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Chicago pop band The Webstirs re-release 1994 debut CD

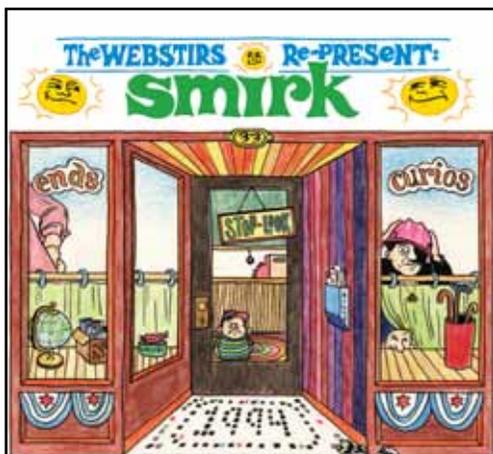
More than 15 years later, Chicago popsters The Webstirs celebrate the release of their long out-of-print first album, *Smirk*.

Not just a straight re-release, *The Webstirs Re-Present Smirk*, is a completely reworked project. The band remixed, remastered, added unreleased songs, and changed the track order and artwork. "It's a total reboot of the original," said keyboardist Mark Winkler, "I think we've been able to make it even better."

Recorded and produced by Matt Allison (Alkaline Trio, Smoking Popes), *Smirk* is loaded with catchy, quirky songs that the *Chicago Sun-Times* said "recall gems like "Penny Lane" and "Paperback Writer," but the Webstirs add liberal doses of rockabilly, accordion, french horn, and rollicking piano to their musical mix."

The name *Smirk* was intended to be an homage to the "lost" Beach Boys album *SMiLE*. "Back then, *SMiLE* was this legendary unfinished record." said guitarist Preston Pisellini. "Brian Wilson went crazy making it and destroyed the tapes. There was a whole cult of fanatics who created their own mixes of the album from bootleg session tapes. Who knew he would actually go and release it in 2004?"

Full album download and photos are available at:
<http://www.thewebstirs.com/media/>



The Webstirs started touring and playing Chicago clubs with their self-released album *Smirk* (1994). They subsequently released two albums on Chicago independent Ginger Records; *Rocket to The Moon* (1998) and *Radio Racket* (2000). In 2010, after a lengthy hiatus to pursue other projects, they put together a new lineup and released their fourth album *So Long*, also on Ginger records.

Reviews for other Webstirs releases:

"So Long is chock full of sunny harmonies and Beatles riffs thrown under a metallic shower of fuzz...It's the sort of stuff that makes Britpop fans go weak in the knees and damp in the crotch."—Chicagoist.com

"Filled with gloriously hummable songs, *Radio Racket* is a real grower, filled with a strange take on modern America, the people who live there day to day, and the oddity value of their lives."
—MOJO Magazine

"Every once in a while, you hear a record by an unknown band that just completely blows you away. Even rarer is an indie pop record that doesn't sound derivative. The Webstirs' *Rocket to the Moon* falls into both those categories. *Rocket to the Moon* is a minor masterpiece."
—POP CULTURE PRESS

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