

Music Reviews

Yahowa 13 - Something Old that's Something Different

By Lee MC
Burbank Times Entertainment

Yahowa 13 – "Sonic Portation"

Sometimes the more strange and absurd things sound, the more curious you get. Here is a little in the press kit about Yahowa 13:



"Back in the early 70s a curious group owned and operated a health food restaurant in Los Angeles. The Source Family was a religious group of young people centered around the father figure of Father Yod, a WWII flying ace and spiritual searcher. This group of young people also performed improvisational music backing Father Yod under the name Yahowa 13. When Father Yod died in a hang gliding accident in 1975, the group dispersed.

In 2007, with the publishing of a book about the Source Family, the original Yahowa 13 reunited for some shows and did some studio recordings. These are the long awaited results, the first studio recordings in over 30 years by Yahowa 13! Original members Djin, Octavius and Sunflower jam out like the ensuing years never happened."

I had no idea what to expect once I popped this CD in and as happens every once in a while – wham. Something that kind of kicks my butt. It's a different sound and you keep listening because you want to know what's coming next. Some of the tracks are long play (seven minute range) and yet they keep you engaged.

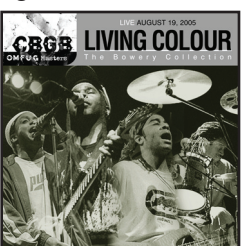
The recording has been done well and for a group over 30 years old, they make great use of modern recording techniques. This will be one of my Ipod downloads that needs to be listened with headphones to get the true quality.

Sonic Portation is now available from the Prophase Label and distributed by MVD.

Living Colour – "Live From CBGB"

What ever happened to Living Colour? This was a hard rocking band that hit the scene and then they were off the national stage.

Back in August, 2005 Living Colour went to the legendary CBGB and recorded this live album.



Yes, hits like "Glamour Boys" and "Cult of Personality" are both on this 12 track CD, but what you get is the raw sound of Living Colour in a small, intimate venue. Think of going to a small club and listening to these guys doing a set.

Corey Glover sounds great and the band has not lost a step with always prevalent guitar of Vernon Reid. This has always been a band that rocks and has a great sound.

If you're a fan of Living Colour as I am, this is a definite album that should be in your collection and give you the intimate feel of actually being there with the guys.

Available now through MVD Distribution.

These Green Eyes – "Relapse to Recovery"

As just about any band knows, it's not the first CD, but the sophomore effort that can be the make it – or break it time in a career. Relapse to Recovery by These Green Eyes is their second CD and there is little here to suggest that these guys have the holding power.

You will get your first taste just after the New Year when Paramedic is released, a song that mixes some of that great old 'stadium rock' with a modern sound.

Vocalist Colin Cunningham has a great set of pipes and you start seeing some of his attitude on the fifth track, Drunk Driver. Singing songs is great, but bringing some emotion to what you are hearing is the key.

While their ballad, "Blood Sweat and Beers" did not really do a lot for me, the next track "Sucker Punch (Won't Set Away With It)" has the potential to be an anthem song with some upbeat emotion and would be a great selection to highlight in the future.

While Paramedic will be out shortly, you will have to wait until late March before you get your hands on the Relapse to Recovery CD from Blackledge Music and distributed by Atlantic/ADA.

Erik Mongrain – "Equilibrium"

Equilibrium is the second album from Erik Mongrain, a guitar virtuoso who has his acoustic guitar singing in this nine track CD.

This has more of a classic feel to it and is perfect for your dinner parties.



Mongrain, is a 28 year old from Canada and has been popular on youtube. (youtube.com/user/erikmongrain).

Fans of the slower Jazz sound will definitely enjoy this 40 minute selection that is now available from MVD Distribution and the Prophase Label

Keaton Simmons – "Can You Hear Me"

As far as debut albums go, Can You Hear Me by Keaton Simmons has a lot of strengths.



Simmons comes out strong with emotion and story writing as he performs on this 11 track CD.

While this is his first full CD (CBS Records), he started his musical career with Maverick Records with the EP "Currently", which received substantial airplay and put Simmons on the map. He then moved to CBS Records when Maverick was absorbed by Warner Records.

Listening to the CD, I found many of the tracks engaging, and depending on your mood, they can all serve different purposes in your listening.

Nobody Knows and Unstoppable are both songs that will keep you going when you are looking for something upbeat and your ready for little rock. Currently is a different song in itself, and is the kind of track that you would listen to when you are in more of a reflective mood and want some kick back music.

Simmons music has been getting some national exposure through both television and airplay and there is no sign that he cannot keep up this songwriting for years to come.

Plastic Crimewave Sound – "Plastic Crimewave Sound"

When alternative music was invented a few years ago, there is no doubt that they must have had Plastic Crimewave Sound in mind. Yes, there is punk influence to the music, but the songs seem to sometimes get lost into themselves, and not always in a bad way if that makes any sense.



About the only thing that turned me off to this five track CD was 'live' sound that was prevalent throughout, even though this was not recorded at a live venue. It feels at times that there is extensive use of echo in the recordings which may weigh on you as time passes.

The last track, "The Pasture" is over 17 minutes long and will actually keep you engaged the whole way with this primarily instrumental song.

Distributed by MVD, Plastic Crimewave Sound has been available in since the end of October.

Enjoy an Entire "Bolt" Fun Time at El Capitan Theatre

Hollywood's legendary El Capitan Theatre offers the perfect holiday entertainment package for moviegoers of all ages. First, see an all-new live stage show "Disney's Holiday Spectacular," then enjoy Walt Disney Pictures' latest animated comedy-adventure, "Bolt," presented in dazzling Disney Digital 3-D, now through January 4th. The El Capitan Theatre and Disney's Soda Fountain and Studio Store are open all holidays, including Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Years Day.

"Disney's Holiday Spectacular" -- An All New Live Stage Show, transforms the theater into a winter wonderland and features an ensemble of Disney's top animated stars celebrating the season. Then Bolt takes Disney animation to a whole new level of fun and technical excellence with its engaging story, inspired animation, and superb vocal talents (John Travolta, Miley Cyrus, Susie Essman, and Mark Walton).

Daily showtimes are 10:00 am, 1:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 7:00 pm, and 9:55 pm. Tickets are available at the El Capitan Theatre (6838 Hollywood Blvd.), online at www.elcapitantickets.com www.elcapitantickets.com, or by calling 1-800-DISNEY6. Special group rates for parties of 20 or more are available by calling 1-818-845-3110.

To celebrate the El Capitan's special engagement, Disney's Soda Fountain and Studio Store (located adjacent to the theatre), will be unleashing a special "Bolt Sundae." This mouth-watering sundae will include rich vanilla ice cream, real brownie pieces, hot fudge and caramel, topped off with a chocolate "Bolt" dog tag!

Commenting on the announcement, Lylle Breier, senior vice president, worldwide special events for Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures, said, "Our El Capitan guests are in for a very special treat this holiday season with this exclusive engagement featuring Disney's newest 3-D film, "Bolt," along with a fantastic Disney character stage show. It's a show that is sure to get everyone in the holiday spirit."

Walt Disney Pictures' "Bolt" follows the adventures of a super-dog TV star (voice of John Travolta), whose daily routine is filled with adventure, danger, and intrigue at least until the cameras stop rolling. When the sheltered star is accidentally shipped from his Hollywood soundstage to New York City, he begins his biggest adventure yet a cross-country journey through the real world to get back to his owner and co-star, Penny (voice of Miley Cyrus).

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