

music

music report

BY KEVIN WIERZBICKI

BRATZ NEED YOUR BEATS

Whoever thought it would be a bunch of brats, er, Bratz, that would help you break into the music business?

That opportunity has now presented itself as Geffen Records has put out a call looking for songs to include on the soundtrack to the upcoming live-action, comedy adventure film *Bratz*.

Here's the deal: Go to www.bratzsoundtrack.com and fill out the form. It will have a place for you to list your URL, and Geffen's people will go there and listen to your submission.

If your music is chosen, it will be included in the movie or on the soundtrack, or both, alongside tunes by established artists signed to Geffen, A&M and Interscope. Of course, there are rules and regulations, and all of that info is available on the Web site.

If you want to take a shot at this, don't dilly-dally! Deadline for submissions is May 15. The soundtrack comes out on July 31, and the film will be in theaters Aug. 10, so that means you could be signing autographs by September!

QUIK & AMG ARE THE FIXXERS

Between them, they've released 14 albums; now West Coast hip-hop legends Quik and AMG have united to form a new group called the Fixxers. The duo is getting serious attention with its new single, "Can U Werk Wit Dat," and AMG says they're having a ball working on more material.

"Quik and I have a music chemistry that is undeniable, and we literally have records to prove it. We are known for making the girls want to dance, and the dudes bob their heads. People want to have fun when they go out, man, so it's only right that we give them something to werk wit."

The Fixxers are signed to Interscope, and Quik adds, "It's definitely a good look for the Fixxers. I'm looking forward to a fruitful relationship."

The pair likes to keep their stuff on the positive side, so don't expect the Fixxers to be fixing you up with any thuggin'. www.thefixxers.com

NEW ARRIVALS

You may remember a while back MPress Records released a compilation of songs by developing artists called *New Arrivals: Vol.*

One. The disc was (and still is) a charitable effort that funnels its profits to Gulf Coast Hurricane Relief.

Well, one good turn deserves another, and now artist and MPress owner Rachel Sage has announced the release of a second charitable effort, you guessed it, *New Arrivals: Vol. Two*. The 18-cut set is a winner for everybody as the profits on this one go to the World Hunger Year organization while the CD purchaser gets turned on to lots of good new music.

Representing the L.A.-area on the collection are Rebekah Jordan with "Lovely Life" and Kristy Kruger with "Dark Stranger." To promote the release, Jordan and Kruger will join Sage, Rob Giles, Rich Price and Todd Carey for a live show at the Hard Rock Café on May 21.

There's also a food drive organized around the show, so if you go, take a couple cans of food to donate. For a complete list of the *New Arrivals* talent, go to www.newarrivalscd.com, and to find out more about the work being done by the World Hunger Year organization, visit www.worldhungeryear.org.



Pennywise

APPETITE FOR DECONSTRUCTION

The documentary film *Appetite for Deconstruction* has just been released on DVD through MVD Visual. The film chronicles the "Deaf and Deconstruction" punk rock tour through Europe in 2004 and 2005, and you'll be surprised that Europe is still standing after you see these wild performances featuring Lagwagon, Mad Caddies, Pennywise, Yellowcard, Strike Anywhere, Anti-Flag, From Autumn to Ashes and a bunch more. The almost three-hour show includes skate, BMX and motocross action, too.

frequency | essential concerts

BY ALEX CARPENTER



VAST

VAST

April 26 @ El Rey

Mixing analog and digital sounds is not only common today, but it's nearly a requirement for any new artist looking to break into the music world. It didn't used to be this way, and VAST's Jon Crosby is a pioneer of mixing the two in a practically seamless brew of both rock edginess and electronic treble.

The beats that propel this band seem as if they were stripped from the most exciting moment of a Hollywood trailer — the gut shaking grooves make them a perfect soundtrack to our hero jumping between buildings or a series of quick shots, convincing the audience just how badass this movie is going to be.

Fans don't need to be persuaded to love VAST. Since the release of its first album, *Visual Audio Sensory Theater*, the band has maintained a solid, loyal following, which it continues to build upon.

The group's ability to appeal to both the darker side of music, with epic beats and chunky guitars, as well as the more mellow tones, with acoustic ballads backed up by strings, has given it a longevity and a dynamic persona that is sure to keep VAST fresh and followed for years to come.

THE WALKMEN

April 28 @ EchoPlex

There isn't much to dislike about the Walkmen. The New York-based indie rock five-piece a sound that fits in whether it's playing in your friend's living room or in the coolest of rock clubs.

The band's sound is defined by a lo-fi style that never seems played out

or cliché, but instead makes the listener feel instantly at ease with the music, even if they have not had the pleasure of hearing it before. A Walkmen show is a very relaxed environment, which says a lot considering the hip crowd that attends them, and the band's status as an "impress your friends and enemies by listening to them" sort of group.

The Walkmen boast an array of vintage instruments that produce vintage sounds, most notably a stand-up piano that looks like it was pulled out of a David Fincher movie, which provides much of the soul of the band and adds a 1960s Motown flavor to the group's indie rock 'n' roll.



Björk

COACHELLA

April 27- April 30 @ Indio Polo Field

This is the last call. Seriously. If you don't know who is playing at Coachella this year, you're living under a rock.

Flip through the rest of this paper, then take a look at the cover of every music magazine around, and you'll start to get an idea of why you can't miss this show. That said, I won't waste too much more of your time with it, but I will mention this: Björk is



The Walkmen

AMOEBABESTSELLERS

6400 SUNSET BLVD. (323) 245-6400

- 1) Blonde Redhead — *23*
- 2) Bright Eyes — *Cassadaga*
- 3) Amy Winehouse — *Back to Black*
- 4) Grinderman — *Grinderman*
- 5) Kings of Leon — *Because of the Times*
- 6) LCD Soundsystem — *Sound of Silver*
- 7) Arcade Fire — *Neon Bible*
- 8) Modest Mouse — *We Were Dead Before the Ship Even Sank*
- 9) Peter, Bjorn and John — *Writer's Block*
- 10) CocoRosie — *The Adventures of Ghosthorse and Stillborn*
- 11) Timbaland — *Timbaland Presents: Shock Value*
- 12) Charlie Louvin — *Charlie Louvin*
- 13) TV on the Radio — *Live at Amoeba Music*
- 14) The Shins — *Wincing the Night Away*
- 15) Brother Ali — *The Undisputed Truth*
- 16) Mika — *Life in Cartoon Motion*
- 17) The Fratellis — *Costello Music*
- 18) Panda Bear — *Person Pitch*
- 19) Silverman Pickups — *Carrivans*
- 20) Air — *Boxset Symphony*

playing, and so is Rufus Wainwright.

The Red Hot Chili Peppers are headlining a day that features the Decemblers. The Kooks will warm up the house for the Roots, and the night will be finished off by the reunification of Rage Against the "Freaking" Machine.

Find yourself some tickets, and I will see you there.

CURSIVE

April 1 @ The Wiltern

This band has a cello in it. How many bands do you know that can successfully incorporate a cello into all of their songs? For progressive rockers Cursive, defying conventions is never an issue, and the group aims high with their musical goals.

Their newest release, *Happy Hollow*, is a brilliant piece of work, but the group will always be defined by its 2003 masterpiece, *The Ugly Organ*. Tracks such as "Art is Hard" and "Driftwood" are etched in fans' hearts,



Cursive

had an indelible impact on the indie scene and the way that many artists looked at the idea of "emo."

Simply put, the members of Cursive are good. They have a sound unlike anything else out there today, and they maintain the ability to constantly innovate both their sound and their technical chops.

Live, Cursive is as insane as it sounds on its records. Fans can expect a different show at every performance and might be treated to snippets of songs that didn't make it onto the last record or pieces of tunes that are in the works from this innovative group. You should be at this show. ☛