



Reviews



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Friday, October 25th, 2002

Loose Fur Tracklist, Album Cover Unveiled

Laugh it up, fuzzball

Will Bryant reports:

The tracklist to Loose Fur's self-titled debut has been revealed on Drag City's website, as well as the Steve Keene-ish cover art, which depicts a bearded rocker shaking his fist at the heavens as his nicotine-polluted breath merges with the clouds above. The album is due in January 2003, and don't be fooled by the six-cut tracklist-- *Loose Fur* is a full-length record, we're assured (much as Jim O'Rourke's *Insignificance* sported seven tracks, with most hovering around the five-six minute mark). Tracklist:

- 01 Laminated Cat
- 02 Elegant Transaction
- 03 So Long
- 04 You Were Wrong
- 05 Liquidation Totale
- 06 Chinese Apple

As previously reported, the super-trio consisting of Jeff Tweedy, O'Rourke, and Glenn Kotche are set to make their live debut at St. Ann's Warehouse in Brooklyn, NY in early December (tickets were still available online as of press time-- check the venue's website for more information).

- .: Pitchfork News: Loose Fur to Rock Brooklyn in December
- .: Pitchfork News: Jeff Tweedy and Jim O'Rourke Get *Loose* In January
- .: Loose Fur: <http://www.dragcity.com/bands/loosefur.html>
- .: Album Cover: <http://www.dragcity.com/catalog/records/dc203.html>
- .: Arts at St. Ann's: <http://www.artsatstanns.org>
- .: Drag City: <http://www.dragcity.com>

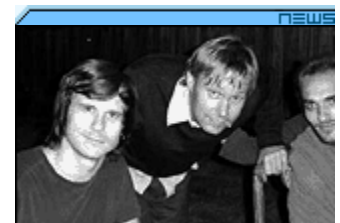
Pixies: The Musical?

Too bad Yul Brynner is dead; would have made a killer Ivo Watts-Russell

Will Bryant reports:



>>Fri:11-01-02
.: **Pavement:**
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.: **Luna:**
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>>Wed:10-30-02
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.: Pinback delay fall releases
.: Jackass to star as Gram Pars
.: Holiday Flyer call it quits



FADING

10.0: Essential

This week's *Entertainment Weekly* reports that New York writer/producer Josh Frank is working on a musical based on the life of Frank Black. Frank has reportedly discussed the project with former Pixies Joey Santiago, David Lovering, and Black himself, who was initially quite amused at the prospect until he realized that Frank, who most recently assisted on a production of the Janis Joplin-inspired musical *Love, Janis*, was serious.

The musical, entitled "Teenager of the Year," would follow the entire career trajectory of the Pixies and include songs both from that period and from Black's solo career. The article does not mention any involvement from Pixies bassist Kim Deal (even though it would kill to see Lili Taylor portray the younger Mrs. John Murphy).

Josh Frank describes "Teenager of the Year" as "sort of a beat poem to the 80's [and] how alternative rock crashed the mainstream party." The project follows extremely successful musicals based on the output of ABBA ("Mamma Mia") and Culture Club ("Taboo"), but is apparently the first full-blown musical biography to take on a legend of alternative rock. Frank hopes to open the show next spring Off Broadway. And you thought you were so cool, singing along to *Surfer Rosa* with the windows down as you jammed down the freeway, when the whole time you were belting out showtunes!

.: Pitchfork Review: Pixies: Pixies
 .: Pixies: <http://www.pixies4ad.com>
 .: 4AD: <http://www.4AD.com>

Damon Che Ditches Bellini on Tour, Gets Replaced

There must be 50 ways to leave your drummer

Ryan Schreiber reports:

Bellini, the new math-rock trio co-founded last year by ex-Don Caballero drummer Damon Che and former Uzeda members Agostina Tilotta and Giovanna Cacciola, have been getting nothing but love for their freshly released debut, *Snowing Sun*. But just as Don Caballero disbanded during a long and difficult tour (as richly and elaborately detailed in a recent issue of the beautifully bratty *Chunklet* zine), Bellini, too, experienced friction on their recent U.S. tour, finally resulting in Che's departure on October 7th in Athens, Georgia. Sources close to the band were kind enough to give us the straight dope yesterday afternoon. And it's a long story, so we'll relay it as faithfully as possible. Here's how it's said to have all gone down:

For background, Tilotta and Cacciola are married Buddhists who "don't drink or get crazy...they just focus all their energy into their stage show" whereas Don Cab's shows "always had a kind of drink-and-raise hell [ethic]." As such, the members weren't entirely meshing from the start. Our sources tell us that Che began drinking heavily and spending most of his time apart from his bandmates. But the real friction didn't go down until the band arrived in the South.

The band was scheduled to play shows in both Baton Rouge and New Orleans on October 2nd and 3rd, respectively, but both were cancelled in the chaos surrounding Hurricane Lili. Many of the shows on the tour had been poorly

9.5-9.9: Spectacular
9.0-9.4: Amazing
8.5-8.9: Exceptional; will likely rank among writer's top ten all of the year
8.0-8.4: Very good
7.5-7.9: Above average; enjoy
7.0-7.4: Not brilliant, but nice enough
6.0-6.9: Has its moments, but strong
5.0-5.9: Mediocre; not good, but not awful
4.0-4.9: Just below average; but outweighs good by just a little
3.0-3.9: Definitely below average but a few redeeming qualities
2.0-2.9: Heard worse, but still pretty bad
1.0-1.9: Awful; not a single pleasant track
0.0-0.9: Breaks new ground for terrible

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booked, and turnout was dismal. "This, coupled with the five days off, put Damon into some sort of weird hibernation," said our source.

The band arrived in Athens on October 7th and made their way to club. Minutes before the show was scheduled to begin, Tilotta and Cacciola found Che passed out, reportedly having consumed prodigious amounts of vodka. "So [Tilotta] asks him to come up and play, and he basically trips on the way up there like three times. When he gets onstage, he puts his keyboard [which he plays with his left hand] on the amp beside his drumkit [which he plays simultaneously with his right hand], and points it at [Tilotta] and just plays this really high-pitched tone. Agostina keeps asking him to point it the other way because it's this deafening sound, and Damon's just like, 'No way.'"

When Che continued to play the deafening note through a second song-- one usually without keyboards at all-- Tilotta repeatedly asked him to stop, eventually chastising him with a curt "Quit being stupid." At which point Che reportedly launched into a third song screaming, "I'm stupid! I'm stupid! I'm stupid!" At the end of the song, Che reportedly stood up, stepped out from behind the drumkit, said "see ya" to Tilotta, and walked out to the back alley for a cigarette.

After ten minutes of listening to the paying audience threatening to "beat [Che's] ass" and shouting "Asshole!", the band decided Che wasn't going to return and began to break down their equipment. Che then reportedly returned to the venue, broke down his drums and loaded his amps into the van they'd rented for the tour, driving home to Pittsburgh with his bandmates stranded in Athens. He later told the band it would be best if he didn't see them for a while, and that "I either had to go to the hospital or I was going to have to have my legs amputated, and what I did was go to the hospital" which our source interprets as meaning that "if he didn't get out of the tour right then, he was gonna kill or be killed."

Fortunately, Tilotta and Cacciola had friends in Athens who arranged for a rental car and even helped the remaining members of Bellini locate a replacement drummer to fill in for the last four shows of the tour. The pair rehearsed with Girls Against Boys drummer Alexis Fleisig for two days and completed the tour without a hitch. Fleisig has since accepted Bellini's invitation to join the band as a permanent replacement for Che.

Remarkably, there are no hard feelings between any of the band members. "Everyone's happy with how it turned out," our source reports. "Uzeda are happy to work with Alexis and Damon's just happy to not be touring." Fleisig will continue to focus on Girls Against Boys as his first priority, but intends to continue working with Bellini for a second album and tour as soon as possible.

:: Pitchfork Review: Bellini: Snowing Sun
 :: Pitchfork News: Bellini Records with Albini, Debut Out Soon
 :: Bellini: <http://www.snowingsun.com>
 :: Monitor: <http://www.monitorrecords.com>

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Eels Frontman to Score Billy Bob's Latest

Sniper and accomplice apprehended; souljacker remains at large

Ray Suzuki reports:

Eels' bearded ringleader E has been tapped to compose the score for Billy Bob Thornton's upcoming film *Levity*, according to the band's official website. The film, directed by *Men In Black* scribe Ed Solomon, also stars Morgan Freeman, Kirsten Dunst, and Holly Hunter. Thornton will play a man who is freed from prison after serving almost 20 years in prison for murder. Also, he likes pa-tater chips. Mmmmm-hmmmm!

In the meantime, Eels are making another live album available via the band's website and in-house label, E Works. *Electro-Shock Blues Show* features fifteen live tracks recorded in December 1998, including an early version of "Souljacker, Part 1" and drummer Butch taking a stab at lead vocals on "Efil's God." Tracklist:

- 01 Cancer for the Cure
- 02 Fingertips, Part 3
- 03 Going to Your Funeral, Part 1
- 04 Efil's God
- 05 Souljacker, Part 1
- 06 My Beloved Monster
- 07 Novocaine for the Soul
- 08 Not Ready Yet
- 09 Last Stop: This Town
- 10 Everything's Gonna be Cool this Christmas
- 11 Flower
- 12 Dead of Winter
- 13 Electro-Shock Blues
- 14 The Medication is Wearing Off
- 15 Climbing to the Moon

Also, E's "favorite DJ" MC Honky, described on the Eels website as a former Capitol Records janitor who worked his way up to sound engineer in the swingin' 60's, is set to drop his debut album *I Am The Messiah* on Australian label Liberation November 4th and on B Unique in the UK November 11th. The thirteen-cut album of "self-help rock" features DJ Shadow-style sound collages and guest appearances from Eels, R.E.M./Beck drummer Joey Waronker, producer Mickey Petralia (Ladytron, Folk Implosion), Koolhaas (Koolhaas) and Li'l Fer. There are MP3 samples posted on Eels' website. Tracklist:

- 01 Sonnet No. 3 (Like A Duck)
- 02 Hung Up
- 03 The Object
- 04 A Good Day To Be You (featuring Koolhaas)
- 05 Baby Elephant Rock-A-Bye
- 06 What A Bringdown
- 07 Only A Rose, Part 1
- 08 My Bad Seed
- 09 The Devil Went Down To Silverlake
- 10 Soft Velvety 'Fer (featuring Li'l Fer)
- 11 The Baby That Was You
- 12 3 Turntables & 2 Microphones
- 13 Only A Rose, Part 2

.: Pitchfork Review: Eels: Souljacker
.: Eels: <http://www.eelstheband.com>

.: MC Honky: <http://eels.artistdirect.com/mchonky.html>