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NATIONAL CD REVIEWS

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Early Man
Death Potion
The End

Street: 07.20

Early Man = Voivod + The Lord Weird Slough Feg + Metallica (old)

Finding good, straight-up heavy metal records from new bands these days are few and far between. Early Man's Closing In debut album got some fairly good reviews, so I had some high hopes for Death Potion. But while not a bad record, there's too much filler and rehashing with some of the guitar riffs as well as vocal patterns to exclaim sheer heavy-metal goodness. That noted, there are a fair amount of nice speedy metal cuts that have some creative and awesomely fun riffing, fast tempos and more than a few good songs: "Killdrone," and "Unseen Tormentor" stick in my mind because of the guitar change-ups instead of the regular riff-churning, and they also have better vocal change-ups. I will give some good credits here for having a highly distinctive classic nature on the record with an updated modern sound. Just a little more diversity amongst the songs and this would be a damn fine record. -Bryer Wharton

Fashawn

Ode to Illmatic

DJ Green Lantern, Orisue & XXL

Street: 06.11

Fashawn = Young Nas + West Coast Flavor

When I received the assignment to review Fashawn's mixtape, Ode to Illmatic, I could've peed my pants. Nas's 1994 album Illmatic is one of my favorite hip-hop albums and Fashawn is one of my favorite new rappers. I had extremely high expectations for the album. Did it disappoint? Hell no, it didn't. Not only does Fashawn pay homage to one of the greatest artists and albums ever made, he does it amazingly well. Tracks like "CA State of Mind," "The World Is Yours" and "Memory Lane (Sittin in Da Park)" provide the same lyrical undertones with new content. Fashawn blends classics with new freshness for a unique twist. While nothing will ever top the original, Fashawn provides an amazing journey and effort in giving thanks to the music that inspired him through his life. All the original beats from the album with beautiful new lyrical content makes this an instant constant repeat listen for me. -Bethany Fischer

Flowers of Hell

Come Hell or High Water

Unfamiliar

Street: 06.15

Flowers of Hell = Kayo Dot + Anathallo + Brahms

Put on your fancy tux and dress up your partners in lavish cocktail attire. It's time to get sophisticated and appreciate some psychedelic drone chamber pop orchestral action. Flowers of Hell are like a million-piece orchestra from Canada and London. Okay, they don't actually have a million members, but they do have a lot and by listening to their music, you would think a million instruments are being played. While I appreciate the fact that Flowers of Hell are trying to do something different within the instrumental genre, their music is just a little delicate for me—I feel like I am listening to the soundtrack from Disney's Fantasia Part 2. If you want to get all astute and you like a dash of Tchaikovsky mixed with your Godspeed You! Black Emperor, then this is the band for you, sir or madam. -Jon Robertson

He-Who-Can-Not-Be-Named

Sunday School Massacre

Greedy

Street: XX

He Who Can Not Be Named = the Ramones + Backyard Babies + Dwarves

I'm pretty sure that the fact that this record exists is a sign of the apocalypse, because it was at the top of my list of things I never thought I'd see in my life. I don't know whether to listen or run. Maybe the most mysterious character in all of rock n' roll, He-Who-Can-Not-Be-Named has been a mainstay of The Dwarves. Always in his trademark mask, He-Who-Can-Not-Be-Named has been a part of one of the most fascinating, eclectic bands in all of punk rock. This record is through-and-through fun, twisted rock n' roll, with songs that speak to the weird in you, like "Bill vs. the Gnomes," and "Sinister Sal." Sunday School Massacre is very based in hard rock n' roll, which still comes across very different and very odd. "Since I tied you up, you're all I'm livin' for, there's gotta be more," is just some of the poetry found on the increasingly evil track "Duct Tape Love," one of the many songs with dark themes, but my favorite has to be the rocker played at breakneck speed, "Daddy is Dead." The surprise to me was how straight-up rock this record is—The Dwarves use dance beats, synth beats and anything under the sun, but leave it to He-Who-Can-Not-Be-Named to do what's not expected. A great, strange record that is as noteworthy for its songwriting and guitar work as it is for its abnormal subject matter. -James Orme

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TUESDAY, AUGUST 17

The Lab Dogs @ City Creek Park

The Molten Snowman Project, Red Bennies, The Rambling Trio, The Direction @ Kilby

Kid Theodore, ER @ Why Sound

Boris, Red Sparowes @ Urban

Free Film: Fresh @ City Library

Bob Dylan @ Deer Valley

Cub Country, Hello Amsterdam @ City Library

Farmers Market @ Pioneer Park

My New TV Set @ Bar Deluxe

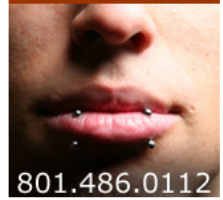
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18

Otter Creek @ City Creek Park

Fox Van Cleef @ Kilby

Max Payne and The Groovies, Dirty Blonde @ Urban

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 **SLUG Magazine | The Black Godfather: Andre Williams' First-Ever Utah Show**
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