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In his songs, Adam Granduciel presents himself as a man adrift — he’s out on the road, or standing in the rain, or floating in between the waves, or perhaps just lost in a dream. But on stage last week in St. Paul with his band, The War On Drugs, he cut an entirely different figure: He looked happy. “It’s my birthday and I’m going to play a fucking Bob Seger song!” he goofily exclaimed at the first of two packed mid-week concerts at the Palace Theater. Granduciel then proceeded to tease “Night Moves,” the most heartland rock-y tune in the legendary heartland rocker’s catalog, before finally landing on a song that The War On Drugs had never played live before, the stately ballad “Against The Wind.” It was a sentimental choice for the 43-year-old Granduciel, who mentioned that “Against The Wind” is a song he’s played frequently for his young son, Bruce. But it also had a perhaps subliminal thematic importance for a band dealing with the usual headaches (and a few unusual headaches) of [playing live in the “sort of but not really” post-Covid era](#). Check out [this tour report](#) charting the band’s best — and most hectic — shows yet.

-- 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 episode** of *Indiecast* had Steven and Ian reviewing the new album from Gang Of Youths, Hulu's new series *Pam & Tommy*, and talking about Kanye West's latest antics. Send your questions to indiecastmailbag@gmail.com for a chance to appear on the show.

Mitski **perfectly explained** why you should put your phone down at shows (hint... it's rude to performers!)

You can soon (virtually) beat up **Machine Gun Kelly**, as he'll be in *WWE 2K22* as a playable wrestler.

The latest **Indie Mixtape 20 Q&A** is with **King Hannah**, who make timeless music to get lost in.

OPENING TRACKS



CHARLI XCX

This indie-pop favorite has often been described as the “future” of pop music, which is odd given that she’s been a fixture for the better part of a decade and already has a sizeable body of work to her name. Her latest album, *Crash*, due out March 18, should only add to her legacy.

LISTEN



GANG OF YOUTHS

For frontman and singer-songwriter Dave Le'aupepe, the new *Angel In Realtime* is an attempt to revive his late father in the form of impossibly monumental tunes that integrate a kitchen's sink worth of sounds: chamber pop, U.K. garage, Britpop, hip-hop, and indigenous music native to his family's Samoan and Māori cultures.

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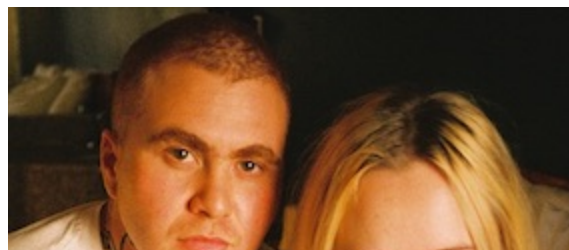
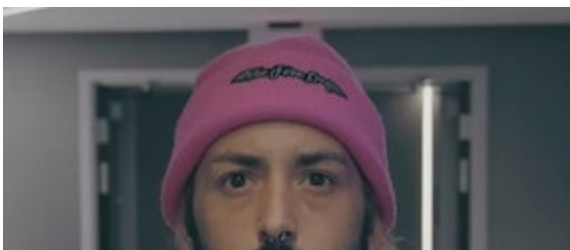


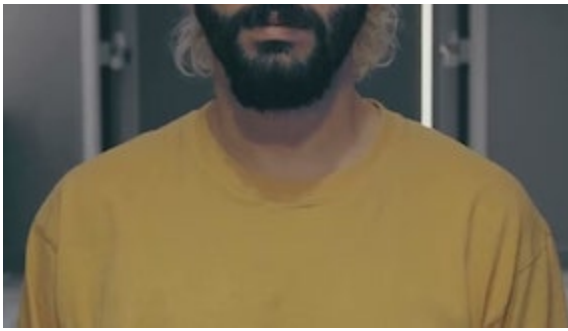
BLOC PARTY

This U.K. post-punk band is still most remembered for their kinetic 2005 debut *Silent Alarm*. But they've continued putting out records even as frontman Kele Okereke has branched off into a solo career. Their first album in six years, *Alpha Games*, drops on April 29. The new single is called "Sex Magik."

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DEEP CUTS





OSO OSO

When Jade Lilitri put out *The Yunahon Mixtape* in 2017 under the name Oso Oso, it instantly became a favorite among emo fans as well as those who yearned for the buoyant guitar jams of classic indie and alternative rock. It was such a perfect little gem that it seemed almost impossible to follow up, though *Basking In The Glow*, somehow did. Now there's a new single, "Pensacola."

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GIRLPOOL

This L.A.-based duo is responsible for more than its share of perfect indie-pop songs. Girlpool is particularly potent for those of us who never got over losing Elliott Smith. It's ideal "pretty sad" music, all minor-key chords and wistful vocals, like on the new single from the forthcoming LP, *Forgiveness*.

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VINYL OF THE WEEK

WHITE REAPER - 'YOU DESERVE LOVE'





White Reaper's 2019 album *You Deserve Love* has been pressed on an exclusive, neon green vinyl. It includes a double-sided poster insert and is only limited to 1,000 copies worldwide, so get yours while they're still available!

PICK IT UP

THROWBACK

***'SOURCE TAGS & CODES' by ... And You
Will Know Us By The Trail Of Dead***



This post-rock masterwork turns 10 this month, which is just the excuse we needed to dust it off and blast “How Near, How Far” as loud as we possibly can.

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LINER NOTES



Every Neil Young Studio Album, Ranked

Check out this ranking of every Neil Young studio album, as compiled by our own Steven Hyden, and see where your favorite LP lands on the list.

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