



The last time I wrote about The Killers, I was not kind. It was 2017, and they had just put out their fifth record, *Wonderful Wonderful*. Times did not appear to be good in Killers-ville. Singer Brandon Flowers even openly questioned their relevance in interviews, [rhetorically asking in *Billboard*](#), “Well, what kind of mark have I left?” Who wanted that kind of defeatism from, of all bands, The Killers? Flowers once sang about burning down the highway skyline on the back of a damn hurricane! And now he was droning on about sailing ships and blue hearts? What is the point of this band if they aren’t playing the arrogant and indestructible arena-rockers? Well, we’re happy to report The Killers have recovered their mojo. The new *Imploding The Mirage* is just plain fun, at a time when “fun” feels like the opposite of plain and more like a balm. Check out [the review from Uproxx](#) and [our recent *Indiecast* episode](#) about it.

-- Steven Hyden, Uproxx Cultural Critic and author of *This Isn't Happening: Radiohead's "Kid A" And The Beginning Of The 21st Century*

In case you missed it...

We created [artist rabbit hole playlists](#) on our YouTube channel for **Faith No More**, **Tori Amos**, **The Jesus And Mary Chain**, and more.

The [latest episode of *Indiecast*](#) reviews the new albums from **Bright Eyes** and **The Killers**. Speaking of The Killers, they might have [another new album](#) on the way.

Make sure you adhere to the rules of the food pyramid! **James Blunt** has revealed that he once got scurvy after adopting an all-meat diet to spite his vegan classmates.

Our hopes of a **White Stripes** reunion have been dashed once again, as **Jack White** is selling a bunch of instruments and stage equipment from his time in the band, as well as furniture from the Third Man Records office.

The latest **Indie Mixtape 20 Q&A** is with **Rituals Of Mine**, who is very excited about rescuing a puppy.

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this is how you check an indie bro's pulse



OPENING TRACKS



ANGEL OLSEN

This week's most anticipated indie release has to be *Whole New Mess*, a kind of stripped-down companion record to Angel Olsen's acclaimed 2019 release, the lush and orchestrated *All Mirrors*. This time, Olsen returns to her roots as an emotionally direct folkie, paring back the instruments but not the catharsis.

LISTEN



PHOENIX

It's been three years since the last album from these French indie-pop legends, but it appears that a new LP might finally be imminent. The group just released a single, "Identical," a throwback to their *Wolfgang Amadeus Phoenix* prime slotted (for now) for the next Sofia Coppola film, *On The Rocks*.

LISTEN

SYLVAN ESSO

The album-promotion industrial complex must move forward even in these unprecedented pandemic times, which has forced indie artists with upcoming projects to get innovative. One of our favorite TV performances lately was by this indie-pop group, who played "Ferris Wheel" from the upcoming album *Free Love* on *Full Frontal with Samantha Bee*.

LISTEN

DEEP CUTS



BULLY

While so much of indie rock seems content to lean pop, you can always rely on Bully to bring the aggressively catchy, heavy riffing



ZACHARY CALE

One of our favorite late summer records lately is *False Spring*, the latest from this Brooklyn guitarist. Drawing inspiration from the cream

jams. The band's latest album, **SUGAREGG**, is another dose of classic underground rock — if you believe that nobody can blast off like the Pixies or Dinosaur Jr. these days, dive in.

LISTEN

of songwriting legends — Dylan, Townes Van Zandt, Nick Drake — Cale makes winding guitar jams that sneak up on you, hitting upon a mellow vibe that slowly gathers intensity.

LISTEN



VINYL OF THE WEEK

PRINCE - '1999' DELUXE 4LP



Remastered for the first time, Prince's iconic **1999** is ready for a deluxe reissue. In this 4LP set, the iconic album has been remastered and given space to breathe across two special edition LPs. The remaining two discs are comprised of 18 promo mixes and B-sides that Prince officially released in and around 1982, which have also been remastered for the

highest quality audio. Don't sleep on this one.

PARTY LIKE IT'S 1999

THROWBACK

'THE CHARM OF THE HIGHWAY STRIP' by THE MAGNETIC FIELDS



Few indie songwriters had a more prodigious decade in the '90s than Stephin Merritt. While he's rightly celebrated from the mammoth *69 Love Songs*, we've been digging deep into this 1994 album, in which Merritt writes clever lyrics in the style of classic country and sets them to catchy synth pop.

LISTEN

LINER NOTES

*THE PITCHFORK
REVIEW*



Our friends at *Pitchfork* are bringing their music expertise to audio with the launch of *The Pitchfork Review*. Hear the team discuss TikTok's impact on the music industry, Taylor Swift's new album, and more by subscribing.

[LISTEN + SUBSCRIBE](#)

The cover art for the Indie Mixtape features a man with a beard and glasses, wearing a red floral shirt, sitting in a chair. He is holding a white telephone receiver. The background is a warm, golden-brown color with a pattern of small, stylized figures. The text "INDIE MIXTAPE" is overlaid in large, white, bold letters. In the top left corner, there is a logo that says "TOPSIFY". In the bottom right corner, there is a small icon of a person's head.

The Spotify logo is a green circle with three white curved lines inside.

- 1 **Waving, Smiling**
Angel Olsen
- 2 **Identical - From The Motion Picture "On The Rocks"**
Phoenix
- 3 **Rooftop Dancing**
Sylvan Esso
- 4 **Where to Start**
Bully
- 5 **Mad Season**
Zachary Cale

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