



With *Chemtrails Over The Country Club*, Lana Del Rey appears poised for some sort of letdown. With *Norman F*cking Rockwell*, she delivered the most enticing of critical catnip — a big statement record released at the close of a decade and in the midst of the Trump era, an “[obituary for America](#)” perfectly suited for meaty thinkpieces. (Del Rey [seems to recognize this aspect of NFR](#), telling the British music magazine *Mojo* last fall, “I knew they were going to like *Norman [F*cking Rockwell]* because there’s kind of nothing not to like about it ... it’s easy to cheer for that.”) Her new album, however, is consciously positioned as a step back from the epic scale and timely thematic concerns of *NFR*. It also feels, unintentionally, like diminished returns, like when Del Rey revives songs left over from past projects (including the affecting but minor soft-rock folk ballad “Yosemite,” which dates back to her mid-2010s *Lust For Life* period) or recycling lyrical references from *NFR* (the nod to Elton John’s “Candle In The Wind” in the slinky “Tulsa Jesus Freak”). And yet *Chemtrails*, like all LDR albums, still feels like a unified piece of work that, in spite of some wan songwriting lapses, manages to cast a mesmerizing spell. Read my full review [here](#) and check out our [video review](#) down below.

-- 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...

Subscribe to our **YouTube channel** to be first in line for more *Indiecast visualizers*. We also just launched YouTube Shorts! Check out a quick guitar lesson from John Mayer [here](#).

The [latest episode](#) of *Indiecast* also paid tribute to Kurt Vile.

The new **Big Thief** album is "pretty much done," [according to](#) guitarist Buck Meek.

Outside Lands [delayed](#) its 2021 festival slightly, while **Coachella** and **Stagecoach** [pushed back](#) to 2022.

The latest **Indie Mixtape 20** is with [The Antlers](#), who once saw Animal Collective throw an amp through a window.

OPENING TRACKS



THE ANTLEERS

This hyper-emotional indie-folk act is best known for *Hospice*, one of the defining indie-rock albums of the late aughts. It's been seven years since their most recent LP, 2014's *Familiars*, but thankfully the group finally returns with a new record, *Green To Gold*, on Friday.

READ MORE



***DEATH FROM
ABOVE 1979***



***RYLEY
WALKER***

This berserker Canadian duo first emerged in the early aughts with an aggressive mélange of heavy rock riffage, punk energy, and screeching electronic noise. After a brief hiatus, they came back in the 2010s to realize their ambitions to be “the AC/DC of hardcore.” Their fourth album, *Is For Lovers*, drops Friday.

LISTEN

One of our all-time favorites here at Indie Mixtape HQ is this Brooklyn-via-Rockford, Illinois guitarist and songwriter. Hot on the heels of his excellent collaborative album with Kikagaku Moyo from earlier this year is his latest solo record, *Course In Fable*, in which he fully embraces Genesis-inspired prog to oft-stunning effect.

LISTEN

DEEP CUTS



SERPENTWITHFEET

This artist also known as Josiah Wise truly makes unclassifiable music. He’s toured with Grizzly Bear and once appeared on a BROCKHAMPTON album — he encompasses that range and more. The mix of soul, classic pop rock and experimental



FIDDLEHEAD

As the world opens up, the heart starts to yearn for really meaty and emotionally earnest punk rock that you can play very loud with the windows rolled down. As if on cue, Fiddlehead has stepped up with their second record,

sounds will surely continue to shape-shift in fascinating ways on *Deacon*, due Friday.

Between The Richness, which positively bursts with passion and explosive hooks.

LISTEN

LISTEN



VINYL OF THE WEEK

JOE STRUMMER — 'ASSEMBLY'
(LIMITED EDITION 2-LP RED VINYL)



Due this Friday, *Assembly* is the brand new remastered 16-track collection of Joe Strummer's greatest solo work, available as a 2-LP gatefold 180-gram collection. All tracks on the album were remastered by Paul Hicks (The Beatles, The Rolling Stones), and includes a never-before-heard acoustic home recording of "Junco Partner" and live versions of The Clash classics "I Fought The Law" and "Rudie Can't Fail" with his band, The Mescaleros. This exclusive red variant is only available at your local record store.

CHECK AVAILABILITY

THROWBACK

'THE MILK-EYED MENDER'
by JOANNA NEWSOM



When was the last time you did a deep dive into aughts-era freak folk? Whenever it was, it's time to dive back in with the timeless debut by this masterful songwriter and harpist, who creates a world that's uniquely her own.

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LINER NOTES

*THE MANY LIVES OF
JUDEE SILL*

Judee Sill is one of the most interesting and unsung singer-songwriters of the 1970s. Learn more about this enigmatic legend with this recent



enlightening *Rolling Stone* profile.

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