



Idles are as idle as a bouncer named Tiny is tiny. Cue up a concert video on YouTube and you'll see that the British post-punk outfit is anything but lazy or purposeless. Rather, they are in constant motion, a whirling dervish of sweaty head-banging, literal chest-beating, and half-naked Angus Young-style guitar theatrics. You'll also understand how and why Idles have become one of the world's most popular indie-rock bands. Few acts at the moment are as straight-forward about wanting to be perceived as great. Therein also lies the problem. Idles aspire to the mix of political righteousness and musical bluntness that once caused people to call The Clash "the only band that matters." And you can see surprising manifestations of that ambition when scores of backward hat-donning lads swarm in mosh pits and sing along with frontman Joe Talbot on lyrics like, "My blood brother is an immigrant / a beautiful immigrant." No other successful rock band is doing that right now. But do good intentions — or simply good messaging — equal good rock 'n' roll? Four albums into their career, including the new *Crawler* out Friday, Idles haven't yet made a persuasive case. Read our review [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 new *Indiecast* visualizer digs into **Adele**'s big vinyl order and manufacturing delays. Check that out above or [right here](#), and revisit the full collection of *Indiecast* visualizers [here](#).

The [latest episode](#) of *Indiecast* reviewed the new albums from **Idles** and **Courtney Barnett**. Send your questions for Steve and Ian to indiecastmailbag@gmail.com.

Arctic Monkeys [say](#) their new album is "pretty much" finished and arriving in 2022.

The latest *Masked Singer* was [revealed](#) to be none other than **Johnny Rotten**.

The latest **Indie Mixtape 20** Q&A is with [Heart Attack Man](#), who love Cleveland.

OPENING TRACKS



MITSKI

On albums like *Puberty 2* and *Be The Cowboy*, Mitski Miyawaki established herself as one of the most popular and acclaimed artists in all of indie. Now she's looking to level up again, with a new album, *Laurel Hell*, due out on February 4, and single "The Only Heartbreaker."

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MOSES SUMNEY

Few artists in modern indie are harder to classify than Moses Sumney, whose music reaches into the realms of art rock, R&B, funk and neo-classical. Sumney is only growing more ambitious with each new release, as evidenced by his recent opus, *græ*. The new live LP, *Live From Blackalachia*, is a victory lap.

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PINEGROVE

These introspective, country-tinged emo-rockers continue to quietly build a devoted audience, and they have big plans for 2022, including a new album mixed by Chris Walla, *77:77*, and a big tour. The recently released single “Alaska” is relatively boisterous by the band’s standards, actually sounding a bit like Death Cab For Cutie.

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DEEP CUTS



CATE LE BON

This Welsh singer-songwriter has been steadily putting out music since the late '00s, and has never hewed closely to a



NILÜFER YANYA

This buzzy British singer-songwriter was a breakout artist back in 2019, thanks to an eclectic amalgam of influences

definable style, drawing on post-punk, psychedelia, and classic '60s pop. Her last release, 2019's *Reward*, was one of the most critically acclaimed albums of her career. Her next LP, *Pompeii*, drops in February.

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suggesting that Yanya ultimately wants to fuse the slinky grace of Sade with the sort of chunky and lovably punk anthems associated with Blink-182 and The Libertines. Her new LP, *Painless*, drops in March.

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VINYL OF THE WEEK

RHINO'S HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE



Thanksgiving is already right around the corner, which means it's time to start thinking ahead to the holiday season. Luckily, we have you covered with a list of all the best boxed sets, vinyl pieces, and more. Pick up your favorite limited edition versions of iconic records from Fleetwood Mac, Crosby, Stills, Nash, & Young, and many more, courtesy of our friends at Rhino. Check out all of the options below and be sure to send us photos of your haul.

[PICK IT UP](#)

THROWBACK

'OSHIN' by DIIV



This Brooklyn band has a spotless catalog of three albums, so it's hard to pick a favorite. But the most consistent is likely the 2012 debut, which sets up their minor key dream pop aesthetic beautifully.

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LINER NOTES

*Lindsey Buckingham
Reviews His Albums
With And Without
Fleetwood Mac*

As the musical director of Fleetwood Mac, Lindsey Buckingham has loomed large as an influence on indie rock both past and present. We had



him review 10 of his most famous albums, with and without Fleetwood Mac, for this feature.

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