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## 2007 The Year In Music And Film

- MICHAEL DAVID TOTH

**1. Future Clouds & Radar**, *Future Clouds & Radar* (Star Apple Kingdom). Psych/power-pop gloriousness with echoes of Robyn Hitchcock, the Plimsouls and post-Rubber Soul Beatles. A 27-song, two-CD debut that achieves its ambitious aims and leaves you wanting more.

**2. Of Montreal**, *Hissing Fauna, Are You the Destroyer?* (Polyvinyl). This latest in a series of better-than-the-last Of Montreal discs furthers the creative risks which Lennon and Bowie eventually stopped taking and succeeds with some of this decade's coolest rock.

**3. Caribou**, *Andorra* (Merge). The finest textural and sonic components of earlier Caribou are here raised exponentially with spectacularly groovy, neo-psychedelic songwriting craftsmanship.

**4. Ulrich Schnauss**, *Goodbye* (Domino). A massive, looming spacecraft of dreamy astro-pop powered by inventive recombinations of '90s electronica and shoegazer sounds.

**5. Negativland**, *Our Favorite Things* DVD (Seeland/Other Cinema). The finest recordings by the infamous media-collage pranksters, brilliantly re-contextualized with newly created visuals for a truly definitive Negativland document.

**6. Youth Group**, *Casino Twilight Dogs* (Anti-). Warm, emotive vocals and lush, intricate melodies gently crash in shimmering tides against Brian Wilson's beach with great skill and charm.

**7. Einstuerzende Neubauten**, *Palast der Republik* DVD (MVD Visual). The German granddaddies of industrial music captivately bang on metal, rubber and plastic in both abrasive rage and gentle tranquility. Best both seen and heard.

**8. Mary Weiss**, *Dangerous Game* (Norton). The Shangri-Las' lead gal finally emerged from retirement with exactly the sort of fabulously hip, emotive, mature comeback record that she needed to make.

**9. Erasure**, *Light At The End Of The World* (Mute). The guys are back in tip-top form doing what they do best: ultra-catchy, feel-good, gooey bubblegum synth-pop for compulsory giddy dancing.

**10. The Go! Team**, *Proof of Youth* (Sub Pop). The Go! Team's sophomore album nicely continues to radiate the distinct, sock-it-to-me pep-rally/1970s-TV-theme personality of the boffo *Thunder Lightning Strike*.