

CD Review

Shins break the mold, again

by Aaron Palmer
Managing Editor

The Shins
Wincing the Night Away
Sub Pop, 2007



Indie-pop rock band, The Shins finally release their third and heavily anticipated album, "Wincing The Night Away." After gaining notoriety from Zach Braff's *Garden State*, the band has moved in a direction above and beyond what they once filled coffee shops with. Though still holding true to their sound, The Shins have developed to piece together a fully enjoyable album.

Opening with the track "Sleeping Lessons," the band drifts through an electronic atmosphere with a simple 1,4,5 swing scale. The perfect mood setter explodes halfway through into the



true meaning of pop that will have your feet moving and head bouncing until the last note. The album progresses with a steady flow of songs using elements of surf rock, electronica, pop, and infectious melodies that only add to the already great sound the band has developed. Singer James Mercer's voice now carries beyond the wispy tracks on previous albums. His tunes stay well written, catchy and meaningful, not some-

thing found in many bands today. Indie-rock on the rise, this album just may take off in the direction of fellow artists such as Modest Mouse and Death Cab For Cutie. Naysayers of new music beware. These guys can actually write some good songs. New fans will enjoy and old fans will not be disappointed.

I give it four out of five stars.

Buckethead

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ing a very in depth biography. There is also a year by year video collection that shows footage of a young Buckethead playing bass and doing various odd things, as well as a music video section that has a couple of interesting videos and a lot of low budget animated pieces.

Though he has played with many bands, the video of Buckethead performing with one is limited and there is almost no pro shot material. I would have loved to see some footage with Buckethead and Les Claypool playing, but there is none to be found.

One saving grace is that the second disc contains two full live Buckethead solo shows, the most recent of which is really good. Both are audience shot, but are still decent in the audio/visual department. Unfortunately, they are absolutely solo shows with Buckethead playing along to pre-recorded drum and bass tracks. Buckethead is a great musician, but this poor DVD only deserves 2 out of 5 stars.



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