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HOUSE OF HEROES

SUBURBA

Columbus, Ohio's House of Heroes wear ambition well on their arena-sized fourth LP, *Suburba*. Kinetic opener "Relentless" encapsulates the sprawling sound of the album. The keyboard-laden intro recalls vintage The Who, while frontman Tim Skipper employs Freddie Mercury-style vocal theatrics on the choruses. The rest of the album never quite reaches the soaring heights of the opener, but there are plenty of moments that come close. "Disappear" rides gorgeous, reverb-heavy verses into a triumphant coda; "Independence Day for a Petty Thief" features a deliciously funky solo break; and closer "Burn Me Down" approaches Muse-level bombast with its shimmering keys and anthemic refrain. Producer Mark Lee Townsend (Relient K, Deas Vail) polishes House of Heroes' guitars to a radiant sparkle and layers on chain-gang vocals and multiple harmonies. The end result is an impressive disc that seems to beg for its own Broadway musical. ~~GOTEE~~ JEFF SISTRUNK