



Over the course of The War On Drugs' 13-year recording career, Adam Granduciel has refined and streamlined his band's heartland indie sound. Listen to 2008's *Wagonwheel Blues* and it's almost like a completely different band; what was once a noisy, lo-fi and meandering mess of guitars and synths has now emerged on The War On Drugs' fifth album as a world-beating collection of punchy pop-rock anthems. It remains to be seen whether this will be their most successful LP, but it is undeniably their catchiest and most engaging. It's also loaded with the sort of grandly uplifting rock gestures that Granduciel is so good at making. I don't think there is a better moment on any album I've heard this year than when the drums come in on "Old Skin." Congrats to this band on passing [The Five Albums Test!](#) To read more about our favorite music from October, check out [this list](#).

-- 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 the full collection of *Indiecast* visualizers [here](#).

The [latest episode](#) of *Indiecast* reviewed the new album from **The War On Drugs**. Send your questions for Steve and Ian to

indiecastmailbag@gmail.com.

Paul McCartney helped induct **Foo Fighters** into the Rock And Roll Hall Of Fame.

Japanese Breakfast turned **Weezer's** "Say It Aint So" into an orchestral anthem as part of a new live EP.

The latest **Indie Mixtape 20** Q&A is with **Delta Sleep**, who all got matching tattoos to commemorate their first Japanese tour.

OPENING TRACKS



SPOON

Last week the most consistent band in indie rock announced a new album, *Lucifer On The Sofa*. And guess what? The new single "The Hardest Part" sounds like an extremely consistent Spoon song! Not trying to be blasé about this at all, as we know we'll likely play this 10,000 times.

LISTEN



HURRAY FOR THE RIFF RAFF

It's been a minute since Alynda Segarra has graced us with new music. Her last album, *The Navigator*, dropped five years ago. In the meanwhile, Segarra apparently has been busy remaking her sound. The upcoming *Life On Earth*, due on Feb. 18, has been described as "nature punk," as evidenced by new single "Rhododendron."

LISTEN



DINOSAUR JR.

For decades now, Dinosaur Jr. has been one of the loudest rock bands on the planet.

They've also had an unexpectedly long and fruitful post-reunion career, amassing a late-career catalogue almost as strong as their early classics. Their new live LP, *Emptiness At The Sinclair*, is a testimony to that potency.

LISTEN

DEEP CUTS



WILD PINK

On this year's *A Billion Little Lights*, Wild Pink integrates Americana instrumentation like pedal-steel guitar and fiddle into his usual synth-rock mix, producing an even more epic surge. If you're looking for an excuse to revisit one of the year's best indie albums, check out this cover of a song by Ireland's Pillow Queens.

LISTEN



GEESE

If you haven't yet heard this buzzy NYC band, be prepared for a lot of hype to come your way soon. Barely out of high school, these kids have all the right influences to send music writers reeling with delight: LCD Soundsystem, Television, Broken Social Scene. We're pleased to report they mostly live up to the chatter.

LISTEN

VINYL OF THE WEEK

RHINO'S HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE



Well, Halloween is officially behind us, 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

'LUSH' by SNAIL MAIL

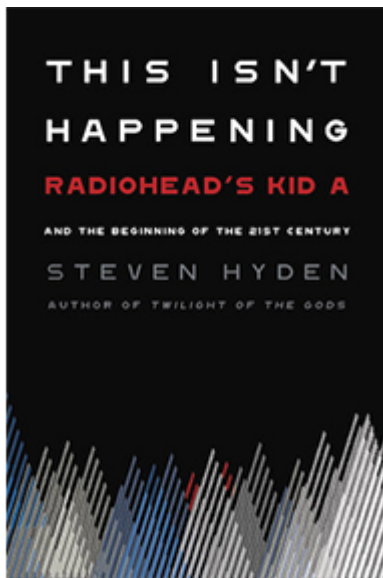


Ahead of the much anticipated second Snail Mail album

Valentine dropping on Friday, we recommend revisiting Lindsey Jordan's 2018 debut, one of the catchiest and most charming indie records of recent years.

LISTEN

LINER NOTES



THIS ISN'T HAPPENING

If you're looking for something to read while listening to the forthcoming *Kid A Mnesia* reissue, you'll want to check out Steven Hyden's recent *This Isn't Happening*.

PICK IT UP

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