



featured album

B-52's
Funplex
EMI

KELSEY TANASIUK
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Now that the members of the B-52's are actually 52, it's prime time for a comeback.

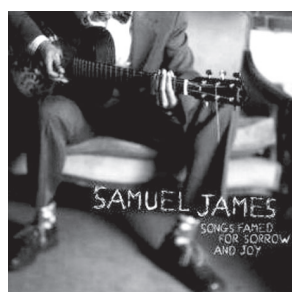
Despite the fact that the aging band's has been touring constantly, it's been 16 years since they put out a new album. Skeptics need not worry though, as despite a slightly updated sound, *Funplex* shows they're the same B-52's you remember. Even the ladies' good looks and beehives are still intact (though they do look pretty strained).

Songs like "Hot Corner" and the title track are infectious—uncontrollable boogying is an inevitability. The whole record through, the B-52's prove again and again that they still have what it takes to create dance party favourites. Their new sound is a bit more electronic than you (and your parents) may remember, but the essence of these new wave rockers remains the same.

Their lyrics are neither profound nor thought-provoking, but they're certainly fun. The cheeky attitude that carried the B-52's through their *Love Shack* era remains strong today, with lines like, "Private property hippie be quiet / Your peace sign T-shirt / Could cause a riot" and "I'm your daytime waitress / At the Taco Tiki Hut / I'm your daytime waitress / Here's your stupid 7-Up"—though it's doubtful that either of the B-52's girls are still waitressing at taco joints.

Funplex is a great addition to any dance party and a solid new record for their discography. So grab a pair of go-go boots, invite your friends, and head out to a little old place where we can get together.

Listen to tracks from *Funplex* on the Editor's Playlist at www.thegatewayonline.ca



album review

Samuel James
Songs Famed for Sorrow and Joy
NorthernBlues Music

KATHLEEN BELL
Arts & Entertainment Staff

It's refreshingly simple: perhaps in the age of super producers, musical collectives, and computer generated sound, we've forgotten just how much music a man and his guitar can make. Samuel James hasn't.

James is a old-school bluesman. With percussion left entirely to James' tapping foot, *Songs Famed for Sorrow and Joy* is a tribute to a time when there were no albums, only sparse lyrics accompanied by sparse guitars. But no matter how scant the instrumentation, it never precludes a talented artist from getting the most out of what is there. In this case, what's there is James' rich, gruff voice that rumbles when it creeps through the lower range and cries as it races through its top range. Keeping those wandering vocals company is some tricky guitar picking, which gently dances for numbers like "Love & Mumbly-Peg" and screeches through the corners of tracks like "Sleepy Girl Blues."

James' focus is on storytelling and, not surprisingly for a blues album, most of the songs centre around some kind of woman troubles, explicated and mourned in a call-and-response structure. Nina in "The 'Here Comes Nina' Ragtime-Surprise" seems particularly strict when it comes to chores; as James explains, "Here comes Nina counting to ten / Looks like I forgot to do those dishes again / Here comes Nina with a pick and a spade / Talkin' 'bout 'if you don't do those dishes I'm goin' out to dig your grave.'" He doesn't seem to fare any better with "One-Eyed Katie," who "Is all woman, but not one bit lady / Just one eye is all she had / She don't see so good, but she don't look so bad." It's characters like Nina and Katie that give *Songs Famed for Sorrow and Joy* its charm and originality, so if you want to know what happens to Ol' Willie Chan, give it a listen, and Samuel James will tell you.



album review

Tele
Tele
Independent

MARIA KOTOVYCH
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Any band that names two of their songs "..." and "... ." is certainly attention-grabbing. Given that Tele's self-titled album also features some intriguing cover art, there's hope that a great musical gift might lie inside. Unfortunately, that's not what actually happens once the album starts to play.

"Hello, Hello" begins the album on a positive note, throwing a slightly Nirvana-esque grunginess to the epic metal piece. Not bad, not bad. But then "Notice" starts to play. With "Notice" also comes the album's biggest downfall: the high notes.

Falsettos and high notes are tricky for many male singers. When done right, the "guy singing high" thing can be quite impressive. Done poorly, it'll likely hurt listeners' ears. Tele certainly tries reaching for those high notes; however, they're always just a tad out of grasp for the young group.

Besides "Notice," a few more songs on this album also feature the lead singer's painful

renditions of a manly high note. "Choose," for example, starts off with a pretty melody, but then occasionally, the singer will reach waaay up there with his vocal chords while letting out some of the words—why ruin an otherwise pretty melody? Why? "Try Again" and "Shame" continue this trend, trying to hit the high notes with very little success.

While many of the tracks on this sound the same, each epic piece not distinguishing itself much from the other, one song on *Tele* diverts completely from this style. "... ." is a soothing lullaby-style instrumental piece that begins with the keyboardist playing the repeating chords while layers of guitar and percussion swirl around them, building up to a musical climax that leads directly into the next song. "... ." is a clever and interesting tune.

Tele is certainly not horrible, but with the exception of "... ." very few pieces truly stand out in this album.

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breakfast townhall

with President Samarasekera

THIS PRESENTATION IS FOR MEMBERS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA COMMUNITY – FACULTY, STAFF AND STUDENTS ALL PLAY A ROLE IN OUR SUCCESS.

Wednesday, April 16, 2008
Maple Leaf Room, Lister Centre

8:15 am
Continental Breakfast
8:30 am to 9:30 am
Presentation and Q&A Session

The tide is turning - *Dare to Discover* is transforming and redefining our campus, community, and mindset. The campus community has embraced *Dare to Discover*, our vision for a great university, and our new focus is producing great results. Every day talented people are making a difference at the University of Alberta and beyond. We've worked together to elevate this University to a new level and we're gaining increased national and international attention.

President Indira Samarasekera invites the campus community to a townhall meeting to consider our achievements and plan our next steps. Please join the President for breakfast and a presentation on the amazing advancements happening at the UofA and how we can continue to succeed.

Please visit www.president.ualberta.ca/townhall to submit your registration by Friday, April 11, 2008.

Register early as seating is limited.

Sign language interpreting services, real-time captioning or other disability-related services or accommodations will be arranged upon request. Please contact the event coordinator Sheila Stosky at sheila.stosky@ualberta.ca or 492-1525 to assist with this request.

