

KRAM
Mix Tape
Island
Universal Music



With Spiderbait now looking to be a band that are a bit of a party piece pulled out by invitation only (albeit most likely at festivals in front of 50,000 people), drummer and voice of the band Kram has been filling his time by festering away on a solo record.

The appropriately titled *Mix Tape* sees Kram working on notion of creating a record where the songs are considerably different from one another, yet all feel like they are played by the same artist.

The first taste of Kram is *Good Love*, a rocking piece of overdriven glory that rival's the potency of his previous bands take on *Black Betty*, but it is not all balls to the wall. *Turn A Light On* shows that the influence of the Beatles is still strong in many an artist. Kram may be relishing the chance to play his guitar and offer up a different side to his muse, but he still see fit to include the crazy yet entertaining three minute drum solo of *Thank You Mr Ludwig*.

With there being allegedly two albums worth of material to draw from, *Mix Tape* is only scratching the surface of what stalwart Kram has in store for punters. He may well have been the joker in Spiderbait, but he looks to be taking this solo gig very seriously indeed.

— CHRIS HAVERCROFT

M WARD
Hold Time
Spunk
EMI



He seems to have appeared on everybody else's record of the past few years, is responsible for bringing the demos of Zoey Deschanel into a full blooded release, but finally the prodigious talent of M Ward is releasing a new album and battering down for undoubtedly another run of appearances of Letterman and the like.

Never Had Nobody Like You hints at what the *She & Him* release could have been like if a bit more urgency and grime was added to the Ward and Deschanel pairing. Having moved away from the ludicrous alt. country tag that plagued his early records, Ward has seen fit to partner Lucinda Williams, who lends

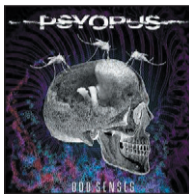
her whiskey fuelled warble to the aching Oh Lonesome Me.

He may be one well connected critter, but his songs do not live and die by the guests that he brings in. From tunes like the playful *For Beginners* to craftily interpreted covers (*Rave On*), Ward is in top shape.

The exceptional guitar playing and a honey soaked voice of Ward was always going to one day gain him the attention that he deserves. *Hold Time* is every bit equal of the standard that has come to be expected of the quietly spoken Portland native.

— CHRIS HAVERCROFT

PSYOPUS
Odd Senses
Metal Blade
Stomp



Odd Senses, is album number three from New York outfit Psyopus. With one musical hand in the front breast pocket of reality, the other is firmly down the crotch of instrumental perversity. Effectively toeing the line, this one record has the ability to be an avid collector's most loved and hated item, simultaneously.

A journey in all quips of heavy with flourishes of grind, thrash, death, jazz and tech – which are only the more obvious choices – this is one ride where you are never quite sure whether to hop off. Or on.

There is only one proposition that the now quartet (thanks to the addition of bassist Mike Horn) adhere to, and that is to keep you somewhat in the dark – no matter which way they turn. And the dirge continues lyrically through the under-themes of possession, drug abuse, torture, hatred and sanity.

But this album really centers itself on the controlled chaos of guitarist Chris 'Arpmandude' Arp. Searing and almost inhumane, stylistically his jerks and outlandish note slides make this release what it is – a unique work of art. Multiple sound-bites of spoken word folklore feature in-between spine-shifting squeals on *Boogeyman*, though the real killer is the surreal *A Murder To Child*, where Arp delivers a nine-minute odyssey of psychosis in the image of a chamber group.

This one album must be heard to be believed. With all reservations left at the door. And hey, in the band's words, '...eat a capsule'. You'll understand what they mean.

— JESSICA WILLOUGHBY

MUSIC

COBY GRANT Colour Scheme

Coby Grant heads back to her former hometown to launch her new album over several shows, and tells MIKE WAFER that life is peachy for the adventurous young singer-songwriter. See *Tour Trails* for dates.



Coby Grant

"I regret *nothing*," resounds a bubbly Grant – who is both the carefree drifter, and focused tactician, all rolled into one.

"Even decisions that have negative consequences at the time have a way of working out for the greater good, I've noticed, so it's pointless ever regretting anything, because you never know what wheels it may have set in motion," she says. "I upped and moved to Melbourne when I was 19, and I kind of did it on instinct – which might seem quite mad, but it really worked out well for me... I'm playing a lot of shows, meeting a lot of people, and I've been to the States to record an album with a producer that I love. It's been pretty awesome," she laughs.

And definitely in keeping with her 'fortune favours the brave' philosophy. Coby Grant, barely in her 20s, has indeed set herself down a path that has thus far proven to be highly beneficial to her career and her well-being in general, though her bravery is equalled by her willingness to work hard in order to make things happen.

"Oh, of course," she agrees, "nothing happens without work, but this doesn't really feel like work. It doesn't feel like a job. Even the tedious aspects of managing your own career are still interesting, and still fun to do..." she pauses before adding with a laugh, "sometimes."

But the results of these tedious items – the making of phone calls and the knocking on doors, so to speak – are worth whatever work Grant has to put in, because they come in the form of such things as albums and tours... the *really* fun things.

Grant's latest offering, *Coby Grant Is*

In Full Colour, is a fully developed version of her musical output; sweetly-sung personal songs that mostly refrain from taking a walk on the darker side of life.

By design, it turns out. "I think it would be terribly boring and predictable if I was to do that 'dark female singer-songwriter' thing, because it's so common already. I like my music to be up-beat and happy, even if the lyrics are covering things that aren't either up-beat or happy. I like my music to be fun," she says.

"I'm not a negative person. I write when I am happy. Even though a lot of the things I am prone to write about are very personal, and not always happy, I couldn't see myself making dark music, because that's just not me. It's not honest."

And honesty is almost always the key to great music. Each human being is intrinsically unique, and different from the next, so it stands to reason that their own unique and honest offering of art will be its strongest and most interesting.

Grant agrees. "I think when you write songs that reflect your true personality, they are more likely to connect with people, because they offer something that is real and genuine... and people like that. Personally, I'd always rather listen to an artist who sees the world differently than I do, and can put that into song, because you learn something – you aren't just listening to something you already know."

"My hope is that other people get a similar experience from my music, and that they find something in the way I write that appeals to them, without it just being something they've already heard."

THURSDAY FEB 26 FREE ENTRY FROM 8PM

LOADED DICE

BEATFLIX

drum&bass / breaks / garage

ILLUSIV, BEAR, LOST SEQUENCE (SWITZ), CONCEPT, TRACTION, FUSION, ROWDY, JAZZA, STILTZ, PRODJE AND HICKEY ALONG WITH MCS STYLEE & BEAR

FRIDAY FEB 27 \$15 ENTRY FROM 8PM



REBUILDING FROM THE ROOTS

VICTORIAN BUSHFIRE FUNDRAISER

THE ZYDECATS, ZARM, SIMON KELLY BAND, AKWAABA, RUM SKULL, THE ANONYMOUS, DEAD DRIFT REVIVAL, STU ORCHARD AND MORE!

SATURDAY FEB 28 8PM. TIX ON SALE NOW!

SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE

MICHAEL ROSE (JAMAICA)

PLUS DJ JUDGEMENT, AWSON, MUCHIE MAN & BUSHA DEE tickets www.heatseeker.com.au

SUNDAY MAR 1 FREE ENTRY FROM 4PM



AUSTRALIAN AIR GUITAR CHAMPIONSHIPS WA HEAT 1

TUES MAR 3 CALL OR EMAIL TO BOOK!



QUIZ MEISTERS TRIVIA

WWW.QUIZMEISTERS.COM.AU

WEDNESDAYS LAUNCHES NEXT WEEK!



ROSEMOUNT

Student Night EVERY WEDNESDAY

ROSEMOUNT HOTEL

www.rosemonthotel.com.au
corner angove and fitzgerald streets, north perth