



OUT:

May 9.

FILE UNDER:

Next generation blues-rock.

R.I.Y.L.:

Johnny Lang, Kenny Wayne Shephard,
Stevie Ray Vaughn.

INDIGENOUS

Circle

Pachyderm

Twenty-something guitarist Mato Nanji never asked for the "future guitar legend" title he's been tagged with. He just happens to dig (and thus conjure) the blues-rock guitar greats: Stevie Ray Vaughn, Santana and Hendrix, to name a few. Nanji's playing not only sounds like these guys, it feels like it, as his style shifts homage from one artist to another (sometimes within the same song). With a tight band—consisting of younger sister Wanbdi on drums, brother Pte on bass and cousin Horse on percussion—and solid songwriting channeled through often powerfully soulful vocals, this Native

American family affair has everything in place to pull it off. For that extra-authentic punch, *Circle* was co-produced by former Stevie Ray collaborator Doyle Bramhall, who wrote two of the 11 tunes and contributed instrumentally to several more. Though a few songs, like "Stay With Me," offer a mainstream pop feel that made Hootie's "Hold Your Hand" catchy enough to sing along to, *Indigenous* has the legitimate soul that the Blowfish only wish they had. But while "Stay With Me" would be easy to slide into commercial radio, the band offers a more representative first single with the album's opening scorcher "Little Time." Full props for staying true to one's roots. >>>Robin A. Rothman