' Jake Burns.

This track is a total cracker and reminds me of everything I loved about songs from that era while adding more guitar thrills to it. Excellent work, The Incurables ... you brought me right back ... and that's a really good thing.