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music REVIEWS

- CURRENT REVIEWS
- Matthew Dear
 - Black Strobe
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 - Elliott Smith

KEY

- ★★★★ fucking brilliant
- ★★★ solid
- ★★ bland
- ★ toxic

Black Strobe
Burn Your Own Church
 Playloder
 ♫♫♫♫

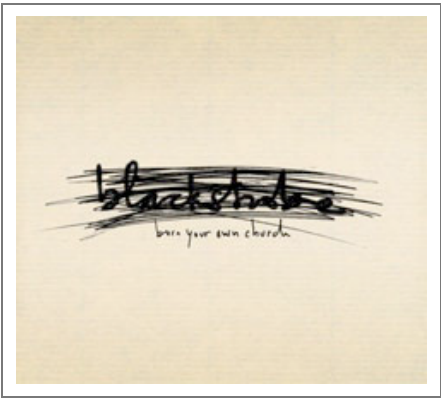
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After a run of top-flight dance-oriented singles and remixes, the gritty, tightly wound rock vibe that floats throughout Black Strobe's debut album seems like a bit of a stylistic detour. Frontman Arnaud Rebotini's swaggering take on the [Bo Diddley](#) burner "I'm a Man" puts the French foursome on the very short list of groups that have covered that influential classic and remixed Depeche Mode. But *Burn Your Own Church* ably fuses icy synths and chugging riffs, crossbreeding genres and unifying different styles with the Gallic chill of Rebotini's snarling vocals. After all, the album's title doesn't suggest orthodox beliefs or polite sentiments are part of this band's agenda. There's a defiant streak here as wide as a flared-out Mohawk, whether it's the throttle-rattling [guitar](#) riff that kicks off "Blood Shot Eyes" or the cold, impersonal drum fills. There's plenty of ground here that's been covered many times before, but Black Strobe manages to attack with fresh intensity.

-- Pat Sisson



MUSIC REVIEW ARCHIVE:

June 2007
 Matthew Dear
 Digitalism
 Black Strobe

May 2007
 Elliott Smith
 Pelican
Soul Sides: Volume Two
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