

CD REVIEWS

Zombie's sound dead; Smith makes winning melodies



Rob Zombie
Hellbilly Deluxe
Geffen Records

Halloween virtuoso around the world, Rob Zombie has rily unchained from his band to serve up *Deluxe* on a platter. Zombie emerges from the shadows with songs re-around his obses- th old horror comics and other debauchery. of the cuts on are laced with 's trademark tem- ges and throaty wo definite com- tracks, "Dragula" perbeast," stand eing as radio- as this genre can wise, true Zombie will be pushing

the repeat button on "Living Dead Girl" and "Meet the Creeper." However, the master of disaster falls short with the badly edited "How to Make a Monster" and the overly mixed "What Lurks on Channel X?" The majority of the songs are unfortunately under three minutes in length, leaving the listener wondering why the workaholic Zombie did not bother to stretch the songs out longer. Maybe he diverts his energies toward laying out the morbid, 24-page album insert. Ultimately, *Hellbilly Deluxe* is not convincing enough and simply does not draw the listener into Zombie's macabre realm as they should. Still, no one else in industrial rock can pull off this kind of sideshow quite like Zombie without getting laughed off the stage. Hopefully, Rob Zom- bie's next project will in- volve his fellow band- mates. In the meantime, keep your fingers crossed for another remix album. (B-)

— Quatro Oakley



Elliot Smith
XO

CD Courtesy of Dreamworks

Although Elliot Smith has been singled out as one of the artists on the fore- front of the alt-folk move- ment, anyone who listens to his work can tell you recognition is not really a motivator for Smith. His real talent, and the force be- hind his music, lies in the construction of a great melody. *XO*, Smith's fourth al- bum (and his first since signing with Dream- Works), is a perfect exam- ple. Smith stretches his musical boundaries by us- ing overdubs, horns and even strings, but the soul- ful delicacy of his earlier work remains. Tracks like "Sweet Adeline" and "Baby Britain" showcase both Smith's amazing songwriting and his ability

to be soulful and catchy at the same time. In addition, Smith lets his do-it-yourself attitude shine by not only writing the parts for each instru- ment but playing almost every one of them him- self (he even arranged the strings). The result is no less than breathtaking. With the release of *XO*, Smith proves beyond all doubt that, although his music may eventually be pushed into the limelight, it is still perfectly comfortable in a coffee shop. (A)

— Riley LaGrone



Gomez
Bring It On
CD Courtesy of Virgin

As one of the 12 artists selected to compete for Britain's prestigious Mer-

cury Music Prize this year, Gomez has simulta- neously captured an au- dience and won the favor of critics and the press. That's no small feat for a band with a grand total of one album under its belt. *Bring It On*, the de- but album from Sheffield, England's Gomez, is in fact a groundbreaking album. As one of the few non-electronica groups to come out of the UK in the past few years, Gomez combines influ- ences ranging from the Grateful Dead to the Beatles, laying down track after track of music that is as engaging as it is experimental. "78 Stone Wobble", the album's first single, gives a nod to Rubber Soul (they are British, after all) while songs like "Whippin' Pic- cadilly" and "Get My- self Arrested" show ob- vious ties to good old Americana. Play on Gomez, and show Britain the light. (B+)

— Riley LaGrone

ATTENTION ALL ID STUDENTS

The P.A.I.D. Kick-off BBQ

is Friday Sept. 18th
6:30-8:30 pm
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WEEKEND REVIEW

THURSDAY, SEPT. 17

Foster, a blues musician, will play at Fitzwilly's at 9:30 p.m.
Door, an alternative rock band, will play at Cowhop at 9:30 p.m.
Creager, a country musician, will play at College Station at 9 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 18

Local String Band, an acoustic 3-piece ensemble from College Station, will play at Coffee House at 9:00 p.m.
Lane, a Latino jazz funk band, will play at Crooked Path Ale House at 9 p.m.
Twisters, a classic rock band, will play at Fitzwilly's at 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 19

Eye, a rock band, will play at Cowhop at 9:30 p.m.
Jogs, an electric blues band, will play at College Station at 9 p.m.
Less Panhandlers, an original and from College Station, will play at Crooked Path Ale House at 9 p.m.
Form, a rock band, will play at Cowhop at 9 p.m.
Jim Nature, an exhibit of prints by John Scott, will be held at the Valley Museum of Natural History through October 15.
Art in the Brazos Valley 1820-1880, will be exhibited at the Valley Museum of Natural History through October 25.
Art Borein: Artist of the American West will be exhibited at the Forsyth Center Galleries through October 11.

If you can't get it when you want it, what good is it?

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