
Subject: Steve Albini's PSW forum

Posted by [uptown jimmy](#) on Sat, 07 Jan 2006 17:37:20 GMT

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Wow.

I try not to be a hater. I really do. It just seems too easy, ya know? Too negative.

But I was doing my weekly skim through the various online forums, and ran across a thread on Steve Albini's PSW forum, started by Steve himself, concerning who was more important, Wang Chung or Minutemen.

It immediately degenerates a pathetic display of all the most heinous, cliched, eye-roll-inducing indie-rock crap you'll ever read. And the thread just goes on and on for pages and pages, with the god-like Albini baiting them with little Zen koan-type comments appropos of nothing but his own ego and silly puckishness.

I found myself thinking: "Damn, what a bunch of fucking losers."

I cannot believe anyone takes this "punk/indie" stuff seriously anymore. If the music's great, then great. But the whole "punk/indie" lifestyle choice...it seems even more trite than other lifestyle choices because of its incessant insistence that it isn't a lifestyle choice at all but a position of moral/aesthetic/fashion authority. Meanwhile an entire generation of spoiled, oblivious white kids have co-opted the sound and the style and made it into the candy-coated, mass-marketed cartoon of an empty fashion it always wanted to be anyway.

Sorry for the rant.

Jimmy

Subject: Re: Steve Albini's PSW forum

Posted by [Deej \[1\]](#) on Sat, 07 Jan 2006 18:54:58 GMT

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I'm trying to think of any pop, R & B or *rock* music I've really liked enough to spend money for in the last 15 years. I could probably count the bands on the fingers of one hand.....and there would perhaps only be one, maybe two songs on the CD that were worth a shit, IMO. They just sort of morph into this sonic morass of over compressed, boring crap.

OTOH, some of the absolute best music I've ever heard in the last 5 years happens at a little event here in Durango called the Durango Songwriters Expo.

www.durangosong.com

It's limited to around 150 people who pay around \$200.00 plus airfare to get here in order to hobnob with industry bigwigs who purportedly come here to listen to and critique their music and give them pointers on how to be successful in the industry, but everyone knows that everyone really just come here to chill at a luxury resort in the mountains in the most beautiful time of year here (early October) and play golf between meals and party like a bunch of heathens for 3 nights..

A lot of the participants have home studios, are excellent producers/writers/musicians and their music kicks ass. We'll never get a chance to hear it on the radio, but there's a lot of it out there and it's great stuff. I do sound for this event and look forward to it every year because I get to hear some incredible music.

One CD that I need to buy is Thad's. For some reason, I just haven't gotten around to it, but I did listen to some of the song clips and it's something I think I would actually enjoy sitting down and spending some quality time with.....and I just don't have a lot of that to spare these days.

"uptown jimmy" <johnson314@bellsouth.net> wrote in message news:43bffc@linux...

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Subject: Re: Steve Albini's PSW forum
Posted by [Don Nafe](#) on Sat, 07 Jan 2006 21:18:56 GMT
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"uptown jimmy" <johnson314@bellsouth.net> wrote in message
news:43bffcdc@linux...
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> Sorry for the rant.

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Being a semi regular at PSW I was embarassed at the childishness that was displayed on that thread...unfortunately it prompted another series of threads which also degenerated into name calling wankfests that had me shaking my head in disbelief

Don

Subject: Re: Steve Albini's PSW forum
Posted by [Chris Wargo](#) on Sat, 07 Jan 2006 21:26:52 GMT
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"DJ" <animix_spam-this-ahole_@animas.net> wrote:
>I'm trying to think of any pop, R & B or *rock* music I've really liked
>enough to spend money for in the last 15 years. I could probably count the
>bands on the fingers of one hand.....

That's probably true of any genre unless you are in tune with what's down below the surface. The stuff that gets marketed from any genre is usually crap. I just watched the Wilco documentary "I am trying to break your heart". It was painful to see them getting dropped 2 weeks after delivering the album to Reprise, an album many (myself included) now consider to be a masterpiece.

I pretty much hate modern country music, but I suspect that's mostly because I don't know where to look. I don't have any friends in tune with what's good, and I am certainly not going to find it on the radio. So I find myself listening to the Carter family and Johnny Cash instead.

Then there is always the distinct possibility that my tastes are out of tune with what is actually happening in country. :-)

On the original topic, my friend is mixing a recording tomorrow that Albini did. I'm curious to hear the raw tracks.

-Chris

Subject: Re: Steve Albini's PSW forum
Posted by [uptown jimmy](#) on Sat, 07 Jan 2006 21:54:09 GMT
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Well, only a fool would insist that things haven't gotten very, very dire in the world of popular music in the last 15 years, no doubt about it. I have theories about it, but I don't want to waste anybody's time with my idle

musings and windy wordiness.

As for songs/albums, i-Tunes is really cool for bypassing the 1 good song/the rest is filler syndrome. FWIW.

But I do think that Steve Albini has gotten WAAAAAY too much attention in the last 20 years. Displays a kind of stealth arrogance that seems out of proportion with his accomplishments. Take that with 2 grains of salt, of course, coming as it is from a gentleman loser such as myself.

Jimmy

"DJ" <animix_spam-this-ahole_@animas.net> wrote in message news:43c00f45\$1@linux...

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Subject: Re: Steve Albini's PSW forum
Posted by [uptown jimmy](#) on Sat, 07 Jan 2006 22:00:14 GMT
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Man. I have tried so hard to understand the Wilco thing. I just do not get it. Oh well, to each his/her own.

I do think that part of what happened to rock was that it stopped being somewhat playful/light-hearted and got way too self-serious. That's not meant as a put-down on Wilco, just an honest opinion.

Radiohead being a wonderful example of a band who came on so strong and then immediately sank beneath a morass of self-importance and meaningless doodling. But at least the guy could fucking sing. I have a lot more tolerance for (true not fake) indie bands with singers who can actually sing better than my neighbor.

Jimmy

"Chris Wargo" <na@na.na> wrote in message news:43c0240c\$1@linux...

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Subject: Re: Steve Albini's PSW forum

Posted by [uptown jimmy](#) on Sat, 07 Jan 2006 22:02:28 GMT

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I suppose part of that is simply human nature rearing its ugly pud online.
Everybody has an opinion, and, like assholes, most opinions stink. And most
folk that spend a lot of time in online forums seem...well....terminally
geeky in a semi-hostile/overly-touchy kind of way...

Jimmy

"Don Nafe" <dnafe@magma.ca> wrote

> Being a semi regular at PSW I was embarassed at the childishness that was
> displayed on that thread...unfortunately it prompted another series of
> threads which also degenerated into name calling wankfests that had me
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Subject: Re: Steve Albini's PSW forum
Posted by [Lance Reichert](#) on Sat, 07 Jan 2006 22:08:49 GMT
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Hey Chris - How are ya?

Have you checked out Nickel Creek's first two albums?
That's some of my favorite chill-out music and the only thing I've been
moved by in a while.
That, and the first Narada "Guitar works" compilation.

Lance

Subject: Re: Steve Albini's PSW forum
Posted by [John \[1\]](#) on Sat, 07 Jan 2006 23:25:53 GMT
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The way I see it 'our' generation and many others learned and copied the
greats that came before us. The current generation has no talent and
doesn't try to even learn who the greats are. Any of them ever listen
to Django or BB King? They thumb their noses at the greats and don't
know any music theory and live in a bubble. But hey, today I bought
another Earl Klugh, 2 Outfields and 2 Wilson Phillips. I love pop rock,
jazz, hard rock, blues, r&b and a bunch of other eclectic styles that
these kids will never hear. Luckily my 10 year old neighbor is into
Rush, Kiss and AC/DC and got a drum set for christmas and his 7 year old
brother got a baby strat and a peavey amp so there's still hope. Truly
though this music today won't stand up 20 years from now. That outfield
album "Play Deep" still stands up totally today. Amazing really. hehe

John

uptown jimmy wrote:

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> Jimmy
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Subject: Re: Steve Albini's PSW forum
Posted by [John \[1\]](#) on Sun, 08 Jan 2006 00:07:16 GMT
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Hendrix was only playful on stage live. I remember a couple of shots on my videos where he smiles like a 10 year old when he pulled of a killer solo and he looked like he had totally surprised himself. Smile like "wow can you believe it"? hehe

Chris Wargo wrote:

> I hear you about rock loosing it's playfullness. Everyone needs to be a tourtured
> arteest these days. But heavy moody rock has been around from before my
> time. For example, I don't think Hendrix was playful, ever. Beautiful,
> transcendental, hopeful, romantic, yes. Playful or lighthearted, no. Hendrix
> was a somber guy with a gift. I don't think his music could have been anything
> else. The problem comes when frat-rockers wake up and want to be artists
> because that's in fashion at the moment.
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> Regarding Wilco, I wouldn't really call them rock. It's more like folk music,
> which has always tended towards somber and introsopective. I think it's
> really well done, and really honest. But of course you need to relate to
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> of "all songs shouldn't be about girls, fun, and fast cars, but some should".
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Subject: Re: Steve Albini's PSW forum
Posted by [Chris Wargo](#) on Sun, 08 Jan 2006 00:14:56 GMT
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Lance, long time no speak...doing good. Yourself? Maybe we can grab Gene and get some lunch again. I'll check out Narada too.

Holy cow, I forgot all about Nickel Creek. I've been meaning to pick some up for a long time now. I'm picking up some asap.

Talk to you soon,
Chris

"Lance Reichert" <lance.rocks@nospam.verizon.net> wrote:
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Subject: Re: Steve Albini's PSW forum
Posted by [Chris Wargo](#) on Sun, 08 Jan 2006 00:35:05 GMT
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Posted by [uptown jimmy](#) on Sun, 08 Jan 2006 01:46:26 GMT
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Wow. With all due respect, I think I understand your point, but I don't know if I'd call setting your guitar on fire somber or introspective. Playful, yes, putting it nicely. But not somber. Vaudeville, even, but not somber.

Good point about folk, though. Never could stand any of it after 1960 except for Dylan and sweet Joni Mitchell. Well-played.

But I mother-mm-mm luuv me some Rush from that very period you named. "Moving Pictures" is a masterpiece, and I like "Permanent Waves" as well.

Jimmy

"Chris Wargo" <na@na.na> wrote in message news:43c05029\$1@linux...

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Posted by [John \[1\]](#) on Sun, 08 Jan 2006 02:18:33 GMT
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counterpoints is a monster rush cd too

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> get
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>>>it. Oh well, to each his/her own.
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>>>I do think that part of what happened to rock was that it stopped being
>>>somewhat playful/light-hearted and got way too self-serious. That's not
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>>>
>>>Jimmy
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>>>
>>>"Chris Wargo" <na@na.na> wrote in message news:43c0240c\$1@linux...
>>>
>>>>"DJ" <animix_spam-this-ahole_@animas.net> wrote:
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>>>>album to Reprise, an album many (myself included) now consider to be a
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>>>
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>>>>
>>>>Then there is always the distinct possibility that my tastes are out of
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>>>tune
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>>>>with what is actually happening in country. :-)
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>>>>On the original topic, my friend is mixing a recording tomorrow that

>>>
>>>Albini
>>>
>>>>did. I'm curious to hear the raw tracks.
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>>>>-Chris
>>>
>>>
>
>

Subject: Re: Steve Albini's PSW forum
Posted by [gene lennon](#) on Sun, 08 Jan 2006 02:23:54 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

"Chris Wargo" <na@na.na> wrote:

>
>Lance, long time no speak...doing good. Yourself? Maybe we can grab Gene
>and get some lunch again. I'll check out Narada too.
>
>Holy cow, I forgot all about Nickel Creek. I've been meaning to pick some
>up for a long time now. I'm picking up some asap.
>
>Talk to you soon,
>Chris
>

Gene

Subject: Re: Steve Albini's PSW forum
Posted by [Lance Reichert](#) on Sun, 08 Jan 2006 02:59:44 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Hey Chris, glad to hear you're doing good.
Other than beating down the flu, I'm good too.
I'm almost over it though!

Thanks for the lunch invite. I have allot of time flexibility during the day
and can work around you guys. Let me know if you guys want to set that up
"off the board".

Is your "gasworks" email address still good?

The first two Nickel Creek albums:Nickel Creek and This Side, are fantastic.
They were produced by Allison Krauss. You wont be disappointed.

Lance

Subject: Re: Steve Albini's PSW forum

Posted by [Lance Reichert](#) on Sun, 08 Jan 2006 03:01:27 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

I'm looking forward to it Gene.

Lance

"gene lennon" <glennon@NOSPmyrealbox.com> wrote in message
news:43c069aa\$1@linux...

>

> "Chris Wargo" <na@na.na> wrote:

> >

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some

> > up for a long time now. I'm picking up some asap.

> >

> > Talk to you soon,

> > Chris

> >

> I'm up for that. We are overdue.

> Gene

>

Subject: Re: Steve Albini's PSW forum

Posted by [TCB](#) on Sun, 08 Jan 2006 04:30:11 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

"DJ" <animix_spam-this-ahole_@animas.net> wrote:

> I'm trying to think of any pop, R & B or *rock* music I've really liked

> enough to spend money for in the last 15 years. I could probably count the

> bands on the fingers of one hand.....and there would perhaps only be one,

> maybe two songs on the CD that were worth a shit, IMO. They just sort of

> morph into this sonic morass of over compressed, boring crap.

>

> OTOH, some of the absolute best music I've ever heard in the last 5 years

> happens at a little event here in Durango called the Durango Songwriters

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> www.durangosong.com

>
>It's limited to around 150 people who pay around \$200.00 plus airfare to get
>here in order to hobnob with industry bigwigs who purportedly come here to
>listen to and critique their music and give them pointers on how to be
>successful in the industry, but everyone knows that everyone really just
>come here to chill at a luxury resort in the mountains in the most beautiful
>time of year here (early October) and play golf between meals and party like
>a bunch of heathens for 3 nights..

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>A lot of the participants have home studios, are excellent
>producers/writers/musicians and their music kicks ass. We'll never get a
>chance to hear it on the radio, but there's a lot of it out there and it's
>great stuff. I do sound for this event and look forward to it every year
>because I get to hear some incredible music.

>
>One CD that I need to buy is Thad's. For some reason, I just haven't gotten
>around to it, but I did listen to some of the song clips and it's something
>I think I would actually enjoy sitting down and spending some quality time
>with.....and I just don't have a lot of that to spare these days.

As shucks, Deej, I'm blushing. Send me your address again and I'll mail you one. Also, it's not *my* CD, I didn't write any of the songs on this one and was brought in pretty late in the writing/recording process. I might wind up with a track or two on the next one (thus making me the Ron Wood/George Harrison of this band which suits me just fine) but it's really the product of two supremely gifted songwriters who are nice enough to let me tag along for the ride.

I have to say, it's funny at this late date to be in the best band I've ever been in with a couple of guys who have kids. Our third gig is coming up this Thursday and I'm really psyched to get the tunes out in front of people again. The working title for the next CD is Stotes Afire! (we have animal themes for most stuff, and a stote is the british word for a weasel like creature usually called an ermine) and I'm hoping to make it sound a lot thicker. I think the first one is a little short on low end (being Mr. dub that isn't surprising) and we might do the drums in a much nicer room. Actually, this band would sound great mixed on a PARIS rig. Too bad I don't have one anymore ;-)

TCB

>"uptown jimmy" <johnson314@bellsouth.net> wrote in message
>news:43bffcdc@linux...
>> Wow.
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>> I try not to be a hater. I really do. It just seems too easy, ya know?
Too
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>>
>> Sorry for the rant.
>> Jimmy
>>
>>
>
>

Subject: Re: Steve Albini's PSW forum
Posted by [Dedric Terry](#) on Sun, 08 Jan 2006 04:32:19 GMT
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First rock concert I saw was Rush - Exit Stage Left tour I believe. What a concert... I've never picked up CD versions of my old album/cassette collection - I just might have to do that now.

Dedric

On 1/7/06 6:46 PM, in article 43c06f7e@linux, "uptown jimmy"
<johnson314@bellsouth.net> wrote:

> Wow. With all due respect, I think I understand your point, but I don't know
> if I'd call setting your guitar on fire somber or introspective. Playful,
> yes, putting it nicely. But not somber. Vaudeville, even, but not somber.
>
> Good point about folk, though. Never could stand any of it after 1960 except
> for Dylan and sweet Joni Mitchell. Well-played.
>
> But I mother-mm-mm luuv me some Rush from that very period you named.
> "Moving Pictures" is a masterpiece, and I like "Permanent Waves" as well.
>
> Jimmy
>
>
> "Chris Wargo" <na@na.na> wrote in message news:43c05029\$1@linux...
>>
>> I hear you about rock losing its playfulness. Everyone needs to be a
> tortured
>> artist these days. But heavy moody rock has been around from before my
>> time. For example, I don't think Hendrix was playful, ever. Beautiful,
>> transcendental, hopeful, romantic, yes. Playful or lighthearted, no.
> Hendrix
>> was a somber guy with a gift. I don't think his music could have been
> anything
>> else. The problem comes when frat-rockers wake up and want to be artists
>> because that's in fashion at the moment.
>>
>> Regarding Wilco, I wouldn't really call them rock. It's more like folk
> music,
>> which has always tended towards somber and introspective. I think it's
>> really well done, and really honest. But of course you need to relate to
>> that sentiment as a listener in the first place.
>>
>> When asked about Red Barchetta, Alex Lifeson once said something to the
> effect
>> of "all songs shouldn't be about girls, fun, and fast cars, but some
> should".
>> I like that quote.
>>
>> -Chris
>>
>> "uptown jimmy" <johnson314@bellsouth.net> wrote:
>>> Man. I have tried so hard to understand the Wilco thing. I just do not
> get
>>> it. Oh well, to each his/her own.

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>>> I do think that part of what happened to rock was that it stopped being
>>> somewhat playful/light-hearted and got way too self-serious. That's not
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>>>> On the original topic, my friend is mixing a recording tomorrow that
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Subject: Re: Steve Albini's PSW forum
Posted by [DC](#) on Sun, 08 Jan 2006 04:58:28 GMT
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Seems to me that those who write and create music have a very open-hearted approach to other writers and other styles, while fans always fight over what has "street cred" or what is hip, or other such nonsense.

Very unprofessional. IM-ever-so-HO

DC

"uptown jimmy" <johnson314@bellsouth.net> wrote:

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>negative.

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Subject: Re: Steve Albini's PSW forum
Posted by [Deej \[1\]](#) on Sun, 08 Jan 2006 07:36:42 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Hey Thad,

Thanks. I'll take you up on that offer for the CD, but if you're seeling them, I'd just as soon pay \$\$ to support you guys. Is it available online FS? If so send me a link.

As far as the weasel-like creature, I think that one iws spelled *stoat*.....but WTF, I could be wrong.

;o)

"TCB" <nobody@ishere.com> wrote in message news:43c08743\$1@linux...

>

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> >
> >
>

Subject: Re: Steve Albini's PSW forum
Posted by [Lance Reichert](#) on Sun, 08 Jan 2006 14:51:29 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

You're absolutely right.

"DC" <dc@spamsteve.com> wrote in message news:43c08de4\$1@linux...

>

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> open-hearted approach to other writers and other styles, while
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Subject: Re: Steve Albini's PSW forum
Posted by [TCB](#) on Sun, 08 Jan 2006 21:23:19 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Hey Deej,

Well, if you really want to you can pay for it here.

http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/detail/-/B000BGQY1C/qid=1136751408/sr=8-1/ref=sr_8_1/103-7700736-7529402?v=glance&amzpf_rd_s=music&n=507846

and supposedly it's in the iTunes store, but I refuse to let Apple take over my one Windows box to find out.

As I said before, I'm really looking forward to the next recording. I'll get to put my big guitar noises in there and play lots of percussion.

TCB

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>> >>
>> >> But I was doing my weekly skim through the various online forums, and
>> ran
>> >> across a thread on Steve Albini's PSW forum, started by Steve himself,
>> >> concerning who was more important, Wang Chung or Minutemen.
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>> >> It immediately degenerates a pathetic display of all the most heinous,
>> >> cliched, eye-roll-inducing indie-rock crap you'll ever read. And the
>> >thread
>> >> just goes on and on for pages and pages, with the god-like Albini

>baiting
>> >> them with little Zen koan-type comments appropos of nothing but his own
>> >ego
>> >> and silly puckishness.
>> >>
>> >> I found myself thinking: "Damn, what a bunch of fucking losers."
>> >>
>> >> I cannot believe anyone takes this "punk/indie" stuff seriously
>anymore.
>> >If
>> >> the music's great, then great. But the whole "punk/indie" lifestyle
>> >> choice...it seems even more trite than other lifestyle choices because
>> of
>> >> its incessant insistence that it isn't a lifestyle choice at all but
a
>> >> position of moral/aesthetic/fashion authority. Meanwhile an entire
>> >> generation of spoiled, oblivious white kids have co-opted the sound
and
>> >the
>> >> style and made it into the candy-coated, mass-marketed cartoon of an
>empty
>> >> fashion it always wanted to be anyway.
>> >>
>> >> Sorry for the rant.
>> >> Jimmy
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