

Army Of Anyone Want To Be Judged By Their Fifth Album, Not Their Debut

My New York Love Affair: Nas, Madonna, Usher Talk Up The Big Apple

Chris Brown, Ne-Yo, Lil Wayne, Juelz Give UCP Crowd Plenty To Scream About

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New Releases: Jessica Simpson, Method Man, Tego Calderon, Pete Yorn, Too Short, Bob Dylan & More

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My NYC Love Affair

Nas, Madonna, Common and more talk about their favorite parts of New York living.

The Doctor Is In

Newcomer Papoose, who just signed a \$1.5 million deal, snags Dr. Dre for his debut.

Hip Service

Some of the greatest moments in Shakira's "Hips Don't Lie" were last-minute ideas ...

Can't Wait For VMAs

"I hope Christina blows us away — and takes some Moonmen along the way."

Amped For The VMAs?

Satisfy your appetite with pictures, updates, video and more leading up to the big show.

Saw chimes in on "My World."

Tego to Go: While Beenie is one of reggae's biggest names these days, a pioneer of one of the genre's offshoots, reggaeton, is also checking in this week.

Tego Calderón's *The Underdog/ El Subestimado* might seem like a bilingual effort, but it's almost all sung in Spanish, save the **Buju Banton**-featuring "Bad Man" and "Chillin' " with **Don Omar**. A sample of **Jimmy Cliff's** "Sooner or Later" also crops up on the record, half of which was recorded in Miami.



Young Dro "Shoulder Lean" *Best Thang Smokin'* (Grand Hustle/Atlantic)



M. Ward "Chinese Translation" *Post-War* (Merge Records)

Blow-in' It: **Too Short** makes this week's competition even stronger by dropping *Blow the Whistle*, his first proper release since 2003's *Married to the Game*. **David Banner** bolsters "Baller," and **Jazze Pha** partakes in "16 Hoes," but Too Short proves he can hold his own with "I Want Your Girl," "Pimpin' Forever," "Call Her a Bitch" and other instructional songs.

Game On: With all the rap heavyweights dishing up new slices this week — there's also **Young Dro** (*Best Thang Smokin'*) and **Loon** (*No Friends*) — the **Roots'** diverse *Game Theory* will be a breath of fresh air. The Philly phenoms sample the **Jackson 5's** "All I Do Is Think of You" on "Can't Stop This," which **Jay Dee** produced before he died earlier this year. And the record becomes even more eclectic as **Black Thought**, **Questlove** and the squad tap into **Radiohead's** "You and Whose Army" and **Sly & the Family Stone's** "Life of Fortune and Fame."

Singer/Songwriter Stew: Among all the hip-hop activity, a smattering of singer/songwriters are chiming in as well, and the truly varied crew is challenging the limitations of the term. Probably the best-known singer/songwriter of them all, **Bob Dylan**, tallies his first studio LP in five years, *Modern Times*. Fans will want to scoop up the limited-edition deluxe version, which has an expanded booklet, previously unreleased photos and a DVD with four goodies: a performance of "Cold Irons Bound" that was shot during the making of the 2003 bomb "Masked and Anonymous," a rendition of "Love Sick" from the Grammy Awards and videos for "Blood in My Eyes" and "Things Have Changed." There's also another DVD, "Bob Dylan 1966 - 1978: After the Crash," which was produced in conjunction with the well-regarded Dylan fanzine *Isis* and culls phone conversations, rarely seen material and interviews with his collaborators.

Fellow Columbia artist **Pete Yorn** — who appeared alongside Dylan on the 2001 "Bandits" soundtrack — brings to a close the three-album trilogy that launched his career with *Nightcrawler*, which he's been hyping with a litany of in-store and club performances. Fans who preordered were gifted with the bonus limited-edition EP *Westerns*, which he has said was inspired by **Johnny Cash** and **Roy Orbison**, but everyone will be able to enjoy "Bandstand in the Sky," "Policies" and "The Man," which features **Dixie Chick Natalie Maines**.

While Yorn's *Nightcrawler* is a distinctly rock record, **Ray LaMontagne** tones it down with *Till the Sun Turns Black*, produced by **Ethan Johns** (2004's *Trouble*, **Ryan Adams**). Expect stripped roots-folk throughout from the RCA Records artist, including "Truly, Madly, Deeply," "Barfly" and "Three More Days."

Continuing to buck the major labels is **M. Ward**, whose fifth record features guest spots by **My Morning Jacket's Jim James**, **Neko Case** and Saddle Creek Records production stalwart **Mike Mogis**. *Post-War* boasts "Today's Undertaking," "Neptune's Net" and "Chinese Translation."

You Hear It First artist **Támar Davis** injects some guitar soul into the mix with *Milk & Honey*, which is bound to be mixed up with **John Lennon's** album of the same name as it hits the record racks. "Beautiful, Love and Blessed" pits her with **Prince**, but people ranging from **Naomi Judd** to **Arsenio Hall** have been singing her praises.

Also stepping up to the plate is Bostonian **Catie Curtis**, whose 12-song *Long Night Moon* features **Mary Chapin Carpenter** and the **Push Stars' Chris Trapper**; Iowan **William Elliott Whitmore**, whose nine-track *Song of the Blackbird* finds him reinterpreting "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot"; and New Yorker **Sasha Dobson**, whose *Modern Romance* sees her branching out into Brazilian music, folk and pop.

Song Title of the Week:

"Konichiwa Bitches" from **Method Man's** 4:21 ... *The Day After*

Other Notables:

Various artists' "Kill Your Idols" DVD: After winning the Tribeca Film Festival's rather narrow Best New York Documentary Feature honor but only getting a brief theatrical run, the underground-music film gets upped with bonus interviews and live-performance clips in the DVD version. If you've always wondered what was up with your brother's No Wave fascination, or give a hoot about **Sonic Youth** and the scene that spawned them, here's your chance.

The **Beach Boys' Pet Sounds - 40th Anniversary:** If you've been waiting to find the right time to get familiar with one of the most important pop records of all time, now's your chance. The limited-edition set, which is boosted by a DVD documentary, has four different mixes of the album, plus a photo gallery and suede digipak case. If you want to get even more authentic, look for the double-colored vinyl version, for which just 10,000 pressings are being made.

Motörhead's Kiss of Death vs. John Lithgow's The Sunny Side of the Street: This record probably won't spell doom for one of heavy metal's most enduring acts, as **Lemmy** and the gang hang tough with "God Was Never on Your Side," "Sucker" and "Devil I Know." Also included as a bonus is a newly recorded