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apparel

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THE SKiN GRAFT ENTERTAINMENT GROUP PROUDLY PRESENTS

- OOPS (!) INDOORS

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UNFIT #01 T-SHIRT
SKiN GRAFT Logo (front)
OOPS (!) INDOORS 1996 (back)
Design by Mark Fischer

SKiN GRAFT

RECORDS OVER MID-AMERICA

UNFIT #02 T-SHIRT
Over Mid-America (front)
SKiN GRAFT Logo (back)
Design by Mark Fischer

ORDERS FULFILLED by The DARK SLIDE Skate Shop.
MORE T-SHIRTS COMING SOON!

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

SKiN GRAFT Records Launches "UNFIT Apparel" - a New Clothing Line in Partnership with FGC Creative & The DARK SLIDE Skate Shop

Friday, September 2nd, 2016

My parents didn't listen to much music while I was growing up. The TV was perched firmly atop the family's entertainment center and the turntable only got a song in edgewise on Sundays - while mom prepared dinner and dad and I loafed around the house. My mother was a member of the **Columbia House Record Club** for a while, but the subscription lapsed after the eight mandatory records were purchased. Some of our favorites included the **Saturday Night Fever** soundtrack, **Stevie Wonder "Songs in the Key of Life"** and **Billy Joel "The Stranger"**.

It was at my friend Pat Dignam's house that I was introduced to the hard stuff.

Pat's older brother had the quintessential late 70's record collection - his tastes shaped by a steady diet of **K-SHE 95** and Mid-American fuck all. After spinning a good four or five **Peaches** crates of LPs, Pat and I spent a momentous afternoon assembling my very first mix tape, culled from the cream of the Dignam crop. Being a comic book kid, loyalty to Stan and Jack decreed that the TDK D-C90 kick off with **Black Sabbath's "Iron Man"**, from there we went straight into **Rush's "Working Man"** and on into the forbidden fruit offered by the likes of **Led Zeppelin, Van Halen, Pink Floyd, Molly Hatchet** and **Ted Nugent**.

Mom didn't much care for my new mix tape, but she tolerated it. The real concern would come a few years later once **Black Flag, D.R.I., Public Enemy** and **Slayer** came blaring out of my bedroom. But as the 80's got underway, we did find some common ground - **Billy Squier**, a couple of **Sabbath** songs (with **Ronnie James Dio** singing), and **Foreigner**. Dad just shook his head.

On November 27th, 1981 Mom and I went to our first rock concert - **Foreigner** live on stage under St. Louis' now legendary **Checkerdome**. I was just 12 years old when Mick Jones and Lou Gramm hit pay dirt. Their album "**4**" was a worldwide smash, holding the #1 position on the **Billboard** album chart for a total of 10 weeks. I was drawn to the hard-rockin', anthemic "**Juke Box Hero**" while mom preferred the more adult contemporary sounds of "**Waiting for a Girl Like You**".

We parked some distance away from the **Checkerdome** and as we covered the blocks to the venue, I resumed building my case on the importance of purchasing a shirt to mark the occasion. I'd started in on her months earlier, right after the tickets were purchased. It was a practice I'd honed to a fine art over the years, like a pint-sized Perry Mason. At the age of six, when other kids were wearing elastic-banded, vacuformed plastic masks for Halloween, I took every opportunity to remind my mother of how much "cooler" the rubber Frankenstein mask on the endcap over at **K-Mart** was. No matter that the mask was intended for kids at least 6 years older than me - when I was awarded the mask for my persistence, Frankenstein's chin dangled a good three inches below my own, but in my little abnormal monster brain, I was the scariest thing on two legs.

Rock band shirts were a sight pretty much unseen at **Immanuel Lutheran School**. Located in historic St Charles, Missouri, it was (and remains) a Christian parochial school, providing a religious and secular Elementary and Middle School education to kids in grades K through 8. Aside from an older brother's **Rush "Fly By Night"** shirt once worn by Brett Dashner, no one had ever worn a concert shirt to class. For the bigger kids over at **St. Charles West High School**, the concert Tee was a badge of honor - especially a "morning after" shirt - an hours old, cigarette smoke-soaked trophy worn the day following the concert. I was aiming to bring the prestige down a few grades and make middle-school history.

Before we closed in on the entrance, we were approached by what I now realize was a black market vendor dealing bootleg merchandise. If not for the "**Shirts \$10**" sign pinned to his overcoat, we would have mistaken him for one St. Louis' homeless. The overstuffed **Hefty Bag** over his shoulder revealed a cornucopia of crudely printed **Foreigner** styles - all from the previous tour. I immediately gravitated toward the black "**Head Games**" shirt with the white three-quarter-length jersey sleeves. "**Head Games**" was **Foreigner's** 1979 album, a bit more rockin' than "4" and it sported a fairly controversial cover - which was splotchily reproduced on the threadbare, paper-thin jersey.

Of the cover art, author Mike McPadden had this to say:

“The cover boasted one of the most instantly scandalous and unforgettable images in the history of rock LPs. It depicts a panicked, sexily attired young girl getting caught in a men’s room, squatting on a urinal as she frantically attempts to scrub her graffiti-scrawled name off a stall wall with toilet paper.”

Now any inappropriate implication went way over my 12-year old head. It was simply the “coolest” looking shirt. Eager to get away from our dodgy-looking dealer - and without giving the shirt a second look, Mom swiftly parted with her \$10 dollars and we were off to the show. Memory fails me, but the Internet says that November 27th 1981 was a Friday, so that means the following Monday was the big day. I wore my shirt to school and regaled my friends with breathless, six-string tales of between-song banter, permed shoulder-length hair and the massive inflatable juke box that rose from center stage during the performance of “**Juke Box Hero**”. I remember my old sixth grade teacher Mr. Degitz making a comment on the shirt in the hallway, but I didn’t pay much attention. Even the kids that were in his class didn’t listen to a word he said. I carpooled home just in time to catch “**The Munsters**” on channel 11 and play some Atari.

Immediately after school and unbeknownst to me, an emergency faculty meeting was held with high ranking members members of the church to discuss the “**Head Games**” jersey that had infiltrated school that day. The following morning, the announcement came down from on high - an 11th commandment, swiftly amending Moses’ twin tablets of stone ---- **rock and roll shirts were henceforth banned from Immanuel Lutheran School.**

Each student was given a sealed envelope to be hand delivered to his or her parents. It read in part: “It is our belief that appropriate dress is a necessary component in the development of dignity and self-discipline. Therefore, parents and students are urged to observe a modest manner in order to foster a climate in which students can achieve their highest levels of academic performance while developing the social and interpersonal skills needed to become responsible Christian members of society. Rock band shirts or any garment with offensive logos or writing are unfit for a serious learning environment.”

The rule stands to this day.

And so it is with great pleasure that I get to announce “**UNFIT Apparel**” - a new line of high-quality T-Shirts that **SKiN GRAFT Records** is developing with **FGC Creative** and **The Dark Slide Skate Shop**. For the label’s 25th Anniversary, we have entered into a licensing agreement to make available a series of eyebrow-arching attire using both classic and new designs from **SKiN GRAFT** bands past and present. Unlike that chintzy **Foreigner** jersey, each shirt in the **UNFIT Apparel** line is made to last - utilizing top of the line 100% combed and ring spun cotton shirts - and professionally screen-printed with long lasting inks to endure the heartiest of lifestyles.

It is our sincere hope that in the years to come the shirts of the “**UNFIT Apparel**” line will bring as much joy and suffering to those in your social circle as that threadbare, three-quarter-length jersey sleeved “**Head Games**” shirt did mine.

Excelsior!

Mark Fischer, SKiN GRAFT Records

The first two shirts are now available for pre-order at:
<http://www.skingraftrecords.com/ppshop/shirts/shirts01.html>

UNFIT #01 T-SHIRT

SKiN GRAFT Logo (front) / OOPS (!) iNDOORS '96 Poster (back)

Designed by Mark Fischer

Features a pocket-sized SKiN GRAFT “hands down” Logo on the front, and on the back, poster art for the OOPS (!) iNDOORS Festival held on September 1st and 2nd, 1996 at Chicago’s beloved Lounge Ax. Bands featured include U.S. Maple, Brise-Glace, The Flying Luttenbachers, Colossamite, Melt-Banana, Mount Shasta, You Fantastic! and Lake Of Dracula, as well as Bobby Conn and Cheer-Accident’s Thymme Jones.

UNFIT #02 T-SHIRT

SKiN GRAFT Records Over Mid-America (front) / SKiN GRAFT Logo (back)

Designed by Mark Fischer

The iconic “Skeleton in the Bathroom” image as originally appeared on the SKiN GRAFT “Up Your Ass and Into Your Heart” poster from 1993 takes the front of this shirt. The back features the classic SKiN GRAFT Logo between the shoulder blades.

Shirts will begin shipping on September 15th. Fulfillment of shirt orders will be provided by The Dark Slide Skate Shop.

About SKiN GRAFT Records:

From genre-defying to genre-defining, over the last 25 years SKiN GRAFT Records has curated a collection of music that would seem at home nowhere else. SKiN GRAFT initially sprang to life in 1986 as a punk-infused comix zine, but with a move to Chicago in 1991, SKiN GRAFT reinvented itself as a quirky, aesthetically-driven record label. SKiN GRAFT Records debuted with a collection of seven-inch singles packed inside comic book sleeves that defined its irreverent, multi-disciplinary approach. With the now-defunct distribution arm of Touch and Go, the label began churning out a stream of innovative releases from uncategorizable acts ranging from Jim O’Rourke’s post-rock harbingers Brise-Glace, to the grindcore noise-pop of Tokyo’s Melt-Banana, to Chicago’s “rock re-defining” U.S. Maple.

Headquartered in Vienna, Austria, and with shipping facilities just outside of St. Louis, in May of 2016, SKiN GRAFT moved its entire catalog, including recent releases from Sax Ruins, Yowie, Cellular Chaos, Arab On Radar, Lovely Little Girls and Doomsday Student to distributor Redeye Worldwide for distribution to retail shops everywhere.

To cap off the label’s 25th anniversary, a deluxe, gatefold-sleeved double LP of Dazzling Killmen’s seminal album “Face Of Collapse” will be released this November. Noteworthy for being SKiN GRAFT’s first full-length release, “Face Of Collapse” has been recognized as a milestone in the development of underground rock music and was singled out by Alternative Press’ Loud Life as the number one heavy record of the ‘90s. The band has gone back to the original tapes for the reissue, and specific details will be unveiled as the release date approaches.

For further information, contact
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