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POP ROCKS

POP & ROCK REVIEWS

MAY 2008

Lach

The Calm Before

By Lucie Davies

A cursory glance over the press release for Brooklyn folk-punk hero Lach's latest is a helpful suggestion of what's to come. Dropping the rambling, flowery bio in favour of cut and pasted press quotes, bullet points and text boxes, it assaults the eyes with a riot of information that's reminiscent of the black and white xeroxed flyers Lach started out promoting his ground-breaking sound with back in the '80s. So it's no surprise that *The Calm Before* is as far from what that title suggests as possible. Proffering a collage of ironic protest, subverted love and well-observed situational comedy songs, New York's enigmatic institution loses none of his trademark wit on his fifth LP. Like 2004's *Today*, electric guitars are eschewed in favour of acoustic ones, which collide with punk-ish sax, sweet harmonies and Lach's Dylan-ish croak on catchy little numbers whose jauntiness belie their political bent. Anyone who wants to find out what anti-folk was up to before a bunch of young wannabes (Beck, Regina Spektor, Jeffrey Lewis, Moldy Peaches, to name a few) melted it down and made it into something new, should study this record carefully. Everyone else: batten down the hatches, sit back, relax and enjoy the storm. (Fortified)

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MAY 2008

Portishead - Third


Highly anticipated and 11 years in the making, the aptly titled *Third* is a beautiful and accomplished album either compared to its predecessors or taken on its own. Beth Gibbons, all wild-eyed and dramatic on *Portishead*, is nicely restrained here, with those 11 years bringing a calm an ...Read More



Lykke Li - Little Bit EP

The last year has seen Lykke Li's stock rise from anonymity to blog darling, and with her forthcoming debut album, *Youth Novels*, possibly even find Peter Bjorn & John-like fame. That would be most fitting considering that band's Bjorn Yttling is on board with the Stockholm girl as co-producer ...Read More



 {{{Sunset}}} - Bright Blue Dream

A Fine Frenzy - One Cell In The Sea

American Princes - Other People

Apples In Stereo - Electronic Projects for Musicians

The Autumns - Fake Noise From a Box of Toys

The B-52s - Funplex

Big Dipper - Supercluster: The Big Dipper Anthology

Birds of Avalon - Outer Upper Inner

Black Horse - The Black Arts of Black Horse

The Black Keys - Attack & Release

Bob Wiseman - The Legend

The Breeders - Mountain Battles

Cancer Conspiracy - "Ω"

The Carps - Waves and Shambles

The Child Ballads - Cheekbone Hollows (Pop. ½ Life)

Clinic - Do It!

The Coast - Expatriate

Colin Meloy - Colin Meloy Sings Live!

Colorlist - Lists

Colour Revolt - Plunder, Beg and Curse

 **Culture Reject** - Culture Reject

Dark Meat - Universal Indians

Dead Child - Attack

The Death Set - Worldwide

The Dodos - Visiter


The Drift - Memory Drawings

The Drift - Memory Drawings

The Duke Spirit - Neptune

El Perro del Mar - From the Valley to the Stars

POP ROCKS ARCHIVE

 **Excepter** - Debt Dept.
Freddie Stevenson - All My Strange Companions
Frightened Rabbit - The Midnight Organ Fight
Glowworm - The Coachlight Woods
Hallelujah The Hills - Prepare To Qualify
The Heavy - Great Vengeance and Furious Fire
Help She Can't Swim - The Death of Nightlife
Hilotrons - Happymatic
 **Howlin Rain** - Magnificent Fiend
J. Spaceman / Sun City Girls - Mister Lonely
Jean-Paul De Roover - ...dichotomy...
Jim Noir - Jim Noir
Jordan Zevon - Insides Out
Kensington Market - Aardvark
Kensington Market - Avenue Road
The Kills - Midnight Boom
Lemuria - Get Better
The Little Ones - Terry Tales & Fallen Gates
 **Los Campesinos!** - Hold On Now, Youngster!
M83 - Saturdays = Youth
Man Man - Rabbit Habits
 **Matches** - A Band in Hope
Microphones - The Glow Pt. 2
Mike Doughty - Golden Delicious
Miwagemini - This is How I Found You
Monotonix - Body Language
Muse - H.A.A.R.P.:Live at Wembley Stadium
New Bloods - The Secret Life
 **Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds** - Dig, Lazarus, Dig!!!
Night Marchers - See You in Magic
Old Haunts - Poisonous Times
Pacific UV - Longplay 2
Pas Chic Chic - Au Contraire
Pattern is Movement - All Together
Paul Haig - Go Out Tonight
Peter Moren - The Last Tycoon
The Priddle Concern - The Priddle Concern
Pyramids - Pyramids
R.E.M. - Accelerate
The Raconteurs - Consolers of the Lonely
Retribution Gospel Choir - Retribution Gospel Choir
Retribution Gospel Choir - Retribution Gospel Choir
Richard Swift - Richard Swift as Onasis
Ruby Suns - Sea Lion
The Scenics - How Does It Feel To Be Loved
Singer - Unhistories
Singer - Unhistories
Slim Twig - Derelict Dialect EP
 **Sun Kil Moon** - April
Tapes 'n Tapes - Walk It Off
The Teenagers - Reality Check
Thalia Zedek Band - Liars and Prayers
Thee Oh Sees - The Master's Bedroom is Worth Spending A Night In
 **These New Puritans** - Beat Pyramid
Tickley Feather - Tickle Feather
Two Dark Birds - Two Dark Birds
Under Byen - Siamesisk
Walls of Jericho - Redemption
We Are Scientists - Brain Thrust Mastery
What Made Milwaukee Famous - What Doesn't Kill Us
Wye Oak - If Children
Wye Oak - If Children



LABEL LIFE

JUN 2008

HalfLife

Luke Boyd, aka Classified, started stamping the words HalfLife on his albums in high school, well before he was nationally known and before the record label was formally

incorporated into a company. While his career as an MC has grown at a steady pace, his label is still only a two-man operation run out of his house in Enfield, Nova Scotia and one other residence. While he has entertained thoughts in the past of making his home base Toronto, New York or L.A., he is very comfortable at home in Canada's Ocean Playground trying to find a balance between forging ahead with his career and bolstering his label.... [Read More](#)



CONCERT REVIEWS

JUN 2008

Dizzee Rascal / El-P/ Aaron La Crate - Capital Music Hall, Ottawa ON May 12

Mere weeks after Buck 65 and Cadence Weapon hit Ottawa's Bronson Centre, the capital was treated to another high profile split headline show as Dizzee Rascal teamed with

Definitive Jux label-mate/boss El-P for a Monday night visit. Unfortunately, L.A. rapper Busdriver skipped the Ottawa date, leavin... [Full Review](#)



RESEARCH

JUN 2008

We Got It 4 Free - How Hip-hop's Mixtape Culture Is Changing the Game

Kardinal Offishall is a busy man these days. His latest single "Dangerous," featuring R&B superstar Akon is poised to be the biggest song of the Toronto-based MC's career to date, kick-starting his latest major label release, *Not 4 Sale*. But Kardinal also has another release lined up. It's a ... [Read More](#)



POP!!!

or



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