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Mambo Sons Heavy Days

Omnicide Records

Fans of classic rock will dig Mambo Sons, a group of pop/rock aficionados who've let the lessons of 40 years sink deep into their being. Scott Lawson sings and plays bass, Tom Guerra handles guitar and some lead vocals, and Joe Lemieux plays drums.

The funky, riff-based "The Only Woman" is one of several cuts that remind one of better times in rock and roll, while "Overend Watts" is a slinky, Stones-influenced rock with a tasty guitar solo. The title cut includes a spacey groove that gives way to loud, crunchy rhythm guitars and imaginative changes on acoustic; the chorus is catchy as hell, and Guerra plays nasty fills around the changes.

Speaking of rhythm guitar, every cut on this double-disc set, whether it's rock, pop, or bit of country, is held together by wonderful rhythm playing from Guerra.

The songs here are mostly originals, except for a live Hendrix cover where the Sons prove up to the task. All have interesting lyrics and changes, with good hooks. — **JH**

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