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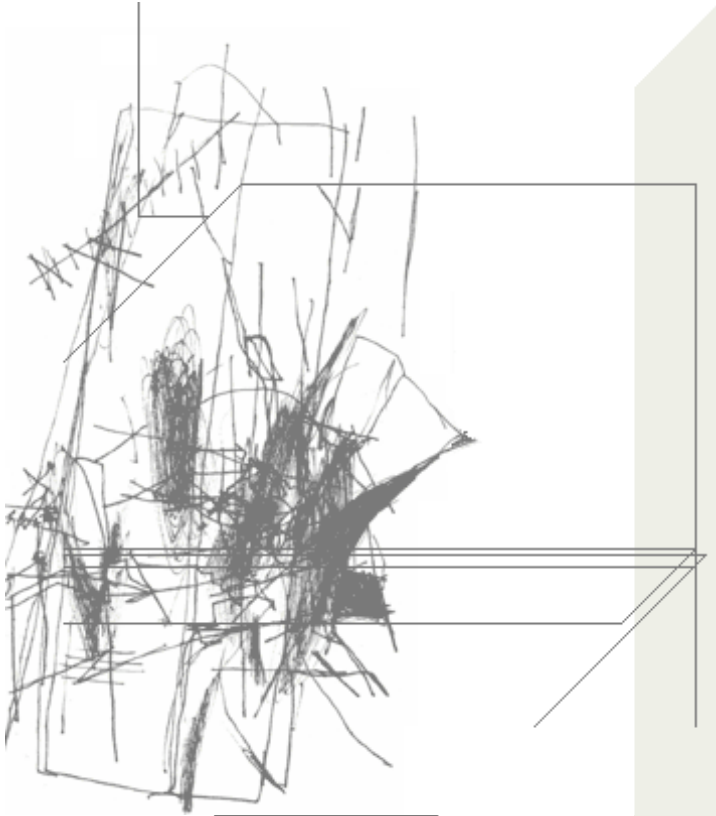
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Matt Landry's Fave Recordings Of 2004



THE INSIDERONE DAILY REPORT

Day Three At SXSW

Neumu Senior Writer Kevin John reports: Kicked things off this time around with a jaunt through Flatstock, a rock 'n' roll poster exhibit/sale. I really don't have the critical aptitude to dissect this sector of popular music. But I did notice that almost all of the posters fell into one of two registers — garishly colored whores, snakes, motorcycles, etc. mimicking tacky tattoo art, or minimalist, inscrutable imagery straight off the underground comics page. And you can probably guess which musics were represented the most — hard rock and indie rock. Wonder how Alacazar would have been drawn. This IS the world we live in.

My life wasn't saved by the eventual release of *Smile*. Even though they unquestionably made an impact on mass culture, the Beach Boys still carry the taint of cult around them. I suppose you could say the same of The Beatles or Elvis or the Dead — anyone, really. But I get exhausted trying to live up to both of these legacies. Still, I attended the Brian Wilson panel and I was mildly shocked at how intriguing it all turned out to be. This was mainly a function of Wilson's unromantic answers to the many awed, romantic questions lobbed at him. For instance, to "How did you go about re-creating *Smile*?" Wilson responded "I gave some chords to the musicians. If they played a wrong note, I told them so. And then we recorded it. ..." And for all of Wilson's supposed senility, he was infinitely less brain-dead than his foamed-up congregation. The man answered all the inspiration/creation questions during his interview with Alan Light. But still, tons of fans stepped up to the mic in order to pin down the nature of genius. Given all of Wilson's workaday responses, the whole experience left me thinking that practically anyone could create a *Smile*. Seriously.

Attended an artists' panel that included Robyn Hitchcock, Todd Snider, Jon Langford, Nona Hendryx and Mary Lou Lord, with an eloquent Jenny Toomey as moderator and Saul Williams a no-show. Not much illumination for me here, since it was mostly advice to other artists. But watching Snider's cross-eyed forward stare convinced me that his twisted narratives no longer seem like such anomalies. The man's clearly

David Howie's 'Moments' From The Year
2004

Thursday, January 27, 2005
Lori Miller Barrett's Fave Recordings Of
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Ryan Dombal's Fave Recordings Of 2004

Monday, December 13, 2004
Steve Gozdecki's 10 Reasons To Live

Friday, December 10, 2004

graduated from singer/songwriter to Kool Keith-style
cuckoo.

Ditched the artists midway through for an excellent
panel on indie record stores in the digital age. I was
downright shocked to learn that vinyl is once again a
viable option for indies. Saucy moderator Don
VanCleave explained that an owner has to be
committed to it, with some top local DJs stocking the
store and plenty of turntables around for the
customers. Kara Lane from Amoeba Records admitted
that vinyl is a significant source of her store's income.
And participant Dave from Dave's Record Store in
Chicago ("We love people like you, Dave," gushed
VanCleave) told us he could have sold 50 (!?!?) vinyl
copies of the latest Wilco had Warners or whoever not
taken so long after the CD's street date to release the
vinyl version. Take that, planned obsolescence!

The line for the Go Team! was a tad too long even for
badge wearers. So I hooked up with a friend from high
school and chatted with him for an hour on 6th St. In
many ways, the highlight of the week. We oughta
thank SXSW for bringing so many people together,
no? I mean, I saw some people I hadn't seen since the
1980s.

Off to Stubb's for a DJ set with Fischerspooner. But
come midnight, no Fischerspooner. Maybe that was for
the best. Not sure how snotty electro trash would
have gone over with the roughnecks there to see the
New York Dolls. For me, the Dolls were the greatest
band in rock 'n' roll's square guitar-bass-drums form,
and I was there to honor that achievement. David
Johansen passed right by me before the show
(swoon!). Chatted up a cute older guy who said he
saw David Jo solo tons of times in Manhattan in the
1970s. Musically, the show was nothing special (save
for "Trash" — the Burundi beats never sounded
funkier, thanks to the yummy "Irish bastard"
drummer). But my vote for the greatest guitar
moment in history comes at around 2:22 into "Puss
'N' Boots" with Johnny Thunders' fun run across his
guitar neck, and the plodding live version tonight
desperately called out for his genius. Still, the show
was more moving than careening. They paid tribute to
Thunders with a snippet of "You Can't Put Your Arms
Around a Memory" bleeding right into a lovely "Lonely
Planet Boy." Covers included "Piece of My Heart" and
The Shangri-Las' "Out in the Streets." David Jo was a
sassy little gargoyle dressed in pink. And there were
even two new songs! Nothing special, again.
Apparently, a new album and a DVD are in the can (or
out on Sanctuary?) and they were at SXSW to get a
deal. Wish I could claim it would be worth someone's
money. But Johansen and Sylvain Sylvain, the only
originals Dolls left, deserve to avoid Social Security
more than any other band from the era.

Stay tuned for final-day coverage and a wrap-up.

The InsiderOne Daily Report appears on occasion.

Tom Breihan's Top 10 Albums Of 2004

Thursday, December 9, 2004

Joseph P. Larkin's Favorite Recordings Of 2004

Wednesday, December 8, 2004

Kirthana Ramisetty's Fave Songs Of 2004

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Tom Ridge's Fave Recordings Of 2004

Monday, December 6, 2004

Anthony Carew's Fave CDs Of 2004

Thursday, November 4, 2004

Tears Of Rage

Monday, October 18, 2004

Defeat Bush/Nader On November 2!!!

Monday, October 4, 2004

Digging The Austin City Limits Music Fest

Tuesday, September 21, 2004

Love & Politics At Coachella

Monday, September 20, 2004

Experiencing The Rock Fest Of The Year

Wednesday, August 25, 2004

'Lonely Planet Boy' Finds Nirvana At Garage Fest

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Free As A Bird

Tuesday, May 4, 2004

Dear Diary, The Pixies Were SOOOOOOOO Good!

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

ATP UK Part 3: 'A Religious Experience?'

Tuesday, April 27, 2004

ATP UK Part 2: 'Ride The Evil Skies'

Monday, April 26, 2004

ATP UK Part 1: Beer, Chili Pie & The Malkmus Effect

Friday, April 23, 2004

SXSW Report #6: Nirvana Is... Free Beer?

Monday, April 20, 2004

SXSW Report #5: In The Thick Of It

Thursday, April 15, 2004

SXSW Report #4: A Day In The Life

Monday, April 12, 2004

SXSW Report #3: Day One (Yes, Again)

Monday, April 5, 2004

SXSW Report #2: Why Am I Here?

Monday, March 29, 2004

SXSW Report #1: And The Walls Begin

To Shake...

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