



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*

Happening: Radiohead's "Kid A" and the Beginning of the 21st Century



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, 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, *17:17*, 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 singer-songwriter is truly one-of-a-kind, 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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