

When Black Earth rocks

MUSIC Black Earth enters that exclusive club of local bands with albums to their credit

It is an accepted fact that college bands come and go. In a country where rock music is often thought of as a niche activity best left to white-skinned foreigners, the life cycle of the average local band doesn't is shorter than that of an Olive Ridley washing up at the wrong beach. However, every once in a while, there come along a band or two that manage to make a mark, however small, before they go. And so you have *Hallucination Theory*, local act Black Earth's demo EP.

Released a little over a month ago, this debut is an interesting experiment. Featuring the band's first three originals — "Hallucination Theory", "Halls of the Blind" and "Utopia" — the album serves up around 20 minutes of rather well-written



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hard rock, backed by good engineering. Succinct vocals, good chemistry, a decent groove and passionate albeit self-congratulatory guitar and keyboard solos make this demo far easier on the ears than much of what passes for mainstream music nowadays.