

Don Merckle & The Blacksmiths

A darkly honest and wry singer/songwriter out of Charleston, South Carolina, Donald Merckle's tunes have one foot in the foot-stompin' Celtic punk of The Pogues and Dropkick Murphys and another firmly planted in the alt-country tradition popularized by Uncle Tupelo, Whiskeytown, and the Drive-by Truckers, capable of both rock and roll growl and smoky barroom introspection. In the past he's led the popular Appalachian/Irish-indebted outfit Loch Ness Johnny as well as co-fronted the rambunctious alt-country leaning American Gun, and between the two bands he's served as an opening act for Drivin' N Cryin', Lucero, Shooter Jennings, The Avett Brothers, and Cracker. His latest backing band, The Blacksmiths, deftly mixes the disparate approaches of his previous acts into a sound and feel that deftly captures the ineffable blend of roots music and rock and roll at the heart of Merckle's songs, something fully on display on his latest effort, *The Pugilist*, released by jangly records June 10.



Glyn Cowden Photography

The Pugilist

Available June 10 from your friends at jangly records

Pre-Order at janglyrecords.bandcamp.com

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