



Low's instant classic 2021 album *HEY WHAT* feels like a culmination for one of the most distinctive and fascinating producers currently working in the indie world. While B.J. Burton has worked on all sorts of music — including a Grammy-nominated record with the electro-pop duo Sylvan Esso, as well as songs by Lizzo, Chance The Rapper, Soccer Mommy, Francis And The Lights, and Twin Shadow — he is most associated with the “melted-down cassette” aesthetic of the Low and Bon Iver albums he's produced, like *Double Negative* and *22, A Million*; a blown-out, wobbly buzz in which it's never clear how the sounds are being made. Listen to a B.J. Burton production and you might wonder: Is that a guitar, a synthesizer, or an answering machine from 1989 being tortured to death? It all hints at a barren world in which humanity has finally been overwhelmed and swallowed up by maniacal technology run amok. Love it or hate it — I think *HEY WHAT* is likely the best album of the year — it evokes the feeling of being alive in 2021 like nothing else. A North Carolina native, Burton currently shuffles freely between L.A. and Minneapolis, or wherever work might take him. I met him at his Minneapolis studio as he held Bruce, a Brussels Griffon puppy who almost matched the affable Burton for infectious gregariousness. Check out our conversation [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...

The latest *Indiecast* visualizer revisits **Nirvana**'s *Nevermind* at 30 and tries to evaluate the album as solely a collection of rock songs without all the lore. Check out the full collection of *Indiecast* visualizers [here](#).

The [latest episode](#) of *Indiecast* reviewed new albums from **Illuminati Hotties** and **Strand Of Oaks**. Send your questions for Steve and Ian to indiecastmailbag@gmail.com.

We dropped a new episode of "Songs From The Bathroom Floor," our intimate performance series with **Catie Turner**. Check out "Therapy" right [here](#).

Phoebe Bridgers [released](#) a studio version of **Bo Burnham**'s "That Funny Feeling," which she has been covering regularly during her summer tour.

Blink-182's **Mark Hoppus** announced that he is [officially](#) cancer free!

OPENING TRACKS



THE WAR ON DRUGS

One of my favorite songs on the forthcoming War On Drugs album, *I Don't Live Here Anymore*, is the title track. If I were a nitpicker, I would point out that it's really hard to dance to "Desolation Row." But I am not a nitpicker when it comes to this absolute banger.

LISTEN



SAM FENDER

This British phenom has been compared to Bruce Springsteen, though his music sounds less like The Boss than The War On Drugs if Brandon Flowers became the new lead singer. Of course, there are also occasional sax solos, so Bruce's spirit is there, too. His latest, *Seventeen Going Under*, drops this week.

LISTEN



DEERHOOF

These venerable sonic adventurers are always good for sounds that go beyond the staid and the stale of conventional indie. Their latest single, "Scarcity Is Manufactured" — culled from the forthcoming album *Actually, You Can*, due Oct. 22 — characterizes Deerhoof's gift for delightful and strangely catchy skronk.

LISTEN

DEEP CUTS



HELADO NEGRO

Autumn is peeking its long-lost nose into all of our lives, so the time is ripe for effervescent music that is both deeply soulful and effortlessly light. Which is to say, we're excited to put on the latest by Helado Negro, *La Naranja*. Over the course of seven albums, Roberto Carlos Lange has perfected his blend of electronic and folk music.

LISTEN



RHYTON

This Brooklyn act draws on the usual influences for an #indiejam band — prog, Krautrock, fusion jazz, the Grateful Dead. But on the new *Pharaonic Crosstalk*, they utilize these influences to create delectably spacey jams in exciting ways, building from enjoyable back-porch choogles to mesmerizing and often explosive musical peaks.

LISTEN

VINYL OF THE WEEK

DAVID BOWIE - 'TOY:BOX'

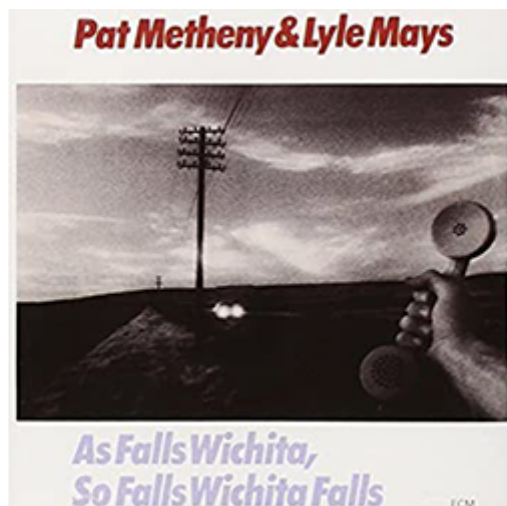


Toy was recorded following David Bowie's triumphant Glastonbury 2000 performance, with a plan to surprise fans with a new album. Unfortunately, in 2001, the concept of the 'surprise drop' album release and the technology to support it were still quite a few years off, making it impossible to release *Toy* as instantly as David wanted. In the interim, David did what he did best: he moved on to something new, which began with a handful of new songs from the same sessions and ultimately became the 2002 album *Heathen*. Now, after twenty years on the shelf, *Toy* is finally ready to see the light of day as part of a set documenting the era of Bowie's musical career.

PRE-ORDER

THROWBACK

'AS FALLS WICHITA, SO FALLS WICHITA FALLS' by PAT METHENY AND LYLE MAYS



This fusion masterpiece from the early '80s veers from soft-rock atmospheric to avant-garde ambience in a way that evokes Bon Iver or Wilco at their most experimental. A dreamy, one-of-a-kind tour de force.

LISTEN

LINER NOTES



Steven Hyden's Favorite Music Of September 2021

October might be here, but it's not too late to catch up with Steven Hyden's favorite music from last month.

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