

# MOJO

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*Andy Fyfe*

## **Juni Ata**



Saudade

FLYING ON FIRE. [CD/DL/LP](#)

**Not what you'd expect from Morrissey's former tour manager.**



The nom de artist of singer-songwriter and one-time Morrissey TM Jesse Daniel Edwards, the soaring choruses and blazing kitchen sink production of Juni Ata's debut album is staggeringly confident. After a deeply religious SoCal upbringing, Edwards landed in Nashville but shunned a performing career. Cajoled into a studio by friend and producer Jake Rosswog, the album took on a life of its own, eventually including additional production and guitar from Steve Cropper. Although it charts the deaths of friends, family and relationships, there's not a lot of "Nashville" in *Saudade*: this is glorious big balls-indie meets blue collar rock that Jim Steinman might occasionally consider a little OTT. By album's end you may be wishing for a little less is more – only *All My Tomorrows (Are Mondays)* offers sustained quietude – but Edwards and Rosswog's ambition is, in all senses, a roaring success.