



Big Sugar's Gordie Johnson

Music on DVD

Big Sugar

Eliminate Ya! Live!

Blues-Rock

★★★½

Appearances really do deceive. Big Sugar singer-guitarist Gordie Johnson was dealing with a nasty case of carpal tunnel syndrome on the band's 2011 Revolution Per Minute Tour. But you'd never know it from this DVD — the 135-minute show taped at Winnipeg's Burton Cummings Theatre features all the requisite blues-rock guitar heroics, along with plenty of Rastaman vibrations.

Alice Donut

Freaks in Love

Alt-Rock

★★★★

Alice Donut are hardly a household name — unless the members of your household appreciate psychedelic punk from the '80s and '90s. If so, this definitive documentary on the long-running New York oddballs is right up your alley. It chronicles every adventure (and misadventure) in their continuing career via the usual assortment of vintage footage and new interviews. Join the cult.

GARAGE BAND IDOL

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

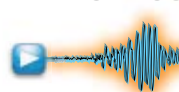
Rock Garden
Ajax, Ont.
reverbNation.com/rockgarden

Famous last words And first ones. "I wanna be bad," is the opening line of the top tune on this Toronto crew's ReverbNation page. Well, congrats, kids. Thanks to your generic bar-band guitar-rock, bland performances and not one but two songs about Vegas — one featuring inane lyrics about Michael Jackson and Gene Simmons impersonators, and another that manages to rip-off both *Taxman* and *Viva Las Vegas* — you have truly accomplished your mission.

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

DARRYL'S VERDICT
★½
"Garden of sorrows."

LISTEN FOR YOURSELF



reverbNation.com/rockgarden



Andrew Bird

Hands of Glory

Alt-Roots

★★★½

Bird fanciers are in luck. Eight months after his latest album *Break it Yourself*, the Chicago singer-violinist returns with this companion EP. Supposedly recorded around a single microphone in a barn — which seems dubious given the production — the disc mixes country covers, classics, new originals and *Break It* fare, all rendered with Bird's usual blend of art and heart. Worth a hand.

Download: *When That Helicopter Comes; Railroad Bill*



Bat for Lashes

The Haunted Man

Indie-Pop

★★★★

Every picture tells a story. And the tasteful nude of Natasha Khan on her third album succinctly summarizes her revised musical approach. Stripping away the baroque flourish of old in favour of understated synths and minimalist, textured electronic grooves, the singer and multi-instrumentalist fashions her darkest, moodiest and yes, her most haunted (and haunting) songs. Scary good.

Download: *All Your Gold; Laura*



The Coup

Sorry to Bother You

Hip-Hop

★★★★

The revolution may not be televised — but if Boots Riley has his say, it'll definitely be funky. The rabble-rousing Oakland rapper raises a raucous ruckus once again on his sixth album, raging against the system and spurring the 99% to action with the help of a mischievously groovalicious soundtrack reminiscent of George Clinton's P-Funk and OutKast's *Andre 3000*. Join the party.

Download: *The Magic Clap; Strange Arithmetic*



Converge

All We Love We Leave Behind

Metalcore

★★★★

Well, perhaps not ALL they love. These mighty Massachusetts metalcore vets don't completely reinvent their wheel of destruction for their eighth studio outing. But they do upgrade it slightly by incorporating moments of melodious musicality to their relentless onslaught of shape-shifting time signatures, explosively propulsive mayhem and primal-scream intensity. Love it or leave it.

Download: *Trespases; Vicious Muse*

Coming up

NEXT WEEK

AC/DC

Live at River Plate

Blur

Parklive

Eric Clapton

Slowhand 35th Anniversary

Coldplay

Live 2012

Keyshia Cole

Woman to Woman

Kid Rock

Rebel Soul

Led Zeppelin

Led Zeppelin

Graham Parker & The Rumour

Three Chords Good

Pitbull

Global Warming

Rihanna

Unapologetic

All release dates subject to change

Fear

The Fear Record

Punk

★★



This week in unnecessary remakes: L.A. Punk provocateur

Lee Ving and his latest incarnation of Fear Xerox their offensively incendiary 1982 debut from stem to stern. On the upside: Ving's gravel-throated wail holds up, the songs are still delivered with speed-demon aggression and the production is cleaner. On the downside: It still can't match the intensity of the original. Fear not.

Download: *I Love Livin' in the City; Gimme Some Action*

The Envy

Deception | Conception

Modern Rock

Both: ★★★



Baby steps. They seem to be paying off for these Toronto pop-rockers and

Gene Simmons proteges. Instead of rushing out an album, they've taken it slower, honing their songwriting over the course of these two EPs (now being simultaneously released). *Conception* is slightly poppier and peppier; *Deception* is a bit darker, heavier and moodier. Both are steps in the right direction.

Download: *Label Whore; Bleach*

The Polyphonic Spree

Songs from the Rocky Horror Picture Show Live

Orch-Pop

★★★★



Talk about a Halloween treat: Singer Tim DeLaughter and his robed orch-

pop cult recreated nearly all the *Rocky Horror* soundtrack at an Oct. 31 gig in London — then sold bootlegs of the show immediately afterward. Naturally, the sound is dodgy at times. But the joyful exuberance of the performance — which includes a second set of Spree faves and Who covers — makes up for it.

Download: *Sweet Transvestite; Pinball Wizard*