



Several years ago, I decided to conduct a thought experiment with John Mayer: I imagined him having the exact same career, except now it started in the year 1980 rather than the year 2000. This was actually pretty easy to imagine, given that a musician of his ilk — a soft-rock guitarist with pronounced singer-songwriter musical leanings — was much more common in the yacht-rock era than today. If Mayer had that career arc, would I feel differently about his music? I bring this up because, incredibly, John Mayer appears to have conducted this exact same thought experiment in regard to John Mayer. For his eighth studio album, *Sob Rock*, Mayer has said that it was goal to “pretend someone made a record in 1988 and shelved it and it was just found this year.” He officially introduced this musical costume with the lead single “Last Train Home,” a loving homage to the sort of beer-commercial synth-rock that 40-something-year-old boomers like Steve Winwood and Don Henley turned out regularly during the Reagan/Bush years. Check out Uproxx’s review of *Sob Rock* [here](#).

-- 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...***

Check out our collection of *Indiecast* visualizers right [here](#).

The **latest episode** of *Indiecast* reviewed the new Clairo album.

**The Sex Pistols** are **suing each other again**, this time over the forthcoming biopic miniseries from *Trainspotting's* Danny Boyle.

**Foxing's** ambitious and dramatic **new music video** stars Tony Award-winning actor André De Shields.

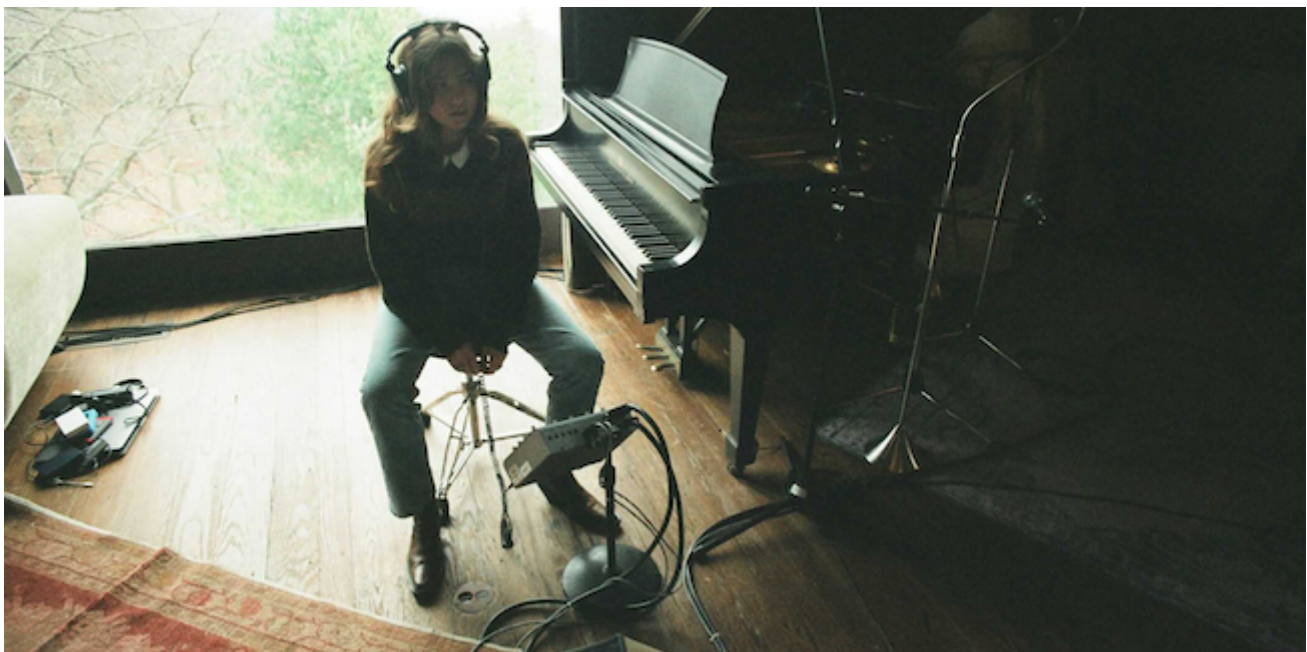
The new **Indie Mixtape 20 Q&A** is with **Jodi**, who will listen to any pop country on the radio.

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## OPENING TRACKS



## CLAIRO

This 22-year-old phenom has been the toast of the indie press for several years now. But unlike a lot of critical darlings, she's also racked up hundreds of millions of spins for her vibe-y bedroom pop songs. Her new sophomore LP, *Sling*, feels like a low-key, mature departure.

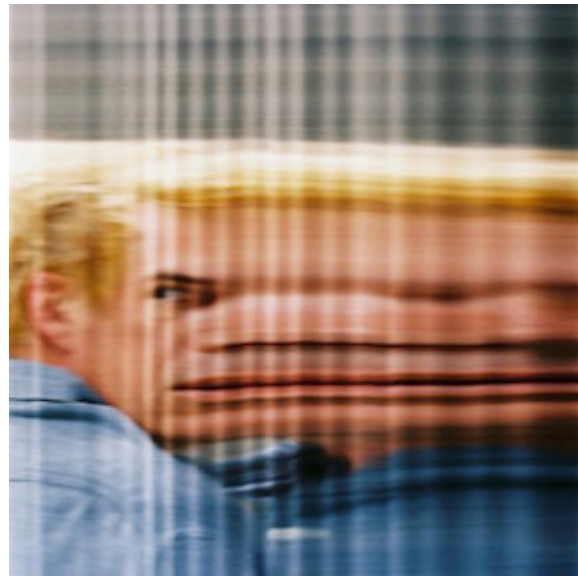
**LISTEN**



## ILLUMINATI HOTTIES

We're long-time supporters of this excitable indie-pop band, ever since their knockout 2018 debut *Kiss Yr. Frenemies*. And it seems like we're not the only ones, given how similar parts of Olivia Rodrigo's *Sour* are to the IH template. Hopefully they can capitalize via the upcoming *Let Me Do One More*.

**LISTEN**



## LIARS

While they didn't achieve the level of fame lavished on some of their peers in the early aughts NYC rock scene, few bands from that world were as adventurous as Liars. And they've kept pushing at the boundaries of noisy post-punk since then, as evidenced by the upcoming *The Apple Drop*.

**LISTEN**

## DEEP CUTS



### ***TURNSTILE***

Baltimore's preeminent experimental hardcore band Turnstile specialize in filthy basslines, groove-metal guitar heroics, relentless drum rolls, and a screaming singer who denounces inauthenticity while in search of that night's six-pack. We can't wait to hear their first album in three years, *Glow On*, when it drops on August 27.

**LISTEN**



### ***DEAFHEAVEN***

This alt-metal band doesn't sound all that metal on their recent single, "Great Mass Of Color." The screaming vocals of past releases have been replaced with cool crooning, which only adds to the majesty to the lush, dreamy guitars. Curious for what this portends about the forthcoming *Infinite Granite*.

**LISTEN**

## VINYL OF THE WEEK

***TURNSTILE - 'GLOW ON'***





Turnstile's new album isn't due for another month, but every colored vinyl variant has already sold out... except standard black. Luckily for you, we're **like Hodor** holding a few copies for our loyal readers. Don't hesitate if you want to own a copy of one of the year's most interesting and dynamic records.

**PICK IT UP**

## **THROWBACK**

***'VESPERTINE' by BJÖRK***



If you're looking for a way to cool down during the dog days of summer, the grandiose fourth album by Icelandic genius Björk

may do the trick. This is music of great beauty that hits like an arctic blast.

**LISTEN**

## LINER NOTES



*Clairo + Albums By Kids Of Famous Musicians*

On the latest episode of Indiecast, Steve and Ian go deep on a recent run of albums by the children of famous musicians.

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