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**Drive-By
Truckers:**
The Big To-Do
(ATO)

The last studio album from DBT, 2008's epic, 19-track *Brighter Than Creation's Dark*, was easily on a par with career highs such as *Southern Rock Opera* (2001) or *The Dirty South* (2004). In 2009 the band released a rarities collection, record-

ed an album with Booker T, and worked on frontman Patterson Hood's solo record, while also laying down the new DBT, the first of two to be released in 2010.

Hood has described *The Big To-Do* as "very much a rock album, more so than anything we've done since disc 2 of *Southern Rock Opera*." The opener, "Daddy Learned To Fly," features the band's famous triple guitar snarl on an affecting story of childhood loss ("Everyone brought food and everybody cried/Nothing's been too good since daddy learned to fly"). The booze-soaked odyssey of "The Fourth Night of My Drinking," "Drag the Lake Charlie," and "The Wig He Made Her Wear" all offer more evidence of Hood's masterful songwriting: the latter is a noirish tale of sex and murder inspired by a case on Court TV. "This Fucking Job" and Mike Cooley's "Get Downtown" are inspired chronicles of recessionary times, while "The Flying Wallendas" tells of the real-life circus act.

One of the first great rock albums of 2010, *The Big To-Do* is archetypal DBT: muscular musicianship married to intelligent, cinematic songwriting. (www.drivebytruckers.com)

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By Pasquale Iannone