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AESMA DAEVA
Dawn Of A New Athens
Root Of All Evil

In tales of Ancient Greece, even the mighty Odysseus was not immune to the Sirens' call - music so beautiful and compelling it would lure sailors to their deaths trying to reach its source. The symphonic metal generated by Aesma Daeva is the modern equivalent of these mythical beings. This album is the first featuring new vocalist, soprano Lori Lewis, adding a siren's call of her own over the powerful musicianship of guitarist Earl Root, composer/arranger John Prassas (who also adds more guitars and bawu), bassist Chris Quinn and drummer Tim Klatt. Highlights include "Hymn to the Sun" and "Since the Machine." (*Athena*)



PRISCILLA HERNÁNDEZ
Ancient Shadows:
The Ghost And The Fairy
www.yidneth.com

Priscilla Hernández gives us a lovely, listenable and personal album, a soundtrack for a daydream in the vein of Chandeem. As she accompanies herself on the piano and often the flute, Hernández' pretty voice and heartfelt lyrics build a magical and disturbing world where bewitching fairy tales are also terrifying ghost stories. This is not a work of great complexity and innovation, but the songstress' sincerity adds to its appeal. And some of its darker tropes, including trapped, soul-devouring nymphs and paralyzing night terrors, go outside cliché and keep the album from being too predictable. Its detailed booklets offer revealing insight to the songs and contain Hernández' own fairy artwork. (*Carolee*)



ARCHITECT
Lower Lip Interface
Ant-Zen

Last appearing in March 2006, the Architect is back with a new cadre of noise-stock for your eagerly-awaiting ears, dear reader. *Lower Lip Interface* is a driving, smack-in-the-face collection of rhythmic, yet chaotic stereoscopic torment. I mean that in the most complimentary of ways. A master of his tools, Mr. Dyer (the man behind the curtain) has quite a treat for you. This album is sultry, hypnotic, and yet very danceable particularly on the track "Pissed In The Morning" (who isn't, I ask you?). This album is divine and lives up to the artist's already well-established reputation. (*Poseidon*)



FRIGHTDOLL
Reference Version
FrightDoll

Charging into the boys EBM locker-room, FrightDoll snaps a wet towel and leaves her mark on the backsides of this often male-dominated genre. And YES, this is a solo project. *Reference Version* might appeal to EBM fans seeking a strong feminine approach to their FuturePop. While a notable debut, it is this reviewer's hope that Frightdoll will continue to mature in programming and lyrical savvy, kicking the current electronic "status quo" habit. Keep your mind open to the FuturePop of FrightDoll. Hear samples at myspace.com/frightdoll (*Sonya*)



MIDNIGHT REIGN
Never Look Back
Hollywood RX

Written entirely by founding member Joseph Michael, this is a concept album that tells a demented tale indeed - it follows the story of a musician high on acid who attempts to commit suicide. Waking in a tub full of water where he had slit his wrists, he believes he's an invincible ghost. He endeavors to fulfill every depraved desire he dared not attempt if he was "alive". But slowly the drugs wear off... This is told against a backdrop of Old School '80's style guitar-driven Metal, a bit reminiscent of Guns N Roses. I LOVE the bass in the fiery "Kiss The Flames"! (*Athena*)



RASPUTINA
Oh Perilous World
Filthy Bonnet

References to current events make this a shade grimmer than Rasputina's previous albums, but the band's showmanship is not lost. Melora Creager plunders obscure and apocryphal nineteenth-century history for a narrative she delivers in an idealistic voice and pokes full of deliberate holes. "1816" evokes ironic nostalgia; "Choose Me For Champion" contains almost parodic rhetoric culled from an Osama bin Laden speech; and "The Pruning" closes with cautious optimism as Creager fearlessly hits every note. The album also commands attention to Rasputina's unique relationship with the cello, an instrument that can sound alternately gritty and refined in their hands. A few tracks don't stand well on their own, but overall this exhibition is a clever paradox, both deliciously unsettling and reassuring in its relevance and attitude. (*Carolee*)



IN THIS MOMENT
Beautiful Tragedy
Century Media

In This Moment may have recently just released their debut album, but they've definitely hit the ground running! It's easy to hear why on the album's first listen. It's a captivating blend of melodic beauty and raw aggression - infectious from start to finish. *Beautiful Tragedy's* title track (also the first video from the album) is a prime example, gorgeous melodies blended with raw, painful emotions. The relentless "Next Life" comes at you with both barrels blazing. "Daddy's Falling Angel" is delivered with a chilling sense of desperation, and an intensity that can't be ignored. Fiery destruction runs rampant in "Ashes". (*Athena*)



SIOUXSIE
Dreamshow DVD
Rhino

Dreamshow generously contains over two hours of footage from a lush orchestra-backed concert in London in 2004, as well as contrasting video from a smaller venue and a reflective interview with Siouxsie and Budgie. Siouxsie and ensemble put on a show with stylish energy, one worth reliving on the small screen. On stage, she is magnetic but contained. She's constantly dancing with restless and elastic movements, but rarely breaks her focus to ad-lib or embellish. You'll want good speakers to appreciate the impressive music, too; the horn section owns "Standing There" and "Peek-A-Boo," and Budgie never stops drumming or smiling. He keeps up a monumental pace whether he's putting the backbone into classics like "Christine" or playing in tandem with Leonard Eto's moon-sized taiko drum. (*Carolee*)



CALABRESE
The Traveling Vampire Show
Spookshow

The brothers Calabrese are back, and this time with more addictive melodies than ever before, on their newest release *The Traveling Vampire Show*. Working just as tirelessly as ever to record new levels of cool, Bobby, Jimmy and Davey serve up some of the catchiest horror-punk to come out in recent times, much to the relief of this sub-genre's die-hard fans everywhere. That's right, with such tunes as "Night In The Lonesome October," "Your Ghost," and "Come Alive," there's no need to settle for anything less authentic. I enthusiastically give this album a frighteningly solid two thumbs up! (*Jessika*)



ATTRITION
The Attrition Of Reason
Two Gods

Here's a trip back in time for Attrition fans. This album was recorded in 1984. I couldn't believe the similarity with the Legendary Pink Dots, particularly the Edward Ka-Spel solo work. Though Attrition's later material would showcase their skills with technology rather than the simplistic rhythm-making of this release, this album is a wonderful window into a bygone age. These folks were 20 years ahead of their time back then. A must have for Attrition fans, and a strong recommendation for those who've never heard them. That is to say those who have been living under a rock for 20 years. (*Poseidon*)



AUTUMN TEARS
The Hallowing
Dark Symphonies

Ethereal and transcending, captivating and ever so calming, the effects on your mind, body and soul cannot be denied when indulging in the ghostlike choirs of Autumn Tears. It haunts you like a thousand spectres supplanted into your dwelling from centuries past, possessing your very being with meditative flight. Much like a corpse in a casket smelling of perfume, finely reconstructed then painted with such care as to emote a curtailed happiness, even though said victim's actual death was anything but pleasant. It's a creation that thrives on polar opposites co-existing successfully and cohesively. Kinda like a fire that no rain can extinguish or a murdering ghost sent to kill but only succeeding at merely scaring the life from you. This one is definitely for a cold n' dreary winter evening or the soundtrack to accompany your next séance. (*Toe Knee*)



CHRISTIAN DEATH
American Inquisition
Season of Mist

Christian Death sequestered themselves away for two years as they prepared to give birth to their excellent new album, *American Inquisition*. They have unleashed a wonderful unholy musical entity on the world indeed! The concept overall is a powerful message of rebellion - of shaking off the mantle of oppression shoved upon humanity by some organized religions. This is set against luscious noir music that blurs the lines between the Gothic Rock, Industrial, and Metal subgenres and offers such refreshing surprises as choirs and unfamiliar instruments such as mandolin and yayli tambur (a bowed lute from Turkey). This is a serious must-have for any collection! (*Athena*)



DISTORTED MEMORY
Burning Heaven
COP International

Set your expectations elsewhere, they won't help you make it through this album. Some folks are familiar with the genre "terror", a distant cousin of techno run through walls of distortion at mind blowing speeds. If a terror artist were to team up with Sam Rosenthal and the vocalist from Venom, you'd have this. The album runs at something like 140-plus beats a minute, thick with distortion, melody, and earth-shattering basses. It's a hard listen, but something that wouldn't scare away DJ's. This monster was a nice treat in the goody box. Go get it. (*Poseidon*)