

- THE CD REVIEW SPECIAL CONTINUES -

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"Shovel", for instance, is a song written entirely about masturbation. Junkhouse's advice on the topic: "Shovel, but don't give the skin away".

Their overall view on life seems very dismal, as is evident on songs like "Boom" and "Jet Trash". "Superscan" is based on the memory of one of Tom Wilson's ex-girlfriends and his various bar fights. Once again, it is apparent that life isn't a bowl of cherries.

The album as a whole is definitely worth checking out. Although it is a different Junkhouse, the sound remains fundamentally the same, with intelligent lyrics and hard-edged rock.

GORD ROSS

Wolf Songs For Lambs

Jonathan Fire*Eater

Dreamworks/Universal

Jonathan Fire*Eater, a relatively new band hailing from New York City, shows a lot of promise with their new album, *Wolf Songs For Lambs*. They have a great sound, incorporating a variety of rich harmonies, boombastic toe tapping rhythms and upbeat melodies.

Their style is very different from most music found on the alternative scene these days. Jonathan Fire*Eater's

music falls somewhere between the Beatles and the Doors: it's very much a style which draws its sound from a more classical sort of rock n' roll. The organ, which is a centrepiece for much of the band's music, makes their sound unique and unusual, and provides a harmonious flow throughout many of the tracks. And the melodies are definitely reminiscent of old school rock.

Some of the better tracks worth checking out are "No Love Like That", "I've Changed Hotels", and "These Little Monkeys".

I have not been this impressed by a new album in a long time. *Wolf Songs For Lambs* is definitely a hidden gem among popular music's many records. I would absolutely recommend picking up a copy.

PATRICK SHAUNESSY

The Very Best of 1990-1997

Dr. Alban

BMG

I can't believe that this album exists, much less that I'm reviewing it. Someone at the ol' record company is doing some serious chemicals. *The Very Best of 1990-1997* is early-90s Eurotrash released several years too late.

Dr. Alban (a dentist, no less) became

incredibly successful in 1990 due to international smashes such as "Hello Afrika" and "No Coke", both of which are included on this 'charming' collection. He then followed up with 'catchy' tunes like "One Love" and "Sing Hallelujah!", with a sprinkling of equally-forgettable tracks in between. His career then thankfully twirled down the dumper at an alarming rate of knots.

Dr. Alban's ability to pull words out of his bum and put them to music is no longer funny. He is a grown man with a legitimate medical degree. Why he feels compelled to do this is beyond me.

Nothing can make this album credible. Dr. Alban somehow roped Sash! into doing a remix of "It's My Life" (free root canal, perhaps?) and it still sounds outdated.

"This Time I'm Free (Credibility Mix)" (no irony there) is average at best. No amount of renaming can convince the listener that any serious thought has been put into remixing these tracks, but it is amusing, nonetheless (re: "Sing Hallelujah! [DJ Stevie Steve's Pizzi Edit]").

"Hello Afrika ('97 RMX)" is essentially the same as the original, only faster. The one high point is "No Coke (Klanghouse RMX)", which has been mixed beyond belief so that it bears minimal resemblance to the original — it is now a house track.

You'll listen to this once, you'll remember being drunk with your friends and then you'll want to chuck it out the nearest window. Dr. Alban always was a cheeseball and no amount of nostalgia can change that. You'll spend the rest of your life trying to hide this CD from your friends, because not even Urban Sound Exchange will buy it. I wouldn't recommend buying this album. I wouldn't even recommend taping it from a friend. If someone gives this to you as a present, stop talking to them and pay someone to hurt them.

EUGENIA BAYADA

Based Upon A True Story

Mack 10

Priority Records/Virgin Music Canada

Mack 10 established his credentials as a solo rap artist with his debut album *Mack 10*. He then joined Ice Cube and W.C. to form the group Westside Connection, which is famed for the West Coast anthem "Bow Down". His last joint was "Nuthin' But the Cavi Hit", a collaboration with the Dogg Pound from the *Rhyme and Reason* soundtrack. Also known as 'Mack Dime', he is now back with a solo sophomore LP which reflects some personal and professional growth.

Subtracting inserts and the intro, there are a total of 12 tracks on the album. The best one by far is the smash hit "Backyard Boogie". It's not revolutionary, but it's a definite party jam, especially if you want to "get yo boogie on". The song "Only In California" is automatically slamin' just by the mere virtue that Snoop Doggy Dogg and Ice Cube rap on it. Their rhymes are live, and the hardcore beat is just plain phat. For the folks out there who can't get enough of Mase's "Feels So Good", you'll love Mack Dime's "Inglewood Swagin'" for sure.

The album also has great guest appearances by E-40, AllFrumTha I and The Comrads. It features the same Kool and the Gang loop Bad Boy uses for Mase.

Mack 10 also drops a little bit of old school with his remake of Eazy-E's "Dopeman", which is good in its own right, but nowhere near the original. This joint should also be on the upcoming remake disc *In Tha Beginning...there was rap*.

Overall, if you're looking for wisdom-filled raps and a revolutionary sound like KRS-1, go buy KRS-1. However, if you're in the mood for a dope west-siiiiide gangsta album, go out and pick 'er up!

ASHIR SIDDIQUI



Halifax

Friday, November 7: The Grawood

The Gandharvas open for the Headstones in the SUB basement. They aren't the greatest acts in Canada, but they'll provide a temporary fix for fans of hard-edged rock/pop.

Saturday, November 8: Market St. Jazz Cafe

Metalwood hits the stage for one night only in Halifax. The jazz quartet is undoubtedly one of the finest jazz bands in Canada, and are renowned for their high-quality improvisation.

Saturday, November 8: The Playhouse

This new all-ages live music venue is hosting Thrush Hermit, Plumtree, and the Inbreds. It's no Birdland, but it's willing to stage Halifax pop for those who want to see it.

Saturday, November 8: Reflections Cabaret

Carlos Morgan brings his status as Canada's hottest R&B artist to Halifax. He's just won a Juno and a MuchMusic award, so fans of R&B may want to check him out.

Opening November 7: Neptune Theatre

In Neptune's production of *Dream a Little Dream*, Denny Doherty chronicles his rise from the North End of Halifax to his involvement in the internationally popular Mamas and the Papas. A must see for any fans of 60s California pop/

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