



sound, the tempo picks up and they kick it into a different gear. After a few plays straight through, I was hooked. There's tranquility to this and a "driving across the desert in a convertible" feel to this album, but it is by no means one-toned. Perhaps it's a drive through the desert during some kind of celestial phenomenon. Either way, this is an album I can enjoy from beginning to end – the music is reliable but full of enough surprises to always keep me tuned in. –TVA

Nobody & Mystic Chords of Memory

Tree Colored SeeE

Mush Records

A former member of Beachwood Sparks, his girlfriend and a producer that has worked with Project Blowed come together to create an album that should defy categorization, but instead contribute another second millennium electro/indie smash up. If the first *Mystic Chords of Memory* album, filled with west coast folk pop, is familiar to you, simply add electronic/hip-hop production to that and the world has *Tree Colored SeeE*. The music is definitely soothing; you can make love to it, you can fall asleep to it afterward. Driving across the vast plains of this nation coupled with listening to the album may be fatal though. Relatively strong song writing along with guest appearances, including Omid (another producer associated with Project Blowed) keeps this offering interesting. A hallmark of good collaborations, though, is not being able to differentiate what party is responsible for what. And on a number of occasions, there is no way of telling who birthed these melodies. –DC

The Original Three

Been Dealt a Losing Hand

Empty Records

The guitar player/singer of this three-piece punk outfit hails from The Black Lips. That carries a lot of baggage. Side projects don't always come off as well as they should; like The Damn Yankees or any solo Mick Jagger or Keith Richards album. *Been Dealt a Losing Hand*, despite its rather lame title, deliv-

ers where other side projects have failed miserably in the past. The guitar duo and drummer are even joined by Jay Reatard and Alicia Trout, who produces three tracks, from The Lost Sounds. The star power (that term is being applied liberally) alone promises a set of good tracks. It really comes through. Unfortunately, since Empty Records has been rather busy lately, they didn't have any time to check the grammar on the track "It's Not What Your Thinking". I understand this is punk, but that doesn't say what band actually means. Poor grammar, though, can't really detract from "The Line", where our friend from The Black Lips makes good use of his voice and a plain melody. Between that track and "Vow", the last track on the album, The Original Three reach almost anthemic proportions, but the album is only nine tracks. As a listener and not a critic, I want more. And probably, as a result of this album, I'm willing pay cash money to see The Black Lips the next time they're in town. –DC

Paul Armfield and the Four Good Reasons

Evermine

Groove Attack, 2005

Before we even get things started, this release is boring, but in a very soothing and reassuring manner. The band is tight, the lyrics are well thought out and written, but there's just nothing there. Paul Armfield works in a book store and is probably a pretty solemn guy on a day to day basis. Even at shows, I'd imagine Armfield and The Four Good Reasons (his band), put on an exercise in blatantly planned musics with a rather bland tone of voice. Without question though, if you like Van Morrison (minus any sort of intensity), go and pick this up. There's nothing flashy here, just sad songs created and produced in an authentic and almost urgent way. –DC

The Rakes

Capture/Release

Dim Mak Records

As the American press and general listening populous continues to scavenge

REVIEWS, ETC.

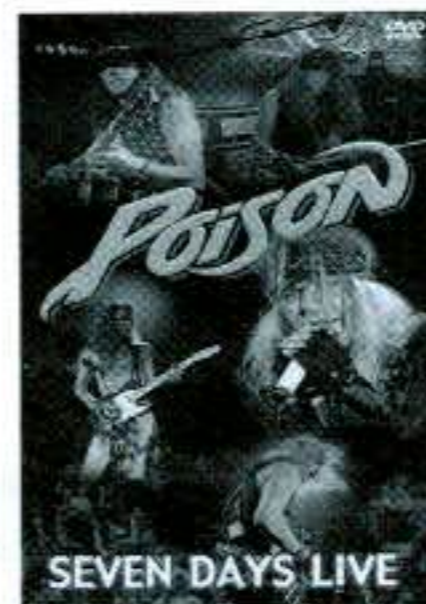


NardWuar the Human Serviette

"Doot Doola Doot Doot...Doot Dool!"

Alternative Tentacles

A little background: NardWuar the Human Serviette is a celebrity interviewer who's made his name by asking off-beat and unbelievably researched questions to his interviewees. He's in the vein of Ali G, only funny. What you have here is a 2 DVD set of his best interviews (including one with himself), unseen bonus footage, and videos/live performances from his 2 bands (The Evaporators & Thee Goblins). Always clad in his duffer's best plaid pants and hat, the man speaks at a rapid, nasal pace. A note that comes along with the DVDs that points out, this is how he really is. NardWuar is not a character, but a real person in Vancouver, BC. His strange questions and answers are what make the interviews great. Most have a great sense of humor and laugh off the ridiculous, like Jello Biafra being referred to as J-Lo, Slayer being asked if they're filled with hate and Gene Simmons being brought together with a guy whose wife he bopped a few decades ago. But as we all know, not everyone has a great sense of humor and such are the times when NardWuar gets roughed up by Sonic Youth, Blur and The Transplants. These are 2 very entertaining discs from a guy that most of us have never had the privilege to see before. –JJ



Poison

Seven Days Live

Cherry Red Films

It's a fact, when things become completely uncool, they become awesome. Flash back to 1993 and flannel shirts had taken over music. Gone from arenas were the sweaty chests, the spandex, the teased up hair and the cowboy hats, except in England. This is where Poison found safe haven in a time when they weren't sure where their music career would take them. *Poison: Seven Days Live* is a concert DVD full of the glam and hedonism that made them famous. The show was taped at London's Hammersmith Apollo in 1993, a few years after their big successes and about a decade before they re-embraced their Aquanet roots. With a 20th anniversary tour planned for this summer, *Poison: Seven Days Live* serves as a good reminder of what mindless fun Poison brought. You'll find all of their greatest hits performed here live, and yes, *Every Rose Has It's Thorn* is on here as part of their encore set. The show set is split between the old glam stuff and their musical attempt at the time to remain relevant, although they don't seem entirely comfortable until they hit the standards. The only thing missing here is the fact that CC Deville wasn't in the lineup at the time. Richie Kotzen had taken over full guitar duties by then, but as I've read, CC is back on board for this summer. *Poison: Seven Days Live* is great for what it is: Poison rockin' like Poison. –JJ