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Guerrillas in the mix (Freak Radicals)

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Freak Radicals
guerrillas in the mix
Messiah Records MREC1

"guerrillas in the mix" is further evidence of the depth of contemporary music in the West. Free Radicals is a collective of songwriters PJ Giles and T. Ruse and beats artist HiRO? with contributions from other Perth-based musicians, Angela Giles, Fiona Coulthard, Persuasion and Ben Sutton. The tracks are mostly powerful raps dealing critically with the horror of war in the Middle East, and generally with the uncertainties and contradictions of contemporary life. There is a strong literary quality to the lyric writing. Instrumentally it is a well-varied collection of grooves, made from engaging electronic beats, keyboards vamps, instrumental and noise samples and backing vocal hooks and effects. Although the grooves are often very funky, quite a few of the tracks (e.g. "Impact Players' 'Fly") have impressively rich orchestral textures. Even the dub-inspired "Sweet gunja fire" uses the wall-of-sound approach in places. Highly recommended.