

Facts ON wax

by bob morello
reviewing the best... forgetting the rest

UNEARTH: THE WRETCHED: THE RUINOUS (CD)

Century Media Records

Unearth are nothing short of standard-bearers and keepers of the faith for American metalcore. They were the band born in the breakdown that never wavered from their love for European death metal melodicism, supercharged by American thrash and hardcore. Now, nearly 25 years into a career that's seen the Massachusetts mob play innumerable gigs and massive festivals on six continents, sell hundreds of thousands of records, and inspire some of the most important bands in extreme metal today, they remain a force to contend with. Their album (number 8), *The Wretched; The Ruinous*, Unearth not merely continues to amp-up their metal meets hardcore intensities, but they also exceed themselves with a record that incorporates elements of classic Unearth offerings dating back to 2004's "breakthrough" *The Oncoming Storm*. Teaming again with producer, Will Putney, the goal was simple: create the definitive Unearth record. From the scathing title track opener to the explosive "Cremation of the Living," the brooding "Mother Betrayal" to the album's riff-violent closer, "Theaters of War", *The Wretched; The Ruinous* is Unearth pulling out all the stops. "The track 'Dawn of the Militant' is a true mix of metal and heavy hardcore. With their 25-year mark looming, it's a daunting thought that Unearth has been a part of the metal landscape since making their recorded debut with 1999's *Above the Fall of Man* EP. At that point, Unearth was one of the key bands in an-about-to-detonate New Wave of American Heavy Metal scene.

FRANK ZAPPA - FUNKY NOTHINGNESS (2LP Vinyl)

Zappa Records/UMe

Considered the missing link between Frank Zappa's iconic albums *Hot Rats* and *Chunga's Revenge*, *Funky Nothingness*, out now via Zappa Records/UMe, features 25 unreleased and incredibly rare tracks, recently unearthed after more than five decades, included the five-piece band of Mothers member Ian Underwood (keyboard, saxophone, rhythm guitar), violinist and vocalist Don "Sugar cane" Harris, Wrecking Crew bassist Max Bennett, drummer Aynsley Dunbar, and Zappa on guitar, vocals and percussion. The group recorded hours' worth of original compositions, inspired covers and extended improvisations that drew from Zappa's R&B and blues roots, while blending influences of the emerging jazz fusion scene. The 12-minute version of "Sharleena" is from 1996's posthumous collection, *The Lost Episodes ... Funky Nothingness* introduces these recordings as a cohesive collection for the very first time. *Funky Nothingness* was first previewed with the previously unreleased track, "Work With Me Annie/Annie Had a Baby," which marries two

1954 hits by Hank Ballard & The Midnighters. The melody of "Work With Me Annie," written by Ballard, combined with its answer song, "Annie Had a Baby," with vocals by Don "Sugar cane" Harris. Harris also takes center stage as a vocalist on "Love Will Make Your Mind Go Wild," initially recorded by The Penguins, delivering classic soul balladry with a standout violin solo at the end. Zappa takes lead vocals on the 12-and-a-half-minute-long rendition of Lightnin' Slim's "I'm a Rollin' Stone." This recording would go on to serve as the genesis for the iconic "Stink-Foot" that closes Zappa's 1974 album, *Apostrophe(7)* as he would eventually wipe his vocals from the multi-track master, save the drum, violin and bass track, and overdub new guitars, vocals and sound effects to create something entirely different. The organ can be heard on the swinging soul-jazz instrumental, "Khaki Sack," along with the oft-bootlegged "Twinkle Tits," plus the awe-inspiring jam "Tommy/Vincent Duo II."

JACKSON DEAN - LIVE AT THE RYMAN (Vinyl)

Big Machine Records

Live At the Ryman, is the eight-song set from Jackson Dean's debut at the iconic Ryman Auditorium in October 2022. The album captures the vigor, stage savvy and raw energy of Dean's live show, with a little extra magic, courtesy of the Mother Church. In addition to live versions of songs from his critically acclaimed debut album, *Greenbroke*, the reigning *MusicRow* 'Breakout Artist of the Year,' debuts the standout track, "Heavens To Betsy," as well as the other unreleased show staple Dean wrote with his band members. "1971." "Wings (Live)," is the second track from the album that has been released with "Fearless (Live)" already available. "Fearless (The Echo)" is Dean's single on Country radio charts. Dean debuted the music video on CMT, which stars his own brother, sister-in-law and niece — adding additional layers of meaning to the video and raising the question — are the characters in the story his family too? Remaining tracks on this album include "Greenbroke," "Trailer Park," "Don't Come Lookin'," and "Red Light (Metal Version)."

MIKE OLDFIELD - TUBULAR BELLS (Vinyl)

Cleopatra Ent.

Mike Oldfield's *Tubular Bells* is one of the most iconic pieces of music ever created. Recorded when Oldfield was just 19 years old, the album was released on May 25, 1973, as the debut album from Virgin Records. The album became a worldwide phenomenon when the first track was used as part of the soundtrack for *The Exorcist*. Despite only being featured in a couple of scenes, *Tubular Bells* has become closely associated with the film, with many referring to it as "the theme of *The Exorcist*," and the haunting sounds regularly earning a spot on horror playlists. *Tubular Bells* was also a staple of the 2012 Summer Olympics Opening Ceremony.

The time has come, the walrus said,

TO TALK OF MANY THINGS of shoes and ships and sealing wax of cabbages and kings

by Sal Giarratani

SEAN FROM CHARLESTOWN IS CORRECT

Sal,
Two hundred fifty thousand undocumented "residents" in MA are expected to apply for a MA driver's license under the Healey plan.

If the applications for these licenses have to be printed in fifteen languages, and all of our street signs are in English, how are these non-English speakers going to figure out how to navigate? It seems to me that you probably should learn English if you expect to drive around here.

The irony here, at least politically, is that Mayor Wu is doing everything possible to get drivers off the streets of Boston while the Governor is doing everything she can to put more drivers on them."

Sean F. Flaherty, Charlestown

If you want to share your thoughts, this is the place to go sal.giarratani@gmail.com

EL SALVADOR SETS NEW RECORD TWICE LAST WEEK

According to the latest news, El Salvador officially is the most dangerous country in the world. Per capita, more people get killed in El Salvador than any other place in the world, but there is also good news, El Salvador also catches more murders per capita in the world, too.

Now all El Salvador has to do is stop murderers before they murder and this island nation could be so much safer for its citizens and visitors.

SUMMER CONCERT SEEN IN CHARLESTOWN

The Friends of the Training Field are presenting free concerts this summer. The next concert will be the Black Velvet Band on Saturday, August 12 starting at 3:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. Bring a picnic and enjoy the music with your friends and neighbors. Sponsored by The Cooperative Bank.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO SHAFT

Actor Richard Roundtree turned 81 on July 9th. I loved that TV show *Shaft*, and he played a mean mother as that old song went. Back in the 70s, I even bought myself one of those very long Shaft leather overcoats that had a cool tie belt. You wore this coat and you were a bad dude with looks that killed. Got it at Howard's in the Combat Zone or maybe it was Bonds on Summer Street. Forget Samuel L. Jackson, nobody's better than Richard Roundtree. Never!

HAPPY ALSO BIRTHDAY ...

To Debbie Sledge (Sister

Sledge) who celebrated her 69th birthday on July 9, too.

WORDS OF WISDOM FROM LUCY

I love reading comic strips, always have and always will. One of my favorites is *Peanuts*. Recent one made me laugh a few extra times. There's Lucy in the outfield and a ball sails toward her, she starts yelling "I got it! I got it!" Then says, I think I got it "before the ball drops to the ground right next to her.

She throws the ball to Charlie Brown saying "Sorry manager ... the older you get, the less sure you become about a lot of things." Wiser words have never been spoken huh?



(L-R): Jay Dwyer, Sondra Celli, Ginny Gardner, and Rasheed Walters. On Monday, July 10th in Waltham, MA conservatives gathered to hear Rasheed Walters, former *Boston Herald* columnist, speak about politics going forward into next year's presidential race. Over 45 folks showed up and it ended in quite a lively Q&A session between Rasheed and audience members.

(Photo by Maria Capogreco)

We're moving! Monastery of St. Clare



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TRIDUUM OF ST. CLARE

MORNING MASS at 7:00 am - AUGUST 8th, 9th, & 10th
HOLY MOTHER ST. CLARE FEAST DAY MASS - AUGUST 11th at 11:00 am