Critic's Choice:

SCRAPING FOETUS OFF THE WHEEL

The first time you hear lead vocalist Adolph Hitler rallying his brave new Reichlanders on "I'll Meet You in Poland, Baby," you know Scraping Foetus Off the Wheel isn't going to be just another pleasant pop band. Though previous commitments will prevent Adolph from appearing in person with this British ensemble when they make their Los Angeles debut at the Antidote Friday, there'll still be enough psychotic frenzy to shrivel ear canals throughout the room. As their name and promo photo imply, Foetus are about shock, from shell shock to toxic shock, delivered with dry, black humor and vocals a half-twist removed from an angry drill sergeant tackling a batch of fresh recruits. From their gleeful Beach Boys-inspired suicide romp, "Satan Place," through such other tunes as "Lust For Death," "Water Torture," and "Sick Man," Foetus makes the darker side of life danceable and the danceable side dark. Joining them will be our lady of perpetual monotone, Lydia Lunch, who's no stranger to darkness and depravity herself.

—Andrea 'Enthal