



KRIS RACER HAS A BANNER YEAR

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TWO THUMBS DOWN RECORDS / WINTER 2007

"Like Chris Carabba, this former Tagline frontman made the move from punkier sounds to acoustic weepers, finding paradise by the Dashboard lite. As an added bonus, the shaggy-haired, bespectacled beanpole Racer sports neither a fauxhawk nor tattoos, allowing him to maintain his Napoleon Dynamite-style underdog appeal." – PORTLAND MERCURY

Recorded at Studio Greg Studios II and Omnichord Studios
Engineer(s): Nick Kraska, Zaid Maxwell

1. Banner Year
2. This Is Your Emergency
3. Sharper Than Knives
4. Lesser Ways of an Office
5. Balance
6. North Milwaukee Damen

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KRIS RACER HAS TRAVELLED TO ...

Empty Bottle - Chicago, IL
Uncommon Ground - Chicago, IL
Gunther Murphy's - Chicago, IL
Bar Vertigo - Chicago, IL
CB's 313 Gallery - New York, NY
Siberia Bar - New York, NY
DC9 - Washington, DC
Velvet Lounge - Washington, DC
Staccato - Washington, DC
The Lime Spider - Akron, OH
The Hotel Cafe - Los Angeles, CA
Genghis Cohen - Los Angeles, CA
Gelato Vero - San Diego, CA
Twiggs - San Diego, CA
Hot Monkey Love Cafe - San Diego, CA
The Red Room - Tucson, AZ
iCAN Gallery - San Francisco, CA
Brainwash Café - San Francisco, CA
Music Millennium NW - Portland, OR
Euclid Tavern - Cleveland, OH
Grog Shop - Cleveland, OH
Case Western University - Cleveland, OH
Michigan State University - E Lansing, MI
Central Michigan Uni. - Mt Pleasant, MI

FESTIVALS/TOURS:

Asians in Rock (AIR) tour '03, '04, '05
PinoisePop Festival '05

SHARED STAGES WITH:

Jenny Choi/Sanawon (Doublezero), Brandtson (Deep Elm), Autopilot Off (Fueled by Ramen), The Movielife (Revelation), Drive Til Morning (Deep Elm), Jeff Caudill of Gameface (Doghouse), Emm Gryner (Dead Daisy), Swords (Arena Rock)

KRIS RACER wants 2007 to be his banner year. As former frontman for Ohio pop-punkers **Tagline**, Kris Racer (AKA Kris Narunatvanich, but who wants to responsible for that spellcheck?) came to Chicago and left the rest of the band behind, opting to unplug and become an acoustic, solo act. But staying true to his punkier roots, Kris Racer is more Mike Ness than open mic.

Racer's new EP, *... Has a Banner Year*, continues to explore the themes of adolescence redux he covered on his debut, *Time Spent on Airplanes*. It's that time you reach in your mid-20s when you're still not sure what you're exactly supposed to do with your life; it's that stage in the game when you're caught thinking about whether jobs should turn into careers or if girlfriends should become wives.

And even though most of the songs on *Banner Year* seem to be written about a day at the office or a girl actually aren't ... Racer says it's usually vice versa—which either finds our narrator married to his job (and wants out of the relationship), or his current amour is, well, just another day at the office. Either way, even Zach Braff couldn't metaphorically draw out his third-life crisis the way Racer does.

Racer's recent moonlighting role in the 60s-inspired, Chicago psych-pop group **Universe Society** has matured the melodies on *Banner Year*, as songs like "This Is Your Emergency" build on guitars, low-key percussion and earnest song delivery by Racer with a precious (but not annoying) chorus of background vocals.

Lending a hand to ... *Has A Banner Year* is Nick Kraska (**New Black, Bang! Bang!**) and Zaid Maxwell (**May or May Not**), who recorded the album in Chicago at **Greg Norman's** Studio Greg Studios II and Maxwell's Omnichord Studios. Philip Stone (**Sanawon, Sweet Black & Blue**) played drums.

"Armed with just his acoustic guitar and voice, Kris Racer pushes the limits of coffeehouse pop on Time Spent On Airplanes. The occasional off-key vocal notes add an endearing touch of authenticity and accent the fine performance." –ILLINOIS ENTERTAINER

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