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Last summer, I reached out to two of the creative minds behind one of my favorite television shows, FX's *The Bear*, about the series' distinctive and proudly unfashionable “dad rock”-heavy soundtrack. I did this because along with loving the show I also loved the music. More than that, the soundtrack spoke to me as a person who (like the characters on *The Bear*) came of age in the Upper Midwest in the '80s and '90s. I have never worked in a high-end restaurant, and I am a terrible cook. But *The Bear* nevertheless has made me “feel seen.” I learned that Christopher Storer, the creator and co-showrunner as well as frequent writer and director, and his co-executive producer Josh Senior took over music supervisor duties as a way to save money on a relatively tight budget. But ultimately this decision gave *The Bear* a unique musical personality utterly unlike the standard, taste-conscious, run-of-the-mill “prestige” TV show. Even if you hate the music on *The Bear*, the show's soundtrack feels handmade, like a mixtape, in a way most TV soundtracks do not. [Read my interview with Storer and Senior about the season two soundtrack here.](#)

-- Steven Hyden, Uproxx Cultural Critic and author of five books, most recently [Long Road: Pearl Jam And The Soundtrack Of A Generation](#)

In case you missed it...

Taylor Swift recruited **Fall Out Boy** for 'Electric Touch,' a magical 'From The Vault' song on 'Speak Now (Taylor's Version).'

Machine Gun Kelly punched a fan in the face but only because he literally asked for it.

In an unexpected pairing, **Beach Fossils** is opening for **Post Malone** on his upcoming tour.

Our latest **Indie Mixtape 20 Q&A** is with **Little Dragon**, whose latest album *Slugs Of Love* is their finest work yet.

OPENING TRACKS



PJ HARVEY

This iconic British singer-songwriter has been on a bit of a hiatus lately. So we are more than pleased to welcome her first album in seven years, *I Inside The Old Year Dying*, which dropped last week. We expect nothing less than greatness from Polly Jean.

[LISTEN](#)

LOCAL NATIVES

This Los Angeles band typifies the breezy sound of aughts-era guitar-based indie rock, a vibe that supposedly went out of style a decade ago. And yet Local Natives' enduring popularity disputes that notion — their just released new album, *Time Will Wait For No One*, should build on that legacy.

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BETHANY COSENTINO

As the leader of Best Coast, she has made some of the catchiest songs to come out of Los Angeles in the past dozen years. Her talent for evoking the sunniest sounds to emerge from the region seems to carry over to her solo work on the forthcoming *Natural Disaster*.

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DEEP CUTS



JOANNA STERNBERG

This New York City-based singer-songwriter has a talent for writing songs that already feel like old friends the first time you hear them. On their latest LP, *I've Got Me*, Sternberg sounds like they have somehow uncovered a trove of unreleased tunes from Carole King's *Tapestry*. A true delight.

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GUIDED BY VOICES

We will love this band forever, but it can be hard to keep up with all the albums churned out by the Ohio indie-rock institution. You have to be somewhat selective, which is why we're happy to sound the alarm about the upcoming *Welshpool Frillies*, due out July 21.

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VINYL OF THE WEEK

**'STOP MAKING SENSE' by TALKING HEADS
— 2LP**



The *Stop Making Sense* full concert is about to be available for the first time ever on vinyl. This 2 LP vinyl includes a reproduction of the original booklet from the 1984 limited edition pressing and additional pages with never before seen photos.

PICK IT UP

THROWBACK

'LOOSE FUR' by LOOSE FUR

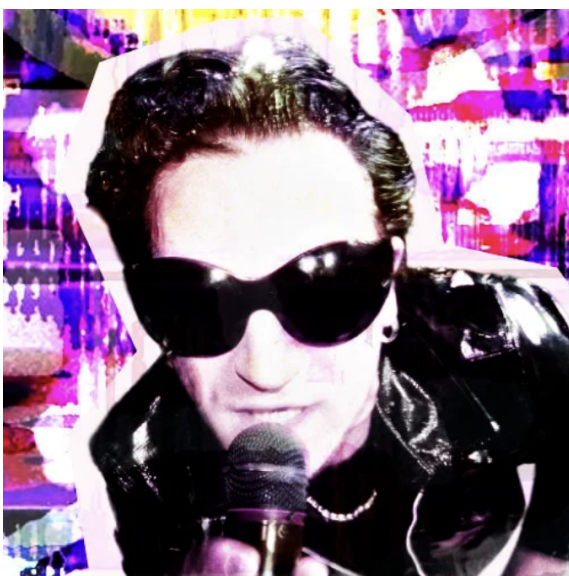


Do you love *Yankee Hotel Foxtrot*? Of course you do. But maybe you wish sometimes that YHF had louder guitars and proggy song structures. If so, then this 2003 collaboration between three

pivotal YHF players — Jeff Buckley, Glenn Kotche, and Jim O'Rourke — will definitely fit the bill. It's like listening in on a jam session by three masters in the prime of their careers.

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LINER NOTES



Looking back at U2's misunderstood album

One of the most misunderstood albums of the '90s, U2's *Zooropa*, turned 30 last week. Check out Steven Hyden's appreciation here.

CHECK IT OUT

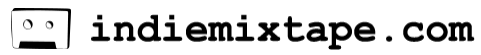
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