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There was a new [Mo Troper album](#) out on Friday that I can't get enough of. It's called *MTV*, and it's loaded with power pop goodness. Who is Mo Troper? He's a Portland-based singer-songwriter and a real indie rock lifer. He appeared on my radar in 2021 when he put out *Dilettante*, which has 28 songs that go by in about 50 minutes. As you can tell, his specialty is writing short songs — usually about two minutes but sometimes only 30 seconds — that pack scores of references to the sounds of '60s and '70s pop and rock. His aesthetic is lo-fi and kind of sloppy, but there's a lot of songcraft. (Imagine if Big Star sounded more like Guided By Voices.) [On the latest episode of Indiecast](#), Ian Cohen and I talk about this album, as well as the current state of indie-leaning power pop, which includes a discussion about another current favorite band of mine, 2nd Grade.

-- 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...

Arcade Fire responds to **Feist's** [decision to drop of the band's We tour](#).

An [environmentally friendly vinyl](#) made out of bioplastics is here thanks to **Michael Stipe** and **Brian Eno**'s environmental charity EarthPercent.

Indie rock is alive and well at festivals like **This Ain't No Picnic**, which you can [find our review of here](#).

Our latest [Indie Mixtape 20 Q&A](#) is with **The Dare**, whose cheeky debut is reviving blog-era indie sleaze.

In [this week's Indiecast episode](#), Steven Hyden and Ian Cohen talk Mo Tropa, Muse, and revisit a Queens Of The Stone Age classic.

OPENING TRACKS



ARCTIC MONKEYS

One of the best and most popular British rock bands of the past decade announced their first album in four years, *The Car*, this month. The one sample we have so far is this heartbroken lounge

ballad that hews close sonically to the debauched torch-song vibe of 2018's *Tranquility Base Hotel & Casino*.

LISTEN



RINA SAWAYAMA

This budding indie-pop star is among the buzziest acts to emerge in recent years, with an ear-catching sound that's like Carly Rae Jepsen if she spent years obsessing over Korn's *Follow The Leader*. That pan-genre approach ultimately informs Sawayama — who was born in Japan and raised in London — and her aesthetic.

LISTEN



ELI WINTER

So many instrumental guitar albums feel more like collections of jams rather than a set of actual songs. But this Chicago native knows how to balance exploratory solos with a sense of purpose and structure, and he builds his six-track self-titled album in a way that really pays off in the end.

LISTEN

DEEP CUTS



TENCI

This Chicago group won over hearts with their sprawling and pastoral folk-rock debut album, which featured lead singer Jess

Shoman's unique, textured vocals. All the same qualities are can be heard on their upcoming album's lead single, "Two Cups," which is sure to be a hit with fans of artists like Buck Meek and Friendship.

LISTEN



THE AFGHAN WHIGS

When it comes to '90s indie legends, you can't ever sleep on the great Greg Dulli.

Whether he's making solo records like the recent *Random Desire* or working in the Twilight Singers, he's always excellent. And then there's the immortal Afghan Whigs, who return with the upcoming *How Do You Burn?*

LISTEN

VINYL OF THE WEEK

**'DAZED AND CONFUSED' soundtrack by
VARIOUS ARTISTS – 2LP**



The 1993 cult classic film *Dazed And Confused* is well known for its '70s rock themed soundtrack, featuring songs by Alice Cooper, War, ZZ Top, Black Sabbath, and more. Pick up this special edition of the soundtrack, pressed on purple translucent vinyl.

PICK IT UP

THROWBACK

**'SONGS FOR THE DEAF' by QUEENS OF THE
STONE AGE**





This landmark hard rock masterpiece recently turned 20, and it remains one of the great albums of its kind in the modern era — few records can match it for swagger, sleaze, or hooks.

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LINER NOTES



*The best music
from August*

Steven Hyden rounded up his favorite music from August 2022, including albums by Cass McCombs, Kiwi Jr. and Eli Winter.

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