

IN THE MIX

Fear Yourself

Daniel Johnston

Gammon Records



Manic-depressive singer-songwriter Daniel Johnston is painfully obsessed with the concept of love, but he just can't give up hope in its redemptive power. On *Fear Yourself*, aided by the gorgeous, intricately layered production of Sparklehorse's Mark Linkous, Johnston conjures up a suite of songs exploring the themes of love both cosmic and personal. In "Love Enchanted"

CD

Johnston warbles earnestly in his fractured tenor, "Love will wash your brain/ Haunt you like a ghost/ It really is the most," over Linkous' downy Gothic bed of melotron, optigan, synth stings and piano. His tortured-naïf persona and gallows humor depict a soul both hopeful of attaining cosmic transcendence and resigned to the tragicomic foibles of flesh-driven desires. Despite Johnston's unfortunate reputation as an amusing freak, this is an album that deserves to be attentively listened to, and maybe even taken to heart.

—Carey Wilson

Rolling with the Stones

Bill Wyman

DK publishing



Bill Wyman, Rolling Stones bassist of 25 years, is not only a fine writer (his autobiography *Stone Alone* is considered one of the best rock tomes ever), but he's also kept a daily diary since the band's inception and is a memorabilia packrat bordering on obsessive-compulsive disorder.

This colorful coffee table book includes ticket stubs and programs from every venue the Stones played, descriptions of what they were wearing on any given day,

BOOK

every argument and shred of gossip, psychological profiles, and who played and wrote what on every song. As with the music, the book falters after Brian Jones' death, with the exception of *Sticky Fingers* and *Exile on Main Street*, the two LPs where replacement Mick Taylor and Keith Richards reached guitar nirvana before burning out on hard drugs and following disco-jagger into arena rock.

—Dan Cohen

The Shane MacGowan Story: If I Should Fall from Grace

Shane MacGowan/Pogues/Popes

Network Ireland Television/MVD



This is an unflinching look at singer-songwriter Shane MacGowan. From pop punks The Nips, through "breakthrough" band the Pogues, to his latest group the Popes,

DVD

MacGowan's entire history is traced. Parents Maurice and Therese talk frankly about how their move from Ireland to England in the late-'60s affected the young Shane and his lifelong love of traditional Irish music and later modern rock. Former Pogues band mate Philip Chevron supplies much insight into that '80s band's ups and downs; Nick Cave offers his views; Paul Simonon chats with MacGowan; and MacGowan himself—hair matted, front teeth missing, slurring such that you can almost smell the whiskey on his breath—provides his own comments on himself, his music and everything else. Lots of performance footage makes this DVD essential for any MacGowan/Pogues fan.

—John W. Young

Iraq Body Count

www.iraqbodycount.net



Now that the war in Iraq has commanded everyone's attention, there are many of us who aren't content to get our information from the usual Foxaganda outlets in the American corporate media. In addition to reading some of the more reliable domestic papers, we sort through the Web sites maintained by newspapers outside the States, such as

WEB

www.guardian.co.uk, or independent sites. This particular Web site is attempting to chronicle the number of civilians killed in Iraq as the result of the war. While Pentagon briefings may dismissively refer to them as "collateral damage," these are human beings who are being reduced to non-personhood through a fog of euphemism. The committed people behind the site give moral and humanitarian reasons for collating this information, and they use a network of reporting media, whose veracity is ensured by meeting certain standards. The site is updated daily.

—Jackson Griffith