

NATIONAL MUSIC REVIEWS

Issue 279 / March 2012 [More From This Issue](#)

Search



Email List



0

The Fall
Ersatz G.B.
Cherry Red
Street: 11.14.11

The Fall = Public Image Ltd. + Wire

At least once a year, we are blessed with a new release from Mark E. Smith and his continuous rotating band members. On album 29, Ersatz G.B., we find Smith rambling incoherently and sounding unhinged at times, but this is the same Fall we fell in love with. Smith snarls his wit over rapid-fire drums and spacey keys on album opener "Cosmos 7." The key track is the snappy, dub-driven "Taking Off," revealing a sliver of pop. Smith sounds tipsy as he mumbles "I'm so sick of Snow Patrol," on the rockabilly-frosted "Mask Search." Smith growls, "I had to whack off the cat to feed the fucking dog," on the highly repetitive drum-and-bass "Greenway." Eleni Poulou, Smith's wife and keyboardist of 10 years, creates a Nico and Lou Reed moment with "Happy Song." As the late, great John Peel once said about The Fall, "They are always different; they are always the same." —Courtney Blair

Fauna
Manshines
Waxploitation/ZZK Records
Street: 01.10

Fauna = the tamest versions of (Calle 13 + Pitbull + Beastie Boys circa Licensed To Ill)

At first I thought this was a review from the local indie outfit of the same name. THANK GOODNESS, IT IS NOT. Instead, it's a mish-mash of reggaeton and cumbia-flavored drums and electronics with bro-Latino vocals that are mixed poorly and songs that aren't really that exciting as a whole, but that have a lot of potential. Seeing as how everyone loves a good "baile" funk dance party, I want to challenge Fauna to step it up and get raunchy, damn it. Get drunk. Get dirty. —Mary Houdini

Goth-Trad
New Epoch
Deep Medi Musik
Street: 02.07

Goth-Trad = Mala + Distance + Hatcha

New Epoch is Japanese producer Goth-Trad's first LP in seven years. With that long of a wait, it's no surprise to anyone familiar with his work that the album is ambitious, dark, and introspective. The album is both a nod to mid-2000s dubstep and a glance at what lies ahead in the broad genre of bass music. It's a guaranteed classic. There's intricate and complex composition, dub-reminiscent melodies and quick, spattered drums layered on top to complement the heavy, heavy sub-bass. Perhaps the most noteworthy aspect of the production is the rhythms. They are remarkably simple, yet so unique. In a day and age where most music sounds the same, Goth-Trad stands out with ease. And he does it all with a minimalistic, economic style that perfectly complements the focal point, the sub-bass. The album title, New Epoch, refers to a new age for Japan after the earthquake, the album an expression of the hope of the Japanese people that something new is starting. It's fitting, because the album feels like a new start in bass music. —Jessie Wood

High Dive
Self-Titled
No Idea Records
Street: 12.14.11

High Dive = Nada Surf + The Donnas' high-school album

Coming from Bloomington, Indiana, High Dive is a Queer punk band featuring Toby Foster on guitar, Ryan Woods (who also plays with Defiance, Ohio) on bass and Nick Romy on drums. Though their sound is a little unpolished—it wouldn't be punk if it wasn't—High Dive has some of the most honest and revealing songs about growing up queer I've ever come across. Their cover of Tiffany's "I Think We're Alone Now" is also particularly enjoyable. If you've ever felt out of place or as though things will never get better, this is an album you should give a listen to. If you can't find them at Graywhale, order it at noidearecords.com. —Johnny Logan

Howler
America Give Up
Rough Trade
Street: 01.16

Howler = The Strokes + Television + Weezer + meh

Give Up America is a cute and shiny pop record, covered in a thin layer of dirt and grime, mixing sounds

FROM
READ

S

SLUG



- » Qwest in Salt Lake City is now Centu
- » The SLUG Games amateur ski and sn
- » Soundwaves from the Underground,
- podcast