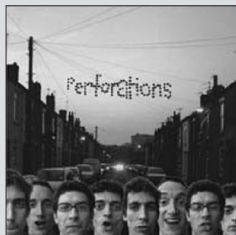


music

cd reviews

MAKING THE GRADE: A EXCEPTIONAL
 B WORTHWHILE | C MEDIOCRE
 D SAVE YOUR MONEY
 F WILL BE ON HILL'S LIKEXBOX



CHAMPION KICKBOXER

Perforations

(54-40 or Fight)

This British four-piece is drawing comparisons to XTC, and they have the band's almost patented style of quirkiness down pat.

"Get on Up" is masterfully done; with haunting chorale-like vocals the song would easily work as an a cappella number, but the band has seasoned it to taste with snippets of instrumentation.

That technique continues throughout most of the album; the melodies here come primarily from the vocal work, while guitars, keyboards and rhythm instruments are used sparingly. The feeling is very British, but by nuance and not accent.

"Frog and Mouse" is one of many tunes that gives a subtle nod to traditional sounds. (There is no lute, but there could be!)

Two versions of "Like Him + Her + Her + Me" are included; the first is very delicate while the second rings with Elvis Costello cool.

Grade: A

—Kevin Wierzbicki

Perforations is currently available.

MINDY SMITH

My Holiday

(Vanguard)

Mindy Smith combines the voice and style of Brandi Carlile and Norah Jones. Her music is a blend of country, folk, indie and jazz all intermingled into a smooth, mellow mix.

The 11-song holiday collection features six original tracks written by Smith, along with five Christmas classics including "I'll Be Home for Christmas," "Silver Bells" and "Away in a Manger," which is a harmonious blend of vocals with Alison Krauss.

music 101 | artist feature

DJ KRUSH

Leading an uncharted musical journey.

BY ESEEL BORLASA

JUST ALONG THE 405 FREEWAY, on the west side of Los Angeles, a small crowd waits to greet a legend.

DJ Krush, known around the globe for his consummate skill both as a DJ and producer, waits inside, taking in the evening as he premieres his DVD *History of DJ Krush*.

"I observe things. Lots of things," Krush explains. "The everyday life, meeting people, listening to other people's music, reading books, being in nature — everything. Inspiration comes from everywhere. So I observe these things, digest it inside myself and put it out there as music."

His musical journey began in the '80s, when he first watched the film, *Wild Style*. Amazed with the creative energy of hip-hop, Krush purchased two turntables and set his goal to make his mark in the genre.

He first gained recognition in Japan as part of the hip-hop group Krush Posse. By 1992 the group disbanded, a turning point for Krush.

"Back then I already had a family. I had to feed them," he says. "Music is what I wanted to do with my life. I was

so determined to make it big as a musician. I don't have anything else. I barely have an education.

"If I don't have music, I have nothing. I just wanted to stick to it and keep at it."

He made his mark by being the first DJ in Japan to perform alongside live musicians. Sticking with his dream, Krush made his debut as a solo artist with the release of his album, *Krush*.

An uncharted endeavor, the release explored new possibilities in hip-hop. It put DJ Krush on everyone's radar, leading to studio collaborations and performances with stellar artists including C.L. Smooth, DJ Shadow, Nas, Esthero and Mos Def.

The new DVD, *History of DJ Krush*, is a visual and aural journey that spans DJ Krush's career. It's an intimate conversation with Krush — a humble and determined DJ from Japan — speaking to us through the universal language of music.

Track selections from his catalogue are paired with footage captured from studio sessions and DJ performances. It's a definite nod to his most recent

album *Stepping Stones*.

"*Stepping Stones* is sort of like a greatest hits album," Krush says. "I put together songs from my past, and I remixed the whole thing. Since I have a huge library of [video] footage, I thought 'Why don't I make a visual work with a similar concept?'"

DJ Krush is driven to continually explore and create. Not one to rest on his accolades, Krush understands the big picture of his musical journey.

"I got into my career because of hip-hop. It got me into DJing. Hip-hop taught me how profound music is, because of that I am grateful. Now I want to bring the people my own hip-hop. Not just a copy of other people's. My own original stuff."

Many people credit Krush as one of the first international hip-hop talents to make a name for himself worldwide. Krush recognizes that these days, the music doesn't always take center stage.

"Obviously hip-hop has gotten so huge," he says. "It has branched out to so many different styles. But I have very mixed feelings about it, because it has also become so commercial."

His ability to bridge his artistic passion into critical acclaim makes DJ Krush and his work legendary. Recently, he was invited to perform at MOCA as part of the exhibition opening night for Murakami, a profound visual artist.

"I really admire Murakami as a successful artist with a worldwide career," Krush shares. "I never imagined I'd be part of his event. It was an unexpected surprise when they asked



Brandi Krushina

me to perform. When I was spinning, he [Murakami] was even right in front of the speaker dancing!"

After wrapping his North American tour and the release of his three-DVD set, the world eagerly waits for DJ Krush's next step. A busy man on the move, Krush has a long calendar of performances in Korea and across Europe. We'll have to wait before he returns to the studio.

"It could be really depressing," he jokes. "It's about time I make the new album." ■

History of DJ Krush is currently available. For more information, visit www.gjkrush.net.

music dvd review

BRASILINTIME

Batucada Com Discos

(Mochilla)

Travel to Brazil with U.S. musicians and DJs Paul Humphrey, James Gadson, Derf Reklaw, Babu, J.Rocc, Cut Chemist and Madlib as they team up with local artists, Wilson das Neves, Ivan "Mamão" Conti, João "Comanche" Parahyba and DJ Nuts for an amazing rhythmic exchange.

What could be better than this DVD? On July 19, 2007, I saw the ensemble perform live at the Mayan Theatre.

Extras: deleted scenes, photo galleries and live footage.

Grade: A

—Jessica Koslow

Brasilintime is currently available.

NEIL YOUNG

Under Review 1976-2006

(Sexy Intellectual)

This is not a performance film from Young; it's a documentary that analyzes a 30-year chunk of his career. Among those handling the analysis are several respected figures in the journalism field: rock critic Robert Christgau, Young biographer John Einarson and Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young biographer Johnny Rogan.

These folks know a lot about Young's career but mostly they know what they like, and here they explain

—Fay Rose

My Holiday is currently available.

OVERKILL

Immortals

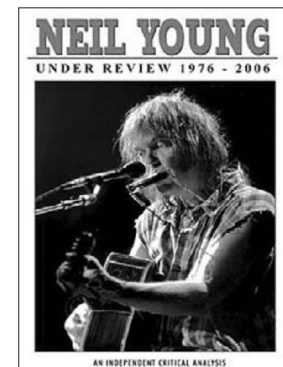
(Bodog Music)

Overkill's live performances kick ass. But pick up a CD of theirs, and the recorded songs sound tinny or

cheesy. With *Immortals*, we get to hear all the definitive Overkill chunky guitar work, aggressive double-kick bass drums and clear and strong vocals.

The sound is a return to the true thrash poundings of cohorts Exodus and even old-school Metallica, who

couldn't record an album this good now if their lives depended on it. David Linsk's assassinating guitar leads rip holes through what other "metal" bands are trying to produce these days. Bobby "Blitz" Ellsworth's vocals are precise and powerful.



Grade: B

—Kevin Wierzbicki

Under Review 1976-2006 is currently available.