On the latest episode of Indiecast, Ian and I introduced our first-ever Record Label Draft. This is how it works: You are starting a record label. You get five picks. You can pick them in any order, but you must have one of each category, as listed below. Also: This is not an all-time draft — you are picking artists/bands as they stand right now. (You are not allowed to pick Led Zeppelin circa 1971.) Here are the categories:

Sacred Cow — A band or artist you sign purely out of personal love.

Prestige Artist — Someone who doesn’t do big commercial numbers but gets great reviews and/or is a legacy act.

High Streamer — Someone who is largely ignored by the media but does big streaming numbers.

Solo Artist 28 Years Or Younger — A person with a lot of potential upside that you can lock in for a long time.

Band with three or fewer albums — Same as above but a band.

Who did Ian and I pick? Find out by listening 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...

Mitski’s *The Land Is In hospitable* album is coming soon, according to an announcement leak shared online.

Matty Healy claimed *The 1975* was banned from a Malaysia city after he kissed his male bandmate on stage.

*Barbie* the movie made a very unexpected joke about an indie rock legend.

Our latest Indie Mixtape 20 Q&A is with AlexSucks, whose catchy garage rock debut is inspired by Evel Knievel.

OPENING TRACKS

*JEFF ROSENSTOCK*
When it comes to life-changing disasters, Jeff Rosenstock is like a musical first responder, always ready with inspirational jams whenever the world faces adversity. On September 1, the rousing punk rocker will drop an apocalyptic new album, *Hellmode*, that will hopefully supply his usual “whoa-oh-oh!”-style live show energy.

**THE ARMED**

These hyperactive, gym-obsessed Detroit muscle rockers specialize in merging combustible noise and frenetic rhythms with surprising bursts of bubblegum melody. Their forthcoming album, *Perfect Saviors* (due out August 25), is gaining some buzz thanks to catchy singles like “Everything’s Glitter” that evoke the peak of Nine Inch Nails with an emo-punk makeover.

**WOODS**

This highly consistent psych-folk outfit has been putting out tuneful records since the aughts, all under the stewardship of singer-songwriter Jeremy Earl. While he has expanded the group’s sonic sophistication over the years, the main draw of Woods continues to be songs that express wide-eyed earnestness with the aid of sweet melodies.
LISTEN

DEEP CUTS

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.

LISTEN

NATION OF LANGUAGE

Synth-pop has long been a foundational subgenre of indie rock. It’s a well-worn sound, but Nation Of Language still manages to make it sound fresh, in part because their chilly music has an anthemic quality enhanced by all the vintage keyboards. Their latest album, Strange Disciple, drops September 15.
VINYL OF THE WEEK

'COMPLETE STUDIO ALBUMS & RARITIES' by STEVIE NICKS — BOX SET

Are you a big fan of Stevie Nicks? Good news! The iconic singer's discography has been compiled into a Complete Studio Albums & Rarities box set. It combines all of Nicks’ solo studio albums, including her eight albums and a compilation of hard-to-find tracks.

PICK IT UP

THROWBACK
This politically charged and insinuatingly funky masterwork is one of the great classics of 1970s roots reggae, and a great entry point for newcomers curious to see how this music continues to influence the sound and production of indie music.

LINER NOTES

A podcast about Bob Dylan

If you’re looking for more Steven Hyden podcast action, be sure to check out Never Ending Stories, his show about Bob Dylan.
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