

SOUNDSCAPE MUSIC REVIEWS

features two original members (sadly three of the original members are now dead), but those two members have never stopped being creative and for the most part (Buster P, does not need to be talked about) all those post NEW YORK DOLLS projects has been filled with a lot of great stuff, though definitely well under the radar of most folks for the last 20 years or so. This new record doesn't just rehash old ideas or ape their old sound, it's new and it sounds new and it's good, real good. There are a couple of mellow moments, but in general they are still drenched in the old gut bucket blues and trashy rock n roll that they are legendary for, the band seems to have a lot left in the tank. Maybe this time they will get the credit and attention that they deserve. Guest shots on this record include MICHAEL STIPE, IGGY POP, BO DIDDLEY! and Tom Gabel of AGAINST ME. (JC) (Roadrunner)

NOFX

"Wolves In Wolves Clothing" CD

I've gone on at great length about how wonderful NOFX are. How they're not only musically the best band in America, but that politically, they're really leading the very welcome (left) (re)politicising of a generation. What perhaps I haven't hammered home enough is how, musically, they just go from strength to strength. As with the "War On Errorism", this is up there with "White Trash" and "Punk In Drublic". Believe me. You won't be disappointed. But I suspect you don't need me to tell you that... (RK) (Fat Wreck Chords/www.fatwreck.com)

NOFX

"Wolves in Wolves Clothing" CD

It's everything you'd expect out of a decent-good NOFX album. It's not ground-breaking, as a lot of tracks come from the 7" club, but 90% of the tracks on here are really good, and while the album seems a little disjointed (probably because it's a lot of tracks thrown together), and while the reprise of the intro track doesn't do enough to create an adhesive album, it's still a very solid NOFX outing. Lyrically, these may be some of the best songs they've written, including "Leaving Jesusland" and "USA-holes." On top of that, there isn't one track I can say really sucks; they all serve their purpose and if you like NOFX, you should like this album. (WDJ) (Fat Wreck Chords / www.fatwreck.com)

NONE MORE BLACK

"This is Satire" CD

If nothing else, NONE MORE BLACK has a lot more style than most other bands today. There is more, though. The lyrics, vocal delivery, and off tempo melodies of "This is Satire" add much more to the already impressive style of this four piece. For what it's worth, the album artwork is well done and presents a common theme for the album, which only adds to the fact that this is a very cohesive album. Many bands slap good tracks together, few create an entirely good album from the ground up. "This is Satire" is one of those albums. (WDJ) (Fat Wreck Chords / www.fatwreck.com)

NONE MORE BLACK

"This Is Satire" CD

This is a big disappointment. Gone is the melodic, rough-edged hardcore. What we're faced with here is a band that wants to embrace 'rock'. Not in the AC/DC sense, unfortunately. More in the We're A Serious Modern Rock Band Now sense. It doesn't do them any favors. At best, they come across as a second rate (later-period) HOT WATER MUSIC or REPLACEMENTS (well past their sell date). More often though, this just wanders all over the map, going nowhere fast. A real shame. (RK) (Fat Wreck Chords/www.fatwreck.com)

NO TRIGGER

"Canyoneer" CD

12 rousing tracks of melodic hardcore, in the trusty vein of LIFETIME, STRIKE ANYWHERE, with a dash of ANTI-FLAG and early DAG NASTY. Sounds tasty, right? You betcha. This is their

debut LP, and me likes very much. Some excellent lyrics, carried with just the right level of melody, passion, and drive. (RK) (Nitro/www.nitrorecords.com)

NOVEMBER COMING FIRE

"Dungeness" CD

Slow & technical hardcore – like a darker version of Hot Cross, or a less rock & rolley version of Doomriders. Their bio says they are recommended for fans of Old Man Gloom and Neurosis. Personally, I can't really get into either of those bands. They both seem to spend too much time being dark and/or impressive, and never get around to bringing the rock. November Coming Fire doesn't get lost being all technical, so Dungeness is a dark hardcore record that indeed rocks. If you like most of the bands on Level Plane Records, Jesus Lizard or Modern Life Is War, then you will probably like this band. (JS) (Reflections Records)

PLAIN WHITE T's

"Hey There Delilah" CD EP

New version of the acoustic favorite from their second CD, plus 4 new tracks, and 3 videos.... and a live version of, er, "Hey There Delilah" too! Let's hope it's your favorite song too! Actually, methinks they are one of the better indie-punk bands around at the moment. I'm keeping this one. (RK) (Fearless/East West)

POPSTERS

"All Of You" CD

Italian pop-punk quartet, very much in the SCREECHING WEASEL/QUEERS family mold. They even came out to the mid-west to record this with Mass Giorgini. And they do a good job of it too. Not outstanding, but none too shabby for a rather overcrowded genre, either. A keeper, for sure. (RK) (Incessant Drip Records/www.incessantdrip.com)

PORNSTAR PETS

"Pornstar Pets" DVD

Shit, what a tease this was! When you get something in the mail to review with the word "pornstar" in the title, the word that you want to see after it is not "pets." Seriously, come on, what a tease! So I'm reading about it, and apparently it's a documentary about the pets owned by some of the biggest names in the adult film industry. Ok, definitely NOT porn, but c'mon, it's about pornstars – there's gotta be something spankable in there, right? WRONG!! 52 minutes, and not so much as a nip-slip! Can you fucking believe that? Shit man! So yeah, it's a movie about the pets of pornstars. That's one of those ideas you have, you think to yourself 'wouldn't it be funny to make a movie like that?' and you move on...you don't do it. Otherwise you have to subject viewers to 52 minutes of shit like Ron Jeremy talking about how great his turtle is. WHO GIVES A FUCK RON JEREMY?! Just show some naked chicks!!! (MWB) (www.brink.com)

RAISED FIST

"Sound of the Republic" CD

Wow, this CD is fucking sick. RAISED FIST are back!! These dudes have been together for over 12 years, and they're still kicking just as much ass as ever. Blending all the best elements of hardcore and metal, but never falling into the metal-core style, with some fierce shouted vocals that stay perfectly within range at all times – think of a more pissed off version of Dave from VISION. Definitely one of the best that Sweden has to offer. These guys kill all boundaries and borders within the scenes and just kick the shit out of you with one sonic assault after another. 'Killing It' is gonna be one of the best songs of the year. (MWB) (www.burningheart.com / www.epitaph.com)

RIVERBOAT GAMBLERS

"To The Confusion of Our Enemies" CD

I've been waiting for this thing for just about a year. Ever since I finally saw these insane dudes live at last year's Warped Tour, playing a smaller stage but tearing shit up like nobody else that day, I've wanted to get this CD. Finally, it's here, and it's stellar. Take everything you think you know about the GAMBLERS and throw it right out the window, though, because these dudes have reinvented themselves – less manic aggression, far more pop sensibilities, all together creating a package of straightforward rock that they can bring like nobody else out there today. I'm seriously floored by these guys, and this CD did nothing but further convince me that these guys are poised to be the saviors of rock and roll. (MWB) (www.volcoment.com)

SAVES THE DAY

"Sound the Alarm" CD

This album brought back my interest in SAVES THE DAY. I'd seem them live awhile back and didn't care for much of their music back then, but this album is very solid and catchy and definitely worth checking out for new fans, or those that may have fallen along the wayside. There are still a few problems with it, namely, the ending. On "Bones", they really pick up the pace and this album needs to go out in a fury, but instead, SAVES THE DAY falls into the common formula trap of ending with a slow song. It's not a bad track, but this album should have ended much stronger. In the end, this is probably their best album and should at least be given a chance. (WDJ) (Vagrant Records / www.vagrant.com)

SAVES THE DAY

"Sound The Alarm" CD

5th full length (6th if you count the B-sides LP), back on faux major after stung on real major. Given that these guys are huge, I'm sure those that are excited by this will have already rush out and purchased. But, I have to say, this elicited the same reaction as whiny Britpop from me. Some catchy, sugary tunes, but it all gets a little grating after a while. (RK) (Vagrant/www.vagrant.com)

SCARS OF TOMORROW

"The Beginning Of" CD

Metallic hardcore heavyweights SCARS OF TOMORROW have re-released some of their earlier works, highlighting some of their higher points in 2001 & 2002. I gotta say, this isn't my thing, but if you're a fan of these dudes, this is something you're definitely gonna want. It's usually a good thing, hearing some of the earlier works of your favorite bands, getting a feel for where it all started. Having said that, there have been some real shitters released when it comes to earlier materials, but this one stays true to the sound that fans of SCARS OF TOMORROW have come to know. You could compare these dudes to the likes of UNEARTH or TERROR, so if that's your bag and you're not familiar with these dudes, you might be best served to check out their newest material first, but this one is worth picking up, too. (MWB) (www.thorprecords.com)

SCOTCH GREENS

"Professional" CD

Debut attempt at yet another melding of punk and traditional roots (read folk) music. I guess at least they should get credit for not faking the Celtic thing. But while they do sport two banjos, they seem to fall

