Judging by the title, one might assume that Mitski’s new album *The Land Is Inhospitable And So Are We* is a droll commentary on the cruelty of internet commenters stuffed, Trojan horse-style, inside of a statement about climate change. And, to be clear, it is that, kind of. One of my favorite tracks, a spooky soft-rock ballad called “The Frost,” reimagines the apocalypse as a not-so-bad opportunity to experience some solitude, like a bizarro-world *Twilight Zone* episode where the twist is that the climatic tragedy is secretly a happy ending. But this album is also something greater and altogether new for Mitski. Recorded in Nashville and Los Angeles, with a cast of supporting musicians that include country scene stalwarts like pedal-steel guitarist Fats Kaplin and keyboardist Brooke Waggoner, *The Land Is Inhospitable And So Are We* is as still and insular as *Laurel Hell* was upwardly mobile and extroverted. The music is stately, dreamy, and extremely pretty, with Mitski’s voice buffeted by a pocket symphony of soft-focus Americana instrumentation, a stirringly cinematic string section, and a ghostly 17-person choir. Check out my review 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 *Indiecast* episode has Steven Hyden and Ian Cohen reviewing new albums by Mitski and Olivia Rodrigo. Listen to it here.

Thom Yorke once got so high during a Radiohead concert he couldn’t even sing his own song correctly.

Aerosmith postponed some upcoming farewell tour dates after Steven Tyler sustained ‘vocal cord damage.’

Olivia Rodrigo’s favorite band right now is Rage Against The Machine and Tom Morello is amused.

Our latest Indie Mixtape 20 Q&A is with Vagabon, who prioritizes honesty on her third album *Sorry I Haven’t Called*.

**OPENING TRACKS**

*SUFJAN STEVENS*
It's been a while since this beloved singer-songwriter has worked in, well, singer-songwriter mode. But the forthcoming *Javelin* (due October 6) appears to be a return to his Carrie & Lowell zone. While this might wreak havoc on our emotions, it ought be very pleasing on our musical pleasure centers.
**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

**DUSK**

This country-rock outfit has the same unpretentious charm as their home state of Wisconsin. They favor group vocals, layers of keyboards and pedal steel, and beer-friendly, shout-along choruses. You can hear all of that in the single “Pissing In A Wishing Well” from the forthcoming *Glass Pastures*, out on October 20.

LISTEN

**DEEP CUTS**
VAGABON

This singer-songwriter, also known as Laetita Tamko, comes from a place of emotional directness and musical simplicity that has a way of veering into surprising and thrilling directions. It's been a while since her 2019 self-titled record, but she's back with a new LP, Sorry I Haven't Called, co-produced by Rostam Batmanglij.

LISTEN

PKEW PKEW PKEW

Mike Warne has an unusual songwriting dictum: For every three lines that are stupid, write one smart line. The inverse also applies: If you write three consecutive smart lines, make sure the fourth one is stupid. You can hear this formula come to life on Pkew Pkew Pkew’s latest Siiiick Days.

LISTEN

VINYL OF THE WEEK

'WISH' by THE CURE — 30TH ANNIVERSARY LP
To celebrate the 30th anniversary of The Cure's seminal album *Wish*, Robert Smith and Miles Showell remastered the LP at Abbey Road Studios.

**THROWBACK**

'**MAGGOT BRAIN**' by **FUNKADELIC**

Anyone who traverses the worlds of funk, hard rock, and psychedelia continues to draw inspiration from this stone classic from 1971. Among other things, it’s one of the greatest guitar
albums ever, featuring the otherworldly playing of Eddie Hazel on the iconic title track.

Listen to Indiecast Episode 154

On the latest Indiecast Steven and Ian explore the Olivia Rodrigo phenomenon.

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