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7/16/2008

EMAIL PRINT COMMENT [1]

ROCK/POP > MEDIA BLACKOUT

Jeffrey Morgan's Media Blackout

Rock criticism so speedy it's a controlled substance



BY JEFFREY MORGAN

This is your brain on Jeffrey Morgan's Media Blackout #180!

Alan Davey — *Captured Rotation* :: (MVD Audio/Hawkwind) :: Hawkwind meets power pop on this catchy pop rock *meisterwack*.

Astralasia — *The Hawkwind Remixes* (MVD Audio/Voiceprint) :: One good head deserves another and, boy howdy, do they ever find each other in spades on this celestial compendium that time travels from 1993 to 2002 and back again. Oddly enough, parts of it sorta sound like a discofied Nash the Slash's *American BandAges* album — but that only makes it all the more cooler in a *Cosmic Supermarket* kinda way.

Magically Mushroom Band — *Feed Your Head: Live '89* (MVD Audio/Voiceprint) :: The album title is a gratefully dead giveaway that if Grace Slick and Donovan were singing together in the TransLove Airplane, then this would be their *Bless its Pointed Little Head*. So turn off your mind, relax, and float downstream as the MMB cover everything from Zappa and Harrison to Ayers and Hendrix in one long luxuriously languid trip.

Jon Anderson — *Live in La La Land* (MVD Audio/Opio/Voiceprint) :: Devoid of the usual surrounding prog rock bombast, this minimal direct-to-DAT double live album of the Yes man's recent guitar-and-piano-only one-man show at the Roxy in Los Angeles is an excellent showcase for his distinctive voice which, eerily enough, still sounds exactly as it did way back in the early '70s — soaring high notes and all. I guess Anderson must have a painting of his larynx hanging in an attic somewhere.

SIZZLING PLATTER OF THE WEEK: Fish — *Communion: Live at St. Mary's Church Haddington, East Lothian, August 27th 2006* (MVD Audio/Chocolate Frog) :: Just like those who perpetuate the Gabriel-Collins Genesis debate, there will always be those who will forever be of the opinion that Fish was Marillion; and those others who feel that any post-Fish incarnation of Marillion is equally legitimate. I happen to think that both camps are right, which means I have ample enough room in my ears for this twofer that's easily as excellent as anything Gabriel did during his first three solo albums.

Be seeing you!

Comments

+ On 7/29/2008 2:43:18 PM, pierroth said:

The thing that strikes me about Fish's "Communion" is its unapologetic intimacy and earnestness. Granted, they are qualities which have always been integral to Fish's writing and performances, both with Marillion and as a solo artist, and qualities which are the principal reason the author and fans alike continue the Debate to this day. On "Communion", however, Fish gives us much more than muted acoustic arrangements of often complex material; rather, this record takes listeners by the hand into the finest subtleties of their stories.

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