



DAWES
PASSWORDS
HUB RECORDS

On **Dawes'** sixth album, *Passwords*, inspiration pulls guitarist/singer Taylor Goldsmith and company into their most universal, topical territory to date. *Passwords* is a record about the modern world: The relationships that fill it, the politics that divide it, the small victories and big losses that give it shape. Taylor's writing is personal at points - the result of his recent engagement, which lends a sense of gravity and self-reflection to album highlights like "Time Flies Either Way" and "I Can't Love" - but it also zooms out, focusing not on the director himself, but on everything within the lens. Featuring guest vocals by **Lucius** and artwork by Michael Carney (The Black Keys).



GRUFF RHYS
BABELSBERG
ROUGH TRADE

Babelsberg is the fifth album by **Gruff Rhys** - the brilliant singer / songwriter from legendary Welsh psychedelic geniuses, **Super Furry Animals**. The album features orchestral scores by composer Stephen McNeff and the incredible work of the BBC National Orchestra of Wales. The result is **Gruff's** best record to date: A satirical, ten-song chronicle of modern times - each track set to timeless, indelible melody (Think an LSD-soaked Lee Hazelwood grinning his way through the apocalypse). Amazingly, for a collection of songs written over two years ago, each one feels eerily prescient. "The lyrics are all part of the same age," he says, "It felt like they needed to be on an album together." You need this.



T. HARDY MORRIS
DUDE, THE OBSCURE
NEW WEST

Athens, GA's **T Hardy Morris** (of **Dead Confederate** and **Diamond Rugs** fame) is back with his third solo record, *Dude, The Obscure* - a work that **Morris** says, "flowed from a creative space I found at the intersection of dreams and reality." Within these captivating songs, **Morris** sheds the trappings of ambition and nostalgia to embrace the strange satisfaction of living in the moment. Even the album title hints at self-discovery: In an homage to Thomas Hardy's novel, *Jude, The Obscure*, **Morris** reveals his love for literature, philosophy and poetry. "The hat tip to the novel seemed appropriate for the album because it deals with doubts, joys, regrets and spirituality, a lifelong journey and such." It's a deep, moseying, and ethereal delight.



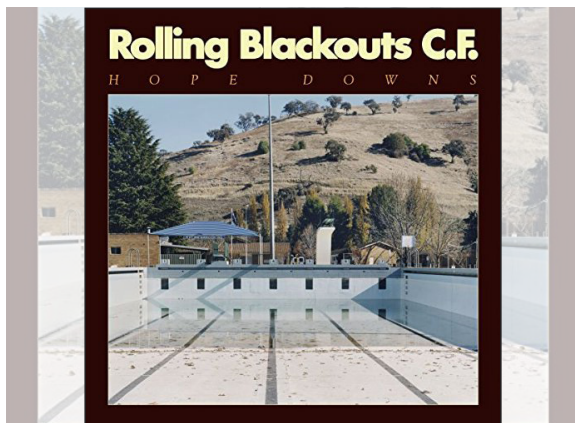
SNAIL MAIL
LUSH
MATADOR

Lindsey Jordan is on the brink of something huge - and she's only just graduated high school. Her voice rises and falls with electricity throughout *Lush*, her debut album as **Snail Mail**. "Is there any better feeling than coming clean?" sings the 18-year-old guitarist and songwriter on the sprawling anthem, "Pristine." It's a question she seems to be grappling with throughout the record's 10-songs of crystalline guitar pop that conjures the awkward glory of Teen Beat records. Jordan's clear and powerful voice, immaculate pacing, and razor-sharp writing cut through the chaos and messiness of growing up. But Jordan's most masterful skill is in crafting tension: Working with muted melodrama that builds and never quite breaks. It's quite an introduction.



THE MILK CARTON KIDS
ALL THE THINGS THAT I DID AND...
ANTI

Waltzing into disaster and its aftermath, **The Milk Carton Kids'** *All the Things That I Did and All the Things That I Didn't Do* is the duo's attempt to turn lemons into lemonade (Sort of). Though they didn't approach the new album conceptually, a theme of shattered realities began to emerge out of the songs that sparked to life. Recent events provided a bruising background for the record, yet the project is somehow bigger than any personal grief. Two-part harmonies ride acoustic guitars high above the haunting landscape created by the presence of the band (a first for the duo), as if Americana went searching for a lost America. Produced by Joe Henry, the album is startlingly intimate... And wonderful.



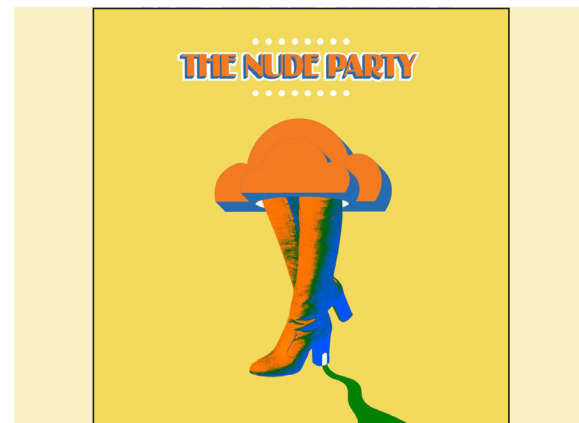
ROLLING BLACKOUTS COASTAL FEVER
HOPE DOWNS
SUB POP

It's rare that a band's debut album sounds as confident and self-assured as **Rolling Blackouts Coastal Fever's** *Hope Downs*. The promise of their perfect, buzz-building EPs - 2015's *Talk Tight* and last year's *The French Press* - has become fully realized here, with ten songs of urgent and passionate guitar pop that elicit warm memories of bands past, from the Go-Betweens' jangle to the charmingly lo-fi trappings of New Zealand's Flying Nun label and the pastoral jitters of New Jersey legends, The Feelies. But what sets **RBCF** apart from their peers is their lyrical ability which - bolstered by three singer / songwriter / guitarists - brings greater richness and humor to every track - each one a chiming novella. You need this.



YUNO
MOODIE
SUB POP

For a shut-in, the 27-year-old **Yuno's** pedigree is surprisingly diverse. "I don't drive," **Yuno** says, "I spend a lot of time in my bedroom." Thus, his new six-song EP, *Moodie*, sounds like a collage of bedroom posters. "So Slow," for instance, would be a Washed Out flyer sat next to a piece of Kid Cudi artwork, whereas "Why For" with its squealing Wavves guitars would probably be represented by a big weed sticker or some Sleight Bells ticket stubs. **Yuno** creates all his of music: Self-producing, engineering, and playing all the instruments. He also creates his own press photos, album art, and videos. *Moodie* is an invitation into his rich musical world. Consider yourself lucky to get in an invite.



THE NUDE PARTY
THE NUDE PARTY
NEW WEST

The members of **The Nude Party** first came together in the freshman dormitories of Appalachian State University in 2012. The following summer, they moved into a lake house outside of town and began jamming on rudimentary riffs. Friends came by the lake house to swim and party and soon there developed a group obsession with performing in the nude - and it didn't take long for audiences to follow suit. Eventually, they donned clothes, hit the national tour circuit, and found a mentor / producer in **Black Lips'** drummer, **Oakley Munson**. Now, at long last, they've poured those 60's party vibes into a self-titled debut filled with easy grooves and salty wit. You'll have a great time; clothing optional.



THE ESSEX GREEN
HARDLY ELECTRONIC
MERGE RECORDS

Formed in Brooklyn in 1998 - and one of the few bands from the Northeast to be associated with the groundbreaking Elephant 6 Collective - **The Essex Green** released four albums between 1999 and 2006. The band broke its silence on the frigid waters of Lake Champlain during the blood moon eclipse of 2015. Over the next two years, the three continued to meet and record until *Hardly Electronic* became manifest. A musical mapping of the trio's personal journeys over the past decade, **The Essex Green's** signature sound is still alive and well: Stacks of harmonies, upbeat melodies, melancholy tales, layers of keys, and sparkling Telecasters. Fans of smart pop *a la* Belle and Sebastian will find much here to love.



THE ROCK*A*TEENS
SIXTH HOUSE
MERGE RECORDS

Born in Cabbagetown, GA, the **Rock*A*Teens** carved their signature echo-wrapped, wounded-heart music on the edges of the Atlanta music scene more than 20 years ago. Following their reunion at the Merge 25 festival and the reissue of 2000's *Sweet Bird of Youth*, the group returned to touring and playing live. Restless, the band began writing and recording new music. On *Sixth House*, the gauze is removed - the anthems are illuminated, the ballads are clear-eyed, and the stories are in sharp focus. *Sixth House* stands out as the band's most powerful, vibrant, and soulfully rendered album of its career - all with a lyrical edge that will satisfy fans of Wussy and The Mountain Goats. It's a stunning return - and you need it.