



## The Hutchinsons

BY RACHEL POWELL

*In the 1800s P.T. Barnum wrote: “The celebrated and honored Hutchinson family always gives a most excellent entertainment—to endorse them as the best of entertainers is as superfluous as to give a certificate to the sun for its warmth and brightness.”*

Whether the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Hutchinsons are descendents (or reincarnates) of their celebrated namesakes is up for debate—but none can dispute brothers Jim and Joe’s genetically charmed vocals.

As members of a power Pop trio The Hutchinsons, they defy classification. They merge Psychedelic 60s, Glitter 70s and the best of 80s Pop to produce a driving sound that’s anything but retro. One minute they belt raw Punk angst and the next a ballad so tender it makes the soul quiver. *“We’re all over the place in an organized way,”* Joe says. Their intelligent lyrics, eclectic stylings and pro musicianship, dismantle the belief that Pop has to be fluff. In short, they make the genre cool again.

Arena theatricality also gives the band a leg up on the competition. Joe and Glenn play supercharged guitars as Jimmy sings while drumming from his raised platform. He commands attention with hummingbird dexterity and presence that’s part conductor and part riot inciter.

Although their first, self-titled CD was primarily upbeat, the new *PLASTIC FRUIT AND POPCORN* delves into more somber areas. Its signature hit *“Elizabethtown”* is a graphic chronicle of bleak life growing up in industrial Elizabeth, New Jersey, where their brother was murdered in a botched police sting. Other songs explore growing pains and raw identity struggles, but always with a sense of hope.

Bassist Glenn Hays boasts a Blues influence and Jimmy and Joe Hutchinson have British Invasion roots. All are seasoned musicians with “past life” successes that include extensive touring and extolled albums with other bands. *“We’ve been through the girls, drugs and parties, and now we just want to do the music,”* say the brothers who routinely finish each other’s sentences making it difficult to discern where one begins and the other ends.

Fans laud the Hutchinsons’ energy, sincerity and playfulness. *“We’re always challenging ourselves and we always have fun”* bassist Hays says. *“At the end of the day – you know that big day – we hope our work adds up to a legacy, something that lasts after we’re gone.”* It will. The Hutchinsons new brand of Pop excitement delivers nothing short of music Evo and Revo-lution.