

DVDS

MATT SUGGS *Amigo Row* (Merge)

Ex-Butterglory co-leader Matt Suggs' second solo album for Merge is the kind of thoughtful piano-based record that you don't see much of anymore. With complex lyrics and a jazzy feel, it takes a while to warm up to Suggs' music, but once you're in, you're in for good. With *Amigo Row* Suggs delves into the gothic ("Father"), the bittersweet ("Pretty Rain") and, through his growly but gentle voice and piano skills, he delivers each song with just a hint of swagger. *Amigo Row* is a remarkably grown-up album that firmly establishes Suggs as a classy and effective storyteller. www.mattsuggs.com—**ECB**

CCCC

SUSHIROBO *The Light-Fingered Feeling Of Sushirobo* (Pattern 25)

Sushirobo are masters of deception. Using only guitars and effects, they create robotic pop songs that you'd swear were made on an iBook. Their sophomore LP, *The Light-Fingered Feeling Of Sushirobo*, sounds like an '80s vision of the strange and wonderful music of the future. Whether crawling through the reverb-drenched valleys of "Watch You" or getting deep into a Modest Mouse groove on "Community Theatre," Sushirobo consistently deliver a brand new retro sound. www.pattern25.com—**AL**

CCC

TEN BENSON *Benson Burner* (Jetset)

A lot of people toss off Ten Benson (not like that, perv) for being little more than one lame gag after another. They're entirely correct. Goofy songs about boobies and drugs will always appeal to the lowest denominator such as myself, though, so it's only natural that I ape on about these bare-bones tunes as if they were recorded by Bon Scott himself. Given that a lot of these riffs consist of basic 12-bar blues mauling, it's no wonder I want to use AC/DC as a reference point. After a few spins, you just go nuts givin' 'er with the riffage. www.jetsetrecords.com—**KC**

CCC

TRAILER BRIDE *Hope Is A Thing With Feathers* (Bloodshot/Outside)

While Trailer Bride are less of an Ol' South caricature compared to bands like Southern Culture On The Skids, they do churn out hillbilly imagery backed by a mix of mannered percussion and hayseed instrumentation. The focal point of Trailer Bride is singer Mary Swingle, whose atonal warble covers topics like white-trash strumpets on "Skinny White Girl," guns on "Quickstep" and cars on "Mach 1." www.bloodshotrecords.com—**CB**

CC

THE WELLWATER CONSPIRACY *Daybed* (Megaforce)

When The Wellwater Conspiracy released their excellent third album, 2001's *The Scroll And Its Combinations*, most critics felt ripped off because the band had turned into a cool psychedelic unit rather than sticking to the simple garage rock of the first disc. Well, those dismissive bozos won't have it any easier with *Daybed* as Pearl Jam's Matt Cameron and original Monster Magnet guitarist John McBain continue to mine the psych vein with lots of strange soundscapes, disembodied voices, swirling guitars and effects. If you give it time, the rewards are outstanding. www.nowinvisibly.com—**The Mouth**

CCC

HAWKSLEY WORKMAN *Lover/Fighter* (Isadora/Universal)

After an artist puts out a popular album, part of you wants every subsequent album to be the same, just dressed a little differently. Well, Hawksley Workman's new venture *Lover/Fighter* is not *The Delicious Wolves* dressed in sheep's clothing. It's still Hawksley, though a little more linear, a little more focused. This album isn't as instantly captivating as *Wolves*, but it is one of those albums you like more each time you hear it. The music is a little slower: the perfect setting for Workman's lyrical genius to shine. He merges words and music in a way that conveys raw emotion so precisely that it literally fills you with song. www.hawksleyworkman.com—**HK**

CCCC

NEIL YOUNG *Greendale* (Reprise/Warner)

Yet another in the tradition of off-kilter Neil Young adventures, *Greendale* uses 10 songs to unravel a tale of the Green family, three generations of characters all with healthy doses of buck-the-systemitis. Don't be fooled by *Greendale's* narrative though, this record is about as effective a window into Young's mind as you can get. The curmudgeonly grandpa hates the media, the fiery Sun Green is a hippie activist on a quest to save Mother Earth, but the law is after her complicating her plans... Besides the title track and "Sun Green," the songs on *Greendale* aren't particularly rocking, but that's not the point of this exercise. www.neilyoung.com—**ABr**

CCC

Contributors: Mike Armitage (MA), Andrea Chiu (AC), Elizabeth Chorney-Booth (ECB), Chris Burland (CB), Christine Estima (CE), Kate Guay (KG), Hannah Guy (HG), Lauren Ferranti (LF), Heather Kearney (HK), Darrin Keene (DK), Andy Lee (AL), David McPherson (DM), The Mouth, Brian Pascual (BP), Jason Richards (JR), Pete Richards (PR), John Teshima (JTes), Shannon Whibbs (SW), Jenny Yuen (JY)



BJORK *Royal Opera House (One Little Indian)*

BJORK *Volumen 1993-2003 (One Little Indian)*

Royal Opera House captures Bjork's magical 2001 London gig in all its transcendent glory. Accompanied by a full orchestra, Inuit choir, harp player and Matmos, she delivers a breathtaking 90-minute set culled mostly from her orchestral masterpiece, *Vespertine*, plus some old favourites. Meanwhile, *Volumen 1993-2003* chronicles every Bjork video ever made, from the Spike Jonze-directed manic musical "It's Oh So Quiet" to the auto-erotic-lesbian-robot-porn of "All Is Full Of Love." Amazingly, the 21 visual interpretations are every bit as inspired, unique and captivating as the music itself.—**AL**

Royal Opera House: CCCC *Volumen-1993-2003:* CCCCC



THE CURE *Trilogy* (Eagle Rock)

Last year, The Cure performed two concerts in Berlin during which they played all three albums in their "dark trilogy" — 1982's *Pornography*, 1989's *Disintegration* and 2000's *Bloodflowers* — track for track. While the resulting film will likely be overwhelming for anyone who's not a diehard fan, the band's performance and the juxtaposition of the albums is incredible to watch. While his teased hair and smeared make-up seem silly in middle age, Robert Smith is still charismatic and convincing in his gloomy

delivery. Complete with a hearty series of interviews with the current Cure line-up, *Trilogy* is a must-have for any of us who still pine for a pair of those old pointy-toed buckle boots.—**ECB**

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SHANE MACGOWAN *The Shane MacGowan Story:*

If I Should Fall From Grace (MVD/Koch)

Clocking in at 110 minutes, *If I Should Fall From Grace* tells the tragic story of gifted songwriter Shane MacGowan, former singer for The Pogues. While MacGowan continues to make music with The Popes, it's his personal life that's become the greater source of interest, in much the same way that people slow down to stare at car wrecks and blazing buildings. Through a series of interviews with MacGowan, his family and collaborators (including Nick

Cave and ex-Pogue Philip Chevron), *If I Should Fall* studiously documents both MacGowan's creative genius and the alcoholism that may put him in an early grave. Bonus features include extra interviews, singalong options (though not as many as you'd like) and a heartbreaking conversation between MacGowan and The Clash's Paul Simonon.—**JH**

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SIMON AND GARFUNKEL *The Concert In Central Park* (20th Century Fox)

While this reunion concert — filmed in 1981, over 10 years after Paul Simon and Art Garfunkel's egos got in the way of their magical musical connection — is in many ways breathtaking, this DVD release is not. With no bonus extras, save for a selection of promotional trailers for other Fox releases, the only advantage to the DVD is that you can skip over "50 Ways To Leave Your Lover." Still, in spite of their unnecessarily huge backing band and distracting overuse of pancake make-up, S&G are on fire during this

performance. Art's heart-stopping vocal on "Bridge Over Troubled Water" and the pair's duet on "The Boxer" are worth the purchase alone.—**ECB**

CCC



WESLEY WILLIS *The Daddy Of Rock 'N' Roll* (MVD/Koch)

Montreal filmmaker Daniel Bitton follows diagnosed schizophrenic and self-proclaimed "rock star" Wesley Willis in his hometown of Chicago, Illinois as he bumps heads with strangers, hangs out with his numerous friends and researches animal life for songs such as "Suck A Panda's Cock" and "Taste A Gorilla's Ass." While *The Daddy Of Rock 'N' Roll* is hardly a thrill ride, it's oddly compelling, if only to witness what the inimitable Willis will say or do next. Why? In his own words, "Because I'm crazy!"—**AL**

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