



If it's a funeral, let's have the best funeral ever.

These words, printed in white type against a black screen like a social media apology, open Shut Up And Play The Hits, the 2012 documentary directed by Dylan Southern and Will Lovelace. When the film premiered 10 years ago this month at the Sundance Film Festival — it later played theatrically in the U.S. for just one night that July — the epigraph had an unmistakable meaning: Shut Up And Play The Hits is about the "final" concert by LCD Soundsystem, held at Madison Square Garden in the spring of 2011. The emotional climax the film comes when James Murphy, who has expressed uncertainty throughout the picture about whether he's made the right decision to shutter LCD Soundsystem, is invited to take one last look at the band's gear before it's sold off and scattered to the winds. On paper, this is an unusual trigger for a cathartic moment — in fact, one might even call it a strained contrivance for a movie without a strong ending. But as it's portrayed in the film, the sight of keyboards and sequencers and microphone stands sets Murphy on a Proustian reverie in which the life of LCD Soundsystem flashes before his eyes. And, like that, he breaks down dramatically into tears. I can't say how this played at Sundance in 2012. But in 2022, like so much about Shut Up And Play The Hits, this scene is so preposterous that it registers as unintentionally hilarious, like a *This Is Spinal Tap* for early 21st century indie rock. Check out my full ten-year retrospective on the film right here.

-- Steven Hyden, Uproxx Cultural Critic and author of *This Isn't* 



### In case you missed it ...

The *Indiecast* visualizer is back with a brand new episode about The Weeknd's *Dawn FM*. Check that out above or right here. Revisit the full library here.

The latest episode of *Indiecast* had Steve and Ian digging into the iconic lineup for When We Were Young Festival. Send your questions to indiecastmailbag@gmail.com for a chance to appear on the show.

It looks like emo greats **Sunny Day Real Estate** are gearing up for a 2022 reunion tour.

Taylor Swift is Record Store Day's first global ambassador.

The latest **Indie Mixtape 20 Q&A** is with Silverbacks, who only remember lyrics to ambient albums.

## **OPENING TRACKS**



# MELODY'S ECHO CHAMBER

This modern master of psychedelic pop naturally slots in with acts like Tame Impala and Dungen, though the music of Melody's Echo Chamber has an ethereal quality that enhances both the trippy and poppy aspects of the music. The forthcoming *Emotional Eternal*, due April 29, is the first MEC album in four years.

LISTEN





#### **PINEGROVE**

These introspective, countrytinged emo-rockers continue
to quietly build a devoted
audience, and they have big
plans for 2022, including a new
album mixed by Chris Walla,
11:11, and a big tour. We liked
the single "Alaska," which is
relatively boisterous by the
band's standards, actually
sounding a bit like Death Cab
For Cutie.

LISTEN

#### ALEX CAMERON

This Australian singersongwriter is truly one-of-akind, capable of writing
instantly catchy pop songs that
are infused with a polarizing
combination of high-concept
persona and controversial
subject matter. The
forthcoming Oxy Music, which
drops March 11 from Secretly
Canadian, continues this trend
of subversive perversion
presented in the guise of pop
songs.

LISTEN

### **DEEP CUTS**





#### **ANXIOUS**

There are many strains of emo, and this band manages to mix up the streams in an engaging way on their new album *Little Green House*. Some tracks seethe with post-hardcore aggression, while other melodically jangle like prime era Jimmy Eat World. And the album achieves this in a brisk 32 minutes.

LISTEN

### GOOD LOOKS

These newcomers from Austin, Texas have been described as "socialist heartland rock." We can't speak to the socialist part, but in the video for their new single "Almost Automatic," we see them playing in the middle of a cow pasture, which is certainly heartland rock-y. Their debut, *Bummer Year*, drops in April.

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### **VINYL OF THE WEEK**

LED ZEPPELIN - 'LED ZEPPELIN I'
(REMASTERED ORIGINAL 180-GRAM VINYL)

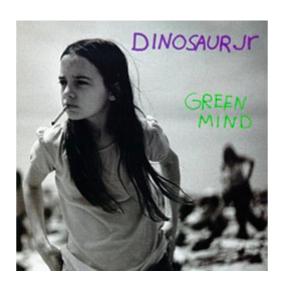


What's there left to be said about Led Zeppelin's debut album? Released almost exactly 53 years ago, in January 1969, "Good Times Bad Times" introduced the world to Jimmy Page, Robert Plant, John Bonham, and John Paul Jones. *Led Zeppelin I* was quickly a commercial success, breaking the Top 10 in both the US and the UK. Get the Led out today by picking up a fresh 180-Gram vinyl, remastered from the original pressing.

**PICK IT UP** 

## **THROWBACK**

## 'GREEN MIND' by DINOSAUR JR



This 1991 album by the legendary sludge rock indie outfit leavens their usual heavy riffs and wild solos with surprisingly poppy touches, though it doesn't dilute J. Mascis' enigmatic allure.

LISTEN

### **LINER NOTES**



Is The CD Revival For Real?

Is the solution to the vinyl shortage "buy more CDs"? I explored this possibility in the latest Ask A Music Critic column.

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