

VOODOO GLOW SKULLS

Symbolic Epitaph

The window of opportunity for ska—and in particular that revved-up sub-genre skacore—opened and then closed almost as quickly as those fleeting temporal holes in the sci-fi flick *Time Bandits*. Bands had a split second to be noticed, lose the horns and make it big, after which the revival was over as far as the industry was concerned. But the Spanish-singing Voodoo Glow Skulls weren't ready to follow the Mighty Mighty Bosstones through the open window. The Skulls have kept their horn section, only they've made other changes over the past few years. For

one thing, their albums have gotten tighter and better produced (this time by Epitaph owner Brett Gurewitz). Mark Adkins of Guttermouth sets the mood on the new *Symbolic*, delivering a Jello Biafra-esque opening monologue in which he explains "Even though you can't see me, I'm skanking, skanking, skanking!" And it really feels, for a moment, like Voodoo Glow Skulls are back in the time of their riotous "Insubordination" and their cover of "Here Comes The Sun," one of the best ever recorded. But they're not. *Symbolic* is certainly skankable and even mosh-able. As Mark puts it, "It's good. It's really good." It's just not quite as good as it used to be. >>>ROBIN A. ROTHMAN



Out

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File Under

Ska en Español

R.I.Y.L.

**The Mighty Mighty Bosstones,
Skankin' Pickle**