



NEW YORK DOLLS

Music on DVD

Dexter Romweber

Two Headed Cow
Rockabilly
★★★★

If you only watch one Dex doc in your life ... it would almost have to be this one. Nearly two decades in the making, this 80-minute film traces the influential punkabilly cult hero's life and career, from his troubled youth and wild years with the mighty Flat Duo Jets to his battles with madness and recent resurgence as a solo artist. Nearly 40 minutes of bonus footage round out the affair.

New York Dolls

Lookin' Fine on Television
Glam-Rock
★★½

Back in the '70s, photographer Bob Gruen bought an early video portapak and used it to shoot glam-rock trailblazers The New York Dolls onstage and off. He released a couple of hours of the grainy but irresistibly watchable B&W footage on the 2005 DVD *All Dolled Up*. Here's another 70-minute batch — but this time, sadly, he cut multiple performances into montages. What a waste.



Nada Surf

The Stars are Indifferent to Astronomy
Indie-Pop
★★★★½

It's easy to be indifferent to Nada Surf — they're still best known for the '90s grunge-pop novelty *Popular*. But writing them off as one-hit wonders is a mistake; their seventh disc, like many of its predecessors, showcases their musical maturity with a menu of jangly '70s power pop and crunchy indie-rock reminiscent of Big Star and The Posies. Popularity isn't everything, you know. **Download:** *Waiting for Something; Looking Through*



Rumer

Seasons of My Soul
Retro-Pop
★★★★

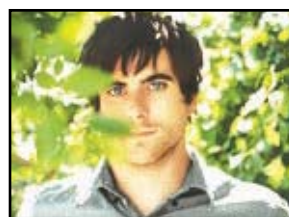
Not everyone is doing it for the kids. British singer-songwriter Rumer — aka Sarah Joyce — seems to aim for an older (or at least more mature) demographic with her debut disc. Between her rich soulful vocals, sweetly sincere melodies and classic orch-pop arrangements and instrumentation, *Seasons of My Soul* sounds like Karen Carpenter singing a Burt Bacharach tribute. Nice. **Download:** *Am I Forgiven?; Aretha*



Biohazard

Reborn in Defiance
Metal
★★★★

Reborn but sadly short-lived. Biohazard's long-awaited ninth CD is also the first in 18 years from the reunited New York heabyweights' classic lineup. It may also be the last, since singer-bassist Evan Seinfeld jumped ship again after its completion. The good news: He left this killer clutch of aggressively dark metal, thundering hardcore and vulcanized rap-rock. That oughta hold you. **Download:** *Vengeance is Mine; Reborn*



Anthony Green

Beautiful Things
Indie-Rock
★★★★½

Not to be confused with Moldy Peach Adam Green or soul man Anthony Hamilton, Anthony Green is frontman of post-punks Circa Survive. But you won't find sawtooth guitars and emo vocals on his second solo album. Instead, the boyish vocalist delivers an idiosyncratic document that casually veers from alt-country and a cappella to dub and Beatle-pop. Unfocused but intriguing. **Download:** *Do it Right; Can't Have it All at Once*

GARAGE BAND IDOL

Let us listen to your original song, and we'll tell you if it sucks or not

Longwell
Niagara, Ont.
longwell.bandcamp.com

Everybody deserves a second chance. So, even though I disliked the song these Niagara indie-popsters asked me to sample — it sounded like they were making it up on the spot — I listened to a few more. And then things started to make sense. Their songs are kind of loose and ramshackle, but in a mid-period Flaming Lips way, while the singer's voice sounds a bit like John K. Samson of The Weakerthans. If that combination intrigues you, by all means give them a chance. And maybe a second one.

DARRYL'S VERDICT
★★★
“They grow on you.”

Want Darryl Sterdan to review your homemade, original song? E-mail us an online link where he can hear it. If he chooses yours, he'll tell readers if it sucks or not. Send the link to darryl.sterdan@sunmedia.ca

LISTEN FOR YOURSELF

longwell.bandcamp.com

Gretchen Peters

Hello Cruel World
Singer-Songwriter
★★★★



It's been the best and worst of times for Peters. But the Nashville singer-songwriter channels her recent personal triumphs and tragedies — from a marriage to a friend's suicide — into her sixth and most personal disc. Accessorizing her poignant, stark roots ballads with strings and dashes of jazz and southern soul, she fashions inspiring tales of faith, love and survival. Bring Kleenex. **Download:** *Hello Cruel World; Paradise Found*

The Internet

Purple Naked Ladies
Hip-Hop Soul
★★★★



Another oddity from the Odd Future pack. The production duo of DJ Syd the Kid and Matt Martians lead this Google-resistant project — so perhaps unsurprisingly, their debut seems less about songcraft than sound, with 40-plus minutes of meandering slow-grooves, spaced-out P-Funkadelic production and a rotating cast of low-key guest vocalists. As freaky as its title, if not as sexy. **Download:** *Lincoln & Cocaine / Tevie* (feat. Left Brain)

Chairlift

Something
Electro-Pop
★★★★½



Two heads are better than three. Although down to a duo, these Brooklyn electro-popsters have never sounded bigger than on this long-awaited followup to their acclaimed 2008 debut *Does You Inspire You*. While continuing their affair with '80s synths, sounds and styles, the female-fronted pair trim away the quirk in favour of strong melodies and sharp hooks. It's something, all right. **Download:** *I Belong in Your Arms; Met Before*

Coming up

NEXT WEEK

Scars & Stories
The Fray

Kisses on the Bottom
Paul McCartney

A Different Kind of Truth
Van Halen

Lollipops & Politics
VV Brown

Blues Funeral
Mark Lanegan

Short Songs
Silverstein

All release dates subject to change

CORRECTION

Darryl Sterdan's review of Lamb of God's *Resolution* on last week's CDs page was supposed to be four stars, not one-and-a-half stars. The Sun regrets the error.