

# ECLECTIC VIBES

Micro-Reviews  
by Andrew Frey

Tornadic Tubring Activities. The moon may have been fluxing through an eclipse outside, but I ended up indoors at the Annex in Madison in February. Monster groove rockers, Helliphant, were on stage when I got there. Their combination of passionate anthemic punk energy and a maniac street preacher vocalist served as an ideal opening act for the mighty Tubring.

Madison was the kick-off city for Tubring's latest tour. The band was brimming with a flurry of explosive musical energy. As they played through their songs, they sped up to a pace that allowed them to squeeze maximum intensity and quantity into their finite set. They took no breaks in between songs. One delightful surprise amidst their classic material was a cover of Queen's "Flash." The general stage gymnastics that is inherent to their performances always blow my mind. I am thankful and amazed that no one gets seriously injured! Their unique vision of lounge punk for the disturbed is truly inspiring. I cannot wait to see them

again. [www.tubring.com]

## MICROREVIEWS

Rating Scale is from 1- Aghast thru 10- Elated

**AFTER ALL** "Insufferable" (Locomotive) Sturdy, powerful, galloping, and thrash-attacking guitar riffs propel this head banging Belgium juggernaut. The vocals are gruff, but understandable and quite appropriate, for the power metal they purvey. (6) [www.afterall.be]

**THE BLEEDER PROJECT** "The Systematic Subversion of Fear and Insecurity" (Toystaar Records) Gabriel Scott is the prolific front man at the helm of this project that focuses on heavy industrial rock and strong early Nine Inch Nails-like angst with pop hooks to it. (6) [www.thebleederproject.com]

**BONGZILLA** "Nuggets" (Barbarian Records) Barbarian records has coughed up some more purple haze-induced sludge muffins in the form of this expanded reissue of singles, splits and comp tracks from Madison's ultra stoners. Expectantly titled tracks tickle and trickle stoner humor to the consumer. (7) [www.myspace.com/bongzilla420]

**FOETOPSY** "In The Bathroom" (Barbarian Records) Absolutely sick, twisted and spastic grind core. Containing gurgled vocals, repulsive lyrical concepts and a big fat zero in the redeeming social value category. Not for the weak of stomach or mind. (3) [www.myspace.com/foetopsy]

**FREIGHTER** "s/t" (self). A Madison trio that knows how to play with metal structures of the past while injecting a contemporary intensity to them. Progressive a-tonal riffs conjoined with plodding, pummeling or explosive beats while hoisting a flair for noisy experimental fringe offerings treated with harsh angst ridden vocals. (8) [www.freightband.com]

**FRENCH HORN REBELLION** "French Horn Rebellion" (self) A quirky poptronica trio from NYC, but with roots in Milwaukee, WI. The infectious retro beat they shade their compositions with is their trademark and has an immediate off-beat commercial value that serves them well. (8) [www.frenchhornrebellion.com]

**HERMANO** "...Into The Exam Room" (Regain Records) Mega groovy hard rock and acoustic rock congealed from members of several stoner rock outfits and put together over long distances. At the helm is former Kyuss vocalist, John Garcia, guiding this herd to great heights. (8) [www.hermanorocks.com]

Sound Productions) This ambitious self-taught multi-instrumentalist composed, arranged, recorded, mixed and produced this release. She also played the entire range of instruments. Attempting to reconcile rock'n'roll with ambient atmospheres around a concept of lost hope sounds good in theory, but unfortunately comes off a bit flaccid and overly subdued. (5)

[www.myspace.com/Craigsounds]

**JAMSHIED SHARIFI** "One" (Ceres Records) Ambient world atmospheres blend into trance imaginations as this release conscientiously crosses paradoxical global musical boundaries. This prolific and award winning multi instrumentalist and composer utilizes a smorgasbord of high profile guest musicians to become "One." (10) [Myspace.com/JAMSHIEDSHARIFI]

**JANN KLOSE** "Reverie" (3 Frames Music) Framed by his multi-continental global up-bringing (Born in Germany, relocated to Kenya, then South Africa, Ohio and New York), this impressive singer and songwriter displays a wide variety of soulful ballads and emotive light rock ditties culled from a number of recording sessions with a variety of musicians. (9) [www.jannklose.com]

**MUSTASCH** "The Latest Version of the Truth" (Regain Records) Rip snortin' hard n' heavy rock 'n roll that, at times, reminds me of newer Metallica, but with much more diversity and integrity. These refined rockers have even been nominated for a Swedish Grammy! (8) [www.mustasch.net]

**PUTUMAYO PRESENTS "African Party"** (Putumayo Records) Celebrating Putumayo's 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a great compilation that pays tribute to the spirit of the music that inspired the label's inception. With 20 million CDs sold, Putumayo's world music party has been a global hit and "African Party" is another to add their list of success. (9) [www.Putumayo.com]

**TANTRIC** "The End Begins" (SMG) Throaty vocalist Hugo Ferreira may be the only original member remaining, but that hasn't stopped him from taking a stab at reinvigorating the band with "a new perspective." The result? Poppy commercial hard rock gussied up with violin and a post-grunge compassion. Some of it works well, some falls flat. (6) [www.myspace.com/tantric]

**TURBINE** "Reward" (Roofland Records) Melting catchy inflections of bluegrass, Americana and jam rock into a fun and furious spectacular of momentous proportions. The harmonious harmonica packs their sultry rhythms with an air of delicacy and intricacy as do the harmonic vocals. (8) [www.turbinemusic.com]

**PAUL FILIPOWICZ**  
**LIVE BLUES**

SAT MARCH 8  
BLACK BEAR  
HWY 70, WINCOGUA, WI

SAT MARCH 15  
VINNY'S ROCK BOTTOM  
JEFFERSON, WI

SAT MARCH 22  
HEATHERS ROCKDALE BAR  
CAMBRIDGE, WI

FRI APRIL 11  
MAMA'S BENEFIT SHOW  
HARMONY BAR, MADISON

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March 15 - Crystal Corner (Madison)