On September 1st and 2nd, Guided By Voices will perform two concerts in their hometown of Dayton, Ohio. Joining them is an all-star cast of supporting bands old (Dinosaur Jr., Built To Spill), new (Wednesday, Kiwi Jr.) and somewhere in the middle (Heartless Bastards). This is appropriate, as the concerts mark the band’s 40th anniversary, and the bill reflects GBV’s longevity and unlikely career arc. The fact is that GBV isn’t so much a band as it is an idea invented by Robert Pollard in 1983. A schoolteacher who started writing songs for fun as a music-obsessed teenager, Pollard made music in obscurity for nearly a decade before anyone outside of his immediate circle of friends and bandmates started to care. By the time he became the subject of magazine profiles in the mid-’90s, he was a husband and father whose 40th birthday loomed on the horizon. At that age, many musicians start to run out of artistic fuel. But finding inspiration was never a problem for Robert Pollard. He makes music like you and I produce carbon dioxide. He once described his process like this: “You get up in the morning. You take a shit. You write a song.” This explains why there are at least as many songs in Pollard’s life as there are mornings lived. But how does a neophyte get into this band? Check out my handy beginner’s guide 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...

The latest episode of Indiecast has Steven Hyden and Ian Cohen reviewing new albums by Ratboys and The Armed. Listen here.

Oliver Anthony finds it ‘funny’ that ‘Rich Men North Of Richmond’ was played at the Republican debate: ‘I wrote that song about those people’

Illuminati Hotties have an energetic new song, ‘Igyah Kah,’ in the first episode of ‘Star Wars: Ahsoka.’

Noel Gallagher recalls ‘the most stressful f*cking day’ of his life before his first Oasis concert.

Our latest Indie Mixtape 20 Q&A is with Becca Mancari, who seeks their truth on the album Left Hand.
The forthcoming *The Land Is Inhospitable And So Are We* (due September 15) seems to have a spooky, almost gospel rock vibe based on the early singles. The recently released “Heaven” is the loveliest and most epic song to come out yet, and stands as another interesting preview of this major indie release.

**ANIMAL COLLECTIVE**

Last year’s *Time Skiffs* felt like a comeback for this resolutely weird and long-running indie institution. And given how straight music sounds right now, it was nice to welcome them back into the fold. Now comes another record, *Isn’t It Now?* (due September 29), previewed with a hooky single “Soul Capturer.”

**SQUIRREL FLOWER**

This Chicago-based project from singer-songwriter Ella Williams has a habit of taking introspective, folk-leaning songs and exploding them unexpectedly with fits of righteous guitar noise. Her upcoming album, *Tomorrow’s Fire* (due October 13), looks to expand her sound further with contributions from MJ Lenderman and Dave Hartley (The War On Drugs).
This rootsy outfit from ex-Modern Baseball member Jake Ewald has been moving toward dad-rock nirvana since launching nearly a decade ago.

On their upcoming album *Crying, Laughing, Waving, Smiling* (due September 29), Ewald just might achieve it on

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**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
soundscapes that layer vintage guitar and keyboard sounds in the style of mid-period Wilco.

LISTEN

LISTEN

VINYL OF THE WEEK

'DOOKIE' by GREEN DAY — 30TH ANNIVERSARY COLLECTION

Can you believe Green Day's album Dookie was released nearly 30 years ago? To celebrate, Green Day is sharing a collection of merch, alongside a colored vinyl box set.

PICK IT UP

THROWBACK

'MISERY AND WOMEN' by THE KARL
This lost classic from the mid-'90s is just the thing from those who like chunky riffs married to lyrics that veer between laughs and pathos. It's like the great Superchunk album that you somehow haven’t heard before now.

LISTEN

LINER NOTES

The greatest soundtracks of all time

Check out Steven Hyden list of the greatest soundtrack albums of all time.
Was this email forwarded to you? Sign up [here](view.e.indiemixtape.com/?qs=7aa3996d9ec2a5f605c1d1524111d54355aca53c218a07c518b06b34730f272bd2b0dbdc4b8ed1e14eb9b0329abf91751a7c646ba8103ca).

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