

pare for aural assault!

File under: Sigma, Dirtyphonics, Hazard

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DJ Hazard / "Tactix" / "Wicked So" (Playaz) Respected by DJs and producers across the board, Birmingham-based DJ Hazard is back with a vengeance via another suitably wobbly release on Hype and Pascal's Playaz imprint. Signature sounds predominate in "Tactix," as a grizzled b-line, classic movie sampling, and catchy two-step beat make it a definite hit single for the autumn. Some textured atmospherics and smoothed-over areas keep a nice pace going throughout with the vocal sampling, stating "I'm going to teach you another tactic now" punctuating the rhythm, until the tune slowly fades out of existence. Hazard gets grimy with "Wicked

So," an echoing jungle-referencing, vocal-led track, with some slightly cinematic moments in there, as well as the old nasty, out-of-tune synths and steady drum kicks to keep the relentless onslaught going. Grating, rattling noises and sampled synthetics really add an edge to this one, with echoes of from the "Dubplate Killaz" in there too. Tidy!

File under: Taxman, Friction, Heist

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Utopia / "Diamonds Shine" / "Scan Me" (Breed12inches)

The sister label to Lifted Music, Breed12inches has had some pretty sick releases so far, and this one from Russian duo Utopia is no exception. "Diamonds Shine" starts with a deceptively expansive, tapping, melodic intro, until the sound-

scape is annihilated by pounding kick drums, as it falls into the drop with a savage mastery. Powerful, sucker punch beats, crisp, tight production, some electro sounds, and a nice, heavy b-line drive this one along, accompanied by some jingling, sweeping synths to create an enticing energy. "Scan Me" is another intricately produced piece of Slavic finery, as again, the eerie, edgy, atmospheric intro is disturbed by some well-paced drums, before dropping in a percussive frenzy, into a dark, tech-y tune with some glitchy moments, heavy subs, and a stomping beat. A midway breakdown returns us to a bleak, minimal, post-apocalyptic sound, before we return to Utopia again. All we can say for this one is watch out, the Russians are coming!

File under: Spor, Teebee, Calyx

dVds

Reviews by Darren Ressler



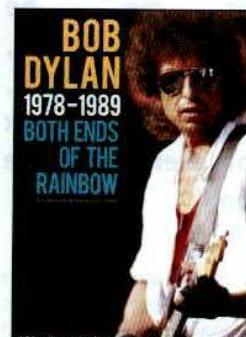
Michael Jackson / The Trial And Triumph of the King of Pop (Rockcity)

The feeding frenzy after the King of Pop's tragic death on June 25th continues to inspire products from hucksters looking to make a few quick bucks. This DVD, hosted by the annoying Pearl Jr., is a shameless "documentary" of Michael Jackson's child molestation trial. Featuring footage of the lunatic fringe who held vigil outside of the court house for weeks, it offers no new insight. This a blatant attempt to cash in on the artist who the producers claim to love so much.



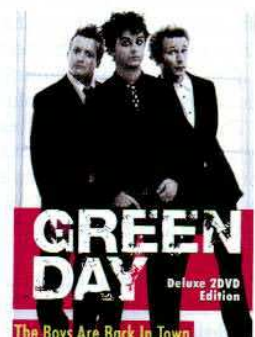
D.O.A. / The Men of Action (Sudden Death)

To honor their 30th anniversary, Canadian punk institution D.O.A. collected 26 music videos into one tidy DVD. Most of the videos aren't amazing by today's standard, and the music (which is supposedly remastered) definitely hasn't aged very well. However, the outfit's message of anarchy still rings through loud and clear. The DVD also includes as a bonus, D.O.A.'s "critically acclaimed" new album, *Northern Avenger*, produced by the legendary Bob Rock, which definitely has a few interesting moments.



Bob Dylan / 1978-1989: Both Ends of the Rainbow (Chrome DRE)

It's not easy to summarize Bob Dylan's storied career in one DVD, so it makes sense to review the work by this iconic singer/songwriter decade-by-decade. *Bob Dylan - 1978-1989: Both Ends of the Rainbow* looks at one of the most controversial periods in Dylan's life by talking to those who were closest to him during this era. The bonus interview with Dylan in his most fervent phase of Christianity (with commentary by Derek Barker) is perhaps the true highlight of this collection.



Green Day / The Boys Are Back In Town Unauthorized (Pride)

The release (and success) of Green Day's *21st Century Breakdown* has spawned another unauthorized biography. *The Boys Are Back In Town Unauthorized* retraces the roots of this pint-sized punk band back 20 or so years and uses news clips, various interviews and rare performance footage to tell the band's story. In the end, you don't learn all that much more about Green Day. But just to be on the safe side, there's a bonus disc of *Under Review 1995-2000* included.