

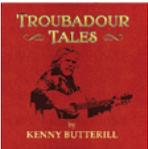
extra. EXTRA



RYAN BINGHAM

Fear And Saturday Night

Bingham's latest features great songwriting walking a fine line between country and rock, stylish picking, and lyrical and vocal personality that's over-the-top good. On guitars, Bingham, Daniel Sproul, and Jedd Hughes are downright perfect. And "Nobody Knows My Trouble" is easily one of the best songs of the past five years. – **JH**



KENNY BUTTERILL

Troubadour Tales

Butterill's players – including Redd Volkaert, Cindy Cashdollar, veteran Canadian guitarist Ray Bonneville, and multi-instrumentalist Kenny Feinstein – match the soft-spoken singer/songwriter like a tailored suit. Bonneville's electric solo in "Good Thing That Couldn't Happen Here" is a prime example. As producer and artist, Butterill puts together the elements that show him at his best. – **RA**



RAY WYLIE HUBBARD

The Ruffian's Misfortune

Before "Americana" music was on the map, Hubbard helped define the genre in his home base of Austin with a distinctive, original blend of country, folk, and blues. This effort takes a bluesier turn with originals like "All Loose Things" and "Hey Mama My Time Ain't Long," featuring powerful twin lead guitars by Hubbard's son Lucas and Gabe Rhodes. – **RK**



ROBBEN FORD

Into The Sun

Ford's highly evolved songcraft seduces as he manipulates space, time, and feel, expressing volumes on the guitar. Luscious blues, rock, and R&B concepts bob and weave amidst lyrics that conjure images of pain and regret. Sonny Landreth, Warren Haynes, Robert Randolph, and Keb' Mo' join in for a satisfying set of contemporary blues. – **OJ**



THE GREASEMARKS

Meat Shakes

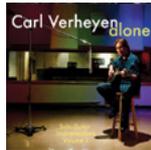
Following their first full-length CD, *Griddle Greasin' Daddies*, these Toronto rockabilly purveyors offer a glorious retro EP. Swampy title track is nasty and lowdown. "Itch" tickles with hot Bigsby guitar sounds courtesy of sensational T.K. Smith alnico pickups. Phenomenal. – **MD**



THE J. GEILS BAND

House Party – Live In Germany

This 1979 taping for the "Rockpalast" TV program shows Boston's J. Geils at their house-rockin' best, just prior to commercial hits "Love Stinks" and "Centerfold." The nonstop, hour-long CD/DVD package illustrates what a wicked blues, soul, and rock threesome harpist Magic Dick, singer Peter Wolf, and Flying-V-wielding John Geils were live, as they whip a crowd of 9,000 into a frenzy. – **DF**



CARL VERHEYEN

Alone

Electric studio master Verheyen dons an acoustic axe here for a second all-guitar project, covering ground from standards to the blues and more. While all 14 cuts have something to offer, his trilogy of Beatle tunes showcases his chops and his sensitivity to a lyric that's only in your head. – **JH**



GREG RUBY AND THE RHYTHM RUNNERS

Washington Hall Stomp

Swinging Prohibition-era jazz laced with Gypsy jazz-inspired guitar solos thanks to Pearl Django alumni Ruby. "Dewdropper's Dream" is indeed dreamy, while the title track is rife with hot six-string riffs. Both Satchmo and Django would be proud. – **MD**



OZ NOY

Asian Twists

Noy and co. get their inter-vallic groove on with a compilation of muscular compositions culled from live dates in Shanghai and Thailand. With drummer Dave Weckl and bassist Etienne Mbappe, Noy pours bebop, funk, and SRV into a blender for stimulating results. Masterful use of effects highlight "Slow Grease" and "Downside Up." – **OJ**



THE BLUES MAGOOS

Psychedelic Resurrection

During the innocent but innovative mid '60s, when garage bands with funny names turned psychedelic, the Blues Magoos scored big with "(We Ain't Got) Nothin' Yet." Lead guitarist Mike Ciliberto re-creates Mike Esposito's ascending, echoing solo on a nice remake, while VG's "(Way) Back Beat" columnist Peter Stuart Kohman's bass bolsters the original lineup's drums/organ/rhythm/vocals nucleus. A most welcome comeback. – **DF**



THE TEMPERANCE MOVEMENT

The Temperance Movement

It's a good sign when a record opens with two guitars trading blistering licks. And the band doesn't let up. From the U.K., they manage to come across as a hybrid of Free, Faces, and the Stones without sounding derivative – dealing out classic rock that's contemporary and classic at the same time. – **JH**



MICHELLE MANGIONE

Ponies

Top-flight L.A. percussionist Mangione has emerged as an eclectic singer/songwriter to watch. Who'd think Grace Slick would co-write a Cajun romp with Bill Medley and Martha Davis, guitarists Kid Ramos and Duncan Cameron, and drummers Stephen Hodges and Dusty Watson joining core players Steve Soest (bass, guitar) and Angela Riggio (keys)? Then there's the Irish jig co-written with Exene Cervenka. – **DF**