



Saga
Full Circle
True North

I know what you're thinking. What's a 1999 album doing in a 2001 paper? Unfortunately, while this album has been available in Europe since 1999 it has only seen domestic release in late 2000. The irony here is that Saga is a Canadian band. Formed in 1977, Saga was going toe-to-toe with Rush for the title of Canadian prog-rock masters until they dropped into obscurity in the mid-80's. With a back catalogue spanning 14-plus albums (first being *Saga* (1978), last being *Detours* (1998) and best being *Heads or Tails* (1983), which includes their biggest hit "the Flyer"), Saga has once again come out of seclusion to see



release in their native country.

Well, after a listen this it is obvious that the band has not lost its progressiveness. Although lighter than their hey-day releases it is definitely not lacking in quality. Unfortunately, most of the songs tend toward soft rock, but when the band heavies up, like on "The One", "Time Bomb" and "A Night to Remember", they are at their best. The only exception would be the guitar/vocal piece "Good-bye" in which you can feel the raw emotion of sadness that permeates every notes.

Overall, a commendable effort, which serves to underscore the annoyance of a Canadian music scene that serves trend to the point of ignoring quality. Get it, especially if you were a fan who wondered what happened to the band. 3 / 5 - Jeff Budd



Soulfly
Primitive
Roadblock Music

If you like show tunes or own any Disney movie soundtracks, you'll probably hate this! Soulfly is a combination of ex-band members of Sepultura, Snot, and others, with guest appearances on this CD from members of Slipknot, Slayer and Deftones, and tours with

Alex Baird
ish
Hunt The Sandman

With the onslaught of under-aged, over-produced artists that are dominating the pop-rock charts, it's a relief to finally hear someone with a little more edge.

One of Canada's most recent up-and-coming performers, Alex Baird, has accepted the challenge of redefining Canadian pop music. Her style has been called "Melodic Groove Pop for the 21st Century," and her first full-length album, simply titled *ish*, contains a well-



rounded collection of fresh and appealing tunes.

From the bouncy first single, "Tell Me," to the smooth and classic "Umbrella," Alex Baird impresses with her wide range of artistic styles. Songs like "Have It All" and "So Wrong," in my opinion, definitely have airtime potential.

Alex Baird and her band, consisting of Andrew Aldridge, Martin Menard, Greg Thomas, Steve Mills, and Kim Kelly, have already had glimpses of the big time. They've made several television appearances, and embarked on a tour of Chapters and Indigo bookstores in August of last year. "Tell Me" was in regular rotation on numerous Ontario radio stations and even beat out Carlos Santana and Dave Matthews in CJMG Penticton's "Battle of the Bands."

Before establishing her band in April of 2000, Alex had been a Lilith Fair finalist and had even recorded a song titled "Rain" for the Soundtrack to "Silverman," a film starring Daniel Baldwin and Eugene Levy. It can only get better for this talented Canadian musician, who has a bright and promising future both here at home and beyond.

-Kelly Johnston

bands like Pantera and Glassjaw, just to give you an idea of the genre of music this is.

But the most surprising guest on this CD is Sean Lennon, son of the unforgettable John Lennon. Don't get me wrong though, this is no sissy guest star album. *Primitive* combines raw tribal energy with hardcore and urban/rap, showing off Soulfly's own smart, spiritual and brutally honest sound. If you like Sepultura, this is for you. Look out for their new web page coming soon. If your roommates like country, play this CD as loud as you can!

- Denis Desjardins

Brown Eyed Susans
Afraid of Heights
Il records



This is the second album by Canadian band Brown Eyed Susans and while it isn't great, it is a nice listen. It's fun and has some nice guitar licks. Some songs are a little more downbeat but mostly the songs are rather positive. It doesn't feel like anything you haven't heard before but it has some songs that I really like, namely "Little Monkey Friend" and "Let's get out of L.A." Two of the songs start out with what sound like excerpts from a nature documentary to add mirth to the album. All in all it's a good album, but nothing terribly original. 3 / 5 - Stefan Robak

Buckethead
Giant Robot
Cyberoctave/Virgin

Odd thing here. This is a re-issue of a 1994 US release that was a re-packaging of Buckethead's first Japan-only album *Bucketheadland* (1992). I suspect that this is the first of what will be a complete re-issue of his six-album catalogue (last being *Monsters & Robots* (1999)) now that Buckethead (a person, not a band name) is the new guitarist for Guns N' Roses.

Most of this album is what is expected; guitar-oriented techno/metal with industrial and progressive signatures. Additionally, there is a strange sorta theme here about robots and amusement parks. There are no traditional vocals, as most of the lyrics are narration or vocoder pieces. Several of the songs, like "Doom Ride" and "Chicken", are filler, while the best of the rest are the heavily progressive "Want Some Slaw", the Van Halen-esque "Binge and Grab" and the euro-gallop of "Buckethead's TV Show". The best piece, bar none, is the metalized version of the "Star Wars" theme, really a hoot.

Overall, there's lots of good stuff here to chose from if you can hack the odd vocalizations and rather non-standard structures of the songs. A must for guitar-hero fans, as this album is decidedly less techno than his later projects. Get it, especially if you want a taste of where Axl Rose's tastes are leaning.

3 / 5 - Jeff Budd



Sum 41: punk rock, milk bombs, and masturbation?

Sean Patrick Sullivan
The Brunswickan

For a crew of bratty punk-rockers from Toronto, Sum 41 are doing pretty well for themselves.

Their single "Makes No Difference" is in heavy rotation on rock stations all over Canada. Blink 182's Mark Hoppus named their debut, *Half Hour of Power*, his second favourite album of 2000, and in the past two weeks the group has played shows in Chicago, Los Angeles, and Las Vegas.

Given their schedule as of late, it isn't much of a surprise they were still asleep when singer/guitarist Deryck Whibley was supposed to call for an interview at noon Monday. After several back and forth calls between publicity people, The Bruns finally got ahold of Whibley as the band travelled through Kansas on a bus, en route to Halifax to meet up with Treble Charger for the Maritime leg of TC's tour.

The band often seems completely nuts in interviews; masturbation and milk bombs (sour milk in balloons) are generally the key topics presented in articles. When asked, however, the band is quite bashful about it.

"Really?" exclaimed Whibley. "That's funny."

He admitted there is some degree of immaturity within the group. "When you're on the road you get bored and start doing shit...causing trouble and having fun."

Sum 41 just finished the recording of their new record, *All Killer No Filler*, which is set

for an April release. And no, there is nothing profound or significant with either title (despite the fact they both rhyme).

"Both times it just came out...someone said something and we liked it," said Whibley. "There isn't much to it."

Half Hour of Power is exactly what the title suggests; a half-hour of immature punk-rock angst about, well, stuff. The band is similar to Blink 182 in their performance and on-stage (and off-stage) antics; appropriate

enough, since they'll be touring with the group in April.

Although the band's future seems solid enough for the next little while, Whibley has no idea what will happen in ten years.

"Ten years? I dunno what I'm going to be doing in ten days," he laughed.

He should have, because the interview was exactly ten days before their show this Thursday in the SUB Ballroom with Treble Charger. Tickets are available at The Paper Trail for



Finding Forrester worth the look Film, Sean Connery make for great surprise

Stefan Robak
The Brunswickan

For a person who aspires to be a great writer, *Finding Forrester* proved to be a great movie about the art of writing. It shows how anyone can have an artistic soul despite background or any other factors that may convince one otherwise. It also features something I haven't seen in a while: Sean Connery in a really great film. While it isn't a perfect movie, it does manage to capture the spirit of writing well.

The movie is about a basketball playing, inner city youth named Jamal Wallace (Robert Brown) who has an interest in writing of which his family and friends are unaware. Jamal breaks into the house of the local recluse whom many see as the local boogeyman but then he takes Jamal's book bag that contain his writings. When

the book bag is returned to Jamal a week later, he finds his writings have been evaluated by the recluse who points out their good and bad aspects. Jamal decides to befriend the recluse, who he hopes will mentor him on his writing.

At school, Jamal excels in a standardized exam, capturing the attention of a prestigious private school which offers Jamal free enrollment where he can get a better education and would be allowed to join the school basketball team. He enters this school, where his English class is assigned to read a book called *Avalon Landing*. As Jamal is researching the author, William Forrester, he comes across the suspicion that his mentor and Forrester are one and the same. When Jamal confronts the recluse about this suspicion, he admits he is Forrester and asks Jamal to keep

his whereabouts secret. Meanwhile, Jamal's English teacher believes Jamal may have cheated on his essay because he doesn't see past Jamal's upbringing and the fact he plays basketball.

Finding Forrester is a really great movie but has some flaws. One is the aforementioned teacher's view that a "jock" can't write, which seems a little pointless. His criticisms of Jamal's upbringing in the Bronx is a more realistic of a prejudice for the teacher to have, but perhaps the screenwriter felt that it might be a little weak without something else. Also, Jamal intentionally making lower marks at school so he wouldn't stand out seems a little unlikely to me, especially at the age of 16. But despite these things the movie is intelligent and moving. Go to this film and I'm sure you'll leave happy.



Chris Colepaugh at The Cellar last week. The talented guitarist was actually wearing a duck on his head for the entire show, although it is cut off in this picture. He also bears an uncanny resemblance to former Brunswickan EIC Joe Fitzpatrick.

Gifted jazz pianist showcased

Bruns Staff
The Brunswickan

One of Canada's finest jazz pianists will be the featured artist at February's 'First Thursday Jazz Series,' presented by the Harvest Jazz and Blues Festival.

Montreal's Jean Beaudet is slated to perform Thursday, February 1st, in the River Room at the Lord Beaverbrook Hotel.

Beaudet, considered by some a Canadian jazz legend, is on a national tour funded by the Canada Council. He will perform with his newly-formed trio which includes young up-and-comer Adrian Vedady on bass, and the accomplished

Michel Lambert on drums.

The tour is in preparation for an upcoming album the trio expects to record later this year. The album, and his Fredericton performance, will include Beaudet's compositions, and for the first time, tunes by jazz composers Thelonius Monk, Benny Golson and Dave Holland.

Thursday's performance is one of only four Beaudet and his trio have in Eastern Canada.

Last year, the trio performed several showcases including one at New York's famous Birdland Club and at the International Association of Jazz Educators in

New Orleans. Beaudet has toured across North America and Europe with both his new trio and his highly regarded quartet in the 1980s.

Beaudet has performed with Jane Bunnet, Charles Papasoff and Nelson Symonds, in addition to writing several film scores.

Jean is "...clearly one of this country's most expressive and creative jazz pianists and I think he will really challenge our audiences. It should be quite a show," said Brent Staeben, Chair of the Festival's music programming committee.

Admission to the show will be \$5.

to help him keep his sanity. All in all the show is basically an excuse for three guys to heckle hilariously and mind-bogglingly bad movies. Such movies include the painful cop film *Mitchell*, the very sleazy *The Brain that Wouldn't Die*, and the worst film of them all *Manos: the Hands of Fate*.

While the shows popularity didn't reach spectacular heights, they were able to stay on the air for 10 seasons (far more than most shows) and develop a well

shanghaied by two evil mad scientists (called the Mads) and marooned on a satellite (the Satellite of Love) where he is part of a sinister experiment. The janitor, Joel Robinson (played by Joel Hodgson) is forced to watch the worst movies ever made. If the Mads find a movie that makes him go insane they'll use it on the populace and rule the world. Joel (later replaced by Mike Nelson when Joel left) creates some robot friends to keep him company and

deserved cult following. This witty series isn't on Canadian TV, but you can purchase it at your local video store (if they don't have it asked them to order it) and the unsuccessful but hilarious *Mystery Science Theater 3000: The Movie* is also available on video.

Stefan Robak
The Brunswickan

Do you hate bad movies? Do you want to find a way to get even? Or perhaps you like bad movies but want to find a way to get more fun out of them. Well, both factions can come together to enjoy one of the most underrated comedy series of the 90's: *Mystery Science Theater 3000*.

The premise is that a janitor at the Gizmonics Institute is



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