

Disagreeable

31 May 2022 | Jonah D, editor-in-chief

What I'm listening to:

album: Repeater | Fugazi

The strongest post-hardcore album I can think of. Unforgettable interplay of rhythm section with guitar.

track: Oceans Breathe Salty | Modest Mouse

The part 2 of the radio's 'Float On'. The cymbals overtop are magic and complement it perfectly.

track: Ring Them Bells | Sufjan Stevens

A Bob Dylan cover better than the original. The times and instruments never stop changing masterfully.

Reviews:

Emergency and I

the Dismemberment Plan

1999

Highlights: A Life of Possibilities, the Jitters, Gyroscope

TL;DR

Listen to this album right now. No, *Really*.

Full review:

Spanning the breadth and depth of pretty much every possible influence, the Dismemberment Plan produced 3 albums in 2 years, each exponentially better than the last. The third of those was this, which I will boldly declare as the best album from 1999, period. In a world of late-stage 90s alt-runoff and, ahem, *Limp Bizkit*, the Dismemberment released the dissonant and infinitely catchy blast of alien rock. As you can expect from such an important record, it made little to no impact on release, with no one other than thoughtful rock critics even paying attention to it. They missed their chance to get on board with it before it's true importance could be seen.

The Dismemberment Plan hailed from Washington D.C., a musical Babylon, with the ancient roots of 'Go-Go' funk entrenched deep, along with the iconoclastic Dischord record label, populating the 80s and 90s with the most musical hardcore bands the world have ever seen. Travis Morrison spent his life steeping in these, plus random drifts of thrift store records that swam into his life. He formed the Dismemberment Plan in 1993, the name taken from a stray phrase in the movie *Groundhog Day*.

The Plan released a string of records, each one bounds better and more mature than the last. Then, in 1999, came this. All the best elements of everything they had ever done were combined together into their greatest whole. With spazz-rock flavored funk buoyed by a synth and lyrics about how it feels to break down in your 20s, the Dismemberment Plan is able to boil down an entire generation within 39 minutes, and they were able to do so in a way that even now, a teenager listening to it 23 years later is able to understand it and still be able to hum along.

Untitled (Rise)

SAULT

2020

Highlights: Fearless, Son Shine, Street Fighter

In an age of Too Much Information and perpetual revival of the past, we are driven to look for something new, without the crushing weight of all the past and present. Something new, something creating new ground, instead of treading the same area with nothing new to add but more filler. Well, you can rest easy for now, because *Rise* is a record that defies any particular pigeonholing, while also being emotionally and politically charged.

Rise was released on September 18th of 2020, only a few months after the peak of the Black Lives Matter movement and the death of George Floyd. This album was explicitly and implicitly intended to be a reaction and upholding of the ideology of this movement and the surrounding events, creating a pointed and distilled message of political and social change. But then, of course, it's also a message you can dance to. *Rise* flits around between blues, jazz, and dub with dance beats all across and an energy to match the importance of their message. While SAULT may intentionally remove historical connections from its music, it's able to deliver a very specific and powerful message without and excess weight.

Recommendations

If you like **Nirvana**, try:

1. Devo

The New Wave-rs Nirvana secretly sounded like all along. Try the song they covered first, 'Turnaround', and try 'Through Being Cool' for something that Kurt himself could have written.

2. the Vaselines

According to Cobain, 'his favorite songwriters in the world'. Start with 'Molly's Lips' to get a feel for them, listen to 'Son of A Gun' to get an idea of what Nirvana was supposed to sound like.

3. Wipers

The first real Northwest punk band. 'Alien Boy' was the song everyone wanted to have written themselves; songs like 'Youth of America' show they're not just a one-trick pony.

If you like **Red Hot Chili Peppers**, try:

1. Bad Brains

The origins of funky hardcore and metal, on D.C.'s Dischord label. Their classic 'Banned In D.C.' is a great start; try 'I and I Survive' and 'She's Calling You' to expand toward a funk direction.

2. Curtis Mayfield

Strong intro to hardcore funk. The most palpable intro is 'Move On Up', featured in soundtracks and sometimes on the radio. Try some epic bass on 'Miss Black America' next.

If you would like to suggest bands to create recommendations from and/or albums to review, contact me at:

NetworkForPublicity@gmail.com

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